

**PLEAS OF THE CROWN  
FOR THE HUNDRED OF  
SWINESHEAD AND THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL**

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Pleas of the Crown for the Hundred of Swineshead and the Township of Bristol by Edward James Watson

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**EDWARD JAMES WATSON**

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PLEAS OF THE CROWN FOR THE  
HUNDRED OF SWINESHEAD  
AND THE TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL

A.D. 1221.

PLEAS OF THE CROWN  
FOR THE  
HUNDRED OF SWINESHEAD  
AND THE  
TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL

TAKEN AT BRISTOL BEFORE

SIMON ABBOT OF READING RANDOLF ABBOT  
OF EVESHAM MARTIN PATESHULL JOHN OF  
MONMOUTH RALPH HARENG AND ROBERT  
LEXINGTON JUSTICES ITINERANT

*St. Brit. Curia regis*

IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF  
KING HENRY THE THIRD  
A.D. 1221.

BY  
EDWARD JAMES WATSON  
F.R.HIST.S., F.R.S.L.

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1902.

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## PREFACE.

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THIS book is a small contribution to the history of Bristol, but I venture to hope that it possesses something more than of local interest. In the Introduction, my object has been to make the matter of the record intelligible, if not to all, at any rate to some who are not professional students, and have neither the time nor the opportunity for the perusal of withered parchments and ancient tomes. I have endeavoured to be accurate and have set down nought in malice, either of afore- or after-thought. What I have written in error, adjudge, I pray, '*infortunium,*' and, of your charity, add '*et ideo nichil.*'

My thanks are due to Professor F. W. Maitland for his great courtesy in allowing me to use his transcript. It is hoped that my translation will not be considered as an impertinence.

*April, 1902.*

E. J. W.

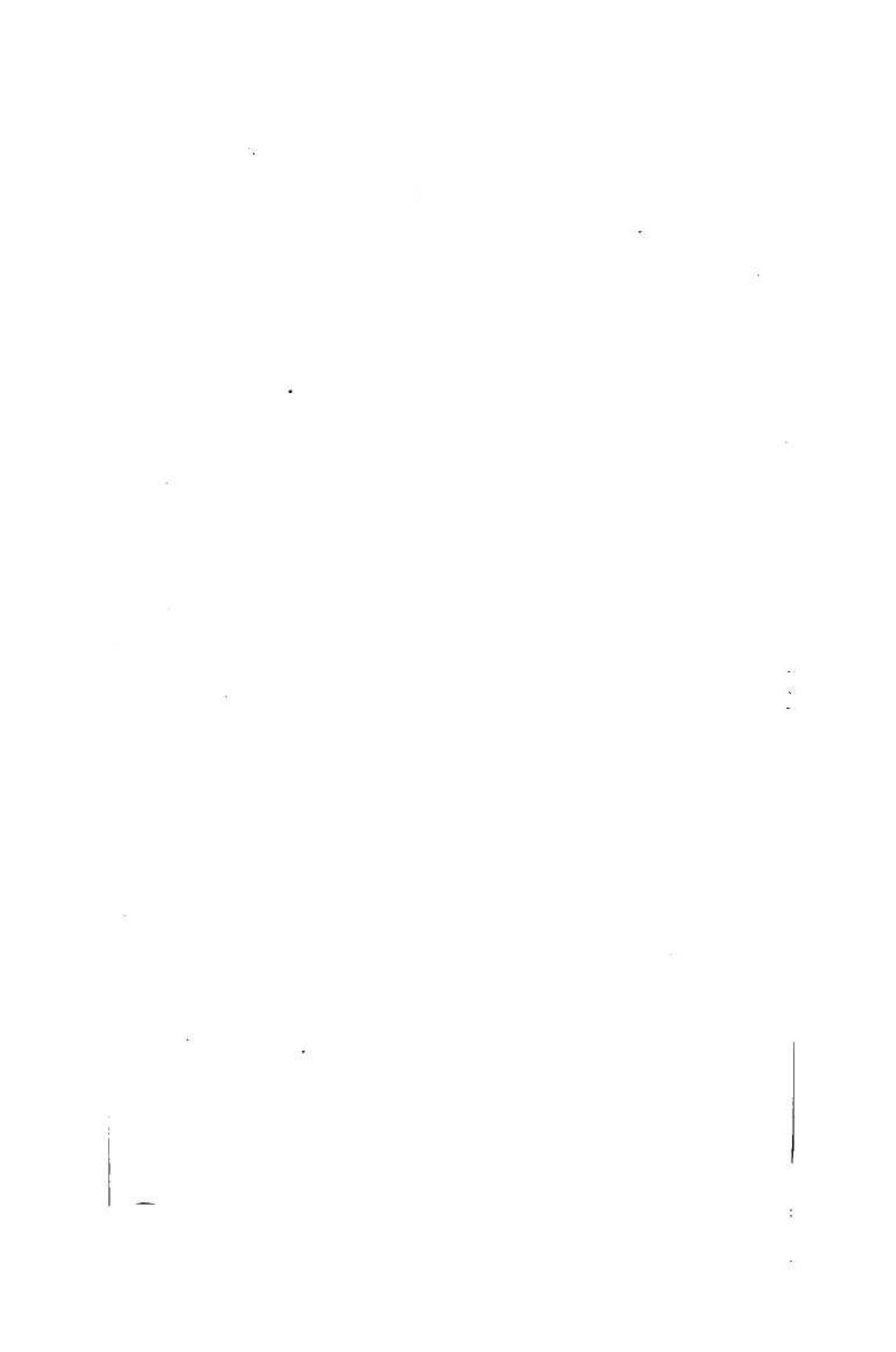




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## INTRODUCTION.

THE record before us is a small one, and represents the pleas of the Crown and the amercements for the hundred of Swineshead and the township of Bristol, taken at Bristol before the Abbot of Reading and his fellows justices itinerant in the fifth year of the reign of King Henry the Third and the year of Grace 1221. To be precise, it is a part of the nineteenth, the whole of the twentieth, and a part of the twenty-third, membranes of Assize Roll, No. 272, preserved at the Record Office, but completed and more or less perfected by reference to a contemporary roll known as Assize Roll No. 272.<sup>1</sup>

Both of these rolls contain the Gloucestershire business of the eyre of 1221, but the first, although somewhat mutilated, is the better record. It not only contains several enrolled instruments and a note of the

<sup>1</sup> These rolls were until quite recently known as *Coram Rege Roll, Henry III.*, No. 13, and *Assize Roll*

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