

Colchester Court Rolls.—As it is very undesirable that serious errors on matter of fact should remain in our *Transactions* uncorrected, I would draw attention to one such error which is of more than local consequence. Mr. Isaac Jeayes, who is being employed by the Corporation of Colchester to prepare for publication the Court Rolls of the Borough, contributed to our Society's *Transactions* (vol. xiv., pp. 81-89), by permission of that body, a paper on one of these records (Court Roll 35). He there stated, at the outset, that, "twice in the year, a Law Hundred was held," and that this Roll contained "a full report of one of these Law Hundreds." Now, for students of our early municipal institutions, it is of importance to be able to compare those of different Boroughs and even of rural Hundreds.

Ten years earlier, Mr. Gurney Benham, who has rendered such incomparable service to the history of the ancient Borough, by his publication of the *Red paper book* and of the *Colchester oath book*, had laid stress, in the latter, on its 'Lawhundreds,' as proof of its early 'self-government,' and had spoken, in his Preface, of "the three (*sic*) Lawhundreds held in each year."<sup>1</sup> I have also found the *three* Lawhundreds mentioned in the cartulary of St. John's Abbey. Unlikely though it may seem that a local antiquary should here be more accurate than a former member of the staff of the British

<sup>1</sup> See also p. 2 (*ad tria lawhundr'*), and *Red Paper Book*, p. 154.

Museum's Department of MSS., Mr. Benham is clearly right. This correction should prove of service to students who may be puzzled by the contradiction. For a rural Lawhundred one may cite the important case of the Half-Hundred of Waltham, with its "three law-hundreds" (*lagehundr'*)—or *legale hundr'*—annually (*Essex fines*, vol. i., pp. 56 7).

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