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*From 13 Howard Commission
25th Parliament*

RECORDS OF
THE COUNTY OF WILTS.

THE HUMBLe petitiō of John Dicke of
 Embur in the County of Wiltes Sheaphard vnto the
 Wo^r Iudices of the bench most humbly shewing,

Whereas Your poore Suppliyant having dwelt in the
 parish of Embur abovesaid the most part of my tyme my life &
 demeanors such as my neighbours cannot except against, and
 now vnto occasion your Suppliyants landlord having vsed for the
 house he dwelt in hath taken it into his owne hands to make him a-
 ble by w^h meanes yo^r poore Suppliyant is dismist of a house &
 could not get any roome nor house in y^e gill, Wherevnto your
 poore Suppliyant was forced to make his complaint vnto his friends
 & neighbours & it pleased god to moue M^r Richar Hulbert to ge
 there with the consent of the overseers of y^e poore to appoynt me a place
 to build me a poore Cottag in for the comfort of me my poore wife
 & childre, Now my humble suite vnto your Good Wo^r is that
 yo^r would be pleased to take into your worships Considerations for
 the compoynding & ordering of it that I may quietly enjoy this poore
 cottag I have built, since your poore Suppliyant haue bene enemies
 that doth threaten to pull it downe to the great spoyle & vntoyning
 of yo^r Wo^r Suppliyant, Soe shall your Suppliyant w^h his wife & children
 like Iobs messengers rine vnto god for your Good worships & ever
 thankfull vnto yo^r

Richard Hulbert the hands of the aboue named *John Dicke* his
Richard Woodward Neighbours *John King*
John Woodberry *John Minty*
John Bishop
John Goffton
John Colston
Robert Stanger

The Petition of John Dicke.
 (See page 297).

RECORDS OF THE COUNTY OF WILTS

BEING EXTRACTS FROM

THE QUARTER SESSIONS GREAT ROLLS
OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

EXTRACTED AND EDITED BY

B. HOWARD CUNNINGTON, F.S.A. (Scot).

(Hon. Curator Wiltshire Archæological Society),

Editor of "Annals of the Borough of Devizes, 1555 to 1835,"

"Grand Jury Presentments at Marlborough Quarter Sessions, 1706 to 1751,"

"Orders and Decrees of the Borough of Marlborough, 1575."

WITH A "FOREWORD" BY THE MOST HONOURABLE THE MARQUIS
OF LANSDOWNE.

Devizes :

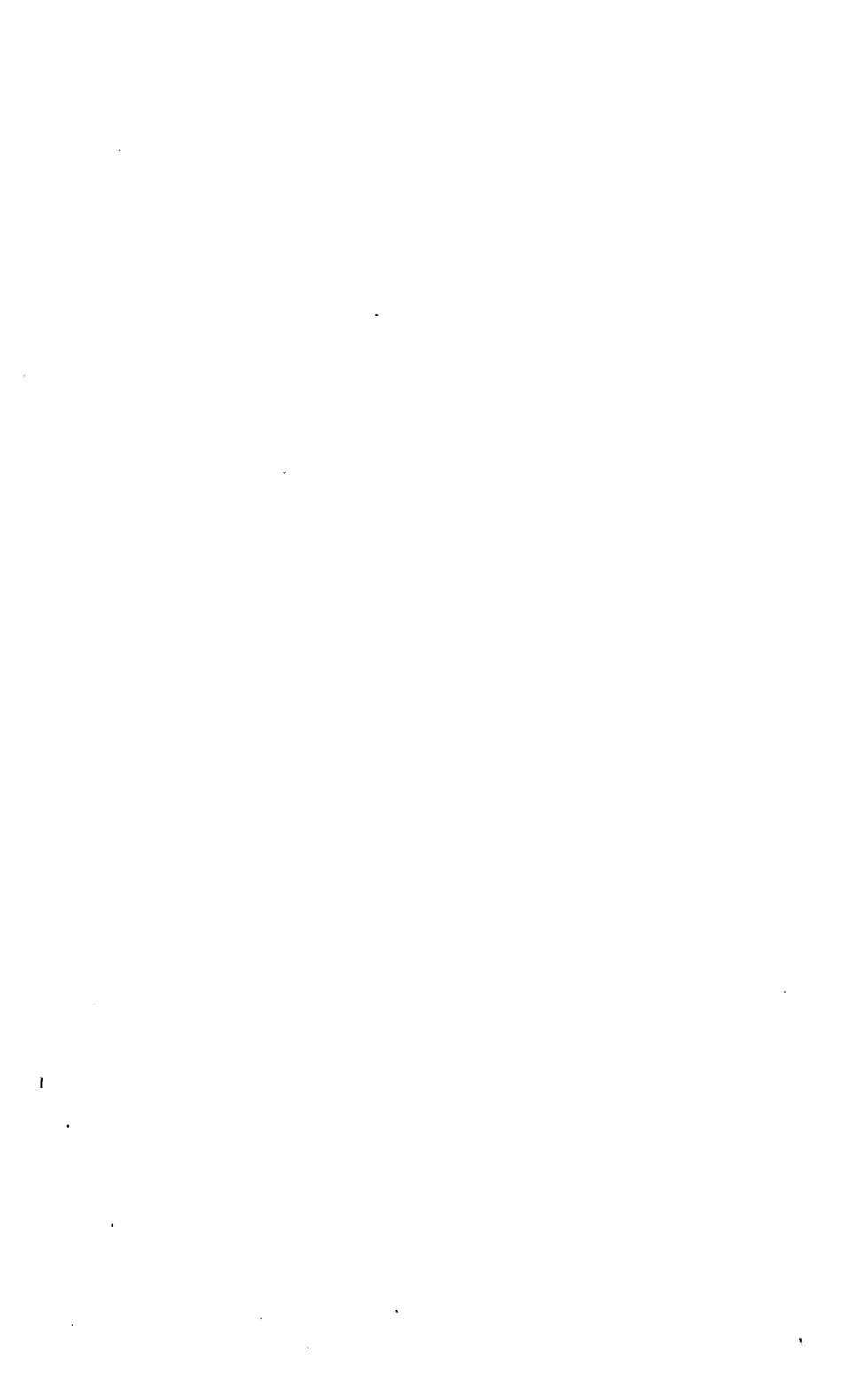
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1932.

Dedication.

To the memory of the Clerks of the Peace of Wiltshire in the 17th Century I dedicate this book. Had it not been for their careful "watch and ward" over our valuable County Records during the times of war, rebellion and revolution, as well as in the times of peace, these Extracts might never have been published.

B. H. C.



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FOREWORD.

To those who only associate Quarter Sessions with long hours spent in a crowded Court House, a volume of the 'Proceedings' of these tribunals may not make a first sight appeal. Let them not, however, be deterred, for these extracts from the Great Rolls of the 17th century can scarcely fail to commend themselves to any intelligent reader.

Wiltshire, as Mr. Cunnington remarks in his Introduction, is specially rich in its County Records, and the desirability of making them more widely known has long been recognised. A few extracts from the Rolls between 1602 and 1609 were published some years ago in the Wiltshire Archæological Magazine by Mr. R. W. Merriman when Clerk of the Peace, and a more numerous selection by the Rev. W. D. Macray in the Historical Manuscripts Commission Report for 1901. The great mass of these papers had, however, never been systematically explored or seen the light. It was in these circumstances that Mr. Cunnington, to whom Wiltshire already owes so much in the sphere of Archæology, threw himself into the breach, and volunteered to undertake the task of going through the whole of the series. His services, it is needless to say, were readily accepted by the Standing Joint Committee, who, under the Lord Lieutenant, as Custos Rotulorum, are responsible for the archives in question, and he started immediately on his work. For three years (1929-1931) he has given up the six winter months (the summer being reserved for work in the field) to the decyphering, collating, and transcribing of some thousands of ill-written documents. The extracts contained in the present volume constitute the first fruits of that work, though the publication, as will be at once perceived, represents only a fraction of the papers actually dealt with.

No Wiltshireman can read the pages which follow without coming upon something that will arrest his attention. Should he be engaged on any branch of historical research he will be sure to discover some grist for his particular mill. Should he be fond of topography, he will find side lights upon ancient place names, roads, and bridges, which have long since disappeared. Should he be merely inquisitive, he will see what, in those remote days, was going on in his own locality—there is scarcely a village of any size which does not appear once or more in the selected extracts. The wording of our 'rude forefathers' is strange, and their spelling execrable, so much so indeed that a modern reader will sometimes have to guess at the meaning intended, but this may make a special appeal to the expert in crossword puzzles, while it serves to preserve the peculiar flavour of the 17th century.

The prevailing impression left by a perusal of the extracts is one of the severity of the laws during the period with which they are concerned. It is startling to know that a man preferring to take his exercise by night could apparently without further ado be "presented" for trial as a "night walker" (pp. 26 and 107); that a woman with a sharp tongue—a type not altogether unknown to-day—could be convicted as a "common scold" (pp. 30, 199 and 217); and that another who was known to be careless with her own lights in her own house, was similarly amenable to law (p. 97). As to the poor witches, it seems to have been enough that they were "vehemently suspected" as such by their neighbours (p. 70), and that any person or animal who had come near them had had the misfortune to fall sick; their condemnation to the cucking stool was certain to follow. Further, we find a man accused of nothing worse than "eavesdropping" (p. 247), and another of playing skittles (p. 259), though bull baiting, so long as no human being incurred any injury, seems to have been entirely in order (p. 259). We must surely congratulate ourselves that we live in a more enlightened age, if only that we are now at liberty to abuse the legislature, when it is not precisely to our own fancy, as much as we like. In 1646 poor Mary Long was, it would seem, sent to prison for a casual remark, while on her way to church at Amesbury, as to the House of Commons being in her opinion a "roguish Parliament" (p. 169).

Many of the stories are delightfully quaint both in subject and relation. We have heard speak of an old woman who lived in a shoe, but here is an authenticated case of a couple, "two ancient people", who, for lack of other residence, in 1647 lived for some weeks in a hollow tree near Malmesbury (p. 178). We may note also a pleasant contention in Imber church, where, in the midst of divine service, a quarrelsome female stuck a pin into her neighbour, who, "after some striving together", succeeded upon "treading upon her in her seat" (p. 169). What, one may ask, was the parson doing the while? Another tale concerns an affair in a public house, where a man intending only, as he afterwards explained, to give another, seemingly in good part, "a prick in the breech" inadvertently ran his friend right through with his sword, apparently with fatal results. I like, too, the description of the cheat, who, at the game of "putt", "kept cards in his bosom unlawfully"—evidently sleeves as then worn did not lend themselves to successful cardsharpping. There is the agreeable tale of an attack upon Mr. Goddard, "a greate fatt gentleman", at whom a labourer "threw his pronge" as he rode by with his dog. The aim was bad, the fat gentleman and his horse eluded the missile, but the dog was killed. As he galloped away the owner was heard to shout back to his assailant that this would prove "a dear partridge" to him (p. 114), which no doubt it did. And lastly there is the Quemerford "Skimmington", a form of entertainment well known by tradition, but of which it would seem this is the only first hand account in existence. But these are only a few

of the 'good things' which have caught my eye when reading through the proofs. Some of the words used rouse curiosity, and may afford matter for further research amongst those who specialise in Wiltshire Glossaries.

Students of records which have never been 'weeded' often find themselves overwhelmed by their accumulated mass. It is sometimes almost as necessary to destroy that which is useless as to arrange and classify that which is valuable. As regards the Wiltshire Records, a certain amount has been done in these directions, but much more remains to be carried out. Moreover, if papers are worth preserving they are worth indexing, in order that future enquirers may know not only what they contain but where to find it. It is greatly to be hoped that the Committee may see their way in the near future to have such an index made of all the County documents in their charge.

It is increasingly recognised by historical writers that their craft requires something more than a narrative of great events. The story of Kings and Parliaments, of treaties, and of battles lost and won, must, of course, be told, but, as in painting, the high lights need a background, and stand out all the better for it. This background is best afforded by the sayings and doings of the 'man in the street'. We can better appreciate the political movements of a period when we know something of village and family life, of the manners and customs of the people of the day. Annals of Parliament and State Papers tell comparatively little of such things. It is from local records such as these that they have to be extracted. The gratitude of historians, present and future, must surely go out to those who, like the compiler of this book, have helped to make them accessible.

LANSDOWNE.

Bowood.

November, 1932.

INTRODUCTION.

*“ Men’s works have faults, since Adam first offended,
And much in this, may want to be amended ”.*

With the possible exception of Devonshire, it is doubtful if any other county has such a continuous record as Wiltshire has of the Proceedings of its Quarter Sessions. Whilst those of the former begin at a somewhat earlier date, the Wiltshire Records, from 1603 onwards, form an almost complete account of the work carried on by the Justices for the benefit of the County and the preservation of order.

It is almost a matter of surprise that these Records should have been preserved for so long a period and in such perfect condition, when one considers the perils they underwent. The continual changes of Clerks of the Peace and the removal of the Records from one office to another would tend to their destruction or loss, and in the 17th century, what was probably considered as so much waste paper—when the matters concerned had been dealt with—would in the ordinary course of events have been got rid of, especially when the Rolls accumulated to large numbers. This, fortunately, was not the case as regards those of Wiltshire; not only did the respective Clerks of the Peace take care of the Records, but at quite an early date, viz., in 1605, the Justices themselves passed an order that John Kent, of Devizes, the then Clerk of the Peace, should view the Bridewell in Devizes, in order that a place of safe-keeping of the Records of the County might be found. This apparently was done, but in 1642/3, at the January Sessions, they passed a resolution that “ upon consideration how the sessions records may be preserved in this time of danger (i.e., during the Civil War), a strong chest with two locks and keys for that purpose be provided and kept in the vestry house of Warminster Church. At some later period the Records were transferred to Wilton, and afterwards to Fisherton Anger Prison, where they were kept in a separate chamber built for the purpose. When that prison was given up in 1875, they were sent to Devizes Prison, and stored in eight unoccupied cells until the present Muniment Room was built adjoining the Assize Courts at Devizes in 1878.

A re-arrangement and overhauling of the Records during the years 1929-1932 presented an opportunity of making copious detailed extracts from the Rolls of the 17th century, a period in the history of England that contributed so much to the development of our country from both civil and political points of view, producing changes in every city, town, or village throughout the Kingdom that had such great effect upon the civil life, either for

good or evil, of all the inhabitants. They reflect matters concerning every side of life in our County, from affairs of State to the intimate details of the lives of even obscure persons. These original documents enable us to realise the lives and characters of the chief actors concerned in the events recorded more readily, and in a far more vivid and engrossing manner, than could possibly be obtained from any modern book, even though based upon them.

For these reasons, and that the Records may be more readily accessible to the student and others interested in the subject, and that they shall be preserved in a readable as well as permanent form, this work of publication has been undertaken.

The Records are tied up in separate packages, one for each year, and each package contains the Records of the four Quarter Sessions, held respectively at New Sarum, Devizes, Marlborough, and Warminster, in rotation as at present. In a very few instances single files are missing; in 1643 and 1644 only two Sessions were held; and in 1645 none at all, owing to the unsettled state of the country on account of the Civil War.

The Records concern mainly the proceedings against offenders, but they also contain many interesting items of local interest, such as the names of the various juries (Grand and Petty) and their presentments to the Justices, the reports from the Tythingmen and Constables of the various hundreds in the county, reports from the "searchers of cloth", etc., besides numerous indictments, recognizances, etc., all of which throw an interesting light on the local conditions of the life of the people of Wiltshire of that period.

The duties of the Tythingmen and Constables were many. They had to report upon the condition of the roads and bridges in their districts, whether any houses had been erected contrary to the Act of Queen Elizabeth, without the necessary four acres of land attached, and encroachments upon the highways (these were many), streams and water courses that were not kept cleared, the names of all "Popish Recusants" or "Popishly inclined" persons, the holding of "Conventicles", a list of all vagrants and rogues captured and punished, unlicensed alehouses, persons found intoxicated, or caught tippling on a Sunday or otherwise breaking the Sabbath day, persons intruding and settling down in the villages or towns who had no claim to live there, and many other misdemeanours;—in fact, they appear to have had to report on every conceivable matter occurring in their respective districts that was not absolutely according to the law.

The Justices held enquiries at their respective homes into all manner of misdeeds and complaints, and forwarded their reports to the Clerk of the Sessions in time for the quarterly meetings. These reports comprise not only breaches of the laws; they deal with local quarrels, enquiries as to the reputed fathers of illegitimate children, the Justices' own views as to the state of the roads and bridges and who was responsible for the necessary repairs, sometimes giving an estimate of the cost of such repairs. The Justices had also to sign

all passes for beggars to travel from one part of the country to another, warrants for the arrest of evil doers and orders for their conveyance to prison to await their trial. In fact, the Justices of that period were kept fairly busy with matters concerning their respective districts.

One feature appears in nearly all the files of this century—that is, the appeals to the Court for pensions or relief by maimed and wounded soldiers. Apparently there was a tax of fourpence in the £ levied throughout the county as far back as 1578, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for this purpose, and Treasurers for the Northern and Southern parts of the county were elected at Quarter Sessions at such times as vacancies occurred. In the earlier Records the applications for relief are few, but after the Civil War their numbers increased considerably. And it is interesting to note that, during the Commonwealth, every applicant had *fought for and got wounded in the service of the Parliament*, but after the Restoration they all had given their services to “*The late King of ever blessed memory*”. By 1680 these appeals had dwindled to one or two each sessions; sometimes there was none. Many of the appeals for relief are supported by letters from the applicants’ commanding officers, the justices of the district that they come from, or the ministers of the parishes and “the chieftest inhabitants” of the villages.

Another interesting fact becomes apparent when reading these Records, that whereas the number of Recusants in the Southern part of the county is large, in the Northern part they are very few. This is due no doubt to the “Wardour” influence in those days, especially in the neighbourhood of Fovant, Dinton, Tisbury, Donhead, Ansty, etc.

By the courtesy of the Chairman and members of the Wilts Standing Joint Committee, the following extracts have been transcribed and published, and though it has not been possible to copy all that is interesting on these Rolls, yet it is hoped those selected will assist, in a manner not before attempted, to show the social conditions under which the inhabitants of Wiltshire lived in the 17th century, and the steps taken by the Justices to maintain order, alleviate the sufferings of the poor, and carry out the laws of the land.

It should be mentioned that besides the “Great Rolls”, dating from 1603, there are, in the Muniment Room, a series of “Minute Books” or “Registers” dating from the 16th year of Queen Elizabeth’s reign. These “Registers” are brief summaries of what appears in the “Great Rolls” that in the earlier Elizabethan registers are termed “Sessions Bundles” (now, alas! lost) and are sub-divided into “Entries” and “Orders”, the former dealing with the criminal business transacted at the Sessions and the latter with the non-criminal matters. The “Registers” of Queen Elizabeth’s reign are fully dealt with in Mr. Merriman’s extracts published in the Wiltshire Archæological Magazine (see page 2).

In Appendix " D ", (p. 298) will be found copies of a number of Autograph Letters (with a separate index), written in the course of the 17th century, addressed to the Justices of the Peace, from Rulers, Ministers of State, Bishops, Commanders in the Armies, and other notable historical personages. These letters have been taken from the Rolls to ensure their preservation and security, and inserted in a volume together with transcriptions; this also enables them to be the more readily consulted. Typed copies have been substituted in the Rolls of their respective dates.

In conclusion, I desire to put on record my grateful thanks to those kind friends who have so generously helped in this work, but more especially to Mr. J. J. Slade and Mr. J. E. Stone, of the " Wiltshire Gazette ", who so materially assisted me in the tedious labour of proof reading.

It is my sincere hope that this volume will form one of those series of local histories which in recent years have become of increasing interest, and are of such value to the student of English History.

" God save the King, and the Honourable Bench ".

B.H.C.

Devizes; November, 1932.

THE "GREAT ROLLS" OR FILES OF PROCEEDINGS OF WILTS QUARTER SESSIONS IN THE 17th CENTURY.

These Quarter Sessions Files begin with one roll, viz., that for January, 1602/3 (until the middle of the 18th century the official new year began April 1st), and from thence onwards are almost complete. Each file consists—when complete—of four rolls in each year, viz., one for each of the Quarter Sessions. They contain a vast amount of material throwing an interesting light on the conditions of village life as well as the procedure that governed the maintenance of order and suppression of crime in the county. The reports of the Tithingmen and Constables go to show the many duties these forerunners of our Police were expected to carry out.

The presentments of the Juries of the Hundreds and of the Grand Juries give an excellent idea of the care taken that bridges and highways should be repaired by the persons responsible, that no cottages should be erected without 4 acres of land attached and the proper consent of the authorities obtained. That all persons who failed to go to Church were duly "presented" to the Justices, and that all "Popish Recusants" had paid their fine. They also reported on the conduct of the ale houses, the service of apprentices, the treatment of servants by their masters, persons taking in lodgers "contrary to the statute", brawlers in church, and all other evil doers.

The Justices received petitions for relief of maimed soldiers and mariners, losses by fire, and for many other commendable causes. They also granted licenses to "badgers" or hawkers, licenses to ale house keepers, and certificates or passes to wandering vagrants and beggars. These passes required very careful scrutiny, as so many were forged and illegal. Besides the foregoing, which refer rather to the social than the legal side of life, the rolls consist of writs, warrants, recognizances, indictments, and indentures of apprentices. It is interesting to note that during the Civil Wars in 1643, when the county was in such a disturbed and "dangerous state owing to the souldiers", it was not possible to "advertise the sessions" held at Marlborough in October that year or "safe for persons to travel".

Witnesses and others who did not attend were pardoned on condition that they were present at the next Sessions.

In the years 1643 and 1644 the Sessions were held only twice in each year; none at all was held in 1645, when the whole county

was over-run by Cromwell's troops, and only two Sessions were held in 1646.

On the country becoming more settled in 1647 the four Quarter Sessions were resumed.

Another duty of the Justices at Quarter Sessions was that of fixing the *maximum* rate of wages to be paid to all classes of workers in the county, in accordance with the "Statute of Labourers" passed in the 5th year of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

[The earlier files contain many of these Schedules.]

Any infringements of the rates of pay laid down by the Justices subjected the payer as well as the receiver to heavy punishment.

In the "Wilts Archæological Magazine" (Vols. XX., XXI., and XXII.) appear a series of articles by the late R. W. Merriman, the then Clerk of the Peace for the County, which contain many interesting extracts from these rolls. They deal more especially, however, with the legal side of the proceedings of the Quarter Sessions, whereas these extracts generally refer more to the social side.

The first roll, or file, dated 1603, contains the presentments of the Cloth Searchers, Tythingmen and Constables at the Session held at Devizes in May, 1603, the first year of the reign of King James I. Some of the reports are dated "45th year of Elizabeth", who died in March, 1602/3 (the legal year began on April 1st), so either these presentments were drawn up before the death of Elizabeth or the news of that event had not reached the compilers by the time they had to be sent to the Clerk of the Peace. In the following extracts, the date of the roll from which each comes is generally given at the beginning; where no year is mentioned it must be taken that the item belongs to the period of the previous date, and where blanks occur that the words are obliterated.

1603.

GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS OF THE PEACE HELD AT THE DEVIZES, MAY 3rd.

James I. came to the throne March, 1603, consequently some of the indictments that were tried at these Sessions belong to the last three months of Elizabeth's reign.

PRESENTMENTS.

Itm. Wee psent Roger fflower of the Devizes that Hee the xxxth daye of October made three clothes fine white brode Lysted weh being then & ther weell scored ffulled and ffully dryed dide contayn in Length xxxj yeards contrary to the statutt every one of them.

Searchers, Richard Russell, George Watkins, and Edward Webbe.

Shearchers ffor Castlee Coume, John of band and Thomas Parsons.

We do presentte John Younge of Castell Coume Clothear the viij day of Aprell for two narow lyste whytte Cloathars ded lacke iij pound.

We do presentte William Webbe of Slauter forde Clothear the xv day of Aprell for j broad lyste whytte clothe ded lacke ij pound.

We do presentte George Neete of Nettelton Clothear the xxix day of Aprell j broad lyste whytte clothe ded lacke ij pound.

CALNE.

This is a lengthy presentment containing 28, cases, of which the following are selections:

ffrancis Twigden on cloth ffaultye narow thorowout the 9 of October & 29 November.

Do. on cloth ffaulty narow 4 playtes the 22 of January.

Do. on cloth ffaulty narow hallffe waye 30 of Apryll.

Do. on broad lyte cloth sentered thorowout the 9 of October by William Coocke his Tucker and sent away unseched.

ffrancis Twigden, Thomas Bullock and Rychard Elleington ryotusly and routeously and agaynst the Kynges Imperiall Crowne and dignity by fforce of Armes dyd resyst and tacke away on Broade narow lyste whyt cloth from John Horten gent and Thomas Ocfford at Chevers newe myll in Clarckes meade the 19 of Apryll John Tayller of Spertehill the 22 of November 4 clthers lacking on pownde a pece of theyr ffull wayght: and on cloth lacks 2 powndes of his ffull wayght.

Richard Bayly of Echillhamton the 12 of March on cloth lacking a pound.

John Pearce of Charlcott the 27 of ffebruary on cloth lacks 3 powndes of his full wayght.

Wi Elyzbeth Chener of Quemerford on cloth ffaulty narow thorowout the 22 of October.

(There are three similar charges against Widow Janner on other dates).

Robart Padyce 3 clothers ffaulty narow 8—20 22 playtes a pece the 7 of January.

Thomos Haullkyns 3 clothers mysscontented the 28 of Marche.

William Salt on narow lysted Broad whyt tacken a way by force of arms by John Mather of Calston at his myll there the 24 of September agaynst the Kynges Imperiall Crown and dignity.

This is signed by John Hyrton gent Thomas Ocfford, John Tyller.

The presentment of the Jury of the Devizes.

We present John Paynes bezzy (a) for makege a mucksune (b) in ye Markett place to ye greate a noyence of the Kynges leige people.

(a) (Bezzy, may be meant for Bezonian=a beggar).

(b) (Mucksen=a dungheap).

We present John Streete for keppinge unlaifull game in his house.

(Farnando buttler, gylle endoll, george Wattkynes and James Willis are also presented for similar offences).

CHIPPENHAM.

Gabriell Goldeny, Henry Nashe & Robert Hawkins searchers of broad white clothe for the pishe of Chippenham aforesaid Ano. Eliz: 45 (1602).

In primis. Wee psent on the fowerth daye of November laste we founde one narrowe listed clothe of Edward Stafford thelder of Chippenham to be to narrowe & wthin sixe aboute xiiij yeards or there aboute.

We psent on the same daye one other cloth of the same Edward to be to narrowe fyve yeards wth bands or ther aboute.

We likewise psent on the same daye one other cloth of the same Edward being narrowe xiiij yeards & in length xxx yeards wch after was cutt to the length of xxviiij yeards.

(There are two simliar presentments against Edward on other dates).

This is signed Gabriell Gouldney, Henry Nash, and Robert hawkyns.

KINGSTON ST. MICHAEL.

Robert Hewet and William Launde, searchers for Michaells Kingston.

We psent on the xxiiij of Aprill last wee founde at a mill called Perkengill myll one broad list white clothe being the cloth of John Robert of Chippenham to be in length xxix yeards.

1602.

SLAUGHTERFORD.

Md. We the searchers following dooe psent Richard Vinar of Marshfielde Clothier in the County of Gloucester for that he the said Richarde made or caused to be made a broade light whitte Cloth wch wanted six pounds of Standard weight uppon his ffull tucking wth in the pishe of Slaughterd. Serched and founde in default the xxviiij daie of Januarie last past by us Robert Browne and Richard Hoare of Slaughterd a foresaid Serchers.

1603.

BROMHAM AND ROWDE.

fore the layberties of bromhame and rowde wee say all thinges is good and fayre.

BRADFORD.

A presentmente made by the Jurores of the hundred of bradford the 3 of Maye 1603.

Ite. Wee presente that the sceacondr Eyell of Mitfores bridge lyinge towarde the southest end of the same bridge called by the neame of Wilsheare eyell is greatlye in decaye to the annoyannce of the Kinges leadge peapull and by whom it ought to be repaired Wee know not.

POTTERNE AND CANNINGS.

The psentment for the hunderd of Poterne and Channings this 3 daye of Maye 1603.

Wee doe psent Thomas Hitchman of Worton for that he hath kept an in mate in his house for the space of three yeres last past contrary to the statute and would not at aine time be Bownd for his disregarde.

Wee doe psent Thomas Weekes of Potterne for receavinge one Hatheren wch came greate wth child from Bainton, late servannt wth one Mrs. Jones, desiring yor worshippes favors to direct us some good course for the discharge of or pishe.

CALNE.

for the hundred of Calne.

We psent a way decayed in the severall grond of widowe Chevers called hayll lanne wth in the pishe of Calne wch is the high way leading from hilmarton and from Compton unto the Devizes being a horse way and a wayne way, wch way is to be kept repayred and mayntayned from time to time by the said widowe Chevers wch way is a great hurt unto the Kings Magustie subiactes wch travell that way.

CHIPPENHAM.

The presentment of the hundred of Chippenham.

Itm. We psent Anthony Jones of Mydlehil wthin the pishe of Boxe for the newe erecting and buildinge of one cottage house wthin the Comon of the aforesaid Mydehill contrary to the lawes and statuts of this realme.

Itm. We psent Johane Keynes of the pishe of Boxe for the dwelling in the small cottage house in Hatt wth in the pishe of Boxe, newe erected by her late husbände John Keynes deceased contrary to the lawes &c.

Itm. Wee psent Christopher Butler of Boxe weaver, John Humpryes ofndlowe in the same pishe Roughemason for that they both one the feaste daye of Easter last in the Church of Boxe before the morneinge prayer on that daye in a tumultor sorte denydd the booke of Comon prayer & the book of the Omiles

sayinge that there could be no edificacon for the people by them and that the unpreaching mynister could not rightly nor had noe power to administer the Sacrament.

Likewise psent the aforesaid and one Sylvester Butler of Castlecombe for that they three on Easter Twesdaye laste in the Churche yeard of Boxe in the after none of the same daye did in the like tumultuos sort beset John Coven Vicar of Boxe mayntayninge the former alagacons lykewise utterly denyinge the ministry for the most pte to have now lawfull callinge & wthall threateninge in generall termes that the said John Covine wth a ——— thon said of like. . . . should somen them. He was a ——— of be throwen out of their places by the heeles.

In wytnes hereof.

John Coven, Vicar of Boxe.
and Willm Saye. Nycholas Coxe.

MELKSHAM.

The presentments for the hundred of Melksham.

We dow psent Willim Coninge of Wodrewe parish of Milksham have taken away a way that goeth from neybour to neybour in Wodrewe a path way And the way conteyneth to Calne and hath remayned away this C yeares and upparde.

We doe present Willim Gerish of Shaw for that hee had a mayde begott wth Child in his howse and the mayde was torned away by Willim Gerish and is bidinge now in John Wards howse at Wodrewe.

We doe psent that Michaell Cuffe and Thomas Lester in the fforrest of Blakmore have taken in an inmate wch came from Send and abode at Send butt one quarter of a yeare wch the parish is licke to be charged of all.

MALMESBURY.

Hundred of Malmysberie. The presentments of the Jury att the Quarter Sessions holden at the Devizes this iij day of Maye, 1603.

Imprimis. We psent that Staynes Bridge in the Tethinge of Brokenborow ys greatly in decaye very dangerous to all passengers and travelers that useth that waye and ought to be repayred bye the said tethinge of Brokenborough.

Itm. We farther psent that Turne againe Lane neare unto Staynes Bridge is decayed and ought to be repayred and amended by the said tethinge of Brokenborough.

Itm. farther we psent that the Bridge nere unto sondayes Elme adioyninge unto a ground of one John Speck of Brokenborough wth in the tethinge of Brokenborough is in decaye & ought to be repayred by the Tethinge of Brokenborough.

Itm. We farther psent that there is a watter course in the mydle of the Tything of Estott Kuninge alonge downe her ditch wch doth over flowe the casseway to the great decay of the said

casway and ought to be amended by one Bennet wch useth the ground and dampneth up the watter to the hurt of the said way.

A PETITION from Stanton St. Bernard for relief on account of loss by fire. (This document is mutilated at edges and words missing.)

To the Right Worshippfull The Queenes Maties Justices of this Countie of Wiltes.

In most Humble wise Complayninge sheweth unto yor Worshippes yor poore and ——— Oratrix Alice Haynes of Stanton Barnard in the said Countie of Wiltes, Widdowe. That whereas by mysfortune of fyer suddainely ariseinge in and upon the fourth daie of November laste paste betwene tenne and eleven of the clocke at nyghte the psonage house of Stanton aforesaid wherein the said Widdowe and her poore child(ren) did their dwell was burned and all her goodes and household stufe in the same house to the value of Twentie poundes was then and there by the same fyer quite wasted and consumed to the utter impoverishinge and undoinge of the said poore Widdowe and her sixe small children if some spedie remedie for her be not pvided. And for that to travell and aske the Devotion of good disposed people, is a thinge contrarie unto her Maties Lawes. She hath no meanes lefte to releve her self but only ——— seeke unto yor Worshippes for helpe and comforte. Maye it therefore please yor worshippes to have compassion upon the poore distressed widdowe beinge nowe in a wofull case and to allowe some portion of that money wch is collected wth (in the) Countie for such Charitable uses, as in yor worshippfull consideracons shalbe (—) good, towrades the relief of the afflicted widdowe and her poore children an (—) such order wth the overseers appoynted for the relief of the poore of Stanton (—) that she and her children maye have some place to inhabit and dwell in, as (—) grave discretion shalbe meete and convenient. And yor poore Oratrix shall dailie praye unto Almightye for the prosperous estate of yor worships to continue. And for that it maye more playnlie unto yor worships that this is true the pties whose names are under written beinge Inhabitants of the said pishe have putt their handes geven the ixth daie of this instant Januarie and in the fyve and fortethe yere of her Maties Raigne Ano Dmi (1603).

(Signed) WILLIAM CROMWELL. Vicar.
Christopher Baylye, Palle Samon, Willim Godwyn, Richard Plooth
(and one other name indecipherable).

The following is not dated, but is in the great Roll of 1603.
To the Worshippfull Mr. Edward Longe, Mr. — Lysley,
and Mr. John Kent, Officers of the manner of Bradford, to the
Right honorable Countise of Clanricard.

May it please you to understand That the bearer hereof whose name is John Tiladdams whoo was borne in Bradford and hath

dwelt there all his tyme sythence and hath behaved hymselfe allwayes true and honest in all kind of respect for ought we knowe, and nowe having Impedymment boath in his sight and in pte of his Lymms, by reason whereof is nott able to gett his Lyving and to pay great rents for howsing as he hathe done in tymes paste. These causes consydred Doth move us whose names are under written To crave yor Worshipp's favor and furthermore in his behalfe, To bestowe a plott of ground upon hym wthin the borroughe or very neare therunto to build a howse one (on) to the better relyefe of hym, his wife and children, wch thing yf you will graunt we shall thincke or selves beholden unto you. And the poore man wilbe bound all wayes To pray unto God for yor most prosperous heathes and wealth, to god honor & glory.

(Signed) Thomas Reede, Vicar of Bradford.

Henry Deverell and John Singer, Church Wardines, Thos. Lovell, Wallter Yorbury, Thomas Chepenham, of hoolt overseeres.

Mr. Kent we have aucthorised Bartholomew Browne of Uphaven wth in or devisioun to kepe a Vitling house in Uphaven, wherfor upon good surties to be bounde according to the forme of the Statute in that behalfe we will that you shall graunt him a licence under the seale of the Sessions. Date iij May Anno Jacobi Regis & primus. Yor frendes

John Dauntsey.
Jo. Erneley.
Alexandr Tutt.

Suerties James Pyle of Uphaven house.
Anthony Coop of Longstreet in the pish of Enford.

The Trinity Quarter Sessions for 1603 were held at Warminster on the 19th day of July. The roll of proceedings is very similar to the Easter Sessions in its composition and the Calendar quite as heavy.

There are several presentments for faulty cloth, decayed ways and bridges. The examination of Agnes Jones of Great Bedwyn in a bastardy case is attested by "Henry Sarm", Bishop of Salisbury. There are several petitions to the Justices asking for assistance in relief of fires, robbery, &c., but the following account of "The Boy who did not get whipped" is of quite another kind.

Whereas heretofore one Wm. Mathew the sonne of Thomas Mathew, a poore man of this towne of Warminster, wth wilful and ill intent did thrust his knyfe into the thighe of one Walter Rudman, nowe apprentice with one John Morgaine Sercher of the Towne, the hurte whereof besydes the chardges of healling and losse of his work unto his said Mr. And complainte thereof being made unto the Wor. Mr. James Ley esquire it was ordered and comanded by him unto the Constables of this Towne, that the said Wm. Mathew should be therefore whipped in the Towne Hall as a punishment due for such an offendor to the end yt might be an example of warninge to him and other such lewd mynded boyes in attempting

the like deeds. The constables as yt seemeth hath not pformed the said order whereby the said boye is animated to doe further mischeeffs if he maye escape unpunished for one of the Constables being of kynne to the said boye saith that it is done, but thother knowes not of yt nor any bodye els. Wherefore yf yt please yor Wors. to call the said Constable John Townesend before you and to examyne him &c. and do further therein as seemeth fitt in yor Wors. discretions, you may doe a very charritable deed.

Yor Wor. Comden

Wm. Rudman

father of Walter Rudman.

(The result of this petition is not stated, but one cannot help hoping that young Mathews got his desserts.)

JULY, WARMINSTER SESSIONS.

Abstracts of most of these items have been transcribed in "The Historical Manuscripts Commission Report on Manuscripts", 1901 Report, and by R. W. Merriman in Wilts Archæological Magazine Volumes.

1604.

HILLARY SESSIONS, JAN. 10th, AT SALISBURY, 1603/4.

This Roll is damaged by damp somewhat. It has the usual list of Jurymen, a large number of recognizances and indictments. Among the presentments of the searchers is the following, which is worth transcribing if only for the quaint spelling.

The sevyntyne daye of November in the fyrste yeare of the Raygne of owre soferaygne Lord Kynge James the fyrste came Thomas Whetaker, Rycharde Layson and Thomas Lavyngton to the myll house of John Ussher saying to John Ussher we are come to vew and to doe owre offys uppon your clothes, who anseryd us there——be take yowr plesure butt looke yow do no more than yowr offys, we fyndyng the clothes uncontentyd, we requyred hym to sett on hys contents whych wold nott do ytt Sayenge to us he had not yett porposyd in hys mynd what he wold do wth them.

Then we demanded of hym in fryndly sorte when he wold lode them, to the end we myght come and do owre offys, who ansered us he cold nott tell when ether by daye or by nyght or before Chrystmas or no. To home we sayd then ytt ys nesysarye yf you lode in the nyght that you geve us knowlege a daye before that we may come to do owre offys he anseryd us agayne when he had nyd (need) of us he wold send for us. He did not send for us att all nore geve us any knowlege of hys lodynge, thys beyenge the xxvij daye of November he lodyd verye shortlye after xxij clothes more and the weke after that he lodyd viij clothes more whyche xxx clothes were loden and gon wth owte anye examsyon of owre offys whyche

ys hys second contempe contrarye to the statute provyd in that behavfe And now come to the heryng of yowr good worshippes.

Wee Thomas Whetacker, Richard Layson, Thomas Lavinton, over seers for Wolling Clothe.

Some of the presentments are complaints against inhabitants not going to Church "to the defin sarvis and not tacking the communion".

Another presentment, a very lengthy one, concerns a case of cattle stealing, to which is added the sworn testimony of Witnesses.

PREVENTION OF PESTILENCE.

The following order of the Justices for preventing the spreading of the pestilence is worth recording.

After the usual preliminary "at the General Quarter Sessions &c. held at New Sarum Jan. 12th in the first year of James (1st) (1603/4) &c." "ffor avoydinge of further encrease of the infection of the pestilence wch by daily experience ys founde to growe by the wanderinge upp and downe the country of idle and loyteringe vagabonds and other loose psons wch nowe of late have taken more libtye to travaile then heretofore in regarde that the Constables Tithingmen and hedboroughes wth in this County have byn very remisse in thexecucon of the statute made in the xxxixth yere of the Raigne of our Late Sovaigne Ladye Queene Elizabeth for the punishment of Rogues vagabonds and idle beggars yt ys ordered by the Justices of the peace of this County at this psent Sessions assembled That all Constables, Tithingmen hedboroughes & other officers and Ministers Wth in this County to whome yt shall appteine Doe from henceforthe their best endeavor to putt in execucon the foresaid statute touchinge the punishment of all suche Rogues, Vagabonds and idle beggars as shall travaile upp & downe by or throughe their pcincts & lymitts upon the paine and forfaiture in the said statute expressed and to be further delt wth & pceeded as their remissences & negligence in that behalf shall require. And yt is further ordered that the Churchwardens or sidemen of every pishe wth in the said County doe forthwth upon the receipt of a Copie of this order to be to them delived cause the same to be published openly in their pishe Churches ymediately after divine prayer in the psence of the pishioners that notice may thereof be taken to thintent that the foresaid officers may be without excuse yf hereafter they shall offende in neglect of their dueties in this behalfe.

(Signed) Henry Sarm
Eded Penruddoke
Echo (?) Estcombe
Lawrence Hyde
G. Tooke
W. Blacker

(And one other unreadable).

This is followed by a lengthy order of the Justices whereby they decree that any person or persons infected with the pestilence found wandering about and outside their houses they may be sent to the nearest house of correction for one month and shall every day of his or her imprisonment be punished by whipping, and before being released shall find securities for his or her good behaviour in the future and to appear at the next Quarter Sessions to receive further orders as the Court shall think fit.

A footnote states:—Upon credible informacon given unto the Court at this present General Quarter Sessions That the City of Sarum ye Boroughe of the Devizes & Marleboroughe & the pische of Ffisherton Anger are infected wth the disease of the pestilence & that in the City, Boroughs & pische there are great numbers of poore people who onely live and mayntayne them selves by weaving of wollen clothe & spyning to the Clothiers & mketts wthin the said County & other manuell trades & occupacons now are putt of from their saide worke by the clothiers & others their work masters by reason of the feare of the encrease & further dispse of the said infeccion so as nowe there ys noe meanes lefte unto them for poore people to get their lyvinge unles it shall please god very shortly to stay the contagion thereof. Yt is therefore ordered by the Justices assembled at this Sessions that for henceforth there shalbe paied by the Treasauers of the Collecon of the relief of the poore persons of the Kings Bench & Marshalsey & of suche hospitalls & Almshouses as are wth in this County or one of them towards the relief of the sd poore people theise somes of mony hereafter menconed.

The remainder of this document is so badly written, parts scored out, written over and amended that the true sense of it is difficult to make out, but apparently the Mayor of New Sarum was to have forty shillings weekly for the relief of the poor, and the same amount was to be sent to Devizes, and Marlborough and Fisherton Anger thirty shillings. An amount was also allotted to Calne, but it is unreadable.

This bears the same signatures as the previous document, with the addition of Henry Martyn, W. A. Vaughan, and two unreadable.

The Michaelmas Sessions were held on October 18th, 1603, at Devizes: One of the most interesting documents in this file is that containing the "Orders agreed upon for thoccupacon of Weavers". It is published in detail in the Historical Manuscripts Commission Report on Manuscripts, 1901, pages 74 and 75.

A TALE OF A SADDLER, A RAPIER AND A DAGGER.

The examination of William Saverie, late of Norrington, husband, taken before Sir James Mervin, Knight, 21st day of September, 1603.

The said examinat confesseth and sayeth that about three weekes sethence, being servant to one Richard Kennyll of Norring-

ton aforesayd, he came into an oxe house of the sayd Richard Kennyll there, and dyd take awaye one rode saddle havinge gyvses and stirrops belonginge to ytt, And caryed ytt unto one John Dwe undertennt of the sayd Richard Kennyll in pcell of the houses thereunto belonging, And prayed him to lend this examinatt two shillings upon the sayd saddell. And that he should keepe the same untill he brought him his money againe. And being further examined touchinge a rapier of one Mr. Curgeynide a Minister, he sayethe that upon the restoringe of the possession from Mr. Gawen to the said Richard Kennyll of Norrington house this examinatt came into the dwellinge house there and in a chamber he tooke awaye one Rapier but whether it was Mr. Curgeynids rapier or nott he knoweth nott, Butt sayethe he kept yt in his custodie by the space of seven dayes, untill upon examinaccon by his Mr. Kennyll taken of him he confessed that he had the said rapier. And being further examined howe he receyved a dagger wch was found in his chamber att the same time he sayethe that he tooke up the dagger in the utter Courte att Norrington without a scabbard. And so kept yt in his Chamber untill by searche yt was found. And wthin a daye after he tooke out of the hawle in the sayd house a scabbard for the sayd dagger and more he confesseth nott.

(Signed) JAMES MERVIN.

ALE HOUSES IN LAVINGTON.

I understand by this bearer my sarvant that you desier I sholde sett downe the names of suche as I shall thincke fitt to be allowed in Stippellavington to sell ale, wch I colde wishe to be very fewe yf it were not for the Markett bereson (by reason) whereof I thincke ther cannot be lesse then fower besides the Inde (Inn) whose names I have her under written, and yf hereafter it maye apere that les may suffice then they may be abridged and yf nowe you and the rest of the gent shall thincke them to many I leve it to yor cosederacon to apoynt what number you shall thincke will suffice. Thus desiringe to see you at yor returne from the sessions I comyt you to the benission of the hiest. Att my house this wensdaie 1603.

Yor ffrende asured,

JOHN DAUNTESEY.

Mark Williams
Thomas Cres
John Maththewe
Wm. Hollwell

} These to be lysensed to kepe alehouses in
Lavington, fforsd, and the rest to be sup-
pressed.

Wth my very hartie commendacons. Yf Nicholas Evans appeare nowe at the Sessions I pray you to take order that he be not delivred (released) but upon very good sewerties. men of good worth and to be bound in good fines for his psonall apparance at the next Quarter Sessions for that he is to be charged wth some other matter els wheare. And I byd you hartty ffarewell ffrom Lytlecott this 27th of October 1603.

(Signed) J. POPHAM.

AN APPEAL TO THE KING.

To the Kings most excelent Maiesty Moste high & mighty prince. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords multiply his ffavors and mercy uppon you and yor Royall stede (Anglo Saxon=a place or spot) and posterity for ever.

May it please yor highnes even for Christ Jesus sake to take pittie uppon me yor poore miserable distressed subject, ffor I am cast into prison my wife and children throwen out of my howse & lefe to the mercy of the worlde by one Richard Grubham Esquire. My humble suite unto yor maiesty is that I may have som succour of the parishe for my self my wife and children and that I may have a place built by the parishe for us, this yf it may please yor highnes to graunt I and myne shall I hope for ever prayse God for you.

The above, in the handwriting of the applicant, is not signed, but beneath it, in a different hand, is written "at the Court at Wilton 30 Aug. 1603 The Justices of peace upon complaint to them will charitablie consider of this peticon if ther be cause. (Signed) Roger Wilbraham".

A DEFAULTING PORTREVE.

We present that Nicholas Tarrant of the burrough of Bedwin Magna in the sayd countie husbandman and portreeve of the said Burrough on the xiiij of September in the first yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord King James did suffer iij rouges to passe unpunished after that they weare taken and brought unto him by the watche there contrary to the forme of the Statute in that case made and provided.

Also we present that Willm Batt of Crofton husbandman on the xiiij day of October &c. did receive into his howse and harbour by the space of three nights a wandering woman and a childe coming from London as it was supposed to the great danger of the inhabitants of Crofton by whom being required not to take into his howse the sayd woman & child did unrevently abuse them wth many slanderous speeches.

1606.

The Roll for this year contains many interesting presentments, some of which are too lengthy to be transcribed. The following are a few of the shorter ones.

GRUNDWELL.—Imprimis. wee doe psent Thomas Kemble and Brydget his wife for not coming to Church.

WIDHILL wthin the pysh of Crickladd St. Sampson. Item we psent the wife of Griffin Dancaster for not coming to Church.

LATON.—Item we psent thee widowe Dicwise for a papist.

LYDDIARD MILLICENT.—Item we doe psent Gyles Weebb gent. for papist.

HYGWOTH.—We pſent William Elbron for a comon drunckard.

WESTROP.—We pſent Antroney Dewman kepr of ale.

FFRYSEDEN.—We pſent a bridge lying betwene Highworth & Towſewell.

BLUNSDEN GAYE.—We pſent the widdowe Hollowaye for keeping a Comon Ale houſe.

LATTON.—We pſent Alice Stone the wife of Thomas Stone for a comon ſcould.

KINWARDSTONE.—Miſtreſſ Bright Hungerford of Stok doth not com to Chirch.

Her man Larence Drake cometh not to the Chirch.

Mr. Moelence (?) of foſberie and his wife and childrene cometh not to the Chirch.

Mr. Crpheare and his wife doth not receive the communion yeat they cometh to the Chirch.

The man Briſton of pewſie hath taken an under tenant in a cotage theare.

Edmond Amore of Pewſie hath taken an under tenante in a cotege in Pewſey.

We pſent that the one thyrtty day of Auguſt laſt paſt then there at Robt Sweper and Phyllyps diſorder and drunkenneſ in his houſe at nyght wth dyvers pſons wch have byn in queſtion before my lord chyff Juſtyce.

KINGSBRIDG.—We pſent Richard Rogers of Wouten Baſet for that he is a common Allehouſe haunter and a drunckard. We doe pſent the wyfe of Mr. Nyckcolas Stevenes of burdrupe in the pariſh of Chiſſilton for not coming to Church.

SICKLY (? Selkley).—Impmiſ we pſent that Mr. Zegwich hath not worne the ſerplis ſence the tym he hath ben Vicar of Ockborne Saint Andrew, nether doth hee ſine wth the ſine of the Croſſe in Babiſme wch hath bene required of him. Also we pſent that Mr. Waldron of Allborne doth reſuſe to com the Church.

We the ſearchers of Woollen clothe wthin the hundred of Weſtbury for this pſent year 1606 doe preſent Naſh Whitaker of Tynnhead in the pariſh of Edington, for that we came upon the nineteenth day of September laſt paſt unto the reckecloſe of the ſaid Whitaker And ther wee found in one of his reckes one broade woollen white clothe being ſtreched and ſtreyned wth one lower barr pinned downe at bothe ends of the ſame barr contrary to the Statute &c.

HUNDRED OF WANBOROWE.

Impriſmiſ the Jurie doe pſent the Tythinge of Manningford Boundes for that they do not keep and mayntaine a ſufficient Bridge uppe the river for people to paſſ over by the foorde that leadethe from thence to Woodborowe and that they may be comanded to reſuſe the ſame by St. Thomas daie on paine to forfeit.

Itm. We psent the Tythinge of Russall for that they doe not sufficientlie keepe scoured the river betwixte Manningford and Newnton and desire that he maye be comanded to scour the same by the daie aforesaid on paine to forfitt.

Itm. We psent the Tythinge of Russall for that they do not keepe repaired the East Bridge at the Cuckingmill and doe desire that they be comanded to amend both endes of the same &c. (as above).

We psent the pishe of Bechingstoke for that they doe not keepe skowred the river betwixt Marden Mill and Puckshippon and do desire &c. (as above).

PRESENTMENTS HILLARY TERM.

Thomas Parsons of Castle Combe, tucker (=a fuller) his presentment 1606.

I present Richard Vynar of Marshfield for the packing of one broad tyst white clothe to the lower barres the viijth day of November last past.

I present Robert fforeman of Cawne (? Calne) weaver for the keeping of an apprentice unlawfullie for the space of ten moneths past.

(He also presents Thomas Swaddon of "Cawne" for a similar offence).

ALDERBURY HUNDRED.

Wee psent that Richard Griffin Vicar of Idmiston doth not come to his owne pishe Church according to the Statute.

Wee psent that Mr. Henry White of Hurkett in the pish of Winterbourne Earles doth not come to the mending of the high way.

Wee psent Mr. Willm ffawcon esquire for not coming to his pishe Church according to the Statute.

Where as we have examined all thynges and matters betwene our selves and we fynde nothing to present, but bulford men psented that durrington Bridge is decayed, and a traviling bridge in bulford and a causeway at longe bridge on both sydes which is to be mended, the bridge of durington is to be mended by durington and the west end of the causeway, and the est end by Bulford.

by me Richardune Frington.

SARUM the viij day of January 1606.

Wee psent that Edward Bennet hath hedged in a peace of ground being a highway and is a deniance to the Kinges Majsties subjects.

In Barrike St. John summa bene.

There are also several presentments "for not coming to Church".

A QUARRELSOME CALSTON MAN.

WILSHER.

We whose names are hereunder wrytten doe sygnifye unto yor wshipps that Henry Gale of Calston in this County of Wilshire, fuller, ys a Comen barreter (baret, Anglo Saxon=Strife) a trowbler and a great defame and Slanderer and a comen dysturber a lybell maker ageinst his neyghbors to the great dysturbans and unquyetnes of his said neghbors for wytnes wherof we have to thes psents sett or handes the xxiiijth of October in the fflowerth yer of the Raygne of or Souvaygne lord James by the grace of god of England ffrance and Yerland Kyng defender of the ffayth iiij and of Scotland the xlth.

The above is signed by Stephen Wrell, John hiscock, Robeart Tinker, whilst Willm Garvis and John Wheates "make their mark" and is addressed "To the right Woor, Sir Henry Baynton, Knight".

These are to certefie yor wo. that I have byn Constable of fisherton Anger wthin the hundred of Brenche and Dole by the space of these two yeares laste paste desiringe yor wo: that nowe I may be released and to aucthorise Thomas Rendall and Thomas Ward pishoners of fisherton to undertake my office wherefore I shall as in dutie bownden ever praye for yor wo: psperitie longe to contynewe.

Yor mo: humble suppliannt
William Webb constable.

The Magistrates granted his request and appointed Rendall in his place.

A NEST OF THIEVES AT STOURTON.

The Quarter Sessions Roll for Michaelmas 1606 contains a report of the enquiry into the doings of a party of thieves who lived near Stourton. It comprises the examination of the principal culprits, and is especially interesting on account of the quaint spelling and words used that are now obsolete. The first enquiry is—

"Thexaminacon of Roger Snowe taken before Sir Edward Hext Knight the xvijth of July 1606. Hee sayth that about Bartholmewe day was twelvemoneth hee met wth one Willm Tyrrell and his weife and one Robt Boorne John Smyth fower or fyve myles from Sturton Howse, and Tirril and his weife depeted from this extt Smyth and Boorne, and the sayd Boorne and Smyth brought this extt to one Phillip Trivyttts howse neere unto my Lord Sturtons howse at Sturton where the sayd Smyth solde a payre of Breeches and they lay there all that night and in the morninge this extt and the sayd Boorne depeted from thence levinge the sayd Smyth beehinde them att the sayd Tryvetts howse And after they had gone about six myles together The sayd Boorne depeted out of the company of this extt. And this extt ment to travel towards London to seeke Svce (Service) And travelinge hee was taken into

svice by one John Noble wthin two myles of Oxford att a place called Hillnige wheer he remayned ever sythence untill about Candlemas last att what tyme hee came from thence from his sayd master without leave and about Wilton in Wiltes he mett wth one John Bacon, and about Castely in Wiltes the next day followinge about ij of the clocke in the afternoone they brake a howse and tooke from thence two Wasscotes a silke scarfe a Gould ringe a silke apron a holland sheete a Tynnyn Salte and they went that night to Tryvetts howse where they solde the two wastcotts and the sheete and as this extt thinketh they had about xvijid for ytt and had their meate drinke and Lodgings that night and should have had xvjd more for yt as hee thinketh. And the next day they came towards Castle Carye wthin a myle of Bruham where they were apphended upon suspicon of felonie and brought before Mr Gylbert and comytted to Fuelchester gayle. And there was taken uppon them the sayd Gould ringe the silke apron the silke scarfe and a kercheife. And being examyned whether he could tell any thinge of Welshes robborye sayth that as this extt and Bacon came from Sir Edward Hext about fortnighte scythens the sayd Bacon confessed unto this extt that he the sayd Bacon wth two or three others did robb the sayd Welsh and tolde howe they smuddered him and his weife before they could gett up into the Chamber to them, and they tooke from thence money, but howe much nowe this extt rememberd not. And this extt farther sayth that the sayd Bacon confessed to this exatt that hee and one George Alkins were shortlye after apprehended att Shaston and comytted to Dorchester gayle, and sayd farther that the offycers att Shaston took from them soe much broken money as hee coulde hold in both his hands, a goulde ringe, a poynyard, a hatt faced with velvet, a Jerkyn and a handkercheefe and a knife, the money and goulde ringe they the sayd Bacon and Atkins tooke from a parsons howse in the nighte, but wher the Parson dwelleth this extt knoweth not. And Sayeth that wthin neer three myles of Cole in Som: this Extt and Bacon broke a Parsons howse att Coscley and tooke from thence about forty peeces of pewter vessels and a goblett and carryed the same to Cole to a Widdowe womans howse there that dwelleth over agaynst the mill who bought yt of them and gave for the goblet about iijs and for the Vessells they had about iijs. He alsoe confesseth that Bacon tolde him that one Baker that dwelleth at Lotishams greene in Som: had received a cloke of him and gave him viijs for ytt. And Bacon alsoe confessed unto him hee had solde wooll wch hee had stolen to a woman dwellinge in Lotishams Greene.

All wch Bacon most impudently denyed notwithstanding Snowe very confydentlye avowed yt before him :

Signed EDW. HEXT.

SOMRSET.

The examynacon of Walter Jacobb of Wincanton in the County aforesaid weaver taken before Maurice Gylbert Esquior the xxvjth day of September 1606.

Who sayeth that a bout All hallontide last was Twellmoneth one Trivate of Stourton as he taketh yt brought unto him to Wincaulton one a Markett day iij yards of Broade Greene Clothe somewhat worne and spotted wch seamed to be parte of a carpett for that there was as he thinketh some thereof but a little before rent a way, desiring him to be a meanes to convert it to a sadder colour to make his wife a gowne, where uppon this examitt sent for one Henry Wyne of Browton a dyar who was then in the towne and there Trivate delived him the iij yards of Greene clothe and bargayned for iiijd yard to have it dyed Blacke and soe depted and these Wyne a bout a ffortnight after brought the said iij yards dyed blacke to this examitt howse where it lay untill a bout Easter last past and then the said Trivate came and delived this Examitt xij to pay the foresaid Wyne for dyinge of yt wch he did. And farther sayeth that in the meane tyme he sawe twice or thrice the said Trivate at Wincaulton and asked him for the money who annswered he had it not and sayeth that the last time he sawe Trivate and his wife was at ffisherton in the goale about a moneth last past as he passed a longe whom he only saluted by wch place he past as he went into the Cittie of Sarum to buy a paire of Spectables and had not that day come theather savinge the day was fowle that he coulde not employe harvest worke for wch he travelled upp into Wilts.

(Signed) MAURICE GYLBERT.

WILTES.

The xxijth of September 1606.

Roger Snowe prisoner in Ilchester and this daye removed from thence towarde the Gayle at ffisherton Confesseth as followeth, Before Henry Willughby Esquier.

ffirst this Ext doth confes and affirm all that he did before confes unto Sir Edward Hext Knight to be trewe. And uppon better remembrance doth farther confes: That Tryvatts wyfe had an ell of new lockeram (lockram=a cheap kind of linen) a handkercher wrought wth red silke of the goods that John Bakon and this ext stole out of a howse nere Corseley in Wiltshire more than he did confes before Sir Edward Hext.

ffarther this ext doth confes that John Bakon and he solde unto one Mary Deanes Widdowe dwelling at Brewham in Somshr a peece of home made woollen cloth pcell of the goods that the said John Bakon an he did steale out of the howse that they did breake upp at Corseley for the wch they had ijs and did leave wth the said Widdowe Deanes an old silke purse pcell of the same goods. And doth thinke that the residewe of the goods that they stole at Corseley wch he hath not confessed howe the same was bestowed, he doth verily beleive the said John Bakon did at Phillip Tryvatts howse at Stowerton John Hollester of Corseley was the man that was robbed.

ffarther he doth confes than he came unto Phillip Tryvatts howse at Stowerton on a Satterday night about fortnight before

Shrovetide laste, wch night one Anne Williams and one Sara Turpin came thither alsoe. They had that night at Supper a Shoulder of mutton roasted. And about xij or one of the clock that night the foresayd John Bakon and one John Burre came unto Tryvatts howse and were let into the said howse by Phillip Tryvatt him selfe, whoe did then bringe thither wth them, about fyve yeards of newe woollen cloth in one pece of a sad medley colour, and a womans gowne of woollen cloth wch gowne was not fully made and two pettycoats for a woman whereof one was stammel (= a kind of fine worsted) as he remembreth and the other redd. All wch goods they the sayd John Bakon and John Burre did leave there. But whether they did sell the same unto Tryvatt or his wyfe this ext doth not knowe. Neyther did the sayd John Bakon or John Burre ever tell this examt where they had the same goods. Neyther did this ext ever demande where they had the same goods. But this ext verely beleive that they did steale the same goods. And farther this ext confesseth that the next night after the sayd John Bakon & this ext had broken upp the howse at Corseley and stollen owt divers pcells of goods as before he hath confessed. The sayd John Bakon and this ext did in the night tyme breake open a persons howse about two or threr myles from Cole in the County Somersetshre owt of wch howse they did take about xl pewter dishes and a goblet but whether the goblet were sylver or Tynne he doth not knowe. And Allsoe a black rabbet dead and unskinned. Wch sayd pewter dyshes the goblet and Rabbatt John Bakon and this examt did carry unto the Widdowe Passes howse at Cole where they stayed in her Barne all that night after they had comytted that same robbery untill yt was day and then the sayd widdowe Russe came into her Barne unto them and did buy of them all the said pewter, goblet and Blacke Cony ffor the wch shee was to pay as this ext doth nowe remember viiij whereof she payd viij and the other xijd shee left to paye wch xijd afterwarde one Anne Williams did fetch of the Widdowe Russe as the sayd Anne tolde this examine. This ext did then pceave that they sayd John Bakon was well acquaynted with the Widdowe Russe.

(Signed) HENRY WILLUGHBY.

WILTES.

The examinacon of Phillip Tryvatt of Stowrton husbandman & Dennys his wyfe taken before Henry Willoughby Esquier the xviiij day of June 1606.

ffirste the sayd Phillip confesseth that he doth knowe John Bakon, Robte Crocker of Horne Blowton & Roger Snowe but John Smythe and John Burre he doth not knowe. John Bakon hath bine divers tymes at his howse. And he sayth that he doth well remember that Sara Turpyn, a mayden that doth nowe dwell wth him, came to him to dwell about three weekes before Shrove Sunday laste. At wch tyme one Anne Wyllyams came wth her. He doth not remember that the above named Roger Snowe or any other stranggers were at his howse that night. ffarther he doth

confes that he and Gyles Small went unto Wynecamton sythenne (=since) Easter laste the very tyme he doth not remember and did fetch, of one Walter Jacobbe a weaver, a peece of blacke Brode clothe of three Yeardes Wch his wyfe, or he, had before caryed unto him to be dyed unto some other colour. This ext did bringe the same clothe home agayne black, as yt was carryed unto the sayd Jacob for that yt would take noe other colour. Beinge the three yeards of blacke Brode clothe that was founde in his howse uppon his nowe apprehension by the Tithingman of Stowrton and other that made searche.

Dennys Tryvatt wyfe of Phillip then also examined doth confes shee doth know one John Smythe, where he was borne shee doth not knowe, but sayth he did sometymes keepe the Rother (=horned) Cattayle uppon Nortons Downe and did sometymes use unto her howse.

Shee doth also confes that shee knoweth John Bakon, Robt. Crocker, Roger Snowe, but John Burre she doth not knowe.

She doth also confes that ye three yeardes of blacke Brode cloth founde in her howse at the time of the searche Shee did buy at Sarum but the Merchannts name of whome shee bought yt shee doth not knowe, wch sayd three yerds of blacke cloth soe bought shee did carry unto one Jacob a weaver in Wynecannton to be dyed into a pewke colour, and for that the same cloth would take no such colour her husband Phillip Tryvatt did fetche the same clothe agayne from Jacobbe and brought yt home blacke as yt was carryed unto him. (Note.—A footnote says: "Read Walter Jacobbs examcon for this clothe".)

The carriage & fetchinge of wch clothe to and from Jacobbes of Wynecannton shee would not confes untill shee was tolde that her husband and Gyles Smalle her sonne had before confessed the same.

Shee beinge farther examined whether that night wch Sara Turpyn came firste to dwell wth her, having then in her company Anne Willyams, being about three weekes before Shrovetide last Roger Snowe nowe a prisoner in Ilchester, did come that night unto her howse and brought wth him a blacke ffelte hatt lyned wth Sylke and a dooble cipers (=Cypress: fine gauze or crepe) bande. And whether about eleven of the clocke that night did not John Bakon & John Burre come unto her howse, and were lett into her howse who brought wth them a peece of clothe wch made the Savegarde and Cloke that was ffounde in her howse upon the searche and alsoe the Redd peticoate wch shee did afterwarde cutte shorter and nowe heme agayne, wch cloke and savegarde one ffryer a taylor of Mere did make, All wch shee doth absolutely deny, refusinge to answere to that wch shee was demanded of then by me. (Note.—A footnote says: "Read Roger Snowes examon before".)

But beinge then told by me that both Sara Turpin and Anne Willyams had confessed the same before and the sayd Sara and Anne beinge then brought before her and affirming unto her fface

thatt the same was moste trewe, 'The sayd Dennys Tryvatt then sayd—Seeinge they both have confessed yt I muste and will alsoe say, as they have sayd and confes the same to be trewe.

(Signed) HENRY WILLUGHBY.

WILTES.

The confession of Sara Turpyne servant unto Phillip Tryvett of Stowerton and Anne Williams whoe hath longe wandred the Country taken before Henry Willughby xviiijth day of June 1606.

ffirste they both doe say and confes that about three weekes before Shrove Sunday laste when the sayd Sara came ffirste to dwell wth Phillip Tryvett, They both came unto the sayd Tryvetts howse the gropsing (=grisping: twilight) of the yevening being on a Satterday where they founde a shoulder of mutton at the fyer. And shortly after their cominge thither one Roger Snowe (nowe a prisoner in Ilchester Gayle) came allso unto Tryvetts howse being very familiar in the howse and (as seemed unto them) he was very well acquaynted there whoe brought wth him (as Gyles Smalle being sonne unto Tryvatts wyfe told them) a Blacke felte hatt lyned with Sylke and a doble cipers (=fine gauze or crepe) bande besydes the hatt that he did weare. Wch hatt and Bande he did leave wth Tryvatts wyfe, and was the hatt and bande that was founde in Tryvatts howse upon the searche. And about eleven of the clocke that night one John Bakon and one John Burre came unto Tryvatts howse and were lett into the howse. John Burre (as theis Exts were tolde) was a Sussex man. John Bakons ffather doth dwell at Charleton Musgrove in Somst. The sayd Bakon and Burre brought wth them the cloth wch made the cloke and Savegarde that was founde at Tryvatts howse upon the searche. But howe the white lynnene yearne that was found there came thither or by whome the same was brought thither shee doth not knowe But sayth that one of Mere did bringe unto Tryvatts wyfe the Thrumes (=Thrum =the extremity of a weaver's warp) of lynnene and the harnys (=haenes=a coarse linnen) of lynnene clothe that was found at Tryvatts howse in the searche.

The sayd Sara doth farther confes that about three or fower dayes after her ffirste cominge unto Tryvatts to dwell the before named John Bakon came unto the howse and delived her a hand kercher wrought wth red sylke requesting her to keepe the same untill he him selfe or Anne Williams did come for the sayd hand kercher.

The sayd Anne Williams doth farther confes that she did meete by fortune on Palme Sunday laste at the howse of Phillip Tryvatt one Dennys nowe a prisoner in Ilchester. Shee farther sayth shee hath bine often tymes in Tryvatts howse and hath layne there but never in any bedd but only by the fyer. Her ffirst acquayntance with Sara Turpyn was at Corne harvest last sythenc wch tyme they did allwayes keepe company together travelynge the Country untill Sara did come to dwell wth Phillip Tryvatt

dewring wch tyme they did lyve by knitting of hoses and by the almes of good people as they did traveyle.

(Signed) HENRY WILLUGHBY.

The examinacon of Alice Snooke daughter of Willm Snooke of Mere husbandman taken before Henry Willughby Esquier the xvijth day of June 1606.

ffirste shee confesseth shee came to dwell wth Phillip Tryvatt of Stourton about St. James day laste in whose service she contynued untyll about Candellmas laste or some what after Candellmas. And on the Cristmas holy dayes laste shee did see both Sara Turpyn and Anne Williams at Tryvatts howse who contynued there three dayes & three nights. And farther shee doth confes that in the tyme that shee did dwell wth the sayd Tryvatt there did use to come unto the howse moste comonly by night one John Smythe, John Bakon, Robt. Cricker & Roger Snowe. But John Bakon did come hither more oftener than any of the reste.

ffarther shee doth confes that in Corne harvest the sayd John Smythe did bringe unto Tryvatts howse a payer of Russett breeches two spoones and a Salte Seller all wch he delived unto Tryvatts wyfe wch (as she hath hearde) was stollen from a Butcher that doth dwell at Charleton Musgrove. The sayd Butcher suspectinge the sayd John Smythe (who did much use unto Tryvatts howse) to have stollen the same came thither to enquire for him. But Tryvatts wyfe conveyed John Smythe into a lofte. The sayd stollen Breeches shee did hyde in a pooke (= a poke : a bag or sock or a pook : a hay-cock) and the two spoones and salte seller shee did put into her coper.

ffarther shee doth confes that in the last harvest in a night about midnight the same sayd John Bakon did bringe unto Tryvatts Howse a Packe of Stuffe wherein there was a boyes longe coate of russet Cloth, divers shirtes, smockes & Aprons of Lynnen, wch packe of stuffe soe brought Tryvatts wyfe did hyde amongst the Busshes nere unto a Ponde in a grounde of the Lord Stowrtons called Oxen Leaze not far from Tryvatts Howse wch shee left there about fortnight, and then the sayd Tryvatts wyfe did fetch the same packe home unto her howse wth the sayd chyldes longe coate she did make her daughter a savegarde. The Aprons shee did turne up and downe. What shee did with the shirtes and smockes this ext doth not knowe, neyther howe many there were eyther of the sayd Aprons, shirtes or smockes she doth not nowe certaynlie know.

ffarther shee doth confess that there was one Thomas Tracey a lynnene weaver of Mere beinge but a youthe that did many tymes use unto Tryvatts howse whoe woulde sometymes bringe thither a skayne of lynnene yarne and some tymes two skaynes and woul delivr the same unto Tryvatts wyfe where wth all both Tryvatt him selfe and Gyles Smalle his sonne in lawe were privy & acquaynted.

And ffarther sayth that Tryvatts Wyfe woulde appoynt him a tyme to fetch his money for the same every tyme that he did bring

her any suche yarne, yf shee had noe money presently to paye him.

(Signed) HENRY WILLUGHBY.

WILTES.

The confession of Thomas Trasy of Mere lynnene weaver taken before Henry Willughby Esquier the sixth day of June 1606.

first he doth confes that his first acquayntance wth Tryvatts wyfe of Stowerton was about two yeares last past by means of Xpofer (Christopher) Acrey when they did both dwell wth Thomas Alforde of Mere for whom this ext did carry some Thrumes of Lynnen yearne unto her, and then the sayd Tryvatts wyfe did psuade this ext to bringe her some flexe or some lynnene yerne & shee woulde give him money for yt, whose answer was that he did not knowe howe he shoulde bringe her any, ffor yf yt shoulde be espyed yt would turne unto both their shames, and he woulde not deceave his sayd Mr of his goods. Yet by her importuancy he did (about two yeares last) bringe her some Thrumes as many as he had vd for betwixt the sayd Xpofer Acrey and him. And Afterwarde by her often allurements this ext at severall tymes did bringe her of his sayd Mr Thomas Alfordes yearne and of his nowe Masters Thomas Balles als (alias) Rogers yearne, to the quantety of fflower or fyve poundes of lynnene yearne at severall tymes, as he thinketh for the wch he never had of her above ijs. Shee did from tyme to tyme entyse him to bringe her more yearne or to bringe her some flaxe. Whereuppon he did once bringe her about a quarter or halfe a pounce of flaxe. He did never bringe her any yearne or Thrumes but she would still importune him to knowe when he woulde bringe her more. And what he did therein was only by her entysinge and pcurement. And when he did come unto Tryvatts howse wth yearne as afore sayd (as he did many tymes) he did allwayes fynde some strange men or women there whome he did not knowe. But sayth that he did some tymes (see) the Lord Stourtons Shepperde at her howse.

ffarther he doth confes that about this tyme twelvemonth when he brought her yearne the sayd Tryvatts wyfe did showe this ext a greate Bundell of lynnene yearne some Browne and some white & some Blewe knottes of yearne wch Bundell (as this ext thinketh) did contayne at the least vj lb. And shee tolde this ext that yt cost her little or nothings And that she had the same of a yewth that doth dwell about Gillingham who did wth all teach her to white her yearne. This ext doth confes that he hath bine many tymes with her and some tymes he did bringe nothings wth him And then would shee be very angry with this ext for that he had brought her nothings. This ext sayth that the last tyme he was at Tryvatts howse was on newyeres daye last. But did never purpose to come thither agayne, ffor that he founde sutch naughtyenes in his wyfe to entyse mens Servants to deceave their Masters of their goods to bringe the same unto her.

(Signed) HENRY WILLUGHBY.

Unfortunately the roll does not contain any further reference

to this case, so it is not possible to say if Grand Jury returned a "Billa Vera" when they had the foregoing examinations before them or what punishment Phillip Tryvatts wife & her companions received if it happened that they were found guilty.

1607/8.

MAYOR OF WILTON PRESENTED.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Salisbury Jan 7th, the Jury "present that Richard White of the Borough of Wilton innholder being then maior of the said Borough on the Second day of August last being a sabboth daie in the afternoon in the time of divine service did spend the same afternoone in entertaininge of Strangers & accompanying them him selfe & then & there usinge with them, immoderate drinking, to the greate distemperature of himself, in so much that when his Bailif moved him to repaire towarde the Church he bad him goe himself".

John Daye and George Crase appointed searchers of Clothes in the towne of Castlecombe doe present that Richard Vyner of Marshfield to have conveyd awaye three broade lyste clothes without search or seale the xij daye of December laste.

1607.

A DUCKING STOOL FOR WARMINSTER.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warmester July 7th the "petie Juri of Warminster present that there wanteth a cooking stoole in the towne of Warmester which ought to be made and mayntayned by Simon Sloper being the Lorde —wdleys (beginning of the name unreadable) baylyff".

We doe psent Xpofor Lydburie for keeping unlawfull play in his backside the third of July namly at Kayets (? quoits), being unlawfull persons and poore men that played at it, he keeping an alehouse.

SEPTEMBER 18th, 1607.

TRAVELLERS FROM CANTERBURY.

Omnibus in Christo fidelius salutem. These are to certifie yt William ffrisser ye bearer here of and Martha his wyfe are inhabitants in ye parish of St. Paule without ye walls of ye cittie of Canterbury & so have binne by ye space of these five or sixe yeares. The whiche William being a chapman by his trade & in his travellinge called unto question for his place of abydinge, hath thereuppon required this my certificate which I have send, subscribed with my name therein alsoe certefying yt so farre as I knowe or have hearde, they are of honest life and conversation.

(signed) WILLM WALSALL

Vicar of St. Paules.

1608.

The roll for January Sessions of this year is missing.

CORN SELLERS FOR BRADFORD.

The inhabitants of Bradford present the following petition to the Justices at the Quarter Sessions at Marlborough:—

Right Worshipfull. That whereas it hath pleased his Majesties most Honorable Councill, in taking of good and godly order against such as doe buy corne and sell it againe To the great hurt & hindrance of poore people, May it please you to understand, That Thomas Kelson Robert Sopp & Samuel Crpine (Chrispine) wth the consent of the inhabitants of the borowgh of Bradford whose names are under written, That they the said persons do undertake to be dreavers & buyers of corne for the poore of the same Borowgh & for noe other place, but only to sell in the same Towne, to the use of the poore in the markt or in the weeke dayes as they have need, taking but ijd for a boshells carriage, Wherefore wee desyre yor worshipps favours To suffer the said persons to be authorised in yor generall Quarter Sessions according to the lawe in that case, for the avoyding of their further daynger in that behalfe. In witnes whereof &c &c July 12th 1608 Signed by Walter Yerbury and John Browne, constables, and ten others.

SCARCITY OF CORN.

The inhabitants of Bath present a petition dated July 8th signed by Thomas Wiatt mayor of the City and others for a licence for signed by John More of Wraxall to buy four quarters of Wheat and one quarter of Barley in Warminster market weekly to sell to John Sayfield the Chief Baker of Bath to make bread for the inhabitants. The license was granted. (See Wilts Archæological Magazine, No. XVIII., for further particulars.)

The inhabitants of Melksham present a petition on July 10th signed by John Awdry, clerk, asking that John Hall of Melksham "may be licenced to buy weekly & carry away & to sell again to the poore of Melksham the quantity of fower quarters of wheate and barley in the markets of the Devizes, Market Lavington & Warminster viz. one quarter at the Devizes, two quarters at Lavington & one at Warminster".—The licence was granted.

Similar petitions are presented from Trowbridge, Corsham, and other places.

AN ILLEGAL ALEHOUSE AT CORSHAM.

The homage wthin the libertie of Cosham hath often tymes made presentments that Three tipplinge houses are enough &

sufficient for the towne of Cosham—that its to say Thomas Rolfe vyntner, John Morrett, Inholder and Gyles Keynes, butcher. Notwithstanding Xpofer (Christopher) Nott hath aboute a yeare since sett up a newe alehouse in a remote place in the skirts of the towne, where is daylye used greate abuses by drunckards, comon haunTERS of alehouses & Idlers.

That the said Nott being lately presented for setting a rayle & straightninge the highe waye, hath newlye in contempt of the said presentment sett upp the scyne of the Redd Lyon.

The Court ordered the alehouse to be suppressed.

ALE THREEPENNE PER GALLON.

It was ordered at the Warminster Sessions July 1608 "That the best beare & ale to be sold at 3d a gallon, and 2d the gallon the smallest, the same price to continue until the next Sessions, and this to be published that all comon brewers, Inkeepers & alehouses do sell according to this rate".

REFUSING TO WORK.

The Jury of the hundred of Selkley at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct. 4 1608 Presented Richard Sutter of Abery for deniing to worke being warned by the petty constable the 27th day of September. Also

John Burges of Mallbrough for bying of wheat and barley upon the ground to the value of on c haccers (? one hundred acres) of Ely Sanders dismer of Ovverton abote Saynt James tide.

EGYPTIANS.

Among the prisoners for trial at the Marlborough Sessions were four women and one man, "committed by John Hungerford Eq for Egiptians", but no record of what was done with them.

1609.

A TROUBLESOME MAN OF WILTON

(abbreviated.)

The Jury for the hundred of Wilton "Present Robart Sumption for absenting himself from Church for a year & a halfe, also for being a comon night walker and a contemner of all Government wthin the towne, also for cominge abrode at night the same night after he was served with the Justices warrant of the good behaviour crieing out with a naked sword in his hand at his neighbors windowe saieing 'I am served, I am served' contemnsionly and in disgrace of Mr Hydes warrant, being one of the Kings Majestys Justices of the Peace".

About Whitsuntide last two years Robert Somsion of Wilton was arested to appear at ye next Sessions holden at the

Devises for divers misdemeanors which he did their annswere and was appoynted by the hole consent of the bench that he should submit himself unto ye maior of Wilton & satisfy ye maiors Sergient for his travill unto ye Devises which he never did but has continued ever since Very stubberne towards the maior & his brethren wth many out ragious speches sayeing, " If I am arested againe I will paye ye maiors baily ", wherupon a longe time after he used to walk with a greate bandinge knife seieing " I carry this for ye maiors baily ".

Secondly, about August next following the maiors baily arrested one in Somsions house. Somsion however refused to surrender the prisoners & locked the bailey up & said he should not go out until the mayor came & fetched him & kept him there for two hours. The mayor was compelled to goe him selfe for his officer. Gyles Tooker granted a second warrant against Somsion & he was arrested & said he would come before Mr Tooker but did not and has been very obstinate ever since.

Thirdly, about December last when in an ale house in Wilton he began using filthy comunicasions whereupon an honest man of Wilton corrected him for itt when he outrageously brake out against the maior saieing " I had rather be a tankerd bearer in London than a maior in Wilton & more credit to be a tankerd bearer than a maior ".

Fourthly. Somsion and another returning from Salisbury one very dark night between 6 and 7 of the clock in a place called Quidhampton Marsh set a bridge—being a great plank—so dangerous that noe traveller could pass by but must of necessity fall very dangerous into the water. Two honest men of Wilton came omediately after & both were upset into the water and like to be drowned and one man lost a piece of lynnene cloth he had bought in Salisbury that cost 15/-. Somsion at the same time threw into the horseway in the same marsh a very great huge stone wch did stand upon the Causway there wch might be to the undoing of maney if itt had nott been removed the next morning.

Fyfthly. He had not communicated at his church for five or six yeares but last Easter he went to the church and paid his offering of iiijd and then departed.

Sixthly. Wee saye he kepes more disorder in his house as for dronkenness & ye like as nott any man comparrable unto him & always gives forth very unreverent speches against ye preacher saieing there were many honester papists than our preacher, whereby we find he is a contemner of the word.

He was committed to prison until he finds sureties to appear at the next Quarter Sessions, and in the meantime to be of good behaviour.

AN OLD SOLDIER.

Mr Kent, I thought fitt hereby to Certify you that Anthony Carter of Odstock hath bin sundrie tymes impressed for the service of our late Queen of famous memory, queene Elizabeth, and hath

served in soundrie places vizt ffrance, the lowe Countries and Ireland. Sarum the xijth of January 1609. Yor loving ffriend
EDWARD PENRUDDOK.

Then follows an appeal by Carter for a pension, showing that he had served 22 years in the Wars. He was granted a pension of £3 6s. 8d. per annum.

THE PLAGUE AT BRADFORD.

The Town of Bradford petition for relief, having been for twenty weeks infected with the plague, and the tax imposed upon places within five miles of the town proving insufficient for relief of the infection, the Justices ordered that Chippenham, Melksham, and Whorwelsdown hundreds should be assessed to contribute.

A DEER COURSED AT ROWDE MARSH.

John Bishopp servant to John Drew of the Vize Greene gent states that this morning (May 30th 1609) about five of the clock he found in one of the grounds near Rowde marsh, a prickett and went at once towards the Vize intending to go to William Powell for a dogg to course the pricket, but by chance he mett att the Townes end a greyhound which he took & returned to the place where the deer was & coursed it out of the ground into a meadow called Rowdes Swillin Meade & there the dogg killed the deer & this examinate carried him on his back to ffoxhanger house (still known by this name) where he dwelt. He afterwards carried the deer on horseback to his masters house at the Vize Greene.

Four "souldiers" who had been engaged in the Wars in Ireland and France and received divers hurtes and wounds were awarded pensions of four marks a year payable quarterly. These are supported by letter of recommendation signed by A. G. Waad and dated from the Tower of London where he was the Governor.

SELLING BUTTER AND CHEESE WITHOUT LICENCE.

Nine persons were indicted "for bying and selling Butter and Cheese without licence—as common jobbers".

PERMISSION TO BUILD A HOUSE.

Right Worshipful, Whereas the bearer hereof Edye Crowch widowe being a very poore woman & having three little children are all destitute of a house to put there heads in, and she being very desirous to build a howse for the better succor and relief of her & her poore children and having a plot of ground within the Quarr at Calne gyven her by Henry Chever of Quemerford, clothier to build a howse upon & for the truth thereof hath hereunto sett his hand. These are therefore to entreat your Worppps good favor and assystance herein that she may have your hands for the per-

formance hereof according to the Statute in that case provided and she will dailie pray for your worppps longe to contynewe in healtie & prosperitie.

Signed by Henry Chever, and permission was granted.

PUBLICLY WHIPPED.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes the 25th daie of April 1609 five men and one woman were sentenced to be publicly whipped "till their backs doe bleed & then discharged". They all were charged with "pety larceny".

1610.

At the Quarter Sessions held at the Devizes April 17th Henry Clare and John Buckston were convicted for pety larcenye and adjudged to be kept in prison until the next markett daye holden in the Devizes and then to be openly whipped through the markett place there until their backs doth bleede and then discharged.

Johan Mason for a similar offence was privately whipped until "her backe doe bleed".

Thomas Elye for felony was ordered to be burnt in the hand (probably with the letter F).

Mawdlyn Meadow was sentenced to "be layd (by the heles ruled out) in the Stockes openlye in the Streete of Warminster some one markett day before the first day of May next". (She was the mother of an illegitimate child.)

Another woman, Agnes Spender, for a similar offence was sentenced "to be whipped from the Waste upwards until her bodye shall bleed, which punishment we have thought good to impose upon her for that she hath moste unnaturally & unwomanly left her said childe".

The father, Wm. Stockes, was ordered to pay sixpence weekly towards the maintenance of the child until it was seven years old, and "some one Sundaye before the ffeaste of Penticoste next cominge, after the seconde leason shall openly in the Church of Bishopstrowe acknowledge his offence and certifie the congregacon then present to pray unto God to forgive him".

GAME PLAYING AT LACOCK.

At the Quarter Sessions at Warminster July 10th, was presented David Weste, of Laycocke, inholder, who for his owne gayne and advantage Did Keepe mainetayne and suffer to be used in his house unlawfull games That is to saye, tables, cards, &

shoffleboard and also drunckenes & other misdemeanors to the great disturbance of his neighbors against the peace & in contempt &c &c.

VERY DRUNK AT CODFORD.

Richard Gibbens of Codford St. Peter was so drunk he could "not sett upon his horse nor speake playne words".

At the Quarter Sessions held at Newe Sarum January 10th Joan the wyfe of Nicholas Chead was presented by the Constables of Downton for being "a most notoryous scold, and Chrystian the wyfe of John Somp & Gyllian the wyfe of John Shellit & Margaret the wyfe of Thomas Cowp be notoryous hedgestelars".

The Constables of the Borough of Willton present "Omnua Benney".

Benjamin Salisbury was indicted and convicted for "an incorrigible rogue, and by the judgment of the Court ordered to be burned on the left shoulder with a letter R and to remayn in Gaole till he find good suretys for his good behaviour".

Several Vagrants were ordered "to be whipped until their backs doe bleed and then conveyed from tything to tything the most direct way to their respective homes".

In the records of the Michaelmas Sessions is a list of 54 popish recusants. It is said to be a complete return of all recusants in the county and includes members of the families of Bigge, Codrington, Mayo, Stourton and others.

A FORGED DOCUMENT.

What is probably the cleverest forged pass to be found amongst the many forgeries in these rolls is that professing to be signed by "Willm Browne Lyfetennt govnor to the right Honorable the Lord Sydneye Barron of Penhurst Vyscount Lysle Lord Chamberlayne to the Queens Matie and Lord Governor of the Cautionary town of Vlyshing" and granted to John Metcalfe gent and George Atherstone, soldiers to go into England for two months dated Vlyshing Aug 28. This pass bears a certificate that they "landed at Margett in the Isle of Thannet in the Countie of Kent Aug 31st" and signed Ric Gosbry deputy maior of Dover. To the passport is attached notes by Sir Alexander Tutt who says "Notes to fynde Medcalfe his pasport soe counterfeited that it is playnely to be pceaved all ye writing therein to be one man's hands". He then points out the various points of similarity in the handwriting and spelling or words in the passport and certificates, and ends by saying "The pasport is apparantly (meaning evidently) counterfeited. It weare good to fynd out ye writer".

On being brought before the Justices at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct 1st 1610 Metcalf was indicted for " a Vagrant & Idle Vagabond & ordered to be openly whipped & afterwards sent from tything to tything until he reaches London where he said he last dwelt and there put to work ".

HOUSES WANTED AT LACOCK.

The Ladye Olive Stapilton, widdowe, late wiefe of Sir Robt Stapilton Knight, deceased, Ladye of the Lawe day & mannor of Lacoche to the Justices of Peace for Wilts.

Whereas my mannor and Towneshippe of Lacoche is surcharged by the multitude of inmates & those of the porest sort to the number of sixtie persons like to lye in the Streete for want of houses I tendering their extremities have given my consent for the obtaining licence to erect cottages for those distressed people whose names are here under written (15 in number) upon the wast of my said mannor. Lady Stapilton then goes on to say that they are all good and honest persons and requests that certain houses already erected without a licence from the Justices may be tollerated.

(Signed) Oliff Stapilton, Richard Rocke Vicar Richard Hilman, bayliff and others.

The Justices granted the good lady's request.

1611.

BUYING COAL IN EXCESS.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster July 2nd, the Jury for the hundred of Westbury present " William More for engrosing and buyeing coales for the fyer and hearth coale more then for his burning at ijs vid the quarter in the summer tyme and setteth the same in winter to the Poore people at the prise of iijs or vs the quarter ".

The Jury of Dunworth present Edmund Weekes of Donhead St Mary for Keeping houndes contrary to the Statute and hunting at unreasonable times whereby men suffer harme in their corns. and the Pound at Cheeklade is in default and to be repaired by the occupiers of the farme.

IMPRISONED FOR ATTEMPTING TO MARRY A WIDOW.

To the right Worll Sir John Dauncie.

The humble peticon of Thomas Wells a poore prisoner committed by yor Worp. Humbly beggeth that sithence yor poore peticoner hath lyen in great misery with Irons on his legges in the comon Gaole like a felon only for that he attempted to marry a widdowe of honest name & fame for the accomplishing of wch

marriage your peticconer could not procure sufficient securities to discharge the parish of suche charges as should arise or growe to the sayd parishe by meanes of the sayd widow & a daughter of hers twelve yeeres old whoe is able to goe to service the pmisses considered.

His humble petition with tears made is that in regarde that he hath layen this sixe wekes in a most lothsome prison, yor worship would be pleased to take comiseracon of his miserie and to release him & your petitioner will daylie pray &c.

FIRE AT STOURTON.

The humble peticon of George Hillgrove of Stourton, rough mason Lamentable shewing that uppon the 28th daie of April last past his dwelling house, barne, oxe staule & howse holde stuffe was consumed wth fyre to the utter undoing of him, his wife children & familye. He humbly referreth himself to your good favours hoping to be relieved againe by such charitable meanes as shalbe thought fitt. And he with his said family shall be bounde to prairie to God for your preservacon.

This appeal is supported by a certificate signed by John King rector of Stourton and six of the inhabitants who "make their mark". He was granted five marks by the bench.

BEATING A CONSTABLE.

At the Quarter Sessions at Marlborough Oct 1st Agnes Hilman of Trowbridge was indicted for beating the constable there, illtreated her neighbours children and committed many other misdemeanors. She was ordered to be conveyed to Trowbridge "there to sitt the next markt day in the Stocks for foure houres".

COTTAGE AND FOUR ACRES.

Whereas by the Parlyament holden in the one and thirtieth yeare of our Late Soveigne Lady Queen Elizbth ye was enacted that no pson wthin this Realme of England should erect or build any Cottages &c unless the same doe assigne and laye unto the same Cottage fower acres of ground at the least &c. And by another Act of Parlyamnt holden in the 43 yeare of the reigne of the same Queene Elizbth yt was enacted for the Church Wardens & overseers of the poore of any pishe having the concent & leave of the Lord of the Manor to erect such cottages for the reliefe of the poore as by them shoulde be thought meete and containe. These are to certifie that Jeremie Chivers Gent being a freeholder and owner of the Manor howse and ffarme of the Lea with the leave and concent of Richard Mody of Garsdon Esquier being Lord of the Manor of Lea together with the concent and good likinge of the Church Wardens & overseers of the pore of the parish hath granted unto Thomas Glascadine of the Lea, taylor, a parcell of his sevall cloase calles Rushceast contayninge a ffarrundell

(= Fardingale : the fourth part of an acre, an old Wiltshire word sometimes spelt farding-deal) of grownde or theare abouts to build him a howse on for the terme of his owne life.

In Wittnes wheareof We the said Modye & Chivers with the churchwardens and overseers, desiring your Woops favorable allowance thereof have set our hands & seales, dated at Garsdon the xxvij daie of March 1611.

(Then follow the signatures and seals).

The request was granted by the Justices.

A YOUNG SHOPKEEPER.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Salisbury January 9th, the Jury of Wilton presented "Anthony Spering for Keping Shop contrary to the Statute in not being of adge nether maried".

BOWLS ON SUNDAY.

Thomas Lacy & others of Sarum were presented for playing at bowels at Mylford in tyme of Divine service.

A SOLDIER FROM BISHOP'S CANNINGS.

A certificate signed by some of the inhabitants of Bishops Cannings testifies to the fact that Thomas Jones of that parish was pressed for a soldier and served at Cadiz and Ireland. There are two letters from Sir W. Waad dated from the Tower of London April 17 and Nov 8 1611 strongly supporting a petition for relief of Jones asking the Justices "will be pleased to allow him such a competent pension towards his maynteynance as is fitt for a person of his rank & quality." Sir Oliver Lambert cousin of Sir W. Waad also supports the appeal, but the records do not say what relief was given to Jones.

SOME CONVICTIONS.

John Pile of Overton is presented "for that he liveth at libertie and worketh by the daye, being a singell man being out of covenant (service) one yeare and a quarter".

John Miles was committed to Gaol for "lybellling and afterwards to be conveyed to Keevill there to sitt in the Stocks for the space of an hour and to be bound over to appear at the next Sessions there to confess his falts".

John Alexander was committed for "assaulting and beating Xpofe Gire, gent, his master". He was adjudged "to remain in gaol for a fortnight & then to be conveyed to Codford St. Marye there to sitt in the Stocks for fower houres, then to acknowledge his faltes and ask forgiveness of his master and yf he shall refuse soe to doe then to remaine in the Stocks untill he shall willingly doe it and then be delivered".

BUTTER & POULTRY FOR KING JAMES.

This roll contains some lengthy correspondence concerning the supply of goods to the King's storehouse in London. It is too long to reproduce in full, but briefly the facts are that in January the Justices wrote a strong remonstrance against a commission directed to the King's purveyor general for taking up a large quantity of Butter at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for which warrants had been issued throughout the County on the ground that Wiltshire had compounded for all manner of purveyances by a composition made in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Edward Dickinson yeoman purveyor of poultry writes from the King's storehouse in Bishopsgate, London, that whereas a warning letter had been sent that the Justices might take order for the delivery of such poultry as by composition is due from the County of Wilts he has not heard of any poultry nor of any order taken. Lord Hertford the Lord Lieut. of Wilts writing from Letby May 9th says the plea of composition had been the answer from many Counties and that the King would suspend any further proceedings until after Michaelmas, but his Lordship wished the Justices would prepare themselves to give a direct answer regarding the composition to be delivered to the King at his coming into Wiltshire in progress in the summer.

1612.

SOME PRESENTMENTS.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster July 14th the Constables of Westbury present "that there be too many Alehouses in Westbury, and that William Edmonds of leigh did breake the Kings Peace and did brawle and fighte wth one Slade upon Sunday July 1st".

The Jury for "the hundred of Warmester present Dorothy Gyfford gentlewoman of Borham that shee doth refuse to doe her service with her plowe in Bishopstowne for the Kings High wayes", and "Geoge Fesen of Bishopstowne hath not don ani serves to the Kings high waye and hath fifye acres of land to his house".

At the Quarter Sessions held at "Newe Sarm 14th January the constables of Underdiche present that the pounce is in decaye by the defaulte of the whole inhabitants there and the pound is in decaye by the defaulte of the Baylie".

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 21st five women

and one man were sentenced for petty larceny to be whipped " until their backs doe bleed ".

CHURCH ALE.

The Jury of " the hundred of Dunworth present that one S'Peters day last in the Saboth day next following after yevening prayer their was an All (ale) kept for the benifit of the Church at Donhead Mary ".

The Constables of Calne present a long list of " disorders comitted in the Boroughe of Calne ", of which the following are the most interesting.

We present Ewarde Masie for batytinge of his Bull uppon Holie daies contrarie to the Kings Maties injunctions & he will also be drunke.

John Scotte because he will be tipmirrie himself, and Lucretia his wife because she is a woman of corrupt communication and unfit to kepe an ale house in regard where of we desyre to have then discharged & because they have not sufficient bedding to lodge poore travellers.

William Bushe, tipler because he intertayneth men servants at his house when they should be in theyre masters howse, and his wife is a woman that skorneth relligion for when she is requested to goe to Church she answereth that she must tarrie at home to Keele the potte least padventure her porridge should rune over & they have no bedd to lodge passengers. We therefore desyre that they may be forbidden to sell ale any more.

We desyre to have the number of alehouses to be diminished in Calne for they doe all brewe a vie who may brewe the strongest ale, and thither do resorte all the great drinkers both of the Towne & Countrie to spend theyre tyme in idleness and theyer monie in excissive drinkinge, and being partly drunke and halfe mad, no officer can well judge whether they be drunk yea or no & therefore cannot punish them according to the law, and all men for the most part love these Cupp companions so well that no man will take uppon him to be a sworne witness against any drunkard. It were greatly to be wished that all Ale sellers might be compelled to make theyer ale a greate deale smaller and to sell a full quart for a pennie, otherwise this sum of drunkennes will never be avoyded, men are so bewitched with the sweetness of stronge lycoure.

This scathing report on the state of intemperence in Calne is signed by John Noyes and John Killinge, Constables, and dated April 21 1612.

TURNING A WATER COURSE IN CAEN HILL.

The Jury of Bromham and Rowde present William Erwood gent, William Bennett cutler, James Willys, Inholder, & Jasper Newton all of Devizes for that for the space of xij monethes now last past, hath turned the water out of his anncyent course att a

way called Canehill wthin the pish of Rowde by takinge the stones out of the same way, to the greate annoyance of his Matys subjects that way travelling.

ALL WELL AT MALMESBURY.

The Constables present that noe misdemeanors nor offences have beene committed within the hundred of Malmesbury since the last assizes but that all things have beene well.

WHIPPED IN THE CHURCHYARD AT BROADCHALKE.

John Streete and Alice Wyatt the parents of an illegitimate child were ordered by Walter Vaughan one of the Justices to " receive open correction of whypping in the Church yard of Broadchalk to be donne by the tythingmen there on Tuesday in Easter Week after evening prayer "

1613.

A WARMINSTER WITCH.

In the roll of proceedings at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough October 1st is the following information laid by Avis Glasier against Margaret Pilton of Warminster for apparently dealing in witchcraft.

The confession of Aveyes Glasier the daughter of William Glassier of the parish of fray* the xxvith daye of July 1613 taken by Grigery Molton, clerke Imprimis shee sayeth that. the first weeke in Lent last past or nere there aboute, one Margrett Pyllton, the wyffe of Willm Pyllton of Warmester came to Borom to the house of one William Matthew whether the sayd Aveyes was gone wth her betroothed husband's breakfast. And the sayd Margrett entreated the foresayd Aveyes to bringe her goinge towards Warmester where the sayd Margrett did dwell And drewe her alonge by flattering talk. And at the last as they walked together the sayd Margrett Pyllton did desire the sayd Aveyes to gyve her her soule or spirit, and dyd promise her that yf she would gyve yt her, that then she should lyve twentye yeares the longer and recover her health. But the sayd Aveyes sayeth yt by noe meanes shee would graunt her request. But asked her what shee would doe with her spirit or soule yt would doe her noe good, and shee Margrett replied and sayd to the sayd Aveyes again yt yf she would graunt yt her, yt then she should lyve twentye years the longer and recover her health, soe yt shee would gyve yt to her. And when she sawe yt the sayd Aveyes by noe meanes would consent to her request and demande, the sayd Margrett fell in other talke and drewe her home to her house and made her drinck some of her drinck, charging the sayd Aveyes yt by noe meanes shee should tell

* Possibly this is Whitham Friary, which is about two miles over the Wiltshire boundary at Horningsham.

her freyns of yt, and yt yff she dyd that then shee should lyve the longer in her paynes. And dyd make the sayd Aveyes promise to send for her before shee departed out of the world and yt should be the better for her.

She further confesseth that shee being now longe sycke and much greaved dyd call to mynde the former promise wch the sayd Margrett make her. And wthall the matter of her soule yt the sayd Margrett dyd ask of her yt shee should gyve yt her, caused the sayd Margrett to be sent for, who came unto her upon the ffryday last past being the 23rd of July. And when shee came into the sayd Aveyes shee commanded all the company yt were there, out of the house, and would not suffer not soe much as Aveyes owne syster to be there within. And when all the company was gone out the sayd Aveyes asker her what was the cause yf shee did begge her soule of her, yt would doe her noe good. To the wch Margrett answered, noe more yt would not. And then the sayd Margrett dyd ask the sayd Aveyes where yf shee had told yt to any of her friends. And shee sayd noe. And then the sayd Margrett dyd tell her yt yff shee had yt should be the worse for her and shee should lye the longer in her paynes, but yf shee dyd not dysclose yt wch shee had asked and demanded of her shee should depart eyther that nyght or the morrow being Saterdaye in a [unreadable] or slumber. And then the sayd Margrett departed from the sayd Aveyes and after her departure the sayd Aveyes fell into mervellouse Trances as thoughe yt shee should have departed strayght. This is followed by

Grigory Malton, his accusation.

This said Margarett did at the tyme of her dwelling at Warmister at the house of one Jeffery Coomes, delude the Country and speake openly yt shee had apparitions, and visions appeared and spoke unto her, And brought the peopell in great admiration to admire at her and to looke for strange things at her hands, being suspected to have bin stirred upp there unto by papists.

The poor suspected witch was examined before Edward Ludlowe, one of the Justices, on July 27th at Warminster and the following is her account of what happened:—

She saith that she hath byn acquaynted wth Avis Glasyer near the space of one yeare, being servant unto Xpofer Warren of Warmister. And then about last Easter yt was her fortune to meet the sayd Avis in Boreham att one Matthews howse, from hence she saw Avis, and this examinats went together to this examinats howse in Warmister. As they were goinge the said Avis asked her the cause of her sickness, wch so as this Ext did remember was an imposthume (abscess) and that it was impossible she should ever recover yt. And att their being together att this Exts howse she gave her drinke such as shee did drinke of her selfe and nothing but her usuall drinke. At her departing from thence the said Avis intreated this Ext that she would come unto her when she should send for her. And uppon ffrydaie last the said Avis being extreame sicke sent for her and she accordingly went unto

ffrary unto her. Wheare when she came the said Avis said unto her that she was gladd she was come unto her saying " Would to God some body would be a means to helpe me out of the world ". Whereunto this Ext replied and said " God forbid and told her that she should put her trust in God and whenher glasse was runn she should depart this world and not before ". And that the companie being in the howse were willed to depart home by the said Avis meanes and not by this Ext. But as for asking the said Avis soule or spiritt she never made any suche demande of her eyther att their beinge together at Boreham walking towards Warmister or of her when being with her att ffrarey.

(Signed) E. LUDLOW.

" Gregorius Molton de ffrary clericus & Willm Glasyer de eadem " were bound over in the sum of £20 to appear at the next Sessions, but nothing further concerning the case appears on the rolls.

FRAUDULENT LICENSE TO COLLECT ALMS

(slightly abbreviated).

The examination of Richard Greene taken the 21st day of April 1613. Whoe saythe that upon our La : Daye last at what time he dwelt in Reading he was hyred wth the privytie of one Mr Hyde then & nowe Mayor of Reading to accompany Richard Beavans being a Dumbman who had licence from the Kinge to collect the charitable devotions of his heighnes subjects in certeyne Counties expressed in the licence & that during the time he was so employed he was to have two shillings weeklie for his paines. He further saythe that his brother Thomas was likewise hyred for the like wages with the privytie of the Mayor of Reading to assist Thomas Beavans brother to Richard who was also dumb who travelled the counties of Bucks & Glos to begg. Apparently Green & Beaven had been arrested, for

On being re-examined he confessed that the licence to beg was false, that he never saw Beaven until the previous Saturday when he met him in " a barbour's howse in Marleborowe ", to whom Green had gone " to sell certaine Cunnyskynnes ", and since then he had spent his time with Beavans at Uphaven and as far as he knew Richard Beavan was dumb. He then confessed that his name was Notte was born in Marlborough & for the last seven years was a servant in Cheshire, leaving that service at Candlemas last. He met Beavan at Marlborough and it was agreed between them that they should travel together, he " under the culler of assisting Beavan in his collection and should have halfe of that wch they collected ffor his paynes, and that Beavan did discover to him that he could speake ".

(Signed) JOHN F. HUNGERFORD.

Richard Beavan on being examined said that for the past two years he had lived near London and worked at brick making for a Mr Willet of ffullham, he lodged at the signe of the White Horse

in Kent Street for which he pad 10 pence per week. About Michaelmas last he met one John Lightfoote a scrivener at the signe of the Bucke Horn in Turnagers Lane near Tower Street where Lightfoot persuaded him to a course of begging releife upon such pretence as appeared on the lycence which Lightfoot contrived & wrote signing it with the names of three Masters of the Requests viz Sir Roger Willbraham, Sir Christopher Parkins & Sir Daniell Dunn & putting a seale to it which Lightfoot said was a counterfeite of the Seale of the Courte of Requests for which Lightfoot charged him iijs. since wch lycence soe gotten he this examine hath counterfeited himselfe to be dumb & by culler of his lycence hath collected money in Wilts, Glos & Barks. He said he first met Richard Greene at Marlborough the previous Satterday & together they went to Netheravon wheare they laye in a barne that night in which barne was likewise the wiefie of one Griffine a pedlar being an acquaintance of his. They then went to Upavon & then to Great Bedwin when they were stayed by an officer. His purpose was to have settled himself to begging by culler of his lycence for another month, being the unexpired time of the lycence & that it was agreed between Greene & himself that they should share what they collected equally betwen them. (Signed as above).

LICENSING OF PUBLIC HOUSES.

(Abbreviated.)

There are several recognizances of innholders with the names of their guarantors in this roll. They are all on much the same lines, and the following is an example :—

Edward Waynfford of Trowbridge was bound over in the sum of £10 and Henry Baker & ffrancas of the same place in £5 each. That whereas Edward Waynfford is allowed by Willm Kyne and Henry Vyner, Knight, Wm Powlett and John Hall Esquires four of the Kings Maty Justices of the Peace to keep a comon alehouse or tipling house & to sell ale & beere only within his now dwelling-house in Trubridge, and not ells where, during such time as he shall keepe such alehouse there shall not suffer any unlawfull playe viz. Tables, Cards, dice bowles or any other unlawful games to be used in his house, garden, orchard, ground or other place, or dresse or cause or suffer to be dresse any fleshe or suffer it to be eaten upon any daie forbidden by law. Nor wittingly or willingly admitt or receive into his house or any part thereof any person notoriouslie defamed of or for Thefte, incontineny or drunckness or one that shall have been notified to him by the Constables or Tythingman of Trubridge to be an unmeete person to be received into any comon alehouse, nor keepe nor lodge any stranger above the space of one daie or one night without notice being first given to the Constable or Tythingman, and that he suffer none to eate drink or Victuale in his house but such as are allowed by the Lawes of this Realme or such as are appoynted to lodge & take dyett in his house by the Constable or Tythingman. And also he shall deliver out of his

house such quantity of drincke as the neyhbours of the porer sorte shall have need of according to the quantity of beere or ale he shall have in his house to be druncken in the houses of them that shall fetch the same and no elsewhere. Nor shall take more than according to the rate of a penney for every quart of Strong Beere or ale and a halfe penny for every quart of small beere or ale according to the Standard of the Exchequer. So long as he carried out these commands " & kept good order and Rule then this recognizance to be Void and of noe effect or els to remayne in full force & virtue.

(Signed by the Justices named above).

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 13th John Suter was indited for keeping and using of a Cras bowe, Thomas Hindge for shuting in a Gunne, William Adams for shuting in a Gunne with powder and haile shote.

TOBACCO IN WILTSHIRE IN 1613.

An information is sworn against John Amor of Charlton who " The next morning came againe very early and requested this examinate to arise & helpe him to some fier to light tobacco whereupon she tould him he might drincke his tobacco at home "

MORE TROUBLE OVER THE KING'S POULTRY.

In a letter dated from Whitehall Jan. 12th signed by W. Knollys, E. Wootton, Rd. Vernon, Rich. Coxe, complaints are made that in spite of former warning the delivery of the poultry that by composition is due to the King for his household is unperformed, and requiring the Justices to take some speedy course whereby it may be forthwith delivered " otherwise wee shalbe forced to take some such course as will tend little to the ease of your Countrie "

1614.

The psentment of the Libertie of Broomeham & Rowde at the Sessions holden at the Devizes the third daie of Maie in Anno 1614.

Wm. Stevens & Wm. Hawkins Constables of the Libertie afforesaide who have joyned their psentment wth the Jurie of the foresaid Libtie but we have nothing to psent but all things good & faire.

Ffor the Genall Sessions of the peace &c holden at the Devizes the Third daye of Maye in the Twelfe yere (1614) of the raigne of Our Sovaigne Lord King James of England &c & of Scotland the seven and ffortieth—

At this psent Sessions of the peace are appointed and chosen to be Treasurers of the reliefe of maymed soldiers & marriners

within this Countye for this yere following. For the South Mr. Gold of Alveston, for the North Mr. Olivier at (? John St) Marleborowe. And it is ordered by the Justices of this Countye at this pSENT Sessions assembled that the rates shall remayne and continue for the said reliefe as they were the last yere viz Soe as for every pishe throughout this Countie there may be levied & payd threepenc weekly and not above the severall rates of every pishe to be pporconed & sett downe by the Justices of everye division respectively according to there good discrecons & by them to be delivered over to the Newe Trers before the next genall quarter Sessions &c. And for the reliefe of the prisoners of the Kings Benche and Marshalsey & of such Hospitalles and almshouses as are wthin this are appointed & chosen to be Trers—for the South Thomas Hunt of Enford, for the North John Weston (?) of ———. And it is likewise ordered that the rates for the same reliefe shall continue as be as they were the last yere viz Soe as for every pishe throughout this Countye there maye be levied and payde one penny weekly and not above, the severall rates of every pishe to be pporconed & sett downe as in the former order and that the late Treasurers of bothe the said collecons shall give up there accompte to the newe Trers before the next Genall Quarter Sessions &c in the psence and by thoversight of Mr. Blacker (?) and Mr. Howe for the South and Mr. John Hungerford for the North of this Countie.

This is signed by Jo. Dauntsey, John Ayliffe, John Lowe, B. Hungerford, — Hyde, — Best, Henry Martyn, — Large, Jhon Hungerford.

SOME CONVICTIONS.

The Calendar of the Genall Sessions of the Peace holden at the Devizes the third day of Maye in the twelf yere of the raigne of King James &c. (1614).

Thomes Butcher endicted and convicted on his own confession for stealing of ten sheep and adjudged to be burnt in the hand and after to be delivred (i.e., released).

Robert Oates, John Edmunds, Robert Goodenow. Endicted & convicted by their own confession for severall petty larcences and adjudged to be openly whipped in the Devizes the next Markett daie in the open markt and after to be delivred.

Robert Elye, endicted & convicted for being drunk in Calne and adjudged to paie forthwith 5s to the use of the pore of the same pishe or els to be putt in the open stocks there in seven Markett dayes there, and in the stocks to remayne in prison untill he find sufficient surety to appeare at the next Genall Quarter Sessions & in the mean time to be of good behaviour.

Olyver Waynsford, endicted & convicted for a battery & adjudged to paie for his fine to the Kings Matie five shillings & to be imprisoned the space of one month & after till he finde surety of the peace towards all his Maties subjects & especially towards Richard Gibbons.

William Jeffereys indicted & convicted for shooting in a at pigeons with powder and shot, adjudged to have three months imprisonment and to 10^l fine to the King according to the Statute &c. (This is torn in places.)

Re NON-OBSERVANCE OF LENT.

After our very hartly commendacons Although it is true that the many lawes and orders heretofore ordeyned and published for the strict and due observance of Lent (wherof you are not ignorant) are or ought to be sufficient Motives to worck in you that care wch is fitting to be had of the putting in execucon so necessary a point of Government especially considering the apparent good that redounds therby to the Comonwealth and also to move in every well affected subject yt due obedyence wch is requisite. Such (notwithstanding) hath been observed to be the neglect & generall contempt of those holesome ordinances, as his Maty out of his accustomed providence & most gracious care of the comon good of this Realme, hath been pleased to comand that from henceforth a more stryct accompt be taken of your and others whome it may concerne, touching yor duties in this pticular. And for that it hath been ever observed that people are wth nothing so much moved as by the Example of those yt Governe them. It is required and expected that in yor owne Families and psons you make such demonstracyon of conformity herein as may serve for Examples unto inferior psons. And to the end that all those who are Masters of Howsholds and Families may wth the more conveniency provide themselves of such necessary Provicons for ye Lent as shall be fyttng and may seeme most convenient. His Highnes hath been pleased to comand the ymediate publishing of this his pleasure. And that no man might be ignorant therof hath also caused such Rules and Orders to be printed and dispersed in all parts of his Kingdome as have been thought most meete especially for your dyrecons and cariadg herein (a copy whereoft wee send you here inclosed). And doe hereby require you and every of you to cause notice thereof to be taken wthin yt County and the severall Cities and Burroughes thereof. And so to apply yor selves unto ye stryct observance of the sayd orders as may gyve assurance unto his Maty of yor dutifull care and diligence in the due pformance and executyon of his comaundments. And so we bidd you hartely farewell. ffrom Whitehall the 10th of December 1613.

Your very loving freinds,

C., CANT. J. ELLESMERE-CANE,
NORTHAMPTON.
T., SUFFOLK. J. F., WORCESTER.
E., LONDEN. E. WOTTON. Jul Ceasar.

The above is addressed To our very loving ffreinds, The Sherifs and Justices of Peace of the Countye of Wiltes.

PRESENTMENTS.

The presentment of Robert Seager & Wm. Seager Constables of the Borrow of Calne, presented att Chippenham att the petty Sessions there the XXVII of Aprill Anno 1614.

ffirst wee punnished one Eliz: Woell and sent her by passe to London the xiiiith of March 1613.

Also xxxth of March 1614 wee punnished one Thomas Stetever & sent him to London by passe.

Also the xiiiith of Aprill 1614 wee punnished one Thomas Davyes and sent him to ffarrington by passe.

The xxvth dat of Januarie 1613 Daniell Porter was drunck in our Towne.

Also the viijth day of februarie 1613 John Burges and William Snowfell were drunck in or Towne.

The viijth day of March 1613 John Goroway was drunck in our Towne.

The xxvjth of April 1614 Robert Okeford was drunck in our Towne.

Also the said xxvth of Aprill John Webbe was drunck in our Towne.

Also wee presented Robert Dash, Wm. White and Henry Shakspeare for playing att unlawful games in our Towne in the house of one Tobias Robbins alehouse keeper.

Also wee presented Tobias Robbins for suffering unlawfull games to be played in his house.

Also wee presented Richard Tylly of or Towne for selling less than an ale quart of his best drinck for a penny the xxijth day of March 1613.

CORSHAM CLAIM FREEDOM FROM SERVICE.

Wiltes. Willm Powlett Knight Sheriff of the County aforesaid to ye bayliffe of the towne and village of Corsham, greeting by vertue of the Kings Matyes writt to mee directed I doe require you that you omit not for any libertye wth in this Countie but that you make open and publique pclamacon through out yor bayliweek that the Genall Sessions of the Peace for the Countie aforesaid is to be holden at the Devizes upon Tuesday the third day of May next cominge. And that you somon and warne as well these gentlemen whose names are under written to bee then there before His Highnes Justices of the Peace for this Countie to serve the Kings Matie upon the great inquest for the body of the said Countie as also xxiiij other good and lawfull men of yor bayliweeke to doe and execute all those things wch on his Matys behalfe they shalbee enjoyned unto and that you somon and warne to the day and place aforesaid all and singler the Constables and bayliffs wthin your bayliweeke that they bee there haveing wth them the names of all such laborers, artificers and servants of husbandry as take excessive wages contrary to the forme of the statute in that case pvided and that all those wch as well for Or Soveigne Lord the Kings Matie as themselves will psente any billes or pleynts against those

artificers laborers and servants of husbandry or any other offenders that they bee then there to psecute according to the lawes of this Kingdome. And lastly that you yor selfe be then there wth a true retarne of this my pcept and to do and execute all those things wch to yor office doe—to be doon whereof I require you not to fayle, dated under the seale of my office this xxvijth daye of March Anno Dmi 1614.

The paper is damaged on one edge, and the names referred to above are torn but appear to be

Jacobus Hulbert gent.

Mathew Smyth gent.

— Hulbert de Eston gt.

On the other side of the paper is the following: —

The Answere of Thomas Gibbons the Queenes Matie Baylif of her Mannor of Corsham. He sayethe in Answere of this precepte that the said mannor ys pt of the ancient demaesne landes of his Matie and of his pdecessors and hath always byn eve tyme out of mynde. And that all the landes wthin the said mannor (the Veneses only excepted) are coppie hold lands of inheritance and demisable and demised by coppie of Court roll according to the custome of the saide mannor and allways have been by the tyme aforesaid annient demesne of base tenure. And that the inhabitants coppieholders of the saide Mannor and others therein residente by all the tyme aforesaide have had and enjoyed all the priviledges and libtyes belonginge or incident to annient demesne land or to thinhabitants thereof. And by vertue of these priviledges and libertyes that they have ben by the tyme aforesaid freed of all service at the Sessions of the peace holden wthin this County of Wilts of all appearance thereat for any the service by this Warrant required. And further sayeth that the partyes wthin named are coppieholders of inheritance wthin the saide mannor and have no other freehold wthin the saide mannor and that there are not xxiiij freeholders of any fred land wthin the saide mannor and that the Kings Matie hath . . . saide mannor to the Queene to hold it as free . . . priviledges and libtyes as the same mannor hath been heretofore held or enjoyed ffor wch causes he . . . behalf that he may not be farther inforced to . . . the pmisses then other his pdecessors Bayliffe . . . have heretofore byn.

(Note.—The right-hand side of this paper has $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches missing for a depth of two inches, consequently it is not possible to fill in the missing words.)

KING JAMES'S TOUR IN WILTS HINDERED.

After or hartie commendacons Under standinge of some abuseis comitted in the Kinge & Queenes pgress into those west parts by the Cartakers and their deputies and others followinge the Coorte in takinge money of the Countrie, underhande for release of Cartes wherby his Matie service was greatly hindred and the Country

much abused, ffor remedie therof and for thavoidinge of the like abuses hereafter, Wee have thought good hereby to desire you, that in yor severall devisions where the King or Queene hath ben wthin that Countie of Wilts this last sommer, to call before you all such constables and other psons as you thinck doe best understande such abuses and them strickly to examine what money they or aine others of the Countrie to their knowledge have given to aine Cartaker or other person followinge or belonginge to the Courte for releasinge of Cartes at aine time this last pgresse and what you shall finde amisse thereon to certefie hither. Wheruppon some such examplarie punishment may be inflicted uppon them as for such offenders shalbe thought requisite. And soe not doubting of yor cares herein Wee bid you farewell, ffrom the Courte at Whitehaule, the iiij of November 1613.

Yor lovinge freindes

W. Knollys, E. Wotton, R. O. Vernon,
Mar. Darell, Rich. Coxe, Jo. Leigh.

Above is addressed To or very loving freinds the Justices of peace in the County of Wilts and to evry of them. 1613 4th Novembers from ye Courte.

POULTRY FOR KING JAMES.

After or hartie comendacons. Wheras wee have given you warning by or fornir Ltres (our former letters) for the deliverie of all such poultrie as by composicon is due to his Matie out of the Countie of Wilts for the service of his Highness most noble howsholde in the Eleaventh yeare of his Mats raigne, nevtrtheles yt seemeth you regard not or warninge but leave the service unperformed Wch pceedeth—as wee conceave—eather by you the Justice who have not given warninge to the Constables or they in not givinge warninge to the Countrie. Theis are therefor once againe to require you to take some speedie course wherby the saide service may be fourthwith deliverd accordinge to the tenor of your Composicon. Otherwise wee shalbe forced to take some such course as will tend little to the ease of yor Countrie. And soe not doubtinge of yor better cares hereafter wee bid you farewell. Whitehall the xij of Januarie 1613. Yor lovinge freindes,

W. Knollys, E. Wotton.
Ro. Vernon, Rich. Coxe.

The above is addressed to or verie lovinge freindes Sr. Edmunde Ludloe, Sr. Hen. Bainton, Sr. Antho. Hungerforde, Sr. William Eayre and Sr. Allex Tutt, Knights, Lawrence Hide, Esqre, and to the rest of his Mats Justices of peace and compounders in the Countie of Wilts or aine twoe of them.

ROBBING A HEN ROOST IN MARLBOROUGH, JAMES 1st REIGN.

Wiltsh. The Informacon of John Leasham als (alias) Luke of Marlebrough in the County of Wiltsh—chirurgion against

Thomas Lawnder of the same place—tyler, taken the xxiiij day of December in the Eleaventh yeare of the Reigne of Or Soveigne Lord King James of England &c and of Scotland the XLVIJ (1612) before William ffrancklyn Maior of the burroughe of Marlebroughe, Richard Digge Esquire and Philipp ffrancklyn gent Justices of peace of the said borroughe.

He sayeth that this last night of the xxiiij of this December there was stolen from his henrust in a pent howse of his at Marlebrough twoo of his hens, wch twoo hens (uppon search made this morninge in the howse of Henry Leache of Marlebroughe—Tyler) were found in an owt howse of the said Henry Leache in the Bedstrawe of the foresaid Thomas Lawnder (apprentice of the said Henry Leache) whose lodginge was in the same owt howse.

The examinacion of the before named Thomas Lawnder (taken as above).

He confesseth that this last night about three of the clock after midnight he did steale twoo hens from the Henrust of Mr. John Leasham (als Luke) in a pent howse in his back side and carryed the same twoo hens to the howse of his M (Master) Henry Leache and hid them in the Bedstrawe where he lodged in an owt howse there.

(Signed) WILLIAM FFRANCKLIN.
RICH DIGGE.
PHILIPP FFRANCKLYNE.

A SAILOR UNDER RALEIGH.

A Ire to Sr John Payton Knight Governor of the Isle of Jersey.

The bearer herof John Duckett (informeth) that having served in his (? her) late Mets navves for the space of thirtie yeares and received many maymes and hurtes uppon his boddy was uppon some occasion of service commanded by Sr Walter Rawley to goe over to Jersey where he had a place wth entertainment of £12 p ann. and that of late he is discharged of his said place and thereby deprived of that small comfort wch he enjoyed as the only reward of all his former services and left destitute of any meanes to releve himself in his old age. fforasmuch as his case deserveth some commiseracion we have been moved to signifie this much unto you on his behalf that wee thinke it meete he be continued in his said place wth such allowance as was formerly made unto him, or otherwise that you doe order such a course for his releefe as may give him some contentment without further trouble unto us, And so leavinge him to your good favour.

23rd December 1609.

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Signed by the | Lo. Arch of Cant | E. of Worcester |
| | Lo. Chancellor | Lo. Zouche |
| | Lo. Treasurer | Lo. Knollis |
| | D. of Lennox | Sr John Herbert |
| | Lo. Admyrall | Sr Julius Caesar |
| | Lo. Chamberlyne. | |

Note.—Apparently the above is a copy of a letter.

PRISONERS' PETITION FOR AN APOTHECARY.

There is no date to the following.

It is written on a large double sheet of good hand-made paper in a fine delicate writing, and is as follows:—

WILTS. To the Worshipfull the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid.

The humble Petition of the Debtrs & Criminals now detained in his Majesties Prison at ffisherton Anger in and for the said County.

Humbly sheweth unto your Worships THAT We your unhappy Petitioners, not only labour under the Comon Jail distemper but many others equally mortal.

We have hitherto had the Charitable assistance of an Apothecary gratis—but our numbers and distempers are so increased that we cannot expect any further relief from Him without manifest prejudice to his own circumstances. We therefore humbly beseech your Worships to take our most wretched case into consideration and appoint some Person to visit us or we must all (at least the greater part of us) be in danger of perishing *for want of such timely and necessary Relief.*

And your Petitioners shall ever pray &c.

The above is signed by fifty-seven persons. They are in two columns, one headed "Debtors", who number 26, the other "felons", numbering 31. In the debtors' column only four sign by "his mark", whilst in the felons' column there are thirteen who could not sign their name.

It is unfortunate no date appears, but it is to be hoped that the Justices of the Peace at that time appreciated the sufferings of these people and granted them their much-needed apothecary.

A ROGUE AND HIS FALSE PASS.

(abbreviated.)

This is a lengthy examination taken before Thomas Sadler at Salisbury, July 5th, 1614. A rogue James Dunn having wandered up and down the country showing a false pass "reported many faerie tales at the first, of his coming out of Ireland, of his landing at Swansey & of his being at Cardiff in the County of Cardigan, the wch being known to myself to be in Glamorgan."

He was strictly examined and then confessed that his pass was a false one and forged by a companion of his in the City of Salisbury who at first he said was named Christopher Parker but a woman he took about the country with him said it was Thomas. "Having sent to the Mayor and Constables of the Citie and to all the Tything men about Salisbury, who could not meet with him, but the Tything man of Harnham (having apprehended the said Dunns Concubyne) gave her a pass to send her to the place where she was borne.

Neverthe less she resorted to Dunn in the Gaole at ffisherton ". Here Dunn having been examined " fled from me, whereupon rousing my man to saddle a horse & to ride after him, was by my servant brought back againe ".

(Signed) THO. SADLER.

The Counterfeit pass begins : " Know ye that I ffoulk Conway Kings Governor of the Town and Garrison of Weckbrough Lande of bogs have lycinct these bearers " &c. to travel to England & asks for all concerned to releive them & find them lodgings " to the better avoyding the lawe, geven under my hand & seale at the Garrison aforesaid 10th day of June 1614 ".

(signed) Foulke Conwaye.

Cardigan. The bearers landed here at the towne of Swansey wth in the County of Cardigan 18th June and they are alowed according to the tenner aforesaid to pass, whereunto I the said Henry Evans Baylyfe of Swansey have sett my hand.

Signed. HENRY EVANS. Bayliffe.

Sumrset 1614. Sene and alowed accordinge to the tenner aforesayde the xxijth day of June.

Signed John Freuillian.

James Dunn was committed for an incorrigible rogue & sent to the House of Correction there to remain until the next Sessions.

A CURIOUS WILL OF THE 17th CENTURY.

Amongst the papers in the file of the Wilts Quarter Sessions Rolls for 1614 is the following curious will :—

Brine had a mare whosoever knew hir,
Som times he rod hir and somtimes he drove her,
She will cary hir Mr through haile winde and raine
So merily to the market, so merily backe againe.

When Brine he perceived yt hir good dayes ware dun,
He turned up hir heeles & pulld of her shun,
Then Brine went trudging & trudging downe the hill
And with his pen and inck horne did write his mares will.

First he bequethed hir eies—that ware so clere and gray
Even to hir Mr Brine to lead him on the way
Next I bequeth my teeth that stand all in a row
To little John Brunker because he hath so few.

I bequeth my skin, the skin all of my backe
Even to John Chapman to make a woing jack
I bequeth the skin, the skin all of my leggs
To Thomas Tauman to make him bowlting baggs.

I bequeth the tayle that is so faire and rownd
Even to Mary Moore to make a wedding gownd
I bequeth the liver, the liver and the longes
Unto Wm Brunker to maintaine his flatring tounge.

I bequeth the maw, the maw for and the gutts
 Unto Mr Shipman to make strings for his bookes
 I bequeth the ears that are so faire and right
 Unto John Fenill to make feathers for his flight.

I bequeth the hoofs, the hoofs so faire and rownd
 Unto John Self and then to Ma Browne
 I bequeth the head for and the robernowke
 Unto good wife Brine to make a skimming bowk.

I bequeth the chapps, the chapps that went soe fast
 Unto John Spender to eate his neighbors grasse
 I bequeth the — gutt, the gutt that is soe fat
 Unto old John Branker to grease his squeaking throat.

And I bequeth all other gutts that are soe fat and longe
 Even to John Hulber for making of the song.

A footnote in another handwriting, apparently that of the clerk of the peace, says:—

“This was confessed by John Hulberd the xxvith day of September last before me, that he did helpe make it and publyshe it”.

There is nothing to show the place or origin, or any reason why it should be amongst these papers.

ROAST VEAL AND WHITE POT.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster July 19th, 1614. The Jury do psent upon theyre othes that upon the last day of Aprill 1614 last past Walter Davis smythe of Codford St. Peter did receive into his house divers hines (servants) and mayd servants of his neighbours and there feasted them with roasted vaele, whitpott and monstrellseyall at the charges of the neighbours servants thereabouts, some of Codford & some of Stockton, and at many other tymes he hath done the like. The Minstrell that was there at this tyme was one Nicholas Bennett of Knooke.

(Note.—Whitepott was a dish composed of milk with Eggs, fine Bread, sugar, and spice baked in a pot).

They also present “that upon the 5th of June being Sondag George Dyer servant unto George Imber of Sherington & Mathew Begger of Codford played at kittles for xxd a throw & a typp wch they call xxd againe, insomuche that one in the Company won xxs at that play at that tyme”.

The Constables of the hundred of Heytesbury “present Nicholas Bennett of Knooke as a comon Minstrell or Crowder (= a fiddler) & useth to play about in the County uppon the Sabbaoth daie to the great dishonor of God”.

THE CARE OF AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.

(abbreviated.)

ffor asmuch as it appeareth aswell by the Confession of Joane Harvest of Whitpische in the Countie of Wiltes taken before me Sir Caro Rauleigh Knight and William Stockman Esquier Justices

of the Peace as also by divers ppabilities & circumstanes that Richard Whitter of Whitpish is the reputed ffather of a Bastard Child borne by Joane Harveste. Wee the said Justices doe accordinge to the forme of the Statute in that case made and pvided, Order & decree that Joane shall nurse & bringe upe the said childe untill it shall accomplishe the full age of three yeares. And that duringe all that tyme the said reputed ffather shall weeklie paie to Joane towards the reliefe of the childe Tenn pence evry weeke to be accompted from andafter the birth of the childe. And after the expiration of the three yeares the said reputed ffather shall keepe and maintaine the childe untill he be fitt yeares to be bound as an apprentice in some Trade or mistrie. And that duringe all that time the said mother shall weeklie paie to the said reputed ffather the some of fflower pence for evry weeke he shall soe keepe the said childe. And also that the said reputed ffather and mother forever herafter discharge the pish of the said childe. And wee doe further order that both the reputed ffather and mother of the said childe for their lewde ffack shalbe whipped in Whitpish by the Tythingman there upon Sondaie nexte. It witness whereof wee have subscribed our names and sett our hands & seales &c. January 11th 1614.

Signed. Caro Raleigh. William Stockman.

The above order was confirmed by the Court of Quarter Sessions " & the father and mother were bound to the Churchwardens & overseers of the poor of Whitpish for the due performance of the order ".

(Note.—Sir Caro Raielgh (brother of Sir Walter Raleigh) lived at Corsely, 1615, and was a J.P. for Wilts).

1615.

At the Quarter Sessions at Marlborough Oct. 3rd 1615. John Martyn was indicted " for an incorrigible Rogue and Convicted to be burned in the left Shoulder with the letter R and to be whipped in the Towne of Marleborough upon his bare shoulders until they bleede and then to be sent to the place of his birth or dwelling paying his fees ". Three other rogues were similarly treated at these Sessions.

In the Calendar of prisoners at Fisherton Prison on January 11th, 1615, eleven men are indicted and committed for larceny and sentenced " to be whipped upon their naked backs from Fisherton Bridge to the Market Place in New Sarum and back again and then to be released after paying their fines ".

A PETITION TO THE KING (JAMES 1st).

After my very hartly comendacons. Whereas John Wilkins gent hath often troubled his Matie wth complaints to such effect as in his peticion hearinclosed is expressed.

His Highness (in respect of Wilkins his hurts and services in the Warres taking Comiseracon of his Distresse) Hath Comannded me to write unto you, his Maties Justices of the Peace for the County of Wilts, that you take order wth the Treasurer of the said County that the said Wilkins may have his pencon or at least thone halfe therof continued unto him untill his debts shalbe satisfied, Otherwise he feareth he shalbe abridged of his libertie, and so be deprived of that small meanes he hath in the Charterhouse (wch is his sole maintenance) And if this cannot be effected, as his Matie doth expecte, then his pleasure is, that you certifie the reasons of the impediment therof whereby his Matie may be truelie informed of the Cause. And so I committ you to God.

Your verie loving frind

REG. WILBRAHAM.

From the Court at Theobalds

23rd December 1615.

The petition of John Wilkins is as follows (abbreviated):—

To the Kings Most Excellent Majesitie.

Most gracious Sovereigne, Whereas your poore petitioner served the late Queenes Matie in a place of Leiftennant in her highnes service for ye space of 30 yeares by Sea as also in Ireland & ye Lowe Countries and received manie hurtes & maymes. The Justices of the Peace for Wilts granted him a pension of £8 a year which he received regularly for many years but at the last Quarter Sessions the Justices dismissed your petitioner of the same, alleading yt he had obtained a place in ye Charterhouse sufficient for his maintenance, wch is not so greate as was expected. Your poore petitioner being constrained to sell away his liveing worth £30 a year towards his reliefe and the recovery of his hurts and is infirmed, aged and in debted to divers of his freinds.

May it therefore please Yor Royall Matie out of your good & Charitable disposition, after the spending of his youth and patrimony wth the hazard of his life & losse of his bloode in his prince and Cuntries service, to graunt yor Maties lres of Warrant to yor poore petitioner to Ye Justices of the said Countie that they may continue & restore unto him his foresaid stipend. And according to his bounden duty he will pray to God for your Maties most prosperous Raigne and everlasting faelicitie.

MAKERS OF COUNTERFEIT PASSES.

On August 25th 1615, Henry Taverner was examined by Gyles Mompesson Esquire he having been taken with counterfeit passes on him.

He said he came from Grampitt in Cornwall where he lived untill he was 50 years old & worked as a Mason, then he went to Morely in Devonshire where he lived for seven years then he went to Cowbridge in Wales where he married and lived one year. He confessed that he had "rogued about the Country" both before and after he was married & that one pass he had was made by a William Jones a Wealshman also a dandering rogue and the other

unused pass was made by Jackson a schoolmaster at Lye near Bristol. He confessed that when at Rettingford he begged a petition of a souldier that had been at the Court & had his petition answered by which he got another written inserting his own name at Puckshipton in Somerset, but he did not know the mans name that writ it. He also said that he carried his wax and seals so that if he had a passport made by any one that he met on the way, his wax & seals may be in readiness. He also said that he carried a note of the names of the Knights & Justices of Peace of Sundry Counties "to knowe whose names might fitly be used of the same Counties in his Counterfeit passes". He then goes on to say that "Thomas Hall that carries a foote packe of Linn Cloth & other small wares is a notable counterfiter of Passeports. The said Hall is about fifty years ould of a taule stature a long black bearde and ridd favoured and hath very fine whit haire, he goeth comonly in a horsemans coate & hath a pension in Sussex. Mr. Tavener also said that he knew one Anthony Robbines who is also excellent in that profession but he maketh them none but for himself, he is neere three score yeares ould & hath a long flaxen bearde, a tall man & riddish favoured and only traveleth rouging up and downe the Country.

He finally said "that Hall made a passe for one Hollidaye a young man that looked asquinte.

At the following Sessions Henry Taverner was indicted as a Rogue, but the records do not say what reward he got.

THE PILLORY IN DEVIZES.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 28th 1615 "Nicholas Powell was indicted & convicted for deceivinge John Smithe of xxxs with false letters. He was adjudged to be whipped in the open Markett in the Devizes upon the next Market daye untill his backe doth bleede, and afterwards to be sett on the pillory by the space of twoe houres wth a pap (paper) on his head on wch shall be written in great letters "for cosonage (cheating) and obteyning money by counterfeyt letters in other mens names" and afterwards to be sent to Sherston where his dwelling is.

APPOINTMENT OF A MUSTER MASTER FOR WILTS.

To our very loving freinds the Deputie Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace in the Countie of Wilts.

After or hartie Comendacons. Whereas we are given to understand that or verie good Lo: the Earle of Hertford his Maties Lieutenant of the Countie of Sommerset and Wilts hath appointed the Gentleman the bearer hereof Mr. George Gryme to be Muster Mr for the Countie of Wilts of whose sufficiencie & fittnes for that place as wee have received very good testimonie, so forasmuch as his attendance upon the same wilbe of verie much advantage to his Mats service by Care and peines hee shall take in trayning and disciplining the forces of that Countie, wch hee cannot so well performe unles he be assisted therein by the favour of you that are

Dep. Lieutents & in the comission of the Peace wth in the said Countie. Wee doe therefore heereby pray you according to the elecon that hath bene made of the said Mr. George Gryme for the place of Muster Mr wth in that Countie to assist him wth your favor not onelie in the excucon of his place but alsoe in seeing him satisfied the entertainment due for the same. By wch as hee shall haive occasion given him to employe himselfe the more willinglie in the service of the Countie, so wee shall likewise take occasion from thence to be beholding to you and to thanke you for the kindnes you shall showe him. And so recomending him to your good favors, Wee bidd you heartilee farewell from Whitehall this 26 of March 1615.

Yor very loving ffreinds,

T. Suffolke. Lennox. Pembroke. R. Somerset. W. Knollys.
ffulke Grevyll.

(The above were Lords of the Council).

The above is forwarded in a letter from Fr. Seymour dated from Letly April 16, 1615 and addressed to the Deputy Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace asking for their favourable consideration especially in the matter of the pay of the Muster Master.

A CASE OF BONE-SETTING.

The Informacon of Edward Shaile of Cuckerton in the Countie of Glouc taken by Sr Henry Poole the ixth day of Aprill Anno Dmi 1615 on his Oath.

Whoe saieth that on a Satterdaie aboutt vj weekes last paste one Suzan Hedges was brought to this Informer (being a bonsetter) by her father and others havinge a greeffe in her necke, they supposinge thereby that some of her necke jointcs weare outt, to have them sett againe. And saieth, that at her cominge the said Suzan Hedges did hold her necke on thone side. Whereuppon this Examint wth bothe his hands did turne her necke upright and in doing thereof hee harde some of the veines or sinewes of her necke goe cracke. But hee saieth that by reason that the necke was swolne this Examint doth nott certeinlie knowe whether anie bone weare outt of jointc or nott. Hee further saieth that at the cominge of the said Suzan to this Examints house shee had the use of her speeche. Hee further saieth that hee hath sett maney necke jointcs and that the psons whose neckes he hath sett weare never speechless or impaired in their witts thereby. And thinketh yt unpossible yt shold soe bee unlesse the greate bone of there neckes had bin outt and in that case yt were psente deathe unto them withoutt psente remedie.

And beinge further examined whether the crack wch hee hard (heard) of her necke might have bin hard by him unlesse her necke had bin out of jointc hee saieth that her necke beinge holden hard by her on the one side maie bee harde to cracke by the turninge thereof & nott out of jointc.

The above operation of bone setting apparently arose out of a case where the master of Suzan, viz Anthony ffrie of Brinkworth

having beaten her caused her the injury, for Henrie Pennell of Brinkworth in his oath swore before Henrie Poole " That the said Suzan Hedges necke was swolne and one side of her shoulder red, having Kernells (swellings) on her necke and that he heard the said Suzan say that her Master was the cause of it ".

Another witness, a fellow servant to Suzan, said she heard her Master give but one blow to Suzan and she did not hear that Suzan did crie or complaine of any hurte she did receive thereby and that she did eat her supper & slept that night without making any showe of greiffe.

Nevertheless, at the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes on the 18th day of April the poor Suzan was comitted to the house of correccion, there to remaine till she be retayned into some honest mans service.

1616.

There is little of interest in the rolls for this year. The constable of Mere present 12 bridges to be repaired by the inhabitants of the tithings, and another constable prays to be relieved of his office " forasmuch as I am unlearned & by reason thereof am contrayned to goe two miles from my howse to have the helpe of a scrivener to reade such warrants as are sent me and am a poore man ".

1617.

KING JAMES TAKES INTEREST IN A MAN OF SEEND.

To the Kings most Excellent Matie.

The humble peticon of Henry Curtise of Seene in the Countie of Wiltes.

Humble shewing That whereas yor peticoner hath lived in the said place for the space of fortie yeares and upwards, and for the space of twelve yeares or thereabouts, hath used the trade of clothing where in he hath set many of yor poore Subjects on worke as may appeare by a Certificate under the hands of many of his neighbors that have knowen all his estate and former Conversation.

But so it is (if it may please yor Matie) that by suertiship and other bad Market, with divers losses wch he hath susteyned, having lent forth money to others and never repayd him againe, he is driven to that extreame povertie, as that he hath neither howse to hide his head, nor meanes left to sustayne him selfe his wife and many poore children, but are ready to pish wth want.

In tender comiseracon whereof he most humblie beseacheth yor Matie of yor gracious goodnes, in respect his Creditors are so obstinate as that they will not agree to any Composicon, to referre the hearing of the cause betweene his adversaryes and him to Sr William Eyre, Sr John Davensey, Sr Edmund Ludlow, and Sr Henry Umar Knights or any three or two of them, and to authorise

them to call his creditors before them and to take such order with his said creditors that the petitioner may have some tyme given him for to pay the same, having his whole intent to that purpose. Otherwise to certifie their oppinions, that further order may be taken towards the petrs releef. And as in duty bound &c .

At the Courte at Cranborne 8 Augii 1615.

His Matie is pleased, that the Comittees desired or any two of them, wth one or two more of like quallitie to be chosen by the petitioner's creditors (if they will name any) shall call the said creditors before them and use their endeavors to treate and pswade some charitable composicon betwixt them and the petitioner as the said comittees shall think meete in equitie and conscience for the petitioner's relief. And if they find any obstinate then to certify their pceedings and opinions herein.

(Sgd) ROGER WILBRAHAM.

Beneath this is written :

Let the tresurer of the Mshally of the North pte give hym ffive poundes.

(Sgd) E. LUDLOW.

Uppon psonall understanding of the case of this poore man, by suretyshipp and other wayes hath byn heretofore able to live & did sett the poore in worke & having disposed his estate & not left anything to releive himself : wee for this tyme, not intending to make any example to doe the like, doe allowe them for these and other speciall reasons ffive poundes.

(Sgd) E. Ludlow, Jo. Dautesey (and five other Justices).

UNLAWFUL GAMES.

The presentment of the Constables of Amesbury Magna Jan. 8th 1617 is as follows :—

We present that George Ackerman doth keepe a Comon Alehouse in Amesburye and doth keepe gamelyinge and unlawful games and playing at the Tables dyvers dayes and tymes.

CATCHING FISH WITH FIRE AT NIGHT.

We present that William Woolfe of Milston and William Woolfe the younger for that they and either of them doe from time to time take and catche fishe in the ryver Betwene Durlington and Milston and between Durlington and Bulford wth unlawfull netts and gynnes and alsoe that they did fishe wth fyer by nighte in the Ryvers to the greate annoyance of the inhabitants of Bulford Milston and Durlington aboute the twelveth day of September last.

The Constables of Stapleford present Lewis Gardiner for a recusant and for a rescue made by him from the Constables being to be brought by warrant before the bishopp.

AN APPEAL FOR ARREARS OF PAY.

To the Right Worshypl the Justices of Peace and whole bodie of the Bench &c.

The humble peticon of John Wilkins Lieftennant In all humble wise, Whereas it has pleased his Matie most graciously to comiserate your poore suplte reserved service for his countrie by comanding his Highness Mr of Requests to write effectually for ye continuinge of his pencon in especiall respect that he sold 30 £ per ann to cure his maymes or els he had lost a legg by a hurt receaved with a Chaine bullet besides other hurtes receaved in service with losse offhis blood in the face of the ennemyes and rebels. Humblie beseacheth that he may have confirmed and performed his pay for one yeare allredie past and one yeare yett to come. That he be not constrained in respect of his Great povertie by reason of his debtes to his Maiestie and troublesome to your worships the whole Magistrates of this Countrie.

This is whole suite in short which I right humble pray and God perswade.

This is followed by recommendations of the Justices in these words:—

This petitioner is indebted xvj £ and in danger of arest and yf he should be arrested and imprisoned then he should be sequestred from Suttons Hospitall and therefore I thinke it very convenient and conscionable that his request should be satisfied by the Countrie. (Signed) JAMES LEY. 1st July 1617.

If for the payment of his debts. (Sgd) Fr: Seymour.

I am of the same mynde. (Sgd) F. Hyde.

Soe he truble the countrie noe more. (Sgd) G. Tooke.

I am of the same mynd with Mr. Tooke. (Sgd) Rich: Digge.

The order of the Court was that the petitioner was to be paid $\text{£}15$, and is signed by Robt. Hyde, E. Ludlowe and others.

INHABITANTS OF CALNE PROTEST AGAINST SERVING ON JURIES.

After my heartye commendocans. Upon motion and Informacon unto me on the behalfe of Robert fforman Philip Swadden for themselves & others the inhabitants of Calne in Wiltshire Tenannts of the Honor of Ewelme That you call them to the Sessions of the peace wth you to serve in the Grand Jury & other the Juries there wich is contrary to the pryveledge & immunitie grannted by annient Charters of the Kings of this Realme and confirmed by Moderne, ffor that the Tenants & men of that Honor by due (?) expresse provision in the Charters of those liberties, are not to be summoned, or put into any Assizes or Juryes although the same concerne his Maiestye, as by the words of the Charters may appeare wch they have ready to shewe. Wherefore my desire is (to whom the peticon of thos Tenants under his highnes doth appurtaine as his Maiestys officer of the Honor) That you would

take into your consideracon, that immunity & pryveledge and cease any more to summon them in such cases. That I may not for them be dryven to complayne farther, or you your selves put to farther occasion therein. Tyme haveing in the usage also concurred with the graunts And soe expecting your care & respecte herein I bid you very hartily ffarewell, ffrom my Howse at the Tylyard end, The twentyeth of September 1616.

Your verye lovyng frende

W. KNOLLYS.

This is addressed " To my very lovinge ffreindes the Justices of peace of his Maiestys County of Wiltes, these be dd ".

(Note.—On referring the above to Mr. Gough, the present (1932) Town Clerk of Calne, he replied as follows :—

" It appears that the old Court Leet which used to be held in Calne was transferred to Ogborne and that the Burgesses of Calne were sworn at the Court of the Hundred holden at Ogborne. Ogborne was a member of the Honor of Wallingford and as such parcel of the Duchy of Cornwall, to which, presumably, the Borough belonged, as evidenced by the Borough Seal.

" By 31 and 32, Henry VIII, the Honor and Court of Wallingford with the members thereof were disannexed from the Duchy, other possessions being given in exchange. The same Act ordered that the Royal Manor of Ewelme in Oxfordshire should thenceforth be deemed an Honor and the Honor of Wallingford a Manor, and the new Manor of Wallingford parcel and member of the new Honor of Ewelme.

" I do not think there is any doubt whatever that this ancient link with Ewelme is entirely lost at the present time. I have never heard of any property in Calne of the Honor of Ewelme, nor received any claims from tenants for exemption from serving on Juries ".)

BOWLS AND BETTING AT BROMHAM.

The psentment of the Jurie for the libertie of Bromeham and Rowde at the Quarter Sessions at the Devises houlden the xxixth of Aprill 1617.

We psent Tho Bullman of Bromeham, brroadweaver, Henry Hiscox of Broomeham, hivemaker, for common playing at bowles having nothing to maintaine it also, we psent Nicholaus Turner weaver of Broomeham for betting 6d. a game at bowles and have noe abilitie to maintaine it.

1618.

WEEPING CROSS.

The presentment of the Grand Jury at the Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum Jan. 12th, 1618/9, contains the following :—

Wee present wthin the tything of Milford, John Beach for lyeing of tymber betweene Winchester Gate and ye Crosse called Weeping Crosse, being an annoyance on the highway.

The Court directed a writ to be issued in the Court in London.

(Note.—With reference to “Weeping Cross”, Mr. F. Stevens, O.B.E., controller of the Salisbury Museum, has kindly supplied me with the following particulars:—

“To facilitate identification I give the latitude and longitude of Weeping Cross Tree, which I presume may recall a possible Cross which formerly existed on that spot. Lat. 51deg. 4ft. 27in. Long. 1deg. 47ft. 7in.

“There is a mass of tradition about Weeping Cross, but I have not any documentary evidence regarding it as yet. The popular story is that it was the spot at which the final farewells were said when people set out for the far-distant City of London. Another tradition says that the Bishop had a gallows there. At the present moment a tree marks the site.”)

THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION AND ITS CONTENTS.

A note of such things as remain in the house of Correccion (? at Salisbury) in the Countie of Wiltes made Aug. 12th 1617 by Alexander Webb the Governor of the same house.

IMPRIMUS. One broad loome with his apparrell

Itm. One little malt mill

Itm. Sixe spinninge turnes & iij weeles

Itm. One paire of stockes

Itm. iij beddsteads

All these things are paid for.

Itm. one wheate mill & a newe wheele to the same xiiij℥

Itm. A paire of skales to waye corne xs.

Itm. A paire of mill stones xiijs.

Itm. vij paire of irons & iij paire of hand bolts xxiijs. vjd.

Itm. Making of a loft & lyninge the walls wth bords viij℥

Itm. for bording another loft xxxs.

Item for mending the pales iij℥

Summa 27℥ iis. 6d.

Whereof I have receyved xij℥ so remayneth behind unpaid
℥15 iis. 6d.

The Court ordered the bill to be paid before the next Sessions.

UNDER THE ELM TREE AT WYLYE.

In a bastardy case heard by Thomas Chafyn and G. Tooker on Jany. 7th, 1617, after making an order for the maintenance of the child it goes on to say:—

“And wee doe further order that bothe the said William ffarrett and Elizabeth Longe shalbe whipt at Wylye by the Tything man untill their backs doe bleed, and this to be done at the comon meetinge place under the Elme in Wylye neere the Church.”

ASSAULTING A KING'S MESSENGER.

The Informacon of John Coulsborough gent on of his Matys messengers of his Matys Chamber and attendant on the righte Honorable the Lord Treasurer taken at Mleboroughe upon oathe the Twelveth day of September (1617) before Richard Digge and Henry Martyn Esqre.

The said John Coulsborough saithe that on Wendsday night the Tenth of this September he came unto the howse of one Widow Lunnatt in Ramesbury in Wiltes being a Contry alehowse in the Eveninge betwixte six and seaven of the Clocke and being there then came one who named himself Robarte Humphries and said he was a Tincker, wch Robarte Humphries supped wth this informer and after supper he wolde needes have this informer to drincke wth him who answered he could not drinke. Whereuppon the said Humphries said that yf he could not drinke the Bell should toule for him, and after the said Humphries Challenged this Informer to goe to penny prick wth him for xls and a caste or two beinge throwne by this informer the said Humphries begann a new Challenge upon this Informer namely to play at bowles wth him for x^l and drew out of his purse and laid downe 15s. in money on the table and wished this informer to cover yt yf he did dare. Whereuppon this Informer did drawe out ffowre peeces of golde xxij^s. peeces and did cover yt and took up bothe the monies. Upon wch takinge the said Robarte Humphries fell a raytinge at this Informer and took up a Candlesticke to stricke him on the head but was withelde from strickinge him by the maide of the howse and one of Sir Thomas Howards men, Saying further that he would have his money out of his throate, and being demanded what he was, sometimes, he said, a tincker and sometimes a Gunsmith and said further that he wolde be a butcher, adding further that he had a staffe for this Informer and threatened this Informer that he would beat him and way lay him, desiring to know wch way he rodd the next morninge. And saith further that he had lres (letters) from the right Honble the Lord Treasurer unto the right Honble the Earle of Hertford Lord livetente of this County.

(Sgd) RICHD. DIGGE.

HENRY MARTYN.

A PETITION FROM PRISONERS IN FISHERTON
GAOL.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes July 15th, 1617, the following was presented to the Justices :—

To the Right Wor. the Kings Maiesties Justices of the peace and quorum and other the Justices of peace of this County of Wiltis.

The humble petition of the pore Debtors now in great myssery in the gaole.

Humbly desiring yor Wor. for Gods sake cause to Consider or pore estates who are licke to be starved not having wherweth

to comfort or salves nether wth bread meate or fyer or any other comfort sufficient for men, that yor Wor : would be pleased to restore unto us that Charitable benevolence of bread wch hath ben taken from us sittens the last Assises wch never was before to the greate impoverishing of or bodies who are licke to perish wth cold and hunger. Or humble desire to yor Wor : is that you would be pleased to let us, being but seaven in number to have or bread againe as we wer ever accustomed to have and shall be bound to pray for yor Wor : health long lyfes and pserpity.

The names of the pore pryssoners then follow.

REFUSE TO BE CONSTABLES.

Att the Kings Maties Law day holden for the towne of Highworth the two and twentieth day of this instant September, were elected and chosen by the jurye sworne for that svyce according to the old and anntient costome of the place Thomas Thanch and John Sadbury to be sworne att the same lawday for the execucon & svyce of the office of Constables for the yere following who being booth present in Corte refused to take the office or to be sworne accordingly soe that the place is like to be unguarded untill by order they be compealed thereunto.

(Sgd) FRA. BRIDGES & JOP : TRENESCALE.

HANGED FOR BIGAMY.

In the " Kalender of Prisoners " at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough September 30th, 1617, is the following :—

James Tucken, Indicted and convicted for the felonious taking to wife one Sarah Stubbfield als Hunt his former wife Susan being liveing, and adjudged to be hanged by the neck untill he be dead.

With reference to the above the following appears amongst the depositions :—

The examinacon of James Tucher late of Marke in the County of Sommersett Mason taken the xijth day of September In the ffiveteenth yeare of the raigne of our Most gracious souveraigne Lord King James before Henry Martyn Esqre.

Who beinge charged with the marryinge of a second wieff his former weiff liveinge, Saithe that he was married to one Susan Say aboute eighte yeares since at Mark in the County of Sommersett And aboute six yeares since he was married to one Sara Hunte at Littleton in the County of Gloucester and doth not know whether his former wieffe was then or yet is liveinge.

The Informacon of John Bowle of Tithington in the County of Gloucester husbandman taken (as above) upon oath Who saieth that he knoweth Susan Sey above named the ffirst wieff of the said James Tucker and doth know that Tucker was married to Susan Sey at Mark and since that marriage he doth know that he was also married to Sara Hunte at Littleton about six yeares paste. And further sayeth that at Whitsuntide laste was twelve moneths he was at Marke in Sommersett sheire and then this examinant

did see his former wieff theare and she was then livinge, and thinketh she is yet livinge at Mark.

(Sgd) HENRY MARTYN.

A SORCERER OF MALMESBURY.

The informacon of Nicholas Reade of Myntie in the County of Wilts taken by Sr Henry Poole Knight the xxiiijth day of Aprill 1617.

Informethe that his Aunt Mrs. Huntley did shewe unto him a certaine paper written rounde aboutt having Romane Lres (letters) on the one side and figures on thother wch peece of paper was sent unto Mathewe Reade soone of the said Mrs. Huntley at suche tyme as he was in ffisherton Goale by one who named him selfe Edmond Langdon who then lodged at Henry Palmers howse in Malmesbury, wch peece of paper was sente unto him the said Mathewe Reade wth directions that he should weare the same in a piece of silke in some place about his bodie, Sayeing that the paper soe used was of that vertue that his bodie should not receave any hurte soe longe as the same was aboutt. And saieth that before the said Langdon sent the paper to the said Mathewe Reade, hee the said Langdon sent to the mother of Mathewe to send him worde of the name of the Justice of Peace wch did comit him to gaole the name of the parties informe and psecute against him, and the name of the Judge before whom hee should have his triall affirming that they all should nott have power to doe him anie hurte. And further hee informeth that William James told him that the said Langdon reported unto him the said James and others that the same writinge was of such strong operation that yf yt weare hanged aboutt a cocks neck That then noe man shold have the power to kill the said Cock.

(Sgd) HENRY POOLE.

The examinacon of Edmond Langdon the vjth of Aprill 1617 Being examined whether hee weare nott abidinge at Bedmister in the County of Somsett hee confesseth That aboutt too years nowe paste hee wente to Grantham to his daughter dwelling at Axmister In the County of Devon married to one Jeffrey Westeley a Phisition and as he came from thence he remayned at Bedmister at the howse of one Thomas Birde at what place hee pfessed Phisicke for the space of six monethes in wch tyme he confesseth that hee caste figuers for finding outt of horses wch Mr. Nevile of Bedmister had loste. And then beinge indebted to the said Birde he secretly departed from thence. And saieth that during that tyme that he was at Bedmister he was moste comonly called by the name of Hopkins and sometimes by the name of Langdon. And saieth that the cause wherefore he was called by the name of Hopkins at his beinge nowe at Bedmister was for that aboutt xx yeares paste he lay secretlie in Bristowe to avoide a Censure against him in the Starchamber in the cause betweene the Lady Gresham and Boothe at what tyme he named himselfe Hopkins. Hee further

saieth that after his departure from Bedmister hee went to Cardiffe in Wales thinkinge to have lived there butt not liking that Country he came to Malmesburie on the first of November last.

(Sgd) HENRY POOLE.

Edmond Hopkins alias Langdon was indicted at the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes 29th day of April 1617 "for taking upon him by sorcery & inchantment to shewe where stollen cattle might be founde". It was ordered that he was "To be had to Salisbury and on Saturday next to be brought before Mr. Tooker and Mr. Lowe".

Nothing more appears on this roll concerning Mr. Hopkins, alias Langdon.

NOT WHIPPED IN PUBLIC.

The examinacon of Richard Berrye of Chippenham taken Tertio die Januarii 1618.

Being demanded whteher he had (received) any punishment for the Pettie Larceny whereof he was convicted att the last Sessions according to the Judgement there given against him, he sayth he had no open punishment but was whipped in the Comon Hall at Marleborough but knoweth not who broughte him, nor who was present att his whipping. And being demanded howe yt came to passe that he was not openly whipped according to his Judgement he sayth he knoweth not.

(Sgd) HENRY BAYLYFFE.

(It looks as though Berry managed to dodge his whipping).

A PEDLAR'S PACK.

The examinacon of William Humber Nov 3rd 1618, Whoe confesseth he came from Pirton and uppon Wednesday last coming over the playne towards Sarum about a mile beyond Ambrosbury he founde a litle fardle (=bundle) of Pedlery ware vizt one peece of stooleworke, five Norwich worsted girdles, five peeces of drawne worke of holland cloath, two leather purses, one peece of Carnaun riben, a pap of shoemakers tackles, one stuffe girdle, one knife, and one bone combe, and by night he came to ffisherton where he was charged by vertue of a Commandment from the Judges of Assize and being searched the aforesaid parcels were found about him. He sold one other knife to Harry Rawlins of ffisherton. On being examined how he came by certayne things he heretofore delivered to Brownes wife who sometymes lived in ye Gaole he saith he never delivered anything to Brownes wife.

A FALSE PASS.

The Examinacon of Thomas ffortescue late of Turnebridg in the County of Kent gent the xxvijth of ffebruarie 1618.

This examinant sayth that he is sonne to Thomas ffortescue of Modbury in the County of Devon Esquire and was borne at the

howse of Edwarde Amdrydeth Esqre being at Slapton neare Darkmouth in Devon & was there bread upp untill he was 14 or 15 yeares of age. And afterwards he ranne from his Grandfather to lyve with his mother at Turnebrydg and from thence about three yeares sythence he came to Southampton and from thence he went into ffrance where he contynued at Ponntarson wth Mounseur Mountgomry and some time dayes sythence he took shipping at St. Mallose and landed at Bastable and came from thence to Bristole upon Wensday last and then he came to Bath in the Company of one ffrancis, but what ffranciss Sr name is he knoweth not. And they came to Beckington Thursday night and ffryday night to Warmester where he begged money of a woman at Warmester towards foude but she gave him none wch he asked at the instance of the said ffranciss.

And being demanded whether the passes founde about them by the officers of Warmester one of them for the said ffrancis and thother for himselfe were of his hand wryting he denyeth the same saying his owne passe was one Mr. Cartwryghts wrytinge who was secretary to the said Mounseur Mountgomeroy.

(Signed) E. LUDLOWE.

Evidently Sir Edmund Ludlowe thought he was nothing but a vagabond, for at the next Quarter Sessions he was convicted for "an incorrigible rogue & committed to Mr. Smith, alias Godshill, of Bradford, to serve him for a year & then to appear at the next Sessions following after the end of the year". His forged pass is as follows:—

A CLEVER FORGERY.

This forged pass is on the files for 1619. The handwriting is quite good but the spelling is much at fault.

NORMANDIE. To all Gouvernores, Currinales Capitaines Liftainantes and to all others his Maties officeres to whom these presents shall concern, Greetinge &c.

Know ye that I John Mountgomrerie Lord Gouverner of Pontorsan have apsolutlye discharged the barer here of Thomas fforterscue gentell man of my Companaie and hath remained in my Garison for the space of three yeres and regard of his longe and dutifull sarvis I have geven him this my letter of pas to travell in to the Relme of England. These are thar fore in his Matis nam to will and require you and evry of you to permit the barer her of to pas quietly with out anie of your letes or molistationes he behaveinge him selfe as be cometh a dutifull subgact unto his Matie. Geven under my hand and sell from my Garison of Pounttorsan the xvijth daie of ffebruarie 1618.

(Signed) Jo. Mountgomtaie.

Beneath is written in another though somewhat similar handwriting:—

Whar as the barer her of Tho fforterscue land at our Toune and porte of Barnestabell and Cominge be fore me Henrye West-

lacke Maiore have geven hem the othe of alegance, and he is to travell in to the Countie of Kent unto a place called Tarnebrige and I heave geven him tooe munthes for his travelle and no more at his perill. Geven the xxth of ffebrie 1618.

Henrye Westlicke Maiore.

Geven to the bare here of to pas this Countie and I have geven him for his reliefe ijs. vjd. by me John Copleston.

A SKIMMINGTON.

The Custom or Ceremony of "Skimmington riding" is now probably never carried out in our country villages, but during the 17th and 18th centuries it was quite a common occurrence. When it became known in a village that a man was "henpecked" or a husband or wife to have been unfaithful, the inhabitants would form a procession, in which was carried effigies of the person or persons objected to, accompanied by an improvised band of youths making rough music by beating tin kettles, pans, or any other domestic utensil that would make a noise. The whole party would assemble outside the house of the offender, and in some cases capture the man or woman, as the case may be, and duck him or her in the village pond.

The dictionary meaning of Skimmington is given as "a popular ceremony for punishing a man who allows himself to be beaten by his wife"; and though this may be one of the meanings of the word, it often was a much more serious matter. In a "Glossary of Wiltshire Words" (Dartnell and Goddard) it is described as follows:—

"Skemmington, Skimmington—riding. A serenade of rough music got up to express disapproval in cases of great scandal and immorality. The orthodox procedure in North Wilts was as follows:—The party assembles before the houses of the offenders, armed with pots and pans, and performs a serenade for three successive nights. Then an interval of the same duration, and a second repetition of the rough music for three nights—nine nights in all. On the last night the effigies of the offenders are burnt".

Another definition is—"To ride the skimmington, or riding the stang". This means "to be hen-pecked", and a man rode behind a woman on a horse with his face to the horse's tail. He held a distaff in his hand, and the woman beat him about the head with a ladle. As the procession passed the house where the woman was paramount, each person gave the doorstep a sweep.

The custom seems to have been observed in many English Counties, as well as in Scandinavia and Spain, and to have emigrated to America.

In Scott's "Fortunes of Nigel" we read: "Hark ye, Dame Ursley Suddlechop", said Jenkin, starting up, his eyes flashing with anger, "remember, I am none of your husband, and if I were, you would do well to forget whose threshold was swept when they

last rode the skimmington upon such another scolding jade as yourself ”.

Though there may still be some persons who remember a “ Skimmington ” in their early years, yet these later public demonstrations of disapproval of the conduct of husband or wife by the inhabitants of the parish, were not on the same scale, nor arranged on the same elaborate lines, as the skimmingtons of the 17th century.

The following contemporary account from the Wilts Quarter Sessions Records of 1618, of a skimmington held at Quemerford, near Calne, gives an excellent idea of how the villagers at that time expressed their feelings, when husband and wife were not conducting themselves properly according to the opinions of their neighbours.

The information of Thomas Mills de Iwemerford in the pish of Callne countye of Wiltes cutler and Agnes his wife taken ye first day of June ano dmi 1618.

They & either of them say yt upon Wednesday being ye 27th day of May last past, abowt 8 or 9 of the clocke in ye morninge, there came to Iwemerford a younge fellowe of Calne named Croppe, plainge upon a drume accompanied with 3 or 4 men and ten or twelve boyes ; & Raphe Wellsted of Iwemerford, this examinants landlord & him selfe, came to them as far as the bridge in Iwemerford & asked them what they meant, & they answered yt there was a Skimmington dwelling there & they came for him. Whereupon Raphe Wellsted answered them yt ye report of Skimmingtons dwelling in Iwemerford was false, & prayed them to depart the towne, & ye women of ye towne understanding yt ye drumer & his company came thither for a Skimmington, they made towards the drumer & cutt a pt of his drume, whereupon he and his company departed towardses Callne.

And about noone came again from Callne to Iwemerford another drumer named Wm. Watt, & wth him three or fower hundred men, some like soldiers, armed wth peices and other weapons, & a man riding upon a horse, haveinge a white night cap upon his head, two shininge hornes hanging by his eares, & counterfayte beard upon his chine made of a deares tayle, a smocke upon the top of his garments, & he rode upon a red horse wth a paire of potts under him & in them some quantitie of bruinge graines, wch he used to cast upon ye presse of people, rushing over thicke upon him in ye way as he passed.

And he & all his companye made a stand when they came just against these examinates howse, & then ye gunners shott of their peices, pipes & hornes were sounded, together with cowbells & other smaller belles wch the company had amongst them, & rames hornes & buckes hornes carried upon forkes were then and there lifted up & shown, & during ye stand, some of ye company, viz W. Wellwin of Calne, butcher, Wm. Brooke & Jhon Bray of ye same, butcher, Wm. Lawlins of ye same, labourer, & Augustin Reynolds of Yatesbury, husbandman, together wth a greate number

of others, whose names neether of these examinares doth knowe, made towardes their howse, & they both fearinge least some violence & injurys should be offered them—ye rather because at their bending towardes their howse—divers stones were throwen in at their windowes whereof some did hitt both of them.

Thomas Wells, ye husband, locked ye streete doore & locked his Wife into his chamber where she lay, and ye company pressinge hard against his howse he opened ye street doore to see whether he could psuade ye Companys to departe from his howse, & psently ye parties above mencioned & divers others rushed in upon him into his entrey, & thence into his hall, & brake open his chamber doore upon his wife & she offeringe to escape from them by climinge a paire of staires to goe up into an upper roome, Wm. Wellwin plucked her downe by ye heels, beinge halfe up ye staires and then he and the rest tooke her up by ye armes & the legges, and had her out through the hall unto ye entrey, where beinge a wett hole, they threw her down into it & trod upon hir & beried her filthily wth dirt, & did beate hir blacke & blewe in many places wth an intent, as these examinares have credibly heard, to have had hir, viz, Agnes, out of their howse to ye horseman & to have sett hir up behind him to carry hir to Callne & there washe hir in the cuckinge stoole, & if she would not be still & sitt quietly, then to stuffe hir mouth wth greines.

Thomas Willes further saith yt no man was so eager in breaking open his doores as Wm. Brooke, butcher, & yt he used theise wordes "Come Ran, we will have he, we must have hee", & ye drumer Wm. Wiatt heard Wm. Brooke use wordes to yt effect as they went from Callne to Iwemerford, that they would fetch them out of their howses, not expressinge then by name what psons they meante nor he ye said Wm. Wiatt then knowing what the company did intend.

The information of Peeter Wellsteede of Callne, tayler:—

He saith yt beinge at ye howse of Raphe Welsteede, his father, in Iwemerford, when Wm. Wellwin & Wm. Brooke came with their unruly company from Callne to Thomas Wells his howse, ye said Raphe Welsteede beinge Thomas Willes his landlord, as well for savinge of his howse from hurt by ye unruly multitude as his tenantes from injurie, taking this examt with him went into ye howse & endeavoured by their pswasion & other best helpe, to appease repress ye entrey, but they little prevailed, & were both well beaten for their labours.

(Signed) JHON HUNGERFORD.

(Sir John Hungerford was a Justice of the Peace for Wilts).

A PETITION TO KING JAMES I.

To the Kings Most excellent Matie.

The humble Peticon of Alice Larkin a poore distressed Widow.

Humblic sheweth that whereas yor poore suplt havinge a sonn named Robert Cheeseman whoe served one Mr. South of Swakley in the County of Wilts, the said Mr. South upon some mis-

demeanor done by the said Cheeseman and others hath comitted him to the Bridewell at the Vyse in the said County of Wilts where hee hath remayned in greate want and miserie almost theise three quarters of a yeare, and cannot be released without hee pay v^l for a ffine to yor Mats use.

Yor supt most humble beseecech your Matie for Gods case (in regard that her sonn is a very poore man and hath not one penny in the world to releive his psente misery) that you would be pleased to remitt his said ffine, and to refer the examinacons of this poore mans greivance to yor Maties Justices of peace, that they at their generall meeting at their next Quarter Sessions for the said County may take such present order for the poore prisoner his inlardgment out of prison as they in their wisdomes shall think fitt. And (as in duty bound) shee wth her poore sonn shall daylie pray for your Maties most happie Raigne.

Beneath the foregoing is written :—

At the Court at Theobaldes xj Nov 1618.

His Matys pleasure is that the Justices of the Peace at the next Quarter Sessions to be held within the Countye take such order for the reliefe and enlargement of this poore and distressd prisoner as they shall thincke fite.

(Sgd) MARK CRANFIELDS.

The petition is endorsed. Alice Larkin.

Praying a reference to the Justices of peace in the County of Wilts for an enlargement of his sonn comitted to the Bridewell at the Vyse and £5 fyne to his Matie.

BUTTER FOR KING JAMES.

The Constables of Chippenham in their presentment at the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 14th 1618 state :—

Wee psente yt the purveigher of Butter for his Maties moste Honble howsehowlde hath taken composition for 250 lb of butter within one hundred at ijs. od. the pounce, for ye wch we have his receite.

We psent Robert Barten of Chippenham tailer for that he doth plant Willow trees on the east of the Riven Aven by meanes whereof he doth thrust out the water into the Kings high waye in a ground called the Ivye Mere Chippenham to the confoundinge of the same waye.

1619.

There is nothing to interest readers in the Rolls for this year.

1620.

AN ANCIENT SOLDIER.

To the Right Honble the Earle of Hertford.
The humble peticon of George Inges of Calne, Tayler.

In most humble wise sheweth unto your Honor your poore

petitioner That hee hath become an auncient souldier and nowe growne aged and wanteth maintenance. And is desirouse to make knowne to your honor what service hee hath benne in, hopinge you will have compassion on him.

1. In the year 1588 hee served under the Lord Seymer, generall of the narrow Seas.
2. Hee served under Sir Ollyver Lambertte Knight in the Lowe Counties att Steane Wick & Coulston dyke.
3. Under Sir Roger Williams, Knight in ffrance and Sergeant to him.
4. Under the Earle of Essex in ffrance.
5. Att Cales (Calis) accon under Sir Ollyver Lambertte Knight.
6. Att the Iland Viage, under Captaine Connoway and Sergeant under him.
7. Sergant under Sir Henry Nevell Knight.

Wherefore yor petitioner most humbly bescecheth your Honor to consider of these his services and to have compassion upon him for that his sight fayleth him by means whereof hee is not able to maintain him selfe by his laboures. To graunt him a pencion dureing his life and as by dutie hee is bounde hee will dayly pray for yor Honor in health & happines longe to continue.

And wee whose names are hereunder written at the earnest intreatie of the said petitioner being knowne unto us Doe in his behalf desire yor Honor to have compassion upon him.

The above is signed by Fr. Seymour, Jno. Dauntsey, Will Powlet, Geo. Ivey, Ed. Bayntun, Roberte Baynarde, John Lambe, Charles Danvers, Edward Rede.

And the Court granted the " auncient Souldier " a pension of £3 6s. od. per annum.

DEFILING A WATER SUPPLY.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes July 1620 The Grand Jury presented John Kinge yeoman of Sedgheill for suffering Peter Kinge of the same place glovier for useing of a gloviers pitt in a close or grounde of John Kings called Water pocke nere a little or runneing water called Beriebroke for the layeing dressing and useing of many sortes of lymye skinnes for leather to the spoile and harme of the cattle of Richard Kinge of Kippins in Sedgheill and doe spoile the water there wch Richard Kinge manye times hath occasion to use in his owne grounde nere the same pitt for the use and howsehold mentenance of reliefe of himselfe and his familie and other of the inhabitants of Sedgheill this drye sommer and the sommer last past.

THE COMPTON BASSETT LIBEL.

(Slightly abbreviated.)

The information of John Burchall of Compton Bassett, Weaver taken by John Hungerford of Cadnam, Esquire upon the third day of November ano dmi 1620 as followeth.

Upon his oath He saith yt he married one of the daughters of Richard Miller ye elder of Compton husbandman & yt ye said Richard Miller & his wife & daughters duringe all the time yt this deponet hath knowen them as also & his wife ever since their intermarrage have lived honestly and peaceably amongst their neighbours, and albeit their estate in wealth be none of ye richest, yet he thanketh God that there hath beene allwayes a good opinion held of them for their honestyes & good behavior, yet not wth standing, some evill disposed psons of Compton, intending to make a mockinge stocke & scorne of them all (as namely Robert Maundrell of Compton, sonne of Richard Maundrell of ye same yeoman & Katherine ffarmer, spinster, servant to ye said Richard, and Daniell White, a younge gramer scholler, brother to Thomas White, farmer of Compton) have lately amongst them, framed contrived and published a very infamous & scandalous wrightinge, in ye nature of a libell tending to ye disgrace of his father in lawe Richard Miller and his wife and daughters and this deponents disgrace and his wives, & have scattered copies thereof abroad, and singe it in the open hearinge of divers psons. And this he knoweth to be trewe for yt hee himself did heere Katherine ffarmer singe it boldly upon ye 22nd day of October last past, beeing Sunday, in the howse of his father in lawe Richard Miller, at wch time this deponent demanninge of ye said Katherine who tought hir yt songe she answered yt Robert Mawndrell hir masters sonne did teache it hir, upon a Thursday night not longe before as he & she did sitt by ye fier after his father and mother had gone to bed at wch time ye said Robert charged hir yt she should not singe it to any bodye abroad. And ye said Katherine then told this deponent yt ye said Robert Mawndrell had ye said songe in wrightinge in his box, and further offered this deponent yt if he would promise not to acquainte Robert Mawndrells father wth the said songe, she made no doubt but she could pvaile wth Robert Mawndrell, to have it of him & bringe it to this deponent before night. This deponent further saith that ye copie of ye said songe wch he brought to me upon his complainte and is now by me sent to ye sessions is ye hand wrightinge of Robert Mawndrell & he is the rathen enduced so to thinke for yt he shewing the same to Sir John Ernie Whittam Knight and to Sir Thomas Mildmay Knight sonne in lawe to the said Sir John whom ye said Robert Mawndrell did lately serve at Whettam they both affirmed that they thought in their consciences yt ye said copie is ye handwrightinge of Robert Mawndrell. This deponent further saith, yt upon Sunday ye 22th of October after eaveninge prayer he did heere Daniell White singe pt of the said infamous songe in ye presence of Mary White and Priscilla White his sisters & in the presence of Robert Mawndrell, who as the sayd Daniell did tell this deponent, did egge & pswade to singe or say as much thereof as he could, upon this pretence yt ye said Robert Mawndrell had heard yt a cotype thereof was sent and directed to him, & this dep: verely thinketh yt ye said Robert Mawndrell was ye man yt did in cuninge direct ye said copie unto him, to the end yt it should be excused by his childish-

nes if it were published by him, wth out any suspition yt he ye said Robert Mawndrell was the maker or ye wrighter thereof.

The information of Edmund Crowche of Bath, mason, taken ye same day & time upon his oathe. He saith yt he was at ye howse of old Richard Miller of Compton upon ye 22nd of October & there he heard Katherine ffarmer, having first placed herself upon ye toppe of ye table to be the better heard singe alowd a greate pt of the libellous songe & when Jhon Burchall, being present, did demande of hir who did teache it hir she answered Robert Mawndrell, and further he saith yt ye said Katherine used theise wordes to Jhon Burchall, That if he should question hir before any justice of ye peace for singinge that songe that she would be gone out of the Country.

(Sgd) JOHN HUNGERFORD.

The examination of Katherine ffarmer servant to Richard Mawndrell of Compton taken ye daye and yeare above mencioned She confesseth yt she did singe pt of ye libellous songe at Richard Millers howse upon ye same day & in such manner as John Burchall & Edmund Crowche have informed against her upon their oathes, But that she told Jhon Burchall yt hir masters sonne Robert did teach it hir she doth denye.

(Sgd) JHON HUNGERFORD.

1621.

There is very little of interest in this roll, but the following are worthy of a place in these extracts:—

ALL WELL AT FISHERTON DELAMERE.

The tithingmen of this parish present that “They have—thancs be to Almighty God theirfore—no popish recusants, no occasion to levy the twelve pence for none forbear to repair to divine service, no inns or alehouses licensed or unlicensed, no druncken persons, no unlawful weights or measures, no neglect of hues and cries, no roads out of repair, no wandering rogues or idle persons, and no inmates of whom they desire reformacon”.

SUSPECTED WITCHES.

Two women were committed to Fisherton prison who were “vehemently suspected to be witches”.

1622.

Like the previous year, this also contains little of interest, and there are only three rolls.

TRADE BAD AT BROMHAM.

The weavers of Bromham in a petition for relief state that “44 looms have within half a year stood still for want of work,

whereby 800 persons, twenty at least for each loom in weaving, spinning and spooling are now miserably distressed for want of employment”.

INCREASED PAY FOR DAMAGED GOODS.

The Keeper of the House of Correction petitions that his pay of £20 a year may be increased. He says that “ he has to provide stock for the prisoners work at his own cost, which has become a burden he can no longer bear, chiefly for that he has kept most of the prisoners in work at spinning and carding, wherein he has daily received great damage, partly by reason of the unprosperous times of trading in those affairs and partly by secret abuses which the prisoners have done to his goods—some ignorantly and some maliciously ”. The Court granted him an increase of £5 for this year only.

1623.

ARSON AT ASHTON KEYNES.

The informacon of Ellnor Sysome of Ashton Keynes single woman against Edith Ampney uppon oath the xxijth day of february 1623 before Sr John Hungerford, Knight one of His Mats Justices of ye peace for the said County as ffolloweth.

This informant saith that about Tuesday or Wednesday last she went to South Cerney to one John Townstads house a baker, where this Edith Bennett was then abyding, and meeting her this Informer told her yt old Widdowe Bennett her mother in law was gone from Ashton Keynes. “ The Dyvell goe wth her ” said Edith Bennett. Mr. Brind of Wanbrough, said this Informer, brought two carts & carried her away and some part of her household stufte. This was Robyns doing, said Edith Bennett for he was still wrighting Lres (letters) to Mr. Brind to fetch her away. Surely noe, replied this Informer, I think it was indifferent to Mr. Robyns whether she went or stayed. Oh, said this Edith Bennett, Róbyns is a loyally fellow att Ashton. I warrant you hee will fleece her. Wheronto this Informer made answer, that God be thanked, Mr. Robyns had wealth inough of his owne and needed none of her goods, and that wch Mr. Robyns did was in neighbourhood and kindness in that shee was an old sickly woman and his next neighbour. I tell you, saith Edith Bennett, this is all Robyns roguerry with many other idle and unseemly words against a man of his rank and place. And further she sayth not.

The Informacon of Richard Robyns of Ashton Keynes &c. gent taken upon oath ffyrst day of Mch 1623 before Sr John Hungerford &c. against Arthur Litton and Edith Bennett.

This Informer saith that on Wednesday morning about the sunne ryseing afor Candlemas day last, he was sent for to come speedily to his next neighbour an old Woman one Widdowe Bennett who had bine a long tyme and then was very sick. And as this informer went he asked of the boy who came for him, howe

his dame did. "Oh, said ye boy, my Dame and goodwyffe Browne (wch was a poor woman did attend his Dame in her sickness) were piteously afraid all this night for our dogg did never leave running up and downe the house barking all night, and somebody hath bine about our house bousing and knocking that they are in a pytyfull fright still". Soe when this informer came to the house the said goodwyffe Browne cryed out att a window, "We shall be kyllled, we shall be kyllled." And this informer looking asyde espyed a fire flame up a great height in a little thatchet out house where he knew his said sick neighbour was woont to lay straw & brush wood and noe Chymney to make a fire in : the sight of wch fire so affrighted this informer, that he stayed not to heare the Complaint of the poore woman but stept to the Dore of the said outhouse, wch was made fast, but sawe a great fyre flaming through the chinks of the dore and the said Edith Bennett standing by yt, Soe this informer asked who was there, & she made answer that she was there in her own house. What, said this informer, dost thou mean to sett our houses on fire, that thou makest such a great flaming fire in such a lowe thatcht house ; thou hast done enough, said he, to have thee trussed up or words to that effect. Yt is little better that thou hast done then Burglary to break into another bodies house in the night tyme and therby to putt the owner thereof in dread of her lief and afterwards to hazard the setting on fire this house and mine and the rest of the neighbours. Come out, said this informer or else I will break open the dore upon thee. But she bad him to doe his worst she would not come fourth. Soe this informer went psently to the Constables house to fetch him to see what was done and to have this Edith Bennett before one of his Maties Justices to answare this outrage comyted by her, but before this informer returned back wth the Constable, she was rune away.

After wards he and the Constable went into the said little outhouse wch she had brake into and fownd the staple of the dore, where into the shutt of the lock went, to be broken short of, and another staple three tymes as bigg as the other knockt in some what above the other of purposse to putt a great barre in, as they conjectured.

Then they went into the old woman being sick in bedd whose request to them was that she being not able to help her self, and noe body but a poor woman that attended her & her little boy about her house, that for Gods sake they would not lett the said Edith Bennett soe escape away, but to apprehend her, and to bring her before a Justice and to bind her over for thus putting her and the poor woman in dread of their lives. Soe this Informer took order wth the Constable privately to search for her, wch he did, but could not take her for she fled into Gloucestershire at that tyme. This Informer stayed wth his sick old neighbour to comfort her and the woman wch did attend her and desyred them to tell him as much of this matter as they could. Soe goodwyffe Brown told him as much as the ladd had before related to him of ye dogg

barking and the sturr and noise that was about the house all night long almost : and how they thought and feared they should have bine kylled in their bedds. And as soon as yt was light she looking fourth att a window, sawe a great black fellowe wth a cloke about him and a sword under his arme walking upp and downe before the house wch did much affright her and that he went away a little before this informer came.

Then this informer went and enquired after him & found yt was Arthur Litton a smyth, brother of the said Edith, and his dwelling is 3 or 4 miles of from Ashton Keynes, and had noe business there for ought this Informer knew but to assist his sister in her outrageous & unlawfull accon. And againe he saith that wch was done in wresting and breaking short of the iron staple of ye Dore and knocking in another great staple could not be done wth out tooles for the purpose and great streanth alsoe and therefore though the said Arthur were not seene in the house wth his syster, yet this informer is psuaded that he and his tooles did help to breake open the dore & to lett his syster in. And further saith not.

(Signed) JOHN HUNGERFORD.

As nothing more of the case appears in the rolls it seems probable that Edith and Arthur were sent to the Assizes for trial.

A CLEVER COUNTERFEIT PASS.

IRELAND. To all Justices of peace, Maiors, Shreeffs, Bailioffs, Constables, and to all other his Mats officers and lovinge Subjects whatsoever Greeting.

Know yee that I John Baker Captaine of one foote Company in his Mats pay and govnore of Killmoore Castell wth in the north pte of Ireland. Have by vertue of a Warrant from the Right Honble Henry Lord Carey, lord deputie of Ireland, Discharged the bearers hereof Tobias Sheppard gent and James Bartley souldier of my Company in regard of their longe and dutifull service pformed to pass and repaire into the Realme of England, or else where for their better pferment. These are therefore to will and desire all to whom it may concerne quietlie to suffer them to passe without any your letts, staies, or hinderences. And to releevv them according to the Statute, in that case made and pvided. Given under my hand and seale at my garrison aforesaid the xxvjth day of Julie Anno Dmi 1623.

(Signed) JO. BAKER.

Then follow a number of endorsements. The first is :—
Lancaster. The bearers landed at our towne and porte of Leverpole in the Countie aforesaid the second day of August 1623 and comyng before me Thomas Greene maior of the said towne uppon their examinacons are to travill to Margaret in the Countie of Kent. All Constables and other officers to helpe them to lodginge and to afford them yor lawfull favours duringe their travill, I having allowed them (—) monethes to

fynishe their Journey by reason of sicknes of the one of them and noe longer at their perill.

(Signed) THOMAS GREENE Maior.

Chester. Given to the bearers hereof for their relieffe to passe this County (amount unreadable).

(Signed) By me John Bruerton, tres.

Stafford. Given for relieffe to the bearers heereof to passe this Countie—vs. vid.

————— deputie tresurer.

Seene and allowed to pass this County of Warwick the xth day of August 1623. (signed) Bar : Hales.

Northam. Given to thise bearers to pass this County 5s.

John Nycheise (?) tre.

Berks. Geven for relieffe to the bearers iijs. vid. hereof to pass this Countye.

p. me Willm. Wylmore deput. Trer.

Wilts. Given for relieffe to the bearers hereof to passe to ye next Tresurrer iijs. vjd.

By me Rich. House depute.

Suff. Seene and allowed the bearer hereof Tobias Sheppard to passe this Countye One daye after the Date hereof. Dated at Burye this two & twentieth day of September 1623. (Signed) J. Heigham.

Suff. Given to this bearer for his releefe to pass this pte of this Countye vs.

(Signed) Tho. Tillott trsrer.

The writing of the pass itself is excellent and to all appearances genuine. There is a certain amount of sameness in some of the endorsements and the capital letters in some cases appear to be an attempt at disguise, but taken on the whole, the pass with its endorsements might and could easily deceive any Constable or Tythingman of that period as most of them could scarcely read or write.

However, it would not pass the searching eyes of the Wilts magistrates, for a note by the Clerk of the Court says "for that Wilts and Berks guifts are of one hand, and for that he confesseth ye passe to be Conterft." He was "Indicted and Convicted as a wandering & an incorrigible rogue and adjudged to be burned on the left shoulder accordinge to the Statute in that case made and pvided, and after to be sent by pass from tythinge to tythinge unto the place of his birth or where he last dwelt."

1624.

FEAR OF FIRE AT WYLYE.

These are in the behalfe of the perishners of Wayley to certifie your worships that whereas one John Tayler of this our pish hath ben heretofore licensed to sell ale and dooth use the trade of bruing and baking in an house very unfit by reason it hath in it neyther

Chymny noe fiwe nor stone wale about it above the heighth of foure foot being a thetched house, without a loft and hath ben already once or twice like to set the towne on fire which wee dooth greatly dout wherefore wee the peish whose names are heare under whritne doe most humbly request your worships that it may not be soffered to continue.

Signed by fifteen of the Inhabitants.

VEHEMENT WITCHES.

The Jury of the hundred of Mere present Margery Symons and Thomas Symons hir sonne for that they are vemonously suspected that they are notable wytches upon many presumcions.

BRANDED.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct. 5th 1624 three men were indicted and convicted of several felonies. "They praied their Clergie and reade, and thereupon were burned in the hand and then delivered paying there fines."

WHIPPED.

Fourteen persons including six women were convicted of "petty larceny and were adjudged to be openly whipped in Marlborough upon their naked backs until they blede and then to be released".

The Jury of Kinwardston at Marlborough in October present that "upon the 24 August there was at Great Bedwin at John Keets house a blow given with a pott by William Whittaway to one John Harleboott wch putt him in dainger of his life".

We do psent that upon the 18 day of September or ther aboute that upon the hieway in a place called Easten droughtht there was a great deale of blood shed in the night by Austen Batt and his company.

WRONGLY IMPRISONED.

The humbel petyton of Ewell Valor.

Humbly desiring yor Worpps for Gods cause to consider my poor estate and the long tyme yor poore orator hath indured in prison undeserved that your Worpps will be pleased to grannt me my lybberty that I may go to my home and worke for the maintenance of my poore wyfe and Children wch are lycke to starve now he that brought the three joynts of meete into my house hath taken his tryall and hath confessed that neither I nor my wyfe was at home when it (was) brought into my house before he was taken there wth the meate. In tender concidderation I most humbly bessech your Worpps to release me, and I and my wyfe and children shall be bound to pray &c.

A DESERTER.

The examinacon of John Gilford alias Vincent taken the sixt day of January 1624(5).

Whoe saith that he was prest for a souldier by the Tythingman of Corston to serve for the said village who gave him six pence impresse, and the Inhabitants did furnish him for the said service wth newe hose, coate, stockings, shooes and shirte and he had eight pence by the daye allowed him from the tyme of his being presst until he was delivered at Marlboroughe to the deputie lieftenant bywhome he amongst other companie was delivered to such officers as had Comission to receive them, under whose conduct he was marched to Twyford wch he saith was lx daies journey from Marlborough and lyeing there till night did the next morning before day steale awaie from his companie and soe made his returne to the place from whence he was prest and more saith not.

(Signed) GEO. MARSHALL.

MORE PROBABLE DESERTERS.

Robert Hayward was apprehended at Compton Bassett 3rd January 1624 and confesseth that he took presse money at Chippenham and appeared at Marlborough before the deputie lieutenants and was delivered by Sr Francis Seymour, Sr William Eyre & Sr Henry Poole Knights deputie Lieutnts of this County to Sr Thomas Dutton Captaine and that he went to Gravesend and was then discharged by Mr. Tirrett lieutenant to Sr Thomas Dutton for the sume of six pounds which he gave to Mr. Tirrett, but he had no testimonials of his discharge but came away upon Mr. Tirrets word that no hue and cry should come after him.

Henry Stratton of Compton Bassett makes a similar confession, but says he was discharged by Mr. Tirrett because he had provided another to goe in his place, but, like Hayward, had noe testimonials of his discharge.

“ They both were confined in Fisherton Gaole ”.

There are several other cases of desertion on this roll; in two of them the men said they paid the officer in charge of their company 20/- to let them go.

FISHING FOR TROUT ON SUNDAY.

The Informacon of Joane Downe of Littleton Pannell taken the xix day of October 1624.

She saith yt on Sunday last she saw John Kendall alias Humprey of Littleton, miller, fishe in his mill poole aboute ye tyme of prayer when her husband was at Church and did take up two trowte & deliver them to John Davis of Littleton, weaver, who carried them to the house of the said Kendall.

William Downe her son saith that he saw Davis receive the trowte from Kendall & carry them into Kendalls mill “ but knoweth not what they did with them then ”.

NO RISK OF FIRE AT WYLYE.

These are to certifie your Worships that wee the pishners of Weyley do think Willyam Lock and his wife persons very fit to keep an ale house or house of entertainment in this our perish of Weyley and the rather because their house is tyllid and without danger of fire.

Signed by nineteen inhabitants, ten of whom "make their mark".

RUNAWAY SOLDIERS.

Amongst the prisoners for trial at the Quarter Sessions held at Newe Sarum 12th day of January 1624 were seven men. They were "indicted and convicted for running from there Captaine havinge receyved imprest money for the Kings service in his warrs and ordered to be hanged by their necks until they be dead, but afterwards reprived by the Court till the next Sessions".

FISHERTON ANGER IN DISTRESS.

The humble peticon of the oppressed inhabitants of Ffisherton Anger.

In most humble manner sheweth unto yor worships that now at this last presse for his Matys service for the Warrs there were eleven pressed out of our tything besides straingers and some of them served for divers hundreds of which number there was John Brice who left behind him a wife and three children and John Miller who left his wife and fower children and Hugh Browne who left his aged father and mother who had haulfe his waiges for their reliefe (and many others whose names are given) being in number xxv before which tyme there were xx persons of men women and children besides those that will now fall upon our charge by the meanes of the presse besides ffortie more at leaste wch if either the husbands or the wife should be stricken with sickness will light upon the charge of the pishe and very few of the inhabitants are able to give reliefe—(the petition asks) that "they may have some helpe out of our neighbour pishes".

The petition goes on to say that "ffysherton Bridge and Crane Bridge are much decayed and the parish has been much chardged by distresses about the bridges & there hath bin divers fallen into the water wth much danger to their lives and our poore parish is utterly unable to repaire them and wee have noe right in concience for to do yt". They ask the Justices to take some course to help them.

POULTRY FOR KING JAMES I.

After or hartie Comendacons. Theise are to pray and require you to take present order thatt all such sortes and kindes of Poultry as by Composicon ought to be delivred out of the Countie of Wilts due for the Three and twentieth yeare of his Maties Raigne may be provided and in good sorte delivred in kinde unto Edward Dickinson His Matys Pourveyor for Poultry at his Matys Stoar-

house wthin Bishopsgate London wthin one moneth next after the receipt hereof according to the tenure of yor Composicon. Thus not doubting of yor care in the due pformance of this his Matys service, wee bid you hartelie farwell.

The Court at Windsor this vij of September 1624.

Yor verie lovinge freinds

The Three and Twentieth
yeare begineth the first of
October next 1624 and end-
eth the last of September
following 1625.

R. BANASTER
ROBT. VERNON
MAR. DARELL
SIMON HARVEY.

With the above is the following letter from Dickinson:—

To the Righth Woll his Maties Justices of the Peace and Com-
pounders for the Countie of Wilts and to every and any of them—
these.

May it please you to understand, that whereas heretofore your Countey hath bin much troubled and Charged with your own undertakers both for your Wheat and Poultry which hath bin a great Greevance to the Country; and noe benefit to the King; now if it may be to your Worpps good likeinge; to a void the like occasions hereafter for the Poultry, I will serve it all at the same Rates that the Country hath formerly paid to your undertakers for this many yeares & Receive the money at Salesbery at a certaine daye and put the Country to noe farder Charge; except it be the Defaulters that Wilfully refuse, and at the Resaite of the Money I will bring a Sertefficate from the Borde of greencloth for the service to discharge the Country for that yeare; and so I will continew with you as I do with other Countreys for the like service soe longe as I continew my place and the Country doth hold the Composission; or otherwise soe longe as your Worpps shall thinke fitt for the Ease of the Country: yf it please you to except of this my offer then I desire your aunser by this bearer under your handes: Yf not then I expect the poultry accordinge to the warn-
inge Letter sent by the bearer (see above). Thus leavinge it to your owne good likeinge, I humbely take my leave and rest your Worpps at commannde.

(Signed) EDWARD DICKINSON.

ffrom his Maties Storehouse wthin
Bushopsgate Lundo this xxvijth
of September 1624.

1625.

POOR PERSONS IN HARNHAM SPITTLE (HOSPITAL).

Maye it please your good worships, we the inhabitants of Eastharnham whose names are here under written, much grieved to see the poore people of the spittle there, soe much abused and

miserable kept by the goveror of the same house, Soe that it is much suspected & feared of us that divers of them wthin these fewe yeares have perished and dyed by their ill usage or at least miserable keeping and want of sustenance to preserve life. And the more is our sorrow that they livinge amongst us and we dayle seeing their misery, know not how to help them. Wee doe therefore most humbly beseech your good worships in whose power, as we are informed yt lyeth, to remedye theis abuses, that you would be pleased wth as muche convenient speed as maye be to ease theis poore soules of this their greate miserye which for a long space they have indured. And are longer still like to indure yt, unlesse your Worships take some compassion upon them, wch if you shall doe both they and we shalbe the more bound to praye to god for your worships health and happines long to continue.

(Signed) THOMAS GILLOWE and five others.

1626.

A SKIMMINGTON IN MARDEN.

The informacon of Thomas Moxham, husbandman, taken the xxiiijth day of September 1626 before Sr. Wm. Button.

Whoe saith that on Saturdaie was sevensnight last past William Merrideth servant unto William Hollowaie of Marden & John Broadbanke servant unto William Lavington of Marden with many others in a disorderly manor came through the towne of Marden with Gunns, Drumes, Colerakes (coal rakes for raking ashes) oven-luggs and staves setting upon a Horseback twoe young fellowes one of them arrayed and cloathed in womans apparell and hee saith that when they came over against this Informers Doore they there made a stand saying that there was skymmington, beating upp the drumes, and shutting of their Gunns theare in a skoffing and disorderly mannor, all which disorder and game was made as they gave out because this Informer's wiffe had beaten him. He further saieth that William Moxham whoe was one of those that made the game in Marden of Skymmington hath given out unto his wives greate greife, that shee, meaning this Informers wiffe had given out that shee would shortly make an end of him, this Informer hir husband and of a daughter of his wch he had by a former wiffe. William Moxham being asked whether he had soe said, confesseth that he did saye that shee this Informers wiffe did say soe, and that this Informers daughter did here her mother in law say soe much.

(signed) W. BUTTON.

On the 25th day of September following William Merrydew, Edmund Hampsheire and others were examined by Sir W. Button as to what went on at the skymmington, and on being asked "whether in this manor, with Stanes, Drumes and Gunns they did goe through the towne of Marden setting upp two young fellowes upon a horse cloathing one of them in womans apparell", they confessed they did soe and being asked why they did soe, they

said yt was because Robart Moxham his wife had beaten him lately and all scratched his face. And being asked what other persons had encouraged them soe to doe they said that William Bayly the farmer of their towne and many others had encouraged them soe to doe and that William Bayly came unto them in their walke, encouraged them, and bad them goe on.

(Signed) W. BUTTON.

(What happened in this matter does not appear on the rolls).

LORD ARUNDEL OF WARDOUR CHARGED WITH RECUSANCY.

To they Worthie Gentlemen, they Justices of Peace to be assembled at the next Generall Sessions at Marlburrough for the Countie of Wiltes.

Worthie Gentlemen

The Lord Arundell of Wardour and his Ladye being indicted at the Assizes for popish recusancie in the Countie of Wiltes, by the Kings favor he hath tyme to trye his Traverse upon that inditement till the next Assizes. This his Matie hath done in favor unto him, as he is a noble personage and by his gracious clemencie doth, to draw him and others of the ranke of nobilitie, to conformitie, or to leave them unexcusable. He is alsoe indited for Recusancie at the Sessions and hath daye to trye his Traverse upon that inditement till the next Sessions. Therefore that the Kings former favor unto him may not be fruitless, I hold it very fitt that the tryall of the Traverse at the Sessions be forborne till the Assizes be past. Where if his Lorp shalbe convicted and shall not conforme in the meane time both the Lawe is satisfied and the Kings intention fulfilled, ffor wch causes I entreat you to give my Lo: a further daye for the tryall of his Traverse at the next Sessions if he or his Counsell Desire it, wch is that wch his Matie hath beene pleased to signifie unto me on his behalfe. Thus in haste I reste your loving freinde,

R. HEATH.

London this fourteenth
of September.

In the "Kalender of Prisoners" at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough of Oct. 3, 1626, are the following:—

TO STAND IN THE PILLORY.

THOMAS EDMONDS. Indicted for making and publisheing a Libell wch he confesseth to be true, and thereupon convicted to goale there to remaine until Saterdag next, and then to stand under the pillorie situate in Marlborough for the space of two howres together in the Markett tyme. And then alsoe to have a broad white pap upon his forehead subscribed with these words in great letters (vizt) for a libell and (then he is to return to prison until the next assizes &c).

DEFENDING THE KING'S ENEMIES.

JOHN BOWER of Burford a carpenter committed by Sir Thomas Sadler Knight, being accused to be a most dangerous person, a common drunkard, a most wicked prophane swearer neglecting his Church on the Sabaoth dayes, and being reprehended by one of his honest neighbours and sharply reproved for his horrible swearings and drunkennesses, used most lewd and unsufferable speeches in defence of his Maties enemies the Spaniardes with many great oathes wishing them here in England, and said often that yf they were here or would come hither he would stand with them and take their partes and would fighte for them against the English Curmogeons, or words to that effect.

(There is no record in the roll as to how this disloyal Burford man was dealt with).

PRESENTMENTS.

The presentments of the Grand Inquest at the Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum 9th day of January 1626 contains the following items.

1. Imprim. Concerning the dishonor of Almightye God and his word or unreventlie speaking against the booke of Common Praier, or any fighting or brawling in the Church or Church Yard there is nonne to our knowledge.
2. Itm concerning High Treason or Pettie Treasonne there is nonne to our knowledge.
3. Itm concerning Popishe Recusannts or the entertainment of anie Jesuiets or Seminaryes there are nonne to our knowledge that doth entertaine anie.
4. Item concerning negligent coming to the Church uppon Sunndayes and Holidayes we know not anye.

The remaining five presentments are of no modern interest.

GIFT OF A PARSONAGE.

There are two letters in this Roll offering preferment to two Clergymen that are so very much alike though under different circumstances, and both purporting to be death bed statements, one is inclined to think that they are hoaxes, the more so, because nothing else appears in this Roll concerning the case.

The first letter is addressed

To his much respected and loving ffrind Mr. Ferrybee at his house in Bishopps Canans in Wilts have these delivd.

Emanuell.

Mr. Ferrybee after my best love remembered unto you as unacquainted but by the report of others, therefore to let you understand concerning a parsonage of myne lately in the hands of one Mr. Buckle deceased, and he being examined uppon his death bed whoe was most worthiest of the place, then he answered and said, but few in this place but worthy paterne, I pray bestow it uppon

one Mr. Ferrybee Vicar of Bishoppes Cannons a rare brave man worthy of the place. Sir and please you to except of my gift I will bestow my parsonage as freely uppon yor selfe as ever I did uppon Mr. Buckle heare departed. I might have benn lyned peeces thicke but I myselfe nor no child of mine by my consent shall take a peny nor a penyes worth for any ecclesiasticall living of myne. I have very oughten heard yor Brother preach at Bath and at Bradford both, and now I trust I shall heare you much oftener and thus expecting your answer and coming I comitt you and yors to the tuition of the almighty.

Yor loving ffrinde to use

RICH BERKELY.

Stoake Gifford in
Glostershirr Feb. 19th 1625.

The second letter is addressed

To his respected and loving ffriend Mr. Heaiers At his house in Chipnam and preacher of Gods word there give these wth speed.

Emanuell.

Mr. Heires (then follows exactly as above)—concerning a parsonage of mine lately in the hands of one Mr. Yeamans deceased, and he being examined on his death bed (etc., as above) I pray you bestow it uppon Mr. Heires preacher of Gods word at a place called Chipnam in Wilts a very worthy man (then follows exactly as in the above letter) I might have ben lyned foure score peces thick (then exactly as above) I have heard your name highly extold by the report of Divers of yor good eadifyinge which I pray God long to continue to the good will and pleasure of our God. The letter then finishes as above, but is dated from Stoake Gifford in Gllostersh. March vjth 1625.

Below is written "I have contented this bearer for his jorney praying you to direct him the nearest way to Salisbury".

1627.

PLAGUE IN SALISBURY.

Usually the first Quarter Sessions in the year were held at Salisbury, but this year, no doubt owing to the plague being very bad in Salisbury (see below), they were held at Marlborough on January 8th instead.

A WITCH INDICTED.

In the "Kalendar" of Prisoners for trial at the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 3rd appears "Agnes Tanner indict for bewitching one heifer value xxs., one oxe value £5, one cow value 2os. and 7 piggs all the goods of R. Witt." She was discharged after paying her fine.

BURNT ON THE HAND.

Four men were ordered "to be conveyed from hence to the place of Execucon and there to be hanged by the necke untill they are deade" for sheep stealing, whilst Elizabeth Bennett, who apparently had hidden two of them, was sentenced to be burnt on the hand with the letter T and after to be whipped about the Market Place and then released.

A PETITION TO THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.

To the Right Honble Sr Nicholas Hyde, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of England and to other the Right Wor. the King's Mats Justices at the Gen Quarter Sessions of the Peace holden at the Devizes April 3, 1627.

The humble Petition of Richard Hayes of Corsham, yeoman Humbly sheweth, that William Jones sonne of Walter Jones of Corsham, knowing yor petitioner to be away from home came to yor petitioners house on the Seaventh day of June last between ix & x of the clock in the night & pulled up the latch & beate violently on the dore, in soe much that yor petitioners wyfe arose out of her bedd & looking out of the windowe she sawe him hewing and cutting the haul window with his sword. Afterwards he went into yor petitioners Back syde & there killed and spoyled as many of yor petitioners geese as he could reach with his sword, by reason whereof yor peticoners wyfe fell into such a feare and trembling that it continued by the space of a whole moneth after. Whereupon yor peticoner gott out two Justice Warrants to apprehend him, but the officers served him not, whereby the matter was dismissed for two sessions. Alsoe the said William Jones waylyed him as yor peticoner was going home, and he said at another tyme (in speaking of yor peticoner) that rather then he would suffer disgrace he would either kill or be killed and said he knew he would be hanged. By reason of which pmisses yor peticoner and his wyfe to stand in dread of their lives. He then requests that Jones may be arrested and receive such treatment as "to your wisdomes and grave Judgements shall seeme most meett."

A MARRIAGE TROUBLE.

To the Right Woll. Mr. John Penruddocke and the residue of the Kings Maties Justices now att this Sessions assembled, deliver this I pray you.

Right Worll these are to let you understand that whereas I William Vennice of Barford St. Martin, husbandman, omitting and forgetting my prayers unto the Lord became a prey unto the Devill who with his allurements and enticements fell into that terrible and fearefull sin of adultery with one Joan Hibberd of the same parish, who being my wyfe by promise before God and ourselves in private, sithence being ruled or as it seemes, over ruled by her mother she utterlye denyes it; now knowing my owne words in my owne case will not be so credible, Hear I beseech

you the reporte of my neighbours whose hands are hereunto annexed, and to them it is openly known How that I and Jone my wyfe was both together att Sarum wth Sir Thomas Sadler for a licence to be married. Sithence, she being by her mother turned out of doores, she came to me a weeke or fortnight before she was delivered to the intent I should provide some house or harbour for her. I promised her before James Parker & Richard Hayter two of my neighbours (who will be deposed yf they be required) to provide a house for her, yf she would be marryed to me but she refused it which refusal is well known to the minister and the Clarke when I brought the banns, and am yet of ye same mynd yf she please.

Thus leaving yor worships unto the tuition of the Allmighty I rest.

The above is signed by James Parker and Richard Hayter, John ffolleat Clerk, who adds "I gave the banns to the minister but against Jone Hibberds consent, for shee denied it." Edward Deane the Curat adds "Upon the certificate of her refusal I delayed to (words unreadable) after the banes."

Apparently Jone stuck to her refusal to marry William, for the Court ordered William to pay nine pence per week to the overseers of the parish for the maintenance of the child until it attains 10 years of age; they further ordered that Jone shall be sent to the house of Correction for one year and that William "shallbe well whipped on his naked back from his girdle upward until his body doe bleed and that the Tythingman of Barford doe yt or cause yt to be done without delaye within a fortnight after Easter next.

Signed Wa : Vaughan, Tho. Sadler.

LORD AND LADY ARUNDEL.

Sir Robert Heath writes to the Justices in reference to an indictment against Lord and Lady Arundel and their son William :

Gentlemen, in respect of some special service which my Lord Arundell of Wardour & his Ladye and Mr. William Arundel his sonne doe nowe attend at London by the Kings special direcon, I am this day commanded to signifie his Matys pleasure unto you that you doe not proceed at these next sessions for the triall of their traverses to their severall indictments for Recusancye. Thus not doubting your due observance hereof I rest

Yor very loveing ffreind,

ROB. HEATH.

March 30, 1627.

HANGED FOR BURGLARY.

Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct. 2nd. John Hammond and Elizabeth his wife, Christopher Edmonds and Lucy his wife and Agnes Chilcott were sentenced to be hanged for burglary. There were several cases against them.

THE EARL OF PEMBROKE AND AN OLD SOLDIER.

Whitehall, the first of April 1627.

After my very hearty commendacons. Whereas I am informed that Sergeant Everadd for his service heretofore done hath obtayned from yourselves an annuall pencon out of the Countie of Wilts wch he hath accordingly enioyed for many yeares past untill Michaellmas last but of late hath bene denied to be paid the same, upon what ground or reason he knoweth not, since, as he affirmeth his demeanor hath not lesse deserved your good respect and favor towards him than formerly having bene ready upon all occasions to doe his Maties service according unto his abilitie. And although he be lame in one of his armes, yet hath he not refused in the expedicon with Count Manssell to putt himself into those companies hoping that his experience might be usefull to direct those who had better abilitie to putt in execucon I have therefore thought good upon the credit of that testimony wch I have received on his behalf, to desire you to take into your consideracon the request he hath made to be restored unto his pencon againe, and either to make good unto him his former graunt or otherwise by your lres (letters) to acquaint me with such reason as shall move you to think it fitt not to continue the same.

And so bidding you heartilie farewell,

I rest, your very loving friend,

PEMBROKE.

LORD AND LADY ARUNDELL.

(See above.)

Another letter from Sir Robert Heath dated July 29 desires in the King's name that the case be heard at the Assizes and not at the Sessions.

Quarter Sessions held at Devizes June 22nd. There is nothing of interest in this roll except the petition from the inhabitants of Salisbury for relief which is referred to below.

THE PLAGUE IN SALISBURY.

Civitas Novo Sarm, 30th Sept. 1627.

Right Honorable.

Maye it please yor good Lordshipp and the rest of his Maties Justices wth in the County of Wiltshire to be advertized of the miserable and distressed estate of the poore people in this citie, And that you wilbe pleased to take into your good consideracons for the continuance of their relief wthoute wch more people are like to perish by famyne then by the Infectious sicknes wch is muche more encreased very lately then heretofore as appeareth by certifiact hereunder writen.

1. ffirste here are uppon relief Twoo thousand nyne hundred and od persons.

2. Whereof there are 88 households shut up of the Infectious sicknes, of wch 27 houses are fallen into yt this laste weeke.

3. The Reliefe of these persons at one penny by the daye amounteth unto lxxx℥ and upward by the weeke.

4. The Chardge of the sicke people and their attendants to order them as well by night as by daye is very greate.

5. Wee have not receaved the half part of the Contribution agreed uppon at the last Sessions althoughe we have employed divers of our brethren and good friends to collect the same of the Constables. And therefore doe humbly desyre that some good order may nowe be taken wth the Constables and others that are behynde in payment thereof.

6. Also over and besyde the loving & Charitable Benevolence of the Cities and Townes and divers right worpfl Knights & gents bestowed and sent unto us, wee stand muche engadged and indebted for Corne and other pvisions for the poore and infected.

7. There are not lefte scarce ten householders within the Citie that are able to geve reliefe.

8. The number of those that have dyed for this moneth nowe last paste viz. from the 31st of August to the 29th September, 73.

Signed John Ivie maior.

Ri. Godfrey, B. Tookie, Henry Pearson.

(In the Roll of the Sessions held at Devizes in the previous June there is a similar petition, though the condition of the people was not then nearly so bad as described above.)

APPLICATION FOR A BADGER'S LICENCE.

To the Rt. Wor. the Kings Justices of the Peace.

Most humbly desireth your Worps, Andrew Goddard of Okebourne St. Andrew, husbandman aged ffortie yeares and upwards being and having ben an householder by the space of Twentie yeares, That you will be pleased to graunt licence unto him to be a comon badger for the buyeing and selling of Cheese Butter and other things according to the Statute. The bench granted the licence for one whole year at a fee of iod. per week.

PRESENTMENTS.

The presentments of the Constables include a large number of roads out of repair.

The Constables of Kingsbridge hundred present "that in the towne of Swindon there are nine licensed Alehouses which wee thinke to be to manie in a Towne where there are not three hundred communicants it being no thorowfare".

A number of persons are presented for not going to Church or for being recusants.

1628.

BURNT ON THE HAND.

At the Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum Jan. 13 & 14, John Brice for stealing one Plowe share value 11d. and one Coulter (=a plough share) value 7d. was sentenced "to be burnt on the left hand with a letter F."

Thomas Harvey was indicted for speaking certain seditious words concerning the death of the King (James 1st) which he confesses, but there is no mention of what punishment was given him.

SHOOTING DEER.

This roll contains a long account of the examination of several men charged before Wm. Poulett with shooting deer with a cross bow. The examination of Phillipp Tayler of Melksham, taken Oct. 8th 1628, gives the principal facts of the case. With a few abbreviations it is as follows:—

Uppon Sundaie last was a moneth, between three and fower of the Clocke in the morninge Edward Phillis and William Butler came and called at the Widdowe Emetts howse in Melksham to drincke and his wife goeing thither about sun risinge to fetch fier they asked her to tell her husband to come over to them to drincke with them. Soe he went and amongst other talk that they hadd, he heard Phillis & Butler say yt they hadd killed a deer that night & were well payed for their laboures & showed him fflower peeces of Goulde of five shillings apeece (Gold Crowns weighing 35½ grains) which they said they hadd it for their nightes worke. And further sayed that the night following before they slepte they must goe for another deere. And this informer sayth that Phillis hadd a crosbowe and a broade forke headed arrowe and a bolte and that the feathers of the forker were redd as though they hadd bin stayned wth blood. After being with them aboute the space of an hower Phillis and Butler did intreate him to go alonge wth them to the Shriefes wch hee did, but Phillis and hee did dine att one Daniell Powdes wch was the Shreifes millard where he again heard Phillis say that hee must goe that night followinge (being Sundaie night) for a deere & spake to one Bartholomewe wch was the Shreifs horsman to goe with him & he promised to do so. After they hadd dine Phillis & hee went to the Sherifes Butterie and drancke & then went home wardes again & found Butler under a hedge asleepe (for hee was much overcome wth drincke) and awaked him & told him Phillis did staie for him att the mill. He then went home to Melksham.

Butler and Phillis were also both examined by Mr. Poulett, but they do not give any further information of interest except that they went to Whaddon to get the deer.

POPISH RECUSANTS.

The Constables of the ffurstfield Hundred present Thomas Canble and his wife for popeish recusants convicted a bouthe the

space of twentie yeares. We psent three of Thomas Canbles wives children to be popeish recusants, the one of them a bout the age of 12 yeares, the second of 14 yeares, and the third a bout 15 yeares. (The hundred of Frustfield was in the extreme south-east corner of the county.)

Christopher Biggs of Stapleford, gent, was presented for being a " papist convict ".

Andrew Washbeard of Porton was presented " for keeping and maintayning of an unrulie Mastiffe dogg to the great terror & prejudice of all the neighbours and to all passengers that have occasion to travile that way."

All these presentments contain a large number of names of persons who are " papelist recusants " or who do not go to Church.

AN HONEST MAN OF BROADTOWN.

To the Right Worfl his Maties Justices of the Peace of this County of Wiltes.

Whereas Henry Spackman of Broadtowne in this County, husbandman, hath heretofore bin bounde over to Divers Sessions at the psecution of divers persons as namely the Wife of one ffreethe and one Robert Reeve and one John Harding. Wee the Minister and inhabitants of the said pish of Cleeve, doe humbly certifie unto yor Worps that the psecutors of this busines are persons deserving noe credit or esteeme, and doe follow the same of meare malice without any Just Cause at all, and that the said Spackman hath dwelt many yeeres wthin this pish, and hath alwaies behaved himselfe well and honestly in his Vocation and course of life, and hath never wronged these malicious psecutours to the uttermost of our knowledge, and for anything that wee can heare Although we have diligently enquired thereof. All which we humbly leave to your Worps grave consideracon.

Signed

JOHN ST. JOHN.

HENRY BURFORD, Minister.

and fifteen parishioners.

RUNAWAY APPRENTICE.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 22, 1628 John Shengellton an apprentice was indicted for " that hee for the space of a yeare past did first begin to ronn a waye from his masters service and soe hath continued running a waye ever since and hath given himselfe to nothing but prigging & boring bread & other Vittals in his masters name & by his owne confession hath lodged in hayreekes & barnes and hath robed cheese presses and by psumption henrowstes ". He was ordered to remain in the house of correction until John Scott his former master or some other person shall take him unto his service.

Elizabeth Pearse was ordered "to be whipped until her backe doe bleed" for stealing half a pound of wool value sixpence.

Richard Serjaunte was indicted for rescussing 400 sheep from John Ryall the Haiward as he was driveinge them to pound. He was acquitted.

HANGED FOR HORSE STEALING.

Gyles Williams for stealing a bay mare the goods of John Oliveare was sentenced to be hanged. He had also stolen a pair of boots value 3s., a cloake value 7s., a piece of Bacon value 6s., a wallet value 10d., twoe brass pannes value 6s. 8d., the goods of John Goodman.

A WOUNDED SOLDIER ASKS FOR A PENSION.

The Humble Petition of George Heskyms, soldier, Humbly sheweth that whereas yor peticoner was a voluntary soldier in the voyage to the Palatinate under Sir Horatio Vere, Generall, and afterwards had quarter given him by Monseur Tilly & then returned home and shortly thereupon was pressed in the Devizes for Cales (Calais) Voyage & was a corporall under Lord Cicell, Generall, in which voyage to Cales yor peticoner was maymed in his right arme & shott in his right legg, by means whereof he is not able to mayntayne himself by his labour nor to worke at his trade of weaving soe as heretofore.

In tender consideracon whereof yor peticoner in all humble maner prayeth yor Worpps to be pleased to allow him a pencon by the yere towards his mayntenance such as yor wisdomes & grave judgements shall thinke mete.

He was granted £10 per annum.

Roger Aldersea of Lacock "one of his Maties poore maihed souldiers" also applies for a pension. He states that "he was twice lawfully prest for service beyond the Seas, first in Spayne & second in the Isle of St. Martines in ffrance when he received greate hurte in one of his armes by shott & lost the use of that arm for ever." The appeal is signed by "Robert Stapleton, Pastor, Andrew Lews parish clark, & John Hill tithenman, and other inhabitants of Laccocke." Roger was awarded £4 per annum pension.

BRADFORD LICENSED HOUSES TO BE SUPPRESSED.

To the Right Honoble Edward Lord Gorgers, Sir Edward Laurence Hyde, Kte, and the rest of his Maties Justices.

The humble peticon of the inhabitants of Bradford, Wilts, Humblie sheweth that there are within the towne of Bradford such a company of ale houses and such alsoe that doe keepe disorder in their houses, not onely by entertaineing poore workmen and day labourers and sufferinge them to spend their money when as their wife and children are ready to starve for want of food, but alsoe

suffering the sinn of drunkennes to be there daylie comitted as well in the tyme of Divine Service as alsoe at other tymes, by means whereof there often happeneth quarrellinge and fightinge to the greate disturbance of the neighbours and the great dishonor of the Almighty God and the great impoverishment of the towne. Wherefore we doe humbly desire that they may be all suppressed by order of Sessions, there being an Inn & some other alehouses besides, that are fit to give entertainment to Strangers. And we shalbe ever bound to pray to God for all yor Worppps happines in this life and endles Glorie in the World to come.

Then follow the names of 13 alehouse keepers and the quantity of malt they brew, varying from 6 to 12 bushels a week. The petition is signed by six persons, including Robt. Townsend and Thomas Mathew, who add "gard" after their names.

MORE LICENSED HOUSES FOR CLACK.

At the same Sessions the inhabitants of the market town of Clack present a petition in which they state that the four alehouses in their town having been suppressed and not one being left, the residents are in great distress. They pray the Justices to have compassion of the poor inhabitants in their misery and present necessity, and beg them to grant a new licence. It may be added here, in reference to the foregoing, that in September, 1629, the Earl of Danby writes to Sir Nicholas Hyde, asking him to use his influence that a licence may be granted to Rich. Holloway, who formerly had kept one of the suppressed alehouses. This was the "Saracens Head", and an order was made in October, 1631, restoring the licence.

BLACKMORE FOREST.

The humble Petition of Richard Guppy, Edward Michell, Roger Blagden, and others.

Sheweth that whereas the late fforest of Blackmore was about 8 yeres sithence disafforested & divided by the late Kings Commissioners & afterwards letten to divers tenants who now hold of the right Hon the Earle of Anglesey. Upon wch division there were divers Highwayes layd out for passage of the Kings liege people from towne to towne, wch highwayes for want of repayre are fallen into some decay forsomuch as the said late disafforested lands doe not lye wth in any parrish. Their humble suite is, that you wilbe pleased to order that the said Highwayes may be from tyme to tyme repayed by the tenants of the said Earle, soe farre forth as the lymetts of his lands do extend.

A note added says "This petition is thought reasonable and soe ordered".

LORD AND LADY WARDOUR.

20th feeb 1627/8. Worthy Sirs

His Majesty was this day pleased to command me to signifie

his pleasure in favor of the Lord Arundell of Wardor & his Ladye & William his sonn, that where they stand indited both at the Assises for the County of Wilts, and at the Sessions before you, that his Majesty hath alreadye signified his pleasure to the Judge of Assise, that they all should have further day to try their traverses until Sumer Assise. That yee also give them day befor you til Michelmas Sessions, before which time the Sumer Assise will come for their trialls. Thus having pformed what his Maty comanded me I doubt not of your respects thereunto & soe I rest.

Yours readye to doe you service

ROB: HEATH.

The Constables' presentment contain the usual charges against Recusants, non-church goers, neglected roads, disorderly ale houses, &c.

NO CROSSBOW ALLOWED.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct. 2, 1628, Daniel Michell was indicted "for keeping a crosbow in his house against the Statute". He was acquitted.

EASTER ALE.

The Parish Clerk of North Bradley who was presented at the previous Court for selling drink without a licence asks that he may be discharged as he only brew a small quantity as he and many other parish clerks have for a long time been used to do against Easter and that no trouble arose from it, "and if it is found in your ——— that the same is contrary to the law" he promises never to do it again, "& will daylye pray to God for your honors prosperity".

This is supported by Mathew Jarvis, Vicar, the Church warden, overseers, and twelve others.

AN OLD SOLDIER.

William Burges applies for a pension stating that "he was prest for service for to goe in the Voyage with Count Mansfield, on returning to England & being discharged he was again prest in Wilts for the Cales Voyage & was never discharged on his return & later served in the Isle of Ree under Coronall Burrowes as a Corporal & when Burrows was slain he served Sir Edward Hawlee and there at the commynge he was slain when your petitioner served in that Isle under Sir Richard Grimfeilde when he received many dangerous hurtes and maymes & is now utterly undone for ever". The Justices granted him four marks a year.

A WIDOW GETS HER COTTAGE.

These are to certifie that according to the order by the Court at the last Assizes wee whose names are here under written have treated with Sir Thomas Thinn concerning the Cottage of Edith

Curtis of Crockerton, widdow, and doe find that Sir Thomas Thinn doth consent to her erecting of ye said Cottage. In witness whereof &c.

Signed JO : PENRUDDOK, ROBT. HYDE.

A FURLOUGH TO TWO GENTLEMEN FROM IRELAND.

I, Laurence Parsons, Govenor of Youghall in Munster have given my ffurlough to Joseph Morton corporall and John Massey, soulders and Gentlemen of my Companye, upon their urgent occasions to travel to the realme of England & have allowed them three moneths & then to return to their Cullers at their perills. Dated 16 June 1628. These two gentlemen soldiers landed at Creswell in Pembrokeshire June 25th and were "brought before George Owen and Thomas Jones, Knights, & took the oath of allegiance as becometh dutiful subjects, and are to travel to Suffolke. All Constables and other inferior officers are to relieve succour & lodge them they being of honest behaviour. Given at Preston under our hands & seales at a meeting there hoalden the day and yeare above wretten".

Signed GEORGE OWEN, THOS. JONES.

1629.

PRISONERS ESCAPE.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes July 7th [The second time this year. See above.] John Brooke and Anthony Moodye both of Malmesbury were brought before the Justices charged with the following: "They were committed by two magistrates on the 19th Maye and charged with many leaud pilferings & idle lyving, such as are dangerous to the inferior sorte of people, not betaking themselves to anye honest corse of caulng for wch they have bin formerlye chardged and for the same have bin sent to the house of correction. They did, by the waye, macke an escape from theyer conductors, and after that for newe offences were comitted againe, the officer having warant to bring them to the house of correction, the said Brooke and Moodye breake prison & did escape".

Brook was discharged and Moody returned to the house of correction for one month.

BURNT ON THE HAND.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 14th Thomas Carye, "for that hee is a veye lewed & evil person and hath allredie bin burnt in the hande and doth yt (yet) lyve idley and will not set him selfe to work", was sentenced to remain in the house of correction until he can get himself a master.

Thomas Bond and John Little were ordered to be burnt with the letter F in the left hand and then discharged, but the record does not state for what crime.

STOLE MEAL TO MAKE PANCAKES.

John Baylie of Stockton, husbandman, saieth that on ffryday the 13th of March he was inticed by one Steven Maton to bring down to the said Matons house some meale and they would have some pancakes made at Matons house, wch accordingly he did & this was the first time that ever he conveied any of his masters goods out of his house.

Signed JNO. PENRUDDOK.

AN UNREFORMED DRUNKARD.

To the Justices &c.

Whereas one Richard Sargeant alias Lockier of Castle Combe, butcher, being heretofore convented for drunkenes and other misdemeanors, and hath been very favorably dealt withall hoping and expecting his amendment of his idle and disordered kind of life. But soe farre is he from regarding admonitions or anie favors that hath been shewed him, that he continueth in his former course of life, being comonly subject to that loathsome sinn of Drunkenes, We the inhabitants of Castle Combe fearing that in his drunken humor, he will put into execution some dangerous fact, doe desire your Worships that both for avoyding of such great dangers as allsoe for the reformation of his lewde life That yt would please you to grant the good behaviour against him. And soe we humbly take our leave.

Signed ROGER FLOWER minister, and six others.

WAGES IN WILTSHIRE.

It is at this present Sessions ordered that all and every the rates for the wages of servants, labourers, artificers and all other handie Crafts men and women and alsoe for Cloth men weavers spinners and tuckers shall remaine, continue and be for this next yeare ensuing in all respects and to all intents as they have bin formerlie in the last year rated and assessed.

Signed by sixteen Justices.

This custom of the fixing wages for the county appears in many of the Easter Session rolls.

ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct 1st 1629 "Joane Bartlett was comitted to Fisherton Goale by Christopher Clarke mayor of Devizes being charged as an acursarie unto the poysoning of Ann Townsend who is dead of the said poisoning".

OPENLY WHIPPED.

Joh : Robins, Elizabeth Worsdell and Thomas Jennings were sentenced "to be whipped openly untill there boddyes be bluddye and then to be delivered to the Governor of the House of Correction

and there to remain until next Sessions ". They were charged with stealing a pair of shoes, an apron, one spice mortar and other things.

A DRUNKEN MADMAN.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Salisbury the 12th day of January, John Hulckler was ordered to remain in gaol until his friends should send him to Bedlam. Evidently he was of unsound mind, for he was charged as follows: " That he in drunkenesse, and madnes ensuing drunkenes walked the towne of Calne from nyne to nyne & alehouse to alehouse and there filleth himself wth drinke refusing to paye any money for the same, and if anie person in office or out of office doe goe aboute to dissuade or repress the unrulie & insolent behaviour of the said John he presently offereth or threateneth vyelence to evrie such person, beating down their windowes & wares in their shopps & assaulteth & threateneth the persons much to the disturbance of the Kings Maties peace ".

There were twenty prisoners for trial at this Sessions, mostly for stealing.

A KISS FOR LUCK AT CARDS.

Henry Hedges saith on Sundaie night after Twelwe daie last he was at the house of Henry Lawlence of Wanborowe and did there play at cards with him and others for beer. And after they had plaid a certaine tyme they gave over and departed. Whilst they were at cards Jane Chamberlayne did fetch beer for them, and hee in hope to have good luck to cardes did then kiss her before them all in hope to have " good luck at cards " but he denied that he ever otherwise molested her, then or any other time. Apparently the charge of assault was dropped as nothing further appears on the roll.

1630.

WAGES AS BEFORE.

Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 6th. It was ordered that the rate of wages should remain in force as those of the past year.

THE NEW MARKET HOUSE IN DEVIZES.

The Grand Jury do offer for consideracon of this Bench that heretofore there was an order made at the request of the inhabitants of this Town of Devizes that the price of the weights of Woll and Yarne to be sould in the Newe Market House (then newly built) should be doubled in every for the space of fower yeres for towards the chardges layed forth in the building of the said Market House which double price of the said weight hath nowe contynued for the space of twelve yeres now last past to the comon

grevance of all his Matys subjects that doe buy & sell wthin the said market house. Wch grevance the Jury do psent praying that some good course maye be taken for the reformacon thereof.

BLOOD SHED.

John White of Chittwaie in the parish of Bishops Cannings and Thomas Webb of Melksham were presented by the Constable of the Liberties of Bromham and Rowde "for that they upon the 11th day of April last past did make an asalte & affray & shedd blod on each other contrary to the peace of our soverain Lord the King wth in the libertie of Bromham".

FINED FOR DRINKING DURING CHURCH TIME.

The Constables of the hundred of Westburie present Nicholas Edwards, and two strangers, and William Grinway and Edward Francis and Nicholas Harris who were taking drinking in the tyme of praye and payd for theyre offence twelfe pence apeece. Also—

We psent wone Silcoye traveling with horses laden with cloth payd 20s. to owre pore.

The Constables of the town of Meere present "that Whitting Barns & Thomas Lee for being drunk were set in the stocks according to the statute in that casse made and pvided".

WHEAT AND POULTRY FOR KING CHARLES.

A note and Rate for composicon Wheate and Poultrie to the Kings Matie made 24 Sept 1630, for Elstub and Everleigh hundred.

| | | | Wheat. | Pulletts. | Chicken. |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|
| | | Bushels. | Pecks. | | |
| Netherhaven | ... .. | 20 | 3 | 10 | 12 |
| Fittleton and Hacklestoun | ... .. | 17 | 01 | 08 | 10 |
| Everleigh | ... .. | 12 | 02 | 06 | 07 |
| Stocton | ... .. | 10 | 00 | 05 | 05 |
| Collingborne Ducis | ... .. | 12 | 02 | 06 | 07 |
| Ham | ... .. | 07 | 01 | 03 | 04 |
| Littlecott and Longstreete | ... .. | 11 | 02 | 05 | 07 |
| Enford Tithing | ... .. | 02 | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| Enford fferme | ... .. | 07 | 00 | 03 | 04 |
| Combe | ... .. | 05 | 02 | 03 | 03 |
| Westwood and Iford | ... .. | 03 | 00 | 02 | 02 |
| Tolston (?) | ... .. | 03 | 01 | 01 | 02 |
| Little Hinton | ... .. | 15 | 00 | 06 | 08 |
| Wroughton | ... .. | 20 | 00 | 07 | 09 |
| Bushton | ... .. | 05 | 02 | 03 | 03 |
| Overton and ffield | ... .. | 11 | 02 | 05 | 07 |
| Alton fferme | ... .. | 03 | 02 | } 05 | } 07 |
| Alton & Stowell Tything | ... .. | 09 | 00 | | |
| Patney | ... .. | 05 | 02 | 03 | 03 |

| | Wheat. | | Pulletts. | Chicken. |
|--------------------------|----------|--------|-----------|----------|
| | Bushels. | Pecks. | | |
| Chesembury delasolly ... | 08 | 02 | 05 | 05 |
| Chesembury Priors ... | 10 | 00 | 05 | 07 |
| Compton ... | 02 | 01 | 01 | 02 |
| ffield ... | 04 | 02 | 02 | 03 |

Summa is 26 quarters, 8 Doz. pulletts, 10 Doz. Chickens.

This Rate was made and agreed, upon severall meetings of the hundreds in pursuance of an order of the Judge of Assize made att the last Assizes at Newe Sarum the fifth day of July Anno R. Rx Caroli Septimo.

This rate being confirmed at the last Assizes houlden for this Countie as appeareth by an Order made in that behalf to thend it may remayne as a record, and to avoid future questions Wee have thought fitt and doe soe order That it be delivered as well to the Clarke of the Assize as to the Clarke of the Peace to be by them entered and kept with the Records of the Countie.

Signed Tho : Rychardson. H. Denham.

Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough September 30th.

ARBITRATION INSTEAD OF LAW.

Down Ampnie, Sep. 29, 1630.

Whereas diverse controversies have fallen out betweene Thomas Coxe and Robert Westwell of Ashton Keynes, I am moaved at both their requests to certifie you that they are agreed to referr the endinge of all controversies and trespasses that have happened between them, unto some of their neighbors and not to present their suite any further, Soe remembering my very kind respects unto you, I rest your very loving freind,

JOHN HUNGERFORD.

To my very loving Freinds the Justices of the Peace assembled at Quarter Sessions at Marlbo :

A CORNER IN CORN.

These are to give you to understand of the Greate abuse that is done unto the pore of the Parish of fidelton and Narkelston by Matthew Symper In regard that he byeth up all the corne that is to bee solde in the parish and carryeth it to the markeetes to selle. And if there bee but a bushel in a place he byeth it up and so hee goeth over the whole parish, that when a pore man thinketh to have corne for his mony, there is none to bee had, for hee doeth noe other busyneese but onely by corne and mackes great brages what gaynes hee hath, therefor if ther should not bee some course tacken with him hee will bringe the poore people into greate mesery, so hooping for some remedy wee have hereunto set our hands leaving it to your worships disposing.

(Signed by ten parishioners.)

PRESENTMENTS.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes, July 13th.

William Stone of Horningsham and Humphrey Turne of Chitterne were presented for "that they do verie obstinatlie refuze to keepe the Kings Watch."

The Constables of Warminster present—

The money wch was levied of persons found in alehouse in time of divine service as followeth.

May 24 1630. Received of John Webbe xiid.

Received the same day of Thomas Pearce xiid.

do. do. William Tucker xiid.

A large number of persons of the Hundred of Dunworth are presented for not going to church.

CARELESS WITH FIRE.

The Constables of the Hundred of Heytesbury present—

Jane Slye of Corton is a woman of a verie evell slanderous tongue abusing her neighbours both men & women stirring up much strife & debate and will not be amended. Albeit a warrant of the good behaviour hath bin out for her from Mr. John Penruddok by the space of a moneth last past, In wch tyme she hath shifted herself out of the way & cannot be found. We also present that she is a verie careles woman in and about the carryeng & using her fier & candle in her barne, stables & cowhowse without any lantorne or any other good defence Whereby all the neighbors about her are in greate feare & danger of fier by her carelesnes. Whereof when she is told by the neighbors she will break out into slanderous & evil termes.

FIRE AT DEVIZES BRIDEWELL.

Wilts.—At a general sessions of the Peace held at Devizes the 13th day of July in the 6th year of the reign of King Charles (1630).

Whereas att the last genall quarter Sessions of the Peace held att the Devizes the sixth daye of Aprill last past, a certaine Diference was between the Justices of peace of this County there assembled and William Dike master of the howse of correccion att the Devizes aforesaid concerninge the burninge of part of the said howse, wch was by the said Justices on the behalfe of this whole County alleadged to be done through the negligence of the said master, which he on his part did by way of protestacon denye, for the avoydinge of which scruple, the cort did then desire that Mr. Mayor of the Burroughe of the Devizes aforesaid takeinge unto him such Burgesses or other persons of the said Burroughe (as have not heretofore benn any way adversaries unto the said Dike or Councill against him in anie suite) would be pleased to viewe the ruines of the said howse, and to enquire aswell by whose meanes or howe the same came to be burnt as alsoe wch the

reparacon thereof will amount unto to bringe it as before it was burnt, and to certifie theire oppinions att the next Sessions, according to wch refference Stephen fflower nowe Mayor of the Burrough of the Devizes aforesaid haveing taken unto him selfe divers other Burgesses and persons of good qualitie of the foresaid Burrough upon the exaiacon (examination) of Divers and sundry wittnesses produced as well by the said Dike as allsoe on the behalfe of the whole County aforesaid, hath att this present Sessions certified not only the sevall exaicons of all the wittnesses produced and exaied on both sides, whereby it playnely appeareth, that the fier wch burnt and consumed the aforesaid howse of correccion began through the negligence of the said Dike as it seemeth in an east (=oast or kiln) or kill (kiln) which the said Dike had without any warrant erected in that part of the said howse wch was burnt for the dryeing of mault, which east or kill was then used for that purpose, but alsoe a perticuler of the Chardges wch will cost for the reedifieinge of the said howse soe burnt, which will amount to the sume of cxxxviii^l xs as by the particulers thereof remayneinge of record of this psent Sessions appeareth. Whereupon after longe debateinge of the said cause this Cort was absolutelly of opinion, that the said howse was soe burnt by the negligence of the said Dike aforesaid, and that he ought at his owne Chardge to reedifie the same. Butt the said Dike alleadginge and protestinge unto this Cort that the Chardges of reedifieinge of the said howse did amount unto much more then his estate and worth was, and therefore humbly besought this Cort to commisserate his case alleadginge alsoe that since the burninge of the said howse he hath bestowed towards the reediefieinge thereof vii^l xiiis iiiij^d wch he maketh appeare by proffe unto this Cort. The Cort takeinge the pmises into consideracon and wayinge the estate of the said Dike wch they find to be but weake, propounded unto the said Dike what he would disburse owards the reedifieinge of the said house over and above the vii^l xiiis iiiij^d soe by him allreadie exposed towards the reedifieinge of the said howse, Whereupon the said Dike willingly proffered xl more, But the Cort weying the estream chardges wch would arise for the reedifieinge thereof did not accept thereof whereupon the said Dike made a newe pffer of xiiij^l vjs viij^d more wch wth the vii^l xiiis iiiij^d alreadie bestowed as aforesaid would make up the sume of xxl of wch pffer, this Cort after some delibacon accepted of, And thereupon doth order that the said Dike shall forthwith wth all expidicon eyther provide materialls wth the said xiiij^l vjs viij^d for the reedifieinge of the said howse as Robte Drewe Esqr one of His Mats Justices of Peace wth in this County and Mr Mayor of the said Burroughe of the Devizes aforesaid shall appoint, or otherwise shall paye over unto them wth like expedicon the aforesaid xiiij^l vjs viij^d to be by them bestowed towards the reedifieing of the said ruines. And it is further ordered that eyther upon the bestowing of the said xiiij^l vjs viij^d or payeing over the same as is aforesaid the said Dike shalbe discharged of anie further or other chardges or expenses towards the said reedificacon And for the avoydinge of future dangers and expences

of like nature, This Cort does order that the said William Dike (if he purpose to continue his said place) shall forthwth become bounden wth good sureties in an obligacon of ccccl unto George fframpton gent Clarke of the Peace of this County to the use of the whole county, wth a condicon thereunto annexed that he shall not only pserve the said house from all such or the like mischances through his negligence, but alsoe to redeliver all such stocke as he from tyme to tyme shall have in his Custodie of this countie. Which if he shall refuse to doe then he is dischargd of his said place. And whereas at the last Assizes held att Newe Sarm his Mats Justices of Assize did then move the Justices of Peace of this County there assembled to erect other howses of correccion wth in this County, wch the said Justices takeing into mature consideracon doe att this psent Sessions order that there shalbe wth all expedicon erected wth in this County three other howses of correccion (vizt) one at ffisherton neere his Mats goale there for the setting on worke of poore prisoners there and such other persons as shalbe from tyme to tyme comitted to the said howse, one other at Malmesburie and the third at Marleborough for therecon of wch said howses and reedifeinge of the said howse of correccion att the Devizes it is ordered by this Cort that the sume of mocl shalbe rayسد by a genall tax throughout this whole countie and that the same may be the better performed and the more speedilie putt in execucon this Cort doth appoint the right honble Edward, Lord Gorges, and Sr Lawrence Hyde, Knight for Sarum Division Sr francis Seymour and Sr John St. John, Knights for Marleborough Division Sr Edward Hungerford and Sr John Earnley, Knights for Chippenham Division Sr Henry Ludlow Knight and John Penruddock Esqr for Warminster Division the right honble Henry, Earle of Marleborough and William Paulett Esqrs for Bradford Division Sr Edward Baynton Knight and Robt Drewe Esq for the Devizes Division wch said Justices or such of them as will attend have appointed to meet at the Devizes aforesaid on Wednesday being the first daye of September next to consider howe the aforesaid sume of mocl shalbe rayسد and to make a note and order for the speedy rayseing and collectinge thereof, that soe good and charitable a work may take a speedy effect, And when the aforesaid howses or any of them shalbe so reedyfied and masters shalbe appointed for the Keepinge and well orderinge thereof according to the Statuts it is ordered that the said Masters every and eyther of them shall gyve the like bond wth sureties in the sume of ccccl wth sevell condicons as afesaid.

1631.

There are only three rolls for this year. That for the Sessions usually held at Warminster in July is missing.

At the Salisbury Sessions held on Jan 10 Thomas Palmer was sentenced "to remain in prison without bayle untel he conforme himself to the Church of England".

There are a large number of presentments of "popish recusants" and non-Churchgoers.

A CLERK IN TROUBLE.

Whereas the Courte was this daie enformed by Mr Robt Hyde of Counsell wth Richard Plomer of Kemble, yeoman and likewise by oath of divers witnesses now sworne in Courte* that Thomas Earle, of Oaksey, Clerke, hath demeaned himself towards the said Plomer and Joane his wife Verie lewdlie by divers waies, by assaulting and putting Joane in affright by obteineing from her a gowne and other wearing apparell by threatening to break her necke and likewise by telling her that when she heard her beasts rore she should look to herself. This Court was also enformed by divers witnesses now sworne in Court that Thomas Earle not longe sithence borrowed a backe sword unfit for his wearing and for which he had noe necessary employment. And that at or about the same tyme, Richard Plomer in the night tyme had one cowe and a horse killed & divers other of his cattell hurte and wounded, and that done wthe the sword soe borrowed as was stronglie psumed. And further that the said Thomas Earle did by senister meanes obteine Keys to open the dores of Plomers house and by that meanes had often access to the said Joane, upon due confession whereof and strict examinacon of witnesses touching those and the like notorious misdemeanours and lewed offences, This Court dothe order that Thomas Earle shall forthwith bee committed to Gaole and there to remaine untill the end of this present Sessions & not afterwards to be delivered untill hee become bound with good suerties to appear at the next General Q.S. and in the meane time to behave himself towards our Soveragne Lord the Kings Maty and all his liege people.

PETITION FOR HIS RELEASE.

To my worthy freinds and associats the Justices of the Peace at Sarum. You may be pleased to bee advertized that notwithstanding the foule offences and misdemeanors at the last Sessions proved against Thomas Earle the younger, clerke, for wch hee was then worthily bound to his good behaviour, yet upon his humiliacon and repentance wch as I am credibly enformed he hath expressed wth teares promising future amendmt I am nowe moved and doe become an earnest suitor unto you for his release of the good behaviour, the rather for that Thomas Earle the elder, clerke, his father being an honest zealous preacher doth importune the same and of his good disposition (though hee bee not there unto compellable by lawe) is contented to pay Tenn pounds unto Richard Plummer for the wronge and injuries done unto him by his said Sonne. These are therefore to inform you that of late sithence the last Sessions Thomas Earle the younger hath made twoe sermons expressing his conversion and repentance, and if he shall att any

* There are eight pages of evidence of these witnesses.

tyme hereafter retorne to his vomitt wch I psuade myself hee will nott, you shallbe sure to heare thereof, And soe being sorry that I cannot attend on you att this Sessions wth my best wishes of all happines unto you all I take my leave resting, your Servant at command

JOHN POOLE.

Okesey Parke 12th Jan 1631.

A certificate on similar lines is presented by the inhabitants of Oaksey and Kemble bearing over ninety signatures.

A PETITION TO THE KING.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of Robert Bradenham sheweth that yor petitioner being employed in yor Highnes late Service at the Isle of Ree and lyeing Perdue was unfortunately shott with a bullett in the left side of his fface at the root of his Jawbone and from thence through his right eare whereby he hath lost the benefit of his speech. He then goes on to say that the foregoing is proved by " a certificate under the hands and seales of the Right Honble George late Duke of Buckingham "

He asks his Majesty to grant him a pension, and on the same appeal is written—in another handwriting—

At the Court at Woodstock 24 August 1631,

His Matie is gratuslie pleased to refer this petition unto the Justices of Peace and Treasurers for ye countye of Wiltes from whence he was imprest, to take such course for his reliefe as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Kingdome are in like cases provided.

Signed EDWARD POWETT.

The petitioner was granted £4 per annum, signed by Fr. Seymour, J. Daners (Danvers), Theo. Gorges, Jo. Penruddok, Henry Ludlowe.

Another petition for a pension is that of John Allen of Orcheston, who says that " he served as a comon souldier in the Irish Warres for seven years under the command of Sir Oliver St. John and Sir Arthur Chichester. He was shot through the legge but inspite of his lameness was pressed for service in the expedition to Cales (Calais) under Sir Edward Harwood. He was 63 years old & more, very poore & lost all his strength, his wife also was very old and not able to help herself, and unless assistance were given him, both himself, his wife and family are likely to perish and end their dayes in misery "

He was granted £4 per annum.

OVERCHARGE FOR WEIGHING WOOL.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 19th the Grand Jury presented " that Tobie Allen & his wife of the Burrow of the Devizes, clothier, for the taking more for waying of woole and yearne then the Stattute doth allow, viz. for weighing of a pound

of yarne ijd., having beene formerly presented and is not as yet fully reformed”.

A CONSTABLE FOR CLACK.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct. 4, the following Order was made:—“ Forasmuch this Court is enformed that Clacke within this Countie being a markt towne wherein are manie outrages and misdemeanours comitted and the delinquents do scape unpunished by reason that there is noe Constable or other head officer to punishe the same, onlie a Bayliffe wch is bayliffe to the Lord of Clacke and an Innkeeper and such a one as this Court is likewise enformed hath no power to reforme the abuses. It is hereupon ordered by this Court that John Earle of Clacke shall foorthwth upon receipte of this order repaire unto one of his Maities Justices of peace within this Countie & take his oath to be constable of Clacke. But this order shall not be prediciall to anie mans title. And the said John Earle is to pforme this Order upon paine of £5 ”.

It is ordered by this Courte that the Signe of ye Saracens Head in Clacke being the house of Richard Hollowaie shall continue an Inne as now it is untill the Court in a full Sessions shall otherwise order the same.

A TYTHINGMAN AND HIS TENANT.

The Constables of Meere present Edward Larrance of Meere Woodland for selling drinke without a licence and John Watts tithingman of Woodland for that he doth suffer Larrance to sell drink in his house, being an inmate or tenant of the said Tithingman, he being an officer and ought by his oath to reforme it.

A DESERTER.

William Saye of Bradford confesseth that about three weeks since he received from Mr. Kendall, servant to Captayne Robert Talbott 12 pence of presse money and that he was to goe as a souldier beyond the seas. He was conducted as far as Reading “ and had two shillings for his two daies paie but being then told that the voyage would prove dangerous and that he would be sold beyond the seas like beasts in a fayre he rann awaie from his Conductor ” and returned to Bradford.

HOUSES IN REQUEST.

There seems to have been an epidemic at this time of “ verry poore ” men with wives and many children who were destitute of any house and who either had built a house without permission or wanted to build one and ask leave of the Justices to do so, which in most cases was given at once or referred to the nearest Justice of the Peace to enquire as to the necessity of the case.

AN APPRENTICE KNOCKED DOWN AT WILTON.

fforasmuch as by accident yt happened that Stephen Hascoll of Semly as he rode through Wilton, his horse passed over part of the bodie of John Sane the apprentice of Crooche of Wilton, glover, whereupon Sane seemed to be dangerously hurt, by reason whereof upon complaint made unto me Christopher Graye mayor of Wilton, Hascoll was bound over with sureties to appear at the next Quarter Sessions. I therefore the said Christopher Gray doe hereby certifie that (thanks be to God) John Sane is nowe perfectly well, therefore I have forborne to bind over the said John Crooche to prosecute, besides Crooche hath received satisfacon for the losse of his Apprentices worke and for his cure likewise. Given under my hand the 2nd daie of October 1631.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER GRAY Mayor.

PRETENDING TO BE SOLDIERS.

Thomas Harrington and Peregrine Jonas were sentenced "to be whipped and sent by pass to their several places of aboade for pretending themselves to have bine souldiers lately in a Garrison at Bangwell in Ireland & to be discharged the last day of May by their Captaine & were to travell from their landing being at biddiford in flintshire were allowed three moneths to travell to Maydstone in Kent from the sixth daie of Julye last, wch by divers circumstances appeareth to be false onely to gyve them colour to wander up and downe the Countrye."

TWO OATHS, TWO SHILLINGS.

The Constables of Kingsbridge "have nothing to present except the takeing of ijs for two unlawful othes which were distributed to the poore according to the lawe."

1632.

The Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum January 8th.

There are a very large number of "presentments" by the Constables, containing many names of recusants and non-church goers, highways and bridges that want repairing, and wandering vagrants who were punished and sent to their respective homes, etc., but nothing of particular interest.

SEARCHERS OF CLOTH TO BE RE-APPOINTED.

These are in his Maties name to will & require you to warne & cause all those that were appointed searchers for clothe the last yeare wth in your hundred, personally to be and appeare before us on Saterdag the fyrst of December next att the signe of the George att Warmister there to be sworne gaine to continue that service untill further direcons shalbe given according to an order

made in the Starr Chamber the 7th of this instant November & latly by special direcons from divers of the Lords of his Maties Counsell sent unto us strictly requiring the performance of the same, whereof faile you not as you will answer to the contrarye, Given under our hands this 26th of November 1632.

HENRY LUDLOWE.

The above is addressed to the Constables of the hundred of Damerham South. Similar notices are sent to the Constables of other hundreds.

Quarter Sessions held at Devizes, April 10th.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

Occasionally it was necessary for married persons to produce a certificate of their marriage when brought before the Justices. The following is one from Bradford.

To the Right worshipfull the Kings Magesties Justices of the peace at the quarter Sessions in the Devizes.

These are to certifie you that the bearer hereof John Hanny of Bradford and Edith Roberts were married the 14th day of January last in the pish church of Bradford.

By mee Thomas Reads Vicar of the same.

John Grigorie, William Druce, cunstables.

Bradford the 9th of Aprill 1632.

FIRE AT MELKSHAM.

The Minister Churchwardens and Inhabitants of Melksham testify to the good character of John Smith of Melksham, "lynen and woollen weaver, who by a fearfull accident of fire fastening upon his house" had everything destroyed. "The said John Smith hath ever lyved soberly & honestly, diligent & industrious in his calling to the benefit of the Comon Wealth. But it pleased God by a feareful and suddaine visitation of ffire on Oct. 1st last about 4 oclock in the afternoone utterly to stripp him of all his worldly dependance, burning his house to the ground, all his furniture of his trade &c with nothing left to him save his wife and six small children altogether exposed presently to hunger & colde without any covering over them but the firmament & the open ayre. His case is miserable & his loses great—ffor he must needs loose much that looseth all—And his greatest hope to be restored again depends upon your Worps favours.

Signed by John Awdry junr, Robert Webb, William Winter, and others. The Justices granted him £20.

POWDERED LIVER AS A PHILTRE.

William flood of Chittway examined before Sir Edward Baynton on 12th day Feb. in the seventh year of the Raigne of our

Soveraigne Lord Charles &c. who saith that about sixe weekes sithence Margaret Sellar, widdow, spake unto him to help her unto a Sawte Bitch saying itt mought be worth unto her fortie poundes to make into powder to sende unto Bristowe (Bristol).

Henry flood of the same place said that after Margaret had desired his ffather to helpe her unto a Sawte Bitch she did speake unto him to help her unto a Sawte Bitch, who upon her intreatie did helpe her unto one and she did hange itt in a Silke girdle and tooke out the liver of itt, and as his sister Bridgett tould him, she made powder of itt and made cakes of itt and gave itt to men. He further saith that she gave him eight pence in Drinke for his paynes and gave him Victualls at the house of Barbarowe Chivers of the fforrest of Blackmore who selleth Beare and hath divers Strangers resorting unto her.

A COTTAGE WITHOUT FOUR ACRES.

The Grand Jury present John Goedler of Lea for converting sum out house of his to be a cotadge and place of habutation for on Thomas Darke late of Somerford Parva not havinge fower ackers of lande unto the same house or cotadge accordinge to the Statute.

RECOMMENDED FOR A BADGER'S LICENCE.

forasmuch as I am peticoned and earnestlie desired by the credible inhabitants of North Broadly and others neere adjoyning that Anthonie Greenhill of North Broadley, fuller, might continue to be a comon Badger, Lader, Kidder, Carrier, Buyer or transporter of all manner of Corne or Grayne as well in open markett as else where soe it be not by forestalling, and soe that he doth not excede the quantitie of ten quarters of anie kind of graine weekelie, as heretofore he hath been allowed beinge soe necessarie and needful in that place in my opinion. Leaving it to the grave consideracon of his Matys Justices at the Quarter Sessions. Rood-ashton the xxviith daie of June 1632. (signed) Clifford Longe.

The "poore inhabitants" of North Bradley, some thirty-six in number, 15 of whom "made their mark", also send a similar request, and the licence was granted.

ILLEGAL WAGES.

The tythingmen of Tinhead present the following "that doth exceed in taking of wages contrary to the Statute":

Ambrose Robins & Henry Robins—sawyers.

Robert Warfield, Hugh Newman—carpenters.

John Abram—thatcher.

There are no covenant servants that we know of that doth exceed in taking wages contrarie to the Statute.

There are similar reports from tythingmen of other districts.

PRESENTMENTS.

The Constables of Warminster hundred present "that wee have levied and payde to the use of the poore of Warmister iiijs. of such as weare found in default for not reparing to theyre pish church on the saboth day to heare divine service. There was found Hewlet & Nicholas Gage of Hetsburie in an alehouse on Sundaye the 25th of March last past in time of divine service & they do refuse and will not paye their xiid. a peece for breaking the law, and also there was levied and payd to the use of the poore xiid. of one for swearing.

GOOD BREAD AND BEER AT MERE.

The Constables of Mere present that "the Backers of Meere doe sell good and holsom Bread to the Kings League people and all the alehouses sell good & holesome bear".

A very large number of Recusants are presented from the hundred of Dunworth.

1633.

The Quarter Sessions usually held at Warminster in July were held at Chippenham this year. The rolls contain very little of special interest.

WHEAT AND POULTRY FOR THE KING.

At the Michaelmas Sessions the Justices make a contract with Thomas Hussey of Kingscleere in the County of Southampton gent. for the delivery of the composition of wheat & Poultry for the next sixe yeeres nowe next ensuing yf hee soe longe live, for the provision of the Kings household wheat after the rate of ffive shillings the bushel & noe more over & besides the price heretofore allowed by his Majesty, and the poultry at the following rates viz. capons 2s. each, pullets 10d., and hens 14d.

PETITION FOR AN INCREASE OF PENSION.

A petition for an increase of pension is presented by Nathaniel Creech, who states that he had served as a sergeant under Captain John Powell at Cales. A letter in support accompanies the petition, signed by Arch Bishop Laud (Canterbury), Arch Bishop Neyle (York), the Earl of Manchester and others, but unfortunately for the old soldier the Justices endorse the petition with the words "Noe money in the Stock".

1634.

LICENSE TO SELL BUTTER AND CHEESE.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 15th, William Long of Potterne petitions the Justices "to grant him a licence to be a comon driver, Carryer & buyer of Butter & Cheese in the Open Markets & ffayres in the County And sell the same in the Open Marketts and ffayres of Market Lavington, Amesbury, Uphaven and Marlborough such comodities being more scarce in those places than in other parts of the County". The petition was granted.

MAKING A FOOL OF THE CONSTABLE.

The Constables of Bromham present Daniell Webb tythingman of Bromham, for "abusing and making a Jest of Walter Gaby, Constable of Bromham, in causing him to arise out of his bedd on Sunday the first day of September 1633 at eleven of the clock at night, to appease a ffray, when as there was none, but the said Tythingman attempted to make a fray himselfe as the said Constable was informed".

A CHURCHWARDEN IN TROUBLE.

The Constables of Malmesbury present William Alexander being Churchwarden of Lea "for spending his tyme the 23rd of March 1633 being the Sabbath day in or by an alehouse of one Richard Tyler alias Sergeant of the same parish in the tyme of morning & evening prayer, and we present him also for a Comon Drunker".

A NIGHT WALKER.

The Jury of the Hundred of Potterne and Cannings present William Baylie of Cannings Epi, husbandman for "that he is a nit wacker" (night walker).

KEEPING A ROOKERY.

They also present "John Browne of Whislie in the pish of Potterne, vitler, for sufferinge of Rookes twoe Build & breede about his house theare to the greate anoyance of Corne there aboute".

A BAD MASTER.

To His Majestys Justices &c.

Whereas the bearer hereof Richard Arnold of Malmesbury was bound apprentice unto Lawrence Price of Malmesbury, point-making & yet hath byn very little or nothing ymployed in his trade. And the said Price is a man of loose conversation and hath given off the trade of pointmaking and betaketh himself to other idle unlawfull and indirect courses of life and not like to use his trade

any longer. And whereas the apprentice was & hath byn a long tyme very much abused in his service, wanting all manner of necessaries belonging to an apprentice whereby he began to rott in his body being alsoe full of varmin, his master having noe employment for his apprentice. May yt therefore please your good worshipps to dismiss & freely sett at liberty the said apprentice from his master & he shall ever pray for your preservations both here and hereafter. April 23rd 1633.

Signed by Robert Latymer Vicar of Malmesburye and others.

The Justices ordered that the overseers should set the apprentice at work untill his master come & demand him & then Sir Theobald Gorge & Sir Nevill Poole to call both parties before them & order yt.

CRUELTY OF THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION, DEVIZES.

At these Sessions Thomas Hawkins a butcher of Devizes presented the following petition:—"Whereas your pore petitioners apprentis a boy of the age of 14 or 15 yeares ould being sent by yor peticoner to Marchfeild in Glos: to paye certain money on his return he mett at a certayne place in Bromham called the Stoninge Stile a man between 9 & 10 of the clock in the nighte tyme unknown, who did intreate this petitioners servant to deliver a Letter unto one Mr. Withers at ye Signe of the Crowne in the Devizes who unadvisedly did deliver the sayd letter whereuppon one William Dicke, Master of the house of Correcon, did without warrant, leade awaye the sayd servant to the house of Correcon and in a most unconcionable manner did bind him to a payre of stockes there And did cause one to whipp him in such manner that he gave him fflower score blowes at the least untill the servant was all most beaten to death. Your humble petitioner desireth that you would be pleased to call the sayd Dicke to know by what Authority he did whipp your petitioners Servant".

The Justices ordered the matter to be enquired into.

PUNISHED FOR SWEARING.

The Constables of Mere presented "that Thomas Reade for swearing was punished by setting in the Stocks according to his Maties Lawes in that case made & pvided, and levied upon another for swearing two shillings and levied upon Leonard Larence for disorderly tipling xiid."

WARMINSTER TOWN PRESENTED.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Salisbury January 7th, the Grand Jury present "the whole towne of Warmister for that the highway from Boram thither unto the dwelling howse of William Warren who liveth at the Hollebushe there is in very great decay insomuch that none of His Maties subjects can passe without great

danger more especially from the howse of Thomas Ludlow gent. to William Warrens house. Not onlie the Market place at Warmister but all the whole streete in Warmister from one end to the other is very much annoyed with durt, compost, and many great heapes of soyle insomuch that there is noe passage without great prejudice and annoyance. We present Symon Sloper & his son and other his tenants to be in default therein because they challengeinge the Royaltie of the soyle there under Sir Thomas Thynne doe not remove and carry away the durt &c. neither will they suffer any others to carry away the same. This was presented the last yeare at this Sessions here and noe reformation. Wherefore wee desire a penaltie to be inflicted by this Court and a day prefixed for the amendment thereof.

AN OLD SOLDIER.

William Batter of Winterbourne in the County of Wilts petitions the Justices for a pension. He states that he was apprenticed 13 years previously to a Merchant tailor in London "and after six years was pressed a souldier for the Warres into the Islands where he served 2 yeares 6 months, which warres being dissolved then by his Matys special appointment, he was then pressed to serve the Prince of Orange and after a year was taken to serve the Right Honble the Marquesse of Hambledon under the King of Sweade in which Service he remained untill certin companies were Cashered. Having spent in those services all his porcon which amounted to £100 and mayhemed in his left hand is thereby disabled to get a liveing and likely to undergoe greate misery".

The treasurer of the South part of the County was instructed to pay him a pension of £3 a year, so apparently the applicant came from one of the Winterbournes near Salisbury.

PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Newe Sarum the Eight day of January 1634 the Grand Jury make a lengthy presentment. Many of the items presented concern the decayed state of the highways, but the following are of more than usual interest.

MAKING A CORNER IN SHEEP.

Imprimis. We psent William Bowldy & his son, Wm. Humbye, John Barham, & George Gardner all of Nunton, William Penny of Bower chalke (and seven others) for that they and every of them are great enemies to the whole publike of this county, in that they continually goe from ffaire to ffaire, and from markett to markett, from sheepefould to sheepefould, from one man to another, where they buie continually great numbers of sheepe—as for example, one Saturday to the market at Blandford fforum the Wensday following sell the same againe at Wilton. Nay, they & the most of them will buie one day and sell the same againe the

next, Nay buie and sell in one and the same day, insomuch that our ffayres and marketts are generally and for the most part furnished by these sort of Jobbers & Ingrossers, who take up all the Cobbs and ponies there that other men, vitz ffarmers and yeomen who doe not trade as they doe, must sell their sheepe in Common fields abroad, in regard they cannott gett penns for them. Some of the before named have not ben ashammed to brage and (word torn off) they have sould this last year 6000, 5000, 4000 & 3000 (torn) some more some lesse, wch is contrarie to the lawes and Statutes of this Realme, wch wee desire by this Honble Court to be reformed and amended.

NEGLIGENT CONSTABLES AND TYTHINGMEN.

Wee psent that the Constables and titheingmen in generall are very negligent and carelesse in the prosecution of their watch and ward, as also in the punishing of wandering people in regard they suffer them to passe & wander up & downe without contradiction for the most part. This is apparant unto us upon our owne knowledges & further manifested by their presentments. The Church wardens likewise are as negligent in prosecuting the statute of neglect in comminge to Church.

REVEALING THE SECRETS OF THE JURY.

Wee psent George Acrigge of Laverstock for that he of late—being with many others of a Jurie of Inquerie in the behalfe of his Matie for abuses done and committed wthin his Maties Parke and fforrest of Pauncett and Clarendon—did contrarie to the oathe of a Jurieman, not only reveale the secretts and Councell of His Matie, and his then fellowes of the Jurie, but also gave coppies of his Maties records, and of their proceedings to some of the Chieffest delinquents to the great prejudice and hindrance, not only of his Matie but of all the Jurie. This soe haynous an offence we could not forbear to present, being thereunto induced by that grave and most learned Charge to us and others delivered before the beginning of these Sessions.

A HEDGE BREAKER.

Wee present Elizabeth the wiewe of ffrancis Cox of Downton shomaker for a common tearer and breaker of hedges.

BURNT ON THE THUMB.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Sept. 30, 1634, Ellianor Angell, servant to John Beckett of Tockenham, for stealing 20 cheeses was sentenced "to be burnt in the brawne of the thumbe with the letter T".

The same punishment was awarded to Magdalen Pullyne of Tockenham for receiving the cheeses.

GREAT FIRE AT THE WINTERBOURNES.

At these Sessions the Justices signed a letter addressed to the Right Honble Lord Coventry, Lord Keeper of the Great Seale of England, setting forth the details of a most disastrous fire that happened at Winterbourne Dauntsey and Winterbourne Earls on the previous March 24th when damage to the extent of £5481 was done. They ask that Lord Coventry "to be pleased to cause his Majestys most gracious letters pattents to be speedily granted unto the inhabitants for their reliefe by charitable collections of money in such places and in such sorte as shall seeme good unto your Lordship, whereof they stand in great necessity & need". A list of the sufferers and the value of goods each had lost in the fire is attached, from which it appears that thirty persons were affected, and the losses vary from £2,200 down to £10. A long appeal signed by the clergymen of the two Winterbournes and neighbouring villages sets out in detail the great losses incurred. The fire occurred at one o'clock in the afternoon of March 24th, when the wife of William Lawrence "by her careless dealing did sett on ffyre her husbands house in W. Dauntsey". The fire then spread to the Parsonage. There was a strong high wind blowing, and the fire "was carried aloffe in the ayre and fell upon the dwelling house of Richard Sherfield" and so spread from house to house until apparently nearly all the houses in the two villages were burnt "in less than one hower altho the first of them was about one myle distant from the last".

SLANDERING THE VICAR OF KINGTON ST. MICHAEL.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster July 30 1634 the Revd. Richard Hine, Vicar of Kington St. Michael, petitions the Justices not to release Ethelred Alande the wife of Mathew Alande of Kington "from her good behaviour". It appears that Ethelred had been bound over at the previous Sessions to appear at the next Sessions for cursing some of the Justices and meanwhile to be of good behaviour, but apparently refused to carry out her promise, for the Vicar says "she doth continue to rayle at your petitioner without any cause striving to Vilifye him in public as much as possible, she openly and speaking and publishing these opprobious words viz. that he is a black divell, and a black crowe, and that hee warnes communions only because hee will drinke wine at the Charge of the parish. And threatens him & the neighbours that when she is released of the good behaviour shee will speake yett more freely".

1635.

IMBEZZLED HER HUSBAND'S GOODS.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Newe Sarm Jan 12th the Court made the following order—

"ffor as much as this Court is informed by William Gilbert that his wife hath ymbesiled much of his goods & household Stuffe

& left the same in divers mens hands without his privity or consent wch tends to his utter undoeing. It is therefore ordered by this Court that the said Gilbert shall demand his goods ymbesiled of all persons having the same & yf any person shall refuse to deliver him his goods then the next Justice is desired upon complaint thereof to him made, to bynde over the partie or parties refusing, to the then next Sessions there to answer his Contempt therein ”.

A PLEA FOR JUSTICE.

To the Worppl My Worthie friend Robert Hyde at Sarm dd these.

I am afraid you will imagine that I spend most of my tyme in writing letters to trouble you. But I pray pardon me now agayne speaking in the behalf of a poor Woman one Elnor Sheppard, beaten by one Mansell my Lord Sturtons Bayly, you know the case. She says you granted a warrant to come before you & Mr. Penruddock at Hindon but hee refused to obey it and therefore you promised her a warrant this Sessions for his appearance at the next Sessions after that. The summe of her husbands & her petition now is that you would dispatch this warrant for her assoon as you can in the morning that they may be at the lesse charge & come home about their business the sooner, & they shall pray for you. Yt seems by the relation of my good neighbour Mr. ffield & his wief that the busines is more to be made of than Mansell makes of it, & that his falasie carriage in discharging your warrant may well deserve a warrant from the Sheriff even to be awarded out against him. I know you will doe her justice & in doing that, I suppose you shall show a good piece of mercy to the poore folk. My wief and I both intreat your best furtherance of them in this business & so hastily leave you to Gods grace & blessing.

Your ever loving son in law

THOS. CHAFINE.

Mere Jan 11th 1635.

EXCUSED FROM ATTENDING SESSION.

Whereas John Waterman is warned to bee at the next Sessions. To my knowledge he is an ould man and unable to take a journey, & therefore I hould him fitt to be excused, and therefore lett me intreate you to excuse him in my behalfe and I shall rest.

Your faithfull Servant

JOHN POPHAM.

Littellcott this 8th day of Jan 1635.

WILL SWEAR FOREWARDS AND BACKWARDS.

These are to certifie unto your Wopp That this William Goove wch your Worpp warrante is sente for is a misbehaved man in All his wayes of life, for he is a dangerous swearer and a greivous liver and will swear anything forewards and backwards to helpe him-

self to doe any hurte to any man that he is offended with and doth strive to sett his naybors at Variance and doth abuse any naybore he hath upon the smallest occasion and there bee but fewe he hath not abused and is like to goe farther in his idell course if his Maties Lawes doth not restraine him. July 24th 1635.

(No place is named, but the above is signed by 12 persons).

A FALSE DECLARATION OF LOSS BY FIRE.

To His Maties Justices of the Peace.

We the pishoners of Warmister whose names are subscribed certifie that we have better considered the losses of Edwarde Dixe which he lately sustained by fier and we conceive he lost in housing to the value of twenty pounds in cloathes, goods, tobacco & money Verie little or noe loss, for wee are informed that his Tobacco was placed abroad in other mens hands that Londyners might not seaze uppon it & when the fier was he was seen to putt a purse in his breeches with somewhat in it which we conceive was his money. And we certifie that Dixe informed us of farr greater losses than hee sustayned, of purpose to gett his Maties Letters pattents for a collecon for it, Knowing the same would not be graunted for soe smale a loss as he sustayned & we conceive that those that did sett their hands to his peticon were falsely informed by him & deluded by his faire speeches.

remaining your Worps to command

signed by THOMAS LUDLOWE

FFRANCIS SHERGOLD & others.

The Court issued a certificate against Dixe.

PLAYING FOR MONEY IN THE CHURCH PORCH.

The Constables of Damerham North report that they had sent four persons by pass to their respective homes, adding "All these were apprehended & taken playing in our church porch for money and were all sevallye whipped till blood runn downe, and sent to their sevall places of abode, havinge kept compasse, as they sayd, the space of a weeke".

A BAD PUBLICAN.

The tythingman of Swindon giving information against Edward ffawtrell an alehouse keeper of that place states "that he suffered gameling to be used in his house on Sunday night Nov. 9 for a great pte of ye night. That he himself played at Shovelboard with an apprentice boy for two or three hours on Nov. 24 & again on Nov. 27 for eight shillings the game, which last was verified by ffawtrells owne tapster. Also that he refuseth to sell any drinke out of dores to the poore people, but yf they will come & drink it in his house they shall have it by the stonen pott & not otherwise".

TO BE WHIPPED IN DEVIZES MARKET.

Eight persons, including three women, were sentenced to *flagellentur instanter in publico mercato de Devizes*.

BURIED AT BISHOP'S CANNINGS.

To all persons respectively whome these presents shall come be it knowne that John the base borne sonne of Elizabeth Roper of Bishops Cannings was buried in the parish Churchyard of Canings the 14th day of Aprill last past 1633.

Witness hereto

The fferemie Vicar of Canings Epi.
William Weston and Thomas Eatwall
at that time Churchwardens.

FINED FOR DRINKING OUT OF HOURS.

The constables of the hundred of Westbury reported that they had "levied of Gilbert Norris inkeeper the some of tenn shillings for suffering the following to be typling in his house at unreasonable times viz

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| levied of Nicholas Phippe | 3 | 4 |
| „ Mathew Bower | 3 | 4 |
| „ Paule Phippe | 3 | 4 |

GOOD BEER AND BREAD AT "MEERE".

The Constables of Mere present "that all our Innes and Ale-houses, Vittelers and tiplers do sell good and holsome Beere and Bred according to the Assises allowed".

1636.

A NARROW ESCAPE FOR MR. GODDARD.

Nov. 4, 1636. Stephen Looker giving information to "John Popham Eq at Littellcote saith that talking with Thomas Hopkins of Alborne he, the said Thomas told him that he had throwne his pronge at a greate Fatt Gentleman, meaning Mr. Goddard and that he mist him but verie narrowlie, and that he bowed his prong, & that he had killed his dogge. Thomas Walter saith that he saw Hopkins throwe his pronge at his Master Mr Goddard and he mist him but little, and as he supposes had hett him had he not galloped away & he tould them he knew him well enough, and that itt should be a dear partridge to him.

Signed JOHN POPHAM.

INSULTING THE LATE HIGH SHERIFF.

To the Justices of the Peace for the County of Wiltes.
After my hartie Commendacons remembered

Whereas I have intelligence that Mr Goddard late High Sheriff of your Countie hath been affronted in his sporte of Hawkinge by the evill demeanor both in words & accons of Thomas Hopkins, Sheppard unto Thomas Haynes & that he is bound over to appear at the next Sessions by John Popham Esqre, I would therefore desire you to forebeare both the hearing of the matter and punishing of the delinquent until the following sessions where I may be present and noe fayler of Justice shall be to either party. Yor very loveinge friend

JO : FINCH (Knight).

Moate this 26th Dec. 1636.

THE PLAGUE IN AMESBURY AND GOODS STOLEN.

Theise goods were stolen out of an house infected of the plague in Great Amsburye, while the poore people were kept abroad in the fields.

One brasse pott, Weigheing about 23 or 24 lb.

One brasse Kettle about 5 or 6 gallons.

One very faire brasse Chafindishe with a bottom to stand in valued at xs.

One pewter Bason.

One pewter dishe.

3 Candlesticks one of brasse & 2 of pewter.

One bell skellet, one brasse basting ladle, 2 downe pillowes.

One blanckett wch the boy died on in the plague.

(There does not appear to be any further reference to the above.)

HARNHAM BRIDGE.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Newe Sarm January x. xi. xii.

The Grand Jury presented that a certaine Bridge nere the city of Newe Sarm called Harneham Bridge, otherwise Aylesbridge is very ruinous & in great decaie And ought to be repaired by the Mr of the Hospital of St. Nicholas as appeareth in an ancient record extant within the Chapter Howse in the Cathedrall of Sarm, And that the hie waye leading from the said bridge to Dragon Streete Corner is likewise very much in decaie and ought to be repaired by the inhabitants of the Close of Sarm.

AN UNREPENTANT PRISONER.

Anthony White of Ramsbury giving evidence before " John Popham at Littellcot saith that when carrying Thomas Tarlton to the house of correcon at Marlborough, Thomas Keate yt conveyed them tooke occasion to pittie a late fier wch had happened upon some houses in Marleborrow, whereupon Tarlton brake out into these speeches, that he hoped to see Ramsbury soe in fier upon some of the best of the parish there. Joseph Jennings

(apparently the master of the house of correction) saith that ye said Tarlton being committed to ye house of correccion as an Idle fellow said that whensoever he should be releast he would not work, being demanded by ye said Joseph how he would live he replied he would steale. Then said Jennings you will be hanged, he answering, then there is an end of one ”.

DID NOT “FAUGHT ANY HOPP” POLES.

April 23rd. Bartholmew Townsend charged before Mr. John Duckett for cutting poles “saith that hee did cutt Hopp polls out of Cullerne park and carried them a waye but hee utterlie denyeth that ever he faught (=old past tense of fetch) any polls out of Sir Edward Hungerfords coppice or that he was there on the day whereof he is accused.

“Walter Butler however saith that he saw Townsend coming out of Sir Edward Hungerfords coppice, & as he was coming forth with a burthen of hopp poles on his backe, throwing them over the hedge and so passing away towards Corsham, Butler, making haste to overtake him asked him where he had them, whoe answered ‘for the owner’. On asking him again where whoe was the owner he replied they were for Sir Edward Hungerford & he had & must fetch twenty burthens more”. (He was, however, acquitted by the Justices).

A SICKLY CONSTABLE.

At the Quarter Sessions at Devizes, April 26, 1636.

“Philippe Batten of Xpenmalford” asks to be excused from taking the office of Constable he being “very sickly in body & troubled with sondry imperfecons so that he is not able to stirre as he ought to doe in the performance of that office, there being many other men in the parish more sufficient and able both for greatnesse of estate & strength of body to under goe soe weightie a business ”.

The inhabitants of Christian Malford, however, did not agree with Batten, for they send a petition to the Bench stating that “they doe hereby signifie & certifie that Philipp Batten yeomen, being an able and sufficient man is verve fitt to be constable of that parish for the year next ensuing ”.

(The Justices, however, had compassion on Batten and ordered William Reeves to take the office.)

ALE IN STONE JUGS.

Henry Bishop and Thomas Melsome of Chippenham were presented “for selling ale and beare by stoninge Judgs and not being full, for 2d. the Judge”. William Hony of Trowbridge and other alehouse keepers were presented “for selling beer by small stone potts and not sealed measures contrary to the law ”.

TAKING SANCTUARY IN HINDON CHURCH.

(Abbreviated.)

Some of the inhabitants of Hindon appeal for help in the following case. Samuel Yarworth, clerk, who having been previously bound over to the good behaviour and to provide for the wife of Anthony Saunders and her child, had advised and assisted the husband to desert her. The Constables endeavoured to serve the writ but Yarworth took sanctuary in the body of Hindon Church. They successfully caught him later as he was running from the church to his house, but he by force "recussed" himself and quickly returned to the church and soon after went to London and obtained letters missive against the Constables summoning them to appear in the High Commission Court. There, Yarworth appeared himself and desired that the differences between him and the inhabitants of Hindon might be left to Lord Cottington to settle, which was agreed to. On being asked why he had disobeyed former warrants he replied, "I did nothing therein but what my Lord Archbishop of Canterbury put me upon". The Court, considering these words as not fitting to be spoken of so great a person, bound Yarworth over in the good behaviour untill the next Sessions.

AN UNCLEAN APPRENTICE.

At the Quarter Sessions at Warminster, July 1636.

The humble petition of John Souch and Mighell his wiffe. Humbly showing that whereas your petitioners hath an apprentice Ales Ireland to teach hir to make bone lace and to worke with the needle since which time she came unto us she hath been enticed to Runn Away and hath runn awaye eighteen times not wanting her belly full of suffitiente good diet three meales every daye in the weeke, neither had she at any time correction but only once hir father being present, and she never commeth home but full of vermin in such sorte not fitting to coum with in any mans dores before she be clensed, and the time being dangerous she maye not onely undoe us, but alsoe the towne and country, And we have used the best meanes all wayes to keepe hir and to looke after her againe, And we have sustayned a great deale of discredit by hir. Wherefore our desire is that your good Worshippes wilbe pleased to take into consideration the abundance of trouble and vexation of mind wee have indured and that wee maye be released. And wee shall daylie praye, &c.

The Bench sent Ales to the house of correction at Devizes for a time, after which she was to be returned again to Mr. Souch.

MALMESBURY ABBEY

(Abbreviated).

In the Records of the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 16th, 1636, is the following statement concerning the inhabitants of part of Malmesbury:—

“ ffor as much as this Courte is informed that there are three score dwelling houses wch conteyneth not above tenn acres of ground and that there are fferty and seaven aged impotent decreped persons younge children and infants wch have no livelyhood but are ready to starve for that the place not being knowne of what parish it is and the other inhabitants being of themselves not able to relieve them, nor have overseers, nor cannott devise howe to take a course for raisinge of rates amongst themselves or elsehowe to preserve so many poore soules from starveinge. This Court, takeing their meserable estate & lamentable case unto consideracon for the better preservacon of the lives of so many of his Maties loveinge subjects, doe thinke fitt to refer the consideracon of their distressed care & examinacon to Sir John Danvers Kt, Sir Nevill Poole Kt, Sir Theobald Georges Kt, Sir Water Longe Kt, Edmond Estcorte and Charles Gore Esquires, or any two of them, and as they shall see cause yf yt appeare that the parish of Mallmesbury are not able to relieve the said poore, that then the said Justices are desired to call the Church wardens & overseers of all the parishes in the hundred of Malmesbury before them and rate & taxe upon any or eyther or all the said parishes such reasonable sumes of monie for the present releiff of the said poore as they shall think fitt for that tyme only untill the next Sessions & Assizes by wch tyme yf the Inhabitants of the said Abbey of Mallmesbury doe not procure some order from the Judges of Assize or elsewhere to determine of (which) parish they are or ought to be of, this Court doth not thincke fitt to take any farther care of them ”.

According to the above resolution, the Justices mentioned wrote the following report, dated Malmesbury June 21 1636 :—

“ According to an order of Easter Sessions last we whose names are subscribed have considered the order referred to and find by depositions of divers witnesses, inhabitants of the houses called Abbey houses—the houses containing nowe about three score families—that in their remembrance wch extends to 50 yeares past and downeward, they have byn taxed by the Churchwardens of St. Paule in Malmesbury to wardes the Reparacon of the Church, nowe and by all the tyme aforesaid used as the pishe Church there and that such of them as were able have paid towards those reparacons according to the taxations, and have alsoe paid for seate room in the church & have had their Children christened theer by the Vicar of the Pishe of St. Paule and to him they have paid their offerings, and such of them as had gardens have usually paid to the nowe Vicar and his predecessors, garden pence for their gardens they having noe other ground there, and they have bin married in the said Church by the Vicar & receyved the communion & have paid to the Church wardens for bread & wyne for the communion and have had their dead buried in the churchyard

there being the Churchyard for the pish of St. Paule. It was also proved to us that the inhabitants of the houses have byn sumoned to the leete of the Towne and Burroughe & they have appeared & such as did not were amerced & paid ameracements. All which was proved on oath in the presence of the Alderman of the burrough & other of the Chiefe inhabitants. And we find that the inhabitants of seven houses wthout Westpoort Gate being Abbey houses have usually paid the like dutyes to the Vicar of St. Maryes of Westporte. All which wee leave to the further consideracon of this Courte ”.

(signed by the above Justices).

NO MORE PRIGGING IN BRADFORD AND DISTRICT.

Some thirty-eight parishioners of Bradford presented the following to the Justices at the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster :—

“ We whose names are heare under written to heareby certifie That whereas Thomas fflorence thelder & Thomas fflorence the younger were at the Easter Sessions committed unto ward upon the good abearing, for that they were vehementlye suspected to have stollen sheepe and committing other opprobrious misdemeanors. Now soe it is, may it please you That wee cannot heare of any one about us that hath sustained injury in that kinde since the time of their committing. Wherefore it is very probable that they were the onely actors of the same, for before scarce any daies did passe, but that one where or other we should heare of some prigging matters done. And for many yeares from time to time they have byn generally suspected to have demeaned themselves in a lewd carriage. And alsoe at certeyne times they would keepe gray hounds, beagells, and spaniells and goe hunting by day, and at night, as we conceive, feed them with the offall of such things as they stole. In confirmacon whereof we have sett our hands July 8th 1636 ”.

UNREVERENT YOUNG FELLOW.

The Constables of Warminster presented that “ on the tenth of this instant July there was taken in Corstly Magna an unreverent younge fellow who as hee alleadged lived at Mells in Somerset, whereuppon wee compelled him to bring a certificate of his behaviour. And thereby finding that he was formerly of good behaviour beetooke of him five shillings to the use of the poore of the said parish ”.

The Constables of the hundred of Westbury presented “ that

on the 7th day of May wee received of John Adlam one shilling to the use of the poore for swearing.

A DISTRESSED MINISTER.

The following was presented at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct 4th 1636:—

“ The most humble peticon of a distressed Minister Most humbly beseecheth yor Honors & Worpps your poore suppliant Thomas Davis of the Devizes, clerke, That whereas he standeth accused for speaking certaine unadvised wordes at a time when he was quite distracted and not himselfe. And whereas he is truly penitent for his saide offence, and voweth that he will be most relegiously carefull never to transgresse anie more in that, or any other kind and alsoe is well content to endure the rigor of the lawe, if, upon examination made, it may appeare that he soe offended, when he was in his right mind: Ye would be pleased, out of your goodness and clemency, to free him of the trouble befallen him, through the said accusation, wth as little disgrace & dammage to him as ye may. And he will ever rest &c.

“ Your honrs & Worps to be commanded

“ THOMAS DAVIS ”.

There is nothing further about this case except that the petition is endorsed “ Comittur ”.

REPENTANT PRISONERS.

At the Marlborough Sessions October 1636, Nathaniell Wilkinson, Vicar of Bradford, and twenty inhabitants of the town present a petition for the release of “ Thomas fflower & Thomas his sonne who have lay in prison on the good behaviour since last Easter Sessions. Wee the inhabitants of Bradford upon hope and promise of theyre amendment of life, that they will be better members hereafter amongst us, and that they will frequent the Church as good Christians ought, would willingly, yf the Worshipful Bynch think fitt to receive them home againe. That they may help releive their poore wives and children that are nowe like to perish with hunger ”.

“ John Histkoxe was presented for making a route & lopinge of trees and letting piggs & geese tranckresse the Church yard of Preshute ”.

1637.

CLOSING A PUBLIC WAY.

At the Warminster Sessions July 6th the Jurors of the hundred of Mere presented “ Richard Chaffin, Eq. for barring and denying his Maties Subjects of their ancient and accustomed Market and

Church way in a Close called Newe Close adjoining to Zailes Church ”.

SEARCHERS OF WOOLLEN CLOTH.

In this roll are a number of recognizances of persons appointed searchers of Woollen Cloth. For the first time these are printed forms with the local details filled in by the Clerk. The terms of the recognizance is “ That of the above bound (name) being now appointed a searcher for the true making of Woollen Cloth shall do his best endeavour by all lawfull wayes and meanes to see that the Lawes Statutes & Ordinaries of this Kingdome now in force for the true making of Woollen Cloth shall in all points be truly observed and kept within the limits of his Charge in every part thereof from henceforth for one whole yeare now next ensuing. Then this Recognizance to be voyd and of none effect, or else it to stand and remain in full force & Virtue ”.

Capt & cognit coram nobis

GYLES ESTCOURT.

DUCKING STOOL AND PILLORY WANTED.

The Jury at Warminster present “ that they have neither a cucking stool nor pillory at Warmister and that William Sloper must maintain them & put them up ”.

ISLAND OF DOWNTON “ DROWNED ”.

To the right Wor : Sir Lawrence Hide, Knight.

The humble peticon of John Estman, William Dulton & others the inhabitants of the Ileland wthin the Burrough of Downton Showeth that about Allhalloutid laste paste there was a very greet fflud of water wthin the said Burroughe of Downton in somuch that your poore pettecioners howses wthin the said Ileland were drowned. And in whereas yor pettecioners have had tyme out of the memory of man, Bridges to goe to there said house without wch Bridges your pettecioners are no able to goe into there houses. The Jurrie for our Sovaing Lord the Kinge by the misinformation of sombodie at the Generall Sessions houlden at Sarm last, did present that the said Bridges was an nuzance unto the Kings high wayes and did present yor pettecioners as causes thereby, soe as proces ar awarded out of the Sessions againste yor poore pettecioners directed to the Constable of the hundred of Downton to arreste yor poore pettecioners to carrie them before some of his Maties Justices of the Peace to give surtie for there apperance at the next Genall Sessions that behoulden for the Countie wch wilbe excedinge chargable unto yor pettecioners they all being very poore men and some of them do receve of Almes of the Pish of Downton.

May it therefore please yor good worship to give directions unto the Constable of Downton to forebare to arrest yor pettecioners for that wilbe a very greet charge unto somany poore

peopell to attend the Sessions, and yor pettioners doe not doubt but they will at the said Sessions bringe certificate under the hands of the chefest Inhabitance of Downton that they were not faultie, and yor pettioners as they are in Duty bound will pray to God for yor worship long to conteneue.

(Signed by) WILLIAM MAURICE Curat of Downton
and four others.

MELKSHAM BRIDGE OUT OF REPAIR.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes on April 18th, 1637, the following petition from Melksham was presented to the Justices :—

“ That whereas the bridge in Melksham called the Great Bridge is much growen in decay soe that without some speedy course taken it will fall to the ground, And the inhabitants are & wilbe ready to strayne themselves to the uttermost towards the repaying of the same, But the charge will amount to soe great a some of money that the inhabitants are in noe wise able to compass it without good helpe from other places to contribute towards it ”. They go on to ask that a collection might be made throughout the whole county, but the Justices thought otherwise, for the petition is endorsed “ The inhabitants to repaire themselves under a paine of £40 & to be done by Michaelmas ”.

PRESENTMENTS.

The Constables of Bradford present “ that Anne Gentle was taken on the 24th day of March wandering, & whipped according to law ”.

John Ball of Bradford, taylor, doth make a fire against a wall haveing noe Chimney the wch is very dangerous and likelie to be a meanes for the firing of his house & damage of the whole inhabitants of Bradford.

The Juri of Damerham North present that John Goraway of Calne was taken beging at Christenmalford being dangerous of the infection of the Sicknes.

Mathew Browne for stealing 4 pounds of woollen yarne value 20 pence was ordered to be whipped in the open market instantly; and Edward Tetterfolld for stealing 2 lambes value 10 pence to be whipped privately.

1638.

AN OLD SOLDIER.

To the Rt. Hon. Phillip Earle.

The humble Peticon of Robt Rolls Sheweth that your peticoner being of the age of 85 years and not able to help himself being maimed and much decayed in his estate and having been a Soldier in the Low Countreys in the Time of Sir Phillip Sydney as it is

well known unto your Honors servant Mr John Osbaldston and your petr being there in Sarum with 5 of his Bretheren where the one of them was Captain Thomas Rolls, Servant to both our late Queen Elizabeth and King James of happy memory. He then asks that the Court will allow him a stipend towards his maintenance in his old age and was awarded £4 quarterly.

The Grand Jury at the Sessions held at Sarm January 9th, 1638, present the Stock in Combe bisset to be in default and have bene soe for the space of three monethes and ought to be repared by John Hancocke gent and Wm Andrews farmer and Mr Willm Mathew, and we also present the neglect of the watch and ward to be a great occasion of the abundance of idle & wandering people to the great grevance & wrong of the subjects of the Kings Matie.

THE PLAGUE IN CALNE.

An account of moneys received and layed out towards the reliefe of the poore people of Calne lately visited with the infectious sickness of the plague.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|-------|
| Mr. Henry Blaaks account | | | |
| Received from the County | ... | £178 | 15 0 |
| guift of money from Hiworth | ... | | 30 0 |
| Disbursed | ... .. | £180 | 5 0 |
| Robert fformans account | | | |
| Received of the County | ... | £196 | 19 10 |
| Disbursed | ... .. | £196 | 12 0 |
| remaining in his hands | ... | | 7 0 |
| Roger Scotts account | | | |
| Received of the County | ... | £127 | 3 9 |
| received of guifte money | ... | | 15 0 |
| Disbursed | ... .. | £127 | 18 9 |

There are other smaller accounts amounting to over £150.

The total amount assessed on the County was £913, and the amount collected £588.

Then follows this detailed account of expenditure:—

“ A Bill of Moneyes laide out and due from the towne and parish of Calne at the time of the infection there for the charge of a phisition that was brought from London & phisick for the poore and other things viz.

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|----|---|
| Paid William Ingram at the goeing out of his howse in the Alders which was made a pesthouse of, and for divers necessities left the infected people that came in there | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pd Thos Page for halfe a yeares rent for a howse to Ingram to goe into | | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Pd Jo : James for a sowe & pigges which he killed and buried that had fedd one the excrements of the infected people | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Pd one Mr Samuell Smyth, a phisition that came purposely from London and stayed two moneths attending one the towne and parrish of Calne to administer phisick in the time of the sickness as was agreed one by the right worl Sir Ed Baynton Kt | | | | |

| | |
|---|------------|
| and approved of by divers Willshere gentlemen being then at London the some of xx£ | 20 0 0 |
| More pd Mr Smyth for phisicke that he gave to divers poore sicke people which was not able to paye him anything as appeareth by a bill of particulars the some of | 16 13 10 |
| Pd Jo Landick for a fortnight's dyett for the phisition | 0 14 0 |
| Some total of all laide out | £30 17 10. |
| Received for the materials of a pesthowse that stood in the Marsh of Calne the some of | 6 0 0 |
| The which being deducted, remayning as if not received of this bill the sum of | 24 17 10 |

Per me GEO. LOWE.

A petition from the overseers for the providing of a remaining deficit of £20 17 4 is marked "The parishoners are to pay the £20 17 4 to be rated by the next 2 Justices".

THE PLAGUE IN CALNE.

Jasper Powell formerly an Innholder of Calne but now of Warminster presents a petition in which he states that about eleven years since when the sickness began in London "a travayler being sick was brought by the Officers of Calne to yor petrs house in Calne being an Inn when he was absent. The officers with others came & removed the sick person together with yor petirs goods to the value of £18 to be employed for the use of the sick person & safety of the towne". He later made application to the Justices for loss of his goods and they awarded him only £6 in recompense which "he thinketh too little he having spent as much almost in seeking redresse, and yet the inhabitants of Calne refuse to pay that £6 by which means he is utterly undon". He asks the Justices to assist him to recover recompense for his goods and charges. The Court ordered a full enquiry to be made into the matter for future consideration.

ROBBING THE POOR.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes, April 3rd, the Jury for the hundred of Melksham present Robert Stevens of Seend for buying & selling of wheate & mault & selling some ground and some unground having noe lycence. A peck of his wheate meale weighing about eleven pounds & a peck of the same wheat unground weighing fifteen pounds, to the affamishing of the poore. He being a man unfit to doe so his estate being worthe about seaven hundred pounds.

A TOWN BORN APPRENTICE.

We psent that a young apprentice, one Wakley, was taken at Trowbridge March 29th last, being a towne borne Childe we sent him to his master Thomas Lucas of Southwick.

LIGHT BREAD.

We pſent that ſevall times we have taken the bread of ſome Bakers of Somersſetſhire to the value of ten ſhillings, & finding it too light we gave it away to the poore of Trowbridge where the bread was brought to be ſold.

AN ILL-TREATED APPRENTICE.

Thomas Manchester at one time apprentice to Isaac Miles of Broad Chalke informs the bench that for three whole days he had no meate or drinke att all from his maſter & would have faſhed but for the kindneſſe of neighbours. He alſo ſays that his maſter had given him but one gallon of mault bread between Chriſtmas & July & "bought not ſoe much as one penny worth of beere for him". His uſual fare was one piece of bread & cheeſe a day during the time he was with his maſter. His maſter gave him no apparrell during the year & a half he was with him ſave only two ſhirts of lackeram (=linen of a coarſe quality) at 10d. or 12d. the ell. And that his maſter ſeldom had any work ſave to patch old clothes & when he had no work he ſent him to ſteale furſes which he ſold, whereby he is never likely to be a workman.

Upon this information and certificate from the pariſhoners of Broade Chalke the bench diſcharged Manchester from his apprenticeship.

1639.

FLOGGED AT THE CART TAIL.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminſter, July 11th, the ſentence paſſed on Jacobus Cox et Rogerus Cruse is in Latin, viz., *flagellari inſtanter in publico loco mercatorio apud the cartes tayle*. Apparently the Clerk did not know the Latin for the laſt three words.

AYE PINS AND TOBACCO.

James Coxe of Seend confeſſeth (before William Wallye Eſq) that on the 12th day of June he ſtole 6 aye pynnes from a ſheep houſe in Selfeſtreet Seend & ſold them to Richard Dalmer of Seend who gave him "one pipeful of tobacco", and for other pieces of iron that he had ſtole he received "a peice of Tobacco about two ynches long". For his puniſhment ſee above.

TOO MANY ALEHOUSES AT STEEPLE ASHTON.

The Jury for the hundred of Whorelſdowne preſent "that wee have five Alehouſes in our tything of Stepelaſhton which wee thinke it bee too too many".

That Samuel Browne is a drunkerd.

That John Newman of Tynhed doe ſell beere with out lycence under the pretence of a Winde lycence.

The Constables of the hundred of Heytesbury present "William Arundell Esqre and the Ladie St. Johns his wife for popeishe recusants".

FIRE AT CHARLTON.

Henry Hole of Charlton states that "Whereas yt pleased the Allmighty to afflict yor poore suppliant with the terrible flames of his judgment, on March 29 his house, goods, & stable were consumed by fire and burnt to the earth amounting to the sum of £60". He begs the Justices to make him a grant and was allowed £10. The above is signed by Henry Long, Vicar of Charlton, Tobias Crisp*, D.D., parson of Brinkworth, who adds "he was an eye witness of the combustion". Also 38 parishioners, many of whom were "eie witnesses".

BEACONS ON LYDDINGTON DOWN.

The Constables of Kingsbridge present the following petition on behalf of the said Hundred at the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 23rd, 1639:—

"Humbly sheweth that whereas the said Hundred is putt to the whole charge of watching the Beacons on Lyddington Downe, it being the utmost part of the said hundred and the charge already amounting to the some of Twelve Pounds for the tyme past. And the severall hundreds of Highworthe Crickland & Staples, Remsbury and Seckley did heretofore usually joyne in the watching of the said Beacons.

"Wherefore we humbly pray—that the three hundreds above mentioned—may joyne with Kingsbridge in watching the beacons and a payment of the £12.

"And your peticoners will ever pray &c."

The Court ordered that the three hundreds should join with Kingsbridge in accordance with the petition.

DISPUTE ABOUT LAND AT EASTERTON.

Joane Heskyn of Esterton in the pish of Lavington forum presents the following petition:—

"That whereas one yard land & a halfe in Esterton is nowe in Controversie in lawe between your peticoner and John fflower the Elder of Esterton. And yor peticoner being possessed thereof & having plowed and sowed divers acres thereof wth feed Barley & feed pease this psent yeare, he the said fflower hath sowed the said acres wth other seed, and he alsoe eateth out wth his cattell the grasse growing in the nichsed (? nickled=beaten down) ground. And Threateneth yor peticoner that he will Cutt & carry away all the Corne wth divers other fearful threatenings".

She begs the Justices "to call John fflower befor them and take order with him that she may quietly enjoy the premises untill it be tryed by lawe unto whome the land doe of right belong, and

* Dr. Crisp was a well-known Antinomian Minister.

that without trouble of him or any his threatenings wch she greatly feareth ”.

And your peticoner will ever pray &c.

The Court made “ noe order ”.

MARRIED AT ST. JAMES'S.

“ Theis are to certifie yor Worshippes that the bearer hearof Thomas Symes and Jone Bruer were lawfully married in the Chappell of St. James in the pische of Byshopps Cannings the xxijth daie of Aprill anno Dmi 1639 ”.

By me RICHARD HUMPHREY
Mynister.

Witness hearunto

Thomas Nash, Henry Symes.

PETITION FOR INCREASE OF PENSION.

To the Right Hoble Phillip Earle of Pembroke and Mountgomry Lord Chamberline of his Maties howsheold.

The humble peticon of John Knowles gent. Sheweth that yor peticoner havinge bene heretofore a Livetennant in the Warres and maimed in his Maties service was some yeres since by yor Lopps Noble Brother deceased Comended to the Justices of Peace of this Countie, Whoe uppon his Hoble recomendacon were pleased to allowe him a pension of Tenn pounds p Ann, ye Stocke of the Countie then being smale, but since increased. Yor peticoner is since growne in yeares and pressed with wante and humblie conceive yt soe smale a pension hath bene seldome conferred uppon a man of yor peticoners place in Armes and hopes by yor Lopps favour the same might be enlarged and yor peticoner some way qualified and enabled to doe his Countrye service in his old age.

May it please yor Lopp in favour of yor peticoner to voutsafe yor Lopps favorable Lres to the Deputy Livetennant and Justices of this Countie on yor peticoners behalf yt yor peticoner may bee employed by such Captaines in the Instructinge of their souldiers as shalbe thought fitt and his pension increased in shuch sorte as the state of ye country will beare and their discretions will allowe.

And yor peticoner shall &c.

The Court ordered “ that there be fyve marks added to his former pension and that hereafter there be none granted above x℥ ”.

On the back is written :—

According to the desires of the Justices at the last Sessions I have pused (perused) and advised on the Statute of 43 Elizabeth 3. Whereby the Justices of Peace are authorised to grant pensions to Soldiers and Mariners, And I am of opinion that by the Statute the Justices may grant a pension unto a soldier who hath bene hurt or maimed in the Kings service although hee were not pressed, soe as hee were in the Kings pay at the time of his hurts recived. Soe that (in consideration of the case) I doe not conceive this petitoner

having served as a lieutenant and his pension being but £10 p ann, the same may be increased (if the Justices of Peace thinke it fitt, and finde cause for to doe) but they may not make it above 20£ p ann, the Statute restraining them not to exceede that some.

(signed) ROBERT HYDE.

(He was Recorder of Salisbury.)

In support of Lieut. John Knowle's petition, Lord Pembroke sends the following letter to the Justices, dated from Whitehall the 22nd of October, 1638:—

After my hearty Commendacons. Although I persuade my selfe you cannot want Importunitys in matters of this Nature and consequently that I might very well have spared you the trouble of this, yet having heard from some of my very good ffreinds in that your County more then ordinarily, well of this peticoner whose enclosed I send you withall, and that your Stocke is somewhat more advanced, then formerly when my deare Brother mediated with some of you for a Pencon to be settled upon him, as itt was your custome in like cases to doe for others. Upon these concurrences I have thought fitt to write theis unto you in favour of him, and to desyre you That where as his Merett and pretences are as fayre, his necessities being also as urgent as any others, you will therefore think fitt to enlarge his pencon according to the strength of your Stocke, and as such commiserative and charitable thoughts of him as this may infuse unto you In the doing whereof, though you shall encourage others to doe their County Service with more chearefullnes, when they shall see a charitable consideration had of their yeares increased therein and Disabilities incurred thereby, yet because I have appeared herein I shall ascribe some of your favour to the respect of this which shall therefore enlarge the obligacon of my being.

Your very loving freind

PEMBROKE & MONTGOMERY.

A footnote by the Clerk of the Court says " put Mr. Hyde in mynde the next Sessions ".

FETTERS AND WHIPPING FOR A BOY.

To ye Govenour of ye house of Correction nere Marleborough. I have sent you herewithall the body of Robert Wayle an idle vagrant & disorderly boy who hath bin divers times whipped and returned to Crawly where he was born. Yett will not continue there but runns away and lyes roguinge and pilfering about the Country. These are to will & require you to receive the sayd Robert & him safely keepe until he shalbe delivered & in the meantime to hold him to such works & to give him such punishments by moderate whippinge and putting on ffetters as you shall find cause, yeilding him for his mayntenance only so much as he shall deserve or earne by his labor & work.

Given under my hand this 4th of July 1639.

(signed) JOHN EVELYN.

WHEAT, MUTTONS, AND POULTRY FOR THE KING.

This is a lengthy document, but briefly is as follows:—

A composition was made on Oct 1 with Thomas Husey for wheat, muttuns and poultry to be delivered for the King's household for seven years. The prices fixed were: Wheat at 5s. the bushel and no more over and besides the price heretofore allowed by his Majesty, muttuns at 16s. the sheep and no more over and above the former price, and for poultry 2s. the capon, 10d. the chick and 14d. the hen.

SHALBOURNE COMMON FLOODED.

The Constables of Shalborne present Richard Clifford of that parish, gent, for raying up a new hatch in his meadow whereby the water is bayed back in such wise that the Kings leige people cannot passe to the Church without danger, and also the common is so drowned that the commoners are much damnified thereby.

PRESENTMENT FROM HUNDRED OF SELKLEY.

At a genarall seasans at Marleborow for the peace holden for ower soverant lord the King.

First For Broad Hinton wee present Richard Constable, gentleman, for turnig of an ancient water Cours out of the right way to the anoy ance of his neight brows.

For Avubery omny bey.

For Lockeredge wee present that William Brown hath erect and bwilt a pigin howes to the great anoy ance of his neyght bors.

For Ogborn al is weell.

For Aborn ales well.

For Minden hall Wee present William Jones of Woolandes for a pownd Breach.

1640.

FINED FOR NOT GOING TO CHURCH.

The Constables of Wilton presented at the Salisbury Quarter Sessions on January 14 " that we have levied and receaved of Rose Creed of Wilton twelve pence for absenting and neglecting to come to her parish Church on Sunday Nov 15th, which said twelve pence we have paid to the use of the poore of Wilton ".

RETURNS OF RECUSANTS.

The Constables of the various hundreds were very busy this year searching out papists and the number of recusants presented is much larger than in previous years.

On December 7th the following order made in the House of Commons was addressed to " All Justices of the Peace within the County of Wiltes and the liberties thereof " :—

Upon an order this day made by the House of Comons nowe assembled in Parliament That all the Justices of Peace within the

severall Counties of England and Wales bee from this howse required and enjoyned to comannnd the Church Wardens and other officers of the severall Counties within their precincts to present unto them the names of all the severall recusants within their parishes to the end that they may be proceeded against with effect according to lawe at the next sessions notwithstanding any Inhibition or restraint. These are by Vertue of the said order to require and enjoyn you the Justices of Peace within the County of Wiltes and the liberties thereof to comannnd all the Churchwardens and other officers within the said County and Liberties thereof to present unto you the names of all the severall Recusants within their pishes & precincts to the end they may be proceeded against with effect according to Lawe and according to the full intent, purpose and true meaning of this order.

(Signed) H. ELSINGE, per Domus Com :

Above order is sent to ffrancis Bennett and William Coles, gents, Deputye Clarke of ye Peace for ye County of Wiltes att Warmester by Henry Ludlowe and F. Thynne from London December 18 1640. (A footnote states " This letter concerns the whole county ".)

With the order is the following :—

Wee have sent you downe heere inclosed a warrant drawne upon an order made in ye Comons House of Parliament directed to ye Justice of Peace for ye County of Wiltes of wch wee are comannnded by like order to give them advertisment that accordingly due execution may be had thereof. These are therefore to require you to use all dilligence to see ye same effectually pformed and delivered unto them before ye next Sessions it being a service of soe important a consequence, and soe we rest.

Your loveing ffreinds

Signed HENRY LUDLOWE. F. THYNNE.

With reference to the above order John St. John writes the following letter " To his very loveing ffreind ffrancis Bennett Esquire at Sarum " :—

I have received your Ire and the order from the House of Comons and have accordingly sent out my warrants to the Constables of the hundreds of Highworth, Cricklad and Staples, and Kingsbridge, and the Constables have made their returns under the hands of the Church wardens of every pish & I find none in neither hundred but such as I shall send you heere inclosed which I conceive to be as much as was required of me, the other two Justices that were joyned with me being not in the County I did it myselfe, if you would have any thinge more donn in it I desire your answeare for I conceive this to be inough for informacon, and soe with my salutacon to yor selfe I reste, yor loveing freind to serve you

JOHN St. JOHN.

Liddiard Tregoze this 10th of January 1640.

At the foot of the letter he adds:—"There is but one church warden's hand to the return of Englisham pish. The reson was the other Church warden lives in Barkshire and part of the parish is in Barkshire".

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

This order of the House of Commons apparently raised a question of privilege in the House of Lords, as will appear from the following letter addressed:

"To all maiors & Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Church wardens Tythmen And all other his Mats ministers and Officers to whom this may any way appertayne".

"Die Martis 15th December 1640.

"Uppon significacon unto the High Court of Parliament by the Right Honble the lord Viscount Mountague That himself and other Peeres, Members of this house were indicted for Recusancie, nowe sitting the Parliament, wch his lordship conceived was contrary to the Rights and Priviledges of the Peeres of this Realme, or Lords of Parliament, And that his Lordship did in his owne name and in the name of all other Lords, members of this house, humbly desire this court to enter into a consideracon of the same, Whereuppon after debate had, It was ordered by the Lords Spirituall and temporal in the said High Court of parliament assembled, That the said Lord Viscount Mountague and all other members of this House as also their wives, children and meniale servants shall bee and are free and discharged from any such indictment as aforesaid, And that all such indictments against any the parties above menconed shall bee forthwith brought into the Kings Bench by certorari, and the Kings Attorney shall enter a non Pros uppon the same, That thereby the said Lords of Parliament their wives, children and servants may enjoy the priviledge of this house, both duringe the time of this Parliament and for the space of Twenty dayes after the end of the same.

(signed) Jo; BROWNE, Cleric
Parliamentore.

A DANCING MATCH.

The examinacon of Jane Lawes taken upon oath Jan 13th 1640 before John Penruddock—

"Whoe saieth that on St. John his day last att night she was invited to the myll at Broad Chalke to a daunceinge match where there were divers of the young men & maidens of yt pish, where she saw noe abuse offered or incivility comitted by any".

Joane Deane confirms the above and says further that "about two houres before day, the candles being burnt out she heard some of the maids cry out, but who they were or what caused them to cry out she knoweth not, being in the darke and sitting by her brother & within a little time about the break of day she went home with her sister".

Mary Randall also confirms the evidence of the foregoing and adds that "one Thomas Wise who termed himself to be the Bishophe, being up in the chamber with other young men, but what they did she knoweth not by reason the candles were out and that they were lockt in and could not get out before it was day, but she herselfe had noe wrong offered her, but she heard divers reports that Catherine Sangar of Knoyle was sett upon her head and was bishopped, but by whom it was done she knoweth not".

THE PLAGUE IN CALNE.

A number of the parishioners of Calne, supported by William Mortimer the minister petition the Justices that the sum of £300 still in the hands of the collectors, being the balance of a general rate made for the relief of the inhabitants of Calne during the plague, may be paid over for the benefit of the poor people who suffered so much. The trade of Calne was greatly impoverished and there were nearly 2000 poor and needy persons there.

TWO SOLDIERS ARRESTED.

To all or any such Justices or other Magistrates and officers whome these presents may concern.

We the inhabitants of Limington in the County of Somerton being informed by a letter received from Fisherton Anger that two of our late neighbors John Silly and William Witte, impressed for the Kings Service were, in a towne in Willshire named Canne, as they were going to follow their colours, apprehended by the officers & committed to Prison, having as they allege, not offered or done any hurt to any. They departed from us with a full purpose and settled resolution to follow their colours & leaders, and under them to doe his Majestys service, and as for one of them, to witt, John Silly, that he hath beene late before his putting forth for this service taken sick of the males or meazles, and so weakened that he could not make that speed as otherwise he might have done. The petition prays that all lawful favour may be shown to the prisoners.

Signed by JOHN CONANT Rector and six parishioners.

The petition is marked "nothing done".

The same two prisoners send a petition to "The Right Worpl Mr. Goddard Judge of the Sessions houlden at Newe Sarum", in which they state that "they were pressed for souldiers for the North and when their colours were bownde for the north it pleased God to visit John Silly with a disease called the Mesells insomuch that he was soe weakened he could not goe with his colors, but so soone as pleased God ye sayd poor prisoner had recovered strength he followed after his colours together with his companion William Witte. And as they were at Cawne in this sayd Shire they were apprehended by the officers & committed to prison by the Right Worpl Sir Edward Baynton where they have suffered in great want & misery since the tenth of July last. They humbly crave that they

may be discharged", but in the calendar of prisoners for the Sessions they are charged with "having received the Kings pay have feloniously runn away from their Captaine". The petition is marked "noe order".

ANOTHER DESERTER?

Robert Ralphe of Stony Stratford petitions the same Mr. Goddard for release from prison, stating that "he went into the North in his Majestys Service under Captain Oliver Fleetwood who was a captain under Sir William Ogle Colonel for Wilts and that when fighting at Newcastle upon Tyne he was sore squat and bruised and unable to serve, whereupon his said captain gave him a certificate for his safe travel home. He was however comitted to prison by Mr. Dr. Hynxman* about the first of October last". A note in the calendar of prisoners says "he was comitted to prison because he was suspected to be come from his Captain without leave", and nothing further concerning the case.

ST. EDITH'S MARSH.

In a petition to the Justices by John Hiscock of Potterne a Yarnman "being a deafe man and defective in his speech" he described how he was robbed of a parcel of yarn at Tydworthis Marsh† in the Parish of Bromham and ultimately arrested and brought before Sir John Ernle where on producing the said yarn, it proved to be of another description and not his at all. He asks that his own yarn may be returned to him. Apparently the whole matter was a trumped up case in order to extort money from the poor man.

LADY ANNE BEAUCHAMP.

The Right Honble the Lady Anne Beauchamp, Ladie of the mannor of Edington gives permission to ffrancis Rolfe a blacksmith of that village to build a house on a piece of her Ladyships land & it is Confirmed by the Justices. This bears the signatures of Anne Beauchamp and a number of the parishioners.

PRESENTMENTS.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 14 1640 "the Kings Jurie for Damerham North present"

That we know of noe recusants.

We knowe none that refuse the book of Common prayer.

We know none that hath conveyed anie armor into Scotland.

We know none that hath spoken treason or done anie ffelonie.

* In the Historical Manuscripts Commission publication this gentleman is described as "Dr. Humphrey Henchman".

† In an enquiry into the matter this place is called "Tiddie Marsh".

ILLEGAL MEASURES.

The Jurie for the Libertie of Bromham and Rowde present—James Hancock, tippler, for selling ale in wooden cannes being unsealed measures, Joane Knight, widowe, for selling ale in a wyne quart, William Lord for selling ale in stone Juggs—all contrary to the Statute.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster July 7 1640 the following cases were tried :—

George Monday committed by Marmaduke Lynne Doctor of Lawe, accused for feloniously taking a Rye loafe of bread, twoe newe milke cheeses, twoe peeces of beefe, fowre playne holland bands, one aquavite bottle, and one knife, the goods of William Vincent of ffovent.

Henry Sharpe for having stolen a silver bowle at Westbury and as yt is said, is outlawed for the same.

Walter Banckes for feloniously marryeing of twoe wives.

TIPPLING AND TOBACCO IN STOURTON CHURCH PORCH.

The Jury for the hundred of Meere present Alexander Adams the tithingman of Stourton for that he doth from time to time suffer sturdie beggars to lye in the Church porch of Stourton tipling and taking tobacco to the dishoner of Gods house and disturbance of the parish—the said Alexander being often warned thereof.

A SERIOUS FIRE AT CHARLETON.

John and Richard Burden of Charleton petition the Justices “ to grant them permission to make a collection of the Charetable Devotions of the inhabitants of the County to recompense them for loss by fire ”. They say “ that on the previous May 22 a boy threw some straw ashes under the wall of the hoggesty which then caught fire & spread to the petitioners house & burnt their goods & stock to the value of £110 to the utter undoing of yor petitioners their wives and Children ”. John Burden “ sayd the fire caught on other houses and grewe very fierce on a sudden and like to burne the whole towne, there being a strong wind blowing. At wch sadd spectacle the inhabitants being amazed, each man repaired home to save his owne house, wch fire had undoubtedly consumed the whole Towne forthwith, had not God of his mercy turned about the winde ”. The Court granted them £5.

The Jurors of the hundred of Ramsbury present—

“ A childe that wase founde in the Weadow Knackstones barton in a cowracke in the parishe of Ramsbury ”.

“ Two women and three children that were vageing in Ogborne St. Andrews & punished according to the lawe and sent whom unto their place of abode ”.

1641.

JUDGMENT "DE PEINE FORTE ET DURE".

None of the thousands of cases that were brought before the Justices of the Peace for Wilts at the Quarter Sessions during the 17th century ended in such a cruel and barbarous sentence as that passed upon Katherine Peters of Cranford, Middlesex. That it was certainly the law of the land, cannot be denied, and though, if after reading the depositions of the witnesses, one is forced to the conclusion that in all probability she was guilty of the offence, and that by her refusal to plead she brought the torture on herself, yet it seems scarcely believable that our Wiltshire Justices could not have devised some other method of dealing with the matter, and so save the poor creature from the terrible torture of being crushed to death and suffering the pangs of semi-starvation at the same time. Yet such it was, and being the only case of its kind recorded in our County Quarter Sessions Rolls, it is given here in detail.

The case begins with "the informacon of Richard Hiscock, servant to Francis Goddard Esq: against Katherine Peters, wyddoe, and Joane King, taken before Richard Digges Esq: the 18th day of July in the 21st year of the reign of King James (1623).

"He saith that Katherine Peters hereafter menconed d.d confesse to him and to one Alexander Goddard Esq: that she had stollen a diap cloth and a Lockeram sheete from the hedge of the said Francis Goddard at Standen Hussey which was taken from hence on Wednesday last being the xvi day of this instant July, wch clothes were taken in a baskett wch she the said Peters had, and the said Joane King alsoe kept her companion and was with the said Peters when the said clothes were taken in the baskett above said".

Then comes a statement by Mrs. Peters herself.

"The examinacon of Katherine Peters of Cranford by Huntslow (? Hounslow) in the county of Middx, wyddoe, taken the same day and yeare above said. Being examined she sayeth that on Wednesday last she was at Standen Hussey in the highway there going to Hungerford in Berks and she came thither from Sarisbury where she had been to place one of her children with one of her uncles, one Thomas Smyth wch dwell by ffisherton bridge there; and being asked whether she was nere unto a hedge of the orchard at Standen Hussey, made to hange clothes on, she denys she was either in or nere unto the hedge or orchard and denys likewise that she toke any clothes from the same hedge, and she alsoe denyth that she had any baskett or any clothes in her baskett. And she sayth further that she mett with the other woman one — (apparently Mrs. Peters did not know the name, as a blank space is left here). When the said woman came from the house of Standen Hussey and not before, nor was in her company all the day before nor at any other time".

" Alice King of Wallingford, wyddoe, saith that she came from Hungerford towarde Standen Hussey to goe to Barford beyond Sariesburie to place her child, being a boy with one Joan King her sister there, and saith that she was goinge to Mr Goddards house at Standen Hussey by Hungerford and denyeth that she sawe any clothes hang upon any hedge there or that she did take any clothes from any hedge there and denyeth also that she had any basket or that she had any clothes in any basket ".

Finally we have the information of the accuser.

" The informacon of Alexander Goddard of Ham taken the same day. He saith that on Wednesday the xvith day of this instant July, about two furlongs from the hedge of the orchard of Standen Hussey he did overtake the said Katherine Peters and Joane King and the said Katherine Peters had a basket on her arme wch this exat: tooke from her arme and did looke into the said basket where he found the drap table cloth and the said lockham sheete, wch the said Katherine Peters did say att the first she found under the connyger pale at Standen Hussey, but afterwards she confessed she had stolen the said linnen, and he saith that the said cloth and sheet are worth twentie shillings ".

All the above statements are signed—Richard Digges.

In spite of the evidence of Alice King, Mr. Digges sent them both to Fisherton prison, where they remained until the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough the following September 30th, where and when " Katherine Peeters (was) indicted for stealing a drap table cloth value xs. and one holland sheet value xs. the goods of Francis Goddard Esq. But staid unto, refusing to pleade to the indictment and therefore adjudged to be comitted to the place from when she came and from thence to be brought to a close room and there to be layed upon her back naked from the middle upward her leggs and armes stretched out and fastened towards the fowr corners of the room, and upon her body to have so much waight and somewhat over then she is able to bear, the first day—she requiring food—to have three morsells of course bread and noe drink, the second day drinke of the next puddle of water, not running, next the place she lyeth and noe bread, soe everye daye in like manner until she be dead ".

Alice King was indicted " for petty lancyeny and thereof acquitted by verdict, and thereupon to be delivered (released) paying her fees ".

Apparently Mrs. Peters had an infant son at the time of her arrest, for at the Quarter Sessions held at Salisbury the following January 8th it was stated that the poor woman " had judgment de paine forte et dure and was executed accordingly " at the previous Marlborough sessions. The Justices ordered that the child should be kept and maintained by the inhabitants of Standen " until the parishoners of the said parish should hereafter in open Quarter Sessions show good cause to the contrary ".

Nothing more is heard of young Peters until 1641, when from the records of the Sessions held at Devizes that year, it seems

probable that the inhabitants of Standen sent an appeal to the Justices with reference to his maintenance, though the appeal is not on the file.

DEVIZES JUSTICES MAKE AN ORDER.

The case is referred to as follows:—

At the General Quarter Sessions held at Devizes on May 4th this year the following order was made:—

“Whereas at a Sessions held at the Devizes the sixth day of April in the xxii yere of the Raigne of our Late Sovaigne Lord King James (1624). It was then ordered that John Peeters whoe was then a suckeing child, and whose mother suffered death *de paine fort et dure*, should remaine at Standon in this County, and it was alsoe ordered that the Treasurer of the Collecon of hospitals and Almes howses, Kings bench and Marshalsey for the north part of this County should paye yerely fyve marks to the Churchwardens of Standon towards releaff of the said Child, & to continue untill yt should be otherwise ordered. Nowe forasmuch as this Court is informed that the said John Peeters hath atteyned to the edge of xvii yeres and able to worke, this Courte doth nowe revoke the said order & that the payement of the said v marks p. ann. shall from hence forth cease & be determined, Yet nevertheless this Court in comiseracon of the said John Peeters, & for binding him forth apprentice, & for his future maintenance doth order, that if the overseers of Standen shall paye and allowe v marks to bynd the said John Peeter apprentice, he being one of theire owne poore whome they are to maintaine, and the said payment of v marks he certified by two of the next Justices, unto the Treasurer of the north part of this County, That then the said Treasurer shall paye fyve marks mor for and towards the maintenance of the said Peters for this tyme onlie and noe more”.

So ends the sad case of Katherine Peters and her son, but the following particulars of this debasing form of punishment, taking mainly from Andrew's book of “Bygone Punishments”, may be of interest in this connection:—

This case of Katheryn Peters is the only one where the penalty of “crushing to death” has been met with in these records, though it was very often inflicted in other parts of the country in the 16th and 17th centuries. A more cruel and barbarous form of punishment could hardly have been invented, and, strange to say, it remained on the statute book for over 400 years. In the reign of Henry IV. it took the place of an earlier form of punishment, viz. : that of “starving to death”, being considered a more humane, as the prisoner was the more quickly relieved of his sufferings. The object of this punishment was in order to make the prisoner plead either “guilty” or “not guilty”. If the unfortunate person refusing to plead, died under “peine forte et dure”, he could hand his effects on to his children or will them away as he thought fit, whereas if found guilty, they were forfeited to the Crown. The procedure of the punishment was as follows:—The prisoner was

taken to some dark room, laid on his back, without any covering, and as many weights placed on his chest as he could bear "and more". He was only allowed the worst bread and water, but not permitted to eat and drink on the same day, remaining in this terrible situation until he either pleaded or died.

At a later period it was ordered that the prisoner should have his arms and legs drawn by cords to the respective four corners of the room. He was allowed small portions of barley bread and water from the nearest channel to the prison door—but not spring water—and as formerly only on alternate days. The reason why the torture was thus protracted was to give the prisoner an opportunity to plead, and so allow the law to take its ordinary course.

When pressing to death had become almost extinct, prisoners who refused to plead were compelled to do so by twisting and screwing their thumbs with whipcord. There is a case on record in the "Annals of Newgate" as late as 1776 when a highwayman named Spiggot underwent the torture of pressing, but after half-an-hour, suffering under a load of 350 pounds in weight, he agreed to plead and was released. A part of Newgate prison was called "The Press Yard" where this inhuman practice was carried out, and it was not until 1827 that an act was passed directing the court to enter a plea of "not guilty" in cases where prisoners refused to plead.

Further particulars of this form of punishment can be gleaned from Andrew's "Bygone Punishments".

SUMMON TO ATTEND COURT LEET.

Stanton Quintenn. Alexander Staples Esquier Steward of the Leete aforesaid to the Bayliffe of the same greeting. These are to will and require you diligently to Summon and Warne all the Resiants and Inhabitants wth in the pincts of the said Leete to give their attendance at the place accustomed for the Corte there to be held, at or on the seventh day of October next ensueing the date hereof, before eight of the Clocke in the morninge of the same day, And hereof fayle you not at your pill and retorne this your Warrant at the same Corte. Given under my hand and seale the foureteenth day of September in the yeere of the Raigne of Or Sovaigne Lord Charles by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, ffrance and Ireland, Kinge Defender of the ffayth. The sixteenth.

(Signed) ALEX. STAPLES.

John Sparrow, tythingman of Stanton, complains to the Justices that in spite of the above notice Alexander Staples did not appear at the Court Leete, and had held no Court for two years. Consequently Sparrow had to "continue in the office from yeare to yeare unless he can have releefe from your Worppps". He asks the Justices to discharge him then, but they order "Yf the Steward discharge him not, before the next sessions, the Court will discharge him & choose another".

RELIEF FOR AGED PARENTS.

Thomas Bayly of Rowde and John Bayly of Chittway in the pish of Bishops Cannings, broad weavers, petition the Justices for a grant to releevve their aged parents who are 80 years of age and not able to work for their living, One of them having the dead palsye in one syde, the other being almost darke and dimme of sight.

The Court referred the matter to the Justices of the Devizes Division to examine and take such Course as they think fit for the relief of the old people.

SHIPWRECKED ON THE ISLE OF MAN.

At the Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum Jan. 11th, 1641, the following petition was presented to the Justices:—

The humble peticon of Edward Gillo of the Cittye of New Sarum, taylor,—

Humbly sheweth that whereas in August Anno Dmi 1639 yor peticoner being in Ireland did bestowe much mony in cattle and other goods, and shipped them for England, & in their passage on the sea a mighty tempest beset them, wch held them twelve howers soe greivous that they expected to be cast away. At laste cominge to the bay of Duglasse at the Ile of man on the 22nd of August 1639 for safeguard of their lives they ranne the ship on the sand for suckour where the shipp brake wth the violence of the waves, & all yor peticoners cattell and goods weare cast away as appeareth by a certificate under the hands of the inhabitants of the said ile. The losse wch yor peticoner susteyned thereby amounteth unto the some of £180 at the leaste to the utter undoing of himselfe and his poore children.

Yor poore peticoner humbly prayeth yor worshipps to be mediators unto his Majesty on yor peticoners behalfe by some writtinge under yor hands for the praying of a collection to be made of the charitable devocons of His Matys subjects towards your peticoners reliefe in this his necessity.

And your peticoner & his family shall ever pray, &c.

The Court made him a grant of £5, and though this apparently kept Mr. Gillo quiet for a time, he evidently was not satisfied for in the rolls of 1657 appears a petition from him addressed to the Protector, setting out the details of his losses and the poverty to which he is reduced. This letter was referred to the Justices for consideration and they made him another grant of £5, and nothing more is heard of Mr. Gillo and his trading with Ireland.

THE "COATHE" IN SHEEP.

The Jury for the hundred of Damerham South present a flood-gate being in the Common Mead Tippett in the said hundred lately sett up by Henry White gent and now mainteyned and used by the renters of the ffarme of Toyd there, to be a comon hurt and

damage of the tenants of Tippett having the herbage of the said mead, and by reason of the overflowing of the water the mead doth coathe the sheep there, and the rest of the tenants growndes there adjoining are likewise drowned and infected with the coathe wch were never soe afore.

(Note.—Coathe=the rot in sheep; a word used in the West of England.)

SPEAKING AGAINST THE PRAYER BOOK.

To his Majestys Justices here assembled (i.e., the Quarter Sessions at Devizes).

We whose names are here under written are to testifye against Edward Williams of Marleboro for speaking against the booke of Comon Prayer for saying "there was base rogerie in that book". (Signed) William Talbot, Walter Jones, Roger Davis of Marleboro, Stephen Brunsdon, John Knowles.

A note at the foot says "The Court did send for these witnesses and none appeared".

A REFORMED RECUSANT.

The Constables of Kingsbridge present That whereas Katharine Burchall was presented for a recusant, she is now, by relation of the Minister, reformed.

APOLOGY TO A MAGISTRATE.

I John Mayo did speake and say unto Mr John Duckett Esquier one of the Kings Justices, that I came to him for Justice but could not have it, but that he favored Knaves and rogues (which to my knowledge and remembrance upon my oath I spoake not the words, I knowing him to bee a very worthy gentleman, which) if I did so much forget myself I am very heartly sorry for itt. The words in brackets are ruled through by the Clerk.

PRESENTMENTS.

The Jury of the hundred of Horwells Downe present that there are six Alehouse Keepers in Steeple Ashton wch are to many, and at yor worppps pleasure to suppress whome you please.

William Roble of Tynhead being warned by the tythingman of Tynhead at two sundrie tymes wth in the space of a moneth to watch and ward according to the Statute did refuse to doe his service.

The Constables of Warminster present Thomas Hyde for keeping of naughty orders in his house upon the sabboth day of whom we took xijd. and the rest we did punish according to the law.

We present John Stafford for swearing one oath for which he payd his xijd.

RIOT AT NEWNTON.

(Abbreviated).

In this roll there is a very lengthy account of a riot at Long Newton, a village about two miles from Tetbury, that occurred on Trinity Sunday, June 20th, 1641. It appears that there was an old custom of "carrying a garland" on that day and in the time of afternoon service a large body of persons from Malmesbury, estimated to be eighty in number, came with staves to the Churchyard at Long Newton and attempted to carry off the garland. Amongst them was "John Browne sometymes a chymney sweeper with a hobby horse, and bells on his legs and David Tanner, a fencer, and when they saw John Comyn and his companions going with the garland, they had them to stand saying 'Wynn it and weare it, come three score of you, you are but boies to wee', and thereupon there was a great fight and many of the Newton men were sorely beaten".

The depositions of a large number of witnesses were taken before the Justices of the Peace the same evening, but what happened to the rioters does not appear in the roll.

AN ABSENT CURATE.

At the Marlborough Sessions held Oct. 5th the Jury presented Thomas Davis curate of Fifield "for having at divers times neglected and absented himself from reading of divine service in Fifield Church upon the Lord's dayes, and especially on the Lord's day last, being the third day of this present month of October, and hath ben twice imprisoned for other desmeanors in this towne of Marlborough". The last part of this presentment is ruled out and the paper marked "*Cassatur in Curia instanter*".

1642.

ANCIENT CUSTOM IGNORED.

To the Right Worple the Justices of the Peace for ye County of Wiltes.

Emanuell Baylie of Bishopstrow in the said County sheweth to yor good Worpps That at the Court Baron holden at Bishopstrow in the yeare of Or Lord 1641 the Jurors then elected and deposed found that one Mrs. Mary Temple ought accordinge to an ancient Costome of the same pishe to find & be at Charge for one to serve as a Tithingman for ye recited yeare. But in regard one Hugh Matthew who was then of the jury obstinately or ignorantly refused to Consent & assine yt it should goe accordinge to Costome was himselfe by the rest of ye Jury psented Tithingman for ye said yeare, where uppon he came in & tooke his oath. And because he so obstinately or ignorantly refused to adhere to ye said ancient Costome & thereby served in the office of a Tithingman 9 or 10 yeares before it came to him by Costome by reason where of yor

Orrator is like wth out yor Worppps favor to serve 10 or 11 yeeres in ye said office before it comes to him by right, who is alreadie threatened by his neighbours yt none will medole wth the said office in future time untill it shall be rectified & sett in its right course.

Wee whose names are subscribed doe certifie yor Worppps yt ye contents of this peticon are True.

RICHARD EDDOWS.
THOMAS ROW.
JOHN STOKES.

To the Right Worp The Justices of Peace at the Generall Quarter Sessions at Warminster assembled.

The humble peticon of Hugh Matthew.

Sheweth that at Michaelmas 1642 at ye Court barron holden for the libtie of Bishopstrow (noe Court being held there since) one Emanuell Baylie was elected by the homage to serve Tithingman and enjoyned under the penaltie of 40s. to come into Court & take his oath wth in one moneth thence ensuing. Notwithstanding he most obstinately refused soe to doe wch extends to the great pjudice of yor petitioner (who hath served in the said office 3 yeeres & 3 quarters of a yeere more than he ought) & is illiterate & feeble by reason of age alsoe exceeding poore in regard whereof he is not able to doe his Dutie in such an office whereuppon yor petitioner did Define his grievance to some of His Maties Justices of the Peace at a Pettie Sessions holden at Warminster the 24th day of Aprill last who understanding his great wrong found just Cause to bind the said Emanuell Baylie over to answere his contempt before yor Worshippfuls at this Worll Court.

May it therefore please yor Worlls (ye pmises considered) to determine what yor peticonr shall have in consideracon for his more than ordinary service & to free him from the said office & the peticoner will (as in dutie bound) ever pray for yor Worppps &c.

1643.

A TROUBLESOME YEAR.

This year, no doubt owing to the Civil War and the unsettled state of the country, the usual Sessions of Easter and July were not held.

The Grand Jury at the January Sessions, present that "some things are omitted, and others have to be amended in the various presentments", and request the Justices to "take into their considerations that these troublesome and dangerous times have been the cause".

The Court ordered that persons who have been bound over to appear are respited, and no defaults are to be made for non-appearance, because in divers parts of the county the Sessions had not been proclaimed, and the roads were very dangerous to travel, by reason of the interruption of the soldiers.

REGULATIONS FOR AN ALE HOUSE.

27th Aprill 1643.

Wee whose names are hereunder written the Kings Matie Justices of the peace &c. have Licensed, admitted and allowed Thomas Davis of Steepleashton husbandman to keepe a common alehouse & victualling house at Steepleashton and not els where according to the forme of the Statute &c. This license to endure for one whole yeere now next ensuing the date hereof & noe longer, always provided yt he observe & keepe there articles following vizt—

1. That one full ale quart of his best beere or Ale bee at all times uttered and sold for a penny & of his small beere two quarts for a penny and the same beere & ale to sell by seald measure & according to the Assize and not otherwise.

2. That no flesh be dressed or eaten in his house in the time of lent or upon any other dayes phibited by the Lawes of this realm.

3. That noe carding, diceing or other unlawfull games be used in his house, garden, orchard, or Backeside.

4. That no pawne or pledge bee taken of any that shall tipple or drinke in his house either for wine ale or beere nor buy nor take to pawne any stollen goods.

5. That none bee suffered to tipple in his house on the Sabbath day or other festivall dayes in time of divine Service or Sermon nor at any time after nine of the clock at night.

6. That none bee suffered to tipple in his house in any one day above one hower nor suffer any person to sell or utter any beere or ale by deputacon or Colour of his licence.

7. That he harbour or lodge no person but such as he will answer for & that if any Vagabonds or suspicious persons come to his house or if any goods be there offered to bee sold hee or some of his household shall ymmediately acquaint one of the officers of the Towne therewith.

8. That noe disorder or drunkenness bee suffered in his house and if any happen to bee then shall hee or some of his household forthwith acquaint one of the officers with it yt the offender may be duely punished.

(Signed) THO. HALL.

WILLIE WALLER.

1644.

There were only two Sessions held this year, viz., at Devizes 30th April, and Warminster July 16th.

WARMINSTER SESSIONS.

The Jury for the hundred of Mere present a number of persons for being recusants, " ffor my Lord Stortones servantes they are

noe sartaine dwellers & my Lord Stortone is att Brustole for all we knowe ”.

We doe psente Steven ffry of Meere being teingeman for takeing away the Mare of Lindry Moone coming to Meere to have her shod without any warrant ffor all other thinges wee knowe noe defaulte.

The Hundred of Heitesbury report omni bene in all districts.

PRESENTMENTS.

The presentment of the Jury for the Hundred of Whorwells Downe, July 16, 1644.

Wee psent Abram Jordan of Steeple Ashton and John Markes of the same for fighting in the Church yard at Steeple Ashton upon the 14th July last past.

We psent Humphrie Alie als Randle for putting away his lawful wife and keeping ye company of a strumpet whose name is Joane Wing, and by whome he hath had a bastard Child, and continues keeping her in his owne house in most wicked manner.

BURGLARIES.

A lengthy case comprising four sheets of foolscap paper is that “ Joane Abram of Weeke in the parish of Bps Cannings ” (on the outskirts of Devizes) was examined by Robert Drew on the 13th of June 1644 concerning a burglary at her house. (The following is abbreviated.)

She sayth that about three weeks before last Easter shee had her house broken upp about one of the clocke in the afternoon & hadd stolen from her 4 Aprons, 2 pinnars, one smocke, one hatt, and divse coifes and craffe clothes and a paire of gloves a paire of cuffs and three Necke clothes of her servant and a Petticoate and a wascoate in the house of one Jopson of Lavington fforom brought thither by Mary Wilde of the same.

The examinacon of Alce Lucas servant of the above Abram in giving evidence confirms her mistress’s report.

The examinacon of Thomas Hunt laborer and Jylian his wife of Marston within the parish of Potterne says that on Munday last in the afternoon they hadd their house broken upp and taken thence 3 blanketts one boulster case one Pillowbie & a box of linnen a newe petticoate one apron one wascote 2 double cuffs 2 napkins and much small linnen besides a little box wth a gold ringe therin. They further saye that in searching after their sayd good the next day they found upon Mary Wilde att Lavington fforom the petticoate linnen wascoate and the box & some small linnen therin wch sayd goods were in the house of John Davis of Lavington fforom ffather in law to Mary Wilde.

John Kill of the Devizes on being examined said that on Holly Thursday last hee hadd his house broken upp in the daytime

& hadd stolen one covrleidde one hollan sheete one payre of other sheetes his wives petticoate and wascoate two shirts one apron foure napkins and three bands & Richard Kill has sonne found att Lavington fform, one Petticoate one wascoate one coverlidde one payre of canvas sheetes one boulster case. The petticoate & wascoate he found upon the backe of Mary Wilde and the rest of the goods in the house where she lived. This was confirmed by Richard Kill his son.

Mary Wilde on examination said " she denyeth the breaking upp of the houses and stealing any of the goods but sayth that shee bought such goods as were found uppon her and in her custody from severall troopers "

(Signed) ROBERT DREWE.

NO COURT LEET AT BRADFORD.

To the Right Woll His Maties Justices of the Peace at this present Session Assembled at Devizes April 30th 1644.

The humble Peticon of the inhabitants of the hundred of Bradford Humbly showeth.

That whereas the Leete Court usually heretofore held wth in the hundred aforesaid by the Marquesse of Winchesters Steward (Lord of the same Court) hath not bin held there wth in theis two yeares last past or thereabouts, so that the Tithingmen & other officers cannot be discharged of theire offices and are extremely oppressed for that heretofore they continued tithingmen for the space of whole yeare at the utmost the pties hereunder menconed (being tithingmen severally of the severall places hereunder named) having executed their severall offices ever sithence the last Court vizt by the space of twoo or thereabout are not yet discharged of their offices. May it therefore please yor Worppps to take the extreamity of our causes into yor grave consideracon that the pties here under named severally (who ought to serve next) may be commanded to appear under a certayne penalty before some Justice of peace to be sworne to execute the said office of tithingmen that the Now tithingmen (whoe have much suffered by reason of the said Lord not holding his Court Leet) may be discharged and we (as in duty bound) shall daily pray for your worppps health &c.

Anthony Rogers, Tithingman of Leigh & Woolley.

Richard Estcourt of Leigh ought to serve in his place.

Robert Newman Tithingman of Attowrth.

George Streete ought to serve in his place.

Tho Eyles, Tithingman of Wraxall.

John Pickering, Tithingman of Troll.

John Druce, Tithingman of Winsley.

Thomas Keene, Tithingman of Holt.

Tho. Hawkins late tithingman of Broughton Gifford deceased.

Thomas Skrinee in his place.

ABSENT TITHINGMAN.

A petition from Edward May, the Constable of Potterne and Cannings, states " that he had been Constable for a whole year & that John Harvest of Potterne gent had been nominated by the jury & chosen by the Steward to be Constable for the ensuing year according as hath ben anniently used but had purposely absented himself so as to avoid the office & was fined 40s. unless he came & took the oath within two days & had failed to do so ". The petitioner prays that the Justices will send at once for Mr. Harvest and swear him in to the office.

Thomas Hopkins of Stockton petitions that he may be discharged the duty of Constable for the Hundred of Elstubb & Everly " being most insufficient in estate and literature ".

AN OLD CONSTABLE.

The humble peticon of Richard Prater of Everley.

That whereas yor peticoner was enforced by a ptie of horse to repaire unto Sir Walter Smith of Great Bedwin Kt to be sworne to execute the office of Constable for the hundred of Elstubb & Everley By Virtue of a warrant from the Lord Cheife as they pretended, yor peticoner being aged 70 yeares or thereabouts & having one only yard lands of copie hold of at the most 12 L yearly value so that yor peticoner is not of ability of body or of estate to execute the office of a constable as he ought to do.

(He then asks to be relieved of the office and Walter Stretch of ffifield was appointed in his place.)

CONSTABLE FOR THREE YEARS.

William Sale, Constable of Malmesbury hundred, asks that in consideration of the fact that " he has served the office of Constable for the space of three whole yeares in those extraordinarie disturbed & troublesome times he may be relieved of the office ". This was agreed to and John Owen of Dauntsey appointed in his place.

A BUSY CONSTABLE.

John Smith Constable of Bradford &c.

Humbly sheweth That whereas yor peticoner is a Clothier by his trade and hath a great family of his owne and many poore people doe depend on him for worke And matters concerning his office doe soe much take him off from his trade that he cannot employ his family on worke much lesse the poore as otherwise he would do, humbly prayeth yor Worppps to be pleased to discharge him of his said office & chuse another into his roome And yor peticoner will engage himself to sitt on worke the poore people that depend on him to the utmost of his power & ability. And shall ever pray for yor Worppps health and happyness.

TYTHINGMAN BY ROTATION.

Peticon of Willm Lavington of Marden, Tithingman.

Humbly sheweth that yor peticoner hath served in the office of Tythingmanshippe for two yeares ended the xxvth March last. And since that tyme he hath ben kept in the said office by reason that the Court to be holden for the Mannor of Marden hath not ben since that tyme kept. At wch Court the tythingmen are usually chosen. And the said office usually goeth from house to house soe that it is knowne what house should serve in that office evry yeare though there were no elecon. And by course William Holloway is to serve in that office for this psent year.

The petition then goes on to ask that William Holloway may be elected and sworn and himself discharged.

There are many more similar appeals from tithingmen in different parts of the County that goes to show what an upset of social life the Civil War had caused. Many of them, however, draw attention to the fact that the office "goeth from house to house" so that in spite of the fact that no Court was held yet it was known amongst themselves who was the successor to the office "according to antient Custom".

PERSONS TO BE ARRESTED.

Wiltes. Whereas theise psons hereafter named stand psented in the Court of Sessions for certaine trespasses and offences by them comitted and doe live wth in yor hundred. These are therefore to will and require you forthwith upon receipt hereof to apprehend and take the bodies of John Gillmore of sford, Nicholas George of the tythinge of Whittenditch in the pishe of Ramesburie and Gyles Hurcombe of the same and bringe him before the next Justice of the Peace to be bound over to the next Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden for this County there to answeere the same, whereof faile not at yor pills. And that you make retorne hereof at the same Sessions.

Gyven under the seale of office the Tenth daye of March Anno Rgni Caroli Anglic &c. Decimo nono 1643.

To the Constables of the hundred of Ramesburie or to eyther of them these.

(Signed) GEORGIUS FFRAMPTON (?)

The Constable of Ramsbury, however, had some difficulty in carrying out this order as will be seen from the endorsement which is as follows:—

The return of the High Constable of the hundred of Ramsburye this last day of Aprill 1664.

That the wthin named John Gillmore liveth at Alborn in the hundred of Selklye.

That the wthin named Gyles Hurcome was the last wecke impressed for a souldier in Sir Jacob Ashlies Regmt.

That the wthin named Nicholas George dwelleth still in the hundred of Ramsburye but cannot be brought before anie Justice of the Peace for feare of souldiers now there quartered.

(Sgd) ROGER BANCKS, Constable.

PRESENTMENTS.

The psentment of the Constable of Pottern pt of the hundred. For the artickell of Regusence I know none Neyther monthly absent from the Church so fir as I dow Know.

for Alhouskipers we hath none but such as ar lissenced & for all the rest wch we hath to psent was psented at our lawe day isterday being the 29th of this instant Aprill 1644.

By me Edward May Constable of Pottern pte of the hundred of Pottern & Cannings the 30th of this instant month.

A true presentment made by the Constables of the Libtie of Bromham & Rowde.

Imprimis. We psent Robert Greenaway of Bremhill for a bloud shed by him committed on Henry Lamborne of Chippenham the xxvjth of this instant Aprill wth in our libtie by wounding him wth his sword in two severall places of his body.

We psent that all other matters (given us in Charge to psent) are well wthin our Libtie to our knowledge.

(Signed) WILLIAM WEBB.

RICHARD BOLLEN. Constables.

SERVICE ACCORDING TO LAW.

The jury for the hundred of Calne,

“psent that there are no ministers wth in our hundred that refuse to read comon prayer or doe administer the sacrament in any other forme then is sett downe by the lawes of the Realme & we psent all other things are all well wthin our hundred to our knowledge.

(Signed) WILLIAM LEWIS and 15 others.

A COUNTY TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

North Wiltes.

The account of John fferris Clarke guardion to Thomas fferris & Charles fferris executors of Leonard fferris (deceased) treasurer for the Kingsbinch and Marshallsy 1642 dureing the tyme ye said Leonard fferris was in yt office.

The severall sums of money received of the Constables of the severall hundreds in the north part of this County for the first halfe yeare 1642 for the Kingsbinch and Marshallsy.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Itm. of Henry Seymour & Stephen Hyde Constables of the hundred of Kinwardstone | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| „ of Robt Webb and Thomas Smyth, Constables of Selkley | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| „ of Richard Terrell & Robert Jenkins, Constables of Chippenham | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| „ of David Shewring, Constable of Demerham North | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| „ of Jeffery Pynnell & Joh : Raynold, Constables of Calne | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| „ of Robert Bankes, Constable of Ramsbury | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| „ Robert Heppesley & Robert Pyke, Constables of Highworth & Cricklet & Staples | 1 | 16 | 10 |
| „ of Anthony Kenne & Edward Haggard, Constables of Kingsbridge | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| The total sum recd. | £9 | 14 | 4 |

The severall sums of money paid by the handes of Leonard ferris treasurer for the Kingsbinch and Marshallsy 1642 in the north part of this County.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| Imp : payed to John Purrier and Edward Webb, October 4th 1642 Masters of the two houses of Correction the Devizes and Marlborow | 5 | 12 | 4 |
| Itm. paid to Will Croome October the 5th 1642 for the hospital at East Harnam otherwise called the Spittle | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Itm. paid to the overseers of the poore and the Church wardens of Standen October 5th 1642 towards the maintenance of one John Peter by virtue of an order made at the Sessions held at Marlborow 7 Caroli (See page 135) | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| The sum payd | £9 | 15 | 8 |

The severall Constables of the severall hundreds in the North pte of this County that are behind in payment of theyr severall sums of money to the treasurer for the Kingsbinch & Marshallsy for the yeare 1642.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Imp : Henry Seymour and Stephen Hyde, Constables of Kinwardstone | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| Itm. Robert Webb and Thomas Smyth, Constables of Selkley | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| „ David Shewring, Constable of Demerham North | 0 | 17 | 4 |
| „ Richard Terrell alis (alias) Maditch and Robt. Jenkins, Constables of Chippenham | 6 | 9 | 4 |

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| Itm. Jeffrey Pynnell & John Raynold, Constables of Calne | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| „ Robert Bankes, Constable of Ramsbury ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| „ Robert Hipsley & Robert Pyke, Constables of Highworth Cricklett & Staples ... | 1 | 16 | 10 |
| „ Anthony Kenne & Edward Haggard, Constables of Kingsbridge | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| „ Will Trymnell & Will Chappell, Constables of Pottern & Cannings | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| „ Thomas Pike & Edward Tidcombe, Constables of Swanborow the first half year 1642 ... | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| „ Edward Tidcombe & Edward Dike, Constables of Swanborow the last half year 1642 ... | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| „ John Bryant & John Osdall, Constables of the burrow of the Devizes | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| „ Jeffery Barnes & Will Gale, Constables of Malmesbury | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| To recving | £29 | 6 | 8 |

The sum recd. ... £9 14 4
 The sum payd ... 9 15 8
 The sum to receving
 in the year 1642 ... 29 6 8

Signed JOH: FFERRIS. Clerk.

Oct. 5th, 1646.

THE PLAGUE IN DEVIZES, AND RATES COLLECTED ELSEWHERE FOR RELIEF.

To the Right Honbl. his Maty Justices assembled for the Genall Quarter Sessions of the Peace holden at Marlborough Octobr 6th 1646.

WHEREAS by an Order unto us directed from the Genall Quarter Sessions of the peace holden at Warmister the 14th day of July last past, we were Desired to Call before us all Constables Collectors & other Officers formly appointed to collect & gather the Rates laid upon the adjacent Townes Villages parishes & places wthin 5 miles compasse of the Devizes, for the reliefe of the poore Infected psons of the same during the tyme that the sicknesse of the Plague remayned in that place And to examine what moneyes have ben paid upon the said Rates and what moneyes are remayning in the said Officers hands and not paid over for the said reliefe and what moneyes are in arrears & uncollected on the said Rates and what moneyes have ben expended by the Inhabitants of the Devizes for the said reliefe and what moneyes are justly due unto them concerning the same. We his Maty Justices of peace whose

names are here underwritten Doe hereby certifie this Court That in pformance of the said Order we have called before us the said Officers And upon due examinacon Doe finde as followeth (vizt).

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| That the tax for the 3 monethes upon the 6 hundreds amounteth unto ... | 240 | 00 | 00 |
| That there is paid of that Tax by the 6 hundreds | 054 | 18 | 09 |
| That the arreres of the said Tax upon the said 6 hundreds amount unto ... | 185 | 01 | 02 |
| That the Inhabitants of the Devizes have expended & disbursed in all for ye said releife | 250 | 13 | 10 |
| That they have received in all towards those disbursemts | 154 | 02 | 03 |
| That their Disbursemts exceed their Receipts | 105 | 11 | 06 |

That there are noe moneyes remayning in any officers hands and not paid over for the said reliefe for ought we can finde.

The pticulars whereof Doe appeare in their accompt here ensuing.

THE ACCOMPT concerning the Tax for the 3 moneths upon the 6 hundrd.

| Names of ye 6 hundreds. | The 3 months. | | | The Tax upon evy sevall hund. | | | Paid by each sevall hund. | | | Arreres from each hund. | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----|----|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|----|-------|-------------------------|----|-----------|--|--|
| | 1. | 2. | 3. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | | |
| Potterne & Cannyngs. | 1. | 18 | 00 | 00 | } suma inde | 72 | 00 | 00 | paid | 23 | 00 | 00 | | |
| | 2. | 36 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. | 18 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Swanborowe. | 1. | 18 | 00 | 00 | } sum inde | 72 | 00 | 00 | pd | 10 | 09 | 02 | | |
| | 2. | 36 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. | 18 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melksham. | 1. | 05 | 00 | 00 | } sum inde | 20 | 00 | 00 | pd | 07 | 12 | 10 | | |
| | 2. | 10 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. | 05 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Elstub & Everly | 1. | 01 | 08 | 00 | } sum inde | 05 | 12 | 00 | pd | 01 | 03 | 00 | | |
| | 2. | 02 | 16 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. | 01 | 08 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whorwelsdowne. | 1. | 04 | 00 | 00 | } sum inde | 16 | 00 | 00 | pd | 02 | 12 | 04 | | |
| | 2. | 08 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. | 04 | 00 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caine. | 1. | 13 | 12 | 00 | } sum inde | 54 | 08 | 00 | pd | 10 | 01 | 05 | | |
| | 2. | 27 | 04 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3. | 13 | 12 | 00 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 249 00 00 | | | <hr/> | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | <hr/> | | | 54 18 09 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | <hr/> | | | 185 01 02 | | |

THE ACCOMPT of the Inhabitants of the Devizes of their Receipts & Disbursements.

| | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| Disbursed in all by the Inhabitants of the Devizes for Reliefe of their poore infected people ... | | | | 259 | 13 | 10 |
| Rec from the 6 hundreds upon their Tax ... | ... | ... | 54 | 18 | 09 | } sum rec 154 02 03 |
| Rec from the Countrie in money of free gift ... | ... | ... | 54 | 03 | 06 | |
| Collected of ye Inhabitants of ye Devizes who rated themselves at a treble tax ... | ... | ... | 45 | 00 | 00 | |
| Soe their Disbursements exceed their receipts ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 11 06 |

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It was ordered at the meetinge of Sr. John Ernle and Robert Drewe Esqre att Bromham house the 6th day of Octobr 1644 that in respect the hundred of Calne within the five miles compasse of the Devizes was much over rated, they agreed and condiseded that it should be reduced unto fortie Markes for the three Monethes reliefe.

(Sgd) JO: ERNLE.

(Sgd) WILL: EYRE.

1645.

There were no Quarter Sessions held this year. The whole of Wiltshire was up in arms, and large bodies of soldiers of both the rival parties were stationed and fighting throughout the county.

1646.

The Quarter Sessions this year were held at Salisbury January 13th, Warminster July 14th and 15th, and Marlborough Oct. 1st. If a Sessions was held in Devizes that year the roll of proceedings is lost.

The rolls are large, and contain many indictments, presentments, appeals, etc.

WARMINSTER SESSIONS.

A RECOGNIZANCE FORFEITED.

To the Worfeful Justice Hussey Esqr Judge of the Quarter Sessions at Warminster.

The humble peticon of Edward Cheverell a poore man of Tisbury—humbly showeth—(The petition goes on to state that two years previously he had stood surety for Mary Cheverell of Tisbury concerning trouble between her and Anne Fray of Tisbury but since that time they had been good friends.) “ In regard whereof and the difference between the King and Parliament—and the Kings Justices (as they say) being put out of Comission for Peticoner being a poore ould deafe & ignorant man never thought of any trouble that could come thereby, but nowe yor peticoner is told the Recognizance was called at Warminster Sessions and is extracted unto the exchequer ”.

He then goes on to ask “ that the Clerke of the Peace may be instructed to stay the extracting the recognizance and he will produce Anne at the next Sessions ”. This was granted.

PRESENTMENTS.

The presentment of the Grand Inquest.

After “ presenting ” the bridge between Marston and Worton being the highway leading to the Devizes from Westborough and the highway between Worton and Potterne, being in great decay, it continues :—

Wee present the hundred of Meire, Mayden Bradly, Hatchbury Warminster, Westborough, Whoraldsdowne Bradford & Melksham & the liberty of Trowbridge being by ordinance of Parliament appointed to pay their Contribution to the Garrison at Bristoll And all the rest of the County goeth free yet notwithstanding the said Ordinance the foresaid hundreds have beene greivous oppressed with free quarter not only for many daies but

many weekes together to the great damage & impoverishment of the poore inhabitants of the same.

TOO MANY ALEHOUSES.

Wee desire that the multitude of Alehouses the common enimies to the peace and prosperity of this Kingdome may be suppressed that sell ale & beere without licence, and that as many of those who have licences may be conveniently spared may bee put downe.

Wee present that whereas we have five licensed Ale houses in Steepleashton, Our request is that we may have but two there or 3 at the most.

Wee desire that course may be taken that all Constables of hundreds and all other inferior officers may be called to account how they have disposed of the contribution money and other money they have received since those troublesome times.

We desire that Mr Jerom Potticary Collector for the Contribucon for the Garrison at the Devizes may be accountable for what he hath gathered in the division of Warminster for the first moneth contribucon wch ye garrison of Bristoll will not allow in their 6 moneths pay.

Wee psent that the highway upon the Cow Down of Chit-terne Mary is anoyd by sertain pets yt are digged there for clay and is very dangerous for passengers especially in the night. And we desire yt the pits may be fild up againe or the pits sufficiently bounded in by the Lord Henry Paulet that caused the pits to be made.

There are many presentments requesting that ale houses should be closed especially "those wch have comonly sold ale these troublous times may be henceforth restrayned" and a large number who had been selling ale without a licence.

BEER AND TOBACCO FOR THE SICK.

A note of the beere & tobacco delivered by Robert Poope for the use of the sicke people in the time of sickness by the consent of the Constables the overseers and the rest of the Inhabytants Anno 1644.

Dew to the saide Robert Poope for his goods delivered forth by the consent of the Constable the Overseeres and the rest of the inhabitants of Potter (? Potterne) for the reliefe of the sicke people in the time of sickness £7 9s. od.

In acknowledgment here of the Overseers for that yeare 1644 Robert Longe & Ambros Hunt have here unto set their hands.

(Signed) ROBERT LONG.

AMBROS HUNT.

his mark.

To the right Worll &c. at the General Or Sessions Warmins-ter. The humble peticon of Anne the wife of John Warberton of

Warminster Bricklayer most humbly Sheweth that upon the feast day of thannunciacon of the blessed Virgin Mary last past was two yeeres sithence one George Long of Warminster came to the house of yor peticoner and two souldiers in Armes wth him and the said Long and one of the souldiers required the peticoner to open her dore who answered she would not unless he was an officer. Then the said Long said he was as good as any officer whatsoever and ymediately by force broke downe a windowe leafe wch fell into the house upon a paile of water whereby both window leafe and paile of water fell on yor peticoner and her child wch dod so bruise the child that it fell sick and shortly after dyed. Yet not being contented they also brake up the dore and entered her house by force and then the said Long fell to byting pinching and scratching of yor peticoner saying & swearing in most execrable and ignominious manner shee was a witch and therefore hee would have her blood wch he drewed from her in great abundance for wch abuse hee was bound over to answer at a Generall Sessions at ye Devizes but while yor peticoner went for a bill of indictment the said Long ran away from the Devizes and hath not answered the law.

May it therefore please yor worppis to take ye pmisses into consideracon and to determine therein as shall seem meet in yor Worships wisdome and the peticoner shall (as in duty bound) ever pray.

(A footnote says " She is to find him ".)

A CONSTABLE ASKS FOR RELEASE FROM HIS OFFICE.

The humble peticon of John Oven one of the Constables of the hundred of Malmesburie—Humblye Showeth

That whereas yor peticoner having served and executed ye Office of Constable of Malmesburie by the space of two yeeres and since Easter Sessions last past to his great prejudice & losse by reason of those troublesome and distracted tymes and by imprisonment & plunderings by ye Kings ptie wherefore yor peticoner most humblie besecheth yt this Honble Court wilbe pleased to enlarge & release him from ye sd office & to make choice of one to serve in his place whom you in yor wisdome you shall think most fitt to serve.

And yor peticoner shall ever pray &c.

Ellinor Parsons in her petition states " that she was apprenticed Edward Croome of Devell Longbridge & has served him for 17 years and by her indentures he was to give her at the end of her tyme doble apparell and tenne shillings in monie, But after having served the 17 years he put of yor peticoner in a verie poore habit scarce worth xijd." She then goes on to ask that the Justices shall order Edward Croome " to gyve unto yor peticoner some better clothes and the monie due to her and she will daylie pray &c."

QUARTER SESSIONS, WARMINSTER, 14th July, 1646.

AN APPRENTICE AND HIS WAR SERVICE.

The humble peticon of John Rogers apprentice to Thomas Harris of Warminster—Rangeweaver.

Humbly Sheweth That yor petr ye xxth day of November 18^o Car (1642) became bound as apprentice to his said Mr. to serve him for 7 yeres, during wch tyme his said Mr. was to pay him for evry dozen of playne Range bothoms yt he should weave xiiijd. and for evry dozen of twilly botomes xxd. and for evry dozen of ranges 6d. towards yor petns livelihood And his said Mr was to find haire & tacklinge to doe ye said worke as per indenture sheweth.

Yor petnr further saith that about 2 yeres nowe last past he was pressed to be a souldier to serve in ye Kings Army & haveing noe affection that way gott himself of and went onto ye Parliamnt Army and there served till the vth of May 1645 after wch tyme yor petnr repaired to his Mr and tendered his service who refused the same & took away such haire & tackling as yor petnr had in his hands & wished to pvide for himself for he would make no further use of yor petnr. Whereupon he hath ever since wrought wth one Willm Milton.

But soe it is may it please yor Worps that there being some difference nowe between ye said Milton and Harris yt ye said Harris nowe threateneth yor petnr & ye said Milton to question them thone for not serving out his tyme andthother for deteyning of his apprentice whereas in truth the said Harris hath nowe noe abidinge place wither he is able to sett yor petnr on worke. The pmisses considered yor petnr humbly desireth that he may be discharged of his apprenticeshippe & may be at libty to serve elsewhere. And yor Petnr &c. &c.

AN ANCIENT WATER COURSE DIVERTED.

The humble peticon of Radigon Cranden of Westbury, Widow in most humble maner showeth.

That whereas one John Amyat of Westbury by articles of agreement long sithence dated & hereunto anexed was to convey a certayne watercourse close under his house wthout annoyance to yor petns howse well or backside.

That (contrary to that Agreeamnt the xvijth of this instant April) the sayd Mr. Amyat wth violence he turned the same antient watercourse into yor petns backside.

That since that tyme he hath threatened to kyll her and her cattell.

That she being a poore woman is not able to undergoe such charges as (by the lawe) she must expend for her remedy of her abuses.

That (fearing her life lyving soe neare him) if possible she desires to have the peace against him.

That the said Amyat violently abused and beat yor petnrs daughter for that she endeavored to keep the water in its auncient Course.

May it therefore please yor Worps (in tender compassion to a poore widow) to grant yor warrant thereby enforcing the said Amyat to appear here before you & to require (by like warrant) the Maior, Constables, Churchwardens & one George Bennett of Westbury in the meane while to viewe the abuses done by Amyatt agst yor petnr & to certifie under theire hands theire knowledge therein upon such tyme as in yor wisdome shall serve most convenient.

THE PLAGUE IN BRADFORD.

To the Worshipfull Bynch.

May it please your worships to take into your consideration the humble complaint of Richard Anlie, mercer of Bradford, Robert Baylie, ffrancis Yerburie of the same, Bakers, Jane Rogers Widow of the same Victualler, That the said Richard Anlie in the time of the infectious disease of the Plague wthin the said Towne did deliver so much ware for the use of the infected as did amount unto the summe of vii℥ viijs. & vid., ffrancis Yearburie as much bread to the sick as did amount unto the sume of ℥i vis. ood., Robert Baylie as much bread to the said sick as did amount to ℥i os lxd., Jane Rogers wid: as much beare as amounted to ℥i xvijs. ijd. They desireth yor worships to be pleased to grant your warrant that the said sums may be collected in such places of the County wth in five miles compass of the Inflicted Towne of Bradford, the which were taxed by the Justices and ar yt behind to paying of the greatest pts of the taxes so set upon them. & We shall ever pray &c.

Bradford the 14 July 1646.

The above is signed by the four petitioners, and a footnote is added that Willm Baylie, butcher also supplied "butchers meat to the value of ℥i xs. vid. to the Constables and attenders appointed" to look after the sick.

A SOLDIER AT CHARFIELD.

To the Worll his Mats Justices of the peace for this Countie of Wiltes assembled at Warminster this 15 July 1646.

The humble peticon of John Burgis in the pish of Trowbridge in the said County of Wiltes.

Sheweth unto yor worps that yor peticoner being a long tyme a souldier in Chafield house & being sent out uppon a partie for John Gefford Constable of horwelles downe for some fault that he had comitted was at Chafeilde house tyed necke & heeles and ever since suvyed (?) yor peticoner & therefore hath bound yor peticoner over to this Sessions for a burthen of bows wch was found uppon his mothers ground wch he never knew of to great disgrace of yor peticoner.

Yor peticoner therefore humbly desireth yor Worps to take it

into consideracon whereby he may be released and hee shalbe bound to pray for yor worps long life & happines.

A FALSE CHARGE AGAINST THE SOLDIERS.

The humble petition of William Wilton, inginer and the rest of the souldjers (who have been employed by the Parliament) and are inhabiting in the Towne of Warminster.

Humbly sheweth That yor petitioners who have lately bine in the Parliament service and there have shewed their ffdelity both to King and Parliament (Mrs. Carter) wife to Thomas Carter in a most malignant manner did saye that yor petitioners have plundered linen and horses as she would prove also that the Towne of Warminster is five hundred pounds the worse for yor petitioners being in the Parliament service. Yor Petitioners are free frome such a heinous Crime and as wee conceive it reflects not so much uppon us as uppon the high Court of Parliament in whose service we have ventured our lives.

May it therefore please the Honbl Court to take the premises into consideration and Cause the same Mrs. Carter to bee brought before you that so yor petitioners and also the high Court of Parliament may be Vindicated touching such a malignant and false accusation.

And yor petitioners shall ever pray &c.

WAR-TIME EXPERIENCES.

The humble peticon of Edward Yates and Robert Huggins who were Constables at Malmesbury 1642.

Shewe That yor peticonrs in that yeare were enforced to laye out and engage themselves for divers somes of money to sevall persons there amounting in the whole to the some of 30^l at the least (for a great part thereof they are oftend threatened to be stened) (? stend=destroy) wch money was disbursed for watchinge & wardinge for armes for trained soldiers & mending other Armes for attendance on prisoners and carryeing others to prison & for divers other occasions which of right and custome in ye like cases have heare-tofore bin used to be paid by the inhabitants of the Burrough there.

That in regard that place hath bin ever since full of troubles and the inhabitants refusing to joyne in making of ye rate or to paye ye disbursements & engagements and leaving the same burthen wholly on yor peticoners.

They doe humbly pray this Corte to refer ye hearinge, endinge & determing of ye same to any twoe or more Justices of the Peace for this County such as shall be thought fitt.

And yor peticoners shall dayly pray &c.

A TRIVIAL CASE.

The humble peticon of Susan Long of Warminster Showeth That yor Peticoner delivered to one Henry Garrett of Warminster,

blacksmith, a fire pan to have the same mended, but the said Garratt deteyneth it and telleth yor petitioner she shall come by her pan as she can for (saith hee) there is noe law.

A BADGER KILLER.

The humble peticon of William Lolly of this towne (Warminster) Showeth. That yor peticoner hath bin a poore inhabitant for many yeares in the said Towne & hath honestly behaved himself & mayntayned a great famly as wee whose names are under written doe certifie & we likewise farther certifie that yor peticoner hath taken much paines in laboring with gins & other ware & meanes to kill or take the vermyn or beast called the badger or gray wch is well known to bee a greatt annoyance to the Country.

Yor petitioners humbly therefore desireth yor worps to grantt unto him the benefit of the Statute in that case provided and he shall ever be bound to pray for yor Wops prosperity.

(Signed) Nicholas Butcher, John Wansey, Thomas Toomer, and four others.

MASON OUT OF WORK.

The humble peticon of Thomas Hannyball of Meere, Mason, Humbly sheweth that yor peticoner is a very poore man and hath nothing but his labour to lyve on. And the tyme not serving for the use of his trade by reason of this present War, did buy and sell Cheese from Markett to Markett towards the present mayntenance of himself and his famylie. In which tyme of his travell, Jasper Coward and Henry Clarke then Constables of the hundred of Meere did take from yor peticoner two hundred of ordynarie Cheese at the prise of xvjs. a hundred wch yor peticoner had taken upon his creditt to sell and then to pay for it. And forthwith command yor peticoner to carry the said Cheese wth 3 horses to ffarrington neere Oxford for his Maties provicon there. Where he was wanting 8 daies from his home, himself and 3 horses, for wch travell they alsoe promised him paymt as well as others wch they hired for the like travell and payed them for the same. But yor peticoner was never payed any part thereof to this day which hath ben a very greate losse and hindrance, having use other meanes but his labour to lyve by is thereby much impoverished for want of his said money for his Cheese and travell after the rate of xijd. apeece for himself and 3 horses a daie for viij daies wch is a very reasonable rate. Wherefore your peticoner desires your Worps to gyve order that the said Clarke & Coward may forthwith pay for the Cheese and travell according to their promis. And yor peticoner & his familie shall be daylie bound to pray &c &c.

FAMINE AT FOULSTON.

The Peticon of Henry Blake constabell of the hundred of Branchandole, Humbly prayeth that you wold take in to your

consedarson the sad and lamentabell condicn of the prish of foulston neere Wilton which as they have died in the plauge so now will they dye with famen also, excep acording to the statute in that case provided ther be an order made for ther releef at this quarter Sessions.

(Note.—A footnote says xxs. weekly to the peticoner for ye poore).

FAVOUR FOR A PRISONER.

To the Governor of the Garison at the Devizes.

Wee whose names are under written inhabitants of Bromham understand by our naighbor Bayli that his son Robert is imprisoned at the Devizes What the cause therto be or how he hath lately behaved himself wee know not But this we can certify that formerly he hath not to our knowledge misbehaved himself but hath followed his business wthout wronging others and therefore that lawful favor may be shewn him is that wch wee humbly crave.

Yors to our power

(Signed) ROB. RICHARDS, Rectr.
and 13 others.

Bromham

ye 9th of Aprill 1646.

Another similar appeal from the inhabitants of Bromham and Chittway (? Chittoe) is signed by eighteen persons, ten of whom made "his mark".

CONVENTICLE AT DEVIZES.

The humble peticon of Alexander Orchard of ye Devizes Sheweth That whereas yor peticoner a Sunday last was sennight being in ye Devizes in ye Company of one Phipp. The said Phipp being in his beare and coming to one Cooles house where they were at Conventicle wch is contrary to ye ordinance of Parliament. The said Phipp did break ye glass window of ye said Coole and soe escaped. But yor Peticoner being in his company was apprehended for ye fact but never comitted ye same, whereupon yor peticoner is sent now to this Sessions to his great trouble & expense.

Wherefore yor peticoner being free from committinge ye act humbly desireth yor Wops to take it into considerations whereby he may be discharged and freed.

ffor wch ffavour yor Peticoner shalbe in all duty bound to pray &c, &c.

ROBBED BY THE KING'S SOLDIERS.

The humble peticoñ of Henry Gerrish.

Sheweth unto yor Worps that yor peticoner was plundered by Kings forces of divers goods wherof some of them yor peticoner hath found in the Custody of John Clarke of Cosly, videlict one brass pott and one yard of Cloath wch yor peticoner hath demanded but he refuses to restore them.

He then goes on to ask that an order may be made for the goods to be restored or satisfaction given for them, and " he will be ever bound to pray for yor worps long life ".

A footnote says " a Warrant to apprehend Jno Clark and have him before a Justice of the Peace to be bound over to Sessions to answer the premisses. Warrant fact ".

This roll closes with several enquiries into cases of sheep stealing.

PRESENTMENTS AT

MARLBOROUGH QUARTER SESSIONS, Oct. 6th, 1646.

Amongst the presentments " made by the Grand Inquest " are the following :—

Wee psent Richard Clifford gent of Shalbourne for setting up a hatch in Shalborn whereby the inhabitants are greatly damnified by overflowing of water.

Wee doe psent the Lord Semer (Seymour) for flotting (flooding) his meadowe called long Meadowe for destroying the Kings high way at pickets breidg.

The Jury of the hundred of Kemberston present :

" the boundes upon the Church Yard at Pewsey to be in defaulte from the farme youtree to the Church weckett on the north side of the Church.

The Constables of Kindward stone present John flisppin of Pewsey to be a famed drunkard & sweerer and for comiting an outrage in the open streate upon the Sabath day.

Elstup & Everly hundred psent Simon Boulton of Clatford mill because he penneth the water so much whereby the tenants of ffild are greatly damnified to the baning of (=shutting out) of theyr sheep.

The hundred of Ramsburye.

We psent that Thomas Vickers & Robt Shilton of Bishopston have in the tyme of warres souldre ale without licence being compelled thereunto by souldiers and since these troublesome tymes they have not therin offended.

The psentment of Thos Walrond gent constable of Ramsbury, presenteth that hee coming in to his office but Satterday last beleeves that all offences fformerly was psented att the last assises and att the last Court held att Ramsbury att the Court of the Right Honorable the Earle of Pembroke & Montgomery and therefore he knoweth nothing to psent.

REFUSAL TO PAY RATES.

To the Right Worshipful & the rest of His Maties Justices of the peace of this County.

Whereas John Fricker, Richard Cantler, Will Lane, Will Lamport doe refuse to pay their rates wth their neighbors toward the charge of the prest souldiers wch were taken up and conducted to the Devizes for Sir Thomas Fairefaxe, my humble request is yt you would be pleased to grant an order yt they may be restrained to beare their burthen wth their neighbours so praying for your health & happinesse I rest

Your humble Servent,

JOHN TURNER,

Tithingman of Staple in the pish of Tisbury.

RELIEF FOR SUFFERERS FROM THE PLAGUE.

Wee whose names are under written Justices of the Peace in the said County doe hereby certifie this Court That upon thinformacon supplicacon and Complaint of the Inhabitants of ye Parrish of Maidenbradley and Horrningsham being infected wth the noy-some & contagious disease of the plague did upon the ffirst day of September last and upon ye seventh day of the same moneth give authoritie and warrant to the severall Officers wthin ffive miles of the said pishes infected, to tax, rate, collect and gather for the reliefe of ye distressed persons of Maidenbradly the Sume of Six poundes weekly and for the releif of Horrningsham the sume of flower pounds weekly to continue untill this psent Genall Sessions if occasion of such weekly contribucon should soe long be found needfull.

In witness whereof We have subscribed or names the 3rd of October 1646.

(Signed) ED. TOOKER.

THOMAS DENETT.

DEER STEALING IN CLARENDON PARK.

The Examinacon & Confession of Henry Gowen of Elsborne in the County of Wiltes husbandman taken the 19th day of September 1646 before ffrancis Swanton Esqr one of his Matties Justices of the Peace of the County.

Who saith that on Thursday the Tenth of this instant moneth one Henry Good a trooper under the command of Captaine Ludlow, and Robert Andrews another trooper under the said command came to this Examinats House in Ebsborne, and then the said Andrewes incited this Examinant to goe wth him to Claringdon Parke to kill a deere, the wch this examinant denied. And the Sunday followinge the said Andrewes came againe to this examinant and desired him to go to Claringdon wth him. And then this examinant came wth the said Andrewes to the Rose and Crowne at Harnham about tenne of the clocke in the night and after an hower stay there this Examanant and the said Andrews, one Robert Daye of the City

of Newe Sarum and one George ——— of Salisbury went to Claringdon the said Sunday night and had then a brase of grey houndes, one of this Examinants and the other the said Andrewes and a Carbine of the said Andrewes, but killed nothing. And then came the Munday morninge unto the said Dayes house and there stayed untill after dinner. And then this Examinant the said Andrewes and the said Daye went upp to Claringdon againe and had wth them a gun wch was the carbine of the said Andrewes and a little before night the said Andrewes shott a buck wth his Carbine in a Coppice neere the Coppice wherein are Ewetreeces and the Deere being hurte they sought after him until it was night and could not find him. And then this examinant and Andrews came that Munday night to the Rose and Crowne att Harnham and stayed there all night, And the next morning this examinant & the said Andrewes about nyne of the Clocke went into the Parke to seeke the said Bucke and wth in halfe an hower found the said deere. And having cutt of his head and paunched him and skinned him putt him up into a sacke and tyed him upon this examinants horse. And this examinant goeing out att Winchester gate wth the said Bucke after he had rode a little way by one of the Keepers of the said Parke and one Prewett taken wth the deere behind him. And more he confesseth not. And beinge charged to have benne a Comon hunter in the said Parke saith that he was never in the said Parke before but att a Paddock Course, nor never knewe of any Deere killed in the said Parke before that tyme.

(Signed) HENRY GOWEN.
ffrd Swanton.

DEVIZES CHAMBERLAINS DECLINE PAYMENT.

The Humble peticon of Abraham Hale keep of ye House of Correction at ye Devizes.

Sheweth that whereas yor peticoner was forced to entertayne the Prest Soldiers & to make pvision for them wch came to Seven Pounds fifteene shillings & Seaven pence & was pmised payment by ye Chamberlaynes of ye Devizes for the said pvision & did receive from them ye sd Chamberlaynes pt of ye said some as much as came to ffoure Pounds ten shillings.

Yor peticoner being a very poore man & often tymes demandinge the remaynder cannot receive the residue from ye sd Chamberlaynes wch cometh to Three pound ffive shillings & Seaven Pence.

Humbly desireth yor Wops to be pleased to grannt yor order to yor peticoner that he may forthwith be satisfied ye sd some of £3 5s. 7d. from ye Chamberlaynes of ye Devizes aforesaid.

ffor wch ffavoure from yor Worps yor peticoner shalbe in duty bound to pray &c.

NO PROSECUTOR.

To ye Woll Willm Hussy Esqr one of his Matys Justices of ye Peace & Judge of ye Sessions nowe held at Marlborough & ye rest of ye Worll Bench.

The humble Peticon of William Hall of ye Devizes, Blacksmith. Sheweth. That accordinge to yor Worps order yor Peticoner have been bound since ye last Sessions at Warminster to ye good behavior wch he hath honestly kept & pformed.

Now may it please yor Worps to consider & to be soe pleased seeing he is a poore man, that he may have this enlargement, to follow his trade, seeing noe accuser is in place to alleadge any thinge agst him: The prtended course being altogether for yor peticoner to give Mony to his Advস্যary wch since yor Worps have sate in Judgmt the Adverse have laboured for, yor peticoner knowing himselfe free of ye accusation agst him utterly refuseth.

Yor peticoner most humbly desireth yor wops & ye rest of this Woll bench that wthall expedition he may come to his hearinge And yt yor Wops upon True informacon will deale wth him as in yor wisdome yor peticoner shall seeme meete.

ffor wch yor peticoner shall perpetually pray &c.

A LETTER CONCERNING ALE HOUSES.

GOOD UNKLE.

There is an order of ye last Sessions for binding over some of Donhead to this, you may be pleased to informe the Sessions that yourself & I have supprest them already when we mett at Ludwell for that purpose and there is not one of them that keeps tipling since that time. There is likewise one Wm. ——— of Swallow-cliff that hath given you his word to appear for the same fault. My butler South informs that he hath sold noe ale since Whittsun-tide and undertakes he shall never doe it againe and therefore intreats that he may be excused from appearing at Sessions.

I rest Sr

Yor affectionate Kinsman &
Servant. THO. GROVE.

LOSS OF SHEEP.

A lengthy petition of a Mr. Thomas Astill of Peasemore set out how he lost 20 sheep the previous November and at the following Whitsuntide found 16 of them in the possession of Mr. John Parsons of New Town, but was unable to recover them. A few days later they were seen in the possession of Mr. Benjamin Joyes of Haxton so he went and took them out but he had got scarcely a mile away when he "was overtook by a man on horse back with dogges & other men wth Clubbes who took the sheep away from him". They were driven back to Mr. Joyce's farm and on his applying for them a friend of Mr. Joyce "threatened to have this peticoner & his neighbors wch were with him to the Devizes Garrison being then the Kings Garrison & have them tyed neck to heels together & afterwards hanged for demanding and meddling with the sheepe. By means whereof this peticoner was enforced to defer the business for a time. And since that Garrison was reduced, to witt, about Midsomer last he had another try to get

the Sheep from Mr. Joyce when Mrs. Joyce said we use more honesty then doth us good & Mr. Joyce himself pretended he withheld the sheep as estrays & felons goods”.

The usual appeal for help from the bench follows.

A VIOLENT MAN OF STERT.

The humble petition of Willm Willis & Edith his wife. These are to show & declare unto you all his Maties Justices of the peace what wronges & injuries Robert Ruddle of Sterte with many more that he hath sett on have done yor poore petitioners Willm Willis & Edith his wife. The first wronge he hath laid violent handes upon yor petitioner Edith Willis & he hath made confession of it & with my crying out against him my dog coming out he threw his hatchett att my dog & had almost kill my dog which thing Mr. Topp knowes well. Ye next abuse wch was done me by some of Robert Ruddles company wch he had sett on was, I was coming with frutt from ye Vize for Mr Topp a woman with 3 or 4 sett upon me in ye Kings hie way and beat me most lamentable so yt I was almost Chokt with my owne blood & I had dyed with it had not Mrs. Topp made me divers medicines to doe me good. I lay by it wth this abuse twelve months to or great hindrance & Charge I being not able to help myself. Some of these woemen that did me this great wrong I had two biles (bills) of inditement & did put them into ye Quarter Sessions & have waited for justice ever since. Upon the bills of inditemt wch were putt in with very sufficient witnesses yet could I never obtain any justice for my wrongs. Sir John Glanfeild did promise us that if we would have a Tryall in Malborow Sessions last past that we should never receive any wrong more but we can make it appear that ye same parties wch were indited tooke a false oath att ye same Sessions & have done us since abundance of wronge my Childe likewise receivd abundance of wronge by one of their Company ye Smith threw a hott iron at him and wounded him soe yt we could see into his bowells & ye child lay by it $\frac{1}{2}$ a yeare wch was great expence & charge unto us. Now we desire yor Worships that you would cause them to show unto you how any kind of waies we have misbehaved or selves unlesse it hath bine for ye asking of some satisfaction for ye great wrongs they have done us. Yor poore petitioners are quite undone unless now you will be please that there be granted by you a right examinacon.

BOUND OVER THROUGH MALICE.

The humble Peticon of Alexander Outhard of ye Devizes. Showeth That whereas yor peticoner ye last Sessions holden at Warminster was bound over to ye good behavior to answer one Henry Coole of ye Devizes wch then did for some misdeamenor agst him, ye sd Coole cause yor Peticoner to be bound over more through mallice then any good ground unto ye good behavior wch evr since he hath honestly kept & pformed.

It is soe yt yor peticoner is lately fallen sick, as is supposed in ye fallen sicknes or ye like disease wch troubleth him often, that he is forced to keepe his bedd two or three dayes for his recovery & now is in ye said disease so that he cannot be heere.

Most humbly craveth yor Wop & the rest of ye wopp full bench being a very poore man & nothing but his labors to mayntayne his poore Mother and himselfe that he being a sickly man may be discharged, & that he may freely follow his labour, otherwise himself & his mother must come to ye parrish.

ffor wch most gracious ffavor from yor wopps, yor peticoner shalbe in all duty bound to pray &c.

REDUNDANT ALEHOUSES IN PEWSEY.

A humble petition of the parish of Pewsey for the suppressinge of Alehouses.

Sheweth. That there are divers Alehouses in our Parish of Pewsey mayneteyned and kept up contrary to the Statute who doe nowe and have for many yeares past sold Ale soe that our Children servants & pore labourers are often by them drawne into theyre houses to spend theyr moneys & time to our great prejudice in neglectinge our husbandry and other occasions wch is likely to be the utter ruine of our said Children servants, pore labourers & or selves unless yor worpps will be pleased to take it into yor consideracon & suppressse those sd Alehouses we haveinge an Inn in our parish wch hath bin an Inn time out of mind wch we know to be sifficient to entertayne all Passengers & others that shall come through our parish uppon any occasion whatsoever. All wch we leave to yor Worpps grave consideracon humbly desiringe yor worpps to suppress & utterly abolish all the said alehouses & we shall remayne yor worpps dayly oritors.

2. October 1646.

Signed by two ministers, three Churchwardens, and twenty-three others.

WRONGLY ACCUSED.

Mr. Hussey.

This petitioner Thomas Stone, as it apeareth by the testimony of many neighbours, is very maliciously and wrongfully accused, I therefore desire you to doe him all the lawfull favour you can accepting of the Baill which will be given for him: so I rest

Your ffriend

Stourton. October 5th 1646.

STOURTON.

OLD SOLDIER OVERWORKED.

“The humble peticon of William Dollerie of Strafard neare Sarum.

“Humbly sheweth That yor peticoner hath served in the Parliament Army as a Sjeant by the space of three yeares last past. And at Newberrie fight last was mayhemed so that he hath altogether lost the use of his left hand And is thereby disabled to

doe any woork to releve himself and two children his wief being with childe with the thirde. And hath no other meanes but his labor to releve himselfe his wief & children ". He then goes on to ask the Bench to award him some pension otherwise he and his family " are like to perish ".

A petition of May Flower of Warminster states the Inhabitants of the town " out of malice have from time to tyme & at all tymes ever sithence these unhappy difference first began in this Kingdom " rated him " exceeding disproportionable to his abilitie in so much that yor peticoner is brought to a verie meane condicon ". He had often complained but received no redress. " And to bring him to utter ruine (being an inferme man) They do impose offices upon him which hee is no waies able to performe ".

He then asks " that the inhabitants may be compelled to show some reason for their unjust proceedings ". The Court ordered that the two next (nearest) Justices should enquire into the case and if not true then Mr. Flower was to be bound over &c.

WOUNDED IN THE WARS.

Thomas Miller being formerly under ye command of Major Wansey in ye Parliament service did then receive a very dangerous hurte by wch meanes yor poore petitioner is very much disabled for his future subsistence. Hee therefore most humbly prayeth yt hee may be taken into yor worppes consideracon.

A foot note says " Wee thinke fitt that this petnor be had in remembrance when the next oportunity shalbe offered to be relieved according to the Statute. Allocate 50s. from the Treasurer of the North forthwith for this present.

Signed WILL HUSSEY, WILL: EYRE,

ED TOOKE, GEORGE FRYE, THOMAS BENETT.

ABSENT PROSECUTORS.

The humble peticon of Thomas Bennett, John Symes, Will Phipps and Willm Banks.

Humble shew that whereas yor peticoners were at the last Sessions held at the Devizes bound over to appear at the then next Sessions to psecute theare traverses on an indictmt exhibited agst them. But there beinge (by reason of the troubles of these tymes) noe sessions held untill about Midsomer last at Warminster when yor peticoners ought to have appeared if they had known of the same sessions. The premises considered, may it please yor good worps to accept of yor peticoners appearance and that their traverses may now goe on and that yor peticoners recognances forfeited at last sessions may be respected.

A SOLDIER OF CHILMARK.

The humble peticon of Richard Rickette a poore lame mayned man Sheweth That yor peticoner being a Carpenter and at worke

at Rudge in the pische of Chilmarke was in the tyme of the Kings Armeie Regency in those pts impressed, guarded and by fforce caried unto Langford Garison under the comand of Sr Bartholomewe Well & others the Kings comandrs by John ffezard then thythingman of Rudge in wch service of the said Garison yor peticoner was dangerously wounded & cripled & disabled for all ffuture service or labour whereby both himselfe and a small child of yor peticoners is left wholly to the Charitie of his neighbours for theire releefe & sustenance.

He then goes on to ask that some allowance may be made for him "according to the Statute" by the inhabitants of Rudge and Chilmarke he "being a woounded man for the service of the parish".

A footnote says "the parish to relieve him according to the necessity of the party".

The foregoing petition is supported by another on similar lines from the parishioners of East Knoyle. It is signed by

Chr: Wren, Rector and

thirty others. The Rector was the father of Christopher Wren, the great Church builder of London.

ROGUEISH PARLIAMENT.

The informacon of Jeffery Basteer of Greate Amesbury woollen weaver taken the 24th Sept 1646 before Edward Tooker Esq upon oath.

Who sayeth That about March last was two years upon a Wednesday being a fast day appointed by the Parliament goeing from his house, mett with one Mary Long of Little Amesbury who was then goeing to Amesbury to Church, when he heard Mary say these words following, "The good King hath comanded a fast noe body will obey it, but when the roguish parliament comanded a fast every body will obey it".

William Leach of West Amesbury Saith that about 2 or 3 years last past being in Amesbury Street heard Mary Long say that "she would pay noe money to Mr. Trotman because he did hold with the roguish parliamt and that he should come by it as well as he may".

A ROW IN IMBER CHURCH.

The informacon of Elizabeth Courtlie of Imber taken 25th day of September 1646 before Thomas Benett of Norton.

Who informeth and saith that on Sunday the xijth of September she being in ye Parish Church of Imber Was abused by one Mary Gibbes who with a pinn thrust her the said Elizabeth in the bodie and with her hands & fingers pinched her and at the same time called her Whore And bid her goe to Mr. Olives & steale victuals, Which was done by her the said Mary Gibbes in the seate sitting both together in the Church in the time of divine service.

The informacon of Mary Gibbes of Imber taken ye 3rd of October.

Who saith yt on Sunday ye xiiij of September last she being in the Parish Church of Imber was abused by one Elizabeth Courtly, who pulled her by the arme in a violent manner and pinched her & striving together did tread upon her in the seate in time of divine service.

(Signed) THOMAS BENETT.

QUARTER SESSIONS AT NEW SARUM.

13th January.

Though this is a large roll it does not contain many records of present day interest. The following are extracted more especially for their reference to the after effects of the Civil Wars and for their bearing upon the plague that visited Wiltshire at that time.

GONE FOR A SOLDIER.

Hindon Jan. 2 1646. I return for the Warant that I have mad delegent serch according to ye warant and things is well and Daniell Lech he is gone a souldier.

INSTRUCTIONS TO TYTHINGMEN.

Whereas wee have receved a warrnt from Mr Thomas Benet & Mr. George Low, Justices of ye peace These are in his Maties name to will & require you together wth some able men of your Tything assisting you to make a generall privie search uppon ffriday night ye first of January next through out yor tything & if in ye same search you shall find any Rogues Vagabonds lewd idle or vagrant persons that you doe them apphend & bring them before ye said Justices to ye Signe of ye Lion in Warminster upon Satterday ye second of January next by nine of the clock all such as you shall soe find wandering or misordering them selves & more especially, all idle persons living of (off) Service, breakers of hedges, spoilers of copsies, night walkers, & ye like that they may be dealt with all soe far forth as upon examinacon of therre sevall misdemeanors & offences sholl be requisite, and further you are to enquire & psent unto ye Justices the names of all fore stallers of ye Markett, Ingressers, & Reqrators to yor knowledge & wth in your precinct & to bring them or cause them to appeare before ye said Justices that they may be pseeded agst & punished according to ye Law, And alsoe all unlicensed ale house keepers wthin yor tything to ye end that they may be suppress & further dealt withall as to Justice shall appertaine Hereof fayle not together with a retourne of this or warrt, to ye Justices. Dated ye 26th of December 1646.

(Signed) To. GAYSFORD.

To the Tythingmen
of Northbradly.

Ed. MARFYN.

Constables.

A PITEOUS APPEAL. (No date.)

I am a pore man and have noe releufe out of the parrish of remsberie hether i come to have some relefe but i cane have none and i desier your worship that you wold helpe me to sume relefe Being i have noe munie. Thomas Seald.

Footnote states: "recommended to the overseers & on their neglect the next Justice to bynd them over".

THE SUFFERINGS OF CRICKLADE.

The humble petition of the Inhabitants of the Towne and pishe of Cricklād.

Sheweth. That althoughe your petitioners are much impoverished both by the unnaturall Warr and alsoe by a late greevius mortality being then deprived of all Marketts & deprived of all Commerce Deprived of all benefitt of the Lawe made for the Releife of infected placis and psons, and necessitated at their sole charge to maintaine for the space of 7 monthes and upward hundred of pore and sick people destitute of Bread, destitute of mony, Destitute of imployment, yett neverthesse a weeckly somm is demanded of yor poor petitioners towarde the releife of the Towne of Highworth.

Theire humble suite therefore is (the pemisses considered) that you would voutsafe to order that yor petitioners may be exempted for a time Taxis of this nature and the rather since the dayes of our affliction we were burthensome to none and the late visitation hath left us many widdowes and orfphans to be pvided for to our great charge. (signed by Richard Birt Bailife of ye Burrough and thirteene others).

DISTRESSED MAIDEN BRADLEY.

A lengthy petition from "the poore tradesmen of Mayden Bradley" is dated 12th January 1646, and gives the names of 22 of the inhabitants and their trades, viz., tanners, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, smiths, cutlers, turners and butchers.

The Village must have been quite a considerable place in those days to have found employment for so many trades. The petition begins:—"That whereas it hath pleased God to visit the Town wth the infection of the plague wch began about the first of June last and is not yett ceased whereof about 33 persons have dyed & a greater number have byn sick". The petition then goes on to say that owing to the plague they have been excluded from the markets and had no benefit of trading nor employment from adjacent places "wherein the best part of their livinge doth consist especially in these tymes of Dearth. They are much impoverished & like to be utterly undon". Although a tax was made for relief of these poor people not nearly sufficient was given them, and they ask that the Justices will give orders that they may have some more relief and recompense for their losses.

ROBBED OF CATTLE AND SHEEP.

Another petition from the inhabitants of "Mayden Bradley, Horningsham & Kingston Deverell".

"Sheweth. That whereas the late unhappie difference hath much obstructed the course of Justice by meanes whereof the number of ffellons hath greatly multiplied in and about our pishe by whome wee are daylie robbed of our cattell (especially our sheepe) wth much bouldnesse not spareinge sometimes our very houses to our greate discouragement in the buildinge and keepinge of sheepe the over throwe of tillage and soe to the generall damage of the whole Comonwealth".

The petition then goes on to say that as they have found their possessions on some felons who "are escaped & fledd" they ask for a warrant of the Court "to lye Dormant in our handes for their apprehending if att any time they may be found by us". Owing to the delay caused in calling official assistance when the felons are found, the petitioners say that "intelligence is carried to the suspected persons before our approach so they are able to escape". They further ask for a warrant "soe that if att any times hereafter wee find our sheepe or goods to be stolen we may gather ourselves together and suddenly fall upon the houses and suspected persons both in their own parishes and the Tythings adjoining and soe bring the felons to justice, &c, &c."

The petition is signed "Noe Order".

TWYFORD IN WILTSHIRE.

Whereas the Village of Twiford in the est part of the hundred of Amsbury was by these unfortunate warrs first much impoverished by reason that it was a frontier garde betwixt the King and Parliament two several winters and then was barbarously burned by that cruell instrument Sr Jacob Ashley and now lastly it hath groaned under Gods heavy judgement of the plague for at the lest five moneths together even untill the moneth of August last whereby not only Twiford it selfe is almost undonne but the rest of that part of the hundred is much exhausted, the charge expensed by Twiford Wilts being betwixt twenty and thirty poundes besides what the infected persons spent of their owne proper goods this great charg having binn under gonne by this small part of the hundred without assistance of the rest of the hundred or county. Wee whose names are subscribed do humbly conceive that you will not thinke it fitting to lay any part of the burthen upon this liberty of Wokingham and Hurst for the maintenance of the now infected in the further part of the Shier or hundred. Swallofild also being at this present infected and requiring our assistance As will appear unto you all these things we humbly submit unto your grave Judgements and rest

Your faithfull Servants

(Signed) WILLIM HYDE and six others.

Tiwford in Hurst; January 9th 1646.

A footnote says : " A ler (letter) sent to Mr. Hyde in answr. It cannot be excused from the publique tax of the whole County ".
 Note.—Twyford was at this time an outlying part of Wiltshire.

KILLING JUSTIFIED BY THE COUNCIL OF WAR.

Saturday the 14th of November 1646.

Att the Counsell of Warre held at Oxford this day the Counsell of Warre tooke into consideracon the business of Nicholas Lawrence Troopp under Capt Ludlowe belonging to the County of Wiltes concerning his killinge of one John Reade of Meere beinge appoynted by his Excy to be heard before this Counsell. And upon reading of a Proclamaicon under his Excie hand & seale bearinge date the 18th of October last, appoynted to be published at Meere and at Sturton Giveing notice to all persons who had any thinge to object agst the sd Lawrence concerning the death of the said Reade that they should give in their Testimonyes unto Thomas Bennett of Norton and Edward Tucker of Maddington Esqres Justices of the Peace for the sd County before the first of this psent November, or els that they should apeare before this Counsell on the 12th day of this instant month to give in such evidence as they could against him otherwise that the Counsell should pceed to the Tryall of the sd Lawrance upon such evidence as should they lye before them fforasmuch as it appeared that the sd proclammacon was published accordinge to the tyme and in the place appoynted. And none have apeared either as ptyes or wittnesses against the said Nicholas Lawrance before the said Justice or before the Counsell of Warre And by the confession of the sd Lawrance that hee did kill the said Reade alleadginge that it was in prosecution of his duty. After full consideracon had thereof It was unanimously resolved by this Counsell upon the Question That the sd Nicholas Lawrance did kill the sd John Reade in the pseucon of his duty and therefore did fully and wholly acquitt and discharge the said Nicholas Lawrance of and from any thinge that might bee objected against him concerning the death of John Reade. And it is ordered by this Counsell that this Sentence be published both at Meere and at Sturton according as the proclamacon was to give notice that the said Nicholas Lawrence is by them acquitted from the said facte.

(Signed) MARKE GRIME

President pro tempore.

ROBBED BY THE ROYALISTS.

The Peticon of Alice Dramond a poore Widowe dwelling at Hornisham.

Humbly Showeth That yor poore petir husband was slaine in Warder Castle under the Comand of Colonell Ludlow and have left her three smale children & nothing to keepe them since wch time hath lived in a miserable condicon, she being psently after the death of her husband plundered by the adverse partie of that

little shee had. That yor poore pter & all her children have ben struck with a leprousie since Michaelmasse last and are now like to perish for want of food & to be turned out of doore naked for want of house roome.

Shee then goes on to ask that the overseers may be ordered to give her and her children relief.

To this is added: Ordered that The Overseers to see to re-leeve them & to levie a rate and have it confirmed by a Justice according to the Stat.

THE PLAGUE IN DEVIZES AND THE BATTLE OF ROUNDWAY HILL.

The humble Peticon of the inhabitants of the sevall Tythings of Weeke, Nusteed, Bedborowe and Rowndway wthin the pish of Bishoppes Cannyngs, Sheweth, That whereas yor petrs were taxed & are now required to pay theire arreres towards the reliefe of the poore infected people of the Devizes, for the tyme that the sickness of the plague remayned in that Place. Now soe it is (May it please you) That after the first two monethes the said infeccon came into Divers houses wth in the said sevall tythings insomuch that yor petrs could noe longer pay to the Devizes but were at xx^l charge in relieving ye infected people of theire owne tythings. And besides there are many poore people in the said Tythings for the time psent and yor petrs are so disabled by being so much plundered (when the Rowte was) (the words within brackets are ruled through and the following inserted) at the business on Rowndway hill, that they are not able to relieve their owne poore.

In consideracon whereof yor petrs humbly pray yor Worppps to be pleased to order that theire said arreres may be remitted and yor petrs shall ever pray &c.

The above is signed by William Cox and Richard Greene—Church wardens, Thomas Ruddle and Roger Wheeler overseers, John Drewe William Chappell John Lewes James Pope William Powell and Henry Lewes.

To the petition is attached :—

The names of those that have payd their mony for the relefe of the Vize for the sickness in the tythinge of hortton, viz Richard Callowe, William Stevens, Aldom Yong, John Eatwell, Edward Dyke, Arthur Sloper, Edith Ettwell, Simon Rudole.

Then follows a petition from the inhabitants of Bromham to the Right Worful bench now sittinge in Sessions at Sarn.

May it please you that whereas an order was granted foorth by yor Worshippes for the Areers due out of the hundred for the reliefe of the late infected persons of the Devizes And whereas the same has bin respectively demad of us inhabitants of Broham wth in the hundred of Potterne & Canings. Wee the inhabitants of Bromham whose names are under written can make it appeare by oath of the officers who then were that whereas in provision and mony the double value of our rate was brought in by us unto them.

Mr. Drew a gentleman then in commission did acknowledge that the Burrough was satisfied from Broham.

Broha (Bromham) Jan. 10, 1646.

Yor Worshippes in all duty

ROB. RICHARDS Minister

WILLIAM SHERSTONE. THO. EYRE

WILLM YERBURY (and others).

To this attached the following:—

“ Cossen Rudle. hit doth appeare by my booke that I payed my mony for the Devizes 1644 the first month we payd about the midle of August the second month the first of September and the third month the midle of October ”.

Your ffrind, RALPH ETTWELL.

The tythingman sayd every man in Bourton paid all three months.

RATING TROUBLE AT OGBOURNE ST. ANDREW.

The humble peticon of the greatest part and most able Inhabitants of the Parish of Ogbourne St. Andrew whose names are hereunder wrytten.

“ Whoe humbly shew that in tymes of Peace yor petrs have accustomed to rate and assess the Inhabitants of the said parish towards the payment as well to Church and poore as any other monyes charged on the parish by the Yard land untill about 4 years since when the land Tax and other great & frequent paymts became payable by the parish and the Yard lands there being very unequall, some yard lands being worth xxx^l p anum & others not worth above 5^l p anum and the smallest (by the way of rateing by the yard lands) payd as much as the greatest. Yor peticoners agreed to make & did make an equall rate by the just yearely value of evry mans liveing. According to wch they have ever since levied all moneys wch have byn payd out of the said parish Untill now of late some persons who hold and enjoy the richest yard lands endeavouring to ease themselves by the unjust oppression of their neighbours, have opposed the said rate last made and endeavoured to reestablish the former most unequall and unjust way of rateing by the yard lands By means whereof the money due to the poore and the money due to the Goale & Marshalsy and the monyes due to the poore infected places in this County cannot be raised ”.

The petition then goes on to ask the Bench of Justices to order that custom of rating made by and with the consent of the greater part of the parish shall be established and confirmed.

This is signed by twenty persons.

The order of the Court was “ noe rates to be altered ”.

THE PLAGUE AT WOOTTON BASSETT.

“ The Inhabitants of the Towne of Woton Basset ” send in a petition stating that “ they were infected with the plague from

25 day of April 1645 for 16 weeks during which time the relief to the poore and infected persons cost the parish about 100£. Justice being not then to be had within the County for their relieffe as in tymes of peace". There died 60 persons, and as their trade was lost during that time they ask the Justices to "default & abate the £2. 7. 0 that had been rated on them for the relief of Wilton and their infected places".

THE PLAGUE AT WILTON.

Some ten "poore distressed inhabitants of Wilton" send in a piteous appeal to the Justices.

After stating that "they with their families were through the visitation of God kept up in yt Boroughe duringe ye tyme of ye contagious infeccion of ye plague during wch tyme they were enforced to waste & consume yt small pparcon of estate wch they formerly had gotten by their hard labour to ye utter impoverishing of them and their families, and upon their miserable cry to the Magistrates of ye towne they have byn bemooned wth shrewd speeches to their great greifes & sorrowes". They then go on to state that in spite of the fact that large collections had been made in the County for relief of the afflicted "yt have byn disposed of without reason, forbearing to give any allowance to yor petrs towards ye redresse of their ymperished estates". They then ask that their case may be taken into consideration.

There are several other similar appeals from other inhabitants of Wilton, which goes to prove that the plague there must have been very bad.

A DOMESTIC TROUBLE AT TISBURY SATISFACTORILY SETTLED.

"I John Fraye of Tysbury doe humblye certifie to yor worships that wth consent of my wife I have made a full end and agreement wth Mary Chiverell of Tysbury, Widd. and we doe hearby releave and clearlye discharge her of all brayles and controversies whatsoever hath bene heretofore betwixt us. It Witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name undecimo die Januarii Ano Dmi 1646".

John fraye his mark.

Witnesseth William Browne
Thomas Polden.

DAMAGE TO HEDGE AT SIR ASHLEY COOPER'S.

"Whereas William Pounce & his wife & Robert Rolfe were now convicted upon the testimony of two witnesses sworne in Court for that they have torne taken and carried away five hundred luggs of Sr Anthony Ashley Coopers hedge to the value of twenty nobles. It is therefore now ordered by this Court and adjudged

that the said William Pounce and Robert Rolfe shall pay unto the said Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper for his dammage in that case susteined the some of twentie nobles before the seventeenth day of this instant month of October and yf they shall make default in payment thereof att or before the said day then the said William Pounce and his wife & the said Rolfe shall be openly whipt att Liddiard in this County by the offiser there for the said offence according as the Statute in that requireth ”.

1647.

The Quarter Sessions were held at Warminster, July 20th, when the presentments include the following :—

NO STOCKS AT WARMINSTER.

We present that we have noe stocks in the towne of Warminster in default of William Sloper. (It was ordered that they were to be provided before August 1st under the penalty of 40 shillings.)

Wee psent Edward ffarley of Haitesburie for disturbing of the Minister in the time of divine service.

DANGEROUS PITS.

We psent ye Lord Henrie Powlett for digginge of Claye pitts neere the hye wayes leading to Salisburie the wch pitts are verie dangerous for those that shall passe yt waie and yt it hath ben psented divers tymes heretofore and no reformacon that wee find.

FAIL TO REPAIR THE HIGHWAYS.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| fine xd a day for every plough, for evry labeaorer 12d p diem. | } | A Treau returne of the names of all the inhabitens of the Parish of Laycoke for negeklegkling thare servis for the hey wayes : madd by the supervizers of the wayes for the same parish in the year 1647. |
|--|---|---|

Wee return Mr. James Mountague for to plowes servis for five dayes.

Wee returne Mr. Shearington Tallbut to plowes servis for six dayes.

Wee returne Edward Crue Grasiear for on plowes servis six dayes.

Wee returne Martha Goughe for on plowes servis for six dayes.

Wee returne John Powntney for six dayes servis.

Wee returne the names of the Chiefe inhabietants there that have noe plowes but to dooe thayer as belongeth to.

Then follows 77 names, one being Peter fleawelling. In some cases their trades are given, and the return ends with “ And all this

servis for the most part is neglectet because the plowes have not dunn thair servis ”.

(Signed) THOMAS DERINGUN.
ROBERT MORE.

At Heytesbury a rate of 3 shillings per yard land was levied on “suche as keepe noe plowhes ”.

CARRIERS ROBBED OF THEIR GOODS.

The humble peticon of Thomas ffyfield & Thomas Watts with manie other Carryers liveing in the west neere the citie of Bristoll Sheweth. That your peticoners are Carryers with horses, of corne and malt to supply the necessitie of the saide countrie where they live. But they have been often surprised & and said Corne & malt taken from them by a turbulent multitude by reason whereof they cannot travell wth the said comodities & therefore many poore people in those parts are in great distresse for want of the same. Like wise your peticoners are there by disheartned to bring up many comodities of wch this & other parts doe stand in great want.

May it therefore please your worpps to grant a warrant at large requiring all his Maties officers and loyall subjects within this County to be ayding & assisting yor peticoners in their travell whereby the offenders may be brought to condigne punishment and your peticoners shall ever pray &c.

A note is appended “A warrant general to apprehend them & to be bound over ”.

LIVING IN A HOLLOW TREE.

The humble peticon of John Bevin of Brokenburrough (near Malmesbury). After stating that he and his wife have lived in the parish for over three years and kept themselves honestly. “Now the Church Wardens & overseers have throwne yor peticoner & his wife out of theire house & will not suffer them to rent that or any other, by reason of this their Tiranous dealinge your peticoner & his wife hath bin constrained to dwell in a hollow tree in the streete a whole moneth already to the great hazard of their lives they being anncient people.

He then asks the Justices to grant an order that he shall be allowed to “live in Brokenburrough or elsewhere & it was ordered that he should rent a house at Brokenburg without prejudice and then to hear both sides ”.

GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE.

(Slightly abbreviated.)

Wheras by the Consent and through the procurement of us the inhabitants of Uphaven, one Thomas Kingman for some misdemeanor was by a Justice of Peace sent into the Jayle of ffisherton where having layne about halfe a yeare (& by reason such prisoners have no allowance) he being rdy to starve. These are to certify

that we doe give our joynt consents that he may have his libertie and enlargement that he may betake himself to som employment in an honest & lawfull sort—Allwaies provided that he com noe more into Uphaven where if ever he be founde in his former scandalous carridge as heretofore we will use our uttmmost endeavors to send him to ye place from whence hee came where he shall sooner ROTT than receive any pittie or furtherance from us. Soe hoping that you will be pleased to condend to the premises we comend you to the Grace of God & subscribe our hands this 7th of June 1647.

(Signed) JOHN NEWMAN, Minister of Uphaven,
and eleven others.

A note says " discharged out of ye gayle ".

A NON-RECUSANT.

The humble peticon of William Kelson of Melksham—humble sheweth That your peticoner was presented by some of the pettie Jury (himselfe being of the said Jury) at the last General Sessions held at the Devizes for not coming to his pish Church wch psentment as the peticoner doth humbly conceive was illegally pferred & the peticoner not culpable of the pretended cryme, in regarde (as he believes) not a full Jurie did subscribe to the said psentment, it being soe pposterously agitated and the peticoner soe far from Recusancie that he hath adventured his life & estate in the States service to further a long expected reformacon both in Church & State, but your peticoner doth acknowledge he hath out of fervent zeale repaired sometimes to heare some able men in other pish Churches whereby he might be edified in the true knowledge of Jesus Christ & his holy gospell, for which he hopeth he shall receive no detriment. May it therefore please your worppps to acquitt him from ye said illegall (as he believeth) psentment & he shall ever pray &c.

AN ACCOUNT FOR CORN, 1647.

Delivered by mee Williame bisse of Horrisom the 28 of December Anno Domini 1647.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| Itm on busell of bearely at | ... | ... | o | 4 | o |
| „ on halfe a busell Wheat | ... | ... | o | 4 | o |
| „ on halfe a busell of moulte | ... | ... | o | 2 | o |
| „ on pecke of pease at | ... | ... | o | 1 | 3 |
| „ for meate | ... | ... | o | 1 | 6 |

The sume is o 13 3.

Delivered to William Maggs of Horriesom in the time of her sickness whereof the Constables promised to pay me and I have not received nothing of it.

A QUARRELSOME NEIGHBOUR.

The humble peticon of Elizabeth Tucker of Warminster sheweth that Lucie the wife of John Willis does from day to day

give your peticoner most approbious language insomuche that she cannot live in any peace by her, and hath threatened to kill yor peticoner running after her with a knife in her hand, whereby the peticoner hath great cause to stand in dread of her life of the said Lucie. May it therefore please your worppts to grannt yor warrant for the said Lucie. (Order fact.)

Quarter Sessions held at Sarum Jany. 11th.

This roll contains some items of interest. Many cases of sheep stealing are reported, but very few references to the previous War. Amongst the papers is a complaint from George Reynolds, of Everley, as follows:—

BEATEN BY SOLDIERS.

Showeth that ye sd George Reynolds being sumoned to take the office of Constable on him for the hundred of Elstub & Everley he being altogether unfitting for the said office haveing byn by souldiers soe heavily abused & beaten yt he is not able to ride nor travell neither is he capable to write or read any writing wch cometh to his hands. He therefore asks to be released of his office and someone else appointed in his place.

APPEAL FOR RELEASE FROM PRISON.

The humble peticon off Alco White of Wine Canton in the County of Summerset to the reight Honorable Bench &c. "Humbly complaininge shewing yor good Worshipes wheras I was arained at the Somer Sesses and had my tryall and have laine hear In durance ever since and am lick to starve Doth most humbly dessir your good worships to grant me my enlargment that I may get me a serviss to live in lick a christian And I shall ever pray for your good worships health and hapynes both in this world and in the world to come".

In spite of the above pitiful appeal it is endorsed "to remaine".

THE JUSTICES' ACTION QUESTIONED BY THE INHABITANTS OF WESTBURY.

Right Worpl. wee the Inhabitants of the hundred of Westbury having reflected our thoughts and spended your pceedings wee cannott but (out of the deepe sence of our psent and ensueing misery) describe unto yor worppts that wee have not our former desires (correspondent to equitee & good conscience) grannted And therefore (under favour it being our lives & more) wee take upon us that boldnes as to tell yor worppts that wee easily conceive (manie of yor worppts being Corne Masters) you have contrary to our former just peticon grannted Lycence (by the underhand mediating of subtyll caterpillars) to such as have great meanes and other sufficient trades to live to make mault by reason whereof wee are constrained

to certifie yor worppps yt you have (as wee feare to your owne ends) rather aggravated then extenuated our miseries. And therefore wee once againe humbly sue that all ptiallitie may be abandoned whereby equity may take place yt soe wee may not be affamished through the coulour of Justice. And we shall ever praye &c.

This is signed by thirty-three of the inhabitants of Westbury.

A note is added desiring Mr. Bennett to " bind over the Maior, constables of the hundred, the ministers and the rest of the most sufficient " to appear for examination.

APOLOGIES TO THE JUSTICES.

Following the above comes a humble apology of one of the signatories, viz. :—

The humble peticon of John Gibbs of Westbury clothier Humbly shewing " That the peticor hath lately without serious consideration subscribed a wrightinge directed to yor Worppps the contents whereof hee did not understand, but uppon further consideracon findinge the same to be stuffed with approbrious terms, and the matter thereof to concerne those things whereof he was noe way noweing nor sensible. Doth therefore humbly pray this his acknowledgment subscribed wth his hand may be receipted and that this Court and ye worppps will remit his said offence.

(Signed) JOHN GIBBS.

Another petition by five of the signatories is the following :—
" That Whereas the peticoners have improvidentlie subscribed to a former peticon tendinge to indiscreete caluminies concerning yor worppps and the administracon of Justice Wee humbly confess our indiscreete and calumnous phrases and espression inserted in that peticon were not contrived by us nor so well understood untill this psent And doe therefore desire this our acknowledgmt may be accepted and the peticoners from henceforth may be at quiet. And your peticoners pray &c. "

MAKING OF MALT RESTRICTED.

The making of malt was restricted owing to the scarcity of corn at that time, and very stringent orders were issued as to its sale.

A DEVIZES MAN'S TESTIMONIAL.

We the Maior & other the Burgesses & Inhabitants of the aforesd Borough, whose names are here under written Doe hereby Certifie That Alexander Archer labourer was borne and bredd up in the said Borough and hath there inhabited & abode from his birth hitherto during all wch tyme he hath demeaned himselfe well & honestly & hath allwayes maintayned himself his wife & children by his labour & industry and hath not at any time heretofore ben spotted or accused of any felony, petty larceny or any such like crime for ought we know or can heare of (other than the matter alleadged agst him at this Sessions) In testimony whereof we have

sett our hands the third day of January Anno Dmi 1647. Neither hath the said Alexander Archer any way misdemeaned himselfe at any tyme since he was bound over to appeare at this Sessions.

(Signed) JOHN STEVENS. Maior.
(but no other signatures).

BAD TIMES AT POTTERNE.

The humble peticon of the inhabitants of the parish of Potterne Sheweth that the pish of Potterne for this many yeares past, and at this psent is very full of poore people, insomuche that we the inhabitants there are not able of ourselves (wthout the helpe of others) to give them reliefe as the Lawe requireth or as charyty bindeth us, for this reasons for that the ffarme land lyeth still and untilled, whereby the poore have lost the benefitt of gleaninge of corne in the harvest tyme wch heertofore have yeilled them much comfort, and gentlemen there left of howskeepinge together wth the want of worke wch did much ease the parish Nowe the burthen beinge growne soe great that we the inhabitants since this distempered tymes have soe much suffered in our estates and are become soe weake that unles some speedy course be taken towards their relief they will pish for want of food. Our humble peticon therefore is that forasmuch as the tithing of Worton wthin the said pish is not charged with many poore and the inhabitants there for the most parte are of very good worth that you wilbe pleased to make an order that the said Tythinge may contribute towards the releif of the said poore of Potterne as in the judgment of this Court shalbe thought most fitt, and as in duty bound &c.

Signed by Jo. Harvest.
Wm. Rooke Sen.
Wm. Trymnell.
Tho. Lye Sen.
Wm. Lye.
Phillipp Smyth.

SCARCITY OF CORN.

An Order to restrict the use of barley for Malting.

Quarter Sessions Act 17th Oct. Anno Regni Regis Carole xxiiij.

“Whereas this Court hath taken into consideracon the great scarcity of all sortes of corne & Grayne wthin this County As alsoe the great Complaynt & Crye of the poore people for the inordinate inhansinge & buyinge up of Barly & converting the same into Mault by the Multiplicyete of Maulsters soe that the poore people cannot have corne for their money but are like to perish for want of Bread for pvencon whereof this Cort doth Declare & order that Cornelius Barrett of Dunhead beinge a Maulster shall be Restrayned for twelve monthes nowe next ensuinge. And that he may buy noe greater Quantities of Barly in any ffayres or Marketts wthin this County to convert into Mault than Eight Bushells weekly unless this Court shall see cause to alter the same. And it is alsoe ordered

that he shall not sell nor utter any of the mault to any unlicensed Alehouse keep, And that he shall not doe any act against the statute made agst fore stallers Ingrossers or Regrators ”.

Some further very stringent orders as to the sale of barley and corn in the markets and fairs were issued a month later, so that the poor people should have the first chance of buying.

The Inhabitants of Warminster send the following petition :
 “ Humbly sheweth that there are many Maultsters living in the said Towne & neere to the same wch have sufficient meanes & trades (wch they use) to maintaine them. And in regards of the greate dearthe of corne wee beseech yor Worppps to comisserate the distressed condicon of the poore people and to afford unto them some comfort (to prevent unlawful acts) as some of yor worppps being eye witnesses of their late uncivill accons on Satterday last, by suppressing those maulsters dureing this tyme of Dearth (the names of which said maulsters are under written) and we all (as in duty bound) shall ever pray &c. ”.

Johan Shergoll of Warminster, Wido having £40 p. ann.

Elinor Rawlins vidt of the same baker

William Presse of the same Draper

William Adlam of the same Cordwayner

Mr Payne of Deverell Longbridge being a maultster in Hindon.

Edward Tyse of Hindon. Channdler.

William Hobbes of Deverell a man of great estate

Richard Starre of Crockerton, draper haveing great meanes.

Christopher Gardner of Tinhead gent £100 p ann.

Ambrose Chappell of Northe Bradlie haveing great meanes.

John Taunton of Westbury Clothier.

Zacharias Baylie of the same Baker.

Edward Martin of Steeple Ashton gent.

Thomas Boorne of Meere.

To the above is added : “ all supprest, in defalt the next Justice to send the pties to gaole ”.

A HUMBLE APOLOGY.

With reference to the Action of the Justices concerning the Maltsters that was appealed against by the inhabitants of Westbury (see pp. 180-181), the following apology is interesting :—

“ The humble peticon of John Gun a prisoner in the gailors Ward Humbly sheweth—That yor peticoner is heartily sorie for that hee so inconsiderately (through misinformacon & often importuning) did write so ignominious a peticon for the Inhabitants of the hundred of Westbury. And being a verie poore man (on whom God hath conferd 10 children) doth humbly beseech your worppps (in the bowels of mercie) to remitt his said inconsiderate act, and the peticoner for the future doth promise to be more cautious & as in dutie bound shall even to the period of his life humbly pray &c. ”.

(Signed) JOHN GUN who importuned to have the
 said petition drawne.

QUARTER SESSIONS HELD AT MARLBOROUGH.

Oct. 5.

This roll contains a large number of indictments, many presentments of "hiewayes & Bridges" that want repairing, but the reports for "failing to attend Church" are much fewer than in some of the other rolls.

DAMMING THE RIVER.

Richard Sadler of Wroughton is presented "for rearing of the water belonging to his Mill at Wroughton above the anncient bounds and meeres of his mill to the annoyance of the highway in Wroughton & annoyance of the mill that is above him in Wroughton".

UNEMPLOYABLE.

Wee present William Arenold, Stephen Arenold, John Brode and Barnabas Baker for living at home in Great Bedwin out of service having noe employment, being all of them single men.

PERMITTED TO BUILD AT LYDDINGTON.

Liddington Coate At the Court baron or Mannr of Sharington
Et Medb: Talbot Esquier of the mannor afforesaid
there held the xxx day of March in the xxiiijth yeare of the raigne
of or Sovraigne Lord Charles &c. &c.

At this Court of the Said Sharington Talbot at the humble suite of the homage on the behalf of John Mathewes the sonne of William Mathewes hath grannted to the said John Mathewes licence & leave to erect and buyld in some convenyent place uppon the wash of the said mannor a cottage for the habitation & dwelling howse of the said John his wife and children so as the said cottage after the tyme of the buyldinge be employed for the habitacon of pore people borne or chargeable to the pish at Liddington and to noe other use or purpose. The said place to be appointed by the homage & pishners of Lyddington.

The like suite is made by the said Homage on the behalfe of William Richardson to erect and buyld another cottage wch leave & licence is granted accordingly.

The above is signed by Shar: Talbot and some twenty others.

This is followed by a letter from Sharington Talbot, addressed: "For my loving friends the Justices of Peace for the Countie of Wilts this—Present—

"Gent: I have beene sollicited by this bearer William Hawkes to give him leave for the setting up a Cottage upon my Common in Cote being within the Parrish of Lyddington which I have granted him by the desire of my Tenants in regard hee was borne

in the Parrish and had his howse burnt downe by fyer. This upon his earnest request, I certifiye to you & rest
 "Your very loving friend

" From Lyddington SHAR : TALBOT.
 " this last of March 1647 "

HOUSE OF CORRECTION AT MARLBOROUGH.

The humble Peticon of the Mayor & Burgesses of the Towne of Marlborough to the Justices of the Peace at Quarter Sessions. Shew

That whereas by order of the Sessions holden for the said County the xiiijth of July Anno 6 Ca : The Some of 1200 £ was to be raised throughout this County for the reedifieng of the howse of Correccion att the Devizes & erecting 3 other howses of Correccion wth in this County : and the said Towne of Marleborough To thend they might have the use and service of such of those howses as by vertue of the said order is built att Marleborough for that Devision in Comon wth that pte of the County, did contribute the some of 8 £ towards the said 1200 £ and expended xx £ at least in pulling downe & removing poore cottages from the place where the said howse of Correccion is now built.

Yet forasmuch as the said Towne of Marleborough (being an exempt Corporacon from the County and holding Sessions by themselves) cannot command the use & service of the said howse of Correccion wth out further order from yor Worppes.

Yor petners humbly pray you to be pleased to give such order to that effect as to yor wisdomes shall seeme meete. And yor petners shall daylie pray &c.

It was ordered that Jo : Parry the Master of the howse of Corr : of Marleborough doe receive from the towne of Marleborough such prisoners as they shall send thither and to be there kept at their charge.

SELLING ALE ON SUNDAYS AT HILMARTON.

To the Right worpll the Kings Maties Justices of the Peace for the Division of the Hundred of Kingsbridge in the County of Wilts.

The humble petition and Certificate of the Inhabitants of Hilmarton.

Humbly Sheweth—

That there hath been an Ordinance of Parliament lately set forth for the due observacon of the Lords day wch hath beene accordingly reade in the Parish Church of Hilmarton by our Minister and after the reading thereof, Walter Jordon—Ale seller (whose house is neere the parish Church) hath beene warned oftentimes by our Minister and Tythingmen not to sell ale or beare on that day to any, Notwithstanding, the sayd Walter Jordon hath and doth on every Lords day keepe typling and sell ale as on other days to ye great dishonour of God and the phinacon of the Lords Day.

Yor petitioners whose hands are subscribed therefore doe humbly beseech yor Worships to take this into yor consideracon and wth all to take notice of the unfitnes of the place for any Ale house, in regard our village is noe usuall way for passengers to any Markett Towne, and that untill of late there was never knowne any Lycensed house wth in our parish. And yor petitioners shall ever pray &c.

(Signed) JAMES WEALSHE,
vic. pro. tempore.

and thirty others.

A note added says "pd xs to the poore, dismissed, & fined xs for suffering 3 of the inhabitants on the sabbath day".

INCENDIARISM BY SOLDIERS OF DEVIZES CASTLE.

The humble petition of Joane Gouldinge als Valentine of the Devizes widdowe.

Humbye sheweth that whereas the Kings Matie Souldiers then Possessinge the Castle of the Devizes upon the Entringe in of the parliament fforces yor petitioners House standinge opposite the said Castle did Burne downe to the grounde your petitioners Dwelling Howse and all her goods & Houshold stuffe therein with a mill Howse and Mault Mill. And all her Outhouses to the value of Twoe hundred & Twenty pounds Your petitioner being then & nowe a widdowe & hath fower Children, and noe other meanes to live by but the Howse and Mault Mill, and not able of herselfe to Build it againe, did petition the Judges at the last Assisses who directed yor petitioner to addresse herselfe to this Courte to be releved as in yor wisdomes you should think fitt.

Yor petioner Humble desire is that yor worppes will comisserate yor poore petitioners deplored estate & yor petitioners will ever pray for yor health & happiness.

Note added says "5^l to be paid by the Treasurer out of the first monie he shall receive".

Quarter Sessions held at Devizes. 27 April.

This is a fairly large roll, with many indictments, but contains only a few items of general interest. A number of Tythingmen and Constables ask to be relieved of their office and others substituted.

CHRISTOPHER CROMWELL TO BE TYTHINGMAN.

The Tythingman of Westwood and Iford, John Godwin, makes the following request:—

"That whereas the Tythingmen of Westwood & Iford have usually heretofore ben chosen at the Courts there holden by ye Deane and Chapter of Winchester, who being sequestred & noe Court there kept yor petnr was made Tythingman by Order of the Sessions holden at Sarm Anno 1643 and hath hitherunto continued in the said office. And the parishioners there have by writing under

theire hand chosen Xpofer Cromwell to be Tythingman for this year now next coming". He then asks that Cromwell may be sworn accordingly, and he was duly appointed to serve.

FIRE AT PEWSEY.

The humble peticon of John Ashton Pewsey.

"Humbly sheweth that he having sustained losse by fire to the value of 250 £ , the Quarter Sessions holden at Sarm at Christmas last past were please to grantt theire Certificate for the obtaining of a Patent for the collecon of the Charity of well disposed people towards his reliefe But the Great Seale being not yet gayned yor petnr is delayed & his family in great necessity".

He then goes on to ask the Justices to "signe a writing under yor hands whereby yor petnr may collect the Charity of well disposed people wth in this County untill the Greate Seale may be obtained. And yor petnr will pray &c."

This is followed by a certificate signed by 18 of the inhabitants of Pewsey, headed by Oliver Nicholas, Knight; Humphrey Chambers minister, Edmund Sumerset and others setting forth the extent and value of the damage done.

DISCOURSE IN LAVINGTON CHURCH.

The following is unfortunately torn at the edge, and part of it is missing:

The humble petition of Lavington in the C Humbly sheweth That whereas yor petitioner was presented unto the Vic By the High Court of Parliament under the Broad Seale of England and had severall times passed the examination of the Assembly of Divines converted in Synod & hath indeavored to discharge his ministeriall functiall according to the trust reposed in him hath notwithstanding beene severall times molested by some of his intemperate parishioners, and lately on the 29th of this instant month was publickly opposed in the Church in poynt of doctrine by Thomas Barley, immediately in the churchyard by John Whatley to the greate disturbance of him, of his parish & the diserputation of the Gospell Wherefore may it please yor Honours to afford him such releife as may produce a Christian Peace.

A footnote says: "It fell out to be but a discourse in the Church—Noe order".

A GOOD MAN.

Another petitioner begins thus (no place mentioned):—

"There is noe house for Justice nor city for Strong but may soone be overthrown by hatred & dissencon. It is concerning an house from whence this ariseth, and being borne not only for ourselves but alsoe to healepe or bretheren in any thing that is just and lawfull, doe give to all christian people to whom these presents shall come to understand That the bearer hereof Alexander Sessions

our neighbor having bought a small plot of ground wth in our Lordshippe & having erected a poore cottage upon the same wth his owne proper goods gotten by his greate paynes and industry & having bin heretofore vexed & troubled for the same from Tyme to tyme to his greate hindrances & impoverishing of him & his poore famelie & being nowe agayne presented for the same, though notwithstanding it hath bin ordered by the bench at the Devyses, having answered to the same presentment allsoe, before the Lord Chieffe Barron at Warminster. Therefore desiring to have a certificate from us, of his life & manner of livyng, we doe certifie that he hath dwelt among us for the space of ix or x yeares & hath behaved himselfe all this tyme well & orderly in the sight of all men, being chargable to noe man but alwayes readie and willing to doe all men what good he can according to his ability. And this much we shalbe readie to testifie whensoever we shalbe thereunto called upon. In witness hereof we have put to our name the 19th day of March in the fifth yeare &c. &c. ”.

(Signed) Elias Edwards, minister (& ten others).

THE FALSE INDICTMENT OF EDITHA WILLIS.

The last Sessions saving one.

“ Mr Drew said att ye bench we being poore & of a low estate that it was not best for us to goe onward in lawe & soe we being poore could not have justice for or greevance since this by ye setting on of some ye compacted company by one Robert Ruddle of Stert, husbandman (being our adversary) I was very much abused & beaten 3 times wch we can make plainlie appeare to yor worships & since ye said Robert Ruddle hath threatned me that I shall be worse use then ever I was & that he would rid ye Parish of us though it didcost him 40*£* & that he would make us flee the country wch we have sufficient witness for it; some of this compacted company have spoild us & eaten up our gease these 16teen yeares & since that they had robd us within doores & without wch they have confessed & we have had two warrants for them, one warrant from Mr. Edward Earnley of Ashlinton & thother from Sir John Earnley of Whettom wch warrant is yet in the Constables hand & it is not yet served. Robert Ruddle our adversary served me into Wilton Court & when it came to ye tryall of a judgment I borrowed money & laid it down to him & tould him yt if I owed him any money he should take his due but he could make no debt appeare nor tooke never a pennie; for speaking for justice for this our greevance this compacted company have indited me into the sessions for a common scould & it hath cost us much even to our utter undoing. The said Robert Ruddle did confesse in the presence of Mr. Richard Gilbert of a lamentable abuse that ye said Robert Ruddle did to me Edith Willis ye wife of Willm Willis we have witness to prove his confession & for want of the knowledge of inditing a bill we could not try the suite.

“ We do humbly entreat yor worships for gods cause to consider how lamentably we have binne abused by this compacted

company & that we may have a right examinacon of this compacted company ”.

Yor poore petitioners

William Willis & Edith Willis his wife.

LICENCE FOR A BADGER.

Wiltes Sessions. Know all men by these psents That at the Genall Quarter Sessions of the peace of the aforesaid County holden at Warminster in the same County the one and Twentieth day of June in the ffourteenth yeare of the Raigne of Or Sovaigne Lord Charles by the grace of God &c. before Sir Henry Ludlow Sir George Aylyffe knight, Charles Hoare, John Penruddocke, Robert Hide, Tho. Lambert & others Justices of the Peace—Edward Smyth of Wylly in the aforesd County husbandman is licensed and allowed to be a Comon Badger Lader Kidder (Kiddier = huckster) Carrier buyer & seller of Butter & Cheese in the open ffayres & Marketts of Salisbury Warminster Hindon Lavington fforum and Devizes in the aforesaid County (and not else where) in the same County for & during the Terme of one whole yeare now next ensuing & noe longer. Provided allwaies that the said Edward Smyth shall not by force & colour of his patent licence forestale, Ingross, or regrate in any of the ffaires & Marketts aforesaid nor doe any act or acts thinge or things whatsoever contrary to the Statute made against florestallers ingrossors or Regrators. In Wittness whereof we the Justices of the Peace of the aforesaid County whose names are subscribed psent at the said Sessions have hereunto sett their hands & Seales the Day and yeare aforesaid.

(Signed) Jo. Penruddok (seal an anchor), Tho. Lambert (seal a bird) Robert Drew (seal a bull's head) William Wallye (seal gone).

THE ANCIENT WEAVERS OF WESTBURY.

The humble peticon of the ancient Weavers of the pish of Westbury Sheweth that not wthstanding the manifold wholsom and good lawes and Statutes wch hath formerly been established for the preservacon and ordering of the trade or occupacon of weaving as that none should have liberty to exercise the same himselfe unlesse he had served an Apprentishipp thereunto the full terme of Seaven yeares and attayned to the full age of 24 Soe it is nowe that divers who formerly hath bin bound prentice eyther to parents or Master have in these disordered tymes contrary to there dutie forsaken there parents and masters under the colour of following the Warres wch being ended they now do not only refuse to serve out there tyme, but before they comto the age of 18 or 20 yeares they betake themselves to mariage and gayning a loomes worke for themselves, the ancients weavers are manie tymes by put besid of their worke and somtymes the Master under-

crept by him who should be his servant by reason whereof the trade is like to com to utter ruine.

The petition then asks the Justices to "set us in such a course as your wisdom in Justice shall think for ordering of such as are refractory and preventing of others who may otherwise grow stubborn in the same kind".

This is signed by 23 weavers and five others.

DEVIZES WEAVERS' COMPLAINT.

The weavers in the Devizes district send the following :—

"Humbly complayning sheweth That not wth standing ye good & holsom lawes of or land for ye keepinge of youth in subjection unto their pents (parents) and masters by wch they are bound to serve apprentices until they com to ye age of 24 yeares yet in thes distracted and distempered times there bee divers who neyther regarding ye lawes of god not man; wch before they attaine ye age of twenty or yet eighteen as sonne as they are able to doe them any pleasure by there service wch have brought them upp, have abandoned & left there service & dewty to there prents & Mr, runinge into some arme or garrison & having been there a small season doe ever after refuse to returne to there sayd service especially if the times of the trade bee good, but doe worke as journeymen, & divers of them do obtaine a lombes worke, gett them wives and children before they bee out of there apprentishipp, when if it shall please god to visit them with sickness but a month, or that it shall happen to be a dampe in trading a small time, Then are they not only a burthen to there prents & to ye place of there aboad, But alsoe are the cause that such weavers wch have served there apprentishipp & are growne ancient in there old age are scanted of there former worke and employment & are thereby exposed to much slavery & misery". They then go on to ask the Justices to "putt us in sum such corse as yor worshippes shall thinke fitt to reduce such as are refractory & keepe others from runinge in to ye like unlawful corse so shall our occupation obtaine its former pviledges & we wch are old and our posterity have cause to pray for yor psperity heere & for yor everlasting happiness hereafter".

This is not signed, but a note says "Noe order".

AN EVICTION.

The following, though not a Quarter Sessions appeal, is amongst the papers of this roll.

To the Right Worplls the Commissioners for the Peace sitting at the petty sessions at Swindon.

The humble petition of henry spackman Coppersmith inhabitant of the parish of lidiard millisent.

Sheweth that your petitioner having been borne and allwayes lived in the said parish of lidiard milisent unto this day and likewise his mother being adged of 80 yeares liveing with him being

releived by the parish and also his wife with five smale children are to be all turned out of doares within this fort night and being altogether destitute of a habitation there being none voyde throw-out the saide parish to be rented.

Your petitioner humbly desireth your worships to take it into your Charitable considerations and ordaine some voyde plot of waste grounde where on he might erect a cottage or habitation for himself his mother wife and children and he shall allwayes pray for your worships health with happinesse both in this world and that which is to come.

A note added says " allocatur ".

COLLECTION FOR RELIEF OF THE PLAGUE IN DEVIZES.

The humble peticon of the Constables of the Hundreds of Swanborough, Potterne & Canyngs, Elstubb and Everleigh, Calne and Whorlesdowne.

" Humbly sheweth that about June 1644 there was a great sickness of the plague of pestilence in the Devizes in this County of Wilts. And that the inhabitants wth in fyve myles compasse of the said Towne were chardged wth a weekly taxe for their releif for three monthes space, but by reason of great trouble and taxes laide on this County by the Kings party whoe were possessed of the same there was lesse uncollected of the money chardged on those five hundreds the sume of 180 £ . In the month of July 1646 at the Sessions held at the Warminster it was ordered that the hundred of Melksham should joyne wth those 5 hundreds for the paymt of the said 180 £ and to be delivered unto Mr Mayor & Tho. Kent gent lyvinge in the Devizes. Nowe wee the aforesaid constables did send forth warrants accordinge to the said order directed to the pety constables & tithingmen wth in those hundreds chardginge them to collect and gather the 180 £ accordinge to their severall proporcons wch not being don wee, the said constables doe all stand indicted at the last Sessions held at this City of Sarn the xiith of January 1646 some of wch constables came into their office this psent yeare and knowe not what was gathered thereof nor what is behind nor the persons wch are to pay. May it therefore please yor good Lopps take order that the old officers may pass their accomptes upon the same and that yor peticoners may be discharged from our Indictments and to take such further order as in yor good Lopps wisdom shall thinke most fitt considering the intollerable burthens of our office the danger of our lives and goods in these distracted times & yor peticoners will ever pray &c. "

To this is added in another handwriting:—

" I desire 2 or more of the nexte Justices of the peace to consider of the colour of this peticon & to do therein what they conceyve to be right & just "

Jo. GODBOLD.

(He was the Judge).

POUND BREACHES.

Misdemeanours comitted by Philippe Doale.

1. Philippe Doale sawed off a Rayle of the pound.
2. Philippe Doale made another Poundbreach.
3. Henry Doale and Elizabeth Doale, sonne & daughter of Philippe Doale made another pound breach April 8th 1647.

RESCUES FROM POUND.

1. Philippe Doale & his two sonnes John & Henry rescued their sheepe from our sworne Hayward & John Hampton April 14th 1647.
2. Henry Doale rescued his sheepe from our sworne Hayward April 22nd 1647.
3. John Doale & Elizabeth Doale sonne & daughter of Philippe Doale rescued their sheep from Thomas Amor since the 22th of this instant Aprill.

SAME FAMILY ACCUSED OF SHEEP STEALING.

The humble Peticon of the Inhabitants of Cheverell Magna whose names are here under written Humbly sheweth That whereas Philippe Doale of Earlestoke shepheard neare adjoining unto Cheverell hath ben twice arraigned at the barre & once burned on the hand and is a very subtile notorious evill member neare unto us and he & his sonnes are usuall rescuers of sheepe from the pound & usuall pound-breakers. And yor peticoners have yearely and from tyme to tyme lost their best sheepe out of their ffoulds & comons. And since Allhallowtide last yor petrs have lost xxxtie sheepe & doe nowe watch their sheepe evry night. But those men whose sheepe the said Doale doth keep have lost noe sheepe at all, neither doe they watch their sheepe as yor petrs do. And yor petrs doe vehemently suspect the said Philipp Doale to be the party that is guilty of the pmisses by reason that he hath ben taken in one of yor petrs ffouldes at x of the clock at night, having a staffe of seaven foote long, & by reason of many other mayne circumstances wch yor petrs are ready (& doe sweare heare) to relate unto you. And unless some course be taken wth him yor petrs are in a maner utterly dismayed from having or keeping any sheepe at all.

Yor petrs humbly pray yor worppps to be pleased that the said Doale may be bound over to the good behaviour hoping thereby that the said Doale wilbe somewhat restreyned from his evil courses and yor petrs possess their sheepe & goods in a more safe and quiet way. And yor petrs will ever pray &c.

The above is signed by 23 persons.

STEALING HONEY.

The confession of Daniell Collins of Coombe Bissett aged tenne yeares or thereabouts Whoe beinge examined confesseth & said

that about the third of february last about an hour after it was night he and one Mary Burden spinster went into the close of John Bryne att Coombe & the said Mary did then with a knife cutt of three of the Bee potts there wherein was honey & did then take away out of the three bee potts neere about one pint of honey. And this examinate had neere aboute one halfe of it wch he caryed home to his mothers house & there hid it in his bedstrawe. And the other half the said Mary carryed hom to her fathers house. He further saith that both he and Mary did agree to steale this honey & that his brother William Collins did bid him say that goodwife Burden should bid them have an eye that John Bryne did not take them there.

1648.

Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct. 3.

This roll contains little of interest. The following are perhaps those most worthy of transcribing: —

A CRUEL MASTER.

To the Worll his Maties Justices of the Bench.

The humble peticon of Christian Lawrence of Warminster Sheweth that Richard Alford bound his sonne Richard (the peticoner being grandmother to the boy) apprentice unto William Townesend to whom the peticoner gave 40s. in consideracon with her said nephew and the father of the apprentice gave a tuke flocke bed wth a coverlid & a paire of blanketts wch said apprentice (who is but 9 years of age) lived wth his Mr neere aboute halfe a yeare in wch time the said Townesend used merciless cruelty towards his apprentice by whipping him laying on (as can certifie one William Davis) at one time 60 stripes at the least and as the said Davis believes he hath given him 500 stripes in the half yeare, by reason of which merciless cruelty the poore tender boy ran from his Master and being lately come home the said Townesend most cunningly without givinge anie notice to yor peticoner or any friend of the boyes repaired to Thomas Bennett Esqre who upon the relacon of the said Townesend comitted ye poore boy to ye house of correction since wch time yor peticoner hath comuned with Townesend touching referring the difference betwixt him and his boy unto two substantiall inhabitants of Warminster wch hee utterly refused because as is conceived hee intends to detaine ye said goods & money & to put of most unjustly his apprentice.

May it therefore please yor Worpps to comiserate ye poore childs miserable condicon and to referre the premises unto the inhabitants of Warminster (who know the depositions of Townsends) and in case the inhabitants cannot compose ye difference then to refer it to the next Justices of the Peace.

Ordered.—The apprentice to be discharged & the money to be repaid to the wido Lawrence betwene this and Allsaints.

LOCAL OPTION FOR LITTLE BEDWYN AND DISTRICT.

The humble petition of the inhabitants of Little Bedwyn and other adjacent parishes whose names are subscribed.

Humbly sheweth unto your Worppps that there are many alehouses in greate Bedwin whereas heretofore there was but one, that wee the said inhabitants cannot keepe our servants at home but they goe and abide in the Alehouses prophaining the Lords day and continue there two or three dayes together spendinge and consuminge their money and neglecting their masters business, and wth all the keeping up soe many Alehouses doth make soe many theeves, who rob and steale to maintaine themselves in money to spend lewdly, that wee cannot keepe our sheepe in our folds nor in our grounds, whereby our arable lands are uterly decaied, there having been stollen from us wth in these three or fower yearers last aboute fower or five hundred sheep, soe that we are inforced to our greate charg to keepe men to watch in the night otherwise we should keepe none at all, and furthermore the Alehouse Keepers doe buy stollen wood from lewd persons who cut downe our young oakes, our quick sett hedges & coppice woods to brew beare to maintaine them in their drunkenness.

Wee therefore humbly pray that yor^e Worppps will take the pmisses into yor consideracon to put downe all the Alehouses except one in the said towne and we shall every pray.

(Ordered. Report to the next 2 Justices to consider & see the statute executed).

The above is signed by sixteen persons.

A DISOBEDIENT WATCHMAN.

Forasmuche as John Maurice, Constable of Castle Combe hath taken his corporall oath before me Charles Gore one of the Justices &c.

That on Saturday being the second of this instant September he being then in the pformance of his Constableness did in the open street of Castle Combe meet wth one Henry Crace of Castle Combe, broadweaver, & then & there did warne him to watch the night following (being his turn) whereupon Crace asked him for what he should watch and wth all did openly & publickly abuse this informant in words calling him knave and blood sucker, & also did tell him that he did Rifle his house. And this informant further saith that the said Henry was lawfully warned the 26th day of August last to watch the night following & did then fayle in the pformance of his duty & this informant did afterwards aske him why he did fayle in his duty & the said Henry did rayle and abuse him for the space of an hour & this informant saith yt he is afraid to pform his office, all wch tends to the trampling downe of Justice & to the discouraginge of officers in pforming their duties to the evil example of others.

The order then goes to authorise the immediate arrest of Henry and to bring him before a Justice of the Peace to be bound over to

appear at the next Quarter Sessions " and if he refuse soe to doe then ymediately to convey him to ffisherton Anger to remain there until the next Sessions or until he shall find sureties ".

And hereof fayle not at yor peril.

Given att Aldrington under my hande & seale the 18th day of Sept. Anno Dmi 1648.

CHARLES GORE.

To all & singular Maiors, Bayliffs, Constables, Tythingmen, & to all his Maties officers whom it may concerne wthin the said County, these.

Quarter Sessions held at Devizes, April 11. 1648.

This is a rather larger roll than usual, and contains many interesting details.

FAILS TO PROSECUTE.

We psent John Compton of ye Devizes Green to be accessory to ffellony (after the fact committed) for that he hath not prosecuted the law against John Gifford of Polshott, wch Clifford stole away as is said a bushell of Wheete wth a bagge wch wheate & bagge the said Compton did find uppon Gifford & took it as his owne and caried away part of it but he could not sweare the wheate was his owne because it was converted into meale. (The above is signed by 18 persons).

THREE PRESENTMENTS FROM UPAVON.

We psent William Channnder of Uphaven for stoppage of a Water course at the over end of Kings Close in Uphaven by casting up of a bank neere the Carte waye by reason whereof the water that comes from the hill cannot passe to the rever to the annoyance of the Kings leidge people.

Wee also psent the same William Channnder for makinge a mud wall upon the highe waye in Uphaven joyninge to Channndlers Barne towards Russall to the annoyance of the Kings leidge people.

Wee psent the same William Channnder for casting up of a bank of earth in the Kings highe way joyninge to his dwellinge house in Uphaven to the annoyance &c.

Wee psent John Cooke of Luckinton wth in the hundred of Chipnam for refusinge to pay vs. 8d. towards repairinge of ye Church according to ye ancient custom of ye pish time out of mind.

Wee psent Benedict Hancock for that he keepinge an Inn in Bromham refuseth to hange out his signe & to pvide lodgin for travelers whereby they are forced to lodge wth private houses.

WATCH AND WARD WANTED.

Wee psent that there is now no watch & ward, whereby idle persons takes occasion to robb & steale night times constantly

wherefore we desire that ye Bench will be pleased to make an order that there may be a watch by night duly kept and that there may be warrants yssued forth to ye Cunstables of ye severall hundreds & liberties that yt may be duly kept in evry pish & tithinge. (Ordered accordingly).

NOWHERE TO LIVE.

The humble peticon of William Marshman Sheweth

That your peticoner was borne at Maddington and that he hath always lived there. That he married a wife from Shrewton. That the inhabitants of Shrewton will not permit him to lyve at Shrewton. That his father for suffering him to dwell with him was fined at the Court held within the Manor of Maddington. That unless this honble Bench take pity on him he is like to perish. That (he) is willing & hitherto hath wrought hard for to mayntayne himself & his family. May it please yor Worppps to tender yor peters Distressed condicon to order that he may have some place of aboad for him and his, or otherwise to dispose of him as in yor Worppps wisdoms shalbe thought most convenient.

(Ordered.—To be sent back & settled at Maddington & there to continue & be till Maddington shewe cause to the contrary).

CARD PLAYING ON SUNDAY AT URCHFONT.

The humble Peticon of Richard Wall, Minister & other inhabitants of Erchfounte.

Showeth. That William Blanket of Erchfount hath almost one whole year sold beare or ale without authority from the Justices for the same to the great disturbance of all and grieffe of ye well affected godly & religious people in Erchfount Did entertaine certaine of ye inhabitants there at Cards on ye second of this instant Aprill being ye Lords Daye & on Saturdaye ye 8th of ye same to ye dishonour of god & prejudice of their wives & families at home. We therefore humbly desire & intreat yor worppps to take ye pmisses into your pious consideracon & restrain him from selling Beare or Ale for ever hereafter as the only remedy to prevent many inconveniences wch otherwise ye whole pish is likely to feele by woefull experience.

(Signed) RICHARD WALL. Minister ibid & seven others.

DEVIZES A CORPORATION.

The humble peticon of William Charmbury, Clerke.

Sheweth. That whereas one Thomas Alesop hath sworne the peace agst your peticoner and yor peticoner oweing Divers sums of money & the Divizes being a Corporation yor petnr dares not without loosing his liberty appeare before yor Worppps to make his defence.

Yor petnr therefore humbly prayeth the pmisses considered that his appearance may be respited until the next Assessions at

Warminster whether yor petnr may come wth more security & lesse danger to his person in respect of his debts.

OVER RATED.

The humble peticon of Richard Phelps of Sheldon in the pish of Chippenham.

Humbly Sheweth That about 8 years since he bought an estate of Sir Edward Hungerford, Knight of an in 28 acres of inclosed ground, be it more or lesse, in Sheldon, being part of the fiarme there, and then worth lx^l p ann for wch yor petr was then rated towards the reliefe of the poore at 4d. p. moneth. Since wch time yor petr with great cost to the value of 200^l hath ymproved the said ground & made it worth 40 marks p ann. & now is rated for the said ground at xijd. p moneth being 3 tymes as much as was before. And yor petr hopeth that the ill husbandry of others shall not be holpen & maintayned by the good husbandry charge & ymprovement of yor petr.

He humbly prayeth that he may pay & be rated, but according to the value at wch it was before the ymprovement (in case you think fitt) and in soe doing yor Worppps shall doe to the pishe no wrong.

(Signed) RICHARD PHELPS.

(Noe Order).

SERVED UNDER COLONEL LUDLOW.

The humble peticon of Susan Coles of Mayden Bradley a poore distressed widdow & of fflower poore fatherless children.

Humblye shewing that yor peticoners husband Henry Coles takeinge up of armes in the Parliament service wthin this County as a Troop under Captaine William Ludlowe being then a captaine of a troop of horse under the comand of Colonel Edmund Ludlowe Esqre. And that about three yeares sithence yor peticoners sayd husband being then in armes wthin this County in the Parliamt sayd service under the comand of Colonel Ludlowe, was slayne at Newe Sarum at that tyme when the Lord Goringes army fell upon the sayd Colonel Ludlowes regiment sithence wch tyme yor peticoner wth her fflower small children hath endured much misery and want shee being a very sickly woman & haveing noe other meanes left for the mayntenance of her selfe and children but what she can of her selfe pvide.

The petitioner then asks that " some yerely pencon from the Treasurer of mayned soldiers towards the releffe of her and her children according to the Parliaments most gracious order and ordinnance in such case made ".

To this petition is attached the following :—

These are to certify that Henry Coles served the Parliament under my comand in ye County of Wilts behaving himselfe faythfully honestly and valiantly as become a souldier of his quality & that he was slaine in the said service leaveing behind a widdow with

severall smale Children who are fit objects of charity & are hereby especially recommended to ye Justices of Peace of ye sayde County to be provided for as is directed by ye ordinance of Parliament for maimed souldiers & widdowes, by

Their very humble servaunt

EDM. LUDLOWE.

Westminster this 20th of

December 1647.

Also there is the following :—

These are to certifie all those whome yt may concerne that Henry Coles was in the parliament service and served in my Troope under the Comand of Collonell Ludlowe and was slayne in the said service at Newe Sarum by the Kings party under the command of the Lord Goringe.

WILL. LUDLOWE.

It is satisfactory to read that the Justices made enquiries into Mrs. Coles' case and paid her £5 at once and granted a pension of 50/- quarterly to begin the next Summer Sessions.

COTTAGES FOR DAUNTSEY.

This roll contains two certificates by Sir John Danvers with reference to cottages built on his Manor at Dauntsey.

To all Christian people to whom this psent writing shall come. Sir John Danvers of Chelsey in the County of Midx Kt sendeth greeting in our Lord god everlasting.

Whereas I am informed by a Certificate under the hands of the most substantial inhabitants of Dauntsey that William fferis, a poore man if an honest life and conversacon hath lately erected a cottage in a certaine ground pcell of my Manor of Dauntsey where in regard he sits rent free, he maintaines himself and familie by his honest labour without any burthen to the parish, which (in case he shalbe punished for the said cottage or enforced to seeke a house elsewhere at a Rent) it is to be feared he will not be able to doe Know yee that I the said Sir John Danvers doe as much as in mee lyes hereby license and authorise him to continue his habitacon in the said Cottage for so long time as the Justices of the Peace of the said County of Wilts shall thinke fitt to allow and grant him and no longer. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale this twelfth day of November in the three and twentieth yeare of the Raigne of our soveraigne Lord King Charles 1647.

J. DANVERS.

In the presence of

THO. YATES. WILL LAWES.
(Ordered. Allocat during his life.)

The other certificate in similar lines in favour of Thomas Kitch who had built a cottage "on part of my wast ground in Melksham—to which the same permission—to live for the rest of his life is given by the Justices.

These two documents have fine and clear impressions of Sir John's seal. It is oval in shape and encloses a shield with chevron and three six-pointed stars. Round the shield is SIGIL : DONI : D'ANVERS. 1066.

NO BUTTER OR CHEESE AT LUDGERSHALL.

The humble peticon of Nicholas Surton of Lurgesall. Humbly Sheweth that whereas the parish of Lurgesall is a poore place & a barren soyle, and noe pasture or meadowes grounde there nor any where neere there—about. By meanes whereof the inhabitants of the said pish & of the Country there, doe stand in great want of Butter & cheese. And are desirous to be supplied therewith without force travayling for the same.

Yor petr humbly prayeth yor worppps to be pleased to grannt a Lycence to buy & sell butter & Cheese in any of the Marketts & fayres wth in this County. And yor petr will ever pray &c.

(Ordered—Allocat—4 C of Cheese and 4 dozen of butter.)

TROUBLESOME NEIGHBOURS.

The humble peticon of certayne of the Inhabitants of Stert and others whose names are hereunder written. Humbly sheweth & complayneth.

That William Willis and Edith his wife (as well by way of comon imbarrety as otherwise) have byn for divers yeares past & yet are, comon and notorious disturbers of the peace. That they have incited agst their neighbors divers frivolous & vexatious suites, thereby enforcing them to excessive expences. That the said Edith is & standeth convicted for a comon scould as appears by the records of this Court.

That they still continue their litigious & wrangling course.

That this peticon to this Court pceeds meerly out of a desire of neighbourly & peaceable lyving & not for any other respect.

They doe therefore pray yor woppps to inflict on them such punishment as they deserve or otherwise to deale wth them as in yor worppps grave wisdoms shalbe thought most convenient.

And they shall pray &c.

This bears four signatures but has a note added as follows:—

Whereas I have formerly ben desired to undertake ye deciding of certaine differences between Wm. Willis of Stert and Willm Gittings of Erchfount I find that upon examination of Witnesses on both sides ye said Wm. Willis through the instigation (as I conceive) of his wife who (as I have often heard) is guilty of ye aforesaide complaints to be very much averse from a peaceable life.

(Signed) RICHARD NAB.

SUFFERED FROM BOTH SIDES.

The humble peticon of Thinhabitants of Westport (Malmesbury) whose names are here subscribed.

Right Worp for asmuch as our said pish is growne very poore and much decayed by reason of Constant quartering of souldiers on both sides and a great part of our houses and our Church being pulled downe and utterly destroyed, and by reason that our towne doth stand so neare adjoyninge the Garrison, wee have suffered and sustained more than ordinary losses in regard of the abundance of souldiers that came continually to the garrison in the evening when the gates were shut upp and could not be admytted to enter into the Garrison but wee were constrained to interteine both them and their horses, and in asmuch we have had great Taxations imposed upon us since those tymes and few or no Tradesmen amongst us but such as lyve for the most part by spynninge and cardenge wch is very meane especially in these tymes, and being but in meane estate before those tymes came and therefore now not able to relieve one another.

May it therefore please yor good Worppps to give orders to the Constables of Malmesbury hundred to tax us in all kinds of Taxations wch wee are liable to be Taxed by the Rates by ourselves as other pishes are wthin the said hundred and according as we shall be found in ability for wch we shall ever remain thankfull unto you.

This is signed by the two Churchwardens, two Constables, two overseers, and three others who "make their mark".

RAIDING THE CORN MERCHANTS.

The humble peticon of William Mathewe one of the Constables of the hundred of Melksham.

Humbly sheweth that whereas divers lewde persons arose in a tumultuous way & tooke corne from the owners coming from Market whereupon by vertue of a warrant from his Maty Justice of the Peace yor Petnr wth divers of the inhabitants of Bulkington (where he liveth) went forth and took about xxvj of the sd tumultuous persons at Worton in the hundred of Potterne & comynge by pursuite after them from Bulkington where they did the fact. And two of those persons (being chiefe actors) being ordered by one of his Mats Justices to be carryed to Gaole & comitted to yor petnrs to be conveyed thither. And some intelligence being given of a rescue intended wch caused your petnr to gett the greater ayde, yor petnr in the conveying of them to gaole did expend in and lay out the some of £5. 5. And the said felons had noe goods of their owne to helpe convey them thither.

He then asks that the "some of £5. 5 may be paid him". Note added: It appeareth that the felons were taken in the pish of Potterne & that place to be at the charge of carr: thence to gaole.

ROBBING OF BACON AND CHEESE &c.

The informacon of John Prater of Langley, broadweaver, given ye 14th day of March 1647 before George Ivey Esqre against John Colchester alias Watts charged wth ye suspicon of ye felonious breaking of the house of the said John Prater & wth the stealing of Bacon cheese & certain other goods.

Who saith that on Wednesday being the first day of this instant March in ye night time, himselfe & his ffamily being in bedd hee had his house broken up, & an whole bacon-hogge taken out of a salting trowe & divers cheeses & other goods stolen from thence. And pceiving of it ye next morning hee went abroad & going along ye way hee heard by chance one John Necke reprove Joseph Colchester als Watts brother to the said John for that hee came to worke no rather (= earlier) telling of him yt hee lay sleeping so long by ye fire all night, that he could not rise in the morning, to whom he replied that hee himself went to bedd early, but his brother John came to bed not above two houres before day, whereupon having a Jealousie least the said John Colchester als Watts might bee the man that broke upp his house, repaired toa Justice of the Peace for a Wart to search for ye goods hee had lost, and to apphend the body of ye said John Colchester als Watts. And having searched his mothers house, & found nothing there, he went to Bremhill to search the house of one Thomas Wheeler whose daughter the sd John Colchester als Watts had married & wth whom his wife then lived. And when they came thither and comanded them to open the doore the sd Wheelers wife would suffer none but ye officers to come in but stood att ye doore wth an hatchett in her hand, threatening to kill whosover else should offer to come in and further saith yt one John Aland on ffriday last found 4 or 5 of this informants cheeses hidd under an hay-ricke of his about a mile from this informants house, & neare ye way from thence to Bremhill where ye sd Colchester his wife now liveth.

(Signed) GEORGE IVYE.

The informacon of William Syddenham of Langley, gent,

Who saith yt on Thursday being ye second day of this instant March going abroad very early in ye morning about an houre or two before day hee mett ye sd John Colchester als Watts coming from-wards John Praters house towards his mothers house wth a white cloak under his arme wth something wrapped up in it, but what it was he knoweth not.

(Signed) GEORGE IVYE.

The informacon of Joseph Colchester als Watts of Langley in ye pische of Kington St. Michael weaver—

Who saith yt hee is brother to ye aforsd John Colchester als Watts & that they live both together in their mothers house att Langley & doe usually lye together & also saith yt that same night when John Praters house was broken up, hee, this informant went to bed about 8 or 9 of ye clocke & left his aforesd brother sitting

by ye fire, who came nott to bedd unto him untill about an houre or two before ye breake of ye day as he this informant believeth, but whether it were more or lesse he cannot certainly tell because hee fell asleepe afterwards neither doth he know where his brother was that night but saith that he believeth that hee either went to Bremhill to his wife or else slept by ye fire.

(Signed) GEORGE IVYE.

The examinacon of John Colchester als Watts of Langley, weaver, taken ye 14th day of March 1647 being charged with the suspicion &c. &c.

Who being asked where he was on Wednesday night the first day of this instant March being ye same night wherein John Prater's house was broken up, said that he was att home att his mothers house in Langley & there continued all ye night & being further asked what time he went to bedd, saith about tenne of ye clocke, and that he there lay wth his brother Joseph untill ye next morning day-light : and being asked yt if he lay a bedd so long how hee could be seene coming from Praters house an houre or two before day wth a white cloth under his arme & something in it, saith he could not be seene there, for that he was then a bedd.

(Signed) GEORGE IVYE.

The prisoner was delivered wth a mittimus to William Dicke, Tythingman of Langley.

Quarter Sessions Jan 9th at New Sarum.

PRESENTMENTS.

The presentment of the Jury for the hundred of Amesbury.

Wee psent the Cage, blindhouse, stocks and pillory in Lurgershall to be in defalt and one to be repaired by George Brown Esqre Lord of the Mannor of Lurgershall.

The Constables of the same hundred present

To the first article touchinge recusants, we present George Browne of Ludgershall, gent, to be a popish recusant having not resorted to his pishe Church to devine service there by the space of sixe monthes last past to our knowledge.

HUNDRED OF BRANCH ET DOLE.

To the 7th article touching highwayes & bridges unrepaired &c we present that the West end of the sevall bridges called Crane-bridge and ffisherton Bridge lyinge within the parish of ffisherton Anger are in great decay and as we conceive they ought to be repayed by the Inhabitants of the whole Countie of Wiltes.

And we present that a certaine bridge lyinge wthin the pishe of South Newton known by the name of the ffarme bridge comonly used for a churchway is in greate decay & as we conceive ought to be repayed by the occupiers of the ffarme there knowne by the name of Mr. Eyres ffarm, Charles Blacke nowe occupying the same.

HUNDRED DE CHALKE.

Wee psent the Lord Baultymore & his Lady both of Semley for Popish recusants.

DOWNTON.

Wee psent my Lord of Pembroke for not repaying the mill Bridge wthin the parish of Downton.

DAMERHAM SOUTH.

To the 9th article touchinge rogues & idle persons lyvinge out of service &c wee psent Avis Vincent, Anne Stocke, Joan Everett, Sarah & Mary Everett & John Everett for living idly out of service, and are entertained by their parents.

HUNDRED OF UNDER DITCH.

Wee psent Henry Potter of the Cittie of Newe Sarum for under myndinge of the high waye leading from Mylford to Amsbury att the Lyne Kile neare a place called the Mismase: farther we psent the Bridge called Muttens Bridge is still in defaulte and ought to be repayed by the Countye of Wiltes.

BIND THEM OVER AGAIN.

To the Right Woorfl his loving freind Mr William Litleton Esq at Sarum, these.

Sir I would earnestly intreat you if Barthollmew & Arnold & brod do apear at yor Sessions, wch you bound over, that you wilbe pleased to move the benche that they may be bound over to their good behavior for they are comon night walkers & stealing of conies as they confessed them selves upon their examinacons before you wch I hope wilbe a sufficient cause to hav them bound over again. I am so much wrought by theis people of great bedwyn that I can not kepe my shepe conies nor poultry, but they steale all thinges from me as much as they can. I would intreat you to do what you can for me in this bussines for wch I shall think my sealf much boound to you. So wth my du respects remembered to you,
I rest yor assured loving frend
to Comand Edward Hungerford.

Cheesebury this 9th Janiari '48.

EVICTED.

The humble peticon of William Dallery nowe of Stratford under the Castle of Old Sarum.

Sheweth that yor petr being a maymed souldier in the service of the Kinøe & Parliament (as by good testimonials he is able to shewe) hath lived by the space of divers yeares last past in Stratford and is nowe threatened to be throwne out of doores wth his wife and children and is denied to be intertained in the Cittie of Newe Sarum where he formerly dwelt.

He therefore most humbly petitioneth yor good Worps to be pleased by order of Sessions soe to settle yor petr's habitacon as yor wisdom shall seeme meete.

And yor petr shall pray &c.

CURE FOR THE KING'S EVIL: A FAILURE.

The humble peticon of Grace Stokes wife of Henry Stokes of ffishton Anger, glasier.

Humbly Sheweth That whereas yor petr by an indenture bearing date ye xth day of ffebruary in ye xxijth yeare of his Mats Raigne that nowe is, did take as an apprentice one Susanna Candby daughter in lawe of one William Locke of Wily husbandman (The agreement was for a term of three years) Which said apprentice was at the day of the date of ye said indenture and nowe also is extremely troubled with a disease called the Evill Which when yor peticoner perceived asked her how long she had bin troubled with it, as also whither she was cured of it, Whoe wth one John Starre of Wily (whoe on the parte and behalfe of the said William Locke & Arculus his wife, as alsoe by his pcurement caused the said apprentice to dwell), yor petr answered that she had bin with the King and was cured and did amend. But ever since that ye said apprentice hath continued with yor Petr it hath proved contrary for she hath bin and nowe is soe vehemently troubled wth ye said disease That she is not able to helpe herselfe and is almost ready to perish for want of Cure, to ye greate grieve and damadge of yor poore petr.

In tender consideracon whereof and for yor petnr hath a greate chardge of howse and children and is not able to subsist by reason of the greate chardge she hath bin at the same, yor petnr humbly prayeth That yor Worppps would be pleased to take ye premises into yor serious consideracon, & according as you shall think fitt to take some speedy course that yor petnr may be eased.

And yor petnr wth her family shall ever pray &c.

A PLEA AGAINST THE ALEHOUSES IN UPAVON.

The humble petition of ye Minister of ye parish of Uphaven for and in behalfe of the rest of his parish humbly sheweth.
Worthy Gentlemen,

My places bindes to entreate you to use your best endeavor against ye multiplicity of Alehouses in our Parish of Uphaven whereby God Almighty is greatly dishonord, his Sabboths profaned, Good lawes Contemned, and infinite of youth extremely corrupted, here being (besides three Licensed Victualing houses) sometimes 20 and 30 that contrarie to all lawes & prohibitions sell daily & keepe meetings in their houses wch in conclusion (if not maturely prevented) will prove of dangerous consequence. Your good natures, I know do incline you to Mercie, but tis noe mercie to suffer so greate abuses. As there is a cruell mercie so there is a pious cruelty wch tis well if you would be pleased to embrace,

especially against this greate corruption of our times, wch if you would be earnest and seveare in, would ease the Lord of contempt, the state of complaints, Your Contrye of a Burthen & yourselves of trouble & danger. There is a greate complaint of Bastardies, sheep-stealers, hedgbreakers, quarrellers, and ye like. Would you be eased of these diseases? Believe it, they gather in to Alehouses as humers doe into ye stomach. Doe you but drive them thence with som strong Physick, and you heale our towne and Villages of infinite distempers. Soe leaving it to your serious consideracon I crave pardon for my boldness, Beseeching God to make you still and still to doe worthily in Israel.

Yours

In all Christian services to be comanded

JOHN NEWMAN. Minister of Uphaven.

A note added says: "Bradley the bayliffe to attend Mr. Stephens and Mr. Swanton whoe will examine the pmisses".

WATER FLOODS THE GARDENS AT SALISBURY.

Wee whose names are subscribed and Tenants of the hospitall of St. Nicholas nere Sarum for certaine gardens lyeing in ffisherton Anger doe hereby signifie unto this present sessions. That wee and many others have had and doe nowe suffer much wronge injury and losse by meanes of the indundacons and overflowing of waters into and over our gardens the winter tymes wch commeth partly by the stoppage of the water Course formly cleansed & kept open in the close of Sarum betwixt the houses where in Doctor Teat and Mr. Cole now dwell and wee desire it may be presented and reformed, ffor about 14 yeares since Mr. Bee of Sarum did erect a myll in the close of Sarum wch was offensive and upon complaint of some the same myll was taken downe. All wch we leave to your Consideracons January 10th 1648.

(Signed) WILLM. COLET (and others).

A PETITION WITH QUAIN T SPELLING.

ffor the right Worshepful his maggestes Justesses and others of this Corte now sitting.

The umbell peeteshon and desier of Edmond Portar of Melvord bur parchenor to sute Martens Showeth that wheare ase your peteshonar being in wante and in greate nede of some relefe what in your wesdomes shall thinke fett weekeley to bee lowed your peeteshonor by some order of thes Corte made to the overseers in that bee halfe acordinge ase nesetey doe requier hee beinge of great age neare fouer skore ore upward and his wife beinge aged and the Lord haveing laid his hand ine her by sicknes neare thes to yeares laste paste soe that your peteshonors are in greate wante nowe and the more obgetes of your petey seinge thay were allwayes hard laborars and oneste pepell a jasente to them thes fewe lines wee hope your worshopes will conseder and a pointe

some speedey Relefe and your peteshonars shall ever praye unto God for you and subscribe your obleged pore distressed servantes.

EDMOND PORTER
and his wife ELIZABETH PORTER.

MARRIED AT LAST.

These are to certifie whome they may concerne that although Thomas Knap & Margerie Stevens have lived scandalously together, yet now, the 8th of this instant Januarie they were honestly married in the parish Church of Edington by mee.

J. KINNINMOND.

In 1648 Robert Nicholas Sergeant at law was Recorder of Devizes.

St. Dennis fair was held on the Green on Oct. 9th.

Quarter Sessions held at Warminster, July 4.

GRANTING A LICENSE. (Somewhat abbreviated.)

When being granted a licence to keep an alehouse for one year only at West Kngton to Precilla Barnes she had to enter into a recognizance "That she suffer no pson or psons to tipple in her house contrary to the Statute. That she suffer none to tipple or remaine in her house on the Lords daye in Tyme of Divine Service or Sermon, none to remain or tipple after nyne of the Clock in the nighttyme, none to playe at Dice, Carde table, Quoits, Loggets, Bowles or any other unlawful game. That she suffer noe drunkenes or desolute order & that if any happen to be that she acquaint the Constable or Tythingman that the offenders maye be punished. That she acquaint the Constable or Tythingman of all Vagabonds Rogues Sturdy beggars & suspicious persons wch come to her house and if any goods be offered to bee sould by any such that she acquaint the Constable or Tythingman to bring them before a Justice of the Peace. That she sell by the proved Ale quarte & pinte and not by Jugges, Cupps or cannas and that she sell the best at 4d the gallon and the small 2d the gallon".

PRESENTMENTS.

WHORLSDOWNE. Wee present that since the last Quarter Sessions holden at the Devizes wee apprehended one Thomas Longe alis Kickham upon suspition of stealing a horse & afterwards sending to Cadbury to his neighbours. Some of them came to Steeple Ashton & charged him with felony. He was examined by Mr. Goddard & "thereuppon comitted the said Longe to ye Goale at fisherton where he nowe is a prisoner & to be tryed for his life".

WESTBURY. Wee psent William Stevens of Westbury Lye for feling wood & thornes, cuming by it unlafully from his neighbours, useing neither vocation.

Wee psent William Haskets for inclosing parte of our comon to the straitaining of our Church way.

FIRE NEAR DEVIZES CASTLE.

At these Sessions the Justices granted £5 to Johan Golding alias Vallentine in consideration of her loss by fire when her house neare the Castle was burnt down upon the last entrye of the Parliament forces into the Devizes. Mr. Wm. Parry of Easton Gray the Treasurer was ordered to pay the £5. (See p. 186.)

GRANTING A LICENSE.

In granting a licence to Robert Morgan of Warminster to keep a "comon Alehouse Victualing or tipling house", besides the usual condition as to the prohibition of unlawful games, and how to deal with rogues and vagrants, they also insist "one full ale quart of his best beere or ale be at all times uttered for a pennie & of his small two quarts. That noe flesh bee dressed or spent in his house in times of lent or upon any other prohibited daies. That no neighbours children or servants nor any dwelling in the same towne be suffered to tipple in his house. That none be suffered to tipple in his house in any one day above an howre not at any time after nine of the Clocke at night".

UNLAWFUL SHOEMAKERS.

The humble peticon of Roger Newman & John James of Calne cordweyners humbly sheweth That in November last past the peticoners procured subpenas to bring in divers men into this worshipful Court for useing the trade or craft of Shoemaking not serving a lawfull apprentishipp according to the Statute wch extends to the great ympoverishing of ye peticoners, their wives & tender children & ever since ye peticoners to their great charges & beyond their abilities have attended every Court & cannot obtaine to have a tryall, and being very poore cannot travell any further in the pmisses.

May it therefore please yor worppps that all interposicons may be removed whereby they may pceede according to law And yor peticoners shall ever pray &c.

(Note.—Granted.)

AN ECHO OF THE CIVIL WAR.

The humble peticon of Julian Moore of the Devizes Widdowe Humbly sheweth, That whereas yor peticoners sonne Thomas Moore having been allwaies a souldier in ye Parliament Army from the beginning of the warrs was shott in his back in the Parliament

service under ye Comaund of Sir William Waller lying in siege against ye Devizes and being soe maymed & sick he was Releevd by yor petitioner three quarters of a yeare to her greate charge & ymprovement shee being a poore woman & not able to mayntaine her selfe. Neither is her said sonne as yet able to performe his worke as in tyme past he hath done.

Mrs. Moore then goes on to ask for some satisfaction for her charge and the Justices awarded £4 for her son.

TROUBLES WITH THE POOR PEOPLE.

To the Worpsfull his worthy friend John Topp Esq these psent at Stockton.

If there had not bene a hand of comannd upon me, I would have wayted on you at Sessions. I beleeve you will have much trouble wth the poor people and there is a great care upon your hands to pvide for them, corne being nowe so scarce & ye prize so high, that either it is not to be had or else beyond ye reach of a labouring man, barely being at viijs ye bushell. Ye cry is soe greate that (coming home late last night) I caused ye constable wth 2 or 3 of ye sufficient men of our Towne to take a viewe of ye Maulters houses to see what barley there was, both dry and wett, and for whot was drye, have caused to be pserved for your dirreccon, touching wch our Constable will attend you Touching ye persecuing by ye Maulters agst ye poore people I would wish you would cause a meeting to be here or at Hindon for yt purpose where the Maulters as well as the poore people might be psent & I am confident one such meeting would be of grave use for quietting ye County wherein if I may contribute the least you may be very sure of my attendance as well for the business as to express myself very much.

Your humble servant

RICHD. GREENE.

Meere, 4 July 1648.

ECHOES OF THE CIVIL WAR.

Ann Jones of Triwbridg Wido Humbly sheweth that one George Earwine a Souldier under Col. Oakely in his Regmt of Dragoons under the comand of Captn Barrington whoe coming to Trowbridge on Whit Tuesday last past on a march happened to be soe sick & feeble that he could not followe his Coulers, and is yett very weake & not able to travell and hath noe meanes to subsist nor yet to paye for what he is already ingaged and therefore yor Worps poore petnr Ann Jones doth most humbly beseech your good Worpps her poore case considered and the psent weak condicon of the sayd George Earwine whoe hath bene this five yeares and upwards in the parliament service, that you will be pleased to comiserate his psent necessitie & to grant your order for the satisfacon of yor poore petnr Ann Jones for what shee hath already

spent upon the said sicke souldier and for his mayntenance in future tyme.

July ye 3d 1648.

Yor worppps poore petnr hath been charged with the said George Earwine in Dyatt phisicke and entendance ffortie shillings att least.

(Note added.—Allocat 40s out of ye stock by Mr. Bennett.)

The humble peticon of Thomas Still of Warminster Sheweth that yor peticoner hath been a souldier in the Regt of Coll John Birch three yeares in wch service yor peticoner received many grievous wounds whereby he hath lost the use of his right arme wch extends to the utter destruction & overthrow of the peticoner whiles life lasteth unlesse this Worfl Bench vouchafe (according to the wonted lenitie of pceding tymes) to comisserate the peticoners deplorable & almost destroyed condicon wch he hopeth the God of Mercie will operate in your hearts to doe and afford him reliefe in his miserie as shall seeme most correspondent to law in yor Worppps wisdomes.

(Note.—He was granted £4 p annum.)

The following certificate follows in support of his petition :—

These are to Certifie all whome it may concerne that the bearer hereof Thomas Still hath served the Parliamt in the Regiment of Collonell John Birch for the space of three wholle yeares & under the comand of Captaine William Browne untill the time of disbanding & whereas at Gotheridge Castle he hath received twenty eight grievous wounds to his utter undoeing and the losse of use & benefite of his right arme & being now willing to travell towards Wiltshire his owne Countrey where he was borne our desire is that you will bee pleased not onely to suffer him to passe quietly & peaceably thither but alsoe to succour & relieve him & withall to allow him reliefe & maintenance according to the merits of the ffaithfullnes of his service during the time aforesaid. Dated the sixth day of ffebruary 1647.

To all whome these may concerne.

(Signed) J. S. BLACKMORE, Lt. Coll.
WILL. BROWNE, Cap.

At the end is the following in the handwriting of the doctor :—

I sent in by a Teste that the beor heere of wth gods asestance was cuored of 28 woounds by mee wch hee resaved at one tim in the for sayd service. Yor Servt.

(Signed) RICHARD HINGER.
Chirurgion to Colonell John Birch.

IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Wee the inhabits & officers of Trowbridge whose names are under written doe most humbly supplicate yor worppps in the behalfe of our poore neighbor Willm Parkes a penchioner whoe in

the raigne of Queen Elizabeth of famous memory was a souldier in the Kingdom of Ireland under the comand of the Rt Honble Sr Henry Docura Kt Cheife Comander of her Maties forces then employed att Loythfoyle nowe termed London Derry (1566) in wch said warres he lost his left hand for wch his sd service he was by the then Lord Cheife Justice of England and other her Maties Comissioners granted five pounds p ann wch hath these many yeares been payed him but now he being growne very old decrippd feeble and not able to traveile as heretofore Wee whose names are subscribed do desire yor Worppps to grant yor order for the enlargement of his said yearely penchion because it is to Litle to yeald him mayntence this hard tyme he having almost noe appell to his backe. This we humbly desire wth yor Worppps good Likeing maye be granted and doe cease and rest Yor Worppps in all Cristian Love and dutie ready to be comanded.

Trowb. ye 3 daye

of July 1648.

(Signed) THO. PELLING rector
also by the Churchwardens, Constables,
Overseers and others.

The Justices, however, hardened their hearts and ordered
“ The old penchion but noe more ”.

TROUBLE AT EVERLEY OVER A COTTAGE.

Sir,

There hath beine ancientlie before the Statute a cottage in Everley wch since these tymes of trouble is fallen in to decay but of late is by the allowance & direcon of Sr John Evelyn (as he told me at London) newe building upp, uppon the old ffoundacon but the pty buildinge of yt is hindered and disturbed by some troublesome psons of the towne. I pray be pleased to move the Court for an order at the Sessions that the Cottage may be rectified & built upp without disturbance. Sir I pray excuse my not being at Sessions in regard I have soe much busines for the assises wch is at hand & rest

Yor friend & Servant

Sarm. 4th July 1648.

ffra : SWANTON.

(Note.—Being testified yt it upon an old toft it may (be) re-edified without incurring the penaltie of ye Statute.

Eneas Gooddalle de Everleye is ye Cottager.)

A MIXED MARRIAGE.

The humble petition of Alexander Barrett of Warminster sheweth That yor peticoner (being as he believes a punishment most just inflicted by God) married with a most lewd ungodly woman who is the wife of Henry Chappell who now liveth and is a householder in Woodstocke neere Oxford by wch said Chappell shee (as shee saith) hath one child and since the tyme yor peticoner was betrothed to her shee hath another child wch said child borne since the time of her marriage to the peticoner the ffrinds of the

petitioner are content to stand obliged to the pische to take of the child last borne from being any more chargeable to the said pische.

May it therefore please yor Worps to grant the petitioner his enlargement and to order the said Chappell may be constrained to maintaine tholder child or to deale otherwise to bring the said Chappell to Condigne punishment.

The Order of the Court was that security is given for discharge the pische of one child of Alexander Barrett, tholder is Jno Chappells etat 5 yeares & is to be sent to the father att Woodstock. Thomas Barrett affird that John Chappell liveth at Woodstock & keepeth a victualing house there & lived for about 5 yeares as man and wife. He hath 2 wives and she 3 husbands.

Chappells child etate 8 years to be sent to the father, warrant to apprehend her & a letter to the Justice to apprehend her and send her to be tried in our Court.

Honourable Bench of Justices in this psent Sessions at Warminster (July 4th 1648).

WOUNDED AT LANGFORD.

The humble petition of Richard Ricketts of Knoyle Magna in Wilts—

That your humble Petitioner in ye yeare 1644 being called from his owne Parrish to the tything of Rudge in ye Parrish of Chillmarke for the worke of his trade, beeing a Carpenter, was then impressed a Souldier by John fferard Tythingman for the service of Langford Garrison where yor Petitioner was dangerouslie wounded in the said service and hath thereby left irrecoverable the use of one of his armes : And soe disabled for all future service or labour in his calling. By meanes whereof your Petitioner is quite destitute of all meanes of Livelyhoode and left wholly to the Charitie of his neighbors for his relieffe and sustenance.

May it therefore please this Honble Court to take the Premises unto yor tender consideration And to order that some allowance accordinge as your wisdome shall thinke meete for the time past and for a future subsistence, bee made to your poore Petitioner from the sayd Tything of Rudge for his maintenance who hath hitherto subsisted in these hard times of dearth, merely by ye voluntary Charity of neighbors without wch hee had long since pished.

And yor Petitioner shall ever pray &c.

The Court note is as follows : " Settled at Knoyle ", being mayned at Rudge the overseers at Rudge to pay 18d per week from the time the petitioner was refered to the Judges & upon refusall the next Justice to bynd them over to the next Sessions.

A STORY OF THE PLAGUE.

The humble petition of William Maggs of Horningsham. Sheweth. That in the time of the late Visitation at Horningsham

it pleased God that the familie of your poore petitioner fell sick and my mother dyed as was conceived of the plague Whereupon I wth my wife and sick children were shutt up by the Officer of the sayde parish for the space of 18 weekes. In wch sayde space I spent all that ever I had and was enforced to desire reliefe from the sayde officers & others of my neighbors who tooke upon them the Care of the visited and poore people by whose commande and appoyntment William Bisse our then miller supplied me wth corne to the value of twelve shillings and Anne flare widowe with a peck of peace to the price of 1s. 3d. But nowe it hath pleased God to releve our sayd parish the sayd miller requireth the sayd summe of Twelve shillings of me and daylie threatneth to sue me in Wilton Court whereby for feare of baylies I dare not freelie followe my Callinge to my greate hindrance in this harde time I haveing a wife and 3 small children and nothing to maynteyne them but the labour of my hands.

May it therefore please your Worships to take my case into consideration and you will grannt me an order to the collectors of the poore that they may thereby be commanded to pay the afore-sayd engagements out of the comon purse who am in noe wise able to satisfie it And so much the Rather because I understand that our parish was not charged one pennie all the time the Visitation continued not soe much as with the ordinarie people but they were maynteyned duringe the sayd time by the moneys which by benevolence or otherwise by order were raysed out of the Country. And I shall pray for your Worshippes prosperitie.

Witnesses. Willm Parsons then minister, Alexander Gray.

The order of the Court was " the pische to discharge Bisse and allowe the peticoner xs. or to be bound over ".

SERVED UNDER MAJOR WANSEY.

Wee whose names are under written doe certifie that Roger Hollis hath served in the Parliament service two yeares and upwards Under the comand of Major Wansey who was verie faithfull in that service and hath bin hurt thereby insomuch that he is not able to worke nor helpe himself towards his mayntenance but like to perish his freinds being poore and not able to relieve him. In witness whereof wee have hereunto sett our hands the 26th of April 1648.

Humphrey Buckler Lte.
Charles Buckler Coronot.
William Davis Qr. Mr.
John Wansey.

The order of the Court was " alocat 4 marks per anno ".

REPUTED SPY.

The humble peticon of Walter Lovell of Shaston humbly Sheweth That about 4 yeares since yor peticoner happened to be

uppon travell in this towne of Warminster in a house known by the name of the Search hoope unto wch house come William Dixie and William Lillie both of Warminster and then and there under Coulour to accomplish their owne unjust ends brought two souldiers (being Cavaliers) and taxed the petitioner for carrying letters, as they alleadged against the King and under ptence thereof by force & vyolence did take away the sume of 37s. in money, besides in threed wch the said William Dickes wth his owne hands did take away to the value of 17s. 6d. all wch said money and goods the parties above said did yet detain.

He then asks for a " warrant for ye said Dixe and Little ", but the Justices' reply was " when the petitioner shall make prosse of his petition then this Court will consider thereof ".

DESERTS HIS CHILDREN AT WARMINSTER.

The humble peticon of the Churchwardens & overseers of the pish of Warminster Humbly sheweth That one Richard Lyle a goldsmith about 4 yeares since departed from our towne leaving behind him 2 small children who have ever since been mayntained by the pish. And as we are credibly informed the said Lyle is resident in the towne of South Hampton where his parents live.

The petition then goes on to ask that a warrant at large may be issued against Lyle so that he may be apprehended " whereby this pish may be freed of the said Children ".

This was granted, with a request to the Mayor of Southampton to bind him over to the next Sessions.

A COMPLAINT AGAINST CONSTABLES.

Elizabeth Davis Als Symes Wid: humbly Sheweth unto your worps that wrong and injuries don unto yor peticoner by Thomas Shoard and John Wansey then Constables of Mayden Bradley First they tooke two hogsheads of beere from yor peticoner and carried it to Sir ffrancis Dorington wthout any satisfaccon for it or the Vessells and divers tymes they have quartered souldiers upon her, twelve at a tyme, and never satisfied for a penny but promised her satisfaccon. Alsoe put Souldiers wch was taken prisoners upon her, and they had in diet & other provisions to the value of seaven shillings and putt upon yor peticoner two sick souldiers the one lodged and had his diet 10 weeks and the other twelve with promise likewise of satisfaccon for the same wthout pformance of any All extending to the greate losse & almost utter undoeing of yor poore peticoner.

The matter is " referred to the Constables to doe that wch is right ".

AT LOGGERHEADS WITH THE PARSON.

The humble peticon of the Inhabitants of Venny Sutton Humblie Sheweth. That in the Easter weeke accordinge to the

custome of the said parish the parishoners & inhabitants of Sutton did elect and chuse two overseers of the poore in the presence of the parson & the parish wch said overseers yor peticoners well hoped should have acted accordinglie. But Mr. Burges their parson att a pettie sessions (the other parishoners not being present) procured two others to bee elected wth out the consent of the parish whoe with the parson have altered the rates & manner of ratinge of the said parish & have eased themselves & laid the burthen on yor peticoners by makinge of a pound rate wherein the said parson hath eased himself & under rated his parsonage 50[£] at the least, and layed the burthen upon yor peticoners.

Yor peticoners therefore humblie desire that yor Worppes shall be pleased to graunt yor order that in all payments the usual way of ratinge may continue & that the first overseers elected by the parish may stand.

The matter was referred to two Justices to take such course as they think fit.

BODY IN A WELL AND BEER THROWN AWAY.

A lengthy petition from Martin Applegate of Warminster dated Jan. 2nd 1647 states that " he took a house in Warminster & paid one quarters rent, 5/- but before the end of the next quarter Johan Shergoll came with her servant maid & seized his goods in consideration of 30/- he owed her for Oats and hay. Since then she had him arrested and kept a prisoner for 24 hours ". He had also " sustained great damage by reason after the woman had drowned herself in the well belonging to the house the Constables comanded the beere made of five bushels of malt and of the said well water to be drawn forth, given & throwen away, nevertheless the said widow Shergoll saith she will be paid for the 5 bushels of malt wch yor petitioner conceaves to be unreasonable. And by reason of these abuses yor petitioner with his poore wife and children are like to perish by reason of the said Widow Shergolls ilegall and unconscionable pceedings ". He then goes on to ask that Johan Shergoll may be called before the Justices to answer his charges.

(A footnote says " Noe order ".)

APPEAL FROM PRISONERS.

The humble peticon of William Abbott and Dennis Turgis. Humbly showeth that Whereas yor poore peticoners having either of us wife and children wch are brought to pore istate by reason of or linge nowe heare in prison & cannot tell howe to healp them selves Wch doth make yor peticoners now humbly to begg of all yor worships to consider of us & our poore wives and chill drenns estates & take some commiseracon of them & us in calling us nowe to or trials while our adversaries be nowe heare in psenc and Wee or wives and childreenn shalle be evr daylie bound to pray for your worps wellfare & everlasting happiness in the world to come.

PETITION AGAINST ALE HOUSES IN BARFORD ST.
MARTIN.

The petition of many of the well-affected inhabitants of Barford St. Martin—humbly sheweth.

That your petitioners laying to heart the great abuses occasioned by the Ale houses in the town of Barford tending to the great dishonour of God the prophanation of the Sabbath, the breach of many ordinances of Parliament the maintenance of riot, poverty, idleness & luxury in the said towne, not only to the inhabitants but unto Strangers, whome the said Alehouses often invite thither from places adjacent, & these said Alehouses being (as we conceyve) altogether unnecessary in that place it being no road and the Alehouse keepers being not accomodated for ye entertainment of travellers or of theyr horses & are otherwise able of themselves to provide for themselves & for theyr families by labouring with theyr hands (as other men) therefore your petitioners do humbly intreat in your wisdom you would please to think of some expedient whereby the said Alehouses may be removed & the misdemeanors occasioned by them for the time to come may be prevented.

And your petitioners &c. &c.

Signed by Benjamin Woodbridge

Robert Rowdon & John Gosne,

with names of many others the inhabitants of the towne of Barford.

A similar petition from the inhabitants of Stanton-Bernard is also presented.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

These may certifie all whom it consernes that the bearer hearof Ambrose Bay, waggoner under quarter master Millard in the Trayne of Artillery having bene longe in the Parliament Servis under the Command of his Excellencie Sr Thomas ffayrefax was wounded at the legar (leaguer=camp) before ffarrington in the said servis and thereby disabled of getting his living by labour. Dated this pzent third of february 1647.

(signed) Tho: Hammonde.

Thomas Robinson Ralph Millard quarter Master (to which is added)

This souldier Ambrose Bay hath his left legg very much suelled so that it hindreth him in his calling.

(signed) George Dunn. Surgeon.

Janerary 16, 1648.

To ye Woll Justices of ye Peace for ye County of Wilts sittinge at ye Genall Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum.

The humble Peticon of James Swayne being lately a soldier in ye parlt army.

Sheweth.

That yor peticoner havinge byn a Soldier in ye service for the Parlt in wch said service lost ye use of his Right hand & left Arme at ye fight at Malbrough in ye said County of Wilts, By wch meanes yor Peticoner through sicknes & want of Mayntenance to support him was forced & constrained to repaire into Dorsett shire to his ffreinds who lived in Blandford who by reason of their disafection to ye Parlt would afford yor Peticoner noe releife as by a Certificate under ye hand of Coll Ludlow, for his true & faithfull service will appeare wch is hereunto annexed, And alsoe (by another Certificate hereunto annexed under ye hands of ye Comittee of ye County of Dorsett) will more full appeare.

Yor Peticoner in Regard of ye Losse of his Right hand & other Despearte wounds wch he then received brought him to great missery by reason of ye great charges & expence lying under the Surgeons hands Most humbly craveth yor good Worppps to be pleased seeing he recd his wounds in this County & for his psent supply he being in a very sad condition for ye psent for want of meanes, yt yor Worppps wilbe pleased to allow him for ye pservation of his livelihood, what in yor good wisdomes shall seeme meete either from ye Trer of this County or otherwise out of ye County Stock.

ffor which Yor Peticoner shalbe in
all duty bound to pray &c.

1649.

AN ECHO OF THE CIVIL WAR.

William Sadler writes "To my worthie and much esteemed freynd Mr. William Coles, Clarke of the Peace for the County of Wiltes present these. Mr. Cole, I have sent you hereinclosed such things as I have that doe concerne this present Sessions. I would intrate you to excuse my absence at this time for we have with us a Troupe of Souldiers & those none of the civillest that I have seen, which makes me unwilling to be from home at this Instant and so presenting you my best respects, I take my leave and shall ever remaine

Yours to serve you
Wm. Sadler.

Elcombe this second
of Aprill 1649.

ASKS FOR COUNSEL.

Quarter Sessions at Marlborough, 27th June.

To the right Woll the Justices of Peace att the Generall Sessions holding at Marleborough.

The humble peticon of Christian Weekes
Sheweth

That yor Peticoner being brought hither to answeare to some

scandilous psons informacons and oathes yor petnr is a weake woman and not able to speake for her selfe by reason of her timerowsnes, and one so much unacquanted wth the nature of the pceedings of this place, that wthout yor favors yor poore peticoner is like to be swallowed upp by the inveterate of malice of yor peticoners enimyees.

May it therefore please yor wopps that in respect yor petnr is a very poore woman & not able to retaine a counsell that an attorney may plead on yor petrs behalfe.

A TERRIBLE SCOLD.

Wee whose names are under written doe certifie that Alice Harper the weife of Richard Harper of Steple Ashton is a most troublesome and pverse wooman she being a common scould having from time to time abused with her tongue the best men and women in the towne of Steple Ashton and now upon our knowledge shee hath abused John Markes and his weife he being a Tithing man of the aforesaid towne for executing his office most viperous with her tongue and giveing them such bad and groce language as no tongue can well expresse, they liveing in such good repute and estate as they doe, he haveing divers times served all offices in the aforesaid towne of Steple Ashton honestly and justly all the dayes of their lives hitherto amongst us. Wee leaving it to yor Wor : consideracon. July 28th, 1649.

(Signed by Geo : Markes & nine others).

AN ECHO OF THE CIVIL WAR.

To the Worll the Justices of the Bench (at the Quarter Sessions at Warminster June 27th 1649).

The humble peticon of Agnes Young of Westbury in the County of Wilts, Widowe, Sheweth that about five yeares since Roger Young late husband of yor peticoner was a souldier in ye garrison of Woodhouse under the Comand of Major Henry Wansey and uppon resigneing of ye said Garrison Sr ffrancis Doddington (ye bloudie tirant) hanged yor peticoners said husband with 13 souldiers more of ye said garrison as may appeare by the peticoners peticon to ye honble comittee confirmed wth the hands of divers of the most substantiall Inhabitants of Westbury aforesaid by reason whereof ye peticoner & ffive small children are like wthout intermission to perish through want.

May it therefore please yor Worpps (according to an ordinance of Parliament, Die Vineris 28^o of May 1647) to order for releife of ye peticoner and her 5 small children as shall seeme meet in yor Worpps wisedomes and (as in duty bound) they shall ever pray.

(Note.—The Court awarded her £5.)

1650.

OBJECTIONS TO CHURCH ALTERATIONS AT CHISELDON.

The inhabitants of Chiseldon petition against alterations in their church. It appears that trouble arose, they say, over a difference of opinion concerning the removing of the pulpit and increased seating accommodation. These alterations had led to a heavy expense, "and unless a stop be put to such alterations they and their posterity shall be greatly molested and barred in the enjoyment of their rights". They pray that the pulpit and seats may remain in their original positions, and the matter enquired into by two Justices. The Petition, however, is marked "Read, but the Court orders nothing". The following year the Churchwardens present a memorial that after an examination by two Justices it was agreed what should be done with the consent of Mr. Calley, the chief objector to the removal of the pulpit, but now that the work was done and expense concurred Mr. Calley and others refused to pay their rate. The Court confirmed the rate and ordered a warrant for distress.

WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE AT SALISBURY.

John Allsop, gent., petitions the Court for relief and pension. He states he was a trooper under the command of Col. Edmund Ludlowe (who certified as to the truth of the case), and on Dec. 31 1646 at Salisbury was dangerously wounded by the enemy and taken prisoner, having lost the sight of both eyes by a cut across his face and was left for dead. The Court awarded him £5 and a yearly pension of eight pounds. He died in 1652, so did not live long to enjoy his pension.

UNEDUCATED CONSTABLE.

The Constable of Collingbourne Ducis petitions the Court that he may be relieved of his office as he can neither read nor write, and is obliged to appeal to the minister and friends to get his warrants and orders read.

"DON'T TROUBLE THE COUNTY AGAIN".

John Blunsdon a soldier, who states that he was pressed as a soldier at Edmondstone to fight the Scots, and was "mourttally" wounded, prays for help for himself, wife and seven children. His two brothers who lived in London had gone to Scotland as gunners under "My Lord Cromwell". The Court granted him £5 and a pass to London, "soe that he never trouble the County again".

WARMINSTER CHURCH IN DECAY.

The presentment to the Jury of Warminster states "that their Church is mightily in decay insomuch that the pishoners are afraid to assemble there".

A REPUTED WITCH.

A Warminster woman complains against her neighbours "for that they doe call her bun making as if your peticoner were a witch".

A "SOLOMON" OF WARMINSTER.

A man of the same place, in asking pardon for some abuses he made to a neighbour, pleads that "the tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison, and that no man is wise at all seasons".

FUGGLESTONE CHURCH LOCKED.

One Sunday in May this year one of the Churchwardens of Fugglestone took away the key of the church from the Clerk as he was going to open the church and ring the bell for afternoon service, saying that "neither Mr. Pinkney the Vicar, nor Mr. Fawerner the Curate should come into the church until they had taken the Engagement".

1651.

BURNT ON THE HAND.

Robert Buxton of Broade hinton, laborer (confessed) the twentieth day of December 1651, by force of armes at Broade hinton, one shirt value three shillings one smocke value three shillings one apron value two shillings one Towell value one shilling and one other peece of linnen cloth value five shillings of the goods and chattels of John Nanvell Knite then & there & being found then & there feloniously did steale, take & carry away against the publique peace—Prayed his Clergie and did reade and was burnt on his hand.

STOLE THE CHURCH BELL.

Some of the inhabitants of Holt complain that one of the Church Wardens had secretly taken away one of the bells out of the Church and refuses to restore "him" and "cannot give any just cause for this fact".

1652.

ECHOES OF THE BATTLE OF ROUNDWAY DOWN
(July 13th, 1643).

In the roll of the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster on July 15th, 1652, is the following account of horse stealing by soldiers who took part in the battle of Roundway Down. :—

The examination of John Tucker of South Wraxell, husbandman, taken before Willm Eyre Esq one of the Justices of the Peace for this County the 17th day of May 1652.

Who sayth that on Sunday after the fight at Roundway hill, betwixt the late King's forces & the Parliaments this examinant

sawe fower or five of the sd Kings Souldiers riding up the highway from Wraxall aforesaid, and two ofthem called at the Widow Englands house, & of her borrowed a paier of pincers, and having driven a horse fettered out of a ground neare hand into a land adjoininge, and not being able to geet of the fetters with the pincers, one of the sd Souldiers, Rodde up to this examinants house and this examinant having a hattchet in his hand ye sd souldier demanded his hattchet of him, but hee asking of him what he would do with it, the sd souldier furiously answered " what is that to thee, come downe after me, & thou shalt have thy hattchet againe", which he did, & when he came too them, he sawe them beat of the fetters from the afore sd horse, and the said souldiers having a tired horse with them asked this examinant what he would give them for that horse, but he answered them he had noe money neither could he tell what to doe with the horse, but afterwards he had that tired horse of them, & gave them either eighteen pence or two shillings, he knows not well which, and this examinant goinge away with the sd horse the sd souldiers threw the sd fetters after him, which they had taken from the other horse, which fetters he brought whome with him & threw them in his garden, and afterwards he sold the sd horse to Thomas Collet of Wadswick in the pishe of Haslebury in this County a Baker, for fower shillings, and the fetters he parted with to one John Moxham of Wadswick, blacksmith for two hundred of hobnailes.

(Signed) Wm. Eyre and the mark of John Tucker.

The information of John Moxham of South Wraxell, taylor (taken as above) who sayth that on the Sundaye after the fight betwixt the late King's forces at Roundway hill & the Parliaments, two souldiers came to the house of this informant and in a certain hovell at the house end of one John Tucker the sd souldiers espied a packsaddell, whereupon the sd Souldiers said that there was a horse not farre of & espyinge of a horse in a grounde close by ye sd souldiers went & fetched the horse out of the ground into the land adjoining & they being very busie in trying to geet of a payre of Fetters which were upon the horses leggs, ye sd John Tucker spoke to this Informant saying to him " I think they cannot geet of the Fetters, I will goe down to them with my hattchett & helpe them ", & wthall, ye sd Tucker went to them, and the fetters being gotten of, he, this informant afterwards saw the fetters in Tuckers custodie, & this informant further sayth that the sd Tucker brought home with him a tyred horse, which this informant believeth he had of the souldiers & the sd Tucker sold the sd horse to one Thomas Collet a Backer in Wadswick & the fetters to one John Moxham a Blacksmith & this is all this informant can saye.

(Signed) The marke of John Moxham.

The information of Margreat England of South Wraxell, Widdow tacken as above, sayd
Whoe saith that on the Sunday after the fight betwixt the late

King's forces at Roundway Hill & the Parliaments, a souldier came too her house & spake to her to lend him a paier of pincers which she bringing to him the sd souldier refused because they would not serve his turne but sayd he would goe to the next house & see for a better payer & withall went away to one John Tuckers & aboute halfe an houre after this informant saw the sd souldier drive a horse out of a ground belonginge to Mathew Smith of South Wraxell gentleman, into a lane adjoyning to the pound & this informant sayth yt she sawe the sd souldier & the sayd Tucker in the souldier's company tacke a paier of fetters from of the sd horse, and that the souldier rode away the sd horse, and the sd Tucker led whome with him the souldiers horse & his wife carried whome the fetters & this is all that she can saie.

(Signed) The marke of Margreat England.

MORRIS DANCERS AT WOODBOROUGH.

WILTSHIER. The Testimony and Examinacon of William Farmoe and Joane his Wife of Woodburrough taken at Pewsey before me John Ashe Esqre one of the Justices of the Peace the twentieth day of May in the yeare of our Lord God 1652.

Who say that Edward Smyth and Edward Hawking of Woodburrow did upon the last Lords Day being the 16th of this Instat May after diner time Travaile and goe to a place called Allcanings and there did invite severall people of Cannings aforesayd to the number of twelve persons or neer there aboute who upon the Munday morning following came armed with musketts powder match and bandaleares which they brought with them to Woodburroughe and that Robert Golfe alsoe of Woodburroughe went unto Marlburroughe upon the sayd Lords Day to gett a drummer to head the sd leude company and aboute one a clocke that same Sunday night came away out of Marlburghe with the sd drummer to Woodburrough. And they further say that Thomas Beasant of Woodburroughe labourer did upon the sayd Lords day goe into a place called Ram Ally in the pishe of Easton and there invited and procured a fidler who came to Woodburroughe upon Munday morning following and by the instigacon of the before named partie three hundred persons or there aboutes were assembled and gathered together in a Riotous Routous Warlicke and very disorderly manner with Musketts pistolls bills swords drawne and other unlawful weapons, who upon Munday the said 17th of May did march together to the pishe of Pewsey and there very disorderly daunced the Morrice daunce and committing severall other misdemeanors there as drinkeing and Tipling in the Inn and Alehouse till many of them were drunke.

(Signed) JOHN ASHE.

SELLING ALE ON SUNDAYS.

In the roll for the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 27 1652 is the following :—

April the 15th, 1652.

Worthy Sir. This humbly sheweth that—

Comonly in this parish especially upon the Lords day & in tyme of sermon, Barrells of beare or aile are drunke and mony received for the same to the great dishonour of God and pfanation of ye sabboth. This last Sabboth being the 11th of Aprill Ann Hazell had company drinking in the sermon tyme & in the night & I heard reckoning called & sawe mony payd and payde 6d. myself.

Also the sabboth before, being Aprill the 4th the said Ann had a barrell of beare & Mrs Nicolas boy spent 6d and fflowles boy sold his shoes to Ann Rivers & drunke the mony in the howse of ye sd Ann. Also the said Ann Hazell hath another barrell to sell against the next sabboth. (A side note in another handwriting, and apparently the verdict of the Court, says—Xs or sitt in the stocks 6 houres & to pay XXs or bee whipt for selling of ale without licence.)

Robert Clements tooke mony the sabboth day before the last Sessions ffor aile, he had 6d of me who only went to see whether he wold take mony or not, he is a wealthy fellow for a sheppard (he doth use it).

Shackerly sold a barrell Aprill 4th and hath an other to sell against the next sabboth (he is a poore man). And divers more wch I can name and I desire these wch keep these blind ailehouses might be punished according to the Statute, & as I am Churchwarden I peticon with your assistant, Samuel James, for a reformacon. I will justify every syllable above written to be trew to my owne knowledge, besides barrells under the name of Church Ailes, warming of howses, whereof Robert Russell hath had two all readie And under ptence of brewing for Tann Hill faire brewed as they call it against James tide. Wch barrells sold at the least a month before the faire and a month after, wch aile is not sold only by poore people but by those wch have good livings & coppie holds. All this wilbe averred by me William Holloway ye Churchwarden.

(Note.—The village or town where this excessive amount of ale was consumed is not mentioned in the document.)

TROUBLE AT INGLESHAM CHURCH.

The informacon of Thomas Jacob of Inglisham of the County of Wiltshire husbandman taken the 26th day of Aprill in the year of Lord God 1652.

Who saith that Sybill Briant of Inglisham widdow on the 11th day of January last came into the pish Church of Inglisham & brought thither with her an Iron Cleaver newly ground, and whilst the Minister was reading a psalme she somewhat interrupted him, but when the Minister was prayinge before his sermon she told him she had somewhat to say to him & said come down false pfett & Baals Priest out of the Idolls Temple, telling him she had a

message from God unto him and divers others, with other unseemly words, for wch misdemeanors she being sent for by warrant from a Justice of the Peace said that Mr. Hippisley should have sent a Coach and foure horses for Majesty & not a peece of paper for she scorned to obey inke and paper.

(Signed) ROBERT HIPPISELEY.

A POOR WOMAN AND HER PASS.

The following account of how a poor "creepled" woman was sent to and from London by pass is interesting as showing the system of passes for vagrant and undesirable persons then in use. The documents are in the roll of records of the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 27th 1652.

The story begins by the following (slightly abbreviated) signed by Wm. Coles Clerk of the Peace for Wilts.

WILTSHIRE. fforasmuch as yt appeareth at the Generall Quarter Sessions held at Newe Sarum that Mary Woolles being lame & creepled living last in the pish of St. Bridgetts London & sent by pass thence to goe to the Bath & haveing gott the pass into her owne custody & burnt the same, has caused herself to be brought to Whitepish where she nowe remains. This Court doth order and direct that Mary Woolles shall be removed from White pish & sent by passe from tything to tythinge towards the City of London and soe to St. Bridgetts where she says she last dwelt. And all Constables Tythingmen and other officers are hereby required to convey her thus accordingly. Given at the Quarter Sessions holden at New Sarum 13th Jany 1651.

(Signed) Willm. Coles.

Cl. of the Peace.

The next statement concerning Mary is one from London. Brides pish London. Whereas att the Genall Quarter Sessions held at Newe Sarum it was ordered that Mary Woolles should be sent to the pish of Brides London by a passe she living last in that place Now for as much as it appeareth at the Generall Quarter Sessions of Goale and delivery held in the Old Baylie London that Mary Woolles never lived in the pish of Brides, Wherefore this Court doth order and direct that Mary Woolles shall be removed from the Parish of Brides London and sent by passe from tything to tything towards Whitepish where she was borne there to be provided for according to the law. And all constables Tythingmen & other officers are hereby required to so convey her accordingly. Given at the Generall Sessions of the Peace held at the Old Baylie London 19th Feb. 1651.

(Signed) JOHN KENDRICK. Maior.

Below is a testimony from St. Bartholomew's Hospital setting forth Mary's illness. It begins with "Robert Arris, chirurg" and continues "Mary Woolls was lately a patient in Bartholomews hospital London her distemper arising from her back bone, part

thereof beinge distorted, and for any fowle diseases which shee now have said shee was infected with, she was altogether far from ”.

(Signed) JOHN MICHLETHWAITE, M.D.,
HILTON GRENE, Apothecary.

The back of this document bears the signatures of the various constables and tythingmen who saw Mary safely on her way to Whiteparish, as follow :—

Past by me Jeans Seburn Constable of Brides.

Past by me Will Weeler Constable of Dunstans pish.

Past by me Thomas Saunders constable of the Duchey
Libertie.

Past by me Robert Constable of Martens in the fields.

Past by me James Porter Constable of Martins in the fields.

Past by mee John Breedon Constable of Martins in the fels.

Past by me Nicholas Norris (?) Constable of Knights bridge.

Past by mee Willm Page head burrow of Hammersmyth in
Middx.

Past by mee Robert Tayler Constable of Old breinford.

Past by me Will Phillips constable of new brainford.

Paset by mee (R)odbound Salfef Constable of Hunsle
(? Hounslow).

Before leaving St. Brides, the parishioners of St. Brides drew up a certificate showing the troubles and accidents that poor Mary had sustained during her short residence amongst them in the following words :—

“ Wee the pishoners of the pish of Brides in ffeetestreete London whose names are subscribed doe heereby certifie that the bearer heereof Mary Woolles lived halfe a yeare att the signe of the Crosse Dagger Paules Chaine with the widdow Mackstone where she received her first hurt, faling downe a paire of staires where she unfortunately brooke her backe & could have noe helpe for the same neither by Phisicon nor by Doctor, then she was admitted into the hospitall where she was neare upon helpe a yeare, & had some remedy for her paine and afterwards went to service againe & continued in service a yeare and a quarter, untill carrying of a burden past her abillity upon her head, crackt her backe againe and within one halfe yeare following there was started out of her backe two bones; after all this she lived in the pish of Bridewell a quarter of a yeare & seaven weeks with one William Mason untill her leggs were taken down under her that she fell downe in the streetes & her said Mr got her admitted into the hospitall againe, where she was much about 14 weeks & could receive noe comfort but was sent downe to Bath with a passe from the Masters of the hospitall, given under our hands this nynteenth day of ffebruary 1651 ”.

(Signed) JAMES SEABURNE, Constable
HENRY CHILDE, Chappell Warden and
eighteen others.

Mary's troubles, however, were not at end, for at the General Quarter Sessions held at Devizes, April 27th, 1652, the inhabitants of Whiteparish presented the following:—

“ The humble peticon of the Inhabitants of Whiteparish wth in the hundred of ffreshford

“ Humbly sheweth That whereas at the Genall Quarter Sessions holden at Newe Sarum January xiiijth last past it was ordered that Mary Woolles should be conveyed from White parish & sent by passe from Tything to Tything unto the Parish of St. Bridgetts, London: wch was done accordingly (In which order the name of the Parish was mistaken (vizt) St. Bridgetts in steed of Brides).

“ Since wch tyme the said Mary Woolles hath ben brought back againe unto White parish by a passe conveying her from Tything to Tything by vertue of an order of the sixth of ffebruary now last past made at a Generall Quarter Sessions & Gaole delivery then holden in the Old Bayly London As by sevall papers hereunto annexed appeareth, and she the said Mary is nowe remayning at Whiteparish.

“ Now albeit the said Mary Woolles was borne in White parish yet the place of her last abode was at Brides aforesaid or in the Parish of Bridewell in London As appeareth by a certificate hereunto also annexed. Unto one of which two parishes (as yor petnrs under favour doe humbly conceive) The said Mary Woolles is to be conveyed back, there to be releaved.

“ Yor petnrs humbly pray yor Worpps to be pleased to order that the sd Mary Woolles shalbe conveyed back from Whiteparish by passe from tything to Tything unto that of the said two parishes of Brides or Bridewell London wch yor petnrs shall finde most agreable to lawe, & yor petnrs shall ever pray &c. ”.

Note.—The Order of the Court was that she “ be returned againe to Bridewell pishe ”, and it is to be hoped that Mary, with her broken back, outgrowing bones, and useless legs, found a resting place at last.

1653.

DEVIZES WITCHES.

April 19th.—Joan Read the wife of Robert Reade of the Devizes, broadweaver, complains that two persons have reported her as being a witch, and in consequence two of the bakers in the town have forbidden her to come into their bakehouses for dough. She prays that the Justices will issue a warrant that her accusers may be brought before them to prosecute her.

At the same Sessions Elizabeth Beeman, of Devizes, is indicted for bewitching Margery Bowman. This case was transferred to the Assizes.

A MALMESBURY WITCH.

Joan Price, of Malmesbury, was indicted on a charge of bewitching Rebecca Denynge.

LIBELLING OLIVER CROMWELL.

On June 22nd John Francis, of West Chester, was committed to the House of Correction at Devizes as a vagrant and for uttering base and scandalous words of his Excellency the Lord General Cromwell and Sir Will: Brereton, saying "that the Lord General was a rogue and traitor and Brereton a long toothed dog".

1654.

A GENUINE PASS.

To all Constables and Headborrowghes to whom it may concern Whereas Mary Clarke of Uphaven neare Marlborough in Wiltshire being taken begging as Vagrant in Isleworth in the County of Middlesex, These are therefore in the name of the Lord Protector of England Scotland and Ireland to require you to passe the sd Mary Clarke through your townes and Hamlets the direct way to Uphaven the place of her last abode Dated at Isleworth September the fifth 1654.

She is allowed sixteen days. You are to relieve her in her passage.

Past by me Richard Larchin Constable of Isleworth.

Past be mee Sammuell Johnstone constable of hounslowe.

Past by mee Will Harris Cunstable of Upton.

Past by mee John Mott Tythingman of Maidenhead.

Past by mee Francis Lewendon Constable of Reading.

Paste be mee Tho Barr Sonstable of Speenc.

Past by mee Richard Hill of Benham Constable.

Past by me Thomas White tithingman of Ilcott.

A PROTEST AGAINST REY BRIDGE, LACOCK, BEING
DEMOLISHED.

(slightly abbreviated.)

To the Right Wor: The Justices of the peace &c. at Quarter Sessions holden at Marleborough.

The humble peticon of the Inhabitants of the Towne & pish of Lacock & (those) of neighbouring places.

Humbly Sheweth That whereas the bridge called Reybridge, Lacock hath bin lately by order of Quarter Sessions, broke downe and intended to be quite demolished & destroyed and by the same order another bridge called ffootebridge in the same pish is intended to be repayed for use instead of Reybridge—Now forasmuch as Reybridge lyeth directly in the roade betwene the Cittye of London and the Cittyes of Bath and Bristoll & soe more convenient for Passengers & Carriages, then ffootbridge can bee any way made and for that alsoe the wayes leading unto & from Reybridge wilbe maynteined wth farr less chardge then the wayes leading to & from ffootbridge can be maintayned. And the takeing away and demolishing Reybridge is a greate wrong & damage to

your peticoners, more pticularlye concerning them than anye others (albeit the same is a generall wrong to all that have occasion to travaille that way) In respect that Reybridge hath bin verye usefull for a markt waye & Church waye as alsoe a waye for divers of your peticoners unto & from their pticular closes & grounds lyeing thereabouts & without wch bridge divers of your peticoners wilbee driven to goe at leaste a mile out of the direct waye, & for that ffootebridge is not convenient or usefull but for very few persons.

Your peticoners request is that the work of demolishing Reybridge maye bee stayed & that the breaches thereof alreadye made may be repayred & amended & the same made passable as formerly it hath bin.

And your peticoners shall pray &c. &c.

(The above is signed by 86 persons).

This is followed by "The humble peticon of divers of the Inhabitants of severall Counties of Wilts, Somerset & Gloucestersh: ". It is on similar lines as above, and states "that Reybridge bridge consisted of ten arches and more usefull than ffootbridge to all passengers in this comon wealth as ffootbridge is at least half a mile further and for that the waies leading unto & from ffootbridge are very floundnose and full of quicksands & at some seasons of the yeare are not passable with carriages nor will be made passable with any chardge, whereas the waies leading unto & from Reybridge are passable & wilbe mainteyned with little chardge".

The petition then requests that Reybridge may be restored.

The above is signed by over one hundred persons.

There is a third petition on the same lines by over sixty persons.

MONEY LOST AND FOUND.

The informacon of John Weekes, Mary Battin and Joan Balley all of Preston in the pish of Lineham taken upon oath Aug 11th 1654 before William Sadler.

And first John Weekes saith that one Anne Nuneton of Lineham told this informant that Mistress Hester Burchell of Preston did send John Cobrye her mothers man to Oxford to a Conjurer to enquire after the money that was lately stolen out of her mothers house that the Conjurer did help her to her mony againe, and that the Ayleiffs did bring it to her.

Mary Battin saith that on ffryday the ffourth of this instant August she being at the widdow Broames house, Anne Nuneton said "there came men to my Aunte Burchalls to enquire for Coinnes, and on that day they had their gold brought them againe, namely two twenty shillinge peeces and one tenne shillinge peece".

Joane Baliley saith that sometime since the widdow Burchalls house was broken up she mett Anne Nuneton at Wootton bassett who said to this informant "doe you knowe or heare that my cosen Hester Burchall hath her gold againe", this informant said "no" and withall asked Anne "doe you know who had it", she answered, "I do know who had it", "who", said this Informant,

Anne answered, " I will say noe more of that lest I bring my selfe into trouble ". " Doth your Aunt Burchell ", said this informant, " or your cosen Hester know them ". She replied, " they do know them, and the man that did rob my Aunte Burchells house went the same day to John Deane, his house att West Tockenham and there spent the most of that day in drinking and before they came thence, they made jist of John Deane himself ".

(Signed) WM. SADLER.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

Tewsdai the viijth day of August 1654 in the Chappell of the holy Trynity at Newtown in the County of Southtn. } Then and there between the houres of Eighth and Twelfth in the forenoone & publikely, in the face of the congregacon in psence and audience of Competent and credible Witnesses was celebrated a true and lawfull Marriage between William Pinkney of Russell in the County of Wiltes yeom : and Mary Knight of the same Russell, Spinster, being ritely and canonically joyned one to and with the other in holy wedlock, and pronounced that they were man and wife together, in the name of the ffather and of the sonne and of the holy gost wth all other the due and decent ceremoneyes to such solemnity belonging as to the Ministeriall Office thereof according to the known ancient and solemne service used in the Church of England rightly and reverently observed and performed.

By me Fran : Edwardes.

Clerke Chaplaine or Curate there.

A HINDRANCE TO JUSTICE.

The Presentment of the Grand Inquest at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlebrough 3rd October 1654.

We psent as a great greivance to the Countrey that when Lewd & Idle psons are oftentimes indicted at the Sessions for their misdemeanors & offences by them comitted with a purpose to have them punished at the said Sessions And when the same Indytments have wth great labour & expences been brought ready for tryall whereby the said offenders might receive due punishment for their demerritts in the County where such offences are committed to the deterring of others from the like offence. That the said Indytments are often removed from the Sessions by writts of Certiorarie issuing forth of the upper Bench by reason whereof the said offenders goe oftentimes unpunished, or further questioned for their offences because the prosecutors are wholly disheartened & discouraged from further prosecution & travell therin by reason of the extraordinary chardges wch they should be att whereby such lewd persons goe unpunished, honest people disheartened & Justice obstructed. Wherefore we humbly desire the Justices of the Peace of this Sessions to be a means to the honourable house of Parliament now sitting that the same may be reformed.

BREAD, TOBACCO, SOAP, CANDLES AND STARCH.

The Peticon of Henry Reeve of Xpian Malford, Sawyer Humbly sheweth That Andrew (yor petnr's wife) hath sold bread, tobacco sope, candles and starch and hath done theise 24 yeares last wth out molestacon.

That she hath bin lately indicted therefore, That it hath cost yor petnr xls xd this sessions, That he is very poore & wilbe undone unles yor Worps help him.

Yor petnr prayeth you to be pleased to doe soe much favor as to help him in this his distresse that he may not be farther troubled to sessions for wch he shall pray &c.

A SMALL HOUSE NEEDS ENLARGING.

The following unsigned and undated Petition was presented at the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 4th 1654.

To the right honorabell binch the Justis of the peace.

If yt shall please yr worships I will show you the cause of my grefe in the first place there is no fier place nor never was & wee cannot goe forth a doore both of us for feare they will set the house a fier & burne ourgoods & our neybour's goods allso for the children are so young they be not sencabell of what they doo. I have 6 small children and my wife is wth child with the seven child, the house is 11 feet long 10 feet brod I desire yor worships that you will give mee leave for to in large the same house wheare I live I shall bee bound to pray for your worships.

1655.

THE RISING IN THE WEST.

Quarter Sessions, Salisbury, Jan 8th, 1655/6.
To ye Right Honble Generall Desborrough.

The humble peticon of Anthony Baker of ye Citty of New Sarum.

Showeth. That yor poore Peticoner hath beene severall yeares in ye service of ye Comonwealthe & that when ye late Insurrecon & Rebellion was in this County yor peticoner being listed as a soldier for suppressing the same did through ye wise pvidence of God fall from his horse beeing unrully & in ye fall Broke his legg to ye gt damage & miserie of yor petitnoner beeing a poore man & having charge of wife & childeren.

Yor petitioner humbly desireth yor honor ye premisses considered to comisserate his condition & to find out a speedy course as to yor honour shall seeme meet for ye supply & releefe of yor petitioner on regard of ye extraordinary charge he hath beene putt unto by reason of ye said fall.

& yor petinor shall humbly pray, &c.

Below this is the following :—

Gentlemen

I desire that you would at yor next Genll Sessions consider this pettion & the petitioner according to his condition & thereby you will oblige yor Servant

John Disbrowe.

(The Court allowed 40/-.)

COAL AT URCHFONT.

James Claston of Timsborowe a "coalfinder" represents that he had leave from the Earl of Hertford, Lord of the Manor of Erchfont, to dig there for coal, "which he hath greate hopes of finding and was greatly encouraged by the tenants to do so, but now, the tenants fearing that he may dig in their grounds, fall off, and the miners are ready to desist for want of pay". He prays the court to assist him but apparently did not appear himself for the petition is marked "Noe order, he was absent".

A DEVIZES SONGSTER.

William Withers of the Devizes was sent to the House of Correction there by the Mayor of Marlborough "for singing of ballets contrary to the Statute, and was sharply punished for it".

REQUEST TO SUPPRESS ALEHOUSES IN SALISBURY.

Salisbury Jan 8th 1655.

The Mayor of Salisbury, William Stone, sends the Justices a pressing and lengthy letter requesting them to suppress some needless and disorderly alehouse "at our very townse end in Melford tithing". He implores the Justices to lay to heart the great disorders and varieties of sin and wickedness committed in alehouses "the dens of Satan". "God have honoured you in calling you to a place of power and trust, and hee expects that you should bee faithful in that trust. You are postinge to the grave every day, you are dwelling upon the borders of eternity, your breath is in your nostrells, therefore duple and treble your resolutions to bee zealous in a good thinge. How dreadful will a dieing bed be to a negligent magistrate, what is the reward of a slothful servant, is it not to bee punished with everlasting distrucktion from the presence of the Lord?"

The Court "suppressed the alehouses, holding them to be unfit".

DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

John Tily of Hullavington, who was bound over in a bastardy case, presents a letter from John Pennrye stating that "Tily has been asked in Church and cried in the market but none of the magistrates will marry him as the woman in question is the sister of Tily's deceased wife". The Justices, however, are adamant and "order Tily to be whipped for the woman is his wives sister and he still keepeth company with her", and the woman is sent to the House of Correction for a year.

1656.

INDICTED FOR BLASPHEMY.

William Bond and Thomas Hibbord of Lacock are indicted for atheism and blasphemy "not being distempered with sickness or disordered in their brain". Bond publicly professed and affirmed "that there was no God or power ruling above the planets, no Christ but the sun that shines upon us, that the twelve patriarchs were twelve houses, that if the Scripture were a making againe then Tom Lampire of Melksham would make as good Scriptures as the Bible, there was neither heaven nor hell except in a man's own conscience, for if he had a good fortune and did live well, that was heaven, and if he lived poor and miserable, that was hell, for then he would die like a cow or horse". Hibbord stated that God was in all things, and that whatever sins he did commit, God was author of them all and acted them in him. He would sell all religions for a jug of beer.

Probably in reference to the above the Grand Jury presented on July 8th that "there are many evil spirited people which do wander about spreading many evil and dangerous opinions to the dishonour of God and the blaspheming his name".

DANGEROUS DOGS AT MERE.

It was presented that "Many Masty (? Mastiff) dogs are kept in Mere and having fallen upon many persons and horses going through the town and bitten them to their great danger" the Court ordered that these dogs should be kept tied up or muzzled and not allowed to lie loose about the streets.

1657.

There are only three files for this year. One is missing.

"OMNE BENE" AT HEYTESBURY.

The Constables of Heytesbury present that "through the blessing of God upon this nation, and to intimate what our Good God hath wrought in this Commonwealth by way of reformaton we know of no misdemeanor committed since the last Assizes". They therefore endorse their presentment "Omne bene" (all well).

JOHN BRADSHAW.

John Bradshaw, the Judge who tried King Charles I., gives his consent to the building of a cottage on his land at Fonthill Gifford. He signs the letter himself and it bears his seal with his coat of arms.

A BREACH OF PROMISE.

A young man of 20 years of age, who states that he made a contract of marriage when he was fifteen years old, now petitions

to be released and the Court declares that the contract is not valid. The youth says that the words he had used were " May the Devil take him if he married any one but the woman in question ".

1658.

FALSE IMPRISONMENT.

Quarter Sessions held at Warmnister July 17.

To ye Right Worll ye Justices of ye Bench.

The humble peticon of Mabell Clarke and Mary Hawkins daughter of Elizabeth Harris (who simply departed out of prison yesterday without License or taking her leeve of your Worppps or of any others).

Sheweth that yor peticoners are very poore & came onely to this Towne to Witness their knowledges touching the said Elizabeth Harris her accusacon of taking about 3 lbs of wood the sd Elizabeth departing wth a Nikill Dicet asafore sd yor peticoners (being not culpable) are in the Jaylor's Ward who hath handbolted them together as great Mallefactors. May itt therefore please yor Worppps to order for ye peticoners enlargement and to remitt fees, and as in duty bound ye peticoners shall pray.

CHRISTMAS SESSIONS.

At the Christmas Sessions for 1658.

Five men were sentenced " to be hanged by their necks until they be dead ". (They were all concerned in a horse stealing case.) One man " to be burned & then committed to the House of Correction at Devizes until he give security for his good behaviour ".

And six more " to be openly whipped on their naked backs & then to be delivered " (released).

A QUAKER OF GRITTLETON INDICTED.

Amongst the indictments is the case of Roger Smart of Grittleton, a yeoman, " a man of evill name, fame and reputation, and of a seditious and turbulent spirit indeavouring to disturb the publike peace, dispising all lawful magistracy, irrevently, uncivilly, scornefully, and contemptuously in affront to magistracy and to the usage and custome of England came before the Justices with his hatt upon his head, and when being commanded to uncover his head he refused soe to doe, and being impannelled to serve on the Jury refused to take the oath ". The Court fined him forty shillings, which he paid.

A large number of persons are presented for being popish recusants.

1659.

REFUSING TO SERVE THE KING, WAS HANGED.

The widow of Robert Moore petitions the Court for relief. She states that her husband "Contrary to his mind and judgement was pressed during the Civil War to serve King Charles, and was taken by soldiers of Colonel Chester to Chippenham, where he was told that if he would not serve the King he should serve the gallows". When he was on the gallows the well affected persons of Chippenham offered Colonel Chester thirty pounds in money, or to get three men in his stead, in order to preserve his life. This, however, the Colonel refused, and Moore, still refusing to serve the King, was accordingly hung. The Court granted the poor widow forty shillings.

SELLING STAVERTON CHURCH BELL.

James Bartlett, of the Devizes, states that "One Bayly of Stafferton came to him and told him that he was churchwarden, and that for a long time they had had no prayer in their Church because they were annexed to Trowbridge. That the pulpit cloth was in one man's hands the communion table cloth in another's custody, and the silver bowls in the keeping of another, and the bell was to be sold which bell he asked this examinant to buy, promising that if it should be called in question he would buy a new bell. Bayley brought the bell to this informants house the following July & was paid five pounds three shillings for it".

SAW MUCH SERVICE.

Robert Collier, of Kington Langley, a carpenter by trade, petitions the Court to grant him a pension. He states that he served two years under Captain Thomas Sadler in Colonel Edmund Ludlow's regiment. He then fought against the Welsh under Colonel Massey at Redmarley, where he was shot in the thigh, wounded in the head, and struck from his horse. On recovering from his wounds, he joined Captain Sadler again against the King's army at Rowton, where he was again wounded, this time in the face and hands, and was taken prisoner and ordered to be hanged. He was cured of his wounds "by doctor Guyes industry" and the care of his brother George, who was later killed at the battle of Worcester. When well enough he joined up again and served in this last expedition under Captain Green until he was disbanded.

The Court referred the matter "to the next two Justices to allow him what they think fitt", and the following year he was given twenty shillings at once and a yearly pension of forty shillings.

1660.

THE RISING IN THE WEST.

To the Right Worppfull The Justices of the peace at the Quarter Sessions nowe sitting at Newe Sarum (Jan. 1660).

The humble peticon of Elizabeth Poulton of Pewsie Widow Sheweth. That yor peticoners late husband Thomas Poulton being engaged wth John Penruddocke Esqr and others of his Matyes Loyall Subjects in the late engagement in the West for his Maties service and Restauracon, was for such his loyaltie apprehended and most unjustiye brought to a shamefull and untymely death. By means whereof yor poore peticoner wth fflower her younge children are become very distressed. (The petition then goes on to ask for relief, and the Court ordered her to be paid £5 at once.)

TO ATTEND THE JUSTICES AT DINNER.

Another appeal, viz., that from Nathaniel Hone of Marlborough, states that "at the beginning of the late unhappy warre he went forth a Souldier in the Militia Company of ffoote to serve the King & Parliament. He received many wounds, was disabled & awarded two shillings a week". For some reason not stated, but "by his Maties direcon he is now deprived of it", for "that your peticoners intencons goeing foorth were wholly to serve his late sacred Majesty".

The Order of the Court was "Let him wait on the Justices at dinner this Thursday".

MONEY AND ARMS FOR THE TROOPS NOT
ACCOUNTED FOR.

The presentment of the Grand Inquest at the Sessions held at Marlborough on the second day of October contains the following:

"Wee psent that att or aboute the Ryseing of Sr George Booth sundry somes of money were collected throughout this County for the payment of severall Troops of Horse and Sundry Companies of ffoote then to be rayed in this County together with a moneths advance, besides armes then delivered in wch summes of money were recd by Mr. Edward Pierce of ye Devizes Mayor & Jo. Randolph and others, unaccounted for to the greate dissatisfacon of this County".

HAYMAKING ON SUNDAY.

William Amor of Marden and Melior Stevens "of Conocke were presented for profaning the Lords day by dryinge of Hay wch day was the 23rd day of September last 1660".

At the Quarter Sessions held at Salisbury in January, 1660, Paul Latham minister of Warminster was presented "for not reading the common prayer according to ye lawe of this Realme".

INSULTING KING CHARLES II. AND A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

The informacons of John Ayliffe of Grittenham gent and Daniel Gale of Cleeve pip husbandman taken before William Sadler 14th June 1660.

Who both of them say that on the last of May they being with other company in a howse at Brinkeworth did hear John White otherwise Keele of Wootton Bassett butcher utter these words, viz. Sir Walter St. John (of Liddiard Tragooze) is a Rogue and Rebble. Robert Jefferis John ffrankilm and Mary Custers otherwise Wilde all of Wootton Bassett also give informacon on the matter.

They are rather lengthy, and therefore somewhat abbreviated in the following :—

Jefferies says he was coming along the Streete at Wootton Bassett when John White called him into his howse and said " Robert Jefferis I doe marvell that thou being soe Royal for the King as thou hast bin wilt give thy voyce for an Annabaptist, a quaker & a rebbil against the King " (meaning Sir Walter St. John of Liddiard Tragooze).

John ffranklin saith that upon Sunday the 15 day of Aprill last past he and John White being in the house of Charles Norris the Constable of Wootton heard White say that he had the night before at a private conference given his voyce for Sir Walter, but said he, " I cannot be for him neither will I for I must be for a Cavilier, for Sir Walter is an Annabaptist and did deliver five bullets agst the King at Woster fight ".

Mary Custers saith that about a fortnight before the eleccon of Burgess at Wootton. Bassett, she being at Whites howse & talking about choosing a Burgess heard White say " Sir Walter is not a man fitt to be a Burgess for he is an Annabaptist a traytor and bore armes against the King at Wosterfight ".

Richard Hayward of Bushton said that he with others were reaping wheat for John Stratton at Bushton at the time Sir Goerge Booth was up in armes, there came along a party of soldiers going to suppress Sir George Booth. Whereupon Henry Barnard of Gotaker being with the reapers saith " there goe a Company to suppress the Rogues ". This Informant replied " why doe you call them soe, those that they goe to suppress may be honest men ". Barnard said " none but rogues & theeves or that have any relation to him they fight for will stur in his cause and that the King himselfe is as bad as any of them ", to which this Informant replyd, " why doe you speake such words concerning a man you know not nor did ever see ". To this James Rumin of Gotaker said, " Did he not (meaning the King) maintain rogues & theeves & murderers for his constant assistance and noe other ". " Very like " said this informant, " there myght be such in his Armie ". To this John Stratton the master of the work said " you know the King did maintaine none but such in his Armie ".

John Rice of Brinkeworth and John Harbert of Marridge Park saith that Thomas Anger of Highworth did report to them that Sir Walter St. John did send to him the said Anger to ride a horse of his with armes to goe to assist Lambert.

John Rice further saith that William Day being at the howse of Sir Walter St. John in the presence of Lady St. John & severall other persons did there deny that he the said Wm. Day did never heare Anger speak of Sir Walter sending a horse or Armes to assist Lambert.

Two other witnesses affirm that they heard Anger say Sir Walter did endeavour to assist Lambert by sending horses and Armes unto him.

(And here the matter ends as far as this roll is concerned).

A FOLLOWER OF PRINCE MAURICE.

These are to Certifie all whome it may concerne.

That the bearer hereof Arthur Harrison of Warminster did faithfully serve his late Matie in all his warres from the beginnunge to the end thereof under the comaund of one Captaine Woolly Lee in the Regiment of Prince Maurice. And in the said service received many dangerous wounds, as namely att Chuton in Somstshire where Prince Maurice himselfe was wounded & like to be slayne in wch fight this bearer received soe many wounds in his arme that he hath lost the use of it. And had seven peeces of his scull taken forth. And after being on the Sentry att Bradford Bridge goeing to Lansdown fight was shott through both Cheekes & left for dead untill wch tyme hee was alwayes wth Prince Maurice in all engagements in his late Maties service. And that his Captaine for the reasons aforesaid left him & was slayne at Newberry fight. And that the late usurpeing power prevayleinge, the bearer hereof hath ben forced to very great necessities. And now since God Almighty hath restored his Matie and his Loyall subjects to his and their Rights & Privileges, and that there being by the Lawes of the Kingdome provision made for such as should be wounded in his Maties service, Wee present the bearer hereof unto you as a fitt subject of yor clemency and remain yor humble servants.

The above is signed by thirty persons, including " T. Jeffrey, Potticary ".

A CLEVER COUNTERFEIT PASS.

The following exceedingly well executed forged pass is written on parchment, measuring eleven inches wide and six and a half inches deep, and signed with four names, three professing to be Justices of Devonshire and one the Mayor of Barnstaple. The County of Devon.

Whereas it hath appeared by divers sufficient and severall testimonies of Inhabitants of the Towne of Barnstaple and others in the said Countie before the Right Honble Walter Earle Knight, John Martin and Edward Pawlett Esquires, Justices of the Peace

and Commissioners appointed by this present Parliament for the said County, as also of Edward Commen Mayor of the said Towne. That this bearer Thomas Grange Mariner sometime Inhabitant in the aforesaid Towne hath lived in all godly honest and upright conversation in the sight of all men with his wife and children relief—full and Charitable to the poore after a Christian manner : Yet of late yeares and since the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred and forty and six, by great and divers losses both by sea and land as in a schedule appeareth, whereof wee have the exaicon (examination) and subscribed with our hands and seales bearing date wth these pnts (presents) the value whereof amounteth unto the sum of fifteen hundred pounds and upwards : besides beeing now returned from Spaine where hee hath lately benee a prisoner and breake his left arme whereby hee is disabled to labour for the support of himselfe his poore wife and children, and hath no remedy under heaven for reliefe, but by recourse to his Most Sacred Maty which at present hee is not able to undertake by reason of his extreame povertie and great debts. Wee therefore out of Christian Charities and pittie to distressed condition doe earnestly recommend him to the pious and tender commiseracon of all well disposed people desiring the Lord may move their hearts therein, and to this end wee doe on his behalfe hereby desire all Minister of Gods holy word to whome these psnts shall come to publish the contents hereof in their severall Congregations and to stirr up their Auditors to his relief : And wee doe desire all Constables Tythingmen and all other his Maties Officers whome it may concerne to relieve and lodge him in his travel in due time, hee behaving himselfe civelly as hee ought to doe, and to gather and receive the almes and Charitable benevolence of all weldisposed people as aforesaid. Wee have allowed him One and fortie dayes from the date hereof according to his request. Given under our hands and seales at Barnstable above said the Seventeenth day of December In the twelfth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second Kinge over England &c. Annoq Domini 1660.

To all Justices of the peace, Mayors, Bayliffs, Ministers, Constables, Churchwardens, and to all his Maties officers whome it may concerne, greeting.

(In the handwriting of the Clerk to the Justices.)

This being a Counterfeit Passe, Grange was well whipt & sent away by a pass ye copy whereof is annexed.

The signatures of the Justices of Barnstaple, Walter Earle, John Martin, Edward Pawlett, and Edward Commen, Mayor. (Note.—Thomas Hooper was the Mayor in 1660).

The pass given to Grange by the Wilts Justices is as follows :—

WILTES. At a Generall Sessions of the peace held at New Sarum Jan 8th in the 12th year of the reigne of Charles 2nd, before Seymour Pile Barronet, Wille Yorke (and other Justices).

WHEREAS the Bearer hereof Thomas Grange of Stockton in Cleaveland in the County of Yorke was taken at the City of Newe Sarm aforesaid is a Vagrant & begging pson, & Ye hath received correccion accordinge to the Lawe. Theis seale are therefore in his Maties name to will and require you here. to convey the said Thomas Grange from tythinge to tythinge the ready way to Stockton in Cleaveland in the County of Yorke aforesaid being the place of his birth as he alleageth to this Cort. Given under the seale of office the day & yeare abovesaid.

To the Constables of fisherton Anger and to all other Constables & Tythingmen and other officers whome it may concerne.

1661.

MANY MAIMED SOLDIERS.

This roll, as well as that for 1660, contains many petitions from maimed soldiers asking for pensions. They give the names of the officers they served under, the places they were engaged at, and the nature of their wounds, in many cases supported by letters from their commanding officers. Unfortunately they are too numerous and lengthy to come within the scope of these extracts, but the following is a good example:—

Nicholas Jones petitions for a pension and his officer, Captain James Long of Draycott, sends a lengthy certificate in support of it. He states that Jones joined his force before the capture of Bristol, he having formerly served under Captain Lord Arundell of Wardour and was then wounded. He showed his courage in many engagements especially at the fight at Auburn—six weeks after Naseby—where they were engaged with horse and dragoons of Fairfax's army. After four troopers had been slain or mortally wounded in attempting to open a gate which stopped them from entering a field in which the enemy had rallied Jones effected it, and in spite of the fact that he received two musket shots in one thigh yet he held the gate until they were all in the field, and then charged with them three times fighting furiously until the enemy were routed and then fell. He was taken to a gentleman's house and remained there a long time in danger of death and on recovering returned to his colours, where he served until the end of the war. In spite of his many and gallant services the Court only awarded him two pounds.

In the case of Jasper Wintworth of Devizes the Court gave him two pounds and added to the petition "let him be at the alms house".

NO ALEHOUSE FOR MELKSHAM.

The inhabitants of Melksham petition that the licence for one alehouse in their town that was granted the previous year having now expired, it may be suppressed, there having been no licensed alehouse there for nearly forty years previously.

QUAKERS' PETITION AGAINST IMPRISONMENT
WITHOUT EXAMINATION.

A petition from eleven of "your friends commonly called quakers" states that they were taken by soldiers with drawn swords, and brought to Captain Sharpe at Dinton, who carried them to Wilton and then to Sarum and put them in the county prison without examination, where they are still detained without any hearing before any justice.

1662.

A CHECK ON PENSIONS AND RELIEF.

Like the previous rolls, this contains a very long list of applications from maimed and wounded soldiers. As a result the Grand Jury present that a check was necessary and full enquiry made before relief was given. Accordingly at the Sessions held on Sept. 30th it was ordered that "Whereas very many hundreds of petitions are presented at this Court by and from persons who alleage and suggest that they have been souldiers in the service of his late Majestie or his Majestie that now is, and therein have been maimed, indigent, aged, or disabled for worke &c. and the Court was not able to judge of the need of the applicant on account of their number and the distance of their habitacon, therefore no money at all should be paid by the Treasurers of the County until further consideration be taken as to the amount of the county stock, and the fitness of the person to receive relief, and for the latter purpose the Justices in each division were directed to meet from time to time and examine all petitions and certificates brought to them and certify the Court thereupon".

1663.

REFUSAL TO PAY THE HEARTH TAX.

The Tythingman of North Wrexall—Thomas Hinner—appears to have had trouble whilst gathering the Hearth Tax, for on July 22nd, 1663, he presents the following petition:—

That whereas yor Petconer, in discharge of his office for the collecting of His Maties Hearth money hath gone to the House of Mr. Samuel Read of Eaton Kennell, being in North Wrexall where he is returned for 2 hearthes. That although yor petconer in the demand of it used all Civilty, yet hath recd from the sayd Mr. Samuel many opprious and menacing words—vizt—That if the Collector did proffer to destrayne for the money, he would throw him in Gaole. That he nothing valued or regarded the Sheriffe or him.

The humble request of Yor petconer is that this Honble Court will be pleased to grant him an order that he may be secured in the discharge of his office, and that the sayd Mr. Read may be brought to answer his contempt.

(The Court ordered that the warrant be granted).

This, however, did not lead to any satisfactory results, for at the following Sessions held at Marlborough in October, Mr. Hinner again petitions the Court for assistance, for in spite of the fact that Read was arrested and brought before Mr. Duckett, one of the County Justices, when he promised "to putt in Bayle but he hath not, Whereby your poore petr is putt to travell to this Sessions to his greate expense for reliefe haveing formerly spent much more in the psercucon of the said Read".

He then asks for a new Warrant to apprehend Read, which the Court grants.

MILKING AND BAKING AT SCATTSHILL, CHISELDON.

The information of Katherine Fleming of Scattshill who sayeth upon oath that she hath had her coves milked in the night four severall times in the last fortnight and having a suspicion of Thomas Evenes of Wicke in the parish of Liddington, laborer, she understood that the said Evenes allwaies baked when her coves were milked, and last night heareing that he intended to bake she employed William Gray (and others) to watch her ground & further she sayeth not.

The next "informations" are those of the watchers, who said that about midnight they met Thomas Evenes running very fast in Wick Field. They apprehended him and asked him where he was going, and he replied "to look after water"; but later he said he was going to look after two calves. He had a bucket and a prong in his hand, and was first seen close to the Rick Barton where the cows were.

There is nothing more in the files concerning this case, neither does "Thomas Evenes'" name appear in the callendar of Prisoners.

MORE WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

There are many appeals by wounded soldiers to the Justices for relief in the rolls for this year.

The following are typical examples, but being lengthy are somewhat abbreviated.

"John ffricker of Bidstone St. Martin states that he was for many years a souldier in his late Maties service of blessed memory under the comand of Captune Henry Thinne in the Regiment of Colonel Thomas Howard Esqre. Also in the Regiment of Colonel James Long Esqre. He received many hurts in the head, hands, thighs & Ribbs, & was much impoverished by suffering under the late usurped powers. He continued faithfull to his Maties service not deserting the same by taking up armes against his sayd late Matie of blessed memory or his Matie that now is. And was in readiness to be in service for his Matie that now is, at the rising at Lansdowne at the time when Sr George Boothe raised armes for his Maties service". He then goes on to ask for a pension, and was granted 5/- per quarter. The petition is supported by a dozen

persons, including James Long (presumably his late Colonel) and "William Tharmbury, Rector of Stanton St. Quentin".

"John Dickman of Cosham a privet Troopper always very reall for and on behalfe of his late Maite King Charles the First of ever blessed memory under Captaine Francis Hillier belonging to Lord Hoptons owne Regiment And it was his unhappy fortune to be taken by the Enemie in the West at which tyme they tooke his horse and armes and stript him of his money, clothes & all other things which he had & carried him prisoner to Lampport & there kept him so long in hardship that he was almoste starved. He was awarded 7s/- per quarter".

William. Russe of Chippenham served under Sir Francis Dorrington. He had received many dangerous wounds, lost all his estate and was now compelled to labour to maintain himself and "his great charge & family and work was very scarce".

He was awarded 10s/- per quarter.

1664.

NO CHURCH SERVICE AT ERLESTOKE.

The Constables of the hundred "present the whole parish of Earlestoake for not repayering to theire Church every Sunday, or chapple, the reson is because devine sarvice is not reede every Sunday".

A HOARDER OF FOOD.

The Mayor of Wilton, Walter Sharpe, writes to the Clerk of the Peace on April 18th concerning the prosecution of a person named Upjohn, upon whose goods fines have often been levied for the use of the poor, he refusing to come to his parish church. "He is a very dangerous person and one who in the rising since the Kinge came in, was att that instant wantinge from his home neere a quarter of a yeare and had bought cheese and bacon enough to have furnished a garrison for some tyme".

IMPROPERLY DRESSED.

A man of Holt is informed against for coming into Holt Church in a very indecent and unusual manner "without haveing a band about his necke and railing at the Minister Mr. Richard Randall".

DANGEROUS ROGUES SENT TO VIRGINIA.

A number of persons were ordered to be flogged as beggars and very dangerous rogues, but were let off on consenting to be transported to Virginia.

1665.

There are only three rolls for this year.

UNQUALIFIED SPORTSMAN.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough by adjournment on Dec. 5th-7th the Grand Jury presented "John Davis of Lockeridge for unlawfully shooting in a gunne having not sufficient estate or qualified soe to do".

A WITCH OF WICK.

The information of Margarett fowler wife of Gyles fowler of Nusteede in the pish of Cannings Epi, labourer, taken upon oath the 14th day of August before William Yorke one of his Maties Justices of the Peace—

Who sayeth that upon Munday the tenth day of this instant August about two of the clocke in the afternoone, Joane Meriwether of Weeke in the said pish of Cannings Epi, widdow, came into this informants house at Nusteede and did ask her how her child did, wch was then in this informants armes, and the said Joane Meriwether then tooke the said child into her armes and kissed the child and shortly after went out of the house and imediately after her departure the said child being before in very good health, did fall into a very great distemper as if it had been ready to have flowne out of this informants armes after the said Joane, and hath ever since that time continued in such distemper, takeing little or noe sustenance, casting up whatsoever is given unto it, being for the most part drinke or possett drinke, the said child not being capable to take anythinge else, refuseing ever since to suck although it did suck very well before. And this deponent further sayeth that she beleeveth that the said distemper did soe befall the said child through some unlawfull act done by the said Joane and that the said child is overseene and bewitched, and beleeveth that if the said Joane had not come to the house and kist the child, the said child had continued in good health as it was before. And further sayeth that she hath the said Joane in suspition the rather for that she the saide Joane is comonly reported to be a woman of that ill condition.

(Signed) WILL YORKE.

The unfortunate Joane was committed to Fisherton Prison by Mr. Yorke "charged with suspicion of witchcraft in bewitching the child of one Gyles Flower of Weeke", and as nothing further appears on the rolls concerning her she probably was sent to the Assizes to take her trial.

PARTNERS IN THE RIVER AVON.

The Jury of the Hundred of Dameramnorth present the inhabitants of Christian Malford and the inhabitants of Sutton Benger being joynt partners or having a like pportion in the River of Avon

where in lyeth a Rushbed above a Bridg called High-bridg which is likely to decaye the aforesaid Bridg by turning the river out of its usual course.

FIRE AT BROMHAM.

The humble petition of Stephen Cogswell of Bromham miller, to the Justices at the Sessions held at Devizes the 4th day of Aprill 1665.

“ Sheweth that on the 22nd day of february last about midnight there happened a suddaine, sad and lamentable fire wch wth in a very short time burnt down his house and a grist mill and mault mill adjoyning together with a great part of his household goods wch goods alone amounteth to ye value of Sixty pounds and upwards, by means whereof your petitioner and his family consisting of eight persons (though their lives through mercy were given them for a prey they but narrowly escaping being burnt in their beds) yet are like to be reduced to very great want unless ye Lord stirr up ye hearts of charitable disposed persons to assist and relieve them in their sad & deplorable condition ”. He begs the Court to assist him and a grant of £5 was made. The appeal is supported by Tim Richards, Rector, and seventeen others, including the churchwardens, overseers, constables, and William Webb, who adds the word “ Carrier ” after his name.

CONCERNING THE HEARTH TAX.

At the Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum Janry 1665/6 the following resolutions concerning the hearth tax were presented:—

Resolucons to Queries concerning Hearth Money.

1. Ovens only are exempted from Charge but all Chimnyes and Hearths—although they have ovens in them are to pay.

2. All houses that have above two chimnies in them are to pay, though paupers dwell in them, there being noe exempton allowed to such houses.

3. If such house stands Empty and the owner not a pauper he must pay as occupyer, and if noe distresse there, hee to be returned into the excheqr and the duety levyable upon process from thence.

4. In case of stopping up Chinnies, proceed to demand, and levy the dutie or returne hence into the Excheqr with the whole case and circumstances.

5. Smithes, Braziers and Pewterers if they have hearths for other uses—though in the same Chimney with their ffurnace or forge these hearthes ought to pay.

6. His Maties Garrisons, and Castles farmed out and the Lodges in his Parkes and fforrests & Chases are likewise to pay.

7. Freeschooles and Mills are likewise to pay.

FROM QUAKERS IN PRISON.

For Judge Windham & the Justices of the Peace now sitting in the Court in Sarum.

Wee suppose its not unknown how many and great are and have beene the troubles of us who are called quakers which Ever since wee were a People have beene inflicted and are yett likely, if the Lord open not peoples hearts, to be continued upon us. And although its not in our mindes at this tyme to write the Innocency of our Cause Yett being cleare in our owne consciences and knowing in our hearts wee intend noe man ill we cann ffrely committ our Cause to God, who we hope will in dew tyme manifest our integrity to all men. Yett inasmuch as severall of us are & have ffor above two yeares and halfe beene imprisoned in this County Goale by reason of which long imprisonment what miseries, necessities & calamities many of us with our wives and families have sustained will be too muche here to mention, yett truly our afflictions are such that we cannott altogether be silent but lay before you some of sufferings with a good hope and humble desire, that you unto whom God hath at this day given so much power wilt also manifest such pittty as to consider of this our complainte which is as ffolloweth. Wee who are prisoners as aforesaid were the third day of the month called June 1663 and fined att Warminster Sessions for meeting together—though it was only to worship God, some of us 40£ and some 3£ a peece by the Judge of ye Sessions and have remained prisoners to this day, one of which, namely Thomas Withers shortly after his imprisonment and before ye Sessions gave bond with two sureties ffor his appearance att ye next Assizes (according to ye mitimus) But remained a prisoner notwithstanding, and being by a new order, called to the Sessions with ye rest, was there fined and returned to prison with him. And at ye Assizes after was called, & notwithstanding Answer was made by the keeper that he was then in prison for ye very same thing, Estreats came out in greene wax against him and his sureties by which they hath beene damnified neare 30£ notwithstanding all his imprisonment before and since to this very day. Another of us namely Jane Selve being a wife and doeing nothing but what her husband allowed because she kept were (? ward or watch) at her husbands house, was brought to prison with them, ffrom her children and ffamily. Now most of us are poore haveing wives and severall small children, yea so poore that wee can truly say were we willing, yett some of us are never likely to be in a capacity to answer these imposed ffines. What advantage will it then be to keepe us thus under a continuall restrainte the only way to expose us and ours—if ye Lord prevent not—to perpetual penury. Alas for it what shall we say, were —— (a word blotted out) but sensible of those many sighes and teares which our long bondage have produced it would doubtless be of greater force to persuade those who we believe are in a capacity to afford us reliefe herein by granting our enlargement. Lett not our words and desires returne in vaine but favour us so much as to answer our complainte

which we hope and believe will not be forgotten in the records of heaven which is ye desire of yours to serve you ffor righteousnes sake.

Signed Thomas Withers, Jane Selfe, Robert Luff, Robert Button, John Leonard, and in the behalfe of the rest.

The records do not state what Judge Wyndham did in the matter.

1666.

THE PLAGUE IN SALISBURY.

The plague seems to have been very bad in Salisbury this year. The Mayor, writing to the Justices, states that 52 houses were shut up, with 196 inmates, costing £22 15s. weekly, 23 families numbering 58 persons were in pesthouses, and 553 families numbering 1,855 persons were in receipt of relief amounting to £108 4s. 2d. weekly. Another letter written in the following January states that there were 694 families comprising 2,192 persons on relief.

FLED FROM THE PLAGUE.

The Churchwardens of Mildenhall complain against Richard Constable, "a gentleman of good and plentiful estate", for abandoning his house with the greater part of his family, upon the town being visited with the plague, and thus taking no care of the sick people there, but leaving them wholly to the charge of the parish. Mr. Constable was ordered by the Court to pay five pounds.

1667.

There are only two Quarter Sessions records in this roll, and these are much injured by damp. They contain very little of present day interest, the principal item being a letter from the Privy Council directing that the utmost endeavours should be made to apprehend all popish priests and Jesuits, and to examine all persons who have been led away to the Roman religion, etc. It is signed by a large number of members of the Council, and can be read in detail in "Autograph Letters" in the Appendix.

1668.

ILLEGAL USE OF NAMES OF MAGISTRATES.

Sr Henry Coker Knight one of his Matys Justices of the Peace and quorum for this County maketh informacon against George Sheppard of Warminster Ale seller for yt hee by virtue of a false messuage and Token using the names of the said Sr Henry Coker, Edward Hyde and Thomas Mompesson Esqres his Matyes Justices of the Peace for this County did on ye 5th day of October last past enter the house of Mary Creame of Crockerton widdo and did

thereby possesse himself of the goods of the said Mary Creame to the value of 50s. for wch offence I the sd Sr Henry Coker doe desire that Sheppard may come to hearing & examinacon accordinge to the Statue of Or late Sovaigne Kinge Henry the 8th of blessed memory in the 33th yeare of his Raigne the first Chapter. (Sgd) Henry Coker.

Witnesses bounden to give their Evidence

Mary Creame the younger.

John Creame.

Andrew Meaden.

Ralph Annerly.

OVER FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR DEBT.

Six persons who were fined 40s. at Warminster Sessions July 1663 for attending an unlawful meeting were still in prison in January 1669/70.

1669.

There are only three rolls for this year and they contain little of interest.

NO PILLORY OR DUCKING STOOL AT WARMINSTER.

The presentment for Warminster at the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster July 13th 1669.

Mr. Simon Sloper Junr was presented "for not setting up a Pillory and Cookinge stoole".

1670.

ALEHOUSE AT WESTBURY SUPPRESSED.

The Mayor of Westbury, John Pryor, and twenty-nine of the inhabitants petition that an alehouse there may be suppressed on the ground that the keeper and his son "have used all lewd and wicked wayes & meanes to defraud their neighbours and have enriched themselves by impoverishing of many honest families by drawing them in to spend their estates in their alehouse". The Court ordered the alehouse to be closed.

COUNTERFEIT FARTHING.

John Bushell a mercer of Great Bedwyn was indicted for making and uttering brass and copper farthings of which a hundred were only equal in value to 16 pence.

(Note.—A specimen of these farthings can be seen in the Wilts Archæological Society's Museum, Devizes. It is inscribed as follows :—

Obverse : IOHN BVSHEL OF GREAT

Three doves with the Tallow Chandlers' Arms.

Reverse : BEDWIN MERCER 1669. I.E.B.)

FIRE AT MERE.

Mere suffered great loss by fire this year when 54 houses were burnt and a loss of £6,700 sustained. The inhabitants made an application for a brief to be issued by which they could make a collection throughout the country.

A WITCH AT LATTON.

Jane Townsend of Latton is indicted for being a witch because she had a teat or nipple on her body about half an inch long, which was suspected to be a witch's mark. Two persons depose that she had offered to teach their daughters how to become witches, the procedure being as follows: "They were to go into the Church and lie down by the font and forswear their Christian names seven times and then they would become witches, and if they made a picture of a man or beast in clay & ran a hot iron into it that man or beast would become bewitched". Another complaint against Jane was "that some cheeses would not keep down in the making as it ought, and the woman who was making it, going after a Child of Jane Townsend's that was beating one of her children Townsend said to her 'that though she herself had bewitched the cheese her child had not'." In defence of the charge Jane states that "she has three severall marks upon her body but none but such as she brought into the world with her, and that she hath no familiarity with any evil spirit, and that she hath trust in Christ that died for her, and that He will save her soul". As nothing further appears concerning the case it is possible that Jane was acquitted.

1671.

AN EAVESDROPPER OF BOWOOD.

The presentment for the hundred of Calne at the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes in May 1671 contains the following:—

Wee present Thomas Croft for an eavesdropper who liveth in the parish of Bowood.

UNLAWFUL CONVENTICLES.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough in October 1671 a large number of persons were presented by different magistrates for holding unlawful meetings or Conventicles. The following is one out of many such presentments.

Memorandum. The 27th day of September 1670 those psons whose names are under written were Lawfully convicted by Wittnesses upon oath before me Sr Edward Hungerford Kt of the Bath & one of his Maties Justices of peace for the County of Wilts for being on the 25th day of Sept instant present with divers other persons to about the number of 2000 at an unlawful meeting & Conventicle held in a Wood called and known by the name of Brockers Wood in the pish of North Brandy in the said County

under collour and pretence of Religious Worship. And a pson whose name & habitacon unknowne did then teach and preach to the People contrary to the Statute in that behalfe made and pvided, ffor which their offences I have imposed and fined each of them the severall sums of mony as against their names under written appeareth and have made this my record thereof under my hand and seale the day and year first above written.

(Signed) EDWARD HUNGERFORD.

Then follow thirty names and those for whom this was a first offence were fined 5s., for a second offence 10s., whilst two were fined £10 "towards the preacher" over and above the 5s. for first offence. Possibly they were the conveners of the meeting and were responsible for the preacher, but there is nothing to show this.

At another Conventicle held at Westbury, Roger Catter for Teaching, it being his second offence, was fined £40.

Simon Crabb of the parish of North Brandy, for refusing his office in dispersing the said Conventicle he being overseer of the poore of the parish, was fined £5.

Roger Kater for suffering a conventicle to be held in his Barne at Dilton was fined £20.

THE FIRE IN LONDON.

The Constables of the Hundred of Damerham South in their presentment at the Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum Jan. 10th 1671 say:—

"Wee know of none yt retayned any mony in there hands wch collected for ye losse yt was sustayned by fire at London".

FINED FOR ATTENDING UNLAWFUL CONVENTICLES.

This year some hundreds of persons in the County were brought before the magistrates for taking part in unlawful assemblies or Conventicles and were fined accordingly. The Roll contains many appeals against these fines, but with what result they do not say.

Probably the Registers of the period could give further information.

FRAUDULENT TOKENS.

Simon Rolfe of New Sarum, clothier, is indicted for coining half pence of which four were only equal to a penny. John Slade of Warminster, mercer, for coining farthings of which four were only equal to a half penny. Francis Patient of Westbury, William Butcher of Warminster, and William Newman of Wilton are also indicted for similar offences.

(Note.—Specimens of these are in the Wilts Archæological Museum at Devizes.)

1672.

CIVIL WAR: WOUNDED AT BRISTOL.

The humble petition of Major Tho Latimore Humbly Sheweth That yr petitioner being a Major in ye Regiment of Coll. John Ackland and under ye comand of ye Lord Hopton in ye servis of his late Matie King Charles the first of glorious memorie, and therin and in other service manifested his loyalty to his said Matie as in duty bound, and alsoe his servisses and sufferings in the said servis as by his severall Certificates hereunto annexed doth fully appeare and being borne and breed up in the Burrough of Cricklade as by a Certificate here unto annexed doth appeare, and haveing bene ever since the restoration of his sacred Matie unwilling to be burthensome to his native Countie soe long as either the releefe of friends or industry in himself could maintaine him and his wife (though very meanly) but now being past labor and reduced to great want and necessitie he is forced to crave yor Honors assistance by granting him such pension as to yor Honors shall seeme meet and as by vertue of ye Act of Parliament you are impowered to doe, that thereby himself and aged wife may be preserved from perishing, which otherwise will undoubtedly follow. Humbly beginge yor Honors to like his sad case into yor serious consideration that he may have some speedie releife.

And yor petitioner shall ever pray.

It is satisfactory to note that this Court granted 40s/- at present and a pension of £4 a year for the future.

The above is followed by a Certificate signed by John Flood Vicar of Cricklade and others, supporting the statement that he was a Cricklade man.

Then comes the following :—

These may Certifie all whom it doth concerne that Major Thomas Latimer under ye command of Coll. John Ackland, after ye losse of that Regiment in Arundle Castle raised a foote Companie under my Command at his owne Charge wherein he behaved himselfe faithfully and welbecoming a good souldier. Witness my hand and seale this 24th of June 1660. (Signed) Will Courtenay.

This certificate is again signed by Will Courtenay on March 2nd 1668 as being just and true.

This is followed by a certificate of Will Slingsbey dated 20th June 1660 which states that Latimer "was made uncapable by a shott in the necke which he received in Bristoll when it was besieged by Sir Thomas ffairfax, upon which account he had libertie to repaire to his dwelling house in order to his cure". There is a similar certificate signed by Edward Wilsford dated 18 June 1660.

EGYPTIANS IN WILTSHIRE.

The Jury for the hundred of Damerham North "present Ben Baker of Nettleton, Inholder for entertaining people comonly calling themselves Egyptians who did behave themselves very barbarous, contrary to the Statute".

TIDULSIDE (OR TILSHEAD).

A certificate signed by Antonius Delacourt, vicar, states " that an agreement has been made between the inhabitants of Tidulside alias Tilshead and James Waddam as to the maintenance of a child ".

1673.

There is nothing in this roll of much interest.

1674.

The rolls of this year are badly spoilt by damp.

ROMAN PRIESTS AND JESUITS TO BE TRANSPORTED.

A letter from the Privy Council states that in spite of recent proclamations many Roman Priests and Jesuites continue in the Kingdom and the King " out of his pious care for the Protestant religion has resolved that all who can be found shall be transported into the parts beyond the seas ". Search is therefore to be made for such persons, who are to be apprehended and sent to London for transportation, and a reward of five pounds is to be paid for everyone so discovered.

1675.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes in April this year, John Neal of Rowde, Victualler, was presented " for Keepinge a Skittle alley and yll orders " contrary to ye Statute.

A FRAUDULENT LAWYER.

The humble peticon of the Inhabitants of Westbury Humbly Sheweth that Thomas Rawlins of Westbury being convicted before Sr Henry Coker, Knight, for suffering tipling and disorder in his house on the sabbath day in time of divine Service selling Ale without license being a man of a very lewd life, hath been ye occacon of ye undoeing of sevall psons by reason his sonn John Rawlins practiseing ye law & hath caused divrs psons to come there and spend their moneys wch should maintain their families, suing about 20 in ye County Cort for tithes wch never was due, by wch meanes they have extorted great sumes of money from many to their utter undoeing for wch they stand indicted for Barrety by speciall direcon of the Lord Chiefe Justice this last Assizes at Sarum And ye said Thomas Rawlins pretends he hath got a new lycence signed by two Justices by wch meanes he continues selling of ale to the great grievance of ye inhabitants & being a generall nuisance will prove more destructive to ye inhabitants if suffered. The said John and Thomas Rawlins having hatched sevall conspiracies there agt the lives of divrs psons to ye

hazard of their lives and ruin of the meaner sort, All wch evill practices they doe not desist, the sd John Rawlins suing many for nothing due and refusing to give them bills, but will have what he demands contrary to ye Statute, and having soe sued one Rennolds wch is by Judge Raynefford referred to Sr Henry Cocke & alsoe sued one Jeffery Selfe & wthout any just cause made him runn the Countrey.

Your petitioners pray yt yor Worppps will take some course to restraine those Exorbitances, appressances and grievances of ye said John Rawlins and suspend ye said Thomas Rawlins from selling ale whereby such oppressions may be avoided & to doe what other things yor Worppps shall thincke fitt.

And yor petitioners shall ever pray.

The above is signed by fifty-one persons.

The order of the Court was that Thomas Rawlins lycence is to be suppressed for disorder upon Sir Henry Coker's Informacon and not to be lycenced but by order of this Court and in open Court.

With reference to the foregoing Sir Henry Coker writes :—

Whereas John Rawlins of Westbury attorney was summoned before me and by sevall psons proved to be of ill behavior, much oppressing his parishioners by neddlesse vexatious sutes and refusing to give a bill of his hand for money, he sued Stephen Rendell of Westbury lye under pretence he did Business at Law for him, and being desired by me so to doe refused it, & said that Stephen Rendall should goe to Westminster to search & there obtayne order for it, notwithstanding Stephen offered to make oath that he never employed John Rawlins in getting of a Judgment or doing any business at Law for him. Upon which misbehaviour with severall others I required him, ye sd John Rawlins, that he should find sureties to answer the same at the next Assizes or Quarter Sessions which he refused to doe.

These are therefore in his Maties name to charge and command you to apprehend the body of the said John Rawlins &c. &c., and convey him to his Maties Gaol at ffisherton Anger.

Given under my hand & seale at Hull Deverell the 26th day of January 1674/5.

(Signed) HENRY COKER.

To the Keeper of his Maties Gaol at ffisherton Anger and to the Constables of the Burro of Westbury—these.

1675.

THE BOROUGH OF GREAT BEDWYN.

Mr. Dennett (he was Mayor of Wilton).

The bearer hereof Michael Cooke of Great Bedwyn being a Pentioner is denyed his small Pention because an inhabitant in a

Corporation. I presume the reason of that order was because the Great Corporation payed nor shared with the County toward maimed Souldiers and Mariners fund as attested by the Certificate wth the parish and therefore I conceive the inhabitants ought to enjoy the same privildges wth other parts of the County.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. DANIELL.

From another petition from the inhabitants of the Borough of Wootton Bassett it appears the Justices at the Quarter Sessions previously held at Warminster that year made an order "that pensioners inhabiting any corporation should be dispensioned". Whereas Wootton Bassett, like Bedwyn, contributed to the maimed Soldiers & Mariners fund as attested by the Certificate of the Constables, the pensioners of that town therefore claimed their right to pensions.

1676.

TRENCHARD ACCOUNTS 1676—1687.

Amongst the County records is a small bundle of accounts dating from 1676 to 1687, and from these it appears that Mr. William Trenchard, the Squire of Normanton, had let Normanton farm to a Farmer Osgood. There are 30 accounts in all, and they are mainly for work and material that Farmer Osgood himself had executed or supplied on account of his landlord or for similar services rendered by other persons. From time to time Squire Trenchard drew up a summary of amounts received from Osgood and in like manner Osgood renders "a note what money I have layed out for my Landlord since I have ben at Norington". But the accounts of workmen employed by Osgood are especially of interest as they contain many obsolete words and quaint spellings besides giving a good idea of the prices of material goods and labour at that time. It is not possible to give a complete transcription of all these accounts, but in the following notes an endeavour has been made to extract some of the most interesting. In some cases no dates or names are given.

1676. An accompt of worke done ffor William Trenchard Esquire on his ffarme at Normington this 15th March p Anthony Waters & Company viz.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| ffor Hedgeing about ye San foyn 18 dayes worke at 12d p diem is | ... | ... | ... | o 18 | o |
| ffor 26 dayes and an halfe at 12d p Diem hedgeinge round ye ffish pond for a high pitched hedge | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 6 o |

Oct. ye 13—81.

Mr. Trenchard his a Count.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|---|
| for the robbery don in this hunder (see under 1679) | ... | ... | ... | o 12 | 6 |
| for twofol mony | ... | ... | ... | o 8 | 2 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|---|
| for Chimey mony | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| for yaill and masel | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| for mony that williw m finy hath for taking up the mowe haches | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| for 2 bushel of woats | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| for souing the duch clover | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| for 2 towkes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| for 6 pulets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| for the steare | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| for the Kings rent | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| for gent man fine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| for 4 busel of barley | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Receved of Mr. Atwod the som of | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| payed to your mane | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| fout (fetched) from Chil marke 10 load of Stones | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 dayes work to bare flents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| for yaile and masel | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| for 2 busels of woats | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |

(There are a few other items for cash paid.)

Oct. ye 13—81.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|---|
| for the Kings rent payed the soum of | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| for souing your wheat Crape it comes to | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| for the fold and the bar | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| for caring up to the more limber and pyiles and hurdels | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| for 4 dosen of hurdel | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| for load of liame from lafonton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| for goate (forgot) at the last reckon a forty shilen paye | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Another "note of what money I have layed out" contains the following items:—

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|---|
| for 17 months pay | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 8 | 3 |
| paid for mending of Willsford Bridg | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| paid for Chimey money for one years | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| paid for ye hake of the fishpond | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| paid Coles for mending the Tumling bay and putting in the hake in the fishpond | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| paid for Troughfy money | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| paid for the wood & caridge to the Sanfine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| paid for picking the Stones in the Sanfine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| paid Gentleman fine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| paid goale money | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| paid for digging the well | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| for six kine | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 10 | 0 |
| for 18 quarters of barley | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 | 4 | 0 |
| for one quarter of malt | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| pd for mending ye hatches | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| pd Mr. Dawkins at twice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 8 | 6 |

1688.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| for 13 quarter of berly | ... | ... | ... | ... | 09 | 09 | 03 |
| for a dekein of pulets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 00 | 08 | 0 |
| for 2 pulets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 00 | 01 | 03 |

1679.

Laid out for my Landlord.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|----|
| paid for the Tax | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| paid to ye tethingman | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| pd toward maimed Souldiers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| pd for 2 Dosen of hurdles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Nov ye 10th ffor butter in all 10 lb | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| ffor milk in all | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 10 |
| ffor 2 lb of Bacon | ... | ... | ... | ... | 00 | 1 | 0 |
| ffor 3 loaves of Bread for ye Doggs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| ffor beare | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| ffor cheese | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| ffor a Turkey | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| ffor 7 fflowles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| ffor eggs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| ffor Tobacco | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| ffor 7 lb of Candles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 11 |
| ffor a goose & 1d of cloves & mace | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| ffor motton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| ffor 4 quarters of oats for ye horses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| ffor 2 bushl & one pecke of Beans | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| ffor Wheat sheves for the horses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| ffor Hay for the horses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 7 |

Jan. 4th 1677. Mr. Trenchard renders a statement in these words:—

“All accounts being then last upp between Farmer Osgood and myselfe since his comeing to Normanton they appear to be as follow:

(Then are given various items amounting to £252 2s. 6d.)

“So that since his coming to Normanton I acknowledge to have received of him in money and accounts as part of rent due to me the summe of two hundred fifty and two Pound two shillings and Six pence. As Witnesse my hand the day and yeare above written per me”.

Wm. Trenchard.

Wm. Haywards acct to Wm. Trenchard Esqr concerning Normanton ye 24th 8ber (October) 1680:—

Received vizt.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----|----|----|---|
| ye 25th 9th ber (November) | Received of ffarmer Osgood | 6 | 10 | 0 | |
| ye 10th x ber (December) | Recd of Bundy ye Wheeler for Elme at 300 per tun being a tun & odd foote | ... | 1 | 13 | 0 |

There are one or two more receipts and the “total summe” is £10 16s. 10d.

Disbursed vizt.

This is a long account, so only a few items can be given.

| | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| Repairing ye greate wyre (weir) and wyre house and fish pond hatches. | | | |
| Wm. Viney 18 days att 1s & 6d p diem | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| (And severall other workmen at the same rate per day). | | | |
| Wm. Viney for 35 piles wch will serve for ye moore wyre | 0 | 7 | 4 |
| One dozen hurdles | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| pd for 140 foote of plancke and square Oake at 3d per foote | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Pd Pile for his Oake=Cap=sull at 4os per tun ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Pd Viney, Bedford and Alderidge up to ye Arme pitts in water pulling up ye bay $\frac{1}{2}$ a day | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Pd Dukman and his son 5 days for sawing out of Elme for ye wyre under water and slittinge other stuff for uses | 0 | 11 | 8 |

The " summe " came to £8 6. 4.

Pigeon House acct vizt.

Several entries for labourers at 14d. per day for cutting down elms and sawing the wood " about ye pigeon house ".

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| pd John Munday 5 Doz pigeons at 2s per Dozen being chosen out of 15 or 16 Dozen | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| A messenger to place ye Pigeons | 0 | 0 | 4 |

Concerning ye Moore Hatches.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Pd my expenses one night att ye Choppinge Knife att Amsbury wth my farmer Cozens & my Cozen Hayward discourseinge about ye stone wyre and agreeinge upon ye same & how to gett out ye old wyre | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| my expenses once more to Amsbury to meete ye partye affords and to meete ye quarre man when wee drew a plott of ye wyre and tooke order for ye stones | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| pd one halfe towards a messenger to send to ye quarreman | 0 | 1 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| Mrs. Walder for $\frac{1}{2}$ a dozen of Turkeys | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| pd my expenses once more haveing made 2 or 3 journeyes to Amsbury about partinge or securing ye stuff of ye old Wyre wch lay soe confusedly about ye ground | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| pd a messenger to send ye maid from Sir Richards ... | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| pd given ye carter to be careful of ye turkeys ... | 0 | 0 | 6 |

The Total " summe " come to £10 16. 10.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1681. New hay cost 35/- per ton and old hay 30/- per ton. | | | |
| ffor ffallowing of Twelve acres of arrable being more or less at 5s per acre | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| ffor fetching of two load of free stone from Chilmark | 1 | 4 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--|-----|-----|---|----|---|
| 1679. | Pd towards the Kings Armes in the Church ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| | paid for gaol money ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |

No date.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| | ffor a paire of Jeameles ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| | ffor working of yome and irone in spriges ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | ffor making of sprigs with one newe ire ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| | ffor a head for the hake for the fissh pond ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | ffor bord nailes and dubel tenes ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | ffor to hundred of bord nailes ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 6 |

The hole sume is 1. 3. 4.

May ye tenth 1680.

" All accounts being cast upp between Farmer Osgood and my selfe he being to pay for my use the summe of fourty five pounds to John Sturges for Building a Pidgeon house, I do acknowledge to have received of him in money and accounts since his comeing to Normanton in Part of Rent the full Summe of eight hundred twenty six pounds one shilling and four Pence, I say Received by me "

WM. TRENCHARD

1681. Will Trencher Esquire his Bill.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----|-----|---|---|----|
| September 29th | for a print of sheepe ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Oct. 13 | for a drowning spade ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| | for fasting horse shoes ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 17 | for 2lb of board nails ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | for a share & Coulter & Dole Chaine and plow chaine 2 Tayle Jres 2 Rings for the plow wheels & spindle & Croock for the Weldons way 84 ... | ... | ... | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| | for 2 Tacks & nails & Reach & nails for ye plow ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | for 2 plates & Ring behind on ye plow ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| | for 2 boxes & 2 stock bonds for ye finale plow wheele & a plate for ye great plow wheel & duble key for ye spindle ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | for 2 plates & nails to hole ye spindles in The weldons ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| | for a old Linne pinne to hole ye Dole Chaine to the plow ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | for 11 ferralls & sprigs for ye spokes of ye wheels ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| December 2 —th | —81 | ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 11 |

Rec in full of this bill £1. 19. 0. of Edward King for the use of will trencher Esq I say recd by me John Martin.

| | | | |
|--|--------|----|------|
| A bell for ssqier Trencher. (no date). | | | |
| ffor 61 fote of Oocking timber at 4os a tone | ... | 3 | 1 0 |
| ffor carpenders worke to maecke the troncks and poting in troncks in | ... .. | 2 | 19 0 |
| paide to the saiers for saeing of all the timber | ... | 1 | 14 0 |
| paid to the smeth for all sorts of nails | ... .. | 0 | 10 0 |
| paid to the labrers for doing of all the worke to bring the water to the med | ... .. | 3 | 6 6 |
| ffor the repaier of the haeches to squier trencher part is Mr haperd havth paid for his part for the repaier of the haeches all rede | ... .. | 15 | 0 |
| soe of this bill I have reseved of farmer Oosgood in part | ... | 6 | 17 6 |
| so thare remains due upon this bill | ... .. | 5 | 8 6 |

William Trenchard esqu His Bill 168o
mand Maye the 10th.

| | | | |
|--|--------|---|------|
| for macking a new shiep brige and putting in 2 braces In the haches | ... .. | 0 | 9 4 |
| for puting in a new pear of haches hath coust to the rapyerer | ... .. | 0 | 10 8 |
| for nails to do it 3s and for saing it out 6 shilen in all | ... | 0 | 9 0 |
| payed to Willum for helping do the haches 5 dayes work | ... | 0 | 6 8 |
| paid to John Sauig for Jentil man fine | ... .. | 0 | 2 0 |
| payed to Willum smart for 65 dousen of setor | ... .. | 3 | 5 0 |
| for one dayes work to fech it up | ... .. | 0 | 5 0 |
| payed for seting the 65 doson | ... .. | 0 | 6 6 |
| payed to Jorge Pyel for 30 doson of seter and 14 boundel of wethy | ... .. | 2 | 4 0 |
| payed John Sauig for twofel mony | ... .. | 0 | 8 2 |
| payed to Henery good boy the 3 monthes pay | ... .. | 2 | 1 0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Bred & beare & ffer | ... .. | 0 | 4 6 |
| dresing the diner | ... .. | 0 | 3 6 |
| The wine— | | | |
| 2 botles of sack and 2 of clarett | ... .. | 0 | 6 0 |
| a leg of mutton ffrom the bucher | ... .. | 0 | 1 4 |
| a turky & a couple of puletts | ... .. | 0 | 3 0 |
| a chine of backon of the ffarmer | ... .. | 0 | 2 0 |

The ffarmers bill Dec the 10th.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----|------|
| for 17 bushel of oots | ... .. | 1 | 1 3 |
| for 1 bushel and a half of beanes | ... .. |  | 4 6 |
| for haye | ... .. | 15 | 0 |
| for 30lb of beef and mutton | ... .. | 5 | 10 |
| for 4 chines of backon | ... .. | 0 | 6 6 |
| for dogs meate | ... .. | 0 | 10 2 |
| for 1 turke and 2 cuppel of pullats | ... .. | 0 | 4 6 |
| for a shulder of mutton | ... .. | 0 | 1 3 |
| for candles | ... .. | 0 | 1 10 |
| for pipes cardes collworts & turneps | ... .. | 0 | 1 4 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|---|
| for bread | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| for butter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| for beere | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| for Chemney money | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| for Kings rent | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| for the 3 monthes paye | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| for making the more ditch | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| for making a banke in brod mead | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 8 | 0 |

A note of what money I have laid out for my landlord since I have lived at his farme called Normmington farm. (No date given.)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|---|
| Left to pay to the Church & poore in Mr. Callows time | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| for san fine seed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| for Drums & Collers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| for gentleman fine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| for quit rent | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| paid to the Jenes for mending the Hatches | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| paid for chimney money | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| paid a years geole money | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| paid for halfe a years goole money | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |

(There are other items in this account, but are of no particular interest).

The last of these accounts to be transcribed is rather long, but contains many interesting details. It is headed thus:—

Mr. Trenchard his Bill April 1681.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|---|
| payed to the watores for rubin the withes of | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| payed to ye Church wardes for yaile and mashet | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| payed to thithen man for Jent man fine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| payed for Chimly mony | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| payed to John Sturges for 3 doson of pigeon and a soultrat and brinen over | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| payed to laidson for 1 doson & half of pigeons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| pay to John Sturges for lafin the winders of the pigin house | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| payed to John Sturg for 2 dousen pigeons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| payed to Mr. Hayward for 5 dousen pig (? pigeons) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| for 3 Bushells of faches for the pige (? pigeons) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| for a diner when Mr Ash were hear | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| for 6 boutel of wine then | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| for soult and coming sead for the pigeons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 9 | 7 |
| for one dosen of hurdles to mark the bay | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| for 14 bushel of hey clovr sould in the burnbeak | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| payed Mr filder for the Clover | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| for 2 quarter of barley for the pigeon | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| payed Mr Hayward for wit and seling | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 12 | 0 |

Then follows several large sums of money paid by various persons, and the last line is—

pd by a former acquattance 826 0 0

The total being £976 15s. 11d.

GROWING TOBACCO.

The Earl of Danby in a letter to the Justices directs that an enquiry should be made of all persons growing tobacco, and the quantity of land used for that purpose, in order that they may be convicted in accordance with the Act of Parliament.

1677.

BULL BAITING IN WARMINSTER.

The following presentments were made by the Jury of the hundred of Warminster at the Quarter Sessions held there in July 1677.

Wee psent that John Colledge of Warmister keepes a Bull vulgarly called a Baiteing bull, the wch hath bin employed on a bayting waye whereby sevall psons hath bin muche hurte and in-dangered of their lives, contrary to the Statute in that case made and pvided.

SKITTLES UNLAWFUL.

Wee psent that Richard Cousins hath kept unlawfull game, to wit, game called keetles in his back side. Also William Waynsborough keeps unlawfull game by playing at keetles.

Wee psent that Stephen Humfrye hath erected a Bowleing alley and keetles likewise.

LOST THEIR PENSIONS FOR HAVING SERVED THE
PARLIAMENT.

At these Sessions the Court ordered that Nicholas King of "Barwick St. Leonards" who had received 40s a year pension and Anthony Purchase of Hindon who had received 20s a year to be struck off the list of pensions "they having served the Parliament".

TROWBRIDGE WORKMEN PARADE FOR MORE WAGES.

The Informacon of William Brewer of Trowbridge clothier taken upon oath the 25th day of June 1677.

Who sayeth That being in his house in Trowbridge the day aforesaid he heard an uproare in the Streete and goeing forth he saw a great company of men ffollowing a ffdler and one of them made a kind of Proclamacon that "who soever was of their side should ffollow them". Afterwards, hearing that they were att an Alehouse neere the bridge he went thither with the Constables where he heard Aaron Atkins say that he was the man who made the proclamacon and that the intention thereof was to engage as many as he could to combine for the raising of their wages six-pence per weeke and that Samuel Bowden (and others) affirmed the

same & were with him in the streete upon the same designe, and Atkins said that he had a sword and wished that he had had it with him.

Taken before William Brewer.

Samuel Bowden confesseth that he was amongst the others to-day and being demanded for what reason soe many were assembled in such a manner with a fiddle before them & calling those that were on their side to come to them saith it was to raise their wages to six and six pence for working twelve hours in a day.

(Sgd) J. HALL.

ALL WELL AT EVERLEY.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough Oct. 1677 the Constables of Everley hundred present

Wee know of no Sectuaries, Papists, Quakers or Anabaptists.

No twelve pence have been levied.

No Bridges or Highways out of repair.

No unlicensed ale houses.

No Comon Drunkards.

No Stocks or wippen posts out of repayer

but all things as they ought to be.

(In fact quite a perfect hundred.)

The Constables of Highworth and Cricklade at the same Sessions present

As touching recusants, sabbath breakers, profane swearers, comon drunkards, Idle loytering persons, unlycensed Ale houses, neglect of hues & Cryes, stealers of posts or rayles, highways & bridges unrepayered and all other things, we have nothing to present. (Another model hundred.)

COLLECTING THE HEARTH TAX BY FORCE.

The informacon of William Edmunds against Edward Cornelius of Winckfield gent.

Who sayth That on Munday last the said Cornelius coming to this deponents in Semington to collect ye ffyre hearth money, he having but two chimneys or ffyre hearths in his house, did offer Cornelius the duty for same, wch he would not receive untill he had distrained the goods of this informant to thend that he might make him pay for distraining double duty, and being in the house he drew his sword & run at him and alsoe told him If that would not do, meaning his sword he had a brase of bullets to shoot at this informant, whereupon this informant sayth upon his oath that he is afraid Cornelius will indeed kill him or mayme him, and that he the more feareth the same, for that Cornelius hath at divers tymes swore that he will do so, without provocacon given him by this informant.

1678.

There is nothing of special interest in the rolls for this year.

1679.

ROBBERY IN THE HUNDRED OF MERE.

When a robbery was committed in any parish and the culprit was not arrested or able to make due compensation, the amount of the loss was recovered by levying a rate on the different parishes in the hundred concerned in equal shares.

In the following case it will be seen that this was sometimes resented by the parishioners.

The humble peticon of the Constables of Mere hundred, Whereas a robbery was lately comitted wth in the said hundred and warrants issued forth to us and the Constables of the Liberty of Maiden Bradley being wth in the said hundred and to each Tithing man within the same for Raising the money lost equally, as all other taxes and payments charged on the Hundred now are, and tyme out of mind hath benn paid The Hundred is willing to pay their proporcon (Except only the Liberty of Mayden Bradley who doth utterly refuse to pay their fifth part, being their equall proporcon).

Therefore your humble peticoners doe humbly desire the Honble Court to grant an order to Levy the sume of money imposed on Mayden Bradley being but their equal fifth part, Otherwise to direct your peticoners what course is most meete to be taken concerning the same.

27 Eliz : 13.

Robbery in ye hundred of Meer ... 97. 14. 0

£19. 10. 0 layd on ye liberty of Bradford to be levyed by distresse and sale of goods.

Directed to ye Constables and tything men of Mayden Bradley. Stat Winton. 13 Ed. 1.

(It does not appear where the responsibility of Bradford comes in, so this may be a clerical error and Bradley meant.)

SUSPECTED HIGHWAYMEN COMPLAIN OF THEIR TREATMENT.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Sarum Jan. 13th 1679/80 the following petition was presented to the Court.

The humble peticon of Thomas Shearman and John Bankes now prisoners in Fisherton Anger Goale.

HUMBLY SHEWETH. That whereas your peticoners were lately apphended at the Tything of Charnham Street upon suspicion of being highway men, and at the time of their apphension were stript of their clothes, swords pistolls and other things to a considerable value and of about nine pounds in money by the officers and sent to the Goale almost naked, which your peticoners humbly

conceive is contrary to Lawe So that your peticoners have nothing lefte to subsist untill the Assizes. They therefore humbly peticon your Worshipp that you will be pleased to order the said Officers to return unto them such and soe much of their money & goods as you shall think fitt. And your peticoners &c. &c.

(The matter was referred to two Justices to see that the petitioners' rights were given to them according to the Statute of 1.R.33.)

1680.

THE MONMOUTH REBELLION FORESHADOWED.

Although the Monmouth rebellion did not occur until four years later, the following "Information" from the Quarter Sessions Roll of the Meeting of the Justices at Warminster, July 14th, 1681, shows that already there had sprung up a faction in Wiltshire who were strongly in favour of James Duke of Monmouth as well as one in favour of the Duke of York.

The previous August (1680) the Duke rode through the West of England visiting the houses of the principal gentry who mostly were of his party, and stayed on several occasions at Longleat. His reception was most encouraging; crowds flocked to see him and scattered flowers in his path, shouting for the King and the Protestant Duke. It is well for the persons referred to in the "information" that the Duke's career was stopped at Sedgemoor in 1685, and that he did not get to Warminster, for no less than 80 of his followers were hanged.

This "Information" is a lengthy story, comprising over six pages of foolscap paper, and in this transcription is slightly abbreviated where the omissions do not detract anything of interest.

The Information of Robert Beach of Wooley wth in the Pish of Bradford in the County of Wilts gente taken at Warmister on Thursday the 14th day of July in the three and thirtieth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord the King Charles the second over England &c. (by the special direction and Appointment of the Generall Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at the tyme and place aforesaid) before us Sr Henry Coker Sr Wm. Hiscot Sr John Talbot, Richard Jones John fittzherbert and Thomas Lambert Esq Justices of the Peace for the said County for ye takinge ye examinacon here written.

Who saith that he saw Edward Carpenter of Warminster, mercer, together with sevall other psons to him unknown walking downe the high street in Warminster towards the Sessions Hall there, having in their hatts peices of new blew Ribbon about six inches in length: being surprized at such an un-usuall distinguishing token worne in their hatts he spoke unto Carpenter and asked him what the meaning of the wearing such Ribbons was, who answered that there was to be a

great wedding: but being not satisfied therewith he made a further inquiry of Wm. Chubb of Warmister, Tayler, who wore one of the said Ribbons in his Hatt: he the said Chubb told him that the ribbon or token was given unto him by Carpenter & tyed in his hatt by Carpenter or Thomas Yerbury of Warmister, Victualler being then p̄sent with Carpenter in his shoppe and with this injuncon that Chubb should not part with the ribbon untill it were taken away from him by force. And this informant further saith that he saw divers others in & about the Court of Sessions then sitting, with the like ribbon in their hatts and that one of the Grand Jury told him that he was afraid of some danger of a disturbance by seeing soe many persons standing neare too the Court with such unusuall tokens, which to his best remembrance were the number of about twenty or thirty and saith that he believeth yt the ribbons were worne out of some designe to make a publique disturbance.

(Signed) ROBERT BEACH.

Henry Burges of Great Chiverell saith

That on Wednesday the 13th day of this instant July he did see severall persons to the number of about fiteene walking together in the High Street having in their hatts blew ribbons about five or six inches in length, towards the evening of the same day, being at the sign of the Lamb in Warmister and seeing two men, unto him then unknown wearing in their hatts blew ribbons demanded the reason of them why they wore such ribbons in their hatts, then answered it was in opposition to those that wore Redd Ribons, and it should prove as bitter as wormwood. And this informant saith that he verily believeth that they wore such blew ribbons as a Marke of distinction in order to disturbe the publique peace.

(Signed) HENRY BURGES.

Paul Lathom of Warmister clerke and minister of the pishe of Warmister saith:—

That on the day in question he saw divers persons to the number of about 15 or 16 walking in the High Street having in their hatts little peices of narrow blew ribbon about six inches in length at which he was troubled, apprehending it to be a token of the distinction of parties tending to the disturbance of the publique peace, whereupon he went into the Towne Hall where the Court was then sitting and in a freindly sort as minister of the pish did reprove by name Edward Carpenter for wearing one of the blew ribbons in his hatt and for giving divers of the like ribbons to divers other persons (as he had heard). He further told Carpenter that it was well the Justices of the peace did tymely take cognizance of the said token of distinction betweene His Maties subjects for otherwise, he this informant did feare yt in twoe or three dayes tyme there might be one hundred or two hundred persons in the towne distinguished by the like marke, where unto Carpenter replied yt for ought he did knowe there would be two hundred

psons within these two dayes that would weare the like ribbon not withstanding all that was done to suppress it.

(Signed) PAUL LATHOM.

Wm. Chubb of Warmister taylor saith.

That he being in the High Street Warmister and goeing about his fathers business was called by Edward Carpenter to come into his shoppe which he being in haste refused at first to goe but on a second call went into the shopp where he found Carpenter in company with Thomas Yerbury of the same towne, wch said Carpenter asked this informant whether he would weare a blew ribbon in his hatt, this informant asked him what the meaning of it was, who answered that all those were meeters wore such blew Ribons in their hatts that day, and this informant replied he was noe meeter and thereupon Tho Yerbury standing by asked him whether he would weare a Ribon if it was putt into his hatt, whereunto he answered he would weare a dozen of ribbons if it was given unto him and saith that Yerbury asking him whether he would suffer any person to pull it out unles by force, to which he replied that he would not if he coulde helpe it, after which, Carpenter tyed a little peice of blew Ribon in hid hatt having cutt it off a peice of about twenty yards without paying any thing for it, and this informant being questioned by Major Brouncker for wearing such a Marke of distinction he this informant imagining it to be some roguish intention, suffered it to be burnt, and that he saw about 30 or 40 persons walking about the Towne having litle peices of Ribon of the like colour in their hatts, halfe a score of which persons he saw about the Sessions Hall together at the tyme of the sitting of the Court.

(Signed) WILLIAM CHUBB.

William Tipper gent one of the Grand Inquest at the said Quarter Sessions saith

That he was standing in the Court with Thomas Tucker (another of the Grand Inquest) during the sitting of the Court did see divers persons about 20 in number having blew ribons in their hatts & sticks in their hands in the face of the Court at which he was afraid they were there mett as he conceived to doe some violence to some of the Grand Jury because they refused to receive the defective presentment of the Constables of the hundred of Warmister or else to make some disturbance upon Edward Carpenter being bound over to the Assizes for distributing such like blew Ribons.

(Signed) WM. TIPPER.

Thomas Tucker (also one of the Grand Inquest) saith that at the same tyme he was standing in the Court with Mr. Tipper saw about 20 or 30 persons neare the Court all in one body with blew Ribons in their hatts and sticks in their hands, and he asked Mr. Tipper what was the meaning of those men soe gathered together, who not knowing, this informant went to the house of George Gunn an ale house keeper in Warmister of whome he asked

what was the meaning of soe many psons wearing such blew ribons to which Gunne answered that those that wore the redd ribens at Salisbury were for the Duke of York and those yt did weare the blew here were for the Duke of Monmouth.

(Signed) THO. TUCKER.

George Gunne saith :—

That a person unknowne to him came into his house and he asking him the reason why soe many blew ribons were worne about the towne told him that as those Redd Ribons which were worne at Salisbury were the Duke of Yorks colours and soe those blew that were worne here at Warmister were the Duke of Monmouths colours.

(Signed) GEORGE GUNN.

This final sheet is signed by two magistrates, viz., John Fitzherbert and Thomas Lambert.

Nothing further concerning the above incident appears in this roll, though it can hardly be believed that nothing was done by the Justices, though it was well known that the Duke of Monmouth was very popular in the district of " Warmister ".

1681.

ANNABAPTISTS.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster 12th July.

Several persons living at Mere were presented " as being reputed to be Annabaptists and others for being popish recusants ".

CULVERHOLES.

Another presentment was that of William Webb of Pasteraft, in the parish of Whaddon, for " suffering people frequently to play on the Lords day at nine pins and culverholes in tyme of divine service neere to his house ".

SCHEDULE OF GOODS STOLEN.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Salisbury in January Arthur Mayetts presented the following :—

An account of what Goods I was robbed of viz.

A dark bay gelding with some white spots.

A new saddle with a read velvet seate and 2 gertes.

A new bit bridle and cruppers.

A case of pistols & Holsters wth velvet cover.

A flaske for powder with a silke line.

A soord hatched with silver.

A silver box & two gould rings.

One pound nine shillings in money.

A silver spoone marked A.M.

A paire of buff gloves obe last Cravat.

A paire of large bootes spare and sussones.
 A hunting horne tipped with silver in four places.
 A peece of Ribin.
 A Huntting whip.
 A new sussingale guirt.
 large Cravat.

Nothing further appears of this case, but it is addressed to
 " My Esteemed freind Mr. Robberts living in the Close ".

COFFEE HOUSE SUPPRESSED AND RE-OPENED.

An order was made at the January Sessions for suppressing
 " a coffee house kept by William Pearce in Warminster " because
 he " hath of late made it his dayly practice to expose to the view
 of the inhabitants divers seditious pamphlets and libells against the
 Government now established in both Church and State ". The
 Court ordered the sale of coffee to be discontinued as well as that
 of ale, beer, or any other liquor, but the following July the license
 was renewed for one year as a coffee house, etc., provided he duly
 pays the duty on coffee and keeps good order, and does not allow
 any seditious literature in his house.

1682.

A LOYAL CHIPPENHAM GENTLEMAN.

At the Quarter Sessions held at Warminster July 1682 Mr.
 Stedman of Chippenham presented the following appeal.

William Stedman of Chippenham, gent, having for severall
 yeares served his late Matie King Charles the first & this King
 in the late warrs & haveinge spent & lost an estate of naere twoe
 thousand pounds in the same hath only a pension of forty shillings
 p ann allowed him & beinge very indigent by reason of his service
 & losses, Desires a further allowance according to the discrecon
 of this Honble Bench.

(This pension was increased to £4.)

HOLDING CONVENTICLES.

The Grand Jury at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough
 Oct. 3 1682 make, amongst others, the following presentments :—
 ITEM. Wee psent That Edward Judd junr, Constable of Rams-
 bury was psent att an unlawfull Assembly, Conventicle or Meeting
 holden or kept att the house of Henry Dent, Clerke in Ramsbury
 on Sunday the third day of September last past. And that the
 said Judd hath not given information thereof according to the
 Dirrecon of the late Statute.

ITEM. Wee psent the said Henry Dent for speakinge and under-
 takinge to preach in & att the said Conventicle and for suffering
 the same in his howse att Ramsbury.

ITEM. Wee psent that William Hughes, Clerk is a Non Con-
 formist Mynister, Doth dwell in the Corporation of Marleborough

Hath there kept a Comon Schoole for Education & Erudition of Children aswell in the Lattin as English Tongue for the space of severall yeares last past unto this present Sessions. And that he the said William Hughes hath alsoe for the space aforesd kept sevall unlawfull meetings or Conventicles within his howse at Marleborough And hath there, in person, for many & sundry tymes undertaken to preach & hath spoaken & discoursed as a Teacher in and all such conventicles.

A similar presentment is made concerning Daniell Burges, Clerke, of Marlborough.

URCHFONT AND AVEBURY SABBATH BREAKERS.

ITEM. Wee psent That Thomas Gilbert of Urchfont did the last Lords day, and he and Levy Giddens of the same did att sevall other Lords days last past, Inordinately drinke and Tipple in the howse of John Hazell of ffulworth in the parish of All cannings, millwright. And did there att those sevall tymes make diverse affrayes and outcryes to the disturbance of the neighbourhood and greate prophanation of the Lord's Days.

ITEM. Wee psent that Thomas Mortymer of Avebury one of the Jury att this Sessions for the hundred of Selkleigh did not psent Peter Griffin & his wife & others of Avebury for theyre not repayringe to thyre Parish Church according to his duty, he havinge himselfe related theyre severall delingencyes to some of us out of Court.

ALL WELL AT RAMSBURY AND EVERLEIGH.

Henry Pinkett the Cunstable of Ramsbury, in his presentment has nothing to present—all being in order and closes a long report on nothing to say as follows:—

I know of noe neglect in Correcting of Rougs, vagabons and Sturdy Begers according to the Statute and lastly I know of noe other misdemeners presentible committed within my Hundred which hath at any time come to my knowledge.

The Constables of Everleigh present.

That our watch and ward, Hugs and Cryes are duely kept and observed.

Wee know of noe prophane persons, Drunkards, Coursers or Swearers, or prophanty of the Sabbath. All things are well and in good order.

PRESENTMENTS.

The Presentment of the Grand Jurors at the Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum Jan. 10 1682/3 is a lengthy one and is drawn up on two large sheets of paper measuring 15 inches by 12 inches. Amongst the various presentments are the following:—

CONVENTICLE NOT PRESENTED.

Several of the Jurie men are presented for refusing to present a Conventicle kept at Alderbury "of which we know they are not

ignorant and alsoe for refusing to present sevall dissenters called Quakers within the same Parish ”.

WANDERING ROGUES AND VAGABONDS.

ITEM. Wee present that great numbers of Rouges, vagabones and Sturdy Beggers doe travel dayly about the Cuntry unpunished to the great abuse of the pore inhabitants of seval places. It is therefore desired by the Grand Inquest that this Court will order the seval officers wth in this County to put the Lawes in Execution made at Devizes Sessions in the yeare 1678. (These Lawes do not appear to be in the roll for that date.) And that printed Coppies of the said order with Warrants be sent as then was by the Clarke of the Peace to the High Constabls petty Constabls and Tythingmen of the Seval Hundreds and Places wthin this County, for wee find that the best Lawes are uselesse unlesse they are upheld by Authoritis.

ALE HOUSE KEEPERS TO ATTEND CHURCH.

ITEM. We desire that this Court will order that noe Justice of the Peace of this County shall graunt Lycence to any Ale House Keeper with in this County unlesse they the said Ale House Keepers and every of them doe first bring a Certificate signed by the Minister and Church Wardens of the respective Parishes that they said Ale House Keepers doe constantly frequent the Parish Church to heare devine Sarvice and receive the Sacrament according to the Usage of the Church of England and that the Clarke of the Peace or his deputie doe give speedie notice in writing or otherwise of the saied order to the Justices of the Peace now absent to the end that none may pleade Iegnorance of the saied order.

THE BISHOP ASKED TO EXCOMMUNICATE.

And it is the humble desier of the Grand Inquest that the Lord Bishop and Deane of this Diocesse may be requested by this Court to give order to their Officers of their Courts Ecclesiasticall to proceed to an Excommunication against all sorts of dissenters within theyre diocesse that they may have noe share in the government of this Kingdome unlesse they will conforme to the Lawes in Church & State.

DISSENTERS TO BE DISARMED.

And whereas we are informed that John Reade of Porton Esq Robert Grove of Verne Esq and Robert Grove of the same gent, his son Peter Ences of the same an Nonconformist Minister and sevall Dissenters from the Church of England doe refuse to appeare at the Assizes or Sessions to answer to their seval Indictments or presentments of which they stand indited or presented, we therefore further desier that this Court will order the Clarke of

the Peace of this County or his deputy to proceed against all such dissenters (under what name soe ever they doe call themselves) to an Outlarge, to the end they be brought to obedience to the Kinge and his Lawes both in Church and State, for we finde by more then Twenty yeares experience that noething but the severity of the law will reclaime such men, and that all Indulgencies, Tollerations & conniveances makes them the more redy to rebell for The prevention of which it is allsoe farther desired that this Court will make it their request to the Lord Livetent of this County and his deputyes according to the example of other places to give speedie for the disarmeing of all sorts of dissenters as men very dangerous to the peace of this Kingdome and allsoe to the life & being of the best of kings whom God longe preserve.

IN ARMS AGAINST THE KING.

Allsoe we present uppon Information given unto us that John Lawrence Bayliffe of the hundred of Underdich in this County who is now attending on this Court is a person who has bin in actual Armes against his present Matie and Royal Martyred father of ever blessed memory, and notwithstanding his Maties repeated acts of Grace & pardon, still continueth his seditious wayes and practises whereby we cannot but judge him an unfitt person to be intrusted with that concerne.

ITEM. We psent the Kings highway from Alderbury Shutte Twenty Lugges more or lesse within the gate towards Sarum for the Inhabitants of Allderbury to repayre and soe towards Sarum to Thaynes Budge for the inhabitants of Laverstocke to repayre.

(The foregoing lengthy presentment is signed by seventeen persons.)

1683.

REFUSAL TO DRINK THE KING'S HEALTH.

A Warminster man is informed against for refusing to drink the King's health, and for saying " he would drink a health to the honest Duke of Monmouth ".

INCREASE OF VAGRANTS.

So great had become the increase of beggars and rogues in the county, that put, so it is stated, " the people in a general consternation ", a number of very strict orders against them, based on the Acts of Queen Elizabeth and King James, were issued by the Justices.

1684.

This roll contains nothing of special interest.

1685.

A QUAKER WITH A BAD DISTEMPER.

Thomas Davis of Brimhill—Church warden, doe certify that
 “ Also Scott that was returned for being a quaker, that she is an
 old weake infirm woman and is troubled with a very bad distemper
 and that she is 65 years old and that she doth promise to come to
 Church if God permits her ability and strength of body and doth
 promise that she will goe to ye quakers meeting noe more ”.

Sep. 30th—85.

John Tounson. Vic.
 Thos. Davis.

QUAKERS AND JEWS.

The presentments of the Grand Jury at the Quarter Sessions
 at Salisbury 13th Jany 1685.

Present. William Isake of Stoke Verdon in the Parish of
 Broad Chalke “ as being a reputed Quaker for not repairing to his
 pische Church to heare Divine Service ”.

Also Walter Pen and his wife of Fisherton Anger as being
 reputed Quakers.

And the wife of Edward Renicoate of the same place as a
 reputed Jew.

The Kalendar of Prisoners remaining in Fisherton Anger Gaol
 at the time of these Sessions include—

HENRY BURGE—Comitted by John Wyndham for speaking
 dangerous words against the Government.

ROBERT HUCKER—alsoe comitted by him for furnishing
 severall officers with Armes in the late rebellion.

THE MONMOUTH REBELLION.

Quarter Sessions were held at Warminster July 13th, Marl-
 borough Oct. 5th, Salisbury Jan. 11th; only three rolls, and these
 are small.

James II. succeeded Charles II. in February, 1685.

The Duke of Monmouth, generally believed to have been the
 son of Charles II., had been previously ordered by Charles II. to
 leave the Kingdom on account of his supposed connection with the
 Rye House plot. On James II. coming to the throne, the Duke of
 Monmouth, who was then still abroad, was induced by some of his
 partisans to attempt an invasion of England with a view to the
 Crown. He landed at Lyme Regis on June 11, 1685, with but a
 few followers, though his numbers were soon increased, and he
 assumed the title of King James II. The Battle of Sedgmoor,
 fought in the following July 5th, resulted in his defeat. He
 was taken prisoner, when found in a ditch disguised as a
 peasant. He was executed on July 15th, just over a month after
 his landing in England, and his followers who were taken

prisoners were tried at what became to be known as the "Bloody Assizes", under Judge Jeffreys, Lord baron Wem, who afterwards became Lord High Chancellor.

Quarter Session, Marlborough, Oct. 7.

The informacon of William Purchase of the City of New Sarum taken Sep 6 1685, who upon his oath saith that he being this Afternoon at ye house of Thomas Stowy of ffisherton Anger Victualler (with others) heard Henry Burge say "God Bless James Duke of Monmouth King of England Scotland ffrance & Ireland".

The informacon of Grace Alexsender of Avebury taken upon Oath the 24th day of July 1685.

Who saith that one the 22th day of July last past she saw Ann Bray wife of Wm. Bray of Avebury strike Christopher Axford of Avebury on ye head with her hand. This informant farther saith that when about three weeks since yt when ye Kings Armeies marched through Avebury into the West she heard Ann Bray say that when they was at Thwick Thwack she could aforde to kill two or three of her neighbours.

KING JAMES II. A POPISSH ROGUE.

The Information of William Jennings of North Bradley, brasyer, taken the fowrth day of May 1685. Sayeth upon oath that upon Wensday last being in the house of Thomas Gaisford of North Bradley, Victualler with John Moore of the same parish, labourer, hee the said Jennings drank a health to King James the second to wch the said Moore answered that he would drink noe health to any popish Rogue & presently took a stick out of the hand of him the said Jennings & strook him upon the head & broke it so that he lost much blood by it & he is afraid that hee will some tyme or other kill him or doe him some bodily harme.

There are a large number of cases against persons who favoured or took part in the Monmouth Rebellion.

The Westbury Jury present.

francis Dagg and Ralfe Golfe "for taking up of Armes against the King in Molmorths (sic) Armie".

The presentment of the Grand Jury at this Sessions includes the following:—

Wee pesent Ralph Aldridge & Jerom Wheler and James Clift sonn of John Clift and Benjrn Short and ffrancis Dagg and Tho. Goyme as wee are informed that they are all in the rebellion, all of them being in the Parish of Westbury.

And lastly wee crave leave most humbly to acknowledge the divine goodness, as also that of his most sacred Majesty wch most eminently and most miraculously appeared four our deliverance

when our country was full of Traytors our fields with bloody miscreants when our lives our religion and libertyes and all that is deare to us wear ready to bee sacrificed and our houses surrounded by those who had sworne our desolution.

Signed by Francis Sadleir and twenty others.

CALENDAR OF PRISONERS.

In the " Treue Kalender of prisoners " then in the Gaol are the following :—

- ROBERT WAY.—Ordered to sitt in the pillory at Salisbury, Devizes Marlborough & Warminster for an howre and to remaine till he pay the King £200.
- ROBERT ROBBINS.—Ordered to sitt in the pillory (ut supra) & remain till he pay the King 500 markes.
- MARY STEVENS.—Comitted by Sir Edward Hungerford George Wroughton & Charles Cooker Esqres upon suspition of witchcraft.
- EIGHT PERSONS.—Comitted by Sir Hen. Cocker for reporting that his Maties forces had sett firoome all on fire and for beinge rebellously assembled in Armes at Warminster.
- NICHOLLAS HALL.—Comitted by him alsoe for Staying behinde his Collours being a private souldier under Captain Mathews in the Queens Dowagers Regiment.
- JAMES FFRANCKLYN & FFRANCIS GREENFIELD.—Comitted alsoe by him upon suspition that they came into England wth the late Duke of Monmouth & that one of them was a comission officer in his Army.
- HENRY SHRAPNILE.—Comitted by Wm. Duckett Esqre for entertayninge of Thomas Garridge and Stephen Cooke of Tawnton actually Rebels in armes against his Matie.
- STEPHEN MOORE.—Comitted by him alsoe for speaking these words—" that he would not goe to Church till the Duke of Monmouth is King ".
- MAURICE MORGAN.—Comitted by him alsoe for speaking of treasonable words agst his Matie.
- MR. JOHN KIDD & SYMON HUSSEY.—Comitted by Wm. Chafin Esq for marching in Monmouths army till they were engaged.
- WM. SUTTON.—Comitted by Shar : Talbott Esqre for breaking open a store truncke of Madam Diana Mountagues and feloniously takinge out thence severall parcells of fish.
- FOUR PERSONS.—Comitted by Shar Talbott & Wm. Wiloughby Esqrs being taken at Hindon upon suspition that they were goinge to joyne wth the late Duke of Monmouth & other Traytors against his Matie.
- EDWARD COLEMAN.—Comitted by Sr James Long & Wm. Duckett Esqre upon suspition of High Treason.

- WM. BUCKLE & PHILL BUTCHER.—Comitted by Wm. Duckett & Hen. Cheevers Esqrs Wm. Watts Maior & Charles Danvers Esqre Deputy Recorder of the Devizes for being factious & seditious persons against the King & Government.
- WM. INGRAM.—Comitted by Robert Hyde & Math Davis Esqrs for speaking these treasonable & seditious words vizt “ That the Duke of Monmouth had sent to the Duke of Yorke—meaning his present Matie—to clayme the Crowne because he had a right to it and that if he would not graunt it by faire meanes he would trye for it, and that there were abundance ready and that the Duke of Monmouth had given a challenge to his Uncle—meaning the Kinge—to be tryed by the Lyons in the Tower & that his Uncle—meaning the Kinge—refused to be tryed by them ”.
- CHRISTOPHER ALTNOGE & JOHN SCHILGE.—Comitted by Alex: Thistlethwayte Esqrs confessinge that they landed at Lime wth the Rebels as servants to one Captn Bruce and that they rune away from Bridgwater on Munday last.
- WM. MOORE, deputy Tythingman of Trowbridge did suffer one Daniell Burrage of Crookhorne (? Crewkerne) to escape out of his custody being charged to be in Rebellion wth the late Duke of Monmouth.
- CHARLES SPEKE, gent.—Comitted by Thos. Penrodicke & Maurice Buckland Esqrs for marching in the late Duke of Monmouths Army.

1686.

REFUSAL TO SUPPLY HORSES FOR THE QUEEN'S GOODS.

Quarter Sessions held at Marlboro Oct. 6 1686.

The Constables of the Hundred of Kingsbridge in making their presentment, after presenting Charles Cawley and Richard Browne of Lyneham “ for selling Beire wthout a licynce ”, go on to say—

We know nothing else presentable within our hundred saving that ffrancis More Esq gent being somoned to provide fflower horses with Harness to appeare at Marleborough in September last to carry Her Maty the Queene Dowagers goods towards the Bath did utterly & contemptuously refuse the same.

“ PAPIST TOADS ”.

Quarter Sessions, Salisbury, Jan. 11, 1686.

The information of Anna ye wife of Richard Pinchin of Atford taken before us three of his Majisties Justices of ye Peace the fourth day of May 1686.

This informant saith upon her oath that shortly after ye day of Thanksgiving for ye Victory obtained by his Majesties forces

agst ye late Duke of Monmouth & ye rebels under him, she heard Mary Haines of Atford say that Bernard Powlet Esqre & Capt John Yerbury & his wife—a Company of Papiste Toads between them—to shew their Thankfulness for that ye sd late D. of Monmouth was taken, had given a new pulpit cloth & cushion to ye Church, but let them look to themselves for when time should serve she would do their work for them & utterly ruin them. And farther saith that at another time not long after she heard Mary Haines say that though she was now accounted ye scum of Atford, she did not doubt but yt in little time she should be made ye top of Atford, and afterwards at another time she said that whereas Tho: Iles had said that he could freely kill ye D. of Monmouth if he could see him, she would if she had an opportunity do his work for him & utterly ruin him.

(Signed) R. LEWIS.

THO. HARRIS.

J. WM. BREWER.

ECHO OF THE MONMOUTH REBELLION.

Quarter Sessions held at Warminster, July 13, 1686.

To the Right Worpll Sr Henry Coker Knight and to all other His Maties Justices of the peace assembled att the Sessions att Warminster.

May itt please yor Worppps yor poore petitioners John Kmme and Drew Dedman having beene employed in the office of Watchmen in the late rebellion, we did take, seize, and apprehend a Rebell with horse and under the command of Munmuth and had him before Sr Henry Coker who was prosecuted according to law. Since Mr. Sloper bailiffe in taking fellons goods hath taken the horse from us and doth unjustly detaine the same, we yor poore petitioners doe most humbly request yor Worppps conceived att the honble bench that you would be pleased to be instrumentall in the said horse or satisfacon for the same from Mr. Sloper, which of right by information we ought to have and yor servants will ever subscribe Themselves gratefull to yor Worppps while we are
yor dutiful Servants

JOHN KMME.

DREW DEDMAN.

July the 5th 1686.

This year several persons of Meere are presented as “desenters exempting themselves from their parish Church”.

1687.

Nothing of special interest in these rolls.

1688.

There are only two rolls for this year and nothing of special interest in either of them.

1689.

FIRE AT WEST LAVINGTON.

A true survey of ye greate losses of ye inhabitants of ye pish of Lavington episcopi occasioned by a sudden & lamentable fire wch happened wth in their said pish on Friday the Twenty sixth day of Aprill last past.

Burnt in houses, barnes, stabling, &c.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Mr. Thomas Baxter his losses in houses consisting of 31 bayes of building we prise at | ... | ... | ... | £450 |
| James Newman 13 bayes | ... | ... | ... | £212 |
| The parsonage house, barnes, stables, &c., consisting of 29 Bayes of building | ... | ... | ... | £615 |

There are 23 other names with varying numbers of bayes and amounts of losses. John Oram had 10 Bayes valued at £190, and two bayes of William Palmer are the lowest, valued at £27.

The total bayes of buildings burnt Aprill ye 26 1689, two hundred and twenty six.

(Signed) JOHN PULLEN and JOHN JONES, Carpenters.

NORTHAM BATT and JOHN RUDLE, Masons.

A Court on Enquiry as to the total loss was held in July and the following report was issued:—

“Whereas this Court hath certified to the Right Honble the Lords Comrs of the Great Seale of England that, it appears to this Court by the oathes of severall credible Witnesses that the losse susteyned by the Inhabitants of West Lavington amounts to the sum of 5367 pounds 18 shilling and 8 pence”.

This is signed by Wm Sainsbury, Sam Sainsbury and five others.

There is also a long list of names of some thirty-four persons who suffered losses in trade and household goods and their value, the lowest being Alice Chilvester Widow who lost five pounds worth and the highest William Bartlett £445, all of whom took their oaths on 23rd of July 1689 that the amounts stated were correct. The total loss of goods amounted to £1608 18s. 8d. and is signed by William Sainsbury.

It would appear from the above that the greater part of West Lavington was burnt down.

INSULTING THE CROWN AND PARLIAMENT.

A person is committed to prison for saying that their present Majesties (William and Mary) are not lawfully King and Queen and that the present Parliament is not a Parliament but a parcel of fools met together who make themselves a Parliament.

1690.

Nothing of special interest in these rolls.

1691.

LOYAL RAMSBURY.

The presentment of the Jury for the hundred of Ramsbury at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough October the sixth day 1691.

Upon our oaths we have no informacon to present anything presentable nether do wee to the best of our knowledge know of anything to present in the hundred of Ramsbury for and in the behalf of their Maties King William and Queen Mary whom God greant Long to reign which is and shall be the prayer of us whose names are here under subscribed.

Signed by eighteen of the Inhabitants.

JAMES II. OR WILLIAM III.

The informacon of Wm West of Atworth baker, taken the 18th day of August 1691 before me Lionell Duckett who being sworne saith that upon a certain Sunday about a moneth last past, being Box revell, he was in the house of John Cottle of Box where was present one Thomas Hibbert of Bath and John Shute of the same place, baker, and severall others, and this informant saith that the said Hibbert taking a glass of beer severall times in his hands began and drank severall Healths to ye late King James saying withall that our present King William was brought in to England with a East wind and was (referring probably to the Kings going to Ireland) driven out again by a West wind as ye locusts were from off the earth And this informant further saieth that Hibbert spoke severall approbious words against the present King and Queen and their Government. John Cottle of Box husbandman being sworn saith that upon a certain Sunday (but which day of the moneth he remembers not) being Box revell last past he had severall freinds come to his house and amongst others one Thomas Hibbert of Bath, barber, and John Shute baker, and severall others. Having a great many friends in severall rooms he was sometimes in one room and some times in another and that he never heard any person whatsoever speak concerning the King and Queen or their gouvernement. He further saith that he usually advises those he keepeth company withall not to talke of ye gouvernement.

(Signed) LIO. DUCKETT.

A BOTTLE OF WINE—WAS IT A BRIBE?

Steeple Ashton July 14 1691.

Sir,

this is to desier you to excues my atending in the Grande Juery at this time and for the futuer you shall command mee I am at psant not in condition to be there but I hope I shall in sum short time be able to waight on you to pay you Sims his mony and psent you with a bottle of wine or give you any other satis-

faction that is requisite if you please to excuse me. this being all with my service I rest

Yours to command

WM. TIPPER (an appropriate name).

These for Mr. Robart

Cunstable in Warmister.

ORCHESTON CHURCH DOOR FORCED OPEN.

The information of John Mortimer one of the Church Wardens of ye pish & pish Church of Orcheston alias Orston St. George taken upon his oath on ffryday ye ffifth day of June 1691 before William Beach Esq &c.

This informant saith that upon Tuesday ye twelfth day of May last past one Thomas Curgenven of Sherborne clerke or schoolmaster did send for this dept by his servant or one who was with him as his servant, and this dept found Mr. Curgenven in the Churchyard who asked this dept for the key of the Church who replied that he had it not (which was ye truth) Whereupon ye sd Mr Curgenven sent his said servant man to Thomas Merewether of Maddington a miller for an iron barr, which in some short time the servant brought and delivered the same to Mr. Curgenven who was then in ye porch of the Church who did then with the said barr violently wrest and breake open ye door of ye Church which was lockt. And this dept goeing about to enter the Church Mr. Curgenven laid violent hands on him and threatened him & said "You Rogue I'le doe your businesse, I'le lay you safe enough," and immediatly drew his servant mans Hanger out of its scabard & struck at him, this dept, who went backe. And then one in a Clergymans habit who came with Mr. Curgenven went into ye Church and presently came out againe. And thereupon Mr. Curgenven went into ye Church & this informant followed him and saw Mr. Curgenven & his servant with William Read a blacksmith of Shrewton violently breake open a doore which parted ye Church from the Bellfery which was then lockt. And then the servant man went into ye Bellfery & Tolled ye second Bell (ye said Mr. Curgenven never entering the Bellfery) after which Mr. Curgenven in ye Church fell violently on this informant & with the assistance of his servant teare this Informant's wearing clothes & forced him out of ye Church. And afterwards in ye Churchyard the servant man strucke up this informants heels & threw him down twice & kickt him severall times, Mr. Curgenven standing by all that while.

(Signed) JOHN MORTIMER.

John Selwood of Shrewton upon his oath saith that he being in the Churchyard of Orcheston (als Orston St. George) (on the day in question) did see Thomas Curgenven, Clerke, in the porch of the Church, draw a sword or hanger out of a scabard of a man who was with Mr. Curgenven & called him Master & with the sword or hanger strucke at Mortimer & had hitt him if one other person in Blacke then present had not withhold him. And this

informant further saith that afterwards he saw Mr. Curgenven & his man & John Mortimer in the Church & heard Mr. Curgenven comand his man servant to lay hands on Mortimer wch he there did & afterwards Mr. Curgenven fell upon Mortimer in a seat in ye Church and they both together pulled and draged him & teare his wastecoat & violently hurried him headlong out of ye Church & the servant man in the Churchyard fell again upon Mortimer & threw him downe severall times. (Sgd) Robert Sellwood.

Henry Harris and John Carter both of Orcheston gave similar evidence as above.

What it was all about does not transpire, but evidently Mr. Wm. Beach, the magistrate, took a serious view of the case for shortly afterward he issued the following :—

Wilts. Whereas I have received information upon oath that Thomas Curgenven of Sherborne, Clerke, did in the pish Church of Orcheston St. George lay violent hands upon John Mortimer & that he the said Curgenven did draw a weapon in ye porch of the said Church with an intent to strike him ye said Mortimer These are therefore to command you in their Majesties names to take & bring the body of the said Thomas Curgenven before me to answer the premises & further to be dealt with according to law. Hereof fail not at your perille. Given under my hand & seale ye 27 day of June in ye 3 yeare of the reigne of William & Mary of England King & Queen. &c. Ann Dmi 1691.

(Signed) WM. BEACH.

To all Constables & Tythingmen & others their Majesties officers within ye County aforesaid & every of them, these.

1692.

A FORTUNE TELLER.

To the Keeper of their Maties House of Correcon at ye Devizes These I send you herewith the body of Elizabeth Powell an Idle wandering person brought before me and charged with professing the unlawfull art of Fortune telling and of discovering of hidden treasure.

The order then goes on in the usual manner; she is to be "corrected" and put to "hard labour" untill she be discharged by Order of law. March 18, 1691/2.

(Signed) LIO. DUCKETT.

A POISON TOAD.

The information of Mary ye wife of francis House of Trowbridge who saith upon oath that shortly after ye Quarter Sessions at which Anthony Harding had been indicted for stealing a parcell of Spanish wooll the said Harding being in her house & Jane fforest her mother being there also, her mother said to ye said Harding that it was well for him that Mr. Brewer could not be at the Sessions or else he the said Harding might have been hanged upon which Harding said "The plague rot ye teeth out of his

head, it was every lock of it, his wooll, and it was noe more sin to kill him, if he could meet him in a dark Lane than it is to kill a poyson Toad ”.

(Signed) WILLIAM BREWER.

TRAGEDY AT THE CATHERINE WHEEL, CALNE.

At the Quarter Sessions at Marlborough Oct. 7 1692 Decimus Smith of Bath saith upon oath that on Munday last about 12 oclock at night, he being at the signe of the Katherine Wheele in Calne was in discourse in the entry of the same house with one Morgan Thomas whose back was towards the kitchen doore and on a sudden Morgan laid his hand on his back and cryed out “ Oh God ” upon which this informant saw a person who is now at the Barr named George Hartford servant to Brigadier Richard Levison goeing from Morgan with his sword drawne. And further saith that the wound Morgan received was quite through his body by a sword run in at the hinder part and out at the fore part of his body. And some time after Thomas fowler a Constable asking George why he did it he answered that he thought to have given him a pricke in the breetch and not to have pricked him soe high.

UNLAWFUL SHOOTING AND FISHING.

Edward Hinder of Latton was presented at the Marlborough Sessions 1692 “ for shouteing in a hand gun and for keeping a neett on catching ffish not being qualified according to Law ”.

1693.

Nothing of interest to extract from the rolls for this year.

1694.

SEARCHING FOR WIZARDS AND WITCHES AT RODE.

At this date the village of Rode was in Somersetshire, but being now in Wiltshire, though close on the borders of Somerset, the following account of a determined attempt to find witches and put them to the “ water test ” is worthy of a place in these extracts, more especially as it occurred at a time when the belief of witchcraft had considerably declined in the country. From the reign of James I. down to the end of that of Charles II. both Wiltshire and Somersetshire produced many notable witches, though the number of cases recorded in the Quarter Sessions of Wiltshire are but few.

The Informacon of Thomas Haberfield of Rode in the County of Somerset, broadweaver, taken before me, John Ashe, ye 6th day of July Anno Dmi 1694—

Who sayeth (upon his oath) yt on Wednesday last ye 4th day of this instant July, being att his mothers house in Rode, there

came William Palmer of Collieford in the county of Somerset, Daniell Keepen of North Bradley in Wilts, broadweaver, William Moore, tayler, Thomas Caninge, chandler, and William Carter, pedler, all of North Bradley together with severall other persons unknown, and besett ye said house, and this informant being present, and nott knowing their designe secured all ye doores and then askt them theyr business to which Moore and Keepen replied that they were come for ye old Witch his mother to throw her into ye water to see if she could swym, and he askt them by what athority, wether they had a warrant from a Justice of the Peace or a Constable wth them, to wch they answered they were officers themselves and they would take up witches any where. Whereupon this informant told them ye doores were all fast and lockt and if they attempted comeing in, they should heare of it in another place. Notwithstanding wch ye said Moore and Keepen broak open ye streete doore of ye said house and entered ye same and lett in ye rest of ye Rable part of wch imediately went up stayers and fetcht ye mother of this informant downe while ye said Moore held him by ye help of Keepen part of ye tyme. After wch they pulled her out of her house, and while they were soe doeing, part of ye Company had provided a hand barrow in order to carry her to ye River, butt this Informant entreating very much did att last prevaile wth them nott to doe soe, butt lett her goe to the River without it, wch they did, and there putt her in to ye same water and continued her for a quarter of an houre until such tyme she was neere dead.

(Signed) THOMAS HABERFIELD.

The Informacon of Mathew Haberfield wife of Thomas Haberfield of Rode taken ye same day. Who sayth (upon her oath) that being present att ye tyme menconed by her husband when Daniell Keepen & ye other persons went up ye stayers to fetch his mother downe, she, this informant, and his mother endeavoured to defend themselves by keeping ye said persons downe ye stayers wth a crouch (? crutch) yt ye old woman went by. Notwithstanding wch ye said Keepen forced him self up ye stayers wth a great Chayer before him by ye help of ye other persons seized ye said old woman in her chamber and had her from thence by force to a River and putt her in and continued her in ye water for a quarter of an hour.

(Signed) MATHEW HABERFIELD.

The informacon of Anthony Waddom of North Bradley. Who sayth (upon his oath) yt on Wednesday ye 4th of this instant July as he and his mother were miking their Cowes in Rode comon neare the parish aforesaid were assaulted by Thomas Caninge of Bradley, chandler, William Moore, tayler, Anthony Stock (and others) together with severall other persons unknown who threw down ye milke of 2 Cowes and forcibly had away his mother, Margarett Waddom, to a river about 2 furlongs from ye comon and there put her into ye water to see if she could swym and kept her in until she was almost dead. And also sayth that as he

endeavoured to help his mother, William Palmer fell on him and beat him and tore a good coat from his back.

(Signed) ANTHONY WADDOM.

Oswald Browne of Rode, sayth (upon his oath) that on Wednesday last being the 4th day of this instant July Daniel Keepen (and the others as above) together with severall other persons came to his house in Rode and besett ye same and comanded this informant to come forth, and told him they suspected him to be a Wizzard, and called him soe several tymes and also told him before they went away they would try wether he was one or nott by swymming him in ye River in Rode as they had don three old women before, and also threatened him yt if he did nott come forth then they would have him and his wife out ye next day or else they would fyre his house about his Eares. And farther sayth yt William Moore mett him ye same day in ye streete in Rode and called him Wizzard severall tymes and abused him very much and told him he would have him out in ye after noon and swym him in the River.

(Signed) OSWOLD BROWNE.

Paul Brown of Dorchester in ye County of Dorset, malster, Sayth on his oath, that being present at ye place mentoned in ye informaton of Oswald Browne he saw ye sevall persons named therein together with a great many others come and besett ye said Brownes house and heard him call him Wizzard sevall tymes and comand him forth to be swymed.

(Signed) PAULL BROWNE.

The Information of Elizabeth Kneall of North Bradly, Who sayth (upon her oath) yt on Wednesday last being at her mothers house in North Bradly, saw William Moore (and the others as above) together with several others unknown, came to her mothers house and besett the same, after wch the said Palmer and Moore comanded this informant to open ye doore, to wch she replyd she would nott and askt them theyre business and they told her it was to have away ye old Witch—meaning ye mother of this informant. And she askt then by what athority, and they answerd her againe, they came for her, and have her they would for they were officers them selves. After wch ye said Moore bid ye sd Palmer breake open ye doore, wch accordingly he did and then entered ye house together with ye sd Moore and ye other persons, and then with a great deal of Violence used by holding this informant and her brother, seized their mother and pulled her out of the house and had her away to a River in Rode and there putt her into the water, and her said son being present went in likewise, to save her from drowneing, wch he did and brought her safe out. After wch ye said persons putt her in againe and there continued till such tyme she was almost dead. And farther sayth yt when they entered her mothers house, she had a knife in her bosome wch William Moore robbed her of and carryed away.

(Signed) ELIZABETH KNEALL.

Nothing more concerning this case of "Witch finding" appears in the rolls. The close of the 17th century showed a rapid falling off in the number of trials of witches, and at the time of the above incidents cases of witchcraft were exceedingly rare. The Justices of the Peace had grown very reluctant to send accused witches to the Assizes, and the Judges were more careful in such trials, in view of the great changes of opinion adverse to the belief in witchcraft that had in these latter years gradually been gaining force in the country.

1695.

SWEARING SIX TIMES AT TWO SHILLINGS
PER SWEAR.

"I doe hereby certifie yt Henry Nois of Charleton in the pish of Downton was convicted before me on the 16th day of October 1695 for swearing prophanely six times—by God—upon the oath of Richard Colborne of Alderbury. And a warrant sent to levy the sume of xiis. upon him for the same wch was appoynted to be paid to the use of the poore of the said pish".

(Signed) THO. STRINGER.

A RIOT CAUSES DESERTION OF SOLDIERS.

The information of Richard Powell Lieutenant in the company of foote belonging to Captaine Gantpool in the Regt. of foote belonging to the Honble Coll. Henry Holt taken the 18th day of November 1695.

Who saith upon oath that on Saturday last Novr. 16th as Captain Beddow & this informant were conducting there souldiers from New Sarum to Stockbridge by vertue of an order from His Matie for that purpose Samuell Spratt together with (twenty one other names given) with many others to the number of 200 or 300 whose names he knoweth not did in a very notorious and riotous manner assault and beat Captain Beddow & this informant with other of their officers and souldiers & caused such a mutiny amongst them that they were in great danger of their lives, & gave an opportunity for seaven and twenty of the said souldiers to desert their colours there upon.

All wch was acted and done in the Hundred of Underditch in the County of Wilts.

(Signed) RICH. POWELL.

1696.

RELIEF TO LABOURERS AND DANGEROUS PUBLIC
MEETINGS.

Council Chamber in Whitehall.

The second day of July 1696. (In the Roll for 1706.)

Present. The Earls of Bridgewater, Stamford, Montague, Scarborough, Bradford, Romney, Ranelagh, Lord Viscount Durs-

ley, Lord Wharton, Lord Cornwallis, Mr. Secretary Trumbull, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Henry Goodrick, Mr. Russell, Mr. Boscawen, Mr. Smith. Whereas by reason of the Recoining of the Silver Coins of this Kingdom at this time, there is a great Difficulty in the Exchange of Money, which may occasion a great Hardship upon the Labourers and Poorer sort of People. Their Excellencies the Lords Justices in Council, taking the same into consideration have thought fit to Order, That the Justices of the Peace in the respective Counties of England and Wales do frequently Meet in their Divisions, and Consult how they may Relieve the said Labourers and Poorer sort of People and in Order there unto to keep their Monthly and Petit Sessions, and therein take care that the Methods prescribed by Statutes made in the Three and fourtieth Year of Queen Elizabeth, and by other Statutes of this Realm, be effectually put in Execution, and to Consider of other Ways for Relief of Labourers and the Poor. And Their Excellencies being also informed That there have of late been several unusual Meetings of great Numbers of Persons in divers Parts of this Kingdom, It is further Ordered, That the said Justices of the Peace do Inform themselves of such unusual Meetings, and where they shall think the same may be Dangerous to the Publick Peace, that they take Care to Disperse and Suppress the same by proceeding against the Offenders according to Law and particularly by Tendring the Oaths to such Persons as the said Justices shall think (. . . .) affected to His Majesties Government.

Signed Wm (Part of this document
is torn away).

THE GAME OF "PUTT".

Information is laid against a cardsharper who swindled a player out of two guineas at a card game called "Putt" "by keeping of cards in his bosom unlawfully".

PRESS GANG IN WILTSHIRE IN THE REIGN OF WILLIAM III.

The following letter is addressed to our very good Lord Viscount Weymouth, Custos Rotulorum of the County of Wilts :—

After our hearty Commendations to your Lordship Whereas His Majestys Service doth Require a speedy supply of able seamen for the Manning of the Fleete Wee doe therefore by His Majestys command pray and require yr Lordship to Direct the Justices of the Peace of the County of Wiltes to issue their Warrants to the Constables, Tythingmen, Head boroughs and such other persons as shall be thought most fitt to be employed therein Requiring them to make a Diligent Search within the said County for all Stragling Seamen, Watermen, and such other persons which may reasonably be suspected to be Seamen, Watermen or Seafaring Men, and to Imprest such onely as are able bodeys fitt for his Majestys Service^a att Sea, and those who are Imprested to Deliver into the

Charge of the Sheriffe of ye County Who is to be directed by your Lordship to cause them to be sent under Sufficient Guard to the Sheriffe of the next County towards the Sea Coast and soe from Sheriffe to Sheriffe till they Arrive in the Nearest Maratine County where they are to be delivered to the Conductor appoynted by the Vice Admirall of such Maratine County to Conduct the seamen to the Port where that are to be putt on Board Vessells appointed to Receive them by the Vice Admiralls or their Deputies.

And your Lordship is to direct that a secure place in the County bee appointed to keep the men that shall be Imprested untill a fitting number be gotten together, and that each man have a shilling given him for Imprest money, and while they are kept in the said place that they be allowed six pence a day for their Maintenance and eight pence a day when they travell to the Conductor. The Lords Commrs of his Majestys Treasury being ordered by His Majesty to furnish unto your Lordship or such as you shall appoint, money for defraying the Charges of this Service.

And your Lordship is to cause a list specifying the name and age of each man imprest to be delivered with them to the Sheriffe who is to give a (the rest of this paragraph is unreadable owing to decay and damage) in the Maratine County which Lyst is to be returned by your Lordship to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, And your Lordship is to direct the Sheriffe to send to this Board distinct lists of the names of such men as were Raised in the County and to what Sheriffe hee Delivered the said Imprested men.

Your Lordship is to give Direction That noe old, Decrepid, Crazy or unhealthy men be Imprested But onely such as are young and of healthy able bodyes fitt for service, and if any of the men soe imprest shall afterward Desert or any shall be found that have allready deserted Your Lordship is to direct that such men be apprehended and sent under a strict Guard to the Conductor And that it be notified in the list which are the Deserters.

And your Lordship is to take care that the respective Officers within the said County Doe their Duty in the Service, many of whome tis apprehended Doe not onely forebeare the Execution of these Orders but doe concele the Seamen that flye from the presse.

And of all the ships and progresse herein Your Lordship must enable yourself to give frequent accounts to this Board, and Soe not doubting of your Lordships Especiall care in this matter which is of the greatest importance to his Maties Service and the Safety and Defence of the Kingdome Wee bid your Lordship Very heartily farewell. From the Councill Chamber att Kensington the 31st December 1696.

Yr. Lordships Very loveing Friends

(Signed) BOLTON.

J. BRIDGEWATER.

ROMNEY.

(and others unreadable).

1697.

CLIPPING AND CONTERFEITING COINS.

In the Calendar of Prisoners for the Quarter Sessions held at Devizes April 1697 appears the following:—

Roger Wheeler, comitted by Tho : Webb Esq Recorder of the Devizes for clipping the currant Coyne of this Kingdome.

Edward Selfe Comitted by Ben Street Mayor and Robt Nicholas gent Alderman of the Devizes for Clipping and Counterfeiting the lawful Coyne of this Realme.

William Davis Comitted by Thomas Gore Esq, having given Informacons against severall persons in severall Counties for clipping and coyning, for absconding to avoide prosecucon against them.

There are many other cases of clipping and "coyning".

PRESENTMENTS.

The presentment of the Jury of the Hundred of Elstub and Everly at the Quarter Sessions held at Marlborough 6th Oct 1697.

Wee psent that we know of no Cursers, swearers or prophaners of the Sabaoth.

Wee know of none that buried in linnen contrary to the Statute.

Our instruments of Justice are in repaire.

Wee know of noe Sturdy Beggars, Wandering persons, evesdroppers, Scolds, Brothell Houses, Rogues, Whores, or Theeves within our hundred or of any other misdemeanors.

(Quite a nice place to live in).

1698.

TROUBLE WITH CORN MERCHANTS.

(In the Roll for 1706.)

After our very hearty Comendations to Your Lordshipp Whereas their Excelencies the Lords Justices taking into consideration the present Dearnesse of Corne and that the same is in a great measure occasioned by the Avarise and undue Practices of ill disposed Persons who ingrose great quantitys thereof contrary to the law to the great oppression of the Poore Have thought fitt for the timely Remedying the Mischiefs that such Evil Practices may occasion, to cause a Proclamation to be issued for putting in Execution the Laws against Forestallers Reqraters and Ingrossers of Corne And to the end the same may have its desired Effect Wee doe hereby pray and require your Lordshipp to give notice to the Justices of the Peace of that County. That their Excellencies expect that they use there utmost Care and Diligence in putting the severall Laws mentioned in the said Proclamation in full and Strict execution And that you fail not in givinge us an account

from time to time what shall be done thereupon. And soe wee bid your Lordshipp heartily farewell. From the Council Chamber of Whitehall the 26th day of October 1698.

Yr. Lopps Very loving Friends

(Signed) MONTAGUE.

HORT.

GOODRICKE.

PEMBROKE.

VERNON.

To our Very Good Lord

Thomas Viscount Weymouth

Custos Rolutorum of the County of Wilts.

HEDGE-BREAKER AT LITTLETON PANELL.

William Bennett of Littleton Panell gives the following information on the 25th January before John Long.

He saith that he is Tythingman of Littleton Pannel and having received a warrant directed to him as Tythingman from John Long Esq to apprehend Sarah Oake of Littleton Pannel for breaking of hedges & stealing of wood & having apprehended the said Sarah Oake and being conveying her before the said John Long Esq, Deborah Oake, mother of Sarah, and Hannah Oake Sarah's sister, came and fell upon him & caught him by the haire, beate him & made the blood fly from his nose, in soe much that the said Sarah escaped and got out of his custody.

(Signed) WILLIAM BENNETT.

(Note.—Colonel R. W. Awdry has kindly looked up the registers of Littleton Panell and finds that Sarah Oake was baptised in 1685/6 and Hannah in 1680. Sarah therefore seems to have started breaking the law at a somewhat tender age.)

1699.

Like the last three or four rolls, this year also contains little of special interest. There are none of those little local incidents so common in the earlier ones, but they report mainly upon the condition of the roads, repairs to bridges, etc., and the life of the county seems to have settled down into a very quiet and peaceful state.

This ends the Records of Wilts Quarter Sessions of the 17th century, a "History which is, indeed, little more than the register of crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind" (Gibbon).

APPENDIX "A".

A WILTSHIRE WILL OF THE 16th CENTURY.

The following is a transcript of a Will preserved in the County Muniment Room. It is on a single sheet of paper in a bold handwriting. Unfortunately a small portion at the beginning is eaten away, possibly by mice, but this defect will cause no difficulty in arriving at the general meaning of the document. It is apparently a copy of the original, and from the last paragraph it will be seen that Mary Creed must have died soon after she had made it:—

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN, the xxviiijth day of November 1593 I Marye Crede, Wydo of Barfford St. Marten being in perfect memory doe ordayne this my last Will and testament in (manner) and forme ffollowinge, ffirst I bequeath my soulle unto Allmighti God my savior (. . . .) by whose death and passion I constantly beleve to have full remissione (. . . .) my body to be buried in the Church or Churchyard of Barfford. I (. . . .) Thomas Tychborne of Whitpish gent one hundred of my best Wether (. . . .) by beste Kyen and one Bull the best, tenn ackers of my best Wheat (. . . .) Sallte with a cover duble gylt, six of my best silver spoones, one mazer Dish (. . . .) and bryme (=brymeus, a dish) of silver dubble gylte, one goblet of sylver parssell: gylt.

Item. I give and bequeth unto my Cosen Edward Weekes xxtie ewe shepe iiij kyens and one bull and tenn ackers of Wheat. Item. I give and bequeath unto my goddaughter Mary Browne one silver salt iiij silver spones the fether Bed that I nowe ly one and all things theare unto belonginge the bolster covered Blanckets shets and pillo and fforty pownes in money to be payed unto hir when shee is of the full age of xxiiij yeares. Also my will is that my Executor shall deliver the sayed xl to the Wardens of the Corporacon of Wevers Within the Citti of New Sarum upon the Monday next after the ffeaste of Snt Bartholamew the Apostle next comynge after my death upon good security unto my executor and h's assignes for the payment of the sayed fforty pownes yearely. And also for the payment of iiij℥ yearely unto Anthony Browne the father of Mary Browne (or h's assignes towards hir bringing up untell shee cometh to the age of xviiij yeares and that yf the sayed Mary happen to dye before shee cometh to the age of xviiij yeares then hir father to have the iiij℥ yearly duringe his naturall liffe and after his death one xx℥ of the sayed fforti pounds to Remyne in stocke to the sayed Corporacon of Wevers for ever to be employed in this maner ffollowing that is to iiij severall pore men of the sayed Corperacon of Wevers v℥ apece of them yearely for ever at the discrecon of my executor and his assignes and the other xx℥ within one yeare After the desease of Mary Browne and Anthony hir father to be delyvered by my

executor or his assignes unto the Chamber of Wilton soe that they doe and will putt in good security unto my executor or his assignes to imploy the sayed some of xx £ among the Clothyers within the towne of Wilton for the setting of the poore awoorke of the said town and the sayed stock to remayne for ever. Item. I give and bequethe unto my servant John Lyall tenn sheepe, one cow, one flock beed ij blancketts one boulster one payre of shets and one coverlett. Item. I give to the poore of the pish of barford afor sayed xxtie sheepe to be destributed to the poore housholders within the same pish. Item. I give and bequethe unto Hew Elton of Sarm and unto my Kynsman plysh (?) of Sarm that married wth mothers sister and unto Richard Payge my lease of my lande of Snt Johns wth all the yeares to come to be equally devidded amonge them. Item. I give to the pish Church of Ssbery (? Shaftesbury) to remayne in stocks for the reparacions of the said Church for ever v £ . Item. I give unto Mary Lovell that dwelleth at Charbery my beste Crock and my best panne. Item. I give unto Also Lovell my second crock and my second best panne of brase. Item. I give unto Mary Mark my third crock and my third brase panne. Item. I give unto my Cosens John Carpentur and James Carpentur all my tubbes trendells (=brewers cooler) barrells and cowlles (=large tubs) that be in the hall and my ij halfe bushell panes to be equally devidded between them. Item. I give to the Chamber of Shasbery v £ to remaine in stock for ever to the use of the poore of Shasberry. Item. I give to Edward Wayland my boye servant vj sheepe and one cow. All the rest of my goods un-bequeathed I doe give and bequeath unto Thomas Tychborne gent whome I doe make my whole executor of this my last will and testament Also I doe revock all other Wills whatsoever before the day of the date of this my last Will.

Probatum fuit testamentum supra script Marie Creede : Vidnae defunct nup dn vixit p'och de Barford S'nti Martini Coram Mr^o Willimo Smegerell Clico Offii'li Archivi Sarum Octavo die Decembris Anno Dmi 1593. Comissqr &c.

Executori &c.

In psona Lionelli Tichborne procuris sui &c.

APPENDIX " B ".

WAGES IN WILTSHIRE IN THE 17th CENTURY.

In the fifth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1562) an Act was passed amending and consolidating a great number of Statutes of preceding years concerning the hiring, keeping, working, wages paid, etc., for servants and labourers that " For many reasons are now not suitable, but chiefly for that the Wages and Allowances limited and rated are in divers places to small and not answerable to this time, respecting the Advancement of Prices of Things belonging to the said Servants and Labourers." Many of the old Laws, therefore, such as were fit to be continued were " digested and reduced into one sole Law and Statute and in the same an uniform Order prescribed and limited concerning the Wages and other Orders for Apprentices, Servants and Labourers (and) there is good Hope that it will come to pass the same Law should banish Idleness, advance Husbandry and yield unto the hired Person both in the Time of Scarcity and in the time of Plenty a convenient Proportion of Wages." The Act then goes on to lay down regulations concerning the engagement and dismissal of servants, the hours they have to work and many other conditions and rules applicable to either master or man.

Section XV lays it down " that the limitation of Wages payable to Servants, Artificers and Labourers be fixed by the Justices of the Peace of every Shire, etc., and Mayor, Bailiff or other Head Officer in every City or Town Corporate at each yearly Easter General Sessions, who shall regulate the rate of wages according to the Plenty or Scarcity of the Time or other circumstances necessary to be considered ". Any Justice of the Peace who may be absent when " the rate of Wages shall be set " without lawful and good excuse, " for such Default or Negligence shall forfeit unto the Queen's Majesty ten pounds of lawful money of England."

Section XVIII enacts " That if any Person shall by secret Ways or Means give more Wages or other Comodity contrary to the true intent of this Estatute or to the Rate of Wages assessed, then every Person so offending and lawfully convicted shall suffer Imprisonment by the Space of ten Days, without bail or mainprise (security for appearance) and shall forfeit five pounds. Every Person that shall take Wages contrary to this Estatute and shall be convicted thereof, shall suffer imprisonment by the Space of one and twenty days without Bail or Mainprise. And every gift or Payment of Wages or other thing contrary to the true meaning of this Estatute shall be utterly void and of none Effect."

This Act was amended by numerous later Acts such as in the 39th year of Elizabeth and 1st of James I. according to the circumstances prevailing at the time. Amongst the County Records in the Muniment Room at Devizes are the accounts of two meet-

ings of the Justices of the Peace for Wilts, one in 1655 and the other in 1685, at which the rates of wages payable are laid down. They appear interesting, if only for showing with what integrity and exactitude the Justices of those years carried out their duties, but it is also advisable that the scale of pay to servants and labourers in the 17th century should be preserved in a somewhat more tangible and permanent form than the two sheets of paper on which they are written. The reports of the meetings are as follows :—

WAGES IN WILTSHIRE 1655.

WILTES.

At the Genall Quarter Sessions of the publique peace holden att the Devizes in and for the County of Wiltes aforesaid on Tewesday the fower and Twentyeth day of Aprill in the year of Or Lord one Thousand six hundred & fifty five before William Yorke Esq, Willm Eyre, James Ash, Thomas Eyre, Edward Mitchell, George Jay, Edward Stoakes, Willm Sadleir, Willm Shute, Rob. Hipplesley, John Read, Willm Blisset and Edward Pierce Eyres Justices assigned to keep the publique peace in the same County and also to hear & determine divers felonies, trespasses and other misdemeanours wth in the said County comitted. The same Quarter Sessions of the Peace being adiorned by the foresaid Justices there untill Tuesday the fifth day of June in the yeare aforesaid at nyne of the clocke in the forenoone of the same day to be holden at the Devizes aforesayd before the foresaid Justices and others their fellowes further to doe as the same Justices and Court should consider &c. And therefore at the same Genal Quarter Sessions of the publick peace holden by the adjournment aforesaid on the said fifth day of June aforesaid before the foresaid Willm Yeorke Esq, George Jay Esq, Edwd Stoakes Esq, Willm Shute Esq and Edward Pierce &c.

The Justices of the Peace here present being the more part the Justices of the peace resiaent wthin this County havinge assembled themselves together and called unto them such discreet and grave persons of this County as they have thought meett in pursuance of sevall acts of Parliament made touchinge divers orders for Artificers, laborers, Servants and apprentices and for duly putting the same in execucon in rateing the wages for Artificers, Labourers, Servants, Apprentices, workeman and worke-woman and having considered together with respect to the present times and the cheapness of all sorts of provisions (praised be God for the same) wth due consideracon of all other circumstances necessary to be considered of, have and do by virtue and authority of the said statutes, limit rate and appoint the wages of Artificers Handcrafts, men laborers Servants, Apprentices Workemen and Workewoman (working wthin this County) hereafter menconed and expressed, to be observed both by the givers and receivers thereof as the same are hereinafter sett downe rated, limited and appointed and according to the same proporcon and none other nor otherwise in any manner whatsoever (vizt).

Wages by the yeare for Husbandry.

| | | | |
|--|----|----|---|
| A Bailiff of Husbandry shall not take by the year above | £5 | 0 | 0 |
| A Cheiffe Shepprd which keepeth five thousand sheep and above shall not take of wages by the year above | £5 | 0 | 0 |
| A shepprd which keepeth six hundred sheep shall not take wages by the year above | £3 | 6 | 8 |
| A Cheife Hinde of husbandry shall not &c. &c. ... | £4 | 0 | 0 |
| A Cheife Carter Do. Do. | £4 | 0 | 0 |
| A Comon Servant of husbandry and a comon Shepprd above the age of one and twenty yeares shall not take of wages by the year above | £3 | 0 | 0 |
| And all other servants & shepprds under one and twenty years & above 16 yeares shall not &c. ... | £2 | 0 | 0 |
| A Cheife woman servant shall not &c. | £2 | 10 | 0 |
| Evry other woman servant above sixteen yeares of age shall not &c. above | £1 | 10 | 0 |

Wages by the day for the Laborers in Harvest and at all other times of the yeare for husbandry.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| Mowers of grasse by the day wth meate and drinke shall not take above | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| And without meate and drinke | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Men Laborers in haymaking and for griping lent corn wth meate & drinke | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| And without meate & drinke not above | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Mowers of corne wth meate & drinke by the day ... | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| And without meate & drinke | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Men reapers of wheat and rye wth meate & drink ... | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| And without meate and drink | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Evry Hedger, Ditcher, Thresher, and other like Laborer in husbandry not afore named from Mich: to Or Lady Day with meate & Drinke ... | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| And without meate & drinke at the Eleccion of the heirer | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| And from Or Lady Day to Mich: wth meate & drinke | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| And without meate & drinke at the Eleccion of the heirer | 0 | 0 | 8 |

Wages for Taske worke without meate and Drinke.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|----|
| ffor Reaping & binding of wheate Rye or beanes, for evry acre by the Lugge | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| ffor mowing of Barley Do. | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| ffor mowing of Oates Do. | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| ffor Hacking or Hawming of Pease or ffatches by evry acre by the Lugge | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| ffor mowing of grass Do. | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| ffor making of hay Do. | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| ffor threshing of wheate and Rye by the Quarter ... | 0 | 0 | 14 |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|----|
| And for pease, beanes or ffetches for evry Quarter ... | o | o | 10 |
| ffor threshing barley and oates Do. | o | o | 6 |
| ffor ditching planting & Hedging of a perch contain- ing 16 foot & a halfe at lenght 3 foot in depth and five foot in breadth in gravel and stony ground and setting the same wth two chase of plants and making of the hedge for evry perch not above ... | o | o | 6 |
| ffor ditching planting & Hedging after the same manner in sandy ground or other easy ground by the lugge of the like measure not above ... | o | o | 8 |
| ffor making of Hedges on a Bancke for every perch not above | o | o | 1 |
| And in plain ground not above | o | o | 2 |
| ffor making of plished (plashed) hedge & other fenced hedge more strong and scowringe of the ditch for evry perch not above | o | o | 3 |
| ffor paleing Raylinge wth one Rayle, felling of Timber & digging of holes for posts for evry perch not above (No price entered) | — | — | — |
| ffor rayling wth double Rayeles wth felling and cleaving of Timber digging of holes for posts for evry pte (perch written above) not above ... | o | o | 8 |
| ffor rayling with single Rayles after the same sort for evry perch not above | o | o | 6 |
| ffor sawing of boardes for Timber for evry hundred not above | o | 1 | 10 |

Wages by the day for these Artificers following.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| ffor a master carpenter | } | none of these shall take by the day from Mich: to the Annunciacon of Or Lady with meate and drink not above ... | o | o | 6 |
| „ „ ffree mason | | And wth (out) meate & drink | o | o | 12 |
| „ „ Rowe do | | And from the Annunciacon of Or Lady to Mich: with meate and drink not above by the day ... | o | o | 8 |
| „ „ Brick layer | | and without meate & drink not above by the day ... | o | 1 | 3 |
| „ „ Plumber | | | | | |
| „ „ Glasier | | | | | |
| „ „ Joyner | | | | | |
| „ „ Mill wright | | | | | |
| „ „ Wheele wright | | | | | |
| „ „ Plaisterer | | | | | |
| ffor evry comon workman & Journeyman of these licences from Michas to the Annunciacon of Or Lady of wages by the day with meat and drinke not above | | | o | o | 4 |
| And without meat and drinke not above | | | o | o | 10 |
| And from the Annunciacon of Or Lady to Michas wth meate and drinke not above | | | o | o | 3 |
| And without meate and drinke not above | | | o | o | 12 |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ffor evry Apprentice of these licences for every laborer to attend serve then from Michas to the Annunciacon of Or Lady with meat & drinke ... | o | o | 3 |
| And without meat & Drinke not above ... | o | o | 7 |
| And from The Annunciacon of Or Lady to Michas with meat & Drinke not above ... | o | o | 4 |
| And without meate and Drinke Do. ... | o | o | 7 |

Wages by the day for these occupacons following.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|----|---|----|
| ffor a cheefe plavewright by the day from Michas to the Annunciacon of Or Lady with meat & drink of wages not above ... | o | o | 6 | | |
| and without meat and drink not above ... | o | o | 12 | | |
| And from the Annunciacon to Michas with meat and drink not above ... | o | o | 7 | | |
| And without meat and drink not above ... | o | o | 16 | | |
| ffor Sawers by the Couple from Michas to Annunciacon of Our Lady wth meat and drink not above ... | o | o | 10 | | |
| And without meate & drink not above ... | o | 1 | 8 | | |
| And from the Annunciacon of Or Lady to Michas with meat & Drink not above ... | o | o | 12 | | |
| And without meat and Drink Do. ... | o | 2 | o | | |
| Not (? Note) above: So always the owner of the Saw to have wages more than his fellow each day ... | o | 1 | o | | |
| ffor a Hellyer or Tyler (thatcher or tiler) | } | Evry one of these to take by the day from Michas to Or Lady Day wth meat and drink not above | o | o | 5 |
| „ „ Shingler | | and without meat and drink not above ... | o | o | 10 |
| „ „ Brickmaker | | And from the Annunciacon of Or Lady to Michas wth meat and drink not above | o | o | 6 |
| „ „ Lath Maker | | and without meat and drink not above ... | o | o | 12 |
| „ „ Quarrier (Quarryman) | | | | | |
| „ „ pavier or pitcher | | | | | |
| „ „ Collyer | | | | | |
| „ „ Pond caster | | | | | |
| „ „ Thatcher | | | | | |
| „ „ Chandler | | | | | |
| „ „ Tucker (a fuller) | | | | | |
| „ „ Painter | | | | | |

Wages by the year for Journeymen of these occupacons following wth meat and drink.

| | | | |
|---|----|----|---|
| ffor a miller by the year of wages with meat & drink not above ... | 3 | 10 | o |
| „ a loader to the mill not above ... | 2 | o | o |
| ffor a Dyer for a Brewer for a Linnen weaver, The Cheifest to take by the year of wages not above ... | £3 | 10 | o |
| And all other comon workemen of the same occupacon of wages by the year without any Livery (allowance for food or clothing) not above ... | 2 | 10 | o |

| | | | |
|--|------------------|----|---|
| A Shoemaker, curryer, Tucker, fuller, Shearman, Clothworker, Hollyer, Tayler, Baker, Glovier, Girdler, Spurrier, (Spur maker), Clasp maker, Ballor, feltmaker, Bavyer, fflatcher (fletcher- arrow maker), An Arrow head maker, Butcher, fishmonger, Pewterer, Cutler, Smith, Sadleir, ffurry or Shinner, Parchmet maker, Cooper, Earthen pot maker, Turner The Cheifest of these to take by the year of wages not above | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Evry comon workman of the same occupacon to take by the year of wages not above | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| A Weaver for weaving of a Cloth of 700—and for evry (? beene, word obscure) above 700 and under 800 | no prices given. | | |
| A Spinner for spinning of a pound of these sorts of Warpe shall have | do. | | |
| And for a pound of abbe (yarn) spinning | do. | | |
| ffor any (beene ?) above 800 and under 900 | do. | | |
| A Spinner for spinning of a pound of these sorts of warpe shall have | do. | | |
| And for a pound of Abbe | do. | | |
| ffor weaving of a broad listed white of this making & hanching thereof | do. | | |
| Itm for weaving of a cloth of 900 | do. | | |
| Itm for weaving of a cloth of 800 | do. | | |
| ffor evry (beene ?) above 900 and under 100 (1,000 probably meant) | do. | | |

No rates are given for any of the above items.

Thus the scale of wages laid down by the Justices of the Peace for Wilts 275 years ago comes to and end. There may have been more pages, but if so they have been lost. It will be noticed that the maximum rate is given whereas in this the 20th century the tendency is to quote a minimum wage.

WAGES IN JAMES 2nd REIGN, 1685.

Thirty years later, in the first year of the reign of James II. (1685), the Justices of the Peace for Wilts revised the rates of wages and the pay all round was increased. This may be due to the fact that the troublesome times of the Civil War were over and the County settled down to a quiet life once more and trade was more profitable. The rates of pay laid down are still the maximum and any one paying or receiving more are threatened with "paines and penalties". The minutes of the meeting of Justices are as follows:—

WILTES. Ad Generalem Sessionem pacis Domini Regis tent apud Devizes in et pro eod Comitatu die Martis scilt Vicesimo Octavo die Aprilis Anno Regni Domini nostri Jacobi secundi Dei gratia Anglie Scotie ffrancie et Hibornie Regis fidei defensoris &c. primo—

The beginning of the notice of the meeting of the Justices is as that given for 1655 above and, after reciting the various work-people concerned, goes on to say that they "shall not at any time hereafter before the next Easter Sessions of the Peace for the County take any more wages respectively than what are hereafter sett downe limmitted and appoynted to be received upon paine of incurring the paines and penaltie mentioned and conteyned in the severall Statutes in such case made and provided".

Wages for Husbandry By ye yeare.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| A Bayliffe of Husbandry | 06 | 00 | 00 |
| A Cheife Shepperd keeping 1500 sheep or more ... | 05 | 00 | 00 |
| ffor keeping 600 sheep or more under 1500 ... | 04 | 00 | 00 |
| A Cheife Hinde for Husbandry | 05 | 06 | 00 |
| A Cheife Carter | 05 | 10 | 00 |
| A Comon servant of husbandry or a Comon Shepperd above ye age of 21 yeares | 03 | 10 | 10 |
| All other servants in Husbandry & Shepperds above 16 yeares of age and under 21 | 02 | 10 | 00 |
| A Cheife woman servant | 02 | 10 | 00 |
| Every other woman servant above ye age of 16 yeares | 02 | 00 | 00 |

Wages for Labourers in Hay & Corne Harvest by the day.

Mowers of grasse with meate and Drinck 12d and without 18d.
Men Labourers for haymaking and for gripping lent Corne with
meat & drinck 06d & without 12d.
Women labourers for Haymaking and for gripping lent corne with
meat and drinck 06d & without 12d.
Mowers of Corne with meat and drink 12d and without 18d.
Men reapers of wheat & Rye with meat and drinck 12d and with-
out 18d.
Women reapers of the same with meat and drinck 06d and with-
out 12d.

Wages for Hedgers, ditchers, threshers and other like labourers
in Husbandry by the day.

ffrom Michas to Or Lady Day with meat & drinck 3d & without 8d.
ffrom Or Lady Day to Michas with meat & drinck 5d & without 10d.

Wages for Taskworker or by the great (piece work) without meat
and drinck.

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| ffor reaping and binding of evry acre of wheat rye or Beanes by ye lugge | 04s | 00d |
| ffor mowing every acre of Barley by ye lugge ... | 00 | 09 |
| ffor mowing every acre of oates by ye lugge ... | 00 | 08 |
| ffor hacking and hawming every acre of pease and ffetches by the lugge | 01 | 06 |

| | | | |
|---|--------|----|-------|
| ffor mowing every acre of grasse by ye lugge | ... | 01 | 04 |
| ffor making every acre of hay by ye lugge | ... | 01 | 04 |
| And for every quarter of beanes pease and ffetches | ... | 00 | 10 |
| And for every quarter of barley or Oates | ... | 00 | 08 |
| ffor ditching and planting of every Perch being 16 foote and a halfe in length 3 foot in depth and five foot in breadth in Gravell and Stoney ground and set- ting with 2 chace of plants and making the hedge | ... | 00 | 08 |
| ffor the same in sandy or other easy ground | ... | 00 | 16 |
| ffor making every perch of hedge on a Bank | ... | 00 | 01 |
| And in plaine ground | ... .. | 00 | 02 |
| ffor making plashed or other stronger hedge & scour- ing the ditch by the perch | ... .. | 00 | 03 |
| ffor Palling Railing with one Rayle, felling of tymber & digging of holes for posts by the perch | ... | no | price |
| ffor Rayling with double rayles with felling and clean- ing of Tymber & digging holes for posts by the Perch | ... .. | 01 | 03 |
| ffor Rayling every perch after the same sort with single rayles | ... .. | 00 | 10 |
| ffor sawing every hundred of Boards for Tymber | ... | 02 | 02 |

Here the subject ends. It is apparently incomplete, but no further entries have been found. A more detailed account is published in the Historical Manuscripts Commission's Report 1901, Vol. I., pp. 161-175.

APPENDIX " C ".

THE PETITION OF JOHN DICKE, 1631.

(See frontispiece.)

This interesting petition is reproduced more especially on account of the lettering. It is hardly probable that John Dicke wrote it himself, but it may well be the work of the minister of the parish or perhaps that of one of those so-called " clerks " who, travelling up and down the country with paper, seals and wax, were more or less successful in drawing up counterfeit passes. There can be no doubt, however, about this petition being genuine for it will be seen that it is signed by Richard Hulbert, who granted Dicke a place for his cottage, and further, it is supported by four Justices of the Peace, viz., Henry Poole, J. Danvers, Edward Baynton and Tho. Lambert, whose signatures appear on many documents in these Records. The following is a transcription of the petition :—

The humble petitio of John Dicke of Ember in the County of Wiltes Sheaphard unto the Wor Justices of the Bench most humbly shewing,

Whereas Rt Wor Your poore Supplyant having dwelt in the Parish of Ember above said the most part of my tyme, my life & demeanors Such as my neighbours cannot except against, and now upon occasion your Supplyants Landlord having use for the house he dwelt in hath taken it into his owne hands to make him a stable by wc meanes yor poore Supplyant is dismist of a house & could not get any roome nor house in ye pish. Whereupon your poor Supplyant was forced to make his complaint unto his friends & neighbours & it pleased God to move Mr. Richar Hulbert together with the consent of the overseers of ye poor to appoynt me a place to build me a poore Cottag in for the comfort of me my poore wife & Childre. Now my humble suite unto Your Good Wor is that you would be pleased to take into your Worships considerations for the Composing & ordering of it that I may quietly enjoy this poore cottag I have built, since your poore supplyant have some enimies that doth threaten to pull it downe to the great spoyle & undoing of your Wor Supplyant, Soe shall your Supplyant wt his wife & Children like Jobs messenr rune unto God for your Good Worships & ever thankfull unto you. Jo Dicke his (mark omitted). The hands of the above named Neighbours Richard Hulbert, Richard Broadhead sen, John Bedbery, John Bishop, John Colston senr, John Colston junr, Walter Stranier, John King, Margaret Tinker, John Minty, John Poole, J. Danvers, Ed. Baynton, Tho Lambert.

APPENDIX " D ".

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS.

These autograph letters are not arranged according to their date, and to give headlines in each case would take up too much space. A paged index of the names is given at the end, with the date of the letter and, where known, a brief biographical description.

1604.—Whereas it appereth by the Certificate of Sr Ralphe Lane Knight deceased, that the bearer herof Lawrence LittleCoat Souldier of the companie of Sr fra Rushe is so hurt and maimed in the warrs as he is notable to serve anie longer, fforasmuche as by reason thereof he is to be releived by the Stattut established in the last session of parliament for releiff of hurt and maimed soldiers. It is therefore not to be doubted but that you the Justices of peace and others the Treasurers for that Countie of Wilts where he was borne will have a care to see him provyded of such a yerely stipend for his releife and maintenance as by the tennor of the sd Stattute is ordained to a servitor of his place and quallety. ffrom the Court at Whitehall the xvijth of Marche 1603.

(Signed) W. WAAD.

(Addressed) To the right Wo. the Justices of the peace and others the Treasouers of the monie collected for releiff of hurt and maimed Souldiers in the Countie of Wiltes.



1605.—Whereas yt appeareth by the Certificate of Sr Francis Vere Knight that the bearer hereof Richard Somner srved as a gonner in the srvice at Ostend and by the noyse of the gonne shott is become so dephe that he cannot heare as also maymed that is not longer able to srve for as much as by reason he is to be releived by vertue of the Statut establyshed in the last Sessyon of Parliamet mad for the relyfe of hurt and maymed souldiers. It is therefore not to be doubted but that you the Justices of the peace and Treaserers for the County of Wiltes wher he was Imprest will have a care to see him providid of such a yearly stipent for his relyfe and mayntence as by the tennor of the sd statut is ordayned to a srvitor of his place and qualty.

ffrom Belsis this first of February 1603.

(Signed) W. WAAD.

(This is addressed)

To the Right wor the Justices of the Peace and others the Trers for the monie collected for the relyfe of hurt and maymed souldiers for the County of Wiltes.

(Beneath is written)

Wyltes, Geven to the berer heroff the xxvijth of March 1605
xijd.

WYLLM LEY.

(Also)

It. farder geven this berer ye 29th of March a perse by ye
apoyntment of Sr Jasper Mor Knight Sr Jas Marven Knight
& Mr. Draper ? Mr. Foller ? other nynten shillyngs.

WYLLM LEY.

(On the back is)

It is thought fit at this Genall Sessions this 9th of Aprill by
the Justices there assembled that the Treasurer for the North pt
shall delivr this poore bearer toward the relieve of her husband
wth in mencconed the some of xs.

(Signed) W. A. LONGE
JHON HUGERFORDE
G. TOOKER
JO: DANNTSEY
JAMES MIERVIN.

1609.—To the Right Worshipfull Sir William Waade, Knight
Lieutenant of the Tower of London.
Sr.

This bearer John Phillips hath prayed me to Certefye unto
you in his behalfe that he was a Soldiour of my ffoote Company
during all the tyme of my being in Ireland in the late rebellion of
Tyrone; and the most part of that tyme was a Corporall of a
Squadron in that Company and hath receyved a maime of one of
his hands whereby he is become impotent and is very poore, and
farther to pray you to recommend him unto the Justices of the
peace in the County of Wiltes where he was pressed, that he may
be there relieved according to the Statute which the poore man
hath very well deserved, and he shall be bound to pray for you,
and I will rest beholding unto you, and in all occasions

Yor very assured freinde to his power

OL. ST. JOHN.

Dispatched R.B.

Wilts.

(The above is not dated, but is amongst the papers of the
file for Trinity Sessions 1609).

1609.—Ireland. By Vertue of a Warrant unto me Derected
frome the Honrable the Lord Deputie. Know ye, That I
Christopher St. Lawrence Lo: of Hooth & Baron of Santree and
Capt of one Company of ffoote, and governor of his Mats garrison

of Tredanthe wthin his highnes Dominion of Ireland. Have absolutely discharged the bearer hereof Roger Williams and William Thomas bothe souldiors of my owne Company to passe into the Realme of England, by reason of their long continuance in service and other infirmities in their bodies, very unfytte for any longer svce. These are therefore in his Mats name to will and require all and evry unto whome it doth or maye concerne, that you quietly pmite and suffer them to passe wth out any manner you lette or molestacons Demeaninge them selves as becommethe subjects, and in the waye of their travell and wants that they bee releevd according to the Stattute in that case made & pvided. All Constables and other inferior officers to see them loged in due tyme to avoyde the daingers of the Lawe. Geeven under my hand & Seale at my Garrissone Tredangh afforesaide the Seconde daye of October Ano Dmi 1609.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER ST. LAWRENCE.

To all Justices of peace, mayors, shreefs bayliffs constabls or any other his Mats officers ministers and lovinge subjects to whome these psents shall come or maybe appetenne greetinge Avonmouth. The bearers hereof aryved at onre Toibne (f) of swibport (?) the xixth daye of October 1609 and are to travel into the County of norff allowinge them the space or two moneths next ensuinge for their travell by reason of their infirmities & noe longer at their pill &c.

(Signed) JENKYN MORGAN Mayor.

Monmouth geeven to these bearers for Releife to passe this County this xxjth of October 1609 iijs. vjd.

(Signed) MORRIS NICHOLAS Tresorer.

Glouss gave to these bearers for releefe xijd. to passe to theyre county this 26th of October 1609.

(Signed) HENRY Th'esaur.

1611.—After or harty Comendacons Whereas the bearer Thomas Hamlyn hath bene recommended unto you by Sir Willm Waad upon the Certificate of Sr Edward Cecell Knight Lord Generall of his Maties forces in the late expedicion of Juliers, where he was maymed at the seige of Gurlick Notwithstanding we do understand by his petition exhibited to us that some of you hath taken such exception to him as he hath bene returned back for further testimoniall that he was in his Maties pay & being satisfied in that point then it was told him (as he informeth) that the moneyes collected upon the said Statute & remayning in Stock, were to be bestowed toward the erecting of a howse of correction for that County We cannot but lett you know that we do think it a strange & uncharitable course to put these poore creatures to that labor in goinge up & downe to consume them and force them to live upon Almes, & do think them diserve just blame & reprehension that make such interpretacon of the Statute to the

disappointing of those wch have spent their tyme in service and received hurts in the warrs. But we find it more strange that any of you should goe about to convert that wch by lawe is ordained to so charitable a purpose to any other use. And therefore we require you hereby either to take present order for the relief of this maymed souldier, or that some of those Justices wch will not yeeld to his releif, but to have the said moneyes imployed to other use may be by you appointed to repayre to us to deliver their reasons why they refuse to do the same. So not doubting but that you will take a present order herein, We bid you hartily farewell, from the Court at Greenwich the 25th of June 1611.

Yor very loving frends

(Signed) R. SALISBURY
H. NORTHAMPTON.
T. SUFFOLKE.
JUL. CAESAR.

and another signature that may be

L. STANHOPE,

but the first letters are jumbled up together, and the only certain ones are the last five. The "Historical Manuscripts Commission Report", 1901, give the name as possibly "Jeffnhope", but are unable to trace it elsewhere.



1611.—After my hartie Comendacons. This bearer having served in Ireland, the lowe Countryes and last at Gurlick where he was sore hurt as is testified by his Captaine Thomas Wigmore I have made bold upon his earnest sute to recomend him unto you to be releaved in that County where he was borne. Not doubting but that you wilbe pleased to allow him such a competent yearly pension towards his mayntenance as is fitting for a person of his ranke and quality according to the Statute provided in that behalf Whereof I pray you to have a favorbl consideracon and the rather in regard he is now unfitt to labor, and hurt in his Maties service. So wishing you health

I rest

Your assured poore frend to be comanded by you

(Signed) W. WAAD.

ROBERT BRANTHWAITE.

Tower the 8th

of June 1611.

Addressed To the Right Worpl my very good frends the Justices of peace and Trers for maymed souldiers in the County of Wiltes.



1611.—After or very hartie comendacons to yor Lops. Whereas it pleased his Matie of late to give us warrant to make

it knowen to the sevall Counties of the Realme that he was verie well pleased upon some motion that had bin made by diverse Shires to take a yerelie certaine some of monie in stead of that Composicon wch hath bin made for provision for his Matys house in specie, requiring them to send us hither some meete psons well authorised to confer about the same, where upon we have had speeche wth some and received annswer from some others of their readines to attend that service, fforasmuch as we have like wise bin advtised from divse other Counties that they are very desireous to be allowed some further time then was appointed for their repaire unto us, some moveinge for libertie till after the somer assizes some for a longer time, who have thought good as well for their pticular satisfaccon as out of farther consideracon of the inconvenience that might ensue by drawing up soe many Gentlemen to the Cyttie especially when the heate of the yere increaseth and when his Matie shalbe removed hence and many of his Councell dispersed, to direct our lres to the lieutenantts of evrie shire, as now we doe unto yor Lops requireing you to make knowen unto the Justices and others of that Countie as we have caused to be done unto the rest That his Matie is well pleased to suspend any farther pceding in that cause untill after Michaelmas next And that alsoe upon farther notice given unto you of the place and time when they shalbe treated wthall. And soe referring the rest unto yor Lorps care wee bidd yor Lorps hartely farwell from the Court at Whitehall the 27th of April 1611.

Yor Lops very loving frends

(Signed) ELLESMERE.

R. SALISBURY.

T. SUFFOLKE.

GILB SHREWSBURY.

E. WORCESTER.

JUL. CAESAR.

1611.—Edward Cecille Knight lately employed in quality of Generall over the Auxillary forces sent from his Maty for the assistance of ye Princes of Brandeburg & Newburg in the land of Cleves Julliers &c.

Whereas Thomas Hameling soldier under the Companye of Capne Philipes Pakenham beeyng then under my command & in ye Kings paye for the assistance of the Princes above named was very dangerously hurt wth a shott before the towne & Castell of Gullick & therefore for his unableness discharged from any service by his officers to repaire in his Mats dominions to receive therein the Charitable assistance wch in like case was never denyed to any subject of the land maymed in his Mats service. This is therefore to certifye all his Mats officers to whome it shall apperteyne that the above seyde Thomas hameling deserveth to bee remembered in

those charitable offices, for the cause above mencionned wch I do assure to bee true under my hand this 29th of Aprill 1611.

(Signed) ED. CECYLL.

1611.—To my verie loving frends the deputie leiutennts of the Countie of Wiltes, the Justices of peace and to all others of the same Countie to whom it shall appertaine, these.

After my Very hartie Comendacons Whereas before the last terme you receaved from me coppies of lres of the Lords of his Maty Most Honoble privie Councell imtymating a profer of composicon for such pvison as are to be returned yerely for his Matys house in Kinde out of this Countie. Where unto you annswered that a matter of such importance required more time of deliberacon then those lres afforded, wch you humblie desired, this annswer being certified wth the like out of many other Counties, It hath pleased his Matie by like lres from the Lords of the Councell now latelie to me directed to make knowne that his Matie will suspend any farther pcedings in this service untill after Michaelmas next as you shall perceave by a coppie of their Lops lres hereinclosed Notwithstanding I could wish that you would ppare yor selves in this service to give direct annswere at his Matys comeing into the Countrey in pgressie in the somer as it is supposed wch wilbe to yor greate ease and contentmt of his Matys officers who are appointed for that service And soe referring the pmises to your best consideracons I bidd you hartelie farwell ffrom Letly this ixth of May 1611.

Your very loving frend

(Signed) HERTFORD.

1612.—Horace Vere Knight Lord Governor of his Maties Cautionary towne of the Briell and forts thereunto belonginge Captaine of two hundred foote in his Maties pay in garrison there and Cheife Commandour of the English forces being in the service of the Lord the states of the united Provinces of the Low Countreyes. To all whom these presentes shall come greetinge. Know yee that wee have granted unto the bearer hereof Thomas Hobbes gentleman of Captaine Henry Woodhouses Companie these our letters of pasport and discharge to goe into great Brittainne to seeke his better preferment. Wherefore wee desire his Maties officers and all other to whom it may appertaine to suffer him to passe without any molestacons. Given under our hande and seale at the Haghe the 13/23 of March 1612.

(Signed) H. VERE.

The bearer hereof Thomꝛs Hobbes arryved here at Dover the 29th of Aprill 1612.

(Signed) WILL. LEONARD. Mayre.

Given by me Willim Thwayth Tresurer for the maymed Soulders of the East parte of Kent one the 12th of Maye 1612 vjd.

Given to this bearer to pas this Countie—this 20 may 1612 p Mr Robert Warden treser 12d.

1612.—(The following is printed, and only the man's name, county and date besides the signatures, are written.)

Whereas the bearer heareof Thomas Hobbs hath served in the Warres in the Low Countries, and upon the conclusion of the Treaty, with others that served there, hath bin discharged, and is now to repaire unto the County where he was borne, there to remaine, and to be set on worke, according to the Statute in that behalfe. These shalbe in his Maiesties name to pray & require you to suffer the said Thomas Hobbs to passe from hence by the usual and known wayes to his friends into the County of Wiltes behaving himself in quiet and peaceful sort. And this his pasport to endure for the apce of 20 (? the number is almost worn away) dayes. From London the 16 of Maie 1612.

To all Mayors, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Bailiffes, Constables, Head boroughes, and all other his Maiesties publique Officers & loving Subjects whom it may concerne.

(Signed) W. WAAD.

ROBERT BRANTHWAIT.

On the back of the passport is written :—

Pade the 17 of Maye 1612 to the bearer here of to passe oute of mydellsaxe the some of twelvpence. John Robynsone, Tresere.

Payde the xxiiijth of May 1612 to the bearer heare of to pase out of buckinghame the some of twel pence.

Henry B—ttridge.

Delvered to the Bearer heareof to bringe him to the Bathe vjd per me Roberte Baynarde.

Treserer of Wiltes.

We thinke fitt that the treasurer for the South pte of the County of Wiltes give unto this bearer ijs vjd to mayntayne him untill the next qter Sessions. xxiiij Junii 1612.

(Signed) W. BLACKER.

delivered to the bearer heare of 4s.

1612.—A Certificate of the discharge of Thomas Hobbes, in Dutch. It is signed and sealed by County Maurice of Nassau and dated xxij of March 1612.

There is also another discharge of Thomas Hobbes "Gentleman", signed by Sir Horace Vere and dated at the Hague March 1612.

1612.—After my very hartly Comendacons I have seen a discharge of the bearer Thomas Hobbes under the hand of Sr Horace Veare Knight Lord Governor of Briell whereby it appeareth that he served under the comandnd of Captaine Woodhouse forasmuch as I am informed and himself affirmeth that he hath served longe and it seemeth he was pressed diverse tymes—of that County of Wiltes where he was borne—I am boulded to adresse him unto you and to pray you very hartly the poore lame man may so farre enioy yo favor as to have a pension accordinge to the Statute pvided for releef of maymed souldiers wherein I psuade my self you shall do a very Charitable deed And so Comending himself unto you. I rest

Yor assured loving frend
to be comandnd by yo

(Signed) W. WAAD.

ROBERT BRANTHWAIT.

The Tower the 16th of Maie

1612.

(allowed 53s/4d p. ann.)



1613.—After or very hartly Comendacons. Although it is true that the many lawes and orders heretofore ordeyned and published for the strict and due observance of Lent (whereof you are not ignorant) are, or ought to be sufficient motives, to worck in you that Care wch is fitting to be had of the putting in execucon so necessary a point of Governmt Especially considering the apparant good that redounds therby to the Comon wealth and also to move in every well affected subiect, yt due obedience wch is requisite Such (notwithstanding hath ben observed to be the neglect and generall contempt of those holsome ordinances, as his Maty out of his accustomed providence and most gracious care of the Comon good of this Realme hath ben pleased to comaund that from henceforth a more stryct accompt be taken of you and others whome it may concerne touching yor dutyes in this ptticular. And for that it hath ben ever observed, that people are wth nothing so much moved, as by the example of those yt governe them. It is required and expected that in yor owne Families and psons you make such demonstratyon of conformity herein as may serve for examples unto inferior psons. And to the end that all those who are Masters of Howseholds and Families may wth the more conveniency pvide them selves of such necessary Provisions for ye Lent as shall be fyting, and may seeme most convenient His Highnes hath ben pleased to comand the ymediate publishing of this his pleasure. And that no man might be ignorant thereof, hath also caused such Rules and Orders to be printed & dispersed in all parts of his Kingdome, as have ben thought most meete especially for yor dyrecons and cariadg herein (a Copie wherof wee send you here enclosed). And doe hereby require you and every of you to cause notice thereof to be taken wthin yt County and the severall Cities and Burroughes

therof. And so to apply yor selves unto ye stryct observance of the said Orders as may gyve assurance unto his Maty of yor dutifull care and diligence in the due pformance and executyon of his comaundments And so wee bidd you hartely farewell. ffrom Whitehall the 10th of December 1613. Yor very loving freinds

(Signed) G. CANT.

T. ELLESMERE-CANO.

H. NORTHAMPTON.

T. SUFFOLK.

E. WORCESTER.

E. ZOUCHE.

E. WOTTON.

JUL CAESAR.

Addressed "To our very loveing ffreindes the Sherife and Justices of peace of the Countye of Wiltes.

1613.—Garrett Herbert Capt of a foote companie in paie under Govr. the States of the united Provinces &c.

Hath geeven leave to the bearers heareof Charles Shewell and John ffelde souldiers of my Companie to goe for England about their Affaires: And to Retorne to their Collors at or before the end of two monethes next. Willinge all whom it shall concerne to pmitt and suffer them to passe and Retorne Without Lette or Troble, So that they shall behave themselves honestlie Dated under my hand at my Garrison of Huesdon the 14th daie of December 1613 filo novo.

(Signed) JERRERD HERBERT.

Then follow various notes of relief given the two soldiers on their journey, viz.:

Dover.—These bearers landed the 16th day of December 1613 who toke oath of Allegiance accordinge to the forme of the Statute who are to travell into the County of Somerset.

(Signed) William Warde. Maior.

Kent.—Geeven by me Willm Whaits (?) at the comand of Sr. Peter Hanwood (?) Knight the 28th day of December 1613 to these bearers for their Releiffe iiij.

1613.—After Or hartie Comendacons Understandinge of some abusers comitted in the Kinge & Queenes pgresse into those West pte by the Cartakers and their deputies and others followinge the Coorte in takinge money of the Countrie underhande for release of Cartes, whereby his Mats service was greatly hindered and the Country much abused, ffor remedie therof and for thavoydinge of the like abuses hereafter Wee have thought good hereby to desire

you, that in yor sevall devisions where the King or Queene hath ben wthin that Countie of Wilts this last Somer, to call before you all such constables and other psons as you thincke doe best understande such abuseis and them strictly to examine what money they or anie others of the Countrie to their knowledge have given to anie Cartaker or other pson followinge or belonginge to the Courte for releasinge of Cartes at anie time this last pgresse, And what you shall finde amisse therin to certefie hither. Wheruppon some such examplarie punishmt may be inflicted uppon them as for such offenders shalbe thought requisite. And soe not doubting of yor Cares herein Wee bid you farewell ffrom the Cowrte at Whitehaule the iiij of November 1613.

Yor lovinge freindes

(Signed) W. KNOLLYS.
E. WOTTON.
RO. VERNON.
MAR. DARELL.
RICH. COXE.
JO. LEIGH.

(Note.—Members of the Privy Council.)

The foregoing is addressed.

To or very loving freinds the Justices of peace in the County of Wilt and to evry of them.

1613 4th Novembris from ye Cowrte.



1613.—After or hartie Comendacons. Wheras wee have given you warninge by or former lres for the deliverie of all such Poultrie as by Composicon is due to his Matie out of the Countie of Wilts for the service of his highnes most Noble howshoulde in the Ellaventh yeare of his Matie raigne nevvrtheles yt seemeth you regarde not or warninge but leave the service unperformed Wch pceedeth (as wee conceive) eather by you the Justices whoe have not given the warninge to the Constables or they in not givinge warninge to the Countrie, Theis are therefore once againe to require you to take some speedie Course Wherby the saide service may be fourthwth delivverd accordinge to the tenor of yor composicon otherwise wee shalbe forced to take some such course as will tend little to the ease of yor Countrie. And soe not doubting of yor better cares hereafter wee bid you farewell.

Whitehall the xijth of Januarie 1613.

Yor lovinge freindes

(Signed) W. KNOLLYS.
EO. WOTTON.
RO. VERNON.
RICH. COXE.

Addressed To or verie lovinge freindes Sr Edmunde Ludloe, Sr. Hen Bainton, Sr Antho Hungerforde, Sr William Eayre, and Sr Alex. Tutt, Knights, Lawrence Hide Esq and to the rest of his Mats Justices of peace & Compounders in the Countie of Wilts or anie twoe of them.

1613.—The following letter is evidently a copy of another, the signatures being in the same handwriting as the letter itself. As it is amongst the Quarter Sessions papers, it must be presumed that John Duckett was a Wiltshire man.

A letter to Sr John Payton Knight Governor of the Isle of Jersey. The Bearer hereof John Duckett (informeth) that haveinge served in her late Matys Warres for the space of thirtie yeares and received many maymes and Hurtes upon his boddy, was upon some occasion of service comanded by Sr Walter Rawley to goe over into Jersey where he had a place wth entertainment of £12 p ann, and that of late he is discharged of his said place and thereby deprived of that small comfort wch he enjoyed as the only reward of all his former services and left destitute of any meanes to releev himself in his old age. fforasmuch as his case deserveth some comiseracon wee have ben moved to signifie thus much unto you on his behalf, that wee thinke it meete he be continued in his said place, wth such allowance as was formerly made unto him, or otherwise that you doe order such a course for his releefe as may give him some contentment wthout further trouble unto us And soe leaveinge him to yor good favour 23 December 1609.

Signed by the

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| LO. ARCH CANT. | E OF WORCESTER. |
| LO. CHANCELLOR. | LO. ZOUCHE. |
| LO. TREASURER. | LO. KNOLLIS. |
| D. OF LENOX. | SR JOHN HERBERT. |
| LO CHAMBERLAYNE. | SR JULIUS CAESAR. |

(In 1614 another John Duckett was lord of the hundred of Calne.)

The following letter, signed by Sir Walter Raleigh, refers to the same case, but it is not dated:—

These shalbe to certefy you: That the bearer hereof John Duckett in the time of her late Matys reigne did serve in her Matys Warrs in Ireland & ellswhere: And in the same Warrs hath received hurts & maimes in his body: Whereby he is not able to use any meanes for his maineteynaunce as formerly he hath don:

(Signed) Your assured friend to

Comand

W. RALEIGH.

(Note.—In the Register of 1614 at the Easter Sessions Duckett was granted "20 p for present relief & a pension of £5".)

1613.—Theise shalbe to certefy you. That the bearer hereof John Duckett in the tyme of her late Matys reigne did serve in her Mats Warres in Ireland & ells where. And in the same Warrs hath receaved hirts & maimes in his body: whereby he is not able to use any meanes for his maineteynaunce as formerly he hath don.

Your asured freind to
comand W. RALEIGH.

1614.—Under this date there is a memorandum of the Court of Quarter Sessions detailing the various persons who were appointed Treasurers for the relief of Maimed Soldiers, Prisoners of King's Bench &c. in the County and regulations for administering the funds. It is signed by the following Magistrates: John Hungerford, Jo. Dautesey, Anth: Hungerford, A. Tutt, F. Hyde, John Ayliffe, John Lowe, Henry Martyn, Edm: Longe, A. Tooker, Edw: Beste.

1614.—This is an enquiry into the parentage of a bastard child. It is signed by Caro. Raleigh and William Stockman. The Clerk, in writing out the report, represents the former name as "Sr Caro Raughleigh" Knight.

1614.—

Sir,

Whereas henry Saye my late servant hathe bine in the last Sessions Imprisoned for his misdemeanors in my Service These are to Certifie you that upon his earnest Intreatie I am contented to release him of all such penaltie of Imprisonment as by Lawe & your sentence he wase adjudged unto & so desireng you that he may be sett at liberty agayne not doughting but this punishment wch hathe alreadie suffered will teach him more witt & honestie hereafter this kindlye Salutinge you

I rest

Your verye loveinge ffreinde

THOMAS THYNNE.

Longleat this xjth
of Januaray

1614.

(Addressed) To the Right Worshipfull Sr Larance Hide & Sr Edmunde Ludlowe Knights &c these.

1614.—To the Kings most excellent Matie.

The humble peticon of Walter Howard.

Most humble shewing That whereas yor Maties poore peticoner & loyall subiect heth served in ye warrs both in ye lowe

Countries and also in yor Maties Realme of Ireland and was often tymes ympressed in ye Countie of Wiltes. In wch countye he was borne in ye Hundred of Haytisbury. And at his last service at Kyngzaile in yor Maties Realme of Ireland yor Maties peticoner had his lauffull dischargde by the Lord MontieJoye then Lord Deputy of Ireland, signifying that yor poore peticoner was unfytt for any further service.

Yor Maties poore peticoner being aged doth now feele and fynd his body to be much debilated & much diffected of his sight wch hath happened unto hym by the hurts bruses colde & sickness with many other Calamities the wch he hath indured & received in ye warrs, he having in charge a wyfe & fyve Children & small meanes or none at all to relieve there wants is now constrayned to deplore his mysery and want unto yor Royal Matie to redresse ye same, or otherwise both yor peticoner his wyfe and children are likely to pishe. He doth most humblie beseech yor Maties Comaudent unto the Knights & Justices, that are in Comisson for ye peace for ye County of Wiltes to take order for yor Maties poore peticoner and loyall subject his mayntenaunce according to his place Rancke and qualitie in Service And he as in duty bound doth and ever will pray unto Thallmightie god That yor Matie may long Raigne ovr us in all happynes.

(This ends the petition. The following is in another hand-writing.)

At hampton Courte ye 26^o Septembris.

His Mats pleasurer is that the Justices for the County of Wilts at there next quarter Sessions or other meetings doe consider of this peticon and take such order for the poore Peticoners releife as shalbe thought meete, soe as his Matie be noe further troubled herein.

(Signed) DANIEL DUN.

(On the inside of the petition is the following.)

Wilts. At the quarter Sessions at Marlebroth the forth of October 1614.

Gyven unto Walter Haward ffoure markes a yeare for a yearlie stypent out of this Countie untill wee shall order unto the contrary to be payed by the Treasurer for the maymed soldiers of the South parte quarterlie.

(Signed) E. J. BAYNTUN.
 GYLES WROUGHTON.
 JOHN POOLE.
 WA : VAUGHAN.
 JO : DAUNTESEY.
 J. W. JORDAN.

1614.—Memorand the ffyrst of September 1614. These words following or words to this effect were spoken by Edward Ride of

Compton Chamblayne gent in the psence of us whose names are under written, vizt Mr. Mompesson demanding of the Constable of the hundred of Damham South why one Thoman Busshell of Compton Chamblayne aforesaid was not sitt downe in his note wch he had delivd to the Justices as a man sufficient & of good ability to make supply of his Matys wants according to certayne lres from his highnes honorable pryvie Counsell dyirected He the said Edward Ride interposed himself and said hee knewe him the said Busshell to be a man noe waye sufficient to yelde his Matie any supply in that nature. Mr. Mompesson replyed hee knewe him of his ptycular knowledge to be more suffycient then many wch had that very daye voluntarily gyven to his Matie in that behalfe. To wch the said Ride annswered that hee knewe him better then Mr. Mompesson. Then Mr. Mompesson replyed that the informacon of a Justice of peace was more avayliable in service for his Matie than any ordynary pson. Whereupon the said Ride replyed in heat that his informacon should be as true as his, the said Mr. Mompesson, wth many other words to the same effect. Sir William Jordan then disliked Rides pamtory annsweres & told him he had much forgot himself Who thereupon likewise annswered the said Sir William Jordan wth many unfytting & undecent speeches in the like distemperature.

(Signed) THO. AUBREY.
RANDULPH. BARON.

1628.—To the Righte Worpll his Matys Justices of the peace at the nexte generall Sessions of the Peace houlden for the County of Wilts.

Wheras George Payne of Easte Knoyle standeth bound by Recognisance unto or Sovraigne Lord the Kinge for being the reported ffather of a Bastard Child borne on the bodye of Mary Shorte, These are to Certifie yor Worppps that the sayd George Payne hath given securitie unto the said pische of East Knoyle for the discharge of the sayd Child. Wee therefore whose names are heereunder writen (Inhabitantes of Knoyle aforesayd) Doe Intreate Your Worppps on his behalfe that hee may be released of his sayd Recognisance.

(Signed) CHR: WREN. Rector.
(Father of Sir Christopher Wren.)

The Church Wardens, overseers and four others.

1628.—The Informacon of Thomas Wickham of Charterhouse Hinton in the Countie of Somst gent taken before the Right Honble Henrie Lord Ley the xijth daie of September 1628.

Whoe Informeth yt hee left his mare in his grounds in Charterhouse Hinton wth the bridle tyed to her foote whyles hee was

lookeing to his workman in another grounde fast bye, and goinge to looke for his mare could neither see nor heare of her, and there-uppon made hue & Crye after her upon wch the xjth of September att Warminster shee was found att the Signe of the George by the Tythingmans deputie and order given by him that rode her thither that shee should have provender & well drest, and this Informer verilye beleeveth that John Stewarde stole his said Mare. Thomas Wickham.

(Signed) HENRY LEY.

(Afterwards made Earl of Marlborough.)

1629.—To my honourble freinde Sr Nicholas Hyde Lord Chiefe Justice of Englande, or in his absence to Sr Lawrence Hyde and the rest of the Justices of the Quarter Sessions give these.
My Lord,

The Bearer Richard Hollowaye of good behaviour (for ought I knowe) and of Competent Substance holds an Inne at Clacke of Aunciant Institution wch upon some ground of reason hath bene of late supprest, but because I never hare misdemeanour in the man and in respect it hath continued upon my knowledge as very necessarie for these many yeares, give me leave I beseech yor Lordship to recommend the Consideracon of his Cause unto the honourable assemblee of the Quarter Sessions and to crave both Justice and favour in his behalfe, if there be noe greater Cause to the Contrarie then I yett apprehend.

Your Lordppps veye loveing Freind

(Signed) DANBY (Earl of).

Cornebury Parke

Septemb 29. 1629.

(Note.—This was the Saracens Head; an order for its continuance was made Oct. 1631.)

1632.—To the Kinges Moste Excellente Maiestie.

The humble petecion of George Smith a poore aged maiemed souldier.

Most humblie sheweth yor moste Roiall Matie yt yor moste poore subiecte haveing served in the warrs 33 yeares viz in Ireland Dinmarke the pallatinat Cadez and the Isle of Rhe and borne the place of Sargeante unto divers worthie Commanders and hath not onlie spent the beste of his youth but hath alsoe received divers sore hurts and maiemes apparente to be seene and as by good Certificates hereto annexed maie appeare and never received anie pencion to wards his releife hee therefore moste humblie praieth— That in tender Consideracon of his longe and painefull service his age and disabillitie yor Matie would be graciously pleased of your roiall Compassion to graunte him yor most gracious Order of

reference unto the Justices of Peace and treasurers of releife of hurte and maiemed souldiers in the Countie of Wilts from where he was impressed to thend he maie be alowed such a Competente yearely pencion towards his releife as yor matie shall thinke meete and fitt.

And yor poore subte as in duty bound shall ever praie for yor Maties long and happie raigne over us.

At Hampton Courte November ye 20th 1632.

His Matie is graciously pleased to refferr this Petitioner and the consideracion of this petner unto the Justices of Peace and Treiers for Maiemed Souldiers in the County of Wiltes whence this souldier was Imprested to thend that at ther next Meetinge this pttner be allowed a Competente yearly pension accordinge to ye Statute in such Causes provided, soe that his Matie be noe further troubled herewith.

(Signed) RA. FFREMAN.

1632.—To the Righte Worshipfull and my very good ffreinds the Justices of Peace and Treiers for releife of hurte and maiemed Souldiers in the County of Wiltes be these dd.

After my verie hartie Comendacions. Whereas it appeareth by verry Comendible Certificates of Sundrie worspll & Honnoble men that the bearer hereof George Smyth hath served many years in the warrs as a souldier and a Sargeante under divers worthie Capts and Comanders in severall Imploiments, and is thereby so maimed as that hee cannott labour for his livinge as heretofore he could as appeareth by his peticon Exhibited to his Matie whoe hath ben graciously pleased to refer him to you for releife. And he hath alsoe sithence petitioned unto the Lords for their letter by whose Commaunds I write these lines to you in his behalfe. Yt is therefore not to be doubted but that you his Maties Justices of Peace and Treiers for releife of hurte and maiemed souldiers in the County of Wilts where he was impressed will Take a Care he maie be allowed such a Competente yearely pencion towards his releife and maintenance accordinge to the Statute in such Causes provided as is fittinge a person of his Rancke and quallitie. Wherein I Recommend him to your beste and most Charitable Consideracions Bidding you right hartie farewell and doe reste

Your very loveinge ffreinde to be

Commaunded by you

(Signed) W. BALFOUR

locum tenens Turris.

ffrom the Tower of London

December the 29th 1632.

1632.—To the Right Worspl Sir Laurence Hidde, Knight one of his Maties Justices of peace in the County of Wilts.

After my verrie hartie Comendacons. Sir I am requested by the righte honorable Henry Lo : Viscounte ffawkeland to write unto you in the Behalfe of this aged souldier George Smythe, who hath served in the warrs by the space of 33 years, and borne the place of a Sargante unto divers worthie Comaunders in sundry employments, his Matie hath ben very graciously pleased to refer him unto the Justices of Peace and Treiers at large in your County to be there releived with a yearely pencion for his preservation accordinge to the Statute, he affirmeth to me that uppon receipte of some reasonable some of money sutable to his rancke and the merritts of his defects he intendeth to betake himselfe to some other Course of life and be noe more Chargeable to yor County, he produceth a plaudible Certificate of his longe and painful service, his maimes are grevous and verrie apparante, his request very reasonable, and in that respecte I desire you to be his helping good freind, in the which you shall not only sattisfie his maiesties pleasure but alsoe doe a good and Charitable Deed but alsoe bynd the poore man ever to pray for you And thus not doubting of yor favour herein I betake you to God the rewarder of all good and Charitable Deeds and reste

Your very lovinge freind to be
Comaunded by you

(Signed) W. BALFOUR.

Locum tenens Turris.

ffrom the Tower of London the
29th of December 1632.

1632.—The examinacon of Willm Brenn of Hawkeridge in the pishe of Westbury in the Countie of Wilts taken before me Henry Ea : of Marleburgh the xxxth day of November 1632.

Who saith that upon Wednesday being the xxviiij of November he travelling towards Southampton to a Brother of his there, chanced to finde a hatchett upon the way, and that nott farr from thence he came to a ffold out of wch all the sheepe were gone except one wch was lame, that remayned behinde neere unto the ffold, wch sheepe he tooke and killed and brought the flesh thereof back to his howse and left the skinne in the place where he killed him and that his wife without his privitie did hide the fleshe in a trench that was made for the drawing away of water that did annoy his Chimney. And that it was his povertie and want that caused him to comitt this ffact.

The marke of Willm Brenn.

(Signed) MARLEBURGH.

1633.—After or hartie comendacons. We send you inclosed a peticon pnted to the Board by Nathaniell Crech a poore maymed Souldier Wherein he makes humble suite to be recomended to you from this Board for some Augmentacon of his small pencon of 40s. p ann formerly allowed unto him by some of the Justices of peace of that County in regard he was prest out of the same to serve as Serjant of a Company in the Espedicon to Cales where he received divers hurts and maymes as in the peticon it selfe is more at large expressed. Whereof wee haveing taken consideracon and much comiserateing the Petr distressed Estate being charged with a wife and Children and altogether disabled by reason of his said hurts and maymes to take any Course for support or mayntenance either of himselfe or them. And conceveing lykewise that a Pencon of 40s. p Ann is a Verie small allowance for one that hath borne office in the Warrs for the service of his Matie and the State, Have thought good hereby in especiall manner to recomend him to yor favour for such further increase of his Pencon as shall be suitable to his Seriants palce (place) and as is agreeable to the lawes and Statutes on that behalfe or hath been accustomed in lyke cases. Wherein we expect yor readie pformance or that you forth wth certifie unto us some materiall grounds and reasons for yor refusall. And soe we bid you harelly farewell. ffrom White hall the last of October 1633.

Yor loveing freinds

(Signed) MANCHESTER.

W. CANT (Archbishop of Canterbury—Laud).

R. EBOR (Do. York—Nayle).

THO. COVENTRYE.

COTTINGHAM.

WIMBLEDON.

NEWBURGH.

FRAN: WINDEBANK.

(Unfortunately for Mr. Crech, the Justices had to endorse the above with the words "there is noe money in stock to releve the peticoners desire".)

THE PETITION OF NATHANIEL CRECH.

To the Right Honable the Lords and others of his Maties Honable Privie Councill.

The humble peticon of Nathaniell Crech Most humbly sheweth unto yor good honors That yor peticoner was prest for a souldier out of the Countie of Wiltes being then appointed Sergeant to the Companie of Captaine John Powell in his Maties at Cales where he was maymed and hurt as may appeare and in regard their of yor peticoner hath obtained a pencon of xxxxs. a year as by the Justices hands and seales doth appeare.

May it therefore please yor Honors in comisseration of his great Distress as also his hurts and Disability of body havinge a wife and many small Children Whoe are like to perish for want of Bred he being not able to take paynes for his living, prainge yor Honors to be pleased to Address yor Letters to the Justices of peace in the Countie aforesaid to augment his pencon according to his Sergeants place and the better to enable him to spende the resudie of his daies in the service of God & to pray for yor Honors.

WILTES.

1633.—Forasmuch as Edward Maie of Maston in the pishe of Potterne yeoman hath required suretie of the Peace against one William Mortimer of the said place & pishe yeoman & hath taken his Corporall oath before me that he required the same, not for anie private mallice or natred, butt that he is afraide of his life or the hurting of his bodie, or the burning of his howse These are therefore to will and require you and in his Maties name to charge & comannnd you imediately upon sight hereof you bring the said William Mortimer before me or some other his Mats Justices of the Peace of the said Countie to finde sufficient sureties aswell for his appearance att the next Genall Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden for this Countie, as also that the said Willm Mortimer shall in the meane time keep the Kings Maties peace aswell towards his Matie as all his leige people & especially towards the said Edward Maye, & if he shall refuse soe to doe, that then psently you convey the said Willm Mortimer or cause him to be conveyed to his Mats Goale att fishertowne Anger there to remaine untill he shall willingly doe the same & see that you certifie yor doing in the prmisses att the said Sessions, & have their this Warrant.

Dated att Heywood this 11th daie of January 1633.

(Signed) MARLEBROUGH.

To the Constables of the hundred of Potterne or to either of them.

1633.—To Or very good Lord—the Earle of Hartford Custos Rotulorum for the County of Wilts.

After or very hartly commendacons to yor Lp Whereas by Or lres having date the last of February wee gave direcons to the Justices of the Peace of the County of Wilts not only to examine the abuses complayned of in the Markett Spinners but by all due wayes and meanes (wth the assistance of Anthony Wither Esqre) to find out the remedies to be applied thereunto, and that to be done in their severall Devisions, and thereof to returne unto us a particular accompt. Now as this is a business of great consequence and must concerneth the good the Country in generall, so wee conceive it most proper to be handled and debated at their next Generall Quarter Sessions to be holden for that County. But

forasmuch as wee are informed that Warminster the place where they intend to meet at the Sessions in July next, is farre remote from the places where most of the Clothiers and Markett, Spinners doe reside, And that it will be very inconvenient for so many men of their profession to travell so farre. Wee do therefore hereby pray and require yor Lp (being Custos Rotulorum for the said County) to appointe the said next Quarter Sessions to be held at Chippenham pro hac vice tantum for the purpose aforesaid.

And so wee bid your Lp very hartily farewell—ffrom the Starr Chamber the last of May 1633.

Yor Lps very loveing freinds,

(Signed) MANCHESTER.
LINDSEY.
COVENTRY.
BRIDGWATER.
DANBY.
WENTWORTH.
COTTINGTON.
WINDEBANK.
KELLIER (?).
HALLSLAND (?).

1636.—May itt please you

Whereas the bearer hereof George Leaster hath ben imprested in the Parish of Ramesbury in the Countie of Wiltes & hath served under the Right honorable the Vicount Wimbledon in Cales Voyage, as by good Certificates doe appeare, where he received, as he alleadgeth some wounds that have utterly disabled him to gett his living by his labour I doe therefore in commisseracon of his distressed state & of his inabilityie and by reason of the dutie of my place of Muster Master General conferred on me by his Matie, desire you that you would allow him an annuall pension according as the Statute in that case provideth, if there be no just cause to the Contrarie, Wch I desire you to Certifie unto me & so not doubting of your readiness and favorable Charitie towards him for the consideracons above expressed, I take my leave dated att Whitehall this 6 of December 1634. Your assured loving freind
to serve you

(Signed) W. TRUMBULL.

(The Court granted 4 marks per annum.)

1637.—After my verie hartly Commendacons. Complaint hath come unto me from manie pts of the Kingdome concerning Colleccons obteyned from me for losses by fire and other casualtyes. For my selfe I maie truly assume that it hath been my constant

course to passe none but upon Certificate from the Assizes or Quarter Sessions, so as unles the Justices of Peace giving credit to the Certificate of neighbours or others in favor of the ptyes damished be sometimes misled and do also mislead me. I cannot bethink my self what grounds there should be of a complaynt. Nevertheless to prevent as farre forth as may be all further mistaking in this kind I have thought fitt. First to Contynue my former course not to grannt anie Collecons wth out Certificate from the Assizes or Sessions. Secondly not to grannt them upon anie Certificate unles it be agreed on and signed in open Court at the Assizes or Sessions, and not upon any Collecon of hands out of Court. Thirdly not to grannt them upon anie Certificate unles it conteyne that the pty himselfe and two or more able inhabitants of the pishe or place where the losse or casualltie happened (whose names are also to be sett downe in the sayd Certificate) have by oath taken in open Court of Assizes or Sessions verified that the damage susteyned by the pties for whome the collecon is required doth amount to so much in value at the least as shalbe menconed in the sayd Certificate. Fourthly not to grannt them upon any Certificate unles it conteyned that the pties themselves and those two or more able inhabitants have verified upon Othe in open Court that the ptyes are not without the helpe of a collecon anie wise able to susteyne themselves but must fall into beggery or want, for it is not my meaning to trouble the Kings people wth Collecons to make up the losse susteyned by such as are able to live of themselves wth out such help. Fiftly not to grant them upon anie Certificate unles it conteyne that the Justices have taken bond to remaine among the Records of the Sessions that no pt of the money Collected shalbe applyed to the benefit of any Landlord or other pson of ability either in rebuylding his house or otherwise for I hold not fitt when the house of such a man is decayed by fire, tempest, or the like by a collecon in the name of a poore undertenant to have it recdified for the good of him that is able to do it at his owne charge. Lastlie that a Certificate conteyne that bond is also taken that the party shall not putt over his collecon to anie other for I have founde much inconvenience in it that some evil minded men for a little money given to a poore man that is suitor for a Collecon getteth him to turne over the whole benefit of it, so as the money wch the Kings subjects believe they bestowe in almes under Charity towards the poore man is put into the purse of them that deserve nothing but punishment. I have therefore thought good to advertise you my resolucons to reform that evil wch hath been complayned of, and to praie you that from henceforth in the making of Certificates for such Collecons you will either follow these direcons or where you finde the suitors not willing to conforme hereunto that you will forbear to Certify And if anie other remedy to be added to these fall into yor consideracons who best know the Complaints of the Country thereabouts, I shall take it very kindly if you will advertise me thereof, and withall I desire you to be verie careful to punish such as go about wth counterfett breefs deceiving the Kings people, for I do assure you

that since the time I have had the keeping of the Seale seldome or never have above eight collecons in one yeare gone into any Shire of this Kingdome, and into most Shires not neere that number, and yet I have been informed that a farre greater number have been pressed upon the Countrey. And I do desire you that the Clerke of the Peace may be commanded by you to keepe this Lre, and from time to time as occasion shalbe to putt you in minde thereof. And so not doubting of yor readines to joyne wth me in rectifying what is amiss,

I rest, Yor very Loving freind,

(Signed) THO: COVENTRYE.

From Canbury this
second of September
1637.

Addressed to my very loving freinds the Justices of Peace for the County of Wilts.

1637.—Apud Devises 5^{to} die Septembris 1637.

It is this day thought fitt by us whose names are subscribed that there bee allowed to James Robins his Maty Purveyor for Tymber the some of fflower score pownds for the carryage of 500 loades of Timber for his Maty service besides the Ks price from Tichfield Park unto Pharum Key wch said some wee conceive fitt to bee rayسد wth in this County upon the genall Divisions of the same in manner following (vizt)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|---|
| On Sarum Devision | ... | ... | 16 | 16 | 0 |
| On the City of Sarm | ... | ... | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| On Warminster Devision | ... | ... | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| On Trowbridge Devizion | ... | ... | 7 | 4 | 0 |
| On the Devises Devizion | ... | ... | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| On Marleborowe Devision | ... | ... | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| On Chippenham Devision | ... | ... | 11 | 4 | 0 |

(The above is signed by)

GYLES ESTCOURTE.
F. BAYNTON.
THEOH. GORGES.
HENRY LUDLOWE.
JO. PENRUDDOK.
THO. LAMBERT.
WILLM. WALLYS.
CHARLES GORE.
ROBERT EYRE.

October first day. I was not psent at this agreemt, yet I doe assent.

(Signed) ANTH. WEEKES.

I pray pay this monie to this bearer heare of James Emrie and

tack his hand for it and that shall be your discharge, your loving servant to his power.

(Signed) JAMES ROBINS.

1637.—After or hartly comendacons. Whereas we wrote or lres unto you dated the last of June 1636 therby requiring you to give present and effectuall order for the carriage of 500 loads of Timber for the service of his Mate Navy from Titchfield Parke in the County of Southton to the water side at Pharam Key wth in the said County, to bee performed by Allhallowtide next following or the beginning of the next spring at farthest We are now informed that notwithstanding or said direcons you have done nothing therein, but have shewed a great deal of backwardnes and unwillingnesse to performe this his Mats Service, wch we may not passe by without letting you know that the Importance of the Service requires a better accompt from you and that the direcons of this Boord ought not to be slighted. And therefore if you re-deeme not the tyme past by yor effectual and speedy direcons according to or former letter to see the said 500 loads forthwith carried from Titchfield Park to Pharam Key aforesaid you may expect to be called hither to answeere yor contempt. And for the better performing of the service for the best case for the Country you are to take direcons from James Robbins one of his Mats Purveyors whome wee have commanded to attend you and see the service performed, whereof there may be no fault. And so wee bid you hartily farewell, ffrom the Star Chamber the 22 of May 1637.

Your loveinge freinds

The above is signed by the following Lords of the Privy Council.

MANCHESTER,
W. CANT,
THO COVENTRYE,
ARUNDEL & WARDOR,
E. NEWBURGH,
ALEXR COTTINGTON,
THO. JERMYN,
WINDEBANK,

and two others. And is addressed to Or loveinge freinds Sr Lawrence Hide, Sr Theobald Gorges, Sr Walter Smith, Sr Henry Ludlowe, Sr John Evelyn Kts and to the rest of his Maties Justices of the Peace of the Countie of Wiltes.

1637.—xxj^o Die Octobris 1636.

Md That I Lord Henry Pawlett do hereby give my consent that William Loder to erect & buylde a cottage wth in my Mannor

of Chitterne in the Countie of Wiltes in some place there convenientt.

(Signed) HENRY POWLETT.

At the Court helde for the Mannor of Chitterne the Daye & yeare abovesaid my Lord Henry Powlett and all his tennts were contented that a Cottage should be built for Mr. Loder.

(Signed) DAWES SENLUS.

1638.—To my very loveinge freinds the Justices of ye Peace for the County of Wiltes at ye next Generall Sessions held for ye said County, to be delivered.

After my very harties Comendacons.

fforasmuch as Complaint hath ben made unto mee by Mr. John Dour that Joseph Bales hath wronged and abused him in most fowle & scandalous speeches, as by 4 affidavitts produced & read before mee appeareth, against wch ye said Bates pretends that those speeches fell from him upon ye provocacon of the said John Dour by as fowle & ill language on his pte, and desired tyme to prove ye same. Upon wch I thought good to inclose their severall peticons & referre the examinacon of their Allegacons to you the Justices of Peace of ye County of Wiltes at yor next Generall Sessions of ye peace held for ye said County. And to pray you upon heareing of their severall proofes at yor said Sessions to doe equall Justice to them both, & to punish him yt you shall find faulty according to ye nature of his offence. Soe I rest, yor very loveinge freind

(Signed) ARUNDELL & WARDOUR.

Arundell House October 26th 1638.

1638.—To my very lovinge ffreinds the Justices of Peace for the Countie of Wiltes yt shalbe assembled att the next Sessions these—theis dd.

After my very hearty Commendacons, Whereas one Robert Rolls inhabiting wthin the Countie of Wiltes being aged 85 yeares and nowe unable therefore, and by Wounds hee formerly received in their MMTs Warres in the Low Countries, to gett his livinge as on a Peticon exhibited unto mee, a Transcript whereof I send you hereinclosed, he giveth farther Informacon. And therefore accordinge to the Statute in like Cases provided is an humble Suitor for a Pencon. I have therefore in his behalfe thought fitt to write theis my leres unto you, praying you That yf after due Examinacon had you find him capable of this ffavor &c usually afforded to others of the like condicon you will settle some such Pencon upon him in consideracon of ye premises as you shall thinke fitt and reasonable. Which in respect of his age wilbe noe long Burthen to ye Country yet an encouragement to others when they shall see Provision made

for them, after they shalbe disabled in their Countryes Service from helping themselves Which recommendinge unto yor ffavors

I rest

Yor very loving freind

(Signed) PEMBROKE & MONTGOMERY.

Hampton Court

23th of Sept 1638.



1640.—I am contented that John Ball shall erect a cottage in some such convenient place of the waste Groundes wthin my Mannor of Tisbury as I shall appointe by some officer of myne.

(Signed) THO. ARONDELL.

October xxv.

ffor as much as my Lord Arundell hath geven way to John Ball of Tisbury for erecting of a Cottage for habitacion therefore we ye Justices of ye Peace here under written doe as much as in us lyeth geve way to ye erecting of the sayd Cottage & here unto have sett or hands.

(Signed) ROBT HYDE.

THO. CHAFIN.



1640.—Whearas the bearer hereof Thomas Snooke being Insufficient for his Majestys Service by Resone of a hurt which he gotte which hath Perished his Braine, Therefore I have given him leave to goe home into Willsheere where hee may if it bee possible wth the helpe of his friends bee cured, for these surgions whose names are under written tesstifie that hee is not fitting to doe service. Therefore I desire all to whom these presents may come to suffer ye sayd Thomas Snooke to pass freely without any hinderance. I shall indevor my selfe to Requite it. Rippon this 29 of January 1640.

(Signed) OLIVER FFELETEWOOD

HENRY BARKER Major Chyrugion

———— GOODWIN Surgrons mate

To Sr Willm Ogle his regimt.

The following petition is attached to above (abbreviated):—

The humble petition of William Snooke and Thomas Snooke his Sonn of Sutton Manfeild in the County (of Wilts).

Humbly Sheweth that yor poore Supt being but a trades man & having his sonn pressed a souldier for service in the Northerne parts against the Scotts and having received wounds in that service whereby he is not able to get his living, for that many peeces of yor petitioners sonns Skull are taken out of his head as by a certificate &c (see above). He then goes on to ask for relief for the maintenance of his son and obtains the signatures of some half-dozen of his neighbours in support of his application.

1640.—Yorke. ffor as much as the bearer heereof John Blundell souldier haveing beene impressed for his Mats Service in this Expedition in the Warrs agaynst the Sootts and haveinge receyved a hurt in the late skirmish about New Castel upon Tine, soe that he is alltogether disabled for further service wee whose names are subscribed have given him this his free dischargde to retorne to his freinds, theise are therefore to will and request all whome it shall concerne to pmit him quietly to passe by you without any lett or hinderance and to assist him with lodgings & all lawfull . . . he behaving himself as a good Subject . . . to doe in this his journey to the pishe from whence he was impressed.

Gyven under our handes at Yorke this 21th of October 1640.

(Signed) WILLIAM OGLE. Col:
WILL LAUDEY. Sr Major.
JOH: SANDS. Capt.

This Souldier John Blundell is to goe to Edmiston in Wilts where he was impressed for His Mats Service.

To all Justices of the Peace, Maiors, Bayliffs, Constables, Churchwardens and all other His Mats officers & loveinge Subjects whome these shall or may concerne.

This document is very much the worse for wear. A few words are unreadable and the whole in a very decayed condition.



1646.—The following is a printed soldier's pass signed by General Fairfax, the words in italic being in handwriting.

Sir Thomas Fairfax Knight Generall of the Forces raised by the Parliament.

Suffer the Bearer hereof *John Cumin* who was in the Garrison of Wallingford at the rendring thereof, and is to have the full benefit of the Articles agreed upon the same quietly without let or interruption to passe your Guards with his sword, bagge and baggage and to repaire unto *Winchester* or elsewhere upon his occasions, and inall places where he shall come, and whereunto he shall remove, to be protected from violence to his person or goods. And all such persons to whome he shall repaire, or with whom he shall reside are likewise to be protected from any damage or prejudice for receiving the said *John Cumins* who is to have full liberty at any time within six months (if he shall think fit) to goe to any convenient Port with his sword and goods, and thence be transported beyond the Seas; And in his march from Wallingford to *Winchester* the Magistrates of Townes and Constables of Villiages are to accommodate him with competent lodging and free quarter; nor shall he be constrained to march above eight miles of a day, he having engaged himself to act nothing prejudicial to the Parliament during his abode in their quarters, and in all things to have the full benefit of the Articles. Hereunto all due obedience is to be given by all persons whom it may concerne as they will

answer the contrary. Given under my hand and seale the Twenty ninth day of July 1646.

(Signed) T. FAIRFAX.

To all Officers and Souldiers under my Command, and to all others whom it may concerne.

1647.—These are to Certifie all whome it may concerne that the bearer hereof Thomas Still hath served the Parlant in the Regiment of Collonell John Birch for the space of three wholle yeares & under the comand of Captaine William Browne untill the time of disbanding : & whereas at Gotteridge Castle hee hath received twenty eight griveous wounds to his utter undoeing & the losse of the use & benefite of his right arme, & being now willing to travell towards Wiltshire his owne Countrey where hee was borne ; our desire is that you will bee pleased not onely to sufferre him to passe quietly & peaceably thither, but alsoe to succour & relieve him, & withall to allow him Reliefe & maintenance according to the merits of the ffaithfullnes of his service during the time aforesaid. Dated the sixth day of ffebruary 1647.

(Signed) ——— BLACKMORE Lt. Coll.
WILL. BROWNE Capt.

To all whome these may concerne.
Beneath the above is written :—

I sent in by a Terte that the bearer heere of wth Gods assistanc was cuored of 28 woounds by me wch hee resaved abot him in the for sayd service.

Yor svt.

RICH : HINGER.
Chirurgion to Collonell John Birch.

1647.—The bearer hereof Wm. Dollery having binn employed under me in the service of the King & Parlmt : I doe hereby certefy that hee served as serieant of a company of Dragoones, & that duringe his service hee recd a wound on his right hand by wch hee hath lost the use of his hand. Dated this 20 May 1647.

(Signed) WILLIAM WALLER.

The following is written by the Clerk to the Justices :—
allocat of xiijs iiijd to be pd by me.

allocat of 4 markes p amm the first to beggn att next Sess,
p trer south pte.

1647.—To all Christian people to whom this pnte writing shall Come. Sr John Danvers of Chelsey in the County of Mid. Knt sendeth Greeting in or Lord God everlasting. Whereas I am In-

formed by a certificate under the hands of divers of the most sufficient Inhabitants of the Parish of Melksham in the County of Wilts That Thomas Kitch of the same place Carpenter being a laborious poore man & having eight small Children whom he maintaines by his honest labour wth out any Charge to the sayd pish is lately questioned for building a certaine cottage on part of my waste ground in Melksham aforesaid. And that in Case he shalbe punished according to ye statute for erecting the said Cottage or enforced to pvide an habitacon elsewhere at a Rent he can be no waies able to maintaine his said Charge but must become burthensome to the said Parish. Know ye that I the said Sr John Danvers for the reasons aforesaid doe as much as in me lyes hereby licence and authorise the said Thomas Kitch to continue his habitation in the said cottage for so long time as the Justices of the peace of the said County of Wilts at their Generall Quarter Sessions shall thinke fitt to allow and grant him and no longer. In witnes whereof I have here unto set my hand and seale the twelfth day of November in the three and twentieth yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereaigne Lord King Charles 1647.

(Signed) J. DANVERS.

In the psence of

Tho. Yates

Will. Lawes

John Gale

The Court note says "allocat during his life".

The above bears an excellent example of Sir John Danvers' seale impressed in the paper. Round the shield, which bears three stars with six points, is the following :—SIGIL . DONI . D'ANVERS . 1066.



1647.—To the right Worshipfull his Maties Justices of the peace for ye County of Wilts assembled at ye Devizes.

The Humble Peticon of Thomas Kitch of Melksham in the County of Wilts. Laborer.

Humbly sheweth That whereas the right Honble Sr John Danvers by a certaine writing bearing date the twelfth day of November in the three and twentieth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereaigne Lord King Charles 1647 Did licence and authorize the said Thomas Kitch being a poor laborious man to continue his habitacon in a cottage being lately built on some pt of the wast ground of the said Sr John Danvers in Melksham aforesaid for so long time as the Justices of the Peace of the said County of Wilts at their Generall Quarter Sessions should thinke fitt to allow and grant yor said peticoner and no longer, as by the said writing being here onto annexed more at large appeares.

May it therefore please yor Worppps to confirme the said Licence at this instant Quarter Sessions whereby your peticoner

may quietly enjoy his habitacon in ye said Cottage without any molestation or disturbance.

And your peticoner &c.

The mark of Thomas Kitch.

1647.—ffrom the Comttee of Parliamt for the County of Dorsett Gent: This Bearer James Swayne as appeares by his certificate subscribed by Colo: Ludlow did serve the Parliamt in yor County at Malbrough where he received divrs wounds, his allyance and freinds by reason of their greate disafeccon to the Parliamt will not afford him any relief. Our desire to you is, being disenabled to live in his formr calling, that you wilbe pleased to give him an allowance for his support, or a considerable pporcon of money wch may keepe him from being reduced to very great straits. The wounded Soldier having lost his blood and strength for the Parliamt, and in yor ptticular service, suffer us to mind you that both Consyence and honour calleth on you to keep him from starving, by granting our just desires you will encourage the rest of his fellow soldiers in his condicon cheerefully to undergoe soe great a burthen as is the expence of blood and the loozing of a lymme, and obleidge

Yor affectionate freinds neighbours
and Servants

(Signed) JO. BINGHAM.

RI: BRODREPP.

JNO: WHITEWAY.

RI. BURIE.

WM. SAVAGE.

Dorchester.

21 Sept. 1647.

Sir Ant: Ashley Cooper adds a note earnestly recommending the case.

(Addressed) ffor our Honble friend Sir Anthony Astley Cooper & the rest of Comtee of Parliamt for the County of Wilts.

1648.—Gentlemen.

The parliament being very sensible and compassionate of the sad Condicon which the poore are brought unto by these hard tymes & resolveing to use all good meanes for their speedy & effectuall Reliefe, have comanded mee to signifie this their pleasure unto you that you forthwith employ your best care & endeavors to putt those Lawes in Execucon which are already made for the Reliefe & provision for the poore of Yor County. And for that purpose that the Monethly meetings as here-tofore may bee constantly kept by you in your sevall Divisions. This being a Duty from you to God & your Country your more ready obedience herein

is expected save from tyme to tyme to give an accompt hereof to the parliamt.

I remayne

Your assured freind

(Signed) WM. LENTHALL.

Speaker.

Westmr. 19^o Martii
1648.

1648.—We whose names are under written doth Certifie that the Bearer hearof Ambrose Bay of ffeldean hath bine employed in the parlement serves and is come home lame and hath noe main-
tynance to live by. Dated the 24 of ffeb 1648.

(Signed) GEORGE PITT.

EDWARD MILS.

THOMAS GYRD.

THOMAS SHEAPPARD.

THOMAS POLFEX.

WILLIAM SMART.

THOMAS COOP.

1648.—To the right Worshipfull His Matyes Justices of the Peace for the County of Wiltes.

The humble Peticon of Susan Coles of Mayden Bradley in this County of Wilts a poore distressed widd and of fflower poore fatherlesse Children.

Humblye shewinge that yor petioners husband Henry Coles takeing up of armes in the parliamt service wth in this Countie as a Troop under Captaine William Ludlowe being then a Captaine of a Troop of horse under the comand of Collonell Edmond Ludlowe Esqre And that about three yeares sithence yor peticonrs sayd husband being then in armes wth in this County in the Parliamt sayd service under the comand of Colonell Ludlowe as aforesayd was slayne at New Sarum in this County at that tyme when the Lord Goringe's Army fell upon the sayd Colonell Ludlowes Regiment, sithence wch tyme yor peticoner with her fower smale Children hath endured much misery and want, shee being a very sickly woman and haveinge noe other meanes left for the mayntenance of her selfe and Children, but what shee cann of her selfe pvide.

In tender consideracon whereof may it please yor worppps to consider of the losse of yor peticoners sayd husband, he beinge a tradesman by whose labor yor peticoner & her fower smale Children were maynteyned & shee nowe beinge sickly & not able to relieve her selfe & them humbly desires some yeerly pencon from the Treasurer of maymed soldyers of this County towards the releffe of her and her sayd children accordinge to the Parliamts moste gracious orders & ordinannces in such case made.

And yor poore peticoner & her fower Children shall dayly pray for yor worps health longe to continewe.

At Session tent apud Devizes xj^o Apr xxiiij Car: Rx. It is desired by this Court that the two next Justices to the peticoner take this Peticon & Cirtificates into consideracon & to allow the peticoner & her Children towards their releiffe such psent money & such future pencon or allowance as they shall thinke fitt accordinge to the ordinance of parliamt in that case made. And that the same be cirtefyed to the next Sess.

(Signed) THOMAS BENETT.

JO : GODDARD.

We haveing examined the truth of this peticon & the poverty & distress of the peticoner & her children, doe hereby declare & order that the Ther : of the south pt of this County of maymed souldiers allowe for the psent to the peticoner 5*l* she beinge sick & fifty shillings hereafter quarterlie to beggin this next midsomer Sessions for her & her childrens releiffe.

1648.—These are to Certify that Henry Coles served the Parliament under my command in ye County of Wilts behaveing himself faythfully honestly & valiantly as became a souldier of his Quality & that he was slaine in ye sayd service leaveing behind a widdow wth severall small children who are fit objects of Charity, & are hereby expecially recommended to ye Justices of peace for ye sayd County to bee provided for, as is directed by ye ordinance of Parliament for maimed souldiers & widdows, by
their very humble servant

EDM. LUDLOWE.

Westminster ye 20th of
December 1647.

1648.—Theis are to Cirtefy all whose whome it maye concerne that Henry Coles was in the Parliment service & served in my Troope under the Comand of Collonell Ludlowe & was slayne in the said service at Newe Sarum by the Kings pty under the Comand of the Lord Goringe.

(Signed) WILL. LUDLOWE.

1649.—To the righte Wopll Justices nowe Assembled &c.
The humble peticon of Edward Burford late of Devl Long-bridg in ye County aforesayd.

Who humblelie sheweth that hee served a Troop under the command of Collonell Edmond Ludlowe by the space of twoe years Wherein yor peticonr was mayned as it appeareth by a Certieficate under the hands of his sayd Coll : and also under the

hands of the Chieurgion in wch sayd service he receaveing noe pay spent his owne estate wch he nowe standeth in wante of in regard of his Mayne unable to gett his maintenance as formerly he could.

These premises considered he humbly prayeth that this Worpl Bintch will be pleased to allowe him such allowance as they in yor grave wisdomes shall thinke fitt and the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme doth afford.

And yor pore peticoner as Duety byndeth shall Daylie pray &c.

1649.—To the right Honble ye Lord Cheife Baron Wyld Judge for ye Westernne Circuit.

The humble peticon of Daniell Drake gaoler of ffisherton Anger in ye County of Wilts.
Sheweth

That whereas yor Lopp (att ye last Assisses for this County) was pleased to order ye gentlemen of ye Grand Jury To Viewe and surveye ye decaye of ye sd gaole and to certifye their judgemt concerning ye Charge for repacons thereof. Now forasmuch as those of ye Grand Jury live most of them farr remoate & are not likely to meete about it, Yor peticonr have thought upon certaine able sufficient gentlemen resideing neere ye place whose names are hereunto psented to your Lopp. Out of wch number hee humbly desires yor Lopp will be pleased to noiate & appoynt some whome yor Lopp shall thinke most meete for ye pformance thereof. The decaye & ruines of ye sd gaole being soe great as it may not admitt of any delay.

And yor peticoner &c.

(The names recommended are as follows.)

Mr. Henry Thisthelthwayte.
Mr. Bennett Swayne.
Mr. Andrew Pewde.
Mr. William Abell.
Mr. Roger Jole.
Mr. William Stone.
Mr. James Heely.
Mr. Jonathan Hill.
Mr. Thomas Poore.
Mr. Jesper Chergold.

Then follows a memorandum in Baron Wyld's own hand-writing:—

I desire the psons herein named or any five or more of them together wth such of the Grand Jury att the last Assises as can convenyently come, or will joyne wth them, otherwise them alone to take a view of the gaole & the decayes thereof, & what the charge of the necessary repayre thereof will amount to by the

judgment of themselves & such skillfull workmen as they shall bring. The same to be presented to the Justices of the peace att theyr next quarter Sessns who are desired to take speedy order for the repayre thereof, that it may be done before the next assises.

30 Martii 1649.

(Signed) JOHN WYLDE.

1649.—This is to Certife that Thomas Champion, Souldier in my Comp in Coll Hewson Regmt hath actually and faithfully served the parliamt. And in the fight of Maidstone in Kent he was wounded wch makes him unable of further service. Thairfore I Humble recommend him to the Justisses of ye peace in the County of Wilts to take care for his subsistance according to ordinance of parliamt provided for such charitable ends. And the said Thomas Champion is ffreely discharged from this employment. Given under my hand this 7 May 1649.

(Signed) D. AXTELL.

Lt. Coll.

To all whom this
may concerne.

1649.—These are to Certify all whome it may Concerne that Mr. James Swayne did faythfull service in my Majors Troope for ye space of 26 weekes during wch time he received but fowerteen nights pay.

London this 13th of No : 1646.

(Signed) ED. LUDLOWE.

1649.—Gent men &

My honored freinds I am at psent an earnest Sutor unto you in the behalf of this gentman the bearer hereof Mr. Swayne he hath lost the use of his limbs in the Service of the plament by wch meanes he is brought unto very greate extremitys, and although he is a gentman well defended, and his ffather lived in good fashion, whoe having placed his soone in a way of trade, here in London thought him sufficintly pvided for, but for it is at this tyme, that by meanes of his wounds he is become an object of yor mercy & Charity. Let me therefore beseach you to take him unto your consideration & deale with him according to Justice & mercy you will thereby oblige him as alsoe

Yor freind & Servant,

(Signed) JOHN ASHE.

London 30 Decemb 1648.

(Then follows) This shall be likewise taken thankfully by
Yor Servant

(Signed) EDM. LUDLOWE.

Upon the testimony that I have received in this Gentlemans behalfe, I could not but recommend him unto you and in what you shall favoure him in, by so much the more you will oblige

Gent

Yor Servant,

(Signed) WILL EYRE.

To ye Woll Justices of ye Peace for ye County of Wilts sitinge at ye Genall Quarter Sessions held at New Sarum.

The humble Peticon of James Swayne (Gentleman—ruled out) beinge lately A Soldier in ye Parlt Army.

Sheweth. That yor Peticoner havinge byn a Soldier in ye service for the Parlt in wch said service lost ye use of his Right hand & Left Arme at ye fight at Malborough in ye said County of Wilts. By wch meanes yor Peticonr through sickness & want of maynteynance to support him, was forced & constrayned to repaire into Dorsettshire to his ffreinds who lived at Blanford who by reason of their disafection to ye Parlt would afford yor Peticonr noe releife as by a Certificate under ye hand of Coll Ludlow : for his true & faithfull service will appeare wch is hereunto annexed under ye hands of ye Comittee of ye County of Dorsett will more fully appeare.

Yor Peticoner in Regard of ye losse of his Right hands and other Despearte wounds wch he then recd wch brought him to great Missery by reason of ye great Charge & expence lyving under ye Surgeons hands.

Most humbly craveth yor good Worps to be pleased, seeing he recd his wounds in this County, & for his psent supply he being in a very sad condition for ye psent for want of meanes yt yor worps wilbe pleased to allow him for ye pservacon of his livelihood what in yor good wisdomes shall seeme meete, either from the Trer : of this County or otherwise out of ye County stock.

ffor wch yor Peticonr shalbe in all duty bound to pray &c.

1649.—

Wiltes To the right Worll Justices of the Keeper of the libty of
3 Apilis England by Authority of Parliamt.

1649 The humble peticon of Ambros Day of ffeilden in the
County aforesaid.

Humbly sheweth

That yor Petr (as appeareth by the Certificate hereunto annexed) hath bin a souldyer under the comand of his Excellency Thomas Lord ffairfax. That (as it also appeareth by ye same note)

Yor petr is wolly dissabled to get his mayntenance by means of a wound received at the leagure at flarrington.

Yor petr hearby beggeth reliefe of this noble Court without whose assistance he is like to pish. And he shall heartyly pray for yor &c.

(alloc 4 mks yerely from the Trer : of the South pte.)

1649.—The following certificate is written on parchment.

These are to Certify all whom it may concerne That this bearer Christopher Coles was a Souldier under my Command in the Regimt of Col Nathaniel ffrienes in the Garrison of Bristoll & from thence was drawne out & was upon service in Sr William Wallers Army where he demeaned him selfe faithfully and valiantly as it becomes a Souldier : & his father being a Souldier under the same Command was slaine at the fflyght at Roundway Hill in the County of Wilts. for Witnes whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 23th day of March 1647.

(Signed) THOS. EYRE.

Beneath is written in another handwriting :—
December 18. 1648.

This souldier Christopher Coles was discharged from the Armeý the 11 of this instant, he is a maymed man havinge lost the use of his right Hand.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNN,
Surgeon.

I earnestly desire this souldier may have more money than 5s. to carry him hence.

(Signed) GEO : DUNN.

1649.—The humble petition of divers inhabitants of Compton Chamberlayne unto the right worshipfull the Justices of the peace of this County sitting at Warminster.
Sheweth

That whereas your petitioners alreadye verie hardly able to supplie our poore at theyr better and just complaints, are like to have more plenty of poverty in our parish, through the obstinacie of Austin Hix : who (notwithstanding the warnings of the overseers hath in his house entertained William Powell as an inmate, though he be neyther parishoner nor towne borne childe, and wheras we having intimated this matter at large unto Mr. Swanton, and his worship (comforting us in the equity and probability of Powells remotion) hath authorized us to bring (though by violence) those contemners (the aforesayd Hix and Powell) before you, to answere unto insolent misdemeanours relatively concerning as

well your worships as our selves. We humbly therefore entreat your worships patience to have the objections of your humble petitioners.

(Signed) JOHN PENRUDDOCK.
JOHN BUSHETT.
JOHN FFORDE.
ROBERT FFORDE.
GEORGE COMAGE.
ROBERT COMAGE.
JOHN BARNES.
JAMES ELIOT.
FFRANCIS FFORD.
WILLIAM JAY.
WILLIAM AMBROSE.

(Powell to bee Indicted p Inmate.)

1649.—To the Right Worshipp^l the Justices of the Peace assembled in Sessions for the Countie of Wilts.

The humble peticon of Thomas Champion of Downton Sheweth that yor Peticoner served the Parliament in the late Warre by the space of three or fower yeares and in the service against Maidstone in Kent was shott in both leggs and maymed, is a very poore man and noe way able to maynetayne himselfe his wife and children, unles his County for whose preservation hee hath lost his blood, lymmes, estate, and tyme extend unto him againe some deerelye purchased subsistance.

In confidence whereof his humble suite unto this honowrable bench, is for a mayntenance according to former and latter Acts and ordinances of Parliament and yor poore Peticoner shalbe encouraged to pray &c.

(£4 pencon out of the South pte to Comence from the psent Sess :)

1649.—To the right Worl^l The Justices for the peace of the County of Wilts.

The humble peticon of John Simpkins of Warminster. Sheweth

That yor petitioner is utterly disabled in body & ruined in goods through imprisonment, beateing & plundering (by the merciles cavaliers—this is ruled through) for yor petitioners actings for the good of the states souldiers in the time of the late warre, by reason whereof yor petitioner & his family (being in distresse and for the reason aforesaid not able to gett his owne liveing much lesse unable to gaine maintainance for his houshold) are like to pish through want.

May it please yor worpps to comiserate his deplorable condicon and to afford him some reliefe forth of the treasury for maimed souldiers as shall seeme meet in yor worpps wisdomes. And yor peticoner &c.

(allocat 5*l* out of the south parte p maymed soldiers.)

Gentlemen.

The sad condition of John Simpkins of Warminster occasioned by his imprisonment for his activity in ye service of ye publique has emboldend me to pserit it unto you. Hee hath been as I am assured always very willing to offer up his mite to the relief of those who were engaged for ye Parliament. I am confident hee will not find you backward to supply him out of ye treasury for maimed souldiers according to his necessity. I should not have troubled you heerin, but for I conceive myself in duty bound to look after ye support of those who have been instrumentall in this greate worke of ye common wealth not having else at psent I subscribe myselfe

Yor most faythfull & humble servant

(Signed) EDM. LUDLOWE.

Sarum this 23 of Jul.

(Addressed) These to honorable ye Commissioners of Peace for ye County of Wilts.

humble psent.

1649.—These are to Certifie any whome it may concerne that Edward Burford served a comon Trooper in my owne Troope & Regimt under the command of the Late Earle of Essex from the third day of August 1643, and so continewed in the said service by the space of twoe yeares in wich tyme hee behaved himselfe as a Loyall Subjecte. And was wounded or receaved his wounds neare Broode Chake by the forces then under the comaund of Sir ffraunces Doddington. By reason whereof hee is unable to gaine his liveliehood by his callinge or trade: in consideracon whereof my desire is that hee maybe allowed A Penson towards his Mainence as the Lawes and Statutes of the Realme doth afford. Given under my hand this xxijth of December 1649.

(Signed) EDM. LUDLOWE.

December 24th 1649.

This bearer and Souldier Edward Burford hath ben wounded in his Lefte foote whereby hee is maymed and disabled to ffollowe his calleing. Wittens my hand the day & yeare first above written.

(Signed) GEORGE DUNN, Cheuirgion.

(Award of the Court.)

alloc : 40s a yere to be pd quarterly & the first paymt to be made at this Sess: by the Ther of the South.

1650.—The Ordinances of Parliament denyde the Treasurer for the releife of Mayned souldrs & Widdowes & orphants to maynetajne the said William Perry, but he must be maynetayned & allowed the sune of two shillings sixe pence each weeke, where he last Inhabited, which is in Bratton in the Parish of Westbury under the plaine in the County of Wilts when first he went out in the service of the State. And further these are to certify you that the said William Perry hath been searched by most of the sufficient Chirurgions in or hospitalls who is found a mayned man for ever for helping of himself in any Labor whatever,

Given under or
hands this 2d day of
May A Dn 1650.
To the Justices of
the Peace in the
County of Wilts.

(Signed) JOHN PEOKCOCKE.
RICHARD HUTCHESON.
WILL: GREENAWOODE.
ROGER BINCKES.
Treasurers to the States.

1650.—These are to Certify you that the Bearer hereof William Perry hath faithfully served the State under my command as a Dragoon, and in the sd service received certayne wounds (vizt) he hath lost the use of his left arme, and had the Tooos of his left foote Broken, & also his left legge, by meanes whereof he is disabled to take paines for a livelyhood for him & his wife. That he having received a Pension till of late from you in respect of his said impotence to worke being a maymed man. It is my devise that he may be againe taken in to yor Care, & that he may have the same pension as formerly, although he went not out of this City or Subburbs, when first he went out in the Service of the State; he now having taken up his constant abode here, & if he should be put of the Countrey out of which he went forth, twill be a Ruine both to himselfe & his wife.

Given under my hand the first of Apriell 1650.

Yor humble Servant

(Signed) EDM: LUDLOWE.

To the Trears at
Elye house.

1650.—To the Right Worth. the Justices of the Peace for the County of Wiltes assembled att the Quarter Sessions at Warmister.

The humble peticon of Wm. Perry late of Bratton in the County of Wiltes.

Humbly sheweth

That yor peticoner att the tyme when Sr Edward Hungerford bore armes for the parlyant yor peticoner tooke upp armes under him att the Devizes in the said County of Wiltes & was afterwards reduced under Collonell Ludlowe att Warder Castle where

he was blowne upp & maymed wth powder as by his affidavit hereunto annexed may appeare.

That yor peticoner hath faithfully sved the State under the Comand of Collonell Ludlowe as a Dragoon & in the said svce received certayne wounds (viz) hee hath lost the use of his left arme & had the Tooes of his left foote broken & alsoe his lefte legge by meanes whereof hee is utterly disabled to take paynes for a lively hood for himself & his wife as will appeare by a Certificate under the hands of the said Collonell Ludlowe hereunto alsoe annexed.

That the Trers to the States by their certificate hereunto likewise annexed doe certifie that yor peticoner hath ben srched by most of the chirurgions in the Hospitalls & by them found to bee a maymed man for ever.

The pmisses considered yor peticoner desires yor worppps to allow him some yearely pencon or to give him such other maintenance as the ordinance of Parlyant in that behalfe made & pvided directs.

And yor Peticoner &c.

(All 20s. for psent reliefe & 4[£] p. quarterly from Ther. of th South.)

1650.—I William Perry of Bratton in the County of Wilts make oath that I first tooke up Armes for the Parliamt at the Devizes under comand of Sr Edward Hungerford & after was reduced under Coll Ludlowe at Warder Castle where I was blowne up & maymed wth powder. And being nowe in London sicke & weake am not able to travell to the next quarter Sessions to be holden for the County of Wilts without danger of my life.

(Signed) WILLM. PERRY.

Jurat 27 die Junii 1650.

1650.—These to Certify all whom it may concerne that this bearer Jeremy Ballard served as a foot Souldier in my Company in ye Regimt of Col Nathaniel ffriennes Governor of Bristol & when the Devizes was beseiged by Sir Wm Waller he received a shott wth a cannon Bullett whereby he was disabled to maintaine himselfe by his labour, but lay a long time under the Chirurgions hands upon his owne charge & have not received any reliefe, by wch meanes he is much impoverished & indebted. for Witnes whereof I have here unto set my hand this 23th of June 1649.

(Signed) THOS. EYRES.

(allocatur 4[£] p ann from the Ther of the north quarterly from this sessions.)

To ye Justices of ye peace for ye comon Welth of England assembled at ye quarter Sessions at Warmester.

Wee whos names are hereunto subscribed doe certify that the bearer hereof Jeremy Ballard of Bromham, Thatcher, is one wch for the space of a yeare & upwards did serve the plament under the command of Collonell Tho: Eyres, untill such time as at ye seige of ye Devizes hee was hurt by a great shott, by reason wherof hee was constrained to lye at surgery nine months & no waye able to labore for his livinge, to his great hinderance, hee is one that never severed from ye pliament service, but contented ther in as longe as hee was able, hee hath not received any recompence nor binn chargable to any for ought that wee knowe during his inability to laboure.

(Signed) ROB. RICHARDS.
 WILLIAM SHERSTONE.
 THO. LOVING.
 WILLM. YERBURY.
 FERDINANDO HUGHES.
 THOMAS SHERSTONE.
 THOMAS KNIGHT.
 RICHARD TENCH.
 THO CHANLER junior.
 JOHN WEBB.
 (and one other—unreadable).

To the Worll the Justices of ye Bench.

The humble peticon of Jeremy Ballard of Brumham sheweth. That yor peticoner was a souldier under the comand of Col. Thos Eyre for the space of one whole yeare in wch service the peticoner at the siege against the Devizes was maimed with a great shott as by the certificate of the most truely welaffected & substantiall Inhabitants of Brumham aforesd at large appeareth: and haveing by the said shott lost one of his hands hee is utterly disabled to maintaine himselfe by reason wherof the peticoner is growen to be 20 £ in debt and is like (wthout yor worppps lenetie) to perish through want.

May it therefore please yor worppps (according to an ordinance in yt case made & pvided) to order for reliefe of the peticoner as in yor worppps wisdomes shall seem meet & the peticoner &c.

(allocatur $\text{£}4$ p ann quarterly from the Ther. of the north pte to begin from this Sess, upon Mr. Eyres certific:.)

1650.—Gentlemen.

The bearer hereof Captayne Joseph Smith hath beene often dangerously wounded in the Parliamt service. And at the first siege of Reading was shott through the thigh with case shott. And with these wounds and others hath layne severall times under the Chirurgions hands at his ffathers house, the Bath & other places to his extraordinary cost and Charges. And hath sustayned greate losse by the Enemy, his ffather being so often plundered and

robbed not able to relieve the said Capt Smith as I am informed. And forasmuch as he being this Countreyman borne and inhabited in the County but a little before the Warres. And for his sayd remarkable service done in many places for the State, we are Ingaged effectually to recommend his said condition into yor serious consideration, he beinge not able to make any provision for his livelyhoodd for want of the use of his limbes, that you will be pleased to setle him a Pencon out of the Stocke of the County for his subsistence as you have farther directions in an ordinance of this psent Parliamt on the 28th of May 1646 for the reliefe of maymed souldiers. And in so doeinge you will oblige your assured freinds.

Dated at Westminster the 23th of Janry 1649.

(Signed) WM. LENTHALL. Sp(eaker).
 PEMB & MONTGOMERY.
 EDM: HARVEY.
 J. DAVERS.
 EDM. LUDLOWE.
 ALEXANDER POPHAM.
 EDW. POPHAM.
 PHI. SMYTHE.
 JOH. DOVE.
 JOHN ASHE.
 M. OLDISNORTH.
 JAMES ? (unreadable).

1650.—July the 10th 1650.

These are to certifie whom it may concerne that the bearer hereof Captaine Joseph Smyth was borne in the parish of Shalbourne in the County of Wilts & hath since lived in Malborough wth Mr Walter Bayly till a little before these warres & hath ever since these troubles bin a servant to the Commonwealth of England & hath in the service thereof lost the use of his limbes & hath had no other settled beeing since but in this County.

Given under or hands.

(Signed) BENIAMIN SOME, Vicar ibidm.
 EDMUND HOLFORD.
 THO: SMITH.
 THOMAS WINCHESTER.
 JOHN MUNDY.
 RIC: CLIFFORD.

1650.—To the Worll the Justices of ye Bench.
 The humble peticon of Captaine Joseph Smith.
 Humblie Sheweth that yor petitioner hath been a faithfull

servant to ye Pliamt ever since these un-naturall differences began & hath received divers wounds in their service: and at the seige of Redding was dangerously shot through ye thigh and on ye foot with wch wounds & others hath lyen sevall times under ye Chirurgeons & others to his extraordinarie cost & Charges att his fathers house Marlebrough & ye Bath: and hath lost the use of his limbes and susteined great losse by the enemie: hee haveing bought 16 or 17 horse & armes at his owne charge to serve the Parliamt: and his father being often plundered & Robbed by them not able to relieve yor petitioner (if willing) yor petitioner farther sheweth yt with those dangerous wounds he received was conceived to bee dead & soe his comandnd disposed of & mustered out of ye bookes & soe made him incapable of receiveing his areares, and yor peticoner being this Countrey-man borne & inhabitted here, wherefore ye pmises considered & weighed in ye ballance of mercie & clemencie yor petitioner conceives himselfe a fitt obiect for yor worppps to relieve, being intrusted for ye reliefe of maimed souldiers by the pliamt: as you have directions by an ordinance on ye 28^o of May 1647 to settle him a penchion for his subsistance yt hee may not perish for his faithfull service don for ye Comonwealth of England: and in soe doing yor petitioner shall ever pray &c.

(allowed. 5[£] of the monie in Mr J— hands and a pencon of 10[£] quarterly to begin at Mich: from ther: of the north pte.)



1650.—To the right Woll the Justices of the Peace for the Countie of Wilts, assembled in Sessions for the same countie.

The humble peticon of John Allsopp gent.

Your Peticonr humbly sheweth that he served the Parliamt in their late warrs divers yeares; that about Dec 1646 he was commanded out on a partie att Sarm (being then under the comd of Collonell Ludlowe), was taken by the enemie, wounded in many pts of his body, his eyes cutt out, left under the horses feete for deade, yett by the lords greate mercie, wonderfully pserved to lyfe, though not to his sight att all, nor to his limmes altogether.

And most humbly prayeth his condicon may be taken into the serious consideracon & comisseration of this Court (yor) peticoner havinge allreddy spent his poore estate in the said service & in deere (=injury) & moste dolefull & torturinge paynes on his cures (?) & is disabled anie wise to provide for himselfe. That he may be pvided for accordinge to the tenor of divers acts & ordinances of parliamt to that purpose made And yor poore peticonr shall pray &c.

(5[£] out of the Treasurer of the South pte.)



1650.—The Certificate of John Allsoppe sheweth that he hath faithfully served the plement and was a troop under my command

att Salsburye in the Countie of Wilts the last day of December 1646 being commanded upon service ther, was by the enemye very dangerously wounded and taken prisoner having both his eyes cut out and was most Barborously used and left for dead in the vieu of the Enemye yett by Devine pvdence pserved his life this Certificate to be manifested before whome itt shalbe come.

(Signed) E. LUDLOWE.

Ad Sess. tent apud Devizes

23 Aprl 1650.

Allocatar p ann 8 £ to be pd quarterly.

1650.—To the right Worll the Justices of the peace of the County of Wilts.

The humble peticon of John Pontin of Warm^r in the County of aforesaid Taylor,
Sheweth

That yor petr having faithfully served ye parlimt ever since the beginning of these warres, first under ye Comand of Sr Edwd Hungerford, secondly under the comand of Collonell Ludlowe in Wardr Castle, & was carried thence to Oxford prison and after his coming out of prison was under the said Coll^{ll} in this County, & at a fight in this towne he was most despatly wounded & left for dead, which wounds nowe soe much grieves yor Petr that he is utterly unable to take any course either for the maintenance of himselfe his wife or Children whose livelyhood formerly depended on his Labor & must nowe totally pishe without the clemency of yor good worpps.

He therefore humbly prayeth that in consideracon of his faithfull service to the Parlimt & his sad condicon wherein he nowe is by reason of his said wounds to allow him such a yeerely pencon out of the Comon Treasury of this County as to yor Worpps shalbe thought meete.

And he shall ever pray &c.

(Awarded) 5 markes pencon p ann out of the South pte & 40s. in hand for his psent support.

1650.—Gentlemen.

This bearer John Pontin hath been a Souldier under my comand most parte of the time of the late Warre wherein he behaved himselfe well and faithfully, and did good service for the Comonwealth, in which time of his service he received many dangerous wounds from the enemye, whereby he is disabled to follow his calling, for the maintenance of himselfe or family and must necessarily fall into want unles there be reasonable provision made for his releife. I doe make it my earnest request to you, that you will take his condition into consideration, and settle a pencon upon him for his subsistance, according to the intention of the

Parliament for people in his condition, the mans former sufferings, and present indigencye will very much deserve your Charity : What you shall doe for him shall be thankfully acknowledged by
Your very lo : ffriend

(Signed) EDM : LUDLOWE.

London December
27 : 1650.

1651.—This is a printed Certificate from the Treasurers for Maimed soldiers and bears their seal. The words in *italic* are in writing, the remainder being printed.

To all Majors Sheriffes, Bayliffs, Justices of Peace Constables and all other officers whom these may any waies concerne.

Whereas the Bearer hereof *Thomas Adlam a Troop* in the service of the Commonwealth, under the Command of *Robert Glinn Captaine* in the Regiment of *Col. Math: Tomlinson under the Lord Genrall Cromwell* and hath ben sent unto us the Treasurers for maymed Souldiers and Widdows, for the recovery of his health, and cure of his maimes, which is performed to the utmost skill of our Physitian and Chirurgions ; but by reason he is disabled to follow his calling, or to perform any further service in the Army, whereupon we have given him *tenn shillings* to beare his charges to *Milsome* in the County of Wilts the place of his habitation and abode when he first tooke up armes, desiring all whom it may any waies concerne to permit and suffer the said *Thomas Adlam* to passe from London to *Milsome* aforesaid, he behaving himselfe civilly and orderly in his journey. We therefore by vertue of an Act of Parliament dated the 30th day of September 1651 herewith sent doe recommend him according to the said act to you, that he may accordingly have provision made for him. Given under our hands and publique seale this *6th* day of *December* in the yeare of our Lord God 1651.

(Signed) W. GREENHILL.

RI : HUTCHINSON.

JO. POCOCK.

(A note added by the Clerk is as follows.)

53s 4d pencon yearly to be paid by the Treasurer of the North pte & the first payemt to begyn at this sessions.

1651/2.—Nicholass Oulden actually served the Parliament under Collonell Edmund Ludlowe in the County of Wilts as a trooper in his owne Troope ffrom the (twentye ffift of Aprill : this is struck out and altered by Colonel Ludlow to) fourth of May one thousand six hundred forty three untill the twenty ninth of July imediatly followinge receavinge noe pay att all.

(Signed) EDM LUDLOWE.

Nicholas Oulden actually served the Parliament in the County of Wilts as a trooper under the command of Captaine William Ludlowe in his owne troope from the tenth of October one thousand six hundred forty five untill the twenty fouerth of December att ffouerteen shillings p week, payinge his quarters, there remayneth due unto him for that tyme three shillings six pence p week to make upp his ffull pay att seaventeen shillings six pence p week. The truth of this certifiycate is beleived to be true by me.

(Signed) WM. LUDLOWE.

(In Mr. Ludlowe's own handwriting).

13th Jan 1651.

Theise are to Certifiye all whome it may concerne that Nicholas Oulden mentioned in the above certificates went for ye service in Ireland wth Liut Generall Ludlowe and that in a letter from ye Liut Generall it was expressed that ye sayd Oulding was dead there in the service.

(Signed) WM. LUDLOWE.

1651/2.—To the Right Worpll the Justices of the Peace for this County of Wilts.

The humble peticon of Mary Oulden of Maiden Bradley, Widdow
Sheweth

That yr peticoners husband Nicholas Ouldhen faithfully served the Parliamt in this County of Wilts as a Trooper under the Generall comands of Coll Edmund Ludlowe and Captn Willm Ludlowe for wch there is much due to him in arreare as by their Certificates hereunto annexed doth appeare And also that he served the Parliamt in Ireland under Lieut Generall Ludlows command where he lost his life and left ye peticoner a poore distressed widdow and many small children utterly destitute of a livelyhood.

Ye Peticoner therefore most humbly prayeth This right Worpll Bench that they would be pleased to graunt unto her such a Pension towards the maintenance of her and her poore fatherless children as they in their wisdoms shall thinke fitt.

And yr peticoner shall ever pray &c.

(The Court awarded " 53s. 4d. yearly from the Treasurer of the south pte").

1651/2.—Sir,

this bearer Thomas Aldam a Souldier in the parliament service and disabled by wound, which hee hath receaved in thyer service in Scotland, wherby hee can noe wayes subsist without a provision made for him out of the publique Stock of the County; I have only thought good to let you know, that I have been acquainted with the person of the man ever since the beginning of the Warrs he being a souldier under my command at the Devizes

when the forces were first raised for the parliament. I am asured I neede presse you noe farther, his certificate bearing him witness of the truth of his late service and what ever you shall please to supplie him with, besides the justice of his demerits will be thankfully acknowledged

by, Sir, Your (with my humble service to the rest of my freinds) very faithfull servant

(Signed) WILL : EYRE.

Monks in the parish of Corsham,
this 9th of Jan 1651 (1652).

1651.—I doe hereby certify that John Lane of Salsbury was a Soldjer in ye Parliamts Army under my Comaund in Scotland & there died in the service.

Dated October 11th 1651.

(Signed) MATH : THOMLINSON.

To all whom it
may concern.

1651.—To the right Worpl the Justices of the peace of the County of Wilts sitting for the generall quarter Sessions for ye sd County.

The humble peticon of Martha Lane of ye Citty of Newe Sarm in the County aforesaid.
Humbly Sheweth

That whereas yor petrs late Husband for & during the space of seven yeeres was actually in armes for the Parlmt & was in ye late eppedn into Scotland where yor petrs husband lost his life in that service (as appears by a certificate under the hand of Colloll Tomlinson in whose troope he served) to the utter undoeing of yor petr & two small children for whose supportance yor petr hath pawned & sold all that ever she hath, & must of necessity pish unles yor Worps take some course for their lively hood.

In consideracon whereof yor petr humbly craves yor Worpps to take her disconsolate condicon into yor serious consideracon (according to the act of parlmt for widdowes & orphanes in that behalfe pvided) allow some pension to be paid yeerely for & towards the maintenance of yor petr & two Children.

And yor petr &c.

(The Court allowed) 3*l* 10s pension yearly from the Tresurer of the south pte.

1651.—
The Citty We whose names are hereunto subscribed doe
of Newe Sarm hereby Certifie that Daniell Birch whilst he
Civilly & honestly & was well affcted to the Parliamt. And that

(leaving a wife & twoe small Children in this Cittie) he went out with his owne horse & armes into the service of the State. And that as appeareth by the Certificate of Collonell Mathewe Thomlinson his Collonell he died in Scotland in the said service.

To all whome it may

Concerne

(Signed) THO : KEYNTON. Maior.

JOHN FRIE.

———— DOVE (?)

(Below is written)

I did knowe the above named Daniell Birch he was a very honest man one that encouraged young men to goe souldiers in the service of the Parlt. That his friends pvided him money wth wch he bought a horse & armes & went himselve in the service for Scotland where I hath heard he was slayne in the service. I know his wiffe and twoe chillen are in great want of releiff and are de———— to certifie the same.

(Signed) JOH : DOVE.

JAMES HELY.

1651.—Gentlemen

being informed by some officers of the army that the widow Jackman of the Devies in the County of Wilts (late wife of John Jackman who was a Chirurgeon in my Regimt in Ireland & dyed in that service) is through losse of her said husband reduced to a verie lowe Condicon haveinge a greate charge of Children. I desire you therefore that you will allow some pencon to the said Widow for the releife & maintenance of her selfe and children, which as it wilbe an act of much charity to the widow & ffatherles so it will also much obleige

Gentl

Yor very loveing ffriend

(Signed) O. CROMWELL.

Edinburgh February
the 23th 1650

(This is addressed) For the Honoble the Justices of Peace for the County of Wilts. These

Leave this with Mrs. Parker at Fuleham.

1651.—To the Right Honble ye Justices of the Peace for the County of Wilts.

The Humble Peticon of Jane Jackman of the Devizes in this County widdow.

Humbly Sheweth

That whereas this Honble Court was pleased at the last Quarter Sessions to take notice of my peticon then psented unto you. And did then take the sad and distressed Condicon of yor poore peticoner unto yor serious consideracon and did of yor

Clemencie afford me that p^sent reliefe by which yor poore petionr and familie were much Refreshed and Comforted for all which yor petionr returneth to this Court her Humble thanks But haveing since then Received a letre from his excellency the Lord Genall Cromwel to you Directed : with whom yor petionrs Husband & Sonn went Chirurgon and mate into Ireland and there both dyed. The service which they did both there and elsewhere is well knowne to his excell, thus trusting on yor Clemencee I have p^sumed to p^sent It unto you Humbly praying this Honble Court that the distressed Con^dicon of yor petition may be taken into yor considera^con she haveing six smale children and not where withall to maintaine them, and as in Dutie bound.

Your peticonr shall evr pray &c.

(The Court decided to) Augmt the pencon to 10^o p ann and let her have 4^o in hand to be paid by the tresurer of the north pte.

(Signed) FFRA. SWANTON.

1651.—Know all men by these p^sents that I Robert Hyde Serjeant at Lawe doe heerby give and grant unto Henry Keble of Great Durnford in the County of Wiltes Labourer licence & power to erect & build one Cottage for his habitacon or dwelling house in and upon some convenient pte of my Wast ground called Hutchins Greene lyeing neer Pryors Croft belonging to my Mannor or ffarme of Durnford aforesaid. Soe as the same Cottage be allowed by order to be made and obtayned at the Generall Sessions of the peace for the said County according to the Statut in that case made and provided. Given under my hand and seale this Seaventeenth day of June in the yeare of Our Lord God one Thousand six hundred ffifty one.

(Signed) ROBT HYDE.

1651.—Gent

I p^ceive by a peticon now p^sinted to yee by the Inhabitants of the Towne of Ramesbury that their desire is, you wilbee pleased to remove Allen and Barley by yor Order forth of their Towne they being both Strangers come thither (since the burneing of the same) and lately marryed, wch may bee a meanes (if these continued) to bring a greater charge upon the said Towne. Besides their owne poore are more numerous And the burthen heavier then formly I shall therefore in their behalfe desire you to take the said peticon into considera^con, that the said Allen and Barley may be removed to the place of their last abode, and I shall remayne

Yor humble Searvant

(Signed) ALEXANDER POPHAM.

Littlecott, April 7th
1651.

1652.—Gent

Whereas it is provided by severall acts & ordinances of Parliamt That ye Widdowes and orphants of those whose husbands and fathers have died & such soulders as have been maimed in ye service of the Parliamt should be allowed a competent pencon in the respective Counties where such soulders inhabited or tooke up armes. Yet not with-standing there have of late been many and frequent Complaints made by such maimed souldrs and Widdowes, that albeit they have repaired to ye Justices of peace of the respective Counties where they ought to be pvided for, yet ye Justices have refused to alow unto them any pencon or maintenance according to ye said Acts & ordinances, soe that these poore souldrs widdowes and orphants are exposed to greate extreamity (if not pishing) and divers of them have returned back to London to seeke for reamedy & reliefe. Wherefore I make it my earnest request to you, as I have done to ye Justices of peace of other Counties, that in case you have not already made an assesmt and rate upon yor Countie for ye raising a competent Stock for ye releife of maimed souldrs orphants & widdows according to ye said acts & ordinances, that you cause ye same to be forthwith done & put in execution, yt soe those poore souldrs widdows and orphants may not through ye neglect thereof be exposed to missery & ruine contrary to the intencons of ye Parliamt, & wch if suffered would very much reflect upon ye honor of (the) Nation. And I desire an account may be returned every halfe yeare to ye Committee of ye Parliament for maimed souldrs of yor pcedings herein, And to ye end ye said account may wth more certainty come to ye Comitties hand I desire you will direct it to be left at ye Thrers at Ely Howse in Holborne, thus hoping yt you will be willing to further soe good and Charitable a worke as this is,

I Remaine,

Yor very loveing ffriend,

(Signed) O. CROMWELL.

Cockpitt ffebruary the

24th 1651.

The above is addressed

For the Honoble Justices of Peace

for ye County of Wilts.

there.

1652.—I am comanded by the Justice of peace of this County nowe assembled at this Assizes held at Sarum, to require you forthwith upon sight hereof to paye unto Thomas Hart & Willm Daws two mayned souldiers the some of twenty shillings apeece towards their chardge of travell & presant reliefe untill the next Sessions to be holden for this County, when the said Justices will further consider of some yerely pencons for them accordinge to the direcons & Certificate of the honoroble Oliver Cromwell Esqr genall of

the Armye Dated at the Assizes at Sarum the 8th day of March 1651.

(Signed) by WILLM COLES

Cl. of the peace.

To the Ther of maymed souldiers
for the South part of this County, theise.
Sess^s at the Devizes 27^o Apr, allowed to Hart
and Roger Parkins xxs. a piece from the Ther of the North pt.

1652.—Being satisfied that this Bearer William Daws was maimed in the Parliament service I doe accordingly Certifie the same Desiring the Justices of peace for the County of Wiltes to allow unto him a competent weekly pencon for his maintennce according to the late Act.

24th february 1651

(Signed) O. CROMWELL.

1652.—Sr

Christopher Bell the reported father of a Bastard Childe and the wenches freindes have bin this day wth mee, and in order to the securinge this parish and givinge satisfaction for the keepinge the childe, Bell hath given it consideration as that wee have reason, to become—to you that the recogniseince may be taken up wth. out (any) farther styrring in the matter, you may depend—the truth of the premises, it being confirmed under the hand of Sr

Yor very humble servt

(Signed) JO: PENRUDDOCKE.

—th 11th 1652.

(This document is much decayed on one side, and a few words are missing. It is addressed "To my honored freinde Francis Swanton Esqre at his house in Sarum.")

1652.—Theise are to certifiye all whom it may concerne that Richard Morys husband to Elinor Morys the bearer hearof is liveing in Salisbury and is in great want & need of releefe and unable to work by reason of wounds yet uncured and which he had received in ye Parlyaments sarvice whearin from ye begininge allmost of the late Warrs he hath as is credibly made knowne, faithfully and Honbly behaved him selfe, in witnes whear of I hearunto set my hand the day and year aforsayd.

(Signed) WM. LUDLOWE.

All: 4os. by the trer of ye South.

(Signed) THO. JACOB.

1653.—To ye right Honble ye Marqus Earle of Hertford.

The humble peticon of Henry Woundy of Collingbourne Ducis Sheweth

That whereas yor poore petinor hath for ye space of these Tenn or Eleaven yeares and upwards lived in ye parish of Collingborne Ducis aforesaid dureing all wch time aforesaid yor poore peticonr hath demeaned himself honest and faithfull in his vocation and endeavouring to mainetaine himselfe his wife and fower small Children without any Chardge or trouble to ye place of his abode as by their cirtificate hereunto annexed it doth appeare. Now so it is, That yor petconer is a sicke and weakly poore man and by reason thereof many times he is hindered from following his ymloyment at day labouring whereby he maintains his famely and pay his rent for ye house hee now liveth in But in regard his Rent is great and hee sick & weakly as aforesaid Yor peticonr is not able to pay so great a Rent and therefore hee may not continue in the said house. Now forasmuch as yor peticonr cannot procure a house to live in at a cheaper rent houses being so scarce in ye Parish aforesaid.

May it please yor Lpp to extend yor wanted cleamency & tender compassion to yor poore peticonr in giving him Lyscence leave and Liberty to erect and set upp (on some of yor Lopp wast ground wth in ye pish of Collingborne Ducis aforesaid) a small cottage yt soe he may be ye better enabled to mainetaine himselfe and famely.

And yor peticonr his wife and Children shall as in Duty they are-bound Dayly pray &c.

To the above is added :—

I doe consent to this peticon.

(Signed) HERTFORD (and his seal).

1654.—To ye Honble the Justices of the Bench.

The humble Peticon of Jeremiah Mallard of the pish of Melksham Sheweth that yor petitioner hath been in actuall service in ye late Warre as a souldier for the States of this Commonwealth for ye space of eight yeares last past (as by sevall Certificates may appeare) in wch sd service yor honrs peticoner hath received a shott in the legge whereby (& wth lying on ye ground) hee is maimed and disabled to worke for the maintenance of himselfe and family soe that himselfe & his sd family are like (without ye tender compassion of this honble Court) to perish through want.

May itt therefore please this honble Court to comiserate yor petitioners sad Condison and to afford him reliefe according to pvison of Parliament in that case made & pvided as shall seeme meet in yor honrs wisdomes. And (as in duty bound) yor petitioner wth his distressed family shall pray &c.

(Note.—The Court allowed £3 6s. 8d. from the treasurer of “maimed souldiers of the north pte (of the County) to begin from this Sessions”.)

1654.—Theis are to Certifie to all whom it May concerne that the Bearer hereoff Jeremiah Mallard hath served as a Soldier in my Regiment for the space of foure yeares or thereabouts & allwayes behaved himself as a faithfull Soldyer (accordinge to a former certificat Given by my Lieutnt Collonell Waldive Lazo in that behalfe) who being (by reason of wound and other Infirmityes) of body made unable to Gett a lawfull & competent livelyhood for himselfe and family, these may desire the Justices of the peace of this County where he is Resident or such others as are concerned therein to afford the Sayd Jeremy Mallard such relief as they shall Judge proportionable to his necessities & wants According to former provizion of parliamt in that behalfe to which I subscribe my hand this 30th of May 1654.

(Signed) THO. PRIDE.

To all whom
this may Concerne.

1654.—Having pused divers Certificates on the behalfe of the bearer hereof Thomas Hart I thought fitt to Certify that I beleeve the sayd Certificates to be very true and therefore friendly desire hee may have all Lawfull favourable furtherance towards the regaining of his Pension in the Countye of Wiltes, which (as hee informs mee) hee hath by order formerly received, and is at present detained from him.

(Signed) FFH : SKIPPON.

Blackfryars 6
June 1654.

1654.—These are to Certifie unto all whom it may Concerne That the Bearer hereof Thomas Hart was a Soldier under my Comand in the Regiment of Sir John Merrick I being then Maior and in the Army commaunded by his Excellency the Earle of Essex and was enlisted a Soldier in the service aforesaid at Wotten Basset in the County of Wilts in which service he was dangerously wounded. Given under my hand at Westminster this 30th day of May 1654.

(Signed) WILLIAM HERBERT

Captain.

(Note.—Hart was allowed £3 6s. 8d. from the treasurer of the South part (of the County) “to begin emediatly”.)

1654.—Novem 1^o 1653.

Upon the desire of the ffreeholders and Inhabitants of Ashton Keynes I doe give my full consent that the Cottadge lately erected

by Roger Ward upon my wast there may be continued an House for him and his family to dwell in.

(Signed) J. EVELYN.

Note at foot : " Granted dureinge his life ".

(Note.—Sir John Evelyn was Lord of the Manor of Ashton Keynes.)

1654.—Being satisfied that the Bearer hereof of Thomas Hart was maimed in ye Parliamts service, I doe accordingly Certifie the same Desireing the Justices of peace for the County of Wiltes to allow unto him a competent weekly pencon according to the late Act, 24th of ffebruary 1651.

(Signed) O. CROMWELL.

1655.—" Know all men by these presents that I John Davers gent Lord of the Mannor of Bainton and West Coulston in the County of Wiltes doe hereby as much as in me lyeth license and Authorize Christopher Edmonds of Coulston in the said County Laborer to erect and build a Cottage or house for his habitation, in West Coulston parcell of my said Mannor, Soe as the said Christopher Edmonds shall procure the order of the Justices of the peace att their generall quarter Sessions to be holden for the said County for confirmation thereof according to the Statute inabling them thereunto. It witnes whereoff I the said John Davers have hereunto sett my hands and seale the 27th day of September 1655 ".

(Signed) JOHN DAVERS.

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of
Henry Danvers
Jer: Yates.

1655.—To the right worshipfull the Justices of the Peace assembled at the general quarter Sessions holden at Marleborough the second of October 1655.

The humble petition of Christopher Edmonds of Coulston in the County of Wilts Laborer.

Humbly sheweth that your petitioner having a wife and children whose only subsistence depends upon his health & labor, wch he cannot so well employ for their maintenance for want of a convenient habitation. And whereas your petitioner hath obtained the favour and licence of Mr. John Davers Lord of the Mannor of Bainton and West Coulston to build and erect a small Cottage within his said mannor so as your petitioner may have your worships approbation to confirme the same as by warrant under his hand and seale hereunto annexed may appeare.

May it please your Worships to grant unto your petitioner the order of the Court of Quarter Sessions for erecting the said cottage. And your petitioner as in duty bound shall pray &c. (allowed).

1655.—OLIVER P.

By his Highnesse the Lord Protector.

Being satisfied that Captaine William Bourden died in the Parliamt service in Ireland & that he left behind him a Wife and many children in a very poore condicon and his Wife much in debt & that he first tooke up Armes in the County of Wilts. It is our Will and pleasure and We doe hereby order that the (Bayliffs—ruled out) Justices of the Peace for the County of Wilts Doe allow unto the Widow of the said Captaine Bourdon a Competent Pension for the maintenance of her selfe and Children.

Given att White Hall the fourth day of July 1655.

(Note by the Court).

Allowed 5 £ from the Ther : of maymed souldiers for the north pt out of the surplusage of his accompt, and in Easter Sess next the Court will further consider thereof.

Easter Sess : allowed 5 £ quarterly.

1655.—These are to certifie whom it may concerne that the bearer hereof Willm West of Wanborow in the County of Wilts served under the command of Captaine Willim ffrancklin in the Regimt of Coll. fines. And in that service received a dangerous wound insoemuch that there was litle ppability of life, but it pleased God to pserve his life, but utterly unable to labor, thereby to pserve his family from perishing haveing nothing left now to support himselfe, by reason of his greate expences in the curing of the said wound received, doe crave this my certificate to wch I have subscribed my name this eight & twentieth day of October 1654.

(Signed) HENRY COWSSEY. Leuit.

(Allowed 40s. yerely to be pd quarterly from the Ther : of the north to begine at Midsomer next.)

1655.—To ye Right honble Generall Desborrough.

The humble peticon of Anthony Baker of ye Citty of new Sarum.

SHEWETH. That yor poore Peticoner hath been severall yeares in ye Service of ye Comonwealth & yt when ye late Insurrecon & Rebellion was in this County yor peticoner being listed as a soldier for suppressing ye same did through ye wise pvidence of god fall from his horse beeing unrully & in ye fall Broke his

legg to ye gt damage & miserie of yor petitioner—being a poore man, & having charge of a wife & Children.

Yor petitioner humbly desireth yor honor, ye premises considered to comisserate his condition & to find out a speedy course as to yor honor shall seeme meet for ye supply & releife of yor petitioner in regard to ye extraordinary charge he hath beene putt unto by reason of ye said fall.

And yor petnor shall humbly pray &c.

(Then follows an addition by Generall Desborough).

“ I desire that you would at yor next Genll sessions consider this pettion & the petioner according to his condition & therby you will oblige yor servant ”.

(Signed) JOHN DISBROWE.

(Baker was allowed 40/-).

1656.—These are to certifie whome it may concerne that I Lady Anne Beauchamp do give my consent with my Tennants and freeholders of my Mannor of Broad Towne and Thornhill that John Hancock of the same place shall have a bottom for a house upon some convenient place of my said Mannor: in Testimony where of I have here unto sett my hand and Seale this fifteenth day of Aprill 1656.

(Signed) ANNE BEAUCHAMP.

1656.—Amongst the paper of the file for 1656 is an interesting vagrant's pass. It is printed in black letters with blank spaces for the name, destination, date, etc., to be filled in as required. The pass is headed with a shield enclosed in a square border. The shield is divided into four sections and in the top left hand is a dagger. The wording of the pass is as follows, the words in *italic* being those filled in :—

By the Maior.

Whereas *Mihill Lurn* is desirous to travell to *Lugwell* in the County of *Cornnell* These are therefore to request you and every one of you to whom it may appertain, to suffer the said *Mihill Lurne being sike* to travell to the p^lce aforesaid relieving *him* with your Charity, if you shall find cause *hee* keeping the direct way thither, using *him* selfe well and honestly, not staying in his journey above the space of 49 dayes next after the date hereof. Dated at London, this 24 day of *July* in the year of our Lord 1656.

(Signed) JNO DETHICK Maior.

Richard head constebell of egham.

This pass is signed by the various Constables and officers of the places through which *Mihill* passed, thus :—

past by me John Take head boro of Old Branforth.

past by me Constable of New Branford.

Past by me John Heritage Constable of Hownslow this 26th of July 1656.

past by mee John Siddell hed borow of Bedfound.

There are several more signatures, the last three entries being :—

past by me John Smith Worthing.

past by me Joseph Haslett tithingman of Whitchurch July 31st 1656.

past through Salesbury the 4th August 1656.

Wm. Stone Maior.

Here, however, Mihill was arrested for stealing a coat and his wanderings ceased for a while.



1657.—To the right Honble the Lord Bradshawe Lord of the Manor of ffonthill Gifford in Wilts.

The humble Certificate & Desire of his Lorpp tenants of the said manor in relacon to Mathew Cartwright.

Hombly shewing that we whose names are subscribed his Lorpps tents doe conceave that a fitt place may be assigned without pjudice upon the wast of the said Manor for erecting of a cottage for the sd Matthew. And doe humbly desire that his Lorpp willbe pleased to condiscend thereunto by some note under his Lorpps hand & seale whereby the Court of Sessions may be moved therein for their order for allowance and confirmacon thereof wch is the humble peticon of his Lorpps tents subscribing their names 13th April 1657.

This is signed by

ROBERT HAYSHAM,
ANTONI GUNNER,

and eight others. Below is the approval of Lord Bradshaw in these words :—

2^o June 1657.

I give my consent hereto : Wytnes my hand & seale.

(Signed) JO. BRADSHAWE.



1660.—CHARLES R.

Trusty and welbeloved We greeete you well. Being justly affected with the sad condition to which this poore Widdow Mary Thorp is reduced by the losse of her husband (who suffered Death for his affecon to Us) and with him the Place of Keeping the Worke-house at Fisherton Anger in Our County of Wilts which was the sole maintenance for her selfe and Six Children, We have thought our Selfe engaged to recommend her condition as an object of Charity to you, & to intimate Our desire, that she may have the said Place of Keeper of the said Workehouse conferred on her during her Life she giving such security as is usuall, which We assure you We shall take in very good part, & as a marke of your Duty to Us, And soe We bid you farewell.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the 13th day of July in the twelwe yeare of Our Reigne 1660.

By his Maties Comand

(Signed) EDW. NICHOLAS.

The above is addressed: "To Our trusty & welbeloved the Justices of the Peace in Our County of Wilts" and is impressed with the Royal seal.

1661.—To the Right Worpll his Maties Justices of the Peace att the Gennerall Quarter Sessions held att the Devises.

The Humble petition of Henry Passion of Westbury ly in this County

Sheweth That your poore petitioner was a Soldier to his late Matie of ever Blessed Memory & under the Comand of Sr Henry Coker, Coll, and by which meanes your petitioner have benn undone by the sickness he tooke lieing in the fields & the missery & inprisonment yt hee hath since received to the utter undoeing of your poore petitioner his wife & fower smale Children. May itt please therefore your Worpps to grant him some reliefe by way of a Pention & your Pettitioner shall bee ever bound to pray for your Worships

healths & prosperity.

The Berrer herof whome ye Contents above concerns was under my Comand in his late Maties servis of ever Blessed Memory.

Tsto my hand & seale

(Signed) HENRY COKER. 1661.

THO. MOMPESSON.

(He was granted 40s pencon p ann.)

1662.—Whereas I am crediably informed that Roger Cutter of Westbury in this County is a Sedicious Sectary, a Speaker in unlawfull Assembly drawing Together a Multitude of people from Severall partes Contrary to the law & peace of this Kingdome for which there is Complaint made unto mee. These are therefore in his Maties name to require you Yt immeadiatly one Sight hereof you bring the said Roger Cutter before mee or some other Justice of peace for this County to Answer the premisses. And if need require to find Sureties for his psonall appearance Att the next Generall Quarter Sessions to bee held for this County: hereof you are not to faile as you will Answer the Contrary att your perills. Given under my hand & seale this 14th of October 1662.

(Signed) HENRY COKER.

To the Constable
of the Hundred of Westbury
These.

1664.—These are to Certifie all whome it doth or may concerne that Nickolas Rogers of Tisbury in the County of Wiltes was a soldier in my Troope of horse being of Sir Lewis Pines Regiment and therein served faithfully and behaved himselfe valient And hath soe farr as I know or believe continued his loyalltie to his Sovereigne Lord the Kinge shewing his willingness to engage upon any occasion for his Maties Restauration. This I am bold to testifie under my hand and seale the 24th of July An Dmi 1663.

(Signed) SAM FFITZHERBERT.

1664.—Gentlemen

The Bearer Capt William Grove having bin alwayes very active in the service of his Maty of blessed memorie and his Maty that now is in order to his happy restauration wch is nott unknowne to divers Gentlemen of yor County, butt being weakened in his body & wholly ruined in his Estate, and by reason of age unable to doe any thinge for a livelihood, I make bold to recommend him to yor favour (seeing hee went first out of yor Shire into his Mats Service) and desire you will please to afford him a competent pension during his life as you are inabled by Act of Parliament, By which meanes you may preserve him from starving and I shall take itt as a Respect done to

Yor very assured friend & servant

(Signed) ALBAMARLE.

Cock-pitt 26 May

1664.

(This is a letter from Monck The Duke of Albemarle.)

1665.—(Note.—The following is much stained by damp at the edges, consequently some words are unreadable.)

His Matie being informed by many of the Receivers of his Revenu of Hearth money, of many obstacles they finde in their receiving and collecting the same particularly in these cases annexed, hath by advice of Counsell learned in the law, had the same resolved Nevertheless wth this Intention that this determination a rule only to his owne officers, to require and levy the same (for if any other person find himselfe agreived he left to the law.) And this course he conceived himselfe necessitated to, because he hath reason to observe such compliance in many of the Justices of Peace with that upon any pretence soever dispute this duty if hee permit them to be Chancellors of the paymt hee conceives it will soone be reduced to very little. Many of (them) by private Certificates to gratify their Neighbours of the duty, wch from the Bench they had before Certified as due into the Exchequor. Herewith his Maty has greate reason

to be dissatisfied and beleeveth such men little consider How by diminishing his Re(ceipts) which is cheifly employed for support of the publick . . . draw upon themselves and their Counties in general a necessity to raise another. And therefore he hath comanded us to signify thus much to the Justices in generall at the Sessions and to require every person there on whome he hath bestowed that publick Character to be as forward to observe the true Intention of the Act (which he would not extend beyond the true meaning of it) as they are to appear favourable to their Neighbors and thus at his price to affect popularity. And therefore he requires that noe Certificate of one or more Justices be allowed exemption of any duty agt the record the whole Bench hath sent up to the Excheqr. But if that there be (as there may be occasion) any exemption made contrary thereunto it be done & determined in the same place And if the Ministers and Church Wardens shall be found willfully to have made undue Certificates, then to discountenance the same and if it be continued and practiced to bind the offenders to their good Behaviour for their misdemeanor and disservice to his Maty And upon these grounds to recomend to the whole Bench to be soe careful in their whole proceedings in this Branch of his Revenues that his officers (who have directions to demeane themselves justly and prudintly in the management of this affaire) may receive noe discontent or discouragemt from them whose duty it is to emprove the same, And though his Maty will not resolve whether the Constables by the last Act (who certainly were by the first) are obliged to assist the Receivors (who were then the Sheriffs) in collecting the same Yet finding there Sallary is yet continued he thinks the Bench might reasonably direct them thereunto since it is visible that the neglect hereof may soone weare out his Matys officers, who else must attend at every house an houre before he be payed. And how many officers this way must make a necessity of, and how much it must increase the charge and trouble of those who pay it, every one that is not ill affected may soone perceive.

And therefore upon the whole matter his Maty requires the severall Justices to be considerative hereof and to give him (by us) such an account of these proceedings in the future, as the ill consequences that hitherto have attended this business may not still remaine And soe bidding you heartily farewell wee rest

Yor very loving freinds

(Signed) T. SOUTHAMPTON.
ASHLEY.

Oxford November
ye last 1665.

After our very hearty Comendations: His Matie & this Board haveing received frequent Information: That notwithstanding his Mats proclamation & the Care & endeavours of his Ministers & Judges to suppress the growth of popery according to the desires of both Houses of Parliament in that behalfe yet many popish

priests are as active as ever, to seduce his Mats good Subjects & to perswade them to imbrace the Romish Religion, and therein have the help & encouragement of many of that perswasion; who though obnoxious to Law have of late behaved themselves very bouldly and insolently. For prevention of which growing mischief & for the preservation of the true protestant Religion: His Matie hath commanded us to signify unto you his express pleasure & Command: That you, in your respective Divisions do use yor utmost endeavours to apprehend all popish priests & Jesuites that endeavour to seduce and pervert his Mats subjects. And that if any shall by them seduced & perverted to become papists, you do strictly examine the persons led away to the Roman Religion: And make further diligent Inquiry who have been the Instruments & means in their Seducement & perversion, whether priests or others according to the directions of his Mats said proclamation: And that you proceed against them according to the Lawes established: And that farther you cause the Lawes against the growth of Popery & Popish Recusants, & for their Conviction to be putt in due & full Execution: So not doubting of you care heerin, It conducing so much to the peace & Safety of his Mats Government. Wee bid your heartily ffarewell: ffrom the Court at Whitehall the 13th day of September 1667.

Yor very loveing freinds

(Signed) GILB: Cant.

ALBEMARLE.

ORL BRIDGEMAYE.

ANGLESEY.

LAUDERDELL.

OSSORY.

CRAVEN.

MIDDLETON.

ARLINGTON.

FITZHARDING.

WILL MORICE.

ASHLEY.

T. CLIFFORD.

W. COVENTRYE.

J. BRIDGWATER.

and one other undecipherable.

Address "To our very loving ffriends ye Justices of Peace of the County of Wilts nearest to ye Post Stage. To be communicated to ye rest of ye Justices of Peace at the next Quarter Sessions".

This bears the impressed seal of the Privy Council—a rose surmounted by a crown and a lion on the left and unicorn on the right.

Beneath are the words " Sigill. Privi. Co. ", and the whole surrounded by a wreath of leaves.

1667.—After our hearty Comendacons. There are soe many complaints made unto us from the ffarmors and their officers of his Majts Duty of the ffire hearths of such abuses and Riotts and Tumultous and unlawfull Actings of Severall Persons in the severall Townes and places in denying the due payment of that Duty, in freeing distress taken, in Constables backwardness to assist and in others raising the Populacy, not onely wth Clamoure but violence to fall upon the Officers and in findeing little or noe Countenance from those in Authority, That wee are almost at a stand to consider how such things can be acted under a quiett and Setled Government Or how psons intrusted wth any part of it can thinck their owne concernes will bee long quiett, when his Majts Revenue settled by Lawe cannot peaceably be collected, especially in this age, when too lately under the Covert of such disorders it may bee soe well remembered there grew upp ffactions which overturned all that was settled. Wee are sensible likewise what Recriminacons and Retorts are made upon the carriage of those officers. How it is alleadged they indeavor to Levy that which is not due or which hath beene formerly payd. How they refuse to comply wth those certificates wch according to the Act Exempt poore persons, and of their Violence in their manner of Levying that Duty, To the end therefore that his Majts Revenue may bee justly peaceably and orderly collected in the future, and that noe appearances may bee, that wee his Majts Superior Officers of his Revenue give any Countenance to any undue proceedings of those that Execute the same in this behalte, Now that you whoe are of best Authority in the County bee represented (as too frequently wee finde it) as not Equally concerned towards his Majts Interest, wee have resolvedly designed this letter to bee delivered unto you at ye next Quarter Sessions because it will meete you altogether, and be made use of afterwards in yor severall Divisions, Our intencions being freely and freindly to pray from you such a Communicacon and Correspondence in this business as may at last produce (if it cannot at once) a redresse of those Complaints on either side before menconed. And therefore in the first place Wee recomend to you to consider that this being Legall Duty & Revenewe granted to his Majty (whoe hath the charge and burthen of the Government upon him) it redounds to publique advantage that it bee justly payd and duely payd. Having thus freely introduced what wee intend, vizt That the Duty shold bee justly payd and the Subject not deprived of any benefit given him by the Lawes now extended against him further then the Scope of the Lawe, And that you might understand what in Duty to his

Majesty wee thinck may bee expected from you In the ffirst place, Wee recomend to yor Consideracons that the Duty ought to bee payd by all persons but those whoe by reason of poverty or smallnes of Estate are Exempted from the usuall taxes payed and Contribucons towards Church & poore and whose howses are not of greater vallue to be lett then 20s. p ann. Nor doe themselves nor any other using such howse or messuage occupye and Lands or Tenements of their owne or others of the yearely vallue of 20s, Nor have Lands Tenements goods or Chattels of the vallue of 10^l in their owne possession or in the possession of any one in trust for them. Wherefore wee thinck it verry necessary that when any Certificate is given it plainely and distinctly mencon these causes and bee signed and allowed by two Justices of the Peace To the End that his Majts Officers ffarmors and their Agents may forbear Levyeing the Duty upon any pson in whose behalfe any such Certificate is made forth which wee have given them possitive direcons in untill first by applicacon unto yor Selves (wherein wee desire you to give them free accesse and a faire and full heareing) they shall make it appeare the persons in whose behalfe the Certificate was granted ought to pay the Duty and stands not qualified as was Certified. And that you yor selves at yor Quarter Sessions doe thereupon Revoke the same. And we thinck fitt to informe you further that all Blowing howsees and Stamp ffurnaces for melting downe of Mettell from the Oare, All Kilnes private ovens private Stills and all other necessary and usefull accomodacons for heateing meate and Sawces, bee not pretended unto or reconed amongst the ffire harth chargeable ffor that wee believe they were not intended to bee charged by the Act. In point of ffact this is denied unto us that there hath beene any such practise yet by the imprudence of some pticular officers there there may have beene such instances which may have raised A Generall Jealousy of a Generall practise. Wee have ordered the Collectors to keepe a steady time in coming to collect the Duty and to give notice at first thereof unto Each Towne by setting upp some Plackart or Bill that may Expresse the appointed tyme and soe in some Markett Towne to informe those of that hundred, which as wee require them to observe in relacon to the peoples case soe wee pray you direct them to observe for the ready dispatch of the Officers. Wee have alsoe ordered Sr Richard Piggott Knt, Serient Trott and Humphrey Beane Esqrs the ffarmors of his Majty sayd renew to take care that the names of all officers already employed or that shall hereafter bee employed under them in the Colleccon of the sayd duty shall bee given in to the Clerke of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions held for that County or place where such person or persons are or shal be employed That soe the Countrye may not Stand in Doubt of his or their lawfull Authority. Stopping upp of Chimneyes wee thinck rather to proceede from a dissaffecon then a burthen, and of

a Liberty thereof was intended, which neither by the first nor Second Act was soe much as menconed, and in the last is, wth a penalty on those who did it fraudently We believe tyme will cure it. Wee have likewise given direccons that noe person bee returned into the Exchequer where any distresse can bee taken, and have alsoe provided that noe officer shall conceale any sume of money by him recd for any ffire hawths or Stoves appearing upon his veiwe which before tyme were not answered for, or since the last returne have beene increased, But shall Certifye the same within six months from the date hereof and before hee levy it a Second tyme; bring a note from the Clerke of the Peace that hee hath soe done that soe such ffire harths or Stoves may be Registred in his Majty Cort of Exchqr accordingly. There are many other smaller ways practised by interpreting the Letter of the Lawe to evade the true sence of it As when a person leaves his howse before a feast day or after and before the Duty bee discharged, whether the next occupyer shall bee lyable unto it, As likewise that men may bee disabused from thinking that upon the comeing of a Lawfull officer (accompanied according to the Act) to pforme his Duty, their shutting or refusing to open their doores deprives the officer of the power of forcing his Entry (which were to render the Act uselesse) These wee thinck soe plaine as wee doe but mencon them and pray you to discountenance all such Evasions and Elusions of the Law. Lastly wee shall recomend one further consideracon to you that you discountenance that opinion that distinguishes the Duty of his Majtys Lands and in a ffarmors, ffor if the ffarmors Execute the Same suitable to the Law (which wee shall ever hold them unto) it is really as if the ffarmor were imediately in the Kings hands, Since they imediately hold from him Cureing men of such populer Errors as this contribute much to the orderly paymt of the Duty and the publike peace And when ever the Duty can be settled as his Majty may receive the true advantage thereof in his owne hands 'tis verry probable hee will not put it into others. And soe remitting all to yor good affeccons and wisdomes wee desire you to meete us in the Care wee have of this Revenew. And that by the Duty you owe the King and the Lawe you would indeavor to disapoint those whoe being disaffected with the peace of the nacon and Government seeke an occasion hereby to disturbe both Wch wee are assured his Majty will graciously receive from you. And wee from tyme to tyme shall Corrspond wth you therein as becomes us in our places. Whoe are

Yor verry loveing freinds

(Signed) ALBEMARLE.

T. CLIFFORD.

W. COVENTRYE.

J. DUNCOMBE.

Whitehall Treary
Chamber June
27th 1667.

The above is addressed

“ To our very loving friends his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Wilts ”.



1670.—Upon the Peticon of Richard Gray of the Pish of Semley in the County of Wilts husbandman and the certificate of sevall of the Inhabitants of the pish aforesaid I doe give my consent (being Lord of the Mannor of Semley aforesaid) yt ye said Gray shall or may erect and sett upp a Cottage on the place in the Certificate menconed within the pish aforesaid Provided an Order of Sess bee pcured according to Lawe for the Confirmacon thereof. Witnes my hand and seale this 15th Day of September Anno Dmi 1670.

(Signed) J. ARUNDELL.

JO. BENNETT.

Lyberty to errect and to continew dureinge life.

(Note.—Bennett was Steward to Lord Arundell. The Certificate mentioned above is attached, and is signed by seventeen of the parishioners.)



1670.—These are to Certifie all those whom it may concerne That John England of Alderbury in the County of Wilts husbandman hath during all the Late Troubles served his Late Matie of blessed memory as a Souldier in Corf Castle in the County of Dorset under my comand. In wch service he hath received an hurt in his Arme whereby he is disabled to get his living. Witnes our hands this 11th day of January Anno 1665.

(Signed) ROBERT LAWRENCE.

New Renton.

The contents of this Certificate I knowe to be a truth beinge for some time in yt Garrison where ye sayd Jo. England did serve and alsoe receive his hurte. Witnesse my hand and seale.

(Signed) WILLIAM WAKE.



1673.—Gentlemen.

I haveinge perused some Instruccions of ye Lord Chauncellor Directed to ye Sheriffe of ye County to bee communicated unto you, concerninge ye Adiornmt of ye next Generall Quarter Sessions which will bee holden at Warmister, to such places and dayes as shall bee thought most Convenient as well for ye ease of ye County as for ye most effectuall speedinge ye Concerne of Administeringe such Oaths wch Officers and others are obliged by a late Act of Parliament to take. I therefore doe iudge it most requisite & meete & soe make it my request That after ye Common businesse of ye Sessions bee ended att Warmister & such other duties wch must bee

there performed for that Devisiō accordinge to ye said Act. You
 imediately Adiorne from thence to ye City of New Sarum and from
 thence to such other place or places as you shall iudge most for ye
 ease of such persons who are obliged to take such oaths.

Yor Very loveinge Freind,

(Signed) PEMBROKE.

Wilton House ye
 10th day of July.

1673.

Note.—A pencil memorandum at the bottom says :—

19th—21th Sarum.

22 & 23th att Marlebro.

24th & 25th att ye Devizes.

26 & 28 att Malmesbury.

One leaf of this letter is damaged, but fortunately it is that on
 which the address is written. It now reads as follows :—

To my very loveing ffreinds ye Justices ye Peace
 for ye County of Wiltes att their Court of ye Generall
 er Sessions of ye Peace holden at Warmister.
 these



1673.—To ye Sheriffe of ye County of Wiltes or to the Clarke
 of ye Peace of the same County to be communicated to ye Justices
 of ye Peace in their severall Divisions.

Whereas by an Act of Parliament made in the Five and
 twentyeth year of His Majesties Reigne that now is intituled.
 An Act for preventing dangers which may happen from Popish
 Recusants such of His Majesties Subjects as are concerned in
 offices, and other Interests mentioned in the said Act, and shall not
 have taken the Oaths of Supremacy and allegiance, and done such
 other things as by the said Act are required in His Majesties High
 Court of Chancery, or in His Majesties Court of Kings Bench,
 before the end of this present Trinity Terme; are required to take
 the said oaths, and do the said things at the Quarter Sessions for
 that County of Place where they shall respectively reside, or be,
 the twentyeth day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand
 six hundred and seventy three on or before the first of August in
 the said year, in such manner as the said Act requireth. It is
 conceived necessary upon Advice taken with all the Judges, for
 that the usual time of continuing the Quarter Sessions in the re-
 spective Counties and Places of the Kingdome, will not suffice to
 secure as aforesaid all persons who will be concerned in the
 Penalties in the said Act to the great damage of many faultless
 persons. That therefore the Justices of the Peace of the said re-
 spective Counties and Places of the Kingdome, should continue by
 adjournments from day to day or from place to place as they shall
 see occasion, the Quarter Sessions to be holden for the said re-
 spective Counties and Places, until the said first day of August

inclusively, that thereby His Majesties Subjects, as far as can be provided, may be enabled to Conforme themselves according unto the said Act for their respective Indemnities.

(Signed) C. SHAFTESBURY.

Exeter House this 4th day
of June 1673.

1674.—To our very good Lord William Earle of Pembroke & Mountgomery Custos Rotulorum for the County of Wilts and to be communicated to his Mats Justices of the Peace of the Said County. free franck.

After our very hearty Commendations to yor Lordsp. His Maty haveing been Informed that notwithstanding his former Orders and Proclamations requiring Jesuites Seminary Preists & others that have taken orders from the Church and Sea of Rome and have not since been reconciled to the Church of England and so continued to departe the Kingdome, Yet that such Priest & Jesuites continue and harbor themselves in the City of London and Suburbs thereof and likewise in other parts of this Kingdome to the manifest Contempt of his Mats Royall Authority and the Laws and Religion Established. His Maty being highly sensible thereof and that notwithstanding such Informations and Complaints, few or none have been Discovered or Apprehended. His Maty thereupon of his pious Care for the Preservation of the Protestant Religion & for prevention of the Endeavours of such Priests and Jesuites who seduce his good subjects from the same. Hath resolved that so many of such Preists as can be found shall be speedily sent away and Transported into the parts beyond the Seas and to that end hath given Us in strict Charge and command to require you and every of you at the next Quarter Sessions to be held in the County of Wilts, And we do accordingly hereby require Command you and every of you to use your utmost endeavours to Discover and Apprehend such Person or Persons as (you) either know or be informed is or are Preists or Jesuites who receive orders from the Church or Sea of Rome as aforesaid And that you cause them and evry of them to be sent up hither to be brought before the Lords of his Mats Privy Councill or one of the principle Secretaries of State, Who are Comit them to safe Custody . . . their transportation And that such Discovery . . . better encouraged and more effectually pursued . . . Order unto the Lord High Treasurer of England . . . payment to be made unto every Person who shall . . . of any Preist or Jesuite of the Summe of Five Pounds . . . or Jesuite so Discovered who shall be there upon apprehended and sent up in order to be Transported beyond the Seas. And moreover the Charge of sending them up hither shall be borne by the Sheriffs of the Countye through which they are to passe, and be againe allowed them upon their accompts to the Exchequer. So not doubting of your utmost Care and diligence in obeying these be Maties just and necessary Comands, Wee bid

your Lordsp very heartily Farewell, From the Court at Hampton Court the Third day of June 1674.

Yor Lordsp Very Loveing Freinds

(Signed) ANGLESEY.
FINCH.
OXFORD.
NORTHAMPTON.
J. BRIDGWATER.
CRAVEN.
CARBERY.
NEWPORT.
W. MAYNARD.
W. WALKER.

(Note.—The edges of this Order from the Privy Council are damaged by damp and some few words are unreadable.)

1687.—Sepr ye 29th 1687.

Whereas Edmund Haggard Laborer the sonne of Richard Haggard late of Coate wth in ye parish of Lyddington hath a wife & a greate charge of Children and nothing but ye labour of himsele & Wife to maintaine them, and hee being destitute of any house and not able to pay rent if hee could bee accomodated wth one, wth in the Tytheing or parish of his nativitie, upon these consideracons I have thought fitt (upon his application to mee) to consent & give leave to his setting up a house upon some part of the Wast wth in my sd mannor in case he can procure the allowance of ye Court of Quarter Sessions for his doeing thereof, and in Testimony of this my consent I have hereuto set my hand and seale the day & yeare above written.

(Signed) J. TALBOT.
(Sir John Talbot.)

1688.—Mr. Constable.

I understand by this bearer Thomas Clifford lately of Calne but living now in Laicoock that he hath bin malitiously indited for selling ale without licence, whereby you will find that he hath a licence pcedent to the enditement under the hands and seales of Mr. Fitzherbert and myself. I desire you therefore to favour the poore man in taking off the inditemt wth as little expence to him as may be.

I rest

Yr freind and Servant

(Signed) G. TALBOT.

Laicoock July 10. '88.

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