

**EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS OF
THE REVELS AT COURT: IN THE REIGNS
OF QUEEN ELIZABETH AND KING JAMES
I, FROM THE ORIGINAL OFFICE BOOKS
OF THE MASTERS AND YEOMEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649580019

Extracts from the Accounts of the Revels at Court: In the Reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I, from the Original Office Books of the Masters and Yeomen by Peter Cunningham

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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PETER CUNNINGHAM

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IN THE REIGNS OF
QUEEN ELIZABETH AND KING JAMES I.,
FROM THE
ORIGINAL OFFICE BOOKS OF THE MASTERS AND YEOMEN.
WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,
BY
PETER CUNNINGHAM.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

1842.



1519

LONDON:
F. SHOBERL, JUN., 51, RUPERT STREET, HAYMARKET,
PRINTER TO H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT.

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INTRODUCTION.

When, by the kindness of the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Peel, I was appointed to a situation in the Audit Office, Somerset House, one of my first inquiries, unconnected with my official duties, was, What *old papers* there were in the place. To this there was a ready reply. I was told of Books of Enrolments and of Declared Accounts as far back as the reign of Henry VIII.; but no one could tell me of their contents—for few could read them; while some had heard that we were in possession of the expenses of building Dover Castle and the Tower of London—

Ye towers of Julius, London's lasting shame—

signed, it was said, by no less ancient a personage than Julius Cæsar. Of course I did not confound with these very worthy gentlemen, and clever in their way, though indifferent antiquaries, honest Sir Julius Cæsar, Under-Chancellor of the Exchequer in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James, with the great historian of his own successes, the hero of Pharsalia.

All this gave no other promise than that the field of antiquarian inquiry in the office of the old Auditors of the Imprest was still ungleaned, and that, if I was not to receive assistance, I was at least to be without a rival.