as a justice in eyre in 1245, 'was never sent on any other eyre of the common kind'; [72] but the Close Rolls show that in 1246 he was one of those who visited Yorkshire as justice in eyre,[73] and that he also so visited the counties of Northumberland, Westmorland, Cumberland, and Lancaster.[74] A further addition is afforded by the Patent Roll of 37 Hen. III (m. 5), on which is entered a grant (6 July 1253) of £50 a year at the Exchequer to 'Henry de Bretton, King's clerk', for his support in the king's service. Maitland only knew of his receiving '£40 a year from the Exchequer, the usual judicial salary'.[75]

An Assembly of Wool Merchants in 1322

THE documents printed below were discovered in an unsorted bundle of Chancery Miscellanea.[1] They were filed together and had apparently been untouched and unread since the date of their filing. Their form consists of writs in the normal pattern sent out under the Great Seal requiring returns to be made to the chancery by the sheriffs. The returns are contained in endorsements, or, if lengthy, in the form of bills or schedules. It is curious that an important chancery writ of this nature was not enrolled on one of the Chancery Rolls, but no trace of such an enrolment has been found. The subject with which the writ deals is of great interest. The king requires the various sheriffs to order all the greater wool merchants of their counties to attend before the king and his council at York on an appointed day to inform him and his council on certain matters which would be explained to them there, and to do what should be ordered them by the king and his council. The names of all those ordered to attend were to be sent to the king without delay. The writ was dated at York on 18 May 1322. After his defeat of the barons, the king was striving to his utmost to reduce order out of the confusion which the struggle with them had produced. Before the parliament of York had met, the king referred a number of matters, in a memorandum, to his council; and though the first question which they had to consider was the repeal of the ordinances, that was followed immediately by the note, 'Item de mettre les bons pointz en Estatut'.[2] The other matters which the king referred to the council concerned reforms of administration and legislation. Among the matters relating to trade referred to the council was the following: 'Item lestaple des lenies et de ordener qe draps soient faitz en Engleterre.' [3]

[72] i. 19.
[73] Close Roll, 30 Hen. III, m. 16 d.
[74] *Ibid.*, m. 8 d. Maitland cites this reference for a statement which I cannot find there.
[75] i. 21.
[1] Public Record Office, Chancery Miscellanea, Bundle 138.
[2] Parliamentary and Council Proceedings (Chancery), File 5/10.
[3] *Ibid.*

Professor Tout has established the fact that the staple organization which Edward III was reputed to have arranged was in reality the work of his father.[4] On 20 May 1313 the ordinance of the staple had been issued by the king and his council in the form of letters patent, which ordered a fixed single staple to be set up, the place to be determined by the mayor and community of the merchants. This solution was not satisfactory and the parliament of York of 1318 discussed matters concerning the question. No decision was arrived at, and from York on 22 November the king sent writs to all sheriffs commanding them to order two citizens from each city in their counties and two merchant burgesses from each borough to be at London on 20 January 1319:

habere colloquium et tractatum per quod iniunximus dilecto mercatori et civi nostro Londonii Iohanni de Cherleton' Maiori mercatorum dicti regni nostri qui de negociis predictis est per consilium nostrum plenius informatus quod ipse sit in octabis predictis ad dictum locum predictos mercatores super dictis negociis informaturus et cum eisdem inde tractaturus.[5]

The result of this meeting is not known, but a few days later, on 8 and 9 March 1319, writs were issued to the sheriffs for 'representative bailiffs and other citizens or burgesses of the chief commercial towns to meet on 24 April at Westminster to consider the advisability of fixing the staple at certain places within the realm of England'.[6] The exchequer appears to have been closely concerned with these affairs. Again no decision was reached, nor was the parliament of York of 1319, at which the matter was again raised, any more successful. On 13 April 1320 complaints on the conduct of Cherleton, the mayor of the staple, were made at Westminster before the king and his council, including the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of Norwich the chancellor, the bishop of Exeter the treasurer, the earl of Pembroke, the two Despensers, Badlesmere the steward of the household, the justices of both benches, the barons of the exchequer, and many others.[7] The complainants failed to secure their objects and the king and council ordered that execution should be made of the penalties imposed by the ordinance of 1313. This was done and heavy fines were imposed upon the transgressors.

These writs of 18 May 1322 seem to indicate a fresh attempt on the king's part to settle the question. In the circumstances consequent upon the victory over his enemies he desired to consider all the administrative questions *de novo* and to decide them

[4] *The Place of Edward II in English History*, pp. 241–66.

[5] *Parl. Writs*, II. ii. 196.

[6] Tout, p. 254. The writ was printed, *ante*, xxix. 95 f. (1914), by Mr. A. E. Bland, of the Public Record Office. [We lament to record that Mr. Bland was killed in action in France, as Captain in the Manchester Regiment, on 1 July last.—Ed. *E.H.R.*]

[7] *Parl. Writs*, II. ii. 217–18.

in the light of the new conditions. The council was ordered, before parliament met, to deliberate upon the question of the staple. The writ summoning the merchants to York was issued while parliament was sitting. There is no means of discovering the considerations which prompted the summoning of the merchants. Whether it was undertaken on the recommendation or at the request of parliament, whether it was due to the king's direction, or whether, as would seem most probable, it was due to the deliberations of the council and was an executive act on their part, is uncertain. It may be regarded as quite established that the merchants were summoned for the purpose of discussing with and advising the council on the difficult question of the wool staple.

The merchants were called to the council as persons specially interested in and with special knowledge upon complicated and technical questions then under consideration. The council probably contemplated the issue of an ordinance similar in nature to that of 1313. Since that date discussion in parliament had led to no settlement of the difficulty. A special assembly of two representatives from each city and borough to discuss and treat on the matter with the mayor of the staple, who had been fully informed of the matter, acting as the king's representative, had proved equally abortive. The other assembly of representative merchants in April 1319 was likewise fruitless of result. A new experiment was tried in this writ. The merchants were to appear before the king and his council, not as persons making or answering complaints, but as technical advisers or witnesses appearing before a meeting of the council. The circumstances seem to suggest that they were to appear before the small executive committee of the council to which the king had originally referred the question. It was not the intention that the merchants should be representatives. The sheriffs were directed to send all the greater merchants to York. It is not known whether the assembly was ever held, but the completeness of the returns and the absence of contrary evidence make it probable that it was, though it did not achieve its purpose. The matter was probably deliberated and the merchants gave their opinion and advice to the council, though no execution was made immediately. The solution was not found until 1326, when on 1 May another ordinance of the staple was issued which abolished the foreign staple and set up a home staple in certain fixed towns.[8] The writs furnish another instance of the king's endeavour to settle a difficult and important question and of an interesting experiment in administration; moreover, they bear testimony to the great administrative activity of the king in the parliament of York.

[8] Tout, pp. 260–1.

To turn from the writs to their returns, there are several points of considerable interest. Returns from all the counties do not appear on the file, Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Surrey and Sussex being very interesting omissions. These returns may have been made and lost, or they may never have been made. The time between the issue of the writs and the date of the meeting was short, and the sheriff of Cambridgeshire returned that he had no time for the execution of the writ. The sheriffs of the counties omitted may have been similarly situated. The returns give interesting indications of the social and economic conditions of the various parts of England. The extreme northern counties were not pastoral and were subject to the invasions of the Scotch. There is not one wool merchant in Cumberland or Westmorland, and none in Northumberland outside Newcastle-on-Tyne. The bailiffs of Newcastle returned that they dared not allow any merchant or other person to leave the town on account of the threatening Scotch inroads and the necessities of defence Coming south to Yorkshire, there were a fair number of merchants in the city of York and in other liberties who were to attend. The counties on the Welsh border were also almost entirely free from wool merchants. There were none in Worcestershire and there were none in Herefordshire outside the city of Hereford itself, which supplied two. There were none in Shropshire outside Shrewsbury and Bridgenorth and only two in Staffordshire. In the south-west there were no merchants in Devon, because of the poor quality of the wool there, though Somerset and Dorset provided seven. It was in the eastern and midland counties that the wool merchants flourished. Outside certain liberties there were no wool merchants in Wiltshire. Rutland had one, and he had not been in the county since the sheriff received the writ. The return from London contains surprisingly few names, though no explanation suggests itself readily for this. Generally the further east the county, the greater was the number of names contained in the return. The lists of Lincolnshire and Bedfordshire are long, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire longer, while Warwickshire and Leicestershire and Norfolk and Suffolk contain very lengthy lists of names.

JAMES CONWAY DAVIES.

Devon. Edwardus dei gratia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibernie et Dux Aquitanie vicecomiti Deuon salutem. Quibusdam de causis nos et utilitatem regni nostri tangentibus tibi precipimus firmiter iniungentes quod omnes Maiores mercatores lanarum in balliua tua facias quod sint coram nobis et consilio nostro apud Eboracum in Octabis sancte Trinitatis proximis futuris ad informandum nos et consilium nostrum super aliquibus ipsis tunc ibidem exponendis et ad faciendum quod eis tunc per nos et dictum consilium nostrum iniungetur et de nominibus illorum quos sic premunire feceris nobis distincte et aperte sine dilatione constare facias

citra diem illum ibidem. Et hoc nullo modo omittas. Teste me ipso apud Eboracum xviij die Maij anno regni nostri quintodecimo.

[*Endorsement.*] Vobis significo quod nulli sunt Maiores Mercatores lanarum in balliua mea prout aliquo modo inquirere possum neque maiores mercatores lanarum alienigini seu indigini in eadem manentes seu commorantes quia lane in partibus illis ita sint grosse et miserime quod nulli maiores mercatores alienas lanarum ibidem emere excercent. Iohannes Inge vicecomes.

Worcester. Ego Willelmus de Bello Campo vicecomes respondeo quod non est aliquis Mercator lanarum in Comitatu Wygornie.

Lincoln. Responsio Simonis le Chaumberleyn vicecomitis Lincoln. Premunire feci Maiores mercatores lanarum in balliua mea quod sint ad diem et locum in breui isto contentos secundum tenorem huius breuis quorum nomina patent insequenti videlicet:

Iohannem de Blyton de Lincoln, Iohannem Pynson de Lincoln, Hugonem de Edlyngton seniorem de Lincoln, Iohannem de Tame de Lincoln, Willelmum de Suartford Seniorem de Lincoln, Alianum de Hedeleston de Lincoln, Iohannem de Tumby de Sancto Botulpho, Ricardum Skynner de Spaldyng, Goddesmanum de Spaldyng, Iohannem de Chesterton de Grantham, Iohannem de Melton de Staunford, et Rogerum filium Sibelle de Luda de Co. . . .

Cumberland. Nulli sunt maiores mercatores lanarum infra balliuam meam, ideo nichil actum est.

Northumberland. Iohannes de Fenwyk vicecomes Northumberland sic respondit.

Execucio istius breuis patet in billa huic breui annexa:

[*Schedule.*]—Non sunt aliqui mercatores lanarum infra Balliuam meam in Comitatu Northumberland extra libertatem ville Noui Castri super Tynam, et ideo retornaui breue balliuis libertatis eiusdem ville qui sic respondent: Quod tam propter iminens periculum Scotorum inimicorum domini nostri Regis qui sunt parati super Marchiam intrandi, quam propter magnum numerum hominum ad arma ville predicte in duabus Nauibus super mare in seruicio dicti domini regis existencium, Balliui ville predicte non audent permittere aliquem Mercatorem siue alium de predicta villa deuillare nec extra villam se elongare.

Bedford and Bucks. Ego Philipus de Ailesbury vicecomes. Premunire feci Philipum de Brende de Stonystratford, Magistrum Paganum de Bukyngham, Henricum de Northwode, et Nicholaum Crisps de Dunstaple quod sint ad diem contentum in breui sicut infra precipitur.

Wiltshire. Breue istud returnatum fuit per me Adam Walraund vicecomitem Willelmo de Sturton Balliuo Libertatis Episcopi Saresburiensis, Willelmo de Rameshull Constabulario Castri Marleburgh, Iohanni Aygnel Balliuo libertatis Episcopi Wyntoniensis de Hundredo suo de Dounton, extra quas libertates nulli sunt Mercatores lanarum in balliua mea. Et iidem Balliui et Constabularius michi responderunt quod premunire fecerunt Iohannem Godhyne, Robertum de Cnoel, Willelmum

de Bereswek, Robertum de Wodeford, et Willelmum de Chezeman de Dounton, maiores mercatores lanarum in balliuis suis, quod sint ad diem et locum in isto breue contentos per Iohannem Gentyl et Robertum de Gore.

Northampton. Ego Humfridus de Bassingbourn vicecomes vos certifico super tenore huiusmodi breuis prout patet in cedula huic breui consuta.

[*Schedule.*] Ego Humfridus de Bassingbourn vicecomes Norhantescire premunire feci Willelmum Curteys de Bryckelesworth, Tydimannum le Swart de Brackele, Hugonem Curtoys de Heigham, Iohannem Venelle de eadem, Willelmum Knyght, Iohannem Dyoun, et Adam de Harendon, mercatores lanarum Comitatus Norhantescire essendi coram vobis ad diem in breui isto contentum. Et Willelmus filius Ade et Adam de Turneye, balliui libertatis ville Norhamton, qui plenum habent returnum omnium breuium domini Regis, qui michi certificant quod premunire fecerunt Iohannem le Waydour et Willelmum le Tekene essendi coram vobis ad eundem diem. Et Nicholaus Golafre balliuus libertatis hundredi de Fallewesle, qui plenum habet returnum omnium breuium domini Regis, qui michi returnauit quod premunire fecit Henricum de Helidene mercatorem lanarum essendi coram vobis ad eundem diem. Et Hugo de Undele balliuus libertatis Abbatis de Burgo sancti Petri, qui plenum habet returnum omnium breuium domini Regis, qui michi returnauit quod premunire fecit Willelmum le Wellemongere de Twywek mercatorem lanarum essendi coram vobis ad eundem diem. Et Iohannes de Hethyngton balliuus libertatis hundredi de Rothewelle et Radulphus Knott balliuus libertatis honoris Leycestre Iohannes de Merle balliuus libertatis de nasso burgi michi retornarunt quod non sunt aliqui maiores mercatores lanarum infra libertates predictas. Vosque certifico quod post recepcionem huius breuis non fuerunt plures maiores mercatores extra predictas libertates alibi in balliua mea inuenti quos premunire potui essendi coram vobis ad diem in breue isto contentum.

Nottingham and Derby. Responsio Iohannis Darcy vicecomitis Notingham. Nomina maiorum mercatorum lanarum de balliua mea quos premunire feci essendi coram vobis ad diem in hoc breui contentum secundum tenorem huius breuis videlicet :

Notingham.—Walterus de Dyne'.
Willelmus de Mekesburgh.
Willelmus le Cupper.

Newerk.—Iohannes Cayser.
Willelmus Sausemer.
Willelmus Soistunt.
Galfridus de Sibthorp.
Willelmus de Kilmynton.

Blida.—Simon le Sauser.

Retford.—Eustachius le Glouer de Retford.
Rogerus filius Sarre de eadem.

Nulli sunt mercatores in Comitatu Derby.

London. Premunire feci Hamonem de Godchep, Thomam ferentyz, Iohannem Priour Iuniorem, Wyntendum Brother, Willelmum Bray, Simonem Turgys, Ricardum de Betoygne, Iohannem de Grantham, Milonem Peytyoun, et Robertum . . ., maiores mercatores lanarum de balliua nostra, quod sint coram vobis ad diem et locum ut breui contentos, prout in eodem precipitur per Thomam de Welde et Thomam de Wodewelle.

Hereford. Radulphus de Chaundoz vicecomes respondit.
Istud breue retornatum fuit balliuis libertatis Hereford qui habent retornatum omnium breuium, et Philipus de Werre balliuus dicte libertatis respondet: Premunire feci Iohannem Thurgtrim et Iohannem Stephenes maiores mercatores lanarum quod sint coram domino Rege et suo consilio ad diem in breui contentum, et non sunt plures Maiores mercatores lanarum in balliua sua qui premunire possunt nec in balliua mea.

York. Ego Simon Warde vicecomes Eboraci mandaui Nicholao Sauser, Iohanni de Seleby, et Willelmo de Fryston, balliuis libertatis Ciuitatis Eboraci, et Simoni de Hugate, Ricardo Roce, et Ricardo Donsynge, balliuis libertatis Archiepiscopi Eboracensis de Beuerlato Capituli Beuerlati, et prepositure Beuerlati, qui respondent prout patet in panelis huic breui consutis. Et ulterius mandaui Roberto Wawayn balliuo libertatis de Scardeburgh qui nullum inde michi dedit responsum.

[*Schedule.*] Indentura inter Simonem Warde vicecomitem Eboraci et balliuos libertatis Ciuitatis Eboraci ad premunire facere omnes maiores mercatores lanarum quod sint coram Rege et consilio apud Eboracum in octabis sancte Trinitatis. Premunire fecimus omnes subscriptos quod sint ad diem in breui contentum per

Petrum de Haxiholm.
Robertum de Seriaunt.

Robertus Meek.
Thomas de Redenesse.
Ricardus de Aluerton.
Ricardus le Coller.
Willelmus de Redenesse.
Henricus de Belton.

[*Schedule.*] Indentura inter Simonem Warde vicecomitem Eboraci et Simonem de Hugat balliuum libertatis prepositure Beuerlati, Ricardum Roce balliuum Archiepiscopi Eboraci de Beuerlato et Ricardum Donsyng balliuum libertatis Capituli Beuerlati, ad premunire facere omnes maiores mercatores de libertatibus predictis coram Rege et consilio in octabis sancte Trinitatis. Premunire fecimus omnes subscriptos quod sint ad diem in breui isto contentum per

Mathaeum Donsyng.
Iohannem Goldsmyth.

Ricardus Tyrwhite.
Adam Tyrwhite.
Iohannes de Coppendale.
Adam de Coppendale.

Salop and Stafford. Responsio Iohannis de Swynnertone est vicecomitis.
Istud breue michi liberatum fuit die Mercurii proximo ante festum sancti Barnabe apostoli. Et statim illud retornaui

Iohanni Reymer et Willelmo le Skynner, Balliuis Libertatis ville Salopesburie, Nicholao Rendal et Edmundo le Palmer, Balliuis libertatis ville de Bruges, in quibus libertatibus omnes maiores mercatores lanarum sunt commorantes de balliua mea in Comitatu Salopesburie. Et isti balliui habent returnum omnium breuium qui nullum responsum michi inde . . .

Premunire feci Robertum le Retur de Stafford et Ricardum Sabyn de eadem, mercatores lanarum de comitatu Stafford, quod sint coram vobis ad diem in breui contentum secundum tenorem istius breuis.

Warwick and Leicester.

Thomas le Rous vicecomes.

Premuniri feci omnes maiores mercatores lanarum de balliua mea quod sint coram domino Rege et consilio suo ad diem in breue isto contentum, et secundum tenorem istius breuis quorum nomina patent in cedula huic breui consuta.

[*Schedule.*] Warrewyk. Leycestre.

Maiores mercatores lanarum in Comitatibus Warrewyk et Leicestre.

[1] . . . Pursere de Warrewyk
. . . mpedeyne de eadem
. . . Brenn de eadem
. . . olmes Le Whytsmyth de eadem
Radulphus Le Hunte de Couentre
Ricardus atte Giens de eadem
Radulphus de Tuwe de eadem
Willelmus Deryng de eadem
Andreas de Rydeware de eadem
Robertus de Stone de eadem
Petrus de Tuwe de eadem
Henricus atte Muyre de eadem
Willelmus le Hunte de eadem
Galfridus Frebern de eadem
Thomas de Toltham de eadem
Willelmus de Leycestre de eadem
Walterus de Clideshale de Birmyngham
Willelmus le Merser de eadem
Hugo de Merynton de Couentre.

Leycestre.

Ricardus Cagge de Leycestre
Thomas Martyn de eadem
Walterus Prest de Melton.

Westmorland.

Walterus de Strikland vicecomes.
Non est aliquis Mercator lanarum infra balliuam meam.

Oxford and Berks.

Ego Drogo de Batentyn vicecomes vobis significo quod Nomina omnium maiorum mercatorum lanarum in balliua mea qui premuniti sunt, tam per balliuos libertatum balliue mee qui habent per me returna omnium breuium domini Regis, quam per

[1] The corner of the schedule is torn off.

alios Balliuos et ministros meos, essendi coram vobis ad diem in isto breue contentum iuxta formam istius breuis, patent in cedula huic breui consuta Prout vel quoquomodo constare potest per responsa et retornaciones eorundem balliuorum.

Rutland.

Iuo de Aldeburgh vicecomes Ruteland sic respondit.

Nulli sunt mercatores lanarum in balliua mea, preter Radulphum de Bella Fago, quos potui premunire sicut breue exigit. Et dictus Radulphus postquam istud breue michi liberatum fuit non venit in eadem balliua mea, et ideo ipsum premunire facere non potui; set tamen, quam primum (?) venerit in dicta balliua, ipsum premunire faciam quod sit coram Domino Rege et consilio suo apud Eboracum ad faciendum quod ei ex parte domini Regis per ipsum Regem et consilium suum iniungetur.

Cambridge and Huntingdon.

Responsio Almarici la Zusch.

Istud breue michi liberatum fuit per manus Ade Bellyent die Mercurii proxima post festum sancte Trnitatis sero, ita quod ante diem infra contentum illud remittere non potui; set diligencius et mediis omnibus quibus inquirere potui michi constare potest, non sunt aliqui magni mercatores lanarum in balliua mea commanantes.

Somerset and Dorset.

Premunire feci Willelmum Fonefacium Carlen, Stephanum de Snokweyes, et Iohannem de Brudeford, mercatores de Comitatibus Dorset et Somerset, item Thomam atte Aperlis (?) Willelmum le Sapere, Iohannem de Benewth, Iohannem Lynrht, et Ricardum Pulruwan, mercatores de Comitatu Somerset, quod sint coram vobis ad diem et locum in breui isto contentos.

Thomas de Marlebergh vicecomes.

Norfolk and Suffolk.

Execucio istius breuis patet in cedula huic breui consuta.

Preceptum est: Norwyc', Iernemuth, Lenne

Preceptum est: Serare, Caustom'

Preceptum est: Beford, Donewyc', Gippeswic', Ethedrede, sanctus Edmundus.

[*Schedule.*] Pro maioribus mercatorum lanarum premuniendis essendi ad diem et locum in isto breui contentos, prout breue requirit, retornatum fuit istud breue senescallis et balliuis Libertatum de Comitatibus Norffolk et Suffolk. Michi respondent in forma subscripta.

Feci returnum istius breuis Waltero de Byry, Thome de Colefeld, Iohanni Piremond, et Willelmo de Strumshaghe, balliuis libertatis Ciuitatis Norwici, qui habent returna breuium et execuciones eorum ; et iidem balliui michi responderunt quod premunire fecerunt Robertum de la Sale, Iohannem de Hales, Iohannem de Corpsty, Edmundum de Derham, Nicholaum de Middelton, Ricardum Berte, Willelmum Courzoun, Galfridum Cantel, Ricardum de Byteringe, et Ricardum de Sculthorp essendi coram domino Rege et eius consilio ad diem et locum in breui contentos per Rogerum de Lopham et Walterum Ode : Et quod Willelmus de Dimstone

unus Lanatorum de balliua sua est in partibus transmarinis et non fuit in eadem post aduentum istius breuis.

Feci eciam returnum istius breuis Roberto de Drayton, Iohanni Pereboun, Willelmo de Lincoln, et Stephano de Catefeld, balliuis libertatis ville magne Iernemouth, qui habent returna breuium et execuciones eorum ; et iidem balliui michi responderunt quod nulli sunt maiores mercatores lanarum in balliua sua inuenti post aduentum istius breuis, per quod nichil inde facere potuerunt. Feci eciam returnum istius breuis Petro de Welle Senescallo Libertatis ville de lenne Episcopi, qui habet returna breuium et execuciones eorum ; et idem Senescallus michi respondit quod premuniuit Iohannem Burghard, Iohannem de Swerdestone, Iohannem Gigge, et Willelmum de Hunegheton, maiores mercatores lanarum in balliua sua, essendi ad diem et locum in breui contentos ; et ulterius inde michi non respondit.

Feci eciam returnum istius breuis Ricardo Lieu et Waltero de Westhale, balliuis Libertatis ville Gippewici qui habent returna breuium et execuciones eorum ; et iidem balliui michi responderunt quod nulli sunt maiores mercatores in balliua sua preter Iohannem de Whatefeld, Gilbertum Robert, et Willelmum Malyn, quos premunire fieri fecerunt essendi coram domino Rege et consilio suo, prout breue requirit, per Thomam de Stoke de Gippewico et Edmundum Curtoys.

Feci eciam returnum istius breuis Willelmo Austyn et Willelmo Bernard, balliuis libertatis ville Donewici, qui habent returna breuium et execucionem eorum ; et iidem balliui michi responderunt quod nulli sunt tales mercatores in balliua sua, et ulterius inde non responderunt.

Feci eciam returnum istius breuis Roberto de Asphale Senescallo Libertatis sancti Edmundi, qui habet returna breuium et execuciones eorum ; et idem Senescallus michi respondit quod fecit returnum returni sui predicti Iohanni de Luton et Iohanni de Lincoln, balliuis ville de sancto Edmundo, qui habent returnum de returno breuium et faciunt execuciones eorum ; qui sibi sic respondent, quod non est aliquis magnus mercator in balliua sua quem premunire potuerunt prout breue requirit. Et ulterius predictus Senescallus michi respondit quod extra eandem villam in balliua sua premunire fecit Alexandrum Camaylle, Rogerum Hurlebat, et Robertum Stouke, mercatores lanarum, quod sint ad diem et locum in breui contentos per Willelmum Priket et Petrum Cut, et quod plures mercatores lanarum non sunt inuenti in balliua sua.

Feci eciam returnum istius breuis Waltero de Westhale balliuo Libertatis sancte Etheldrede, qui habet returna breuium et execuciones eorum ; et idem balliuus michi respondit quod de execucione istius breuis nichil fecit pro eo quod nulli maiores mercatores lanarum sunt in balliua sua, prout per sacramentum proborum et legalium hominum inuenit.

Et ego Iohannes Howard nunc vicecomes Norffolk et Suffolk vobis significo quod nullos alios maiores Mercatores in balliua mea extra libertates predictas inueni postquam istud breue michi liberatum fuit, quos premunire potui secundum tenorem istius breuis, preter Dauid de Donne, Robertum Fanles, et Radulphum de Reynham, quos premunire feci essendi coram domino Rege et eius consilio ad predictos diem et locum, prout breue requirit, per Robertum filium Willelmi, Richerum de Salle, Ricardum de

Topetroft, et Henricum de Rugham. Et plures maiores mercatores lanarum in balliua mea non inueni postquam istud breue michi venit quos premunire potui propter temporis breuitatem.

Nomen vicecomitis Iohannes Howard.

Books brought from Spain in 1596

In the Cathedral library at Hereford is a small collection of books that once belonged to Edward Doughtie, who was dean of Hereford from 1607 to 1616. About him there is not much detail to be found. The Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, has with great kindness communicated to me all that he knows of the future dean's career at the University, and of his ecclesiastical preferment. Doughtie was a native of Derby, and matriculated at Cambridge 6 October 1564 as a pensioner from St. John's, where he was admitted a Foundation Scholar 10 November. In 1568–9 he was B.A. and in 1572 M.A. As there does not seem to have been another Edward Doughtie at either Oxford or Cambridge about this time, it is likely that he is the person who held the following list of benefices, mostly in succession : Holy Trinity, Dorchester, Dorset, 1580 ; Banwell, Somerset, 1584 ; Loxton, Somerset, 1587 ; Chard, 1591 ; Whitchurch Canonicorum, Dorset, 1595 ; Houghton, Hants, 1600, which he exchanged on 30 September 1603 with a certain John Cradock for a living in Dorset,[1] presumably Hawkchurch in that county, which he acquired in 1605. That he knew how to make himself useful to those in power appears from a letter which he wrote to Nottingham from Chard, 5 August 1603, planning the arrest of certain seditious persons.[2] It was perhaps for such service that he was rewarded with his deanery in 1607. Even after that he continued to accumulate livings. In 1608 he secured one of the Cathedral prebends, Gorwall and Overbury; and then the churches of Hampton Bishop 1609, and Bodenham 1610, both in Herefordshire; resigning them in 1615 on acquiring Stockport in Cheshire, where he was buried 7 October 1616.

His books reveal an interesting episode in his life : that though now a man of about forty-five, and a beneficed clergyman holding two livings, he accompanied the expedition of Essex and Raleigh to Cadiz in 1596. His position in the fleet was no doubt that of a chaplain. It was a large force, with nearly 7,000 soldiers besides the seamen ; and the first order of the 'discipline directed by the Generalls' was 'that you take a speciall care to serue God by vseing of Common Prayer twice euerie daye'.[2] So that many

[1] *Calendar of State Papers.*

[2] Narrative of Sir W. Slyngisbye, who served on the expedition; Bodleian MS., Ballard 52 (10838), fol. 41.