

CHARTER OF EDWARD III. 29 Nov. Edward III 37.
(A.D. 1363).

(Extracted from No. 10. Charter of Henry VI. 1440).

EDWARD by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland and Aquitaine, to all to whom these present letters shall come, GREETING.

WHEREAS the Lord Henry, formerly King of England, OUR great-grandfather, by his charter granted to his Burgesses of Huntingdon for twenty pounds of new increase which they rendered annually to OUR said great-grandfather at his exchequer together with their farm which they paid and will still pay to the said exchequer at two terms, that they should take and hold freely and forever all toll within and without the town of St. Ives in all places, as well at the time of the fairs of the said town as at other times, as the said Burgesses have better, more fully and freely received the same, before OUR said great-grandfather took the same into his own hands. And now on behalf of the Burgesses of the said town of Huntingdon it has been shewn by their petition exhibited before US and OUR council in OUR parliament that though no fairs are held, nor for twenty years now last past have been held in the said town of St. Ives because the "foreign" merchants, through whose coming in to the said fairs they derived the greater part of their profits, have withdrawn themselves and still remain withdrawn so that the said Burgesses for that time have not taken and cannot take any toll at the said town of St. Ives; And that the said town of Huntingdon is so weakened and ruined by mortal pestilence as well as by sundry other adversities supervening that a fourth part of it is uninhabited and the few residents remaining have scarcely the wherewithal to live, and that they possess neither lands nor rents in that town whence any profit can be raised as assistance in the payment of their aforesaid farm; yet the town is charged with the ancient farm of forty-five pounds as well as the said twenty pounds of yearly increase (which) is collected and levied from the poor persons of the whole town without any relief to their no small loss and manifest impoverishment: In consequence whereof they have petitioned US that some remedy may be applied to them. WE, fully informed of the foregoing facts, taking compassion on the condition of the said Burgesses, and wishing to make gracious provision for the relief of OUR said town of Huntingdon have pardoned them the arrears of the said twenty pounds of increase if any there shall be, and also the said five-and-twenty pounds of the aforesaid fair at the said town of St. Ives (until) they are fully held; and the said Burgesses may take the toll there as they were accustomed to take it in the time of OUR said great-grandfather by virtue of his charter or otherwise as WE have thought fit to command.

IN TESTIMONY whereof WE have caused these OUR letters to be made patent.

I MYSELF BEING WITNESS at Westminster the (?) twenty-ninth day of November in the thirty-seventh year of OUR reigh.