

Reginald Scot  
(The construction of Dover harbour)  
in Raphael Holinshed and others  
The third volume of chronicles  
London  
1587

<1535a> 1491a

of the commonwealth. But hauing spoken elsewhere of this man, we will here staie our course; concluding this collection of archbishops in their successions, with the two reuerend diuines and doctors, the one Edmund Grindall late deceased; the other Iohn Whitegift now liuing; of whom no more but silence, for vertue dooth sufficientlie commend hir selfe. Now order would, that we should descend into a discourse of the lord Cobhams & lord wardens of the cinque ports, remembred before page 1435, a 10: but herein the reader is patientlie to put vp the disappointment of his expectation, vpon supposall of some reasonable impediment whie the same was not satisfied. And now to the course of our historie orderlie to be continued.

The note of Reginald Scot esquier concerning Douer hauen.

¶ In this yeare 1586, certeine of the lords of hir maiesties most honorable priuie councill made an appointment to haue met at Douer, to surueie a notable peece of worke there latelie performed about the hauen, to the benefit of the whole land. Howbeit the said lords, by means of other accidents of importance, staid at the court, and went not that iourneie. Neuerthelesse the lord Cobham, lord warden of the cinque ports, one of hir maiesties priuie councill, repairing thither (accompanied with diuerse knights and gentlemen of great worship) did take the view both of the worke finished, and also conferred about the businesse then in hand. Now for so much as that which is alreadie doone, is a perfect and an absolute worke, to the perpetuall maintenance of a hauen in that place, being such a monument as is hardlie to be found written in anie record, it might seeme absurd that no mention thereof should be made in this chronicle: and that the cost and businesse thereabouts imploied hath not beene vnnesessarie, maie appeare by the reasons insuing.

Considerations whie the building of Douer hauen is here recorded. Douer the nearest place of England to France. Douer the most conuenient place of England for a hauen.

First, Douer hath beene euer reputed the keie and locke (as Matthæus Parisiensis reporteth, or as rather he should haue said) the verie doore and entrance into the realme of England, either for freend or foe, and also the readie passage vnto all nations, but especiallie into France, from whence it is not distant about thirtie English miles, and is commonlie passed in fiue or six houres at the most, and in a prosperous wind within halfe the time. Secondlie, it standeth in the most conuenient place of all this land to offend the enimie, and to defend either domesticall or forren freend. Thirdlie, a meane harbor would be there (in the opinion of all skilfull mariners) more beneficiall & commodious for the nauigation of England, than an excellent hauen placed anie where else about the coast thereof. Fourthlie, all our passengers through the narrow seas being distressed by violence of weather, or by inconuenience of pirasie, or else by force of the common enimie in the

Reasons whie  
a harbor at  
Douer would  
be so benefi=  
ciall.

A true com=  
mendation of  
queene Elisa=  
beth.

The pent at  
Douer will  
mainteine a  
hauen there  
for euer.

In peramb.  
Cant. tit.  
Douer.

Douer castell  
reedified by  
queene Elisa=  
beth.

Edward the  
fourth bestow=  
ed ten thou=  
sand pounds  
vpon repara=  
tions of Do=  
uer castell.

time of warre, might there haue present succor and re=  
fuge, and both speedie and easie passage thereinto, or  
otherwise be best rescued. Fiftlie, of late yeares, the  
considerations aforesaid haue moued some noble  
princes of this land, to bestow infinit tresure to gaine  
a harborough or hauen in that place, to their great ho=  
nor, fame, and commendation, to the woonderfull con=  
tentment of all their subiects, and for the good and be=  
nefit of all the neighbors adioining, and strangers pas=  
sing these narrow seas. Finallie, it hath pleased our  
most noble queene Elisabeth to vndertake it, who in  
all good actions and necessarie works, for the benefit of  
the realme, & commonwealth of England, hath beene  
so liberall, carefull, and prouident, as thereby hir glorie  
and renowme is spread ouer all the face of the earth,  
and reacheth vnto heauen, where the king of kings sit=  
teth, and heareth the praises and praiers, not onelie  
of hir owne people, but of all christians liuing in hir  
behalfe, for whose good (it seemeth) she was brought  
forth and preserued in this world.

And now (I saie) for so much as hir highnesse hath  
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at this present time taken order for the building of a  
new hauen in this place, and bountifullie imploied  
great summes of monie vpon the same (being begun  
with more probabilitie, iudgement, and circumspec=  
tion, and accompanied with better successe than euer  
anie of hir highnesse predecessors haue heretofore had  
in this case; wherein the most difficult and dangerous  
worke is alreadie accomplished, so as there is now  
and euer hereafter will be a verie good hauen, except  
extreme negligence be vsed in mainteining the same)  
I thought it a most necessarie matter to be here recor=  
ded, to hir maiesties perpetuall fame, and partlie al=  
so to giue light and encouragment to hir successors in  
the crowne of England, to attempt and vndertake,  
and the better to execute and accomplish the like fa=  
mous enterprise. For actions of far lesse importance  
are made memorable by historiographers, as in eue=  
rie chronicle maie appeare.

In this discourse I thought meet to passe ouer the  
antiquitie of the towne and port of Douer, with the  
liberties thereof; which together with the ruines and  
misfortunes of fire are to be found extant in the per=  
ambulation of Kent, written by William Lambard  
esquier. Of Douer castell somewhat might here be  
said, but for so much as maister Lambard hath so large=  
lie discoursed therevpon in his booke, which is likelie to  
remaine of continuance, I will make bold with the  
reader to referre him therevnto; and onelie giue this  
note (to wit) that wheras he iustlie complaineth of the  
miserable ruines thereof; it hath pleased hir maiestie  
(in respect of the necessarie maintenance of the same)  
to bestow more charge of late in repairing and re=  
edifieng of it, than hath beene spent thereabouts (as  
it seemeth) since the first building thereof, whether  
the same were doone by Iulius Cesar the Romane  
emperor, or by Aruiragus then king of the Britains  
(king Edward the fourth onelie excepted) who (as Iohn  
Rosse reporteth) did throughlie repare it, bestowing  
thereon 10000 pounds, insomuch as it is now redu=  
ced to be a peece of great force and importance, and

verie beautifull to behold. Wherein the honorable dis= position of the lord Burghleie lord high treasurer of England is to be commended, who was a principall furtherer thereof, and whose forwardnesse in all mili= tarie affaires is had in admiration amonge all the best souldiors of England, although he himselve an aged and a most graue councellor. And in these commen= dations if I should omit the praises of the honorable lord Cobham, lord warden of the cinque ports, and constable of the castell of Douer, &c: I should doo him great wrong. For by his prouidence and mediation, together with the diligent trauell and industrie of Ri= chard Barrie esquier, lieutenant of the said castell, that worke is accomplished, to the comfort and bene= fit of the whole realme. Within the wals whereof is now also raised such a mount at the north side thereof, as thereby the castell is double so strong as before. But omitting all other occasions and matters con= cerning Douer, I will now passe to my purpose.

The situation of Douer har= bour.

But yet, before I enter into these last works, I must giue you to vnderstand, that the verie situation of the place ministreth incouragement to the executi= oners, and yeeldeth great fauor and occasion to the at= tempt. For Douer cliffes stand to the sea north and east, the towne being placed at the foot of the northerne cliffes, the castle on the top of the easterne cliffes, cal= led the Castell Raie: so as there is a naturall baie, through the which from by north issueth a proper riuier entring into the same baie: & thense runneth through the hauen into the sea. In times past, vntill of late yeares, that onelie baie hath serued them for a rode, and at manie times in some sort hath stood the nauie (but especiallie the fisher botes) in good sted. For in a great northerlie and westerlie wind, the ships were

A naturall rode for ships at Douer.

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The hauen of Rie decayed, whereby more need of a har= bour at Do= uer. Ships lost for lacke of sufficient har= bour at Do= uer.

driuen from the Downs and the foreland to repaire thither, where they might lie safelie vntill the wind blew great from by east or south, & then were they dri= uen to depart thense vnto the Camber at Rie (which then was a notable good rode, though now vtterlie de= cayed) or into the Isle of Wight. For in a sudden flaw or storme of wind at southeast, there haue beene seuen or eight ships broken all to peeces in one daie vpon the said cliffes. To releuee and amend the same harbo= rough, and somewhat to mitigat the foresaid incon= uenience, there was a round tower builded by one Iohn Clarke, preest, maister of the maison de Dieu, about the yeare one thousand fiue hundred, at the south west part of the said baie, which serued somewhat to defend the ships from the rage of the southwest wind, but especiallie to moore the ships which were tied there= vnto. For manie great ringles were fastened to the same tower for that purpose, as it maie yet be seene, sith it standeth there at this houre. And hereby that part of the baie was made so pleasant, as euer after that corner hath beene named, and is at this daie cal= led Little paradise. Neuerthelesse this was thought verie insufficient in respect of the place, for the safe= gard of such a multitude of ships as vsuallie laie for harbour in that rode. For besides all strange botes, which commonlie repaired thither, it appeareth in the booke of Doomesdaie, that Douer armed yearelie at

The first be= nefit bestowed on Douer har= bour.

Little para= dise.

In the reigne  
of Edward  
the Confessor.

his proper charges twentie vessels to the sea by the  
space of fifteene daies, with one and twentie able men  
in ech ship.

Sir Iohn  
Thomson  
preest his sup=  
plication.

Now about the yeare of Christ one thousand fiue  
hundred fiftie and two, one sir Iohn Thomson clarke,  
parson of the parish of saint Iames in Douer, being  
a man ingenious, and seeing the conueniencie and  
possibilitie of a good hauen to be made in that place,  
consulted with the cheefe and best mariners of the  
towne. Among whome it was agreed, that humble  
sute should be made to the kings maiestie by the state  
of the towne, for his gracious fauour and aid toward  
the making of a good hauen there. And it was also  
by them all thought meet, that the said sir Iohn Thom=  
son should exhibit their petition to his highnesse: wher=  
vnto he agreed, and drew a plot, and prepared a sup=  
plication in the name and behalfe of the towne, con=  
teining the necessarie causes and reasons, deuises and  
instructions, for the erection and building thereof.  
But he told them he was poore, and therefore vnable  
of his owne proper charges to follow the sute. In  
which respect they collected among themselues, and  
deliuered vnto him foure pounds ten shillings, which  
he accepted, and forthwith repaired to the court; where  
he so demeaned himselfe, as he had present accesse to  
the king, who heard his sute with great fauor, and  
debated with him about the contents of his plot, and  
liked so well of his informations that he willed him  
to repaire home, and without delaie to returne to his  
presence, accompanied with some of the best mari=  
ners or seamen of the towne, and so with commen=  
dations dismissed him for that time.

When the maisters of the towne vnderstood his gra=  
ces pleasure, they immediatlly assembled themselues,  
and made choise of Edward Maie, Robert Iustice,  
Richard Cowchie, and Iohn Steward, as the fittest  
and skilfullest persons to vse conference, and to be  
imploied in that cause, being all mariners of good ex=  
perience. These foure and the said sir Iohn Thomson  
without further staie resorted to the court, with whom  
when the king had communed, he conceiued of the ne=  
cessitie of a hauen to be there had, and of the probabi=  
litie and likelihood of good successe in the enterprise to  
be performed according to their suggestion. And be=  
cause his maiestie vnderstood the poore estate of the  
towne, he granted his gracious aid for the supplie of  
their want of monie, deliuering at that time out of

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Fiue hundred  
pounds giuen  
by Henrie the  
eight towards  
a beginning of  
Douer works  
The maison  
de Dieu of  
Douer.

his owne cofers vnto them the summe of fiue hundred  
pounds, wherewith he willed them to make a begin=  
ning of the worke. At which time he bestowed on the  
said sir Iohn Thomson the maistership of the maison  
de Dieu of Douer, which was a hospitall, valued at  
one hundred and twentie pounds by the yeare: the  
custome and dutie of the which house was (as the an=  
cient townesmen informe me) to interteine and re=  
leeue souldiors, and others which came from beyond  
the seas, hurt or distressed, who were allowed some  
releeve there, by the space of certeine daies gratis:  
which though I find not directlie set downe in record,  
yet doo I know assuredlie the same to haue beene put  
in execution, wherewith the verie name of the house

is agreeable, and as it were a credible witness. The king at that time also appointed the said sir Iohn to be principall surueior of the works, and vnder him the other foure to be ouerseers of the same.

Now am I to giue you to vnderstand, that the drift and deuse of the said sir Iohn Thomson was to erect a huge wall (which he termed by the name of a pierre) from Arcliffe chapell, being the southwest part of the baie directlie towards the east into the maine sea, about 131 rods in length: so as by that meanes the harbour was to be garded from the rage of all weather, comming from the north, northeast, northwest, and southwest, and so the entrance onelie at east south-east, whereinto when the ships were once brought, they might there lie safe in all weather, at the one side or the other. But the pierre was not finished by 350 foot so far as the foundation thereof (which he called the Molehead) was laid, which foundation consisted of great rocks, brought from a place neere hand, called Hakcliffe, or the castell Raie and Folkestone.

This pierre was begun on S. Annes daie 1533, and it was compiled of two rowes of maine posts, & great piles of fiue or six & twentie foot long, set at each side close together, which were let downe and put in certaine holes hewed in the great rocks, laid for that purpose: but some of those piles were shod with iron, and driuen into the maine rocke of chalke, with a great engine called a ram. These posts and piles were combined and held together with iron bolts, and were filled with mightie stones of chalks as also with beach, and other earth: but the bottome consisted altogether of great rocks of stone, which if they had not beene brought thither by a speciall deuse, must needs haue beene extreame chargeable: for manie of them were of twentie tun a peece, and few vnder.

The practise of this charge is now common, but it was before that time rare & vnknowne in England, and inuented there by a poore simple man named Iohn Yoong, who first with a nutshell, after with an egshell, & lastlie with a small vessell, made prooffe what weight those things could raise & beare in the water; and hauing by that experiment made triall, or at least a probable coniecture, that stones of great weight might be raised and carried in the water by greater vessels, he discovered his experience to such as were officers in the worke; who presentlie put in practise & execution the same deuse, & making prouision of great & strong barrels and pipes of wood, caried them to Folkstone, and at low water fastened therto with chaines such huge stones as laie on the shore, neere the low water marke (where the quarrie or mine of those rocks is) so as when the floud or full sea came, the said vessels with the stones thereto fastned rose vp & swam. And if the stone were of such quantitie as two or three emptie casks could not lift it vp, then did they ad a barrell or two more, which would not faile to doo it: then did they drag with small botes the casks & stones therevnto tied, to the place where they were disposed to sinke them, & so the worke wherein consisted the greatest difficultie in appearance, was with most ease and least charge accomplished.

And for this deuse the said Iohn Yoong

Surueiors & ouerseers.

Sir Iohn Thomsons deuse discovered.

The Molehead.

Douer pierre when it was taken in hand, and whereof it consisted.

A notable deuse to carrie great rocks by water.

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<p>Foure pence a daie.</p>	<p>had a yeerelie stipend giuen vnto him by the king during his life. With these stones, as also by this means was the greatest worke doone, and with great cost and labor these piles were filled vp. The chalke and filling thereof being brought from the north pierre, was</p>
<p>A Gaboth.</p>	<p>conueied thither in a great bote called a Gaboth, which had nine keeles. There stands yet of the timber worke of the old pierre foure score foot in length, and ioines vpon that part of the pierre, where stood a fort named the Blacke bulworke.</p>
<p>The charge of the pierre.</p>	<p>Now that which was doone on that side, with the helpe of nature at the other two sides made an excellent rode or harborough for the time it continued, and had maintenance. The king for his part spared no charge, for he spent hereabouts (as I am credible informed) fiftie thousand pounds, nor yet did forbear anie trauell which might further the worke. For in person he purposed repaired thither diuerse and sundrie times, being distant from the court fiftie miles at the least; yea his highnes had such care that it should be well performed, that no expert man in water works, either on this side, or beyond the seas, but (if it might be) he was brought thither, or at the least conferred withall. And during the time of all the worke, the kings cofers seemed to stand wide open. But alas, the kings care and charge, and the continuall trouble and trauell of officers was such about the worke present, that the prouision for the future maintenance thereof was vtterlie neglected. For the kings absence at his being at Bullen, his sicknesse at his returne, and finallie his death meeting with the nonage of his son king Edward the sixt, made an end of all this worke: which being once in the state of decaie, there was no reparations nor further proceeding therein, till the time of queene Marie; in the beginning of whose reigne (by the space of two yeares) there was some rumbling thereabout. But the workmen and officers were not well paid; and after bad paiment, no paiment, and so all was giuen ouer. Sir Anthonie Aucher was treasurer in these works, and manie other inferior officers also there were, but especiallie of clerks.</p>
<p>The kings care for Douer pierre. The kings repaire to Douer.</p>	<p>But now I am to declare vnto you the lamentable ruine and decaie of this worke, before the end and finishing whereof there was brought along the coast, from by southwest, a maruellous quantitie of beach and bowlder stone, whereof there had beene neuer anie seene before in those parts of that coast, and a great quantitie thereof rested vpon the backe of the pierre, especiallie before the Blacke bulworke, which (so long as it might lie there without further annoiance) was (in appearance) a singular helpe for the strength and preseruacion of the said worke, but it fell out otherwise. For besides that, that an easterlie great wind would remooue and driue it from that coast, and consequentlie from the pierre, which then would lie naked as before, vntill the south and westerne wind turned it backe againe; the pierre through negligence decaieing especiallie at the Blacke bulworke (where the greatest abundance of beach vsuallie rested) it passed through the decaied places thereof in such measure, as in short time thereby grew a shelve of beach from that point of the pierre to the east part of the baie, butting to the Castell Raie; so as no entrance thereinto for anie ship</p>
<p>The cause of the decaie of the pierre.</p>	
<p>Officers about the pierre. The ruine of Douer pierre.</p>	
<p>Stone called beach or bowlder choked vp Douer hauen</p>	

remained. And the more that the furthest point of the pierre decayed and waxed shorter, the neerer was the shelve brought vnto the shore: insomuch as if the residue of the pierre had not beene preserued, that shelve would soone haue beene brought to the verie towne, and so haue choked vp the baie, and beereft all possibilitie of euer hauing a harbor in that place.

Two causes of the decaye of Douer pierre.

The decaye of the pierre grew now more and more, partlie (as is said) through want of prouidence and cost to be imploied therevpon, and sufficient prouision

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to mainteine the same: but especiallie through the disorder of the poorer sort of the townesmen, who dailie purloined timber, iron, and all that was anie thing woorth, which they could pull or catch from the decayeng places of the pierre. And now (by meanes of this shelve) the hauen waxed woorse than euer it was, insomuch as oftentimes a bote that drew but foure foot of water could not enter into the mouth thereof, and sometime none at all: for the baie was altogether shut vp, so as the harborough was become a pent, out of the which nothing could passe out or in, sauing the water that soked through the beach. But the riuer, which issueth out of the towne at a water gate standing at the northeast end of the said pent, in continuance of time would make an issue through some part of the same beach into the sea, sometime at one end, sometime at another, sometime verie shallow, and neuer verie deepe; which issue was alwaies their hauens mouth, vntill a contrarie wind did stop it vp againe, and then they had no entrance at all, vntill the riuer had made a new fret, or that they had digged a chanell through the beach, which manie times they were driuen to doo.

Sometime no harborough at all at Douer.

How Douer was made desolat.

The losse of this hauen, and the losse of Calis, which happened about one time, made such an alteration, or rather desolation in and of the towne, as was lamentable and woonderfull to behold. For of a braue, rich, and populous towne, it presentlie became a poore and desolate village, reteining onelie the name and liberties of the famous port of Douer. Neuerthesse, the necessitie and expedience of a good hauen in that place did still remaine, & a conuenient meane also was left for the accomplishment thereof, as it seemed to diuerse which were wise and of good experience: insomuch as that verie matter, which was supposed to be the destruction of the late harborough, should now become a principall helpe and furtherance to a new hauen of greater importance, and better securitie than euer it was before. For (as you haue heard) Douer cliffes naturallie defend this baie from all tempests comming from the northeast and northwest; the pierre yet remaining gardeth it from the west and southwest winds; & the shelve of beach crossing from the end thereof to the Castell Raie, had made such a close pent, as if anie ships could be conueied thereinto, they might there rest in great safetie.

That beach which destroyed the pierre helpeth now the hauen.

The roome within this close baie containeth almost fortie acres, and the riuer (as I haue said) runneth quite through the same immediatlie into the maine sea at south: so as the said pent being surrounded at euerie high water, and lieng almost bare

at euerie ebbe, the ouze or sleethe grew to be foureteene or fifteene foot deepe, the bottome thereof being a maine rocke of chalke: insomuch as a great multitude of ships might be placed there in good securitie, if the entrance could be made good. These things considered by men of good capacite and experience, sundrie deuises and conceipts were exhibited therabouts, whereof some seemed verie probable; and were rather heard and commended, for that the worke was so necessarie and beneficiall to the commonwealth. And in that respect, it pleased the queenes maiestie to grant to the towne of Douer, towards the repairing of their hauen, the free transportation of thirtie thousand quarters of wheat, ten thousand quarters of barlie and malt, and foure thousand tun of beere, without paieng either custome or impost: which was a gift of no small importance.

A bountifull gift of queene Elisabeth towards the repairing of Douer hauen.

For (besides great summes of monie already leuied and imploied vpon the beginning of these works) the licence or patent was sold to a couple of merchants of London named Iohn Bird, and Thomas Wats, after the rate of three shillings and foure pence for euerie quarter of wheat, and two shillings and eight

The patent of the queenes gift sold vnto two merchants.

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pence for euerie quarter of barlie and malt; and the licence of beere being sold to diuerse others amounted to foure thousand marks at the least. Besides all this, it was enacted in the parlement holden the three and twentieth yeare of the reigne of hir maiestie, for and in the considerations aforesaid, and for that there was a probable plot contriued by skilfull men, to be performed for a conuenient sum of monie, that for euerie ship, vessell, or craier, whereof anie of hir maiesties subiects were owners, or part-owners, being of the burthen of twentie tuns or vpwards, loding or discharging within this realme, or passing to or from anie forren countrie, during the space of seuen yeres then next insuing, from fortie daies after the end of the same session of parlement, there should be paid for euerie such voiage by the maister or owner of all such vessels, &c: the summe of three pence for euerie tun of the burthen of such ship, &c.

The act of parlement for Douer hauen 23. Elisabeth.

Hereby there grew great summes of monie to be yearelie leuied toward these works, amounting to one thousand pounds yearelie at the least, and yet the time not expired by two yeares. After this, hir maiestie being carefull that the hauen should with expedition be taken in hand, directed hir letters patents, dated the nine and twentieth daie of March, in the foure and twentieth yeare of hir reigne, to the lord Cobham lord warden of hir cinque ports, &c: sir Thomas Scot, sir Iames Hales knights, Thomas Wootton, Edward Bois, the maior of the towne of Douer present and to come, Richard Barrie lieutenant of the castell of Douer, Henrie Palmer, Thomas Digs, Thomas Wilford, and William Partridge esquires, all which were of the shire, and men of great wisdom and iudgement, and no small trauellers in matters concerning the common wealth: some of them marvellous expert in affaires and matters of the seas, some in fortifications, some hauing trauelled beyond the seas for experience and conference

Three pence the tun of euerie vessell allowed towards Douer hauen. The tunnage amounted to 1000 pounds yearelie. The tenure of the queenes commission for Douer hauen.



that waie, and to see the order of forren seaworks and hauens, and none without singular vertues. In which respect they were commissioned and authorised by those presents, to doo, and foresee to be doone from time to time, all things needfull and requisit to be imploied about the repairing and mending of the said hauen, and as might tend to the furtherance of the said seruice: and to choose officers, and assigne their stipends, and the seuerall fees of all ministers, attendants and clerks needfull for the substantiall, necessarie, speedie, and cheape dooing thereof, and therein to set downe particular orders and directions, as might be for the furtherance and accomplishing of the said works most expedient.

John True surueior general of Douer hauen.

Now for the performance hereof, manie plots by sundrie persons were deuised, and first of all one Iohn True was commended, or at the least commended him selfe to the lords of hir maiesties priuie councill, to whome he made great shew to be an expert enginor, and by their lordships he was sent to Douer, and presented to be generall surueior of the works, as one in whome they reposed great hope of furthering and finishing the said hauen; whereof he made no doubt, but resolutelie promised the speedie execution and accomplishing thereof. His deuise and determination was, to make within the said baie neere to the shelve of beach, a long wall from the water gate (out of which the riuer issueth into the harborough) to the blacke bulworke, in length two hundred rods. This wall was to bee made of excellent stone at Folkstone, the which he framed after a strange and contrarie kind of workmanship. And there was for this purpose alreadie perfectlie hewed of the same stone seuen thousand foot, and six thousand foot more was scapled: he bestowed and spent thereabouts one thousand two hundred fourescore

The deuise of Iohn True.

1538b

Stone hewed at Folkestone, amounting to 1288 pounds.

Infinite charge to accomplish the stone wall.

and eight pounds, as appeareth in the accounts of the treasurers for that time being; and yet there was not one stone of his said long wall laid, nor that hitherto hath come to anie profitable vse. But this wall if it had beene, or rather could haue beene finished, it would haue cost a hundred thousand pounds, and yet would neuer haue serued the turne. For a stone wall is so contrarie to the nature of that sandie foundation, as it can make no good coniunction nor perfect pent.

Iohn True had ten shillings a day for his fee.

For the furtherance of his deuise he would haue plucked downe a great part of the old pierre, whereof there was then too little remaining: he detracted the time, for he had ten shillings a daie allowed vnto him for his fee, which perhaps he was loth to forgo. He either could or would not render anie reason to the commissioners of his dooings and finall purpose, but alwaies said he would make them a good hauen, neither would he set downe anie time certeine for the accomplishing thereof. All these matters, with his negligence, delaies, & vntowardlinesse of his works, being aduertised to the lords of hir maiesties councill, he was dismissed.

Iohn True is dismissed. Ferdinando Poins.

After whom, one Ferdinando Poins, who had beene conuersant and acquainted with water works

in the low countries, and had dealt much about Woolwich and Erith breaches, offered his seruice for the accomplishing of these works; affirming, that it was an easie matter to bring the same to passe, in such sort as there should soone be a good harborough; refusing not to haue taken the worke to doo by great, either by a plot of his owne deusing, or else by the plot agreed on by the commissioners, and allowed by the lords of the councill. But this Ferdinando Poins, although he seemed a verie good executioner either of his owne, or another mans deuse concerning such affaires: yet was he verie loth to discouer his order and maner of working, or anie other deuse of his owne, least (as he said) he might be preuented by some other that would vndertake to doo it by his deuises, better cheape than him selfe could afford it, and so he to loose, and other to gaine the benefit of his inuention. Howbeit, in the end he was content to be imploied anie waie, so as therewithall he might haue monie before hand: for Woolwich works did so sticke in his fingers, as moneie was verie palpable and plausible vnto him.

Poins his groine.

In fine, he vndertooke to make certeine groins or knocks, which at the hauens mouth should cause such a depth, as thereby the whole harborough should lie drie at a low water, whereby the works about the wals might the better and more conuenientlie bee performed, and the present entrie amended. For it was concluded, that there should bee made a perfect pent within the baie, conteining in quantitie about sixteene acres, which should be inuironed with a long wall, reaching from about the water gate neere to the Castell Raie, extending in length about a hundred and twentie rods alongst within the shelve of beach, directlie towards the end of the pierre, where the blacke bulworke was placed; and at the end of the said long wall, a crosse wall of length about fortie rods, reaching from that wall directlie crosse to the shore at the northerne cliffe, not far from the townes end. And this should make a perfect pent to conteine and reteine the water of the riuer, which (when the sluse standing in the crosse wall should bee opened) might be of force to make and mainteine a depth for an entrance or hauens mouth for shipping to come into the rode, which lieth betwixt the maine sea and the pent.

The pent 16 acres.

The length of the long wall.

The crosse wall.

The rode for ships.

In this worke there appeared great difficultie, and so much the more, in that (for the most part) the place where the wall should stand, was continuallie sur=

<These are two of the eight replacement leaves inserted when the book was cut. They contain the beginning of Reginald Scot's account of the construction of Dover harbour. This time round, the compositor had to fit a little more text into each column than he had done before; but he managed that perfectly well. – C.F. November 2012.>