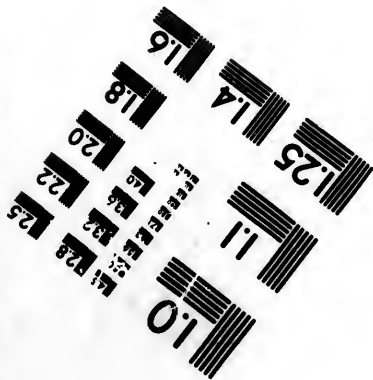
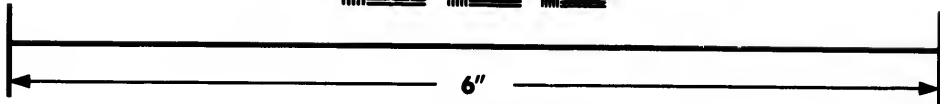
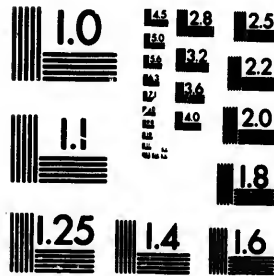


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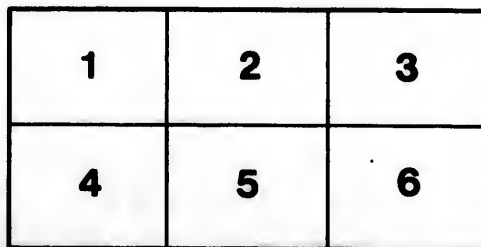
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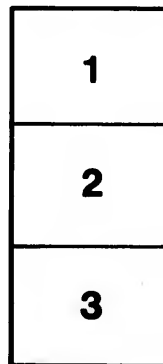
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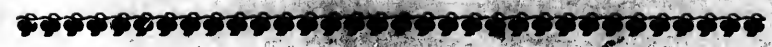
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“THE CABOT ROLL.”



The Customs Roll of the  
Port of Bristol

A.D. 1496 to 1499.

Translated from the original Manuscript recently discovered at Westminster Abbey,

By EDWARD SCOTT, M.A.

*(Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Museum).*



Translated from the original Manuscript recently discovered at Westminster Abbey,

By EDWARD SCOTT, M.A.

*(Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Museum).*

With an Introduction relating to entries of the Royal Pension  
paid to JOHN CABOT, Navigator,

By ALFRED E. HUDD, F.S.A.

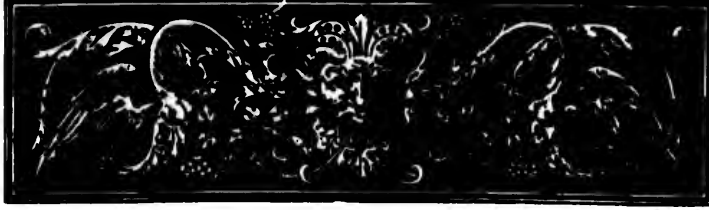
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THE recent celebration of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the discovery of the Continent of North America by the explorers in the good ship "Matthew," of Bristol, under the command of John Cabot,—although not so popular nor so widely observed as that of Columbus in 1892,—has called the attention of many thousands of people, both in England and America, to a subject which has caused much controversy in the past, and is still far from settled, namely, the voyages of the Cabots in search of the New World.

This revived interest has led to the publication of several books and pamphlets on the subject, among the most important of which may be named the work by Mr. Henry Harrisse, entitled "John Cabot the discoverer of North America, and Sebastian his son," and Mr. G. E. Weare's volume, "Cabot's discovery of North America," which have brought to light an immense amount of information of great interest to students.

Though some of the doubtful points about these voyages have thus been cleared up, others remained,—among these the fate of John Cabot. From the date of the sailing of the second expedition, which left Bristol early in the summer of the year 1498, nothing has hitherto been discovered respecting the fate of John, and it has been generally supposed that he died on the voyage. "The fate of John Cabot and of his co-adventurers has been enshrouded in mystery," says Mr. Weare (p. 165). And again, "Did John Cabot and his expedition, or any persons connected therewith . . . ever return to England?" (*Id.* 301). "We do not know when they returned to England, nay, whether John Cabot survived the expedition," writes Mr. Harrisse (p. 134). John's son, Sebastian, whom Bristol has long claimed, and (notwithstanding his little failings) is still proud to claim as a citizen, seems to have taken to himself much of the credit of the results of both ventures; but if the father returned, still in command of the 1498 expedition, to him belongs the chief responsibility and credit for both voyages.

The document which, through the kindness of Mr. Edward Scott, M.A., Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Museum, we are now enabled to reproduce in facsimile, was recently discovered by that gentleman among the muniments of the Chapter House, Westminster Abbey. It was brought to the notice of the present writer by Mr. Coote, of the British Museum, who, with Mr. Scott, obtained the consent of the authorities at Westminster for the production of the original manuscript at the Cabot Celebration at Bristol, on Thursday, June 24th, 189, where it was examined with much interest by the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, who presided, and by many other gentlemen present, several of whom expressed a wish to obtain copies, should the owners allow it to be published. This consent having been obtained, the manuscript has been autotyped, translated, and printed, under the care of Mr. Scott, to whom much credit is due for the great amount of time and care he has given to the work.

It is of great interest, not only as a contemporary document, but also as showing the payment of the annuity of £20 to John Cabot, in the 13th and 14th years of the reign of King Henry VII,—that is between 29th September, 1497, and the same date, 1499. This shows, what we did not previously know, that John Cabot returned to Bristol, and received his pension after the second voyage, which sailed from Bristol in 1498. The payment of the pension is thus entered in the account of disbursements from Michaelmas, 1498, to the same date, 1499,—"*in thesaurario in una tallia pro Johanne Cabot, xx. li.*"

There can therefore be no doubt that the pension was paid to John after his return to England.



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Bristoll. Arthurus Kemys et Ricardus ap Meryke Collectores Custumarum et Subsidiarum }  
 Regis ibidem a festo Sci. Michaelis archangeli anno <sup>mo</sup>xliiii Regis nunc vsque } † mccccxxliiii li. vii. s. x. d. q. <sup>a</sup>  
 idem festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens, reddunt Computum de . . . }

De quibus

In thesaurario in <sup>bz</sup>iii talliis pro Hospicio Regis . . . . . DC. li.  
 Et in thesaurario in ii talliis pro Estmerch . . . . . CClxviii. li. vi. s. vii. d  
 Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Thoma Lovell Milite . . . . . CC. li.  
 Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Heron . . . . . xliii li vi s viii d.  
 Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Cabot . . . . . xx. li.  
 Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Astudello et aliis mercatoribus . . . . . xxv s viii d.  
 Et in thesaurario in <sup>bz</sup>iii talliis pro eisdem Collectoribus. . . . . Clxix. li.  
 Et Ricardo Fox Dunolmensi Episcopo Custodi priuati Sigilli domini Regis }  
 videlicet in partem solucionis Cxxli. a festo Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xliiii } xxxii. li. x. d. q. <sup>a</sup> Et hic remanet  
 vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens . . . . . } Regi non allocatum <sup>xx</sup>iiiiivii li. xixs. id. obq. <sup>a</sup>  
 Et Quintino Paulet de annuitate sua ad xli per }  
 annum videlicet pro festis Pasche anno <sup>mo</sup>xliiii et Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xv . } x. li  
 Et Johanni Carr vni generosorum Hostiariorum Camere Regis de annuitate }  
 sua ad xx marcas per annum videlicet pro festis Pasche anno <sup>mo</sup>xliiii } xx marc.  
 et Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xv . . . . . }  
 Et Roberto Marleton vni seruientium Regis ad arma de vadiis suis }  
 ad xii d per diem pro occupacione officii predicti videlicet a festo Sci. } xviii. li. v. s.  
 Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xliiii vsque idem festum tunc proxime sequens . . . . . }



Bristol. Arthur Kemys and Richard ap Meryk, collectors of the King's customs and subsidies there, from Mich., 13<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> of this King, to the same feast next following, render their account of . . . . . } £ s. d.  
1282 8 11½

Out of which

	£	s.	d.
In the treasury in three talleys in the name of the King's Household . . . . .	600	0	0
"    two    "    "    Eastmarch . . . . .	121	12	5
"    three    "    "    said collectors . . . . .	169	0	0
"    one talley    "    "    Thomas Lovell, Kt . . . . .	100	0	0
"    "    "    "    John Cobbet . . . . .	20	0	0
"    "    "    "    John Heron . . . . .	13	6	8

Richard Fox, Bishop of Durham, Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, for his wages at 20s. a day, for exercising and filling the said office, to wit £60 13s. 4d., in full payment of £120, due from March 12<sup>th</sup> year to Mich. next following, and £120 from Mich. 13<sup>th</sup> year to Mich. 14<sup>th</sup> year . . . . . } 180 13 4  
(The whole sum is assigned here).

Quintin Paulet for his annuity at £10, to wit for the half-years ending Easter 13<sup>th</sup> year and Mich. 14<sup>th</sup> year . . . . . } 10 0 0

Robert Marleton, one of the King's Serjeants-at-Arms, for his wages at 12d. a day for filling the said office, to wit from Mich. 13<sup>th</sup> year of this King to Mich. next following . . . . . } 18 5 0

John Laurence junior for his annuity at £3 6s. 8d., to wit for the half-years ending Easter 13<sup>th</sup> year and Mich. 14<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> . . . . . } 3 6 8

And they still owe £46 4s. 10½d. Add 102s. 0¾d., balance due from last acc<sup>t</sup> ending Michaelmas 13<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup>. . . . . Total 41[sic]6 11½

Balance in treasury, nil.

John Carr, one of the Gentlemen Grooms of the King's Chamber, for his annuity at 20 marks, to wit for the half-years ending Easter 13<sup>th</sup> year and Mich. 14<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> . . . . . } 13 6 8

Surplus which the said collectors had in another acc<sup>t</sup> ending Mich. 12<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup> . . . . . 1 11½

The said collectors for their fee for the said term . . . . . 6 13 4

The comptroller of the said port for his wages for the said term . . . . . 5 0 0



Bristol. Arthurus Kemys et Ricardus a Meryk Collectores Custumarum et Subsidiarum domini

Regis lanarum Corriorum et pellium lanutarum in portu ville Bristol.  
a festo sci. Michaelis archangeli anno <sup>mo</sup>xii <sup>mi</sup>Regis Henrici vii vsque idem  
festum sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens, reddunt Computum de . . .

+ MCxiii.li. liii.s. ix.d.q<sup>a</sup>

De quibus

In thesaurario in <sup>bz</sup>iii tallis pro Hospicio Regis . . . . . DC. li.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Thoma Lovell Milite . . . . . CC. li.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Heron . . . . . xiii.li. vi. s. viii. d.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia per dictos nuper Collectores de Custumis et Subsidiis . . . . . x. li.

Et in thesaurario in <sup>bz</sup>iii tallis pro eisdem Collectoribus . . . . . Clxix. li.

Et Ricardo Fox Dunelmensi Episcopo Custodi priuati Sigilli domini Regis,  
Videlicet de parte Cxx li. per annum a festo Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xii  
Regis nunc vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens . . . . . } lix.li. vi. s. viii. d.

Et Quintino Paulet de annuitate sua ad x li. per annum,  
videlicet pro terminis Pasche anno <sup>mo</sup>xii et Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii . . . . . } x. li.

Et Roberto Marleton vni seruientium Regis ad arma de uadiis  
suis ad xii d. per diem pro exercicio et occupatione officii predicti  
Videlicet a festo Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xii Regis nunc vsque idem  
festum tunc proxime sequens Scilicet per CCClxv dies . . . . . } xviii. li. v. s.

Et Johanni Laurence Juniori de annuitate sua ad lxvi. s. viii. d.  
per annum videlicet pro festis pasche anno <sup>mo</sup>xii et Sci. Michaelis  
anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii . . . . . } lxvi. s. viii. d.

Et eisdem Collectoribus pro feodo suo per tempus predictum. . . . . x. marc.

Et prefato Contrarotulatori pro vadiis suis per idem tempus . . . . . C. s.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia per dictos nuper Collectores de Custumis et Subsidiis . . . . . xlv. s.

Et Johanni Carr vni generosorum Hostiarorum Camere Regis cui Rex  
<sup>uo</sup>xxviii die Novembris anno <sup>mo</sup>xii concessit quandam annuitatem  
viginti marcarum per annum, Videlicet <sup>uo</sup>iiii li. vi. s. ob. a predicto <sup>uo</sup>xxviii die  
Nouembris dicto anno <sup>mo</sup>xii vsque festum Pasche tunc proxime sequens et  
vili. xiii s. <sup>mo</sup>iiii d. pro festo Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii . . . . . } li. s. d.  
x. xix. <sup>mo</sup>iiii. ob.

Et debent Cii s. ob. <sup>a</sup>q. Et reddent post alium Computum suum sequentem  
Videlicet finientem in festo Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xiiii.





Bristol. Arthurus Kemys et Ricardus a Meryk Collectores Custumarum et Subsidiarum  
 Regis ibidem a festo Sci. Michaelis archangeli anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii Regis nunc  
 vsque idem festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens reddunt Computum de. } † xx  
 mccciii.ii.li. viii.s. xi.d.ob.

De quibus

In thesaurario in <sup>bz</sup>iii talliis pro Hospicio Regis . . . . . DC. li.  
 Et in thesaurario in ii talliis pro Estmerch . . . . . Cxxi. li. xii s. v d.  
 Et in thesaurario in <sup>bz</sup>iii talliis pro eisdem Collectoribus . . . . . Clxix. li.  
 Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Thoma Lovell Milite . . . . . C. li  
 Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Coboot . . . . . xx. li.  
 Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Heron . . . . . xiii li vi s viii d.  
 Et Ricardo Fox Dunolmensi Episcopo Custodi priuati Sigilli domini Regis  
 de vadiis suis ad xx.s. per diem pro exercicio et occupacione officii  
 predicti, videlicet lx.li. xiii.s. iiii.d. in plenam solucionem Cxx.li. a festo  
 Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xii vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens, et  
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<sup>mo</sup>xiiii . . . . . } <sup>xx</sup>Ciiii li. xiii s. iiii d.  
 plene allocatur hic  
 Et Quintino Paulet de annuitate sua ad x.li. per annum videlicet  
 pro festis Pasche anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii et Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xiiii . . . . . } x. li.  
 Et Roberto Marleton vni seruientium Regis ad arma de vadiis suis  
 ad xii. d. per diem pro occupacione officii predicti videlicet a festo Sci. Michaelis  
 anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii Regis nunc vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens . . . . . } xviii li v. s  
 Et Johanni Laurence Juniori de annuitate sua ad lxvi.s. viii.d. per annum,  
 videlicet pro festis pasche anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii et Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xiiii . . . . . } lxvi s viii d.  
 Et debent xlvi. li. iiii. s. x. d. ob. Et Cii. s. ob. <sup>a</sup>q. de remanentia compoti sui de anno precedente videlicet  
 finiente in festo Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii. Summa xli. li. vi. s. xi. d. <sup>a</sup>q. In thesaurario nihil.  
 Et Johanni Carr vni generosorum Hostiariorum Camere Regis de annuitate  
 sua ad xx marcas per annum videlicet pro festis pasche anno <sup>mo</sup>xiii et Sci.  
 Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xiiii . . . . . } xx marc.  
 Et in superplusagio quod iidem Collectores habuerunt in alio computo suo finiente in  
 festo Sci. Michaelis anno <sup>mo</sup>xi . . . . . } <sup>a</sup>xxiii d. q.  
 Et eisdem Collectoribus pro feodo suo per tempus predictum . . . . . x marc.  
 Et Contrarotulatori ibidem pro vadiis suis per idem tempus . . . . . Cs.



<p>Bristol. Arthur Kemys and Richard ap Meryke, collectors of the King's customs and subsidies of wool leather and wool-pells in the port of the town of Bristol from Michaelmas in the 12<sup>th</sup> year of King Henry VII. to the same feast next following, render their account of . . . . .</p>	}	<p>£ s. d. 1113 4 9½</p>
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Out of which

<p>In the treasury in three talleys in the name of the King's Household. . . . .</p> <p>    "        "        one talley        "        Thomas Lovell Kt. . . . .</p> <p>    "        "        "                  "        John Heron . . . . .</p> <p>    "        "        "        by the said collectors . . . . .</p> <p>    "        "        "        three talleys in the name of the said collectors . . . . .</p>	}	<p>£ s. d. 600 0 0</p> <p>200 0 0</p> <p>13 6 8</p> <p>10 0 0</p> <p>169 0 0</p>
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<p>Richard Fox, Bishop of Durham, Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, to wit in part payment of £120 per annum from Mich. in 12<sup>th</sup> year of this King to the same feast next following . . . . .</p>	}	<p>59 6 8</p>
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<p>Quintin Paulet for his annuity at £10 per annum, to wit for the half-years ending Easter 12<sup>th</sup> yr and Mich. 13<sup>th</sup> yr. . . . .</p>	}	<p>10 0 0</p>
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<p>Robert Marleton, one of the King's Serjeants at Arms, for his wages at 12d. a day for filling the said office, to wit from Michaelmas in the 12<sup>th</sup> year of this King to the same feast next following, that is 365 days. . . . .</p>	}	<p>18 5 0</p>
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<p>John Laurence junior for his annuity at £3 6s. 8d. per annum, to wit for the half years ending Easter 12<sup>th</sup> yr and Mich. 13<sup>th</sup> yr. . . . .</p>	}	<p>3 6 8</p>
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<p>The said collectors for their fee for the said term . . . . .</p>	}	<p>6 13 4</p>
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<p>The said comptroller for his wages for the said term . . . . .</p>	}	<p>5 0 0</p>
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<p>In the treasury in one talley by the said late collectors. . . . .</p>	}	<p>2 5 0</p>
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<p>John Carr, one of the Gentlemen Grooms of the King's Chamber, to whom the King granted, 28 Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> year, an annuity of 20 marks, to wit £4 6s. 0½d. from the said 28 Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> yr to Easter next following, and £6 13s. 4d. for the half-year ending Michaelmas 13<sup>th</sup> year . . . . .</p>	}	<p>10 19 4½</p>
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<p>And they still owe 102s. 0½d., and have another acc<sup>t</sup> to render, to wit ending Mich. 14<sup>th</sup> yr. . . . .</p>	}	<p>5 2 0½</p>
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£1113 4 9½

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*Endor.*

Bristol. Arthur Kemys and Richard ap Meryke collectors of the King's customs and subsidies there, from Michaelmas in the 14th year of this King's reign till the same feast next following, render their account of . . . . . } £ s. d.  
1424 7 10½

Out of which

In the treasury in three talleys in the name of the King's Household . . . . .	600	0	0
"    "    two    "    "    Eastmarch . . . . .	268	6	7
"    "    one talley    "    Thomas Lovell, Kt. . . . .	200	0	0
"    "    "    "    John Heron . . . . .	13	6	8
"    "    "    "    John Cabot . . . . .	20	0	0
"    "    "    "    John Astudell and other merchants . . . . .	1	5	8
"    "    three talleys    "    the said collectors . . . . .	169	0	0

Richard Fox, Bishop of Durham, Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, to wit in part payment of £120 (salary) from Michaelmas of the 14th year to the Michaelmas next following . . . . . } 32 0 10½  
[And there remains a balance not assigned by the King £87 19s. 1¾d.]

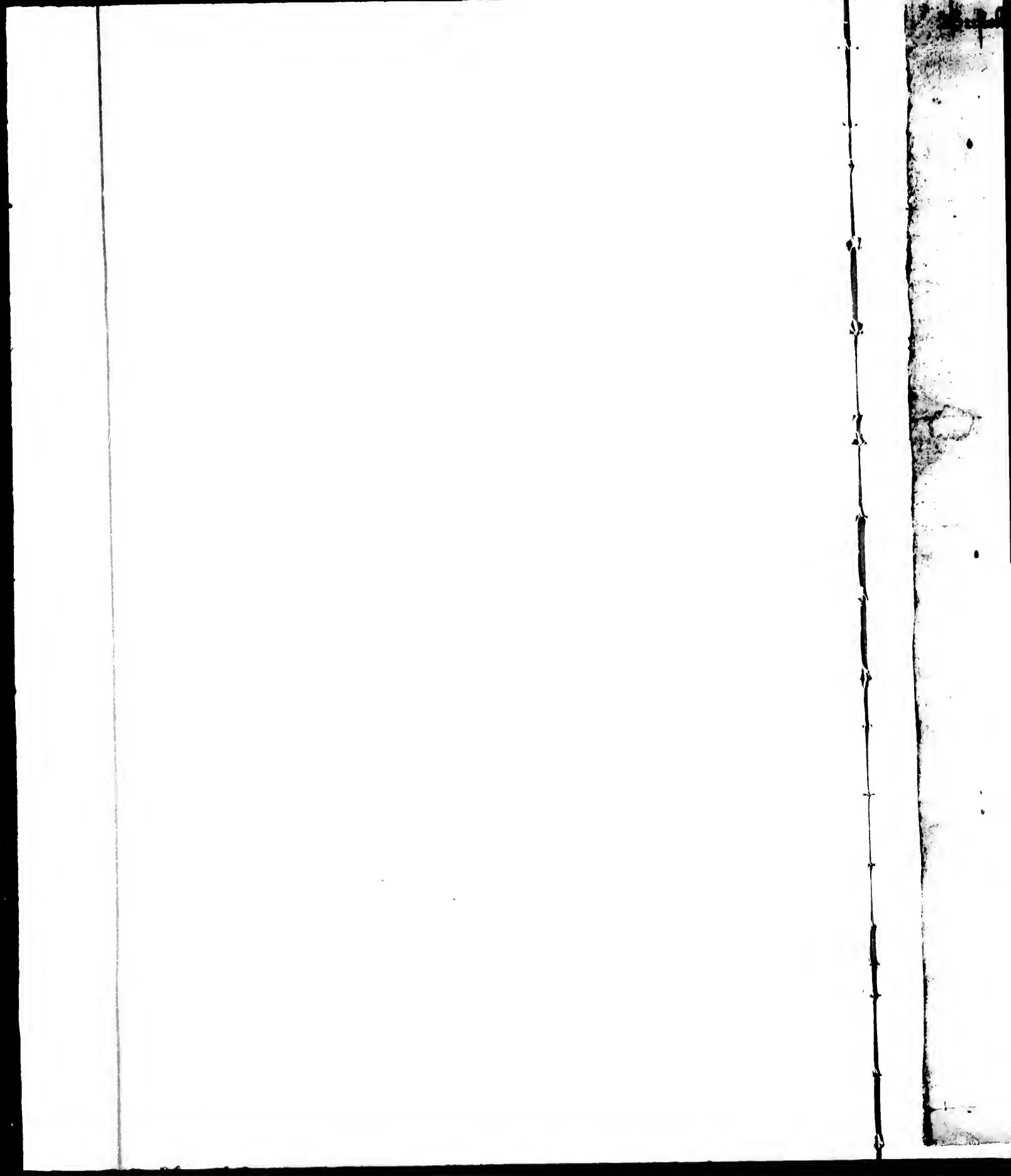
Quintin Paulet, for his annuity at £10, to wit for the half years ending Easter in the 14th and Mich. in the 15th year . . . . . } 10 0 0

John Carr, one of the gentlemen grooms of the King's chamber, for his annuity at 20 marks, to wit for the half years as above . . . . . } 16 13 4

Robert Marleton, one of the King's Serjeants at Arms, for his wages at 12d. a day for filling the said office, to wit from Michaelmas 14th year to the same feast next following . . . . . } 18 5 0

*Endorsed* :—Brystolle, the accounts of the Customers.











— *Dei regni p[ro]p[ri]e. Em' g[e]n[er]ose*  
*ona ad reg[is] m[er]it[is] p[ro] d[omi]n[u]m*  
*ad m[er]it[is] d[omi]n[u]m*  
— *Dei p[ro]p[ri]e m[er]it[is] d[omi]n[u]m*  
*ad reg[is] d[omi]n[u]m. p[ro] m[er]it[is]*  
*m[er]it[is] d[omi]n[u]m*



Em gendore hofrauzo fimo Regis de dimutato. q  
p dnm dicit p fofus pafte dmo xij. mo } xxij. mo

leton Em dmonu Regis ad dyma de vadys dno. q  
m. p compand offroy pda dicit a fofco ad } xxij. mo. d. e. d.

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25/10/68



