

## MR. EDWARD SALISBURY'S REPORT ON THE RECORDS OF NEW ROMNEY.

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It is seldom that a corporation can produce archives so numerous as those still remaining in the possession of the town of New Romney.

These stores of antiquarian knowledge were hidden from sight till some ten years ago, when, under the auspices of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, some notices of them were appended by the late Henry T. Riley to the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Reports of that Commission. The corporation were enabled by those reports to appreciate more fully the value of their records. To make them more accessible "to all whom it may concern," and to render them more secure against loss or ill usage at the hands of successors ignorant of their real worth, the present corporation took steps to have them thoroughly repaired, inspected, and catalogued, and the following report has thereupon been drawn up.

Whilst inspecting the records of New Romney, Mr. Riley was so struck with their stores of ancient lore and historical information, that he availed himself largely of the information scattered through them. His reports consist, almost entirely, of curious and interesting extracts from the bound volumes, which are the oldest, and the most valuable part of the collection. The earliest volume, the Assessment Book for 3-7 Richard II., he translated *in extenso*, at the instigation of Henry Stringer and Henry Bachelor Walker, Esquires, whose antiquarian tastes led them to urge the due preservation and investigation of these records. This translation is now among the archives of Romney, and will be found on the interleaves introduced into the volume when it was rebound, under Mr. Riley's direction. The most unlearned "seeker after truth" is thus made acquainted with the varied contents of this volume, which opens with the levying in Romney of the poll tax that led to Wat Tyler's insurrection, and contains many interesting particulars throwing light on that troubled period. At the same time the two next volumes, Assessment Books, ii. and iii., were similarly bound, and remain at present as left by Mr. Riley, except that during my inspection of the Romney records, in June 1885, a portion of an earlier folio of volume ii., than the one with which it commences, came to light, and two complete folios (115, 116) belonging to volume iii. were also found. These additions have been repaired, and inserted in their respective places.

In Mr. Riley's Reports to the Historical Manuscripts Commission no attempt was made to shew the connection between the different classes of records, nor how the one set of books originally kept by the town authorities expanded into two or three series, in order to keep pace with the increased business and importance of the borough; nor how the officials who kept the town accounts, for instance, were changed at a later period and reduced to two in number, either to make it possible to deal with all the affairs relating to this Cinque Port by a division of labour, or perhaps most probably because the financial state of the town required fewer officers to care for it, its trade having been diminished by the receding of the sea from its ancient haven, as the huge promontory of Dungeness was formed gradually in the course of years. This work Mr. Riley would most likely have been requested to undertake had his life been prolonged, but his untimely death left his work unfinished, and this report aims to complete as well as may be what he so well began.

I propose, therefore, to deal with the Romney Records in the two classes into which they naturally fall, viz., (1) of bound volumes and (2) of loose papers, and to thoroughly investigate their contents.

## RECORDS OF NEW ROMNEY.

### PART I.—“BOOKS.”

The volumes remaining extant in the possession of the corporation of Romney are thirty-four in number, and may be arranged in classes in the following order in which they will be dealt with in the ensuing report, viz.:

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| (1) Assessment Books.       | (6) Charter Books.   |
| (2) Chamberlain's Accounts. | (7) An odd volume containing<br>the election of the Mayor<br>and Jurats. |
| (3) Court Books.            |  |
| (4) Books of Plaints.       |  |
| (5) Common Assembly Books.  |  |

#### (1.) ASSESSMENT BOOKS.

The books which may be thus described in the Romney Records are six in number, vols. i.—vi.; they cover the period from 1379 to 1527, the only break being from 1446 to 1448, which occurs between volumes ii. and iii. From 1469 to 1522, the books overlap one another, and constitute a double series, or an early instance of book-keeping by double entry!

The varied records scattered throughout these six books may be thus summarized:—

- a. “Malitota Generalis” or Maletot.
- b. “Compotus” of the Jurats of the town year by year, being an account of receipts and expenditure. From 5 Henry VIII. the accounts are kept by two officials described as “Gardiani,” “Camerarii” or “Thesaurarii.”

- c. Scot and "Common Fine." (Details of each commence in vol. iv.)
- d. Election of Jurats, Mayor or Bailiff, Common Clerk, Chamberlain, and other municipal officers. These are first given for 9 Henry VIII. (See vol. iii., f. 128 d'.)\*
- e. Miscellaneous Entries, Wills, Admissions to the Freedom, Recognizances, Bonds, Indentures, Leases, etc.

#### MALETOT AND SCOT.

The Maletot was "a rate levied upon the sale of commodities;" the Scot or "common fine" was levied upon the inhabitants, at the rate of fourpence on freemen of the town, but of eightpence on "men not free." This privilege as to taxation to some extent accounts for the freedom of the borough being eagerly sought after even to a recent period.

The Maletot was seldom levied more than once a year, being generally assessed from March 25 for the ensuing year; but the Scots were levied frequently, at intervals of about three months on the average, though in cases of emergency they followed one another in rapid succession. Instances of this will be mentioned in our notice of volume v. of the Assessment Books. If the amount raised by a Scot was insufficient it was sometimes supplemented by the levying of a half Scot to make up the deficiency. The Scot was levied (originally, at least) for some definite object outside the ordinary expenses of the borough (see, *e.g.*, vol. vi., f. 51 d'); while the "General Maletot" was to defray the ordinary charges of the town. Therefore the reason for raising the Maletot is never given, while the object for which the Scot was assessed is nearly always stated.

Let us now examine these volumes more in detail.

#### VOLUME I., ASSESSMENT BOOK, 3-7 RICHARD II.

This book gives, at folio 1, the assessment of all persons above the age of fifteen, dwelling in Romney towards the subsidy granted to Richard II. by his Parliament at Northampton, 2 November, 4 Richard II. This is the only detailed entry of the assessment of a "lay subsidy" in Romney that I have been able to find in these volumes.

The first entries of the assessment of the Maletot are irregular—the first, entered at fol. 4 d', is for a period of eighteen months,

\* The numbers attributed to the volumes are those given to them in the Schedule of Books, appended to this Report.

The number of a folio simply applies to the obverse of the leaf; the reverse is denoted by the number followed by a d' (dorso).

The little letters *a* and *b* refer to the left and right hand column on the page respectively.

Thus Fol. 12 = obverse of page 12.

Fol. 12 d' = reverse or back of page 12.

Fol. 12 (*a*) = left-hand column on the face of page 12.

Fol. 12 d' (*b*) = right-hand column on reverse of page 12.

from Christmas, 3 Richard II., to 24 June, 5 Richard II.; and the next, at folio 7, was "paid by tally" for nine months, from June 24 to March 25, 5 Richard II. These are the only instances of a Maletot being levied for a period other than one year.

The first "Compotus" of receipts and expenditure (f. 9) is for the complete year 25 March, 4 Richard II., to 25 March, 5 Richard II.; but on looking closely into the items of receipt it is found to contain *all* the sums the assessment of which is previously given at ff. 1, 4 d', and 7. Hence we conclude that the volume now before us is *complete in itself*; all the amounts stated in it to have been raised previous to the first "Compotus" being duly acknowledged in that account. But the first item of revenue is (f. 9) a sum of £19 4s. 1d. *received by the present accountants from their predecessors*, Jurats of Romney. From this we must conclude that some system of levying taxes, and some records of them, existed in Romney before the period at which this first volume commences. This conclusion is strengthened by an entry that occurs at fol. 44 d' of volume ii. Richard Grygory was imprisoned, and charged with breaking the peace and acting contrary to the usages of the town by hindering the porters in the discharge of their duty of "wine-trending." The Jurats ordered a search as to his antecedents to be made in "the Register of the Acts of the Town;" and in such register for 14 Richard II. (or 1390) it was found that on a similar occasion he had been bound over in 100s. to keep the peace. Such entries clearly prove the previous existence of earlier records which have now entirely disappeared.

The Maletots for the years 5-6 and 6-7 Richard II. respectively are given at ff. 13 and 17 d'; each being followed by the Compotus for the same period; and thus the volume before us presents a complete outline of the taxation of Romney, and the receipts and expenditure of the corporation from Christmas, 3 Richard II. (1379), to 25 March, 7 Richard II. (1384), at which point the Romney finance is taken up by volume ii.

Before leaving vol. i. it is to be noted that nothing but money matters are entered in it; it is purely and simply an "Account Book;" and those miscellaneous notes and memoranda which throw strong side-lights on the local and political history of the place do not occur in this volume.

## VOLUME II., ASSESSMENT BOOK, 7 RICHARD II. TO 24 HENRY VI.

Till recently this volume began at folio 8 of the old pagination, the first seven folios being entirely gone. A careful search among the loose records of the corporation brought to light a portion of folio 6, which has been repaired and inserted in its proper place. This portion of folio 6 bears only miscellaneous notes, such as occur also on folios 8 and 9, and it seems likely that all the leaves from 1 to 9 originally contained similar memoranda, not regular entries of Maletot or Compotus. This view is borne out by the fact that the first Maletot here entered (at folio 2 d' present pagination) is for the

year beginning 25 March, 7 Richard II., the very date at which the previous book stops.

The contents of volume ii. are as follow:

1. The Maletot levied from "the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin" (March 25) in each year till the same date in the following year.
2. The annual "Compotus" of the Jurats of the town.
3. Miscellaneous Entries, Wills, Recognizances, Admissions to the Freedom, Pleas, etc.

At ff. 15 d', 19, the clerk apparently left a blank space for the heading descriptive of the Maletot given below, but omitted to fill it in afterwards. This is the first sign of anything like carelessness or haste in keeping these books; later on it becomes very common, the heading being omitted altogether or shortened into the one word "Maletolta."

Extraneous notes among the accounts occur for the first time at folio 21 d'. At folio 52 these notes begin to assume large proportions, taking up no less than four pages, ff. 52, 53. This is an indication of the increase of business, which, in later times, led to the one class of record originally kept in the town being split up into three or four different sets of books, according to the different matters to be recorded. Thus during the reign of Henry VIII. the series of Assessment Books, which had up to that time been almost the only record of all the proceedings of the town, is separated into three distinct series: (1) Chamberlain's Account Books; (2) Court Books; and (3) Books of Pleas. The financial particulars previously entered in the Assessment Books are recorded in the Chamberlain's Account Books; the Court Books contain Admissions to the Freedom and other business transacted at the courts; and the Pleas, such as that entered at folio 44 d' of volume ii., are recorded in the Books of Pleas.

At folio 63 of this volume the names of the Jurats who furnish the "Compotus" are given for the first time; and in the absence of any list of Jurats elected for this period they are valuable.

Miscellaneous accounts relative to the voyages of the "Bargia" of Romney also occur at folio 44 d'; the expenses attendant on sending the said barge to Newcastle are noted, anno 21 Richard II.: "Compotus Symonis Cleric, Roberti Geste, Supervisorum Bargie et Johannis Palmer Magistri ejusdem xxvj<sup>to</sup> die Maii a<sup>o</sup> r.r.r. (regni Regis Ricardi) predicti xxi<sup>o</sup>." And at folio 85 d' is a note of expenses connected seemingly with the expedition to Agincourt, 3-4 Henry V. This last entry is suggestive of the hurry and activity prevalent in seaports of the south and east coasts, to furnish the King with ships necessary to transport his expedition to France, and provide them with commissariat stores. These books abound in such touches as these, and it is on this account that they are so valuable in connection with history at large.

#### ORIGINAL FORM OF THESE BOOKS.

What the original form of this and the following Assessment Book was it is very difficult to determine. It would seem to have

been made up of loose accounts, each year being kept separately, and the whole series being eventually brought together and bound up into one volume. This is supported by the following evidence: (1) That the leaves of the book varying greatly in size form a most irregular volume; (2) that from folio 96 to folio 139, as originally bound (judging by the former pagination), the accounts are arranged anyhow, without regard to chronological sequence; and (3) that for some years the account either of receipts or expenditure is wanting, and for other years both are absent, which would imply that they had been mislaid and were not forthcoming when the volume was bound originally in the parchment cover, the remains of which form the frontispiece of the present book. Thus both Maletot and Compotus for 5-6 Henry V. are missing, which should be entered at folio 89; at folio 102 the accounts of the expenditure for 3-4 Henry VI. are given, but out of place, as they ought to follow folio 103 containing the expenditure for 2-3 Henry VI.; while there is no account of the Maletot levied in 3-4 Henry VI., and no Compotus for 4-5 Henry VI.; and at folio 130 both Maletot and Compotus for 18-19 Henry VI. are entirely wanting. On the other hand, the numerous anachronisms in which the book abounds dispose one to think that the volume must have been bound at an early period. Thus folio 97 gives the continuation of the "Compotus" for 5-6 Henry VI. begun on folio 106 d', and yet it occurs *after* the accounts of 9-10 Henry V., and contains a lengthy memorandum dated 23 Henry VI., and a note of 1 Edward IV. So also at folio 100 d', after the accounts of 1-2 Henry VI., occurs a "finalis recognicio," dated 3 June, 10 Henry VI., which seems to have been inserted here as a convenient place, by the clerk at the later date who found this space blank.

Towards the end of this volume the accounts of receipts and expenditure are kept with much less regularity and correctness than is the case previously. On folio 131 occurs the *heading* of the Maletot for the year 20-21 Henry VI., but the accounts entered on the lower half of the page seem to have been neatly cut out by means of a knife or scissors. Folios 132-134 contain miscellaneous entries of the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI., and at folio 135 occurs the Compotus of the Jurats for the year 23-24 Henry VI., both receipts and expenditure being given. Hence for the years 20-23 Henry VI. no accounts remain, except that among the receipts for the year 23-24 Henry VI. this item occurs: "£23 5s. 3d. of old debt for the Scots and Maletots of preceding years."

This volume ends with folio 136, which contains three memoranda of the years 37 Henry VI. and 1 Edward IV. on its face; on the dorse are some entries dated 25 Henry VI.

Among the receipts noted on folio 130 is the sum of £9 12s. 6d. from the men of Lydd, in part-payment of their contribution for the year. This contribution, of the *fifth-penny* paid by the men of Lydd, which is a constant item in the town accounts of Romney, led to many a dispute in after years between the Cinque Port and its member. A record of two such quarrels has come down to us in the shape of two *Compositions*, between the men of Lydd and

Romney, still existing amongst the Lydd records and belonging to the reigns of Henry VIII. and Charles I. respectively.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF ROMNEY.

Among the items of Romney expenditure, the amount paid to the Members sitting for Romney will always be found whenever a Parliament was held. But at folio 100 (1-2 Henry VI.) after accounting for a certain sum paid to John Adam and Richard Clytherowe for representing Romney in Parliament for a certain time we read, "Also paid to the same John Adam being at the same Parliament (1 Henry VI.) *for this towne and Dover*, viz., from the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March inclusive, receiving for our town 20<sup>d</sup> a day: total £3 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup>." Turning to the official "Returns of Members of Parliament," vol. i., p. 304 (*Blue Book*, A.D. 1878), we find that in the Parliament summoned to meet at Westminster 9 November 1422 (1 Henry VI.), Romney was represented by Ricardus Cliderowe and Willielmus Piers, and Dover by Johannes Braban and Willielmus Hamond; and that in the Parliament summoned to meet at Westminster 20 October 1423 (2 Henry VI.) these places were represented—Romney by Johannes Adam and Ricardus Clytherowe, and Dover by Walterus Stratton and Johannes Braban, respectively. But no indication is to be found that either of these members at any time during these two years *represented both places at once*, as is here stated. This is by no means the only occasion on which this anomaly occurs; for we read again at fol. 103 that 5 marcs were "paid John Braban for his stipend at Parliament the previous year" (*i.e.* 2 Henry VI.), although according to the official return quoted above Braban represented Dover, and not Romney, in that Parliament; and at fol. 103 d', among the accounts for 4-5 Henry VI., a payment made to John Byngle as representing *Dover and Romney*, is accounted for, although the official return simply described Byngle as one of the members sent up by Dover. A similar entry will be found at fol. 106 d', with regard to John Adam, one of the Romney members, who is paid for "being at Parliament for us and Dover" in the year 5-6 Henry VI. At fol. 110 appear entries in the year 7-8 Henry VI. for payments made to John Adam and Richard Clytherowe as representing Romney, and to one Crouche, member for Dover, for "being at the Parliament for us and Dover," of 20d. a day for eighty days.

VOLUME III., ASSESSMENT BOOK, 1448-1527.

The pagination in this volume is at first threefold: one numbering in Roman figures is contemporary with the book. This original pagination, however, stops at folio 21; thence to folio 44 the numbering is only twofold, at the bottom of the page, in a sixteenth century hand, and at the top in a later hand. At folio 44 the former of these ceases, and thenceforward the paging is consecutive, in an early seventeenth century hand. For some reason which does not appear the accounts for the three years 13-16 Henry

VIII. are wanting; the book closing at folio 138 with the accounts for 17-18 Henry VIII. When the volume was rebound, under Mr. Riley's supervision, folios 116 and 117 were missing, but a careful search brought to light the missing leaves, and they have now been bound up in their proper place. The contents of volume iii. may be summarized thus:

- (1.) General Maletot up to 13 Edward IV. (fol. 75).
- (2.) "Compotus Juratorum" to 5 Henry VIII., and after that "Compotus Gardianorum" or "Camerariorum."
- (3.) "Electio Juratorum," etc., from 9 Henry VIII. (fol. 128 d').
- (4.) Miscellaneous Entries: Wills, Recognizances, Bonds, Indentures, Admissions to the Freedom, etc., etc.

(1.) The Maletot is accounted for in full in this volume up to the year 12-13 Edward IV. But from folio 75 (d') [13-14 Edward IV.] the name of and amount contributed by each individual are not given, as had been customary hitherto; *but these details are entered in a separate set of books, commencing with the next volume (vol. iv., 8 Edward IV. to 7 Henry VII.); and in the present volume is entered only the total amount derived from the Maletot for the year, which appears as the first item of receipt in the Compotus for each year.* Hence we see that for the years 13-14 Edward IV. to 13 Henry VIII. the increase of business and the growth of the place drove the Jurats to a system of bookkeeping by double-entry, that by single entry being found too cumbersome for their purpose! The two sets of books employed consist of:—(1) *Assessment Books*, vols. iv.-vi., covering the period from 8 Edward IV. to 13 Henry VIII., and taking the place of the account of the Maletot, hitherto given immediately before the "Compotus" in the same volume with it, and containing also the account of Scots and fines levied in the town; and (2) *Assessment Book*, vol. iii., 26 Henry VI. to 18 Henry VIII., the volume now under consideration. This fact is most interesting. It speaks of the influence felt at Romney from the widening of the nation's mind, the extension of its boundaries, the impulse to its commerce, produced by the discovery of the New World, and the resumption by England of its guiding hand in politics on the continent, when at the close of the internecine Wars of the Roses she again took a leading part, in what we now call the "European Concert"! Situate as Romney was upon the seaboard nearest to France, in continual intercourse with continental nations by means of its commerce, it could not but feel the effect of the world-wide stirring and awakening in the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII. Changes were made in the constitution of its corporation, and in its methods of recording local affairs, which have lasted till times relatively modern; and it is hardly too much to say that by the end of Henry VIII.'s reign the form the corporation had assumed and its method of administering local affairs were essentially the same as at the commencement of the present century.

- (2.) This volume also shows a great change in the officials who

kept the accounts of the town. Hitherto the account has always been described as "Compotus Juratorum," but at folio 124 of the present volume the account for 5-6 Henry VIII. is rendered by Clement Baker and Thomas Glover, "GUARDIANS" of the town of Romney. This is the first time that this term is applied to the accountants; while the next account for 6-7 Henry VIII. (folio 126) is kept by John Holle and Thomas Glover, "*Camerarii*" or *Chamberlains* of the town. Then at folio 127, 7-8 Henry VIII., the two accountants, John Houll and John Lucas, are again called "Guardians." Next year the Accountants are John Lucas and Christofer Henfield (folio 128); and in the following year Christofer Henfield and Richard Bursill (folio 129) are also called "Guardians or Chamberlains." Chamberlain eventually became the usual term.

Hence it would appear that from this time *two Accountants were chosen from among the Jurats for each year* (compare the "Electio Juratorum" on folio 128 d' with the "Compotus" on folio 129), who are called Chamberlains or Guardians, and to whom the care of the town finances was committed. Moreover only one of the two Chamberlains was changed every year. Thus, one of them, having been a Chamberlain for the previous year, would possess an experience and a knowledge of details that would ensure continuity and accuracy in rendering the accounts; while the continual introduction of a stranger would prevent peculation, and render collusion to defraud the commonalty impossible for any length of time.

On one occasion, 10-11 Henry VIII. (folio 131), indeed, the two Chamberlains chosen were both new, but the reason seems to be that neither of the Chamberlains for the previous year (see the election of Jurats at folio 130) were among the Jurats chosen for this year. At folio 132 the accounts are rendered for the first time *in English* by "John Chylton and Harry Robyns, Chamberleyns of the Towne & Port of Newe Romeneý" for the year 11 and 12 Henry VIII.

About this time the Chamberlains seem sometimes to have had difficulty in getting the Scot and other taxes paid by the commoners; for at folio 134 is an entry that on March 25th, 13 Henry VIII., after the election of officers, "the foresaid Comminers were determyned and also condiscended that every person or persons who will not pay their Scotas as thei be sessed or otheir their duties within a moneth after thei be required by the Chamberlayns of the said Towne of Romeneý that then thei and every of them to be committed to Warde and there to remayne unto such tyme as their said duties be full satisfied and paide."

(3.) Folio 128 d' marks an important epoch in the keeping of the records of Romney, for the election of *Jurats* is there recorded *for the first time*, as well as that of the Chamberlains, Common Clerk, and Common Sergeant. From the year 9 Henry VIII. therefore down to a comparatively late date, these Assessment Books furnish a complete list of all officers chosen year by year to constitute the corporation of Romney. The election took place at the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25), at the beginning of the

financial year, and their term of office expired at the same date in the following year.

At folio 119 the chief magistrate, previously called Mayor, is again designated Baylif. In the later volumes, the election of this officer is never noted.

(4.) The miscellaneous notes entered in this volume vary greatly both in character and importance. Among the most important are the entries of *wills*, specimens of which will be found at folio 45, where "the last will" of John le Mede of Romney, made 8 April, 33 Henry VI., is given; and folio 52, where the will of John Porter, dated at Romney 18 December 1465, occurs. It is to be noted that no chronological order is observed in these entries of memoranda, but the scribe seems to have inserted them wherever he could find room. Thus at folio 45 is entered the above will, dated 8 April, 33 Henry VI.; the next memorandum underneath this is of an admission to the freedom, dated 10 October, 2 Edward IV.; and the first two entries on folio 45 d' are of 11 October 3 Edward IV. and 9 November 2 Edward IV. respectively. At folio 50 in like manner occur entries dated in the following order: 4 Edward IV., 4 March 1460-1, 15 Edward IV., 4 Edward IV., 22 Edward IV., and 7 Henry VII.

At folio 50 is a most curious account of the accession to the throne of Edward, Earl of March, not to be met with in any English history. The following is a translation of a portion of it:

"Memorandum, that on Wednesday 4 March in the year of Our Lord according to the computation of the Roman Church 1461, but according to the computation of the Church of England in the year of our Lord 1460, being not entirely finished, Edward, Earl of March, by the older and wiser of the people of the Kingdom of England, with the intervention of Divine grace, (was) called and by the concurrent voice of the people was accepted and chosen as King, to whom it belonged of mere hereditary right, and received possession of the Kingdom of England and government of the same and the sceptre and diadem of the same at Westminster," etc.

Then follows the pedigree of the Earl of March.

#### VOLUME IV., ASSESSMENT BOOK, 1469-1492.

The next Assessment Book embraces a very eventful period, from 8 Edward IV. to 7 Henry VII. (1469-1492). It is now in very good condition, one leaf, folio 37, having been recovered in the process of repairing and rebinding.

Like the previous volumes, the first few pages seem to have contained miscellaneous entries, now lost, owing to these pages being entirely decayed, and only a few fragments remaining. The book really begins at folio 3 with, (translation) "The Scot assessed on the Sunday after the Feast of S<sup>t</sup> Hilary in the Eighth year of Edward IV., King of England (*i.e.* January 15, 1469), by Commissioners of that town, at the rate of 4<sup>d</sup> in the £ from Freemen, and 8<sup>d</sup> from men not free; half of it to be paid by Saturday next

(January 21) by each man, under pain of forfeiting 12<sup>d</sup> besides the aforesaid part, and the other half to be paid on the Feast of Pentecost next (May 21) without further delay."

At folio 4 d' the general Maletot for 8-9 Edward IV. is given; on folio 7 the receipts by the Jurats of Romney "de vetere debito" of old debt during the year 9-10 Edward IV.; and on folio 9 d' the payments for the same period. This book also gives (*e.g.*, pp. 14-16) the proportion which the men of Lydd owe as their contribution towards the expenses of the commonalty for the years 8 and 9 Edward IV.

The contents of the volume are therefore—(1) The Scots levied. (2) The General Maletots collected. (3) Accounts of receipts and expenditure. (4) The contribution paid by the men of Lydd. (5) The names of the Jurats and "Thesaurarii" elected.

At first the entries extraneous to these subjects are very few, but about the 13th year of Edward IV. (folio 53 d') they become so numerous as to occupy as much space as the account of Scots and Maletots. The interesting nature of these memoranda may be judged from the following specimen which occurs at folio 54: "Memo<sup>d</sup> that on Seynt Andrew's Day Apostill in the xii yere of the reign of our Sovereyn Lord Kyng E the iiij<sup>th</sup> Sir Richard Corbet p'och' pr'st (parish priest) of Seynt Nicholas (was) had into the Commen house for diverse frays supposed by hym made wythin the town, uppon which the seide Sir Richard promised if he be founde in defaute of ye seide frays makyng, to abide the rule of the Jurats of this town, and to kepe good rule and no frays to make withyne the town in tyme to come but if it be his defendant under payne of forfaytur of xls to the Commen of y<sup>e</sup> town."

#### THE SCOT.

With regard to the taxes levied under the name of Scot, the time allowed for the payment of the Scots seems to have varied greatly, according to the occasion. Thus at folio 106 a Scot is levied on 18 June, 15 Edward IV., "to be paid immediately without further delay, with all speed;" and at folio 110 another Scot is assessed on 17 September, 15 Edward IV., "one moiety to be paid on Sunday next following, viz. September 24, and the other moiety on the Sunday next after that, viz. October 1st." But, as a rule, a period of from two to three months seems to have been allowed for payment (see, *e.g.*, folios 24 d', 80, and 126). Sometimes it was necessary to raise a further amount in addition to that yielded by the Scot, and this was done by levying a half Scot, as at folio 82.

Towards the end of this book the entries are irregular, and the accounts badly kept. In the course of repairing and rebinding, portions of two extra leaves have been recovered, and the volume now ends at folio 319. (*Cf.* the Historical MSS. Commission Report, IV., App., p. 440, sect. 2.)

## VOLUME V., ASSESSMENT BOOK, 1492-1516.

Volume v. begins exactly at the point where the previous book left off, and its contents are of a similar character, and similarly arranged to those of the previous volume.

Examining the book more in detail we find folio 1 filled with miscellaneous notes belonging to the reign of Henry VII. At folio 2 is entered a Scot assessed on the 26 July, 7 Henry VII., "ad navigium domini Regis," and payable immediately. On folio 3 d' another Scot is described as levied "in auxilium navigii," and being assessed on August 26 was to be paid on September 8; while the next entry (folio 4 d') is of a Scot assessed on September 23 following, for the same purpose, and payable on the Sunday next after the Feast of St. Francis. It would thus seem that in times of emergency special Scots were levied at very short intervals indeed. The next entry on folio 5 d' is of a Scot levied on nearly the same day, September 25, and for the same purpose, but not payable till All Saints' Day, November 1, following.

The first few pages of this volume are entirely filled with notes of the different Scots levied; and it is not till we come to folio 9 d' that we meet with a "Malitolta Generalis" levied for the year 7-8 Henry VII. Amongst the entries of receipts for this year is a curious one of "receipts of aid from the men of Old Romney," to which attention has been called by some antiquarian searcher of a later date, by the insertion of a hand pointing to the entry and the word "nota" by its side.

## DISTURBANCES IN THE TOWN.

The receipts for the year 7-8 Henry VII. are given very fully, and include items of income of a very varied nature, including the proceeds of the Scots and "recepçiones pro sanguine extracto et affraais hoc anno." This latter source of revenue contributes a total of 6s. 2d.; and it is not perhaps strange that the contribution was received from a man bearing the very suggestive name of "Richard *Vacabond*," who "pro affraia facta in Willielmum Heere" has to pay xii d. only, "et residuum condonatur quia pauper est." His adversary, William Heere, has also to pay xii d. himself, but we read that "8d. was received from Isabella Chapman for William Heere in full payment (of his fine)." Perhaps this leniency may partly account for the fact that in the next year (8-9 Henry VII.) the fines "pro sanguine extracto" (folio 30 d') are much more numerous than in the previous year, and their amounts larger. Indeed there seems to have been a pretty general *melée*, from the way the names are mixed up.

## SUBSIDIES OR FIFTEENTHS LEVIED IN ROMNEY.

Among the receipts for the year 7-8 Henry VII. will be noted (on folio 22) an account of "the first and second whole xv<sup>th</sup> and x<sup>th</sup>" paid "hoc anno," which reminds us immediately of the splendid

accounts of Fifteenths and Tenths in the Public Record Office, known by the name of "Lay Subsidies." There is among those Lay Subsidies nothing for Romney for the reign of Henry VII. except for the twelfth year (Lay Subs., Cinque Ports, 230/187), and for that year only one small membrane containing three names is extant. If these most valuable public records for the Cinque Ports were supplemented by means of a reference to the Romney records now under consideration, and to those of any other of the ports that may be in existence, a very great service would be rendered to the literary public.\*

Up to folio 24 this book contains nothing but the Scots assessed for 7-8 Henry VII., and the account of receipts for the same year. Then at folio 24d' begin the Scots assessed in 8-9 Henry VII. They are not nearly so numerous as in the preceding year, which seems to have been a year of unusual activity by sea, perhaps connected with the discoveries in the New World—see, for example, the fitting out of a fleet by Cabot under the King's auspices in March 1496 (Rymer, vol. xii., p. 595, old edition)—or the fear of some foreign invasion (see Rymer, vol. xii., p. 482, old edition).

At folio 29d' the General Maletot is given, and at folio 31 "recepçiones, camerarii Ville de Romene de anno viij<sup>o</sup> Henrici vij<sup>mi</sup>." In this year the term "Camerarius" supersedes that of "Thesaurarius" previously used in vol. iv., and would seem to point to a change in the duties of the officer who kept the corporation accounts, and prepares the way for the Assessment books becoming the "Chamberlain's Accounts Books," as we find they do in the next volume (volume vi., 1528-1580).

It is remarkable that no account of *expenditure* was kept for the year 7-8 Henry VII.; but for the next year 8-9 the expenditure is given (fol. 39) as well as the receipts. The memoranda inserted

\* The following extract from this volume, folio 22d', will enable the skilled searcher at once to see the value of these records:

"Recepçiones secunde integre xv <sup>o</sup> et x <sup>o</sup> hoc anno (7 Henry VII.).		
"In primis rec' de Thomas Ramsey . . . . .	xxxj <sup>s</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>
Johanne Cheynee, milite, p' W <sup>m</sup> Swann . . . . .	lx <sup>s</sup>	
Ric'o Wygge . . . . .	iiij <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
Joh'e Vagge . . . . .	x <sup>s</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
Thoma Sebrand . . . . .	xij <sup>s</sup>	ix <sup>d</sup>
Joh'e Sebrand . . . . .	ix <sup>s</sup>	ix <sup>d</sup> ½
Will'o Brookhill . . . . .	xx <sup>s</sup>	
de eodem Will'o p' Thomam Bursell . . . . .	xv <sup>s</sup>	v <sup>d</sup>
Joh'e Knechebull . . . . .	iiiij <sup>s</sup>	jd ob.
Joh'e Whateman de Midle . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup>	jd
Joh'e Whateman, Sen <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	iiiij <sup>s</sup>	iiiij <sup>d</sup> ob.
Joh'e Eps . . . . .	iiiij <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
Joh'e Whateman de Midle . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup> ob.
Joh'e Whateman, Jun <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup>	jd
Joh'e Vagge . . . . .	xij <sup>s</sup>	xj <sup>d</sup>
Joh'e Sebrand . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
Summa	ix <sup>li</sup>	vij <sup>s</sup> v <sup>d</sup> ."

No subsidy roll could give a more complete account of the names of those upon whom the Fifteenth was assessed, and the amounts paid by them.

between the accounts of receipts and expenditure are in English, many of them for the first time in this year (folios 37 d', 38).

At folio 47 d' a half Scot is noted as assessed "ad opus et negocium ville." From this time, 9 Henry VII., for a considerable period no more Scots seem to have been levied. The accounts for the year 3-4 Henry VIII. are rendered by Richard Stuppeny, Sen., and Robert Parys, *Guardians* of the town of Romney—the first time that these officers have been the accountants.

The chief omissions in this volume are of all mention of the year 10-11 Henry VII., and of the General Maletot, which is omitted, *for the first time, in the year 3-4 Henry VIII.* In its place is only a note of a Scot granted 5 Henry VIII. "unto the common charge of the King's navy" (folio 172 d').

The following instances will shew the interesting nature of the memoranda interspersed throughout this volume as in the preceding ones. At folio 101 d' is a "Memorandum that the v Ports may not excede above v<sup>c</sup> li Subpena," etc.; but in what direction they may not exceed does not appear; and a note is made at folio 119 d' "of blodwykes presented at the last hundred the Munday before the fest of Saynte Margete the xvij<sup>th</sup> yere of Kyng Harry the VII<sup>th</sup>," after which follows a list of six names.

#### VOLUME VI., ASSESSMENT BOOK, 1516-1522.

The next book in the series, volume vi., 7-13 Henry VIII. (1516-1522), has for convenience sake been described as an Assessment book, but the information it supplies is very varied. Folios 1-56 are wanting, and the volume at present begins at folio 57; folios 57-80 contain entries of miscellaneous matters for various dates during the reigns of Henry VIII., Mary, and Elizabeth, which it is impossible to deal with in any order. At folio 82 the series of Maletots is resumed at the point where it broke off in volume v., the Maletot for 7-8 Henry VIII. being the first given.

On folio 57 d' is an account of a "Common Scote and Common fyne levied and to be payd out of hand," "towards the charges of renewing of the Great Charter of ye v Portes." Folios 58 d' and 59 also contain entries of "the Scote" and "the Common Fyne" levied in the same reign, and similar entries occur up to folio 81, the only exception being one entry on folio 74, bearing date 5 and 6 Philip and Mary. After folio 139, however, the character of the book changes. The rest of it (140-153) would be more correctly described as forming a "*Common Assembly Booke*" for the years 6-9 Elizabeth, with a few memoranda of various dates scattered here and there.

This is the last volume that gives the General Maletot in the old form, stating the names of those upon whom the tax was assessed and the amount levied on each; it thus forms the last of the subseries of volumes (iv.-vi.) which are contemporary with volume iii. and supplementary to it, as noted above; while from the nature of the entries at folios 139-153 it may be called the first

"*Common Assembly Book*," and as such is the first of the series of Common Assembly Books embraced in volumes xxxi.-xxxiii., which cover an unbroken period from 1577 to 1761. Since the entries at folios 139-153 of the present book (volume vi.) refer to the period 6-9 Elizabeth or 1563 to 1567, there is only an interval of some ten years between this book and volume xxxi. Hence we are led to infer that about the middle of Henry VIII.'s reign, 1528, the business to be transacted by the Corporation had so expanded and altered its character that the nature of the records was altered to suit the changed condition of affairs, and we see the *one* set of records described under the common title of "Assessment Books" (vols. i.-iv.) giving place to *two* sets of books of record; viz. (1) the "Chamberlain's Account Books" (vols. vii. and viii.; A.D. 1528 to 1626), in which was recorded the *financial* business of the town; and (2) the "Common Assembly Books" (vols. xxxi.-xxxiii.), containing the record of what may be called the civil business of the Corporation.

At the same time all the law matters arising in the town were put on record in Court Books and Books of Plaints (volumes ix.-xxx.).

The general features of this volume (vi.) have been dealt with in this report, rather than the nature of its individual contents. Attention has already been drawn to these by Mr. Riley, in the Fifth Report of the Historical MSS. Commission (Appendix, pp. 552, 553), where very full and interesting extracts will be found.

#### VOLUME VII., CHAMBERLAIN'S ACCOUNT BOOK, 1528-1580.

The first entry in the book occurs at folio 4 d', and records the election of Jurats, Chamberlains, and other officers, which took place on 25th March, 19 Henry VIII. Then come the accounts of the Chamberlains so elected, the first item received being the proceeds of a "Common Scot" amounting to £5 13s. 6d.

At folio 9 occurs an entry which is interesting, as shewing the state of feeling of the Jurats and Commoners to one another and to the "Brotherydd:" "Att this day be the hole consent of the Jurats and Commoners it is agreed that the contravers between the said Jurates and Commoners be peased without Scote or complaynt to the Brotherydd House uppon payn of every offender doing the contrarye and (to forfeit) 3s. 4d. to be recovered to the use of the town of his goodes and catalles without redempcyon."

#### SOURCES OF INCOME AT THIS TIME.

The Scots were still levied as often as necessary, but only the sum total produced by the Scot is entered as an item of receipt. This is important to notice, for it marks the first great departure from the principle of the Assessment Books, by no longer giving the names of those upon whom the taxes were assessed and the amount paid by each individual. We thus lose that which is of the

utmost value in the eyes of the searcher amongst records—the *names of the inhabitants of the place.*

In addition to the Scots the sources of income are very varied. In some cases money was contributed for a special purpose: thus, at fol. 15 is a note of an "Item (received) of the Bailly and Jurats of Lyde towards the transportyng of the King (Henry VIII.) to Calleys and from Calleys 46s." This was in October 1532 (23 Henry VIII.), and was one of the journeys undertaken by Henry VIII. to have an interview with the French King.

The election of Jurats and other town officers for the year 23 Henry VIII. is not given, but only the account of the Chamberlains for that year at folio 15. Folio 17 is wanting, containing apparently the election of Jurats, etc., for 24 Henry VIII., as the accounts for the year 24-25 Henry VIII. *commence* on folio 18. The interesting nature of the items of receipt and expenditure is again fully proved by an entry on folio 19 d'. The Chamberlains seek allowance for 5 marcs, "paid to Mr. Buntynge in full payment of all his wages of burgesshipp to the Parliament and to the Coronation of the Quene."

#### EARLIEST NOTICE OF HUNDRED COURT.

The earliest mention of a Hundred Court being held will be found at folio 20 of this book, and the election of Jurats, etc., is entered as having been the first business transacted in that Court. After the election other affairs were dealt with, as regulating local matters, admissions to the freedom of the town, etc. The business transacted on this occasion was as follows: "Item it is condescended and agreed by the said Jurates and Comons that wheras Henri Hewson retaillyth sellyng of Ale, that he shall sell a quarte of Ale out of dores as men nedyth to have it for an ob. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) upon payn of every tyme so not doyng and duely approved shall forfeit xiid." Then followed the admission into the freedom of the town of John Dodde, a native of Shelwyche, Kent, and Thomas Houson of Hythe, Kent, and the proceedings closed.

Folio 24, which would give the holding of the Hundred Court and election of Jurats, etc., for the year 26-27 Henry VIII., is missing; but the Chamberlain's Accounts for this year are given at folio 25. On folio 30 d', at the Hundred Court held 25 March, 28 Henry VIII., the admission of Freemen is noted *in English* for the first time in these words: "Att this day be made freemen William Stokes and William Simpson."

At folio 47 is entered the rough account of payments made by Mr. Alnoth during the time that "Wylmott and Merden were Chamberlains," 31 Henry VIII. Turning back to folio 36, we find that Wylmott and Merden were elected Chamberlains for the year 30-31 Henry VIII., and at folio 36 d'-38 d' their accounts are given. Hence folio 47 is out of its place, and ought properly to follow folio 38. It is not quite clear why these rough accounts are entered here, for the *items* of expenditure are not accounted for by the

Chamberlains. William Alsnoth was Bailiff for the year (folio 36), and it would almost seem as if he kept a separate account of moneys expended for the Corporation.

From the 32nd to the 35th year of Henry VIII. (folios 39-57), *i.e.* for 33 and 34 Henry VIII., no election of Jurats is given, and the accounts are very carelessly kept, only the items of expenditure being entered, and no attempt made at balancing the two sides of the account. So again, from 36 Henry VIII. to 2 Edward VI. (folios 61-63), only a few irregular entries occur; but at folio 64 the accounts begin again regularly for 2-3 Edward VI. Between folios 65 and 67 a gap occurs in the accounts, *though not in the old paging*. The years 3-4 and 4-5 Edward VI. were missing; but amongst the loose records in the Corporation chests some sheets of accounts were found which from internal evidence seemed to belong to this period, and the handwriting of which exactly tallies with that of the entries that follow at folio 67, for 5-6 Edward VI. These sheets have therefore been inserted, and fill up the period that was wanting. It is noticeable that from the year 32 Henry VIII. onwards the receipts are very frequently not accounted for.

#### TOWN RENT ROLLS.

Amongst the loose records belonging to Romney is an excellent set of Town Rent Rolls, commencing in the reign of Elizabeth and coming down with but few breaks to the present time. The origin of these Rent Rolls will be found at folio 63 of the present volume, where, among the receipts for 5 Edward VI., these rents of Corporation lands appear under the heading "*The Boke of the Rents of the town.*"

#### DEBTS TO THE TOWN.

Some very curious entries of debts due to the town occur at folio 115 d', at the end of the accounts for 1558-9. The first one is as follows: "Item Goodman Anderson oweth to the towne for one payer of blewe housen 3s. 4d.;" while another man owes 3s. 8d. for a "white fusteyn dobblett." The next individual owes 7s. for two similar articles, and Thomas Coocher was evidently more extravagant in his apparel, for he owes 5s. for three yards of "blacke myllyon frockyn," and 8s. for "one blacke payer of hossen drawn out with Sarssenet." An interesting question suggests itself as to how these debts were incurred. Did the town supply the freemen with goods on account out of the common purse? And did the corporation make a profit out of these and similar transactions?

#### THE ROMNEY "PLAY."

One item of expenditure which occurs at intervals throughout these books comes most prominently before us in the book under examination, *viz.*, *the play acted at Romney*.\* In the accounts for

\* "The Passion Play and Interludes at New Romney" are the subject of a paper, by Canon Scott Robertson, in *Archæologia Cantiana*, XIII., 216-27.

1560-1561 it is by far the most important item, and the entries are so full as to throw great light on the character of the play and the place it held in the popular estimation. The town seems to have grudged no expense to make it a success, and to bring the dresses and stage scenery to as great a pitch of perfection as the ideas of stage decoration at the time would allow. The payments all relate to it from the entry on page 118 of paid “to the Bailiffs and Jurats of Lydd in parte of payment for there copes and vestures bought for o<sup>r</sup> play, £6,” and to John Forsett, Common Clerk, “for wrytynge out of the playe booke” and “the partes of the latter playe” (folio 118 d’), to the list of articles “Bought at London for o<sup>r</sup> Playe.” The labour of writing out the play and the different parts must have been enormous, and the amount paid to the clerk for this part of the work, though it may seem a large amount for those days, was well earned. The nature of the play may be gathered from the following, which heads the list of articles “bought at London:” “Fyrst iiij beardes and heares for the bane cryers and a here and beard for the foole, 10s.” It would seem to have been a sacred comedy, if the expression is allowable—a legitimate outcome of the “mysteries” or miracle plays of an earlier age. The mixture of ban criers and fools reminds one of the grave-scene in Hamlet, in which the serious impression produced by the skull and the grave-digger is heightened by the introduction of the poor fool Yorick!

The paper used by the Common Clerk in writing out the play appears as “payd for a *realme* of the best whyte paper 4s. 4d.” The continual mention of “our play,” “our last play,” “our iiij<sup>th</sup> play,” would seem to point to a succession of performances. Having gone to so much expense for costumes and scenery, the town seems to have determined to make the most of such expenditure.

The entries relating to the preparation of the stage and scenery for the play are very curious, and throw much light upon the state of stage accessories just before Shakespeare came upon the scene. Rome is said “not to have been built in a day,” but Richard Hawkyns set up a whole city in that period of time, according to the following entries! At folio 122 we read: “John Brenton, for dygging of the holes for the playe, vi<sup>d</sup>. Item, payd to Richard Hawkyns for a *daye’s worcke* to set up the *Cytte of Samarye*, xii<sup>d</sup>. Item, to Richard Outon for drying of the playe gere, xii<sup>d</sup>.”

“Item, payd to the drom player for his paynes 10<sup>d</sup>.” (Fol. 122 d’.) “Item, payde to the mynstrylls that played at o<sup>r</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> playe x<sup>s</sup>.”

“Item, payd to Thomas Starre for dressing of the Pascall lambe at o<sup>r</sup> last play 11<sup>s</sup>.” (Fol. 123.) “Item, payd to John Anderson for a barrell of bere for the iiij<sup>th</sup> play, and for a pynt of bere for the iiij<sup>th</sup> playe, 11<sup>s</sup> 9<sup>d</sup>.”

## CONTENTS OF COURT BOOKS.

In the Court Books are entered proceedings of the various courts held in Romney, to which different names are given. It would appear that the two courts usually held were the Curia Generalis and the Hundred Court. A Curia Specialis is also spoken of occasionally, but it would seem to be only a special session of the Curia Generalis. The Hundred Court is met with first; it is recorded in volume ix. (1520-1529), while the Curia Generalis does not appear till volume xii. (1552-1559). Some of the court books contain entries of both; volumes xii., xiii., and xv. are examples. Sometimes they seem to have been held together, as in the fragment volume xvii., where the court is also described as "Curia Generalis et Hundreda." At a later period, however, in volume ix. (1616-1628), we meet with the Curia Generalis chronicled by itself. It then met every week and dealt with such matters as the price of bread in the town, which was fixed by the "Assize of Bread." The latest date at which the term "Curia Generalis Domini Regis, etc." appears is 1649, in volume xxi., where the court is also described as "Curia D. Regis," or "Curia" simply; perhaps the expression "Curia tenta," etc., with which the proceedings chronicled in volume xxii. (1649-1658) generally commence, may refer to the same court.

The other session is described at first as the Hundred Court simply (volume ix.); later on, it becomes the Hundred Court "Sive Sessio Pacis" in volume xv., and in volume xvi. "Hundreda Sive Sessio Pacis Domine Regine." This description marks the transition to the modern form of the court which appears in volume xx. (1616-1675), at the commencement, as Hundred or "Sessio Pacis," and in the end of the book as the "Generalis Quarterialis Sessio Pacis Domini Caroli," etc. Thus the present Quarter Sessions of the Justices of the Peace would seem to be the outgrowth or representative of the old Hundred Court. This is confirmed by volume xxvii., a court book from 1720-1744, in which the court is described as the "Hundred or General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of our Sovereign Lord." We may see too the reason of there being no record in the nature of court books at Romney for a date later than 1744, inasmuch as it is, and has been for the past century, the custom for the records of Quarter Sessions to remain with the Clerk of the Peace for the county.

We can only notice further that from 1651 (volume xxii.) the court previously described simply as "Curia tenta," etc., is called a Court of Record, and that this description is retained in volumes xxiii.-xxvi., that is to the year 1727.

## SCHEDULE OF THE RECORDS.

## Books.

No.	NATURE OF BOOK.	DATE.	REMARKS, ETC.	FOLIOS.
1	Assessment Book.	1379-1384	Interleaved with Mr. Riley's Translation.	20
2	Assessment Book.	1384-1446	Noticed in the Historical MSS. Commission Report IV. App. 439, 440.	136
3	Assessment Book.	1448-1527	See same Report IV. App. 439, and Report V. App. 542-552.	<i>Circa</i> 138
4	Assessment Book.	1469-1492	See Report IV. App. 440.	3-319
5	Assessment Book.	1492-1516		1-196
6	Assessment Book, Common Assembly Book (ff. 140 d'-153); also Miscellaneous Notes.	7-13 Hen. VIII. 6-9 Eliz.		57-153
7	Chamberlain's Accounts.	1528-1580		286
8	Chamberlain's Accounts.	1587-1626	See f. 251 to the end, as to the contribution from Romney to the wars in Bohemia.	256
9	Court Book.	1520-1529	"Hundred" Court.	116
10	Court Book.	1529-1548		
11	Court Book.	1549-1551	"Curia Domini Regis."	27 ff.
12	Court Book.	1552-1559	"Curia Generalis."	1, 4-244
13	Court Book.	1559-1568	"Curia Generalis," with notes of other matters.	274
14	Court Book.	1567-1568	"Curia Generalis."	274-287
15	Court Book.	1569-1588	"Curia Generalis."	310
16	Court Book.	1588-1608		334
17	Court Book.	1604-1606	Fragment only.	[55 ff.]
18	Court Book.	1608-1609	Fragment only.	[48 ff.]
19	Court Book.	1616-1628	"Curia Generalis" only.	376
20	Court Book.	1616-1675	Hundred & General Courts.	329
21	Court Book.	1628-1649	"Curia Generalis Regis."	200
22	Court Book.	1649-1658	"The Court of Record of the Keepers of the Liberties of England by authority of Parliament holden," etc.	Not paged.
23	Court Book.	1658-1667		
24	Court Book.	1667-1686		
25	Court Book.	1686-1707		
26	Court Book.	1707-1727		
27	Court Book.	1720-1744	"Hundred or General Quarter Sessions of the Peace."	
28	Book of Plaints.	1454-1482	Suits to be tried.	260
29	Book of Plaints.	1628-1665	Entry Book of Pleas to be tried in the Court (?).	

No.	NATURE OF BOOK.	DATE.	REMARKS, ETC.	FOLIOS.
30	Book of Pleints.	1665-1746	Entry Book of Pleas in "Curia de Recordo Regis."	
31	Common Assembly Book.	1577-1622	Contains notes of admission to the Freedom.	288
32	Common Assembly Book.	1622-1701		808 pp.
33	Common Assembly Book.	1702-1761		516 pp.
34	Charter Book.	1551		34 pp.
35	Charter Book.	1633-1634		91
36	Election Book of Mayor, Jurats, etc.	1596-1734		17-190

## Records in Bundles.

No. OF BUNDLE.	DATE.	NATURE OF CONTENTS.
1	Temp. Hen. VII. and Hen. VIII.	Bills of Complaints, Answers, Notes of Costs of Suits, etc.
2	Charles II. to George II.	Papers relating to Poll, Hearth, and Window Taxes.
3	Temp. Anne, Eliz., and Charles I.	Relating to Sewers, Grants, Leases, Pleadings.
4	Temp. James I. and Charles I.	Briefs and Pleadings at Romney and Dover; List of Jurors; Bills of Complaint, and Answers.
5	Temp. Henry VIII. 1577.	Taxation of Barons of Romney. Suit between London and the Cinque Ports, concerning Customs.
	Temp. Henry VII. Charles I. Charles II.	Taxes on Romney Barons. Brief concerning New Romney. Pleas and Process of Court, etc., relating to Dover, Lydd, Romney.
6	Temp. Elizabeth.	Pleas and Answers. Instructions to Commissioners of Musters. Miscellaneous Papers. Writs from the Lord Warden.
7	James II. to William III. Henry VIII. to Charles II.	Writs and Subpœna.
8	3 Elizabeth.	Grants, Leases, and Bonds.
	Temp. Elizabeth.	Composition with Old Romney.
9	Various dates. 8-9 Elizabeth.	Taxation of the Barons. Pleas, Answers, etc.
10	1679. Temp. Charles I.	Portion of a Court Book. Record of Process of Court.
	25 August 1653.	Petition of George, Archbishop of Canterbury, to Theophilus, Earl of Suffolk, Lord Warden.
11	Temp. William and Mary.	Proceedings of the Court of Chancery of the Cinque Ports. File of Pleas; Writs of Capias; Letters of Attorney.

No. OF BUNDLE.	DATE.	NATURE OF CONTENTS.
12	Temp. Anne. James I. and Charles I. Charles II.	Repudiation of Transubstantiation. File of Costs of Suit. Records of Process, and Letters concerning Oath of Allegiance and Members of Parliament; Inquisition Post Mortem.
13	William and Mary. Elizabeth to George II.	Similar file. Important Papers. Muster Rolls of the Trained Bands.
14	Temp. Henry VII., Henry VIII., and Elizabeth. Temp. Elizabeth. Henry VI. to Henry VIII.	Certificates of Romney Taxation. Papers relating to Subsidies. Grants and Leases.
15	Henry VI. to George III.	Bundle of <i>Proclamations</i> .
16	Henry IV. to William and Mary.	"Feet of Fines." Important.
17	Charles II. to George III.	Parliamentary Election Papers.
18	Temp. Henry VII. Henry VII. to Charles I.	Composition with Old Romney. Grants by the Corporation, and Exemplifications of Suits brought by Q. Elizabeth and Philip and Mary, concerning marshes.
19	Elizabeth to Charles II.	Receipts for Rents of Crown lands.
20	Temp. Elizabeth, etc.	"Common Fines."
21	Various dates.	Wills and Papers cognate.
22	Henry VIII. to James I.	Grants and Leases.
23	Various dates.	Miscellaneous.
24	1611.  Various dates from Temp. Eliz.	Copy of the Draft of the New Charter designed by the Town of Lydd. <i>re</i> Lydd, Broomhill, and Orlestone.
25	Elizabeth to 1652.	"Process of Withernam."
26	Elizabeth to George I.	Letters and Papers.
27	Various dates.	Miscellaneous Papers.
28	Richard II. to Henry V. Temp. Elizabeth.	"Feet of Fines." Two grants.
29	6 James I.	Depositions, and Answer of John Horsmonden, in the Suit of Godfrey v. Horsmonden.
30	Various dates.	Relating to the Brotherhood.
31	Temp. Chas. I. and Commonwealth.	Petitions and Letters to the Brotherhood, Guestling, & Lord Warden.
32	Elizabeth to Charles II. 1685.	Deputations for the Guestling. Surrender of Charter to James II.
33 } 34 }	Elizabeth to William III.	Letters and Papers relating to the Brotherhood and Guestling.
35	1621-1629.	Assembly Book of the Guestling.
	Temp. Charles I.	Petition for a New Charter.
	1608.	Instructions respecting the Passage.
	Edward VI.	Confirmation of liberties, etc.