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POLYDORE VERGIL IN THE ENGLISH LAW COURTS

COMMUNICATED BY I. S. LEADAM, M.A., F.S.A.

TWO documents disclosing an incident in the life of the celebrated historian Polydore Vergil, which have hitherto escaped the research of biographers, are to be found in the Memoranda Roll of the King's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, Trinity term, 19 Henry VII., membrane xv and *ibidem* dorso (A.D. 1504). Of these the first refers to an illegal exchange negotiated on October 19, 1503, with a merchant of Florence; the second to an illegal exchange negotiated on March 8, 1504, with a merchant of Genoa. In both cases an information is laid against Polydore Vergil as defendant.

Polydore Vergil, also called, as in these documents, De Castello, upon whose history an interesting paper was read by Dr. Gasquet, and is published in the Society's Transactions for 1902, was related to Adrian de Castello, at this time bishop of Hereford and collector of Peter's Pence in England, but actually resident at Rome as ambassador of Henry VII. To the bishop he probably owed his appointment as sub-collector of Peter's Pence in England, the subject of a learned paper by Dr. Jansen in the Transactions for 1901, which is to be continued in the forthcoming number. To discharge this office, as he tells us, he had come over in 1501 or in the early part of 1502. At the date at which these cases came before the Court of Exchequer he was already beneficed here, having been presented to the rectory of Church Langton,

Leicestershire, on November 6, 1502; but he must almost necessarily have been a non-resident, though it was not until 1505 that at the instance of Henry VII., with whom he was on intimate terms, he began his history.

To understand the cases in the Exchequer it is necessary to recall the laws at this time affecting exchange. Bills of exchange were no new inventions. They have been traced back to the twelfth century. They were largely used for transmitting revenues to prelates and Popes and for maintaining students at foreign universities. Rome was the European centre, and it is natural that the earliest professional exchangers should have been Italians. There being a felt or an apprehended scarcity of the precious metals in this country, it early became a care of the Government to prevent the export of bullion or coin. The theory of 'specie point' had probably not been formulated, but experience showed that there were times when, unless restrained, exportation of the precious metals took place. To check this a 'King's Exchanger' was early appointed. In 1381 a statute was passed to regulate exchange.¹ The statute of 1381 deplors the scarcity of the precious metals. It has been suggested that the decline of the Florentine exports of wool from England had really led to the specie point having been reached—that is, to the export of coin or bullion. The Act states the fact of export in its preamble. 'Item, for the great mischief which the realm suffereth and long hath done, for that gold and silver, as well in money, vessel, plate, and jewels, is carried out of the realm, so that in effect there is none hereof left, which thing, if it should longer be suffered, would shortly be the destruction of the same realm, which God prohibit.' The precious metals were to be carried out 'neither by exchanges to be made, nor in other manner.' To insure this, exchanges were not to be made by merchants without licence, and 'the merchants that so shall make exchanges shall be diligently examined and sworn in their proper persons, as often as they shall have the said licence, that they shall not send beyond

¹ 5 R. II. st. 1, c. 2.

the sea any manner of gold or silver under the colour of the said exchange.'

Besides the payments of Peter's Pence there were other sums, representing Papal dues, transmitted from England to Rome by bills of exchange. The 'Pope's merchants,' as they were called, sold tithes and other dues paid in kind, and by this means paid the yield into the Papal treasury. Against these bills of exchange wool was exported. A considerable proportion of exchange business must have consisted of these transactions. It is not surprising, therefore, that if, as may be inferred, the depletion of the precious metals continued, the Act of 1381 notwithstanding, the Government should turn its special attention to them. By a statute of 1390¹ it was provided 'That for every exchange that shall be made by merchants to the Court of Rome, or elsewhere, that the said merchants be firmly and surely bound in the Chancery to buy within three months after the said exchange be made, merchandises of the staple, as wools, leather, woolfels, lead or tin, butter or cheese, cloths or other commodities of the land to the value of the sum so exchanged, upon pain of forfeiture.' It was soon found that the time prescribed was too short. When our export trade languished, bills on Rome were scarce. A collector, agent, or merchant in England would have to decide between risking his credit with his foreign correspondent or the forfeiture which would be the consequence of detection in evasion of the Act of 1390. In days when the coastguard service was probably ineffective, when vessels, even for the Mediterranean, were of small tonnage, which could find anchorage in numberless convenient creeks, it might well be worth while to run the risk of smuggling coin abroad. At any rate the merchants in 1421 represented to Parliament that three months was too short a time within which to find exports against foreign bills, that in effect it put a premium on smuggling money, and, as a consequence, injured the export trade. The term was, accordingly extended from three to nine months, within which

¹ 14 R. II. c. 2.

drawers of foreign bills should provide exports to set against them. In 1423¹ and 1478² there were statutes specially directed against the exportation of the precious metals, indicative that the inconvenience was still felt. The scarcity was not peculiar to England, but with that we need not concern ourselves.

Trade, as usual, defied statutory restraints. The careful prescriptions with which Parliament had hedged round the business of exchange became, with the progress of commerce, obsolescent. An Act, which by its denunciations of usury betrays the hand of Archbishop Morton, was passed in 1487.³ It is intituled 'An Acte agaynst Exchange and Rechaunge without the Kynges Lycence.' Its preamble laments that 'ther hath growen and daily groweth grete displeur of God and greate hurte of the Kyng our Sovereyn lorde and to this his realm by and for thenordynat chaunges and rechaunges that have ben of long tyme used and yet contynued in this seid Realme, without auctorite gevon of the Kynges gode grace to such chaungyng and rechanging.' After reciting the statutes already mentioned, it enacts 'That all such statutes be putte in due execucion from hensforth, and that no man make any exchange without the Kynges licence, ne make any exchange nor rechaunge of money to be paie within this land, but only such as the Kyng shall depute therunto to kepe make and answee such exchanges and rechaunges.'

At the time, then, at which Polydore Vergil was summoned before the Court of Exchequer, the state of the law may be summarised as follows. All exchanges were to be transacted by the authorised exchanger, or with a licence from him. By 25 E. III. st. 5, c. 12, no man might keep a common exchange.

There was in London, as at Dover and Calais, an official called the King's Exchanger. This office was farmed. And as the Act of 1381 required merchants to have a licence to negotiate exchange, the right to issue letters importing

¹ 2 H. VI. c. 6.

² 17 E. IV. c. 1.

³ 3 H. VII. c. 6.

licences was conferred on the grantee.¹ An example of this is to be found in Campbell's Materials for the reign of Henry VII., dated November 10, 1485. It is a 'Grant to the King's beloved councillor and secretary, Richard Fox, of the office of Keeper of the Exchange within the town of Calais and within the realm of England towards foreign parts: that is to say, that he or his deputies or assigns be empowered to issue letters of exchange to any person of any condition whatsoever who may piously wish to fulfil devout vows or other matters for the benefit of their souls in the city of Rome or elsewhere, or any other private matters, in person or by deputy, and who may wish to send out such sums of gold and silver as may be necessary for carrying out their objects; taking for such letters of exchange whatever may be reasonably agreed upon between him and the persons to whom he shall issue such letters of exchange and all dues to the Crown thereupon.' The tenure of the office was limited to ten years, and the grantee paid to the Crown yearly for the privilege £30 6s. 8d. It may be taken that nineteen years later the Keeper of the Exchange held on much the same terms.

Of the licences so issued a bundle of about a hundred and forty may be found in the Record Office.² The earliest of them is dated 12 Nov., 1 H. VII. (1485); the latest 20 Nov. 4 H. VII. (1488). The following is a specimen.

'Henricus Dei gratia Rex Anglie & Francie & dominus Hibernie Alexandro de Ferentuno de societate Albertinorum in civitate nostra Londonie commoranti, Salutem. Ut quandam literam cambii sociis tuis in partibus exteris commorantibus de sex marcis, Johanni Smyth capellano in partibus illis solvendis, licitè facere valeas, licenciam tibi tenore presentium duximus concedendum. Dum tamen aurum vel argentum in massa vel moneta colore presentis licencie nostre non transmittas aut transmitti facias quovis modo sub forisfactura eorundem. Per me ipsum apud Westmonasterium xxii die Novembris anno regni nostri primo. Kays.'

¹ Cf. 3 H. VII. c. 6.

² K. R. Miscell. 393, T. G. 19,399.

‘Henry by the grace of God King of England France and Lord of Ireland to Alexander de Ferentuno of the company of the Albertines dwelling in our city of London Greeting, That you may be lawfully able to make a Letter of Exchange to your partners dwelling in foreign parts of six marks in favour of John Smyth chaplain, payable in those parts, we have thought fit that a licence be granted you by tenour of these presents. Provided nevertheless that you do not transmit nor cause to be transmitted by colour of our present licence gold or silver in bullion or coin in any manner under forfeiture of the same. By myself at Westminster on the xxii day of November in the first year of our reign. Kays.’

This is an example of the ‘special leave and licence had of the King’ mentioned in the Act of 1381. It appears, however, from the terms of the concession to Richard Fox, that the farmer of the exchange could issue letters of exchange, which letters imported a licence, and were, presumably, in much the same terms as the above. Exchangers’ accounts are to be found in the Record Office. I have seen those of Gerard Cavysan, John de Barde, Laurence Strosse, Dominic de Mato, Leonard Bonenseigne, John de Frisco-balde, Charles Giles, and Bartholomew Sciates, who appear to have farmed the exchange in partnership in the second and third years of the reign of Edward IV. They are styled ‘occupiers and approvers of the exchange within the realm of England towards foreign parts (*occupatorum et appruatorum cambii infra regnum Angliae versus partes exteras*).’¹ It will be sufficient for the purpose of throwing a light on the transaction alleged against Polydore Vergil to record one entry of their account. It runs as follows :

‘De Dornusio Oleyn decimo die Marcii anno secundo Regis nunc pro cambio cxxxvii ducatum pro transitu suo versus partes exteras, precium cujuslibet ducatus iiis. iiid. sterling percipientes pro cambio cujuslibet ducatus id. sterling prout dicunt super sacramentum suum xis. vd.’

This, which is an exchange of coins, gives the valuation

¹ R. O. K. R. Exch. 597/1.

of the ducat in 1462 as 3*s.* 4*d.*, and shows the discount to have been 2½ per cent. Ducats called 'large ducats of gold' were officially valued in 1522 at 4*s.* 6*d.*¹ The ducat was rapidly appreciating in terms of silver. It was fixed by proclamation made in London on July 6, 1525, under the name of 'ducat' simpliciter, at 4*s.* 6*d.*² On Sept. 7, 1526, 'the large single ducat' was proclaimed at 4*s.* 8*d.*³ In the course of negotiations conducted at Antwerp by Wolsey's agent, John Hacket, in November, 1526, for the transmission through German merchants of 25,000 ducats from Henry VIII. to the King of Hungary,⁴ it is mentioned that the Germans would not take less than 5*s.* for the ducats, but as a transaction of this magnitude would naturally operate unfavourably upon exchange, sending up bills on Germany to a premium, it cannot be relied on in this investigation. It is, however, said by Hacket incidentally, 'a ducat of such gold as they (the German merchants) would be bound to pay would be worth 4*s.* 10*d.* in the mint,' *i.e.* presumably in the English mint. These valuations of the gold ducat show that as compared with 1462, gold had appreciated in terms of silver, 35 per cent. in 1522 and 45 per cent. in 1526. On the other hand, I find that Helferich⁵ states (pp. 67, 68) that while by the new mint regulations of 1464 the value of gold coinage to silver was as 1 : 10·331, in 1527 it had risen indeed, but risen much less, being at 1 : 11·25, a rise of barely 10 per cent. The only solution I can suggest for these discrepancies is that, as discussions on bimetallism have shown, an official and a market ratio constantly co-exist. It must also be remembered that Henry VII. had accumulated enormous masses of the precious metals, presumably, for obvious reasons, for the most part in gold. At any rate, we may take it that in 1504, when Polydore Vergil effected these exchanges, the gold ducat was

¹ *S. P. Dom. H. VIII.* iii. 2283.

² *S. P. Dom. H. VIII.* iv. 1478, 2423, 2467.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *S. P. Dom. H. VIII.* iv. 2652, 2653, 2778.

⁵ 'Von den periodischen Schwankungen im Werth der edeln Metalle von der Entdeckung Amerikas bis zum Jahr 1830.'

worth more than 3s. 4d. There had taken place, in modern parlance, a fall of the Italian exchange.

On June 13, 1504, James Hobart, the Attorney-General, laid an information against Polydore Vergil before the Barons of the Exchequer. The defendant, as we have seen, is styled 'Polydore of Castello, collector of the rents and profits of the Apostolic See issuing within the realm of England.' Its first count is that on Oct. 19, 19 Henry VII. (1503) he kept a common and open exchange in the parish of St. Gregory, in the ward of Baynardcastell, London. This was an offence against the Act of 1350 already mentioned. He then and there negotiated an exchange with one Aldobrandino Tanagli, merchant of Florence. He bought of Tanagli for the sum of £400 English money a bill of exchange of 1,700 gold ducats payable in Rome to Cardinal Adrian, bishop of Hereford, having no licence to do so. After a formal traverse of the allegations had been entered by the defendant, the case was postponed from term to term until November 3, 1509. Polydore then appeared and produced a pardon granted him by letters patent dated the previous May 20. This pardon, which is set out, relieves him from penalties for the violation of any of the statutes, with which the statute book then bristled, attaching pecuniary penalties to the infringement of them. Among these offences the pardon specifically mentions 'corrupt and unlawful changes and rechanges.' The pardon was retrospective to April 23, the second day after the death of Henry VII. He also produced a letter from the King to the Barons of the Exchequer reciting the pardon and enjoining them not to proceed further. The date of the letter is October 20. The case was thereupon dismissed.

The next case, on the dorse of the same membrane, is an information filed by Jerome Gentyll, merchant of Genoa, Warden of the Exchange and Rechange of the lord the King towards the parts beyond sea. It was laid on the same day, but it related to a subsequent transaction to that already mentioned. It alleged that on March 8, 19 H. VII. (1504), in the same place, presumably his house, Polydore had cashed a

bill of 2,000 gold ducats drawn in Rome upon England, paying the holder, one Gabriel de Adurno, merchant of Genoa, 450*l.* English money, without having a licence to do so. Polydore, as before, appeared by his attorney and entered formal traverses of the allegations. This case likewise was postponed term after term, the last entry of postponement on the roll being the Octave of St. Hilary, 21 Henry VII., *i.e.* January 1506.

That the collector of Papal revenue in this country should have ventured upon these transactions suggests either that the law regulating exchange, though the last statute was only seventeen years old, was generally in desuetude or that Polydore relied upon his favour at Court, probably the latter, since so prominent a person as the official remitter of large sums to Italy would otherwise be the natural mark of the informer.

Interest was at this time canonically forbidden, and the statute preceding the 'Acte agaynst Exchaunge and Rechaunge without the Kynges Lycence' was 'An Acte agaynst Usury and unlawfull bargaynes,' by which last the prohibition of interest was evaded.¹ But, under the name of compensation for risk and trouble, *i.e.* the risk and trouble supposed to be incurred in the transportation of imaginary sums of money from one country to another, the necessity for which bills of exchange were devised to obviate, charges were allowed upon these transactions. In the case of the remittance to the King of Hungary, already mentioned, we find that the German bankers charged 10 per cent.² If we may suppose that Tanagli charged Polydore Vergil as much for his bill upon Rome, then 400*l.* was worth 1,870 ducats, *i.e.* 1700 + 170, or 10 per cent. This estimate rests on the law of exchange that the price of bills or rate of exchange between two countries is fixed by the drawer. The ducat, therefore, at the time of the first of these transactions, was about 4*s.* 3*d.* The second transaction, on the assumption that 10 per cent. was charged at Rome, *i.e.* that 2,200 ducats were paid there, suggests that the silver price of the ducat had in the course of the interval of six months risen to

¹ 3 H. VII. c. 4.

² S. P. Dom. H. VIII. iv. 2492.

4*s.* 6*d.*, which has already been seen to have been in accordance with the march of events. This also approximately harmonises with a statement by Polydore in his History as to the 'par of exchange,' to use a modern phrase, of the ducat in England. 'Marchia apud Anglos valet tres nummos aureos quos vulgo ducatos vocant ;'¹ that is, three ducats exchange for 13*s.* 4*d.*, which is at the rate of 4*s.* 5½*d.* per ducat. Unfortunately, there is no clue as to the particular year when this was written.

Membrane 15 d.

<p>London'. De dompno Polidoro sedis apostolice collectore allocuto ad respondendum Regi de quodam escambio nuper facto ac licencia domini Regis inde non optenta.</p>	}	<p>Memorandum quod Ierominus Gentyll mercator de Ianua Custos Excambii et recambii domini Regis infra hoc regnum Anglie versus partes transmarinas</p>
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(A.D.
1504)

(A.D.
1504)]

venit coram Baronibus huius Scaccarii xii^o die Iunii hoc termino in propria persona sua Et sacramentum prestitit corporale Quod octauo die Marcii anno regni dicti domini Regis nunc decimonono apud London' videlicet in parochia sancti Gregorii in warda de Baynard-castell London' quidam dompnus Polidorus Castellensis Collector reddituum et prouentuum sedi apostolice infra regnum Anglie prouenientium et spectantium soluit et deliberauit per viam recambii cuidam Gabrieli de Adurno mercatori de Ianua quadringentas et quinquaginta libras legalis monete Anglie pro quodam escambio duorum millium ducatorum aureorum perantea in Ciuitate Rome videlicet in Curia romana ibidem cum quodam Paulo Solii mercatore de Ianua apud Romam facto soluto et contento sine licencia dicti domini Regis ac contra formam diuersorum statutorum inde nuper editorum et presertim contra formam cuiusdam Statuti in parlamento dicti domini Regis nunc apud Westmonasterium ix^o die Nouembris anno regni sui tercio tento inde editi et prouisi unde predictus Ierominus Gentill petit auisamentum Curie in premissis Super quo concordatum est quod mandetur predicto dompno Polidoro per breue Regis de sub pena sub Sigillo huius Scaccarii essendi hic etc. ad respondendum domino Regi in premissis Et hoc sub pena Centum librarum Et preceptum est ei in forma predicta Ita etc.

¹ *Anglice Historie*, ed. Basil., 1546, p. 309.

die veneris xxviii^o die Iunii isto eodem termino ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic in propria persona sua Et tulit hic in Curia breue predictum Et petit auditum informacionis predicte et ei legitur Qua lecta et audita petit ex gracia Curie diem sibi dari citra quem etc. Quod ei per Curiam hic concessum est Et super hoc datus est dies hic prefato dompno Polidoro eodem statu quo nunc vsque a die sancti Iohannis Baptiste hoc termino in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per Iohannem Gardener attornatum suum Et dicit protestando quod informacio predicta minus sufficiens est in lege ad quam per legem terre non debet nec tenetur respondere pro placito tamen dicit quod nec ipse nec aliquis alius nomine suo soluit aut deliberavit per viam recambii predicto Gabrieli de Adurno mercatori de Ianua nec alicui alii dictas quadringentas et quinquaginta libras monete nec aliquam inde parcellam modo et forma prout per informacionem predictam supponitur. Et de hoc ponit se super patriam Et quia Curia vult deliberari in premissis antequam vlterius etc. Datus est dies hic prefato dompno Polidoro eodem statu quo nunc vsque a die sancti Michaelis in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Hillarii Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque a die Pasche in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas Sancte Trinitatis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Michaelis ^{xx^{mo}} Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Hillarii Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque a die Pasche in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas Sancte Trinitatis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Michaelis ^{xxj^{mo}} Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Hillarii Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus ¹

¹ The case is unfinished on the Roll.

Exchequer K. R. Memoranda Roll. 19 Henry VII., Trinity Term.
Membrane 15.

<p>London'. De dompno Polidoro sedis appostolice infra Angliam collectore allocuto ad respondendum Regi de quodam escambio nuper per ipsum facto licencia domini Regis inde non optenta etc.</p>	}	<p>Memorandum quod Iacobus Hobart attor- natus domini Regis venit coram Baronibus huius Scaccarii xiii^o die Iunii hoc termino in propria persona sua Et pro domino Rege</p>
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(A.D.
1504)

(A.D.
1503)

dedit Curie hic intelligi Quod quidam dompnus Polidorus Castellen-
 sis Collector Reddituum et prouentuum sedis appostolice infra
 regnum Anglie prouenientum duodecimo die Octobris Anno regni
 dicti domini Regis nunc xix^o apud London' videlicet in parochia
 sancti Gregorii in warda de Baynardcastell London' tenuit quoddam
 escambium commune et apertum et tunc et ibidem fecit quoddam
 escambium cum Aldobrandino Tanagli mercatore de Florencia de
 summa quadringentarum librarum monete Anglie dicto Aldobrandino
 tunc ibidem pre manibus deliberata pro MDCC ducatis aureis apud
 Romam in Curia romana mense Marcii extunc proximo sequente
 soluendis et contentandis per predictum Aldobrandinum venerabili
 patri domino Adriano Cardinali Herefordensi Episcopo contra leges
 domini Regis Anglie ac contra formam diuersorum statutorum in
 huiusmodi casu editorum et prouisorum ac licencia regia superinde
 non optenta vnde predictus Iacobus Hobart petit auisamentum
 Curie in premissis Super quo concordatum est quod mandetur
 predicto dompno Polidoro per breue Regis de subpena sub Sigillo
 huius Scaccarii essendi hic etc. ad respondendum domino Regi in
 premissis. Et hoc sub pena Centum librarum Et preceptum est ei
 in forma predicta Ita etc. die veneris xxviii^o die Iunii isto eodem
 termino Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic in
 propria persona sua Et tulit hic in Curia breue predictum Et petit
 auditum informacionis predicte Et ei legitur Qua lecta et audita petit
 ex gracia Curie diem sibi dari citra quem etc. Quod ei per Curiam
 hic Concessum est Et super hoc datus est dies hic prefato dompno
 Polidoro eodem statu quo nunc vsque a die sancti Iohannis Baptiste
 hoc termino in xv dies. Ad quem diem predictus dompnus
 Polidorus venit hic per Iohannem Gardener Attornatum suum Et
 dicit protestando quod informacio predicta minus sufficiens est in
 lege ad quam per legem terre non debet nec tenetur respondere pro
 placito tamen dicit quod nec ipse nec aliquis alius nomine suo tenuit
 aliquod escambium nec quod ipse seu aliquis alius nomine suo fecit

aliquod escambium cum predicto Aldobrandino Tanagli mercatore de Florencia nec cum aliquo alio de predicta summa quadringentarum librarum monete anglie nec alicuius inde parcelle prout per informationem predictam superius supponitur Et de hoc ponit se super patriam Et quia Curia vult deliberari in premissis antequam vltierus etc. Datus est dies hic prefato dompno Polidoro eodem statu quo nunc vsque a die sancti Michaelis in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Hillarii ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque a die Pasche in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancte Trinitatis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Michaelis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta usque in Octabas sancti Hillarii Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque a die Pasche in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancte Trinitatis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Michaelis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Hillarii Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex causa predicta vsque a die Pasche in xv dies Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vltierus ex

xx°

xxj

xxij^{do}xxij^{eto}

xxiiij^o(A.D.
1509)(A.D.
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causa predicta vsque in Octabas Sancte Trinitatis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Michaelis Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque in Octabas sancti Hillarii Ad quem diem predictus dompnus Polidorus venit hic per dictum attornatum suum Et habet diem vlterius ex causa predicta vsque a die Pasche in xv dies ante quem diem dictus dominus Rex obiit per quod loquela predicta remansit sine die Et dominus Henricus nunc Rex Anglie octauus filius et heres eiusdem nuper Regis iure hereditario successit in regimine regni Anglie Super quo concordatum est quod predictus dompnus Polidorus veniat hic de nouo ad respondendum domino Regi nunc in premissis. Et preceptum est vicecomiti London' quod ipsum dominum Polidorum venire faciat hic in forma predicta Ita etc. in Crastino sancti Iohannis Baptiste Ad quem diem vicecomes non retornat breue nec ipse venit Ideo preceptum est vicecomiti quod ipsum dominum venire faciat hic in forma predicta Ita etc. in Crastino Animarum Ad quem diem vicecomes non retornat tamen ad eundem diem predictus dominus Polidorus Castellensis venit hic per Nicholaum Mynne attornatum suum Et petit auditum informationis predictae Et ei legitur etc. Qua lecta et audita dicit quod dictus dominus Rex nunc ipsum pro premissis vlterius impetere non debet Quia dicit quod dictus dominus Rex nunc Henricus octauus per literas suas patentes hic in Curia modo prolatas Quarum datum est apud Westmonasterium vicesimo die Maii anno regni sui primo de gracia sua speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu suis inter alia pardonauit remisit et relaxauit prefato domino Polidoro per nomen Polidori Vergilii alias dicti Polidori Castellensis Archidiaconi Wellensis alias dicti Polidori Vergilii de Italia alias dicti Polidori Vergilii de London' seu quocunque alio nomine censebatur omnimodas forisfacturas conclamenta decepciones vsurias contractus vsurarios barganias corruptas cheuancias conuenciones coloraciones escambia reescambia corrupta et illicita mesprisiones contemptus impeticiones recepciones empciones mutaciones prestaciones factiones et vendiciones illicitas pannorum laneorum lineorum cericorum lanarum coriorum stannorum plumborum cinctuararum ribendorum cericorum operatorum et non operatorum granorum specierum auri argenti ac aliorum catallorum mercandisarum mercimoniorum et aliarum rerum quarumcumque ac deliberaciones eorundem ante vicesimum tercium diem Aprilis anno regni ipsius domini Regis nunc primo per ipsum Polidorum factas siue

perpetratas Et eciam idem dominus Rex pardonauit remisit et relaxauit prefato Polidoro omnes et omnimodas acciones sectas querelas impeticiones et demandas quas vel que idem dominus Rex habuit seu habere potuit versus eundem Polidorum pro premissis vel aliquo premissorum prout in literis patentibus predictis irrotulatur alibi in Memorandis huius Scaccarii, videlicet inter Recorda de termino sancti Michaelis Anno primo Regis Henrici octauī Rotulo quarto Ex parte huius Rememoratoris plenius continetur Et vnde predictus Polidorus detulit Curie hic quoddam breue domini Regis de magno sigillo suo Thesaurario et Baronibus huius Scaccarii directum Cuius quidem breuis Tenor sequitur in hec verba. Henricus Dei gracia Rex Anglie et Francie et Dominus Hibernie Thesaurario et Baronibus suis de Scaccario salutem Cum nos vicesimo die Maii vltimo preterito per literas nostras patentes de gracia nostra speciali pardonauerimus remiserimus et relaxauerimus Polidoro Vergilio alias dicto Polidoro Castellensi Archidiacono Wellensi, alias dicto Polidoro Vergilio de Italia alias dicto Polidoro Vergilio de London' seu quocumque alio nomine censeatur omnimodas forisfacturas concelamenta deceptiones vsurias contractus vsurarios barganias corruptas cheuancias conuenciones coloraciones escambia reescambia corrupta et illicita mesprisiones contemptus impeticiones recepciones empiciones mutaciones prestaciones factiones et vendiciones illicitas pannorum laneorum lineorum cericorum lanarum coriorum stannorum plumborum cincturarum ribendorum cericorum operatorum et non operatorum granorum specierum auri argenti ac aliorum catallorum mercandisarum mercimoniorum et aliarum rerum quarumcumque ac deliberaciones eorundem ante vicesimum tercium diem Aprilis anno regni nostri primo per ipsum Polidorum factas siue perpetratas Et eciam pardonauerimus remiserimus et relaxauerimus prefato Polidoro omnes et omnimodas acciones sectas querelas impeticiones et demandas quas vel que habuimus habuissimus seu habere potuimus versus eundem Polidorum pro premissis vel aliquo premissorum aut racione vel occasione premissorum vel eorum alicuius in dictis literis nostris patentibus contenti et specificati vsque predictum vicesimum tercium diem Aprilis prout in dictis literis nostris inter alia plenius continetur Vobis mandamus quod ipsum Polidorum contra tenorem literarum nostrarum predictarum non molestetis in aliquo seu grauētis teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium xx die Octobris Anno regni nostri primo Que omnia et singula predictus Polidorus Castellensis paratus est verificare prout Curia etc. vnde petit iudicium Et quod ipse quo ad premissa ab hac Curia dimittatur etc. Super quo visis premissis per Barones

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habitaque inde matura deliberacione inter eosdem Barones Consideratum est quod predictus Polidorus Castellensis de premissis erga dominum Regem exoneretur et quiete existat et quod inde eat sine die pretextu premissorum Salua semper auctoritate Regis si alias etc.