

THE CINQUE PORTS AND GREAT YARMOUTH. BAILIFFS' REPORT, 1588.

TRANSCRIPT BY

W. L. RUTTON, F.S.A.

INTRODUCTION.

THE ancient connection between the Cinque Ports and Great Yarmouth is probably little remembered at the present day, although, as conjectured by Professor Montagu Burrows,* the famous confederation of the Southern Ports may even have had its origin in the annual expedition of their fishermen to the Yarmouth waters. It appears that these fishing expeditions were made as early as Saxon times, for the earliest known charters granted to the Ports, viz., those of Kings John and Edward I., refer to privileges enjoyed in the time of Edward the Confessor. The most primitive of these privileges was that of "den and strond," *i.e.*, the right of the fishers to use the strand and the denes (as to this day the sandy coastlands of Yarmouth are called), there to make fast their ships, dry their nets, pack the fish, or sell it. In course of time an annual fair became established on the denes, to which resorted merchants from London, Norwich, and other places, and—as an authority was necessary for the preservation of order, the administration of justice, and the imposition of fines for the infraction of law or custom—the Cinque Ports, represented by their deputed bailiffs, were constituted as that authority.

In the annual fair and its requirement of temporary dwellings for fishers, salesmen, and customers, lay the inception of the town of Yarmouth; tents and booths gradually developed into the permanent habitations of settlers. Manship, of Elizabethan time, wrote in his "Greate Yermouth": "The town began to be builded and inhabited" in the reign of Henry I., "when that sand in the sea whereupon the town of Yarmouth is builded did grow into firm land." The development of the town continued through the reigns of successive sovereigns, until its importance was recognized in its creation as a free burgh by King John in 1209. But the authority

* *Cinque Ports*, Historic Towns Series.

of the Cinque Ports during the season of the fair, lasting for the six weeks between Michaelmas and Martinmas, was not displaced; and that such recurring usurpation (as it would seem to the Corporation of Yarmouth) should have been by them submissively borne, was scarcely to have been expected of human nature. Contention between the two authorities became a matter of annual occurrence, the Ports claiming their rights and temporary jurisdiction as stoutly and persistently as they were resisted by the Corporation; sometimes even the quarrel resulted in bloodshed. Modification of the ancient privileges of the Ports, and frequent concessions to the town authorities, were made with the object of promoting peace. In the reign of Henry VIII. the Ports' Bailiffs, of whom at one time there had been as many as ten, were reduced from four to two; and in the reign of Elizabeth their authority had been placed on equality with that of the Yarmouth Bailiffs. Concessions little availed, however, so long as the hated annual visit continued to be made; this lasted until 1663, when, in consequence of the endless strife occasioned, and the decline in the status of the Cinque Ports, it was by themselves resolved "that the Yarmouth service be suspended;" nor was it afterwards resumed.

It was required of the Bailiffs on their return home to report the manner of their reception at Yarmouth, the business transacted in court, and the incidents of their journey. About forty of these reports, ranging in date from 1582 to 1639, are found in the archives of New Romney. They are quaint and interesting records; and having, in co-operation with my late esteemed friend Henry Bachelier Walker, J.P., many times Mayor of New Romney, transcribed a few of them, I now present the report of 1588.

W. L. BUTTON.

A TRUE RECORD of the entertainment, orders, and causes, as were preceded unto at the town of Great Yarmouth by Mr. Thomas Lake of the town and port of Hastings, Jurat, and Mr. Henry Lennarde of the town and port of Dover, Jurat, Bailiffs of the Barons of the Cinque Ports to the town of Great Yarmouth, this year elected and commissioned during the time of the Free Fair there, together with Mr. Austin Peirs and Mr. Bennett Cubitte, merchants, Bailiffs of Yarmouth aforesaid, this year Anno Domini 1588, Anno Regni Elizabethæ nunc Regine Angliæ xxx^{mo}.

Saturday, Michaelmas Eve, le xxvij^{vo} die Septembris, Anno supradicto. This day after we had dined at Lastocke [Lowestoft], within vj miles of Yarmouth, we took horse and proceeded on the

rest of our journey. And drawing near towards Yarmouth Bridge there attended our coming divers sorts of poor, lame, and diseased people, who cried unto the Bailiffs of the Ports for some relief, on whom we bestowed some small pieces of money. And so riding over the bridge about ij of the clock in the afternoon, somewhat rather than our coming was expected, notwithstanding there gathered and flocked together great store of people who very friendly bade us welcome, to whom we gave thanks and pushed forward into the town along by the quay, and there took our lodging which was appointed for us at one Mr. Dametts' house, one of the xxiiij [jurats or aldermen] of the same town, where we were very courteously entertained. And having remained there about ij hours, and understood that the Bailiffs and their company were very busy in their Council House, and for that we were very desirous to have some private conference with the old and new Bailiffs as new Bailiffs only (for that the matter concerned them especially upon certain articles which would grow in question between us and them next day, if happily they were not prevented as agreed upon), we sent therefore our town clerk unto the said Bailiffs with commendations unto their worships, desiring that we might have some conference with them that night if it pleased them, for that we had matter to impart unto them from the whole Ports. Whereunto they condescended, and afterwards the said ij new Bailiffs, viz., Mr. Peirs and Mr. Bennett, came unto our lodging unto us and very courteously saluted us and bade us welcome, saying: We have such occasion of business this night as we should scarce have seen you until the morrow, but that you sent to impart some matter unto us. So thanking them for that courtesy we took them by the hands and placed them at a sideboard, the one at the one side and the other at the other, on the upper hand of either of us, and with great reverence used the one to the other. We said: For that divers abuses and discourtesies had been offered of late by the Bailiffs of Yarmouth unto the Bailiffs of the Ports, as by the relation of their success at the Brotherhood House appeared, touching the sitting under the canopy and the Queen's arms in the Church and at the toll-house, as been accustomed, etc. Our meaning was therefore, said we, to impart thus much unto you from the body of the whole Ports (whose Commissioners we are in that behalf), that you may confer with your brethren and to give us your determined answers hereupon, viz. :—

First, that in the Church, as in the said toll-house, as we are equal with you in real justice doing, etc., so we may like equally be placed with you in place, and that the Queen's arms might be indifferently between you and us. Secondly, that we might have the prisoners delivered and brought before us to take view of them *more solito* without any fraud, as lately hath been thought to have been used heretofore, by taking the prisoners out of the prison and bestowing them at your pleasure, of purpose to derogate our liberty. Thirdly, that the morrow being Sunday and Michaelmas day, and

we being accustomed to make our proclamation on the Sunday after Michaelmas day, which if we should now so do before the next Sunday the fair would be half ended.

Upon all which these Bailiffs promised us to confer with their brethren and to give us their determined answer next morning. And so we rising went with them to the further entry of our lodging, and the younger Bailiff, the Bailiff Bennett, inviting us unto his house next day, we gave him thanks and so departed.

Sunday, xxix^{no} die Septembris 1588, Michaelmas Day. The same day betimes in the morning, by reason of the business that followed, Bailiff Bennett came unto us to our lodging to deliver unto us what was determined touching [our] demands.

First, that we should have indifferent and equal place with them under the Queen's arms both in the Church and in the toll-house. But, said he, the cloth is very scant, and we have accustomedly used to have our learned steward Mr. Stubbes sit with and between us under the said Queen's arms, for that he is a very grave and wise gentleman and one they were much beholden unto, they would be loth to displace him now to make you room, and that my partner and I, saith he, should sit without them I am sure it is not your meaning, but, says he, you shall have such and so more room under them indifferently as we have, and look, saith he, what you have had either by authority or of courtesy heretofore the like we grant you now. To whom we answered: Nay, Mr. Bailiff, that is more than we crave, for whereas heretofore we had the prenomination and prerogative of style in court, and proclamations and divers other things which we might expect and did use, by reason of heartburning and grudge thereupon, for quietness sake we were content to alter and to give you indifference with us therein. But touching the question of the place, said we, we think not well of Mr. Stubbes his sitting directly under the Queen's arms; he is no justicer in that place and therefore doth usurp the place; there are only ij chosen of you, and ij elected and commissioned of us, and we iiij are jointly to occupy that place, and therefore pray tell him if he will not give place we are not determined to take any place, but will return and make relation thereof unto our Masters of the Ports by whom we are sent. With more other speech tending thereunto we shewed what we were determined to do if he would not remove and we to have our places jointly with them under the Queen's arms on their right hand, as had been accustomed. Whereupon the said Bailiff Bennett making some doubt, as it seemed, what to answer, or some haste to inform his company what we had determined, answered us nothing to the matter, but wishing [that all] might be well, somewhat sailing took his leave, whereby we gathered that the said Mr. Stubbes was placed there by them of purpose to put us by the seat.

Afterwards we went to Church, and for that we were informed that the sermon was further spent than we were aware of, we went directly into the Church, and so not staying for any messenger to

come unto us we went up unto the seats where the Bailiffs of Yarmouth and the xxiiij [jurats or aldermen] sat, where we were of some of them very courteously received until we drew near unto the place where we were wont to sit next unto the old Bailiffs. And seeing they neither offered us courtesy nor made us room, finding a void place within vj persons of the said old Bailiffs, we sat us down, and sermon being ended, as the Bailiffs passed by us we desired them, after they had finished their own business at the toll-house, to send for us, which they promised, and desired if it pleased us to accompany them thither, which for some considerations we refused, saying we would tend on them at our host his house, and so they departed leaving us in the Church. And afterwards we came to our host his house, where having stayed about ij hours, they sent for us by one of their sergeants. And at our coming to the toll-house we found both against the door in the street as also in the house a great multitude of people assembled, and having some room made for us to pass through we entered the Bar, and reverence done unto the Bailiffs of Yarmouth (then sitting accompanied with Mr. Stubbes their learned steward, who sat in the middle between them, Doctor Bishopp, and divers others the Bench full in scarlet gowns), Mr. Bailiff Lake signified the cause of our coming and proffered the commission first for the east ports to occupy the place, for that his own man could not get through the press with his, which Bailiff Peirse received, delivering it to Mr. Stubbes and he unto his under steward to be read. Which commission being read he delivered likewise the other commission from the west ports, which in like sort received and read, Mr. Stubbes stood up and in the name of the rest told us our commissions were allowed and we heartily welcome, and so desired us to come up and take our places. But the said Bailiff Lake seeing Mr. Stubbes in the middle between the ij Bailiffs, and he together with them to occupy almost the whole place under the Queen's arms, which every year they strove for, answered that they would hardly like well of his sitting in that place, for, saith he, you sit in the midst shewing yourself to be as the chief justicer there, where in truth after our admittance you have nothing to do, and though you have been permitted by their heretofore courtesy so to do, yet you cannot compel us to condescend thereunto. Besides the incumbrance of the place, whereby we are in a manner of purpose (as we must take it) detruded, we think that the Queen's arms being there set to shew the authority of the place, there ought no person to be included within them but those that were lawfully authorized to represent the Queen's person in real justice doing, of which number you are none. To which the said Stubbes being thus taken up, confused in himself almost what to answer for anger, at last very mildly said: It is not unknown to the Bailiffs and the rest of the masters of the town that I am by office both Justice of the Peace and Quorum, and in that respect may in some sort be seen the place. But to the matter, saith he, touching the jurisdic-

tion of the place I answer, that yearly upon needful and necessary affairs and business for the town this day to be done, they have always a learned steward to advise and direct them; whereunto of late years myself was chosen and am called to this place yearly by them for that purpose. Now for that the matters of the town are only handled here this day wherein I am assistance with them, your admittance only excepted, which is also an authority in them likewise, and you of no authority as yet until either your proclamation made or some act in court done, I see not, saith he, but I may by their leave sit here as yet without your controlment. But notwithstanding if it shall please them who placed me here so likewise now to displace me again, I am very well content; if not, saith he, in truth I am and will sit here. Whereunto Mr. Bailiff Lake replied again, and asked him if after the time he spake of he would give them place; he answered he would not be tied to our wills, but still harped upon this string, if he were displaced thence by those by whom he was placed there he was contented. Then, said Bailiff Lake, if that be it you stand upon let that be a question among the masters here whether you shall sit there or no, that I may be resolved whether you do it of your own authority or by their appointment, that I may know of whom to complain. And so after much speech thereupon, having no other answer from him, and requested again to take our places, for that we would see what room they would make us, we went up, and they made us no more room than that one of us might scarcely sit under the cloth of the Queen's arms. Which we perceiving refused to sit down at all, first challenging, by authority of the King's dyte and the compositions between them of Yarmouth and us of the Ports, our accustomed places, which they denied us, saying: Will you both sit on the upper hand of us? We answered we accustomedly used so to do, and for that the prenomination and style in court belonged unto us now this year we ought to have it. And further said that long since we had taken a corporal oath to maintain to our power the liberties and free customs of the Ports, and especially being now a special matter of charge in our commission, we told them plain if we might not sit as we were wonted to sit we willed them deliver us our commissions again and we would depart, for we neither would nor could agree to the contrary. They answered us touching our commissions, if we would take them again out of the court we might, but they would deliver none unto us, and further, if we were so willing to be gone God speed us well. And so, with many other speeches more troublesome than necessary, we departed without naming our officers or taking view of the prisoners as had been accustomed. And coming along unto our host his house, Bailiff Bennett, the young Bailiff, who the night before had invited us to dinner, sent his sergeants unto us to pray us to dine with him, but Bailiff Lake somewhat grieved at the discourtesy had been offered them made this answer: That they had given him such sharp sauce as he had no stomach to digest their meat. I must be plain, saith

he, and so tell him. Afterwards there came another sergeant with the like message, and debating upon the matter, lest they should think us too obstinate, we returned thanks unto his master, craving pardon for our forepassed message, we would come, and so went thither to dinner. And after diuner went with them to the sermon again in the afternoon, when we took our places on the one side of the Queen's arms under part of them. And sermon ended we walked and talked very familiarly together, and were bid that night unto Mr. Bailiff Peirs his house to sup, where we supped, *et eodem die porro nihil.*

Monday, Ultimo die Septembris 1588. Memorandum that this morning we were sent for by the Bailiffs to come unto them at the toll-house, and at our coming we went up unto the seat where we found the ij Bailiffs of Yarmouth sitting with the Queen's arms wholly between them two, Mr. Stubbes being not there, and they desired us to sit us down, leaving only a small place for Bailiff Lake on the right hand under the cloth of the Queen's arms, under which he could scarce sit, and no room at all for Bailiff Lennarde. To whom Bailiff Lake answered: I could think well to sit here with you as in joint authority, so I think you leave us not sufficient room whereby the common sort may perceiue the same. Then Bailiff Bennett answered: You have as much place offered you as your predecessors have had before you, and more you get not. And further said: What Mr. Bailiff Lake you take too much upon you, you come rather to wrangle than otherwise, for yesterday you presumed to thrust before me from Church, which was more than you ought to do, and more than I will suffer hereafter. To which Bailiff Lake answered: First, saith he, what my predecessors have had and agreed unto of late by constraint shall be no precedent for me; if they have neglected to maintain our custom and keep their place they have done us injury, I mean the whole Ports in whose names they were commissionate to the contrary, and given way unto your wills to make this question now thereupon. . . . And so we now, taking the advice of our learned counsel thereupon, with the consent of the whole Ports, are directed thus to do, to take our former places, and further we will not go, and less we will not have. Secondly, said Bailiff Lake, in that you call me wrangler for challenging our own right, I am sorry my Masters of the Ports had no better judgment than to send a wrangler unto you. And is all my travel and service done to my great costs to make this quietness that so long hath continued between you and us, now for challenging but our wonted place termed wrangling, well?—etc. Thirdly, saith he, touching my thrusting before you from Church, in truth you do me wrong, for I offered no such disorder in thrusting, but for my going before you I answer, that having this year the prenomination in court, my authority is greater than yours, and so may well take place of yours. Besides that, saith he, as for you Mr. Bailiff the younger, you sit here with us but of courtesy by our late composition, and if we should go to the words of the edict we are to take no knowledge of

you nor your authority, for we are sent here to a Provost Bailiff, and not to Bailiffs or Provosts, and yet the more courtesy we offer you by our compositions, the more you encroach and seem to cavil with us. To which he answered that they had no Provost, and that he was as old a Bailiff as I, and that they were now incorporate by name of Bailiffs, and that the one had no more authority than the other, but were joint. Bailiff Lake answered that were strange that the King should grant an edict and not know the officers of the place, and direct us to a Provost and there no Provost. But letting pass the name, I think, saith he, you doubt whether the King could make any such grant of edict. One of them within the bar answered, they doubted not of that. Then there is no more to doubt, saith he, but whether he hath granted any such or no, which if you doubt you shall see it here under the great seal—and so shewed it forth. And afterwards, urging still the words of edict, told them that the edict being of greater antiquity and authority than their corporation (the one granted many years ago from King to Kings of this Realm, and confirmed by Her Majesty that now is Queen of the Realm, and their corporation but of late determined and agreed upon), that of courtesy for quietness sake we had yielded to the contrary, the edict being before and above their corporation, we were to take knowledge but of one Provost. Whereupon there grew some speech and question amongst them, and in the end it was answered by their under steward that the words of the edict were not so, but as he remembered we were directed thereby to the Provosts or Prepositis in the plural number. To answer them thereunto Bailiff Lake referred them to the said edict which they received, and making little account of, refused to read unto the place, and said they could not find it. Oh, quoth Bailiff Lake, you find something there I perceive you like not very well of, and so you will not read it. And so after much speech thereupon used, the elder Bailiff, Bailiff Peirce, said unto us: My masters, saith he, leaving all these speeches, what is it you require? Bailiff Lake answered: Our request, saith he, is myself to sit and have the Queen's arms indifferently between you and me, and your and my partner to sit at other side of us as near as they can under the cloth; this is our request, and this we are commisionate to challenge by the consent of the whole Ports, according to our custom. Then the younger Bailiff asked if we would thrust them out of their places, and they sat there before we came, and would keep their places. Bailiff Lake answered: No, I will not thrust you out of your places, saith he, but require our places equal with yours, and there is difference between thrusting and requesting. And further, saith he, if you would have me sit more than indifferently among you I would not. They answered again the Bailiffs both and the rest of the Bench, that they knew of no such customary place as we spoke of, that we should sit otherwise than was proffered us. Then said we: We do as may appear by the records of others which we have of their proceedings from time to

time in this place; and myself also, quoth Bailiff Lake, our Bailiffs hitherbefore can testify the same, which if they would not grant unto us now we durst not except [accept] of the contrary, but would depart and make relations unto the Ports thereof. They answered we might depart if we would, and more room they would not make us. And as we were ready to go our way Mr. Eacher, one of the counsel of the town, stood up and said: Mr. Lake, I am sure you are not ignorant that you are commissionate hither by the Ports for this service now to be done, which by you being left undone you stand in danger of loss of all your liberties by express words in the edict. To whom Bailiff Lake answered: Mr. Eacher, I can ensure you, saith he, that is not so; for if our liberties stood upon it I would rather suffer stripes than I will give any occasion to make any little breach of them, for our ancient Charter and Customs of the Ports cannot be taken away from us but for high treason. But if you mean this liberty of holding the Free Fair, in truth we had rather lose it in challenging our rights than enjoy it with such disquiet and disgrace. And for ourselves, said he, we receive no profit by it, and therefore may very well be without it, for our people of the Ports by their great Charter shall be still free of stran and den, of buying and selling, and of sending their withernam* for wrong done notwithstanding. Then one Mr. Drewrye, sitting on the Bench with his cap on his head, controlling us with other words than might beseem him, which I remember not, being as we were ready to depart, was answered by Bailiff Lake that he was not to direct any speech unto him, but to the Bailiffs, and therefore he might hold his peace. He told him again he was not in his place of justice, and therefore he might say as much. Bailiff Lake replied: Then belike, saith he, I have no authority except I have my place, which you deny me, and then in truth with like reason you may deny me my authority. With other words to that purpose, craving our commissions again, as the day before, which they would not give us, we so departed.

Eodem die. The same day in the afternoon the Bailiffs of Yarmouth sent Mr. Eacher and one other to signify unto us that there was a prisoner taken upon suspicion of felony, and desired our company to have him examined; we answered that our officers were not named, nor ourselves excepted [accepted] as we thought. For that we were not admitted to our places as yet, we would not meddle or deal in any matters, but would depart and certify what discourtesy had been offered us in prejudice of our accustomed liberty and contempt of our commissions where they must answer it; with many other words *pro et contra* between us and them to that purpose, and with this answer they departed. And we determining indeed the next day to ride to Lastocke [Lowestoft], as though we would have ridden home again, as we told them we were so commissionate to do by the consent of the whole Ports if they denied us (as they had Mr. Manwoode the last year) our places that of

* Warrant for recovery of compensation or fine.

right belonged unto us, and there to stay some time, and so return again, which we might very well do without prejudice of our liberties, for that we could not make our proclamations for the Free Fair until the Sunday following. But this we devised to do of purpose to put it to the uttermost plunge, to see if their stomachs were so great they would lose rather the benefit of the Free Fair, which towards them was very great, and which they could not hold without us, and would let us go.

Tuesday, Primo die Octobris 1588. This day in the morning they sent again unto us to know the cause why we did so estrange and withdraw ourselves from them now in this service for the Free Fair, and to know what discourtesy had been offered us, or if any thing we found ourselves aggrieved more than for the places. Bailiff Lake answered, Yea.

1. First for the place, and besides the right we have to it. The Bailiffs themselves, saith he, promised we should have so much seat with them under the Queen's arms as any our predecessors have had, which they now deny us, and which we find both in ancient and latter records within these iiii' [400] years thus described unto us: the Provost or Head Bailiff of Yarmouth, together with the Bailiffs of the more ancient towns of the ij of the Ports, indifferently to sit under the Queen's arms, and their partners close on either side of them as might appear by the same records.

2. Secondly, for that they had strangers at our entrance into the toll-house on the Bench a Sunday before our admittance to control us, namely, Doctor Bushopp and others.

3. Thirdly, for that on Sunday the younger Bailiff coming out of the Church seemed to pull me back going out after the elder Bailiff and before him.

4. Lastly, for that he called me yesterday wrangler in the open hall.

To which they answered: Is this all? And so stayed awhile, and then began again to tell us their message further was that if the place were the chiefest matter they were willed to signify unto us, that the Bailiffs would yield unto us rather in that, and give us more room than any our predecessors before time had had, than to grow in question for it and be an occasion perchance of great charge both to the Ports and them, and wished to continue in amity and friendship as they had done heretofore. We answered: That is our desire, and would be sorry of the contrary, and sorry in heart that this great controversy must happen in our time. And with this answer they departed asking us that if it pleased the Bailiffs to send for us if we would come unto them; and we answered we would with all our hearts, and so booted and spurred as we were we caused our horses to be made ready to give more show of our departure.

Eodem die. After dinner they sent again their sergeant unto us to signify that there were matters to be handled at the toll-house at afternoon concerning the Free Fair, where they desired us to be

present. We answered: That is strange they will send for us to that end, knowing that we have neither officers yet allowed us nor place given us to execute our authority; but if they would have us come unto them we would. The messenger departed to deliver them our answer, and we followed immediately after to the toll-house.

At our coming the Bailiffs were gone unto their mount [*sic*], leaving word if we came on to come for them, and to tell us they would come straight unto us. And for that they stayed somewhat long, and we supposing that they did it of purpose to mock us, we went our way, and in the meantime they were come, of which having word we returned again and found the said Bailiffs sitting as the day before, not offering such place as they had promised us, but suffering us stand with our caps in our hands before them. Which Bailiff Lake perceiving, urged their promise and craved their places accordingly, moving much speech thereupon. Whereunto they answered nothing to any purpose, but desired us to come take our places on the Bench, and not to strive for so small a matter as a little cloth. We answered it is not the cloth we strive for, for we confess we have no property nor right of challenge thereunto, but we crave indifferent places with you, which you deny us; if we shall find no cloth here at all we should be contented so as you let us sit before the Bar in the face of the court equivalent with you. And for that you make so small a matter of the place, we must make great account thereof, for that not only ourselves shall suffer disgrace in now, but you will make us also a precedent for ever hereafter to prejudice them, my masters of the Ports I mean, which we will never consent unto. And therefore desiring them to remember what had passed between us and them, and offering them sight thereof observed and drawn by our town clerk, and a copy if they would, for that it should grow in further question as we told them, they offering to take us by the hands we accepted their courtesy and bid them farewell, being loth as it seemed to let us go by their often sending for us. But they were so encouraged towards their seats by the president [precedent] Mr. Haye and Mr. Manwood had left them, taking places at their appointment, rather than they would let us now recover it again they let us go, and so we took horse presently to Lastock [Lowestoft] where we lay that night, all Wednesday, and Thursday in the evening returned again to Yarmouth.

Wednesday and Thursday, secundo et tertio die Octobris, nihil actum.

Friday, Quarto die Octobris 1588. This day in the morning we sent our town clerk unto the Bailiffs of Yarmouth to know when their pleasure was to appoint some time to be at the toll-house, we would come and give them knowledge of our officers. And he meeting with Mr. Peirs, the elder Bailiff, informed him thereof, who answered he would talk with his partner and give us word thereof presently. So we hearing there was a sermon went to Church, and in the meantime there came a message from them to tell us that presently after sermon they would meet us at the toll-house. And

anon after they came likewise to Church, and seeing us sit in the chancel, where indeed we had taken up our places for certain especial causes, they sent their sergeant unto us to desire us to come take our places with them. We returned thanks and bade him tell them that we were very well there, and had taken that place of purpose for that we would not give any occasion of offence. Sermon ended, we went presently out of the Church to the toll-house accordingly, and having stayed there about iij quarters of an hour, and they not coming as they promised, we sent our town clerk again to signify our stay there for them, and they returned us this answer, that it was dinner time now and they must have a time to dine, and after dinner they would be there. Now for that they did it as we thought to delay us, or rather to mock us, and we having divers matters to call in question which we could not do without our known officers, and the time being so far spent, we went up to the Bench, calling the jailer to witness where we sat (lest they should say we intruded ourselves), and which was, Bailiff Lake under the lion in the said cloth, and Bailiff Lennard altogether without the cloth, both on the right hand of the Queen's arms; and of ourselves called and chose our officers and caused our town clerk to insert and set down a record thereof in manner following, a copy whereof we determined to send unto them of our proceedings, viz. :—

Memorandum that this instant iiiijth day of October 1588, before the worshipful Mr. Thomas Lake of the town and port of Hastings, Jurat, and Mr. Henry Lennarde of the town and port of Dover, Jurat, Bailiffs of the Barons of the Cinque Ports, Commissioners to the Town of Great Yarmouth this year for the time of the Free Fair, there were elected and chosen by them their officers following, viz. : *Ricardus Tracham pro vexillo regni portando. Jacobus Gilmer ad cornu cornutendum pro gente congreganda et pro meliori auditu faciendo et habendo. Arthurus Doffell et Thomas Fyneas duo servientes ad virgas portandas pro pace ibidem custodienda.*

Which done we departed thence to our hosts to dinner, with our officers in such order as hath been used, shewing our authority and their admittance, and being but newly set at dinner the said Bailiffs sent their sergeant to signify unto us they were come unto the toll-house, tarried for us and desired us come unto them. We bade him certify them we were at dinner as himself could witness, and after dinner would presently repair thither, which we did accordingly, where we found the said Bailiffs accompanied with divers of the aldermen. We went directly to the Bench, and they friendly bade us welcome, and there finding but such room as they had granted unto us before, we sat us down, Bailiff Lake declaring what we had proceeded unto without them, and the cause, and offering them copy and sight thereof, thereby to take knowledge of our officers. They seemed somewhat discontented therewith, and said we ought not to have done it without them, and that they would not allow them in that sort. We answered them we were

sure they doubted not but that we might do many things without them, and for that they use us so hardly; look, said we, what we may do by authority of the edict, we will execute it fully to effect, you cannot deny our admittance, and being admitted there is no question but we may choose our own officers, you are to take knowledge of them which we offer, you cannot deny or refuse them. Then they requested us without any further proceeding to give them a day until the next morning to be advised what might be done therein, lest our precedent might prejudice their customary record aforesaid. We answered again, their request was dilatory, and that to have day to advise were to no purpose, for, said Bailiff Lake, we have done it, and if otherwise than we ought to do we must answer it. And the question is not now whether we have infringed your customary record by it, but whether we may do it by the edict yea or no, and if we have no warrant there for it we have done you wrong, but you cannot right it of yourselves, but it must and shall grow in further question when it shall better be determined, and therefore let us proceed now. And so after much speech, in the end they prayed yet for order sake, since they could not cause us to reverse and alter it, that our officers might be called again by the same record we had taken, which being done they accepted and confirmed the same without further question. Afterwards, the place being silent, Bailiff Lake moved this speech unto the younger Bailiff: Sir, saith he, you promised us, both at our first coming and at divers times since, that we should have such places as any our predecessors have had, and that you have not performed the same shall appear by divers books of late years related by the Brotherhood House of their sitting. And so caused to be read the points in Mr. Woode's book of Sandwich and Mr. Fynettes of Dover and others, where in truth are notable precedents for the controversy of the place and the description thereof, and how it was concluded upon by their own consents *ut pateat*, which being read they denied some and granted other some, and said it was done of consent. Well then, said Bailiff Lake, we shew you not this to enforce any reformation here, but that you may see thereby you are not so good as your words, but pray, saith he, let us have no more speech touching the place, the time passeth away, you will have us sit here, and therefore it is done. And so demanded sight of the prisoners. And they desired us to stay until Monday, for their steward was not at home to keep any record thereof. Then we craved bond of the jailer as had been accustomed, which they denied us. Then we desired them that they would give us their words for such prisoners as they had received since the beginning of the Fair until Monday we had charge of the gaol, which they accorded unto, and concluded to have the first court on Monday next, being the vijth of October, and that warrant should go out for the appearance of the inquest under our hands and seals directed unto Arthur Doffell, Sergeant at the Rod, *ut per eundem patent in forma sequente, viz. :—*

Magna Yarmouth. Thomas Lake et Henricus Lennarde, Ballivi Baronum quinque portuum domine nostre Regine Elizabethæ nunc etc.

Ad curiam dicte domine regine tenendam regalemque justitiam in dicta villa Magna Jermouth exequendam tempore nundinarum sive libere Ferie ibidem, Arthuro Doffell uni servientium dictorum Ballivorum ad virgam portandum pro pace dicte domine regine in villa predicta salutem. Tibi precipimus quod venire facias coram nobis et ballivis dicte ville de Jermouth in le Tollhouse ibidem die Lune proximo futuro xij probos et legales homines de inhabitantibus quinque portuum predictorum, ad inquirendum simul cum aliquis probis hominibus inhabitantibus dicte ville Magne Jermouth, si tunc et ibidem adesse voluere de et super quibusdem articulis pacem domine regine et Libere Ferie modo apud dictam villam de Jermouth tenta concernentibus et tangentibus. Et quod habeas ad tunc et ibidem hoc preceptum unicum retornatum. Et hoc etc. Datum sub sigillis nostris quarto die Octobris Anno Regni domine nostre Elizabethæ dei gratia Angliæ Frauncie et Hiberniæ Regine fidei defensoris, etc., tricesimo 1588.

Saturday, Quinto die Octobris 1588. This day being market day we went into the market and took view of the bakers' bread and set down their names in several markets, and so proceeding farther we met with the jailer of the town and demanded of him who was clerk of the market; he answered the Bailiffs of Yarmouth. We demanded then who was the clerk appointed under them; he answered he was; then, quoth Bailiff Lake, we discharge you for this time, for that we are now to have rule and government thereof as well as they, unless you be appointed and authorized likewise by us thereunto. He answered nothing, but he would inform the Bailiffs of Yarmouth thereof. Afterwards we met with the said Bailiffs and they began very angrily to reprove us for intermeddling so far in the market, saying we were too busy, and that we had nothing to do in the market, but, said they, for that there is no place here to talk of such matters, we desire you, said they, to be at the toll-house in the afternoon to confer thereupon. And so after dinner they sent for us accordingly unto their toll-house, and we went thither, where was much speech moved thereupon, but in the end it was thus concluded by them, that we had no authority to displace their officers nor anything to do ourselves in the market, and that they were sole clerks of the market, and that we were only Bailiffs with them for the Fair. Then, saith Bailiff Lake, your meaning is belike that having ij market days here weekly, and in the term of the Fair, they are exempt and not included within the meaning of the Free Fair, and you have sole authority there without us. They answered both, they had. Then, quoth Bailiff Lake, so we are but ij persons with a few in our company we can but demand it, and if you deny it we dare not make any further challenging of our right lest we lose our heads. But pray, saith he, let it be set down in record what you deny us, that coming in question you may answer it without denying it where this controversy will be soon decided; but, saith he, if we have nothing to do in the market there with like reason we have nothing to do in the Fair, for every day may be a market day. If the country will

come in you will not deny them; and then, why hath the edict and the proclamation such special words for assize of bread and beer, weights and measures, ordinances for ringing of a bell, etc.? But what you will must be, saith he, for this time without any further matters handled.

Sunday, Sexto die Octobris 1588. This day being Sunday we went to sermon, and going towards the chancel door there were certain of the aldermen going towards the other door who perceiving our intent to withdraw ourselves from sitting with them desired us very earnestly to come take our accustomed places with them. We answered we were loth to give occasion of offence to any, when said they, we hope nobody will be offended thereat, but, said Bailiff Lake, I am loth the like discourtesy should be offered me again in pulling me back by the gown going out of the Church. And so for all their entreaty went forwards and took our places near the pulpit, where we found an ancient man who very courteously gave us room, and would have avoided the seat but that we bade him sit still, where he sat at the farther end thereof, if he would. But sermon ended we went out of the Church, where we found our men on horseback with their instruments ready in the accustomed manner to make proclamation. We took our rooms next unto our officers, and anon after came the Bailiffs of Yarmouth and intruded themselves between our officers' arms and us on the upper hand. Then said Bailiff Lake: My masters, methinks you do us great wrong; we are proclaimers of the proclamation and not you, where you need not come unless you will, and we bring our officers and ornaments with us for that purpose. We must proclaim, we are tied unto it, and you to suffer it. The younger Bailiff hearing those words of himself went on the other hand beneath us both, and Bailiff Lake took his former place again, and then the elder Bailiff would have stood between us. But Bailiff Lennarde said that they had a joint commission, and of like authority, and came together, and therefore ought not to be parted; then they and the aldermen there present seeing that, especially Mr. Customer and one Mr. Drewrye, spoke unto the Bailiffs of Yarmouth and said that they did them wrong speaking of themselves and also themselves discredit, and willed them take their places as of yore, which they did. So as they both stood between our arms and our officers on the right hand of us, perceiving this their obstinacy and hard dealing towards us, we willed our officers to put up their instruments and depart since we were in such sort disturbed. The said Mr. Drewrye answered if they did they would proclaim the proclamation themselves; we answered we doubted of that, and so after much speech at last we bid our officers to come somewhat on the other hand of us to shew our authority somewhat more than theirs. We proclaimed there our proclamation, and at other the accustomed places, viz., the Church-gate, the market cross, the haven's mouth, the Crane, and the Bridge Foot. *Et eodem die porro nihil.*

Monday. Magna Jermowth. Curia prima domine Regine ibidem tenta die Lune, viz., septimo die Octobris Anno regni domine nostre

Elizabethe dei gratia Anglie Frauncie et Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris, etc., tricesimo, tempore Libere Ferie sive Nundinarum ibidem, coram Thoma Lake et Henrico Lennarde Juratoribus Ballivis Baronum quinque portuum, etc., pro tempore predicto Augustino Peirs et Benedicto Cubitt mercatoribus Ballivis dicte domine Regine Burgi et Libere Ferie ville de Jermouth predicte.

Nomina Juratorum ad inquirendum pro Domina Regina.

Yarmouth.	JOHANNES SMITHE	} <i>jurantur.</i>
Ports.	JOHANNES GORHAM	
Y.	WALTER BARWICKE	
P.	JOHANNES NEWTON	
Y.	JOHANNES EASTE	
P.	WILLELMUS GEERE	
Y.	WILLELMUS GOSE	
P.	STEPHANUS FRENCHMAN	
Y.	RICARDUS MAYNE	
P.	WILLELMUS MICHELL	
Y.	HENRICUS EBOTTES	
P.	EZEKIELL KINGSTONE	

Accio nulla.

Juratores habent diem ad retornandum veredictum suum quantum sit in diem Veneris, viz., in xj^m diem instantis Octobris infra horas primam et tertiam post meridiem ejusdem diei, et curia predicta adjornatur in eundem diem.

Eodem die. View of the prisoners.

Johannes Nevens	} taken upon suspicion of felony.
Thomas Collens	
Henry Johnson	
George Auferon	

Four other Spaniards there committed by order from the Queen's ships.

Thomas Fareborne committed to prison for breaking the peace upon one Margaret Davison in sermon time, and Margaret Davison committed likewise for her evil behaviour towards the said Thomas.

This day also we gave sundry passports to divers poor people who came hither on Herring Fair and other business, and could not be set awork, craved our passport to depart.

Tuesday, Magna Jermouth, Octavo die Octobris ac Regni domine nostre Elizabethe nunc Regine, etc., xxx^{mo}, coram Thoma Lake et Henrico Lennarde Ballivis Baronum quinque portuum, Augustino Peirs et Benedicto Cubitt Ballivis ville sive burgi Magne Jermouth predicte.

The same day one Roger Lusie of Ipswich, damye weaver, came before us and complained that Thomas Esarde of Yarmouth had taken in kept and detained his apprentice Stephen Ingram almost

these ij years contrary to the statute, and craved to have him delivered to him again. And afterwards sending for the said parties, and examining them upon the premises, finding it so indeed, caused him forthwith to be delivered unto his said master again accordingly.

Eodem die Thomas Fareborne, committed to prison as aforesaid for breaking of the peace, was released of his imprisonment and enjoined to depart the town with his wife and child by xstmas next coming.

Ac etiam eodem die Margaret Davison was also released of her imprisonment, and bound by recognizance in x^{li} to depart the town by Friday next.

The same day also Robert Whyte and Thomas Browne, committed to prison for breaking the peace upon each other and making an affray, were fined at iij^s iij^d apiece, and so released, paying the officers' duties, viz., viij^d apiece, whereof one moiety was to the Jailer for the Ports and the other to the Bailiffs for the town as is accustomed.

Nono die Octobris coram Ballivis supradictis. Came one Robert Lucas of Yarmouth, sailor, and took his corporal oath for the peace against one William Reade of the same town, sailor, whereupon it is concluded that a warrant should be awarded forth in form following for the attaching of the said William Reade to put a bond with sureties for the same, upon whose appearance afterwards, being a very poor man, there was means found to make them friends, and so was released.

Magna Jermouth. Thomas Lake and Henry Lennarde, Bailiffs of the Barons of the Cinque Ports commisionate this year to the town of Great Yarmouth during the time of the Free Fair there, Austen Peirs and Bennet Cubitt, Bailiffs of the town and borough of Great Yarmouth aforesaid, unto Arthur Doffell, Sergeant at the White Rod, and Thomas Argoll, Sergeant at the Mace, our sergeants for this purpose appointed, and to every of them greeting. We charge and command you and either of you that you or one of you in the Queen's Majesty's name do attach or cause to be attached William Read and him safely do keep, so as you or one of you have his body at the next court of our sovereign lady the Queen, or immediately upon the attaching of the said William here before us in the toll-house of the said town or elsewhere, etc. To put in sufficient bond with sureties unto the use of our said sovereign lady the Queen, for the peace against our said sovereign lady the Queen and all her liege people, and especially against Robert Lucas of this town, sailor, complainant against the said William, and hath taken his corporal oath against him in that behalf. Fail you not hereof as you will answer for the contrary at your perils. And have you then and there this our precept given under our several seals this ixth of October the xxxth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, etc., 1588.

By all the Queen's Majesty's Bailiffs above said, unto their sergeants aforesaid, and to every of them.

Thursday, Decimo die Octobris, 1588, coram Ballivis predictis. The same day Richard Carvill and William Each, taken the night before for making an affray and committed to bail for their forthcoming this morning, were fined at iij^s iiij^d apiece for the same, and the same Richard Carvell who began the quarrel enjoined to put in bond for his good behaviour during this Free Fair *in forma sequente*, and so paying his fees as abovesaid was released.

Memorandum quod x^{mo} die Octobris Anno supradicto coram prefatis Ballivis domine nostre Regine venit Ricardus Carvell de Norwich, singleman, et recognovit se debere dicte nomine nostre Regine decem libras sterlingorum solvendas, etc., et nisi, etc.

Conditio istius recognicionis talis est quod si prenomminatus Ricardus Carvill bene se gerat erga dictam dominam Reginam et cunctum populum sub durante tempore totius Libere Ferie sive nundinarum apud villam Magnam Jermouth tunc, etc.

Eodem die Walter Johnson, servant unto Gills Idley of Hythe, sailor, committed to prison for his ill behaviour towards his said master, was now upon his submission unto his said master released, and his own bond taken unto the use of our sovereign lady the Queen in x^l levair [*sic*], *etc., nisi, etc.*, upon condition he should serve his said master well and truly during this voyage of Herring Fair, and in the meantime to be of good behaviour towards his said master and all other the liege people of our said sovereign lady the Queen.

The same day John Quashe of Yarmouth, Innholder, being complained on for ill rule in his house at unaccustomed and unlawful hours, was bound anew for his victualling and better rule in his house *in verbis usitatis*, etc., to be kept hereafter during the time of the Free Fair.

The same day also Thomas Dowell and Thomas Mathue, committed to prison for making an affray, were fined iij^s iiij^d apiece and undertook each for other in x^l *in forma supradicta* to be of good behaviour during this Free Fair, and so paying their fees as aforesaid were released.

Eodem die Nicholus Tanner *pro consimili* fined at iij^s iiij^d *solvit fine et exoneratur.*

The same day also John Woodgreene of Dover and his company, having complained that a man of Yarmouth and his company had misused them both at the sea and in the harbour, both companies being sent for, repaired at large before us, and being found in the end that there was injury done and harm received on both parties, the Yarmouth men being found beginners thereof, and had done most wrong unto the men of Dover, were content to give the said Woodgreene and his company a barrel of beer in recompense, and so were made friends.

Eodem decimo die Octobris 1588. The same day was brought before us a very poor old man of the country who had been committed to prison without our knowledge, and there lay from Wednesday until Thursday noons, by the Bailiffs of Yarmouth, as it seemed, who had undertaken and challenged as aforesaid to be

sole clerks of the market themselves, for regrating and forestalling in the market of certain corn, as was supposed, and no such matter proved nor found against him upon examination before us, was by us set at liberty, Bailiff Lake using these words in the open court: *Go thy way Father, saith he, whosoever hath committed thee to prison hath done thee wrong, and if thou shouldst bring an action of wrongful imprisonment against him he could not answer it.* At which words the Bailiffs of Yarmouth were somewhat offended, as it seemed by their speeches thereof afterwards, complaining of our discourtesy in that behalf.

Further the same day Thomas Dowell aforesaid complained unto us that he had lost his purse in the jail last night, whereupon the jailers were called up, and by the good means of Bailiff Lake treating them and shewing them the rigour of the law if they denied it, and favour to be shewed them if they confessed it, it was found among them and restored to him again.

The same day also John Arnold of Donnage [Dunwich], sailor, convicted of speaking lewd and irreverent words against us, by the oath of him that informed us thereof, was by us committed unto prison, there to remain.

Magna Jermowth, Friday. Curia segunda domine Regine ibidem tenta xj die Octobris [etc., form as before].

Eodem die sedente curia coram Ballivis predictis.

The same day was brought before us the said John Arnold, and for that the matter concerned ourselves we left him over to the Bailiffs of Yarmouth, who upon examining of the matter would have presently put him into their house of small ease, as they termed it, a very uneasy and cruel prison, but that we of pity towards the poor fellow upon his submission, confessing the speeches and saying, as indeed it was testified by the rest of his company, that he was not in very good temper at that time, and that we could not perceive it to be of malice towards us, for that as he said he never saw us, we desired to have him released from any further punishment, but to have him bound in recognizance, and the master of the boat with him wherein he went, for his good behaviour, *in forma sequente.* [Form as before.]

Eodem die. Afterwards the same day, *sedente curia*, Bailiff Lake began to use this speech unto the Bailiffs of Yarmouth, Mr. Eacher their learned counsel, and other there present: It is complained unto us, saith he, by the havenman of the town that our men of the Ports refuse to pay certain fine money. I would fain know whether by your last composition with us we are not free of the same; they answered we were not. Then we caused the ij latter articles thereof to be read, and then demanded wherefore they had deducted out of the vj li we should receive of them yearly for toll and custom 1^s [50^s], if not only in lieu and discharge thereof, as also the words themselves imported. Tush, said they, there was no such matter meant; will you be freer than ourselves? We pay it. And so began to wrest the meaning of the composition, and in conclusion said that they remembered well the like question had been

moved heretofore, and that then it was consented unto to be paid by our Bailiffs that then were, but they could not name them. But said Bailiff Lake, whatsoever they did I am sure our and their commission was all one, and that the liberties and free customs of the Ports are always saved and reserved therein, and so having no authority to do it you can make no precedent of it. But, said he, I will not wish any of our men to pay it, and if your havenman will needs have it under you, and challenge it in your right, let him distrain for it if he thinks good, and so with other speeches for that time they departed.

Saturday, duodecimo die Octobris, nihil actum.

Sunday, decimotertio die Octobris 1588. This day we made our proclamation, being Sunday, at the usual places in manner as is before described.

Magna Fermowth. Curia tertia domine nostre Regine ibidem tenta xiiij^{to} die Octobris [etc., form as before].

Aquarius Ballivus.

Thomas Ludd senior querit versus Thomas^m Browne in propria persona in placito transgressionis super casum plegii de proseguendo, etc. Le xiiij^{to} die Octobris querens per attornatum suum comparuit, et defendens in propria persona sua etiam comparuit, et querens ministravit causam accionis, et postea scilicet in eadem curia discontinuatur hæc accio inter partes predictos per concordiam.

Veredictum Juratorum sive presentacio duodecim pro domina Regina.

Imprimis we present Mr. Gleme of Norwich for annoying of the quay with his barque or ship called the Mathue.

Item we present Mr. Paynett for annoying the quay with his ship called the Gift of God.

Item we present Tytus Harris for the like with his new boat.

Item we present Thomas Paynett for drawing of blood the vijth of October last past and striking with his fist one Cooke of Colchester, master of a ketch.

Item we present the same Cooke for the like against the said Thomas Paynett.

Item we present Thomas Dowell of Newhaven for making an affray with Nicholas Tanner of Birchempsteade the jxth of October with his fist.

Item we present Nicholas Tanner for the like upon Thomas Dowell the same day and time.

Item we present Charles Starne of Chichester for the like affray making among those persons.

Qui tres relaxantur ut antea.

Item we present John Bakesse for affray making with Henry Tydiman at the sea.

Item we present Henry Tydiman for the like with John Bakesse at the sea.

Item we present John Earle of Rye for denying to pay to the Fair ij^d called fine pence,

Which their presentment seen and read B. Lake told the jury that he thought they had scarcely performed their duty and discharged their oath if they could find no other matters to present than those, for, saith he, I am sure it is especially matter of your charge to see the den and stran cleared and avoided, and that nothing be coming there either to the incumbrance or annoyance of the same. And you may see horses and kine and other cattle there, the place so full as a man can no sooner lay his nets abroad but they are among them ready to tear them with their feet, as I was not only informed of, saith he, but myself have seen it, with other things belonging to your charge. I wish you to look unto it, or else you are like to answer it where you would be loth. Which they answered with many troublesome speeches at the first, but in the end concluded that they were not yet discharged, and if in any matter committed since the Fair presentments were found they might present them yet. Bailiff Lake answered again they might do so, and they should have to that end a new day given, for he would not accept of their former verdict. Then said Mr. Eacher, the jury can go no farther than the articles of their charge, and the words of that article is as I remember, saith he, the stran and den to be avoided of fenestrage and stallage, and caused the said to be read in the roll of articles they had delivered unto the jury, and it was found so indeed, and defined the meaning thereof. Now, saith Bailiff Lake, it is apparent how you delude us contrary to the true meaning of the dyte; it is said there indeed that nothing shall be taken for fenestrage nor stallage in the town of Great Yarmouth during the time of the Free Fair, but not in that place nor meant upon the stran and den, but the words of that article should be by the dyte of purprestures and avoidances in stran and den, etc. But since you deal thus with us, in that you have used to give the charge, we will have the charge given henceforth out of the dite: and so willed our jurymen and theirs to peruse the dyte itself, shewing them the place, and charged them to have especial regard thereof.

The same day also there grew some question between us and them for that they had by their Water Bailiff arrested the foresaid Thomas Browne in the haven without our knowledge, being for a matter growing in the Free Fair, and so within our jurisdiction; they answered likewise that neither our nor their sergeants had anything to do upon the water, and it belonged only to the Water Bailiff of the town. I admit, saith Bailiff Lake, it were not within the liberty of our sergeants, which I doubt being in the haven at a low water mark, yet it were reason we were made acquainted with it.

Et sic postea curia predicta adjornatur usque in diem Jovis scilicet xvij^o die instantis mensis Octobris proximo futuro. Et Juratores predicti habent eundem diem ad rendendum ulterius veredictum suum.

Tuesday decimo quinto die Octobris 1588. This day we had the Bailiffs of Yarmouth, the preacher, and divers others of that town to dine with us.

Wednesday decimo sexto die Octobris 1588. The same day there was nothing done worth the writing of record.

Thursday decimo septimo die Octobris 1588. *Memorandum* that this day we gave price unto John Forde of Colchester to sell his oysters *pro rata* iij^d le pack [peck], and caused a ticket contained the price and our admittance and allowance of him to be set up on the mast of his boat with our names thereunto.

Magna Jermowth. Curia quarta domine nostre Regine ibidem tenendum xvij die Octobris [etc., form as before].

Accio nulla.

At which court the jury appeared, and for that Bailiff Piers, the elder Bailiff, was not there nor could be found, we refused to take their verdict, and therefore we reiorned [adjourned] them over again until next day one of the clock in the afternoon.

Friday. Magna Jermowth. Curia quinta domine nostre Regine ibidem tenta xviij^o die Octobris [etc., form as before].

Accio nulla.

At which court the jury appeared, and being demanded if they were agreed upon any more presentments, they answered no. Whereupon Bailiff Lake, perceiving as he thought they did it rather of purpose, and were agreed to spite him thereby, for that he had threatened them so upon their last presentment, told them that it seemed they had small care of their charge, and less regard of their conscience, seeing, or that they might see at least, such continual recourse of cattle upon the stran and den, with a number of other abuses within the compass of their charge and well known unto them, but yet they would not present them. But, saith he, seeing you deal thus obstinately with us, and will see and present but what you list, if the Bailiffs of Yarmouth will agree and consent with us herein we would bind you over to appear in the Star Chamber to answer that you contemplate. Whereunto Mr. Eacher, their learned counsel, answered that they knew no such cause to consent unto any such matter; then said Bailiff Lake, I can but crave their assistance therein, if they deny it me let them answer me so themselves and I am satisfied; they told us then plainly they neither saw cause for it nor would agree unto it.

Afterwards, *sedente curia*, we told them we intended on Monday morning next, God willing, to take our leave of them, and therefore demanded view of the prisoners again, which were the same prisoners only aforesaid. And for that there were divers made means unto us for the enlarging of one of them, for that he for whose cause he was apprehended and imprisoned would lay nothing to his charge, as he said, it was our motion therefore that he might be acquitted by proclamation in open court now upon the delivering of the jail. Whereunto Mr. Eacher answered that we had nothing to do to deliver any prisoners; we might apprehend fellows, but neither punish nor discharge any. I am to take no such answer from you, Mr. Eacher, said Bailiff Lake, but if the Bailiffs of Yarmouth will

answer me so, let it be recorded and set down what you deny us, and we shall be content. Then quoth the Bailiffs both of Yarmouth: Mr. Eacher is our learned counsel and our mouth, and look what he hath said, herein the same say we also.

Et sic Juratores postea exonerantur in nova sumonicione, et curia predicta adjornatur in proximo die ad horam tertiam ejusdem die post meridiem.

Magna Jermouth. Curia domine nostre Regine sexta ibidem tenta xix^o die Octobris [etc., form as before].

One Peter Scarborough, committed to prison for abusing the watch, was upon his submission discharged and enjoined to depart the town presently.

Sunday, Vicessimo die Octobris 1588. This day we made our proclamation in like manner as before.

Eodem die also we received our fee of iij^l x^s according to the last composition due unto us.

Finis.