

**The parish of Ashburton [in] the 15th and 16th centuries : as it appears from extracts from the churchwardens' accounts, A.D. (1479-1580) : with notes and comments.**

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**Publication/Creation**

London : Printed by Yates and Alexander, 1870.

**Persistent URL**

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THE  
PARISH OF ASHBURTON  
IN THE  
15<sup>TH</sup> AND 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES.

—◆—  
*PRICE ONE SHILLING.*





THE  
PARISH OF ASHBURTON

THE  
15th and 16th CENTURIES;

AS IT APPEARS FROM

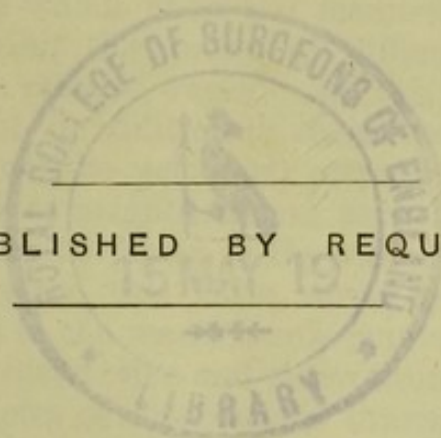
EXTRACTS

FROM THE

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS, A.D. (1479—1580)

*With Notes and Comments.*

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.



LONDON:  
PRINTED BY YATES AND ALEXANDER, SYMONDS INN,  
CHANCERY LANE.

—  
1870.



THE

PARISH OF ASHBURTON

1841

AND JOHN GENTHURST

EXTENT

OF THE PARISH OF ASHBURTON

IN THE YEAR 1841

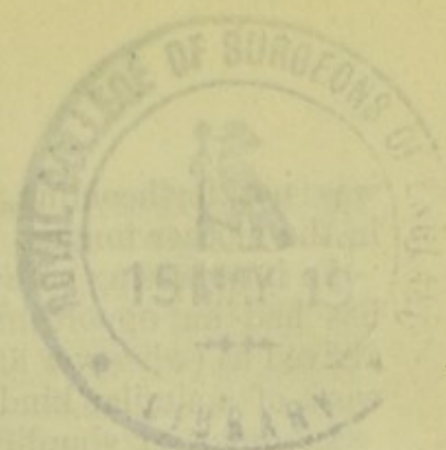
AS TAKEN BY

JOHN

THE PARISH OF ASHBURTON

IN THE YEAR 1841

1841



P R E F A C E .

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BEFORE giving extracts from the old churchwardens' account book of the parish of Ashburton, it may be well to make a few remarks about the book itself and the plan which has been adopted in making selections from the very interesting matter contained in it.

The book is a MS. quarto, written on paper, with parchment covers, and, when its age is considered, it is in an excellent state of preservation. There are very few erasures, and the ink has, in some parts especially, remarkably preserved its colour. Its contents extend over a period of a hundred years, the date of the first account being A.D. 1479-80, and that of the last A.D. 1579-80. The accounts, however, of two years, 1480-1 and 1481-2, have been lost, the leaves containing them having been torn from the book. It will thus be seen that the period embraced includes the era of the reformation, and there are, as might be expected, many entries showing the changes which then took place in the mode of Divine worship, as well as others which illustrate the rites and ceremonies of the time by the mention of the vestments and ornaments of the Church, which obtained throughout the country in pre-Reformation times. There are, besides, some historical allusions of an interesting character, and others which show the manners and customs of the people, and exhibit the prices of different articles and commodities, and the rates of wages. All this makes the book of general interest, but in addition to these there are numerous other entries which will be peculiarly attractive to the inhabitants of the town and its neighbourhood, as well as to those who take a delight in all that is found in the records of bygone days.

In compiling, therefore, this little work, an endeavour has been made to present to the reader such matter as will be both generally and locally instructive and entertaining, and, to make it more intelligible, notes or observations drawn from authentic sources have been introduced; and it is thus hoped that every one into whose hands it may come may derive as much pleasure from its perusal as the compiler has done, while deciphering the original and bringing to light the curious and interesting facts contained in this old MS. The book, it should be further stated, is written principally in Latin. English, however, is frequently made use of where the proper Latin word



was not forthcoming, and some of the accounts are entirely in the mother tongue.

In interpreting both the Old English and the Latin the writer has had an opportunity of verifying the conclusions he has arrived at (wherever any doubt existed) by a comparison with a work of a similar kind which has been published.

In order to simplify the reading of the accounts it seems desirable to state what is their general arrangement. First, there is given the date with the names of the wardens; then the "arrerages," or amount in money as well as different valuables which they have in hand; next the receipts from different sources, *e.g.* from rents, gifts, &c., and lastly the expenditure. The sums derived from all sources, as well as the several items, are carefully given, and also the sum total expended; and a balance is made at the close of each account. Many items, as a matter of course, occur over and over again in the book, both in the receipts and payments. In the extracts, however, which have been made, care has been taken to have as little repetition as possible; the amounts of the several items have in general been omitted, and only such entries as seem in themselves important or necessary to elucidate others, have been selected.

These few words of introduction and explanation seemed to be called for, let the old book now speak for itself.

### EXTRACTS, &c.

Ad perpetuam rei memoriam in scriptis continentur in hoc quaterno Summe pecuniar cujuslib instauri Ecclie pochie Sancti Andreae de Aysshpton debit per custodes ibm sup compm eorund<sup>m</sup> factu diebz et termio qsuete Coram vicario et pochianis ibm. Incipiendo huc modn et formam intitulandi in ffesto Pasche Anno Dm<sup>e</sup> millmo cccc<sup>o</sup> lxx<sup>mo</sup> nono.

The following memorandum, the oldest in the book, is subjoined:—

Johannes Spke & Johannes fayrmouth custod bonor instauri bte Marie in boriali gilda ecclie p<sup>r</sup>dict a festo pasche, anno dm<sup>i</sup> millmo cccc<sup>o</sup> lxxviii<sup>o</sup> vsq ad idem festm anno revoluto debent supr comp<sup>m</sup> suum lxxvii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> ob quæ deliverauernt Johi Mochett et Willmo Denbold elect in custod eiusdm instauri anno futur.

For the perpetual memory of the thing there are contained in writing in this quatern the sums of moneys, for every store of the parish church of St. Andrew Aysshpert<sup>on</sup>, due through the wardens of the same place according to the account of the same made on the accustomed days and term, in the presence of the vicar and parishioners of the same place: by beginning this manner and form of title on the festival of Easter, A.D. MCCCCLXXIX.

John Sparke and John Fayrmouth wardens of the goods of the store of the Blessed Mary in the north aisle of the aforesaid church from the feast of Easter A.D. mcccclxxviii up to the same feast the next year owed on their account lxxvii ii<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  which they delivered to John Mochett and William Denbold chosen wardens of the same store for the year to come.



AYSBTON.—Compot Johis Ferrer et John<sup>s</sup> knyghte custod pochal ecclie Sti Andree Apostoli a festo Sti Johis ante portam latinam anno dmi millmo cccclxxix. usq ad ide festen anno dmi millmo cccclxxx<sup>mo</sup>.

Arr.—In primis respondent de iiiii<sup>li</sup> vii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> itm rnd de vno annul argenti.

Receipt denar cn aliis rec.—In p<sup>r</sup>mis respondent viii<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup>cereis vend. It<sup>m</sup> de iii<sup>d</sup> ex don Henr Bonde. It<sup>m</sup> de v<sup>d</sup> ob ex dono Thomasie horsy. It<sup>m</sup> de increme vnis cru<sup>s</sup>'s (cerevisiæ) vendit.

Expenc—inde—in solucione Roggero Torryng p<sup>r</sup> vno mallo empto p<sup>r</sup> le clocke ibidem xvii<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$ . It<sup>m</sup> in sol. Thome Wilke ad emendacoe Tabernacli Sti Andrie xvi<sup>d</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> p smigmate empte p ornamet ecclie ad lavand v<sup>d</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> in sol. Willo Astryge p pensione sua hoc anno iiiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> in sol. p tabnacle sti Trynetatt vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, it<sup>m</sup> sol p seruic in die corpors xpi. ii<sup>d</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> novam crucem empt argent et de aurat xl<sup>s</sup> it<sup>m</sup> p eadm xxxiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> in sol Willo Burgyn p ligacoe libor ecclie itm viii<sup>s</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> in sol. vicar p<sup>r</sup> reddit ii<sup>s</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> p<sup>r</sup> francen sens vi<sup>d</sup>. It<sup>m</sup> in sol. p emendacoe plumbi. It<sup>m</sup> p emedac pavimeti ecclie.

AYSBERTON.—The account of John Ferrer and John Knyghte wardens of the parish church of Saint Andrew the Apostle from the feast of St. John (port latin) A.D. mccccclxxix up to the same feast A.D. mccccclxxx.

Arrears.—First, they are responsible for iiiii<sup>li</sup> vii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  and for one ring of silver.

Receipts of moneys with other receipts.—First they are responsible for viii<sup>d</sup> for wax tapers sold, also for iii<sup>d</sup> from the gift of Henry Bonde, also for v<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$  from the gift of Thomasine Horsy, also for profit of one brewing of ale.

Expenditure thereof.—In payment to Roger Torryng for one hammer bought for the clock of the same place xvii<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$ , also in payment to Thomas Wilke for mending the Tabernacle of St. Andrew xvi<sup>d</sup>, also for soap bought for the ornaments of the church to wash them vi<sup>d</sup>, also in payment to Will<sup>m</sup> Astryge for his pay this year iiiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, also in payment for the tabernacle of the Holy Trinity vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, also paid for ale on Corpus Christi day ii<sup>d</sup>, also a new cross bought of silver and gilt xl<sup>s</sup>, also for the same xxxiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, also in payment to William Burgyn for binding the books of the church at the same place viii<sup>s</sup>, also in payment to the vicar for rent ii<sup>s</sup>, also for frankincense vi<sup>d</sup>, also in payment for mending the lead, also for mending the pavement of the church.

The accounts for the two following years have been lost. In the accounts which are now given (or the extracts from them) when they are in Latin the English translation in general only is written down; when in English they are copied exactly, with all peculiarities and variations in spelling.

The account of Thomas Grendyn, Henry Thorn, Thomas Sylke, and John Coche, wardens of the goods in store of the parishioners of the Parish Church of Aysberton, Dioc Exon., supporting the charges of the same church from the feast of St. John. Port Latin (ante portam Latinam). Anno Dni mccccclxxxii, until the same feast A.D. mccccclxxxiii for one entire year.

Arres.—First they are responsible for the arr: the year last past iiiii<sup>li</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>.

Sale of ale and brewing—and for v<sup>li</sup> xiii iiiii<sup>d</sup> received for ale of the aforesaid parishioners sold by the hands of William Hale-



wyll, John Ferreys, John Ollysbrome, and Thomas Perry this year.

Gifts and rents of the same church—and for one spoon (cochlear) of silver from the executors of John Brystowe, and for one cover (coopert) and one plate (plat) from John Williams; and for xvi<sup>d</sup> from the gift of Thomas Horsey; and for iii<sup>s</sup> iv<sup>d</sup> for the burial of John Dolbear, and for xii<sup>d</sup> from the executors of Mr. Thomas Gottyford for ringing the bells for the soul of the said Mr.—and for ix<sup>s</sup> from Thomas Wylke for rent for Bankysbryme this year.

Collection among the brethren this year—and for xxi<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> collected among the parishioners for wax sylver by the hands of Roger Copstone and John Ollysbrome, and for ii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> collected among the brethren this year for making ropes for ringing the bells with by the hands of Ealfr: Harepath, and Will<sup>m</sup> Denbold.

Sum of all receipts xi<sup>ii</sup> xi<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Expenses.—First for rent resolute of Bankysbryme for the year last past iiiii<sup>d</sup>; also to the port reeve for rent resolute for the tenement of the church aforesaid for the said year vi<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; also for rushes i<sup>d</sup>; also for viii yards of linen cloth to make iiiii rochets ii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>; also for making the same xvi<sup>d</sup>; also for one tyler hired for half a day ii<sup>d</sup>; also to the vicar of the same place for rent of a certain house for above-mentioned year ii<sup>s</sup>; also for the bede-roll to the same vicar for the above-mentioned year viii<sup>d</sup>; also for expense of the same vicar and others at Exon for a certain matter relating to the aforesaid church ii<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; also for paper  $\frac{1}{4}$ <sup>d</sup>; also to John Yssell hired for iiiii days for timber (meremii) work xx<sup>d</sup>; also to John Issell for making certain parts of the tabernacle of Jesus iiiii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>; also to John Soper for sawing cc feet of timber ii<sup>s</sup> iv<sup>d</sup>; also to John Hoper for a certain house bought from him for the aforesaid church xx<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup>; also to the port reeve for rent resolute for Christmas term last iii<sup>d</sup>; also for mending the chetell of the said church iiiii<sup>d</sup>; also for xv lbs. of wax bought and three-quarters of a lb. ix<sup>s</sup>; also for making xxx lbs. of wax preparatory to the festival of Easter (Pasche) xv<sup>d</sup>; also to John Clyff for one chest and for mending one bakyng iron (yre) vi<sup>d</sup>; also for rent resolute for Bankysbryme and tenement of the aforesaid church for Easter term last ii<sup>d</sup>; also for keeping the obit of Thomas Tankret and others at the aforesaid church xii<sup>d</sup>; also to a monk of Buckfast x<sup>d</sup>; also for expense to Will<sup>m</sup> Brendon and others, at Exon, for a matter of the said church xx<sup>d</sup>; also for the expense of Henry Thorn and others, at Clyst, ii<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup>; also for expense of Thomas Wylke, at Exeter and Clyst, v<sup>d</sup>; also for i man hired to mend the lead on the said church for iii days xxi<sup>d</sup>; also for ix lb. and



a quarter of "sawder" bought" ii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>; also to Will<sup>m</sup> Heth for iii days in serving the said man xi<sup>d</sup>; also for fuel ii<sup>d</sup>; also for xvii lbs. &  $\frac{1}{4}$  of lead bought xvii<sup>d</sup> $\frac{1}{2}$ ; also to Mr. Thomas Erle for writing certain records (munimentor) xxii<sup>d</sup>; also for writing the same account xii<sup>d</sup>; also to Michael Stoodleigh for keeping the bells for the same year iiiii<sup>d</sup>.

Sum of all the expenses iiiii<sup>ii</sup> vii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> this year. And thus there remains clearly vii<sup>ii</sup> iii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> $\frac{1}{4}$  delivered to William Erle, Henry Hoper, Thomas Wylke, and John Coche, wardens elect for the following year; and there remains likewise in lead xlix lbs., and in tin xvii lbs. and a half; and in wax viii lbs.; and there remains iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> in the hands of Thomas Corset for the tomb of Julia Dolbear; and there remains in the hands of the said wardens i spoon of silver, i plate and i cover.

The entries for this year have been given rather fully, and at greater length than will generally be necessary. In future years' accounts, many of the same, or of a similar kind to several of these occur; *e.g.*, receipts from sale of ale, and from the collection for wax silver, which (the latter until A.D. 1547) were constant yearly sources of income; and again payments to the portreeve and the vicar for rent (which were also yearly payments) and such items as rushes (for the vestry), wax (for the tapers), frankincense, &c., as well as materials for the repair of the church, &c. These, in the accounts which follow, are for the most part omitted.

The yearly entry of "profit from ale sold," is illustrated by the following extracts from Rees' Encyclopædia: "Church ales, as they are described by Pierce, Bishop of Bath and Wells, in his answer to Archbishop Laud, are, when the people go from afternoon prayers on Sundays to their lawful sports and pastimes in the churchyard or neighbourhood, or in some public house, where they drink and make merry. By the benevolence of the people at these pastimes many poor parishes have cast their bells and beautified their churches and raised stock for the poor." "Clerk ales, or lesser Church ales, were so called because they were for the better maintenance of the parish clerk, and there is great reason for them, says his Lordship, for in poor country parishes, where the wages of the clerk are but small, the people, thinking it unfit that the clerk should attend at church and not gain by his office, send him provisions and then come on Sundays and feast with him, by which means *he sells more ale* and tastes more of the liberality of the people than quarterly payments would amount to in many a year." [Whitsun ales were also feasts observed among the people about Whitsuntide.] In Johnson's dictionary on the words, it is said, "For the Church ale two young men of the parish are yearly chosen to be wardens, who make collection among the parishioners of what provision it pleaseth them to bestow."

Further on in the old book there is repeated mention of these ale wardens, who are sometimes called Whitsun Wardens, of the profit they made from the ale, and of the collections they made every year among the parishioners for general purposes, and also for the clerk. Hence it appears that the yearly entry of "profit from the sale of ale" has reference to that which was sold on one or all of the occasions alluded to above.

It will be noticed that the year in each account is reckoned from and to the feast of St. John Port-Latin, which fell on the 6th of May. In the accounts which follow, the date only is, as a rule, given, with the names of the wardens.



A.D. 1483-4.—William Erle, Henry Hoper, Thomas Wilke, and John Coche, Wardens, &c.

Receipts—viii<sup>d</sup> from Thomas Thorn for one seat sold this year, ii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for x lb. of old surplices; vi<sup>d</sup> and xxiii lb. of hemp collected among the brethren this year for making ropes for ringing the bells with; ii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>½</sup><sup>d</sup> from the collection which remains for the parish torches.

Expenses—In payment to William Leche for making two supplications to the Lord Bishop vi<sup>d</sup>, also in payment to William Gye for mending the organ v<sup>d</sup>, also to Thomas Wilke for his expenses at Exeter (Excestrie) and Clyste in certain causes between the vicar and the parish iiii<sup>d</sup>, also in expense for four men at Exeter between the parish and the vicar ii<sup>s</sup>, also for six men iii<sup>s</sup>, and for xvi men in the same matter xiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, also for making wax for the festival of St. Andrew vii<sup>d</sup>, also in payment at Exeter when the King was there, in expense ii<sup>s</sup>, also in payment at Exeter for writing the indenture between the vicar and the parish xx<sup>d</sup>, also in payment to four men when they rode into Cornwalle for the King xvi<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup>; also for ii yards and a half of linen cloth for ii towels for the lavatory xv<sup>d</sup>, also for xxiii yards of "holond" for iii surplices at vi<sup>d</sup>, sum xii<sup>s</sup>, also to the portreeve for lands and tenements belonging to the Church of St. Andrew x<sup>d</sup>.

The visit of Richard III. to Exeter shortly after his accession, is referred to above. It is thus spoken of in "Notices of Exeter" (by Mr. Gidley), who quotes from ancient records: "And he (the king) by espyalls knowinge what practyses were devised agaynst hym for the supplantinge of hym and for bringing yn of Henry Erle of Richmond, whom of all men he most doubted, and deadly hated, and understandinge also that sundrye noblemen and gentlemen yn the countie of Devon were assembled to that effecte, he caused John Lord Scrope, of Bolton, with a commysion of oyer and determyner to come to this countrie, who sate yn his commysion at Torrington." Among those indicted for high treason was (the record states) Peter, Bishop of Exeter, and the number who were included in the indictment as principals or accessories, was upwards of 500, all of whom, except two, made their escape. "All these thynges done, Kinge Richard, for the better satisfieinge of his mynde, made his progress yn to Devon, and came to this citie (Exeter) in November," where (the account goes on to say) he was splendidly entertained.

A.D. 1484-5.—William Erle, Henry Hoper, Walter Antoney, and Thomas at Waye, Wardens. (Aisberton).

Receipts—xiii<sup>d</sup> for ropes sold, viii<sup>d</sup> from John Gye for one seat sold, ii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> from John Sowthe for rent of tenement which he inhabits, ix<sup>s</sup> for rent at Bankesbryme (a yearly entry).

Expenses—To John Ferrer for expense over William Thomas waiting on the bishop xiiii<sup>d</sup>, in payment to the viii men iiii<sup>s</sup>, also to one man for v days for washing the church white ii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup>, also for ironwork for the tabernacle of St. Mary in the aisle iiii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup>,



also for three gowns (togis) xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, also for the "offres" of the chasuble x<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>, also for iii yards and a half for lining the said chasuble xiii<sup>d</sup>, also for silk iii<sup>d</sup>, also for ribbon (rebyn) for the same xviii<sup>d</sup>, also for expense at Exeter and for labour in buying the said chasuble xii<sup>d</sup>, also for "canvas and boke" for le offres, le stoole, le abe, and le amys ii<sup>s</sup>, also for making the corporas xvi<sup>d</sup>, also for making vestments vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, also for mending the white vestments iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>, also for mending the boxe of silver iii<sup>d</sup>, also for mending the silver chalice viii<sup>d</sup>, also in expenses at Exeter for divers causes and debts belonging to the said church, and for labour vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, also for ii lb. of wax for making processions ii<sup>s</sup>, also for washing the vestments of the church iii times xviii<sup>d</sup>, also in payment to the clerk (clerico) for making the said account xii<sup>d</sup>.\*

A.D. 1485-6.—Walter Antoney, William Picket, Henry Bristow, and Thomas at Waye.

Receipts—For two processions xxx<sup>s</sup>, and x<sup>s</sup> in silver from the gift of William Burgyon paid by the hands of Richard Prediaux, xiii<sup>d</sup> collected on the vigil of All Souls,† (In addition to previous rents, xii<sup>d</sup> for rent of Bucklonde).

Expenses—To the sexton for salary, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for halewyng of y<sup>e</sup> churche clothes ii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup>, for mending of the manuell x<sup>d</sup>,‡ also in payment to Master John Halfhide for a year's rent of house near the church iii<sup>s</sup>; for mending of the black vestment, iii<sup>d</sup>, for soap and "strych flower" to wash the corporas i<sup>d</sup>, also for the dirige of Thomas Tankret. [The keeping the obit, or anniversary of Tankret's death, and that of others afterwards, is a yearly entry for some time.]

\* A few remarks here may not be out of place respecting the ornaments of the church. All those, nearly, which were then used in the services, are mentioned in these accounts, and some repeatedly; to prevent, however, these extracts from running to too great a length, the entries relating to these are not often repeated. In the last two years' accounts we have had mention of the towel and basin for the priest to wash his hands before consecrating; the "corporas" or corporis cloths, to place over or under the consecrated elements, and the various vestments, as the chasuble with its orphreys, the stole, the alb, and the amice. The box of silver was probably the pyx which is frequently mentioned in the accounts.

† The collection on the vigil of All Souls is, from this date to that of the Reformation a constant item in the year's accounts. With respect to the ceremonies observed on this day, Dr. Hook writes, "In behalf of the dead, persons arrayed in black, perambulated the cities and towns, each provided with a loud and dismal-toned bell, which they rung in public places by way of exhortation to the people to remember the souls in purgatory, and give them the aid of their prayers."

‡ The "manuell" (or manual) in the last account was the book of "occasional offices," which, with the Breviary (daily services), the Missal (Holy Communion), "Epistles and Gospels," &c., were the basis of our Book of Common Prayer (*vide* Blunt's "Annotated Prayer Book.")



A.D. 1486-7.—William Piket, John Ollisbrome, Henry Bristowe, and Thomas Geffrey, Wardens.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from Joshua Matthew for the burial of William Matthew, and viii<sup>d</sup> for the cross at the death of the said William, v<sup>s</sup> received from Bukyngton for the chandeliers\* (apud candelabras), xii<sup>d</sup> for cross and candles at the death of Margaret Cole (rent for one close at Bankysbryme and from Bucklond as before).

Expenses—For mending the great candlestick iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for cord for the "saunt belle" v, for the fringe for the altar vi<sup>d</sup>, for ringing against the coming of the bishop iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to Will<sup>m</sup>. Grey for "to dra stonys on the more" for xxxiiii lbs. of lead bought, ii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>. Also for "bread and drynk to them that carryed stonys out of the more" v<sup>d</sup>, for wax and making against the festival of Easter xv<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>, in payment towards the church chandeliers xvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1487 - 8.—John Ollisbrome, William White, Thomas Geffray, and Richard Knollyng.

Receipts—xx<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>¼</sup><sup>d</sup> for the play ale, xxix<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> received by the hands of William Erle and Richard Knollyng for the foot of the silver cross, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from the store of St. George, xi<sup>s</sup> from the store of St. Nichlas.

Expenses—To William Gray for mason's work about the new house belonging to the said church iii<sup>ii</sup> iii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup>. Also to Hugo Oldyn for writing book of the mass of Jesus iiiii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>, also for blessing the bells x<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1488-9.—William White, John Colpstone, Richard Knolling, and John Harett.

Receipts—iiii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> from a donation for the foot of the cross, (rents from two tenements belonging to the church) iii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> which remains from "metyng" (measuring) the circuit of the church.

Expenses—To Andrew William for "sawdering" about the weathercock v<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup>, for charcoal and carriage vii<sup>d</sup>, for x lbs. of wax bought at the measuring of the church v<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>, to the goldsmith for the foot of the cross ii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>, also for wax for the feast of our Lord's nativity v<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>, for making a chest xx<sup>d</sup>, for making clasps for books xvi<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1489-90.—John Colpstone, John Bidryse, John Harett, and Richard Ollisbrome.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from the gift of Mr. William Holcomb vicar of the same place, xx<sup>d</sup> from gift of Richard Huchin for the foot of the cross, iiiii<sup>s</sup> from Thomas at Witton for debt owing to the said church, xxi<sup>d</sup> received for sale of ale and brewing in

\* The amount from Bickington given above was probably towards these same chandeliers.



the house of the church, viii<sup>d</sup> from John Harett at Lymynfforde for i seat sold—(for other seats sold).

Expenses—To Mr. Halfhyde for rent (as before), also for keeping the playing clothes xii<sup>d</sup>, for iron and making the same for binding the great chest xxiii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>¼</sup><sup>d</sup>, also for the “lockeer” for locks and keys for the said chest v<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup>, for making a new “canapy” xx<sup>d</sup>, to the glazier for mending divers windows in the church x<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>¼</sup><sup>d</sup>, to William White and John Gye for their trouble in riding to Totness at different times to get a chalice ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup>.

And the said wardens have in charge and in the chest of the store of St. Mary called the Wyvyn store vi<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1490-1.—John Bydrise, William Berde, Richard Ollisbrome, and John Bicote,

Areer.—First the said wardens are responsible for one bowl of silver from the gift of Richard Dolbear of Bryxham, also three silver spoons from the gift of Aric Denbold.

Receipts—iiii<sup>d</sup> from William Brownyswill for the cross, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from John Colpstone for the pit (puteo) of his wife,—also xxxiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from the profit of ale called the playeryn ale (this is in addition to the ordinary entry for profit of ale); xxvii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for putting up the high cross; for xvii lb. of hemp collected on the vigil of all souls. (Also for seats sold.)

Expenses.—For making players’ gowns (tog) x<sup>d</sup>; to the plumber for the lead and making the same for the church vi<sup>ii</sup> ii<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>; to the sexton for salary x<sup>s</sup>.

A.D. 1491-2.—William Berd, John Bicote, John Lome, and John Mochett.

Receipts.—(Rent from Buckland entered as follows:)—xii<sup>d</sup> received from Bokelande from ancient rent paid per ann. for the bells; xii<sup>d</sup> from Widecombe for players’ clothing; ii<sup>s</sup> for stall duty in the house belonging to the said church; xlii. lb. of hemp collected on All Souls’ day for the bell-ropes; ii<sup>s</sup> for the church chetell.

Expenses.—For blessing of the chalice viii<sup>d</sup>; for keeping the church jewells i<sup>d</sup>; for the painting of the reredos of our Lady’s altar ix<sup>s</sup> in part payment of vi<sup>ii</sup> which lay in keeping in the common coffer called the Wyvyn money which was taken up for the said painting.

In past accounts allusion has been made to the church house, and afterwards it figures regularly in the accounts. It was here that the ale appears to have been brewed, and the church chetell or cauldron (cacabus) was the utensil in which the brewing took place. Before the house was a stall (or stalls), for which duty was paid at fairs. This house is that now occupied by Mr. Yolland, Draper, North-street, which is remembered under the name of the church house by some of the older inhabitants, who also



recollect the stall in front of the house. It was, in their memory, used as a school, to which purpose it was also turned toward the close of the period included in these accounts.

On the "church jewells," it may be remarked that in the middle ages anything reputed precious or made of valuable materials or richly adorned was called a jewel (*vide* "Macpherson's Annals," vol. i., p 555.)

A.D. 1492-3.—John Lome, John Mochett, John Russell and John Ollisbrome.

Receipts.—iiii<sup>s</sup> for rent of the house near the gate of the church; viii<sup>d</sup> from Matthew de Goodstone for a seat sold; iiiii from wardens of Bukyngton for the visitation, also xii<sup>d</sup> from the wardens of Buckland; iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the pit of John Bebyshill; also received from Henry Erle a box of silver for a gift to put our Lord's body therein.

Expenses.—In cost of bread and ale on Corpus Christi day to the players viii<sup>d</sup>, for Will. Harett's labour to Exeter for the visitation xii<sup>d</sup>, for skins to "hele" (cover) the great book v<sup>s</sup>, for binding and mending the great book xviii<sup>s</sup>, also for carriage of stones and bearing out of Owlecombe work xii<sup>d</sup>, for cloth to make a surplice and altar cloths vii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>, for mending a chasuble, tunicle, and amice xv<sup>d</sup>, also we paid to the painting of the reredos of our Lady's altar xl<sup>s</sup>, for xpus resurgens at three parts in prykyd song viii<sup>d</sup>, for another preked song boke v<sup>s</sup>.\*

A.D. 1493-4.—John Russell, John Ollysbrome de Lymynford, William Ollisbrome, and John Bollock, Wardens.

Receipts.—From the gefft of men to mende the spire therewith iii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for lead sold vi<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> $\frac{1}{4}$ , for old surplice and rochette sold xix<sup>d</sup>, from the store of St. Peter iiiii<sup>s</sup>.

Expenses.—To Mr. Furneaux for rent of the house belonging to him per ann. iiiii<sup>s</sup>, for casting of lead and "sawdryng" about the spire, for iron work to the spire viii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for brass and makyng to the spyre xxv<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for ii lbs. of tin v<sup>d</sup>, to the masons and "dachers" (thatchers) to the house of Richard Williams iii<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup>, to Sir Thomas, Sir Richard and William Kempston for correcting a book xv<sup>d</sup>, to †Sir Richard for mending a prycked song boke v<sup>d</sup>, for paynting of the wethercocke ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1494-5.—William Ollisbrome, Roger Colpstone, John Bullock, and John Ferris.

Receipts—(fresh rent),—xii<sup>d</sup> for a close of land at Sowleford. xv<sup>s</sup> collected for the parish torches, xv<sup>d</sup> for i sheep sold.

Expenses.—To Edward Goldsmith for mending the cross iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>, for mending copes xiii<sup>d</sup>, for "wekyerne" and rosin for the parish torches and making the same ii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup>.

\* Pricked song-book = MS. music-book.

† "Sir" was a title formerly given to the clergy.



A.D. 1495-6.—Roger Colpstone, John Ferys, John Dolbear, and William Harett.

Receipts (rents).—vi<sup>s</sup> for a barn near the church yard for this year and one elapsed, ix<sup>d</sup> $\frac{1}{4}$ , for one "lamme" sold, iiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from different men for the church chetell and brewing in the church house.

Expenses.—To Mr. Thos. Furneaux for rent iiii<sup>s</sup>, and for the bederoll xx<sup>d</sup>, also for the dirige\* of Tankret and others xii<sup>d</sup>, to one presbyter for being at the said dirige and mass iiii<sup>d</sup>, also to the clerk ii<sup>d</sup>, also to the bell ringers ii<sup>d</sup>, also to the bedeman i<sup>d</sup>, also to a child i<sup>d</sup>, also to the "pore pypple" vi<sup>d</sup>, to W<sup>m</sup> Kempston for making a new book v<sup>li</sup>.

A.D. 1496-7.—John Dolbear, William Harett, William Mace, and Thos. Harrey.

Receipts.—For one seat sold to Richard Ollisbrome for term of his life viii<sup>d</sup>.

Expenses.—For dirige (as before) xii<sup>d</sup>, to the presbyter of St. Laurence for being at the said dirige and mass iiii<sup>d</sup>, for praying through the town i<sup>d</sup>, also in bread to be distributed at the same exequies vi<sup>d</sup>, to Mr. Robert Festam vicar of Ilsington in the name of a reward vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for skins to line the new book viii<sup>d</sup>, for mending the pagents xvi<sup>d</sup> (pageant = statue or figure).

A.D. 1497-8.—William Mace, Thomas Harrey, John Soper, and John Hoper, Wardens.

Receipts (for seats sold).—For two lambs sold xv<sup>d</sup>, for the cross and candlesticks of silver this year ii<sup>s</sup>.

Expenses.—For nine yards of "lynnyn cloth" for the surplices ii<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup>, for a "shovyll" and a "pekeyze" xi<sup>d</sup>, to Mr. William Austin in the name of a reward ii<sup>s</sup>.

A.D. 1498-9.—John Soper, John Hoper, William Kempston, and Richard Geffray.

Receipts.—xix<sup>d</sup> collected for the bells on the eve of All Souls.

Expenses.—To a thatcher and for reed and "speres" and a man to serve him iiii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>, to Walter Puttyesham to ride to Exeter with the vestment xx<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1499-1500.—John Soper, Richard Geffrey, John Paty, and Thomas Schatebor.

Arrer.—Pledges to the value of xx<sup>s</sup>.†

\* The custom of observing the anniversary of a person's death with alms and *prayer* is here alluded to—the "*dirige*" being part of the office for the dead.

† The "pledges" mentioned in the arrears of the above and other accounts appear to have been securities deposited with the wardens for payment of arrears. The oil box was apparently the Chrysmatory for the oil of unction in baptism and visitation of the sick. The "ship" in the next account was for incense.



Receipts.—From a gift of the Lord Abbot of Buckfast Saint Clere Pomeroy, Galfrid Harepath, Thomas Wilke, Thomas at Waye, John at Waye, Peter Maty, Thomas Geffray, *iiii*<sup>s</sup>.

Expenses.—For carriage of vestments from Exeter home when they were blessed; for mending the bier *iiii*<sup>s</sup> *i*<sup>d</sup>, for timber for the seats *x*<sup>s</sup> *iii*<sup>d</sup>, for “playster” of Paris, one hundred, *iii*<sup>s</sup>, in expense to Exeter about Bikyngton *x*<sup>s</sup> *viii*<sup>d</sup>, for a new oil box *x*<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1500-1.—John Paty, Thomas Schabetor, John Clyffe, and Thomas Arscot.

Receipts.—(Similar to those before).

Expenses.—For the “shyppe” of silver *xiii*<sup>d</sup>, in expense at Exeter and London against those at Bikenton this year *iiii*<sup>u</sup> *viii*<sup>s</sup>, for lime to the steeple when he was rowcaste (rough-cast) *xxvi*<sup>s</sup> *viii*<sup>d</sup>, for helyng and rowcasting the ameltores\* *iiii*<sup>s</sup> *ix*<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1501-2.—John Clyffe, Thomas Arscot, John Sperk, W<sup>r</sup>. Denbold.

Receipts—*x*<sup>d</sup> from Thomas Cole because he did not assist the brewers for the brewing when they were elected.

Expenses—To Mr. Thomas Furneaux vicar (as before), to the glazier for a bargayn that ys made betwene the paryshe and hym to repayre the glass yerely that needs it, *iii*<sup>s</sup> *iiii*<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1502-3.—John Sparke, William Denbold, John Pridiaux, and John Noseworthy.

Receipts—*x*<sup>s</sup> for the bells from those of Bykenton;—from gift of Syre Andrew le gronte *iii*<sup>s</sup> *ii*<sup>d</sup>.

Expenses—For mending of a pipe of lead without the tower *v*<sup>s</sup>, to Mr. the vicar for rent (as before),—for carriage of a bell to Exeter and for their labour and cost that carried *iiii*<sup>s</sup>.

A.D. 1503-4.—John Pridiaux, John Noseworthy, William Laman, and Robert Leche.

Receipts—*xi*<sup>s</sup> received from the store of the high cross.

Expenses—For the change of the bell at one time, *iiii*<sup>u</sup> *iiii*<sup>s</sup> *vi*<sup>d</sup>, to John Gye to ride to Exeter to take the “tewne” in the bell, *xx*<sup>d</sup>, for a citation to “Canterbery,” *vi*<sup>s</sup>, for the change of the bell at another tyme, *xliiii*<sup>s</sup> *viii*<sup>d</sup>, for carige of the same bell and a man to schew hym the waye, *vii*<sup>s</sup>, for havynge up the saide bell, and for yre work to the same *ii*<sup>s</sup> *iiii*<sup>d</sup>, to William Erle and William Laman for labour to “Aysche” and Plymouth

\* The “ameltores” were the ambulatories. In the “Rolls” of Exeter Cathedral, A.D. 1437-8, is recorded the payment of 101<sup>s</sup> to John Budd, peyntor, of Exeter, for painting 57 nodi (bosses) in the south ambulatory.—Vide *Britton's Cathedrals*.

By the “ambulatories” *here* is meant apparently the longer parts of the aisles: the word “aisle” being used in these accounts to denote the shorter parts beyond the transepts, as well as the transepts themselves.



iii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, to Thos. Matthew and John Prideaux for their cost and labour at Exeter and Clyst ix<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1504-5.—Will<sup>m</sup>. Laman, Robert Leche, William Schaptor, and John Crocker.

Expenses.—for rent to the vicar, and costs when they rode to the bishop ii<sup>s</sup>, to Will<sup>m</sup>. White and John Wilke for feoffment iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to W<sup>m</sup> Erle for writing evidence iiiii<sup>s</sup>, to Robert Leche for riding to Chagford for evidence xvi<sup>d</sup>, for an altar-cloth ii<sup>s</sup>,—for mending the white cope vi<sup>s</sup>.

A.D. 1505-6.—William Schaptor, John Crocker, Robert Erle, and John Geffrey.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> received for the chetell; for a pit in the church iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> (also for several seats sold).

Expenses—Paid to the vestment mender xii<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>, to John Dolbear and William Herett for the church matter and for citations and their counsel and costs xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1506-7.—Robert Erle, John Geffrey, William Brokyn, and John Wreyford.

Receipts—From gift of William Culling vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, also from gift of Richard Carpynter xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for brewing in the church-house from Merget Pyket John Barber and Thomas Prideaux xvi<sup>d</sup>.

Expenses—In mortmain land this year x<sup>s</sup>. for brass for the bell xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to John Dolbear for Bikenton xl<sup>s</sup>, for a pair of "cruetts," x<sup>d</sup>, for making a new book xxx<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for William Culling, his knell, vii<sup>d</sup>, for ryngyng agayne the Bishop and for rushes viii<sup>¼</sup><sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1507-8.—W<sup>m</sup>. Brokyn, John Wreyford, John Farewell, and Roger Wyndeyate.

Receipts—xii<sup>d</sup> from Buckland, viii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from Bikynton (both entered regularly from this time) from a "pilgreme" iiiii<sup>d</sup>.

Expenses—For making the reredos xviii<sup>d</sup>, for linen cloth for the surplice ix<sup>s</sup>.

A. D. 1508-9.—John Farewell, Roger Wyndeyat, John Dolbear, and William Grygge (Ayschepton).

Expenses—For mending the banners iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for mending the sacring bell iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to the painter iii<sup>ii</sup> xvii<sup>s</sup>.

A.D. 1509-10.—John Dolbear, William Gregge, Richard Emmett, and John Luscombe from Feast of Pentecost to the same feast next year.

Receipts—ii<sup>s</sup> received for the tenement called the church house, which remains in the hands of the same wardens;—from various gifts, amounting to vi<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>, viii<sup>d</sup> for cross at the death of



Joshua Erett,  $\text{iiii}^d$  for ringing after the death of Mr. Edward Helyer, late monk of Buckfast,  $\text{vii}^s \text{xi}^d$  for ii ounces and a half of broken silver, charged in the arrears of the account of last year, and  $\text{xxiii}^d$  and x lbs. of hemp received from and for ringing on the night of the feast of all hallows beyond the expense of the ringers on the same night, and  $\text{iiii}^d$  for one seat in the church assigned to Millicent Hamme this year.

Expenses— $\text{vi}^d$  to John Ford for high rent of the church house,  $\text{ii}^s \text{viii}^d$  to the vicar for anniversaries and the bederoll of all the benefactors of the said church in the pulpit and praying for them,  $\text{lxxiii}^s \text{iiii}^d$  towards full payment for exchange of the great bell, weighing  $\text{xviii}^c \text{xvi}^b$  this year, nearly  $\text{xvi}^c \text{xiii}^b$  and a half of old metal deducted, and thus the same bell is more in weight by  $\text{ccii}^b$  and a half, to be paid for at the rate of  $\text{c}^b$  of new metal at  $\text{xxviii}^s$  (sum,  $\text{lvi}^s \text{x}^d$ ), and for the casting of each c lb. of old metal  $\text{vii}^s$ , sum  $\text{cxiii}^s \text{iiii}^d$ ; and for reward to the bell founders  $\text{xx}^s$ . Sum total  $\text{ix}^s \text{x}^s \text{ii}^d$ , of which the said wardens paid, according to the account aforesaid,  $\text{lxxiii}^s \text{iiii}^d$ , besides  $\text{xl}^s$  paid from the account of the store of St. George, of the same place, and besides  $\text{xviii}^s \text{i}^d$  paid from the account of the "Grene" torches, and besides  $\text{x}^s$  from the gift of the vicar of the same place, and besides  $\text{xlviii}^s \text{ix}^d$ , paid to the said wardens from the account of the preceding year: and  $\text{xx}^s$  paid in part payment for making the seats in the church this year,  $\text{vi}^d$  for frankincense and "mirre,"  $\text{iii}^s \text{ii}^d$  to John Prideaux clerk for playing "at" the organ this year.

A.D. 1510-11.—Richard Emmett, John Luscombe, Thomas Prideaux, and Thomas Matthew, Wardens; from feast of Pentecost to feast of St. John (Port-Lat.)

Receipts— $\text{xii}^d$  for the cross at the burial of John Gye,  $\text{vi}^s \text{x}^d$  for use and rent of the Church house and cauldron this year.

Expenses, &c.— $\text{iiii}^d$  for xx yards of stamyn (cord) for hanging the Lent cloth, and  $\text{iii}^d$  for xxxiii rings for said Lent cloth (velo quadragesimo),  $\text{iii}^d$  for cord to hang the pyx. For laths, nails, lime, &c., for repair of different tenements and for labour, food, and drink to the workmen—sum,  $\text{xli}^s \text{x}^d \frac{1}{4}$ .

A.D. 1511-12.—Thomas Prideaux, Thomas Matthew, Thomas Farre, and Richard Newcombe from feast of St. John (Port-Latin) to same feast next year.

Receipts— $\text{viii}^s \text{iiii}^d$  received from the warden of the Chapel of Bekyngton for annual payment to the said parish church according to the form of certain agreements made between them, and also  $\text{xii}^d$  received from the warden of the chapel of Bucklande in the more for similar payment (entered thus),  $\text{xii}^d$  from gift of John Young, and  $\text{viii}^d$  for a ring, from the gift of his wife, sold this year,  $\text{ii}^s$  for ringing the knell of the late Abbot of Buck-



fast. Money received from different debts to the account of the said church—xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from the wardens of the store of the "green torches," vii<sup>ii</sup> from the warden of the store of the Blessed Virgin Mary, iiiii<sup>ii</sup> from the warden of the store of the high cross ii<sup>ii</sup> from the store of the "Junior" torches, x<sup>s</sup> from the store of the Blessed Mary (at the font), xxvi<sup>s</sup> viiii<sup>d</sup> from the store of St. George, xx<sup>s</sup> from the store of St. Katherine and St. Margaret virgins, ii<sup>ii</sup> from the store of St. Clement the pope, xl<sup>s</sup> from the wardens of the store called Wyvyn store of the Blessed Mary, ii<sup>s</sup> from the store of St. Thomas Cant (of Canterbury), and xx<sup>s</sup> from the store of St. James and St. Eligius.

Expenses, &c.—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> paid to the portreeve of the Borough of the same place this year for high rent of divers lands and tenements held freely from the Bishop of Exeter, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> paid to the Vicar and others for the anniversary of William Dolbear according to his last will, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for keeping the bells and clock, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> paid to the clerk (aquebaiulo) in part payment of his salary at xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> per ann.; xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> in part payment for seating the church.

A.D. 1512-13.—Thomas Tarre, Richard Melcombe, Thomas Ayssherige, and Richard Luscombe, Wardens of the goods and chattels, &c.

Receipts—(In add<sup>n</sup> to former rents), vi<sup>s</sup> for rent of one close of land at Brownyswill, xx<sup>d</sup> for tenement in North Street, xx<sup>s</sup> for one tenement next the Vicarage, xii<sup>d</sup> for tenement in North Street, xx<sup>s</sup> from rent of Will<sup>m</sup> Matthew for one tenement with a garden and one piece of land of the same place let to him for a term of xxx years. From the gift of the late wife of Henry at Fenne a girdle mounted with silver, and pair of ornaments of coral, adorned with silver, and with five rings in the same ornaments; for cross and candles at the death and anniversary of diff<sup>t</sup> persons; xx<sup>s</sup> from the wardens of the store of St. George this year, x<sup>s</sup> from the wardens of the store of "grene" torches.

Expenses—xxiii<sup>s</sup> to William Austen, chaplain, for his wages, xvi<sup>s</sup> viiii<sup>d</sup> to the clerk in improvement of his salary, xviii<sup>d</sup> for the obit of Johanna Drewston, late wife of Henry at Fenne, held this year at the same place, ix<sup>d</sup> for one quarter of charcoal, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the picture of Jesus, xlvi<sup>s</sup> viiii<sup>d</sup> in part for making the seats this year beyond xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> allowed from the account of Thomas Prideaux, xxiii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for making the bell frames.

A.D. 1513-14.—Thomas Ayssherygge, Richard Luscombe Walter Pykett, W<sup>m</sup>. Knott.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from Richard Emmett for fuel in hole-park sold to him, xx<sup>s</sup> from warden of the store of the Blessed Mary in the aisle of the same place, otherwise called the



hogenstore, *iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>* from the Vicar of the same place for glass sold to him.

Expense—*xviii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>* to Walter Antony (sacriste), sexton, and for keeping the clock and bells, and for ringing this year, *vi<sup>d</sup>* for mending a cross (de laten), *ii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>* to Walter Antoney for mending *xi* surplices, *i* rochette, *ii* small vestments, *i* banner, and *iii* copes this year, *iiiiii<sup>u</sup> xvi<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>* to John Mayne in part payment of *x<sup>ii</sup>* for making the seating beyond *lx<sup>s</sup>* before paid to him, *lxxiiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>* to the glazier for mending the glass of the windows of the said church, *iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>* for one pane of white glass and *vi<sup>d</sup>* for red glass bought, *xxi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>* for lead, tin rosin, and fuel for repair of the said windows, *xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>* for old glass bought, *vi<sup>ii</sup> vii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup>* for exchanging the third bell weighing *xiii<sup>c</sup> xxxix<sup>lb</sup>*, *xii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup>* for carriage of the same bell from Exeter home.

In the course of the accounts which have already been given, frequent mention has been made of money received from the wardens of different stores. These wardens were officers of fraternities, who raised money for various purposes connected with the church, which they paid into the hands of the Four Wardens.

A.D. 1514-15.—Walter Pykett, William Knott, Thomas Farryer, and Richard Ferys.

Receipts—*iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>* for burial of Johanna, late wife of John Ford, in the church, and for *xvi<sup>d</sup>* for the cross at the death of the said Johanna and at two anniversaries of the same Johanna's death, *xl<sup>s</sup>* received for the aforesaid girdle and pair of ornaments sold to Thomas Addistote, *xx<sup>s</sup>* from the warden of the store of "yowlow" torches.

Expenses—*xlix<sup>s</sup>* to John Mayne beyond *vii<sup>ii</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>* before paid to him in part payment of *xi<sup>ii</sup>* for making the seating (le sege) of the said church, *vi<sup>d</sup>* for *ii* keys for the doors of the tower and the north amletory, *iiii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>* for "playster" of Paris bought for mending "guttars," *xli<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>* paid to the tylers, *ii<sup>d</sup>* for a dish of cloam for putting charcoal in, *xii<sup>d</sup>* for blessing one chalice and one altar cloth.

A.D. 1515-6.—Thomas Furse, Richard Ferys, Richard Oger, and Richard Farewell.

Receipts—*v<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>* (from gifts of different persons who died this year); *v<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>* for cross at the death of Richard Pridiaux at home and in the church.

Expenses—*iiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>* to John Mayn beyond *x<sup>ii</sup> v<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>* paid to him before in part payment of *xi<sup>ii</sup>* for making the seats (sedilm) of the church, *lix<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>* for timber-work for the church.

A.D. 1516-7.—Richard Oger, Richard Farewell, William Tolbay, Willian Bullak.

Receipts—*iii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>* for the use of the best cross at the obit of



Johanna, late wife of John Ford, and others, xx<sup>s</sup> from the warden of the store of St. Clement the pope.

Expenses—vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for painting the image of the blessed virgin Mary over the high altar, xx<sup>d</sup> for iiiii “ratilbagges” and “vysers” bought for the players at the festival of Corpus Christi, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for an altar cloth.

A.D. 1517-8.—William Tolbay, William Bullock, Richard Weyse, William Couche.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from the gift of John Riche, so ordered through the office of the Dean of Exeter for penance, for a certain crime loosed (relax) to him; lx<sup>s</sup>, one piece of silver, containing 5 ounces and a half, at the value of xvii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>, from the gift of Thomas Furneaux, clerk, late Vicar of the same place, and a surplice and missal; again two banners, one of which is of silk with the figure of St. Clement, the other of red “bokerhym” with the figure of St. Katherine, from the gift of John Ford, besides ii banners of silk received from his gift; iii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for the use of the best cross and the tapers; xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from the store of John the Baptist.

Expenses.—ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for one herse (sc. cloth) of buckram bought for the burial of the vicar of the same place.

A.D. 1518-9 Richard Crese, William Coche, Nicholas Browne and William Leere.

Arrer.—xiii<sup>ii</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup>, i, piece of silver, i surplice, i missal, iiiii banners.

Receipts.—xx<sup>d</sup> for ringing on the great bell on the death (of certain persons,) xviii<sup>d</sup> for sale of old surplices.

Expenses.—xii<sup>d</sup> for a pair of “cruetts” bought, iiiii<sup>s</sup> for cxxxi. feet of poles bought for the seats in the church.

On the items for burial, &c., it may be remarked that the churchwardens were by law entitled to a fee for burial in the church. The “cross” used on the occasion was carried, as still in the Roman Catholic worship, in the funeral processions, and “tapers” were burnt in the church about the coffin; “torches” too were used at funerals.

A.D. 1519-20.—Nicholas Browne, William Leere, William Whyte, Richard Forse.

Receipts.—ii. altar cloths received from a gift this year.

Expenses.—ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for keeping the players’ clothes; vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for the “pay of the piper” this year; xvi<sup>d</sup> for mending the glass of St. John’s window; xv<sup>d</sup> for expenses at the house of Thomas Predeaux at the dean’s visitation; iiiii<sup>d</sup> for ringing at the arrival of the Bishop of Exeter; xi<sup>d</sup> for cups and trenchers this year.

A.D. 1520-1.—William White, Richard Furse, William Gye and Richard Tayllor.



Receipts.—xxiii<sup>s</sup> for old lead, old iron, surplices, timber and “aysshis” (ashes.)

Expenses.—x<sup>s</sup> for sacristan; xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John Saunders, clerk; vi<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for altar cloth bought for the high altar; vi<sup>d</sup> for work about the house in North Street, late Langworthy's.

A.D. 1521-2.—William Gye, Richard Taylor, William Hall, and Edward Michell.

Receipts.—x<sup>li</sup> from the gift of John Ford, in part payment for making the rood loft; ix<sup>d</sup> for mending the small statue (?)—(emendcioe statois) of the lord the King Henry VI., at the same place.

Expenses.—viii<sup>d</sup> to portreeve of the manor for high rent within the manor for the year; vi<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup> for linen cloth, embroidered, to be carried above the host on different festivals, of Palm Sunday and Corpus Christi day. For making the rood loft iiiii<sup>li</sup> iiiii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for wainscot, timber, poles, &c. for the same, and xxiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> paid for “spolyng” timber for the same, and iii pieces of good timber received from the gift of the Abbot of Buckfast.

A.D. 1522-3.—William Hall, Edward Michell, John Wyndeyat and Robert Conant.

Receipts.—One belt adorned with silver received from the gift of Margaret Forst; iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the burial of John Dolbeare.

Expenses.—(To portreeves of borough and manor); ii<sup>d</sup> for ringing against the Bishop of Exeter coming to the town of Ayssheberton; viii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for picture of St. Roche; viii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for wainscot for the tablement of St. John; xvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for making the rood-loft; lxxvi<sup>s</sup> for making the seats in the church; iiiii<sup>li</sup> vii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for timber and making and carriage of the same and in reward of the Subprior of Buckfast this year; iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the bell called the sacring bell, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for costs and expenses of the commissioners of the Lord the King being here this year.

A.D. 1523-4.—John Wyndeyate, Robert Conan, William Matthew, William Ollysbrome.

Arrer.—One piece of silver, one surplice, one missal, iiiii banners, ii altar-cloths, ii sheep with lambs.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> from gifts of several, and of Henry Bucklond, for repair of the church, xii<sup>d</sup> from the gift of William Leer, of Witton, in satisfaction for ploughing the King's way (regie vie) leading from Owlecombe towards Ayssheberton above the “Estdowne” on the east part of the aforesaid Witton; v<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup> from several (among them Henry Bucklond) for the use of the best cross and the parish tapers, xxi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from the wardens of the blessed Mary Magdalene.



Expenses—iii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for expenses of the commissioners of the Lord the King being here this year, ii<sup>d</sup> for cord for the Lent-cloth, xx<sup>d</sup> for a rochet for the sacristan, viii<sup>d</sup> for the consecration of vestments, ii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for timber and working the same for the stall for the clergyman (clerico) in the chancel, viii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> to Peter Kerver for making the tabernacle over the altar of St. John.

A.D. 1524-5.—William Matthew, William Ollysbrome, John Dolbeare, Stephen Bryggeman.

Receipts—xx<sup>s</sup> from the wardens of St. George and of St. John the Baptist.

Expenses—v<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for expense of the commissioners of the Lord the King this year, viii<sup>d</sup> for mending the pyx for the Body of Christ, xii<sup>d</sup> for one cleansing sieve for the ale, vi<sup>s</sup> for box for putting the treasure of the church in.

We have here mention of the pyx or monstrance for the reserved sacrament (for the use of the sick); this had a covering and *canopy*, and was placed in a *tabernacle* or shrine over the altar. Both the tabernacle and canopy are frequently mentioned in these accounts.

In addition to the ornaments of the church hitherto remarked upon, there have been allusions in the preceding extracts to the "cruets" for the wine and water for the sacrament; "banners" for the rogation days, when they were carried in procession; the "sacring bell," which was rung to announce the approach of the Host; "the cross" for processions and for the dead; the "sanctus" bell, rung when the "Tersanctus" was said, to prepare the people for the elevation of the Host; the pulpit (or ambo) from which the Epistle and Gospel were read; altar-cloths and the cloths for Lent.

A.D. 1525-6.—John Dolbear, Stephen Briggeman, John Brigge, John Fayremouth.

Receipts—xviii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> received among the parishioners for making the parish torches, ix<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup> for old seats and timber sold.

Expenses—xxv<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for repair of the church, the clerk's house, the house of Thomas Hoper, the house of John Gode-fellow, the church house with the window of the same, the tenement in North Street and the Bedeman's house; xxii<sup>d</sup> for "tylyng" the aisles of Ss John and Thomas, with other necessities, work there this year, xiiii<sup>d</sup> for filling up — of the images at the altar of St. John together with the "yerne peny" of the painter of the same, xiiii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> for a pair of parish torches, vii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for fixing and putting up St. George, with iron-work for the same, xx<sup>li</sup> xviii<sup>d</sup> $\frac{1}{4}$  for making the Roodloft and separation between the chancel and the aisle of St. Thomas and the aisle of the Blessed Mary on the northern part of the church, and xx<sup>s</sup> for making a seat in the aforesaid aisle of St. Thomas, viii<sup>li</sup> to Antony Paynter for painting the Tabernacle of St. John in the southern aisle, x<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> to the suffragan for his cost at Ayssheberton, to Doctor Tollet, commissioner of the Bishop and



registrar of the same Bishop, and in expense of Richard Dolbear, &c., about the consecration and blessing of the church.

The Beadsman was a man employed in praying for others, as the "bead-roll" was a list of those for the rest of whose souls a certain number of prayers had to be rehearsed.

A.D. 1526-7.—John Brigge, John Tayremouth, John Goodfellow, and Richard Caunter.

Expenses—vi<sup>d</sup> for mending ii copes, the green banner, and ii corporis cloths xi<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>, for making seats in the aisle of the Blessed Mary in the church, with poles and nails for the same, xx<sup>s</sup> for an altar cloth of "saten" brigge (Bruges) with "bokerhm" ffranche (fringe), and making the same with ii girdles (zonis) for the same, xxxv<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> paid to several persons for their expense for riding and labouring for the right and title of the tenements of Halshanger; xiii<sup>s</sup> to others for riding and labouring for restitution to be had on account of the expense and cost incurred upon the consecration of the church and churchyard (semitorii), xlviij lb. of lead used upon the "guttur" of the church this year.

A.D. 1527-8.—John Goodfellow, Richard Caunter, William Clyve, and John Bound.

Receipts—l<sup>s</sup>, xviii lbs. of wax, i "tache" and i ring of silver from the gifts of different persons, xvi<sup>d</sup> for ringing the knell of several.

Expenses—iii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for iii quarters and a half of white "saten" and "bokerhym" for mending the altar-cloth, viii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for a quarter and a half of black velvet, "bukkerhm," "ffrange," and "sylke," and for making the same for making the tunicles of St. Andrew, xii<sup>d</sup> to the "broiderer" for his coming here this year, xx<sup>d</sup> for a picture of Jesus, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for mending the bier (le Beare), vi<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for parte payment of one "suyte" of vestments.

A.D. 1528-9.—William Clyve, John Bound, Thomas Predyaux, and Alexis Soper.

Receipts—vi<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from the gift of Elizabeth Predeaux, for part purchase of the best cope, and for one banner, called a streamer of St. George, from the gift of John Ford.

Expenses—Vestments bought xxxii<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> beyond vi<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> before paid as appears in the last account for i "sute" of vestments, viz., i cope and iii other vestures part of cloth of tissue ("Thussey") and one banner called a streamer of St. George, ix<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for painting cloth for the players, and making their tunics, and for "chequery" for making tunics of for the aforesaid players, and for making staves for them, and crests



upon their heads on the festival of Corpus Xti, iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for trussing girdles, cord for the lent cloth, mending surplices and staves for banners and carriage of the same from London to Ayssheberton, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for making a white cope with buckram and "rebyn" for the same, xv<sup>d</sup> for mending the great chest in the house of the sacristan, and the "deske" in the chancel of the church in the presence of the Chaplain of St. Lawrence, xxxviii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for xii stones called tile stones and labour before the high cross.

A.D. 1529-30—Thomas Prideaux, Alexander Soper, John Debyll, and John Wydecomb.

Receipts—i sheep from the gift of William Denbold, x<sup>s</sup> for burial of several persons in the church, xx<sup>li</sup> from Richard Drewe for lands and tenements sold to him, viii<sup>d</sup> for fleece remaining in the keeping of Wiliiam Denbold.

Expenses—x<sup>s</sup> to John Knolle, for discharging the office of sexton this year, iiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for covering two books the "Greyle" (Gradual) and "Invitatory," v<sup>s</sup> for mending and consecrating vestments, lv<sup>s</sup> for making a chest with everything belonging to it for putting the vestments in, lxxviii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for painting and other necessary work for the image of St. George, iiii<sup>li</sup> ii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> for repair of the tenement late in possession of Roger Pytleigh, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> allowed to Richard Turpyn, for reward of the parishioners for his office of singing at divine service.

On the word "gradual," Dr. Hook writes, "The Antiphonary, which, before the Reformation, supplied the anthems or verses for the beginning of the Communion, the offertory, &c., was often called the "gradual," because some of the anthems were chanted on the steps (gradus) of the ambon or pulpit.

The "invitatory," according to the same writer, "was some text of Scripture adapted and chosen for the occasion of the day and used before the Venite." The book called by this title probably contained several of these selected texts.

A.D. 1530-1—John Wydecomb, John Debyll, John Wyndeate Smith, and William Noseworthy.

Receipts—xiii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for making the parish torches, xxiii<sup>d</sup> for using the parish tapers at the death of several this year.

Expenses—vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John More, chaplain, for celebrating the mass of Jesus and the mass of the Blessed Mary, at the altar of the Blessed Mary each day, and the Sabbath day, this year.

A.D. 1531-2—John Wyndeate Smyth, William Noseworthy, John Lewis, John Veyse.

Arrer—ii sheep, i lamb, i piece of silver, half (di.) piece of silver, xi surplices, i missal, v banners, ii altar-cloths, i tache, and i ring of silver.

Receipts—vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for burial of Robert Erell and Robert



Lyons, chaplain, buried in the church; iiii vi<sup>d</sup> for seats in the fabric of the church, vi<sup>d</sup> for wool of ii sheep with a lamb.

Expenses—iii iiii<sup>d</sup> from reward, given to a boy John Bartlett, for singing in the church this year, xxxix<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> for ironwork used in the presse in the vestry, viii<sup>d</sup> for charcoal used in the vestry, ii, iiii<sup>d</sup> for buying silver candlesticks.

A.D. 1532-3.—John Lewys, John Voyse, Thomas Furneaux, and Henry Crokker.

Receipts—viii<sup>d</sup> for the rent of “le church hous,” and xvi<sup>d</sup> for stallage before the house, and ii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for the use of the boiler, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> from the warden of the high cross, and xx<sup>s</sup> from the warden of le hogenstore.

Expenses—Payd and alowyd viii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for rent of divers parsell of groune and tenements w<sup>in</sup> the burgage of this parysshe, ix<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>, paid for myndays (=mind-days, or anniversaries of death) holden in the said church by the yere, that ys to wite, William Dolbeare, William Cosyn, Thomas Tankerett, Thomas Stephen, Water Pottikyslond, and the benefactors of this church, xli<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for wax and the making of hitt, iii<sup>li</sup> vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John Saunder Clarke, for hys stipend wagys, xi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to three laddys for the mentenens of the quere (choir), vii<sup>s</sup> for stolys, fanelle, gerdelle, and mending of the vestiments, x<sup>d</sup> for charcole and Rysshys for the vestrye, iiii<sup>d</sup> for a loke and a corde for church<sup>e</sup>, yette, xvi<sup>d</sup> ffor mendyng of the glass windows, iii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for making of the wardens ys booke, viii<sup>li</sup> xvi<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> to the viii men for the defence of the church lands, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John Saunder clarke for the lone of his horss to london this year.

The “fanelle” or “maniple” was a sort of scarf worn on the left arm of a “mass” priest. The “rochette,” which is frequently mentioned, was a name formerly given to a kind of surplice (Johnson’s Dictionary).

From previous entries it will be observed that the materials of the different vestments were various,—thus, for instance, mention is made of a suit of white vestments, and again of a cope “cloth of tissue,” and an altar-cloth of satin of Bruges (“saten brigge”), made up with “buckram.” Upon this variety, Blunt (“Annotated Prayer-Book,” p. lxxvii.) remarks, “The nature or quality of what was to be employed seems not to have been prescribed; indeed, had there been a desire to do so (which is very improbable) the varying pecuniary abilities of parishes would have made it needful to avoid any rule on the subject, except requiring them to provide, according to their means, the essential (and, if they could, any supplementary) things appertaining to the services of the church.” As “tissue” and “satin of Bruges” were among the more costly materials, one inference which may be drawn from their appearance in these accounts is, that in “Ayssherton” was followed what has been called “the instinct of natural piety,” viz., the devotion of the best to God’s service.”

A.D. 1533-4.—Thomas Furneaux, Henry Crokker, John Ayssh-tregge and John Wyndyett de Welstor, Wardens.

Receipts—v<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from different persons for seats in the fabric



of the church sold to them, for a tache xv<sup>d</sup>, the whiche remains yn the old a compt, and a ryng i<sup>d</sup>, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for wool of ii sheep with a lamb, from the gift of Radycke, remaining with his executors.

Expenses—vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John Saunder Clarke for making of the last yere ys a compte, and this yere w<sup>t</sup> all other synguler stores yn this church, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to bonyffant the man of law for his ffey, xii<sup>d</sup> for the makyng of a new Rent tale this year, xxi<sup>i</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> to S<sup>r</sup> John Wescott and S<sup>r</sup> Phelyppe for synggyng of Jhus masse and our Lady masse, vii<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup> to the plomer for lyying a clothe of ledde over owre lady ylde, and mendyng of all other fauts yn the church, xix<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for mendyng of a chalys, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for rynggyng Mr. George Cowertteney ys knell, xxi<sup>d</sup> for ffylling of a tre and hevying the sayd tre whiche was geven by S<sup>r</sup> Thom. Sowtheron vycar of thys church, x<sup>s</sup> for mendyng of the grette organ, iii<sup>s</sup> iv<sup>d</sup> to the byyng of the sylv<sup>r</sup> cruetts the whiche was geven to the church by John Wedgcombe the ylder, vii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> for coferyng of iii bokys, xv<sup>d</sup> for setting of a beme over the church porche mete and drynke, ii<sup>s</sup> rewardyd and alowyd to the pleers of Cryssmas game that pleyd in the said church, iii<sup>d</sup> for mendyng of the pascale taper, xiiii<sup>d</sup> for charke Cole and Rysshes for the ffestrye, vi<sup>s</sup> for a growytte (great) keve (key) made by John Aysshetrege, xiiii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for ii pere of serplice, xi<sup>ii</sup> iiiii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> to the viii men for the defence of the church lands agen Master fford.

And there is owed vi<sup>ii</sup> xiiii<sup>s</sup> whiche ys deliuyd to the wardens of a nue yere that ys to c<sup>m</sup>, ii schepe and a hogge remanyng yn the hands of John Radycke, pece of sylv<sup>r</sup> pere of serplys, i masse booke, ii awter clothes, v baners a box of sylv<sup>r</sup> to bere the sacrament at the sycke ffolke.

Ther remaneth yn the hands of John Knollyn Tayllor beyng Sexton of the said parysshe church of Ayssheltn a crosse of sylv<sup>r</sup> and gylte, a pere of cansticks sylv<sup>r</sup> passell gylte, a cense of sylv<sup>r</sup>, a schippe of sylv<sup>r</sup>, a pere of cruetts of silu<sup>r</sup>, a oylevat of sylvu<sup>r</sup> passell gylt, more delyurydd to the sexton John Knollyng the ii chalices that appertenyth to Saint Katryn ys aultr. Item more remayneth yn hys honds iii chaleces. Item more remayneth yn the honds of Thomas Saunder Clarke one chalece.

The above two accounts—made, as it seems, by Thomas Saunder, clerk—being quaintly written in English, are copied at some length. From the inventories given of the church property, it would appear at that time to have been well supplied with the accessories of divine service, and that “silver” was little accounted of.

In Jenkins's “History of Exeter” we are told that “John Bonnefant, one of the attorneys of the Provost Court in Exeter, was found guilty of high treason, and condemned to be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution and there to be hanged and quartered, which sentence was accordingly executed on him on the 10th of August this year, 1539, on Southernhay.” It is not improbable that “Bonnyfant, the man of law” of the last account, was this identical person.



A.D. 1534-5.—John Aysshefrigge, John Wyndeatt de Welstor, Thomas Eryll, and John Cole, Wardens.

Receipts—(Fresh rents)xvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from William Matthew for half yere ys rent of Sonnoton parke, land and tenement at Yalyett, piece of land and tenement at Hedbery, piece of land at Leanehill, land at Sonnoton parke; xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for annual rent from the warden of the chapel of St. Lawrence at Ayssheberton. Gifts—i ring of silver, a pere of vestments.

Expenses—iiii<sup>s</sup> to S<sup>r</sup> Nicholas for redyng of the bedroll, x<sup>s</sup> for payntyng of the Rodeloft, iiiii<sup>s</sup> for ii chalyce casys, iiiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to the stenaar (stainer) for payntyng of the playyng clothes and gold skynnys borgt to the same, ii<sup>d</sup> for ryngging agein the bysshe-choppe, ii<sup>s</sup> to the players of Exeter playyng a Chrissmas game, ii<sup>s</sup> for a yarde of yren for to drawe the lente clothe, vi<sup>d</sup> for mendyng of the grete canstycke in the chansell, x<sup>d</sup> for rynggs for the lente clothe, vii<sup>s</sup> for the comyssemares denar, xvi<sup>d</sup> to John Dolbeare and William Knolling for rydyng to Master Cowertayne to knowe the comyssemares where that the will sytt w<sup>'yn</sup> the said parysshe.

In this year (1535) a general visitation of the monasteries was begun. The commissioners above alluded to may have been those sent on this occasion in connection with the neighbouring abbey of Buckfast or the Chantry of St. Lawrence.

A.D. 1535-6.—Thomas Erryll, John Cole, John Elys and William Geffry.

Receipts—(Rents as before) xv<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for helyng (roofing) of the church and tenements langgyng to the said church mete and drynk,—vi<sup>ii</sup> xix<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> to the pavear for tyle and lyng of the same tyle w<sup>'yn</sup> this said church, x<sup>d</sup> for drayng upe the olde tyle and redyng clene the same, iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> to a mason to tyle the church porche and the weddyng dowre,\* ix<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for pavyng betwyne the church and the church yett, ix<sup>s</sup> for pavyng agen the style, ii<sup>s</sup> for too Sawter boks, xi<sup>s</sup> for a legent booke, xx<sup>s</sup> for mendyng of the glassewyndowes w<sup>'yn</sup> this church, xii<sup>d</sup> for mendyng of a causye agen puttykes growne, v<sup>ii</sup> to the paynters for payntyng of Saynt Thome Ile, iiiii<sup>ii</sup> to Nicolas stenaar (stainer) for payntyng Saynt John Ile and Saint Katrine, viii<sup>d</sup> for rynggyng master Cowertnye ys knyll, vi<sup>d</sup> for coveryng William Grygges pytt, ii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> to Thomas Pridyaux for halff a hox hede delywryd to Master Gylbert.

A.D. 1536-7.—John Elys, William Geffry, John Cole, William Nicoll.

Receipts—(Rents as before and from a tenement in East

\* The wedding door was on the south side of the church. Wedding parties entered by it.



Street) vi<sup>d</sup> for wool of iiii sheep sold, iii<sup>ii</sup> iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> from the wardens of the stores of St. George, St. William, St. Julian, St. Clement, St. Margerita, and of the grene torchys.

Expenses—viii<sup>d</sup> to the reve of the manor ffor serten ground and tenement of puttyckysland, xvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> payd vnto Sir John Wescott and Sir Willm Bremcomb ffor iii quarters' synngyng of Jhus. masse and our lady masse, xxxi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to Sir Herry ffor our lady quarter, ix<sup>ii</sup> to John Clockmaker for makyn of the clocke and the chyme, ii<sup>d</sup> to John Knott sexton mendyn of the sege in our lady ele (aisle), iiiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for a clothe ffor the northe ynd of the Roode loffe, xviii<sup>d</sup> payd to the comandment of the viii men, iiiii<sup>s</sup> for playng gownys, ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for v yards of dowlys ffor borde cloth, vi<sup>d</sup> for ii schepe skyns for playyn cloths, ii<sup>s</sup> ffor a hed of here (head of hair) and a Roll and other thyngs for the players, xlvi<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to the paynters, ffor a rewarde, payntyn of the northe syde of the churche and payntyng of the playyn clothys, to them ffor other payntyn and ffor payntyng of ii ymagys of the churche, xxxvi<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> to the playsterer wayschyng of the churche, xl<sup>s</sup> for pagents of alabarst, xii<sup>d</sup> payd for a cloth that was lost, xx<sup>d</sup> ffor iii yards of canvas for the hye ault<sup>r</sup>, vii<sup>d</sup> for mendyn of the churche ladder, vi<sup>d</sup> for lokyn of the stocke to make Saynt Cristoffer, iii<sup>d</sup> for a barre for the churche dore, viii<sup>d</sup> ffor ffettyn home of ii pece of tymber fro the ode (wood), vi<sup>d</sup> for helpyn of the paynters of the sowthe eyle, iii<sup>d</sup> for oyle, ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> to William at Waye ffor lathes and bords and other tymber.

A.D. 1537-8.—John Cole, William Nycoll, William Burgys, and William Harre.

Receipts—(Rents as before) vii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for lead sold, xxiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from iiiii persons for certain contempt made, iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> received for i pall (?) (de pullo) sold, and agreed upon between the parishioners of Ilsyngton and Ayshberton.

Expenses—x<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for ii pagents of alabaster for the roodloft before the high cross xiii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> to the plumber for clxv lb. of lead for mending le ameltore of St. Thomas the martyr, i<sup>d</sup> for a pair of silk garments, (seroticarum) for king Herod on Corpus Christi day, ii<sup>d</sup> for mending the bell called the "leche" bell.

A.D. 1538-9.—William Harrys, William Burgys, Laurence Wethecomb, and William Whytewaye.

Receipts—i "pylpetye" from the gift of Margarete Lewis for the use of the best cross.

Expenses—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for a new book bought for entering those who die in the parish, and who receive the sacrament of Baptism according to the mandate of the most Illustrious Prince Henry VIII., king, defender of the faith, and in the land supreme head of the English Church; xvi<sup>d</sup> paid to William Baron and i plate



of tin for reward from the parishioners, ii<sup>d</sup> for a cord bought for the little bell called "le sakeryng bell, iii<sup>d</sup> for cleaning the "candelabrum" situated in the choir, ii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for mending the best cross and the silver "candelabrum," ii<sup>s</sup> for new rochet bought for the oratory, ix<sup>s</sup> in part payment of the greater sum for making the image of St. Christopher, xvi<sup>ii</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for painting the south part of the Roodloft with the separation of the ii aisles, viz., of St. Katherine and St. John Baptist, liii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for i new suit of vestments bought of white colour, of which one vestment from the gifts of Mr. Southeron, clerk, and one vestment from the gift of Elizabeth Prideaux, widow, and the best vestment bought at the cost of the parishioners, v<sup>s</sup> viiii<sup>d</sup> to Lodovic ffortescu, for looking at certain evidence, together with his labour for different parishioners.

All the monasteries had now been suppressed. The dissolution of the lesser ones had been enacted Feb. 4, 1535 (6) and before that, as preparatory to it, a visitation of them had been made. "Immediately after the final dissolution (1539) clergymen throughout England were enjoined by an order from Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, vicar-general of King Henry VIII., to keep a register of all weddings, christenings, and burials within their parishes" (Scaum's "Beverlac.") The entry in the last account agrees with this statement.

In several of the accounts in Henry VIII.'s reign, "sheep" and "wool" have been mentioned; and it is to be remarked that, from the accession of that King, there was an increase in the woollen manufactures in England.

A.D. 1539-40.—Lawrence Wethecombe, Thomas Kelle, William Whytewaye, and Radulph Langaller.

Arrer—vii lb. of hemp, vi sheep, and i ring valued at one ounce of silver.

Receipts—(Rents as before, &c.)

Expenses—xvi<sup>s</sup> viiii<sup>d</sup> to Thomas Saunders, clerk\* (aquebaiulo), for his laudable service, xx<sup>d</sup> to a doctor of divinity for preaching the word of God, vi<sup>d</sup> for ringing the knell of Mr. John Gilbert. Esquire (armiger), xvi<sup>d</sup> for one paxe bought for the altar of St. Nicholas, vi<sup>s</sup> viiii<sup>d</sup> to Lodovic Fortescu for his fee, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for making a "deske" in the aisle of St. Katherine.

The dawn of the Reformation was now appearing. In 1537 the English Bible was finished, and Cromwell put forth injunctions requiring the clergy to set up Bibles in their churches, and to encourage all to read them; he also exhorted the people not to dispute about the sense of difficult places, but to leave that to men of better judgment. Incumbents were required to instruct the people and teach them the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments in English, and that once every quarter there should

\* The parish clerk is not unfrequently called the "aquæbajulus." The derivation of the word is from "bajulus," a word formerly in use for a "bearer," the "aquæbajulus" being employed to carry the holy water.



be a sermon, to declare the true gospel of Christ, and to exhort the people to works of charity, and not to trust to other men's works, to pilgrimages or relics, or the saying of their beads, which tended to superstition. (Burnet's "History of the Reformation.") An allusion to the revival of preaching is contained in the last year's account.

On the "pax," mentioned above, Dr. Hook says that it is "a small tablet of silver or some fit material, often very elaborately ornamented, by means of which the kiss of peace was formerly circulated through the congregation." This was done before partaking of the sacrament. "The 'pax,' having first received the kiss of the priest, was presented by him to the deacons, and by him again to the people, by all of whom it was kissed in order, thus receiving and transmitting from each to all the symbol of Christian love and unity."

The "deske," which has been mentioned in St. Katherine's aisle, and that previously alluded to in the chancel, was probably a lectern for reading the Epistle. This was anciently read from a lectern near the altar, while the Gospel in large churches was generally read from the "jube" or pulpit, a desk placed between the cross and the chancel wall on the rood-loft.

There appears at this time to have been four chapels within the church, viz., those of St. Mary and St. Thomas on the north side, and those of St. John the Baptist and St. Katherine on the south; in each of these would be altars of stone, or of wood, at which masses would be constantly performed. Probably one of these chapels on each side occupied the north and south transept respectively. The rood-loft—a kind of gallery on which the rood, or crucifix, and other images were set up—which separated the chancel from the rest of the church, was, we have seen, erected A.D. 1525 (Dr. Hook tells us that rood-lofts were nowhere set up in churches in England till the thirteenth or fourteenth century), and at the same time a separation was made between the chancel and the aisles of St. Thomas and St. Mary. The separation between the aisles on the southern side was not made till A.D. 1539.

A.D. 1540-1—Radulph Langaller, Thomas Kelley, William Aysshewyke, John Radyck.

Arrer—vii lb. of hemp, 1 sheep, 1 lamb with three other sheep and lamb, and one ring of gilt.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> for iii sheep sold.

Expenses—v<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for a new book called a "Bybyll," viii<sup>d</sup> for a chain for fastening the said book, viii<sup>d</sup> for mending the rod of iron on which the lente clothe hangs in the time of the forty days, viii<sup>d</sup> for i Tynhoke bought, xv<sup>li</sup> to John Saentclere for the great organ bought from him, iiii<sup>s</sup> paid to divers men for maintaining the bridge called Staverton Bridge.

A.D. 1541-2.—William Ayssheweke, John Radyck, John Dolbear and Richard Paty.

Receipts—xviii<sup>d</sup> for ringing on the night of the commemoration of All Souls, xv<sup>d</sup> for the use of the Church tapers, ix<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for use of the best cross, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for burials, &c.

Expenses—viii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for mending the copes viz. ii pair of red and green colour, vii<sup>d</sup> for mending the great brass candelabrum,



situate in the choir, v<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> for reward to a certain man for baiting bears, and to certain players on the day of the Epiphany.

A.D. 1542-3.—John Dolbeare, Richard Paty, Christopher Warren and Richard France.

Receipts—viii<sup>d</sup> for use of the clothes for the players.

Expenses—xxii<sup>s</sup> for wax and making it, xiii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for “selyng” in the north part of the church, v<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for the ‘pavymnt’ in the North “strate,” iii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for a new cloth hanging beneath St. John the Baptist in “le Ridlought,” ii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for ii devils’ heads (capit diabol) and other necessary things in the clothes for the players, xvi<sup>d</sup> to William Westebroke for his labour against Thomas Pridyaux in the Stannary Court.

On Devonshire, Camden in his “Britannia” writes: “Nor has Devon been less rich in tin mines, especially towards the west part, in evidence whereof are the four stannaries or jurisdictions, with as many stannary courts and towns of coynage, viz., Plympton, Tavistoke, Ashburton, and Cheyford. By these are chosen from time to time, at the direction of the Lord Wardens, certain jurates to meet in a general session of parliament at Crockernton, a high hill in the midst of Dartmoor.

A.D. 1543-4.—Christopher Warren, Richard France, William Wreyford, and Walter Stone.

Arrer—v sheep, xi lb. of hemp.

Receipts—(Rents as before) wool and old iron sold.

Expenses—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for mending the road at Holne Bridge, xi<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup> paid to the poor in the parish (ii<sup>d</sup> a week) iiiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for subsidy to the Lord the King this year, ii<sup>d</sup> for mending i tyn hoke for Baland, Bedeman.

In 1540 the province of Canterbury gave the King a subsidy of four shillings in the pound, to be paid in two years, with a preamble of high acknowledgments of their happiness under his protection (Burnet’s “History of the Reformation.”)

At this time England was engaged in a war with Scotland, and reference is made to this in the following extract from the foot of the last year’s account: “xx<sup>s</sup> which the wardens delivered to ix men going in the war with the Lord the King; and in the hands of Nicholas Laneman, chaplain, curate of Aysshebton, i cupp de sylu<sup>r</sup>, i spone de sylu<sup>r</sup>; and in the hands of the wardens xi lbs. of hemp, ii tunicles of black velvytt, one ffrange (fringe) of sylk and ffyve thyngs of sylu<sup>r</sup>.”

A.D. 1544-5.—William Wreyford, Walter Stone, William Schap-  
tor, and William Bound.

Receipts—xi<sup>li</sup> x<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> from rents (as before).

Expenses—vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to Mr. Whiddon for his advice, xii<sup>d</sup> for labouring in Boroghwode, xii<sup>d</sup> for carriage of lead from Maneton to Aysshebton, iiiii<sup>s</sup> for a new “emanuel” (manual?) and i processional, [also] iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for subsidy to the lord the king ffor the church of Aysshbton, xxii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for le grate at le churche style, v<sup>s</sup> for harnys (= armour) and i bill, v<sup>d</sup> for setting the grate in the



church yeard, xviii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for iii poor men, ii<sup>s</sup> for making ii copes, xii<sup>d</sup> for 'sope' and washing vestments.

A.D. 1545-6.—William Schaptor, William Bounde, George Tayllor, and William Debyll.

Arrer—xxii<sup>ii</sup> xvi<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> and iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> from profit of ale, William  
 iii<sup>ii</sup> xx<sup>d</sup>  
 Harris, for penance from a certain woman, and from Robert  
 xii<sup>d</sup>  
 Tayllor, and xi<sup>s</sup> in the hands of John Knolling, sacristan, for  
 rent of one close of land called Saynt mary parke.

Receipts—viii<sup>s</sup> for piece of silver sold.

Expenses—vi<sup>ii</sup> to Mr. Andrew Antoney (cleric) from the gift  
 of the parishioners for his services, xiii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>ii</sup> to John Knolling,  
 sacristan, for his office, iii<sup>ii</sup> for ringing when the Bishop came to the  
 Parish, xvi<sup>d</sup> for le setting up of mary & John, xxii<sup>d</sup> for making  
 ii coffyns, xvi<sup>s</sup> for subsidy to the Lord the King for the church,  
 xxxii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for clothes for iii "shouldyers," xii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>ii</sup> for swords and  
 daggers, ix<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>ii</sup> to the said "shouldyers" in money, xviii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> paid  
 among the poor this year, xiii<sup>s</sup> paid (in connection with) the  
 commissioners of the lord the king.

A.D. 1546-7—William Debyll, George Tayllor, Robert Harell,  
 and Thomas Wyndeyate.

Receipts—ii<sup>s</sup> for ringing after the death of William Wynde-  
 yate, iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>ii</sup> for the burial of Thomas Prideaux, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for the  
 burial of John Dolbear, senr., and Johanna his wife, iii<sup>s</sup> for i  
 payr of hose, v<sup>d</sup> for ringing on the night of the commemoration  
 of souls, liii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>ii</sup> for three pounds of broken money.

Expenses—xvi<sup>s</sup> for the subsidy to the lord the king, xxxix<sup>s</sup>  
 viii<sup>d</sup> for masons making the cemetery wall, xviii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> to poor men  
 for alms, x<sup>s</sup> for repairing the bridge called Dart brygge, xvi<sup>d</sup>  
 for ringing after the death of King Henry viii<sup>th</sup>, for whose soul  
 may God be propitiated, iii<sup>ii</sup> for the entertainment (pro  
 jantacle) of the priest singing mass on that day—xxvi<sup>s</sup> for the  
 men's harnyss, iii<sup>ii</sup> for cleaning le man's harnys bought from  
 George Yong gentleman (generoso) xx<sup>d</sup> for x yards of linen for  
 towels called housslyng cloths, (sc. for the sacrament), vii<sup>d</sup> for  
 frankincense, iii<sup>s</sup> for a new box called "a oyle boxe," xii<sup>d</sup> paid in  
 expense at the entering into Banksbryme, viii<sup>d</sup> for reading on  
 the day of Corpus Christi.

A.D. 1547-8—Thomas Wyndeyate, Robert Harell, Thomas  
 Matthew, and John Fayrmouth.

Receipt—(Nothing for wax silver this year, or for ringing All  
 Hallows' Eve), vi<sup>s</sup> for the use of the best cross and the tapers.

Expenses—xvi<sup>s</sup> for the subsidy to the Lord the King, lx<sup>s</sup> to



Mr. Andrew, for celebration in the church, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to William Whytt, for exercising the office of singing in the choir, xx<sup>d</sup> for a new book called a manuell, xiii<sup>s</sup> for carriage of stones called "cope stonys," iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for carriage of stones called "walle stonys," xiii<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup> to the eight men for riding to Totnes at the visitation, iiiii<sup>s</sup> to iiiii men for riding to Paynton before the commissioners of the lord the king, xvi<sup>d</sup> to George Yong, gentleman, for riding to Exeter, ii<sup>s</sup> to the players on Corpus Christi day, ix<sup>d</sup> for expense on the day, when the vestments of the church were delivered to the sexton, ii<sup>d</sup> for mending iii cruets, x<sup>d</sup> for mending ii vestments and i cope, ii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for taking down le ymag called le George, xii<sup>d</sup> for frankincense and charcoal, xviii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> among the poor this year, v<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for making a book before the commissioners and for paper, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for taking down the Rood and other images, xxiii<sup>s</sup> for riding to Exeter before the commissioners of the lord the king, with the writings of the church.

The Reformation was now, on the accession of Edward VI., advancing more rapidly. In A.D. 1537 "images abused by pilgrimages made to them had been ordered to be removed, and no candle was allowed before any image but the crucifix;" but in the general visitation which took place in A.D. 1547, images were once more condemned, the former injunctions by Cromwell on this head, as well as others having after his fall been little attended to. The previous order, too, that there should be a Bible in every church, not having been generally obeyed, was renewed; and "for understanding the New Testament, Erasmus's Paraphrase was put forth in English, and appointed to be set up in every church. His great reputation and learning, and his dying in the communion of the Roman Church, made this book to be preferred to any other, since there lay no prejudice against Erasmus which would have been objected to any other author" (Burnet). The practice, also, of saying masses for the dead, which Henry VIII. had not discountenanced (for he ordered daily masses for his soul, and four obits a year, at the charge of Windsor), was now forbidden. And by an Act of Parliament those chantries which had not before, together with the monasteries, been suppressed, were in this year ordered to be given to the King; "chantries being endowments for the maintenance of one or more priests to say daily masses for the souls of the founder and his relations and benefactors."

From the last account and the following we see signs of these changes which were in progress, viz., in the discontinuance of the usual collection for "wax," and of the customary observance on "All Souls'" day; in the removal of the "rood," or crucifix, and other images; and in the disappearance from the following accounts of the payment for observing the anniversaries of the deaths of different persons. It appears that, as far as "Ayssheberton" was concerned, the fresh injunction to set up a Bible in the church was unnecessary, for the former one had been immediately obeyed; but the next year's account we find that the "Paraphrase" ordered was then purchased.

In the item of payment to the poor every year we see one result of the dissolution of the religious houses, and those entries relating to the soldiers, their arms and accoutrements (A.D. 1544-6), point to the fact of the country being at war with France during that time. In A.D. 1545 (Burnet says) "A parliament met in which the spirituality gave a subsidy for the



war of six shillings in the pound, payable in two years." In 1547 a war broke out with Scotland, and a "subsidy" is again among the entries in the year's accounts.

A.D. 1548-9.—Thomas Matthew, John Fayrmouth, Thomas Doer, William Coche, Wardens, &c., &c., from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Edward the Sixth, by the grace of God, King of England, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, and, within the English and Irish Church, supreme head, to the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Edward the Sixth.

Receipts—vi<sup>s</sup> from George Yong for half the Paraphrase, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for one spoon of silver sold, iii<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> from the store of the blessed Mary de faunt (font), xxxii<sup>s</sup> from the store of the Blessed Mary in le Ile (aisle).

Expenses—xviii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for wax and making the same, xii<sup>s</sup> for the "Paraphrase of Erasmus," iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the kyng's prayer, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> given to the "offyshall" for his labour, iii<sup>s</sup> in expense upon the viii men and the iiiii wardens on the same day, ii<sup>s</sup> for a new lock and key for the poor mens' box, xi<sup>s</sup> for rent to the lord the king, ii<sup>d</sup> for a bill le precept, xvi<sup>s</sup> in expense to the preacher for preaching the word of God, viii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for mending Brownsland way, xii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> paid to six men for riding to Newton before the commissioners of the lord the king, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to certain women for distributing as they please, xii<sup>d</sup> for cleaning the vestments and the church, iiiii<sup>s</sup> for a new book bought by the command of the lord the king, iiiii<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, paid to the poor this year, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for a new book in which they read the Epistle and the Gospel.

In this year, A.D. 1548, "a new office for the communion, that is, the distribution of the sacrament, was made; for the office of consecration was not at this time touched. This was printed with a proclamation requiring all to receive it with such reverence and uniformity as might encourage the King to proceed further. The books were sent over England, and the clergy were appointed to give the communion next Easter according to it" (Burnet). This was, most likely, the new book referred to above. In Henry VIII.'s reign the prayers, processions, and litanies had been by his order (A.D. 1544) translated into English; and an allusion is probably made to some of these in the account of a new "manuel" and "processional" bought (A.D. 1544), and now another step was taken towards the form of prayer which we have in the Church of England.

A.D. 1549-50.—Thomas Deryck (*alias* Oger) and William Coche, &c., as in last account.

Receipts—Rents as before, and from i tenement above Aysh-ton Bridge, i<sup>s</sup> from William Waye *ali(as)* Furse, for rent of the Church House.

Expenses—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for le takyng down the Image and the Tabernacles, and burnyng the same, ii<sup>d</sup> for i prayer of the Lord the King, xx<sup>s</sup> in gifts to the poor this year, xii<sup>d</sup> for expence in riding to Newton before the visitors.



In this year's account, and until the second year of Mary's reign, there is no entry for profit from ale sold. This may be accounted for on the supposition that the injunction, given, at the visitation in A.D. 1547, had been carried out with regard to the better observance of Sunday. "This (Burnet writes) was appointed to be spent wholly in the service of God, it not being enough to hear mass or matins in the morning, and spend the rest of the day in drunkenness and quarrelling as was commonly practised."

This year (1549) there was another *visitation*, in which an inquiry was made whether "any priests continued to drive a trade by trentals, or masses for departed souls. Order was also given that there should be no private masses at altars in the corners of churches, and that there should be but one communion in a day, unless it were in great churches and at high festivals, in which they were allowed to have one communion in the morning and another at noon" (Burnet). The Book of Common Prayer had now been published.

A.D. 1550-1.—George Dabernon and William Newcomb, Wardens, &c. (as before).

Receipts—xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from Richard Wheeler for the chest, v<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from John Elys and Thomas Oger for the high altar, xxx<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> for stayned clothes sold for the parishioners.

Expenses—xl<sup>s</sup> paid for the Rudloft, xliiii<sup>s</sup> for the king's money, viii<sup>s</sup> to one of Exeter for mending the clock, ix<sup>s</sup> in expense on the offycyall and the viii men, v<sup>ii</sup> to the "pore" people for one "hole yere" and as much more as the Sundays afore Barnabys day, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for default of the rent of Halshanger, vi<sup>d</sup> for lone of the scaffelt (scaffold) tymber to the payntyng of the Rudloft, viii<sup>d</sup> for taken downe of the iron, xii<sup>d</sup> to Mr. Seyntclere for hys hye rent of the Church house, xx<sup>d</sup> for the offycyall at his last being here, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John Dolbeare towards the makyng of the table in the quere and the necessaries.

"In 1549 (Burnet says) the laity and clergy both gave the King subsidies, and so the parliament was prorogued."

A.D. 1551-2.—Robert Wyndeyate and John Furse ali. John Waye, Wardens, &c.

Receipts—Rents as before, and xiii<sup>d</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from lands in Halshanger which belong to the chapel of St. Lawrence, and now in the hands of George Ford, Esquire, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the buryal of Thomas Matthew, &c., xx<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for the stayn (stained) clothes sold (players' probably) xliiii<sup>d</sup> for i stole and a fanell sold, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for i coffer sold.

Expenses—ii<sup>d</sup> for paper for our boke of remembrance, xxii<sup>s</sup> to the kyng's revenue for the rent of the Church, iii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for three "semes of wode," iiiii<sup>d</sup> for wax "candells," xviii<sup>d</sup> for washyng of the Surplys and vestments thys yere, iii<sup>ii</sup> vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to the poor.

There was now little occasion for wax. The use of tapers as well as of the cross at funerals was discontinued in 1548; and in the same year Cranmer, by an order in Council, put a stop to the practice of carrying candles on Candlemas-day, as well as of ashes on Ash Wednesday, and of



palms on Palm Sunday ; images, too, having been pulled down, there was no burning of tapers before them, the item therefore of wax, so frequent before, is now rare.

A.D. 1552-3.—Alexander Frynd and William Knollyng, Wardens, &c.

Arrer—i pall of sylk and gold.

Receipts—(Rents as before in last account), ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from the poor box, viii<sup>s</sup> from the gift of William Stephyns, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from gifts after the death of William Knolling, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the burial of William Knolling, xvi<sup>d</sup> for i towle sold by the command of the parishioners.

Expenses—ii<sup>s</sup> to Mr. officiale for his labour this year, xi<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> in expense at Exon when they were before the commissioners for the julys (jewels) of the church, xvi<sup>d</sup> for writing an inventory of the church jules, iiiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for a new book called a communion book, xxii<sup>s</sup> to James Madock for the use of the lord the king, viii<sup>d</sup> for drying the cope, iv<sup>li</sup> vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to the poor this year, iiiii<sup>d</sup> to the wife of Henry Farewell for drying the church clothes.

In this year (1552) there was a strict inquiry made into the accounts of all who had been employed in the former part of this reign ; for it was believed that the visitors had embezzled much of the plate of the churches (Burnet). Again, "in 1553, six visitors were sent to examine what plate was in every church and to leave them one or two chalices of silver, with linen for the communion-table, and for surplices ; and to bring in all other things of value to the treasurer of the King's household, and to sell the rest and give it to the poor." To one or both of these inquiries, though most probably the latter, an allusion is made in the above account in the entries concerning the church jewels or plate.

A.D. 1553-4—Lawrence Eys, in the room of Richard Wheler defunct, and William Fursse al. Waye, Wardens, &c.—in the first year the of reign of our Lady Mary, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

Receipts—(Rents as before), and for a close at Lenehill ; xii<sup>d</sup> for the use of the tapers, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from John Seyntcler, esq<sup>re</sup> for burial in the church, xliiii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> from collection among the parishioners.

Expenses—xxii<sup>s</sup> to our lady the Queen for pay, ii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for making an altar, ii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for le kercher for the altar and celebration called the corporis cloth, xx<sup>s</sup> for mending our lady Bell, xii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for wax and making the same, xvii<sup>s</sup> for i new book called the " gradal " (gradual), xvi<sup>s</sup> for iii new books, iii<sup>s</sup> for making iii new altars, x<sup>s</sup> for wax and making the same, xl<sup>s</sup> for the church Julys, l<sup>s</sup> to the poor, vi<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> for bread and wine, vi<sup>s</sup> for carriage of the vestments and cope from London and Exeter, viii<sup>d</sup> for i horse for Mr. Nicholas Laneman to ride to Exon, vi<sup>d</sup> for " Irework " for the Canape and mending a bell, xvi<sup>d</sup> for drink for the players.



“In the first year of Mary’s reign an Act of Parliament was passed repealing all the laws of King Edward’s reign concerning religion. By this, religion was again put back into the state in which King Henry had left it. The Act was to take effect after the 20th of December next, but till then it was left free to all, either to use the old or the new services, as they pleased” (Burnet).

At “Ayssheberton” it seems, by the last account, that little time was lost in restoring the old order of things.

A.D. 1554-5.—John Geffrey, and Thomas Bond, wardens, &c., in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the reigns of Philip and Mary by the grace of God, King and Queen of England, France, Naples, Jerusalem, and Ireland, defenders of the faith, princes of the Spains and Castile, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Milan, Burgundy, and Brabant, Count of Haspurgie fflandrie, and the Tyrol.

Receipts—(Rents as before), xl<sup>s</sup> from profit of ale, xxvii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> collected, xxi<sup>s</sup> from the hogen store, iiiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from different persons for seats sold to them, iiiii<sup>d</sup> from Elizabeth Hannafford for the use of the pall, xii<sup>d</sup> for use of the church-house, ix<sup>d</sup> from Elizabeth Langaller, for the bruyng in the said house, xx<sup>d</sup> for ringing on the night of the commemoration of souls, iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for the use of the tapers.

Expenses—xxxiii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> for wax this year, vi<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for wine, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for riding to Exeter for the harnyss, vii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for the cense, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for frankincense, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for ii banners, ii<sup>s</sup> paid to the officyall ys register, xxxiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to the vicar for the last payment of the Book, xii<sup>d</sup> for ii new amys (amices) for the paryshe vestments, ii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for the sope and wasshyng of the obe (alb) and surplices and sawyng of them when the wayshd, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for mending of the lent cloth, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for mending of the Rudloft, vi<sup>d</sup> for strykyng oute of the scriptur opon the rode loft, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for staples for the banners to stand yn, vi<sup>d</sup> for half a pound of wax candles.

A.D. 1555-6.—Henry Willyams, otherwise called Henry Coke, and William ffurse al Wayne de Euston, &c. (as in last account).

Receipts—iii<sup>li</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from sale of ale, iiiii<sup>li</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> collected among the parishioners, xx<sup>s</sup> from Alexander Frynd for his exoneration during his life for selling the ale of the church, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from the gift after death of George Tayllor, viii<sup>d</sup> for the use of the stall on the day of St. Lawrence, x<sup>d</sup> for use of the stall before the Church-house on St. Martin’s day, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for ringing on the night of the commemoration of all souls, iii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for the use of the tapers.

Expenses—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to Simon Boluck for covering of the “legent” that came from Bokeland, xix<sup>s</sup> for the harness of the church, v<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for vi lb. of wax, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for frankincense, xvi<sup>d</sup> for



rydyng to Exeter to the Vycar, iiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>s</sup> for iii horses ffettyng of the harnys, that ys to saye xx bills and teen men harnys, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> to William Whitwaye for money dew vnto hym in the syght of the parysshe, iiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for keeping of the players' clothes, x<sup>d</sup> for setyng the tymber upon the high aulter, xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John Harris in part payment for liiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> which he layd oute for the parysshe, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> in part payment for the latyn-crosse, which cost xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, ii<sup>d</sup> payd for a payr of glouys (gloves) for hym that played God Almighty at Corpus Xpi daye, vi<sup>d</sup> payd for wyne for hym that played Saynt Resinent, iiii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for iii laborers for iii dayes worke, vi<sup>d</sup> to one man for ii dayes worke, ii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for the bordyng of iiii men for iiii days, havyng good ale, vi<sup>d</sup> ¼ to the carpenters for messuring of the tymber on holy rode daye yn bred and drynke, vii<sup>d</sup> for the ryngyng of Sir John Wescottys knyll, xxii<sup>s</sup> for the use of the kyng and Quenes majesties the xxviii<sup>th</sup> day of November, Anno 1555, xl<sup>s</sup> to Martyn the kerver for makyng of the Rode, vi<sup>s</sup> to Thomas Langdon for hys ii ladds for iii dayes and a half for helyng (roofing) and ffyndyng they self, ii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for makyng the holy water buckett, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to Harry ffarewell for hys sextyn ship, iiii<sup>d</sup> for ffettyng (fetching) of the Rode, x<sup>s</sup> paid on Easter day for the relief of the poore from suche money as the Vycar asked the parysshe, which was xx<sup>s</sup> from Boke, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for the full payment of the crosse, ii<sup>d</sup> to George Wyndeyate for his paynes in setting vp the Rode, iii<sup>d</sup> for a cord to draw the cloth before the Rode, iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for v yerds of lynnyng cloth for to hang afore the Rode and the makyng thereof, vi<sup>d</sup> for rypppyng vp of the presse of John Littlejohn and setting vp the same yn the vestrye, vi<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup> for the Barr of Iron over the Rode and mendyng the Barr under the Rode and vi spykes, iii<sup>s</sup> for makyng the indentures of the ornaments of the Church.

From the above extracts it will be seen that all the old customs were now being restored, and among these the plays on Corpus Christi Day. These appear to have been discontinued during Edward VI.'s reign, but in former accounts frequent allusions have been made to them as well as to those at Christmas. The festival of Corpus Christi, in honour of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, was, in consequence of its not being thought right to keep the feast on Maunday Thursday in Passion Week, kept afterwards, viz., on the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday; and it was in this country, as still in Roman Catholic countries, celebrated with processions, &c. With regard to the plays which were acted on this day, the following remarks will not be uninteresting: "The theatres were these plays (or mysteries) were first performed, were ornamented with tapestry, and erected in the churchyards. These church theatres were temporary scaffolds, and the apparel, when they had none of their own, was borrowed from other parishes. In the Corpus Christi plays there were theatres for several scenes, large and high, placed on wheels." Strutt (in his "Sports and Pastimes") says that "The ancient stage consisted of three several platforms, raised one above another; in the uppermost sat



God, surrounded by his holy angels, in the second appeared the holy saints, and in the last mere mortals. On one side of this lowest platform was the resemblance of a dark pitchy cavern, from whence issued appearances of flames of fire, and when it was necessary, the audience was treated with hideous yellings and noises, as imitative of the howls and cries of the wretched souls tormented by restless demons. From this yawning cavern the devils themselves constantly ascended to *delight* and *instruct* the spectators" (Fosbroke's "Encyclopedia.") "Of these Corpus Christi plays, the Coventry play was (Strutt informs us) particularly famous. The prologue was delivered by three persons, who spoke alternately, and it contained the arrangement of the several pageants, which amounted to no less than forty. Every one of these pageants, or acts, consisted of a detached subject from Scripture, beginning with the Creation and ending with the Last Judgment. In the first, God is represented seated on His throne by Himself, and after a speech of some length, an angel enters, singing from the church service, 'To Thee all angels,' &c. Lucifer then makes his appearance, and desires to know whether the hymn sung was in honour of God or of him? The good angel replies, 'In honour of God.' The evil incline to worship Lucifer, and he presumes to seat himself on the throne of God, who commands him to depart from heaven to hell, which sentence he is compelled to obey."

The above explanation gives some insight into the plays acted at "Ayssheberton," and illustrates one entry (to our minds blasphemous) respecting them in the last year's account. *Here* they seem to have taken place *in* the church, nor was there any occasion, as was sometimes the case, to "borrow apparel," for the "players' clothes" are frequently mentioned among the property of the church.

A.D. 1556-7—Richard Clynes, and John Harris, Wardens, &c.  
(as before.)

Receipts—iiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from gift after death of William Ffursse al Waye, viiii<sup>d</sup> for use of the stall on St. Laurence's day and St. Martin's day, (other entries similar to those in the last account.)

Expenses—iiii<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup> for v yards and a half of Dowlys for iii altar cloths, viiii<sup>s</sup> for making clean of the Church harness and "letheryny," xx<sup>d</sup> for painting the players clothes at Totnes, and i<sup>d</sup> for "ffettyng," the same from Totnes, ii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> for v yards and a quarter of canvas for ii players "cotes," ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for a new "manuell" for the church, xxii<sup>s</sup> to our sovereigne lord and ladye, the Kyng and Quene's majesties; xxvi<sup>s</sup> viiii<sup>d</sup> to John Harris, in full payment of liii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> which he laid out for the bell, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for ringing Mr. Tresurer's knell being our Vicar, iii<sup>d</sup> for a skeyne of Sylk, i<sup>d</sup> for a skeyne of Thread, xx<sup>d</sup> for the shyp to putt frankincense yn; ii<sup>s</sup> to the Sexton for mending the cope, xiiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to Thomas Clerk, for part of his wages, xxx<sup>s</sup> allowed to Thomas Saunders, (clerk), for his rent.

From the last two accounts, in which is contained a charge for stall duty on St. Lawrence's and St. Martin's day, it appears that the present custom of holding fairs at Ashburton on August 10th and November 11th is by no means recent.

Who the "offycyall" mentioned so often lately is, cannot certainly be stated. But the term "official" formerly, according to Johnson's Dictionary,



appears to have been applied to "that person to whom the cognizance of causes is committed by such as have ecclesiastical jurisdiction."

A.D. 1557-8—Thomas Tayllor, John Caunter, &c. (as before.)

Receipts—Rents from Bekynton and the *parish* of Buckland, &c. (as before), iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from the gift of Hugo Langworthy, clerk, after his death, iiiii<sup>d</sup> after the death of James Peny, for ringing the great bell.

Payments—x<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to Martyn the carvyr for the Boxe upon the high aulter, xx<sup>d</sup> for a sheff of arrows, (sheaf of arrows, twenty-four in number), xi<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> to John Geffry, for the wyne of the Church which Master Vicar was contended to fynd, fr. vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> whiche was dew in the yere of Rychard Clynes and John Harris. then beyng wardens, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the pycure of Saynt Andrew, xxii<sup>s</sup> to our soveraigne lady the Quene for the rent yerely, iiiii<sup>d</sup> to a mason for setting up of the Image of Saynt Andrew, ii<sup>s</sup> to Thomas Saunders, for pryckyng of Bokes and mendyng of Bokes, xxiiii<sup>s</sup> for cloth for the sawdyers cotts, (soldiers' coats), iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for makyng and redd cloth for the crosses, ii<sup>d</sup> for bow stryngs, ix<sup>d</sup> for cottenyng the cloth for the saudyers cotts, xii<sup>d</sup> for carriage of the harnys to Chagford, ii<sup>s</sup> for the irework before the rode and the iron for the holy taper, xiiii<sup>d</sup> to John Lang, for dryving the dystresse to huyekpound, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for caryage of the harnys to Bekyngton, vi<sup>d</sup> for a gorgett.

The said wardens have in charge—one dish of silver, i box of silver, and iiiii stones silver gilt, ix saudyers cote, iiiii saletts (helmets), iiiii payr of splynts, iiiii bills.

Upon the entry concerning driving the distress to "huyekpound," the following extract from Blackstone, on the law with regard to distraining, bears: "The things distrained must, in the first place, be carried to some *pound*, and there impounded by the taker; if once impounded, though taken without any cause, the owner cannot break the pound and take them out, for they are then in the custody of the law." Pounds were of two kinds, covert or close, and overt or open.

A.D. 1558-9—John Baron, and John Michell, &c., the first year of the reign of Elizabeth, by the grace of God, queen of England, France, and Ireland, defender of the Faith.

Receipts—iiii<sup>li</sup> viii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> collected among the brethren, iiiii<sup>li</sup> from profit of ale sold, xl<sup>s</sup> from Thomas Dolbeare and William, sellers of the ale this year, xxii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> from the hogens store, iii<sup>li</sup> ii<sup>s</sup> received among the parishioners for the salary of Thomas Saunders, clerk, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from lopping the yew tree, xvii<sup>s</sup> from gifts principally after the deaths of different persons, v<sup>s</sup> from Johanna ffurssse widow, al Waye, for the use of the church house, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the use of the tapers, (nothing this year for ringing on the night of All Souls.)

Expenses—viii<sup>s</sup> payd to John Dolbeare for the Quenes money,



ii<sup>d</sup> for a payr of glouys (gloves) to hym that played Christ on Corpus x pi daye, xii<sup>d</sup> to John Bowden, for carryage of the harnys to Newton, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for frankyncense, xxii<sup>s</sup> for the rent of our sove-  
raigne lady the Quene, iiiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for a processional and a ympnall (hymnal), viii<sup>d</sup> for ryngyng of Quenes majesty's knyll, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for gluyng the grett organ and the litle, i<sup>d</sup> to Baland to go about the towne, xl<sup>s</sup> delyvered to William Couche and John Geffry, the drawers of the ale, lii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for wax and the making of it; viii<sup>ii</sup> to the clerk for hys wage; viii<sup>s</sup> to the Bowyer, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to the Bowyer, for cutting out of the "polme" tree, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for rotting, spolyng and carryage of the same tree, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for wyne thys yere.

A.D. 1559-60—Thomas Dolbear and Richard Newcomb, Wardens, &c.

Receipts—Collection for clerk's salary, &c. (as before), iiiii<sup>d</sup> from gift of William Burge, &c., xlii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> for sellyng of bowes.

Expenses—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for waxe and the makyng, ii<sup>s</sup> for kepyng of the players' clothes, v<sup>s</sup> for the comunyon boke, xvi<sup>d</sup> for ffettyng home of the same boke, iii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for iii Sawter boks, viii<sup>d</sup> to Robert Wyndeyat for grendyng of a sword, xxii<sup>s</sup> for the Quene's money,\* xii<sup>ii</sup> to the Bowyer, for makyng of bowes, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for washing the images in the church, viii<sup>d</sup> for Sir John Caselegh ys knyll, viii<sup>d</sup> for taking downe the rode, xx<sup>d</sup> to the vysytors at Tottnes for serving the Quene, viii<sup>d</sup> for lieing yn of the articles at Tottnes, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for trymmyng where the ault<sup>r</sup> stode, ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for lyme about the aulter where taken downe, and for the reparacion of the Church, ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> for the charge for takyng down of the images, x<sup>d</sup> for ther labor that carryed the Images to be burnt, and the drynkyng.

In A.D. 1559 an Act was passed reviving King Edward's laws, and bringing in again the English service. The Queen was at first inclined to keep images still in churches, but yielded at last to the arguments of the reformed divines. Visitors were now sent over England, and among the injunctions prepared for them one was that a communion-table was to be set up where altars formerly stood (*vide* Burnet).

A.D. 1560-1.—John Alys and John Baron, &c.

Receipts—Profit from ale, collection among the brethren, and for the clerk's salary, xi<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> from a gift after the death of John Dolbear sen<sup>r</sup> for burial in the church, and from Edmund Tayllor for i piece of le yew sold to him.

Expenses—x<sup>s</sup> for keeping the clock, xx<sup>d</sup> for i book called a sawter boke (to different persons in alms), ii<sup>s</sup> to Thomas Saunders for making ii books le playnsong, xiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to divers persons labouring at Dertyngton with Arthur Champernown knight

\* This payment to the Queen is a yearly entry.



(milit), ii<sup>s</sup> to the parishioners of Bockland for i book called a legend.

Camden (who lived about this time), in his "Britannia," writes on Devonshire: "More eastward appears Modbery, a small town which belongs to the famous and ancient family of the Campernulphs, who are also called De Campo Arnulphs, and, by the vulgar, Champernowns, Knights."

The books called the plainsong appear to have been for the prayers and lessons, which were to be sung or said in monotone (*Vide* Blunt's "Annotated Prayer Book," p. lx.) In Queen Mary's reign "it was enacted that any book or books concerning the common service set forth in English in the reign of Edward VI., commonly called the Communion-Book, or Book of Common Service and ordering of ministers, otherwise called the book set forth by authority of Parliament, for common prayer and administration of the sacraments, should be given up to be burnt," and divine service was again said in Latin (Blunt). Hence we find a new "communion-book" among the items in the first year of Elizabeth's reign.

A.D. 1561-2.—Walter Geffrys, and John Fayrmouth de Water, &c.

Receipts—Rent &c. as before.

Expenses—xviii<sup>d</sup> for the book of the order of the church and the x commandments, xvii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> to Johanna Coke, widow, from the gyfft of the parysshe, xxvii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to Westbroke and hys wyfe wyth the shrowde for William Westbroke of the gyfft of the parysshe this yere (several similar entries) xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to the master of the chydren in the chapell of the gyfft of the parysshe, xii<sup>s</sup> to William Whytwaye and hys company to Exeter for the parysshe, x<sup>s</sup> to Mr. Marshall the Under-sheryff for hys ffavor shewyng to thys parysshe, xx<sup>d</sup> to ii Irysshement of the gyfft at the commandment of the parysshe, xii<sup>d</sup> for syngyng bredd for the communion.

By "syngyng" bread is meant wafer bread, which, however, by the injunctions lately given, was ordered to be thicker than wafers, and to have no figure on it (Burnet).

The chapel, alluded to above, appears to be St. Lawrence's, which was originally a chantry, as former entries in these accounts show.

A.D. 1562-3.—William Dolbeare and Thomas Matthew of Somerhyll.

Receipts—(Similar to the last) xvi<sup>d</sup> from John Harris for i silver spoon.

Expenses—(Payments to several poor) xxiiii<sup>s</sup> for pay to the saudiers (soldiers), iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> paid to the bear-wards of Lord Robert Dudley, ix<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for wine to different persons, ii<sup>s</sup> for ii yards and a half of cloth called ffrys (frieze), v<sup>d</sup> for makyng i "payr of breches," xii<sup>s</sup> vii<sup>d</sup> to Thomas Langdon and his attendant for vi days for their labour.

Besides the Corpus Christi players, there were different itinerants who contributed to the amusement of the people, and, amongst these, men with bears, which, by being baited or by their dancing, delighted those who



witnessed these sports. Henry VIII. and his nobles had each his bear-ward, and bears indeed appear to have been an appendage of every great nobleman. Hence we find that Lord Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, had his bears, as appears not only from the above entry, but from a similar one in the records of Beverley, "Et xx<sup>s</sup> dat' in regardo custod' vrsorum dui Robto Dudley" (*Vide* Scaum's Beverlac).

A.D. 1563-4.—John Ffrynde and Alexander Langworthy, &c.

Receipts—(Similar to those in the last account) iii<sup>li</sup> viii<sup>s</sup> whereof iii slypps from profit of ale (slip = a counterfeit coin).

Expenses—xx<sup>s</sup> to Clement Bery, xv<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to lawrance Wydecomb for the Sawdyers at Exeter, (to several poor), viii<sup>s</sup> to Thomas Clerke for wyne, xxi<sup>d</sup> for bred, ii<sup>s</sup> for making the new rentall, iiiii<sup>d</sup> to the Deane of Tottnes, xvi<sup>d</sup> to Edmund Pridyaux for ryding to Kyngsbrydge for the dystresses, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to Robert Page for the omeley (homily) boke, ii<sup>s</sup> to Mr. Deane for keepyng the court, v<sup>s</sup> to Harry Coke and William Newcomb for conveyng of the Sawdyers to Exeter, iiiii<sup>s</sup> the sayd Harry hath leyd oute aboute Sawders more, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to the teythying man for rydyng to Exeter with Sawders, iiiii<sup>d</sup> to hym for presst money, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to Christopher Warren for two days spendyng at Exeter, ii<sup>s</sup> to Harry Coke for rydyng to Newton with the Sawders, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for takyng out of the bords of the communiyon table, ii<sup>s</sup> to the players, ii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> to William Whytwaye for rydyng to Exeter and makyng of a byll, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for pullyng downe of the Rodeloufte, viii<sup>d</sup> to Ryxtaylle for ii keys, vi<sup>d</sup> for the Irework for makyng fast of the chere, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the drynk that the eight men hadd at the serchyng of the evydence, xx<sup>d</sup> to the chyldren of Tottnes, xvi<sup>d</sup> to Saunder Langworthy for rydyng to Exeter with the presentment, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for ffettyng the eight men to take down the Rode loft.

A.D. 1564-5.—Robert Page and Richard Strange the 7th year of Elizabeth &c.

Receipts—iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> gift from Johanna Stephyn de Baland within the parish of Ayssheberton, viii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> from several for use of the church house, and from making "aquevite."

Expenses—viii<sup>s</sup> to 4 persons for riding to Exeter for subsidy to our lady the Queen, xvi<sup>d</sup> to 4 persons for riding to the commissioners of the Queen, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to 2 persons for looking at the writings of the Church, viii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for making iiiii beams for the bridge called the Holle Bridge, xii<sup>d</sup> for work at le let (leat) in the north part of the town, xxvi<sup>s</sup> to William Whiteway for making the Dert Bridge, xi<sup>d</sup> for a loke and key for the door of the clerks chambers, xvi<sup>d</sup> to Robert Page for riding to Exeter against those who did not pay to the poor, xii<sup>d</sup> for 1 capone which they gave to Mr. Williams, xvii<sup>d</sup> for bread for the communion, vi<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> for wine for the communion.



"Aquevite" in the last account appears to have been "whisky." "Some appropriate the term brandy to what is procured from wine, or the grape; aqua vitæ to that drawn after the same manner from malt" (Johnson's Dictionary).

A.D. 1565-6.—John Dolbear and Christopher Wydecomb.

Receipts.—(Similar to those of late years).'

Expenses.—xx<sup>s</sup> delivered to John Elys and Richard Strange, wardens elect for the office of ale drawers, viii<sup>d</sup> for ii sacks of lyme, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> in expense when they were before the commissioners of the Queen in the house of George Dabernon.

A.D. 1566-7.—Thomas Knolling and William Paty.

Receipts.—xx<sup>s</sup> from John Elys and Richard Strange which they had from John Dolbear and Christopher Wydecombe (compare last account), xx<sup>s</sup> from the gift of Edmund Clerk, vicar of Ayssherton.

Expenses.—vi<sup>d</sup> for le Dext for the vicar saying service in the church, iiiii<sup>d</sup> in expense to the officers and others at Staverton, vi<sup>d</sup> for making a new rental, x<sup>s</sup> to 2 persons for riding to Exeter with the charter, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for a new book bought for the vicar, v<sup>s</sup> for riding to Exmyster serving our lady the queen, iii<sup>ii</sup> xviii<sup>s</sup> to Robert Pridyaux, gentleman, attorney in law, for lands of the same place now in suit (in lit) in the Exchequer as appears by a Bill, xxii<sup>s</sup> for pay to the Queen for the church lands, xxviii<sup>s</sup> to Robert Pridyaux, gentleman attorney, for payment in law as appears by another bill, xl<sup>s</sup> to the ale wardens.

A.D. 1567-8.—John Elys, junior, and Henry Hole.

Receipts.—(Similar to the last), xx<sup>s</sup> from Christopher Wydecomb because he refused the office of the drawer of the church ale.

Expenses.—xx<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to Robert Pridyaux for expense in law at Lammas Assize versus our lady the Queen, ii<sup>s</sup> paid for entering nisi prius, xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to different men for being at the assizes for the parish lands, x<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> to John Sawdy for cleaning the harness with the Bills and pykes for the same, iiiii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> to Elizabeth Gymes for i le jack (jacket), vi<sup>d</sup> for puttyng yn of the canvas in the saletts (helmets) and redd cloth for the bylls, xv<sup>s</sup> to Mr. Pole for his fee at the Lent assizes, xxxix<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> paid in cost upon nisi prius, xxvii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for entering le nisi prius before the Judge, viii<sup>d</sup> to John Elys for warning (monitioe) the jury, x<sup>s</sup> to John Bronck for making the ten Commandments of the Lord, iiiii<sup>d</sup> to Robert Page for i quer (quire) of paper, iii<sup>d</sup> for iii hopes (hoop= bullfinch) "hedds", vi<sup>d</sup> for vi hopys and ii pyes (magpies).

A.D. 1568-9.—Nicholas Erell and Thomas Tayllor.

Receipts.—x<sup>d</sup> for use of the "standyng" of the church house,



ix<sup>s</sup> for the bruying in le church house, ——— Vestments belonging to the church sold—viii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> from George Knollyng for metal sold, iiii<sup>s</sup> from Henry Coke *alias* Wylliams for ii “cushyngs of velvett,” xx<sup>d</sup> from John ffurseman Tanner for i vestment le Blak vste, ii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> from John Brydgeman for i vest, le Blew and greyne, ii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> from Thomas Tayllor for i vest, le cheker, xix<sup>d</sup> from Edward Pyke of ffurselegh for i vest, le Blew and greyne, ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> from John ffirnee of Chyleley for i vest, le greyne sylke, xviii<sup>d</sup> from George Knollyng for i vest, le yolow sylke, xx<sup>d</sup> from Lawrence Whytwaye for i vest, the color greyne and yolowe, iii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> from John Luscombe for i cloth called a lent cloth, xxiii<sup>d</sup> from John Ryxtale for i vest called a vsted cott, ix<sup>d</sup> from William Elys for ii vest for boys, iiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> from John Haly for i cope of checkery, v<sup>d</sup> for i piece of cloth called an altar cloth, xiiii<sup>d</sup> from Lawrence Elys for i pall, iiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from William Newcombe for i tunicle called a decon’s cote, xvi<sup>d</sup> from Henry Ayscott for i corporis case branched with gold, vi<sup>d</sup> from Robert Wydyeate for one other corporis case, ii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> from William Elys for i vest le Blak velvytt, xvii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> from Nicholas Erell for ii copes le greyne satyn, xii<sup>d</sup> from William Elys for i canopye, vi<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> from Thomas Bound for i vest of greyne satyn, x<sup>s</sup> from Henry Ayscott for i cope of velvytt, vii<sup>d</sup> from Lawrence Wythecomb for a small piece of velvytt, xxi<sup>s</sup> from John Dolbeare for i cope of redd velvytt, viii<sup>li</sup> from Robert Pridyaux, Laurence Elys, Thomas Dolbear, Robert Page, Henry Ayscott, Thomas Matthew, Thomas Bound, William Weryng, William Newcomb, Nicholas Erell, William Elys, and Thomas Tayllor, for three vestments with i cope le cloth de tyssey (tissue)—sum, xiii<sup>li</sup> ii<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>.

Expenses.—iii<sup>li</sup> vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to Robert Pridyaux for the suytt of the church land, x<sup>s</sup> to George Dabernon of the goodwyll of the parysshe, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to John Wreyfford for rydyng to Exeter, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to William Shaptor for the same at the suytt of Bartholomew Poþe, xvi<sup>d</sup> to Rychard ffurse of Gutson for that he was at Exeter the same tyme, xviii<sup>d</sup> in gyft to too scolers of Oxenford (Oxford), iiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> to Master Chaff at the vysytation court for hys ffee, iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for the ffyffis (feoffees?) for the den<sup>r</sup> (dinner) the same tyme, iii<sup>s</sup> for bred, butt<sup>r</sup> and other thyngs at the same den<sup>r</sup>, iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> for wyne, sug<sup>r</sup> and ale at the same den<sup>r</sup>, xviii<sup>d</sup> for eggs, spyces, &c. at the same den<sup>r</sup>, viii<sup>d</sup> to Gunston for hys horse mett (meat) when the vysytacion court was, ii<sup>s</sup> to one that gathered to the burned houses, iiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for makyng of the seage (seat) for the clergy, ii<sup>s</sup> for a zytation to those that wold nott pay to the power (poor), xxiii<sup>d</sup> for comunyon Bredd at Easter and other tymes, ii<sup>s</sup> to the proctors of the maudelyn (Magdalene) house of hunyton (Honiton), xii<sup>d</sup> to Rychard Arthur to geve to a



pore man, x<sup>s</sup> to the collectors of the poor, ii<sup>s</sup> to the proctors of the maudelyn house of Plympton, ii<sup>s</sup> to one that gathered for them that be in turkey, xl<sup>s</sup> to Harry Ayscott and Thomas Bullock being Whitsun wardens, xxv<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> to Mr. Pridyaux for drawing owte of the sute against Angell Maddock for the parysshe lond, xvii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for the Bybell and for hys labour that went too tymes to Exeter, vi<sup>d</sup> for a mett (mat) in the chancell, iiii<sup>d</sup> for mendyng the church house wyndows next to the water.

A.D. 1569-70.—Leonard Bounde and John ffroude.

Receipts.—(from rents as before), vi<sup>ii</sup> from vestments sold, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from Robert Pridyaux for the burial of his son, xx<sup>d</sup> for the duty of the stall before the window of the church house.

Expenses.—viii<sup>d</sup> to the proctors of Plympton for “sekyng” of Agnes Nyghtyngale, vi<sup>d</sup> by command of the viii men to a poor man, iiii<sup>d</sup> for wardens’ dinner, xiii<sup>d</sup> for “le bords for planchyng le north ele” in the church, viii<sup>d</sup> for making i beme in le south almytory, iiii<sup>ii</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iiii<sup>d</sup> for calyvers<sup>s</sup> (harquebuses) and corseletts, xlvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> paid to certain persons for “corselettes” and “calyvers,” vi<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> to Mr. Vicar Young for a new book, xx<sup>s</sup> for the poor, vi<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> for making the bridge called the Bridge on the Old Yoe, viii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to Mr. Vicar Young in part payment of the bill which was not paid, xvi<sup>d</sup> to Leonard Bound for riding to Exeter to show the cope, expenses on the brydge called Lemmyford bridge (different items given), sum liiii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>.

In the last account we have the first mention of guns. The calivers, or harquebuses, were very clumsy weapons, and the English, who were accustomed to archery, were so much more expert in the use of the bow than in the use of fire-arms, that guns were not adopted in the English army till long after they were invented. Hence, we find allusions in late accounts to “bows and arrows” rather than to guns. The pike, which is also mentioned, was another formidable weapon in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The conveyance of the soldiers to different places referred to, was on the occasion of the musters which took place there. In the constant reference to these there is contained an illustration of the fact mentioned in history, that Elizabeth paid great attention to military affairs, “frequently reviewing her militia, and putting the country into a complete state of defence.”

A.D. 1570-1.—John Halye and John Pruston of Dolbeare.

Receipts.—(Rents as before) xii<sup>d</sup> from Christopher Stone for a seat for his wife in the middle of the Church.

Expenses—xx<sup>s</sup> for “mostryng” the soldiers for our lady the Queen, vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to George Dabernon for making this account, iiii<sup>d</sup> for ale for ringing\* at the rejoicing for the coronation and providential continuance of the reign of our lady the queen, xl<sup>s</sup> to the wardens for the poor this year, iiii<sup>d</sup> for washing the “towels”

\* A similar entry in subsequent accounts.



for the communion, i<sup>d</sup> for work on the door called "le weddyng doer," xii<sup>d</sup> to the Bedeman for his salary, v<sup>d</sup> for i canne, which was broken, for the ale wardens, xviii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for buying capons to be given to the Count of Bedford, viii<sup>d</sup> for a new book a homily against rebellion, xii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup> in expense to the official, & registrar and others for their dinner, xxi<sup>d</sup> for lime for mending Lemmingford bridge for last year.

Note that Gervis Spriggs and Thomas Cole wardens to the paryshe of Ayssheberton for the drayng of the ale and other necessaries have made as followeth Imprimis they have made clere of the ale iii<sup>li</sup> xi<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> Item more they have receyved for the rent for the reparacion of the church v<sup>li</sup> iii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>, sum viii<sup>li</sup> xiiii<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup>.

As was customary, provision was given to the Duke of Bedford and his retinue on coming to the town, of what would then be esteemed luxuries for the table. Similarly on the occasion of having been invited to a banquet by the Earl of Northumberland, the governors of Beverley in return made presents to him for "the honour of the town," and among these presents "*capons*," as appears from the following entry in their "Rolls of Accounts," "Paid for x capons bought as a present to the Earl of Northumberland viii<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>" (Scaum's "*Beverlac*.")

About this time plots and conspiracies were rife among the Papists which endangered the life of Elizabeth. This called forth the loyalty of her Protestant subjects, as is shown by the bell-rings on account of the protection of her Majesty and the continuance of her reign. The Homily referred to was in the second book published. The first book of Homilies was re-issued by order of Elizabeth in the year A.D. 1562; and in the year following a copy of it, we find, was purchased for this church.

A.D. 1571-2.—Henry Ayscott & Thomas Bullock wardens &c.

Receipts.—Rents as before, ciiii<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> from collection among the brethren for the repair of the church, and for the poor, iii<sup>li</sup> x<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from profit of ale, lviii<sup>s</sup> for clerk's stipend.

Expenses—xxii<sup>s</sup> for pay to the Queen, x<sup>s</sup> to George Dabernon for making an account of the collection for the poor of the same place according to the ordinance in the statute of parliament, xxx<sup>s</sup> paid to the wardens for the poor from the gift of the parishioners beyond what was collected among the parishioners, xii<sup>d</sup> for the ringing at the rejoicing for our lady the queen for the length of her life, xvi<sup>s</sup> in expense to the official when the court of peculiars (cur: peculiar:) was here at Ayssheberton, ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to Robert Chaff for his fee for keeping the court, xii<sup>d</sup> to a poor man who came with a testimonial, ix<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for the "gune powder" and for collecting the same, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for i bagge for carriage of "le gune powder," xvi<sup>d</sup> for bread called the "houslyng bredd" (*i.e.*, for the sacrament), ii<sup>s</sup> for mending the "harnys," x<sup>d</sup> for cleaning i sword and le "scaburd" for the same, x<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> to iiiii men for riding to Exeter for the subsidy for the Queen, iiiii<sup>s</sup> to iii men for riding to Newton and Brent, xvi<sup>s</sup> to W. Newcomb



and Henry Ayscott for riding to Chydlegh when they were going to Ireland, xlvi<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup> to Henry Luscomb for his fee for "le chart," xxx<sup>d</sup> (to 2 persons) for riding to Exeter with le chart, xii<sup>d</sup> for the prestmoney.

1572-3.—Gervash Spriggs and Thomas Cole.

Receipts, &c.—Similar to the last year's, viii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> (from several persons) for brewing, also for "gune powder" sold.

Expenses—xxx<sup>s</sup> to the poor this year, xviii<sup>d</sup> for a mett (mat) to knele on at the recevyng of the communion, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for aparell for Walssh ys daughter, xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> to ffyve men rydyng to Exeter, xvi<sup>d</sup> for a statute book, xvi<sup>d</sup> for caryage of the harnys to Chydley, vi<sup>d</sup> to John Staff for lokyng to the harnys, xvi<sup>d</sup> for rydyng to Exeter for the pykes, xviii<sup>s</sup> for the same pykes, iiiii<sup>d</sup> for the copys of the commysion from the queen's commysioners, xx<sup>d</sup> for ii horses to carry the harnys to Chagfford, xxi<sup>d</sup> for iii hundred and a half of "communyon bred," xiii<sup>s</sup> for wyne for the comunyon agenst Ester, xii<sup>d</sup> to Stephen Leyman when he was sent to Sir Arthur, viii<sup>d</sup> to Thomas Cole for goyng to Newton before the Commysioners, viii<sup>d</sup> for rydyng to Bouye (Bovey), xviii<sup>d</sup> for a payr of shuys, and xx<sup>d</sup> for a shert for Nyghtyngale, vii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for wollen apparell, a hatt, and making the apparell, iii<sup>s</sup> to Stephyn Leyman when he ley sick at Wythecombe, iiiii<sup>s</sup> for a tresell to the church house, ii<sup>d</sup> for takyng down the harnys in the churche, v<sup>s</sup> to the proctors of Plympton, iiiii<sup>d</sup> to too men to carrye the harnys to Newton, ii to too men for beryng the pykes to Newton, v<sup>d</sup> for ink and paper.

What was the occasion of the Queen's commissioners' visits at different times is not certain. Commissions, however, *were* issued in the reign of Elizabeth to search for concealed lands, *i.e.*, lands which ought to have been forfeited by the Act of Edward VI. (Scaum's "Beverlac" note).

The communion bread above referred to was "wafer" bread.

A.D. 1573-4.—Clement Baker and William ffermouth.

Receipts—Similar to those of late years, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from burial of William Dolbear.

Expenses—Paid to Nycholas Erle and Bownde then collectors of the pore x<sup>s</sup>, for mendyng of too seyges (seats) yn the churche wyth v spannes of Iron xiii<sup>d</sup>, to Rychard ffurse and John Caunter for rydyng to Bovytraye and for the charge that was layed outt ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for boardyng of the helyers (tilers) v dayes ii<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>, for the tire of a ladder i<sup>d</sup>.

A.D. 1574-5.—Lawrence Whyte and Richard Nosworthye.

Receipts—(Rent, &c, as before) liii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> made of iron that was taken outt of two windowes that were stopped uppe in the church, and they are ferder charged wyth v<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> that they have received of serten for churche rent, xi<sup>s</sup> for burial of Elizabeth Knoll and 3 others, xii<sup>d</sup> from the gift of Elizabeth Knoll, x<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>



for the occupacion of the church house, viz. the mynister for the keyng of scole there, &c.

Expenses—Paid for the charge of a dynner att the daye when Mr. Treasurer kept his vysytacon court xvii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>, to the regystrer iii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, to the bayliffe of the hundred ii<sup>s</sup>, to Mr. Vycar, harrye Ascott, and Robert Payge, for mendyng of the clocke xliii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for wyne for the whole yere xiiii<sup>s</sup> i<sup>d</sup>, to Edward Mayne, for stoppyng of one of the church wyndowes x<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for stoppyng of another wyndowe, xi<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>, for a shrowde for Amye Cornyssh, iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for ii chaynes to the booke viii<sup>d</sup>, for iii pounds of gonne powder v<sup>s</sup>, and they pray allowance for xx<sup>s</sup> that was payed to Henry Bank, for setting forth of souldyers to serue (serve) the quenes majestie, item there is delivered to the eight men for serten causes about the parysshe's busynes.

A.D. 1575-6—Robert Ball and Edward Wreyford.

Receipts—Rents from the *parish* of Buckland and the *parish* of Bekyngton, &c. as before—received from Mr. Vycar, for his gyfft towards the mendyng of the organs.

Expenses—To an Irysheman that would have gathered the parysshe ii<sup>s</sup>, to Mr. Chapynton for mendyng of the organs iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>s</sup>, for ii peces to stave the organs viii<sup>d</sup>, for nayles to nayle ytt ii<sup>d</sup>, for a workman to doo ytt iii<sup>d</sup>, paid to the house of teyngmouth iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to a skoler of Oxeford vi<sup>d</sup>, paid for making of clothes for Davy his boye ix<sup>d</sup>, for a peare of shoves xii<sup>d</sup>, to too merchants that had lost their goods on the sea xii<sup>d</sup>, for a pottle of wyne to give Mr. Treasurer to hys welcome to towne xii<sup>d</sup>, for a Bancket (banquet), for the eight men and the wardens this tyme ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup>, for a cloth for the communion cuppe xvi<sup>d</sup>, to one that had the queens comysson to gather the country ii<sup>s</sup>, to John Caunter for making of the wrytyngs betwene Leonard Bound and Mr. Hayman, and betwene Mr. Hayman and the parysshe for the lond that he gave to the pore xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>.

There remains clearly on the preceding account lviii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> beyond x<sup>d</sup> received at the tombe stone which is delyvered to Christopher Stone and Thomas Elys, new wardens for the next yere, and ii<sup>d</sup> left to paye for the high rent of Mr. Hayman's lande that he gave to the pore.

Note that the xxth daye of Apryll the yere above wrytten, the ffeofees of the lande of Mr. Hayman, that he gave to the pore for the byeing of shyrts and smocks, dyd geve vnto Christopher Stone a shert and Johanna Cook wydow, the smock for our lady daye quart<sup>r</sup>, accordyng to the meanyng of the same ffeofem<sup>t</sup>.

In the last account, as also in others, allusion has been made to persons having a license or commission from the Queen to beg. In the churchwardens' account-book of St. Mary's church, Beverley, A.D. 1593, there is a



similar entry, "Given in reward to one Allan, a souldior, showing the Quene's lres (letters) patente xii<sup>d</sup>" (Scaum's "Beverlac.")

The tombstone at which church accounts used to be paid, was a large stone, having seats round it, in the churchyard, near the end of the south transept. The custom of making settlements at this stone was continued to a comparatively recent period.

A.D. 1576-7—Christopher Stone and Thomas Elys.

Expenses—For a booke of the artycles xviii<sup>d</sup>, for a byll of lycence att the vysytacons x<sup>d</sup>, to Harrye Ascott for rydyng to Exeter about the subsidye ii dayes ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, to the house of teynymouth vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, to the mynyster for drawyng of our artycles iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for skowryng of harnesse iii<sup>d</sup>, to Mr. Vycar for ii psaulter books iiiii<sup>s</sup>, to William Byckham for dystraynyng uppon Bancksbryne ii<sup>d</sup>, for pavyng of the whytt stones yn the Church vii<sup>d</sup>, paid to one Light about the rodeloft xii<sup>d</sup>, for takyng downe of the rodeloft ix<sup>d</sup>, for a pottle of wyne for my lord bisshope when he preached here xii<sup>d</sup>, towards the buyldyng of the Castle of Exeter iii<sup>s</sup>, also there was geven to the quyre men xii<sup>d</sup>, to a pore man that wolde have gathered the parysshe vi<sup>d</sup>, for the quenes proclamacon xii<sup>d</sup>, to the Cutler for a sworde and a dagger vi<sup>s</sup>, for rydyng to Exeter (three times) aboute the bastard child ii viii (each time), to Sir Gawyn (Gawain) Carew his clerk ii<sup>s</sup>, to Mr. Vycar for rydyng to Exeter about the same chyld ii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, to two persons to go to Chydleigh about the same child ii<sup>s</sup>, for rydyng to Mr. Reynell to ffeteh his letter and to bryng ytt to Mr. Vycar yn Knyghton Hothfyld viii<sup>d</sup>, to two persons rydyng to Sir Gwyn (Gawain) Carewe about the same matter v<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to two persons for rydyng to Ester sessyons about the same v<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to Thomas Elys for rydyng to Shyllyngford, to Mr. Southcott ii severall tymes when Mr. Reynell and he wold meete to talk about the bastard xvi<sup>d</sup>, for the ryngyng of Mr. Heymans knell xii<sup>d</sup>, for a dagger ii<sup>s</sup>.

A.D. 1577-8—Peter Wyndeatt and John Caunter, Wardens.

Receipts—(Rents, &c. as before)—xvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> for burials of different persons, xi<sup>s</sup> for seats in the church.

Expenses—For a comunyon table xii<sup>s</sup>, to the glazyers for xxv fote of new glasse xvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> yn viii<sup>d</sup> the fote, for ffoure skore and syxe fote of old glasse newe mended yn iiiii<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> fote xxviii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, and for mendyng of xviii holes xviii<sup>d</sup>, for woode about the same viii<sup>d</sup>, to the Register iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for reparacon uppon the Churche after tempest, viz. for one thousand of stones ii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, ffor ffour dayes worke for a man and a boye v<sup>s</sup>, to Rychard Olyver for carryeng of armoure to Exeter xii<sup>d</sup>, for lynyng and stuffyng of the murryngs (morrions=helmets), and flocke to doo ytt viii<sup>d</sup>, to Mr. Southcott's man for trainyng the souldyers xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for a murryon xiiii<sup>d</sup>, for ii charges for the calyvers ii<sup>s</sup>,



for a key to the chest that kepyth the registry books  $\text{iiii}^d$ , for a pottle of wyne when my lord of bedford rode through the towne  $\text{xvi}^d$ , for halff a thousand of stones to cover the church att another tyme sythence the tempest and about leykey places  $\text{xiiii}^d$ , for whyte lymyng of the church  $\text{xxvi}^s$ ,  $\text{viii}^d$ , to Robert Joyce for certen peces to make fformes and seats yn the church  $\text{xviii}^d$ , for makyng uppe of ytt  $\text{xxii}^d$ , for a wrytyng table to wryte on the good dede of Mr. Hayman done to this parysshe  $\text{ii}^s$   $\text{vi}^d$ .

Charge bestowed upon the poore. To the wardens of the poore this yere  $\text{xvi}^s$   $\text{iiii}^d$ , Item for the poore and about theyr buryall  $\text{xvii}^s$   $\text{iii}^d$ . For keypyng of the bastard, hys apparell this yere, for yarde and halffe of cloth to mak ytt  $\text{ii}$  cotes,  $\text{ii}^s$ , for makyn of ytt  $\text{iiii}^d$ , for cloth to make ytt  $\text{ii}$  whytles, (white frocks)  $\text{xii}^d$ , for cloth to make ytt too byggens (child's cap)  $\text{v}^d$ , for cloth to make too shyrts  $\text{xviii}^d$ , for makyn thereof  $\text{iii}^d$ , the whole some of his apparell is  $\text{v}^s$   $\text{v}^d$ , so the whole som for the bastard this yere is  $\text{xxxi}^s$ ; for keepyng of yollends mayde att Downes Horwylls att  $\text{vi}^d$  the weyke for  $\text{xviii}$  weykes  $\text{ix}^s$ , for her apparrell thys yere, viz. for a pettycote cloth  $\text{ii}^s$ , for makyng thereof  $\text{ii}^d$ , for a smock cloth  $\text{xii}^d$ , for too neckerchers for too hedkerchers  $\text{ix}^d$ , for makyng thereof  $\text{iiii}^d$ , for too aprons  $\text{vi}^d$ , a peare of shoves  $\text{viii}^d$ , a peare of hosen  $\text{iii}^d$ , the whole som of her apparrell is  $\text{vi}^s$   $\text{x}^d$ , the whole of her ffynding and her apparrell is  $\text{xv}$   $\text{x}^d$ . To a pore man that came through the countrie the  $\text{xvii}^{\text{th}}$  of August  $\text{vi}^d$ , to the house of teynmouth this yere  $\text{vi}$   $\text{viii}^d$ , for the healyng of Yollands mayde  $\text{vi}^s$   $\text{viii}^d$ . Sum for the pore  $\text{vi}^{\text{ii}}$   $\text{ix}^s$   $\text{ii}^d$ .

A.D. 1578-9—John ffursman and Henry Whytewaye.

Receipts—(Rents, &c. as before),  $\text{iii}^s$   $\text{iiii}^d$ , for burial of Juliana Whytewaye, wife of William Whytewaye,  $\text{x}^s$  from the gift of the lord Bishop lately dead, and  $\text{xii}^d$  from the gift of Juliana Whytewaye,  $\text{vi}^s$  for seats in the church from several at  $\text{xii}^d$  or  $\text{viii}^d$  each.

Expenses—To a pore blynde man  $\text{viii}^d$ , to the cutler for a sword  $\text{iiii}^s$ , for a gurdell  $\text{iiii}^d$ , to one Wyndeatt of Exeter for leyng of the armoure yn his house  $\text{iiii}^d$ , for carryng home of ytt  $\text{vi}^d$ , for the ryngers labor when the lord Bysshoppe was carryed through the towne  $\text{x}^d$ , to Will<sup>m</sup> Newcomb and William Elys towards the makyn of Dert brydge  $\text{iiii}^{\text{ii}}$ , to the mayntenance of Colyton haven  $\text{ii}^s$ , to the church of bath  $\text{ii}^s$   $\text{vi}^d$ , to John Comyns, for that he was a trayned souldyeur  $\text{xxii}^d$ , to the cutler for to goo into Cornwall  $\text{x}^s$   $\text{iiii}^d$ , for the ryddyng of snowe upon the Church  $\text{xviii}^d$ , for mendyng the chymney over the church porche and the wall  $\text{xxii}^d$ , for ryddyng of the Ivey about the church and steeple  $\text{xii}^d$ , for takyn of a dystress for nott repayryng the high



wayes iii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup>, to Richard ffurse and William Matthew, collectors of the pore this yere v<sup>s</sup>.

A.D. 1579-80—The account of John Aysshewyke and John Yolland.

Receipts—Rents assise—from the parish of Buckland xii<sup>d</sup>, from the parish of Bekyngton viii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, from Thomas Ryche, for one tenement near the bridge which he inhabits viii<sup>s</sup>, and from Christopher Warryng, for one meadow at Hedburye viii<sup>s</sup>, and for x<sup>s</sup> received for two tenements now the malt myll, and for xxx<sup>s</sup> received from Thomas Saunders for one tenement in which he dwells, and for one close of land at Leynehyll, and xvii<sup>s</sup> received from Alice Peter, widow, for one tenement lately held by John Halys, and for xxix<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> received from Nicholas Knollyng for one tenement in the north strate, and for two closes of land, viz. one at Leynehyll, and the other at ffowlaford, and for xiiii<sup>s</sup> received from John Haly for one close of land at Leynehyll, lately in the possession of Henry ffarwell, and for x<sup>s</sup> received from William Windeatt for one tenement in which he dwells, and x<sup>s</sup> received from the executors of William Dolbear for one close of land at Leynehyll, and for xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from John Medyatt for lands and tenements called Puttysham is lande, and for xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> from Laurence Elys for two closes of land at Yolleyate, and for viii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> from Johanna Seyntclere, widow, for one tenement called Banks bryme, and for vii<sup>s</sup> from Nicholas Erle, for one piece of land lately Manning's, and for—from Harry Ascott, for high rent for one tenement in the North Street, and for xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup> for certain land in Halsanger. Profit from ale—and for profit from ale this year iiiii<sup>li</sup> xiiii<sup>s</sup>vi<sup>d</sup>, sold by Thomas Dyrrock and Hugh Luscombe, and for vi<sup>li</sup> collected for the salary of the parish clerk, and for vi<sup>li</sup> iiiii<sup>s</sup> collected among the parishioners for the seat rent. Income from the church house—for occupation of it and stall duty v<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>.

Expenses, &c.—Payed to the portreve for high rent for the parysshe lands viii<sup>s</sup>, to the court for a ffyne xiiii<sup>d</sup>, for entryng of the fine iii<sup>d</sup>, to the reve of the mannor viii<sup>d</sup>, to the portreeve for a ffyne vi<sup>d</sup>, for entryng of the ffyne iii<sup>d</sup>, to Mr. Seyntcler for the high rent of the churche house, and for one other tenement called Langworthy lond xii<sup>d</sup>, to the Clerk for his wage viii<sup>li</sup>, to the house of Teyngmouth for keeping of Marshall's wyffe vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for a citacion for them that would nott paye to the churche, xii<sup>d</sup>, to a skoller of Oxford iii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to a joiner for three dayes work yn the churche iii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>, for removyng of the pulpitt ii<sup>d</sup>, for four potts of ale iiiii<sup>d</sup>, to the paynters for wrytyng of the tenne commandments, xvi<sup>s</sup>, for takyng downe of the rodeloft xiiii<sup>d</sup>, for a horse to carry the armour to Chydley viii<sup>d</sup>, to a blynde man that gathered the coun-



trie viii<sup>d</sup>, for bredd and wyne thys yere xxi<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>, for kepyng of the Bells vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, to W<sup>m</sup> Elys to retaine Mr. Collyns for the parysshe x<sup>s</sup>, for ii dayes labour about the takyng down of the rodeloft viii<sup>d</sup>, for a booke of homeleyes ii<sup>s</sup>, for a booke of the Quenes injunctions vi<sup>d</sup>, for takyng downe the rodeloft and the organs vi<sup>s</sup>, for ryppyn of a hole yn the churche roffe about the takyng downe of the organs, and to cover the same agayn xii<sup>d</sup>, for drynk then v<sup>d</sup>, for sawyng and carrying away the rodeloft vi<sup>d</sup>, for ii murryons viii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for ii flasks for calyvers vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>, for makyng of bulletts ii<sup>d</sup>, for ii lbs. of lead iii<sup>d</sup>, for ii swords and too daggers xviii<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>, for wrytyng of a cople of the armoure ii<sup>s</sup>, for carreyng the cople of the armoure from Exeter to Boyve iiiii<sup>d</sup>, for makyng of our accompt and all other accompts vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> &c.

This account, being the last, has been given at greater length than usual. The roodloft appears this year to have been entirely taken down, and removed from the church, this having been only partly done apparently in 1564 and 1576, in the accounts for which years there are entries respecting the "pulling down" of the same. It is noticeable that the sum given to the "scholar" of Oxford in the last account, viz., 3s. 4d. (ten groats), is the same which the "good Bishop of Salisbury" gave to Richard Hooker (*vide* Walton's "Life of Hooker.") It may here be remarked that the bishop who is said to have been borne through the town in the last account but one, was William Bradbridge, who died in 1578 at Newton Ferrers, and whose corpse was thence carried to Exeter, *viâ* Ashburton, to be buried.

The following is a note at the end of the book :—

Ordinans made by the viii men ffor getheryn to the wexe sylver kep to ye lighte beffor the hight crosse: whyche saye is thatt euery man and hys wyffe to the wexe shall paye yerly one peny and euery hire serunt thatt taketh waygs a halffe peny and euery other persons at Estr takyn no wage a fferthyng and also they saye thatt euery man and hys wyffe and euery other person takeyng wage shall paye erely to the hie crosse a half-penny and suche serunts as takyth no wage to paye afr ther denocyon as schall plesse them and ther masters.

To this have been added afterwards, on the same page, some reflections in rhyme :—

The men that this ordinans at first dyd make  
dyd not thynke god's word plase for to take  
for yff they had lokyd well thereunto  
about thys mater had not byn so myche adowe  
& nowe the truethe ys cum to the lygthe  
this mater ys put clene to hys flygthe  
Myche was spent herein dyd no man good  
and for the loue thereof the poore lackyd food.