

# GRIEVANCES

## Grand Jury, County of Hereford

1640

We find and present that the weirs erected in and upon the river of Wye within this County, being a navigable river and not by the seacoast, are not prostrated and put down according to the statute of Magna Carta, but are remaining a great nuisance and grievance to this County so far as they hinder navigation and portation of boats, and especially a prejudice to the city of Hereford, and are also a destruction of the fry of fish and a hurt to the country in surrounding of grounds.

We find and present that the importation and working of Spanish wool in this Kingdom, commonly called Segovia or Spanish Wool, has been and still is a cause and means that the native wool of this County of Hereford is made of less value and reputation than otherwise it would be, to the great damage of the whole County.

We find and present that the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Lord President and Council established for Wales and the marches of the same in this County of Hereford, being an ancient English county and no part of Wales nor the marches of the same, is and has been a burden and grievance to this County, from which the said County desires to be freed and eased.<sup>1</sup>

We do also find and present that the late taxation upon this County for raising of money for building and maintenance of ships of war for these five years last past has been a great charge, grievance, and impoverishing to the commonwealth of the same; from which the said County desires to be freed.

And also do find and present that the levying of the unlawful tax of coat and conduct money<sup>2</sup> within this County has likewise been a great charge and trouble to the whole County in general, and is a general grief and nuisance to the County.

We do also find and present that the iron mills in general within this County have been a general destruction of trees, timber, and coppice wood, some of which being within five miles of the City of Hereford, in so much that the said City is already in great want and scarcity of wood, and by reason thereof the prices of wood is so enhanced that if it should continue, it would tend to the great impoverishing of the inhabitants of the said City and many places adjacent to the same.

John Webb, *Memorials of the Civil War Between King Charles I and the Parliament of England as it Affected Herefordshire and the Adjacent Counties* (London: Longman, Green, and Company, 1879), II:335–336.

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<sup>1</sup> This, though inserted to swell the plea of the remonstrance, is very questionable; the Lords Marchers having all along exercised their jurisdiction over the borders both of England and Wales; and the Marches apparently being included on both sides of the line of demarcation, as seems to have been the case in North Wales and Scotland. [Note in Webb's *Memorials*]

<sup>2</sup> *Coat and Conduct Money*—sum paid to an army recruit to provide both his first uniform and a travel allowance to reach his post.