HUNT OFFICIALS—continued

The other huntsmen the left shoulder.

The varlet of the kennel, the neck.

The varlet of the bloodhound, the chine (Turb. 129).

In the above description of Turbervile we find that the chief personage is said to receive the numbles, with other dainty morsels, but in French as well as English venery it seems to have been more usual to let the huntsmen have the numbles (see Appendix: Curée and Numbles).

There were other fees probably given in money, such as the reward for the first buck or stag of the season killed, and we find the hunters told to claim this fee according to the ancient laws and statues of the King's house (p. 102). In the Privy Purse expenses of Henry VIII. is the following entry: "Paid for the office of the Buckhounds for killing the first buck VIIs. VId.," showing that this fee was still claimed and paid at that time.

Similar customs obtained in France in the 14th and 15th centuries. It was there customary at one time for the King to make a present of firewood to the huntsman who had successfully harboured a hart royal (see Appendix: Gace de Buigne). And the harbourer who brought the first fraying post of the season to the King received a horse as a gift, if he happened to be one of the gentlemen of the venery, and if it were a limerer or "varlet of the bloodhound" he received a coat. In the reign of Francis 1. a sum of money replaced the above gifts (de Noir. 11. 451). We find our Kings also making gifts of firewood to their huntsmen, although it would have seemed but natural to expect that the huntsmen obtained their fuel free from the forests in which they were hunting. But as we find special gifts of oak trunks made by order of the Kings, at various times, to their huntsmen, we suppose this was a favour beyond what they could expect as a right. We find such gifts made as early as Edward 1. when, "Henry de Candovre the kings huntsman keeping the buckhounds (canes damericios) has two oak trunks (robora) for fuel of the king's gift" (Close Rolls, Ed. 1. 1278,) and in 1280 there is a command to the sheriff to "order to cause Richard le Sauser and Thomas de Candovere the king's huntsmen, to have six oak trunks in the King's woods in his bailiwick for fuel for them and the king's dogs in their custody whilst staying with the dogs in those forests."

Having passed their life in the service of the King, the huntsmen were not forgotten in their old age, and we find frequent mention of superannuated huntsmen as well as other servants being sent to some monastery or priory to receive the necessaries of life in their old age (Close Rolls, 10 Ed. 11., membrane 31). We find "William de Husseborne by reason of his good services is set to the prior and convent of Hauillymnge to receive such maintenance in the house as Philip de Candevere deceased had there at the late king's request" (Close Rolls 10, Ed. 11. p. 456). Philipp de Candevere was also a huntsman of whom we

find frequent mention with several others of the same name in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I. (Close Rolls, 1229, 1275, 1278, 1280, &c.).

William Twici or Tweyt or Twiti, huntsman to Edward II. and writer of our earliest treatise on hunting, seems to have ended his days in the convent of "Redings" where, when he died, the King sent Alan de Leek, also a huntsman hunting his buck- and deer-hounds (Close Rolls, Ed. III., Mem. 34, 1328; Also Ed. II., Mem. 28, 1315).

There was still another way of providing pensions for the hunt servants, and that was by allowing them a sum of money to be paid out of the revenues of the counties.

This is what in 1390 we find that one of the berners of the buckhounds received: "Grant for life to John Hunte for the good service to the late King for more than twenty years, and to the King, in the office of berner of his Buckhounds (berner canum suorum pro damis) and because he is too old and blind to serve, of 1½d. a day payable by the sheriff of the county of Southampton."

It is interesting to note that a John Hunt or Hunte was still a berner or "veuterer" of the buckhounds in Henry IV.'s reign, in fact the repetition of names that occur in the same posts renders one's task of research somewhat confusing, and points to succession from father to son in the minor as well as in the superior posts of venery.

The following is a more amusing grant made in 8 Richard II., Mem. 21:

"Grant for life to Nicholas Wittell one of the king's huntsmen of  $7\frac{1}{2}d$ . a day out of the issues of the counties of Somerset and Dorset, to enable him to support the estate of a gentleman, to which the king has advanced him."

A scarcity of funds in the royal Exchequer occasioned by the expenses of the wars with France and the civil wars in England was no doubt the cause of not only the masters of the buckhounds being obliged, as we have seen, to petition for their unpaid salaries, but also that many of the minor personages remained at times long unpaid. We come across curious ways of paying such arrears, such as that we see in the grant to John Boys, veuterer to the King and Robert Compnore his ferreter, who have long served the King and the prince his father (the Black Prince), without receiving aught, whilst the said John has incurred great expense over the Royal greyhounds, and the said Robert spent a long time in the safe keeping of the King's ferrets and hounds, of such sums of money as belong to the King for the escape last year from Bedford prison of three prisoners, viz., Thomas Loryng, Andrew Fader and Richard Heseyre (Pat. Rolls, Richard 11., Sept. 8, 1390).

Although, as has already been remarked, the salaries remained almost stationary from the beginning of the 13th to the end of the 15th century, in the next hundred years a marked difference is to be noted, so that in James 1.'s reign we find a master of the hounds receiving 4s. per day, while a pricker, an office which corresponded with the former yeoman at horse, received

HUNT OFFICIALS—continued

2s. per day instead of 4d. A Yeoman or pricker of the privy buckhounds 20d. per day, a groom 12d. per day.

The Master of the Harriers received £120 per annum for his own salary, the keep of one footman and four horses.

The "valect lez prickers de lez privie harriers" received £9 for a quarter's salary, &c. (Jesse, ii. 289, 291). In the same reign the groom of the otterhounds received 13d. a day wages, and 20s. a year for his livery.

In the appointment of foresters and parkers we find the public records mention that besides the wages they are to receive the usual fees and profits. The wages varied, it seems, from 2d. to 3d. a day. For instance, in the reign of Henry IV., John de Wodehaus held the office of constable of the prince's castle of Rysyng in Norfolk, and keeper of the chace and warren there, "with the usual fees, wages and profits." His wages as constable were 2d. a day and as a forester 3d. daily (Pat. Rolls, Henry vi., Jan. 27, 1423). A grant is made to John Melton "of the office of forester of Bates Baillie, in the forest of Wyndesore with wages fees and profits to the said office." Later on in the same year was granted to the same John: "The said office with the pannage and keepership of Cranburne and the wages of id. a day" (Pat. Rolls, 3 Henry vi.) The pannage, i.e., the fruits of the forest trees such as acorns and beechmast, &c., and the profits to be derived therefrom would be no mean addition to the wages, as those who wished to turn their swine into the forest would have to pay the keeper who had claim on the pannage for such per-

Sometimes other benefits, such as houses and land were attached to such offices, thus John Brounwynd received as parker of Schorwyke, the wages of *id.* a day together with 8 acres of land called Wodebank adjoining the said park, and the house built thereon, with the windfall of wood and other profits, except trees torn up by the roots. This office was given him in Henry Iv.'s reign and confirmed by letter patent by Henry vi. Jan. 27, 1423.

Letters patent dated Feb. 28, 1416, granted to Richard Elton the office of Launder of the park of Claryndon, and keeper of the deer and conies there at the wages of  $3\frac{1}{2}d$ . a day. (Pat. Rolls, Henry VI.).

The office of parker seems frequently to have been given as a reward or as a pension to servants of the royal household. Thus we find that John del Chambre, servant of Henry v. when Prince of Wales, had a grant for life made to him of parker of the parks of Lanteglos and Hellesbury, Co. Cornwall (7 May, 1423, Pat. Rolls). A similar grant was made by Henry v. to Richard Parker, yeoman of the prince's kitchen for good service, of the office of parker for his park of Byfleet (Feb. 22, 1423, Pat. R.).

To what dimensions the fees of the parkers grew by the middle of the following century we

can gather from Harrison when in his chronicles he complains of the amount of ground wasted in large parks "which brings no manner of gain to the owner, sith they commonly give away flesh never taking a penny for the same (except the ordinary fee, and part of the deer given unto the keeper by custome who besides three shillings and four pence or five shillings in money, hath the skin, head, numbles, chine and shoulders; whereby he that hath a warrant for a whole buck hath in the end little more than half, which in my judgement is scarcely equall dealing, for venison in England is neither bought nor sold (as in other countries), but maintained onlie for the pleasure of the owner and his friends" (Harrison, ed. Furnival i. p. 307).

Much more might be said about the duties and offices of Parkers and Foresters were it not beyond the scope of this note, for although they bore close relation to the King's hunting establishment they could not be called hunting officials.

An interesting list of the names of Justices of the forest south of Trent from the year 1217 to 1821, when this office was abolished, is given in the January number, 1903, of the English Historical Review. The learned author of the article clears up the confusion that existed concerning the terms citra Trentam and ultra Trentam, which he shows were terms applied according to the geographical whereabouts of the King. Thus when the latter was north of the Trent when speaking of a Justice of the forest south of the Trent, he called him ultra Trentam and vice versa.

The following are some of the names of those who filled the various posts of the royal hunting establishments in the reign of Henry IV.:

Master of Buckhounds Sir Rustyn Villenove.
Sir Rustyn Villenove.
Sir Rustyn Villenove.

Pat. Rolls, i Henry IV.

Pat. Rolls, i Henry IV.

Pat. Rolls, i Henry VI.

Privy Seal 674/6456.

For Harthounds

Yeoman at horse
Yeoman or berners
on foot
Fewterer
Chacechiens

Robert Hurlebat and Edward Benet
Roger Cheneston and John Hayne
William Melbourne and Henry Digge
Chequer
Chacechiens

Roger Cheneston and John Hayne
Exchequer
Chequer

Chacechiens

Roger Cheneston and John Hayne
Chequer
Chequer

William Cawet and John Bowier
William Cawet and John Cawet

For Buckhounds

Berners . . John Napper, John Backhous.

Fewterer . . John Hunte. 1405–1406. Hore, p. 17.

Privy Seal, 3 Henry

VI. Burrows, 464.

We append a modernised rendering of a hitherto unpublished document to which we have repeatedly referred as source for some of our information relating to the Duke of York's position in Henry IV.'s hunting establishments.

"Accounts, etc., Exchequer, Q. R. 405/18.
"This indenture made at Dorchester the third October the year of our Lord the King Henry