

tershire and Northamptonshire. All which counties are as near at least to one or other of those Beacons, as these are to each other.

As therefore the care and contrivance of our ancestors, in providing for the safety and preservation of the country, appears so evident in the description of these Beacons; it might, I thought, deserve to be taken notice of. And it is not improbable but the like prudent management may be discovered in other counties, upon due enquiry and observation.

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## II. *The Order of the Maundy* [*b*] *made at Greenwich,* March 19, 1572.

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, March 16, 1749.

FIRST, the hall was prepared with a long table on each side, and forms set by them; on the edges of which tables, and under those forms, were layed carpets, and cushions for her majesty to kneel, when she would wash them (*the poor*). There was also another table laid across the upper end of the hall, somewhat above the foot pace, for the chappelan to stand at. A little beneath the midst whereof, and beneath the foot pace, a stool and cushion of estate was pitched for her majesty to kneel at during service time. This done, the holy water, basons, alms, and other things, being brought into the hall; and the chappelan and poor

[*b*] Skinner, in his Etymologicon, observes, that Minshew derives the word from the Lat. *mandatum*, sc. the *command* of Christ to his disciples; But Sir H. Spelman, perhaps more justly, from the Fr. G. Mande, *sportula*, an *alms* or *dole*. T. M.

folks having taken their said places, the yeoman of the laundry, armed with a fair towel, and taking a silver basin filled with warm water and sweet flowers, washed their feet, all, one after another, wiped the same with his towel, and so making a cross a little above the toes kissed them. After him within a while followed the sub-almoner, doing likewise, and after him the almoner himself also; then lastly her majesty came into the hall, and, after some singing and prayers made, and the gospel of Christ's washing his disciples feet read, thirty nine ladies and gentlewomen, for so many were the poor folks (according to the number of the years complete of her majesty's age), addressed themselves with aprons and towels to wait upon her majesty; and she kneeling down upon the cushions and carpets under the feet of the poor women, first washed one foot of every of them in so many several basins of warm water and sweet flowers, brought to her severally by the said ladies and gentlewomen, then wiped, crossed, and kissed them, as the almoner and others had done before. When her majesty had thus gone through the whole number of thirty nine, of which twenty sat on the one side of the hall, and nineteen on the other; she resorted to the first again, and gave to each one certain yards of broad-cloth to make a gown. Thirdly, she began at the first, and gave to each of them a pair of shoes. Fourthly, to each of them a wooden platter, wherein was half a side of salmon, as much lyng, six red herrings, and two cheat [*c*] loaves of bread. Fifthly, she began with the first again, and gave to each of them a white wooden dish with claret wine. Sixthly, she received of each waiting lady and gentlewoman their towel and apron, and gave to each poor woman one of the same. And after this the ladies and gentlewomen waited no longer, nor served as they had done throughout the courses before; but then the treasurer of the chamber (Mr. Henneage) came to her majesty

[*c*] I know not what to make of the word *cheat*, unless it be for *chet*, and that for *manchet*, a small white loaf. T. M.

with thirty-nine small white purses, wherein were also thirty-nine pence (as they say) after the number of the years of her majesty's age; and of him she received and distributed them severally; which done, she received of him so many several red leather purses, each containing twenty shillings, for the redemption of her majesty's gown, which (as men say) by ancient order she ought to give to some one of them at her pleasure; but she, to avoid the trouble of suit, which accustomedly was made for that preferment, had changed that reward into money to be equally divided amongst them all, namely twenty shillings a piece; and those she also delivered particularly to each one of the whole company; and so taking her ease upon the cushion of state, and hearing the choir a little while, her majesty withdrew herself, and the company departed; for it was by that time the sun-setting.

March 20, 1572.

W. L. [William Lambart].

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### III.

Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, December 16, 1756.

**T**H E dean of Exeter (now bishop of Carlisle) shewed the Society a large parchment roll containing a list of new years gifts presented to queen Elizabeth at Greenwich on the 1st January, 1584-5, signed by the queen, and countersigned by John Aftley Esq; master and treasurer of the jewels; by which it appears, that the greatest part, if not all the peers and peeresses of the realm, all the bishops, the chief officers of state, and several of the queen's household servants, even down to her apothecaries, master-cook, serjeant of the pastry, &c. gave new years gifts to her majesty.