

**CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS
OF THE TOWN OF LUDLOW, IN
SHROPSHIRE, FROM 1540 TO THE
END OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN
ELIZABETH**

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Churchwardens' Accounts of the Town of Ludlow, in Shropshire, from 1540 to the End of the
Reign of Queen Elizabeth by Thomas Wright

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THOMAS WRIGHT

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SHROPSHIRE, FROM 1540 TO THE
END OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN
ELIZABETH**

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS
OF
THE TOWN OF LUDLOW, *Em.*
IN SHROPSHIRE,

FROM 1540 TO THE END OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

EDITED, FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT,
BY THOMAS WRIGHT, M.A., F.S.A., HON. M. R. S. L., &c.
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF FRANCE
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TO
THE REV. EDWARD ff. CLAYTON, M.A.

RECTOR OF LUDLOW,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS DEDICATED

AS A TOKEN OF

VERY SINCERE RESPECT.

Vertical line on the right side of the page.

TO

THE REV. EDWARD DE CLAYTON.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am assured that in the noble Church of which you so worthily exercise the spiritual direction, or in anything which relates to it, no one can feel a greater interest than yourself. This church derived much of its importance from the Guild of Palmers, which seems to have exercised an authority over the building, that, with its other property, was transferred to the municipal corporation of the town. Thus, in the following records, any act of an extraordinary kind is usually done "by appointment of the Bailiffs." Hence, too, such of the papers relating to the former affairs of the church itself, as have been preserved, are mostly found in the municipal archives of the town. Among these, as you well know, is a large manuscript volume containing the churchwardens' accounts of Ludlow, from A.D. 1540, the thirty-second year of the reign of Henry VIII., to the close of the reign of Elizabeth. The greater part of these accounts I have printed in the present volume.

The accounts open at a very eventful period. We are at the dawn of the Reformation. Four years before, two hundred of the lesser monasteries had been dissolved, and in the very year in which