

yeir," a law was passed saying: "That na man play at the fute-ball." "It is statute, and the King forbiddis, that na man play at the fute-ball, under the paine of fiftie schillings to be raised to the Lord of the land, als oft as he be tainted, or to the Schireffe of the land or his ministers, gif the Lords will not punish sik trespassoures." Under James the Second, in 1457, it was "decreeted and ordained, that the fute-ball and golfe be utterly cryed downe, and not to be used . . . and to be punished by the Barronis un-law, and gif he takes not the un-law, that it be taken be the Kinges officeres." James the Third decreed against it at his sixth parliament held in Edinburgh in 1471. And in 1491 King James the Fourth enacted "That in na place of the Realme there be used fute-ball, golfe, or other sik unprofitable sportes, for the common gude of the Realme and defence thereof," and directed the use of the bow.

Seeing that his ancestors held these views, we are not surprised that James the First of England—the magnificence of whose court and the fame of whose wisdom and justice and of the civility of whose subjects, allured divers foreign princes, and other strangers of all estates, to make frequent visits to his country—(Scots Acts, 24 June, 1609), we are not surprised that he should deem the game too rough for his heir apparent, and in his "Basilikon Doron" he writes: "From this Court I debarre all rough and violent exercises, as the foot-ball, meeter for lameing than making able the users thereof."

James' famous predecessor, "that bright occidental star, Queen Elizabeth, of most happy memory," was also against foot ball. In the eighteenth year of her reign there was found at the Middlesex Sessions a true bill against sixteen persons, husbandmen, yeomen, artificers, and the like "with unknown malefactors to the number of a hundred, who assembled themselves and unlawfully played a certain unlawful game, called foot-ball, by reason of which unlawful game there arose amongst them a great affray, likely to result in homicides and fatal accidents." Some seven years after there was a coroner's inquest at "Southemyous" on the body of Roger Ludford, yeoman. It was shewn that the deceased, with one Nicholas Martyn and Richard Turvey, were playing at foot ball in a field, when Ludford ran towards the ball with the intention of kicking it; whereupon Nicholas Martyn "cum cubiti dextri brachii sui" struck Ludford on the forepart of his body, under his breast, giving him a mortal blow and concussion, of which he died in a quarter of an hour. The jury found that Nicholas and Richard in this manner feloniously slew the said John.

In Cromwell's days a youth was indicted for the playing of the game; this is how the indictment ran: "Kent—Before the justices of the peace it was presented that at Maidstone, in the county aforesaid, John Bistrod, of Maidstone, etc., apothecary, with force of arms, did wilfully and in a violent manner run to and fro, and kicked up and down in the common highway and street within the said county and town, called the High Street, a certain ball of leather, commonly called a foot-ball, unto the great annoyance and incumbrance of said highway, and to the great disquiet and disturbance of the good people of this commonwealth passing on and travelling in and upon the same, and in contempt of the laws, etc., and to the evil example of others, and against the public peace."