

Anno xxvii Regina Elizabethæ

An Act for the maintenance of the Pier and Cobb of  
Lyme Reg<sup>e</sup> in the County of Dorset

Whereas the Mayor and Burgeses of the Burrough  
and Town of Lyme Reg<sup>e</sup> in the County of Dorset and other  
the Inhabitants of the said Town and Burrough be a <sup>(24)</sup>whopostake  
Charges of themselves in the yearly maintainances to  
defence as well of the said Town and Burrough bordering  
upon the main Sea, as also of the Pier of Lyme Reg<sup>e</sup>  
aforesaid commonly called the Cobb being a Harbour  
for Ship made and Inforced in main Sea in bottom of  
the great <sup>(24)</sup>Bay which extendeth from the Isle of  
<sup>(25)</sup>Portland to the Haven of <sup>(17)</sup>Dartmouth being distant  
xliii miles, by means of which harbour as well  
the Ships of Subjects of Realme as others which in  
passing the <sup>(27)</sup>narrowe seas are many times by forcible  
South west winds caried into the said Bay obtain  
<sup>(9)</sup>Relief and Safeguard in the said Pier, without the  
which they must of necessity perish. And Whereas  
the said Pier is a great Relief as well to the said  
Inhabitance as also to the Country their adjoining  
there by receiving many benefits by reason of the  
Traffique and Intercourse of shipping there used —  
And Whereas also the same Pier or Cobb in  
times past was partly maintained by reason  
of a certain yearly <sup>(16)</sup>rent of xx li which was



paid unto the predecessors of the said Mayor and Burgeses  
by the Kings & Queens of this Realme to continue  
for certain years now determined, which yearly Rent  
of late time hath been and is withdrawn and forborne to be  
paid and also the same was partly maintained by the good  
devotion and Charges of divers wealthy Merchants —  
heretofore inhabiting in the said Town whereof some are  
deceased and some decayed and some time by Collections  
of the Devotion of the Country thereabouts and partly the  
same Poore also was and is repaired and maintained by  
reason of certain ancient Cobbs<sup>(14)</sup> Dutys out of Memory of  
Man, used to be paid to the said Mayor and Burgeses —  
of and for all and all manner of wares and Merchandizes  
brought into the said Poore or carried out of the same  
That is to say, for every sack of Woollen cloth ii<sup>d</sup> For  
every fardel of Linen cloth ii<sup>d</sup> For every Tunn of  
Sweet Wines Oyles and Sacks iii<sup>d</sup> The Tunn, for the  
Keelage of every Ship Vessel or Cock boat iii<sup>d</sup> For  
every Tunn of Merchandize trowable & weighed at the  
Queens Beam there ii<sup>d</sup> For the use of the v. Beam,  
all which Dutys the said Mayor & Burgeses and  
their Predecessors have had used & enjoyed by the time  
whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary,  
as by divers Grants & Confirmations made by  
the Kings of this Realme to the said Mayor and  
Burgeses may appear which v<sup>d</sup> Dutys be so-

small considering the former helps for maintaining as  
aforesaid, do now cease and that a great part of the old  
works being rot with Piles of great Cakes are not yet  
thoroughly Defenced and Repaired or Finished And the  
same old works so eaten with worms called Urtes through  
stone that it falleth daily in great decay, And the new  
works which have been in building these 30 years do  
likewise fall into great decay every great storm which  
requireth a continual attendance every tide to amend  
the faults thereof And besides that the said Mayor &  
Burgeses are driven to a further charge now than before  
time by reason that they are now enforced to fetch their  
Rocks with Cashes two miles further in the sea than  
heretofore they have done, And moreover all other  
things needfull are a higher price then in former  
times they have been, so that by reason of the premises  
without speedy Redress and further help to be had &  
provided for the maintenance of the said Poore or Cobbs  
the same must needs fall to utter ruin and decay as the  
like did happen in King Edward the third time where by  
the said King did loose a great part of the said Town by  
freezing of the sea, and many subjects of this Realme  
& others that shall happen to be Imbayed by tempestuous  
weather must needs perish for lack of a convenient  
place of Harbour & Refuge, And likewise the Country  
thereabout will be deprived of many Commodities —  
which they were wont to receive, but also the said



Town and Inhabitants thereof which for the most part  
live by Shipping & Traffique together with their families  
and divers <sup>(21)</sup> fittable & skilfull men and Mariners there  
trained and brought up fitt for service will be utterly  
impoverished forever In Consideration whereof  
for that the said Mayor & Burgeffs have of long time and yet  
do keep within the said Town a platform furnished with great  
Ordnances & with powder & shot at their own cost &  
<sup>(22)</sup> charges for the defence of the Enemy, And for that the said  
Ancient Dutys & Customs before mentionid were never  
heretofore sufficient to support the charges of the said Poore  
but now much more Insufficient for the causes above  
Rememb<sup>d</sup> Be it therefore Enacted by the Queens most  
Excell<sup>t</sup> Majesty with assent of the Lords Spirit<sup>u</sup> and  
Temper<sup>e</sup> and the Commons of this present Parliam<sup>t</sup> —  
Assembled and by the Authority of the same That the said  
Cobb Dutys & Customs may from henceforth be increased  
in manner & form following, That is to say, that it shall &  
may be lawfull to and for the said Mayor and Burgeffs & their  
Success<sup>rs</sup> to have and take of and for all and all manner  
wares & Merchandizes which after the feast of Pentecost  
now next coming shall be brought into the said  
Poore Cobb or Town of Lyme Regis or Caried out of  
the same and there shall be Laded Laded or —  
unladen inwards or outwards, For every sack of  
Woollen Cloth <sup>(23)</sup>  $iii$  d only, for every fardel of  
Linen Cloth  $iii$  d only, for every Tunn of —

Sweet Wines Oyles & Sacks  $viii$  d only, for every  
Tunn of other Wines or other Grose wares (fish excepted)  
 $vi$  d only for the Leelage of every Ship vessel or  
Cock boats  $vi$  d only, for every Tunn of Merchandize  
<sup>(24)</sup>  $iiii$  d only and no more And that it may be  
further Enacted & Established by the Authority afores<sup>d</sup>  
That if any Master of Ship Merch<sup>t</sup> Owner Factors or  
Dealers with any the said wares Merchandizes or other  
things afores<sup>d</sup> shall or will hereafter Refuse or deny  
to pay the said Cobb Dutys last above mentionid or any of  
them upon Demand that then it shall and may be lawfull  
to and for the said Mayor & Burgeffs & their Success<sup>rs</sup> by any  
one of themselves or any of their Officers for the time  
being within the said Town Poore or Cobb to attach and seize  
the wares Merchandizes or things for the which any such  
Duty as afores<sup>d</sup> shall be due and unpaid or any other of the  
Goods of the Owner or Owners of the said wares Merchandizes  
or things their, And the same to Retain & keep in the  
name of a Distress untill the same Dutys shall be unto  
the said Mayor and Burgeffs or to their Success<sup>rs</sup> or to their  
Officer or Officers in that behalfe be being satisfied and  
paid for & towards the Maintanance & Continuance of  
the said Poore or Cobb And for the better and true Execut<sup>n</sup> of  
the true intent and meaning of these present Acte Be  
it further Enacted by the Authority afores<sup>d</sup> that from  
henceforth two sufficient persons of the Inhabitants  
of the same Town shall be yearly Chosen and Appointed  
by the Mayor there for the time being for the true —



Collection & Employment of the Dutys aforesd. which —  
(15) Receivers shall openly in the Seete & Law day there  
holden yearly next after the feast of St. Michell the  
Archangel make yield and deliver up in Writing a perfect  
Account upon their Oath unto the Mayor of the same Towne  
for the time being of their s<sup>d</sup>. Recets and Employmts —

Provided always that such as now are or hereafter  
shall be of the <sup>(16)</sup> Emigre Ports and of all other Haven Towns  
or Creeks within this Realme which of right had and  
Enjoyed heretofore ~~priviledge~~ in those Dutys by virtue of  
any their Charters whatsoever shall be & continue  
discharged as heretofore they have done any thing in  
this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding

Provided also and it being further Enacted  
by the Authority aforesd. that all such Cobb Dutys &  
Customs as shall be gathered Receivd or Taken by  
virtue of this Act or otherwise shall be <sup>(17)</sup> Employed &  
bestowed in and upon the s<sup>d</sup>. Seere or Cobb, and the Sea  
Works and other things thereunto Appertaining and  
not otherwise AND that yearly at the quarters of peace  
of the Peace to be holden next before the feast of St.  
Michael the Archangel in the s<sup>d</sup>. County of Dorset  
the Justices of the Peace of the s<sup>d</sup>. County which shall  
be there present or the more part of them shall in the  
s<sup>d</sup>. Open Sessions there chuse and appoint one Justice

of the said County not being a Trooman of the same  
Towne of Lyme AND also the Merchants and Inhabitants  
of Tamton in the County of Somerset shall yearly  
choose one Merch<sup>t</sup>. of Tamton and also the Merchants  
and Inhabitants of <sup>(18)</sup> Chard in the s<sup>d</sup>. County of Somersett  
shall yearly choose one Merchant of Chard Which  
Justice of Peace Merchant of Tamton & Merchant of  
Chard so yearly to be chosen & appointed together with  
the Mayor or Head Officer of the same Towne of Lyme for the  
time being or the more part of them shall have full power  
and Authority yearly in the s<sup>d</sup>. Seete or Law day to take  
the Just & true Account of the said Collectors & Receivers  
upon their Oath of the s<sup>d</sup>. Cobb Dutys & Customs which  
hath been Collected & Receivd and how it hath been  
Employed & what Remaineth and the same Remaine  
to be Employed and bestowed as aforesd. AND if the s<sup>d</sup>.  
Collectors & Receivers or any of them shall Refuse to  
make Accot. as aforesd. shall forfeit 20 Li of Lawfull  
money of England, The same forfeitures to be recovered  
by the Mayor of the said Towne of Lyme, The s<sup>d</sup>. Justice  
of Peace Merch<sup>t</sup>. of Tamton Merch<sup>t</sup>. of Chard so to be  
chosen as aforesd. for the time being or by any two of them  
by Action of Debt in any of the Queens Majestys  
Courts of Record wherein no wager of Law <sup>(19)</sup> Foraine  
or Protection shall be allowed, and the same to be  
Employed & bestowed in and upon the main tainance



of the s<sup>d</sup>. There a Coble and other sea works and things  
 afores<sup>d</sup>. thereunto appertaining. This act to continue  
 for the space of five years next ensuing & from thence  
 untill the end of the next Session of the next Parliament  
 then next Ensigning And also that after the end of the  
 Sessions of Parliament next after the end of the s<sup>d</sup>. -  
 17) 10 years the foresaid Antient Coble Duties & Customs -  
 shall remaine due and payable unto the s<sup>d</sup>. Mayor &  
 Burgois<sup>s</sup>. before the making of this Act and shall be  
 used ordered & accounted as it hath been accustomed  
 before the making of this Act, And shall be used ordered  
 and accounted as it hath been accustomed before the  
 making of this Act And any thing hererin contained to the  
 contrary hereof notwithstanding.

35 Elizab. C. 7 Sect. 29<sup>th</sup> page 913. <sup>(a)</sup> Reble Renewed  
 for ten years. and from thence forth to the end of the  
 next Parliament then next Ensigning

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Primo. Jacobi Cap. 25<sup>th</sup> Sect. 33<sup>d</sup> continued for &  
 during the space of ten years and from thence to the <sup>(26)</sup>  
 end of the next Session of Parliament. 1987 Reble

3<sup>d</sup> Car 1<sup>st</sup> Cap. 4<sup>th</sup> made Perpetual. Sect. 3<sup>d</sup>  
 Reble Page 1100 .

INDEX TO CHARTERS, ETC.

I. Persons.

Alhot, William	28	Carpenter, Richard	86
Anthony, John	29	Cernce, Custon	28
Artour, Jeffery	26, 28, 29	Cernemure, Ralph de	16
Atteford, Richard	28	Champeneys -	39
Attethorne, Agnes	28	Charlemayne, Gregory	15, 16, 26, 28
Attewathe, John	18	Charles I	...
		Cheek & Edward	...
		Chelmesford, Alice de	16, 17
		Chernemuth, John	27, 28
		Chideock, John de	22, 26, 32, 31
Bacon, John	28	Chitterne, John de	12
Bagot -	45	Clare, Gilbert de	7
Balbe, Geoffrey	16	Clifford, Robert de	11
Bauche, Thomas	28	Clinton, William de	21
Barnes, Robert	80	Clogton, Walter de	22, 24, 5
Barrett, Richard	80	Coggere, Peter	18
Bath and Wells, Bishop of	7	Cok, Richard	16, 18
Bayon, John	27	Coke, William	26
Beale -	148	Coleshall, Richard de	14
Beauchamp, William de	14, 7	Colliford, William	18
Beckingham, Elias de	15, 15	Cook, Abraham	28
Bedman, Agnes	28	Joan	38/9 37-9
Bellamie, John	79, 80	John	28
Beminster, Robert	22, 26	Thomas	38/9 37-9
Benerle, William de	16, 17	Cosyn, John	27
Berche, Henry	27	Coventry, Thomas	133
Berd, John	28	Crogg, John	27
Bertie, Philip	16	Cromwell, Oliver	140
Beterok, Anthony	28	Crosse, William	28
Beweyfeld, John	26	Crull, Andrew	26
Bigod, Roger	7	Cullymore, George	134
Blower, Edward	26, 30	Curey, Walter	16
Bohun, Humphrey	7		
Bond, William	27		
Botelar, John	27		
Boterell, Anthony	28		
Bouche, Philip	30	Davie, John	80
Bragg, John	13	Richard	80
Brakefoot, William	15	Dawe, John	26
Brankland, William	18	William	28
Brewer, Alice	17, 18	Delalynde, George	66
William	17	Despenser, Hugh de (2)	9
Bronyng, Deyonyse	27	Dodding, Jeffrey	28
Burgh, Richard	7	Dorset, Thomas	30
Burghley, Lord	70	Durham, Bishop of	7
Bury, John	27		
Bushrode, John	143		
Butler, Edward	143, 147		
Bysshopp, John	27		
William	28	Edmund, Earl of Cornwall	7, 15
		Earl of Lancaster	7
		Edward I	1, 2, 14
		II	8
Canterbury, Archbishop	9	III	10, 20, 34
of		IV	46, 94, 98
Caray, John	28	VI	60, 69