

King James I visit to Rochester in 1606.

Recorded by H. Roberts as "England's farewell to Christian IV".

Time hath brought them near the City of Rochester, where they are met with the Mayor and Brethren of the City, who with reverence delivered his mace unto his Majesty, who graciously did accept the same, and re-delivered it to the mayor, willing him to keep it and to use it with justice as before.

Which done, the Mayor taking his footcloth horse which was ready, rode on before his Majesty, bearing the mace before him throughout the City to the house of Sir Peter Bucke (now known as Eastgate House), one of his Highness's officers of the Navy, which house was the lodging of the King of Denmark, whom our King there left to his repose, and returned himself to the Reverend Bishop of Rochester, Doctor Barlow; and the Queen and Prince to their lodgings, which were all several.

The next day, being Sunday, which holy appointed day of the Lord their Majesties came to the Cathedral Church of the College, where they heard a most learned sermon by a reverend grave and learned Doctor Parry. The sermon ended, their dinners prepared aboard the Ships and their boats and barges attending them, they set forward to the waters side. After visiting Chatham, the royal party landed at a convenient place from where they could view all the ships, which in due course discharged their whole ordnance, 2,300 shots being fired. They returned to their lodgings in Rochester.

In the evening the Navy shewed very excellent and rare fireworks, and the next morning they departed for Gravesend, being followed by a multitude of people, Londoners, and others, which came to Rochester, that thousands could get no lodgings or meat for their money.