

saving my right. Also the burgesses may distrain their debtors for their debt, in the borough, if the debtor acknowledge the debt, unless they are tenants of the borough. Chattels of burgesses ought not to be distrained for any debts but those of the owner's. Also the aforesaid burgesses, of whomsoever they shall buy or sell, wheresoever they shall be in the County of Chester, either in fairs or in markets, shall be quit from toll, except in the Wyches for toll of salt. Also the aforesaid burgesses ought to grind all their corn, growing upon their land within the bounds of Stokeport, or corn remaining in the vill of Stokeport, at my mill or mills, for the sixteenth measure, if I have a mill or mills within the divisions of Stokeport. Also if the aforesaid burgesses will bake bread to sell, they ought to bake it at my oven, if I have an oven in the vill of Stokeport, and if I have not, let them bake where they will. Also whoever shall break the assise of the vill, either in bread or ale, shall forfeit to me twelve-pence for three times, but for the fourth time he shall be obliged to keep the assise of the vill. The burgesses shall have common of pasture, and be free in wood, in plain, in turbary, in heath, in moors, in pastures, and in all common easements belonging to the vill of Stokeport, and be quit of pannage in the wood belonging to the vill of Stokeport. Also the aforesaid burgesses shall take in a reasonable way from the aforesaid wood, all their necessaries to burn, and build with. Also any one may be at plea for his wife and family, and the wife of any one may pay her rent to the chief officer, and do what ought to be done, and follow the plea for her husband if he happens to be absent. Also a burgess, if he have no heir, may bequeath his burgage and chattels at his death, wheresoever he pleases, saving my right, viz., of four-pence, and saving the service belonging to that burgage, so that it be not alienated to religious persons, or Jews. Also when a burgess dies, his wife shall remain in the house with the heir, and shall have necessaries there, so long as she is without husband; and if she will be married, she shall depart freely without dower, and the heir as lord shall remain in the house. Also when a burgess dies, his heir shall give me no other relief but such weapons as these, a sword, a bow, or a lance. No person within my land of Stokeport, as shoe-maker, leather seller, dyer, or any such, shall exercise his trade, unless he be within the borough. Also the aforesaid burgesses shall pay the rent of their burgages at the feast of All Saints. All the aforesaid pleas shall be determined by the view of the burgesses, and my bailiff. Whoever shall sell his burgage, and depart from the vill, shall give me four-pence, and go freely wherever he will, with all his chattels. And I and my heirs, all the aforesaid liberties and customs, to the aforesaid burgesses and their heirs, against all nations will for ever warrant, saving to me and my heirs reasonable tallage, when our Lord the King of England shall cause his boroughs throughout England to be talliated. In witness whereof, I have put my seal to this present writing, these being witnesses, Sir Hugh de Spencer, Sir Hamon de Massye, Sir William de Massye, Robert de Hyde, Geoffry de Chedle, Geoffry de Bromale, Hamon de Bruninton, Robert de Godley, Henry de Worthe, and others."

In 1237 King Henry III. annexed the Earldom of Chester to the Crown, and in 1254 conferred the title upon his heir-apparent Edward, and on September 6th, 1260, the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair in Stockport was granted to the then Lord of the Manor, by Edward, the first Royal Earl of Chester. On the death of Richard de Stokeport in 1292, the Barony passed by marriage into the family of de Eton of Warwickshire, and in the year 1370, on the male line of