THE GREAT WHITE BOOK OF BRISTOL
BRISTOL RECORD SOCIETY'S
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General Editor: PROFESSOR PATRICK McGrath, M.A.
Assistant General Editor: MISS ELIZABETH RALPH, M.A., F.S.A.

VOL. XXXII

THE GREAT WHITE BOOK OF BRISTOL
To

my colleagues past and present in the Bristol Record Office
THE GREAT WHITE BOOK OF BRISTOL

EDITED BY
ELIZABETH RALPH

Printed for the
BRISTOL RECORD SOCIETY
1979
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I should like to thank all those who in various ways have contributed to the production of this volume: the staff of the Bristol Record Office and the Bristol Reference Library who willingly met my needs, Mr. Geoffrey Langley who identified the watermark on the paper of the Great White Book and Mrs. Jean Vanes, now engaged in writing the history of Bristol in the sixteenth century who made suggestions on a number of points which have been of much value.

I am most indebted to Miss Mary Williams, Bristol City Archivist, who read the whole manuscript and made helpful comments and criticisms.

Miss Nora Hardwick kindly assisted me in the preparation of the index.

In company with many other editors of volumes of the Bristol Record Society I must record my appreciation of the help and encouragement always willingly given by Professor Patrick McGrath.

I acknowledge with thanks a grant from the Marc Fitch Fund.
EDITORIAL NOTE

As far as possible the transcription has been made without alteration either of spelling, punctuation or capitalisation. However, contractions have been extended, letters on the half line have been dropped to the line for ease of printing, so that vj⁸ becomes vjs.

Contemporary marginal notes have been placed in brackets after the entries to which they refer, except those marginal notes which were added for the purpose of making the Table of Contents.

Some of the documents have been calendared and not transcribed in full. Although such a course is open to criticism, it was felt to be justified since the documents follow well recognised forms, and to reproduce them verbatim would have been an unjustifiable expense. All essential details contained in the various documents have been included.
## Abbreviations Used in References and Footnotes

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<td>Ricart</td>
<td>The Maire of Bristowe is Kalendar ed. L. Toulmin-Smith, Camden Society, 1872.</td>
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INTRODUCTION

THE MANUSCRIPT

The Great White Book of Bristol which is in the Bristol Record Office is the third of the city’s customals. The Little Red Book was edited by Francis Bickley and published by the Corporation of Bristol in 1900.¹ The Great Red Book was edited by Dr. E. W. W. Veale and published in five volumes by the Bristol Record Society, 1931-1953.²

The Great White Book is bound within boards covered with vellum which is not its original binding, but it is most likely that it was originally bound in vellum and so took its name from its size and the colour of its covers.

When Francis Bickley, Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Museum, edited the Little Red Book he was asked by the Corporation to report on both the Great Red Book and the Great White Book. From the correspondence which has survived it is clear that the volume was in need of repair and some work was done by the British Museum in 1900.³ What is not clear is whether the volume was also rebound at this time. Whenever it was rebound folios 38 and 43 were assembled in the wrong order and folios 266, 267 and 268 were inserted upside down.

The volume consists of 533 folios of which 357 are blank. It comprises a number of gatherings each made up of four folios of paper between two folios of parchment. The folios measure 35 cms × 24 cms. The watermark on the paper is a bird resembling a duck within a circle and is of fifteenth century date.⁴ There is no original foliation and it seems likely that the folios were numbered at the time when a Table of Contents was made at the end of the volume. This Table of Contents bears the name Saxcey. Both the Little Red Book and the Great Red Book have similar Tables of Contents written in the same hand as that of the Great White Book and with the name Saxcey which appears to be a signature. This is without doubt William Saxcey who was elected Town Clerk of Bristol in 1575⁵ and held office until 1581 when he resigned.⁶ Throughout the first 299 folios of the volume there are a

¹ Little Red Book of Bristol, ed. Francis B. Bickley (Bristol 1900).
³ B.R.O. 01204.
⁴ A similar watermark is found on a document in Naples, dated 1494, and is a variant of a group of marks found on Italian documents between 1482 and 1497. C. M. Briquet, Les Filigranes, No. 12204 Revised edition, 1968.
⁵ B.R.O. 04272 Ordinances of the Common Council f. 35v.
⁶ Ibid. f. 42v.
number of marginal notes, all written in the same hand. They are only
the headings used in the Table of Contents, and so these particular
marginal notes have not been included in the transcription of the text.

The documents recorded in the Great White Book are written in
Latin and English. Except for the entries on the last folio they range in
date from 1491 to 1598, although some of the late sixteenth century
documents were not enrolled until 1608 which demonstrates that the
volume was being used until the early years of the seventeenth century.

As will be seen from an examination of the contents, the entries
contained in the Great White Book are of a very miscellaneous nature.
Some do not appear to have any connection with Bristol and may
therefore have been enrolled as examples of precedents. There is no
regular sequence or chronological order preserved in the entries but an
attempt has been made to group all documents of the same nature
together.

The book was begun to record the dispute which lasted from 1491-
1496 between the Abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey and the Mayor and
Commonalty of Bristol. This occupies the first 37 folios of the volume.

The contents of the Great White Book may be divided into the
following groups: law suits, enrolment of charters and letters patent
and miscellaneous matters including a number of letters from the Privy
Council concerned with the Court of Admiralty, the Council of the
Marches in Wales, appointment of various officials, payment and
collection of customs and dues and the enrolment of deeds. It is not
within the scope of this edition to provide a detailed commentary on
the great variety of documents enrolled in the Great White Book, but
rather to make the text available to students. Nevertheless, certain
points may be noted.

**DISPUTE BETWEEN ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY AND THE MAYOR AND
COMMONALTY OF BRISTOL.**

This was a long and protracted dispute between the Abbot and the
town officials which lasted from 1491 to 1496 and was only settled, if
indeed it can be called a settlement, by the efforts of Archbishop
Morton and the Lord Chief Justice. The Abbey's claim was that it had
manorial jurisdiction including view of frankpledge in that part of the
manor of Billeswick in which the abbey stood. This included St.
Augustine's Green and its precincts as well as St. Mark's or the
Gaunts Hospital and its precincts. It further claimed that the liberties
and franchises which it enjoyed had been confirmed by papal bulls and
that it had always had the right to hold its own courts and keep all
dues and fines. The Mayor and Commonalty maintained that the area
under dispute had always been within the town and within the county
of Bristol. Furthermore they argued, that the mayor, sheriff, coroner
and bailiffs had always exercised their offices in St. Augustine's Green

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7 Two Comptus Rolls of St. Augustine's Abbey, Bristol, ed. Gwen Beachcroft and
and its precincts, and that the inhabitants of the Green had always been assessed with the inhabitants of Bristol. The case was further complicated by a number of other issues which were raised. The Mayor and Commonalty accused the Abbot of increasing the number of his mills from two to four and encouraging the townspeople to grind their corn in the abbey mills, to the detriment of the town mills. The abbot was further accused of taking wheat, barley and other grains from which some malt was made, but the greater part of the grain was exported to Ireland and other places, contrary to the law. The abbey's right of sanctuary was also in dispute and when the Mayor and his officers at the King's command came to search out vagabonds who had taken sanctuary in the abbey, the abbot's servants attacked them and this ended in a riot.

The case was only settled through the mediation of Cardinal Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Lord Chief Justice who ordered that a lawday should be held by the town officials who would keep the records and meet the costs, but the profits were to be divided between the town and the abbey. The other issues in dispute were not settled.9

The many depositions made by townsmen both on behalf of the mayor and the abbot have been transcribed in full because of their sociological and linguistic interest. The whole subject of jurisdiction in the liberties of Bristol is worthy of greater study.

SHERIFF'S EXPENSES

When in 1518 William Dale and his party brought their action in the Star Chamber on behalf of the sheriffs, the authority against which they levelled their charges was the Mayor and Aldermen.10 It is clear from Dale's statement that the chamberlain of the town handled little money and that the chief financial business was in the hands of the sheriffs whose accounts have not survived. When William Dale appealed to the Chancellor against the terms of his appointment, complaining of the manner in which he and other sheriffs had been victimised, the heavy charges borne by the sheriffs were then revealed. The Council was indignant at these revelations. The hearing of the suit in the Star Chamber involved the Corporation in heavy legal charges so that when the Council met in 1518 it was agreed that "the charges for subdewng of the malicious purpose of William Dale and his confederates" should be borne by the Council and if the Council could not find the money then "every man to lende to the Chamber after his power for the tyme".11 They were to be repaid as soon as the Council

8 Essays in Bristol and Gloucestershire History, ed. Patrick McGrath and John Cannon, 1976 in which Canon J. C. Dickinson discusses the origins of St. Augustine's, Bristol.
10 This case in the Star Chamber has been dealt with in great detail in I. S. Leadam, Select Cases in the Star Chamber (Selden Society 25, ii, 1910), pp. cii-cxviii, 142-65.
11 B.R.O. 04272 Ordinances, f. 6-7.
was able to do so. A small committee of six persons were chosen to assist the Mayor “in the ordering of the ponyshement” of all those who had supported William Dale. Robert Thorne and Harry Kemys who were the town’s stewards, were appointed to go to London to give evidence on behalf of the Council.\(^{12}\) It would seem that Robert Thorne died in London whilst on this business.\(^{13}\) William Dale’s complaint was that the Mayor and Aldermen had considerably increased the charges to be borne by the sheriffs, who were often young merchants compelled to accept the office, since refusal might involve them in ruinous fines. He sets out in detail the charges laid upon the sheriffs and proposes that the two sheriffs should be relieved of many of the expenses and be held responsible only for paying the fee farm to the King. The rest he maintained should be borne by the Mayor.

The decree of the Court on the 4 October 1519 is enrolled in the Great White Book.\(^{14}\) The decree estimates the revenues of the sheriff’s offices at £215. 1s. 8d. and their annual expenses at £254. 5s. 2d., leaving a balance of £38. 3s. 6d. to be paid for by them “which”, it states, “is not for any honest person called to any worshipful room in any town to complain of”. Further it was pointed out that the £240 mentioned in the sheriff’s charges included meat and drink for his own household. The Chancellor remarked “it is thought their apparel for them and their wives too sumptuous, and proceedeth of their high and prodigal minds”, for it is “more than good reason and discretion and would agree rather to be for a mayor and his wife than a sheriff”. The judgement of the Star Chamber altered the distribution of the revenue of the town and curtailed many of the “drinkings”, but directed Dale to abide by the decision of the Council. It may be argued that the result afforded little redress to the complainant whose office by this time had expired.

**Dissolution of Candlemas Fair\(^{15}\)**

In 1529 the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol interested themselves in obtaining a charter\(^{16}\) for a fair in the parish of Redcliffe, the profits of which were to go to the poor of Redcliffe, Temple and St. Thomas parishes. The fair held at Candlemas (February 2) for one week became very popular, so much so that within fourteen years the Mayor and Commonalty were asking for its dissolution. Their plea was that Bristol was suffering from loss of trade owing to this fair attracting traders away from other fairs. Redcliffe resisted the Council’s decision and appealed to Star Chamber. Its judgment made in May 1544 allowed the fair to be abolished, on condition that the

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\(^{13}\) *Vide*, p. 81.

\(^{14}\) *Vide*, pp. 82-5.

\(^{15}\) The documents of the case in Star Chamber are printed in I. S. Leadam, *Select Cases in the Star Chamber* (Selden Society ii, 1910), pp. cxviii-cxxix, 237-76.

Corporation repaid the £50 which St. Mary Redcliffe had paid towards the grant of the charter.

**ENROLMENT OF ROYAL CHARTERS AND LETTERS PATENT**

Almost all the many royal grants made to Bristol have survived. Those enrolled in the Great White Book appear to be those charters and letters patent concerned with matters frequently under dispute, for instance the constant friction about the city’s right of exemption from the jurisdiction of the High Court of Admiralty, or again the city’s right to certain liberties because of its county status. All these grants have been transcribed, edited and published by the Bristol Record Society.17

**KEYAGE**

The town of Coventry complained to the King that notwithstanding the privilege of freedom from toll granted to the citizens by Edward III18 a rate of 4d per ton was being levied on all their merchandise at Bristol. The sheriff and bailiffs acknowledged that the river Avon was a common river and that Avon Back was free of toll and that the men of Coventry were not liable for toll on that part of the river, but held that the Key which was made by the townsmen of Bristol at great expense to themselves was not free of toll to those who would discharge their cargo there. They argued that £5000 had been spent on the making of the Key and a charge had to be made for the reparation and maintenance of it. Finally, it was agreed that the citizens of Coventry should continue to pay 4d per ton on goods brought to the Key. However, there was further trouble in 1526 when Anthony Budgegoode brought an action against the sheriff for levying tolls. Again the sheriffs’ defence was that it was keyage.19

A similar case was brought by the burgesses of Tewkesbury in 1534.20

**EXEMPTION FROM THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNCIL IN THE MARCHES OF WALES**

One of the most vexatious and grievous troubles of the Corporation in the sixteenth century was the claim of the Lord President of the Welsh Marches to have jurisdiction over the city of Bristol. The Council had acquired jurisdiction over the English border counties of which Gloucestershire was one, and it was the Lord President’s custom to assume that the city was in Gloucestershire and therefore under his jurisdiction. From time to time he summoned the Mayor to wait upon him and render military service and money for the defence

19 Ibid., XVIII, pp. 13-17.
20 Ibid., p. 20.
of the Marches. The courts of this official were usually held in Ludlow but at various times sessions were held at neighbouring towns.21 When in 1528 the Mayor or his attorney was commanded to appear in person at Ludlow and to bring with him Sir John Popley, William Chester and John Collys rode to Ludlow and pleaded that the town was not within their jurisdiction because Bristol was a county of itself and had been so since 1373.22 They were dismissed and it would appear that their claim was allowed; but in 1542 we read that the Chamberlain paid for two pursuivants to bring "commands" but no reply seems to have been returned.23 In spite of the measure of success gained, a similar warrant was issued by Sir William Herbert, Lord President in 1551, when the Council sent a deputation to Ludlow to protest against aggression. The result must have been unsatisfactory for further appeals were made to the Crown by the Corporation. Renewed injunctions of the President in 1558 caused the Corporation to take vigorous action so that the matter might be finally settled. The Council was prepared to assess a tax on the whole community if necessary.24 The Chamberlain returned from London bearing letters of rebuke to the President, satisfied that the matter had been settled. Only two years later in 1562, the President renewed his claim and again the Chamberlain was sent to London, but this time with a "Supplication to the Queen", to which the Queen generously agreed that from henceforth the city should be exempt from the jurisdiction of the Council in the Marches of Wales for ever.25 However, there is some doubt as to how far this jurisdiction extended for in 1575 the Corporation resolved "that suit should be made to the Queen to obtain a perpetual exemption of the city from the jurisdiction of the Council in the Marches of Wales, the same to be had under the great seal of England".26 Again in 1585, the Council tried to assume jurisdiction over Bristol.

ADMIRALTY COURT JURISDICTION.

During the sixteenth century Bristol's right to exemption from the Court of Admiralty was being constantly threatened and this was bitterly resented by the Mayor and Commonalty.

By charters of 1446 and 1461,27 Bristol was exempted from the jurisdiction of the High Admiral and granted its own Admiralty Court of which the Mayor was Commissioner. From the City's account books, it is clear that the first major dispute began in the 1560's.28 In

21 C. A. Skeel, The Council in the Marches of Wales, 1904.
22 Ricart, p. 51.
23 John Latimer, A Sixteenth century Bristol, 1908, pp. 33-35.
24 B.R.O. 04272 Ordinances f. 16.
25 Vide, pp. 103-4.
26 Ibid., f. 36.
28 B.R.O. 04026 (7-8) Mayor's Audits.
1567 the Privy Council complained to the Mayor that his predecessor John Cutt had not allowed a process from the High Court of Admiralty to be served on the burgesses of Bristol. To this the Mayor replied that John Cutt had not done so because the city was not under its jurisdiction. At the same time the charters were sent to London. Having conferred with the Attorney General the Privy Council replied that it believed that the charters did not give the city any just claim “but for a quietness to be had and the better avoiding of like contencions the charters had been enrolled in the Admiralty”.29 However, it was not long before the city’s admiralty authority was again challenged.30

Reprisals against the Portuguese

In the Great White Book are enrolled copies of letters from the Privy Council to the High Court of Admiralty together with mandates from the High Admiral concerning the seizure by the Portuguese of ships and goods belonging to English merchants. The first of these concerns Robert Christmas,31 a gentleman of Bristol whose goods to the value of £4,000 had been seized. In his complaint to the Privy Council he asked for redress and compensation. The Privy Council finding his complaint reasonable referred it to the High Court of Admiralty who were instructed by process to award him compensation by seizing Portuguese goods which arrived in England.32 So that when two Hanseatic ships, “the Salvator” of Antwerp and “the Sampson” of Amsterdam arrived in Bristol and Southampton respectively, they were ordered to be stayed by Thomas Carewe. The ships belonged to Roderico Alvarez Caldera, Alvaro Mendez, Ferdinando Pinenez, Roderico Seu, Lui Nunez, and other merchants of Portugal. The merchandise was truly and indifferently appraised by Henry Smith and William Gibbons, merchants of London, and found to be sufficient to satisfy Robert Christmas of his losses, costs and damages. Robert Christmas received £3,750.

Similar mandates are entered for John Barnes33 of London, Richard Holland and others of Carmarthen and Domnick Chester of Bristol. In their petitions to the Privy Council, each states that his case is like that of Robert Christmas. John Barnes and Richard Holland also received compensation from the sale of the “Salvator” and the “Sampson”.34 In the case of Domnick Chester35 the instructions from the Privy Council were to observe such orders and directions as given in the case of Robert Christmas and John Barnes. His merchandise

29 Vide, p. 107.
31 Vide, pp. 90-1.
32 A.P.C., vol. VIII, pp. 4-6, 7, 17, 20.
33 Vide, p. 92.
35 Vide, p. 93.
The Great White comprised mainly green wood from Rochelle which was valued at £1,700 and was arrested in the island of St. Michael. Dominick Chester and other Bristol merchants were to receive so much of Portuguese goods as arrived or shall arrive in any port of the realm in recompense of heavy losses sustained there. The cases instanced here must be but a few of those merchants who suffered at the hands of the Portuguese.

**HIGH STEWARD OF BRISTOL**

The office of High Steward of Bristol was created by the Corporation of Bristol in the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII as means of securing a powerful friend at Court. The Corporation endowed the office with a yearly fee of £4. 0s. 0d. and in addition presented the High Steward with a pipe of wine. The mayor and aldermen met annually to taste and select the wine which was sent to him. Latimer suggests that the Duke of Somerset was the first person to be appointed High Steward but this cannot be so, for in 1548 the appointment of Sir Edward Baynton is recorded in the Great White Book. There appears to be no record of the appointment of Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, but when in 1550 the Earl of Pembroke was appointed High Steward it was on the death of the Duke of Somerset.

On the 22 March 1570 the Council "assembled to choose a High Steward, Lord Pembroke having died. And upon their deliberate advice and agreement they have elected Robert, Earl of Leicester with the fee of £4". It was then that they agreed that in future the office should be given to one of the Privy Council "commonly attendinge upon the Court and about the Queens person".

**DIVERSION OF THE RIVER PARRETT NEAR BRIDGWATER**

Among the documents enrolled is a copy of a decree dated 1567 issued by the Commissioners of Sewers for Bridgwater concerning the making of a new cut in the river Parrett. The area affected was in the manor of Hampe, the lordship of which belonged to the Corporation of Bristol. The banks of the river Parrett had broken down in the area of Bridgwater and although much money had been spent by the Commissioners of Sewers on their repair, there was grave danger of flooding. The Corporation owning the lordship of Hampe was

36 *A.P.C.* vol. VIII, 32, 60.
37 *A.P.C.*, vol. VIII, 23.
40 *Vide*, pp. 131-3.
41 The manor of Hampe in Somerset, which until the Dissolution had belonged to Athelney Abbey was purchased by the Corporation of Bristol from Henry VIII in 1541. When in 1694 the Corporation were in financial difficulties, the manor was sold for £3,600.
responsible for raising the necessary money from the inhabitants of the towns and villages around. The City Chamberlain, Robert Halton, made himself personally responsible for the supervising of the works, the cost of which amounted to £239. 10s. 11½d. The charges are set out in great detail in the city's accounts. Having been put to much trouble the Chamberlain asked for some recompense, saying that he had made twenty-five journeys to Bridgwater and many more to the villages around. He said he had "suffered discomfort of great heat, had been in danger of drowning, had spoiled his best apparel and was many times like a drowned rat". For his trouble he was given £10.

THE COURT OF ORPHANS

The Court of Orphans which had been active in the fourteenth century had almost ceased to function by the sixteenth century. Then in 1566 the Council agreed "that for the better bringing up of orphans and the safe keeping of their money and goods" it should appoint "an honest and discreet burgess who should be named the father of Orphans". John White a merchant was chosen and because of the work involved, he was not to be nominated as sheriff for six years. Ten years later, three assistants were chosen to help him and to sit in the Court of Orphans every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. In 1575, the Common Council passed a number of ordinances defining how the Court of Orphans should function. The Court continued to function until the end of the seventeenth century.

To summarize, the Great White Book contains material, chiefly municipal in nature, but of wider significance by reason of the commercial importance of Bristol at a time when the city was second only to London.

42 B.R.O. 04026(8) Mayor's Audits pp. 256-68.
43 See Charles Carlton, The Court of Orphans, Leicester 1974 where the matter is fully treated.
44 By Royal letters patent of 1331, Edward III granted the Mayor power to take recognizances for the proper security of orphans' estates. B.R.O. 04420 Recognizances for orphans, 1333-1642. B.R.O. 04421 Books of Wills, 1382-1674.
45 B.R.O. 04272 Ordinances f. 22.
47 B.R.O. 04425-26 Court books, 1617-1700.
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TO THE KYNGE OUR SOUEREIGN LORD

[In] his moste humble wise scheweth unto youre highnes your feithfull subgette and pore Chapleyn John Abbot of Seynt Austeynes besides Bristowe. That where your said Chapleyn and all his predecessoures have alwayes heretofore paid Dymes when they have been graunted for the Site of the said Monasterie called Seynt Austeyns grene and the procincte of the same, which is besides the Town of Bristowe, and the subarbes therof. In which grene and procincte your said Oratour and all his predecessours owte of tyme of mynde have had many greate libertees and Fraunchises, the which the pope hath confermyd by his Bulles under greate and terrible censures to theym that in any wise attempt the contrary. And amonges other the said Abbot and his predecessoures and all the tenauntes and inhabitauntes within the said grene and procincte of the same oute of mynde, atte such tyme as any xvm. have ben grauntid they have in noo wise be chargeable to the payment therof with the said Toune ne otherwise, but the maire and ther the inhabitauntes of the same Town onely have paid such parte of the xvm. when it hath ben graunted as of olde tyme they have ben chargid with. So it is souereign lord that nowe late the xvj day of December, the Maire Shiref and Baillifs of the said Town, with other dyuers personnes unknownen to the nombre of lx, not feryng god, the censures of the Chirch biforessid, nor the daunger of your lawes in ryottowes maner cam and entred the seid Fraunchise within the procincte of the said grene, and there toke certeyn goodes of the inhabitauntes there to the value of xli. and more, the which the said Maire, Shiref and Baillifs yete witholdeth, to thentent the said inhabitauntes shul be contributours to the payment of such xvm. as the said Toun was chargeable with, by reason of a graunt therof made atte your high courte of parliament last holden atte Westminster. Pleas it therfore your highnes the premisses considred by your high and mooste dowtewill commaundment to charge the said Maire and the others before named, officers of the said Toun to delyuer the said goodis to the owners therof, oreels upon a certeyn peyn by your grace to be lymyttd to appere before you and the lordis of your most honorable counseille to aunswere to the premisses, and to obey such direccion as in this behalf Folio 1v there shall be thought expedient, and your said Chapleyn shall dailly pray for the preseruacion of your moste noble estate.

1 Dymes = tenths.
The Great White

THIS IS THE ANSWERE OF THE MAIRE, SHIREF AND BAILLIFS OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF COMPLEYNT OF JOHN, ABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTEYN

The said Maire, Shiref and Bailiffs seyn that the matier conteyned in the said bill is but matier feyned to thentent therby to vex and trouble the same Maire, Shiref and Bailiffs. And yf yt were matier of throuth yete greate parte of the matier is matier determynable atte common lawe, wherof they prayen allowance. And furthermore they sey as to the ryot comprisid in the said bill, they nor any of them be not therof in any wise gilty. But for pleyn declaracion of throuth they seyn that the said town of Bristowe is an auncien Burgh and Town and hath ben of tyme wherof no mynde is, and that by all the same tyme the monastery of Seynt Austeyns and the said Grene nowe called Seynt Austeyns grene, and all that is within the procincte of the same have been within and parcell of the said Burgh and Toun and that by all the same tyme have been a Maire, Bailiffs and Coroner of and within the same Burgh and Toun and yete be, and they sayn that Kyng Edward the third, late Kyng of Englond by his letters patentes redy to be shewid, graunted that the said Burgh and Toun shuld be a Shire separate and distincste from the Counties of Somerset and Gloucestre and by the same letters patentes grauntid unto the Burgeseis of the same Toun to have oon shiref within the same in such fourme as is conteyned in the said letters patentes. And ouer that they seyn that by the said tyme wherof no mynde is the Maire, Coroner and Bailiffs of the said Town for the tyme beyng, have usid Folio 2 to do and exercise their offices aswell in the said monasterye, grene and procincte as in any other place or places within the said Burgh, Town and Shire. And also the said shirief hath doon and executed his office aswell within the said monasterye, grene and procincte as in euery other place or places within the same Burgh, Town and Shire sith the said graunte made unto the said Burgeseis by the said Kyng, and that all the inhabitauntes of the said Burgh, Town, grene and procincte have been assessid and sette togider atte euery tax xvme. and other charges as entier inhabitauntes of the said Burgh and Town of the said tyme that noo mynde is. And they sey that atte last xvme. graunted unto your highnes conteyned in the said bill oon John Nailler and James Taillour duelling within the said grene were assessid for the halvendele therof by the custom of the said burgh and Town that is to say the said John Nailler atte viij d. and the same James iiij d. And for asmoch as they denied the payment therof unto oon William Plomer and other deputid Collectours of the said xvme. in the said Town the forseid maire Shiref and Bailiffs atte request and desire of the said Collectours and in assistance of theym accordyng to the Custome of the same

2 Grant of Edward III erecting the town of Bristol into a county see Bristol Charters, 1155-1373, ed. N. Dermott Harding, B.R.S., vol. I, 1930, pp. 118-41.

3 halvendale = half part.
Burgh and Town come in peable maner with the said Collectours unto the dwelling houses of the said John Nailler and James sette in the said grene. And in the said dwelling house of the forsaid John Nailler toke a Pan of Brasse and a Saltsaler of Peauter of the same Johns price of viij d., and in the mansion of the said James a candilstik of laton of the same James price iiij d. withoute that the tenantes and enhabitauntes within the said grene and precincte aforesied of the tyme oute of mynde have be discharged of the payment of xvmes. And withoute that the said maire and other inhabitauntes of the said Toun oneley have paid such parte of the xvmes. when it hath ben grauntid as it is surmytted by the said bill of complaynte. And withoute that the said Maire Shiref and Baillifs or any of theym toke any moo or other goodes of the inhabitauntes within the said grene and precincte other than is contenyed in this answere. All which matiers the said maire Shirief and Baillifs been redy to prove as your grace woll awarde, and prayen to be dismyssid with their reasonable costis and damagis for their wrong full vexacion in this behalf.

 Folio 2v THIS IS THE REPLICACION OF THE ABBOT OF SEINT AUSTYNS BESIDES BRISTOWE TO THE ANSWER OF THE MAIRE SHIRIEFES AND BAILLIFIS OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOWE

The said abbot sayth that his said byll is goode and trewe in euery poynst and not fayned and that the said answer is insufficient and uncerteyne to be replyed unto. Nevertheless for declaracion of the trouth in the premisses and for replicacion to the seid answer he saith that the said monasterye and the said grene called Seynt Augustyns grene and all that is within the precincte of the same been and of tyme wherof no mynde is to the contrary have ben places knowen by theym self owte of the said Town and Burgh of Bristowe and oue of euery other Town and hamellet. And ouer that he seith in all thynges as in his bill is surmyttid withoute that the said monasterye and grene and that that is within the precincte of the same or any parcell therof be oue other within the said Toun of Bristowe or any parcell therof as in the said answere is allegid. And without that that the inhabitauntes of the said Burgh [In the margin Town grene and procyncte have been assessed and set togider at euery tax xvmes. and other charges as entier enhabitauntes of the said Burgh] and Town as in the said answere is allegid. And withoute that that the inhabitauntes of the said grene and procincte have been assessid to any tax or xv as in the said answere is supposid. All which matiers he is redy to prove as this courte will awarde. And praieth as in the said bill.
THIS IS THE REIOYNDRE OF THE MAIRE SHIREF AND BAILLIFS OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOWE TO THE REPLICACION OF THE ABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTEYN

The said maire Shirief and Baillifs seyn that the said replicacion is uncerteyn insufficient and repugnaunt to the lawe and nedith not to be reioyned unto. Nevertheless the said maire Shirief and Baillifs for reioyndre seyn that the said answere is certeyn and sufficient to be replied unto and that the said monasterye and the said grene called Seynt Austyns grene and all that is in the precincte of the same be and of the tyme wherof no mynde is have been within and parcell of the said Burgh and Town of Bristowe and seyn ferther in every thynge as they said in the said answere. Withoute that that the said monasterye and the said grene and all that is within the precincte of the same been and of the tyme wherof no mynde is the contrarye have been knowne by theym selfe oute of the said town and Burgh of Bristowe as surmytted by the said replicacion all which matiers the said maire Shirief and Baillifs been redy to prove as your highnes will award and prayen as they have prayd in their seid answere.

TO THE KYNG OUR SOVEREIGN LORD

In most humble wise shewen unto your highnes and to the lordis of your most honorable and discrete counsaill your true and feithfull subgettes the maire, Shirief, Baillifs and Comminaltie of your Town and porte of Bristowe. That where your said Town is and of tyme wherof no mynde is the contrary hath been an old Burgh, Town and Port and as well the monasterye of Seynt Austeynes and the grene adiounynge therto called Seynt Austeyns grene as the house of Seynt marke of Billeswyk and the precincte of same called the Gauntes adiounynge unto the same grene be and of the said tyme that no mynde is to the contrary have been within the said Town and Burgh and parcell of the same. And that by all the tyme aforsaid have been a maire and ij Baillifs of the same town which for the tyme have had the rewle and goueraunce of the same to se aswell the conservacion of your peas as murderers felons and other offendours attached and brought to be justyfied and punysshid accordyng to your lawes. And over that the said maire Baillifs and Commonaltie among other libertees and Fraunchises have had a dailly market there with a Courte called a Tolset Courte holden before the Baillifs dailly from the tyme that noo mynde is. And in lyke wise have a viewe of Frankplegge by all the said Toun and Burgh holden yerely biforn the said Maire and Baillifs of the same Toun and Burgh for the tyme beyng. And all that to a viewe of Frankplegge and lauday in any wise apperteigneth or bilongeth. And also by all the tyme aforsaid have had and usid to have a Coroner within the said Town and Burgh which by all the said tyme

*4 and that the said monasterye written twice.*
hath exercisid and usid thoffice Folio 3v of Coroner and all that which unto which unto thoffice of Coroner apperteigneth or bilongeth in every behalf in every place within the Town and Burgh afforsaid. And ouer this dyvers of your noble progenitours by their lettres patentes redy\(^4\) to be shewid. And by your highnes ratified and confermed have amonge other dyuers privilegis liberties and Franchizes graunted unto your said supplicanites to have cognisans of all plees and to hold all plees personels before the Maire and Shirief of your Town and Burgh afforsaid as in the same lettres patentes more pleynly apperith. And they sey that aswell all the servantauntes and inhabitauntes of the said monasterye and grene and of the said Gauntes as all other inhabitauntes of the other partes of your said Toun have alweys come and usid to come unto the said view and lauday of the said Toun. And the Maire and Baillifs of the said Toun have had the correccion and punyshment of offendours contrary to thassise of brede and ale and of all other offenses within the said monasterye grene and the Gauntes accustommed of right to be presentid and punyshed atte viewes of Frankplegge and lawdayes of the said tyme wherof no mynde is the contrary as within and parcell of the same Toun as by the records thereof redy to be shewid pleynly doth appere. And in lykwise the Coroner of the same Toun by all the same tyme had doon and used his office and all that to the office of Coroner belongith within the said monasterye and grene and the Gauntes afforsaid as well in abiuryng of felons openly made before hym in the Chirches of the said monasterye and Gauntes as to sitte and inquire upon the viewe of bodyes by chawnce or mysaventure slayn within the same monasterye grene and Gauntes, as may appere by many dyvers recordis thereof redy to be shewid unto your highnesse. And in semblable wise the seriauntes atte mace and all other officers of your said Town have doon and executed their offices within the aforsaid monasterye grene and the Gauntes aswell in attachyng of persones by their bodyes and by their goodes as otherwise accordyng unto the use and custome of the said Toun unto nowe late that John Abbot of the said monasterye entendyng as well the encreas of murdres robberies ryottes and other mysdedes as to cause the trewe inhabitauntes of your said Toun and of other places to lese their dettes and duetees interrupted and letted and in noo wise wold suffer the said maire Baillifs and other officers to execute their offices within the said monasterye and grene, and within the same Gauntes nor in any parcell therof but claymeth the same monasterye grene and the said Gauntes to be Sanctuary without any laufull ground or title and by colour therof there contrary to your lawes supporteth, maynteyneth and kepith aswell murderers Folio 4 and felons as all other myschevous and yvell disposid persones that thider will resorte which for drede punysshment withdrawe theym to Seyntwaries and other hid places. And atte their pleasure issue oute fromthens and

murdre or robbe your liege people and then resorte thither ageyn in derogacion of your Crown state and dignite and contrary to your lawes and to the greate hurte as well of your said besechers and of the Town as of the contrey theraboute. And also the said abbot hath nowe of late by usurpacion withoute auctorite or title begun to kepe a Courte in maner of a pretensid viewe of Frankeplegge and lauday within the procincte of the said monasastery where he ne noon of his predecessoures had neuer noon there before, and hath wrongfully compellid aswell the inhabitauntes within the procincte of the said monastery and grene as in the same Gauntes which atte all tymes have usid to com and owe to com to the viewe and lauday of your said Toun of Bristowe to com unto the said pretensid lauday of the said abbot within the procincte of the monastery, and causeth the same inhabitauntes wrongfully to pay such fynes and amerciamentes for brekyng of thassise of brede and ale and other offenses presentable atte lawdayes as they have usid to do within your said Toun of Bristowe aswell in derogacion and disheriteson of your Crowne and dignite as to the disheriteson greate hurt prejudice and improuerisshyng of your said besechers. And ouer this the said abbot aswell for his singler covitys as for thentent to cause your said Toun as moch as in hym is to fall in decay forstalleth both by londe and by water Whete Barly and other greynes and vitaill comyng toward the market of your said Toun and maketh malte of the greate parte of the barly and sendith it with other greynes into Irlond and other places out of your realme of englond.6 And also where as the maire and Burgeises of your said Toun by long tyme have had and yete have of the graunte of your noble progenitoures and by your highnes ratifyed and confermed to theym and to their successoures the Toun of Bristowe in fee fermed and among thynges have there had and yete have ij Corn Water mylles under oon roofe called Castell milles as parcell of the same fee ferme. Atte which milles the inhabitauntes of your said Town have usid to grynde from the tyme that no mynde is the contrary for the which fee ferme they pay yerely CCxl mares toward the payment wherof [In margin the said Castell mylles] were unto theym greate profite and availe unto the tyme the abbot of the said monastery within the space of xxx yeres passed bielded there ij corn water mylles called Treen milles to thentent oonely that atte such tyme as the said milles called castell milles shuld not suffysye to grynde the corn of the inhabitauntes of the said Toun the same inhabitauntes for their eas oonely Folio 4v atte their pleasure myght grynde atte the said milles of the forsaid Abbot. And nowe the same Abbot by his seruauntes contrary therunto hath provoked and dailly doth dyuers inhabitauntes of the said Toun hooly to grynde atte his said milles and not to grynde atte the said Castell milles and by usurpacion hath encreasid [In margin his said milles] which were but of little value by the space of xx yere and more

and were bielded to and for the entent aforsaid to be of the yerly value of xxli. xs. contrary to right which if it shuld so contynew shuld be to the greate improverisshyng of the said Maire Shiref and Bailiffes and Burgeises so that they shuld not be able to pay unto your highnes your said fee ferme as they have doon hertofore. Pleas it your highnes of your moost habundaunt and speciall grace the premisses tenderly to consider, and therupon of your blessid disposicion to command the said abbot beyng here present bfore your said grace, orels to command hym by your lettres of privy seale to com before your highnes to answere to the premissez and to shewe unto your highnes by what auctorite he oweth to have or clayme the the said pretendid Seyntwary and other privilegis and further therin to doo as shall accord with right equite and justice and this for the love of God and in way of charitie.

THE ANSWERE OF THE ABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTENS
BESIDES BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF THE MAIRE SHIREF AND BAILLIFES OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOWE

The said abbot seith that the matier conteyned in the said bill is insufficient and not determynabale in this courte but is a matier craftily feyned and subtly contrivid oonly to the disclaunder and troble of the said abbot and nother matier of trouth nor lykely to be trewe. Neverthelesse for declaracion of trouth as to the first article comprised in the said bill he seith that aswell the said monasterye of seynt Austeyns and Folio 5 the Grene that is a Cimitory adioynyng therto called seynt Austeyns grene as the howse of Seynt Marke of Billeswyke called Gauntes to the same grene adioynyng ben and of tyme wherof no mynde is have been places privilegid oute of the said town and Burgh of Bristowe and in noo wise parcell of the same. And that the said abbot and his predecessoure by all the said tyme have had and usid a viewe of Frankplegge with all thynges to the same belongyng of all the inhabitauntes and resiants within the procmcte of the said monastery, grene and Gauntes. And ouer this where that the said maire Shiref and Bailliffs by their said Bill have surmysid that the said abbot by colour of a Seyntwary pretendid by hym within the said procmcte maynteyneth robbers and other mysgouemed persones as to that article he seith that howbeyt that he undowtid bath matier sufficient and inevitable for the profe therof yete, it nedith hym not here to shewe it bicaus it is matier spirituall, determynable in the spirituell courte. And ferthermore he seith that he and his predecessores of tyme wherof no mynde is have be seasid of iiij milles called Trevell milles in their demesne as of fee as in the right of their said monastery and that by all the said tyme aswell the inhabitautes of the said town as other have atte their pleasure and libertie usid to grynde ther come atte the said milles unto nowe late dyuers of the said inhabitautes of pure malice of the said Maire Shiref and Baillifes withoute any colour7 of

7 Without any colour written twice.
right hath been by them lettyd to grynde atte the same milles with oute that the monastery, grene and Gauntes or any parcell therof is within the said Toun and Burgh or precincte of the same and without that that any of the seruauntes and inhabitauntes of the said monastery, grene and Gauntes have usid to com and appere atte any lawday holden within the said Toun and Burgh or that the maire Shirif and Bailiffs or Coroners or any other officers of the said Toun and Burgh for the tyme beyng have had or usid any such correccions or other privilegis within the said monastery grene and Gauntes or within any parcell therof as by the said bill is supposid. And withoute that the said Abbot euer entendid the encreas of murdrers Robbers Ryottoures or any other mysgouerned persones or that the said Abbot by lond or by water have forstalled Whete Barley or any other vitaill or graynes or that he made any malte and sent unto Irlond as in the said bill also is surmytted. And withoute that the said Abbot in any wise have encreasid his said milles otherwise than of right he ought to do. All which matiers he is redy to prove as this courte will award hym to do. And prayeth to be dismyssed oute of this courte with his resonable costes and damages for his wrongfull vexacion in this behalf.

THE REPLICACION OF THE MAIRE SHIREF AND BAILLIFS OF THE TOWN OF BRISTOWE TO THE ANSWERE OF THE ABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTENS OF BRISTOWE

The said maire Shiref and Bailiffs seyn that their said bill is sufficient and the matier conteyned theryn trewe in every poynte and not of crafte ne subtilite feyned ne contruyd to disclaundre ne troble the said abbot ne for other cause but oonly accordyng to your high commaundment to shewe unto your highnes and to the noble lordis of your moost honnorable and discrete counsaill the greate and open wilfull Injuriyes Wrongs usurpacions and enormities doon by the said Abbot unto the forsaid maire Shirif and Bailifes and to the comynaltie of the said Toun and Burgh of Bristowe contrary to your lawes and in derogacion and disheriteson of your roiall magestee crown and dignitee as it shall be sufficiently proved. And ouer that the said maire Shirif and Bailiffs seyn that atte the speciall labour request and desire of the said abbot aswell the said maire Shirif and Bailifes as the said abbot had speciall commaundment by your highnes atte your last beyng atte your said Toun and Burgh of Bristowe to shewe unto your highnes and the noble lordis of your moost honoroble discrete counsaill all querels grugges and matiers of varyaunces beyng or in any wise dependyng bitwen theym. And all their rightes titles evidences or interesses in any wise touchyng or concernyng the same. Which

8 The visit referred to here must have been in 1490, when the King and the Lord Chancellor John Morton, archbishop of Canterbury lodged at the Carmelite Friary on St. Augustine's Back.
commaundment the said maire Shirief and Baillifes have to be and atte all tymes shalbe redy for their parte to obey howbeyt the said abbot as it semeth for his parte endeth not so to do in that he seith that the matier concernyng the said pretenced seyntwary, Which he withoute title and cause sufficient presumeth to have is matier spirituell determynable in the spirituell Courte. And that he nedith not to shewe it here. And ouer that the said maire Shirif and Baillifes seyn in every thyng as they have seid in their said bill withoute that the said monasterye is beside or withoute the said Folio 6 Toun and Burgh of Bristolowe or that the same monastery and the said grene adioynynge therto called seint Austyns grene, or the said house called the Gauntes or any parcell of theym be or of the tyme that no mynde is or atte any tyme have been places privilegid oute of the said Toun and Burgh of Bristolowe. Or that the said abbot and his predecessoures by all that tyme have had or usid a viewe of Fraunkplegge or any thyng to the same bilongynge of the inhabitauntes or reciauntes within the procincte of the said monastery Grene and Gauntes any parcell therof as is surmytted by the said answere, and withoute that that the said abbot hath inevitable or any sufficient matier for the profe of the said pretendid Sayntwary or that the matier therof is matier oonly spirituell determynable in the spirituell courte as is surmytted by the same answere. And withoute that that the said abbot and his predecessoures of the tyme wherof no mynde is have beseasid of iiij milles called Trevell milles and by all the same tyme the inhabitauntes of the said Toun have atte their pleasure or libertee usid to grynde their corn atte the same milles as is surmytted by the said Answere. All which matiers the said maire Shirief and Baillifes ben redy to prove as your highnes and your moost honoroble and discrete counsaill woll award. And prayen as they have prayed by their said bill.

Folio 6v TO THE KYNG OUR SOUEREIGN LORDE

In his moost humble wise shewith and pituously complayneth unto your highnes your feithfull subgiet and pore Chapeleyn John Abbot of your monastery of seynt Austeyns besides Bristolowe. That where your said Chapeleyn atte your late beyng atte your said monastery shewid unto your said highnes of the greate iniuries and wronges unto hym doon by the maire Shirif and Baillifs of your said Toun of Bristolowe. Wherupon it pleasid your highnes to commaund us both parties to be here this terme before the lordis of your moost honoroble counsaill for to obey such direccions as shall be thought expedient in that behalve. And over that yt likid your said grace of your moost blissid and charitable mynde to commaund the said maire Shirif and Baillifs in the meane tyme to be good and lovyng neighbours unto your said Chapeleyn so that there shuld com unto your knowledge noo farther complayntes. So it is moost dred sovereigne lord that the said maire Shirif and Baillifes not feryng your lawes ne your said high
The Great White

commandment the Friday next after your said grace depart fro your said monastery wold not suffer your Chapeleyn to have vitaill for hym and his pore brethern in the said toun. Also where dyvers inhabitauntes of the said tong hertofore have grounden atte the milles of your said Chapeleyn adioynynge to the said tong which ben let to ferme atte xxli. xs. by the yere they have leyde streyte commandment upon them that they shall grynde no more there to the greate hurt of your said chapeley. And not onooy this but also they have long tyme withholden your said besecher certeyn londe and rent within the said tong of Bristowe to the yerely value of xxs. and above. Also is such sutes as your said Chapeley or any of his servauntes hath within the said tong he can in noo wise have favour ne spede theryn but delayed to the greate hurt of your said Oratour and his poore hous. Wherfor pleas it your said grace the premisses considered by thadvise of your most noble counsaill to provide such remedy heryn as shall stand with your lawes and goode conscience, and this atte reuerence of god and in way of charite. And your said Chapeleyn and his pore brethern shull dailly pray for the preseruacion of your roiall estate.

Folio 7

SUPPLICACIO

PRO denariis levatis et districcionibus captis de tenentibus infra privilegium monasterii Sancti Augustini iuxta Bristoll’ eisdem reddendis et sub Iniuncacione pecuniaria ne iterum similiter facere presumperit

PRO victualibus et aliis necessariis emendis vel vendendis nullum postea fiat impedimentum

QUOD inhabitantes Bristolliam volentes grana sua molere ad molendina dicti Abbatis non impediantur

QUOD fiat execucio iusticie in causis dicti abbatis sine dilacione aut cauillacione

QUOD reddant terras et redditus dententos predicto abbati

QUOD faciant reparaciones circa litora aque vocate Frome devastantis terram dicti abbatis sicut tententur

THANSWERE OF THE MAIRE SHIRIF AND BAILLIFES OF THE TOUN OF BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF COMPLEYNT OF THE ABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTENS

The said Maire Shirif and Baillifes seyn that the said bill is uncerteyne and insufficient to putte theym to answere therunto wherof they prayen allowaunce. Nevertheles for declaracion of the trouth of the premisses and for answere they sey that they all tymes sith your highnes was atte said monastery and alweys before have been good and lovyng neighboures to the said Abbot and to his predecessoures in
all thynges asferre as right and reason Folio 7v have required. And 
they sey that the maire Shirif Baillifes and Burgeises of your said Toun 
by long tyme have had and yete have of the Grauntes of your noble 
progenitoures and by your highnes ratified and confermyd to theym 
and to their successoures the said Town of Bristow in fee ferme. And 
among other thynges have there had and yete have ij Corn water 
mylles under oon rofe called Castell milles as parcell of the same fee 
ferme atte which millis the inhabitauntes of the said Toun by all the 
tyme that noo mynde is have usid to grynde. For the which fee ferme 
they pay yerly cxxl marces toward the payment wherof the said Castell 
milles were unto theym of great profite and availe unto the tyme the 
Abbot of the said monastery within the space of xxx yeres passid 
bieldid the milles specified in the said bill of compleynt to thentent 
oonly that atte such tyme as the said milles called Castell milles shuld 
suffice to grynde the Corn of theinhabitauntes of the same Town 
the same inhabitauntes for their ease oonly atte their pleasure myght 
there grynde atte said milles of the forsaid Abbot. And nowe the same 
Abbot by his servauntes of contrary therunto hath provoked and dailly 
dothing adults inhabitauntes of of the said Toun hooly to grynde atte 
his said milles. And not to grynde atte the said Castell milles parcell of 
the said fee ferme And by usurpacion hath encreased his said milles which 
were but of litill value by the space of xx yeres and more. And were 
bield to and for thentent afforsaid to be of the yerly value of xxli. xs. 
contrary to right which if it shuld so contynewe shuld be to the greate 
empowerisshyng of the said maire Shirif Bailliffs and burgeises so that 
they shuld not be hable to pay unto your highnes your said fee ferme as 
they have doon hertofore. And they sey that the said Abbot and his 
servauntes have alweys had such lawfull favour and spede in their 
sutes within the said toun as hath accordid to reason and your lawes 
withoute that that the said maire Shirif and Baillifes or any of theym 
lettid the said Abbot to have vitail for hym and his brethern within the 
said toun or commaunded the inhabitauntes of the same toun that they 
shuld grynde no more atte said milles of the forsaid Abbot or withold 
from the same Abbot any londes or rente or lettid or delayed the said 
Abbot or any of his servauntes in any sute within the said toun as is 
surmyttid by the said bill. And over this the said maire Shirif and 
bailiffs seyn that the said Abbot entendyng by feyned and untrew 
suggestions to contynue in usyng and doyng such injurys and open 
wrongs unto the forsaid maire Shirief and Baillifs and Burgeises as 
h he dyuers tyme hath doon. And dailly doth by usurpacion contrary to 
the privilegis of the said toun, and contrary to your lawes Folio 8 dailly 
feyneth bills of complaynte unto your highnes that the said maire 
Shirief and Bailliffs shuld not interrupt hym as to continue unto the 
tyme it myght growe oute of knowlege of mennes myndes which 
injurys and wronges doon by usurpacion by the said Abbot the 
forsaid maire Shirif and Baillifs accordyng to your high 
commaundement lately given unto theym atte your last beyng atte 
Bristowe. In mooost humble wise shewen unto your highnes and to the
lordis of your most honorable and discrete counsaille in such fourme as is conteyned in a bill to this answere annexid whereunto they humbily beseech your highnes that the said abbat may be put to answere. And that such direccion may be taken theryn as shall accord with right and conscience. All which matiers they be redy to prove as your highnes woll award etc.

NONO DIE MENSIS NOUEMBRIS ANNO REGNI REGIS HENRICI SEPTIMI SEPTIMO

Iniunctum est maiori et Communitati ville Bristollie in personas Johannis FitzJames et Thome Hardyng in consilio presentium quod ipsi non intromittant cum abbate et conventu Sancti Augustini prope villam predictam nec cum suis tenentibus sive servitoribus habitantibus infra monasterium predictum. Necnon infra procinctum vocatum Seynt Austeyns Grene eodsom pro taxis distringendo aut easdem ab eodem abbate et conventu servitoribus aut tenentibus suis huiusmodi exigiendo nec quoquo modo interpucionem faciant franchesiarum privilegiorum aut aliorum indultorum abbati et conventui predictis ab antiquo concessorum quousque discuciantur querelata per eundem abbatem et conventum in consilio domini Regis. Et hoc sub pena mille marcarum.

Concordat cum decreto

Folio 8v TO THE KYNGE OURE SOUEREIGN LORD

In their most humble wise shewn unto your highnes your true and feithfull subgettsis the Maire, Shirif, Baillifs and Comminaltie of youre Toun and porte of Bristowe that where your said Toun is and oute of tyme of mynde hath been an olde Burgh Toun and Porte and as well the monstery of Seynt Austyns and a place adjoyynge therto called Seynt Austeyns grene as the hous of Seynt Mark of Billeswyk called the Gauntes and all the procincte of the same Billeswyk been and by all the same tyme have been within the said Toun and Burgh and parcell of the same and by all the same tyme there hath been a maire and ij Baillifs of the said toun which for the tyme beyng have had the rule and governaunce of the said toun and have alwey usid to see for the conservacion of the peas and to have the laufull punyshment enprisonment and correccion as the caas hath requyred of murdres, felons, trespassours and other offendours ayenst the lawe for any murдрe felony trespas or other offens committed or doon within any of the said places called Seynt Austyns, Seynt Austeyns grene, the Gauntes and Billeswyk or any other place within the said Toun. AND also the said Maire and Baillifs for the tyme beyng from the tyme that noo mynde is to the contrary have usid to have a dailly market in the toun and a court called the Tolsill courte holden before
the Baillifs of the same toun every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and the maire [In margin Baillifs] and Commnalltie have also by alle the same tyme had and usid to have a viewe of Frankplegge or lawday by and in all the said toun and the said place called Seynt Austeyns, Seynt Austeyns grene, the Gauntes and Billeswyke as parcell of the same toun yerly two tymes in the yere holden before the maire and Baillifs of the said toun for the tyme with all that to a view of Frankplegge or lauday belongeth or in any wise may belong.

AND by all the said tyme have also had and used to have two Coroners within the said town which have alwey executid all that to the office of any Coroner in any wise belongeth or may belong in all the said places and in every other place of the said toun which Coroners for the tyme beyng have taken the confessions and made abjuracions of felons that have taken and askid the privilege of the Chirch atte the said monastery of Seynt Austyns, seynt Austyns grene, Folio 9 the said Gauntes and Billeswyke for felonyes by theym committed.

AND also sitten and enquired in all the said places upon the sight of the bodyes of dyuers such persones as have been slayn or murdred there, by chawnce mysaventur or otherwise, or hath kylled theym self there withoute lette, interrupcion or clayme to the contrary of any of the predecessoures of the said abbot atte any tyme.

AND ouer this your said suppliauntes seyn that dyuers of your noble progenitoures by their lettres patentes redy to be shewid, and by your highnes ratyfied and confermyd have amonges other privilegis Francheses and libertees graunted unto the predecessours of your said suppliauntes to have cognisaunce and power to holds allmaner of plees before the maire Shirif of the said Toun and Burgh for the tyme beyng. AND also to have as parcell of their fee ferme of the said Town all the goodes and catalles of all felons and dyuers other forfeiturs of goodes within the procincte of the said Toun as by the said letters patentes redy to be shewid moore playnly apperith, and accordyng to due mynistracion of Justice by force of auctorite of the said Courtes the sergeauntes of the mace and other officers of the said Toun and Burgh have usid to execute all maner of preceptis to theym directed oute of any of the said Courtes as well in distreynyng and levying of all Fynes and americiamentes assessid and afferyd both in the said View of Frankplegg and in the said other Courtes and in attachyng of such persones ayenst whom any attachiamentes were to the said officers directed to be attachid by theyr bodyes or by their goodes, as to do and execute all that to the officers of the said Courtes in any wise apperteynheth or bilongeth aswell in the said places called seynt Austeyns, Seynt Austyns grene, the said Gauntes and Billisyke as in any other place within the said Toun.

AND where as your said suppliauntes and their predecessoures have had and holden and yete have and hold your said Toun and Burgh and ij water mylles under oone rofe called the Castell Milles as parcell of the same Toun in fee ferme atte which milles all thenhabitauntes of all
and within the procincte of the said Toun have usid to grynde all their cornes whereby the yerely value of the same milles were of greate profite to your said suppliauntes and where the predecessoures of the said abbot had a little water mill in the procincte of the said Toun to grynde the greynes of the said Folio 9v monastery oon late abbot of the said monastery hathe lately bieldid there iiiij water milles called Treen milles, and sith the bieldyng of the said milles the said noe abbot hath induced and causid many of the inhabitauntes of the said Town to grynde their greynes atte the same mylles every yere more and more, whereby the yerly value of the said Castell milles is greatly decayed and lessonyd to the great hurt and losses of your said suppliauntes.

AND ouer all this the said noe abbot enteyndyng not onlony the derogacion and disheritaunce of your said highnes and your corone mooste dred souereign lord, but also enteyndyng in that that in hym is or may be the hurt and decay of your said town and the losse and disheritaunce of your said suppliauntes hath of late dayes unlawfully withoute title or goode cause pretended to have and holde a Viewe of Frankplegg or lawday within the said Toun of Bristowe in the said place called Billeswyke and hath causid all the temporall inhabitauntes in his said monastery and in the said places called Seynt Austyns grene, the Gauntes and Billeswyk which been and ever hath been parcell of and within the said Toun, to come to his said pretencid viewe of Frankplege and upon presentmens there made hath extorciously taken and perceyvid greate profites.

AND hath also of late dayes withoute any colour unreasonably and synfully kept supported and maynteyned and dailly doth dyuers murderers, felons, and offendours of your lawes and also dyuers persons for dette and other causes within the said monastery, Seynt Austeyns grene, Billeswyke and the Gauntes pretendyng all the same places to be Seyntewary contrary to all right and justice and to the encreas of misdoers, felons and other mysgouernaunces yf it should so be contynued. And of such felons as hath comyn and asked the said usurpid privilege the said noe abbot hath taken their goodes which yf the same felons were atteynted of right shuld belong to your said suppliauntes.

AND ouer all this the said noe abbot hath letted or distourbed and yete Ietteth and will not suffre the sergeantes atte mace and other officers of the said Toun to take or levey any amerciamentes or Fynes forfeited in the said viewe or in any of the Courtes of any inhabitaunt within the said places called seynt Austeynes, seynt Austeyns grene, the Gauntes nor Billeswyke ne to make execucion of any attachiament or other processe within any of Folio 10 the same places accordyng as they have usid to do before the said lette and interrupcion.

AND where before this your highnes for certeyn gode and honorable consideracions directid your gracious letters missyves to the Maire of the said Toun that tyme beyng commaundyng hym by the same that he atte a certeyn nyght in the said letters assigned shuld make due serche in all places in the said Toun and precinct of the same for vacabundes
and evill disposid persones then beyng there and if he founde any such that he shuld attach and take the same and theym to ordre accordyng to the effect and tenure of the said letters redy to be shewid by force of which letters and accordyng to the purport of the same of the said than Maire atte the tyme appoyned made serch in the said places called the Gauntes, seynt Austeyns grene and Billeswyke and there by the commandment of the said now abbot there were a great nombre of his seruauntes and other persones assembled in harnes defensibly arrayd which ryotusly with force resistid the execucion of your said commandment wherby dyuers vacabundes, theves and murdrers and other suspicous persones there loggid and beyng within the said Billeswick escapid.

AND ouer that the said abbot hath many tymes unlawfully and without cause resonable causid to arrest within the said places dyuers persones inhabitauntes duellyng in other places of the said toun and theym hath kept in prison som of theym by the space of viij dayes som more, som lesse and for no trety nor upon any seurty wold not suffre any of theym to goo to bail ne maynprice.

AND also nowe of late oon yevan ap Roger Taillour inhabitaunt and duellyng in the said place called Seynt Austyns grene and tenaunt to the said abbot knowyng and seyng by colour of the said usurped and pretended seyntwary of the same abbot, he and such other that were inhabitauntes and his tenauntes there myght be and abyde withoute correction have lately robbed and helpid to robbe the parish church of Westbury in your county of Gloucester and brought the goodes there taken to the said house of the said Yevan ap Roger in the said grene and there departid the said goodes amonges hym and his felowes partyners of the said robbery which yevan ouer all this hath commyttid dyuers and many other grete felonyes and is conversaunt with other suspect persones duellyng aswell within the same places as withoute which Folio 10v contynuely have their commyn resorte and metyng atte the said howse of the said yevan in the said grene.

ALL which premisses as affore is said be not oonly to the hurt losse and disheritaunce of your highnes and of your said corone, souereign lord and to the right parlous example of all other mysdoers and to the lette and distourbaunce of due mynistracion of Justice, but also to the greate losse hurt and decay of your said Town and the countrey adiynynge thereunto.

IN consideracion wherof yt may please your highnes of your most noble and habundaunt grace for somoch as the said abbot is nowe here present that he may be compellid to answere to the premisses. And that such direccion may be taken theryn by your highnes by thavise of your most noble and discrete counsaill as shall accord with right equite and justice and your said suppliauntes shall contynuely pray to God for the preseruacion of your mooste noble and roiall estate long prosperously to endure.
THANSWERE OF THABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTEYNS
BESIDES BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF COMPLEYNT OF
THE MAIRE, SHIRIF, BAUILLIFS AND COMMIALTIE OF
THE SAME TOWN

The said abbot sayth that the said bill is insufficient and uncerteyne to
be answerid unto and the matier theryn conteyned is matier feyned and
ymagined of untruth to the sclaunder and for vexacion oonly of the
said abbot. Nevertheles for declaracion of the trouth and for ferther
answere to the said bill he seith that aswell the said monastery of Seynt
Austeyns and the place adioynyng therto called seynt Austyns grene
as the hows of seynt Mark of Billeswyke called the Gauntes and all the
proincete of the same Billeswyke ben and ever of tyme Follo 11 wherof
no mynde is have been owte of the Toun of Bristowe and in no wise
within the said Toun nor part therof, and within the which place called
Billeswyke the said abbot and his predecessoure by all the said tyme
have had and peasilby usid a Viewe of Frankplege and a Sayntuary
for all maner thynges except for treson and many other greate
privileges liberties and Fraunchises as in a bill of compleynt put in to
this Court by the said abbot ayenst the said Maire, Shirief, Baullifs and
Comminaltie more at large doth appere. And ouer this the said abbot
seith that he and his predecessoure by all the tyme afforsaid have had
and holden and yet have and holden in the right of their said monastery
iij of the iij milles in the forsaid bill of compleynt specified in their
demeane as of fe by all the which tyme such of thinhabitauntes and
resiauntes of the said Toun that lyst there to grynde have usid atte their
pleasure and fre will to com to grynde their greynes atte the said milles.
And in lykewise sith the same tyme they have usid to grynde atte the
iiijth of the said milles unto nowe of late they were therof interrupt by
the said maire, Shirief, Baullifs and Comminaltie. And over this saith
that to the assemble of dyuers persones in harnesse supposid to be
doyn by the commaundment of the said abbot thereto the said abbot
seith that atte the said tyme supposid by cause of good rule to be had
within his said place privilegid of Billeswyke afforsaid accordyng to the
effect of our souereign liege lord the Kynges commaundment he willed
and desired Sir Robert Poyntz, Knyght than beyng his stuard of the
said place privilegid to make due serch within all the said place of
billeswyke after and accordyng to theeffect of the Kynges
commaundment In executyng wherof and also in conservacion of the
kynges peas the said Sir Robert Poyntz knyght accompanied as well
with somme of the seruauntes of the said abbot as with dyuers of his
own in peasilby wise intendyng to make due serch there accordyng as
before is reheresd there and than resistid in peasilby maner dyuers of
the seruauntes and ministers of the said maire, Shirief, Baullifs and
Comminaltie that intendid than to intromet theymself within the said
place privilegid and wold not suffer theym theryn to entre withouthe
licence of the said abbot accordyng to the libertees and privilegis of the
same place. And where also yt is surmytted by their bill of compleynt
that oon Yevan ap Roger Taillour was *Folio* 11v tennaunt to the said abbot within the said place called Billeswyke therto he seith that the said Jevan ap Richard was tennaunt there atte the will of the said abbot to his knowledge a man of good disposicion and not party nor pryve to the said robbery nor hath not taken any privileges of the said Sayntwary, but went aboute in all partes there adioynyng lyke no Sayntwary man but as a man having fre libertie. Withoute that the said Roger brought any goodes taken by robbery within the procincte of the said monastery or there departid any such goodes and withoute that the forsaid monastery of Seynt Austyns and the place adioynyng therto called Seynt Austyns grene and the house of Seynt Marke of Billiswyke called the Gauntes and the procincte of the same Billeswyke been or euer at any tyme were within the said town of Bristowe or any part of the same town or that the maire, Shirief, Baillifes and Comminaltie of the said toun euer had any rule, gowernaunce conservacion of the peas punyshment in prisonament or correction of any murdrer, felon, trespassour or of any other offendour ayenst the lawe for any felony, murdre or other offenses committed or done within any of the said places called Seynt Austyns Seynt Austyns grene and the Gauntes and Billiswyke aforesaid or within any part therof or that the Maire, Shirief, Baillifs and Comminaltie of the said toun euer had or usid to have a Viewe of Franklepege or a lawe day within the said places called Seynt Austyns, Seynt Austyns grene, the Gauntes and Billeswyke in maner and fourme as by their bill of compleynt is surmysed or in eny other wise have taken the confessions and abjuracions of felons that have taken and askid the privilege of the Chirch atte the said place for felony by theym committed or that any Coroner of the said toun euer of right executed any thyng bilongyng to the office of Coroner within the said places in any peisable maner but by greate myght and power, and withoute that any officer of the said Toun euer executed any maner preceptes or distreigned or leyved any fynes or amerciamentes assessid or affeird in any of their Courtes or made eny attachyementes or eny thyng executed belonyng to their Courtes upon any persone or persones by theyr bodyes or goodes within any parte of the said places of Billeswyke and withoute that that eny of the inhabitauntes within the said Toun euer usid to come to grynde their greynes atte the said milles called Castell milles of right or of duyte, but oonly of their free will and libertie accordyng and in lyke fourme as they have usid and com to grynde at the forsaid milles of the said abbot, and without that the said abbot have usid oonly to have but oon litill mill as is surmysid in their bill of complaynt or that he or *Folio* 12 any of his predecessoures sith the tyme of mynde bieldid first of newe the said iiij milles in maner and fourme as by the same bill also ys surmytted or that the said abbot causid or induced any of the inhabitauntes of the said toun to grynde atte the said milles but oonly they cam thider of their free willes and withoute that that he dyd or causid to be doon it was by good auctorite and accordyng to the Kynges lawes and withoute that he euer kept supported or
maynteyned any murderer felon or offendour ayenst the kynges lawes or any other person or persones for dette or otherwise within the said place of Billeswyke or elswhere ayenst right in any such fourme as it is surmysid or that he euer toke there any maner goodes but that of right bilongyd to hym to take, and withoute that eny ryot or any unlawfull assemble or resistance was made then by the commandment of the said abbot or that he causid any maner escape of vacabundis, thevis murderers or ani other suspectious persones or that he euer unlawfully enprisoned any maner of person within the forsaid place of Billeswyke all which matiers the said abbot is redy to prove as this court will award and prayeth to be dismyssid of their said wrongfull surmysid bill with costes and chargis for his wrongfull vexacion in this behalve.

Then follows a document which is an exact copy of that on Folio 5v

Folio 13 [In margin Undecimo die Julii anno septimo Henrici septimi] Iniunctum est Thome Hardyng nomine ville Bristollie de novo quod Maior aut ceteri ministri ville antedicte de aut in aliquibus de quibus inter eos et abbatem Sancti Augustini Bristollie predicte in consilio fit questio quoquo modo distringendo aut aliter [non] intromittant quousque discuciantur et determinentur ea que inter eosdem in consilio pendent et hoc sub pena mille librarum.

TO THE KING OURE SOUEREIGN LORD

In his moost humble wise shewith unto your highnes your feithfull Chapeleyn and dailly Oratour John Abbot of the monastery of seynt Austeyns beside Bristowe. That where the said abbot and his predecessoures of the tyme whereof no mynde is have been seased of a place called Billeswyke wherin is conteyned and sette your said monastery and a Cimitory called Seynt Austyns grene which place with the precinctes of the same is and euer hath been oute of the Town of Bristowe and in noowise part therof. And within the same your said Chapleyn and his predecessoures by all the said tyme have had many greate privilegis libertees and Fraunchises as after doth apper. First your said Oratour and his predecessoures by all the tyme afforsaid have had amonges other a Viewe of Frankplegge of all the Recyauntes and inhabitauntes within the said place of Billeswyke and the precinctes therof to be holden there two tymes of the yere. Also by all the said tyme within the precincte afforsaid hath been usid a Seyntwary and all persons thider commyng claymyng the same for any felonies dettes and other personell offenis by theym committed and doon there to have had tuicion and have been dischargid by reason therof of all temporall officers and there to abyde atte their pleasure. And also gracious souereign lord your noble progenitours by dyuers their lettres patentes have graunted to the predecessoures of your said
Chapleyn that they theire successoures and tenauntes shall buy and sell aswell vitaill as other thynges necessary for their own use in all places within this your realme and cary it by water and by londe atte their pleasure withoute any maner of toll or tallage therfor to any person paying. So it is that the maire and his brethern of the Toun of Bristowe nowe of late and never here to fore usid have amercid dyuers of themhabituantes of Billeswyke afforsaid for noon commyng to their lauday holden within the said Toun and distreynd theym for the same and have caused their shoppe wyndowes to be shutte up that they cannot sell their ware Folio 13v which they have to lyve by oonlesse they woll make fynes with the said maire. And also the same maire and his brethern hath not oonly violently broken the said seyntwary and taken oутe dyuers persones there claymyng the privilege afforsaid but lettid the seruauntes of your said Oratour to bye vitaill and other thynges necessary for hym and his brethern and also will not suffre their tenauntes to bye ne sell within the said Toun withoute paying custumme therefor contrary to their privilegis and grauntes afforsaid. And ouer this where the said abbot is seasid of iiij milles adioynyng to the said Toun of Bristowe in his demeane as of fee in the right of his said monastery to the which all such inhabitauntes of the same Toun that list there to grynde have usid to comme atte their pleasure, the said maire and his brethern of their willfull and uncharitable disposicion by their officers and servauntes have lettid dyuers persones to grynde there and also where to the predecessoures of the same abbot was yeven a place called Aven mersh and certeyn rentes oute of dyuers tenementes within the said Toun to the yerly value of xxs. in party of their foundacion, the said maire and his brethern of theire pure wrong witholdeth the same from your said Chapleyn and his brethern ayenst right and good conscience. Moreover most dred souereign lord, the said maire and his brethern of their ungoodly disposicion, intendyng disheretson of your said Chapleyn and his successoures have of late procured and styrred oon Lydyate to commence an accion of trespas ayenst your said Chapleyn, Richard Philips and John White, his seruauntes before your Justices of your commen benche and have hym bound by obligacion to theym that he shall pursue the same accion with effect, and therin to take no ende with your said Oratour withoute their assent, supposyng by the same that your said Oratour and his saide seruauntes atte Seynt Austyns grene aforsaid shuld make assawte upon the forsaid John Lydyate and hym imprison which in euery poynyt is feyned and untrewe intending by the same by their myght and power to have a tryall theryn amongst theym self within the same Toun ayenst your said Chapleyn. And thereby to intitle theym self to have to do within the said privileges and Fraunchises upon dyuers of the which great injuries and wronges upon a compleynt made to your highnes by your said Oratour ayenst the said maire and his brethern the matier was had in examynacion before the lordis of your moost honorable counsaill, which restith there yete undiscussid. And that notwithstondyng the said maire and his brethern contynueth
their wronges in the premisses and dailly encreasith it more Folio 14 and more, to the lykely undoynge of your said Chapleyne and his successoures foreuer, except the favouer of your grace be the shortlyer shewid unto theym for remedy of the same. In tendre consideracion wherof it may pleas your said highnes the premisses considered to aswell addresse yeo most honorable lettres of privy seale to the said maire, Shirieff and Bailliffes of the same toun, streitly commaundyng theym by the same to appere before your grace and the lordis of your said Counsaill atte a certeyn day and under such peyn as by your said highnes shall be approued as to enioyn the said John Lydyate no ferther to pursue in his said accion the said mater here hangyng undisgressid.

THEANSWERE OF THE MAIRE, SHIRIEF, BAILLIFS AND COMINALTIE OF THE TOUN OF BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF COMPLEYNT OF THABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTYN

The said Maire, Shirieff, Bailliffs and Comynaltie seyn that the said bill is insufficient and uncerteyn to be answered unto and the mater theryn conteyned is mater feyned and imagined of untrouth to the sclaudre and for the vexacion of the said Maire, Shirieff, Bailliffs and Comynaltie, and also clerly determynable at commen lawe and not in this Courte, wherunto they prayen to be remytted. And nevertheles for declaracon of the trouth and for ferther answere to the said bill the said Maire, Shirieff, Bailliffs and Comynaltie seyn that all the said place called Billeswyke wherin the said abbey of Seynt Austyns stondeth, and all the other founde and places theryn conteyned or beyng which the said abbot supposith by his said bill to be owte of the said Toun of Bristowe been and owte of tyme of mynde have been within and parcell of the same Toun. In which Toun there hath been by all the same tyme a Maire and two Bailliffs of the same. And the Maire, Bailliffs and Comynaltie of the same Toun for the tyme byng by all the same tyme have alwey had and usid to have and holde a View of Frankeplegge or lawday by and in alle the same Toun and the said place called Billeswyke as parcell of the same Toun, yerely the tyme holden before the Maire and Bailliffs of the same Toun for the tyme byng, Folio 14v with allmaner of thynges belonging to a View of Frankeplegge or lawday. And also the said Maire, Bailliffs and Comynaltie by all the said tyme have in lykwise had and usid to have the gouernaunce and rule of all the said Toun, and the punyshment and correccion of all maner murdrers, mysdoers and offendours ayenst the Kynges lawes for any murdre, felony, trespas, mysgouernaunce of offens commytted or doon as well in the said place called Billeswyke as in any other place within the said Toun. And they sey that no maner of person fro the tyme that no mynde is to the contrary have used to bey ne sell by wey ne fayte of marchaundise ne occupy any open shop or stall for beying or sellyng any maner of marchaundise ware or vitaill
within the said Toun, but if he were a freman of the same Toun. And
the said Maire, Baillifs and Cominaltie have also by all the said tyme
usid to take fynes of all maner persones for makyn theym fremen of
the said Toun in such wise alwey as the said Maire, Baillifs and
Cominaltie. And the said persones that so were made fre cowde agre.
And they say that they have distrayned dyuers persones, inhabitauntes
within the said procincte of Billeswyke for such amerciamentes as have
been assessid upon theym for their offenses presentid in their said
lawday. And also forasmoch as dyuers persones beyng no fremen of
the said Toun occupied and kept open shoppes within the said
procincte of Billeswyke by the supportacion and mayntenaunce of the
said abbot. The said maire and Baillifs have in peaseable maner caused
the same persones to shytte up their shoppes accordyng to the custome
and libertee of the said Toun, and they say also that they and their
predecessoures of longe tyme have had and holden the said Toun of
Bristowe togider with two watermylles called the Castell milles in fee
ferme of the Kynges highnes and of his progenitoures as parcell of
their fee ferme of the same Toun, atte the which two milles all	henhabitauntes of the said Toun fro the tyme that no mynde is
the contrary have usid to comme and grynde their greynes, wherby
the same milles were greate yerly value, and where the predecessoures of
the abbot had a litill watermyll to grynde the greynes of the said
monastery, oone late abbot of the said monastery, predecessour of the
said abbot, hath of late bieldid there foure water milles called Treen
milles. And the said nowe abbot sith the bieldyng of the same milles
hath enducid and causid many of thenhabitauntes of the said Toun to
grynde their cornes atte saide milles every yere more and more,
wherby the yerly value of the said Castell milles is greatly decayed to
the grevous hurt and losse of the same Maire, Baillifs and Cominaltie
yf it so shuld contynewe. And the said Maire, Baillifes and Cominaltie
sey that they have been seasid of the said mersh called Aven Mersh in
their demesne as of fee, as parcell of the said Toun oute of tyme of
mynde withoute that the said
Folio 15 places called Billeswyke or the
said monastery of Seynt Austens been or euer were withoute and not
parcell of the said Toun and withoute that the said abbot and his
predecessoures have had a viewe of Frankeplegge of the receauntes
and inhabitauntes of the said place of Billeswyke as is surmytted by
the said bill or that there hath been used oute of tyme of mynde within
the procincte afforsaid a Sainctwary as is surmytted by the same bill.
And withoute that that the said maire, Baillifes and Cominaltie lettid
the seruauntz of the said abbot to bey vitail or any other thyng
necessary for hym or his brethern or that they letted any tenaunt of the
said abbot beyng freman of the said Toun to bey or sell within the
same, or toke any tolle or custumme of any of theym for any such
cause, or that they causid any shopwyndows within Billeswyke
afforsaid to be shutte in any otherwise or for any other cause than is
specifyed in this answere, or that they or their officers have letted any
personnes to grynde atte Milles of the said abbot, and yf they had lettid
eny of thenhabitauntes of the said Toun so to do it had been Iaufully
doone and withoute that the said Maire, Baillifs and Cominaltie have
taken any persones oute the said pretencid Sauntuary as is surmytted
by the said byll. And yf they had so doon by any laufull waraunt writte
or precept to theym directid to take any of theym, it had been a laufull
dede so to have doone. And withoute that that they have procured or
styrred the said John Lydyate to take any accion of trespas ayenst the
said abbot and other or have caused hym to be bounden by any
obligacion that he shuld pursue the said accion with effect, and to take
noon ende withoute their assent as is surmyttid by the said bill. And
withoute that that the said Mersh called A ven mersh was gyven to the
said abbey in parte of their fundacion or otherwise as is surmyttid by
the said bill. And as to the said xxs. of rent which the said abbot
supposeth to be witholden from hym, the same abbot hath not made
any sufficient or certeyn title therto, wherunto they may make any
answere. All which matiers they be redy to prove as this courtt will
awarde, and prayn to be dismyssed from the same with their resonable
costes for theire wrongfull vexacion in that behalue.

Folio 15v TO THE MOST REUEREND FADER IN GOD
JOHN [MORTON] ARCHBISSHOP OF CAUNTERBURY
CHAUNCELER OF ENGLOND AND THE RIGHT
HONORABLE AND DISCRETE LORDES OF THE
KYNGES COUNSAILL

Humbly shewen unto your good lordshippes and greate wysdoms the
Maire, Shirief Baillifes and Cominaltie of the Town and Porte of
Bristowe, that where as greate variaunces and controversies have been
and yete depend bitwene your said Oratoures and the Abbot of the
Monastery of Seynt Austyns of Bristowe for ceretyn franchisez,
liberties and profites which your said Oratour and their predecessoures
have used and your said Oratoures of right ought to have within the
procincte of the said Monastery and the Grene adiounyng therto called
Seynt Austeysns grene, and the house of Seynt Marke called the
Gauntes wherof the said abbot of late hath theym wrongfully
interrupted in such fourme as is conteyned in their bill of peticion and
compleynt late put unto the Kyng oure souereign lord and to your
good lordships upon which bill of peticion and compleynt the
premisses in the same bill conteyned have been divers tymes herd and
examyned by your good lordships and great wisdams. And also
commytted to the examynacion of ceretyn lordis of the Kynges most
honorable and discrete counsaill and of dyuers of his Justices and
report therof made unto your good lordships and greate wisdams. And
forasmoch as your said lordships were then advised to take ferther
advisament and deliberacion before a final determination were thereof made, gaf divers injunctions unto your said Oratoures that they nor their mynistrates shuld not intromytte in any thynges that were before our said Souereign lord and your good lordships betwene your said Oratoures and the said abbot in question, unto the tyme the premisses were discussid and determyned as by the said Iniuncions more pleynly doth appere which Iniuncions your said Oratoures have in euery behalf obseruyd and obeyd to their greate losse, hurte and preiudice; and lyke to be to theym greate iopardie, seisire and forfeiture of their fraunchise and libertie if it shuld thus be contynued by theym unusid as God defend. And the said abbot consideryng that he hath no right, title ne interesse in ne to any of the premisses and hath in this behalve his desire in that your said Oratoures be so restreyned by the said Iniuncions that they may not nor dare execute their privileges and liberties in the premisses as they ought of right to do and have used to do in tymes past remembryng also that the same abbot is atte his libertie without any Iniuncion to exercise and use by usurpacion such pretensed Fraunchesses and liberties as he hath lately doon, without any lawfull title. The same abbot sith the said Iniuncions given unto your said Oratoures hath made no sute unto your good lordships and greate wisdams to have the right and title in the premisses betwene hym and your said Oratoures discussid and determyned. Howeyt your said Oratoures have Folio 16 for their parte made and do contynuell sute in that behalve to their great costis and chargis; and ouer that the said abbot sith the said Iniuncions hath wilfully by usurpacion withoute any maner of title caused and compellid the inhabitauntes within the saide precinct to appere atte a pretensed courte holden for him in maner of a lawday within] the precincte of his said monastery, and there amerced the same inhabitauntes for brekyng of thassisis of brede and ale. And all the same americiamentes and such other americiamentes and fynes as to a lawday apperteigneth or bilongeth, the said abbot hath wrongfully there levied and taken to his own use to the disheriteson of your said Oratoures in that behalve. And your said Oratours by reason of the saide Iniunctions have forborn the leveynge of all such duties, profits and avantages which to theym of right apperteyneth within the precinct afforsaid aswell in paymentes of the contribucions of xvmes. graunted to oure said souereign lord, as fynes, americiamentes and other casualties parcell of their fee ferme. And also to arrest felons, trespassours and other offendours of the lawes to the greate impouerysshyng and desolacion of the said Toun yf it shuld this continue. Pleas it therfor your good lordships and greate wisdams to discusse and determyn the premissez as shall accord with rightwisnes and to releas and discharge your said Oratours of their said Iniuncions and your said Oratours shall contynually pray to God for the preseruacion of your good lordships, etc.
Memorandum quod xxijj die mensis Nouembris hoc termino, coram Baronibus de Scaccario domini Regis hic apud Westmonasterium venit Jacobus Hubert, attornatus domini Regis, et pro eodem domino Rege dat eisdem Baronibus intelligi quod Johannes abbas Monasterii Sancti Augustini Bristolie per usurpacionem super ipsum dominum Regem absque aliqua warranto, auctoritate iure vel titulo quocumque\(^9\) per ipsum abbatem factam undecimo die Maii anno regni eiusdem domini Regis octauo tenei tenor fecit quendam visum franci \[plegii\] apud Bristoliam predictam infra Monasterium suum predictum coram Roberti Poyntz milite. Et ad eundem visum franci \[plegii\] adtunc et ibidem per sacramentum diversorum ligeorum dicti domini Regis quos idem Abbas Coram prefato Roberto Poyntz absque aliqua waranto, auctoritate, iure vel titulo per districciones illicitas per ipsum abbatem factas comparere et iurari compulsit, quandam Inquisicionem de frangentibus assisam panis et seruisie ac aliis offensis in villa predicta que ad visum franci plegii pertinent et pertinere debent coram prefato Roberto minus iuste cepit, et diueros subditos dicti domini Regis videlicet Walterum Coke, Richardum Cotiller, Wilhelmm Long, Taillour \[Folio\] 16v et Wilhelmm Hyll, mason, in villa predicta commorantes et degentes qui ad visum franci plegii eiusdem domini Regis in eadem villa ad usum ipsius domini Regis et non ad usum alcuuius alterius tentum sive tenendum venire debent ac debuerunt et solebant ad dictum visum franci plegii dicto undecimo die Maii ut premittitur tentum pro fraccione assise panis et seruisie in eadem villa per ipsos factura presentari et americiari fecit videlicet predictum Walterum Coke ad xijd. dictum Richardum Cotiller ad iiijd. prefatum Wilhelmm Long ad iiijd. et dictum Wilhelmm Hyll ad iiijd.; et eadem amerciamenta per districciones graves et illicitos per ipsum abbatem factas idem abbass xxx\(^0\) die Maii tunc proxime sequenti apud Bristoliam predictam ad usum eiusdem Abbatis leuauit et leuari fecit minus iuste, in ipsius domini Regis contemptum et exheredacionem manifesta ac contra coronam et dignitatem suas, necnon in ipsorum Walteri, Richardi, Wilhelmi et Willelmi dampnum non modicum et grauamen, unde petit advisamentum Curie, etc.

Rex etc. Dilecto sibi Johanni Abbati monasterii Sancti Augustini Bristol, salutem. Quibusdam certis de causis Barones de Scaccario nostro moventibus tibi precipimus firmius quo poterimus iniungentes quod omni dilacione et excusacione postposita sis in propria persona tua coram prefatis Baronibus nostris apud Westmonasterium in Octabis Sancti Hillarii ad respondendum certis articulis tibi ex parte nostra tunc ibidem obiciendis. Et hoc sub pena D marcarum quas de bonis et catallis, terris et tenementis tuis si ad diem predictum non

\(^{9}\) In MS quecumque.
veneris leuari faciemus nullatenus omissas. Et habeas tunc hoc breue
Teste Willelmo Hody milite apud Westmonasterium, xxvij Novembris
anno regni nostri nono per Rotulum Memorandorum de anno ix°
Regis huius Michaelis.

Fitzherbert

TO THE KYNG OUR SOUEREIGN LORD

In his most humble wise sheweth unto your highnes your faithfull
Chapleyn and dailly Oratour John, abbot of your monasterye of Seynt
Austens besides Bristowe. Folio 17 That where the Maire and
Comynaltie of your said Town of Bristowe ought of right by
composicion redy to be shewid of olde tyme made bitwen theym and
your said monasterye to defend the water of Frome from a certeyn
parcell of grounde belonging to the same, and for the same defens was
yeven to theym oute of your said monastery a parcell of grounde called
Avenmersh lying on the Este syde of the said water, and so it is
gracious souereign lord that the same grounde of your said Oratour for
the lak of defens by the Maire and Cominaltie of your said toun is
greatly destroyed and anoyed by the cours of the said water of Frome,
and is likely to be utterly destroyed and undoon unles due defens therof
shortly be had. And besidis this the Maire and Chambreleyns of the
said Toun of late turned the said water of Frome oute of his due cours
in to the water cours of Aven by occasion wherof a common fote path
on the warth, withouté the See Walles, and a dyche wardyng the medis
of your said poore Chapleyn called Adderclyf nowe of late been worn
thurgh in to the dyches of the said medis in utter destruccion aswell of
the said medis as of other pastures of your said Oratour to the great
hynderaunce hurt and fynall disheritison therof unto your said
monastery, yf it be not shortly refoyrmed. Also of late they have taken
up and caried away certeyn stones that were leyde there by the
predessour of your said Oratour for the saufgard aswell of the forsaid
medis as of his myllis there called Trevell Milles which unrefourmred is
lykely also to ensue to the uter destruccion of the said milles, medis
and pastures for reformacion wherof Pleas it your said highnes by
thadvise of the lordes of your moost honorabale counsaill the
premisses graciously consirdred to commaund and enioyn the Maire of
your said Toun now beyng here present to refoyrme and amend
shortly the defaultes and to perfourme the said composicion upon
payn of fortaiture of such sommes of money as shalbe lymytted by
your said highnes. Orels shortly to make answere to the premisses

10 An agreement made between the Abbot and Convent of St. Augustine's and the
Mayor and Commonalty concerning land in the Marsh, 1240 see Great Red Book of
undertaking of cutting a new channel for the River Frome was begun. The channel
was through the Avon Marsh, part of which belonged to St. Augustine's Abbey, who
sold the land that was required to the Mayor and Commonalty.
before your said honnorable counsaill and ferthermor there to do and receyve as shalbe awardid according to good right and conscience. And this atte reuerence of God and in wey of charite, and your Folio 17v said poor chaplyen shall dailly pray to God for the prosperous contynyauce of your moost roiall esate.

THIS IS THANSWERE OF THE MAIRE AND COMINALTIE OF BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF THE ABBOT OF THE MONASTERY OF SEYNT AUSTENS

The said Maire and Cominaltie seyn that by protestacion the said bill is uncerteyn and insufficient to be answered unto and also determynable atte comon lawe and not in this courte wherof they prayan allowance. Neuertheles for declaracion of the trouth they seyn that the said parcell of grounde called Aven mersh is parcell of the said toun and was not giffen theym by any of the predecessours of the said Abbot, ne for any such cause as is surmytted by the said bill. And ouer that the said Maire and Cominaltie seyn that the grounde of the said monastery is sufficiently defendid by theym fro the said water of Frome, and atte all tymes they have been redy to defend the same whan it hath be nede. And also the said Maire and Cominaltie seyn that there lay certeyn greate stones in the Chanell of the said ryver of Aven, which atte lowe water there lettid greatly Shippes, Balengers, Carvelles and Botes commyng with merchaundises, vitaill and fewaill to the said toun to passe thurgh the same Ryver of Aven. For which cause the said Maire and Cominaltie toke and caryed awaye the same stones withoute that the same stones were layde there by the predecessoures of the said Abbot or were any sauf gard of his forsaid medis and milles as is surmysid, and withoute that that the said Maire and Cominaltie turned the said water of Frome oute of his right cours or that the foote path on the warth or any dyche of the said Abbot wardyng his medis be worn thurgh for the noundefens of the said water of Frome as is surmytted by the said bill all which matiers etc.

Folio 18 [The next document is a petition of the Abbot respecting Billeswick containing exact copies of documents already cited. The first portion agrees with that of folio 13 to “right and good conscience” and the next part “that where the mayor and Commonalty” to “destruction of the said mills, medes and pastures” with that on folio 17] [It continues: Folio 19 and forasmoch as a bill is presentid in this your high courte of parliament wherein is specifyed and conteigned that euery spirituell person claymyng any unlawful Seyntwary shall forfeit a penaltie of xli. for euery person that taketh any privilege by colour of any such unlawful Seyntwary as more atte large by the said bill which is dependyng bifoer your highness doth appere, and your seid Oratour is not able nor of no power to Justify and maynteyn his said rightes, privileges and seyntwary ayenst the said Maire, Shirief and Baillifs and Cominaltie of Bristowe, nor to abyde the troble of your common lawes upon euery accion of debt that shuld be taken ayenst hym upon the
said penaltie of xli. yt the seid bill shuld procede. Pleas it therfor your highnes the premisses tendirly considred that the said bill touchyng the said penaltie procede no ferther. It may pleas your highnes of your most speciall grace to depute and assigne som of your lordis spirituall and temporall with other of your most noble counsaill to here the matier bitwen the said parties, and to geve in commandement upon a peyn to the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs and Cominaltie, that they sueresse of eng further syut. Intermedlyng or trouble ayenst your said Oratour for and upon the premisses till the matier be by the said lordis spirituall and temporall of your said counceill determyned. This atte the reuerence of God and in the wey of charite.

Hec billa porrecta erat ad manus domini Regis per dictum Abbatem, secundo die Decembris anno undecimo eiusdem Regis, Willelmo Regent tunc Maiore et Nicholaao Broun tunc vicecomite. [In margin 1495 Henry 7]

HERE FOLLWETH A RETURN MADE BY WILLIAM REGENT, MAIRE AND NICHOLAS BROUN, SHIREF, DAVID LEYSSON AND JOHN MORGAN BAILLIFES, INTO THE KINGES CHAUNCERY ATTE WESTMINSTER UPON A WRITTE OF CORPUS CUM CAUSA TO THEYM DIRECTED

Nos Willelmus Regent maior ville Bristoll at Nicholaus Broun vicecomes Comitatus eiusdem ville, domino Regi in Cancellaria sua significamus quod ante adventum brevis Folio 19v domini Regis nobis directi et huic cedule consuti Johannes Hewes, Thomas Harryes, Johannes Dounteham, Nicholaus Mason, alias dictus Nicholaus Sporryer, Richardus Philips et Robertus Lokyer in dicto breui nominati decimo die Junii anno regni dicti domini Regis undecimo capti fuerunt apud Brystolliam predictam per preceptum dictorum Maioris et Vicecomitis, Justiciariorum ac Custodum pacis dicti domini Regis in eadem villa conservande assignatorum, pro quadam Riota per ipsos Johannem Hewis, Thomam Harrys, Johannem Dounteham, Nicholaum Mason alias dictum Nicholaum Sporryer, Richardum Philosoph et Robertum Loyker et alios malefactores et pacis eiusdem domini Regis perturbatores, apud Brystoll predicatam decimo die Junii facta, et in presencia dictorum Maioris et Vicecomitis, Justiciariorum ac Custodum pacis dicti domini Regis in villa predicta conservande assignatorum continuata et perpetrata, ac per eosdem Justiciarios adtunc ibidem presentes ad riotam illam illam adriemandam et riotores illos arrestandos recordata. Et pretextu eiusdem precepti pro eadem riota prisone dicti domini Regis ville predicte sub Custodia mei dicti Vicecomitis ibidem commissi fuerunt in eadem moraturi detineri et pro riota predicta puniri iuxta formam statuti in huiusmodi casu inde prouisi. Et ulterius nos idem Maior et Vicecomes eidem domini Regi significamus quod postea ac ante aduentum dicti breuis domini Regis
huic cedule consuti, videlicet xiiij die Junii, anno regni regis predicti undecimo Johnannes Hewys \textit{et alii}\textsuperscript{11} in dicto breui nominati in dicta prionsa domini Regis sub custodia mei dicti Vicecomitidis pro riota predicta tunc detenti extunc detenti fuerunt in eadem prionsa pretexitu cuiusdam querele de placito transgressionis per Johannem bruer ad curiam domini Regis apud Bristoliam predictam coram nobis prefatis Maiore et Vicecomite tentam versus predictos Johannem Hewys \textit{et alios} leuete et afirmate, super quam partes predicte posuerunt se super Juramentum patrie, unde compertum fuit per eandem Juratam quod iidem Johannes Hewis \textit{et alii} fuerunt inde culpabiles. Et super hoc dampna et custagia per Juratam predictam in hac parte assessa se attingunt ad decem solidos et octo denarios. Ideo consideratum fuit per eandem Curiam quod predictus Johannes Bruer recuperaret versus dictos Johannem Hewis \textit{et alios} dampna sua predicta pro quibus damnis dicto Johanni Bruer \textit{Folio} 20 satisfaciendis iidem Johannes Hewis \textit{et alii} adhuc in eadem detinentur prionsa. Idem eciam Johannes Hewis \textit{et alii} ante adventum dicti breuis nobis directi videlicet dicto xiiij die Junii apud Bristoliam predictam detenti fuerunt in dicta prionsa domini Regis sub custodia dicti vicecomitis pretexitu cuiusdam alterius querele de placito transgressionis per Johannem Stradlyng ad Curiam dicti domini Regis apud Bristoliam predictam coram nobis prefati Maiore et Vicecomite tentam versus predictos Johannem Hewis \textit{et alios} leuete et afirmate super quam partes predicte posuerunt se super Juratam patrie unde compertum fuit per eandem Juratam quod iidem Johannes Hewis \textit{et alii} fuerunt inde culpabiles. Et super hoc dampna et custagia per Juratam predictam in hac parte assessa se attingunt ad septem solidos et quatuor denarios. Ideo consideratum fuit per eandem Curiam quod predictus Johannes Stradlyng recuperaret versus eosdem Johannem Hewis \textit{et alios} dampna sua predicta pro quibus damnis eidem Johanni Stradlyng satisfaciendis. Idem Johannes Hewis \textit{et alii} similiter adhuc in eadem detinentur prionsa [\textit{Then follow similar records of plaints, of pleas, of trespass against the same defendants by Thomas Langley and John Hewshawe in the same words.}] \textit{Folio} 20\textsuperscript{v} Aute aduentum predicti breuis nobis directi Dominicus Arthur in dicto breui nominatus captus fuit apud Bristoliam predictam ac prionsie dicti domini Regis sub custodia dicti Vicecomitis commissus pretexitu cuiusdam querele per Stephanum Squyer ad Curiam domini Regis apud Bristoliam predictam coram nobis prefatis Maiore et Vicecomite, Octauo die Junii anno regni regis Henrici Septimi undecimo tentam de placito transgressionis versus predictum Dominicum leuete et afirmate super quam partes predicte posuerunt se super Juratam patrie. Unde compertum fuit per eandem Juratam quod idem Dominicus fuit inde culpabilis. Et super hoc dampna et custagia per Juratam predictam in hac parte assessa se attingunt ad xliijs. xd. Ideo consideratum fuit per

\textsuperscript{11} Instead of repeating the names every time, the appropriate case of alii has been used.
quod potuit attachiari. Per quod preceptum fuit eidem Johanni Bruer seruienti ad clauam et Ministro Curie illius quod caperet dictum Dominicum si infra dictam villam inuentus fuisset et eum saluo custodiret. Ita quod haberet corpus eius coram Maiore et Vicecomite ville supradicte ad Curiam domini Regis ville predicte apud Guyhaldam predictam die lune extunc proxime sequenti tenendum ad respondendum prefato Stephano de placito predicto Virtute cuius precepti Idem Johannes Bruer, tunc seruiens ad clauam et minister Curie predicte dictum Dominicum virtute precepti illius apud quendam locum vocatum seynt austens grene in Bristollia predicta eodem die veneris ac post preceptum illud ei inde directum cepit et arrestauit et predictum Dominicum ad ipsum coram Maiore et Vicecomite ville predicte ad Curiam domini Regis ville predicte apud Guyhaldam dictum die lune tenendum ad respondendum prefato Stephano de placito habendo abinde ductere voluisset. Ibi Johannes Hewis nuper de Bristoll yoman, Thomas Harrys nuper de Bristoll, gentleman, Johannes Dounton nuper de Bristoll, coke, Nicholaus Sporyer, nuper de Bristoll, mason, Robertus Walsh nuper de Bristoll, loker, et Richardus Philips, nuper de Bristoll, grome, et alii aggregatis sibi quam pluribus aliiis malefactoribus ignotis et pacis dicti domini Regis perturbatoribus modo guerrino arraiatis videlicet gladiis, baculis cultellis et dagariis armicudis et alii armis defensiuis riotose et routose apud dictum locum vocatum Seint Austens grene, dicto die veneris se insimul congreaguerunt et assemblauerunt, ac dictum Dominicum postquam ipse ut predictum est captus et arrestatus fuit et in Custodia dicti seruientis ad clauam tunc ibidem vi et armis ac riotose et routose recusserunt ceperunt et abduxerunt. Necnon eundem seruientem ad clauam tunc ibidem similiter riotose ceperunt, et ipsum usque monasterium Sancti Augustini, Bristollie duxerunt, et ibidem postea eodem die veneris per spacium unius hore imprisonauerunt et in prisona detenuerunt contra pacem et in contemptum dicti domini Regis ac contra formam statuti in huiusmodi casu prouisi. Dicunt eciam Jurati predicti super sacramentum suum quod ubi predicti Johannes Hewis, Thomas Harrys, Johannes Dounton, Nicholas Sporyour, Robertus Walsh et Richardus Philips ac alii malefactores predicti ad numerum quadraginta personarum dicto die veneris apud dictum locum vocatum seynt Austens grene insimul congregati confederati et uniti fuerunt ad riotam predictam ac alia malefacta contra pacem domini Regis ibidem perpetranda. Unde predictus Willelmus Regent Maior et Nicholaus Broun, Vicecomes ville predicte tunc Justiciarii dicti domini Regis Folio 22 ad pacem in comitatu ville predicte conseruandam assignati in villa predicta tunc existentes ex relacione et informacione fidedignorum ac ex communi fama in eadem villa laborantium perfectam et veram noticiam acceperunt et habuerunt. Super quo idem Maior et Vicecomes assumptis secum diuersis domini Regis fidelibus ville predicte eodem die veneris ad dictum locum vocatum seynt austens grene ad dictos riotores, routores, malefactores ei pacis domini Regis perturbatores [In margin
puniendos capiendos et iuxta eorum demerita ac secundum formam statuti in huiusmodi casu prouisi legitime castigandos personaliter accesserunt. Et tunc ibidem ad violenciam predictam reprimendam dictos riotores, routores, malefactores et pacis domini Regis perturbatores] pro conservacione pacis dicti domini Regis capere et arrestare voluissent idem riotores, routores, malefactores et pacis domini Regis perturbatores tunc ibidem per preceptum Johannis Newlond Abbatis monasterii Sancti Augustini Bristollie, idem Abbas Willemus Cryklade concanonicus ipsius abbatis Henricus Tracy de Bristoll, armiger et Johannes Griffith de Bristoll, clericus vi et armis videlicet dictus Abbas cum uno havberd quem adtunc in manibus suis tenuit ac ceteri omnes malefactores predicti cum fustibus gladiis, dageris, armicudiis et aliiis armis defensiuis modo guerrino arraiati violenter et riotose in ipsos Maiorem et Vicecomitem tunc ibidem insultum fecerunt, et capcioni seu arrestacioni eorumdem riotosorum et aliorum malefactorum predictorum seu eorum alicuius per dictum tunc Maiorem et Vicecomitem seu aliquem alium fiende parere aut obedire voluerunt sed ipsos Maiorem et Vicecomitem et alios ligeos domini Regis adtunc et ibidem ad violenciam illam reprimendam et pacem domini Regis conservandum eisdem Maiori et Vicecomiti auxiliantes et assistentes huiusmodi vi et armis ac riotose et modo guerrino tunc ibidem resisterunt et cum huiusmodi riota et illicita congregacione ibidem insimul per spaciunm trium horarum tunc proxime sequencium ibidem riotose et routose continuauerunt. Ita quod predicti Maior et Vicecomes violenciam predictam adtunc reprimere ac predictos riotores routores malefactores et pacis domini regis perturbatores seu eorum aliquem punire seu castigare ob resistenciam riotores et routores illorum nequierunt nec potuerunt in contemptum ac contra pacem dicti domini Regis perniciosum que et pessimum exemplum aliorum huiusmodi malefactorum taliter delinquencium ac contra formam statuti in huiusmodi casu prouisi.

Responsio Willelmi regent, Maioris et Nicholai Broun, Vicecomitis ville Bristollie Custodum pacis domini Regis ac Justiciarorum eiusdem domini Regis ad diuersa felonias, transgressiones et malefacta infra villam Bristollie et comitatum eiusdem perpetranda audienda et terminanda assignatorum. Folio 22v [In the margin Indorsamentum breuis] Nos predicti Custodes pacis ac Justiciarii dicti domini Regis virtute istius breuis eidem domino Regi ubicumque fuerit certificamus quod omnia et singula indictamenta unde infra fit mencio cum omnibus ea tangentibus patent et sunt in quadam cedula huic breui annexa quod quidem indictamenta presentibus interclusa coram eodem domino Rege ubicumque fuerit indilate mittimus et habemus una cum eodem breui prout interus nobis precipitur.

The next document on Folios 22v and 23 is omitted, as it relates very closely to the following one, but is not so full.
In the most humble wise shewith unto your highnes your feithful Chapleyyn and Oratour, John Abbot of your monastery of Seynt Austyns besides Bristowe. That where oon Domync Arthur had taken Sayntwary Folio 23v within your said monastery and his name there regestrid oon John Bruer, sergeaunt of Bristowe and another person seruaunt to oon of the Baillifes of the said Toun whose name is to your Oratour unknownen, the xth day of Juyn last past, cam to haue arrestid the said Domync within the Seyntwary which voydid from theym and went within the gates of the said monastery. And the said John Bruer pursuyd hym hastily with his swerd drawen and certeyn of the said abbottes seruauntes then beyng within the said gates percevyng hym to come with such violence peasisbly departid theym. Wherupon the said John Bruer resortid ayen toward the said Toun and within lesse than a quarter of an owre after that the Maire, Shirif and Baillifes of the said Toun accompanied with VC persons and mo riotously with swerdes, Boklers, hawbertes, Gleythes and Bills cam into the said Sayntwary of your said monastery called seynt Augustyns grene, and then and there with their swerdis drawn violently assautyd and bete not oonly dyuers of the Chanons of the said monastery but also other of the seruauntes and werkmen of your said Oratour there then beyng in goddis peas and youre and furiously toke vj of the seruauntes and tenauntes and werkmen of your said Oratour and carryed theym in to the said Toun of Bristowe, and there theym wrongfully imprisoned and yet theym still in prison kepith. And will in noo wise suffer theym to goo to Baill ne maynprice ayenst all right your lawes and conscience. And ouer this most dradful souereign lord the said riotous persons violently toke with theym the said Domync oute of the said Sayntwary and hym kepith in prison within the said Toun contrary to the privilege and liberties of your said monastery there out of tyme of mynde had and usid to the perilous example that may be in lesse due punyshment be had for the same. And ouer this whereof tyme no mynde is to the contrary it bath alwey ben usid that your Oratour and his predecessoures, abbottes of the said monastery have ordeyned and set Constables and other officers to the lete bilongyng within the said grene and procincte of the same, nowe of late, that is to sey the xvij day of this present moneth of Juyn, the said Maire and Baillifes have put and sett in the said Grene and procincte Constables Folio 24 as officers to the said Toun of Bristowe contrary to the said laudable custumme and use, and contrary to theeffect of the direccion and decree late made by the Kynges Counsaill. And ouer this whereof as there ben many and dyuers poremen inhabitauntes in the said grene and procincte which have their lyvynges oonly by hying and sellyng of Brede, ale and other vitailles and other handy craftes and occupacions havyng their dores and wyndowes in the said grene as hath been used tyme oute of mynde the said Maire and Baillifes hath commaundid theym to shut up their wyndowes and will not suffer theym to open their wyndowes in to nor toward the said grene onles they make fyne
and agree with the said Maire and Baillifes contrary to all reason and
good conscience. Pleas it therfor your said highnes to consider this
pitious and grevous compleynt so they may have punishyment to the
most straittest of your lawes in example to theym and all other lyke
mysoyers in tyme to com. And that it may lyke your said highnes to
adresse your most honorable lettres of privy seale to the said Maire,
Shirif and Baillifes straitly commaundyng theym by the same to
appere before your grace and the lordis of your most honorable
councell there to aunswere to the premisses accordyng to your lawes.
And that they from hensfurth under a great payn by your grace to be
lymtytted in no wise manace, vex ne trouble your said Chapleyyn, his
brethern, seruauntes, werkmen and tenauntes for any cause otherwise
than accordyng to your lawes, and your said Chapleyyn shall dailly
pray for the preseruacion of your moost noble and roiall persone and
estate.

THANSWERE OF THE MAIR SHIRIF AND BAILLIFS OF
THE TOUN OF BRISTOWE, AND OF JOHN PAVY AND
OTHER, TO THE BILL OF COMPLEYNT OF THABBOT
OF SEYNT AUGUSTYNS OF THE TOUN OF BRISTOWE

They seyn that the said bill is uncerteyne and insufficient to be
aunswered unto, and also the Folio 24v matier conteyned theryn
fayned and untrew and determynable atte Commen lawe, and not
in this Court wherof they prayen allowance and that to theym savid
they seyn that as to the commyng with force and armes and the said
Ryot or eny other mysdemeanour contrary to the Kynges peas and
lawes they be therof in no thyng gylyty. And for declaracion of the
throuth in the premisses and further aunswere they seyn that oon
Stephin S奎er affermyd a pleynt of Trespas in the Kynges Court atte
Bristowe before the Maire and Shirif of the same Toun ayenst the said
Domynik Arthur by force wherof it was commaundid to the said John
Bruer, sergeaunt atte mace and minister of the said Court to attach the
said Domynyk by plegges to answer unto the forsaid Stephyn in the
said pleynt atte next Court than and there to be holden, atte which day
upon retorn made by the said John Bruer that the said Domynyk noo
thyng had within the Jurisdiccion of the said Court wherby he myght
be attachid. It was ferther commaundid by the said Courte to the said
John Bruer to attach the body of the forsaid Domynic so that he shul
have the body of the said Domynic atte next Courte than and there to
be holden, to answere unto the forsaid pleynt, by force wherof the said
John Bruer and oon John Henshawe, a yoman officer of the same
Court, beyng there with the same John Bruer attachid and arrestid the
said Domynyk in the said place called Seynt Austyns grene within the
Jurisdiccion of the same Court, after which arrest so made John
Hewys, Thomas Harrys, John Dounton, Nicholas Sporyer, Robert
Walsh and Richard Philips assemblid to theym dyuers other Riotours
and evill disposid persones to the nombre of xl persones atte said place
incontinently, and riotously rescowid the said Domynic and with
violence and in riottous wise toke the said sergeaunt and there kept hym by a long space and put hym in greate drede and fere of his lyfe, aswell with holdyng and shakynge of swerdis ouer his hede and profeseryng to stik hym with Daggers as otherwise. And so it was that atte the same tyme the said Maire, Shirif, Baillifs and other officers of the said Toun no thyng knowyng the premisissis were goyng toward the said seynt Austyns grene in peasilbe maner accompanied with such nombre of personez as they have used in tymes passed and no moo, there to wey brede and to cause such foreyn inhabitauntes ther as kept open shoppes contrary to the liberties and Custummes of the said Town to shut up their shoppes *Folio 25* orels to becom Burgeises of the said Town and contributory to the chargis of the Burgeises of the same Toun. And they havyng knowlage of the said Ryot therupon resortid thider to redresse and reforome the same. And forsomoch as they found the same ryot contynuyng the said Maire and Shirif beyng Justices of peas in the said Toun toke the said vj Riottous persones abovenameed there contynuyng the same ryot and commytted themy to warde, which ben the same vj persones surmytted by the said abbot to be imprisoned by the said Maire, and also than and there the said abbot deluyuered the said forsaid Domynik which was party unto the said ryot unto the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs to be ordred accordyng to the lawe. And therupon they in lykewise committed hym to warde. And ouer that the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs seyn that they and their predecessoures have usid oute of tyme of mynde to make constables to do and execute all thyng that bilongeth to the office of Constable, aswell within the said Seynt Austens grene as in other places within the same Town. And they seyn that after the said Ryot cessoied the said Maire and Shirif procedid to the Weying of the Brede in the said Seynt Austyns grene and other places, and also commaundid such as were foreyns and kept open shoppes there and wold not becom Burgeises of the said Town to shit up their shoppis ther as lauful was for themy to do. Withoute that the said abbot hath any such seyntwary as is surmytted by the said bill and withoute that the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs assembled or were accompanied with such nombre of persones as is surmytted by the said bill, or with any other or greater nombre than they have usid commonly to goo, except oonly that dyuers persones of the said Toune heryng of the said Ryot resortid to the said Maire after the said riot cessed and they seyng the said ryot so cessid resortid home to their houses in peasible maner, and withoute that that eny of the said Chanons or of the seruauntz, tenauntes or werkmen of the said abbot were assawtid or beaten except the said John Dounton, oon of the said vj riottous persones which was hurt in the tyme of the said rescowe and ryot in his own assaute and defaute. And withoute that that the said abbot or his predecessoures have ordeyned or sette or ought to ordeyn or sette any constable or other officers to the said Iete bilongyng within the said Grene and proxincte as is surmytted by the said bill. And withoute that that the said *Folio 25v* Maire, Shirif and Baillifs have made any officers
there or other thyng doon contrary to the effect of the direcction and decre specified in the said bill. All which matiers and euery of theym they be redy to prove as this Court will award, and prayen to be dismyssed oute of this Court with ther reasonable costis and damagis, etc., for their wrongfull vexacion and troble susteyned in this behalve.

THE REPLICACION OF THABBOT OF SEYNT AUSTYNS BESIDES BRISTOWE TO THE AUNSWER OF THE MAIRE, SHIRIF AND BAILLIFS OF THE SAME TOUN AND OF JOHN PAVY AND OTHER

The said abbot seith that the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs of the said Toun ben gilty of the said ryot in the maner and fourme as by the said bill of compleynt is supposid, and ouer that seith that his said bill in euery article therin conteigned is also good and true in maner and fourme as by the said bill is supposid, without that the said John Hewis, Thomas Harrys, John Duntham, Nicholas Sporyer, Robert Walsh and Richard Philips rescowid the said Domynyk or that the said Domynyk was arrestid, or that they toke the said sergeaunt and there kept hym and put hym in drede or fere of his lyfe in the maner and forme as by the said aunswere is supposid. And ouer this he seith that the said Maire, Shirif and Bailliffs knowyng right wele that the said John Bruer was sent in to the said Seyntwary of seynt Austeyns to do and to make attemptates there contrary to the liberties and privilegis of the said Sayntwary to the high displeasure of almyghty God intendyng to assist Folio 26 the said John Bruer in his said evill doyng assembled theym self in ryottous wise with greate nombre in maner and fourme as by the same bill is supposid, makyng their colour under shadow of Justice to accomplish there unreasonable demeanyng to wey brede and to cause Inhabitauntes duellyng within the precincte of the said monastery that kepith open shoppes to make contribucion with the Burgenses of the said Toun, where the weyng of brede and all other thynges to a lete apperteignyng belongeth to the said abbot and to his successoures and not to the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs, and also all such inhabitauntes have had their duellyng within the same monastery frely withoute any thyng paying or contribucion makyng to the said Toun, withoute that that the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs with the said nombre assembid theym self to eny other entent but oonly to assist the said John Bruer in his said unlaufull demeanyng and withoute that that the said vj persones comytted eny Ryot or that that said abbot of his fre will deluyerid the said Domynyk unto the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs, or that the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs have used withoute tyme of mynde to make Constables within the grene there called Seynt Austyns Grene and Gauntes, or in eny other place within the procincte of the said Monastery. And ouer that seyth that the said Maire, Shirif and Baillifs toke the said John Douton of their own wrong withoute that that the said John Douton was hurt in his own assaulte, and withoute that the said Maire, Shirif and Bailliffs have or of right ought
to have, or have used any manner Jurisdictcion, liberties or privileges within the said Gren called Seynt Austens grene, Gauntes or within any other place within the said Monastery. All which matters the said abbot is redy to prove as this courte will award, and prayeth to be dismyssid oute of this courte with his reasonable costis and damages for his wrongfull vexacion and trouble susteigned in this behalve.

Folio 26v Memorandum quod Decimo die Julii, anno regni regis Henrici septimi undecimo, Johannes, abbas Monasterii sancti Augustini iuxta Bristolliam coram dicto domino Rege in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutus manucepit sub pena viginti librarum pro Dominico Arthur ac idem Dominicus assumpsit pro seipso sub pena quadraginta librarum quod ipse coram dicto domino Rege et Consilio suo quandocumque per idem consilium premunitus fuerit personaliter comparebit et quod idem Dominicus finem quem super ipsum per dictum dominum Regem et Consilium suum predictum pro quibusdam riotis et aliiis malefactis per ipsum ut supponitur factis et perpetratis imponi continget soluet seu solui faciet. Quam quidem summam viginti librarum predictus Abbas ac dictam summam quadraginta librarum prefatus Dominicus concesserunt de terris et catallis suis ad opus dicti domini Regis leuari si idem Dominicus in premissis aliquo modo defecerit.

Memorandum quod xij die Julii, anno regni regis Henrici septimi undecimo Nicholaus Broun de Bristolliam marchaunt, Johannes Esterfeld de eadem marchaunt, Dauid Leyson de eadem, marchaunt, Thomas ap Howell de eadem, marchaunt, coram dicto Domino Rege in Cancellaria sua personaliter constitutis manuceperunt sub pena mille librarum quod prefati Nicholaus et Dauid ac Johannes Pavy, Thomas Langley, Willelmus Wodward et Johannes Bruer coram domino Rege et consilio suo apud Westmonasterium a die Sancti Michaelis proxime futuro in unum mensem personaliter comparebunt et eorum quilibet personaliter comparebit et sic de die in diem quousque etc. Et quod Maior, Vicecomes, Balliui, ceterique officiarii et Ministri dicte ville Bristollie qui nunc sunt aut qui pro tempore fuerint per se aut per alios per eorum abettamentum, consilium seu procuracionem suam, dampnum vel malum aliquod contra pacem eiusdem domini Regis Johanni abbati Monasterii Sancti Augustini Bristoll aut servientibus suis seu eorum alcui de corpore suo non facient nec fieri procurabunt nec damnum vel malum aliquod contra pacem eiusdem domini Regis eidem abbatu aut alcui seruiencium suorum predictorum per aliquem sue aliquos de Communitate dicte ville ex eorum voluntaria permissione inferint aut eorum aliquis inferrit permittet. Sed quantum in eis fuerit omnem operam et diligenciam suas dabunt et prestabunt quod dicta Communitas pacem Folio 27 dicti domini Regis erga prefatum Abbatem et servientes suos predictos et eorum quemlibet in omnibus obseruabunt et custodient quam quidem

FIRST the said Maire and Shirif must prove that the said Domynyk was arrestid by the said John Bruer, serjeaunt by the reason of the said playnt, and that John Hewis, Thomas Harrys, John Dounton, Nicholas Sporyer, Robert Walsh and Richard Philips rescuyd the said Domynyk etc, and also that the serjeaunt was taken and kept in the said abbey ayenst his will and manaced, and feryd with drawn swerdís by seruauntes and company of the said abbot. ITEM to prove that they have usid to wey brede and punysshid the defaultes therof within the said Grene. ITEM they must prove that they owe to have fyne and contribucion of such persons as sell brede and ale or other vitaill and wares within the said Toun, and be not Burgeis of the said Toun nor fremen there, etc. ITEM that the said vj persones above named rescuyd the said Domynyk riottously. ITEM that the said Maire and Shirif etc. cam thider oonly to wey brede. ITEM that the said abbot delyuerid the said Domynyk to the said Maire, etc. of his fre will. ITEM that they have usid to make Constables and have all Jurisdiccion within the said grene, abbey, Gauntes and euery other place within the said Toun. ITEM that the hurt that Dounton had was in his own assawte etc.

Folio 27v DEPOSICIONES PRO PARTE MAIORIS

JOHN GILBERT, sherman duellyng in the Toun of Bristow, of thage of xxxij yeres as he seith, sworn and examyned upon certeyn interrogatories ministred by the partie of the Maire, Shirif and Baillifs of the said Toun in their matier of defens ayenst the abbot of Seynt Austens, deposith and seith as to the first interrogatory, that he knoweth noo thyng of the contents therof but by report and sayeng of other folkes, which said it shuld be that which is conteyned in the same interrogatory. To the second he seith that by the space of vj yeres he hath knowen that the Maire hath usid atte two tymes of the yere for to wey brede in Seynt Austens grene, and he hath herd old men say that it hath euer ben usid that the Maire hath usid so to do of tyme oute of mynde. To the third and fourth he seith that he can not depose of the contentes therof. To the vth he saith that the Maire cam to the Grene
The Great White

ooly with xxiiij persones to tentent to wey brede, for this deponent sawe when the Maire cam thider, and the wey for brede born with hym. To the vijth he seith that he sawe thabbot deluyer of his fre will uncompellid and unconstreyned the said Domynyk to the Maire aforsaid. The viijth Interrogatory he seith that he neuer herd that the Maire made any constables, nether who shuld make theym in that place nether within the procincte. To the viijth this deponent seith that he knew no man hurt on the abbottes partie. This Deponent seith ferther that as the Maire cam to the grene ther corn renne oute in the grene of Seynt Austens of iiij sondry places iiij persones, oone with a sword, oone with a bill, another with a javelyn and another with a Cowle staff,12 and ouer that a Chanon with a Hawberk, and thise persones set upon the Maires sergeauntes, and they were taken by the Maire and sent to Newgate for their demeanour. The chanon with the hawberk was retourned ayen in to the abbey. What he was this deponent can not say. After which doon the said Maire weyed brede in the same grene aforsaid in the presence of the said Abbot, he beyng content therwith and aggareble etc.

JOHN TYLER, weuer, dwellyng in Templestrete Folio 28 in Bristowe, of thage of lx yeres as he seith, sworn and examyned, deposith and seith that he was born in Bristowe, and euer sithen his first yeris of discrecon he hath knowen that the Mairez of Bristowe have used to have the Cise of Brede and of ale aswell in that Toun and in euery parte therof aswell fraunchises as not. And this deponent hath seen dyuers Mayres put in execucion that punyshment of theym that have not kept the Cise of Brede, and the Brede by the Maire cut and gyven to poore people. This hath ben usid not oonly in seynt Austens Grene but also in seynt Johns hold which is within the said Toun and is fraunchised, havyng ij lawes dayes in the yere. This Deponent seith also that he hath seen dyuers persones iij in nombre and had robbid the church of Cromhall and after toke Sauntuary in Seynt Austens. And they were taken by the Baillifes of Bristowe oute of the said grene and hangid. The name of oon of the same felons was John Broun as this deponent is now remembred, which was upon xxij yeris goon, oon John Cogan then Maire of Bristowe, John Jay then beyng Shirief, and dyuers other. As for l yeris goon a man that had murdred another was taken in the same and oute of it hangid for murdre. He can not depose of thaffray but he seith that yf the maire had not kept secrete as ferre as to hym possible the demeanure of theym of the abbey so as it cam not to eris of thenhabitauntes of the said Toun, for and it had in this deponentes estimacion there had growen therof greate ieopardy and trouble. This deponent seith also that for more than xl yeris goon a patrone of a Caryk that cam then to Newport in Wales dyd there and offens,

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12 Cowlstaff or stang = a stout stick used to carry a cowl, this being a tub or large vessel for water with two ears through which the stick was thrust so that it might be supported on two men's shoulders.
devouryng as it was said a yong gentliwoman, and he was feyn for his saufgard to com to Bristowe where he was in the Freris Augustyns, and after sleyn with walsh men by thassent of his own seruaunt, and that seruaunt and oon of the murderers went to seynt Austens. After that they were taken oute of it and Jugid to dye, the walsh man was put to execucion the same day, that other that was seruaunt to the patrona so murdred, he was respyped for that he confessid to be christen man. After this Jugement was christenyd in Bristowe and after hangyd. All which thynges this deponent herd and sawe as he saith. More he cannot heryn.

*Folio 28v* JOHN HERT, skynner of the Toun of Bristowe duellyng in Balanstrete, of thage of xxvij yerez, sworn and examyned, deposith and seith that bifore thaffray supposid to be made in Bristowe a peyntour duellyng in Saynt Augustynes grene aforesaid had an Image of oure lady of this deponentes to peynt, and this Deponent was then atte that Peyntours house to se yf his ymage was redy ye or nay. And as he lokid oute in to the Grene atte a wyndowe he sawe a man renne in his doblet in to the abbey ward of seynt Austens and a sergeaunt after hym, and therwith was there a seruaunt of thabbotes whom this deponent knew so to be by his persone, all be it he knoweth not his name, the which cryed out Sirs defend your self for here commeth the Maire and will fetche oute all Seyntwary men. And with that cam oute dyuers persons, seruauntes and werkmen of thabbottes with billes and knyves and a chanon called Cryklade with an hawberk; and until that tyme the Maire of Bristowe cam not within the grene. But then he com thider with xxiiijti personez withoute any wepons but as they were wont to goo, and a peyr of balance openly born with hym to wey brede. And as the Maire cam the said seruauntes and werkmen to thabbot, not seyng the maire began to stryke atte Maires sergeauntes such as went before hym a greate wey, and the Maire that seyng toke his swerd from his swerd berer and cryed “kepe the peas” untill he was horsse, and so toke iij or iiiij of theym that began that affray as is aforesaid and sent theym to prison. Then within a while cam thabbot and the Maire and he comoned togider before the Gauntes. And what the communicacion was bitwixt theym this deponent knoweth not. But within a while thabbot aforesaid sent for Domynyk that was arrestid afore and delyuerid hym with good will, as it semyd to this deponent for he bad the Maire this maner it hereng to do him justice, and he thankid thabbot and sent the same Domynyk to prison, thabbot nothyng myscontentid, for he went furth with the maire and sawe hym wey brede.

ARTHUR DOMynyk born in Lymryke in Irond, of thage of xxvij yere, sworn and examyned, deposeth and saith that he was arrested in maner and fourme as is comprisid in the aunswer of the Maire of
Bristowe, and he brake the arrest as he seith, suffryng his gown to slip of, and so ranne into the abbey of seynt austeyns. He saith that John Bruer the sergeaunt that arrestid hym, folowid hym withoute any wepon drawen savyng his mace with which this deponent as he seith was arrestid. All this while the Maire was not comen. What Folio 29 was doon when the Maire cam he can not tell but that he sawe as he was in the chirch dyuers of thabbottes seruauntes and workmen goyng in and oute with wepons and billes, and among them he sawe oon chanon with a hawberk corn in to the place where he had been this deponent can not tell. After this within a while as this deponent seith he was sent for by thabbot and he cam unto hym beyng with the Maire in a good concord and peas as ferre as this deponent cowde se [In margin and whan he was commen the abbot afforesaid toke this deponent by the hand and with fire will unconstreynd by any thing that this deponent cowde] here or se then there delyuerid the same to the Maire, saying "nowe Maister Maire here is the man take hym to you and do to hym that of right he ought to have". And to this deponent herd the Maire thank hym for his goodness. And upon that this deponent was sent by the Maire to prison in the presence of thabbot which no thing ageyn said then that this deponent cowde here. More he can not sey but that he was condempnyd in the accion that he was arrestid upon.

JOHN DAVISON of Bristowe, scryvener of thage of lx yeres and ij deposith and seith that he sawe the Maire of Bristowe, Shirif, Recorder and other officers, to the nomber of xxiij or xxvj persones, in peasible maner com to Seynt Austens grene upon seynt Barnabees eve last passid with certeyn officers beryng balaunce and weightis to wey brede as custumme and use is and hath ben. And when the Maire and all his company was entred within the stulpes of the said grene one cam oute of his howse there with a bill and made a rigorous assaute upon the said Maire and officers which man was taken and sent to warde. Then the said Maire and officers resortid ferther by the Gauntes syde to wey brede, and oute of an house there and of the abbey cam certeyn persones maliciously disposid with cowle stynges, sperez and other wepons where thurgh oone of the Maires sergeauntes called Thomas Langley was hurt in his hand, which persones som of theym not all were taken and sent to warde. Then cam the abbot ourer the said grene to the Maire and comoned with the Maire, Shiref, Recorder and other officers there. Then the said deponent seith that when the said comburgeis and enhabitauntes of the Toun of Bristowe sawe the evill disposid persones brought to warde thorugh the Toun and herd of the affray there, dyuers of theym Folio 29v toke stavis and billes and wold have com to the Maire to his rescue, and the Maire herd therof and commandid the Shiref and Baillifs and other officers to command the people to go bak upon peyn that myght fall, and so dyd they except xl persones which when they were entred the said Maire commandid

13 Stulpes = short stout sticks put to mark a boundary.
that they shuld com no nere upon peyn of enprisonment and so they dyd. And after that furthwith the Maire and thabbot went aboute the said grene togiders in peasilble and lovyng maner and weyed brede, and furthermore the said Deponent seith that he sawe when thabbot sent his Prior for oone Domynyk Arthur prisoner arrestid by a sergaeant of Bristowe which the, was in the abbey, and the said Prior brought hym to the grene to thabbot accordyng to his commaundment, and immediatly the said abbot delyuerid the said prisoner to the said Maire of his fre will and more he cannot tell etc.

SIR JOHN BURTON soule prest syngyng in the Gauntes of Bristowe, sworn and examyned, deposith that from the tyme that the said John Bruer had arrestid Domynyk Arthure and that he was good from hym into the Abbey of Seynt Austens he sawe all thyng that was don touchyng the matier comprisid in the bill and aunswere of the Abbot and Maire afforsaid. He sawe as he seith the said John Bruer rennyng thorugh the grene afforsaid in his dublet withoute slippers from thabbey towards untill the Toun ward. And he met with the Maire then commyng with xxiiij persones, the Recorder and the other officers and their seruauntes comprised in the same nombre, and when he had shewid the Maire that he had a prisoner rescowid from hym whom he had arrestid by a Constable of thabbottis in the grene there, he was ware of the Constable than commyng oute of his house with a bill in his hand, and he said to the Maire “yonder is he that toke my prisoner fro me with other with hym” and therupon another sergaeant by the Maires commaundment went to take hym and he disobyd and began to stryke atte the sergaeant, which the Maire seyng toke his swerd from the swerd berer and cryed “Kepe the peas” until he was horse and after that toke the same Constable and sent hym to prison. This deponent sawe ferther as he seith upon a noys that the Maire was lyke to be beten in Seynt Austens grene, many inhabitauntes commyng thider. And the Maire and Baillifes chargid theym to depart home ageyn upon peyn of inprisonment and so his officers, the recorder and other made that the people departid home with all possible diligence. More this deponent can not say heryn, etc.

Folio 30 SIMON PASSHLEY, sopmaker of Bristowe, of thage lij yere sworn seith that he cam in to the grene the day and yere predeposid by other witnesse. And the first dede that he sawe concerningy the compleyntes was that he sawe thabbot delyuer to the Maire aforsaid a man, the which was arrestid before which he dyd withoute gayn sayeng of his fre will as ferre as this deponent cowde here or see for thabbot went after that with the Maire in good famyliarite and bare hym company while he weyed brede in the same grene as lyke louers as they cowde wherof this deponent was glad as he seith by his trowth. More etc.
RICHARD WHELER, Chapleyn of thage of xxviiij yeris and more, sworn and examyned seith and deposith that the xth day of the moneth of Juyn nowe last past, as he remembreth aboute the howre of iij after noon of the same day he was personally present on Seynt Austyns bak of Bristowe where he sawe commyng in peable maner William Regent, then Maire of Bristowe, Nicholas Broun, Shirif and John FitzJames Recorder of the same Toun and their company, the Toun Clerk, swerd berer, sergeantes or other officers of the said Toun and their seruauntes, and the Wardeyns of the crafte of Bakers of the said Toun to the nomber in all as he remembreth of xxxti persones or nygh theraboute, to thentent as he herd say to wey brede in a place of the same Toun called seynt austens grene. And as they were so commyng the said deponent seith he saw John Bruer, oon of the Sergeantz atte mace of the said late Maire, commyng fro thabbey of Seynt Austens of Bristowe in his doblet, havyng no gown upon hym, the which John Bruer said there to the said late Mayre in the hiryng of the. said deponent that he had ben in Seynt Austens grene and there arrestid oon Domynyk Arthur by vertue of a pleynt affermyd ayenst hym in the Maires Courte of Bristowe, and that Richard Philips, John Dounteham, Nicholas Sporyer and other seruauntz of the abbottes of the said Monasterye with force and armes in ryottous wise, rescued and toke the same Domynyk so arrestid and beyng in kepyng of the said John Bruer fro the same John and hym wold have beten. Also the same Folio 30v Shirif and Recorder with thofficers and other persones afore remembrd went in to the said grene where the said Richard Philips, John Dountham and Nicholas Sporyer and other seruauntes of the said abbot, to the nombre as he remembreth of x persones were there redy with swerdis, stavis, billes and other wepons, and the said Richard Philips then and there with a Bill that he helde in his handes assaulted oon Thomas Langley, sergeant atte mace of the said Courte, and hym by lyklyhod wold have slayn in the presence of the said Maire and Shirif yf he had not be Jetted, and seith that immediatly therupon he sawe William Cryklade Chanon of the monastery with a hawberk in his hand and with hym masons, carpenters and other seruauntes of the said Abbot with swerdes, levers, Cawlestoynge and other wepons in their handes commyng toward the said late Maire, Shirif and other officers to thentent of very lyklyhode to bete them or otherwise to put theym to rebuke, and also the said deponent seith that after he sawe the said Abbot cam oute of the chirch of the monastery in his propre persone and with hym John Hewis and other seruauntes, workmen and laborers of the same Abbot with swerdes, daggers, staves and other wepons the which persones then and there dyd all that they cowde with their said wepons to have lettid the said Maire and Shirif to wey brede and execute their offices there. Neuertheles he seith that afterwarde the same day he sawe brede weyed in the said grene and theraboute before the said Maire by his said officers, the forsaid wardeyns of the forsaid crafte of Bakers there beyng present and also where as many people of the same toun that stode upon the Key and in Aven Mersh of
the Toun lokyng toward the said grene, by cause of the noys that was there in the tyme of the said affrayes, and beholdyng the said wepons there drawn cam and causid many other to com thider to assist the said late Maire [In the margin of theire owne myndes undesired. The said deponent saith that the forsaid late Maire] and Shirif in conservacion of the Kynges peas wold in noo wise departe oute of the said Austens grene unto the tyme that all the same persones so commen thider were departid to their houses in peables maner, And more the said Deponent knoweth not nor can say in this matier etc.

Folio 31 SIR WILLIAM BROMWICH, chauntry Prest syngyng in Redeclyf in the Toun of Bristowe, sworn and examyned, deposith and seith that on Friday the xth day, as he supposeth, of Juyn last past he went whan he had dyned from Redeclyf to seynt Austens grene for a poche that he had there with a Pochemaker newe to cover, and he cam thider bitwixt ij or thre of the clok atte afternoon. Ferthermore this deponent examyned of the maner of commyng of the Maire of Bristowe thider atte the tyme supposid in the bill of the abbot of Seynt Austens, and of all other thynges conteyned in the same bill aggreeth and accordeth in his deposicion with Richard Wheler, Preest, in his deposicion. For this Deponent as he seith herd and sawe all that was then there said and doon aswell of the Maires partye as of thabbottes parte. And ouer the sayeing of the said Richard Wheler this deponent seith that he sawe thabbot delyuer the persone that was arrestid called Domynyk Arthur to the Maire of Bristowe for to do to hym Justice and thabbot not myscontentid as ferre as he cowde knowe, for he went furth after that with the Maire afforsaid and sawe hym wey brede untill he had doon, and so the Maire and Abbot departid frendis as by their wordes to either other. This Deponent seith ferther that the aforesaid Abbot came to this deponent to Redclyf aforsaid within this moneth and said to hym thus “Brother Sir William I am enformed that ye shuld say that when the Maire was at Seynt Austens grene ye were there, and ye shuld see me bere a hawberk” wherunto this deponent auns werid “Nay forsoth I said neuer so nether I saw no such thyng”. Thabbot sayeng ageyn “No forsoth it was not I that had the hawberk it was my Brother Sir William Cryklade”. More he can say as he seith.

JOHN SHERMAN of Bristowe, sherman, of thage of xxxti yeris and above, deposeth and seith that he sawe whan John Bruer, sergeant atte the Mace of Bristowe within seynt Austens grene of Bristowe arrestid oon Domynyk Arthur and when the said Domynyk was arrestid he cryed “helpe Constable help Constable”. Wherupon the Constable called Richard Philips with other enhabitauntes then cam oute with force, billes and staves to the Folio 31v nombre de viij or x personez and strake atte the said sergeant and rescued the said Domynyk fro the said sergeant. Ferthermore the said Deponent seith
that he saw the Maire, Shirif, Recorder with other officers and their seruauntes, to the nombre of xxvj persones or thereaboutes, and also serjeauntes and other officers beryng Balaunces and Weightis con toward the grene to wey brede, and when the said Maire was entred into the said grene, then he sawe Richard Philips Constable commyng oute of his hous with a bill in his hand and therwith hartily strake atte oone of the serjeauntes goyng and beryng mace before the Maire and the said Serjeauntes defended thems elf and toke the said constable and there brought hym to the Maire and so by thadvise of the Recorder the said Constable was send toward. And after that the said Maire went ferther upon the Gauntis syde in peaseble maner and then cam oute of the Gauntes syde and other places with Cowleystynges, billes, spere, levoures and also dyuers chanons castyng stones and a high Chanon holdyng and beryng an haubert in his handes, and whether it was the Abbot or not he can not perfity tell, which persones with the said Wepons assawtid the seruauntes and serjeauntz of the Maire, and therupon the said Maire and his Officers toke certeyn of the said mysdoers and committed them to warde. And whan all this was doon the Abbot cam to the Maire with certeyn of his servauntz and they commoned togider in peaseble maner. And when they were so in communicacion cam oon John Hewis seruaunt to thabbot oute of the abbey, and his swerd half drawen, toward the Maire in rigorous wise, which John Hewis was taken therfor and commytted to warde, and furthermore the said John Sherman knoweth not nor can not say in this matier, etc.

To all true Christen people to whom thise present letters shall com, Thomas Tyler, Maister of the hous of Seynt Mark of Billeswyke called the Gauntes in Bristowe, dewe recommendation and reuerence as apperteigneth. Forasmoch as it is meritorious and medefull to make true report in causes ambiguous and doutefull by the which man is conscience myght be inblemysshid for lak of clere knowledge Folio 32 of trowth, knowe ye that the Fryday the xth day of the moneth of Juyn I was present in Seynt Austyns grene in Bristowe afforsaid and then there sawe maister Mayre, Shirif and Recorder of Bristowe accompanied in peaseble manere with the Swerdberer and xxvj or xxvij other persones of Serjeauntz and officers of the said Toun goyng in order som before theym and som after as it was conuenient to the greate officers of this worshipfull Toun to be accompanied, and as I which have beene brought furth in the said place of Gauntes from yowth hiderto have seen lyke officers goo when they have executid their offices within the said Toun and grene noon otherwise. Also the said serjeauntes and their officers by commaundment of the said Maire and Shirif then and there in my sight weyed brede, and in conservacion of the peas of oure souereign lord the Kyng arrestid and brought to warde certeyn trespassoures and offendours of the Kynges lawes then and there assembled. And as ferfurth as I then perceyvid or sith cowde perceyve the said officers were in noo defensible array or had in their
handes nother hawberd, Glevis ne Billes, nor any Wepons drewne in other manere but oonly in conservaucion of the Kynges peas. In witnes wherof to this presentes I have put my seale. Yeven the xxvijth day of the moneth of Juyn In the xjth yere of the reigne of oure souereign lord Kyng Henry the vijth after the conquest of englond.

Folio 32v DEPOSICIONES PRO PARTE ABBATIS MONASTERII SANCTI AUGUSTINI

JOHN HARDYNG, freemason, of xxv yeris of age and more, duellyng in Wryngton in Somersetshire, sworn and examyned deposeseth and seith that atte the tyme of the ryot supposid by thabbot of Seynt Augustyns besides Bristowe in this bill ayenst the Maire, Shirif and Bailiffs of Bristowe, that on the Fryday Seynt Barnabe is eve last past, as he was atte his werk within the parish Chirchyerd of Seynt Augustyns bitwene ij and iij atte after noon, sey oon John Henshawe com to entre Seynt Augustynes grene, and there before the parish chirch set hand upon a man named Domynyk a Sayntwary man and there arrestid hym and the said Domynyk seid that he was a Sanctuary man and wold not obey his arrest, and therwith the said John Hanshawe toke out a short dagger and smote the said Domynyk on the shulder, and therewith cam a Sergeant of the said Toun to helpe the said John Hanshawe. Then the said Domynyk cast of his gown and ranne fro theym toward the gates of the said monastery, and the sergeant caste of his gown and his slyppers and he and the said John Hanshawe folowed the said Domynyk with ij drawen knyves toward the said man. And within a litill more then an quarter of an houre after the said Deponent sey the Maire of Bristowe entre in Seynt Augustynes grene, and with hym cam DCC men and moo besides as asmany or moo commyng thiderwardes, as ij of his company werkmen stondyng upon the newe Toure there sey as they said in commyng, which company were apparellid with Wepons, som with Glevis, som with hawbertes, som with Billes, som with swerdis and Boklers and oone with a bowe bent with his arrowes. And the said Maire att his first entre with his company toke oon Dauid Bele beyng atte his own dore with a childe in his armes and sent hym to prison within the Toun. Then afterward the said Deponent seith sawe some of the said company breke up the dore and a wyndowe with a latyse, and there forcibly entred and tokeoute oon Richard Philips from his hous and so sent hym to prison, and then after he sawe theym rennyng aboute the said grene, and there smote a down, bete and toke dyuers of the said abbottes seruauntes, tenauntes and werkmen, whose names all he knoweth not, except Nicholas Mason and Robert Lokyer whom he saw smytt down with a swerd smyten on his hede, and so drewe blode of hym. The seid deponent seith also Folio 33 that he sawe thabbot of the said monastery commyng ouere the said grene towards the said
Maire with his bonet in his hand, and his bedis in his other hand and what they commenyd of atte theyr metyng he can not sey, but he sawe after the said Sanctuary man led oute of the said grene and Sanctuary, and under what condicion he can not sey. Ouere this he seith that neither the said abbot no noon of his Chanons, seruauntes, werkmen or tenauntes, there and then bere and drue any wepon, makyng any trouble contrary to god and the Kynes peace as ferre as he sawe. Ferthermore the said deponent examyned of and upon an Interrogatory ministred by the party of the Maire of Bristowe, the tenour and effect of which interrogatory is thus: Whether the Maire of Bristowe atte his first commyng in to Seynt Austens grene the day and tyme specifyed in the bill afforsaid com with any moo than xxvijti or xxxti persones with hym, and whether there was brought with hym a Balance to wey brede ye or nay. Wherunto this deponent seith that the said Maire atte his commyng in to the grene afforsaid atte the day and tyme afforsaid, had with hym in his company the Shirif and ij Baillifes, the Recorder and Sergeauntes, and officers to the nombre in this Deponentes estimacion of upon xxiiijti or xxvjti persones and no moo. And he seith that there was no greate resorte of people there untill that the Sergeaunt that had arrestid Arthur comme ayenst the Maire in his doublet, and he sterid moch people sayeing to theym “The Maire was lyke to be bete there”. More this deponent cannot say.

THOMAS GODARD, Citezein and mercer of Iondon, of lvj yeris of age and more, nowe duellyng within the close of Seynt Bartilmewis of Chanons in Smythfeld, sworn and examyned depositions and seith that atte the tyme of the ryot supposid by the abbot of Seynt Augustyns in this bill ayenst the Maire, Shirif and Baillifes of Bristowe, he can in noo certeyn say, for asmoch as he was and nowe is abydyng and duellyng atte Seynt Batholomewis aforsaid, but as touchyng the use of Fraunchese, Cimytery and Sayntwary of the said monasterye he depositions and seith this, that he cam and duelled in an house atte seynt Augustynes grene in the Gauntes syde and of the maistre of the Gauntes hold and tenure aboute vj yeres ates Mighelmas last past. And so there was a tenaunt for the space and terme of ij yeres, and for all that tyme he was called and appared amongst others to the lawday of the said abbottes, and by his Officers there holden and to noon other place. And as for the profe of the Cimitory of the said Monastery of Seynt Augustyns he depositions and seith for the space of his there abidyng he hath often tymes seen the said abbot and his covent [sic] atte dyuers solempne Festis of the yere to goo in procession aboute the said grene and Cimitory, and he with many other have folowid in the said procession. And also he seith and deposeth that he by the said space hath herde with others the solempne sermones there on Easter day with iij dayes folowyng said atte the great crosse stondyng within the said grene and Cimitory. And ouer this he deposeth and seith there is a Chapell stondyng on the grene and Cimitory and ouer the said grene yet appeirith many Tumbe stones and old Beryles. And ouere
this he seith and deposeth that he for the tyme of his dwellyng diggid and made a celler within the said duellyng place where then he founde the skull bone with other bones of a man or woman in Record of Thomas Hastynge, gentleman, and of Adam Barbour, his neighbours. Also for the said tyme he deposeth and seith that all persons for all maner of causes offendyng ayenst the Kynges lawes, except only treson, thidder commyng and desiryng Sanctuary for their saufgard were there admytted and saufly kept withoute interupcion of any maner of officer or other persone. And more than this the said deponent can n1ot sey in thise causez.

THOMAS NEWENTON, seruaunt and Brevitour to the place of Criste Chirch in Caunterbury dwellyng within the parish of seynt Dunstone there, of thage of xl yeres and more, sworn and examyned, deposith and seith that atte the tyme of the ryot supposid by thabbot of Seynt Augustyns besides Bristowe in his bill ayenst the Maire, Shirif and Baillefs of Bristowe, he there beyng doyng his office the xth day of Juyn last past, Foliol 34 bitwixt ij and iij atte afternoon, sawe ij men oon John Bruer as he herd hym called of other sergeaunt of Bristowe, and oon other called Hanshawe, the baillefs man as it was said, takyng and arrestyng a man on the grene called seynt Austens grene, which man so there arrestid was called a sanctuary man, and so he said unto theym. Notwithstondyng oon of the forsaid ij persones whom men called Hanshawe drewe oute his dagger to have stryken the said sanctuary man, and he so kepyng his lyfe slippid oute of his gown levying it behynde hym, and ran in to the monasterye, whom they pursuyd, oon of theym having a naked knyfe in his hand, and the other cast of his gown and his slippers and pursuyd the said sanctuary man within the gates of the said monasterye. And the said sanctuary man shyt a wyket bitwixt theym and so escapid their handes. This deponent as he seith folowid theym and sawe this as he desposeth. And anon therupon cam furth thabbot of the said monasterye with oon man and comoned with the said sergeaunt, and after resortid to hym iij or iiij moo of his seruauntes and had hym in his hall and there gave to hym both ale and wyne, desiryng hym to recommaund hym to maister Maire, and yf any matier were that he ought of right to have he shuld be pleasid and thus in pleasible maner the said sergeaunt departid. Then after the said Deponent went in to the said grene for to se his hors, and he there taryeng within short space sawe the Maire atte first with a competent company of people. Howbeyt after that there resortid moo to the nombre of CCCC persones and moo, and so encreasid for a tyme defensibly arrayde with swerdis and Boklers, Billes and Hawberkes, and other wepons, and askid for the said Sanctuary man, and som of theym said they wold have hym or they departid. All be it he herd not the Maire so say but other that cam to hym, orels they wold brenne the place. And as they met with dyuers of the said abbotes seruauntes, workmen and tenauntes, they bete theym down, and sergeauntes ij persones that this man sawe toke and sent theym to
prison within the Toun, and som of theym smote down with their billes, the signes of the tennauntes houses within the same grene and chargid theym to shyt up their wyndowes, and yet all this doon the said Maire and his company wold not departe but yf he myght have the said Sanctuary man. And then after came furth the said abbot with his bonet in his oon hand and his bedis in his other hand, and met and commoned with the said Maire and sone therupon the forsaid sanctuary man was brought furth by thabbotes commandment, and under what fourme he was deluyerid the said deponent can not say, but he sawe hym sent to prison. And the said deponent seith that nether the said Abbot, nether noon of of his Chanons, nor noon other of his seruauntes, werkmen ne tennauntes, bere or had any wepon or made any affray or resistence by all that tyme contrary to the Kynges peas as ferre there as he cowde se or understand. And the said deponent seith as he was atte the Chirch dore of the said monasterye, wherat stode dyuers of the Chanons of the same monasterye, oone of the said company cam with a bill in his hand to have stryken oone of theym sayeing these wordes, horeson goo into thy claustre, and therwith the said deponent shytte the said chirch dore bitwixt theym, and so departid hym, and more than this the said Deponent can not sey in thise causes, etc.

WILLIAM HILL, fremason of thage of lx yeres and more, duellyng within the precincte of the monasterye of Seynt Austens besides Bristowe, sworn and examyned, deposeth and seith that atte the tyme of the ryot, supposid by thabbot of Seynt Austens besides Bristowe in his bill ayenst the Maire, Shirif and Baillifs of Bristowe, that on Seynt Barnabe is eve bitwixt ij or iiij atte after noon cam in to Seynt Austens grene, commonly named a Sanctuary, oone of the Baillifs men whose name is to hym unknownen of certeynte, toke and arrestid oon Domynyk there, which as he herd was registred a Sanctuary man, and furthwith cam and entred within the said Sanctuary, and affore the parissch chirch of Seynt Austens there cam oon John Bruer, a sergeaunt of the said Toun, settyng his mace upon his brest, and also arrestyd hym, which Domynyk disobeyed tharrest sayeng that he wolde not goo with hym for that he was a Sanctuary man, and the said Domynyk so resistyng the said Baillifs man drawyng oute his knyfe there forced hym and chargid hym there to abyde unto the Maires commyng, for he is atte hande. And then the said Domynyk let his gown fall of and he escapid from theym rynnyng toward the said monasterye, and cryeng for helpe, and so the said sergeaunt renne after hym in his doblet with a swerde in his honde. And within a while cam ageyn the said Domynyk and toke up his gown ageyn which he had afore cast from hym by the nexte to the parissch Chirch, and so he departid oute of the said Sanctuary Folio 35 peasibly. Then after within a quarter of an oure cam within the Stulpes of the said grene and Sanctuary the Mayre, Shirif and Baillifs of Bristowe, and with theym xx persones for to wey brede as he saide. This deponent seith he sawe it. And after the
Sergeant that wold have arrestid Domynic cam to the Maire in his doublet, then resortyd many moo of the nombre of C persones besides other continuely resortyng with forcible defence of wepons, as Billes and Glevis, langdebefes. Club staves full of nayles, with Bokelers and swerdis drawen, besidis other Wepons, and so at their first entre they toke oon Dauid Bele, coke and tennaunt to the Maister of the Gauntes stondyg in his dorre havying a yonge childe in his armes and commaundid and sent hym to prison within the said Toun. And after that they went to Richard Philips house, bailly to thabbot of the Fraunchise of seynt Augustynes grene and also Sayntwary, and there hewe doun the latice of his wyndowe and so therby and thorugh entrid into his hows oon Dauid Leyson, Baillyf of the said Toun with other with hym with wepon drawen, his wyfe crying “Maister Bailly save my busbondes lyfe”. Neuertheles he toke hym oute of his hous and sent hym to the prison of Newgate within Bristowe. And so then after the said Maire toke the swerd fro the swerdberer and said unto hym and other of his company “Nowe pley ye the men” and so then they bett [blank] named John Hewis, Thomas Harryes, John Dountham, Nicholas Mason, Richard Philips and Robert Lokyer and so sent theym to prison into the toun. Of the which vj persones oon John Dountham was hurt on his hede and on his hand, and so drew blode on hym within the said sayntwarye and Cymytory, and in lyke wise drew blode on the same Robert Lokyer on his hede within the said sanctuary and Cymytorye. Then after the said deponent seith that he sawe thabbot of the said Monastery com from his Chirch dore ouere the said grene and sanctuary towards the said Mayre with his gloves and bedis in his oone hand, and his bonet in his other hand, and lowly desired the said Maire of peas and to avoide his greate multitude of people. But yete then after they smote doun the signs of wyne and ale of thenhabitauntez there contrary to thuse and Custumme of all olde tyme had to the knowledge of the said deponent. And ouere this the said deponent that neither the said abbot ne noon of his Chanons, seruautz, werkmen ne tenauntes brought any wepon purposly or made any affray Folio 35v or defens that day contrary to goddis peace and the Kynges. Also the said deponent seith that the said Maire and his officers have set Constables within the Fraunchise and precincte of the said Monastery contrary to any use and custumme there afore had. The said deponent also seith that he hath knoen the said Monastery thise xxxti yeres past, and hath ben there a dueller in dyuers houses thise xxxiiij yeres, and by all this tyme and space he hath knoen and understand all Jurisdiction of Fraunchise and sayntwary therto apperteynyng unto thabbot and officers of the said monastery and unto noon other man ne officer. Moreouer he deposith for the prove of the Cymytory of seynt Augustynes grene that thabbot and his covent [sic] of the said Monastery have goon yerly in solempe festiual dayes aboute the same in procession, and yerely solempe seremones said atte

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14 langdebefes = kind of spike or halbert with a head shaped like an ox tongue.
Easter atte the greate crosse within the said grene, and there yet be to
se many tumbe stones to prove the same, and atte the newe houses
there late made and repeyrid by John Hemmyng, merchaut, and
Thomas Godard, mercer of London were founde many skull bones
and other bones of men and women, and in lykewise atte last lent of xij
monthes past lyke bones were there found atte the diggyng of olde treis
there, and also by all the tyme of his duellyng there the abbot of the
said monastery and his officers have had thuse and and the profites of
the lawe day and noon other man, and that allmaner men and women
thidder commyng for allmaner offenses except treason to the Kyng
have had there sanctuary to their socour as all the Countre theraboute
can largely depose. And more than this the said Deponent can no sey
in thise causes, etc.

Folio 36 [T]HIS INDENTURE made the xiiijth day of May, the xjth
yere of the reigne of Kynge Henry the viijth bitwene John, abbot of the
Monastery of Seynt Austeyns of Bristowe and the Convent of the
same place of the oon partie and William Regent, Maire and the
Comynaltie of the Towne of Bristowe on that other partie. Witnesseth
that where long before this tyme great variaunces strifes and
contrauersies have byn had and contynued bitwene the said abbot and
Covent and their Predecessours and the said Maire and Comynaltie
and their predecessours among other of uppon and for the Jurisdiccion
of a laweday to be holden within the precynt of the said Monastery
and of the places called the Gauntisside and Wodwelstrete, and of all
fynes amerciamentes and profittes growyng or commyng by reason of
the said laweday. It is nowe by mediacyon of the moost reuerend
Fadre in God, John [Morton] Cardynall Archebisshop of
Cauntrebury, Chauncellour of England, and John Fyneux, chief
Justice of the Kynges benche, in appeasyng of the variaunces, strifes
and contrauersies and avoydyng of such inconveniences and ferther
trouble as therof myght ensue accorded agreed bitwene the said parties
upon the same in fourme folowyng that is to say: the said lawday
herafter fro tyme to tyme for euer shall be holden endifferently within
the procynt of the said Monastery before the Common Attourney or
Undershrief of the said Toun for the tyme being atte the costes and
charges of the said Maire and his sucessours which Common
Attourney or Undershrief shall do and cause to be doon in all thynge
aswell in settynge of fynes as afferyng of amerciamentes and all othere
thynge that belongeth to a Styward or Kepoure of a lawday to be
doone, and that all fynes and amercyamentes to be sette or affered
in the said laweday, and all othere profites belonging to the same or by
reason therof to be had shall be levyed, gadred, receyved and taken by
such a bailliff of thabbot of the said Monastery for thy tyme beyng as
by hym therto shall be assigned, that is to say by extractes endented
made by the said Styward or Kepoure of the said laweday directed to
the said baillyf for the tyme beyng, wherof the oon parte shall be
delyuered to the same abbot for the tyme beyng, and the other part of
all such extractes Folio 36v endented shall be delyuered to the said
Baillyf, and that the halffendele of euer y of the said fynes,
amerciamentes and profytes so levyed, gadred and taken shall by the
said Baillyf be delyuered to thabbot of the said Monastery for the tyme
beyng, and thother halffendele therof shall be delyuered to the Maire of
the said Toun for the tyme beyng. And if the said Baillief be negligent
of gadryng of eny part of the said fynes amerciamentes or profytes by
the space of oon Moneth next after suche estrettes to hym therof
delyuered, than the Maire of the said Towne of Bristowe for the tyme
beyng shall do the halffendele of euer y of the said fynes, amerciamentes
and other profytes so ungadred to hym belonging in the said fourme
to be levied, gadred and receyved and to be delyuered to hym withouthe
any lette or interupcion of the said abbot or any of his successoures.
And in lykewise if the said Comyn Attorney or Undershrief do not
hold the said lawedays yerely within thre wekes next aher of any of
the festes of Seynt Mighell tharchaungell and Pas[cha] than it shall be
lefull to thabbot and Covent of the said Monastery for the tyme beyng
to depute such as shall please them to holde the said lawday withouthe
any contradiccion or interupcion of the said Maire and Comynalltye
for the tyme beyng, and the profytes therof in like fourme to be divided
as aboue is rehersed. And ouer this it is agreed that the bokes and
Courtrolles of the said lawdays shall be yerely engrossed from
hensforth by the said Comyn attourney or Undershrief endenturewise,
and the costs egally to be born by the said parties and their
successours, and the oon part therof to be delyuered to thabbot of the
said Monastery for the tyme beyng, and thother part to be delyuered to
the Maire of the said Toun for the tyme beyng. In witnesse wherof to
the oon part of this indenture remaynyng with the said Maire and
Comynaltie the foraid Abbot and Covent have sette their Comyn
Seale and to that other part of the said endenture remaynyng with the
same Abbot and Covent the said Maire and Comynaltie have put their
Comyn Seale. Yoven the day and yere first abouerehersed. And for the
more credence to be gyven unto the premysses the foraid moost
reuereing Fader in god lord Cardynall and chief Justice in either part of
this indenture have subscribed their names.

Folio 38 TO THE KYNG OUR SOUERAIGN LORD

[M]EKEYL BESECHETH your highnes your true liegemen the maire
and Comynaltie of your Citie of Coventree that where they and every
syngler persone inhabitaunt within the said Citee and suburbes of the
same tyme that no mannes mynde is to the contrarye be and ought to
be free from almaner tolle and other charges paiying in all places
portes and havyns within this your Realme of Englonde of the graunt
of your noble progenytours which their fredome and fraunchises hath
be and is allowed in London, Bristowe, hampton¹⁵ and all other places. This notwithstanding your Shiref and Baillyffes of Bristowe afforsaid compelle thenhabitaunts of your said Citee of Coventree be distresse to pay at every ton by theym there bought -iiijd. not with saying the allowaunce afforsaid be their predecessours but thei say that this charge is of newe grown sith that allowaunce had and is called amonges theym Ceyage. Which charge is nor can be matier to charge the said inhabitanteus of Coventrie or any other straungers but onely such as be privie to the makyng therof and within their jurisdiction. And howe be it your said besechers have ofymes lovyngly shewed the said grevees unto your maire there, for reformacion in that partie litill or nothyng is therby resorted ne yet refourmed emboldyng theym self in that that if any any person greued wold suee for remedy in that partie by Cours of your comon lawe the matier shuld be tried within theym self or by their neighbours so that your said besechers be in maner Without remedy in the premysses on lesse the favour of your gode grace be shewed to theym in that partie. Please it therfore your highness the premysses greciously considered to directe your gracious lettres of privye seale unto the said maire of Bristowe Shiriff and Baillyffs commaundyng theym by the same to suffre thenhabitauntes of your said Cytee of Coventree to Bristowe resortyng cause of marchaundysyng to enioy their liberties and fraunchises without perturbaunce or lette by in any wise to be had in that partie, accordyng the allowaunce therof had by your predecessours in the tyme of your noble progenytour Kyng Edward the iijde₁⁶ or elles the said Bailiffes to appere affore your highness and your honourable Counsaill at a certeyn day by your grace to be lymytted, there to shewe cause resonable why thei ought not so to do. And to be Folio 38v directed ferther in that behalve as may accord with reason and gode consciens. And thei will ever pray to god for the preseruacion of your moost riall estate.

THE ANSWERE OF THE SHRIEF AND BAILLYFFES OF BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF COMPLAYNT OF THE MAIRE AND COMYNALTIE OF THE CITEE OF COVENTREE

THE SAID SHRIEF and Baillyffes sayn that the matier conteyned in the said bill is uncerteyn and insufficient to put theym to answere therunto, and also matier determynable atte Comon Lawe. Wherof thei prey allowaunce and to be dismyssd with their resonable costes and damages for their wrongfull vexacion in this behalf. Neverthelesse for the declaration of the trouth in the premysses And for answere they seyn that the Toun of Bristowe is and of the tyme that no mynde of man is to the contrarie hath been an auncien Burgh and that there is and by all the same tyme hath been a grete comon Ryver called Aven

¹⁵ Southampton.

₁⁶ 18 Edward III [1344].
and a place of grounde adioynyng and annexed therunto called Aven Bak stretchyng in lengthe from a gate called Mersshe gate sette in the paroche of Seynt Nicholas of Bristowe afforsaid unto the Brigge there called the brigge of Aven which Ryver of Aven by all the said tyme that no mynde is the contrary, hath been a Comon streme and comon to every of the Kynges liege people frely to cary and recary by the same Ryver with ship barge picard lighter bote or other vessall almaner of merchaundises stuf or other thyngs at theire pleasure to and fro the said Toune and charge and discharge the said Shippes Barges Picardes lighters botes and all other vessailles upon the said grounde and place called Aven Bak and to ley theire merchaundises stuf and all other thynges there on lande. The Citezains of the said citee of Coventree and such other persones as were and be privileged paying no peny for the kelage or kayage for the same and the same Shiref and Bailliffes sayn that for as moche Folio 43 as the Cours of Water rennyng by the said Ryver was for Swiftnesse of the same right noyous and daungerous unto all Shippes and Vessailles reparyng to the said Toune of Bristowe, the Maire and Cominaltee of the same Toune at that tyme beyng predecessours of the nowe Maire and Cominaltee of the same Towne long sith the tyme of mynde hath at theire Costes and charges vM·li. and above made a newe haven where as never was haven before ever theire severall grounde. Wherof they were and the said nowe Maire and Cominaltee now be seased in theire demesne as of fee within the lymytes and boundes of the said Towne comyng oute of the water of Frome there thurgh the said severall grounde of the foresaid Maire and Cominaltee unto the said Comyn Ryver called Aven. And upon the Este side of the same newe haven made a wharf and a key upon theire owne severall grounde and leid therunto a voide grounde of theire owe to ley on land almaner of marchaundises and other stuf therupon to charge and discharge the said Shippes and other Vessailles that shuld repaire therunto. In which newe haven the Shippes Barges and other vessailles repairyng to the said Toune may more surely lye at Rode than they may doo in the said Comon Ryver of Aven, Atte the wharf of the said place called Aven Bak. And they say that all persones that do repaire to the said Towne with Shippes Barges or other Vessaillls by the said Ryver of Aven have alweys used and yet do use withoute lette of any persone to lay theire marchaundises on lande in the said place called Aven Bak the said Citezins of Coventree and such other persones as be privileged without paying of any peny for Kelage or Kayage for the same. But they say that all the Citezins of the said Citee of Coventree which for theire suertie have repayred or used to repaire into or from the said Toune of Bristowe by the said newe haven and charge or discharge upon the said newe wharf or key have used at all tymes sith the

17 A list of places that claimed exemption for its citizens from customs is found in Bush, Henry, Bristol Town Duties, 1828, p. 70.
18 Folios are in the wrong order, presumably when rebound.
19 Cf. note on the making of the new cut p. 41.
makyng therof to pay unto the Baillyffes of the said Towne of Bristowe to the use of the said Maire and Cominaltee of the same Toun for the tyme beyng in name of Kelage and Kayage as well of theym as of other persones have sithen the makyng therof for occupacion of the said newe haven wharf and key with theire Folio 43v said godes and marchaundises iiijd at every Ton. Which somes of money so levied by the name of Kelage and Kayage as well of theym as of other persones have sithen the makyng of the said newe haven, wharf and key be disposed for and to the reparacion and mayntenaunce of the same. Withouten the which the same newe haven, wharf and key can not in any wise be supported or maynteyned. And if that ne were thei shuld utterly decay and be distroyed for asmoche as there is noon other thyng wherwith to repaire or maynteyne the same, without that that the said Maire and Cominaltee of Coventree ought to be free or have at any tyme used to be free at or in the said newe haven, key or wharf or to be free for payng of almaner charges within the said Towne of Bristowe or that they have any graunte of any of the Kynges noble progenytours to be discharged therof, and withoute that that there was any such fredom or fraunchesse allowed unto theire predecessours in maner and some as is surmytted by the said bill. All which matiers the said Shrif and Baillyffes of Bristowe be redy to prove. etc.

Folio 39 THIS INDENTURE made the xxvj daie of May in the yere of the reign of Kyng Harry the vijth after the conquest of England the xvth bitwene the Maire Shrifes Baylies and Cominaltie of the Citee of Coventree on that oon partie, and the Maire Shrifes Baylyffes and Cominaltie of the Towne of Bristowe in that other partie, Witnessith that where of long tyme ther hath been discord and variaunce bitwene the parties afforsaid of and for certayne Custome claymed by the said Maire Shiriff Bailiffes and Cominaltie of the said Toun called Kayage that is to say of every ton tight 20 of marchaundises iiijd. for every half ton tight of marchaundise ijd. and for every quarter ton tight of marchaundise jd. conveyed or brought to a place called the key and there laden in bote or other vessaill from thens to be conveyed by water aswell by any of the said Citizeyns of the said Citee as well all other persons ladyng and chargyng their marchaundises in bote or other vessaill of and from the said key where the said Maire Shiriffs Bailiffes and Cominaltie of the said Citee claymed to be discharged of the said Custome and of all exaccions and demaundes within the said toun which discord and variaunces of long time bath depended bitwene the said parties to theire grete costes and charges. So it is that nowe by mediactions of their Frendes and in eschewyng of such Costes suetes vexacions and troubles as dailly by the same hath ensuyed and yet doth for a fynall conclusion in the same bitwene them to be had. It is

20 tight = measure of capacity when stating number of tons burden of a ship.
concorded assented and agreed bitwene the said parties in fourme folowyng that the said Maire Shrifs Baillifs and Cominaltie of the said Citie and therei successours inhabitauntes and reseauntes beying fremen of the same citie that nowe be or hereafter shalbe ladyng or chargyng any godes or marchaundises at the said key shall from hensforth fro evermore pay for every ton tight of theire propre goodes and marchaundises conveyed or brought to the said key and there ladyn in bote or other vessail from thens to be conveyed by water ijd only and for every halfe ton tight of the same marchaundises jd oonly for every quarter ton tight of the same marchaundise ob. oonly. Also the said Maire Shrifs and Baillyfs and Cominaltie of the said Toun graunt for theym and theire successours to the said Maire Shrifes Baillyfs Cominaltie Inhabitauntes and reseauntes beying fremen of the same citie that they nor theire successours nor any of theym Folio 39v from hensforth shall aske demaund nor chalenge any other custome tallage exaccion imposicion or demaunde of the said Maire Shrifs Baillyfs Cominaltie Inhabitauntes and reseauntes beying fremen of the said Citie nor of theire successours for any tonight half tonight or quarter tonight of any of theire propre marchaundises or godes conveyed or brought to the said Key and there laden in bote or other vessell from thens to be conveyd by water otherwise nor in other maner than is before expresed but oonly ijd for every tonight jd for every half tonight and ob. for every quarter tonight. In witnesse wherof to the oon party of this writyng with the said Maire Shrifs Baillyfs and Cominaltie of Coventree remaynyng the said Maire Shrifs Baillyfs and Cominaltie of Bristowe, their Cominall seale have lett sette And to other party of this writyng with the said Maire Shrifes Baillyfs and Cominaltie of Bristowe remaynyng the said Maire Shrifes Baillyfs and Cominaltie of Coventree their Common seale have lett sett the day and yere above named.

[Folios 40-42 blank]
et Hibernie suprmi capitis per litteras suas patentes nobis inde corrorborata officiumque Senescalli Maneriorum predictorum et ceterorum premisolorum cum pertinenciis eodem Edwardo dedisse et concessisse per presentes exceptis semper et extra presentem concessionem nostram reseruatis nominacione, assignacione et deputacione Subsenescalli omnium Maneriorum predictorum impostrum per nos et Successores eligendi. Necnon concessionibus et dimissionibus ipsorum maneriorium, terrarum, tenementorum et ceterorum premisolorum cumpertinenciis et cuiuslibet inde parcelle tam per copiam secundum consuetudinem Manerii ibidem Irrotulandam quam per Scripta Indentata sub Sigillo communi predicte ville Bristoll' Tenentibus ibidem conficiendis. Habendum at tenendum (et) occupandum officium predictum, exceptis preexceptis prefato Edwardo pro termino vite sue, perciendi annuatim nomine feodi sui de et pro officio illo exercendo quatuor libras sterlingorum, ad festa annuciacionis Sancte Marie Virginis et Sancti Michaelis Archangeli per manus Camerariii ville Bristoll', supradicte pro tempore existentis equis porcionibus solvendas. Insuperque volumus et concedimus nos prenominati Maior et Communitas pro nobis et successoribus nostris per presentes quod si contingat predictas quatuor libras aretio fore insolutas in parte vel in toto per unum mensem post aliquod festum festorum predictorum quo ut perfertur solui debeat quod extunc bene licebit prefato Edwardo aut suo certo attornato vel assignatis suis in maneria predicta et cetera premissa cum pertinenciis et quamlibet inde parcellam intrare et distringere, districacionesque sic ibidem captas licite asportare abducere imparcare et penes se retinere quosque de predictis quatuor libris et omnibus inde arreragiis si quod fuerint ei plenarie fuerit solutum et satisfactum. Sigillo nostro communi sigillatum. Datum duodecimo die Decembris anno regni regis predicte Tricesimo quarto.

[Folios 44v-47 blank]

**Folio 48 THE YERELY CHARGIS OF THE SHRIFS OF BRISTOWE**

**FIRSTE they paythefeefarmein Theschequer**

Cijli. xvs. vjd.

To the abbott of Tewkysbery xiiijli. xs.

To the prior of Saynt James lxs.

To the Constable of the Castell and to the porter and wachemen xxvijli. vijs. iijd. ob.

To the Forsters of Kyngeswod xjli. vijs.

**Summa Clxli.**

The profers in Theschequer in Crastino Sancti Michaelis aswell for Theschequer as for the Shrifs lxiijs.

The wrytyng of the same profers21 ijs.

Wax and Wyne at the Sealing therof xiiiijd.

21 Profer = a provisional payment by the sheriffs of estimated dues to the Exchequer.
The Commyssion of the Staple

The makyng of the Shrifs accompte

The profers at Ester

The vewe of the accompte

The wrytyng of same profers

Wax and Wyne at the sealynge of theym

Summa xiiijli. xviijs. vjd.

Fees to the Mayor for

his pencion xxli.

xij yardes of Scarlett viijli.

his Furre vjli. xiijs. iijjd.

Wyne lxvjs. viijd.

Mynstrells lxvjs. viijd.

Item ij torches22 at Saynt Georges Feest

To the Recorder for

his pencion xli.

x yards of Scarlett vjli. xiijs. iijjd.

his Furre lxfs.

Folio 48v To the Towne Clerke for his pencion iijli.

his Furre vjs. viijd.

Wax and Wyne xxs.

The lawe Days vjs. viijd.

Summa lxvijli. xiijs. iijjd.

To the Steward for

his pencion liijs. iijjd.

for his Furre vjs. viijd.

paper and parchement vjs. viijd.

Wyne ijs. viijd.

To the Townes attourney for his pencion lxfs.

for his Furre vjs. viijd.

To the Swerd berer for his pencion lxfs.

for his Furre vjs. viijd.

lynyng for his somer Gowne xiijs. iijjd.

oon hatt xxvjs. viijd.

Summa xijli. ijs. viijd.

Saynt Georges pristes pencion Cvjs. viijd.

Bread and Wyne xxs. 

Item oon Torche [blank]

The under Shrif for his pencion xls.

22 torches presumably the torch bearers.
The Great White

To the Bayly Errant [blank]
To the Shrif's clerke [blank]
To the iiij Waytyng men
To the Keper of the Key xxvjs. viijd.
To the Keeper of the Back xxvjs. viijd.
The porter of Newgate xxvjs. viijd.
The porter of Redcliff yate xxvjs. viijd.
The porter of Temple yate xxvjs. viijd.

Folio 49 The porter of Frome yate xxs.
The porter of Pithey yate xxs.
The waytes of Saynt Georges

tyde vjs. viijd. }
at mighelsom xxs. }
at mighelmas ijs. }

To the iiiij orders of Friers xxxijs.
Spicers obitt at Saynt Nicholas Churche lxxiijs.
The kepyng of Saynt Nicholas Clock xxvjs. viijd.
The Towne lyvere at Cristmas by estymacion xxiiiijli.
The Somer lyvere at Ester by estymacion vli.
The Charges of midsomer wacche xxli.
The torches and the costes at Saynt Georges Feest by estymacion iiijli.

Cristmas drynkyng by estymacion xxxiiijli.
Costes at Sessions and Lawe Days by estymacion lxs.
Drinkyng at Trynnytie Chappell at Laffordes Yate xxs.
Drynkyng at the Tols on saynt Nicholas Day ijs.
Wrastrylyng at saynt Lawrence
tyde vjs. viijd. }
peres and wyne there ijs. vijd. }
Wrastrylyng at saynt James tyde vjs. viijd.

A Sermond said at saynt Augstens the Wedynsday in Ester Weke vjs. viijd.
Ryngyng of the Comon bell on Mighelmas Day iijls.
The messengers of thischequer iijs.
To the Berwardes23 iijs. iiijd.
xxti Quaires of paper for the Townclerke and Steward at Mighelmas vjs. viijd.
And ij Bagges and iiij Forells24 xvjd.

Folio 49v The ij scabbardes for the mayor xxs.
Writtyng of Thyndentures and obligacion of the Gaole at Mighelmas ijs. viijd.
Summa iiijvli. vs. iiijd.
Summa totalis CCCXliijli. xixs. xd.

Item for the Costes of the parlyament when it shall happen to be holden by estymacion by the space of a quarter of a yere iij. every amounteth too xvjli. xvs.

23 Berewards = those who managed the bear baiting.
24 Forels = bags, sacks or purses.
WHERE AS Willyam Dale late oon of the Shrifs of Bristowe exhibited and presented unto the Reverend Father in God Thomas late lorde Cardynall archebissropp of Yorke and Chauncelour of England his Supplicacion or Bill of Complaynt agaynst John Edwardes late mayour of Bristowe abovesaid in maner and forme herafter folowyng. That is to say

To the moost Reverde Father in God Thomas lorde Cardynall archebissropp of Yorke and Chauncelour of Englonde

IN MOOST humble wyse shewyth unto your gracious lordeship your dayly Orator Wyllyam Dale oon of the Shrifs of the Towne of Bristowe that where afore this tyme the Maire and Aldremen of the said Towne have been and yet been seased in the Right of the Cominalte of the same Towne of and in landes and tenementes apperteynyng to the Chambre of the said Towne amountyng and extendyng to the yerely value of C and xlli. or their aboutes and of other Revenues and profyttes which the said Maior and aldermen in the right of the same Cominaltie yerely perceve amountyng to great Summes of money for the mayntenaunce and upholdyng of the mairaltie and payment of the fees for other officers of the same Towne, as Recorder, Towneclerke, Swerdberer, attorney and other. So it is gracious lorde that the said Mayor and aldremen now of late have sett gretter charges exaccions and Impocicions upon the Shrifs of the said Towne then they be able to bere or of right ought to be charged with compellyng the same Shrifs yerely to bere and pay towards the charges of the said mayor and his said officers great Summes of money extendyng yerely to the summe of Cxxxxli. That is to sey. to the mayor yerely towards his house xxli., and viijli. for xij yardes of scarlett, vjli. xiijs. iiijd. for his Furre, for wyne iijli. vjs. viijd., for mynstrells iijli. vijs. viijd. and for ij torches xiijs. iijd. and for the Comyssion of the Staple for the Mayors Courte xxiijs. vjd.

Folio 50v Summa xliijli. ijs. vjd. And the residue of the said summe of Ciiijxxli. the same Shrifs are enforced and compelled by the said maire and aldremen to pay yerely unto the officers of the said Towne by particuler Summes like as by a Cedule herunto annexed particulerly doth appere over and above the Kynges fee farme of the same Towne which amounteth and extendith yerely to the Summe of Cxlii. which the said Shrifs for the tyme beyng yerely concent and pay unto the Kynges highnes and for the payment of which fee ferme the same Shrifs have nott anythyng to make levey and Rei se the same, but oonly the Tollys of the same Towne and profittes for stondyng of Bowthes in the said Towne in the tyme of Saynt James Faire there, which is but casuall and hath nott at any yere amounted to the Summe of the same fee ferme and over and besides the said fee ferme the said Shrifs pay yerely xiiijli. xvjs. viijd. for profers in the Kynges Escheker and discharge of their accompte. And also over and besides that the same

25 and hath not written twice.
The Great White

Shrifs for the tyme beyng pay yerely xlvli. to their offices in the same Towne undre theym and also be charged with other great Costes and Charges which the same Shrifs for the tyme beyng bere and susteyne in kepyng and menteignyng of their householdes and other necessary charges apperteynyng unto their said officers so that the same Shrifs for the tyme beyng albeit thei were discharged of the sommes aforsaid paid unto the Maire and the fees of the officers conteyned in the Cedule aforsaid are clerely charged of their owne propre goodes to the Summe of lxli. in redy money by theym payd over and besides the said fee farm, and over and besides the said chargis of their household and other necessary chargis to them apperteynyng duryng the time of their said offices by which intollerable Chargis exaccions and unreasonable Impocicions the marchauntes of the said Towne chosen and elected to the said office of Shifaltie (determyned the more parte of theym) by occasion of the premysses have byn so impoverisshed and dalye be that after the said yere of Sherevaltie determyned Folio 51 the more parte of theym have not ben able to exercise the feat of marchaundise in like wise as they did before, but have ever after lyved in povertie and ruyn. Wherby the Kynges Customs oonly have not byn mynysshed but also the Inhabytantes of the same Towne beyng as Clothiers, wevers, diers, Towkers and other Sondry Craftymen dayly lack werke and ryn in to Idlenes and the Towne by reason of the same brought into a great desolacion and about viijC householdes in the same Towne desolate, vacant and decaided to the utter decay and destruccion of the said Towne, if remedye by your gracious Lordschip in this behalf be not provided. Wherof trouthe the mayor and aldermen forsaid have landes assigned to the Chambre of the same Towne as is aforsaid wherof the profittes ar yerely takyn in the same Chambre. Wherwith the forsaid yerely fees in the said cedule conteyned of right ought to be borne and paid and the said Shrifs of payment therofto be dischargied. And not withstandyng that your said Orator have advertised John Edwardes nowe maire of the same Towne and other aldermen of the same by hym associat of the premysses and made humble peticion and sute unto theym to have reformacion accordyngly yet they that doo have refused and the said profittes of the said lordes in the said Chambre beyng to their owne use without any cause reasonable have here to fore kepte and converted. In consideracion wherof it may pleas your gracious lordship by the Kynges Writt of sub pena to call afore your grace the said mayor to answere to the premysses and to showe that why the said mayor with the said issues and profittes belongyng to the said Chambre shuld not menteign his said office of mairaltie and also bere and pay the Fees and Charges of thofficers conteyned in the cedule aforsaid. So that those that nowe be Shrifs and suche other as herafter shall be Shrifs of the same Towne be no further chargied but oonly with the Kynges fee ferme and other charges belongyng Folio 51v to the said office of Shirvaltie oonly and the mayor and every other that herafter shall be mayor of the said Towne for the tyme beyng to bere the Charges of the Mairaltie and the forsaid officers undre theym.
also to be paid of the profettes growyng and comyng to the said Chambre of the londes forsaid accordyng to reason and good concyence and for the wele and reforme of the said Towne and fynally to be ordred in all the premysses in suche wise as to your gracious lordshipp shall be thought to stand with the preservacion and good Contynuance upholdyng and menteignyng of the said Towne with right and good Concyyence and your said Oratour etc.

THE CONTENTES OF THE SAID CEDULE HERAFTER ENSUETH. THAT IS TO WITT. THE CHARGIES BORNE BY THE SHRIFFS OF THE TOWNE OF BRISTOWE FOR THE MAYORS OFFICERS

INPRIMIS to the Recorder of the said Towne for his pencion xli
x yarde of scarlett vjli. xiijs. iiijd. and a furre iijli.

Item to the Towne clerke for his pencion iijli.

his furre vjs. viijd. parchement, wax and wyne xxs. ij lawe days vjs. viijd. his Gowne vj brode yarde at vjs. the yarde

Item to the Steward for his pencion iijli. his furre vjs. viijd. paper and parchement vjs. viijd. wyne ijs. viijd. his Gowne of v brode yarde att vjs. the yarde

To the Swerdberer for his pencion iijli. his furre vjs. viijd. his somer Gowne – xiijs. iiijd. iij hattes xls. A Gowne of vj brode yarde at vjs. the yarde xxxvjs.

Folio 52 To the Townes attorney for his pencion iijli. to his furre vjs. viijd. a Gowne of v brode yarde at vjs. the yarde

To Saynt Georges priste for his pencion vjli. vjs. viijd. a Gowne of vj brode yarde at vjs. the yarde

To the Chambrelain a Gowne of v brode yarde

To the Towne clerke’s clerke a Gowne of iij brode yarde at iiijs. the yard

To the Maiors iij sergeauntes for iij Gownes. xvij yarde at iiijs. the yarde

To the Stewardes clerke a Gowne of iij brode yarde at iiijs. the yarde

To the Water Bayly iij brode yarde and a half at vs. the yarde

To the Waites at Saynt Georges tyde iij Gownes conteynyng xij yarde at iiijs. the yarde

To the Clerke of the markett a gowne iij brode yarde at iiijs. the yarde

xixli. xiijs. iiiijd.

vijli. ixs. iiijd.
vjs.
vjli. xvjs.

xvjs.

xxxs.

xvjs.
iijli. xs.

xvjs.

xxvs.

vijs. viijd.

vijs. viijd.

vijs.
To Spicers Obitt to the Maior vjs. viijd. to the Shrifjs iijjs. to the Towne clerke iijjs. iijjd. to the sergeantes xvjd. to xx prestes vjs. viijd. to the iij Orders of Friers xiijs. viijd. to the vicar of Saynt Nicholas for light ijs. the ryngynge of the Bells iijjs. the Bell man iijjd. for berd [bread] to pore people xxxs. iijjd. The kepyng of Saynt Nicholas Clok iijli. xiijs. 

The ryngynge of the comon bell on Migelmetas Day xiijs. viijd. at Migelmetas for xx Quaires of paper for the Towneclerke and Steward iijs. vs. xviijd. for ij baggs and iiiij forells for the same Item for vj torches at Saynt Georges tyde xxs. 
and drynkynge at the same Feest vli. vji. 

Folio 52v Item the Drynkynge at Trynytie Chappell at Laffordes yate xis. The Drynkyn at Cristmas for bothe the Shrifs by estymacion xiijs. vjs. viijd. The Drynkyn on Saynt Nicholas Day at the Tols[ey] yjs. vs. and peares with wyne there xiijs. iijjd. 

To the wrastlyng at Saynt James tyde xjs. To the berwardes xjs. To the mynstrells xjs. To the messengers of Thescheker xiijs. ivjd. Item for a Sarmond at Saynt Austens the Wedynsday in Ester Weke vjs. viijd. To the iij Orders of Friers xxxijs. To the charge of midsomer Wache to bothe the Shrifs by estymacion. xxli. Item for ij scabbardes for the maior xxs. To the knyghettes of the Shere xli. To the bryngyng upp of prisoners from Newgate xvli. For a tonne of wyne at midsomer for Craftes of the Towne iijli. xiijs. iijjd. Summa with the maiors pencion comprised in the Supplicacion Ciiijxlii.

Folio 53 NEVERTHELESSE the same maior made answere unto the Bill of Complaynt above declared in forme as herafter folowith.

THAUNSWER OF THE MAIOR OF BRISTOWE TO THE BILL OF COMPLAYNT OF WYLLYAM DALE SHRIFE OF THE SAID TOWNE

The said maior saith that the said Bill is uncerteyn and insufficient to be answered unto wherof he praieth allowance and thadvauntage therof to hym saved. For declaracion of trouthe in the premysses and
for further answere he saith that the Maior and Cominaltie of the said Towne of Bristowe have libertie auctoritie and power yerely to electe Mayor Aldremen Shrifs Bailiffs and other officers of the said Towne. And also the Maior aldremen and Counsaill of the said Towne have auctoritie and power to make ordynaunces and Rules for the good polytique Governance of the said Towne and if any of the said Towne breke any Rule or Ordynaunce made by the said Mayor and Counsaill or be disobedyent and will not agree to the Ordynaunces of the said Mayor and Counsaill, or conseder procure or menteign agaynst the said Mayor and Counsaill, or sett debate betwyne the same Mayor and Counsaill and Cominaltie of the said Towne for eny eleccion of Maior or other officers of the same Towne that then the Maior and ij suche of thataldremen of the same Towne as the Maior for the tyme beyng will name have full power and auctoritie to chastice and punysshe every suche offender after the qualitie and quantitie of the trespas and offence and after the auncient usage and customs of the said Towne. And further the said maior saith that at the tyme that eny person of the said Towne is called and chosen to be Burgeis of the same Towne, and also when any Burgeis Folio 53v is called to be of the Counsaill of the said Towne they ought to submytt them selfe and to accepte the same, and to be sworne upon the holy Evangelistes for to supporte and menteign the franchises, liberties, ordynaunces and landable customs and usagis of the same Towne, and also to be obedient to the Maior of the said Towne and mynysters of the same in all causes reasonable and to bere lott and scott and all other chargis and Contribucions within the said Towne, and the said Maior further saith that by the Custom and usage of the same Towne the Bailiffs of the said Towne while Bailiffs were and not Shrifs and sithen that tyme when the said Bailiffs were made Shrifs and Bailiffs all oon name have always paid and borne aswell the fee ferme of the said Towne as the fees of the Maior and other officers of the said Towne and other charges of old tyme accustomed for and toward the Supportacion and which payment of Charsigs the said Bailiffs while they were Bailiffs and now Shrifs hadd certeyn messuages and landes in the said Towne specified in the said Bill amongst divers other profittes and casualties which messuagis while they were in the thandes of the said Bailiffs for the tyme fell in great Ruyn and decay for lack of Reparacions by negligence of the Bailiffs for the tyme byeng. In so moche that where the said messuages and londes had ben of the yerely value of lxxxli. or therabout by reason of the decaye and Ruyn beforesaid they were after that not of the value of lli. Wherfore by the good discrecion of the maior and Comen Counsaill of the said Towne for the tyme byeng it was considered that if the said messuagis and londes shuld still contynne in thandes of the Bailiffs for the tyme byeng it shuld growe to further ruyn and decay, which shuld nott oonly be preiudiciall to the maior and Cominaltie of the said Towne but also be hurtefull to suche Bailiffs as after that tyme shuld be in the said Towne. In consideracion wherof the said maior aldremen and Comen Counsaill in tyme past Folio 54 by their whole
assent and consent ordeyned provyded that the said Bailiffs shuld no longer have the occupacion of the said londes and takyng of the Issues and profettes of the same but that all the said messuagis and londes shuld be in the rule and Governaunce of the Chambrelayn of the said Towne for the tyme beyng which shuld yerely make accompte for the Issues and profettes of the same and where at the tyme of the said Ordynaunce the said messuagis and londes were nott of the clere yerely value of lli. to the said Bailiffs it was agreed and concluded that the said maior and Cominaltie and their Successours oute of their chambre shuld pay yerely to the said Bailiffs and their Successours for the tyme beyng lxli. in lyeu and stede of the same londes and tenementes that was no better to theym then lli. by the yere which somme ever sithen the said Ordynaunce the said Bailiffs before they were Shrefis and Bailiffs and sithen they were made Shrifis have perceved and yerely taken together with all suche other Costoms Tolles and casuall profettes as their Successours used to take in tymes paste for payment of the said fee ferme and other fees and charges befor reherced. So that the Bailiffs and Shrifis have had ever sythen the said Ordynaunce more yerely profett owt of the said Chambre then there predecessours had of the same londes and messuagis when it was in their handes and takyn into of the said Chambre and comytted to the rule of the said Chambrelayn for the tyme beyng and the said maior saith that the morowe after the Feest of Thexaltacion of the holy Crosse last past, the said Wyllyam Dale beyng burgeis of the said Towne and sworne as is aforsaid was elected and chosen to be one of the Shrifis of the said Towne for this present yere which after the said eleccion of his malicious high and presumptuous mynd did not oonly contemptuously departe owte of the said Towne but also confedred with dyvers others ill dispossed persons of the said Towne to Infrynge and breake the *Folio 54v* auncient and landable usagis customs and orders of the said Towne to the great unquyetyng troble and vexacion of the said Towne and to the perilous example of other lyke offenders and contrary to his and their othese. Wherfore the said maior humbly besechith this noble Courte that the same Complaynt may be remytted to the said maior and aldremen, by theym to be ordred accordyng to their auncient usagis Ordynaunces and the Charters of the Kynges noble progenytours to the same Towne before this tyme graunted and also for the further violacion and disordryng of the Ordynaunces usages and auncient Customs of the said Towne, the said William Dale and divers other well disposed persons of his affinytie Confedratours with hym for to sett dyvysion in the same Towne been comon upp to hym to menteyn hym in his evill opynyon and sedicious purpose without that the said messuages and londes extend to the yerely value of Cxlli. or that the said maior and aldremen have sett gretter charges exaccions or Impociocions upon the said Shrifis then in old tyme they have used to be charged with or that the said maior and aldremen have compelled the said Shrifis to pay any more or gretter or other Summes of money to the said maior and officers of the said Towne then they in
old tymes have used to pay. Or that the merchautes of the said Towne electe and chosen to the said office of Shrevaltie in the said Towne have byn undon or impoverisshed by any intollerable Charges exaccions or Impocicions sett by the said Maior and aldremen or otherwise by their meanes. Or that the more parte of the merchautes dwellyng in the said Towne that have byn elected and chosen into the said rome of Shrivaltie have byn undre so that they myght not use the Feat of merchandise after they have byn owte of the said office excepte it hath byn by their owne neglygence. Or that the Kynges Customs be mynysshed by any suche occasion, or that by any other suche occasions any Wurkemen lack wurke or ryn into Folio 55 idlenes or that the said Towne is by any suche meanes brought in decay or desolacion and without that the said maior have taken any profettet that have used to be to the said Bailiffs and Shrifs for the tyme beying toward their said charges other then the said londes and tenementes as is afore reherced and without that any thyng in the said Bill materill and answerable is true other then in the answere is alleged all whiche matters the said maior is redy to prove as this Courete wull awarde and praieth that the said Complaynant may be remytted to the maior and aldremen to be ordred as is before said. And also that the same maior may be dysmyssed owte of this Courete with his reasonable costes and damages for his wrongful vexacion susteyned in this behalf. AFTER whiche answere in fourme abovesaid made the said Wyllyam Dale then beyng before the Cardenall above named and other lوردes of the Kynges most hoP.orable Counsaill in the Sterre Chambre at Westminster in the presence of maister FitzJames then beyng the Kynges attourney Mr. Robert Thorne oon of the aldremen [in the margin whiche Robert in the same sute fynysshed his dayes in London] maister Kemys then beyng Steward of Bristowe forsaid then beyng there personally present many evyll disposed persons of thaffinyt of the fornamed Wyllyam Dale confedrators with hym to sett division in the said Towne and to menteign hym in his symple opynyon and sedicous purpose was commaunded upon payne of Imprisonment in the Flete that he in all spede and tyme convenyent shuld repaire and ride to Bristowe abovesaid and in the Comen Counsaill house there shuld submytt hymself unto the maior aldremen and Comen Counsaill of the said Towne accordyng to the gode and auncient ordre politique Rule and laudable Customs there used by the vertue of which Commandement the same Wyllyam Dale Folio 55v came into the said Comon Counsaill house the iiijth day of Octobre In the xjth yere of the Reign of the Kynges moost noble grace then beyng present John Willyams late mayor of the forsaid Towne Thealdremen and Comen Counsaill of the same and then and there in right obedyet maner with watery teres submitted hymself to the due Ordre and establisshementes which then and there were made in the presence of the same Wyllyam Dale for to contynue forever without any further suite vexacion or troble in suche causes herafter to be moved affirmed or commenced whiche Ordynaunces and establysshementes imedyately followyth. That is to say
MEMORANDUM that the iiiijth day of Octobre in the xjth yere of the Reign of our soveraigne Lord Kyng Henry the viijth John Wylyams then beyng late maior of the Towne of Bristowe Thaldremen Shrifis and Comen Counsaill of the same Towne assembled to gethers in their Counsaill house at the yeld hall there by their alther assentes consentes and agreemenes and by the Commandement of the moost Reverend Father in God my Lord Cardynall archebissph of Yorke and Chauncelor of Englond in moderacion of the Charges before this tyme yerely susteyned and borne by the Shrifis of the same Towne have ordeyred and established by thauctoritie of the Kynges Charters to theym graunted and confirmed thise Ordynaunces and establisshementes herafter followyng That is to witt.

FIRSTE the said Shrifis which for the tyme shall be shall take and receave the hole profettes and advauntages comyng of Saynt James Faire which doth amount yerely by estymacion to xxiiijli.

Item they receive yerely of the Gaoler of Newgate for the fee farme of the said Gaole xiiijli. vjs. viijd.

Item of dyvers obyttes holden within this Towne amount by estymacion xlviijs. iiijd.

Folio 56 Item to dyvers obyttes holden yerely within the said Towne [blank]

Item the yerely profettes and advauntages comyng of the key of the said Towne by estymacion lxvijli. xiijs. iiijd.

Item the yerely profettes and advauntages comyng of the Backe of the same Towne by estymacion xvijli.


Item of the Standynges of markett folkes in the markett yerely by estymacion lxxiijs. iiijd.

Item of amercyamentes Nonsutes and with drawyng of almaner of accions in all the Courtes by estymacion liijs. iiijd.

Item of the profettes of Sessions and lawe days, fynes, fayres, blodeshedes owte cries, felons goodes, eschetes forfatures and all other Casualties by estymacion xxxli.

SUM of all the profettes and advauntages to be yerely taken by the Shrifis by estymacion CCxvjli. xxd.

HERE folowen the yerely Charges and paymentes to be made by the same Shrifis
FIRSTE they shall pay the hole Fee Farme of the said Towne as well to the Quene as to ther amountyng to also for the profers to thesheker as well as Mighelmas as at Ester with the wrytyng and sealynge of the same

**Folio 56v**

The vewe of thaccompte at Ester the makyng of the Shrif's accompte at Mighelmas with divers other paymentes in thescherker To the Steward of this Towne for his pencion To the undre Shrif for his fee To Saynt Georges prist for his pencion bred and wyne Item to the obett of Richard Spicer to be yerely don in the Churche of Saynt Nicholas Item for the wages of the Clerke of the same Churche kepyng the clock there Item to the iij orders of Friers that is to say to every of them viij Item to be spent yerely at Saynt Georges Fest Item at the drynkyng at the Trynytie Chappell at Laffordes Yate Item to the iiij Scabbardes of the maire Item to the cost of midsomer wacche yerely Item for the Towne lyvere in the hole to almaner of officers for the which the Shrif's have yerely the profettes of Saynt James Faire Item for the costes of the Sessions and lawe days Item to the waittes their wagis yerely Item in wagis to the Keper of the Key xxvjs. viijd. to the porter of Newgate xxxs. the porter of Redcliffe yate xx. [In the margin in another hand Note the wages of the porters are dymynshed.] To the porter of Temple yate xxvjs. viijd. to the porter of Frome yate iiij. and to the porter of Pithey yate iiij. iiijs. Item in wagis to their iij. wayntyng yomen That is to say to every of them xxvjs. viijd. Item for the Comyssion of the Staple **Folio 57** Item for xxti Quayres of paper baggs and forels for the Towne clerke Item to the Towne clerke for ij lawe Dayes Item for the wrytyng of the profers yerely

Item for the writyng of Thyndentures of the Gaole betwyxe the newe Shriffs and the old
Item for the ryngyng of the Comon Bell on Mighelmas day
Item to the messengers of thescheker
Item the drynkyng at the Tols[ey] on Saynt Nicholas day
Item the Shriffs shall bere and pay yerely to the Chambre of Bristowe towardes the Charges and expenses of the Knyghtes of the Shere and burgeises of the parlyament agaynst suche tyme as any parlyament shall be holden And the residue of all the same Charges to be always borne at the Costes of the said Chambre

SUM of the hole yerely Charges and Costes to be borne by the said Shriffs

AND so their Charges and Costes shall excede their profettes and advauntages yerely by estymacion

BESIDES the costes of the bryngyng upp of prisoners wherewith the said Shrefs shall alwayes be chargied

The yerely Charges to be borne and paid by the Chambrelayn of Bristowe Folio 57v for the which the same Chambrelayn by the consent of the Mayor and his brethern doth reteyn in his handes the lxli. which he before used to pay unto the Shriffs of the same Towne.

FIRSTE the said Chambrelayn shall pay yerely to the maior for his pencion
Item to the Recorder for his pencion
Item to the Towne clerke for his pencion besydes vjs. viijd. to hym paid by the Shriffs for the ij lawe Days and xiijs. iiijd. to hym yerely payd by the Chambrelayn for burgeis money from the office of under sheriff
Item to the Townes attorney for his pencion
Item to the Swerdberer for hys pencion
Item to the iiij orders of Friers
Item to be spent yerely in the Churche of Saynt Nicholas at Spicers Obitt
Item to the Clerke of the same Churche for kepyng of the Clok there
Item for wrestlyng at Saynt Laurence with peres and wyne
Item for wrestlyng at Saynt James tyde in the
Marsshe
Item for a Sarmond to be said at Saynt
Austens in Ester weke
Item payd yerely to the berewardes
Item for six tapres to brenne yerely at the
Tolsley
Item the wine of midsomer wache
SUM total to be yerely paid by the
Chambrelayn which before was paid by the
Shrifs
AND so the Chambrelayn shall be from
hensfurthe yerely chargied over and above –
lxli. which before tyme the bove unto the
Shrifs

Folio 58 THE L YVEREYS TO BE GEVEN YERELY BY THE
SHRIFFES OF BRISTOWE TO ALL MANER
OFFICERS AT CRISTMAS AT [sic] HERAFTE
FOLLOWITHE

In primis to the Towne Clerke for his Gowne v
Brode yards of Clothe every yarde price of
[In margin in another hand vacat racione posterioris ordinationis]
Item to the Stewarde v brode yards every
yarde price
To the Comen attorney v brode yards every
yarde price
To the Swerdberer v brode yards every yarde price
To Saynt Georges prist v brode yards every
yarde price
to the Towneclerkes Clerk iiiij brode yards
every yarde price
to the Stewardes Clerke iiiij brode yards every
yarde price
to the Mayors iiiij sargeantes every of them iiiij
brode yards and a half at

to the Shrifes iiiij Sargeantes every of them iiiij
brode yards and a half at
to the Waterbaylly iiiij brode yards every
yarde price
Item to the Jailer of Newgate iiiij brode yards
and a half every yard price
Item to the Clerk of the markett iiiij brode
yards every yard price
The Great White

Item to the iiiij Waytes every of them iiiij brode yards every yard price
Item to the v porters every of them iiiij brode yards every yarde price
Item to the iiiij yomen every of them iiiij brode yards every yarde price
Item to the keper of the key iiiij brode yardest every yarde
Item to the Raker\textsuperscript{26} iiiij brode yardest every yarde price

\textit{Folio 58v TEMPORE MAIORAT' THOME KELK duodecimo die Januarii Anno Regni domine nostre Elizabeth Regine nunc decimo sexto An ordynance made the daie and yere above said by the common counsell of the citie of Bristowe concernyng lyveries to be gevin yerelie by the Shiriffes of Bristowe to all manner of officers at Christmas as hereafter followeth}

INPRIMIS to the Towneclark for his gowne xs.
Fower brode yardest of cloth every yarde price xs.
Item to the Stewarde iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price xs.
Item to the common Attorney iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price xs.
Item to the Swerdberer iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price xs.
Item to the Chamberleyne iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price xs.
Item to the keper of Newgate iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price vijs. vjd.
Item to the towne clarkes clark iiiijor brode yardea
every yarde price vijs. vjd.
Item to the Stewards clark iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price vijs. vjd.
Item to the iiijor mayors seriantes every of them iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price vijs. vjd.
Item to the Shiriffes fower seriantes every of them iiiij brode yardest every yarde price viijs. vjd.
Item to the water baylie iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price vijs. vjd.
Item to the clarke of the markett iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price vijs. vjd.
Item to the keper of the key iiiijor brode yardest every yarde price vijs. vjd.

\textsuperscript{26} Raker = scavenger.
Item to fower waytes every of them iiiijor brode yarde every yarde price vjs.
Item to the fyve porters every of them iiiijor brode yarde every yarde price vjs.
Item to the iiijor yomen every of them iiiijor brode yarde every yarde price vjs.
Item to the Raker iiijor brode yarde every yarde price vjs.

[Folio 59 blank]


THE MAYOR Aldremen Shiriffes and common Counsaill of this the Kings Maisties Citie of Bristowe, and the discrete and lovinge Burgeises and Commons of the same apperceaving pondring and considering with good advisement and Deliberacion the great unquietnes that dothe dayly happen and growe aswell to the said Citie and thinhabitantes of the same as also to all those that doe repaire thither by reason of payinge of Tolles at the gates and other places within the said citie where sundry periuries and great blasphemous othes have been commytted, not onely to the highe displeasure of almightie god but also to the great sklaunder and ill reporte of the said Citie and Commons and specially to the shiriffes and other officers of the same for the tyme beinge. In consideration whereof and for the better increase of the common welthe as well of thinhabitautes of the said citie as also of the corners and goers thereunto to thentent to buy and sell there. And also for avoydinge of all the saide manyfolde periuryes and blasphemous othes that hereafter maye ensue by reason of the same. It is fully condescended determyned and agreed by the said Maior Aldremens Shiriffes Councell and loving Commons of the said Citie of Bristowe that all the yates of the same Citie shall fromhensforthe be free of all maner of Tolles there to be demaunded or taken by the said Shiriffes or their officers for the tyme being of any person or persons for any kynde of merchaundises wares or victailles whatsoever it be that shall passe or repasse in or owte at any of the same yates, whelage of wayres alwaies excepted. AND ALSO that all

27 1545.
28 1546.
29 For an account of the freeing of the gates and its bearing on the financial economy of the town see Henry Bush, Bristol Town Duties, 1828, p. 57.
person and persons that hereafter will bringe any kynde of vittelles to
the backe or kaye or to the markett, as calves shepe kyddes pigges
capons egges butter chese chykyns otmeal oynons garleck Fresshe Salmon and white small salte and all other freshe fyshe that shall
comme by water or londe. And all kynde of corne and grayne as
wheate rye barley otes beans peases pulse mesklyn\textsuperscript{30} malt and all
suche other kynde of vittelles or grayne that shalbe brought to this
Citie to thentent to be solde to the Comons of the same, and all kynde
of flannyng wedmole\textsuperscript{31} wull and yarne shalbe from hensforth free and
quite of all maner of Toll and custome that was wonte to be paid to the
said shiriffes for the tyme being any use to the contrary before this
tyme hadd in any thynge notwithstandinge, alwaies excepted and
reserved owt of this present proclamacion all kynde of salte fisshe
eherringe prisage of fishe and all other customes and royalties.

\textit{Folio 60v AND FORASMOCHE} as at the tyme of making of the
saide proclamacion the decaie that the Shiriffes of the saide Citie of
Bristowe hadd and did susteigne and take and were likely so to
contynue was right well apperceaved and knownen. IT WAS therefore
condescended and determyned by the saide Maior Aldremen shiriffes
and whole Counceill in the counsaill howse the xiiijth daie of June in
the xxxvijth yere of the raigne of the moste famous Kinge Henry the
vijth that certen discrete men of the same Counsaill, that is to saie,
William Chester Nicholas Thorne late Maior of the saide Citie and
John Smythe David Harrys Frauncys Codryngton and William Carr
late shiriffes of the same shulde see and diligently peruse all the shiriffes
bokes of the receiptes of the said Tolles and customes that hath been
taken by the space of x yeres last paste before the date hereof. And
thereupon to make a true certificate thereof to the said Maior
Aldremen shiriffes and whole Counsaill to what some of money every
of the same yeres oon with an other have amounted unto for the entent
and purpose that such a somme of money might be appointed to be
paid to the shiriffes of the said Citie for the tyme being in recompense of
the said Tolles and customes that the same shiriffes shulde be rather
gayners then losers whiche certificate hereafter followeth etc.

William Appowell, Anthony Payne, Shrifffes
The totall somm of this yere xlvijli. xvijs.

John Brampton, Nicholas Wodhowse, Shrifffes
The totall somm of this yere xliijli. vjs. iijd.

Richard Prynne, Thomas More, Shrifffes
The totall somm of this yere amt xlviijli. iiijs. viijd.

Thomas Wynsmore, Rowland Cowper, Shrifffes
The total somm of this yere amount xlviijli. viijs. xd.

\textsuperscript{30} Mesklyn = maslin, a mixed corn generally of wheat and rye.

\textsuperscript{31} Wadmal = a very thick and coarse kind of woollen cloth.
Book of Bristol

William Rowley, William Younge, Shiffes
The total somm of this yere xlvjli. xviij. xjd.

Richard Watley, Robert Saxcy, Shiffes
The total somm of this yere amount xxxvli. xs. xd. ob

Folio 61

Fraunceis Codryngton, Thomas Lawnsdon, Shiffes
The total somm of this yere amount xxxvijli. xvijs. iiijd. ob

William Ballarde, William Pepwall, Shiffes
The total summ of this yere amount xxxijli. xvijs. xd.

John Gurney, Roger Jones, Shiffes
The total somm of this yere amount xxxijli. xvijs. viijd.

William Carr, Richard Davis, Shiffes
The total somm of this yere amount xjljli. ijs. vijd. ob

Summa totalis of the said Tenne yeres amount to iiijCxijli. iijs. xjd.

WHICHE SOMME devided into xne partes amountithe oon yere with another to xljli. iijs. iiijd. ob and iiijd. over in the whole somme. Also there is allowed for the custome that the Shiffes were wonte to take of the Northern men — ijli. xiijs. iiijd. And for the custome of calves, pigges, wull, freshe salmon and suche other like thinges whiche now are free and at libertie according to the proclamacion — jli. vjs. viijd. So the same yerely receiptes amt to xlvli. iijs. iiijd. ob

AND forasmoche as it is fownde and perceaved by the bookes of Records of x yeres laste paste before the date hereof exactly and deliberatly examyned serched and perused that the Shiffes of the said Citie of Bristowe have hadd and receved for the said gates, Tolles customs and other profittes growing of the premisses (nowe made free and sett at libertie) the yerely value and somme one yere with a nother of xlvli. iijs. iiijd. ob. towarde the payment of the Fee Farme of the said of Bristowe. The said Maior Aldremen Shiffes common Councell and Commons of the same considering that the taking and receving of the said yerely profittes by the said Shiffes and their officers and Successors doe and muste cease dyscontynue and be extyncte forever have with one assent and consente fully determyned and agreed that in full satisfaction and for a better recompence of the said yerely value or profitte the Chambrelayne of the said citie of Bristowe and his Successors for the tyme shall paie unto the Shiriffes of the same and to their Successors for the tyme being a yerely rent or annuytie in ready money of xliijli. vs. xjli. every quarter to be paid at the iiijor principal feastes in the yere within one moneth nexte, Folio 61v ensuinge every of the same feastes besides the whelage which the said Maior Aldremen Shiffes common Counsaill and commons are contented and pleased that the said Shiffes and their Successors shall
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take and enioye forever over and besides the said Annuytie which may be by estymacion iijli. xijjs. iiijd. by the yere. FURTHER MORE the said Mayor Aldremen Sheriffes, Common Council and Commons have condescended determyned and agreed that where the said shriffes have allwaies before this tyme paiéd to the porters or kepers of the iij gates in ready money for their wages iijli. xijjs. iiijd. that from hensforth the same Shirffes and their Successors shall pay unto the said porters for their wages yerely but iijli. vijsd. that is to saie to the porter of Temple gate xijjs. iijjd. to the porter of Redclyf gate xijjs. iijjd. and to the porter of Newgate xxs. and to every of them their lyverey gowne at Cristmas according to the olde custome and maner and to other iij porters of Frome gate and pitty gate to every of them a gowne at Crisemas as it hath been also accustomed before this tyme, so that the Shirffes and thyre Successors from hensforth shall receave yerely more then any of thysse x yeres have amounted unto one with an other iijli. xvs. vijd. ob. for that the Chambre dothe pay them xlijli. and the profittes of the whelage whiche may be iijli. xijjs. iiijd. And doe pay less money to the said porters then they have used to doe by iijli. vijsd.

MEMORANDUM that the ixth daie of Marche in the fiveth yere of the raigne of our soueraigne ladie Quene Elizabeth it was fully accorded and agreed by Mr. John Stones Maior of the citie of Bristowe and the more parte of the Aldremen and others their brethrene of the Common Counsail of the said citie that the sheriffes of the same that nowe be and their Successors for the tyme being shall paie yerely from hensforth to the porter of Fromegate which for the tyme shalbe xxs. in money and clothe for a liverye gowne. [In the margin in another hand. The porter of Fromegate.]

[Folios 62-71 blank but folio 67 cut out]

Folio 72 [In margin for Robert Christmas] [and below in another hand for the stay of portugalles goodes for english mens goodes ther staied.]

Wheare complaynte hath byn made by Robert Christmas gentleman that divers wares, goodes and marchandizes belonginge unto him and sent by his order into the realme of Portingale have byn and still are arrested and stayed there withowte any iust ground or occasion by the commaundement of the Kinge of the said Realme for redress whereof and restitution of the greate losses and damages which he hath thereby susteyned he hath made humble sute unto vs that some suche convenient and reasonable meanes may be used, as heinge agreeable to justice and the ordinarie course of the Lawes, he may hereby be relived accordinke to equitie and conscience. We findinge his request not unresonable have referred the consideracion and orderinge thereof
unto the Judge of thadmiraltie as a matier properly belongeinge to his office with direction that observinge therein the due and ordinarie course and circumstance of the lawes he shall by processe to be awarded owt of that cowrte cause the said Robert Cristmas to be possessed of so much money, goodes, wares and marchandizes belonginge unto the said Kinge of Portingale or any of his subiectes nowe beinge or that hereafter shall comme or be within this Realme in whose handes so ever the same dothe or shall remayne as beinge truly and indifferently praysed. Shall by the said Judge be found sufficient to satisfy the said Robert Christmas of his losses and damages susteyned by the foresaid arrest. These therefore be in the queenes maiesties name to require and charge youe and every of you to whome in this case it shall apperteine that accordinge to such process as is or shall be awarded owte of the cowrte of the Admiraltie for that purpose You delvery or cause to be delveryed unto the said Robert Christmas all suche money dettes, goodes wares or marchandizes as doth by way of arrest or otherwise remayne in your handes belonginge unto the Kinge of Portingall or any his subiectes. Or that hath byn cleymed and may be proved to appertyne to the said Kinge or his subiectes following therein such order and direction as shall be prescribed unto youe by the said processe any former commaundment heretofore given unto your from us, or in our name to the contrary hereof in any wise not withstandinge. Whereof faile you not as ye tender her maiesties pleasure, and will aunswere for the contrary at your perills From Westminster the xviijth of April 1571.

To our lovininge frinedes Thomas Carewe Esquier Captaine of Hurst Castle, William Tucker maior of Bristowe, William Wynter the elder, George Wynter, Hector Nunez doctor of Physick of London, John and Peter Kyllegrewe of Cornewall gentlemen, And to all other persons, strangers or subjects unto the queenes Maiestie within her realm or dominions and all other her Maiesties officers or Ministers to whom yt shall apperteine and to every of them

Folio 74 Letter from the Privy Council addressed to Thomas Carewe, Captain of Hurst Castle, William Tucker, Mayor of Bristol, William Wynter the elder, George Winter, Hector Nunez, doctor of physic of London, John and Peter Killigrew of Cornwall, gentlemen, saying that a complaint had been received from John Barnes of London, merchant that his goods and merchandizes sent by him from England had been arrested and stayed there without any just cause by order of the King of Portugal. He asked for redress and compensation. Finding his case reasonable, the Privy Council refer it to the court of Admiralty who are by order of process to award him compensation, by allowing him to seize goods belonging to the King of Portugal.

Folios 74v-75 Mandate from the Court of Admiralty to John Barnes for the arrest of goods from Portugal. His goods which were seized by the Portuguese are valued at £1,303. Dated 18 April 1571.

[Folio 75v blank]

Folio 76 Letter from the Privy Council addressed to Thomas Carewe, Captain of Hurst Castle, William Tucker, mayor of Bristol, William Wynter the elder, Hector Nonnez [Nunez], doctor of physic of London, John and Peter Killigrew of Cornwall, gentlemen, and to all others, persons, strangers or subjects of the Queen and all other her Majesty's officers or ministers to whom it shall appertain, saying that a complaint had been received from Richard Holland, David ap harry, Richard Nayshe and David ap Jenn' [John], merchants of Carmarthen, that their goods and merchandizes sent by them from England had been arrested and stayed in Portugal without just cause by order of the King of Portugal. They ask for redress and compensation. Finding their case reasonable the Privy Council refer it to the Court of Admiralty. Signed by N. Bacon, T. Sussex, F. Bedford, R. Leicester, E. Clynton, W. Burghley, Francis Knowles and James Croft.
Dated at Westminster 20 April 1571.

Folios 76v-77v Mandate from the Court of Admiralty concerning the arrest of goods belonging to Richard Holland, David ap harry, Richard Nayshe and David ap Jenn', merchants of Carmarthen, which have been valued at £1,185 and were seized by the Portuguese. They are to be recompensed. Dated 18 April 1571.
After our harty commendacions where Domynick Chester and his companye marchauntes of the cytie of Bristowe doe enforme us and so appereth it also by lettres wrytten unto us from you for that purpose that they have made due prooffe in that court of thadmiraltye that divers wares merchaundizes and debtes belonging unto the said Domynick and his companey have been stayed, arrested, inventaried, praised and solde in Portyngall by the commandement of the Kynge there, wherein they desire that they maye receyve some redress and satisfaction of the Portyngalles goodes arryving here according to justice and the order of the lawes. Wee have thought meet to signifye unto you that wee think it very reasonable in case the said Domynick Chester and his companey shall by due and sufficient proffe agreeable to the ordre of the lawes make it appere in that court that they have without iuste cause susteyned the losses by them alleaged by the said King of Portyngalles comandement that you doe cause them by ordnary processe owte of the said court to be possessed of so muche of the goodes, wares and merchaundyzes belonging unto the King of Portingalles subiectes which bee alredy or shalbe hereafter founde within this Realme as maye be sufficient to answere the losses, damages and interestes that the said Domynick and his companey shalby due and sufficient testymoney prove by ordre of iustice to have susteyned by this occasion wherein wee require you to observe such ordre and direcion as hath ben heretofore prescrived unto you in Robert Christmas and John Barns cases having also specyall regarde that such caution and bandes of the parties to whom the goodes shalbe delveryed as the Quenes Maistie be in no waies burdened hereafter with the same but that the merchauntes maye be at all tymes answerable to iustice as reason is, And so fare you well From Westminster the thirde of Maye 1571

Your lovyng Frindes
N. Bacon, W. Northt [Northampton], W. Burghley, W. Haward, R. Sadler, Wa Mildmaye

Concordat cum originalibus et registro curie R. Parker, David Lewes.

Folios 78v-79 Mandate from the Court of Admiralty concerning the arrest of Portuguese goods to recompense Dominick Chester and William Gittens whose goods to the value of £1700 were seized by the Portuguese. Dated 9 May 1571.

Folio 79v blank

Folio 80 Grant of St. Thomas Street Market 11 December 1570
The Queen grants to the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol a market to be held in St Thomas Street on every Thursday of the year for the sale of yarn, cloth, cattle and all other things. The Mayor and
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Commonalty to receive the proceeds arising from the market. Original Letters Patent in BRO P/St. T/Ch/50 Transcribed in Bristol charters, 1509-1899, ed. R. C. Latham (Bristol Record Society, vol. XII, pp. 121-4)

Folio 81 a copie of

After our harte commendacions unto you. Whereas there is remayning under the arreste at Ilfordcombe, a shippe called the George of Flusshyng laden with wynes and oyles and other merchaundize the most parte thereof belonging unto the subiectes of the King of Spayne. And for that wee ar informed that the saide goodes considering the tyme of the yere is like to take greate hurte by leaking if the same shoulde remayne longer aboarde. We are earnestlie requested by the marchaunte and masters as well of the said shippe and goodes as also of others, who hath some propertie and intereste in the wynes and oyles which were landed a Bristoll owte of the Black Ravon that the same maye be solde with the contentes of Peter Vanderback straunger to the uttermoste peny they ar worth. The which their requeste being vere reasonable we have thoughte good to gve our consente there unto, and to make thoyse of you for the execution of the premisses willing and requiring you and in the name and behalf of the Queen Maiestie, wee straightlie charge you to assemble yourselves together with the said Peter Vanderbeck for the sale of such thynges as he shall think moste meteste to be solde in forme aforesaid and for the reste of the goodes which shall remayne unsolde wee lykewise Authorice you to cause the same to be well howsed and layed upp in saffe custodye by Inwentorye subscribed under your three handes, you allowing him such charges as he hath benne att sythens there arryval. Also you shall make dilligent sarche and enquirye whether any goodes or other thinges hath ben either conveyed or solde owte of the said shippe called the George since her aryvall at Ilfordcombe and if there hath benne anything so conveyed awaie or solde you shall certifye us thereof in wryting by whom the same was donne to whom the same was solde for what price and by what authortytie. And as for the money that shall rise and growe of such goodes as you shall sell in forme aforesaid with the consent of Peter Vanderbeck you shall kepe the same in your custodye untill such tyme as we shall geve you contrary order for the delyvery thereof and to certifie us the certentie thereof according to this our truste preposed in you so fare ye well from the court the xvijth of July 1571

Yours loving frindes

E. Clinton, W. Hawarde, F. Knowllys, Wa. Mildmaye
Dominick Chester of Bristowe marchaunt and John Dart of Barnestable marchaunt To our loving frindes Dominick Chester marchaunt of Bristowe and John Darte of Barnestable marchaunt and to either of them.
Folio 81v [In the margin 1573 John Browne Maior]

After our hartie commendacions where heretofore wee have diverse tymes written unto you towching order to be taken for those spices and other merchandizes browght to that porte by a servaunt of Sir John Perrotte named Willyam Gwyne, understanding nowe that Sir John Perrottes dealing therein hath ben more orderlie then at the first wee toke yt to bee wee think yt convenient and so we require you that in all your doinges abowte the order of the said wares his said servaunt Gwyne maie be made privie with you the Maior and Mr. Willyam Wynter, to which three the Principall charge of this matter is commytted. And so you shall take Auctoritie by theis our lettres. And where Sir John Perrott hath disbursed divers sommes of money for freight and otherwise, you the Maior and the said Mr. Wynter shall uppon the sight of Sir John Perrottes commission for that purpose cause to be delivered unto the said Willyam Gwyne to his Master's use the somme of five hundred powndes by bill Indented betwene you and him. The rest of the money groing of the said wares to be solde, you shall with the consent aforesaid putt in safe keping. And likewise the goodes that maie tarry unsolde without perishing so as the same and every parte thereof maie be fourth commytted to be answered as in right yt owght to be. And yt you shall knowe or in anywise understande of any Portingall or other that pretendeth title to any of the said goodes you shall geve them warning to be present at the praising of yt and so admytt them accordingle. And of the particulers of your doinges herein wee requier you to advertice us perfectlie under your handes with as good expedicion as you maie. And wee bid you hartelie fare well from Grenewich the ixth of June Anno 1573

Your loving Frendes
W. Burghley, T. Sussex, R. Lylycestre, Arundell, F. Knowles, James Croft, Thomas Smyth

To our loving Frinde the Maior of the cytie of Bristowe

Folio 82 [In the margin 1573 John Browne Maior]

After our hartie commendacions Whereas John Carr of Bristowe hath made humble supplicacion to us to have consideracion of the great losses which he hath susteyned by the arreste of his goodes made in Portingall in the yere 1569 to his greate losse whereby (as he saieth) he is in manner undonne and his creditt likewise to be lost. We having compassion of his petifull case and unending without preuidice or damage to eny man some what to relive him, have thought goodd this to signify unto you that uppon such Portingalles goodes as being sent owt of Ireland by order of our lettres were commytted to your custody whereof ye were appoynted to deliver to Sir John Perrottes servaunt to the value of vCl. yow shoulde cause the reste to be solde to the lest valor that any man will after and geve. And one thousand markes of
the said money or the said goodes to that value, if the said John Carr
doe offer for them more or as much as any man, you shall cause to be
delivered to the said John Carr taking of him sufficient bondes with
good suerties to the Queens Maiesties use; that the said John Carr
shall save the Queens Maiestie harmeles and shall repaire againe att all
tymes so much as shalbe proved that he hath not ben damnified. And
that he shall stand to such order of defalcacion as shalbe apoynted by
the commissioners for the rate yf yt shall appere that the Portingall
goodes stand within the Queens Maiesties domynions be not sufficient
to recompense the Queens Maiesties subiectes damnified by the
arrestes made in Portingall, which bondes you shall retorne to Sir
Rowland Hayward, Knight, one of the commissioners for the
Portingall causes to be safelie kepte to the Maiesties use with a note
indentd what goodes be solde. What is delivered to the said Carr, and
Sir John Perrottes man, and what remaynes Farr ye most hartelie well
From Erich the fourth of August 1573
Your loving Frindes
Willyam Burghley, E. Lyncolne, R. Leycester, F. Knolles, T. Smyth

TO OUR LOVING FRINDE THE MAIOR OF THE CITIE
OF BRISTOWE

To all Christian people to whom this present wryting shall come, I Sir
John Perrott Knight Lord President of Monster send greting. Knowe
ye that I the said Sir John have and doe by theis presentes Aucthorice
my servaunt William Gwyne to aske receyve levie and take to my use
all the rentes and revenues of my landes in any wise accruing or groing
within Englund and Walles together with all such somes of money as
at this present is or at any tyme hereafter shalbe due to me by any
kinde of specialtie or otherwise maie descende or come to me the said
Sir John Perrott during the tyme of my being in her Maiesties service
within this realme of Ireland. And further I doe authorice my said
servaunt to make any acquitance for any parte or parcell of my rentes
due to me from tyme to tyme and for all such somes of money as is due
to me by booke or otherwise. In witnesse whereof I have putt my seale
of Armes and hand writing the vjth daie of February in the yere of the
raigne of our soveraign Ladie Queene Elizabeth the xvth.

J. Perrott

Folio 82v Noverint universi per presentes nos Johannis Carr de
civitate Bristoll' mercatorem Willelum Carr unum Aldermannorum
civitatis predicte ac Thomam Aldeworth de eadem Civitate
mercatorem teneri et firmiter obligari excellentissime principi Ac
Domine nostre Elizabeth dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Regine
fidei defensori etc. in Octingentis libris bone et legalis monete Anglie
Solvendis eidem domine Regine heredibus suis Successoribus suis. Ad
quam quidem solucionem bene et fideliter faciendum obligamus nos et
quemlibet nostrum per se pro toto et in solidum heredes executores in administratores nostros firmiter per presentes Sigillis nostris Sigillationem Datum vicesimo die Augusti Anno Regni predicte domine nostre Elizabeth Regine nostre Quintodecimo.

The condicion of this obligacion is such that where John Browne Maior of the above said cytie of Bristowe by vertue of a lettre to him directed from the Queens highnes most honorable privie councell bering date at Erich the fourth daie of August 1573 hath delivered to the above bounden John Carr in wares and money to the value of one thousand markes of lawfull money of Englond owt of such Portingall goodes as were sent owte of Irelond to Bristowe and by order of the lettres of the said most honorable counsell commytted to the custodie of the said Mayor yf therefore the said John Carr his heires executores and administratores and every of them doe att all tymes hereafter and from tyme tyme discharge or same harmlesse the Queens Maiestie her heires and successors and every of them against all and every person and persons of and for the said Thowsand markes and of and for every parte and parcell thereof. And also yf the said John Carr his heires executors and administrators or assignes shall well and trulie receive and Answere against so muche of the said Thowsand markes as shalbe proved, that he the said John Carr hath not been dampnified by the arrestes of the goodes of the said John Carr in Portingall in the yere 1569. And do stand to such order and defalcacion as shalbe appoynted for the rate by the commyssioners of the Portingall causes here in Englond, yf yt shall appere that the Portingall goodes stande within the queens highnes Domynions be not sufficient to recompence her Maiesties subiectes dampnified by the arrestes in Portingall. Then this obligacion to be voide and of none effecte orellse to stand and be in force and vertue

By me John Carr
By me Wm Carr
By me Thomas Aldworth

Sealed and delivered in the presence of the witnesses underwritten John Browne Maior, John Dye, Tymothy Farrar

Folio 83 This Byll indented made the vth daie of August in the fiftenth yere of the raing of our soveraigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god of Englond Fraunce and Irelond Quene defendor of the faith etc. Witnesseth that I Willyam Gwynne servaunt to Sir John Perrott have as well by force of a lettre from the queens highnes most honorable counsell dated at Greenwich the ixth daie of June 1573 directed to John Browne Maior of the citie of Bristowe, as also by vertue of a warrant in writing signed and sealed with the hand and seale of the said Sir John Perrott receyved the daie of the date hereof to the use of the said Sir John the somme of f zwy hundred poundes of lawfull money of Englond of the said John Browne and of Willyam Wynter Esquier named in the said lettre which somme of vCli. was made of the sale of a
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parcell of such spices and other merchaundizes as were of late brougth
to the Porte of Bristowe by the order of the said Sir John Perrott owt of
Ireland and commytted to the order and custody of the said John
Browne and William Wynter by the said most honorable counsell of
the which somme of fyve hundred powndes and of every parte thereof
I do acknowledge my self to be well and trulie satisfied and paide and
thereof and of every parte thereof do clerelie acquite discharge and
exonerat the said John Browne and Willyam Wynter and either of
them his heires executors and administrators by theis presentes. In
witness whereof I have to either parte of this bill indented putt my hand
and seale the daie and yere first above written.

By me Willyam Gwynne
Sealed and delivered in the presence of theis witnesses John Dye, John
Owghton

[Folios 83v to 84 blank]

Folio 84v Charles Lord Howard Barron of Effingham knight of the
noble order of the garter Lord highe Admyrall of Englond and Irelond
and Wales and the Dominions & Isles of the same of the towne of
Callis and marches thereof, of Normandie Gascoyne and guyes and
Captayne generall of her maiesties seas and Navie Royal To all
Christian people to whome theis presentes shall come or otherwise
apperteyne gretinge in owr lorde god Everlastinge. Wheras our
soveraigne lady Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of England
Fraunce & Irelond defender of the fayth etc. Beinge credybly informed
that the Kinge of Spayne hath of late made stayd of the Shippes
goodes and debtes of her lovinge subiectes within the Realmes of
Spayne and Portingall and other places of his domynions. And hath
causd them there beinge for trade of merchaundyzes to bee Reteyned
in pryson contrary to order of lawe and justyce, upon the humble and
pytiful full suyte of her said Subiectes, merchantes, and others interested
in the goodes and persons so stayed & made to her maiestie for lettres
of Reprysall to bee granted to them and that they not havinge any
other meanes by order of Justyce to be yelded to them might be
Lycensed to stay, apprehend and take the gooddes of the Subiectes of
the Kinge of Spayne wheresoever upon the Seas to aunswere and
satysfie the losses and damages by them susteyned by reason of their
Shippes and goodes so taken hath by her lettres patentes bearinge date
the nynth of July 1585 last past under her maiesties great Seale willed
and aucthorysed and as her maiesties Admyrall to grant
Commyssions for thapprehendinge and takinge of the gooddes of the
subjectes of the Kinge of Spayne to such her maiesties loyvinge
subjectes so dammified and in such manner and forme and accordinge
to such artyclcs and orders as by the lordes and others of her maiesties
pryvie Counsell or by any Syx of them should be agreed uppon and
sett downe in wrytinge under their handes. And wherever tenne of the
lordes and other of her maiesties pryvy counsell have agreed upon
certeyne Artycles and orders on that behalf and have sett downe the
same in Wrytinge under their handes and have delivered the same to
me for my direccions herein which artycles and Folio 85 Orders be and
Remayne with me of Record. And whereas further Thomas Roche
gent and Thomas Taylor of Bristol merchaunt have made processe
before me that certeyne of their gooddes, monyes and merchaundizes
were of late stayed arrested and deteyned in the partes of Spayne by
the Kings order and Authorytie there and that the losse and
damages unto them by reason of the saide staie and seizure arrysinge
doth Amount to the somme iiiijCli. sterling. Whereupon the said
Thomas Roche and Thomas Taylor have ready equypped furnysshed
and victualed to the Seas one Barke or Pynace called the Advantage of
the burthen of [blank] Tonnes under the Conduct and guydinge
[blank] of the said Barke and [blank], marryners and men of warre
beinge victualled for eight monethes and furnysshed with [blank] cast
peces and have lykewyse entered into bond in the Cowrt of the
Admiraltie, that neither the said Shippe nor any the company therof
shall Attempt any thinge against any of her Maiesties lovinge subiectes
or the subiectes of any other prince or potentate beinge in good league
and amytie with her Maiestie but only agaynst the subiectes of the
Kinge of Spain. And also that they shall bringe such shippes and
gooddes as they shall so happen to take and apprehend of the
Subiectes of the Kinge of Spayne to some Porte of this her Maiesties
Realme of England. And not to breake bulcke before the vice admyrall
of the same porte and his deputie and other publique offycers of the
same porte be made acquaynted thereof and a true Inventory taken
thereof, and an apprisement made of the same gooddes by six honest
men Inhabyntants of the same porte. And that the same Inventory and
praysement shalbe retorned into her Maiesties high cowrte of
Thadmryalty aforsaid within six wekes next after ensuinge. Knowe ye
therefore that I the said Lord Charles Howard Lord Admyrall aforsaid
do lycence and aucthoryce the said Thomas Roche gent and Thomas Taylor to
send unto the Seas the Barke or Pynnyce called the Advantage so as is
abovesaid furnyshed manyted and therwith to sett upon by force and
Armes and to take and apprehend any of the shippes or gooddes of the
Subiectes of the Kinge of Spayne in as ample manner as yt yt were in
tyme of open warr betwene her maiestie and the Kinge of Spayne. And
the said Shippes and gooddes so taken and brought into some porte of
this Realme and an Inventory therof taken and praysement made in
manner and forme aforsaid then the said Shippes goodes and
merchantizes to Kepe and Retayne in his or theyr possession and to
make sell and dispose therof in open markett or howsoever els to their
best benyfytt in as ample manner as at any tyme heretofor hath byn
accustomed by way of deposall and to have and enjoy the same as
lawfull pryses and as there owne proper goodes so that neyther the
said Thomas Roche the Captayne Folio 85v theyr master nor any other that shall in his owne person serve the said Shippe afforsaid or otherwise be at charge in Thadventure or in any sorte further and sett forwarde the said enterprise in manner afforesaid shall not be Reputed or challenged for any offendour agaynst her maiesties lawes. And that also yt shalbe lawfull for any manner of persons to buy the said Shippes gooddes and merchandizes so as ys aforsaid taken praysed and Inventoried without any damages losse hinderaunce trouble molestacion or incombraunce whatsoever in as ample and benyfficiall manner as yt the said Shippes gooddes and merchaundizes had ben come by thorough the lawfull Traffycke of merchauntes or as iuste pryses in tyme of Warr provided allwayes That the said Shippes gooddes and merchandyzes so taken as aforsaid after an Inventory and praysement made of them in manner and forme above said shalbe equally devided into three partes wherof one parte to goe to the merchants and owners of the shipp afforsaid An other parte to the victualers and the Third parte to the master marryners and souldyers of the said Shippe Provident allso that this comyssion shall stand and bee in force for the space of x monethes from the day of the date hereof. In wytnes wherof I have hereunto caused the great Seale of myne offyce to be affyxed, yeven at London in the High Cowrt of Thadmyralty afforsaid the xvj day of Aprill 1587 and in the xxixth yere of the Raygne of our Soveraigne Lady Elyzabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland Quene defender of the faith etc.
The 2 August 1587

Folio 86 To all christian people to whome this presente wyrtinge wyrtinge shall come to be seene heard or Read, Richard Younge of London Esquier sendes gretinge in our lorde god everlastinge forasmuch as William Wood and Thomas Massett (in tymes past) hath bin ymployed in service touchinge that her Maiesties patente Concerninge stearche etc., to me the said Richard Younge geven and graunted hath sondry traders of stearch and others yt are become bounde unto the said William Wood and Thomas Moffett to this effect that they nor any of them shoulde utter and sell noe other stearche then such stearche as they should buy or Cawse to be bought of the said William Wood or of his lawfull Deputie or otherwise feche from the warehowse of Edward Bagshewe in St. Michells Lane London, Knowe ye that the said Bagshewes warehowse is nowe discontynued and dissolved. And that Edward Boston of Towxburye gent is lawfully by the said William Wood Aucthoryzed as his Depute to make of Stearche weekly one Thowsand weight for certeyne monethes to thene the Traders and others of that parte shoulde not be unfurneshed. In somuch as hensforth yt may and shalbe lawfull for you or any of yours to utter and sell all such stearche, as you or any of yours shall buy or cause to be bought of Thabove named Edward Boston or his
assignes without any preuidyce or hurte to you or any of you or any of
yours touchinge any Covenaunte or Clawse in any your severall
bondes whatsoever in that behalf encluded. In wytnes whereof the said
Richard Younge have hereunto sett my hand and Seale yeven this
xxjth of August 1593.

Rychard Younge

[Folio 86v-221 blank]

Folio 222 Letters Patent 24 April 21 Edward III (1347)
The King grants to the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol the right to
make a new cage to imprison evil doers and disturbers of the peace
wandering by night and also the right to punish bakers who break the
assize of bread.
Original Letters Patent in BRO 01250. Transcribed and translated in
Bristol Charters, 1155-1373, ed. by N. Dermott Harding (Bristol
Record Society vol. I, pp. 108-11)

Folios 222v-228v Letters Patent 8 August 47 Edward III (1373)
Grant by which the town of Bristol is made a county of itself. Note
added in another hand Cest chartre confirme per act de Parliament.
Further endorsement dated 20 December 47 Edward III stating that
the Charter has been confirmed by Parliament.
Original Letters Patent in BRO 01208. Transcribed and translated in
Bristol Charters, 1155-1373, ed. by N. Dermott Harding (Bristol
Record Society, vol. I, pp. 118-41)

Folios 229-230 Letters Patent 22 October 1 Edward IV (1461)
Grant of Admiralty jurisdiction
Original Letters Patent in BRO 01222. See Bristol Charters, 1378-
1499, ed. by H. A. Cronne (Bristol Record Society, vol. XI, pp. 136-42)

Folios 231-235 Letters Patent (Inspeximus) 5 February 3 Henry VII
(1488) reciting and confirming those of 14 December 1 Edward I
(1461), 22 October 1 Edward IV (1461) and 12 February 1 Edward
IV (1462).
Original Letters Patent in BRO 01229. See Bristol Charters, 1378-
1499, ed. by H. A. Cronne (Bristol Record Society, vol. XI, p. 163)

Folios 235v-236 blank

The King grants to the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol the right to
re-constitute the municipality by having six aldermen, of whom the
Recorder is to be one, no longer to be elected by the Commons but by the Mayor and Common Council; to elect a Chamberlain; the single Sheriff to be discontinued but the two bailiffs to become sheriffs as well as bailiffs; empowered to nominate a water bailiff which office had been nominated by the Crown.

Original Letters Patent in BRO 01230. See Bristol Charters, 1378-1499, ed. by H. A. Cronne (Bristol Record Society, vol. XI, pp. 163-191). The initial letter is in ink, uncoloured, with foliage decoration. The marginal notes which act as a guide to the text are ornamented with red and blue colours.

Folio 246 1562

THE SUPPLICACION exhibited to the Quenes Highnes by John Pykes Maior of the citie of Bristoll Thomas Chester merchaunt and John Willy vintener Citesins and burgesses of the saide citie, touching a speciall suyte to her highnes that the citie of Bristowe shulde not be within the iurisdiction of the Courte of the Marches of Wales as hereafter followeth

To the quene our most dread soueraigne ladie

In their most humble wise shewe unto your moste excellent highnes your humble subjectes John Pykes maior of your highnes citie of Bristowe and the Commons of the same. That where as your said citie of Bristowe Maior and Commons have bene time owt of mans memory clerely exempted owt of and from the Jurisdiction power and Auctoritie of the principalitie of Wales, and so of right ought to have and doe clayme and holde them selfes still to remayne and be. So it is moste gracious soveraign ladie, that the Lorde Presidente of Wales biforce of certeyne Articles of instruccions committed to him in a booke of instruccions touching howefarforthe his Auctoritie and iurisdiction shulde extende and what Counties Cities townes and places shulde be within his Comymission, cleymethe the Jurisdiction and auctoritie of the same Citie within which booke of Instruccions your said Citie of Bristowe is recited and named (amongst other townes) to be under his charge and gouernaunce and yet nothing charged to him in this Commission whiche was is and hath bene to the great of disquietnes losse hindraunce and endomage of your said citie as to your highnes moste honorable Councell is nowe duelie and right well knowne. In tender consideracion whereof maye it please your moste excellent highnes of your bowntifull goodnes, haboundante grace to be so good and gracious Ladie to your said Subjectes the Maior and Commons of your said citie as to directe your graces highnes lettres unto the Lorde President of Wales nowe beinge for the dysmyssynghe of his power and Auctoritie of and from your saide citie and to enioyne him quietely to suffer your Maior and Commons of Bristowe contynually from hensforth to have holde and enioye to
themselves in their owne rule and gouernaunce all their said citie and liberties with all Fraunceheses and privileges therof fully hoolye and frely, as they thertofore have had and enjoyed the same before that the saide Booke of instruccions *Folio 246v* thereof was committed to the Lorde President of Wales withowt any maner of lett trouble or contradiction of the said Lorde President of Wales his Successors officers deputyes or assignes or any of them in any wise and your said oratours and subiectes shall daylye praye etc.

At Westminster the viijth of June 1562

The Lorde Keper Maister Comptrowler
The Marques of Northet' [Northampton] Mr. Vice Chamberlaine
The Erle of Bedford Mr. Secretary
The Erle of Penbrok Mr. Cave
The Lorde Admirall Mr. Sackvile
The Lorde Chamberlayne Mr. Wotton

Whereas the Maior Aldreman and Commons of the Citie of Bristowe have exhibited a supplicacion to the Quenes Maiestie whereby they desire that they might be exempted from the rule and gouernaunce of the Lorde President and Counsaill in the Marches of Wales notwithstandinge any thinge written heretofore to the contrary. It is this daie by the Lordes agreed that the Quenes Maiestie shalbe moved herein to graunte her lettres to Sir Henry Sidney knight presently Lorde President of the said Counsaill in the Marches of Wales and the reste of the said Counsaill there, signifieng her highnes pleasure that she is for divers respectes contented to agree that the same citie shalbe from hencefurthe discharged from the Jurisdiction of the said Commission of Wales, and suffred the use the liberties of their Charter, so far as the same will beare them, without interruption or empeachment of any, and so to contynue as exempt, untill her highnes shulde have reasolved cause to the contrary, whiche their L. resolution was moved to her highnes, and lettres forthewith written to the saide Lorde President and Counsaill to the effecte aforesaid from her Maiestie.

*Folio 247*

BY THE QUENE

Trustie and right welbelouid we grete you well. We be enformed that our citie of Bristoll beinge a citie of it selfe and yet scituate within the counties of Somerset and Gloucester bathe bene of late yeres by instruccions assigned within the rule and governaunce of our counsaill within the Marches of Wales. Whereupon the Maior and Commons thereof have made ernest and humble sute unto us declaringe the same citie to be a countie of it selfe, and that by meanes of officers and mynisters in the same yerely chosen the people thereof have heretofore ben and hereafter maie [be] governed in peace and good order if it might so please us without assignation of the same citie to the
The Great White

governance of our said counsaill in the Marches. Wee meanyng to gratifie the citizens thereof in any reasonable suite are pleased in thies respectes to condiscend that the same citie shalbe from henceforthe discharged from the iurisdicion of that Commission and to use the libertie of their charter, so farre as the same maie bere withowte interuption and so to contynue as exempte untill we shall see any reasonable cause otherwise to ordayne. And theis our lettres shalbe your sufficient warrant and discharge. Yeven under our Signett at our palace of Westminster the firste daie of June the fourth yere of our raigne.

THE COPIE OF MY L. PRESIDENTES LETTRE

After my mooste hartie commendacions Bicause uppon humble sute made to the quenes Maiestie by the Maior and sundry the Aldermen of the citie of Bristowe, whereunto I was made privye, and uppon deliberate regarde to the Charter together with other depe persuasions movinge the same, they have obteynid from hensforth not to be awnswerable in that the courte of the Marches, but clerely to be exemptyd as if that poynt in the instruccions had not byn at all as by her Maiesstyes lettre to us directed the whiche I have seen more at large maie appeare In consideracion wherof I thought it goode to pray you that if at any tyme hereafter suche matters shall happen to be brought before you as ar by meane hereof triable with them that forthwith they maie be dismyssed that courte unto them. This I bidd you most hartely well to fare. From the courte the xijth daie of June 1562

Your assurid frind. H Sydney.

Folio 247v APUD LUDLOW, XXIX DIE JUNII ANNO REGNI ELIZABETH REGINE ETC. QUARTO

WHEREAS it apperith to the Quenes Maiesties Counsaill in the Marches of Wales by her highnes to them at this tyme sent, that her Maiaestie is pleased the Citie of Bristoll' hensforthe shalbe discharged owt of the Jurisdiction of the said Counsaill in the Marches, and so to contynewe exempte from that Commission till her highnes see reasonable cause to take other order upon sight of which Lettres, and also other Lettres sent from the Lorde President of this Counsaill, being both hereunto annexed. The said Counsaill at this tyme have resolved to followe and accomplissh the Quenes Maiesties pleasure in that behalf accordingly And from hensforthe the said Cyty and thenhabitauntes of the same (untill her Maiaestie shall otherwise determyne by her Maiesties pleasure) to rest and remayne fre as from the awnsweringe of the proces of this howse, as any other countie or Citie within this realme, which hath not byn nor is yet at this present within the precinct of this Commission any clause in the said Instruccions contayned to the contrary not withstanding.

Copy

per W. Poughnyll
A LETTRE SENT FROM THE PRIVIE COUNSELL TO WILLIAM PEPEWALL MAYOR OF THE CITIE OF BRISTOWE FOR THAT JOHN CUTT LATE MAYOR THERE, WOLD NOT PERMYTT THE PROCESSE FROM THE COURTE OF THE ADMYRALTIE TO BE SERVED UPON THE BURGESSES OF BRISTOWE

After our hartie commendacions where there hath ben a contraversie of longe tyme, betwene our loving frend Henry Sackeforde one of the Groomes of the Q maiesties privie chamber and certeine thinhabitauntes of that Citie touching the validitie of a prize for the better tryall whereof there was heretofore (as we are informed) processe addressed owt of the court of thadmyraltie unto the late mayor your predecessor to have ben served upon one William Pallmer and others, to make there repayre hither, whiche processe was withstode and refused to be served upon them, like as we cannot but fynde the same verie straunge to see her maiesties processe so contempned and think it was verie necessarie for orders sake in that matter that your said predecessor, or some other for hym sufficientlie instructed be forthwith sent upp unto the court of thadmyraltie taunswer that maie be obiected unto hym, touching the said contempt. So we have thought good further to signifie unto you, that for as moche as by order of Justice, all contraversies are to be determyned and must come to an ende, and that we understand the said Palmer (for that he went the viage hymself) is so necessarie a wytnes to be produced for the interest of the said Henry Sackford, as his deposicion and testymonye in the matter, maye in no wise be spared, we have thought mete also to require you to give order to the said Palmer, to make his indelaied repayre upp unto us to thende he maye riceve further order here to be dulie examined, and uppon his othe to depose his knowledge in the premisses. And hereof we require you not to faile and so bydd you well to fare From Hampton Courte the xxvjth of October 1567

Your loving frendes
Penbroke, R. Leycester, E. Clynton, W. Howard, Frauncis Knollys, W. Cecyll
To our loving frend the mayor of the Citie of Bristowe

Folio 250v [In the margin The mayors aunswer by lettre to the privie Counselle lettre] Right honorable my dutie humblie considered yt maye please your honors tunderstand that the first daie of this November, I received your honourable lettres dated at Hampton Court the xxvjth of October last past, purporting that where processe was directed from the Courte of thadmyraltie at the sute of Henry Sackford one of the Groomes of the quenes maiesties privie Chamber to have been served uppon one William Palmer and other
thinhabitantes of Bristowe, that the same proces was not served in the
tyme of my predecessor being mayor of Bristowe, whose name is John
Cutt giving me in comandment by your said lettres to cawse the said
John Cutt or some other sufficientlie instructed tappere forthwith in
the court of thadmyralte to aunswer to the said contemp, and also that
the said William Palmer shold make his undelaid apparaunce before
your honours to be examyned of his knowledge concerning the
validitie of a prise, that I according to my bounde dutie have given
knowledge of the premisses to the said John Cutt my predecessor who
desyreth that with your honors favor he maye appere by his attorne
John Dye this berer to aunswer in that courte for the cawse aforesaid,
and he the said John Cutt hath auctorised hym so to do, and do send
unto your honors the said William Palmer to be examined according to
your Lorde in that case, praigng your honors that forasmoche as this
Citie and the burgesses and thinhabitantes of the same be by the
speciall Charters of the quenes highnes noble progenitors exempted
from the iurisdiction of the court of thadmyraltie, as by the same
charters which we have sent unto your L. by this berer maye appere we
maye quietlie enioye and use the benefitt thereof, and that the same
maye be considered of by the quenes highnes lerned counsell in the
lawe, who maye make reporte of the effecte thereof to your honors.
And so comytt your L. to the tuycion of the almighty. From Bristowe
the viijth of November 1567

Your honorable lordshippes to comaund
William Pepwall maior

To the right honorable lordes of the quenes highnes moost honorable
Counsell

Folio 251 THE COPIE OF THE COUNSELLES LETTRE TO
THE JUDGE OF THE ADMYRALTIE

After our hartie commendacions we send you here inclosed lettres
presentlie addressed unto us from the Maior of Bristoll wherebie shall
appere unto you that this berer hath brought up their lettres patentes
declaring (it is alledged) their exempcion immunitie and fredome from
the iurisdiction of Thadmiraltie Courte, wherein we praye you to
conferr with Mr. Attorney Generall, and having considered betwene
you what the lawe will in that poynt, not onlie to take suche order as
maye be agreeable to the lawe, but also to enrolle the same as matter of
word in that court, aswell for thadvoiding against furder contencion in
like cases hereafter, as also that we having knowledge herein from you,
maye have the copie thereof remayne here with us and thereupon
aunswer the mayor by our lettres what order hath ben taken in that
behalf. We send you also one William Palmer of the same Citie of
Bristol a witnes to be produced and examined in that court at the sute

33 Exemption from Admiralty Court jurisdiction was claimed under a grant by
Henry VI in 1446 and renewed by Edward IV in 1461.
of Henry Sackford of the Q maiesties privie Chamber whome we praye you therefore to cause dilligentlie to be examyned uppon suche matter as the said Henry Sackeford hath to informe you and having so doon to award hym his costes, being a pore man and to dimisse hym home again as sone as you convenientlie maye without hindrance of the cawse. And this Fare you hartilie well. From hampton Court the xijth of November 1567

Your loving frendes
W. North, Penbroke, E. Clynton, R. Leycester, W. Howard, W. Cecill

To our loving Frende Mr. Doctor Lewes Judge of the admyraltie courte

THE COPIE OF THE COUNSELLES LETTRE TO THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

After our hartie commendacions having deliberatlie considered the tenor and effecte of your charter graunted by King Edward the iiijth the exemplifycacion whereof hath ben exhibited unto [us] by this berer, we have thought good to let you understande, that albeit we cannot but allow well of it in la we and take you of Bristowe to be therebie in dede free and exempted to some respectes from the iurisdiction of thadmyraltie Court, yet we see not for all that how the same exemptith you from the ponishement of pyrates and rovers in the sea, or for their goodes to be determyned in the same Court where unto (we beleve) ye can by force of the said Charter make no iuste clayme or title. Nevertheless for a quietnes to be had and the better advoiding of like contencions hereafter, we have given order that the said charter is not onlie enrolled as matter of record in thadmyraltie court but also for contynnall memory thereof and that the same maie be at hand from tyme to tyme we do reteyne and kepe still with us the said exemplificacion of so exhibited unto us. Palmer also whome ye sent up to be disposed in Mr. Sackfordes cause; being by our order examined by the iudge of thadmyraltie, was with his costes dismissed and sent home the next daie. And as for the repayre hither of tholde mayor he shall not now nede to trouble hymselfe for that matter, whome we by thise our lettres (and so ye maie declare unto hym) have thought convenient not onlie to discharge therof but of the contempt of also wherewith be afore stode charged. And thus fare ye well From Hampton Court the vijth of December 1567

Your loving Frendes
W. North, Penbroke, R. Leycester, E. Clinton, W. Howard, Frauncis Knollys, W. Cecill

To our loving frendes the maior and aldermen of Bristowe
The counsellles said lettres being iij remayne in Mr. Chamberlaynes office.

[In another hand] All ye said letters remayne in ye Chamberleyns offyce.
Folio 252 Whereas upon Complaint and prooffes made in hir Maiesties courte of the Admiraltie by Thomas Dyconson Willyam Evans and other their partners of the Citye of Bristoll that they have bin spoyled of their Shippe called the Vallantine of Exwater, and the ladinge thereof beinge in Wynes Sugar pepper and other merchaundizes to the value of xijCii. and more by certeine shippes of St. Mallowes in Bryttayne sette to the Seas by the Common Consent of the Townesmen and the gooddes spoyled shared amongste them, whereby the whole Inhabitauntes have bin made partakers thereof. Process ys granted oute of the said Courte to staye the Shippes and goodes of the said Inhabitauntes arryvinge into any Porte, haven or harborowe of hir Maiesties Domynyons to the Intente the same may be Aunswereable to the partyes dampynfyed as to Justice shall appertayeny. These be to Requier you, and in hir Maiesties name streightely to chardge you to be aydinge and assistinge to the said Thomas Dyconson Willyam Evans or to suche other persons as they shall sende and to use all good meanes that you cann, for the servinge and due Execucion of the said processe So as thereby the partyes damnyfied may recover their losses, or be Recompensed according to Righte and the true Intente and meaninge of the same. And thereof not to fayle as you tender the furtheraunce of Iustice, and will aunswere the Contrary at your perill from Hampton Courte the seconde of Februarye 1575

Your loyinge Frinde
T. Sussex, A. Warwycke, F. Bedford, R. Leycester, F. Knowles, F. Walsingham

To all Viceadmiralls, Justyces of Peace, Mayors, Sherives, Bayliffes, Connstables and all other the Queenes Maiesties Offycers, and loynge Subiectes and to every of them to whome yt shall appertayne throughout all hir Maiesties Realme and Domynyions aswell within libertyes as withoute.

[Folio 252v blank]

Folios 253-255 Letters Patent, 6 May 33 Henry VIII (1541)
The King grants to the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol for £1000 the Gaunts Hospital, Grey Friars, White Friars, etc.
Original Letters Patent in BRO 01256(1). Transcribed in Bristol Charters 1509-1899, ed. by R. C. Latham (Bristol Record Society, XII, pp. 84-92)

[Folio 255v blank]

Folios 256-257 Letters Patent, 14 December 1 Edward IV (1461)
Grant to the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol of privileges concerning the hearing of personal pleas arising during the fairs, the levying of tolls on wool and woollen cloth and other weighable
merchandize brought to Bristol by non-burgesses and the supervision of the weighing; of an annual fair to be held on 20th June and nine days after; to levy customs on certain goods brought into Bristol to aid and repair the walls of the quays and other walls and the paving of the town.


[Folio 257v blank]

Folio 258 A LETTER FROM THE LORDES OF THE QUEENES MAESTIES MOSTE HONORABLE PRIVIE COUNSEL ON THE BEHALF OF WILLIAM HUNTER, GENT

After our hartie Commendacions. Forasmuch as it hath pleased her maiestie in regarde of some good service don by William Hunter gent of Scotlannde to graunte him and Agnes his wief their free liberties, and to enjoye the benefitte thereof as yf they were free borne Subiectes within her maesties realme, as also it is her maesties pleasure and Commandment that the said William and Agnes be made free of her highnes Cytye of Bristoll to Trade in lawfull merchandize and use the occupacion of dyeinge as she did in her late husbands tyme without any your lett or molestacion. Notwithstandinge whatsoever Statute or priviledge graunted heretofore as you will aunswere to the contrary. And in regarde of his good dessert her maiestie bathe willed us to notefye this her highnes Commandment unto you and everyone of you that hereafter you pretend noe Ignoraunce. Recommendinge him unto you as one whoe for his merrites her maestie especiallie favoureth to be used with all Curtise and respecte. As alsoe to be used favoureablie in all Subiectes and Taxacions. Not doubtinge your dutifull obedience herein. We commit you to God, From the Courte at Whitehall the xxth daie of November 1597

Your lovinge frendes
Nottingham, Essex, R. North, Ro. Cesylle
To all Maiors Sherifes Justices of peace Customers Controllers surveyvors Searchers and all other her maesties officiers and lovinge Subiectes to whome it maie apperteyne and by every of them these presentes to be rendered againe to this bearer.

[Folio 258v blank]

34 An account of losses sustained by William Hunter in Spain when employed in her Majesty's service and recommendation by the King of Scotland to Queen Elizabeth I. See Cal. S.P. Scotland, II, p. 751.
35 His name does not appear in the Burgess Books of Bristol.
Folios 259-260v Enrolment of grant of manors in Glamorgan dated 23 October 40 Elizabeth I (1598), reciting a grant of 16 June 39 Elizabeth I (1597) of which the following is a calendar.

Parties
1. William Mathew of Llandaff, Glamorgan, esq.
2. John Gwyne of Llansannor, Glamorgan, esq. and Morgan Merricke of Cotterell, Glamorgan

Premises
all those manors, lordships and seignories of Tyverton alias Glasspoole, Peterston, and Pendoylan with all messuages, lands, and tenements belonging in the parishes, hamlets and places of St. John’s, Cardiff, Peterston and Pendoylan: capital messuage, farm, etc. in parish of St. Andrew’s, known as Biglee Farm; also all other tenements in parishes of St. John’s, St. Mary’s, Peterston, St. George’s Pendoylan, St. Andrew’s Llandaff, Cogan and Penarth which his late wife, Margaret Mathew held for her life and which he now holds

Habendum
to hold unto John Gwyne and Morgan Merricke to the uses of William Mathew and the heirs male of his body, and in default to the use of Henry Mathew of Radyr, Glamorgan, and the heirs male of his body, and in default of such issue to the use of Edmond Mathew of Cardiff, esquire, and in default to William Mathew of St. Nill, Glamorgan, gent, and in default to Humphry Mathew of Castell Mynach, Glamorgan, gent. and in default to William Mathew and his heirs forever.

Proviso
that William Mathew delivers to the Mayor of Bristol in the Tolzey one ring of gold value of 10s. in the presence of two or three aldermen to revoke any of the above uses and shall at the same time signify by deed under his hand and seal and that then John Gwyne and Morgan Merricke shall be seised of all the premises or such whereof the uses shall be revoked to the use of William Mathew and his heirs.

Operative part
He now signifies by these presents to Wm Ellis, gent, now Mayor and to his brethren the aldermen and by the delivery to the Mayor of a gold ring of full value of 10s. in the presence of Francis Knight, William Paphre, William Yate, John Webbe and William Vawer, aldermen that he revokes all uses and entails mentioned and at the same time by words of mouth did publish the same. Further he appoints John Gwyn and Morgan Merricke to stand seised of the premises to the use of William Mathew and his heirs

Sealed and signed in the Tolzey in the presence of the Mayor and Aldermen afore mentioned.
Endorsed Folio 261 that this deed was published in the Tolzey house in Bristol on the date of the deed by William Mathew of Llandaff who caused the same to be openly read in the presence of the Mayor and Aldermen whose names are subscribed, and at the same time William Mathew gave to the Mayor a gold ring to the value of more than ten shillings and did declare his full intent which was by the making of this deed and the giving of the ring he did revoke all that was contained in the deed and he would stand seized of all the land which the following witnessed. William Ellis, mayor, Francis Knight, William Parphey, William Yate, John Webbe and William Vawer, aldermen. It is signed by Hierom Ham.

Folio 261v To all true Christian people to whom this presente writinge shall come. I Richard Cole one of the Alderman of the Cytie of Bristol doe sende Greetinge in our Lorde God Everlasting. Whereas John Boulton of the Cytie of Bristol Merchaunte hath and houldeth for terme of certayne yeeres one garden with thappurtenaunces scituate lyinge and beinge within the parish of St. Michael within the said Cytie of Bristol. Now know ye that I the said Richard Cole for and in consideracion of the Some of Twentie Shillinges of lawfull money of England unto me by the said John Boulton well and trewlie contented and payd have geven and graunted and confirmed and by these presentes doe geve graunte and confirme to the sayd John Boulton and Richard Boulton sonne of the said John Boulton and to the heires and assignes of the said Richard Boulton all the said garden with thappurtenaunces, to have to houlde the said garden with thappurtenaunces to thonly use and behoufe of me the said Richard Cole for and duringe the terme of my naturall lyeffe. And from and imedyatlie after the deceasse of me the said Richard Cole to the use and behouffe of the sayd John Boulton for and duringe the terme of his naturall lyeife. And from and imedyatlie after the deceasse of the said John Boulton then to the use and behouffe of the said Richard Boulton and of his heyres and assignes forever and to noo other use Intente limitacion or purpose whatsoever. In wytnes whereof I the sayd Richard Cole have hereunto sette my hande and Seale the firste daye of June in the one and fortieth yeere of the Raigne of our Soveraign Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland Queene Defender of the Faithe etc.

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Folio 262 Mandate from Queen Mary as to the right of freedom from tolls, etc. enjoyed by the tenants of the manor of Rugeley, alias Rowley, Stafford, the manor being of ancient demesne. Dated 6 June 1554. This mandate was registered at Bristol by John Russell and Richard Folly of Rowley, 19 March 1605-6.

[Folios 262v-266 blank]

Folio 26736 THE RATE OF THE CHARGES OF ALL MANNER OF MERCHAUNDIZES BROUGHT INTO THE BACK HALL OF THE CITIE OF BRISTOLL AS FOLLOWETH HERE UNDER WRITTEN, THAT IS TO SAYE

INPRIMIS for every whole woollen cloth
Item for every dozen of brod cloth
Item for every dozen of cloth strayt in culler
Item for every dozen of kersey
Item for every packe of kendall cottouns moltons37
   accomptinge xx peeces to the packe
Item of every hundreth of Rugge
Item of every C of yrrishe lynnen cloth
Item of every dozen of mantells
Item for every pecce of breaknock
Item for every pecce of Fryse
Item for every stone of Iririshe woll
Item for every sacke of wool being a horse load
Item for every wayne load of wool
Item for every block of tynne
Item for every tonn of lead
Item for every barrell of honney
Item for every barrell of hearringe
Item for every C of newland [Newfoundland] fyshe
Item for every pipe of Salmon
Item for every tonne of wyne
Item for every half bale of towles [illegible]
Item for every hundreth of lameskyne fell
Item for every dozen of goate skynes
Item for stowing every tonn caske with stilling
Item for stowing of every tonn of wod or fruit
Item for every Season of Civell sope
Item for every tonn of oyle
Item for every tonn of Iron
Item for every tonn of woode

36 Folios 267-268 bound in upside down.
37 Molton is a kind of coarse woollen cloth.
Book of Bristol

Item for every tonn of Reasons  iiiijd.
Item for every tonn of Figges  iiiijd.
Item for every chest of shuger  iiiijd.
Item for every tonn of allom  iiiijd.
Item for every dicker of hydes tanned or in [illegible]  ijd.
Item for every dozen of Calve skynes  ob.
Item for every C of whit leather  ijd.
Item for every horse pack of dowlas or [illegible]  iiiijd.
Item for every hoole fardell of Canvas  iiiijd.
Item for every three ballethes\(^{38}\) of the Sorte  viijd.

Folio 267v Item for every hundreth of normandy or britishe canvas  ijd.
Item for every powle davy\(^{39}\)  jd.
Item for every vittery\(^{40}\) or oldem  ob.
Item for stowing of every fardell of Canvas  ob.
Item for every barrell of pitche or tarr  jd.
Item for stowing of every pack or fardell of lyn cloth ob. which shall all waies be to the use of the Clarke  ob.
Item that all manner of merchandize that shal be wayed at the beame for every tonn thereof  iiiijd.
and for every draught under a toun  ijd.
Item for piling of a ton of Iron  ijd.

A RATE WHAT FEES THE BROKERS SHALL TAKE FOR EXECUTING OF THEIR OFFICE

IMPRIMIS of every bargaine that they or any of them shall make betweene a burgesse and a strainger or forryner the broker shall take of every such strainger or forryner ijd. ob. upon every li. of the same bargaine and of a burgesse of this Cittie – ob. upon every pound and not above.
ITEM yf a burgesse of this Cittie doe bargaine with a strainger or forryner without the broker for any kind of merchandize or wares that shalbe discharged at this port of Bristoll that cros the seas, the said burgesse shall first give knowledge therof to one of the brokers before he receyve the same merchandize or wares to thentent that the broker may register the same bargaine in his booke. And yf the said burgesse do not give any such knowledge to one of the brokers he shall forfeit and pay for every pound of that bargaine xijd. whereof half to be to the chamber and thother half to the brokers and for every suche bargaine that only burgesse shall make without the broker the burgesse shall paie not brokeradge but yet the strainger in that case shall pay jd. ob. upon every li.

\(^{38}\) Ballethes = a half bale.
\(^{39}\) Powle Davy = obsolete form of Poldavis, a coarse canvas of sacking, linen, named from Poldavide, Brittany.
\(^{40}\) Vitry = canvas cloth made at Vitré.
ITEM ye the broker doe make any bargaine betweene burgesse and burgesse then the broker to take of them for his labor ijd. upon every pound of the same bargaine, that is to wite jd. of the buyer, and jd. of the seller.
ITEM all such fees profittes and advantages as shall come or growe to the brokers by reason of their office shallbe equally and indifferently devided betweene them monethly as shall appeare by their books.
And ye one of the said brokers to thentent to deceave his fellowes doe omyte and leave out any bargaine and not well and truly wryte and register the same in his booke as is afore mencioned, and that being duely approved before Mr. Maior for the tyme beinge that then he soe offending shall be clearly dismissed and put out of his office of brokershipp and shall suffer imprisonment of his bodye at the discretion of Mr. Maior for the tyme beinge.

Folio 268 AN ORDINAUNCE MADE BY THE Worshipfull Mr John Cutt Maior of the Cittie of Bristol the Aldermen and Common Counsell of the same beinge assembled together in their Counsell house the xth daie of Marche in the yeare of our Lorde God One thousand five hundred Three score and sixe, And in the Nynth yeare of the Raigne of our Soueraigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland Queene Defender of the Faith. And of the Churche of England and alsoe of Ireland the Supreme governor etc.

1. IMPRIMIS it is ordayned by the Aucthoritie above saiede That the keeper of the Back Hau! shall not suffer any burgesse strainger or forryner to be in the saied Haull aboute any Kinde of merchaundize upon the saboth daie in the tyme of devyne service in the fore noone, neither in the afternoone upon paine lose unto the chamber of Bristoll for every default duely provide upon the Keeper of the hauil in that behalf xls. And ye any burgesse or forryner or strainger be within the said hauil before the tyme of service in the forenoone, as alsoe in the afternoone, and will not departe by the Comaundent of the said Keeper and in his absence by his Clarke, that then the said parties to paye the Fyne aforesaid to the said Chamber beinge duely provide etc Saint James Faire except

2. ITEM it is also ordayned by the saied Maior and Comon Counsell of the same Cittie that noe burgesse of the same shall receyve into his or their houses anye Kinde of ware or merchandizes that anie strainger or forryner doe bringe unto this Cittie to be sould, until the tyme that it bee first brought unto the saied backhaull, upon paine to forfiet at every tyme soe offendinge xxs. to be paiad unto the Chamberlen of Bristoll for the tyme beinge to the use of the same Chamber provided that ye the seller warehouses and other Roomes within the back haull be full soe as there maie not more be placed there. That then it shalbe lawfull unto the Keeper of the back haull to appoynt other Romes and sellers which shall alsoe be called the Back haull sellers, for all
strangers and forryners goodes dulye provide. And further the saied Keeper shall not graunt nor license any burgesses to have any strangers goodes into any sellers or warehouses upon promise that the haull shalbe aunswered of his due for every such graunt made by the keeper for the tyme beinge, and to be alsoe dulye provide he shall lose unto the said Chamber vii. Provided that this article nor anie other herein mentioned shall not be hurtfull neither prejudiciall to any merchant of Ireland for anie Kinde of wares that they shall bring unto this Porte but that they shall have their liberties as before tyme have byn vsd paieing the Backhaull duties etc.

Folio 269v 3. ITEM it is further enacted and granted by their saied Authorite that after anie burgesse of this Cittie hath Bought anie kind of wares or merchandizes within the Back haull or within anie warehouse or seller appoynted by the keeper of the back haull it shall not be lawfull unto or for anie burgesse of this Cittie after suche wares or merchandizes by them soe bought to bringe any strainger or forryner into anie the said sellers or warehouses, to buy anie of the same wares or merchandizes untill they shall remove the same wares or merchandizes from the said Backhaull seller or warehouse there or ells whare appoynted upon paine of xli for everye default dulye provided. To be paid unto the Chamberlen of Bristoll.

4. ITEM it is alsoe ordeyned that the Keeper of the back haull nor his Clarke shall not suffer or permitt any forrayner or strainger to see buy or to taste any manner of merchandize of any other forryner or strainger being in the back haull sellers storehouses warehouses or in anie other house or seller belonging unto the said haull, nor shall not suffer anie burgesse of this Cittie or anie other to buy or to remove anie kynd of wares or merchandizes from the said back haull or anie other place or places appoynted by the keeper of the said haull betweene the feasts of Easter and of St. Michaell tharchangell before v of the clock in the morning or after viij of the Clock in the night. And alsoe from the feast of St. Michaell untill Easter before vij of the clock in the morninge or after v of the Clock at after noone upon paine that the said Keeper shall forfeit for every suche default dulye proved to the use of the Chamber vii.

5. ITEM alsoe the Keeper of the back haull shall not suffer anie forryner or strainger to buy or to sell with any other anie manner of wares or merchandizes that is brought into the haull, Saving at St. James tyde for the faire daies [blank] appoynted for all manner of merchandizes for wollen Cloth, lynnens Cloth and leather and for any suche sort of merchandizes etc.

6. ITEM that all manner of Flaunders wares Roane wares and all other kynd of wares that commeth unto the saied hall that is not here Recited the Owner thereof shall agree with the keeper of the backhall therefore, and yf they cannot agree that then the chardges thereof to be adiudged by Mr. Maior of the said Cittie for the tyme beinge. etc.

Folio 268v 7. ITEM that all manner of merchandizes that commeth unto the saied haull to be sould and yf it tarry any longer then fortie
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daies that then the Owner to paiue for every moneth after the Rates here followinge, etc.
8. ITEM that at St. James tyde [blank] and at all other tymes the Keeper of the back haull shall provide porters to carry straingers goodes in and out to the hall dores. And the same straingers shall paiue for the Carrying of every burthen to the Carryer on peny and to the porters at the gates iiijd. for every whole fardell of lynnen cloth and ijd. every half fardell of lynnen cloth at the fayer afore said both of the buyer and of the seller straingers.
9. ITEM that the keeper of the back haull for the tyme beinge shall have and enjoye to his owne use all manner of yllage Castes that commeth within this port of Bristoll apperteyninge unto straingers, etc.

[Folio 269 blank]

Folios 269v-272 Bargain and Sale of which the following is a calendar, 20 September 6 James I (1608)

Parties 1. Hugh Ivie of Sodbury, Glos, gent
2. Robert Byrriatt of Marshfield, Glos, yeoman

Premises Two messuages made into one in Worshipfull Street in the occupation of William Watson between a messuage or stable of Thomas Lovell, gent, and a stable of Roger Williams, butcher, one messuage on the key in parish of St. Stephen in the occupation of Thomas Rockwell together with four chambers and two cellars
three messuages in Back Street between tenement of Thomas James and John Foxe called the Courte Place
five tenements in Back Street between tenement of St. Nicholas church and a lane and gate leading to Rackhay
two stables and pigsty now made into a house and two void grounds in the west corner of the Rackhay in the occupation of Anthony Wade, hallier
one messuage in Horstreet in the occupation of William Twymbloe between tenement of Richard Clarke and one of Raynolde Apparey and one garden ground
one other tenement with backside garden and a well in Horstreet with two gardens now in occupation of William Twymbloe
one garden ground belonging to the above named tenant between William Butler and Samuel Clovell
one other messuage with backside, garden and well in Horse Street in occupation of William Helmes, Mary Grives and John Batten, a carpenter
Warranty In usual form by Hugh Ivie
Consideration £100 to be paid before 1613
Followed by a note saying that the deed was enrolled by Hierom Ham, clerk of the peace, in the court of John Butcher, Mayor of Bristol, 30 January 1608.

[Folios 273-290 blank]

Folios 291-295 Register of various evidences concerning lands and tenements in Bristol belonging to Richard Croft and Nicholas Growmere of which the following is a calendar.

18 April 1501
Charter of Feoffment
Parties
1. Nicholas Growmere of Bristol, Knight
2. John Esterfeld and Henry Dale of Bristol, merchants

Premises
a messuage and fourteen cottages in St. Peter Street and in Defence Street in the parish of St. Peter and in the ward of St. Mary de Foro which are held by William Canynges, a merchant
a messuage on the corner of Broad Street in the ward of St. Ewen in which William Huffe, coroner, now dwells one tenement opposite the church of St. Lawrence the martyr in the same ward which Thomas Robyns, hooper, now holds but lately held by William Canynges
one tenement on the Bridge of the Avon in parish of St. Nicholas in the ward of All Saints in which Richard Griffith, wax chandler now dwells
two tenements in West Tucker Street in parish of St. Thomas between a tenement of the house and convent of Witheam and one which belonged to William Canynges

Habendum To the grantees in fee simple
Warranty In usual form
Sealed by the grantor
Witnesses Robert Straunge, John Hawkes, Philip Kyngston, and many others.

Folio 291v 19 April 1501
Release between the same parties of the same properties.

Folio 292 20 April 1501
Charter of Re-feoffment in fee tail between the same parties of the same properties.
20 April 1501
Appointment of John Walshe, Morgan Davy and Anthony Adams attorneys to deliver seisin

Folios 292v-293 23 September 1503
Bargain and Sale

Parties
1. Richard Crofte of Crofte, Hereford, knight, brother and heir of Thomas Crofte
2. Henry Kemys of Bristol, gent

Premises
a messuage with cellars and solars in the corner of Broad Street beside St. John’s Gate in which Richard Dyrrick sometime lived
a tenement next to it in St. Lawrence Lane against the church of St. Lawrence in which John Robyns, hooper, late dwelt
a tenement in Redcliffe Street in which William Weykeham, dyer, late dwelt
a close in the parish of St. Mary Redcliffe between a meadow called Redcliffe Mead, and a garden late of William Canynges lying against the churchyard
an orchard in Pile Street which John Tyler, weaver, now holds another little garden in Redelane which John Tyler holds two tenements together in West Tucker Street in parish of St. Thomas between the tenements of the Prior of the house of Charterhouse at Witham
two messuages upon the Bridge of Bristol between a messuage late of Isabell late wife of John Seymour, knight, and a lane leading to a house called Avon privey
another messuage on the Bridge of Avon in which Richard Gryffeth, waxmaker, now dwells between Isabel and Thomas Young and John Taverner.
one great tenement and fourteen shops with solars, vaults, and cellars in Defence Lane
two messuages together on the Weir between land of the convent and land sometime belonging to Hugh Mylle

Consideration
£60
All the charters, deeds, and evidences concerning the said property are to be locked in a coffer and placed in the Conners otherwise the Rolls in London.

Folios 293v-294 27 September 1503
Bond between Richard Croft of Crofte, Hereford, Knight, and brother of Thomas Croft, late of Bristol, esquire, and Henry Kemys, gentleman, in £100 for goods bought in the Staple of Bristol to be paid at the Feast of All Hallows, 27 September 1503.
The condition of the bond is that if Richard Croft and his heirs perform and fulfill the covenants contained in the indentures made between them, the bond becomes void.

Folio 294 26 September 1503
Release between Richard Croft and Henry Kemys of the same properties as given in the Bargain and Sale of 23 September 1503.

Folios 294v-295 26 September 1503
Release between Lionel Croft son of Richard Croft late of Chipping Norton, Oxford, esquire and brother of Richard Croft of Crofte, Hereford, of his right and claim in the premises mentioned in Bargain and Sale dated 23 September 1503.
Sealed by Lionel Croft and the mayor of Bristol

Folio 295 Grant of the office of Steward of Bristol, 1 December 1544
The mayor and commonalty of Bristol appoint Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, to the office of Steward of the city for life in succession to Sir Edward Baynton. He is to have £4 annually paid by the Chamberlain of the city. The terms of this appointment are similar to those of Sir Edward Baynton, vide p. 71.

Folio 296 CONCESSIO OFFICI GAOLE DE NEWGATE FACTA WILLELMO ADNET
Omnibus Christi Fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum indentatum pervenerit Nicholaus Thorne, Maior ville sive civitatis Bristoliae necnon burgenses et Communitas eiusdem ville sive civitatis salutem in Domino. Noveritis nos prefatos Maiorem et communitatem ex unanimi assensu et consensu nostris dedisse concessisse et hoc presenti scripto nostro indentato confirmasse Willemo Adnett de Bristol' predicta yoman comburgensi nostro ac Johanni Adnett filio ipsius Willelmi Adnett officium Gaolarii sive Custodis Gaole de Newgate ville sive Civitatis Bristoliae predicte. Habendum tenendum occupandum et exercendum officium illud prefatis Willemo Adnett et Johanni Adnett ad terminum vite eorum et alterius eorum diuicius viventis per se vel per sufficientem vel deputatos suos aut deputatum vel deputatos alterius eorum diuicius viventis. Reddendo inde annuatim vice-comitibus Bristoliae predicte qui pro tempore fuerint quinque libras sterlingorum ad quatuor anni terminos ibidem communes et usuales equis porcionibus soluendas. Capiendo pro eodem officio exercendo omnia et singula feoda vadia proficua et commoditates eidem officio modo de iure spectancia. Et predicti Willelmus Adnett et Johannis Adnett et eorum deputati salvo et secure custodient omnes et singulos prisiones qui imposterum dicto termino durante in predictam Gaolam venient vel producentur racione seu causa quibuscumque...
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quosque idem prises ab ipsa Goala secundum debitam forman Iuris deliberentur et eorum quilibet deliberetur. Et ulterius predicti Willelmus Adnett et Johannes Adnett et eorum alter diuci vivens per scriptum suum obligatorium sufficiens in lege cum sufficentibus manuactoribus obligentur annuatim dicto termino durante ad festum sancti Michaelis archangeli vicecomitibus Bristoliae predicte pro tempore existentibus in quadam pecunie summa per iposs vicecomites limitata ad exonerandum et indemnes custodiendum eosdem vicecomites erga dominum Regem et quascumque alias personas pro omnibus et singulis huiusmodi prisonibus illuc imposerum provenientibus et ad saluo et secure custodiendum omnia illa bona et utensilia ad usum Maioris et Communitatis Bristoliae predicte que ad Gaolam predictam modo pertinent. Et predicti Willelmus Adnett et Johannes Adnett aut eorum alter vel eorum sufficiens deputatus vel deputati erunt residentes et manentes in proprius personis suis in et super predictum officium dicto termino durante. In cuius rei Folio 296v testimonium uni parti huius scripti indentati penes predictos Willelum Adnett et Johannem Adnett remanenti nos predicti Maior et Communititas sigillum nostrum Commune apposuimus, altero vero parti eiusdem Scripti indentati penes nos eosdem Maiorem et Communitatem remanenti iidem Willelmus et Johannis sigilla sua apposuerunt. Datum quarto die Octobris anno Regni Henrici Octaui Dei gratia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Regis Fidei defensoris et in terra ecclesie Anglicane et Hibernie suprimei capitis tricesimo sexto.

Folio 296v-297 IN CAMERA STELLATA CORAM CONCILIO IBIDEM XXIII° DIE OCTOBRIS ANNO REGIS HENRICI OCTAVI XXXVJ°

[In the margin in another hand Dissolucion of Candlemas faire] WHERE in Ester terme last past an order and decre was hade and made in this honorable Court of Starr Chamber in the matter in variaunce for and concerning the Fayer in the Cyttye of Brystowe callid Candelmas Fayer and forsomuche as by the seyd order and decre the seyde Fayer was uppon greatt causes and considersyon dyssolvido and that the Lettres Patents of the graunt of the seyde Fayer should be brought into the Kings maiesties Courte off Chaunsery to be cancellyd there whiche is this day all redy don. And forasmoche also as it was decreed and orded by the seyde decre that upon the Surrender of the seyde lettres patents some resonable recompens shoulde be made and awardyd to the parishioners of the parisshe of Redcliff for the costes and charges susteynid and leyde owt abowt and for the obteyning of the seyde Fayer and for so muche also as petycion and request was this day made unto the Kinge his counsell this day present that it wolde plese the seyde counsell now at this present wythout any furder Suyte or processe to rate or cease the seyd costes and charges alledginge the seyde costes and chargis to amounte to the
Somme off lxxxjl. and above as apperythe by there bill remayning in the honorable Courte and for that if it was alledged that suche recompens as shulde be awardede shulde goe and be converted Folio 297 to thuse and behoufe of the parisshe churche off Redclif aforseid yt is this day ordered and decreeed by the hole consent of the Kings Counsell this day present that the Mayer Aldermen and Burgesses of the Seyde Towne shall content and pay owt off the common Treasure or Chamber of the seyde Towne unto the Churche wardens of the seyde parisshe Churche of Redclyff for the tyme being the Some of fiftye poundes of goode and lawfull money of Inglond in maner and forme herafter folowinge that is to sey at the Feast off the Purificacyon of our ladie next commyng the Some of xxvli. and at the Feast of Seynt Mychell tharchaungell then next commyng and imedyately ensuing other xxvli. and to thentent the seyd Some off mony should be savely kept and enplyd to thuse and behoufF and commodyte of the seyd Churche. It is ordered and decreed that the seyd money uppon payment therof shalbe put and kept to thuse of the seyd Churche into a Coffer or chest within the sayde Churche to the whiche Coffer or chest shalbe sett thir several lockes and that one of the keyes off the seyd lockes shall alweyes remayne in the custody or keping of the Seyde mayor for the tyme being, and the other twoo keyes in thaundes of the Chuchwardens of the seyde Churche for the tyme being untill the seyd Somme of lli. be fully leyde out and enplyd to the behouff and profett off the seyd Churche for the tyme being the seyd mayer to yelde and deliver the seyd keye to the church wardens ther. And it is furder ordered that the Churchwardens of the same churche for the tyme being shall yerlie yelde and make a trewe and iust Accompte of the same and of every parcell therof unto the mayer of the seyd Cyttie for the tyme being shall to thre or iijor of the moste substanciall and chiff parishioners of the seyd parisshe that it may appere whether the seyd money or so moche as and from tyme to tyme be confirmed therof be enplyed accordinge to the trewe meaning of this decree and order.

Folio 297v Annuity granted to Thomas Gwent, 10 May 1546

The Mayor and Commonalty grant to Thomas Gwent of Michellampton\(^{41}\) in the county of Gloucester an annuity of forty shillings a year during his lifetime out of lands and tenements in Gaunts Earthcott to be paid on the four quarters by the City Chamberlain. Sealed with the common seal.

Folio 298 CONCESSIO FACTA PER DOMINUM REGEM WILLELMO HERBERT, MILITI DE OFFICIO CONSTABULARII CASTRI BRISTOLL

Edwardus Sextus Dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei defensor et in terra ecclesia Anglice et Hibernice supremum caput,

\(^{41}\) Minchinhampton.
Omnibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint salutem. Scitis quod nos in consideracione boni veri et fidelis servicii quod predilectus et fidelis serviens noster Willelmus Herbert, miles ante hec tempora nobis fecit, de gracia nostra speciali et ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris. Necnon deuisamento Consilii nostri dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes damus et concedimus prefato Willelmo Herbert militi officium Constabularii et Custodis Castri Ciuitatis nostre seu ville Bristoliae ac Janitoris siue Custodis porte eiusdem Castri. Necnon nominationem et constitucionem duorum vigilium ad vigilandum tam per diem quam per noctem infra castrum predictum, et quod habeat auctoritatem et potestatem in tempus in tempus nominandi et constituciendo sub se duos vigiles ad vigilandum tam per noctem quam per diem infra dictum Castrum. Ac ipsus Willelum Herbert, militem Constabularium et Custodem Castri predicti ac Janitorum siue Custodem porte eiusdem Castri facimus ordinamus et constitucimus per presentes. Habenda gaudenda et occupanda officia nominationem et custodia predicta et eorum quodlibet prefato Willelmo Herbert, militi, tam per se quam per sufficientem deputatum suum siue deputatos suos sufficientes at terminum et pro termino vite ipsius Willelmi unacum omnibus et singulis preeminenciis allocacionibus proficuis commoditatis et emolumentis quibuscumque officiis predictis seu eorum alicui quoquomodo incumbentibus spectantibus vel pertinentibus, adeo plene libere et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout Edwardus Dux Somerset aut aliiquis aliis siue aliqui alii racione vel pretextu eorum officiorum siue eorum alicuius unquam habuerunt, perceperunt vel gauisi fuerunt habuit percepit vel gauisus fuit seu habere percipere vel gaudere debuerunt seu debuit. Et ulterius de ampliori gracia nostra damus et per presentes concedimus prefato Willelmo Herbert Militi pro exercito et occupacione dicti officii Constabularii Castri predicti viginti libras legalis monete Anglie. Et pro exercitio et occupacione dicti officii Janitoris siue custodis dicte porte Castri predicti vadian et feudum duorum denario per diem, et pro vadiis dictorum duorum vigilium tres denarios et unum obulum per diem. Habenda, gaudenda et annuatim percipienda eadem vadian et feudis et eorum quodlibet prefato Willelmo Herbert Militi et assignatis suis durante vita naturali eiusdem Willemi tam de firmis siue feodis firmarum predicte ciuitatis Folio 298v seu ville Bristoliae quam de omnibus proficuis firmis et revercionibus eiusdem Ciuitatis seu ville siue infra eandem Ciuitatem seu villam provenientibus siue crescentibus siue provenientibus siue crescentibus per manus vicecomitis eiusdem Ciuitatis seu ville pro tempore existentis ad festa Pasche et Sancti Michaelis Archangeli per equales porciones soluendo unacum omnibus aliiis proficuis commoditatis advantagis et emolumentis quibuscumque officiis predictis seu eorum alicui quoquomodo incumbentibus spectantibus vel pertinentibus. Et cum Edwardus Dux Somersetie (sic) aduunculus noster nuper haberit et gauisus fuerit pro termino vite seu officium Seneschalli dicte Ciuitatis seu ville Bristoliae unacum feodis, proficuis et commoditatis eodem
officio incumbentibus spectantibus et pertinentibus ex dono et concessione Maioris et Communitatis dicte Ciuitatis seu ville Bristollie. Quodquidem officium unacum feodis proficuis et commoditatibus eidem incumbentibus, spectantibus et pertinentibus ad manus nostras nuper devenit ac in manibus et disposicione nostra iam existit et remanere debet racione et pretextu cuiusdam actus in parliamento nostro per prorogacionem tento apud Westmonasterium quarto die Novembris ultimo preterito inter alia editi et prouisi. Sciat quod nos de gracia nostra speciali ac excerta scientia et meru mutu nostris, necnon de auxilamento predicto dedimus et concessimus ac pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris quantum in vobis est per presentes damus et concedimus prefato Willelmo Herbert Militi dictum officium Seneschalli dicte Ciuitatis seu ville Bristollie ac tota feoda et omnia proficua et commoditates eidem officio incumbencia spectancia et pertinencia adeo plene et integre prout dictus Dux Somersetie illa habuit seu gauisus fuit seu habere vel gaudere debuit et adeo plene et integre prout ea ad manus nostras racione vel pretextu dicti actus Parliamenti devenerunt aut devenire debuerunt, ac in manibus nostris existunt seu existere debent. Habendum percipiendum, gaudendum et exercendum officium illud ac feoda proficua et commoditates eidem incumbencia spectancia et pertinencia prefato Willelmo Herbert et assignatis suis durante vita naturali dicti Ducis Somersetie absque compoto seu aliquo alio proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquomodo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo. Eo quod expressa mencio etc. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium vicesimo septimo die Februarii Anno regni nostri Quarto

Folio 299 Grant of the office of Steward of Bristol. 20 April 1570

The Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol appoint the Earl of Leicester to the office of Steward of Bristol for life in succession to William Earl of Pembroke. He can exercise his duties by deputy in the same manner as the Earl of Pembroke now deceased. He is to receive £4 per annum paid to him by the City Chamberlain.

Folio 299v Extract from Letters Patent of 4 June (1542) granting to Bristol the title of city.

The King proclaims that the Abbey of St. Augustine with all its possessions has been surrendered into his hands by the Abbot, Morgan Apigwilliam. He directs that the church be a cathedral church and the seat of the Bishop, and that “the whole of our town of Bristol from now henceforth forever shall be a city” and that the whole county of the town of Bristol shall be the county of the city of Bristol. Transcribed in Bristol Charters 1509-1899, ed. by R. C. Latham (Bristol Record Society, vol. XII, pp. 93-94)
ORDINAUNCES MADE AND ENACTED CONCERNYNG ORPHANES

WHERE the landes Tenements goodes and chattelles of Orphanes and children within aige within the Towne and Cytie of Bristowe and the Subburbes of the same have always by all the tyme whereof noe memory is to the contrary ben and ought to be by the Custome of the same Towne and cytie commytted by the Mayor of the same Towne and cytie for the tyme being to certen persons which might and shoulde iustlie answere the same to the said Orphans and children at the tyme of their full age. And where also by virtue of divers grauntz and confirmacions of divers of the Noble progenitors and of our soueraign Ladye the queenes Maiestie that nowe is Kings of this realm and of the confirmacyon of her highnes by her graces lettres patentes the Mayor of the said Towne and cytie for the tyme being of long tyme hath hadd nowe hath and owght to have full power and and authoritye to take recognisaunces of all and every person and persons and of their suerties which have had or shoulde have in their custody the landes Tenementes goodes and Chattelles of such orphans and children for the better assuraunce of true payment and satisfaccion of all such landes Tenementes goodes and Chattelles to all such orphans and children at such tymes convenient, as by the last will and testament of the gever or other wise shoulde be lymytted and appoynted, to the entent that all such landes and tenementes goodes and chattelles maye be the better preserved during the Mynoritye of such Orphanes and Children and iustlie and truly answered according to equitie and right. YT YS ordered decreed and enacted this presente Twelveth daie of July in the seventeenth yere of the raign of our said soueraign ladye by the grace of God Queene of England Fraunce and Irelond Defendour of the faith etc. by the Worshipfull George Snigg Maior of the said cytie of Bristowe and the Aldermen with all the reste of the common counsell of the same cytie whose names are subscribed being then in their common counsell howse assembled as hereafter foloweth FIRST yt is ordered, decreed and enacted by the auctorytie aforesaid that the Mayor of the said cytie for the tyme being shalbe chief gouernour and father of the Orphanes withyn the said cytie and the subburbes liberties and procinctes of the same. And that yerelie forever uppon the feast Daie of St. Michael tharchaungell

42 See Court of Orphans by Charles Carlton, 1974, where the history of the Court of Orphans in Bristol is fully treated.
ymmediateli after the newe Mayor hath taken his othe that the said newe Maior doe and shall chuse and nomynate two such persons of the common counsell of the said cytie then being, as he shall thinke mete by his discrecyon to be assistantes unto him for all the yere folowing in all causes concernyng Orphanes and children within the said cytie and the suburbs and libertyes of the same And that the said two persons so Folio 314v by the Maior chosen and named shall fourth with before the Mayor take an othe uppon the holie Evangelistes of god, iustlie diligentlie and faithfullie to deale in all causes concerning Orphanes to the uttermost of their power and skill in that to them shall apperteyne to doe for the better preservacion of the right of such orphanes and children. And to be readye to be assistauntes to the Mayor in all such causes when they shalbe thereto reasonablie warned. And further that in place of every such assistaunt dying within the yere the Maior for the tyme being, shall and maye chuse and name one other within eight daies after the decease of such assistaunt the same assistaunt so newlye chosen and named to be sworne in manner and formed aforesaid [In margin Probate of will] YT IS further ordered decreed and enacted by the aucthoritie aforesaid that whonesoever any person being free of this said cytie of Bristowe shall geve any landes tenementes goodes or chattelles to any person or persons by his or her last will and testament and doe decesse owte of this lief, That then such person or persons as are executor or executors or take upon them the administracion of the goodes and Chattelles of such person deceased shall within the space of Twentie Daies next after the decease of such person deceased exhibite and shewe fourth before the Mayor of the said cytie for the tyme being in the Guylhall of the said cytie in the tyme of full courte there to be holden, the last will and testament of such person deceased. And that the said executor and administrator then and there before the Maior for the tyme being shall prove the same will to be the true and last will of the testator deceased by the othes and deposicions of two lawfull witnesses then and there before the Maior for the tyme being to be taken. And after such probate so had and made the said will shalbe delivered to the Towneclark of the said cytie for the tyme being to thende the same will maie be [In margin Enrolment of the will] enrolled to remayne of recorde amongst the recordes of the said cytie. And further that the Maior of the said cytie for the tyme being and the said assistauntes shall and maie within tenne daies next after the decese of any such testator appoynt two honest burgesses of the same cytie to take a true and iust Inventory of all the goodes chattelles and debtes of such testator deceased which Inventory [In margin Inventory] shalbe indented the one parte whereof to be subscribed by the executors and or administrators shall remayne in the office of the Orphanes amongst the records of the said cytie and the other parte to be subscribed by the Maior and the assistauntes to remayne with the executors or administrators uppon payne that every executor or administrator of the goodes and Chattelles of such testator deceased, neclecting to doe
and execute all and singuler the premisses on his or their parte to be [In margin payne] donne or any parte thereof shall forfaite and paie for the value of every pownde gevin or bequethed by such last will and testament twelve pence to be paied to the Chamberlyne of the said cytie for the tyme being to the use of the Chambre The same forfayture to be taken and levied owte of the porcion of such executor or administrator of the goodes of the dead if there Follo 315 be any if not their owne goodes. And the Mayor and assistauntes shall and maie cause and see the due execucion of the premisses notwithstanding. And the Towneclarke for the tyme being shall have for his fee for the taking and entring of the probate of the same will and for the regestring of such will one peney for every pownde value by such last will and testament geven and bequeathed to be levied of the goodes of the testator. YT IS further [In margin Intestate] ordered decreed and enacted by the Aucthoritie aforesaid that if any person being a burgesse or free of this cytie doe die intestate or by waie of intestate leving behinde him any orphan or orphanes that then the widowe or next of kynne to such intestate or any other person or persons to whom the administraccion of the goodes of such intestate shalbe commytted shall within three dayes next after the decease of such intestate and next after administracion or collection of the said goodes commytted unto them or any of them repaire to the Mayor of the said cytie for the tyme being and request him to appoynt two honest burgesses of the same cytie thereto to be sworne to take [In margin Inventory] a iust and true Inventory of all the goodes chattelles & debtes of such person dying intestate which Inventory shalbe indented, the one parte whereof to be subscribed with the hande of such administrator to remayne in the office of the Orphanes amonde the recordes of the said cytie and the other parte to be subscribed by the Maior and [In margin payne] assistauntes for the tyme being to remayne with such administrator uppyn payne that every such person to whom the administracion or collection of such goodes of the intestate shalbe commytted, neclecting to doe and execute all and singuler the premisses on his or their parte to be donne or any parte thereof shall forfaite and paie for every moneth so offending Twenty shillinges to be paied to the Chamberleyne of the said cytie for the tyme being to thuse of the Chambre. The same forfaitures to be taken and levied owte of the porcion of such administrator of the goodes of the intestate if any be, if not then of the proper goodes of the said administrator or collector. And the Maior and assistauntes shall and maie cause and see due execucion of this ordynaunce notwithstanding. And the Towneclark for the tyme being shall have for his fee for his paynes and travaile in and about the premisses one peney for every pownde value of the goodes and chattelles of such persons dying intestate, as the same shall appere by such Inventory so to be made and taken as is before said to be paied of the goodes of such intestate. YT IS FURTHER [In margin Recognizaunce] ordered decreed and enacted by the Aucthoritie aforesaid that where any person being a
burgesse or free of this cytie shall at any tyme hereafter by his laste will and testament devise geve or bequeath to any other person or persons then being within the aige of twentye one yeres any landes tenementes goodes or chattelles and doth by the same his last will and testament nominate lymytt or appoynt what person or persons shall have the use custodie or occupacion of the same landes tenementes goodes or Chattells during the Folio 315v mynoritie of such legatorie or legatories that then all and every such person and persons to whom the custodie or occupacion of such landes tenementes goodes or cattelles during such Mynoritie and commytted or appoynted by such last will and testament and shall take upon him the custodie and occupacion thereof shall within Thirtie Daies next after the decease of such testator come to the Maior of this cytie for the tyme beinge and make relacyon to him thereof and shall then and there offer and fynde two sufficient suerties Burgesses of this Cytie, which then and there shall for and with him enter into recognizaunce by and before the Maior to be taken and Knownledged in doule the value of such landes tenementes goodes and Chattelles as shall remayne in his or her occupacion or custodye and to Knownledged to the Chamberlayne of the said citie for the tyme being to thuse of such person and persons as are to have and enyoie the same by the said last will and testament. The condycion of which recognizance shalbe faithfullie to performe the entent and meaning of such [In margin condicion of the recognizaunce] last will and testament concerning the true payment & deliverie of all such landes tenementes goodes & Cattelles and the profittes thereof to such person and persons as by such last will and testament owght in right and equitie to enyoie the benifitt thereof or of any parte thereof. And also uppon condicion that in place and stede of any of the parties so bound which afterwardes should happen to decease or fall in dietae or withdrawe them or any of them selves and their goodes owt of the citie and the liberties thereof that one other sufficient person being a burgess of this citye shalbe offered & presented to the Maior of the citie and the assistauntes for the tyme being within one moneth next after the decease decaie or with drawing of such person bound as aforesaid, who shall enter into like bonde by recognizaunce as aforesaid uppon condicion aforesaid, and so from tyme to tyme the like order of assurance to be offered and presented as aforesaid in place and stede of every person bounde and which afterward shall decease decaie or withdrawe [In margin Payne] himself and his goodes as ys aforesaid uppon payne that every such person so appoynted by the testator to have the custody and occupacion of such landes tenementes goodes or Chattelles and which shall take upon him the custodye and occupacion thereof, and shall neclecte to doe and execute all and singler the premisses on his or their parte to be donne or any parte thereof shall forfaite and paie to the Chamberleyne of this cytie for the tyme being to the use of the Chambre Twentye shillinges for every moneth to be taken and levd owte of the proper goodes of such person so neclecting to doe and execute Folio 316 [In margin
Reconusaunce] the premisses. YT YS further enacted by thauctorytie aforesaid that where the gever or devisor doth not by his last will and testament nomynate lymytt or appoynte what person or persons shall have the use custody or occupacion of the landes tenementes goodes and chattelles by such last will gevin or devised to any other person or persons then being within the aige of Twentye one yeres for and during the mynoritie of such legatories or for and untill such tyme as in such last will is lymitted and appoynted, that then the executor or executors in such will named and which shall take uppon them theexecucion of the same will or entermedle in any wise with the administracion of the partie decessed shall have the preferment to have the custodye and occupacion of the landes, tenementes, goodes and chattelles to thuse of the legatories according to the true meanyng of such will, So that such executor or executors taking uppon them theexecucion of the said will, or intermedling with the administracion as aforesaid doe within Thirtie daies next after the decesse of such testator offer and fynde two sufficient suerties and them doe present before the Mayor of this citye for the tyme being, who [In margin Condicion] for and with such executor or administrator shall stand bounde in like recognizaunce and uppon like condycions as are next before rehersed and declared. And if theexecutor or executors taking uppon them or any of them theexecution of such will, or intermedling with the administracion as is aforesaid, doe not within [In margin payne] the said space of Thirtye Daies next after the decesse of such testator offer present fynde such assuraunce as is aforesaid to the uses aforesaid and the uppon the condicions aforesaid or within the said space of Thirtie Daies doe not deliver upp into the handes and custodye of the Mayor of this citie for the tyme being all such landes, tenementes goodes and Chattelles and other things due to such legatories, the same to be preserved in the Chambre of this citye, or otherwise by the said Maior and assistauntes to be putt in assuraunce for and to the behoof of such legatories that then every such executor or executors taking uppon them theexecucion of such will or intermedling with the administracion as aforesaid shall forfaite and paie to the Chamberleyne of this cytye for the tyme being Twentie shillinges for every moneth that he or they neclecte to doe and execute the premisses in that to him or them shall apperteyne of the proper goodes of such executor or administrator to be levied and taken. The same order to be observed in all thinges as is in this last article declared and sett fourth concerning the assuraunces penalties and forfeitures and other the premisses where any suche landes tenementes goodes or Chattelles so gevin or devised and by the Maior and assistauntes for the tyme being comytted to any other person or persons to be kepte for a certen tyme to the use of such legatories And the Towne clark for the tyme being shall have for his fee for drawing the recognizaunce Folio 316v and recording the same and for other his paynes and travaile in and abowte the premisses one peney of every pounde value mencioned and expressed in the same recognizaunce to be com due and payable to any such legatory to whose use and behoof
such recognizaunce shalbe taken and knowned as aforesaid. YT YS further ordered and enacted by the auctoritie aforesaid that if any [In margin payable] widowe or maied being made executrix to any other or to whom the porcion of any Orphan or legatory being within age shalbe assigned lymitted or commytted doe stande bound with suerties for and with her by recognizaunce according to the order manner and forme delivered and sett fourth. And afterwarde the said widowe or maied doth mary with any other and afterwarde request and suyte is made to the Maior and assistantes for the tyme being that the old suerties before founde by the wief of the said partie maye be discharged in respect that he with two other sufficient suerties are redie to enter into the like recognizaunce. That then after such newe recognizaunce taken and recorded yt shalbe lawfull for the Towneclark for the tyme being to cancell or make a vacat upon the same former recognizaunce, so that he make a note in the margin of the same former recognizaunce for what cause the same is discharged and made voide. And for the discharge of every such recognizaunce the said Towneclark shall take for his fee Twelve pence. In like manner whensoeuer any newe suertie is bounde by recognizaunce in place and stede of any other before bounde which is deceased decayed or withdraweth himself and his goodes owt of the liberties of this cytie that after such new recognizaunce taken and recorded yt shalbe lawfull for the Towneclark for the tyme being to cancell or make a vacat upon the same former recognizaunce as to that partie in whose stede such new suertie standeth bounde his heires executors and administrators and his landes tenementes goodes and Chattelles, so that the said Towneclark make a note in the margine of the same former recognizaunce for what cause the same is so discharged and made voide. And for the discharge of every such recognizaunce the said Towneclark shall take [In margin The Orphans Corte] for his fee Twelve pence. YT IS further ordered and enacted by the Aucthoritie aforesaid that a courte shalbe kepte and holden in the Guyldhald of the said citie before the Maior of the same cytie and two aldermen and the assistauntes for the tyme being twise in the yere forever, that is to say, the first Thursdaye in Septembre, and the first Thursdaie in March not being holie daie, if the same Thursdaye be holidaye then uppon the Tewisdaye next folowing the which shalbe called the courte of Orphanes. And for the Folio 317 true enquirye of all matters and causes concerning the premisses the Maior and assistauntes for the tyme being shall by their common consent make a panell of fortie honest and substaunciall burgesses of this cytie. That is to saie eight oute of every warde within the said cytie, which panell with preceptes shalbe delivered unto the Maior and Seriantes viij daies before the daiye where in the courte shalbe holden and the said Seriantes and every of them shall warne and sommon every such person impanelled & dwelling within the warde whereof he is seriante fower daies at the lease before the courte daie that they and every of them appere at the courte of the Orphanes such a daie certeyne in the precepte by nyne of
the clock in the fore noone of the same daye and at the court daye the said Seriantes and every of them shall make true retorne of their preceptes and of the names of such as they have duelye warned And such of the Burgesses which are retorned and doe not appere at the said daye and hower shall forfaite in issues every of them ijs to thuse of the Chambre. The said seriantes to have for their fee every of them ijs at every court to be paiied unto them owt of the issues fynes and amerciamentes rising and growing of and in the same courte. AND further it is ordered and decreed that all such persons as shalbe empanelled & retorned as aforesaid and shall appere accordinglie shalbe sworne to the nombre of Twenty persons that is fower of every warde trulie to enquier and true presentment to make of all suche matters as they shalbe charged with concerning the premisses and such their [illegible] to exhibite and deliver upp to the Maior and assistantes for the tyme being at such daie and tyme as by the Maior then in open courte shalbe geven unto them. YT IS further ordered and enacted by thauchoritye aforesaid that all and every person and persons being Burgesses of this cytie which stand bounde by recognizaunce concerning the premisses or any parte thereof as principalles shalbe bounde by this ordynaunce to geve attendance at the said courte from the tyme of the sitting of the said courte to the rising of the same uppon payne that every such principall recognizaunce failing or neglecting to geve his due attendaunce in forme aforesaid shall forfaite for every defalte in that behalf fyve shillinges to the use of the Chambre except such person can excuse such his defalte absence or negligence by some sufficient cause and occasion reasonable upon his othe to be taken before the Maior and Aldermen and by them allowed a cause reasonable. YT is further ordered and decreed by the Maior Aldermen and assistauntes for the tyme being which shall sitt in courte and take paynes in and abowt the causes and matters concerning the premisses shall have for every sitting for their paynes and travaile therein every of them iijs. iijd. to be levied and paiied owt of the issues fynes and amerciamentes of and within Folio 317v the same courte rising and growing. And all the residue of the issues, fynes, and amerciamentes rising and growing within the same courte to be levied and gathered by the Chamberleyne of the same cytie for the tyme being to the use of the Chambre.

Georgius Snygge Maior
Robertus Saxey
Thomas Chester
David Harrys
Thomas Kelke
Johannes Browne
Anthonius Stanbanck
Willelmus Saltren
Robertus Halton
Johannes Griffith
Thomas Colston

Thomas Aldworth
Dominicus Chester
Thomas Kirklond
Richardus Young
Thomas Rowland
Richardus Cole
Willelmus Hickes
Johannes Barnes
Randulfus Hassalde
Robertus Kytchin
Edwardus Porter
WHERE as the Sea Walles at Hilton landes on the North side of the ryver Perrett within the mannor of Hampe nere and in the parishe of Brigewater belonginge to the citie of Bristol, being open to the north and west wyndes and mayntayned by the citizens of Bristol as belonging to their said Mannor of Hampe which walles are yerely with the might and foarse of wyndes and floodes so beaten and wasshed awaye that if it shoulde breake (as god defend) the whole countries contayninge above xijij acres of grounde with a number of newe houses and their goodes in diverse parishes beinge under the levell thereof wolde utterly perishe and be overthrowen to the utter decaye of the countries, if remeddy be not provided in that behalf, And although greate charges hath be ben bestowed and are yerely by the said citizens in and uppon the said walles yet through the might force and power of the north and north west wyndes it is cleane beaten of and washed awaye And as experience doth show us to be a matter unlike to be holpen, the perryll thereof hath and doth manifestly appere to the eyes of all men. Whereupon the Enhabitauntes of the said countries have made diverse complaintes to the Commissioners of the Sewers requestinge and desiringe them to provide some remedies for the same in tyme if it may be. And hereupon we the Commissioners with the enhabitauntes of the countries there have travailed and thoroughly perused the same and fyndinge it daungerous and remediless in effect, have considered the state of the said place called Hilton Landes where the ryver fetcheth a greate compasse and passeth in small force, and notinge that the ryver from Barrow to Hilton Landes cometh straight and directly with force and likewise the Ryver of Perrett desstendinge from Hylton landes to Bridgewater and so to the Seas passeth also with foarse directly and straight and perseavinge that the straight ryver comyng and goinge to and from Hylton landes is not one from thother above xij skore yards the next way and the circuyte and compass from thone straight ryver to thother aboute Hylton landes aforesaid is above ixC lx yards and the streame at that place hath not the force and strength to passe swiftly but there lyeth at highe watters where with the mighty wyndes and floodes the said Sea walles are beaten and wasshed as is aforesaid for the remedies thereof we the said commissioners have consulted together and have heard throughly the
opinions of thenhabitauntes there, and in debatinge theis affayers amongst ourselves for the preservacion of the common wealth do thinck that the cuttinge of a new ryver thwarte over Hilton landes and one half acre of land or there aboute parcell of thenheritaunce of Edward Popham Esquier adiyoinge to Hilton Landes aforesaid from the one straight ryver to thother will prevent all the foresaid inconvenience before doubtfull to the low countries of Estsedgmore, and also much benefyciall upwarde to the countries towards Taunton and Langporte, as well for the more spedie passage of the multytude of the raginge freshe waters when they come to the Seas as for the better conveyaunce of merchaundize to and from the port of Bridgewater unto and from then countries and although the citizens abovesaid Lordes of the said Mannor of Hampe have ben charged with the reparacion of the Sea Walles yet the watter beinge so daungersous, they can do no more then they may do, therefore and forasmuche as some countries shalbe benefyted for the scope of their water by their doinge thereof and some other countries delveryed of many perilles and daungers that might otherwise happen to the same, do thynck it not good to charge the said citizens with the whole cuttinge of the same new Ryver and the makinge of a Banck over the north side of the same Ryver, but for this one tyme to geve them thassistaunce of some such of the parishes as dwelleth nere the same Folio 319 that shall receave comodety thereby. It is therefore ordayned by us the said comissioners whereof three be of the quorum that the whole enhabitauntes of the parishes and Townshipps of Chedsey, Somerton, Morlench, Graynton, Weston, Sutton and Stoll', Myddlesey, Othery Bower and Dounwerre, Horsley, Bawdripp and Bradney, Aller, Higham, Northpetherton, Lenge Morelandes and Huntworth shall doe there worke in cuttinge the said new Ryver over Hilton Landes and the said halfe acre of lande of the said Edward Popham every tenement for fowre daies, every Cottager for one daye, for that they shall receave the greatest comodety thereby. It is therefore ordainde by us the said comissioners whereof three be of the quorum that the whole enhabitauntes of the parishes and Townshipps of Chedsey, Somerton, Morlench, Graynton, Weston, Sutton and Stoll', Myddlesey, Othery Bower and Dounwerre, Horsley, Bawdripp and Bradney, Aller, Higham, Northpetherton, Lenge Morelandes and Huntworth shall doe there worke in cuttinge the said new Ryver over Hilton Landes and the said halfe acre of lande of the said Edward Popham every tenement for fowre daies, every Cottager for one daye, for that they shall receave the greatest comodety thereby. The rest of the said Ryver with a banck in the North and Southside of the same shalbe made keppe and mayntayned of like breddth and depth as the olde Ryver is at this presente by the citizens of Bristoll lordes of the said Mannor of Hampe iuxta Bridgwater for ever. And the same worke to be begunne in Aprill next and so to be fully ended and amended before the Wensdaye before St Mathews daye which shalbe in the yere of our lorde god one thowsand fayne hundreth threscore and eight uppon payne that every person havinge a Tenement so lose for every daies absence xijd and every cotager for every daies absence viijd and it is further ordered and decreed that there shalbe two of the most honest wisest and discretest persons of every of the parishes aforesaid before the Tenth daye of Aprill next ensuinge appointed by six of the Comissioners of Sewers to be Surveiors of the said worke and cutt accordinge to the Tennor of a
Precepte to them to be directed by the said Comissioners in this behalf. And furthermore is agreed that the said Edward Popham shall have in recompence of his said lande so much other land to him and to his heires lyeinge in the oulde Ryver When the same shalbe encreased and that in the meane season the said Edward Popham do not sowe his saide grounde.

This is the true coppie of the Decree made touchinge the premisses in the Sessions of the Sewers at Bridgewater the xvijth daye of September in the nyneth yere of the raigne of our soueraigne lady quene Elizabeth in the presence of John Walshe one of the Justices of the comon place, Sir Hugh Poulett Knight, Humphrey Colles, Henry Portnam, Richard Warre, Robert Hill and John Mawdeley Esquier Commissioners appointed for the Sewers in the said countye.

[Folios 319v-499 blank]

Folio 500 After my verye hartie Commendacions Whereas this bearer Edwarde Hereforde Inholder and Burgesse of your Citie hathe of late made humble Suite unto the Queenes Maiestie that yt might please her highenes to give speciall order unto you to permitte him to brewe within his owne house, for the necessarie provision of the same and of suche guestes as shalbe occasioned to resort thither accordinke to the generall lawes of this realme whereof (as he alledgeth) you have by a a private order prescribed within your said Citie restrayned him her highnes graciouslie pyttinge the poore suppliants estate beinge chardged with a wiefie and eighte children and thinkinge yt very strange that anie her poore subiectes shoulde be deprived of anie Freedome which by her lawes belongeth unto them. And knowinge alsoe righte well that in all the Charters of euery Citie and Corporacion of this realme it is by speciall wordes provided that noe private Constitution or order shall be enacted or made which shalbe anie waye Repugnant to the lawe or Statutes of the realme. And lastlie being unwillinge her selfe to be troubled in wrytinge her owne lettres unto you in soe slender a case and suche as of itself may deserve favourable Consideracion and relieffe hathe of her gracious and princelie Clemencie expresslie commanded me to wryte unto you in her highnes name Requireinge you to permitte and suffer him the said Hereforde hensfoorthe from tyme to tyme without anie your Impeachementes or further lettes to brewe for his said home provision not sellinge or ventinge abroade by waye of Tonnage anie suche drinke as he shall soe brewe or make as farre foorthe as by the lawes of the realme he is permitted soe to do. And soe not douplinge but you will have dutifull Regarde in the accomplishment heereof Accordinge to her Maiesties good pleasure to thende her highnes may be noe further troubled with

43 Decree proclaimed in the fair at Bridgwater in 1567. B.R.O. 04026(5), Mayor's Audit, p. 256.
The Great White

anie Suite in that behalfe I bid you all hartelie farwell from the Courte of Whitehall this viijth of Februarie 1597
Your assured lovinge frende Subscribed this Julius Caesar
To the right Worshipfull my verie lovinge Frendes the Mayor Recorder and Aldermen of the Citie of Bristoll

Folio 500v

James R

Trustie and welbeloved we greet you well. Upon true informacion given us of the gracious pleasure of our late deare Sister the Queene deceased and signified unto you in her life time that Edward Howarde an Inholder and Burgesse of Bristoll shoulde be permitted to brewe within his owne house for the necessarye provision of the same, and of such guestes as shoulde resorte thither which thoughe we understand you have performed duringe the life of the said Queene yet of late you have againe restrained the said Edward Hereforde by a private order of your owne mark (as we are informed) Contrarie to the generall lawes of our realme. Wee let you weet, that for as much as we consider this to be soe reasonable a matter as ys rather fitt to be allowed then otherwise and that the said Edwarde Hereforde is recommended unto us by personages of such honor and qualitie as wee cannot but credit to be a very honest Citizen and Burgesse of that Citie. Wee doe therefore will and require you to withdrawe your restrainte for his not brewinge and to suffer him and his assignes inhabitinge the house wherein he now dwelleth knowne by the signe of the White Lyon in our said Citie, from hencforth from time to time without anie your further impeachment restrainte or molestacion, to brewe for his or their said provision, soe as he or they sell not nor vent abroade by way of Tonnage and drinke, that he or they shall soe brewe or make soe far foorth as by the lawes of our realme he is permitted to doe your conformitie to this our pleasure (as ye showed to the late Queene) we expect to be performed to us without delay and we shall take yt in thankfull part. Given under our signet at our mannor of Greenewich the two and twenteth day of Aprill in the thirde yeere of our raigne of Great Britayne Fraunce and Irelande
Exemplum James R.

To our trustye and welbeloved the Maior of our Citie of Bristoll and to the Aldermen his Brethren that nowe bee and that hereafter for the time shalbe.

Folio 501 After my hartye commendacions, whereas I am geven to understande from the Mayor and Aldermen of Bristoll that by Reason of the excessive transportacion of wheate and other Grayne of late tyme and at this presente from that porte the pryce thereof ys greatly encreased and like more to be yf the same be not prevented. I have therefore thought it good by my lettres to Authorize the Mayor with
some of Thaldermen his bretherne to informe themselves of all such
ladinges of any Kinde of grayne as hensfourth shalbe made at that
porte and for such of them as shall not be upon lycences or other hir
Maiestes service by hir purveyor there John Blande for Ireland to
Restrayne and stay the same, And hereof I have thought good to
Acquaynt you to thende that they may be acquaynted with all such
Transportacions hereafter and you togeather to joyne in the stayenge
thereof. So farre you well from the Courte the xxvijth or Aprill
Your lovinge Frinde
W. Burghley

To my lovinge Frindes the Customer Comptroller and Sercher of hir
Maiesties porte of Bristol and every of them as yt maye concerne

Folio 501v After my hartye commendacions I have receyved your
lettres dated the xvijth of this moneth advertizinge me thereby of some
late extraordynarye transportacions of Graine under couller of
soundry lycences for the Service of Ireland and otherwise which
notwithstandinge the same or the more parte thereof ys carryed into
Spayne whereby the price of Graine there ys greatlye encreased and
nowe more likely to be yf the same be not foreseene you shall
understande that for the Relief of the poore of the Realme of Ireland
there hath of late tyme some fewe lycences byn graunted which there
ys greate reason and consciens shoulde be contynued in Respecte of
the greate wante there, but of any others I am not Acquaynted
savyinge that of Dover, Lyme and some fewe besydes which are to be
ysissued from other portes. And therefore you may by vertue hereof
Enforme yourselves of all such Transportacions as shalbe made
and suche of them as shall not be upon some lycence for Ireland and
directed thither you may cause to be discharged or stayed and yf any
Resistaunce be made unto you to advertize me thereof that I may take
further order for the better execucion of this my Restraynte. And that
the offycers of the porte may be acquainted herewith I have by my
lettres Signified the same unto them that they may joine with you
therein. Soe fare you well From the Courte this xxvijth of April 1584
Your lovinge Frinde
W. Burghley

To my lovinge Frindes the Mayor and Aldermen of the Citye of
Bristoll

[Folios 502 and 503 blank]

Folio 504 Commission to examine witnesses, 25 February 1585,
directed to William Reade, esquire, Humphrey Michel, gentleman and
Bevis Bulmer, gentleman. They are to enquire about the Spanish
bullion brought to Bristol in December last in a ship of St. Malo (the
Volant) by William Allen, and now in the possession of Thomas
Thomas and certain other persons of Bristol. Its owner is unknown, and it appears to belong to the Crown. They have authority to examine persons on oath and to take custody of the bullion, making return to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer. All mayors, sheriffs, bailiffs and other officers are to give them help.

Folio 504v Whereas the Queenes Maiestie hath geven owt her Commission to the Bearers hereof Humfrye Michell and Bevys Bulmer gentlemen uppon speciall truste wee have Reposed in them for the Sarching triall and takinge into their handes certeyne Bullion and monies that late were brought over in a Shipp called the Volant of St. Mallowes by one William Sovernoyle Captaine or Maister of the said Shipp unto the Roade of Bristoll which treasure as wee are enformed is conveyed and disposed into Sundrie mens handes and Custodies. These are therefore to Charge and in her Maiesties name straighthie to Command you that you not only assiste them in this Service by serchinge the said Shipp and all other places they shall thincke mor to for the better furtherance of the said Service biett also that you aye and assiste them in recovering into their handes the said Bullion and mony and to helpe them with the cariages horses and men for the better keeping and safe conducte of the same to her Maiesties use. And hereof faile you not as you will aunswer the contrary at your perille. Dated at the Court at Somersett howse the xxvjth of Februarie To all Maiores Sherifes Justices of the peace Baylifes Constables Customers Comptrollers, Searchers, and all other her Maiesties Officers and lovinge Subiectes to whom yt may apperteyne to everie of them Concordat cum Originali

Folio 505 Memorandum wheras George Woodlocke of Waterforde in Irelande merchaunt hathe obteyned oute of the highe Courte of Admiralty of Englande Commission for the stayinge and arestinge of all suche shippes and goodes of those of Ollona in Fraunce as shalbe founde in any porte or haven within this Realme of Englande the Realme of Irelande and the Ile of Weighte for the Recoverie and satisfaction of suche damages as he the said George hath sustained by those of Ollona aforesaide And whereas thereupon the saide George Woodlocke hathe att Bristoll arested a shippe called the Isabell of Ollona whereof Steven Julien of Ollona aforesaide is master with her ladinge of Fishe and alsoe obtained order from the Lords of the Counsell for the sellinge thereof. It is nowe there upon Convenanted
Concluded and agreed by and betwene the saide George Woodlocke one thone partie and the saied Steven Julien on thother partie in mannor and forme followinge that is to saie the saide George Woodlocke for and in consideracion hereafter in these presentes expressed dothe Covenunte and promise to and with the saide Steven Julien his executors and administrators by these presentes That he the saied George Woodlocke his executors or assignes within eight daies nexte ensuinge the date hereof shall discharge the saide Shippe with all her furniture and ladinge of fishe of the above saide Arreste and deliver the quiet possession thereof to the saide Steven Julien his executors or assignes. In consideration whereof the saied Steven Julien dothe Convenaunte and graunte to and with the saied George Woodlocke his executors or assignes that he the sayde Steven Julien his executors or assignes shall and will well and trewlie paie or cause to be paide unto the saide George Woodlocke his executors administrators or assignes towards the satisfacion of his aforesaide cossts the some of fower hundred Frenche Crownes In mannor and forme followinge That is to saie two hundred Crownes therof within the Cittie of Bristoll at the Releas and deliverie of the saide shippe and goodes and the other two hundred Crownes att Rochell in Fraunce within seven moneths nexte ensuinge after the date hereof without further delaie provided alwaies yf the saide George Woodlocke his executors administrators or assignes att any tyme or tymes hereafter doe Receive justice and satisfaction of his aforesaid cosstes in Fraunce Accordinge to the order now lately taken by the Lord Frenche Ambassador and Doctor Caesar the Judge of the Admiraltie Then and yn suche cost doth the saide George Woodlocke for him his executors and administrators covenauant and graunt by these presentes to and with the saide Steven Julien his executors and assignes thereupon well and trewlie to restore and paie or cause to be restored and paied unto the saide Steven Julien his executors or assignes within Rochell aforesaide the aforesaid fower hundred Frenche Crownes or soe muche thereof as soe shalbe paide. Folio 505v And for the performaunce hereof the saide parties either in his respecte have bounde and by these presents doe binde themselves either of them his executors administrators and goodes to the other his executors administrators or assignes provided allwaies that these presents nor any thinge therin conteyned shall not be prediudiciall to the saide George Woodlocke for the havinge and recoveringe of his aforesaide losses. In wittnesse whereof the parties abovesaide to these wrightings Indented Interchangeablie have put their handes and seales. yeven the fower and twentith daie of the monethe of September Anno domini 1594. And in the six and thirtethe yere of the Reigne of our moste gracious Lady and Queene Elizabeth

George Woodlocke
Sealed and delivered in the presentx of me Charles Dometrius servante unto Cornelius Spyringe notary in London.
Edmodius Meoyhasaback
John Bechewe Mondot
Folio 506 Wheras in a cause dependinge heretofore in her Maiesties Courte of the Admiralty betwene Richard Smith administrator to Thomas Dickenson John Bale and William Evans playntiffes and John Pepin and Frauncis Pepin, Julyn Pepin widowe and Thomas Grave of the towne of St. Mallowes in Brittanie defendantes Concerninge a spoile committed upon certeyne goodes of the playntiffes to the valew of two thousand two hundred and thirtie poundes the savinge bin hard at large in the same Courte. And thereupon an attachment graunted againste a Shippe of St. Mallowes aforesaied with her tackle, furniture, munition and ladinge. Forasmuch as upon the full hearginge and determininge of the saied Cause, there is an Execution graunted oute of the saied Courte upon the saied Shippe, Tackle, furniture, munition and ladinge of oyle and salte monney and other things whatsoever apperteyninge to the saied Shippe, called La Volante as shall appeare at lardge unto you by the saied Execucion addressed unto you under the seale of the saied Courte. Dated the xvjth of Februarie laste. Theis shalbe therefore to will and require you and in her maiesties name straightlie to charge and commaund you and every of you to see the saied Execucion dulie and directlie served and accomplished accordinge to the tenor, true meaninge and effecte thereof to the beste benefytt and Commodetie of the parties on whose behalfe the same hath byn adiudged and graunted. So as there may be no defaulte or slacknes on your partes as you and every will aunswere the same at your uttermoste perills. At the Courte at Grenewich the xxjth of March, 1584.

To our lovininge Frindes Thomas Rowlands Maior of the Citie of Bristoll Rice Jones and Richard Kelk Sheriffes of the same Citie And John Ley Sarcher of the portes there

Thos. Bromley  William Burghlie  G. Shrewsbery
Fran. Bedforde  C. Howarde  Howndson
Hen. Sydney  Jamys Crofte  C. Hatton
Fra Walsingham

After my hartie Commendacions unto you Whereas the good shippe called the Vollante of St. Mallo remayneth now arrested in your Citie of Bristoll upon an accion of debt. These are therefore to will you to see the said shippe and goodes delivered unto this bearer John Hacoull, putting in Firste sufficienste bandes before you to aunswere the prysement of the same Shippe and goodes in the high Courte of the Admiralty if the accion entered againste her fall owt good and effectuall in Lawe. And thus I bidd you farre well prayinge you not to faile as you respecte a greater matter at my handes from the Courte at Nonesuch this 26 of September 1585. To my verie lovininge Frind Mr. Cole Maior of the Citie of Bristoll give theise etc.

Your lovininge Frinde
C. Howard

Folio 506v blank
Folio 507 Commission from Valentine Dale and Julius Caesar, officials and Commissioners General of the Admiralty to Thomas Rowland, Mayor of Bristol, Rice Jones and Richard Kelke, sheriffs and John Lea, searcher of the port of Bristol calling on them to summon a jury to estimate the value of the ship the "Volante", lying in the Kingroad near Bristol, its cargo and fittings, in connection with the suit of Richard Smith and others. Dated 17 February 1584/5.

Folio 508 Whereas there ys at this presente a Comission Awarded oute of her Maiesties Courte of the Admiraltye for the enquieringe oute and Recoveringe of certeine wynes and other merchaundizes laden in the Cundado in Spayne in a frenche shippe called the Jennet taken and spoyled on the Seas by Pyrates beinge Consigned for the porte of Rosco in Fraunce for the use and accomptye of Yves Parthevaux and certeine other frenche merchauntes which said goodes are said to have byn broughte by the pirates to the porte of Milford and other places adioyninge and that certeine parcells of the said gooddes soe spoyled are remayninge under Custodye in the Cytie of Bristoll forasmuch as yt ys agreable with lawe and equitie that the parties interessed in the gooddes should receyve due satisfaccion for suche quantetyes hereof as shalbe found extant in the handes of any persons or places whatsoever and not to be defrauded thereof under Couller or pretence of exempcion or priveledge to the Contrarye for the better furtheraunce of Justice we have thought good to Requier you to be aydinge and assistinge unto the said Yves Parthevaux by all lawfull and convenient meanes that you maye in the due and effectuall execucion of the said Commissyon of the Admiraltie as well in discovering and bringinge to lighte all and every of the parcells of the goodes spoyled asforesaid as also in seinge the said to be delyvered into thandes of the said Yves Parthevaux to the use and behoufe of the proprieryes upon interchaungeable Indentures to be made thereof bytwene the partyes. And likewise we requier you the Mayor and other officers of the said Cytie of Bristoll to whose handes certeine parcells of the said gooddes are sayd to have comme that notwithstandinge any libertye or excuse that you can make or pretende to the contrarye you fayle not to see redelyverye and Restitucion to be made unto the bringer hereof of soe muche as may have Come to your possession and soe estsoones we Requier you and every of you to whome yt maye apperteine to have an especiall Regarde in theffectuall accomplishment of all and singuler the contentes of thafforesaid processe of the Admiraltie as for any your defaulte of the contrarye you will answere the same at your perrill from Grenwiche the ixth of Julie 1586.

To our lovinge frindes the Mayor and other officers of the Cytie and porte of Bristoll and to all viz. admiralls Mayors Sherifes Justices of peace Bayliffes constables hedboroughes Coustomers Comptrollers Serchers and all other her Maiesties officers and lovinge subjectes eyther within any libertyes or withoute to whome yt maye appertye and to every of them.

W. Burghley, Chr. Hatton, L. Cobham, Fra. Walsingham.
Folio 508v-509 Warrant from Charles, Baron Howard of Effingham, Lord High Admiral of England to all Vice Admirals, Justices, Mayors, Sheriffs, etc. calling upon them to aid in the recovery and restoration to Yves Parthevaux and other French merchants of the wine and other merchandize taken from the ship the “Jennot” and to arrest the captors. The goods are known to be in Bristol Dated 28 June 1586.

Folio 509v Whereas uppon prooffe made in her Maiesties Courte of Thadmiralty of a Pyracye lately Comytted by Peter Merchante pirate Captain of a Shippe called The Margaret and other his Complices on a Shippe of Bryttayne called the Necauce Soussye of Feccambe laden in the Costes of Barbary with Brasill, pepper and other merchaundyzes as by the same Commyssion Appereth, belonging unto James Fowntayne and Thomas Dwyen merchautes of Feccamb in Normandy with goodes and merchandyzes togeather with the said Shippe were said to have byn brought to the porte of Dartmouth and there sould and disperced and in other places theraboutes. Comyssion ys graunted forth of the said Courte of thadmyralty bearinge date the xviijth of this presente moneth of October aswell for the apprehension and comittinge of the said Pyrates as for the seasinge attachinge and arrestinge of the said Shippe and goodes, in whose handes or Custody soever the same shalbe fownde Remayninge. These are therefore to will and Requier you, and in her Maiesties name straightly to charge and commaunde you and every of you to whome yt shall in any wise apparteyne to bee by all gode and possyble meanes aydinge and arrestinge to the said James Fowntayne and Thomas Dwyen or other of them in the full and due execucion of the said Comyssion in all poyntes accordinge to the tenor thereof. And therin not to fayle as you and every of you will aunswere the Contrary at your uttermoste perills. From the Courte at Richmond the last of October 1587.

To all Viceadmiralls mayors Sheryffes Justices of peace, Bayliffes, Constables, headboroughes, Customs, Comptrollers, Serchers, and to all other her maiesties officers and lovinge Subjectes to whome yt maye apperteyne, And to every of them

Jo Cant’ Chr. Can: W. Burleigh. H derby
James Croft T Henach J Wolly

The Comyssion beareth date the xviijth of October 1587.

Folio 510-511 Warrant from Charles Baron Howard of Effingham to Francis Hawley, deputy Vice Admiral of Dorset, the Mayor of Bristol and others for an inquisition to be held regarding the plundering on the high seas by Richard Clerke and others of the ship the “Bucke” of Embden, laden with sweet wine called Bastardes and figs belonging to Barnard Toncamp, merchant of Embden, 4th February 1589.
Whereas uppon Complaint in her maiesties high courte of Admiralty by Michell Leeman merchant stranger resident in London for and in the name as procurator of Barnarde Toncamp marchant of Emden and hath lawfully proved that a certain shippe of Emden called the Bucke whereof was master John van Emden laden with Bastardes and figges marked with the marke in the Margente for the use and accompt of the said Barnard late taken at sea by Richard Clarke and his company and after that by Roger Ghere and Rychard Myllard of Waymouth Melcombe Regis and their Companies who disposed and alienated the same at their pleasure. To the great losse and damage of the said Toncamp the propre owner of the saide goodes. Comission is graunted oute of her maiesties said Courte of Admiraltie for the Searchinge findeinge oute and attacheinge of the saide goodes and the takers and spoylers hereof as by the said comission move at large maye appere unto you which for the better execution thereof we have thought good to accompany the same with these our lettres of assistaunce therewith to requier you and in her maiesties name straightly to charge and commaunde you and every of you to whom yt shall apperteyne to be by all good meanes aydinge and assistynge Jerrome Trollope the bearer hereof for the due and effectual execucion of the said Comission in all pointes accordinge to the tenure and purpose thereof as you and every of you doe tender her Maiesties favour the furtheraunce of Justice and as you will for your defaulte to the contrary Aunswere the same from the Courte at 27 of July 1590.

To all viceadmiralls Justices of Peace Mayors Sheryves baylyves Constables hedboroughes all other her Maiesties officers aswell to those you are named in the said Comission as also to all others her highnes officers ministers and lovinge subiectes aswell within liberties as withowt to whome yt shall apperteyne etc. to every of them Ch. Hatten Canc', W. Burleigh, H. Housdon, J. Cobham, T. Buckhurse, J. Wolly, J. Fortescue, Jul. Ceser.

[Folios 511-522 blank]

Folios 523-525 Index in hoc libro contentorum
This is an incomplete table of contents up to and including folio 299. It was made by Saxcey, who was Town Clerk from 1575 to 1581.

[Folios 525-531 blank]

Folio 531v Warrant from Richard II to the Mayor of Bristol, 20 February 1387 to make inquisition concerning merchants who take their ships inside the Flatholm and then unload and carry their cargo to Chepstow to sell.44 Transcribed and translated in Little Red Book of Bristol ed. by F. B. Bickley, 1900, vol. I pp. 129-132

Henry by the grace of God Kyng of England and of Fraunce and Lorde of Ireland To all Maires Shiryffes Bailliffes Constables Customers Comptrollers Serchers Kepers of Portes Crekes and passages and to all other our officers ministres and subjectes having or seing these our lettres greeting forsomoche as by auctorite of high court of parliament holden the iiiijth yere of the Reign of our noble progenitor Kyng Henry the iiiijth It was enacted ordeyred and established amonges other thinges that all maner Shippes and other vessailles freight and laden with goodes and merchaudizes entring into this our Reame or passing out of the same shalbe charged and discharged in the greate portes of our said Royame and not in no maner Crekes or small Ryvers therunto belonging upon peyn of forfaiture of all the said goodes and merchaudises conteigned in the said Shippes or vessailles as in the said statute it is conteigned more at large who therfor woll and straitely commaunde you that if any suche merchandises bee charged or discharged inwarde or outwarde in any Creke or Ryver aboutes you contrary to the forme and effect of the said statute yee doo the same to bee seised for us and to our use And that ye ne faille therof in any wise As ye will answere therin at your peroll. Yeven under our signet at out Manore of Langley the xxvj day of Octobre the xvijth yere of our Reigne.
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