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EXPENSES OF THE EMBASSY TO BRING THE MAID OF NORWAY
TO SCOTLAND, A.D. 1290.

COMMUNICATED BY JOSEPH BURTT, ESQ., ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS.

THE document which forms the subject of this notice is of greater value, from the very important historical event with which it is connected, than on account of its own intrinsic interest. After the settlement of the affairs of England, and the termination of the war in Wales, the attention of King Edward I. was directed to the kingdom of Scotland. The heiress apparent of this kingdom was his own niece, and a marriage between her and the King's only son would offer a satisfactory solution to all parties of an enterprise on which the royal hopes were concentrated. I shall not, however, here offer any observations upon the historical importance of the then projected union of Edward of Caernarvon with Margaret the Maid of Norway. The contemporary chronicler, the annalist of later years, and the modern historian, have dwelt in the most glowing and pathetic terms upon the preparations that were made to receive the child of so many hopes, as well as upon the anxiety with which her arrival from the land of her birth to the kingdom over which she was to rule was expected. How vast were the political consequences involved in this one life! Failing her advent and occupation of the throne, there was every probability that Scotland would become the prize in a struggle between the members of a powerful nobility among whom the claims of royal consanguinity were distributed.

The duration and prosperity of the reign of Alexander III. had been productive of two serious evils. Its length allowed the collateral claimants of the crown to become extinct and their titles diffused, leaving a young and delicate girl the sole heiress to the throne in a direct line; its prosperity ensured that the succession would be fiercely contested where

even a shadow of right could be adduced to justify a contest. In order to avoid the impending calamities, the union of the royal princess with the son of Edward I. was cordially desired by the people, and carefully arranged by the chief Scotch nobles with the princess's father.¹ The Scottish Parliament liberally agreed to the proposals of the neighbouring sovereign, while it insisted on conditions calculated to preserve the independence of the Kingdom.

On leaving her father's home, it was not at first arranged whether the princess should land directly in Scotland or pass through England on her way. The latter course was eventually decided upon, but with the intention that her stay in England should depend on the state of affairs in her own country. To Scotland, however, the princess belonged, and to the "two eminent knights of Fife," David Weemys and Michael Scott, was committed the important duty of proceeding to the Norwegian court and of bringing home the precious charge. But, by the sudden and mysterious death of the princess on her homeward voyage—an event over which the greatest obscurity prevails—all hopes of a pacific succession were annihilated, and the country was plunged into the fearful prospect of a civil war, aggravated by the evident designs of the English sovereign upon the national freedom.

Important as these transactions were, nothing can be more complete than the blank which exists as to the particulars of the embassy that was sent to Norway, though there can be no doubt that they were all duly recorded among the other details of those transactions of which it formed so eventful a part. And it is simply owing to the minute care with which details were given relating to public

¹ Sharon Turner thus comments upon the circumstances of the projected union and its probable results. "The same benefits which were connected with the incorporation of England and Wales would have followed a cordial union between North and South Britain. The experience of the last century has proved how it has increased the happiness and improvements of both, and it does credit to Edward's judgment as a statesman that he projected its accomplishment by the marriage of the princess. But it was a measure that could be successful and beneficial only so far as the union

was voluntary, and as the means of establishing it should be peaceable and quiet. Patriotic feelings, ever honourable to the individuals who cherish them within the bounds of moral duty, and protecting so usefully the independence of states, are in their first impulses averse to national incorporations; time only can lead the general mind to a perception of their advantages, and the adoption of measures for diminishing or averting their inconveniences. Edward, by a casualty of nature, missed the quiet gratification of his wishes."

matters which involved an expenditure of time, money, or stores, that we are indebted for the evidence now produced. The accidents to which the records of the sister kingdom have been exposed, and the losses they have experienced, are well known ; but it is somewhat remarkable that amongst our own national collections nothing (so far as I am aware) is known to exist which throws any further light upon the Norwegian expedition.

The evidence now brought forward, while it is a fresh instance of the value of subsidiary sources of information, is still very imperfect ; were it existing in a complete state, it would doubtless have cleared up the whole mystery in which the last few months of the life of the Maid of Norway is involved. Some of the contemporary writers have said that the princess died in Norway before the ambassadors arrived there ; but most of those of later times have followed the account of Walsingham, who asserts that she died in the Orkneys on her passage homeward.

With regard to the embassy itself, the document now before us shows that precisely the same system of mutuality was brought to bear upon its arrangements, which had prevailed in those for the projected marriage and the union of the two nations. While the ambassadors themselves were Scottish knights, the ship and the provisions with which it was supplied were furnished by the English sovereign from the port of Yarmouth.² On the return of the vessel to port from its unsuccessful errand, the officers in charge of the royal stores were bound to see that those which had been supplied to the ship on her outward voyage were duly accounted for or returned ;—a practice which prevails at the present day. The document which follows is the account so made out, and it describes the manner in which the balance was struck on that occasion. And, if the princess actually embarked, and was landed in the Orkneys or some other island on her passage, it relates to the very ship in which she sailed, and to the provisions and articles provided for her use and comfort. But there is not the slightest allusion to any circumstances relating to her.

² The superintendence of the vessel and its stores was probably committed to one "Henry the Scot," as he will be seen to have made additions to the stock

of wine and meal, and to have paid the wages of the captain, Richard de Goseford and his sailors.

The object of the voyage appears incidentally in the first entry, which refers to the "wine put by Matthew de Columbariis on board the great ship of Yarmouth which was sent to Norway for the Maid of Scotland." The provisions consisted of the usual royal household stores of the thirteenth century; the fish comprising "fishes of Aberdeen," stock-fish, sturgeon, lampreys, whale, and herrings. The bulk of the articles, including wine, seems to have been shared between the ambassadors and crew; while the ale, nuts, spices, and condiments were reserved for the ambassadors alone. The gross quantities of the articles furnished are not given; the sailors are said to have used so much or so many, and the ambassadors the rest. Some of the entries seem to show that difficulties existed in making the balance even, and are expressed with a vagueness that will appear amusing. "Of the nuts, the sailors used none, but the ambassadors used a certain part, and the rest were lost by decay." "Of the salt, the ambassadors used a part, and the sailors a part—a half they think." "Of the sugar, the ambassadors used a part, and the rest vanished in the ship." The "measure of Yarmouth," to which the provisions were subjected on their return, appears to have been very strict. Some of the articles were given away "pro Deo," in charity. The stores were on one occasion turned to account to provide for other wants. "Of the wheat, none was used, but all was returned to Yarmouth, except one barrel which Andrew the valet of Matthew de Columbariis sold, by command of the said Matthew, to purchase himself a robe and other necessities." Some of the "organs, banners, and penons," provided for the state purposes of the expedition were taken away by the ambassadors, some were kept at Yarmouth. On the back of the account is entered an appraisement of the articles returned and their disposition. They were consigned to the keeping of Godfrey Pilgrim and Richard de Goseford, with the understanding that they were to be answered for to the King at his pleasure.

ACCOUNT PRESERVED AMONGST THE MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS IN THE
CHAPTER HOUSE, WESTMINSTER.

Marinarii cepe-
runt xvj. dola
prec. xxxiiij. li.
xiiij. s. iiij. d. pre-
cium doli xliij.
s. iiij. d.

³ De vinis positis per Matheum de Columbariis in magna navi de Gernemuth, que missa fuit usque Norwagiam pro domicilla Seocie, receperunt Marinarii ad expensas suas, xvj. dola, iiij. dola dedit predictus Matheus pro Deo apud Gernemuth, et j. fractum fuit apud Hertenpol, et residua expendiderunt Nuncii : j. pipa posita fuit in olagio.⁴

marmarn respon-
dent de cxvj. s.
pro xxxiiij. quar-
terna, precium
quarterii iiij. s.
x. d.

De farina posita in eadem navi per eundem Matheum receperunt iidem Marinarii ad expensas suas xx. et iiij^{or} quarteria, et xij^{cim} quarteria corrupta fuerunt, et data pro Deo, et residua in expensis Nunciorum.

nihil respon-
dent.

De servisia posita in eadem per eundem Matheum dedit idem Matheus v. dola pro Deo, et residuam expendiderunt Nuncii.

marmarn res-
pondent de lix.
s. pro viij. carc-
osiis, precium car-
cosii vij. s.
iiij. d.

Item de carcosiis bovum receperunt iidem Marinarii ad expensas suas octo carcosiis, et residua expendiderunt Nuncii.

marinarii res-
pondent de lxvj.
s. viij. d. pro xl.
pernis, precium
pernae xx. d.

De pernis baconum expendiderunt Marinarii xl. et xvij. corruptæ fuerunt et datæ pro Deo, et residuas expendiderunt Nuncii.

marinarii res-
pondent de lviiij.
s. iiij. d. pro cc.
precium eujusli-
bet iiij. d. ob.

De piscibus de Aberden expendiderunt Marinarii cc. et c. et xxxj corrupti et dati pro Deo, et residuos expendiderunt Nuncii.

marinarii res-
pondent de viij.
s. iiij. d. pro c.
precium eujus-
libet j. d.

De Stokfys expendiderunt Marinarii c. et ejecti fuerunt propter corruptionem xlj. et residuos expendiderunt Nuncii.

marinarii res-
pondent de x. s.
pro dimidio ba-
rillæ: precium
patet.

De Sturiun' expendiderunt Marinarii quandam partem, nesciunt quantum ; set vere sciunt quod medietas et plus expendebatur per Nuncios, et [residua pars] data fuit pro Deo propter corruptionem.

respondent de
iiij. li. xj. s.
x. d. ob.

De Lampredis expendiderunt Marinarii xxxv. et residuos expendiderunt Nuncii.

respondent de
v. s. ix. d.

De balena expendiderunt Marinarii xxv. li. et residuam Nuncii.

respondent de
iiij. s. pro d.
allicibus.

De allecibus expendiderunt Marinarii v^c. et residuum ejectum fuit propter corruptionem et datum pro Deo.

nihil respon-
dent.

De amigdalis nichil expendiderunt Marinarii, set Nuncii expendiderunt quandam partem, et residua data fuerunt pro Deo

³ The marginal notes were evidently added ; there are several alterations in them which it has not been thought necessary to distinguish. They were obviously made for the purpose of enabling the officers of the Exchequer to apportion the expenses to the respec-

tive official branches, the words "Marinarii respondent" meaning only that so much shall be debited to that head of expenditure.

⁴ The last six words added subsequently. *Olagium*, "ullage of a cask is what it wants of being full."—Baily.

propter corruptionem apud Gernemutham fratribus prædicatoribus per Henricum de Raggeleye.

respondent de
ij. s. x. d. ob.
precium libræ
ob.

De Rys nichil expendiderunt Marinarii, set Nuncii expendiderunt quandam partem, et lxij. li. reducerunt apud Gernemutham.

nihil respondent.

De Gruel expendiderunt Nuncii quandam partem, et residuum dederunt Marinarii pro Deo quia corruptum.

respondent de
xix. s.

De fabis albis et nigris, et pisis expendiderunt Nuncii quandam partem, videlicet quartam, ut credunt Marinarii, et ipsi Marinarii expendiderunt residuum.

respondent de
vij. s. vj. d.

De cenapio expendiderunt Nuncii unam medietatem [scilicet de xj. lagenis⁶] et aliam medietatem Marinarii ut credunt.

nihil respondent.

De vino acro expendiderunt Nuncii quandam partem, et aliam partem perditum fuit.⁶

respondent de
xij. d.

De cepis et allea expendiderunt Nuncii quandam partem, et Marinarii quandam partem, et, ut credunt, quartam partem, et residuum ejectum propter corruptionem.

respondent de
xvj. s. ix. d.

De caseis [scilicet c. viij. ponderantes iij. peys] expendiderunt Nuncii octo (ponderantes iij. partem j. peys) et (xl. casei ponderantes scilicet j. peis) ejecti fuerunt⁷ propter corruptionem, et lx. caseos ponderantes scilicet j. peys di' et j. quarter, expendiderunt Marinarii.

nihil respondent.

De nucibus nichil expendiderunt Marinarii, set Nuncii expendiderunt quandam partem, et residuum perditum propter corruptionem.

respondent de
vij. s.

De Sale partem expendiderunt Nuncii, et partem Marinarii, ut credunt, medietatem.

nihil respondent.

De Sucre partem expendiderunt Nuncii, et residuum evanuit in navi.

respondent de
xvij. s. vj. d.

De zinzybere, cetewale, pipere, cimino, macys, cub. (?) albo pulvere, totum expendiderunt et asportaverunt Nuncii præter ix. li. zinziberis, xj. li. piperis, et quinque li. cimini, quas predicti Marinarii reducerunt apud Gernemutham, precium ut extra.

respondent de
vij. s.

De figis et reysines expendiderunt Nuncii ij. fraell', et Marinarii residuum, scilicet ij. fraell'.

nihil respondent.

De croco totum expendiderunt et asportaverunt Nuncii. .

nihil respondent.

De gyngebred, galyngale, canele (candelis de cera), totum expendiderunt et asportaverunt Nuncii.

respondent de
x. s.

Candelas de cepo expendiderunt Marinarii, cepum et

⁵ The words in brackets are interlined.

⁶ Thus in the original.

⁷ Ponderantes scilicet, j. peis.

cracetum expendiderunt Nuncii (et partem reduxerunt apud Gernemutham).

respondent de
iiij. s.

Cracetum, cum tuellis, iij. mappas. j. manutergium, v. ulnas canabi reduxerunt Marinarii apud Gernemutham, et remanent, et residuum asportaverunt Nuncii.

respondent de
v. s.

De turbis et busca totum in expensis Nunciorum et Marinarii . . . ? fuerunt in navi.

nihil respondent.

De discis, platellis, et cyphis totum asportatum (per Nuncios) et perditum in navi.

respondent de
ix. s.

De mortariis, gatys, paneriis, saccis, clayis, tancardis, cacabo (ollis eneis) et cuphinis de ? vacuis doliis, coffris, (cista) organis, baneris, penecellis, reducta fuit, et remanent apud Gernemutham ij. mortaria, ij. gatæ, j. panerium, ij. sacci, ij. tancardes, et j. cacabum, ij. ollæ eneæ (organa) j. cysta, baneria, et penecella, et residuum asportatum per Nuncios et fractum et perditum in navi, set vacua dolia clamat Andreus vallettus Mathei ut sua propria de feodo et habet illa.

respondent de
xxvij. li. ix. s.
vj. d. precium
doli xxxix. s.
iiij. d.

De doliis vini positis in navi per Henricum le Escot receperunt Marinarii ad expensas suas xiiij. dolia, et xxvj. reduxerunt apud Gernemutham.

respondent de
vj. li. xx. d.

De farina ex providencia Henrici Lescot non fuerunt posita in navi nisi quinque dolia, de quibus Marinarii receperunt iiij^{or} ad expensas, et j. reduxerunt apud Gernemutham.

respondent ad
iiij. li. xij. s.

De cera nichil in expensas, sed reducta apud Gernemutham.

De frumento nichil in expensas, sed totum reductum apud Gernemutham, præter j. dolium plenum de frumento, quod Andreus Vallettus Mathei de Columbariis vendidit per preceptum ipsius Mathei ad emendum sibi unam robam et alia necessaria, et vj. quarteria perdita fuerunt in navi secundum mensuram de Gernemutha.

ON THE BACK.

respondent de
x. li. xij. s.
iiij. d.

Instaurum Domini Regis reductum de Norwagia in navi de Gernemutha taxatum est per sacramentum proborum et legallium hominum de Gernemutha.

respondent de
xxvij. li.

Videlicet de xxvj. doliis vini quæ reducta fuerunt, quorum j. positum fuit ibidem in oyllagio et partim datum pro Deo, taxantur vij. dolia ad vij. marcas et xvij. dolia ad ix. marcas, quia ad tantum debilitata fuerunt in mari.

Item de lx. et vij. quarteriis frumenti et dimidio reductis et positis in xx. doliis appreciatur quarterium ad viij. sol'. et x. quarteria perdita fuerunt in mensura in exitu faciendo.

Summa totalis c. xxxvj. li. xvij. s. v. d. Probatum.^s

^s This total is grossly wrong, the value of the wine only, at the prices given,

Et de isto instauro habet Godefridus Pylegrym in custodia medietatem vinorum, bladi, et ceræ ad respondendum Domino Regi ad voluntatem suam, et eciam habet in custodia cacabum, ij. ollas eneas, baneria, et penecella.

Et Ricardus de Goseford habet in custodia aliam medietatem prædictorum vinorum, bladorum, et ceræ, et eciam mortaria et alias res minutas prænotatas, de quibus respondebit Domino Regi ad voluntatem suam.

Item Ricardus de Goseford recepit de Henrico le Escot xxth li. pro expensis suis et marinariorum, et iiij^{or} quarteria farinæ, precium quarterii, xxiiij. s.

amounting to £140 13s. 4d. It is preceded by several cancelled entries of the appraisement of articles entered on the front of the account.

DESCENT OF THE MAID OF NORWAY.