

Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts
Reports on Bridgwater Borough archives, 1870 & 1873
By Henry Thomas Riley

EDITORIAL NOTE: Digitised versions of the Royal Commission's first (1870) and third (1873) reports are on the Hathi Trust website. The following text was extracted using the site's Optical Character Recognition facility.

The 15th Report of the Royal Commission (1899) details all the collections surveyed. The following list of Somerset municipal collections has been extract from it:

Record collection	1870	1873
Axbridge Corporation.		p 300
Bridgwater Corporation	p 99	p 310
Cheddar Parish.		p 329
County Records.		p 333
Glastonbury Town.	p 102	
Wells Corporation	p 106	p 350

The reports were printed in folio volumes, closely typeset, so hard to follow. In this edition they have been re-formatted to assist legibility. A number were dated by regnal years, beginning at the start of a monarch's reign, so the true years have been added here. Some 160 documents are described and a number are fully transcribed.

As will be seen, the chest storing the documents was remarked upon in the Reports. It is now an exhibit at the Blake Museum, Bridgwater.



The Corporation Chest
 Blake Museum Collection
 Photograph Mike Searle.

The Bridgwater historian T. Bruce Dilkes (1866-1949) devoted many years to studying and transcribing the documents, and at the time of his death had completed them to the end the reign of Elizabeth I, 1603 ¹ They were partially published

by the Somerset Record Society, and 1072 documents were included

Bridgwater Borough Archives Vols I to IV

Also published as Somerset Record Society

1200-1377 Vol 48 1933

1377-1400 Vol 53 1938

1400-1445 Vol 58 1943

1445-1468 Vol 60 1945

1468-1485 Vol 70 1971 posthumously

The latter was edited by Dr R. W. Dunning, FSA and T. G. Tremlett, FSA, who was also Dilkes's literary executor.

The fate of the transcriptions between 1485 and 1603 is being investigated.

The introductions to the published volumes are a valuable study of the development of the medieval town.

1) *Bridgwater Borough Archives*, 1468-1485 Vol 70 1971, vii, (Preface).

Digitised version edited by Tony Woolrich.
 27/07/2019

The Reporter

Henry Thomas Riley (1816–1878) was an English translator, lexicographer, and antiquary.

Life

Born in June 1816, he was the only son of Henry Riley of Southwark, an ironmonger. He was educated at Chatham House, Ramsgate, and at Charterhouse School (1832–4). He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, but at the end of his first term migrated to Clare College where he was admitted on 17 December 1834, and elected a scholar on 24 January 1835. In 1838 he obtained a Latin essay prize. He graduated B.A. in 1840 and M.A. in 1859, after which he moved to Corpus Christi College. On 16 June 1870 he was incorporated at Exeter College, Oxford.

Riley was called to the bar at the Inner Temple on 23 November 1847, but early in life he began hack work for booksellers to make a living, by editing and translation. On the creation of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (by royal charter in April 1869), Riley was engaged as an additional inspector for England, and given the

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task of examining the archives of various municipal corporations, the muniments of the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, and the documents in the registries of various bishops and chapters.

Riley died at Hainault House, the Crescent, Selhurst, Croydon, on 14 April 1878.

Works

For Bohn's Classical Library, Riley translated: the complete works of Ovid (the *Metamorphoses*, 1851, the *Fasti*, *Tristia*, &c., 1851, and the *Heroides*, 1852); the comedies of Plautus (1852, 2 vols.); the *Pharsalia* of Lucan (1853); the comedies of Terence and the fables of Phædrus (1853); (with John Bostock) the *Natural History* of Pliny the elder (1855–7, 6 vols.)

His *Dictionary of Latin Quotations* (1856 and 1860), was included in the same series. For Bohn's Antiquarian Library he translated the *Annals of Roger de Hoveden* (1853, 2 vols.) and Ingulph's *Chronicle of the Abbey of Croyland* (1854).

For the 'Chronicles and Memorials' series of the Master of the Rolls, Riley edited the *Munimenta Gildhallæ Londoniensis*, including the *Liber Albus* (1859), the *Liber Custumarum* (1860, in two parts), with a translation of the Anglo-Norman passages, and a glossary (1862); the *Chronica Monasterii S. Albani*, comprising the *Annals* of John Amundesham (1870 and 1871, 2 vols.); and a further set of the chronicles of St. Albans, in eleven volumes, including the works of Thomas Walsingham, John of Trokelowe, Henry of Blandford, and William Rishanger, and the register of John Wethamsted.

Riley translated for the corporation of the city of London the *Liber Albus* (1861) and the *Chronicles of the Mayors and Sheriffs of London*, (1188–1274), from the Latin and Anglo-Norman of Arnald Fitz-Thedmar; with the French *Chronicle of London*, (1259–1343), from the *Chroniques de London* (1863). He also published in 1868 a volume entitled *Memorials of London* and *London Life*, a series of *Extracts* from the City Archives, (1276–1419).

Riley wrote in the *Athenæum*, the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and the *Archæological Journal*. He contributed to the eighth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

From Wikipedia. WP:CC BY-SA

FIRST REPORT, 1870 Appendix, p 99

THE CORPORATION OF BRIDGWATER

The various documents are described in the order in which they were shown to me by Mr. Alderman Nicholls, and Mr. Knight, the Treasurer of the Corporation.

Water Bailiffs' Accounts; being statements of moneys received at the quay on goods imported or exported. These are given in numerous paper volumes, in thin pamphlet form, one for each year; the earliest belonging, so far as I could discover, to the 19th Henry 6, or A.D. 1441. One peculiarity attached to them is that, in many instances, the accounts of the latter half of the 16th century are bound, or rather enclosed, in parchment covers, or vellum, made from the leaves of Missals and Service-Books of the 14th century, and, perhaps, of an earlier date. In some instances the musical notation of the hymns and anthems, forming part of the various services, is given in full upon these fragments. Another cover again is made from a MS., containing a Latin and Greek dictionary, the Greek words being expressed in Latin letters. Copies of the *Pandects*, or similar compilations, seem also to have been made available for the like purpose. It is not improbable that these fragments may have been supplied by the dispersion of the library of Glastonbury Abbey at the Dissolution. I have ventured to express a hope to the Corporation that the whole of these fragments, several of which are elaborately illuminated, may be collected together, and bound up in a volume; their place being supplied with covers of modern parchment.

Churchwardens' Accounts of the Church of St. Mary at Bridgwater.—The membranes, containing these documents, are many in number, each containing the account of receipts and expenditure for a single year. The earliest that could be found, belongs to the 42nd year of Edward 3, A.D. 1368-9, followed by those of the 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, and 48th years of the same reign [1369/70 to 1314/17] ; 1st Richard 2, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 17th years of the same reign, [1377/8 to 1493.4] A.D. 1407-8; 2nd, 5th, and 6th Henry 5; [1414/15 to 1418/19] 3rd Henry 6, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 27th, 28th, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, and 35th years of the same reign; [1424/5 to 1456/7] and 3rd, 4th, and 10th years of Edward 4 [1463/4 to

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1470/1]. For the years 1366-7 there is also a separate account, containing matter of considerable interest in reference to the "New Work" of the Church, much of which is probably still to be recognized. The greater part of these Churchwardens' Accounts (some of which, at present missing, may, it is to be hoped, be yet discovered) are written in Latin; some few among them, however, mostly of the reign of Henry 6, are given in English. As samples of the current language of the West of England from four to five centuries ago, and, as throwing light upon the ecclesiastical usages of those times, they appear to me to be of very considerable interest.

The Statute of Labourers, 23rd Edward III.

[1349/50] A parchment scroll; probably a contemporary copy.

Various Rolls of the Accounts of the Common Bailiff, or Bailiff of the Commonalty, from the reign of Richard 2; given in Latin. Many of these Rolls have probably perished, while others possibly may still be discovered. Those which came under my inspection belong to the 20th, 21st, and 23rd years of Richard 2, 19th, 20th, —(a parchment much mutilated), 22nd, 27th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, and 38th of Henry 6, and 6th of Edward 4. Like the Churchwardens' Accounts, they contain matters of considerable interest. I may here remark, as the result of my observation on perusing various documents, that in the time of Edward 1 the town of Bridgwater was apparently ruled by a Reve, or Provost (probably commonly known as the "Portreve"); in the time of Richard 2 and Henry 6 the chief official was known as the Warden, or Common Bailiff, or "Baily." The ascertained list of its Mayors commences in the early part of the reign of Edward 4.

Rolls of the Debts Court, temp. Richard 2, a large collection of documents, fastened together.

Among the miscellaneous documents there are two parchment lists, containing the names of all the streets in Bridgwater, with the inhabitants in each; one, from the writing, belonging apparently to the time of Richard 2, the other to that of Henry 6. In the former, mention is made of the inhabitants of "Pynel Strete," followed by those of "Orloft'e Strete." In a deed of 22nd Richard 2, [1398/9] between John Rudberd and Robert Eyr, of

Wallepylle, mention is made of the latter street as "the Orfaire." In the Church Accounts of the time of Edward 4, it is mentioned as "Orlew Strete." These documents combined will account for the somewhat singular name of "Penel Orlieu Street" at present borne by one of the streets in Bridgwater, which, I am told, has been a subject of curious enquiry among the local antiquaries. Pynel Street (so called probably from its first builder) was continued by the street known (from the occupation, no doubt, of its residents) as the "Orlieu," or "Orfaire," the "Gold Place," or "Goldsmithery." The two streets, in lapse of time, have come to be reckoned as one, which retains the names of both.

Various documents connected with the Hospital of St. John at Bridgwater, at the time of the Dissolution.

The deeds in the possession of the Corporation, from the reign of Henry 3 downwards, in reference to former conveyances of property in the town and neighbourhood, are probably several hundreds in number, and, from a cursory examination of many of them, I am inclined to think that their contents may throw much light upon the former history of the place. In the earlier deeds the town is frequently mentioned as "Brugge Walteri" and "Brigge Walteri," a fact which, in connexion also with the town's arms, a castle standing on a bridge, effectually disposes of the theory that its name is a corruption of "Burgh Walter," or "the Borough of "Walter" de Douay, to whom the place was granted by William the Conqueror. In a deed of the 10th Edward II, [1316/17] executed by Robert de Anesty, called "Le Porter," a man with the singular name of "John "Saledyn" occurs as a witness. In a deed of the 12th Henry VI [1433/4] "William Stabber" is named as a witness. Humfrey, the father of Robert Blake, the celebrated Admiral in the days of the Commonwealth, was Mayor of Bridgwater, and his name occasionally occurs among the miscellaneous documents of a more recent date.

Like Nottingham, Bridgwater is destitute of anything that may be fairly called a volume, as forming part of its ancient records. Having been evidently neglected during many successive generations, its documents are necessarily disarranged, and mutilated in some few instances.

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They do not appear, however, to have suffered much from damp; and the Corporation, I am gratified to say, are about to take steps to ensure their future classification and safe preservation. In fully carrying out their design, more manuscripts may possibly be brought to light than I was enabled to lay hands upon, in the very inconvenient place in which they were lodged at the time of my recent visit. It seems by no means improbable that, among its undiscovered papers, the Corporation may be in possession of documents connected with the unfortunate attempt of the Duke of Monmouth, the defeat of Sedgemoor, and the cruelties exercised upon the inhabitants through the agencies of Jeffreys and Kirke.

I have to thank Mr. Sully, the Mayor, and Mr. J. H. B. Carslake, the Town Clerk of Bridgwater, for the kindness with which they placed every available facility for examining their muniments and records at my disposal. To Mr. Alderman F. H. Nicholls, in particular, my thanks are especially due, for the great interest which he manifested in my enquiries, and the abundant information which his reading and observation enabled him to give me relative to the past history of the town and neighbourhood.

Henry Thomas Riley.

THIRD REPORT, 1873, pp 310-320

Since the date of my Report in 1869 upon the documents of this Corporation, a large quantity of additional deeds and papers have come to light; the fact of their existence having been, in consequence probably of the shortness of the time I was enabled to devote to the examination of them, then overlooked. The deeds bearing reference to transfers of houses and land, ranging between the reigns of Henry III. and Henry VIII., are upwards of a thousand in number. As at Axbridge, they were deposited for safe custody, in all probability, at the office of the Town Clerk. After they had served alike the object of the vendor and the vendee, their existence, in the course of two or three generations, would become forgotten. The following is a selection from these additional documents:—

A roll, about 7 feet in length, containing the “Statute of Labourers,” passed at Westminster in the 23rd year of Edward III., A.D. 1349. It is preceded by an other Statute, in French, the title of which is torn off. The third Statute contained in the roll is entitled, —

Statutum de tempore Domini Regis Ricardi Secundi, ad potestatem [doubtful] custodum pacis pertinens.” Except at the beginning, the roll is in fine condition, and the writing is apparently of the time of Richard II.

A conveyance by John Bucklond, of Westharptree, to John Colford, of a tenement situate without the West Gate of Bridgwater, “by the Cross there”; 35th Henry VIII. [1543/4]

Letter of Attorney of William Atte Stone, perpetual Vicar of Tauntone, empowering John le Hayward to put Richard atte Stone, his brother, in possession of a half burgage at Bridgwater. Dated at Tauntone, 28th Edward III.[1354/5] The seal is in fair condition

Brief, on a small parchment, of Friar Richard, Minister of the House of Motyndone, in the Diocese of Canterbury and Provincial of the Order of the Holy Trinity in England for the ransom of captives in the Holy Land, incarcerated by the Pagans for the Faith of Jesus – Christ; date 1494. By virtue of powers granted to him, all the brethren and sisters of the Order may yearly choose their Confessor to absolve them, in all cases but those reserved for the Apostolic See, and once in their lives from all sins whatsoever, even in cases reserved for the Apostolic See, ecclesiastical sepulture not being denied to such, even in time of Interdict; such privileges having been confirmed by Alexander VI., “Papa modernus,” the present Pope [Roderigo Borgia]. By this document he receives John Davy and Elinor, his wife, into the fraternity. On the back of it are written three forms of Absolution from sin. The “seal of the brotherhood,” with which it was sealed, is lost. The order of Trinitarian Friars was a modified form of the order of Trinitarian Monks, founded by John de Matha and Felix de Valois, about A.D. 1198. Their especial mission was the redemption of captives in the hands of the Pagans in Palestine. .

Bond, executed by William Ffounes, of Brugge-water, marchaunt, and Julio Redengis, “of

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the city of Luxbone [Lisbon], marchaunt," to John Davy, "of Bruggewater, marchaunt;" date 34th Henry VI. [1455/6]. The two small seals attached are in perfect condition.

Conveyance (in English) by John Hamond of Bridgwater to Robert Blake, of a tenement in Estover, at Bridgwater, called "Le Three Crownes," and a barn on the south side of the Weare, between the tenement of John Sydenham, of Brumpton, Esquire, and that of John Popham ; 16th Elizabeth. [1573/4] The seal defaced. The above Robert Blake was the grandfather of the celebrated Admiral of that name.

Conveyance by Sir John Chokke, "knyght for the King's body," to John Pole, of his lands and tenements in Bridgwater, Huntworthy, Heygrove, Welles, and Harptree Gornay, 21st Henry VII. [1505/6] The deed is in fine order, and has a large seal attached. Sir John was probably son of Sir Richard Chokke, the Judge, who is mentioned more than once in the Report upon Axbridge.

A small parchment deed, whereby John Slopyr, Chaplain of the Chantry of St. Mary at Bridgwater, conveys to Walter Cosyn, and Alice his wife, and his son John, his half burgage in the street called "Freren strete," situate between the land of William Gascoigne and that of Thomas Skidipha. Witnesses, William Gosse, William Gascoigne, Richard Warde, John Warde, Richard Dyut, and others; 2nd Henry V. [1414/5] The deed is in fair condition, and has a fine seal attached.

Conveyance by John Slopyr, above-named, to Thomas Chamburleyn and Johanna, his wife, of a tenement with out the West Gate, situate between the half burgage, late of John Riche, and the quarter burgage, late of John Shepherd; 6th Henry VI. Three seals, in fair condition, are attached.

A small parchment deed, whereby James de la More, son of William atte More, grants to John de Loveny his half messuage without the West Gate of Bruggewater, as you go towards Le Westwayhur [?West Wear], between the half burgage of Hugh Halewey and the half burgage of Nicholas de Chedesie. Witnesses, David le Palmere and Eustace Topet, then Provost, Walter Fitz-Stephen, Richard Maydus, Simon de la Forde; 35th Edward I. [1306/7] The seal is mutilated.

Deed whereby Robert Legh, of Haddeworthy, conveys to John Cosyn and John Pytte, of Briggewater, his tenement called "Moneistenement" [Money's tenement], situate in the High Street, in "Le Bokourewé" [Butcher Row], between the tenement of the Lord la Souche, on the west, and that in which Thomas Potter formerly dwelt, on the east; also, a vacant piece of ground and garden in the east corner of the King's highway, which leads from the south style (scalera) of the Church towards the Friars Minors, and which John Schote, helyar [tiler], lately held of him ; also, his burgage without the West Gate, formerly belonging to John Swopham; all which he lately had of the gift and feoffment of John Kedwely of Briggewater.

Because his own seal is unknown to most persons, he has procured the seal of the Provostship [or Reveship, "Prae positatus"] to be set thereto; and John Hille and John Elys, the Provosts, or Reves, at his personal request, have each set his seal thereto. Witnesses, William Poulet of Melcomb, William Bosse, Thomas Michelle, Richard Bretelle, and others; 2nd year of Henry VI. [1423 /4] There are two seals, in fair condition, one with a bird, the legend ending with "pole"; the other, larger, the seal of the Provosts, a one-masted galley, with two men standing on it, back to back; which seal also occurs more than a century earlier. In reference to the former history of Bridgwater, this is a most interesting deed.

Release by Roger the Chaplain, son of William Weaver [Textoris] of Bruggewater, to John Halewey, son of John, of his half burgage situate without the West Gate, on the east side as you go to Kerdesbury. Witnesses, John Boye and Walter Large, the then Provosts, John Cromle and Nicholas Canoun, the then Bedels, Symon atte Forde, Adam de Churchyard, and others; 16th Edward II. [1322/23]. The seal, of vesica-shape, is perfect, representing the Virgin and Child, with legend.

Grant by John Crouke, alias Hostiler, to John Warde, son of Richard, of Bruggewater, of a yearly rent of one rose, which Editha Kykke, relict of Walter, was wont to pay him for a tenement in the street called "Dameyete," between the tenement called "Georgesyn" and that formerly belonging to Dirst; 22nd Richard II. [1389/9] The seal is perfect,

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representing the Virgin and Child, without a legend.

Grant by Lucy, daughter and heir of Juliana Horloc, to Roger the Chaplain, son of William Weaver [or Webbe, "Textoris"], of her half burgage without the West Gate, as you go to Kerdesbury. Witnesses, John Bore and John Donsterre the Younger, the then Pro vosts, Simon de la Forde, Adam de Churchyard; 11th Edward II. [1317/8] The seal, of vesica-shape, with a fleur-de lis, is perfect, but the impression is indistinct.

Grant by Henry de Leue to Adam Eboth and Sabina, his wife, of a tenement in the street called "Orlouestret," between the tenement of William Hughet and that for merly of Robert le Spicer; 12th Edward III. [1398/9] The seal is perfect.

A parchment deed of defeasance, in French, made by John Cole, William Thomere, John Sydenham of Bruggewater, Hywe Mareys, John Broke, and Richard Formour; who state that whereas Umfrey Plomere, John Lomb, Thomas Eremyte, John Sely, William Blacche, Geffrey Bokbyndere, William Tannere, Richard Warde, Richard Okerforde, Robert Soweys, William Sompnour, Richard Saltere, John Pollard, Walter Brokhalle, John Horloc, Thomas Parkere, Thomas Skydefa, and the rest of the commonalty of B., were bound to them by an obligation to pay 200 pounds at a certain day and place; still, if they shall take charge, without loss or damage to Thomas Lyons and John Fyteltone, executors of the will of Monsire John Trevet, knight, of the completion of the new bridge, after 300 marks, devised by the said John Trevet, have been expended thereon, then the said obligation shall be of no effect. In witness whereof, the parties above-named have interchangeably thereto set their seals, 26th March, 18 Richard II. [1394/5]. 17 small seals have been attached thereto, by thongs, six of which seals are now broken off. Last of all, a large seal has been attached, apparently that of the then lord of the fee, with the castle and bridge, or wharf, upon it, one half of which is broken off. This impression has been since adopted for the Corporation seal (probably at the close of the reign of Henry VI.), the ancient seal of the Provosts (which has been already described) having been long since abandoned. The original great bridge at Bridgwater was built, either partly or principally,

by Sir Thomas Trivet, in the reign of Edward I. The Sir John Trevet above-named, who left 300 marks for the repair of it, was no doubt a member of the same family. There seems some reason to believe that the bridge built by Sir Thomas Trivet was altogether in a different locality from that which gave its name to the place, as being built by Walter de Douay. The latter in all probability led direct from the castle (built at a later date) into the Castle Field, on the opposite side of the river; while the bridge built by Sir Thomas Trivet, "for the use of the town," and not of the castle, would lie considerably to the south of it.

The counterpart of the above deed of defeasance, with the seals of the six obligees, Cole, Thomere, Sydenham, Mareys, Broke, and Formour, attached.

A general Pardon, under the Great Seal, to William Gosse, William Gascoigne, and Richard Dyut, Wardens, or Stewards, of the Merchants' Guild of B., in behalf of that Guild; 16th December, 4th Henry (IVth, apparently).[1402/3] Only a fragment of the seal is left.

Charter of Inspeximus and Confirmation, of Henry VII., under the Great Seal, reciting a Charter of the 8th of Edward IV., wherein it is stated that, owing to its then state of decay, certain liberties are granted to the town of B., with liberty to elect a Steward, or Recorder. In the Charter of Edward, the then enlarged boundaries of the town are described. The silk cords are still attached to the Charter, but the Great Seal is gone.

A small parchment deed, with very minute writing, being an indenture made between the Mayor and burgesss of B., as oversee rs of the poor, and Johanna Flynge, aged 10 years, daughter of John Flynge, "a pauper and destitute of alms," of the one part, and William Dennys of B., and Margaret, his wife, of the other; certifying that the said Johanna has put herself apprentice to them, "in domestic knowledge " and in other matters, to the age of 21 years," she not to marry in the meantime, or waste their goods. They covenant to teach her, and to maintain her in food and clothing, without rigour or castigation, or inconvenience to her body; 5th James I.[1607/8]. The seals originally attached, of Dennys and his wife, are lost.

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A parchment deed of early date, whereby William de Ferndone grants. to Richard de Godynelande, son of Robert, one half of his messuage in the vill of Bruges ["villa de Bruges," a name by which Bridgwater was frequently called in the thirteenth century], situate between the house of Robert de Karley and that of Stephen the Dyer, being the whole of the sollar, with one half of the bed-chamber (thalamus) and of the curtilage, in free marriage with Dionisia, his daughter, and, after the decease of himself and his wife, the whole of the messuage: to hold to them and the heirs of their bodies; and if it so happen—which be it forbidden [quod absit]—that the said Richard shall not beget heirs of the said Dionisia, then after the death of Richard the messuage shall revert to the grantor and his heirs. The said Richard is to render 6 pence [the burgage fee] to the lord of the fee, for all demands. He gives also to the said Richard half of his ferm which he holds of Sir Hugh de Bahurste, 2 oxen 8 marks in value, 2 cows 10 shillings in value, and 2 gowns, the value of one gown [roba] being 14 shillings; as also, one half of his utensils, and, after the decease of himself and his wife Albreda, the whole of them. Witnesses, Master Daniel de Wemedone, James the then Vicar of Bruges, Henry the then Constable, William de Kentelerbe, Roger Brun, William de Euernere, William Basset, Albyn de Godynelande, Robert Chaplain of Dorchester, and others. Given at Bruges-walter, A.D. 1245, the 4th of the Ides of May, being the day of Saints Nereus, Achilleus, and Pancratius [12 May]. The seal is nearly perfect, with the legend—"Sigill. Will. de Farndum."

Conveyance by Ralph Hilting of Brugwalter (Brug walteri) to Eustace Hynnoc of a stall, situate in the King's great highway (vicus regalis), between the stall of Mauger the Butcher (macerarius) and that of Roger Hilting, he rendering yearly 12 pence to the lord of the said stall. For this grant and confirmation, the said Eustace has given to him 20 shillings, and to Alice, his wife, a pig 2 shillings in value, "to have her consent beforehand" (ad concessum ipsius habendum rap manibus). Witnesses, Robert de Kentelesbere, Wit. Orlof, William Taylor (Cissor), Ralph le Bole, Clerk, and many others. Without date given, but probably early in the reign of

Edward I. The seal is perfect, being of oblong form, with an ornamented fleur-de-lis.

Grant by Roger le Wrenche to Nicholas Vincent, of Estcote, and Richard, son of Walter Remaire, of 2 parts of a half burgage, situate in Frerenstrete, between his own tenement and that of William le Proctor. Witnesses, Thomas de Borgoyne, Philip Crese Erl, John de Dunsterre, Richard Berse, Roger Persun, Clerk, Robert le Large, and others; 10th Edward II. [1316/7]. The seal, of oblong form, is perfect. Philip Crese Erl, a man who to all appearance enjoyed the remarkable distinction of either a double Christian name, or a double surname, is also mentioned in an account for making a new bell for the Church of Bridgwater, belonging to this reign.

Grant by the Burgesses of Bruggewater to Richard Maidus, that he may build over the West Gate, with all the vacant place belonging to it, towards the east, "unto the corner of the house which formerly belonged to Roger le Mortymere," in such way as shall be most for his advantage, and for the effectual defence of the town. The said Richard, and his heirs or assigns, "so often as shall be needed for war or for the army, shall cause the said building to be evacuated, and permit the forces of the vill to enter for its defence, without molestation. Witnesses, Thomas de Mers, Seneschal (or Steward) of the Lady Matilda de Mortimer, by whose assent and ordinance the aforesaid building and livery were ordained, Sir Walter de Stockelynche, Vicar of the church of the said vill, John Evesone, David le Palmere, then Provost, Walter Jacob, John le King, then Provost, Hugh Godwyne, William le Large, John Russel, and others. Given at Bruggeswalter (Bruggeswalteri) the Day of St. John before John Ailwar Port Latin," 27th Edward I. [1298/9]. The seal of the Provosts of Bridgwater, already described, is attached; but it is in a mutilated state.

An attestation, in English, made by William Tredewyn, priest of North Newton, "withyn the Parish of Northe Pedertone," in Somerset, probably of the early part of the reign of Henry VI. He says that in his youth he was "contynually abidinge yn the Vicarage " of Briggewater, with one Sir John Wheler, Parishe Prest of the said towne, to lerne reede and syng with the seid Sir John Wheler, at the commandement " of Mr. Sir

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John Colswayne, then there Wyker of the seid towne," and that he is "nowe of age L. (fifty) "wynter." Of no actual importance, but a good specimen of the early English of the locality.

A bond, in Latin, entered into by Nicholas Somering, of Briggewater, master of a certain craier [a small ship, so called], named "*Le Marie de Brigge-water*." He acknowledges that he received from Oliver Mawliverer, knight, at Bordeaux, 6 tuns of wine. The vessel being wrecked, he received 60 francs as salvage, which he had spent on provisions and rigging, in refitting the craier. He now binds the ship and its owners for re payment of the said sum : 4th Henry IV. [1402/3]. The small seal is still attached to the bond.

Conveyance by Robert Blake, to about 12 persons, among them, Humphrey Blake, his son, of property in Bridgwater, the Three Crowns in Estover, and lands at Purytone Hill, 18th Elizabeth. [1575/7] The nature of the trust does not appear on the face of the deed. Humphrey was the father of Robert Blake, the Admiral.

Charter of Henry VIII., in the 30th year of his reign, [1538/9]. confirmatory of Letters Patent granted to the town of B. in the 45th of Edward III., [1371/2] reciting and confirming a Charter granted to the town in the 11th year of Edward II. [1317/8]; which itself confirms the Charter granted by King John to William Briwere, that B. may be a free burgh. This last Charter is probably no longer in existence. Henry VIII., in his Charter, is entitled — "*In terra supremum caput Anglicanae Ecclesiae*." The great seal, attached, is in fine condition.

A deed, dated 16th October 1658, conveying property in the town from William Francis to Benjamin Blake and other prominent inhabitants. He was a younger brother of the Admiral.

Charter of Henry VIII., in the 2nd year of his reign, [1510/11] confirming the Charters of Edward III. and II., and, by their Inspeximus, that of John, above-mentioned.

Indenture, in Latin, made between Richard Godbeare, Mayor, Robert Buckinge and Alexander Jones, Aldermen, Justices of the peace, and the Burgesses of the borough of B., Hugh Grenslade, 8 years of age, son of — , and destitute of alms, and Robert Hallam, shoemaker. With the assent of the overseers of the poor, the said Hugh has put

himself apprentice to Robert Hallam, till he reaches the age of 24 years; and he is not to contract matrimony in the meanwhile. The consideration of Robert is 40 shillings, paid by the overseers: 42nd Elizabeth. [1599/1600].

Grant by the Burgesses of B. to Faramus the Dyer, of a burgage, being the one which Richard Wolf (Lupus) lately held, in the North Street, between the house of William de Kentelesbere and that of Walter Orlof'; which burgage William, formerly Vicar of Bruges, left to God and the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary in that town, at a yearly rent of 10 silver pennies. Witnesses, William de Kentelesbere, Walter Orlof, Robert Wilde, clerk, William Brun, Robert Taylor (Cissor), Henry Dyer; without date, but belonging to the reign of Edward I. The seal is broken, but apparently has a legend in reference to "*Beata Maria*," their church being that of St. Mary. This was the seal probably of the burgesses, as impropiators, or lay rectors, of the church. The writing of this deed is very fine. The "North Street" here named, no doubt, changed its name for that of "Orlof," or "Orlew," Street, from the fact of the house of Walter Orlof having been situate in it. The suggestion made in the former Report (p. 99) [p 2 in this version] that it took its name from being originally the "*Orfaire*," or Goldsmiths' Row, of the town, must therefore be considered as untenable; though, as there mentioned, it was called "*the Orfaire*," at least in one instance.

Five leaves of wire-wove paper, 8vo size, fairly written, and beginning,

"Thes bith the parcelles that hath ressevid for the Fest of Seynt Michell, anno sexto Regis Henrici Sexti unto the, same Fest ther after next following, prout patet, etc."

The receipts come first, and then the expenditure, containing many items of interest, especially in reference to the bridge and the public crane. "Thornes " are charged for, for "backing" the river sides, or, in other words, for keeping the mud together, of which it is formed, and so giving it the necessary consistency: a practice which is still kept up. The following items are payments to Members of Parliament for the Borough,

"Item, payd to William Gascoyne vis. Viuid."

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“Item, “delyvered to John Pitte to Parlement ward
xxs.”

Charter of Confirmation of King Edward II. of the Charter granted to William Briwere, as already mentioned, by King John. A small thin parchment document, in tatters, with a small fragment of the seal. About a fourth part of the document is gone; but from the various later Charters of Inspeximus its contents are known.

Grant by Matildis de Mortimer, in the full power of her widowhood, to William de le Large, burgess of Bruggewater, of a burgage there, which Philip Woderoue held, “situate between our castle and the tenement “of William Fayrchild,” at a yearly rent of three shillings. Witnesses, Sir Geoffrey de Balecote, Thomas. de Mors, John Russel, Roger de Moltone, Hugh God-wyne, Richard Wild, Jordan le Parmenter, John de Aure, Philip le Kyng, and others. “Given at Kynges lane, on Friday before the Feast of St. Barnabas,” 26th of Edward I. [1297/8]. Her seal, of oblong form, is attached, and in good condition. There is still a “King Street,” near the site of the old castle, where Matildis probably may have resided, in her widowhood.

Letters Patent, or Charter of Inspeximus and Confirmation, granted in the 45th year of the reign of Edward III. [1371/2] ; confirming his father's Charter, which confirms that granted to William Briwere by King John, already mentioned. A fragment only of the Great Seal survives.

Probate Copy, of the Archdeaconry of Taunton, of the will of John de Mille, of B., in Latin. He leaves tenements to his wife Isota, and to his daughters, Isota and Lucy. He also leaves large legacies of cloth, “mixed,” a robe of burel, a tunic of white bluet, and a tunic of black bluet. To his nurse he leaves 3 ells of russet cloth; and to his nurse's son 12*d.* To every godson of his, or son “raised from the holy font,” he leaves one penny; to the works of the church at B. 12 pence; to the Mass before the Cross, in the church, 12 pence. Several localities in the town are named. Dated the Saturday after St. John Port Latin, A.D. 1310. The seal of the Archdeaconry, attached, is in fair condition.

Grant by William de Wemedone, son of Daniel de Edmestone, to Peter de Bruges, Rector of the

church of St. Brigid, of his tenement in Crow pulle (now Crowpill, near Bridgwater), and other hereditaments, reserving a yearly rent of one rose at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Witnesses, Hugh de Popham, Robert de Burty, Walter de Sydenham, Hugh Godwyne, William le Large, Robert Bakhouse (de Pistrino), William Clito. Without date, but belonging to the reign of Edward I. The seal is lost. St. Brigid, or Bride's, above-mentioned, was probably an early Chapelry in the town.

Conveyance by John atte Churcheheye to Ralph le Thechere and Cristina, his wife, of a house consisting of the sixth part of a burgage, without the West Gate of B., near the tenement of Nicholas de Pridie; 19th Edward III. [1345/6]. A small seal is attached, nearly perfect. So small a holding as the sixth part of a burgage has nowhere else been met with.

Grant by Henry Flehyter, of Breggewater, to John Chester, Chaplain, and Richard Degone, of Somertone, of a tenement without the West Gate, as you go to Kerdisbury [now “Kidsbury,” in Wembdon], between the tenement of the Holy Trinity and that of Thomas Lane; also, three acres in Helefeld, called “Le Pitte “Croft,” and a half acre between the land of William Gascoigne and that of John Cosyn; 5th Henry VI. [1426/7]. The seal is perfect, but with a bad impression.

A settlement by Humphrey Blake with the Corporation of B., as administrator of the estate of his father, Robert Blake, in reference to the charities established by the latter; 42nd Elizabeth. [1599/60]. This is a declaration of trusts; whereas the two deeds previously mentioned bore reference to the conveyance of the legal estate in the trust property. The seal is lost.

A Latin document, whereby Brother Robert, Warden of the Friars Minors in B., admits William Kendall to the benefits of the brotherhood of the Order, A.D. 1479. The Conventual seal is attached, and in fine preservation.

A similar document to the preceding one, wherein Brother Robert, Warden of the Friars Minors in B., admits John Kendall and Matilda, his wife, and William and Juliana, to the benefits of fraternity of the Order, A.D. 1479. It is most

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beautifully written, but only a fragment of the seal is left. On the back is a form of Absolution.

A similar grant of fraternity by Brother Robert, Warden of the Friars Minors at B., to Brother Marma duke Lumley, of the Order of St. John the Baptist, A.D. 1479. On the back, the form of Absolution is written.

Draft of a conveyance, attested by John Dene, Mayor of B., and the commons thereof, executed by John Walshawe, citizen of London, Richard, his brother, of the County of Somerset, and Philip Pym, to Roger Huswyf, Clerk, and Oliver Huyshe, of lands in Burtone, Miltone, and Wurle, in Somerset; 2nd Richard III. [1378/9]. The Huswyfs [now known as Hussey] were a Hertfordshire family: a Roger Huswyf was Steward of the Abbey of St. Alban's, and an inmate of the house, in the earlier half of the 15th century.

Paper draft of a Licence (in Latin) by Thomas Spence, Master of the House, or Hospital, of St. John the Baptist in B., to Brother Henry Courteis, giving him leave to go to Oxford or Cambridge, and visit the Holy See. Without date, but of about the time of Edward IV.

A deed of Cecily, Duchess of York, widow of Richard, Duke of York, and mother of King Edward IV., who had recently granted to her the lordship of the burgh of Bridgwater. —“

Cecill, the Kynges moder, Duchesse of York, to alle those that these oure lettres shall see or here, greting. Forasmuche as we be enfourmed that within oure propartie of the Bourghe of Bruggewater oure lyvelode is gretely fallen in delaye, for lak of oversight and due reparacyon in tyme, wharby oure reame ther is . . ; and yf it shuld so continue without convenable remedy, it shuld redounde unto oure grete hurte. —We therfor have yeven autorite and power by thees oure lettres unto oure right trusty and wel-beloved servantes Richard Quater mayne and William Brownyng, Squires, and Thomas Aleyn and Stephen Prestone, and to iii. or ii. of them togedre, for to take due and juste inquerre and examinacion of the said delayes, and in whos tenures they have been, and whoo of right oughte, to make reparacion of they me; and ther upon to certifie us by writing in alle goodly hast. To thentent that we may by the advise of oure counsell purveye for remedy in that behalve, and see that oure lyvelode be em prowed to oure moost

advaille, thees oure lettres at oure pleasure to endure. Yeven under oure seell, in the Palaice of Westmynster, the xx day of Novembre, the furst yere of the reigne of my lord, my son, King Edward the iiiithe.”

In the following article we have one of the early results of the preceding arrangement.

A small letter, written on stout paper, addressed outside,—

Be this delyvered to the Portreve of Brigwater. —

Worshupfulle Sirs. I commawnd me to you, lettynge you witt, my Lady is Cowncelle mervellith that ye were matt att her awdite att Sheftisburi with your viii. li. ob. “[81. ¹/₂ d.], your fee ferme. Hit semeth by your delyng that ye sett butt litille by her. Sirs, y pray you, delyver this viii. li. ob. to my servante, the berer of this bille, that y haue no more labour therwith : and ye do natt, there shalbe such a mene fownd that ye shalle cum up by a Privy Sealle, and make a rekeninge for other thynges, that shalle turne you to lyttle ese. —

W. Brounyng, recyver to the Kynges Moder.”

Draft of a conveyance, on paper (in Latin) by Richard Barton, of Taunton, to John Wise and Alice, his wife, of a burgage in High Street in B., situate near Godewynes lane; 2nd Richard III. [1484/5].

Draft of a conveyance, on paper (in Latin) by John Portman, to Robert Stoke and Johanna, his wife, of a burgage, or messuage, in North Street, in Taunton; without date, but of the time of Henry VII., probably.

Draft of a conveyance, on paper (in English) by Thomesine Hylle, widow, to Thomas Phelipp, Esquire, of the fourth part of a ship called “the *Margarete*,” the fourth part of a ship named “the *John*,” and half a quarter of a ship named “the *Nicholas*,” of Bruggewater, “ with all thappareyles, artillarie, habillementes, and instrumentes, to the same two quarters and half quarter belonging or apperteyning ;” 23rd Edward IV. [1483/4].

Copy of a Latin memorandum formerly inserted in a book, (probably a Breviary or Mass Book) which had been presented to the Church by John Colsweyn, Vicar. (Tr). —“Pray for the soul of Sir John Colsweyn, Vicar of this Church of Bruggewater, who to the end that his soul might be kept in especial memory for the future, made

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and left this book, prepared at his own costs and labour, to lie in the church aforesaid, be fore the Vicar thereof, of his own free will ; as also, in part by way of relief of all his parishioners." He was Vicar in 1465, temp. Edward IV.

A long sheet of parchment, indented at the edges, being estreats, amercements, etc., taken at Byrmyngeham, 11th Edward IV. [1472/2]. Part of it also contains forfeitures at a Sessions held at Warwick, in the same reign.

Draft of a conveyance, on paper (in Latin), by T. Bartlat, Clerk, and others, to J. Collys, of a tenement in 'Yevill' (Yeovil), near Venelcrosse there, 1st Edward IV. [1461/2]

Paper drafts (in Latin) of several deeds connected with the College of Zouche, in Shropshire, 13th Henry VII. [1497/8].

A draft, on parchment (in Latin) of a grant by Thomas, Prior of the Priory, or Monastery, of St. Mary and St. Eadburga, at Burcester, in the Diocese of Lincoln, to James Souch, Notary Public, for his services, of an annuity of 4 pounds, to be paid in their church of Ardyngton, 9th Henry VII, [1493/4].

Receipt by George Michell, 21st October 1620, for 2*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* received of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of B., the same being a loan for "the Kinges Majestie of Bohemia."

Grant by Stephen Allche, Prior of the Order of Friars Preachers [Dominican Friars] at Ivelcestre [now Ilchester] of spiritual benefits to John Kendall and Matilda, his wife; A.D. 1485. The seal is perfect, but the impression is indistinct. The initial letter is finely illuminated.

A parchment roll of six membranes, containing th Sheriff's Account for the Counties of Somerset and Dorset, A.D. 1476.

Two sheets of parchment, containing accounts of the Chantries of the Parish Church of B., temp. Henry VIII.

Probate copy of the will of Johanna, wife of Thomas Fote, A.D. 1414.

She leaves to the Master of the Hospital of St. John at B., 12*d.*; to the brethren thereof, to celebrate for her soul, 12*d.*; to the Vicar of the Parish, 12*d.*; with legacies to several Chaplains.

To Isabel Westely she leaves her best hood; to Isabel Weycombe her two best veils; to the Wardens of the goods of the light of the Blessed Trinity, her best brass pot which formerly belonged to Adam Beste, her late husband, that her soul may be had in everlasting remembrance by the brethren and sisters of the said Guild.

To the same Wardens she also leaves as much linen thread as will make an altar-cloth for the altar of the Holy Trinity in the said church.

She further leaves to William Gosse, William Gayscoione, John Kedwelly, Richard Warde, John Woode, and Thomas Cane, her tenement, situate in Orlouestrete, for the maintenance of a Chaplain to celebrate at the altar of the Holy Trinity.

To the Friars Minors of B. she leaves 2 shillings' worth of wheat, and the same amount of beans.

A deed by which John Colswayn, perpetual Vicar of Briggewater, lets to John Young and Isabella, his wife, a virgate called "Haynes," in the Parish of Stour Estover, 4th Edward IV. [1464/5].

Deed by John Boye and John Paris, Wardens and Proctors of the Church of St. Mary at B., to Reginald Goldsmith and Editha, his wife, conveying a house situate near the Brethren of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist; 5th Edward II. The two seals are lost. A later John Paris, who was a Notary Public, was the first Mayor of Bridgwater. The surname "Paris " occurs among its records for nearly two centuries.

Bond of Christina widow of Richard Chislade, to Richard Horeloke, of B.; John Lembe and Geoffrey Bokebynder, the Provosts, setting their seal of office thereto, 20th Richard II. [1396/7]. The Provosts' seal, already described, with the galley, still remains attached.

Communication made to the Mayor and Burgesses of B. by the Mayor of Youghal, in Ireland. A part of it seems almost unintelligible, but it deserves especial notice as a piece of Irish English, at so distant a date as A.D. 1475. — "

William Walsch Mayre of the towne of Yoghyl, "Thomas Forest and Philipe Hore, bayllyffys of the same, William Whit, Richard Tobyne, and John Boghe, urgeys of the same, to the right discrete and worchippfull the Maire and Burgeys and othere the Kyng is officers and feytheull subgettes of the towné of Briggewater, sendyth recommendacion in our Lorde God everlastyng. And whereas of longe

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tyme, and to ungodely season, undiscretly and contrari to the plesure of God and the lawe, gret inconvenyences, riottes, and disturbauns, hadde and done both by yowe and us; wherfore hit is by how thefull, convenyent, and necessarye, for the gret and trewe confirmacion of pes and welthe, and recovrce as by twynne yowe and us, as of right and of olde tyme done and hadde, thowe hit be soo that het have benelongge tyme discontynnyd, and misusyd by wylfull and rasty disposed peopill, We conciderynge all these yn oure partye, advoydyng the inconvenyence and th: ambyguyetys comynge, and hereafter ensuyng, as of longe tyme bathe be contynnyd done and hadde bytwyne us we in oure partye in every thyng to [be] reformyd and pesid ; and as we thymkeye in your behalf lykewyse disposid and reformed as late hit hath lykyd your gentylnys and louylymys to wrete so on to us by your letters and credens, so yf there be any mene of accion acordynge to the lawe bytwyne any partye of yowre and othir of owre, not reckeynyng trobelynge or endangerynge any othere parson or parsons, but only them, so beyng in shuche defawte or detty, eny to othere, so in every thyng to be takyne hadde reputed and conciderid, acordynge to the commaundement of God and of owne Soveraygne lorde the Kyng. — We utterly promytus them to holde kepe and strengthe by owre utteriste powere, and in nowyse hereaftere none shuche breche to be done nor hadde but schall stonde and be acordynge to the lawe. And as to that we utterly hoppe ye in your behalfe to doo the same. And fore the more swortie of all the seyde premysys to be holde performed and kepte in oure behalfe, the sealle of oure office of the meiralte of the towne above sayde, as the seellys of every of us severally, to thys owre wrytyng have put to, the viiiday of Maij yn the xv yere of the regnyng of owre Soveraynge lorde Kyng Edward the Fowrthe."

The seal of the Corporation of Youghal is attached, in very fair condition, representing a galley. Some four smaller seals have also been attached, but one only is now left.

Grant by Nicholas Toky and John Pottere, Wardens of the light of the Chantry of St. Mary, to Agnes Mogge, and Robert, her son, of a tenement in Oreleue stret, they paying one rose yearly at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist; 8th Richard II. [1384/5]. It has a fine seal attached, apparently that of the Church-wardens of St. Mary's ; which

frequently occurs, but in general the impression is indistinct.

Robert Northovere, Priest, having been presented to the vicarage by John Sydenham and Walter Holemoure, Stewards of the Merchants Guild, and the Commons of Brigewater, Ralph [Ergum] Bishop of Bath and Wells, in the 5th year of his translation [from the See of Salisbury] formally admits him: date 1393. The document has a fine impression of the Bishop's seal, but somewhat broken.

Paper copy of a grant by John Hamlyn to John Dru, Esquire, and others, of a messuage situated in Chapmanne Rewe (Chapman Row) in B., and of two stalls at the corner thereof, he having lately had the same of the gift of John Parys, Notary, and others; A.D. 1477. No mention of Chapman Row has anywhere else been found, and the memory of it has probably wholly perished.

Probate copy of the Will of Isolda, widow of Thomas Cane, of B., A.D. 1415 ; of great length, and of value in reference to various localities in the town, and grants to the church there. A fragment only of the seal of the Archdeaconry of Taunton is left.

A copy, apparently, of a General Pardon granted by Edward IV., in the first year of his reign, to Humphrey Stafford, lord of Suthwyk, Knight, son and heir of William Stafford, Esquire. It is in no way to extend to John Waleys, Esquire, Roger Thorpe, Esquire, William Philip, alias William Ferrou, Esquire, Edward Thorneburgh, Gentilman, John Amyas, Gentilman, Nicholas Rygby, late of Kyngstone on Thames, Yoman, or Thomas Sergeauntson, Yoman.

A deed by Thomas —, of Briggewater, making John Parys his attorney, sealed with the seal of the Mayor, John Walshe, 16th Edward IV. [1476/7]. The seal is similar to that used by the Corporation at the present

Grant by John Churcheye, of B., to William Bercorn, Chaplain, and Robert Orchard, of his property situate in Canyngtone, North Pederton, and Andresfeld; as also, his property in Bruggewater, except one burgage without the W. Gate, between the burgage of Robert Plomptone and the land of Johanna Combemartyn; 44th Edward III. [1370/71]. Witnesses, Robert

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Plomptone, John Cole, William Criche, Hugh Mareis, and William Tavernere. The seal still exists.

Conveyance by Robert Orchard, of Smetheney, in the parish of Milverton, to Henry Flyter of B., heir and kinsman of John Churcheye, of all the messuages last mentioned; 2nd Henry VI. [1423/4].

Release by John Cole to Roger Slipere and Agnes, his wife, of a tenement in B. ; 7th Richard II. [1383/4]. The seal is still attached. Among the witnesses is named William Blacche (already mentioned), not improbably an ancestor of the Blakes, of two centuries later.

Conveyance by Isabel, widow of Laurence Grey, to Geoffrey Busschel of a tenement in B., opposite the Market there, and situate between the tenement of Robert le Gode and that of Simon Hyne; 18th Edward II. [1324/5]. The seal is attached, but broken. Among the witnesses Richard Parys is named, a member probably of the family previously mentioned.

Grant by Thomas Horsy, son of Thomas, to Walter Hert, of a vacant piece of ground in Frerenstrete, in B., near the land late of William Gascoigne; 15th Henry VI. [1436/7]. The seal is lost. Qy, if Horsey, near Bridgwater, takes its name from this family, or, what is perhaps more likely, the family from the place.

Deed by which William Criche, Thomas Wyldemersch, Chaplain, and Agatha, widow of Roger Swof ham, executors of the will of the said Roger, convey to John Botelegh, Vicar of B., and William Bercorn, Chaplain, a tenement opposite the Castle, as you go from the Great Bridge to the Market-place; and a vacant piece of ground, also situate in the High Street, in La Ciocknrewe (Cook's Row). Witnesses, Thomas Large, John Bethese, William atte Mulle, and John Smith; 37th Edward III. [1263/4]. The three seals attached are perfect. All memory of the Cook's Row, it is believed, has perished. The mention of the "Great Bridge," evidently that built by Sir Thomas Trivet, would seem to imply the then existence of a smaller one (leading into the Castle, as has been previously suggested): unless indeed, certain jetties and landing-places, thrown out into the river, may have been styled "bridges," which was sometimes the case.

A parchment writing, probably of the time of Henry VI. [1292/3], headed "Hewyssh, juxta Highbrygge," stating that an Inquisition was taken in the 21st year of Edward I. before Nicholas de Langeland, Steward there, in a matter of Nicholas Berde against William de Wellyngtone, Ralph de Wellyngtone, and Philip de Langeland, whereby it was found that Reginald atte Brigge, predecessor of the said Nicholas Berde, was seised in the time of Henry III., etc., and had issue Isabel, his daughter and heir ; from which Isabel the fee descended to Isabel, her daughter and heir; and from her to the said Nicholas, as her son and heir. The Inquisition was taken by John Everard of Hewysshe, John le Vayre, William Morekyng, – Webbekyng, William Kyng in the Newehamme, John Veysy, Robert Couke, Henry Davy, John at Sonde, Thomas at Huysshe, William Kyng of Byle, and Walter le Kyng of Byle. Witnesses, John Everard of Honespill [now Huntspill], John de Westone, John de Mareys, Thomas Dige, John Brunyng, and others.

Conveyance by Robert Wake and Agnes, his wife, to John Mogge, of a tenement in Briggewater, in the street called "Ordlouestret," and extending to the street called "Pynelestret," near to the street leading to the North Gate; 26th Edward III. [1352/3]. The two seals are perfect. The above two streets now form the one street known as "Penel Orlieu Street."

Conveyance by Thomas de Stoke, smith, to John Pollard, of Heigrave, of two selds [open sheds] and one sollar, built upon the two selds; also, a vacant place "for two dealers' stalls ordained;" 30th Edward III. [12356/7]. The seal is perfect. Among the witnesses, William Blacche, already noticed, is named.

Conveyance by William atte More and Roger de Commych, executors of Henry Kene, of a tenement near the West Gate in B., extending to the solar formerly of "William Smith (Faber) in the Walles, who used to be called ' Prestessone, ' " (qui dicebatur 'Prestessone '); 33rd Edward I. [1304/5]. The two seals are fairly perfect. The name (Priest's son) was probably so imposed upon William Smith by his neighbours in a spirit of obloquy.

Conveyance by Stephen Coke, of B. Chaplain, to John Sleper, Chaplain, and Ralph Baker, of a

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tenement in Seintmary stret. Witnesses, Elias Bernard and Philip Clopton (Provosts), John Chapman and John Wageler, Bailiffs, John Kedwelly, and others; 6th Henry IV. [1414/5]. The seal is mutilated.

Conveyance by John Cory to Richard Maydus, of a vacant place, formerly his curtilage, extending from the wall on the foss at B. Witnesses, William Tracy, Richard Merewelle, John le Deyare, James de la Mere, Walter le Velpollare, Walter le Palmere, Adam Lollepce. Simon la Forde, John Deverel, and others; 30th Edward I. [1303.2]. Only half the seal is left.

Conveyance by John Sydenham and Walter Holemore, Stewards of the Merchants' Guild at B., to Roger Satre, "taillour," and Alice, his wife, of a tenement at the east end of the bridge. Witnesses, Humphrey Horelok and John Lombe, Provosts, John Eygod and Ralph Fysschepond, Bailiffs of the Guild there, and John Horelok, Bailiff of the Commonalty ; 16th Richard II. [1392/3]. Of the two seals, one is lost.

Conveyance by William Cryche, of B., to John Cole, burgess, of a tenement at the east end of the Parish churchyard, between the Style and the Common Bake house; 14th Richard II. [1390/91]. The seal is lost. The "Common Bakehouse," no doubt, was that belonging to the lords of the fee.

Conveyance by Waryn Waldegrave, Esquire, to Hawysia, widow of John Sely of B., and John, her son, of a meadow called "Thornymede," near that of the Vicar of Wemedone, for their joint lives, at a rent of 16 pennies of silver. The said Hawysia and John will scour (escurabunt), or cause to be scoured, a certain water-course called 'Crowpylle,'" in the north of the said meadow, at their own expense. Witnesses, Simon Michel, Richard Delamare, William Thorne, Thomas Fote, Robert Dyut; 4th Henry IV. [1402/3]. Only fragments of the two seals are left.

Conveyance by John Wynde of B., to John Bere, "boucher," John Legat, and John Trot, of a tenement situate in Orlouestret, and a tenement in Weststret, between a tenement belonging to the heirs of Thomas Duffeld, and one belonging to John Cadisdon. Witnesses, William Gascoigne and Richard Warde, "Stewards of the Guild of the Community," Robert Hill, "taillour," and William

Corwyll, Provosts, John Pyt and John Elis, Bailiffs, and Richard Dyut; 12th Henry IV, [1410/11]. The seal is in a perfect state.

Probate Copy of the Will (in Latin) of Gilbert Russel, A.D. 1317.

Among other things, he leaves to the man who shall make pilgrimage for him to St. James [of Compostella, in Spain] and to Rochemadour, 40 shillings.

To the Friars Minors of B., 40 shillings.

To the man who shall make pilgrimage for him to Bromholm, Walsingham, and Canterbury, 40 shillings.

To Brother Peter de Bokelond, 40 shillings, to repair his garb yearly, so long as it shall last (ad habitum suum corrigendum annuatim, dum duret)."

To the poor of the Infirmary Hospitall of St. John at Breggewater, 13s. 4d.

Also, 10 shillings to buy stones for mending the road between the Hospital and the Bridge.

To Walter le Large, 5 ells of the best cloth which Walter has in his charge.

To Thomkyn his second best gown.

To Ralph de Kent, one green surcote, with hood.

To Richard Syerwyn, one surcote, with hood.

To Agnes Seyfyel and Margery, her daughter, 2 rochets.

To Elionora Bonere, 5 shillings.

To John Boye he leaves the residue of his goods, and his best gown.

Proved before the Official of the Archdeacon of

Tauntone, at Pokyntone, by the said John Boye, one of the Executors therein named. A portion of the Castellan's seal, of Bridgwater, is attached to this probate copy.

Grant by the Burgesses of Brugeswalter (Bruges walteri), to Robert Bakhouse (de Pistrino) of a half burgage without the North Gate, between the burgage of John Fitz-Eve, on the east side, and that of Walter Orloc (sic) on the west. To the part delivered to the said Robert they have set the seal of St. Mary, and to the part delivered to them the said Robert has set his seal; without date, but belonging to the reign of Edward I. The seal is lost.

Conveyance by Johanna, relict of Richard Hyitlesham, of Bruggewater, to Walter Hayward and Isabel, his wife, of one half burgage in Seintmary stret, between the tenement called "Georghshyn" (George's Inn) and that of John

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Payn. Witnesses, William Thomere, John Sely, Thomas Skydipha, William Richeman, and John Kedwelly, Clerk; 16th Richard II. [1392/3]. The seal is in good condition.

Conveyance by Walter le Cat, of Brugeswalter, to John Bussel, of a half burgage, in the Great Street. Witnesses, Walter de Kentelesbere, Walter Orelof, Laurence Wilde, Roger de Kentelesbere, Walter Brun, Walter Irish (Hybernienne), Roger Pelliper; without date, but of the time of Edward I. The seal is lost.

Conveyance by John Mayyell and Cecily, his wife, to William Hertlond and Thomas Maviell of 3 shops, with sollars built over them, in Forstrete in Taunton, opposite to the Corn-market, and near the Castle Ditch; as also, a shamble in the place of the High Market called "the Burgh," near the Water Conduit. Witnesses, Walter Portman, Gentleman, Sirs John Smythe, Edmund Sadeler, and Richard Pomeroy, Chaplains, William Payne and John Blower, Portreves, William Borte and Thomas Domett, the year's Bailiffs, John Yethode, "sadeler," John Hyde, Geoffrey Marchant. Given at Taunton, 6th Henry VI. [1427/8]. The two seals are perfect.

Conveyance by John Kedewelly, of Briggewater, to Robert Legh, of Haddeworthy, of rent which John Helier paid for a tenement in B., opposite the tenement of Thomas Armyte, as you go from the Parish Church towards the Friars Minors; also, a yearly rent of one rose, which Margery Mone was wont to pay for a tenement for the term of her life situate in the Cokenrewe, with the reversion thereof after her decease; 10th Henry IV. [1408/9]. The "Cooks' Row" has already come under notice.

A letter, written on paper, in a large bold hand

Baylyffes. — I commend me unto you. Hyt ys soo that you are bounde to pay me the hole fee farm of Brydgewater at Myhelms laste. Nevertheles I under-stande that you stay certen of the money, for the Kynges's Majestie reservd. I will doe for you the best that I can, soo that you wyll send me knolege playnly how the case stonyth; and also the residue of the rent remayning in your handes dew unto me at Mihelmas last, by this berer, my Chapleyne, and so shall make you a quittens for the recete therof, which I bynde myself to performe by this my letter. Wryten the sixth day of Aprill the

xxxiii yere of the reign of our most drede Soveraign Lorde Kyng Henry the yght. — Grey." Addressed: — "To my fryndes the Baylyffes of Brydgewater, this be dd. (delivered)."

Grant by John de Loveni to Robert le Toukere [the Fuller] of his half burgage without the West Gate, as you go to the West Wayuur [? Wear]. Witnesses, Maydus and John Boye, the then Provosts, William le Large, John Dyer, Simon de la Forde, Walter Paris, Ralph Redhed; 3rd Edward II. [13409/10]. The seal is fairly perfect.

Conveyance by Henry Smyth and Philippa, his wife, to John Gunne, John Pyt, John Cosin, Thomas Cave, Richard Dyut, and John Beker, of a tenement situate in Cranyleslane in Damyet, in B; 4th Henry VI. [1475/6]. The seal is attached. "Cranyleslane is a now forgotten locality.

Conveyance by John More and Magota, his wife, to Lewyis Kerlyon of one half of a house in Seyntmary stret, in B., temp. Edward III.

A parchment, with three small seals formerly impressed upon the face of it, but now crumbled to pieces, the marks of them only being left. The context, written in English, is to the following effect. —

"Edward Erl of Marche, Richard Erl of Warewic, and Richard Erl of Salisbury, to al maner of men, thies presentes hering or seeing, greting. We, on the Kynges behalue, charge and commaunde you, and on our owne desire, and pray you that ye neither hurt, vexe, noye, trouble, pille, robbe, ne despoile, Johan Davy of Brigewater, marchaunte, ne eny of his servauntes or tenauntes, ne take eny of their goodes, whersomever thei bee or canne bee founde, as ye wol eschewe the Kyngges high displeasyd and our hevvy lordshipe; but to suffre them peasably to ryde, goo, and abide in such places as may bee unto their ease and profit; for as moche as we have takene the said Johan, as above, undre our tuicion and savegarde. Yeven undre our signett at Londone, the xxiiii day of August."

The year in which this safe-conduct was written is not stated, but it was, no doubt, between A.D. 1455 and 1460.

Among the many volumes of Accounts of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries that have been recently brought to light, are the Accounts of the Water-Bailiffs of the town in 1565, wrapped in a large folio parchment sheet of a manuscript of

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Pliny's *Natural History*, of the 14th century, containing, apparently, a part of the Introduction, with the heads of Books II.-VII., and the authorities used in the compilation of them. **The Water-Bailiffs' Account** for 1579 is wrapped in a large folio parchment sheet of a manuscript, apparently part of an Antiphonar of the 14th century, being a calendar, or summary of its contents.

An oblong paper book of eight leaves, containing

"The free voluntary offerings and subscriptions of his Majesty's good subjects, in testimony of their affection to his Majesty, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament, intituled "An Act for a free and voluntary present to his Majesty" [Charles II.], taken the fowre and twentieth day of October, in the 13th yeare [1661], etc."

The contributors named therein towards the relief of his Majesty's necessities, are 172 in number, the smallest sum given being 2 pence, and the largest 3 pounds, contributed by Edward Sealy, of Bridgwater, mercer. John Sealy, gentleman, gives 10 shillings; George Blaunchflower, husbandman, 1 shilling; Robert Blake, "helyar " ?tiler] gives "fower pence;" Benjamin Blake [brother of the Admiral, and lately Mayor], 20 shillings; Robert Lush, of Bridgwater, gent, doth present to his Majestie 20 shillings, in hand " paid." —The totall of the mony presented to his Majestie and mentioned in this booke is 40*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* ; all which is paid unto John Bennet, Esquire, the Receiver." This John Bennet was afterwards created the first Baron Ossulston, A.D. 1682.

A paper writing, in the form of an Indenture, to the following effect. —

"The delyverauns of the Goodys of the Chirchis of Briggwater, by the Wycary William atte Well, Johan Sely, and others, to Johan Martyne and William Snothe, Wardens of the seide chirche, the yere of oure Lord MCCCCXLVII" the iiiii day off October :

"In primis, i crosse with ii y mages of Mare and Johan, of sylvere and gylte.
Item, iffote and i staffe to the same crosse, of coper and gylte.
Item, i demonstracion [monstrance, or ostensory] for the Sacrement, off silvere and gylte.
Item, ii sensurys off sylvere, with ii casis.
Item, iii chalys of sylvere and gylte.

Item, ii crewetes of sylvere.
Item, ii candelstikkes of sylvere.
Item, i crismatory of sylvere gylte.
Item, i schip [incense boat] off sylvere.
Item, ii crossis of latone and gylte.
Item, vi corporas.
Item, iiiii casis.
Item, i rede purse of veluet with i corporas therin.
Item, i relique of Seynt Stephyn, closed in sylvere.
Item, ii coupis of sylvere for the Sacrement.
Item, i box of latone for the Sacrement.
Item, ii candelstikkes of latone.
Item, broke syvere in a box.
Item, i holy waterboket, with a spryngell of latone.
Item, iii massebokys.
Item, a Grayles "[Gradual].
Item, ii Proceessionaries.
Item, i Pystolar [Epistolar].
Item, i Colitare [Collectary].
Item, i Mortylage [Martyrology].
Item, i Anti honer tofore Seynt Mare preste.
Item, i Portas "[Portehors, or Portifory] of the bequest of Will. Hurste.
Item, i Antiphoner before the Dekyn.
Item, i Manuell.
Item, i Ordynall.
Item, i seute of vestementes callid the gylte seute.
Item, ii copis, i chesepill [chesuble], ii tunyclis with other ornamentes of blew veluet, with lipardys hedys of golde, that Alexander Hody yaffe inne [gave inj].
Item, i cope of white damaske with eglis of gold displayed, that Johan Cosyn yaf inne.
Item, i hole scute of clothe of golde callid Bonndys seute.
Item, i seute of grene sylke, callid Hursty's vestementes.
Item, ii rede copis for chauntours.
Item, ii yelow copis for chauntours of borde Alexander [P[erhaps the] colour of sandal wood]
Editorial note: Probably Red Sanders, *Pterocarpus santalinus* used for dying wool in the middle ages.
Item, i seute of grene sylke withoute cope.
Item, iii copis, i chesepill, ii tunyclis with sterris [stars] of sylke.
Item, ii olde grene copis.
Item, i olde pall of sylke.
Item, i olde cope of purpur.
Item, i auterclothe of rede damaske.
Item, i veyle for Lente.

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Item, alle thapareyll for the hye auter of conterfet damaske, with lipardes of golde.
Item, i clothe to hange aboue the hye auter with the xii Appostolis.
Item, ii dox [desk] clothis.
Item, v auter clothis, with v frountelles.
Item, i seute of ray [striped] grene sylke.
Item, i Sepulcre clothe.
Item, i peynted clothe of rede, with i ymage offe oure Lady.
Item, iii coverlytes, bad and gode.
Item, xvi pilowys of sylke.
Item, x auter clothis of playne and napery.
Item, xviii towelles playne and diaperid.
Item, ii auter clothis dysteyned, of the Assumpcioun offe oure Lady.
Item, i auter clothe of the Passioun."

The above is written in a firm clear hand; the following is added, in two hands of inferior merit:

i peyre of white vestementes for Lente;
i white cloth for the hie auter for Lente, with ii curteyns of fustian to the same;
i white tynacle of fustian;
i white cloth for the high auter, with a crosse of blew bokeram;
i stenyd cloth to hang by fore the auter, yn the rode lofte.
Item, there lackyth iii towellys.
Item, there lackyth ii helyngys [? coverlets].
Item, there (lackyth) ii aubys [albs].
Item, there [lackyth] iiiii amycys."

In a fourth hand is added. —

"i white cloth to hang, by fore the crosse yn the rode lofte;

i old Lent cloth to be put uppone Sent George."

Endorsed — "Bonorum Ecclesie de Brigwater."

A parchment indenture, in Latin, without date, but belonging probably to the early part of the reign of Edward I. It makes known

"unto all the faithful in Christ to whom these present letters shall come," that all the burgesses and th. commonalty of the Burgh of Brugewater, for the promotion of love and charity, and the repression of strife and rancour, have ordained that they will choose yearly two Seneschals of their Guild, and one bailiff, to attend on them ; such Seneschals to have power to punish those offending against these ordinances. If any one among them shall maliciously impute to another a charge of theft, forgery, neifty ["nativitatis,"] the being a born

of murder, adultery, or excommunication, and be convicted thereof before the Seneschals aforesaid, he shall be amerced and bound to the commonalty in the sum of 12 pence, and make satisfaction to the other, at the award of his peers. No one shall implead another with out the burgh, under pain of amercement. If any one shall be summoned by the bailiff to appear before the Seneschals, and neglect to do so, he is to be amerced. Those opposing execution or distress, made by the bailiff by order of the Seneschals, are to be amerced and bound to the commonalty in 40 pence, besides making due amends by award of their peers. No one in the burgh is to buy flesh or fried fish before the third hour 9 a.m.] for the purpose of regrating [retailing], under pain of becoming bound to the commonalt in the price of the flesh or fish so bought or sold. If any one is elected to the office of Seneschal of St. Mary's, or of the Holy Cross in the church of the said burgh, or to the wardenship of the bridge of the said burgh, he shall render account for the moneys arising therefrom to the said Seneschals, whenever summoned so to do. Any person refusing any one of those offices, if elected thereto, is to be bound to the commonalty in the sum of 6s. 8d. All penalties and ameracements are to be duly levied by the bailiff. The Seneschals are to render account for all moneys received by them, each year, upon the morrow of the Circumcision of our Lord. —

These Seneschals, not improbably, were the same officials who were known as "Provosts," or "Reves;" who in time were superseded by the Mayor : the early forms of government, however, of Bridgwater, seem involved in considerable obscurity. This deed has a large fragment of the castle seal, or seal of the lord of the fee, still attached.

A parchment copy of a formal notice, in English, dated the 4th of October, in the 2nd year of Edward IV, [1462/3], by William Atwelle and John Walsche, Comyn Stewardis of the Burgh of Bruggewater, as to depositions in a case of assault and theft of title deeds by violence. It is of great length, and excellently written, but its chief interest lies in the fact stated that

"Richard Myttone, Edwarde Hancoke, Thomas Swete, and Johan Knyght, Preste, were sworne a pone a boke afore Richard Chokke, on of the Kyng

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is Justice and othere in the churche of the Grey Freris of Brugg water, the Saterdag the secunde day of Octobre afore the date of the present wrytyng; the only instance in all these documents in which the slightest allusion to the church of the Grey Friars, or Friars Minors, of Bridgwater, has been met with.

A parchment indenture in Latin, bearing date the 8th of August, in the 11th year of King Edward IV. (A.D. 1471), by which Master Maurice, Prebendary of the prebendal church of Llangoulo, in the Diocese of St. David's, conveys to Sir Hugh, perpetual Vicar of the same church, and Thomas ap Rees ap Davyd, of the same parish, the said church for a term of 5 years, at a yearly rent of 20 shillings, by them to him to be paid. The seal is lost. On the back is written, in a contemporary hand, a curious set of verses, which, as forming probably a specimen of the Welch-English of the period, are here transcribed. —

Hay, hay, take goode hede wat you say,
A doum's day we schull y see,
Fadere and Sone in Trinite,
With grete powere and magisti,
And angelys in grete aray. }
And angels with a trumpat shall blow,
That all the worlde schall yt yknow.
They that beyne in y3rthe soo low,
They schull a ryse all off þe clay;
They that byne in soo deppe,
They schull to thys trumpat take heede,
And a ryse and full sorre wypppe,
That euer they wer to yensst to say.
God hymselfe, suuer hyt ys,
That schall eue the dome, I wys.
And therefore owys hym þt hath ido amys.
Ffore there they schull reherse here pay,
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, yffy, yffy.
Letabundus exultet fidelis chorus Alleluia.
Now well may we myrthys make } gaudeamus.
Ffor Jesu mankynde hathi take }
Off a mayden with outyn make [mate].
A kyng of kynges now forthe ys brow3t
Off a maydyne þt synnyd nowght,
Nether in dede nether in thow3ht. I res.miranda
An angell of counseil now ys bore
Off a mayd, as y sayd be fore, I sol de stella.
To saw [save] all þt was for lore.
That sonne hath neuer downe goyng,
And thys lyghte no tyme lesyng } semper clara.
þys stere ye euermore schemyng, }
Ryght as þestere brow3ht forght a beme,
Oute of the wyche commy3th a marvelose streme,
So dude þt mayde withowtyn wene I deipara forma.
Holy, holy, and yfy, yffy, holy, yffy, holi.

Among the Bridgwater documents—a thing that would hardly be anticipated, and indeed very difficult to be accounted for—are intermingled a considerable number of papers and documents, about one hundred in number, bearing reference to the University and town of Oxford, at various dates ranging between the reigns of Edward I and Henry VII. The most reasonable solution of the difficulty is perhaps to be found in the supposition that a former Steward, or Town Clerk, of Bridgwater, may, at the same time that he held office there, have been also engaged in practice as an attorney, or notary public, at Oxford; as several of the drafts of conveyances connected with Bridgwater and its vicinity, which are still preserved, and have been previously noticed, are of much about the same date (Edward IV — Henry VII.) as those connected with Oxford, herein after described, and have every appearance of having proceeded from the same hand. —

EDITORIAL Note: All the Oxford documents mentioned below have been transferred to the Oxford Record Office

A sheet of parchment, containing a Mill-Court roll belonging to the Castle of Oxford, 11th and 12th Edward III, [1337/8; 1338/9] written in a hand of that date. Its title is — “Curia molendinorum Castri Oxoniae, tenta ibidem die Jovis proxima post Festum Sanctae Katerinae Wirginis, anno regni Regis Edwardi, Tertii a Conquaestu, undecimo.” The contents of it are a series of ameracements of tenants for the offence of grinding at other mills, than the lord's mill.

A warrant, addressed to Thomas Holman, Richard Bustard, and others, to collect the King's tenths at Oxford, 15th Edward IV. [1475/6].

A notification, in Latin, by Thomas Stevenes, S.T.P., [Sanctae Theologiae Professor (Professor of Theology)] one of the Commissaries of the University of Oxford, and of George Nevil, Archbishop of York, and Chancellor thereof, to the effect that William Wowell and Thomas Hallyn, late Scholars of the University, on the Eve of St. Mary Magdalen, A.D. 1477, by command of Master Thomas Chandeler, S. T. P., [Sanctae Theologiae Professor (Professor of Theology)] a Commissary of the University, were, for certain rebellions and offences against him and the

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Proctors committed, put in prison in charge of Thomas Holman and Richard Bustard, bailiffs of the town. After being duly convicted of such offences, "adversante fortuna," they escaped from prison; whereupon, punishment of the bailiffs was demanded by the Commissary, in virtue of his office. It is, however, hereby notified that as the said scholars were not committed to their charge for theft or murder, but for rebelling against the Statutes of the University, and further, that as they had since made full satisfaction for their offences, the bailiffs are excused from all further demands or complaints in respect thereof; which is now notified under the Chancellor's seal, 30th September 1468. The seal is lost.

A sheet of parchment, containing an award in Latin, by John Dalebar, Clerk, in a dispute between Robert Alketone and Reginald Baryntyne, as to the right to the manor of Little Haseley, in the county of Oxford. The possession thereof is to be with Reginald, he paying 50 Pounds to the said Robert; 15th December, 4th Henry VI [1425/6]. William Brampton is named in the document as being the then Mayor of Oxford.

On the back of the preceding sheet is written, in Latin, an ordinance as to apprenticeship in the craft of the Tawyers of Oxford; made by the Master of the trade, with the assent of William Dagwile, Mayor of Oxford. "Foreigners" admitted to the trade are to pay 53s. 4d., and to find a breakfast. The Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Chamberlain, are also to be invited to a breakfast, given by the craft, once a year. The two documents, though well written, are, both of them, probably only drafts. The one last mentioned is probably of the later date.

Draft of a conveyance, on paper, in Latin, by Robert, Abbot of St. Mary's, at Osney, granting to Matildis, widow of Edward Woodward, a sum of 10 pounds yearly, from the Abbey rents in the vill and fields of Westone, in the said County; 12th Henry VII. [1496/7].

A grant, on parchment, in Latin, by William Pedyngtone, son and heir of Richard, to John Janyns, of Oxford, of his messuage and garden in the High Street there, in the Parish of St. Mary, between the tenement of the College of Oryel, called "Takeleysynne," and the tenement of the

Abbess of Godestowe; 37th Henry VI. [1558/9]. An original document; but the seal is lost. Among the witnesses are, Richard Spragot, John Clerk, William Dagvile, and John Seman, Aldermen.

Paper draft of a lease, in Latin, by Edward Wodeward, Mayor of Oxford, to John Hede and Thomasine, his wife, of a tenement near the West Gate there, situate between the garden of the Friars Minors and "Le New " market;" 5th Henry VII. [1489/90].

Paper draft of a conveyance, in Latin, by Robert Hye and Thomas Hadfeld to George Skydemore, burgess of Oxford, of a messuage in the Parish of St. Michael, in the suburbs, in the street called "Grampond," near the tenement of the Prioress of Litilmore; 8th Edward IV. [1468/9].

Paper draft of a deed, in Latin, of Edward Wode ward, Mayor of Oxford, and several aldermen, excusing John Havell, without the North Gate, brewer, from serving in any public office, he paying 4 marks to the Chamberlain; 10th Henry VII. [1494/5].

Parchment draft of a notification, in Latin, that William Blacborne, fishmonger, is entitled to all the privileges of a citizen of Oxford; 1st Henry VII. [1485/6].

The preceding is written upon the back of what appears to be an original conveyance of Robert, Abbot of Athelney, in Somerset, Thomas Tremdyll, and others, to Richard Berham and Johanna, his wife, of lands in the Parish of Chiltone; 22nd Edward IV. [1482/3]. The three seals of the indenture are lost.

Paper draft of a conveyance, in Latin, by William Parker and Thomas Bilton, to John Eggecomb, gentleman, of a garden in the street called "Grampond," without the South Gate, at Oxford; temp. Edward IV. or Henry VII.

A bundle of Letters of Attorney, on paper, in Latin, mostly relating to Oxford. One is of the 14th of Edward IV. [14754/5], executed by John Stokys, Warden, and the College, of All Souls. Another is executed by Robert, Abbot of Athelney.

Ordinance, on parchment, in Latin, for an Inquisition as to a trespass in the Port Meadow at Oxford; 9th Henry VII. [1493/4]. "Billa vera" is

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endorsed on it. It contains many names of husbandmen accused of taking part in the riot

Parchment draft of a conveyance, in Latin, by Robert, Abbot of Osney, granting to Roger Favell, Clerk, of Bessellesley, "an honest chamber, which Thomas Thirleby had, while he lived, in the garden of the Convent. The Abbot is to find him in meat and drink, as though a Canon. He, on the other hand, is to receive the recourse of people coming to him for the sick; to instruct such novices of the place as are sent to him, in grammar; to celebrate Divine Service at Feasts; to visit the sick, when required, and, when necessary, "to inspect their urines;" date 1495. A very curious document. The Thomas Thirleby, above-mentioned, not improbably was a kinsman of the Bishop of Westminster and Norwich, of the same names, and of Thirby, the Town Clerk of Cambridge, mentioned under "Downing "College, Cambridge," in this year's Report. Paper draft of a conveyance, in Latin, by Richard Hewes, Mayor, and the Aldermen and Commonalty of Oxford, to John Herdson, of certain property situate in Bocardo Lane, in Oxford; 11th Henry VII. [1495/6].

Paper draft, in Latin, of a deed of confirmation by Robert Spragot, son of Richard, Alderman of Oxford, to John Ashley, draper, of property in Graunt Pount, in the suburbs of Oxford. Without date, but probably of the time of Henry VII. The suburbs beyond the Great Bridge are in other documents called "Grampound."

Parchment deed, in Latin, of conveyance by Thomas Coventre, Mayor of Oxford, and many others, to Thomas Wynne and Johanna, his wife, of a messuage in the Parish of All Saints, in Oxford; 8th Henry VI. [1429/30] The original deed, apparently; but if so, it has lost the seal.

' **Final concord, on parchment, in Latin**, between Brother Richard Launcyng, Provincial of the House and Church of Motydone, in the Diocese of Canterbury, of the Order of the Holy Trinity and the Redemption of Captives, and the Brethren thereof, and the Mayor and Commonalty of Oxford; A.D. 1488. Apparently, the original deed. For further mention of this Order, see p. 310, col. 2. [In fact p 3 of this transcript.]

Parchment indenture, in Latin, whereby Richard Lekes, of Oxford, "bruer," grants to John

Stymsons his brewery, in the Parish of St. Peter in the East, between the tenement of the Abbot and Convent of Evesham and a tenement of the College of "Le Orielle;" 1st Edward IV. [1461-2]. The seal is lost. Attached to it is an inventory of the fittings delivered to the purchaser, with the brew house

Parchment conveyance, in Latin, by William Orchard, of Oxford, Esquire, to John Atkyns, of Hedyngton, of lands at Berton; 1st Richard III. [1327/8]. Apparently, the original deed.

Paper draft, in Latin, of a bond executed by the Prior of St. Frideswide's, in Oxford, to Thomas Shelton; date 1495.

A long sheet of parchment, containing the Coroner's Roll for Oxford, 25-29 Edward I., [1296/7 to 1300/1] in writing of contemporary date. It embraces 16 cases, some of them of interest.

Parchment draft of an indenture, in Latin, between John Stokys, Warden of the College "vulgariter nun "cupatum "All Sowlys College," in Oxford, and John Lyrypyne, of Lytylmore, in the County of Oxford, "husbondman;" 16th Edward IV. [1476/7]

Parchment draft of an indenture, made between William Tebard, President of the College of St. Mary Magdalene, "without the West Gate of Oxford," and the Scholars thereof, and Richard Vyse, granting to him the office of Rector of Hosphath, in that County; 37th Henry VI. [1458/9] The College had only been founded three Years.

A large parcel of miscellaneous documents, some parchment, but mostly paper, stitched together; being for the most part, extracts as to summonses for assault or debt, in the Counties of Somerset, Devon, and Dorset; a few of them, of little or no interest, bearing reference to Oxford. In one case, John Harley, late of Walton in Gordano, in Somerset, is summoned, with others, for breaking into the house of John Wydeslade there, and cutting down trees.

Paper draft of a letter of attorney, in Latin, of William Spryngel, scholar of the "Alma Universitas" of Oxford, empowering John Westley and Philip Spryngel to enter for him on a messuage in the vill of Sandwich; without date, but probably temp. Henry VII.

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Paper draft of a conveyance, in Latin, by George Woode. and William Brue, Clerk, to Henry Amshegood, Esquire, of a garden and stable in a lane in Oxford, called "Shirelane," and near a house called "Le Canone "Scole;" without date, but probably temp. Henry VII.

Paper draft of a grant, in English, by Cristina, Prioress of the Blessed Mary of Liltimore, near Oxford, of an annuity of 6s. 8d. to John Eggecumbe; with power of distress upon her hall, called Henxsey [now Hinxe] Hall in Oxford ; without date, but probably temp. Henry VII.

Another bundle of memoranda, being extracts of pleas of debt or trespass in various Courts in Oxford, temp. Richard III. and Henry VII. ; of little or no value, apparently, or interest. Among them is entered the following passage, "As for the woman, Mr. Eggecombe applied, and said by mouth, that the day, yere, and tyme the said trespas was alleged to be done the said Alice was covert de [baron] and prayed that the pleyntif myght be barred." The question suggests itself whether this Mr. Eggecombe (Edgcumbe), who apparently has been mentioned in two other instances, may not have been the original owner of these papers; or was the owner of the papers a member of the Orchard family P. From the next article, it appears that a John Eggecombe was an Alderman of Oxford.

A paper writing, in a mutilated condition, addressed "To all those to whom, etc.," by Richard Hewes, Mayor of Oxford, John Seman, Edward Wodeward, and John Eggecombe, Aldermen, and others, and stating that one George Avery had been informed against by one William Tayllour, "inholder of Oxford," as having taken part in the late insurrection in the North of England, and in Flanders and the outward parts of the realm, "agenst our said sovereyn lord, and of every trouble or insurexion that hath been in Oxford." On being arrested by one of the Proctors, after three days he was discharged on bail; upon which, Robert Marleton, sergeant-at-arms, determined to arrest him for examination upon the charges; whereupon Avery took refuge in Lincoln College. While there, his goods had been seized for rent by the Bursar of Oriel College. This paper is intended apparently as a formal attestation of the above facts. It is dated 22nd of December, but no year is

given. The " insurrection " mentioned in it was no doubt that of Lambert Simnel, terminated by the battle of Stoke, in Nottinghamshire, 6th June 1487.

Parchment draft of a deed, in Latin, whereby Giles Pultone, of Lillyngstone Lovell, in the County of Oxford, "Gentyلمان," and Katherine, his wife, and others, grant to John Whertone and Edward Rigge, Clerks, a quit rent of 8s. 6d. arising from a tenement called "Le Sarsenhede " [Saracen's Head], in the parish of St. Peter in the East, in Oxford, between a tenement of the College of St. Mary Magdalen on the west, and a tenement of University College on the east; as also, a yearly rent arising from a tenement in the parish of St. Michael there, without the West Gate, situate in Grauntpoint, between the tenement of the Prior and Convent of St. Frideswide and the tenement of John Eggecombe; 11th Henry VII. [1495/6]

Paper draft of a Petition of a carpenter, apparently John Bricine by name, to the King, probably Henry II.

" Grevousli sheweth and compleyneth unto your highnesse your poure and faithfull subject, your carpynter Johan Bricine, — That when your Grace had a sight bi picture [plan] of the ruffe [roof] , of your halle of Wodestoke, and therwith your Highnesse was contented, and accordyng to the said picture your said carpenter spoyled tymbre ; thereupon the Prior of Lantony shewed your said carpynter your Highnesse would have it otherwise transposed, your said carpynter then answered the said Prior, your good Grace shalbe pleased with the said ruff, yf your said carpynter shalbe recompensed in money accordyng as the said work will require. And bi cause of a round wyndow ther your first propossion was chaunged; and so your said carpynter is not hable to fynysh the said second propossion, oonlesse he have ix li., which is unpayd. And yf it come to more money, your said carpynter will stand to your Grace of reward. For part of your forsaid spoyled tymbre bi your said carpynter it was occupied to divers uses in your housis of office ther, and bi other carpynter[s]. And All myghti Jesu preserve your Majeste royall long to At the head of the draft is " prospere and to endure." written, I.H.S. [Jesus].

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A paper Draft book of an Oxford Attorney, or Notary, temp. Henry VII., containing drafts of conveyances, bonds, petitions, and other business documents, under the 3rd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th years of that reign. [1487/8 to 1496/67]. There are drafts of three or four conveyances by Richard Walker, Prior of St. Frideswide's, in Oxford ; as also a rough draft of a will of William Orchard, of Oxford, A.D. 1490. As throwing light upon the past history of the town of Oxford, at the close of the 15th century, these papers would probably well repay a close examination.

EDITORIAL NOTE. The following documents relate to Bridgwater

The following extracts from documents, in general of a more recent date, which came under my notice during my last visit to Bridgwater, have been kindly forwarded to me by Mr. J. R. Smith, Junior, of the Friars, Bridgwater; from whom, in addition to this favour, I have received valuable assistance on many occasions during my researches; thanks to his extensive acquaintance with, and the active interest he takes in, the past history and antiquities of his native place.

An Information (on foolscap paper) of Sarah Leakey, of Bridgwater, widow, taken on oath the 22nd of August 1744, before William Binford, an Alderman and Justice of the peace for the Borough; wherein she states that she keeps a common alehouse within the Borough, and that yesterday, about noon, one Bampfylde Moore Carew, or Bampfylde Carew, as he named himself, came to her house, and desired to lodge there, which he did last night; and saith that this evening he came into her house very drunk, and greatly intoxicated with liquor. And deponent further said that the said Carew had then with him at her house a woman whom he called his wife, and a girl, his daughter; and she believed the said Carew to be a common stroller, and had nothing to subsist on but what gentlemen gave him

In a *Life of Carew* (better known as the "King of the "Gipsies") published in 1812, it is stated that he on several occasions visited Bridgwater, on one of which, about the time of the great Fair, he appeared upon crutches, with his old friends and schoolfellows, Martin, Escott, and Coleman; they were all apprehended and put in limbo (as it is

stated) by order of the then Mayor, and an amusing incident is related as to how they obtained their liberty, after one night's custody, through the aid of a surgeon of the place, who had access to their place of confinement.

EDITORIAL NOTE: *The Life and Adventures of Bampfylde Moore Carew* was first published in 1745. Although it states that the contents were "noted by himself during his passage to America" and it is likely facts were supplied by Carew, the author was probably Robert Goadby, a printer in Sherborne, Dorset, who published an early edition in 1749. It has been suggested that Carew dictated his memoirs to Mrs. Goadby.

The Life and Adventures continued to be a best seller throughout the next hundred years in numerous editions as books and chapbooks. He became a nationally known character, appealing to a provincial audience. One edition of his life was printed in Hull in 1785

A Letter (on foolscap paper) from Thomas Fairfax, the Parliamentary General, as follows:—

" Gentlemen, Having perused a certificate under the hands of Tho. Wroth, Knight, Col. John Pyne, and Col. Rob Blake, members of the Hon. House of Commons in this present Parliamt, in the behalf of the Burrow of Bridgwater, in the Countie of Somerset, importing an inequalltie of taxes and paym charged " upon the same by the Hundred of North Petherton, whereof the said burrow is a part; and particularly in this present monthly assessment, wherein the rest of the said hundred doth presse the said burrow, and limits thereof, to pay a third part with the said hundred, whereas upon good informacon it is but the eighteenth (eighth) part of the said hundred. I therefore desire yow all that accordingly you lay no more on the said burrow and limits thereof, in the said monthly assessmt and other publique rates, then according to the proporcion of the eighth part as aforesaid; forbearing to trouble the said towne anie farther in that behalf; and the rather, for that the said towne hath susteyned exceeding great losses by fire; almost one third part thereof being burnt down to the ground in the late seidge thereof; the Parliament having besides declared their desires and intencions to redresse all grievances of this nature through the inequality of rates in the kingdome : thus not doubting of your readie conformitie to a thing soe just and equall, thus

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attested by the members aforementioned, who well know the different state and condicon both of the said towne and hundred. " I remaine,
" Windsor, the second Your verie assured frend, "
of December 1647." " T. FAIRFAX."

(Directed, on the outside)

"To the Commissioners for the monthly assessment in the Countie of Somersett, and to the High Constable of the hundred of North Petherton, and every of them."

On a small double sheet, quarto.— A Letter bearing the Royal Seal of England: signed by "William "Blathwayt," and dated from the Court at Whitehall, the 4th December 1687; the King's most Excellent Majesty being present in Councill: reciting that, by the Charter granted to the Town of Bridgwater, a power was reserved to His Majesty, by his order in Council to remove from their employments any officers in the said town ; His Majesty was pleased to order thereby that William Masey, John Rogers, William Symons, Town Clerk, Robert Baker, William Criddle, John Curry, and Robert Reeves, capital burgesses, be removed and displaced from their aforesaid offices in the said town of Bridgwater.

By a similar letter, headed "James R," dated "Whitehall, 6th Decr. 1687, in the 3rd of our reign," and signed, by His Majesty's command, by "Sunderland L^d," and directed "to our trusty and well " beloved the Mayor and Corporation of our Borough of Bridgewater, etc.;" they are required forthwith to elect and admit

"our trusty and well beloved John "Gilbert, Sen, Robert Balch, Roger Hoare, Thomas Turnor, Samuell Pitman, and John William Briknell, to be capital burgesses and Town Clerke in the room of the persons removed by former order, without administering any oath, except the usuall oath for the execution of their respective places."

An Information, on foolscap paper, dated 2nd July 1718, made by Henry Player, the sexton, and Richard Coles, parish clerk, of the parish and parish church of Bridgwater : who say that George Balch, John Trott, and 12 others (therein named) are all Dissenters from the Church of England, and, save occasionally, never come to the divine service of the Church. Also, that Roger Hoare, Joseph Farewell, Joseph Grandway, John Roberts, Robert Methwen, James Bowles, and John

Oldmixon [the historian], had applyed themselves to, and frequented the Presbyterian and Anabaptist Conventicles; till of late they are thence withdrawn, and come to the service of the Church of England; and that Robert Methwen was generally looked on and much taken notice of as a troublesome man, and a great disturber of the peace and quiet of the town.

That they never saw the said Hoare, Farewell, Grandway, Roberts, Methwen, or Mr. John Gilbert, kneel at the reading of the prayers of the Church. They also depose as to the manner, in which the Mayor was wont to celebrate great occasions, etc., such as Coronation day, Royal birthdays, etc., by ringing of bells, bonfires, going to church in state (order of procession somewhat minutely described), and meeting in the evening at a public-house to drink the health of the Sovereign.

Information of Katherine Welles, in 1718, who deposed that her late husband, John Welles, went into Wales to escape being taken up for drinking the Pretender's, health by the name of King James III., and for speaking seditious words: and that he kept himself there until the passing of the Act of Pardon and Indemnity.

A letter, dated 16th October 1653, addressed to Humfry Blake, asking him to use his influence with the Mayor of Bridgwater, on behalf of Thomas Maundy, of Fetter Lane, London, for the payment of 25*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* for the making of one of the maces for the borough, which weighed 56 ¹/₄ oz., at 9*s.* per ounce, and 5*s.* for the case.

An Affidavit, dated 1718, headed "In Banco Regis" (on foolscap paper, with a shilling stamp) made by Ambrose Hozee and three other capital burgesses of the borough; two of whom say, they syte (sit) in a pew between Joel Gardner and James Bowles ; and that Joel Gardner usually makes his responses to the services of the Church in time of divine service loud enough to be heard by any one near him (if not asleep), and especially on his knees when the King and royal family are prayed for ; and that the said James Bowles doth usually sleep or lye in a sleeping posture upon his seat in time of service; and therefore tis no wonder if he does not hear the responses made by others to the prayers of the Church, at the reading of which he seldom or never kneels.

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This statement as to Bowles is confirmed by an Affidavit of William Prior, dated 8th January 1718; who, in order to shew his own loyalty, further states that

“He did blot the name of Queen Anne out of his Prayer Book, which he usually made use of in the church; and wrote the name of his then Majesty King George in the Litany, and other prayers therein; and that he always made his responses on his knees; that he did not (as falsely accused) drink the health of the king on the other side of the water, or endeavour to make a bonfire on the Pretender's birthday.”

Roger Hoare (another party accused of disloyalty), by Affidavit dated in October 1718, states

“That he constantly knelt at the prayers of the Church according to the : directions of the Common Prayer Book, except when he was troubled with the gout; and that, being then lately Churchwarden, the sexton brought him a box for collecting brief money, and delivered it to him while kneeling on his knees.”

Richard Coles, parish clerk, and others, make information as to how, by the order of Robert Steare, the then Mayor, they prevented an attack by the country folk on the Meeting-house at Bridgwater; keeping a night watch, and being provided with bills and other weapons for the said watch: (no date, and probably only a draft, as many alterations are made).

Warrant, dated 23rd March 1718, under the hand of Edward Raymond, the then Mayor ; directed to the Constables of the Borough, to warn John Gilbert, John Allen, and John Oldmixon, to appear before him at his house by 8 of the clock in the forenoon of that day, to give an account of the names of the persons (which it was stated they knew) who went up and down the streets of the town on the Friday night or Saturday morning previous, in a riotous and seditious manner, disturbing the inhabitants, crying out “Ormond for over ” —“ he is come.”

Information of Richard Miller, John Mounshire, and William Morse; who make oath that on the 28th and 29th May 1717, being the anniversaries of His Majesty's birthday, and the return of King Charles II., upon the request of Ferdinando Anderdon, Mayor, they played upon musick at the “Swan Inn ” in Bridgwater, where

Mr. Anderdon and others were assembled, to make public rejoycings suitable to so great occasions, and that to the best of their remembrance they did not play the tune “The King shall enjoy his own again;” and that Mr. Coles, the lately elected a capital burgess, did not desire them to play it, or offer them 5s. to do so.

An Affidavit of Robert Steare, an Alderman of the borough, wherein he states that Mr. Robert Methwen, a solicitor of Bridgwater, was looked upon and esteemed as a public disturber of the tranquillity of the town, and that he had for many years been infamous for swearing for his clyents at the Assizes.”

Copy of a paper in favour of Ferdinando Anderdon and Nicholas Jefferys, signed by 225 inhabitants, as to the way in which they went through their mayoralities by celebrating great occasions, and the like.

An indenture (on two skins of parchment), dated 13th November 1694, and made between the Mayor, Aldermen, and burgesses of the one part, and Rich. Lowbridge, of Sturbridge, in the County of Worcester, yeoman, of the other part; whereby the said R. Lowbridge agrees, in consideration of certain privileges therein mentioned, to construct water-works, and to supply the town with water, by means of a cistern to be erected on the High Cross, the water being obtained from the Town Brook; the Corporation agreeing, when the work is finished, to pay Lowbridge 100*l*. But by a deed poll, dated the same day as the indenture (on paper foolscap), Lowbridge agrees to release the Corporation from the payment of the 100*l*.

(It may be not inappropriate to add, that these works were constructed, and for many years the town received its supply of water through their agency; the water being conveyed in the ground through large wooden trunks, formed out of hollowed trees; beyond a few fragments of these trunks, which are occasionally dug up in the streets, nothing now remains of the works. High Cross was taken down, no doubt with its cistern, in pursuance of the Act 19 Geo. III. c. 36; being an Act, amongst other things, to improve and widen the avenues leading to the Market House.)

An indenture on parchment, dated 1st January 1646, signed by “Humphrey Blake, Mayor,”

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whereby the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses confirm the appointment of Mr. John Norman, as minister of the Parish, and thereby covenant "to pay him for his livelyhood, " to be settled during his officiating there," the annual sum of 110*l.* payable quarterly, free of all taxes, rates, or assessments within the said town.

A book on three sheets of rough double foolscap, written on both sides with the heading,

"In this Boke y^s conteyned as well the weapons as the somes of money taxed upon the ynhabytants of Bridgewat^r for the setting forth of souldyers the vij daye of February, A.D. 1557, yn which yere Calyes by the French was takyin."

The book is arranged in the order of streets—the greatest number of names occurring in the street called "Between Church and Bridge." The total amount of money produced by this assessment appears to have been 31, 19*s.* 4*d.*; and among the many instruments of war which were given, may be mentioned bills, bows, spears, swords, daggers, jacks, and poleaxes.

As in the case of my former Report, it is my pleasing duty to express my obligations to my friend, H. F. Nicholls, Esquire, the Worshipful the Mayor of Bridgwater, at whose suggestion — owing to the great interest he takes in the early history of the town — this second inspection has been made. As on the former occasion also, I have to return my thanks to J. H. B. Carslake, Esquire, the Town Clerk, for his kind assistance, in the way of placing every possible facility for examining these documents at my disposal. My obligations to Mr. J. R. Smith, Jun^r., for his valuable services have elsewhere been brought under notice.

HENRY THOMAS RILEY