Towards the end of the fourteenth century the citizens of Canterbury, with Simon Sudbury their Archbishop, heard with apprehension the first mutterings of that discontent which, in 1381, broke forth in the thunder of the rebellion known as the "rising of the commons of Kent;" a convulsion which, short-lived as it was, proved fatal to the Archbishop and most disastrous to the city.

The primate and the burgesses had not contented themselves with idly foreboding the coming storm, but had done the best that time allowed towards putting their dilapidated fortifications into a defensible condition, so as to dam the popular torrent when the time arrived for it to burst its bounds, or, failing that, to divert it from the city in which their treasures were stored. To the Archbishop alone the credit is popularly given of having built the city walls; but the fact appears to be that he contributed largely to the works which the citizens undertook, and that to him they especially owed the West Gate, which still stands an unmatched example of mediaeval fortification at its best period. In the first years of the reign of Richard II, when these works were most actively pushed on, there was no expecta-
tion of any foreign invasion sufficient to call for the outlay of such vast sums of money as must have been spent upon these noble gates and curtain-walls, and it is therefore not improbable that the prescient Archbishop and the wealthy citizens built their bulwarks of Kentish rag and flint to beat back their rebellious fellow-countymen, rather than conjectural invaders sent by the lately baffled enemy across the Channel.

The rebuilding of the walls occupied so many years that before it was completed the dreaded insurrection arrived, and the rebels, led by Wat Tyler "of Essex," as their first great exploit surprised the city, broke open the gaols and the castle, where they found the Sheriff of the county, whom they compelled to give up for destruction all the rolls and writs by virtue of which the taxes and subsidies were collected. Leaving Canterbury, they at once marched upon London, and before they had been twelve hours in the city they made a dash at the Tower, where the Archbishop was found, and, on the spot, beheaded. These acts of violence, committed only three days apart, with no exploit of equal magnitude intervening, seem to indicate that the commons, divining the animus which had prompted the rebuilders of the Canterbury defences, snatched the earliest occasions for revenging themselves upon first one and then the other of their opponents. Whether this guess be or be not well founded, it is certain that, stimulated by the misfortunes to which their want of preparation had laid them open, the citizens of Canterbury carried on with energy the works of their fortifications, cleared their ditches, and protected their gateways with portcullis and drawbridge.
The old patriotic song tells us:

Britannia needs no bulwarks,
    Nor towers along the steep;
She has her own, her gallant hearts,
    To guard her and to keep.

Now it was just these "gallant hearts" which, in the reign of Henry IV, were lacking to the city; not, as the song hints, to supersede the bulwarks, but to double their strength by adding an active to a passive resistance.

At this period the mustering of a few drilled men, even the unlicensed assembling of a party of nobles at a sportive tournament, was an offence against the law. It is nothing wonderful that the King, who upon his landing to claim his Lancastrian heritage, saw his own little company grow, as if by magic, into a large and victorious army, should be jealous of the formation of a stationary armed band within a fortified city, at a time when a reactionary movement in favour of Richard, alive or dead, was quite upon the cards.

It is probable that the leaders of the Canterbury citizens applied for the royal license to empower them from time to time to muster their fellow-townsmen in arms, in order to keep up a martial spirit among them, and to assure themselves of the existence of a resident garrison. If the application was made it was certainly refused, and the wealthy city, whose walls surrounded the cathedral, abounding in shrines of priceless worth, continued to be in the same state of defence as is a warehouse stored with valuable goods when the owner has locked the door.

The Chamberlain’s accounts in the city archives, from which are borrowed or deduced most of the facts contained in this paper, record that the gates were,
when completed, mounted with cannon; probably also a few men existed within the walls who were considered to be artillerymen, because they were willing to risk their lives in firing these primitive pieces of ordnance. Under the date 1404, we find:

Pro carriagio gunnarum de Westgate usque ad cameram.

and—

Duobus Lathomis pro factura rotundarum petrarum gunnarum.

The invasion of France by Henry V carrying away the professional fighting men, caused the ruling powers to begin to look with favour upon the citizen-soldiers whom we now designate "the auxiliary forces," and this change of policy was perceived by John Sheldwych, who at the time represented the city in Parliament. Again and again he applied for a license to hold "musters," and at last he succeeded in obtaining it, but apparently the permission was only granted pro hac vice. The Chamberlain takes credit in his annual balance-sheet thus:

(1415).—Johanni Sheldwych ad prosequendas litteras patentes ad habendam monstracionem hominum ad arma 1xj's viij'd

(1418).—Johanni Sheldwych pro custagiis ad impetrandum unum breue pro arraiacione hominum armatorum in civitate Cantuar. videnda 1ij's iii'd

(1420).—Johanni Sheldwych pro expensis suis equitando ad Locum Tenentem Castri Dovorie pro amicicia sua habenda pro visu armatorum hominum Cantuar. xii's iv'd

Sheldwych succeeded so well in his suit that the citizens, taking it for granted that the "musters" would become a regularly recurring event, ventured to purchase a flag to serve as rallying-point for their band:

Solut. Johanni Mullyng ad custus unius vexilli depicti cum armis Cantuar. gerendi tempore del moustre et gunner. cum acciderint, ad honorem civium Cantuar. viij'd
After twenty-two years, in 1442, Sheldwyck being still alive, another and rather a strange advocate for the musters appears:

Solut. Ricardo Bocton, Harpour, pro impetracione ejusdem brevis patentis directi Ballivis civitatis Cantuar. et aliis pro monstracione et arraialione hominum armatorum, Architenencium, Hobelariorum, et aliorum hominum defensibilium et resistentium &c. Quod quidem breve remanet in manibus Joh'is. Sheldwyck unius Commissionariorum - - - viij s. vjd

It will be noticed that in the present sketch, where history is distilled from the city cash-books, every act, whether it be vicious or virtuous, has a money value attached to it.

During the Wars of the Roses, when the victorious party for the time being used to raise recruits on all sides, so important a city as Canterbury was of course compelled to contribute, sometimes to one side, sometimes to the other. More than once, after a battle in a distant shire which gave preponderance to the Red Rose or the White, some such sum is charged as—Deliberat. Capitaneo vocato Quynt eo quod predictus capitaneus non offenderet civitati nec in aliquo dampnum faceret cum familia in civitate Cantuar. - xii s. iv d

Bread and wine were sent outside the gate to the detachment, and perhaps one or two men were equipped with soldiers’ coats, which was all that appeared to be necessary in order to make soldiers of them, and added to the “Capitane’s” force. Such payments appear to have been made with reluctance, but in the critical year 1470-1 really voluntary assistance was given to the White Rose, and a great mistake was made when, immediately afterwards, her Red rival became temporarily supreme. Edward being in the North, a large company was equipped and sent to him
under the command of Captain Brome; then, upon Edward's flight, which probably took place before the arrival of the Canterbury company, Alderman Faunt was dispatched to London to congratulate Henry VI, Rex nunc. Edward's victorious return within six months shewed that this last was a false move. We do not learn what became of Brome's band; probably they slunk home by twos and threes; but Nicholas Faunt was hanged by command of Edward IV in 1471. He represented the city in the last Parliament of Henry VI, and at his death a compromising note, probably a list of Lancastrian sympathisers, was found in his pocket, and brought to Canterbury by a friendly hand:

Solut. Cuidam famulo Georgii Brome militis pro quadam cedula inventa in Bursa Nichi'. Faunt de diversis nominibus honestorum virorum Cantuar.

During this period of political confusion, it is not easy to trace the fortunes of the Canterbury Volunteers; but taking a leap of fifty years, we come upon the Muster, or Watch, not only full-grown, but even, the novelty having worn off, become decrepit from age.

A book of the ordinances enacted by the Court of Burgmote contains (circ. 1490) the following:

Forasmoche as almaner of harnes within the Citie of Canterbury is decrased and rustid for lacke of yerly watche, the whiche watche before thys time haue bene yerly contynewed by owre predecessours, to the grete honour of the seid citie, and proffyte of the feصنع of the reme, by makyng clene and purches yerly of harnes within the same; and by cawse now of late summe maiers in ther yer haue fule honourably kepthe the seide watche, and summe maiers none. Wherfore it is enacted and agreed, by the Auctoritie of the same Burgemote, that frome hensforth yerly, every maier shall contynewe and kepe the seid watche in the Euen of the Translation of St Thomas the Martier. And in the aforseide Watche the Sheryfe of
the seid citie to ryde in harnes, with an henchman after him onestly emparelled, for the honour of the same citie. And the Maier to ryde att his plesur, and yf the Maiers plesur be to ryde in harnes, the Aldermen to ryde in like maner; and if he ryde in his scarlet gowne, the Aldermen to ride after the seid watche in scarlet and crymesyn gownes. And yf eny Maier her after for slowthe or wilfulnesse will not observe this act, in contynewyng the seide watche with the premyses, to forfette to the commonalte x\textsuperscript{ii}; and if eny Sherife her aftir for sloweth or wilfulnesse do as is above seide, to forfette to the Commonalte as above seide v\textsuperscript{ii}. And yf eny Alderman by sloweth or wilfulnesse ryde not with the seide Maier, he to forfette to the seide Commonalte xl\textsuperscript{s}. Also it is enacted and agreed, that every Alderman shall fynde two cressetts, brennyng, in the seide watche, and every one of the Comen Counsel, euer Constable, and Towne Clerk one cressett to brenne in lyke forme. And yf eny of the seid persons lacke eny cressett that nyght, he to forfett for every cressett so lackyng iii\textsuperscript{s} iv\textsuperscript{d}. Whiche ameriaiments to be layed ownt by the seid Maier to his owne use towarde his charges susteyned in the same watche. Also the Maier for the time beyng to fynd two cressetts and vi torches, or moo att his plesure.

Music was not wanting:—

Solut. xi die Julii Tubicenis Londoniensibus pro vigilia

Sci. Thome - - - - - - - - - \textsuperscript{x\textsuperscript{ii}}

In rewarde yeuen to the Ways of London on Seynt Thomas night goyng before the watche - - - \textsuperscript{x\textsuperscript{ii}}

For one that played upon a drumme in the watche - - viij\textsuperscript{d}

To a trumpeter that blew in the watche before the horse-men - - - - - - - xx\textsuperscript{d}

The city furnished some of the appointments, together with extra cressets, in addition to those provided by the Mayor and his officers.

For a new cressett and for lights for ij cressetts and for beryng them in the watche - - - - iij\textsuperscript{s} vj\textsuperscript{d}

Accidents occurred, as might well be expected:—

Paied to ij Flemmyngs that were hurte with gunne powder in the watche - - - - - - xij\textsuperscript{d}

This mention of gunpowder makes it necessary to state that from ten to twenty pounds of ammunition
were exploded by the gunners and caliver men, besides
that which was employed to give éclat to the pageant
by which the Watch was accompanied.

It is easy to call before the mind’s eye a picture of
Mr. Mayor “in harneys,” standing on the steps of the
Burgmote Hall, his head covered by a morion gay
with plumes of scarlet and white, the city colours; 
his portly form bound in a buff jerkin, and uncom-
fortably buckled into a bright corslet; while imme-
diately around him are grouped the steel-cased Sheriff
and Aldermen, the back-ground being filled up by a
motley crowd of armed citizens, the best appointed of
them being those privileged to wear the “almayn
ryvetts” and breastplates belonging to the city, which
then were and now are kept in the Guildhall, ready
at hand for use in case of emergency. The figure-
piece above sketched would be unfinished unless it
were provided with an appropriate back-ground, and
this is supplied by the clear-obscure of a July night,
smoky with torches and lurid with flaring cressets,
dimly revealing the Gothic front of the Guildhall,
whose open double doors indistinctly shew prepara-
tions for a supper, to be eaten when the procession is
over. Half-an-hour spent before Rembrandt’s “Night
Watch,”* as I love to call it rather than by its new
name, will give a better idea of the scene confusedly
outlined above, than any amount of futile so-called
word-painting.

In 1503-4, “The Pagent of Seynt Thomas,” a
new element, new as far as we have authority to go
upon, was introduced as a part of the procession
of the Watch, in the shape of a car drawn by horses,
and carrying an altar, before which the patron saint

* No. 289 in the National Gallery.
of the city, represented by a boy episcopally vested, bowed beneath the strokes of four other boys, armed as knights of the period. A simple tableau vivant would have been tame after the first five minutes, and therefore, to give animation, from time to time the knights flourished their swords, the Archbishop was struck prostrate by their blows, and a cleverly-concealed actor spirited some blood upon the martyr's forehead, two leather bags of that fluid being always provided for the purpose. This part of the play having been performed, the mob huzzaed, gunpowder was flashed off, and a "vyce" representing an angel, flapped its wings and spun rapidly round and round, impelled by another concealed actor; who, by the way, only received twopence for his night's work, although he was hidden, half smothered by the hangings of the altar, in a cavity so dark that he required a candle to enable him to perform his mechanical part of "turnour of the vyce." This vyce, or device, must not be confounded with the low-comedy actor, sometimes representing a clown, oftener an imp, who, under the name of The Vyce, was introduced, both in and out of season, in the mysteries and moralities of the Middle Ages.

A great part of the description thus strung together from the records of many years can be verified by the bill sent in for the first production of the "Pageant;" other items picked up here and there are added, and will not be uninteresting:—

1504.—"Expenses of Seynt Thomas Pageant."

Imp. Paid to Sampson carpenter and his man hewing and squaryng of tymber for the seid pagent by one day — — — — — — — viijd
36 THE CANTERBURY MARCHING WATCH

It. Paied to Stulpe for makyng of Seynt Thomas carte with a peyr of whyles
   - - - - - - - - - - v² viij²

It. To Thomas Slacke and hys felowe makyng of the pagent by iij daies takyng bitwene theym by the day fynding theym self xiij² Sum.
   - - - - iij² viij²

It. To Richarde Harte for two ’yaxrongs (axle rungs) weyeng iij l² & di
   - - - - - - - - - - v²

It. For c and xiiiij fote of borde bought for the floryng of the same pagent
   - - - - - - - - - - j² viij²

It. In c of iij peny nayle iij² & di of ij² nayle iij²
   & in smalle nayle j² ob. Sum.
   - - - - - viij² ob.

It. In talowe for the whiles
   - - - - - - j²

It. In ale spent j², to iij men to help to cary the pagent viij², and to Jamys Colman for hys horse hyre iij²
   Sum.
   - - - - - - - xiiiij²

It. Paied for ij baggs of leder to Gylliam
   - - - - - - xviij²

It. To Glybert payntor for payntyng of the Awbe and the Hedde
   - - - - - - - - - - vj²

It. To Arnold Lokyer for gun powder bought at Sandwych
   iij² iij²

It. For fettyng of borde from Northgate
   - - - - - - iij²

It. For lynen cloth bought for Seynt Thomas garment
   - - - - - - - - - - vj²

It. For a dosen and a half of tynen sylver
   - - - - - - - - ix²

It. For di. li. of glew j² ob. in an erthyn potte, ob. pack-threde j²
   Sum - - - - - - - - - - iij²

It. For ij calvys skynnys xiiiij², in syse bought j², viij dossen of Cades poynsts viij² in gold foyle j²
   Sum - - - - - - - - - - ij²

It. In colys for to mylt the glew ob. In a rewarde yeven to Thomas Fleccher for forgyng and makyng the Knyghts harnes vj², to John a Tent for the hyre of a sworde ij², and for wasshyng of an albe and a amys ij²
   Sum - - - - - - - - - - x²

It. In candills
   - - - - - - - - - - j²

In preparation for the show of 1507, the pageant was repaired:

ij Dd. & di. de Tynfoyle
Dimid. Dd. de Goldfoyle
ij lb of Gunpowder
Pro labore unius hominis pro emendacione harnes militum
Pro le gettyng sanguynem
In pane et servisia pro iij² hominibus, pro le dressyng ejusdem pagenti, cum expensis militum
WITH ITS PAGEANT OF ST. THOMAS.

Le Jakett, j pake (sic) - - - - - xij^{a} xj^{d}
Stacio le pagent (in the barn at St. Sepulchre's) - - xvij^{d}
Le payntyng capitis Sci. Thome - - - - iiij^{d}

In 1512:
For a calvys skyn to mend the Knyghts harnes therewith - iiij^{d}
For ossydew (?) & browne paper, for a leffe of synaper (sinopis=ruddle), and for gold paper for the seid harnes - - - - - - - iiij^{d}
For rede lede - - - - - - - jd^{d}
For a payer of new gloues for Seynt Thomas - - - jd^{d}
For fetchyng downe of the gunnes fro Westgate, Seynt Georges gate, and fro the Towers, and beryng of them to the store howse - - - - - - - vd^{d}
For payntyng of the hede and the Aungell of the pagent - xxij^{d}

In 1514:
Paid to hym that turned the vyce - - - - - jd^{d}

In 1515:
Paid for wyre for the vyce of the Aungell jd^{d} For j quarter of Lambe, and brede and drynk gevyn to the children that played the knyghts, & for them that holpe to convey the pagent abowte - - - - - - - xd^{d}
Paid to Jon Harts wyfe for washyng of the albe and other clothys abowte the Auter, & settying on agayn the apparell - - - - - - - iiijd^{d}
Paid for drynk for the children before their goyng furthe, & for candell to lyght the tumour of the vyce - jd^{d}

In 1529:
For a new typpett of buckeram - - - - - vd^{d}
For a new leder bag for the blode - - - - vd^{d}
For vermylen, byce, tyynfoyle, goldfoyle, rede lede, & paynters oyle - - - - - - iiijsvd^{d}
For drynk & on to turne the vyce - - - - - - vd^{d}

In this year the pageant, which, when out of use, stood in the barn of the Prioress of St. Sepulchre, at an annual rent of 16d., was transferred to the disused (?) Archbishop's Palace, at the cost of a new pair of "shoos to the kepar of the palys," or of 9d., if he preferred to receive ready money.
In 1530 a curious item appears:

For lyftyng of the pageant over the barrs in the palys,
in & out - - - - - - - - vjd

The popularity of the show appears not to have diminished until the ominous year 1536-7, when its rapid fall is expressed in the accounts, thus:

Receyved of Stephen Apsley for the cart of "Bysshop Bekket's" pageaunt - - - - - iij s iiiijd
For caryeng of Bysshop Bekkets cart from the Palys to Apsleys - - - - - - - - ijd

In 1541 it had become dangerous for any one to look to "Bysshop Bekket" as a patron, and the city was deeply implicated in this matter. Many years before, the Burgmote Council had caused the city arms to be erased from their counterseal, and had substituted a lively representation of the murder of Archbishop Thomas, whose widespread reputation filled their inns and fostered their commerce. When Henry VIII removed the shrine and scattered the martyr's dust to the winds, the citizens took steps to bring their seal into harmony with the new opinions:

Payd to Oldfield bellfownder for putting owte Thomas Bekket from the Commen Seale and gravyng agayn of the same - - - - - - - -

Examples of the seal in both its states are to be found attached to deeds in the possession of the Dean and Chapter.

The dramatic representation of the murder of the Archbishop, with its attendant "vyce," having been suppressed, the populace in compensation were provided with another show, apparently copied from the Gog and Magog processions dear to the Londoners. With a double proportion of gunpowder and some comically terrible giants, the commons were probably as well pleased as they were with the old show, which
had doubtless long ceased to arouse any devotional feelings.

The entry which announces the change runs:—

Payd for fetchyng the Gyaunts and the gonnes from the store house to the Court Hall  -  -  -  -  -  ij

The giants made their annual progress until the first year of Mary, when, to prepare the way for a revival of the old pageant, "two charyotts," of course gaily decorated, marched with the Watch. In Mary's second year (1554-5), there was a complete revival of all the glories of St. Thomas and his show. The cart, we know, had been sold in 1537, but the harness, except the helmets, appears to have been forthcoming at the revival. A new cart was made, and a very substantial scaffold erected upon it, torches and candlesticks were provided in great numbers, but, and with good reason, the *vyce*, the blood, and the gunpowder were omitted. The knights' helmets having been lost, a new set was provided:—

For makyng of a mould to make the helmetts for the knyghts  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  xiiijd

No further mention of the Pageant as an adjunct to the Watch procession occurs in the accounts; of course in Elizabeth's reign it was totally suppressed, but it is satisfactory to find that its end is not left in uncertainty. Far on in the reign of the Maiden Queen somebody found the old platform in the city storehouse, and turned it out. The short, final record is very suggestive:—

Rec'd of Mr Arden for a payer of wheles and the bedd of an old pageant  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  ij's viijd

A generation had passed away. Doubtless fathers continued to tell their sons of the merry doings in the old days—how, as the sun set on the 11th of July,
each man, arming himself with his best weapon, with a partizan which his grandfather had wielded at Bosworth, or a bow with which his father had done good service at Flodden, used to march out, not unadvised by his wife, to join the Mayor in the Watch; how they marched to each of the city gates, where those who had guns fired a salvo; how, as the smoke cleared away, the Knights of the Pageant used to make their swords clatter over the head of the martyr, from which flowed streams of real blood, whilst an angel, hovering in mid-air, flapped his wings and turned to every point of the compass. The fathers, laudatores temporis acti, who told these tales, would see again the events of their youth through the rose-coloured glass of memory, and would depict them with the glowing colours of their recollections. It is no wonder, then, when a town-serjeant found a pair of wheels and some worm-eaten planks, made more squalid by adhering rags of painted canvas, that he designated the collection "the bed of an old Pageant," failing to recognize in the rotting rubbish that wondrous stage which his father had described as gorgeously decorated, and upon whose eminence he had witnessed such moving representations of the murder of a superbly-vested Archbishop by the hands of four fully-equipped knights.

With the accession of Queen Elizabeth, the Marching Watch was superseded by a more efficient organization for national defence. The active foreign policy of that Queen required that the whole population should be converted into a militia, from whose ranks an extemporaneous army could be drafted in case of emergency. With this object in view Commissioners of Array, chosen from the gentry and chief citizens, were permanently appointed in every county,
whose duty it was to see that the young men of their city or district assembled three or four times in every year to learn military drill, and to practise shooting at a mark with bows and hand-guns.

In the case of the citizens of Canterbury, the new regulations were carried out with exactness; a considerable store of weapons, to arm those who had none of their own, and of ammunition for the fire-arms, was purchased and maintained at the public expense, and, on the four great festivals, the younger citizens marched to Babbs Hill, there occupying themselves for one or two days under the instruction of a Muster Master. On these occasions the Commissioners and other seniors were provided with seats, placed in a commanding position to enable them to watch the evolutions, a tent (tilt) being provided for shelter in bad weather. Bread and ale for the soldiers, and more refined refreshments for the Commissioners, were not forgotten, the latter, moreover, meeting after work was done at one of the inns to recruit themselves with an abundant supper.

By means of these opportunities for training, the men of Canterbury became a local militia capable of maintaining their fortifications against any sudden attack of domestic or foreign foes. It may be mentioned that the shooting was not mere random sport, but a serious business; an accurate account was kept of the scores, the "tallies" being carried between the hill and the Court Hall by a special messenger. Subjoined are a few specimens selected from the items in which these details are recorded:

For drynk yeuen to the men that musterd at the Towne Hall doore

To Mr Symon Bromme for tenne pownd of powder
For matche and leade then for bullets - - - - xix d
More then for a pownde of powder - - - - xix d
Payd more that day for powder by Mr Maiors commande-
- - - - - - iij s j d
To the drummes & phyf at the musterers - - - iij s vj d
Payd to the xx soldyours then for ij dayes - - xij s iiiij d
To Mr Ower and Nicholson conductors of them - - ij s
To the Wallon drumme for the day of the muster at
Berham Downe - - - - - - xij d
To Danyell the cutler for cleanyng the corseletts, for
lynyng of viij head peces, for cleanyng of vii pikes,
and for makyng cleane of nyne murrions - - xvij s
For mendiynge the towne peces and their flaskes - xxiv s iiiij d
Payd to the xx trayned shott for there three days trayning
this yeare - - - - - - x l s
To Edward Newchuche when he went to Sandwich with
Mr Maior to shote there - - - - - v s
Payd upon the comying of the gentlemen of Rye with their
company, with a company of soldyours, to meet &
skyrmyssh, first xv pounde of powder at xiiij d the
pounde - - - - - - - xviij s vj d
Then for ij pounde of matche - - - - - - xx d ob.
That nyght payd for their whole supper beyng abowte the
nombre of fower score persons then suppynyng at the
signe of the Swan - - - - - - iij l iiij s
More payd for wyne the nexte nyght following - - v s
Payd more then for v d of powder - - - - - - v s x d
More for matche, di. a pounde - - - - - - - ij d ob.
More for powder at their farewell ij pounde & di. - - ij s xi d
Payd hym that playde on the drumme that dwelt without
Westgate - - - - - - - - xij d
For browne paper to wrap the powder in - - - - j d
For wyne caryed to be dronck without Wynchepe gate at
the Rye mens farewell - - - - - - ij s
Payd to one to play wyth the drumme on Holly cross day
when the xxx callyver men shewed them selves in
the Friers & after went to Mr Mayer - - xij d
For bryngynge a hogshead of powder and a sacke of
matche from Feuersham to Canterbury - - xxij d
For buyldyng the tents at the muster, & the boys drumme
that day - - - - - - xxij d
For makyng the tents at the hill ayenst an other muster -  
For a case for the enseign  -  -  -  -  -  xij d
For a gallon of Sack to Capitayn Skynck-  -  -  -  -  iiij a iiiijd
To Hodge for wearyng the Armour at the Halle to Berham  
Downe -  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  iiij d
For double heddyng ij drummes & for the stuff  -  -  -  -  iiij a iiiijd
Payd at the Cheker for Mr Maior & Captayn Palmer,  
being muster master, and the rest of the commis-  
sioners, for their dynner to the number of xxvij at  
 xvjd the pece  
For xv mens dynners offycers & seargeants at vjd the pece  
For xi offycers and servyng men their dynner  -  -  -  vijd  
For brede and dryncke sent to Captayne Brome to the hill xijd xjd  
For powder to shote of the olde peces  -  -  -  -  xjd  
To a labourer for carryeng & recarryeng the tallies and  
 fourmesto & from Babbs Hill, when the muster  
was toke of the bowes of this cytie  -  -  -  vjd  
Payd to the trayned shott when they went to Margate  -  vijd viijd  
Payd to Newchurch for heddyng the drumme & other his  
 paynes taken with the Souldyers  -  -  -  xijd  
To the souldyers of Sandwich a pounde of sugar & a gallon  
of Wyne  -  -  -  -  -  -  -  iiij a  
For Mr Penny for mony layd owte by hym beyng maior in  
a matche of shootyng  -  -  -  -  -  ixjd

In the Armada year (1588) a camp was formed at  
Northbourne, to watch the coast and to prevent a  
landing of the Spaniards upon the flat shore between  
Deal and Ramsgate. To the camp flocked the several  
companies that formed the East Kent Battalion, Can-  
terbury contributing two hundred men led by Alder-  
man Brome, whose namesake commanded the band  
sent to reinforce Edward IV in 1470. The Canterbury  
contingent consisted chiefly of bowmen and billmen,  
the latter armed with weapons and corslets served  
out from the Guildhall; but, besides these were  
twenty "trayned shott," or "calyver men," who, in  
skill and appointments, approached the soldier of the  
present day. The Walloon "Estraungers," who had
settled in the city some twenty years before, took their places in the ranks with their English fellow-citizens, cheered by the rattle of their own "Wallon drumme." The zeal with which this and the other drums were thumped is proved by the appearance, after every muster, of charges for "new heddyng of a drumme;" sometimes two, or even three, drums required repairing at a time.

The following extracts refer to the steps taken on shore to repel enemies landing from the great Spanish fleet:

For fettyng of certeyn harnys, from the pallys (probably St. Augustine's) - - - - - -
To an armorer for skoweryng and nayling of xiiiij payers of Harnys - - - - - -
For di. dossen of gyrdyls for the sheff arrowes - -
For xiiij ells of saresuett for to make ij Awnsyentts - iiij* x* iiiid
For makynge of the seid Awnsyentts - - - - - x
For hedds of the stavys - - - - - - - xijd
For ij ounces of (sewing) sylke - - - - - xxd
For ij tassels of the Awnsyentts - - - - - - - ij
To Michell the Iremonger for xiiij cappes & scullles the day that the company of the trayned men of the cytie were sente to the campe at Northbourne - xxx*
For iij gyrdles wyth black hangers - - - - - - - ij* ixd
To buy trases for the tents at the campe - - - - - xijd
Payd to Mr. Bartholomew Brome, Lieuentenant of the seid band of ijc men, to defray the charges for poore men sent by the Chamber & other - - - xls
To Potter for corde for the tents at the Campe and for his paynes to doe it - - - - - - - ij
More that was caste hym which I had not agayn - - vjd
For a baskett when I sent to the Campe xij stone potts - - - - - - - ijd
To Clarkson the fletcher for supplyeng & settyng up of ix bowes & for ix stryngs - - - - - - - ij* ixd
For halfe a yarde of blacke sylke to amende the enseign at the Campe - - - - - - - xv
For a horse to the Campe for procuryng order of release
for N. Owen the Armorer and some poore men not
of the select nombre - - - - - - xx d
Payd at the Campe to v poore men that had the ctyies
armes - - - - - - - - - - ijs vi d
Payd the xij day of August for heddyng ij single hedds
of the drummes - - - - - - - - - - vij s
For double heddying on Wyldes drumme - - - - vij s
For calves skynnes for a case for the drums & for makyng
them - - - - - - - - - - vij s
To Morrys & Bailey two of them that did wear the ctyies
armor - - - - - - - - - vij d
To the Wallon drumme toward the relief of his poore chil-
dren he beyng from home in the Campe so wylled
by Mr Maior - - - - - - - - - - ijs
For the unguents and other thynges delyvered to Russell,
Surgeon, for the Company and bande sent to the
Campe to Northbourne - - - xxxvij s x d
Payed to him more for a cheste to bestowe his unguents
and other his instruments of Surgerie in - - iiij d
For an axe for the souldyers to cutt downe stuff for their
cabynes - - - - - - - - xij d

The next item shews that, the Armada having
been dispersed, the camp had been raised, and the
peaceful competitions at the butts resumed :—
For settyng up an out marke at the But next the tower
for feare of daunger by arrowes to the passenger
for that one was kylled there wyth an arrowe - xij d

One more item describes the passing away of the
Armada panic and the triumphant suspending of the
trophy of arms in the Guildhall :—
Payd to the boyes to helpe spede the cleanyng the armour
to be sett up - - - - - - iiij d

This outlay of fourpence brings to an end the history
of the single piece of active service in which the Can-
terbury Volunteers of 1588 bore a part for the defence
of their Queen and country. So far we have followed
the fortunes of our citizen-soldiers in the sixteenth
century. In comparing the Volunteers of the good
Queen Bess with those who now serve the better Queen Victoria, we have no reason to complain of the changes which have come over the corps. The "trayned shott" of the city are, in 1878, ten times as numerous as, and who shall say how many times more skilful than, their predecessors of 1588, whose lineal descendants they are, whose names they bear, and whose patriotism they emulate.

Fortes creantur fortibus et bonis.—Hor.