

EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOMPTS OF THE CHURCH-
WARDENS OF MELIIS FROM A. D. 1611 TO A. D. 1645.

[READ JUNE 14, 1849.]

1611. Received of Mr. Xpofer Tostwood for the farme of a cow due at Xpstmas last, 3s. 4d.
Paid, Item, to a breife for a burning at Myldnal*, 4d.
1612. Item, received by a rate for the plumbing of the church, made the 15th daye of Julye, 43s.
Item, paid for i quier of w^t paper, 4d.
1613. Item, at the generall at Stowm^rket the 16th daye of April, 1613, for a verdict then and putting in the bills indented, 1s. 2d.
Item, paid to Roger Love†, for a merrament for the plough‡, by the wyddowe Hengeames, 3d.
Item, for i pynt ½ of wyne at Whitsantyde, 1612, and one manchett, 10d.
Item, paid for the plumbing of the church to George Frigg, of Bury, the 15th of July, 1612, 46s.
Item, paid to the high constable for the mayntenance and releife of the maymed soldyers and Bridwell for 4 quarters, at 3s. 2d. the quarter, 12s. 8d.
1614. Item, received for farme of the towne howse due ffrom the wyddow Kyste, 5s.
Item, paid to Mr. Pead, at Bury Court, for gyving in the terrior of glebe landes, 2s. 8d.
Item, paid at the Archbyshop's§ visitac'on holden at Bury for our verdict and other charges, 2s. 6d.
Item, paid to the cheife constables for the maymed soldyers and Marshallseas||, for 4 quarters, 12s. 8d.
1615. Item, received of Robt. Jellitt for the old bible¶, 5d.

* Mildenhall; a popular abbreviation still used in that locality.

† Roger Love was churchwarden in 1614.

‡ In the "Book of Sports," prepared and put forth by James I., among the common amusements of the English peasantry are mentioned May-games, Whitsun-ales, church-ales, holy-ales, and plough-ales; to the latter of which this "merrament for the plough" may probably be referred.

§ George Abbot was then Archbishop of Canterbury. He held that see from A.D. 1609 to A.D. 1633.

|| Marshalsea-money, the county rate. So very odd a name deserves some examination. The general assessment called the county rate, at whatsoever time it was first established by statute, must have been meant to regulate the old "trinoda necessitas" of the common

law, which existed even in the earliest Saxon times. It was intended to provide a fund in each county for the repair of bridges and highways, for that of the king's castles, and for procuring substitutes to serve against his invading enemies. From time to time it was probably made applicable to additional purposes. At length, by the Act 43 Eliz., c. 2, payments were directed to be made out of it, to "hospitals, shipwrecked mariners, sufferers by fire, and prisoners in the Marshalsea." As these were persons who before had no claim upon it, it was then that our word came into use.—See *Forby's Vocabulary of East Anglia*.

¶ This was probably the English bible ordered by the Royal injunctions of 1547 to be set up in some convenient place in every church.

- Received of Richard Kyllett the remaynder of a rate made the 11th day of December, 1614, for the Kynge's Majesty's composition*, 20*d*.
- Item, paid for a new bible† of the largest volume at Bury, 51*s*.
- Item, paid to John Phillips, the paynter, for paynting of the Church and pulpett‡, y^e 27th of March, 1615, 20*s*.
- Item, paid for a pulpett bowse§ at Eye, 7*s*.
- Item, paid for y^e bringing of it ffrom Eye, 1*s*. 4*d*.
- Item, for setting up of the pulpett, to John Golding, and for nayles to do it, 2*s*. 6*d*.
- Item, to Georg Pulham, for making of the deskes|| to the pulpett, 3*s*. 4*d*.
- Item, paid at Bury Court for *not* having a new bible, 2*s*. 6*d*.
- Item, paid for a plank for the stockes to Henry Yestar, of Yaxley, 2*s*. 6*d*.
- Item, to John Golding, for making of them at Mr. felgates, in Yaxley, 2*s*. 6*d*.
- Item, to old Bettes, his sonn, for trymg ¶ of the belles, 6*d*.
1615. Item, paid at Bury court for dismiss^a fees for y^e buriall of old M^{tris} Tostwood, being a recusant excom^{d**}, 2*s*. 8*d*.
1616. Item, paid to Andrew Bettes, the sexton ††, for his wages for one whole yeare, ended at our lady last, 16*s*.
- Item, to Mr. Roger Colman, of Wortham, for two tymber trees, at 15*s*. y^e pece, 30*s*.
- Item, for washing of the surples twice this yeare, 4*d*.
1617. Julye the 30th, paid at Mr. Pead's, at Bury, for 1 noatt to know the tyme for the Kinge's armes ‡‡ setting up, 2*d*.

* This was a sum of 200,000*l*. paid annually to the King as a full composition for abolishing the right of wardship, and for taking away all purveyance, with some other concessions.—*Pict. Hist. of Eng.*

† This was the new Translation of the Bible begun in 1606, and finished and sent to the press in 1611—the result of the Hampton Court conference.

‡ The most ancient pulpit in existence is that in the refectory of the abbey (now in ruins) of Beaulieu in Hampshire: it is of stone. Jocelyne de Brakelond, in his chronicle, under the year 1187, speaks of Abbot Sampson preaching to the people in the English language, but in the Norfolk dialect; and says that for that purpose, and also to decorate the church, he ordered a pulpit to be erected. By the king's injunctions, published in 1547, "a comely and honest pulpit" in every church was to be provided at the cost of the parishioners, to be set in a convenient place for the preaching of God's word; and again it is ordered in the canons of 1603, that the churchwardens or questmen were to provide in every

church "a comely and decent pulpit", to be set in a convenient place within the same, and there to be kept for the preaching of God's word.

§ Is this the sounding-board?

|| This probably refers to the reading desk, which was attached to the pulpit after the Reformation. A specimen of the old "desk" previously used is in Hawsted church.

¶ Trimming or cleaning.

** The Parliament, which met January 21, 1607, enacted that every Catholic recusant was in all respects excommunicated.

†† The man called "sexton" here, is elsewhere spoken of as "clarke," *i. e.* parish clerk: the clerk's wages are now 52*s*. per annum.

‡‡ Although it does not clearly appear that the setting up of the King's arms was done by any express law or injunction, yet it was probably ordered by Episcopal or Archidiaconal authority, to denote the King's supremacy, and this entry confirms such supposition, for, if I mistake not, Mr. Pead was Registrar of the Archdeacon's Court at Bury. We sel-

- Item, paid John Phillips for paynting the King's armes, the 10 commandments*, and for the [Lord's] prayer; all these in the church 20s.
- Item, paid Henry Bardwell for making the frame for the armes, 12*d*.
- Item, paid into the office of Mr. Peade, for taking knowledge that the King's armes be done, 1*s*. 4*d*.
- Item, paid for delivering in of the verdict before Doctor Redman, 2*s*. 4*d*.
1618. Payments, for scoring the armes†, 4*d*.
For scoring the armes, 6*d*.
For a bow string, 1*d*.
1619. November the 12^h paid for i booke, called Jewell's Appologie‡, or whole work, 1*l*. 1*s*. 6*d*.
Item, paid for carriage of Jewell's Appologie home, 6*d*.
1620. Item, for halfe a calve's skin, 7*d*.
1621. Item, spent at John Fulchere's with Mr. Fanner§ and the rest of the companye, which went the bownes|| of the towne, 2*s*.
Item, to Thomas Harmer, for mendinge of the pileres of the Church windows, 2*s*. 6*d*.
1622. Item, for the cushion for the pulpett, 3*s*.
1623. Paid to a traveller¶ com out of Turkeye, 12*d*.
Given to a traveller by the King's broad seale, 8*d*.
For certifyinge to Norwitch that our minister cattikiseinge, 2*s*.
- 1626 Item, to Dray, for brasses, 6*s*.
Item, at Stow gen'all, 2 booke of prayer for the fast** for the Kinge, 1*s*. 8*d*.
Item, given to three passengers of greate extremite, men of fashion, 1*s*. 6*d*.
1629. Item, layd out at Burye for a Book of Homilies, 7*s*. 6*d*.

dom now find the royal arms of earlier date than the Reformation (though in Kenninghall Church, Norfolk, are the arms and supporters of Queen Mary I.) and it seems to be accounted for, by the practice of cutting up the pannels on which they were painted, whenever a succession in the Monarchy took place: an instance of this practice is still visible at Burgate, where the royal arms of an earlier date have been cut up and are to be seen as parts of pews.

* The commandments were again, by the Canons of 1603, ordered to be set upon the east end of every church, where the people might best see and read them.

† The "armes" here means the armes used by the parishioners at the musters held according to law.

‡ Queen Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. ordered Jewell's Apology to be kept in every church, though Archbishop Laud subsequently (1634) refused a new license to Bishop Jewell's works.

§ Mr. Nicholas Fanner was instituted

to the rectory of Mellis by Queen Elizabeth, July 27, 1587, was confirmed in his rectory by Charles I. in 1627, and buried at Mellis, February 24, 1635.

|| See George Herbert's *Country Parson*, for an account of going the "bownes".

¶ The author of a pamphlet entitled "Grievous Groans for the Poor, by M. S.," published in 1622, mentions the great increase of beggars which "pitifully pester" the country; maimed soldiers and others who flocked to England from Ireland, &c., constituting the greater number.

** This entry applies to the year 1625 (as appears by the heading of the account,) in which the plague made great ravages. "An. 1625. The Commons moved the Lords to joyn in a petition to the King for a publick fast, whereunto their Lordships readily concurred; and the King consenting, a proclamation was issued forth for a fast throughout the kingdom."—*Rushworth's Hist. Collections*.

- Item, an houre glasse*, 9*d*.
 Item, thé hour glasse frame, 8*d*.
 1633. Item, laid out for a Prayer booke for her Mag^{ties} safe deliverance†, 3*d*.
 1634. Item, to Philippes for the King's Armes‡, 26*s*. 8*d*.
 Item, to the joyner, for the frame, 8*s*.
 Item, to the Parator, for a Booke of Liberty§, 6*d*.
 Item, for a Common Prayer Book, 9*s*.
 1637. Item, for coveringe the booke Erasmus||, 5*s*.
 Item, payd to Thomás Thurlowe for a whele for the litel belle, and hanging the third belle sure, 5*s*.
 Item, for rayles¶ for the communinge tabell, 27*s*.
 Item, for carriinge of the same, 1*s*. 4*d*.
 1640. Item, layd out for a surplisse, 1*l*. 3*s*. 10*d*.
 Item, for making the surplisse, 4*s*.
 Item, for a lock for the chancell, 1*s*.
 Item, for settin it on, 2*d*.
 For fringe and penestone, and nayles and inkle** for the pulpet and deske, 12*s*. 10*d*.
 Item, a com'union table, 13*s*. 4*d*.
 Item, for a prayer booke for the King's convocation††, 6*d*.
 Item, to a passenger, being a minister†††, Feb. 8, (1641) 4*d*.
 Item, to a minister and wife, with six children, having a passe, 6*d*.

* Towards the close of the 16th century the practice of preaching by an hour glass, set in an iron frame affixed to the pulpit or projecting from the wall near it began to prevail; and in the succeeding century this practice became quite common.—*Bloxam*.

† On the birth of the Duke of York, afterwards James II., born Oct. 13, 1633.

‡ These royal arms still remain in the church.

§ On the 18th of October, 1633, was issued forth the King's declaration to his subjects concerning lawful sports to be used upon Sundays after evening prayers, and upon holy days. And publication of his command was made by order from the Bishops through all the parish churches of their several dioceses respectively.—*Rushworth*.

|| The Paraphrase of Erasmus upon the Gospels, in English, was ordered in 1547 to be placed in every church for the use of the parishioners.

¶ In Bishop Wren's diocesan directions, given at his primary visitation in 1636, it was ordered that the communion table in every church should stand close under the east wall of the chancell, the ends thereof north and south, and that the rail should be made before it, reaching from the north wall to the south

wall, near one yard in height, so thick with pillars that dogs might not get in. Matthew Wren was appointed Bishop of Norwich, Nov. 10, 1635.

** "Penistons, a sort of coarse woollen cloth;" "Inkle, a sort of linen tape."—*Bailey's Dictionary*, folio, 1736. "A great as two inkle-weavers" is a Bedfordshire proverb for strict intimacy.

†† On the 5th of May, 1640, the King dissolved the Parliament. On the 7th of May, 1640, the Lords of the Privy Council ordered that a "memorial of his Majesties care in continuing of the convocation for the quiet of the church, should be entered in the registers of the acts of council. After this time the convocation sate till the 20th of May, and then ended." This convocation made 17 canons, which the King confirmed under the great seal; and enjoined that every minister should read them in the parish church or chapel, and that the book of the said canons should be provided at the charge of the parish.—*Rushworth*.

††† About this period began the ejection of the clergy from their livings, many of whom were "passengers" for a season, begging their bread from parish to parish.—*See Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy*.

1641. Item, for a locke and three keys for the Church chest*, 2s. 4d.
Item, for nayles, 7d.
1642. Item, for going to Botesdale to carry the subsided and benivolence money, 1s.
- 1643-4. Received for the surplus and hood, 13s. 4d.
Layd out at Ipswich, when I went to pay the Ireland† money, 1s.
Layd out for glaseing the church windows, 35s.
Layd out to the Erle of Manchester's com'issioners§, 6s. 8d.
1645. Imprimis for clearing the glasse and glaseing, 2l. 3s.
Item, for taking the crosses down, and spent on the glasiars, 1s. 6d.
Received more for organne || pipes solde by the townne, 16s.
Received more for an olde barrell of a muskett, 2s. 6d.

After this year no Churchwardens' Accompts are entered until 1653. This omission was probably occasioned by the disturbed state of the times, as it is clear no account was kept (and probably no churchwardens were appointed,) for no leaves are torn out of the book.

I hope at a future time to present extracts from the Churchwardens Accounts from the Restoration of Charles II. to the Revolution in 1688, or later.

HENRY CREED.

* By the canons of 1603, the churchwardens were required to provide, if such had not been already provided, a strong chest, with a hole in the upper part thereof, having three keys, of which one was to remain in the custody of the minister, and the other two in the custody of the churchwardens; which chest was to be set and fastened in the most convenient place, to the intent the parishioners might put into it their alms for their poor neighbours.

† These subsidies and benevolences refer to the orders issued by the Parliament to their generals to receive loans or contributions of money, &c., "to be repaid upon publick faith."—*Baker's Chronicle*.

‡ On New Year's day, 1641-2, a proclamation of the Irish Rebellion was made. In February, the committee of the Irish affairs issued out their warrants to the several parishes for the sending a certificate of what sums of money they collected; but in 1642-3, Parliament having voted 400,000*l.* for the relief of Ireland applied 100,000*l.* to their own use.—*Baker's Chronicle*.

§ William Dowding and others were appointed parliamentary visitors under a warrant from the Earl of Manchester,

for demolishing the so-called superstitious pictures and ornaments of churches within the county of Suffolk. His journal, of the date 1643 and 1644, is in print, wherein is recorded the demolition of windows filled with stained glass, the breaking of altar rails and organ cases, the levelling steps in chancels, taking down the crosses from the exterior, and defacing crosses in the interior of churches; and taking up sepulchral inscriptions and figures in brass.

|| The organ, as a solemn musical instrument, may claim a very early origin, and has been in use in our churches from the Anglo-Saxon era. The ancient organs were small, and all the pipes were exposed. The phrase "a pair of organs" is often met with in old inventories and church accounts. They were generally placed in the rood-loft. The Puritans of the Commonwealth destroyed or sold them. By an ordinance of the Lords and Commons, passed in May, 1644, it was prescribed that all organs, and the cases and frames, should be taken away and utterly defaced.—*Vide Bloxam*, who quotes Hickeringsills Ceremony-monger (1689), wherein they are styled "popish-like music and too much superstition."