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Mr W Reville
by The Master, Wardens
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of The Saddlers Company.

Saddlers Hall, Cheapside.

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JOHN A. SEAVERNS

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A CONCISE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

Worshipful Company of Saddlers.

A
DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
Guild of Saddlers
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON.

Written and Compiled by

JOHN W. SHERWELL,

CLERK OF THE COMPANY.

*Printed with the sanction of the Master, Wardens, and
Court of Assistants of the Company.*

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1889.

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HARRISON & SONS,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY,
ST. MARTIN'S LANE, LONDON.

TO THE

Worshipful Company of Saddlers,

THIS WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED, IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF MANY
COURTESIES AND UNIFORM KINDNESS SHEWN BY ITS MEMBERS
TO THE WRITER.

J. W. S.

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P R E F A C E .

A QUIET and casual perusal of the early minutes of the Company, snatched during the intervals of business, revealed so much that was interesting that the writer was induced to extend his researches, and to embody the result in a Paper, which, at the suggestion of the late Master, Colonel Laurie, C.B., M.P., was communicated to the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants on Friday evening, March 23rd, 1888.¹ A proposal then made to amplify the Paper into something like what is now submitted met with warm and unanimous approval. It is possible that, generally speaking, the chapters which follow may reveal little that is new to the future compiler of history, but it is believed that they will shed an interesting light upon facts already ascertained.

In attempting the task before him, a difficulty encountered the writer at the outset. It happens unfortunately that, although there is every

¹ A very similar suggestion had indeed been made in the previous year by the then Master, Mr. C. O. Humphreys.

reason for believing that the Company, from a very early period of their existence, kept a transcript of their proceedings, their Order Books, or Minute Books, have not been preserved from a date earlier than 1605. In the Company's Inventory of the year 1721 there is mentioned an Order Book of the year 1416, but this has also since been lost.¹ Their records have, however, been preserved without interruption from the date named, 1605, and we are so far fortunate, inasmuch as the history of the Saddlers' Company, like that of the London Livery Companies generally, is of the greatest interest during the seventeenth century. This circumstance, however, compelled recourse to other sources of information, but it must be admitted that the outside source to which the writer is most indebted is the early Letter Books and Journals of the Corporation of the City of London.

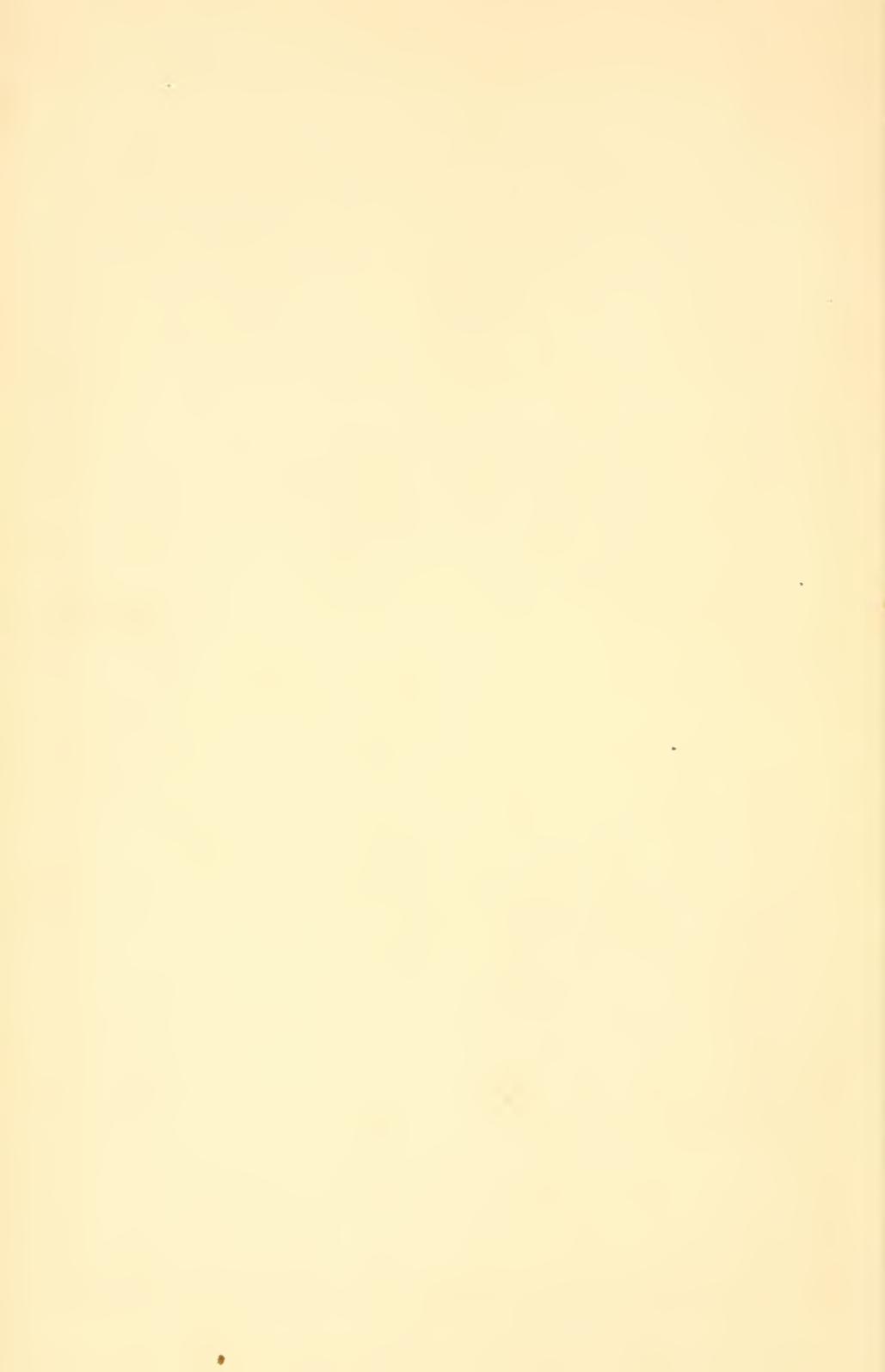
To say that the Saddlers' Company is the most ancient of existing Livery Companies is to make an assertion which can be supported by evidence of a strong character deduced from ancient documents still extant, alluded to on pages 3 *et seq.*

No other Company can point to evidence

¹ Probably in either of the two fires in the early part of the present century, one of which partially, and the other completely, destroyed the Hall.

of its own existence at so early a date as the Saddlers' Company. The remarkable convention between the Guild of Saddlers and the Canons of the ancient conventual church of St. Martin's-le-Grand, described on p. 3 *et seq.*, is authoritatively admitted to belong, by its handwriting, to a period about 1154 A.D. ; yet in this archaic document we are referred still further back into antiquity by an allusion which it contains to statutes and customs alleged by it to have been ancient even at that remote period in which the convention was inscribed. Such circumstances as these establish for the Saddlers' Company an antiquity which no other Company can claim to equal.

It only remains for the writer to gratefully acknowledge the encouragement extended to him by the Court in the prosecution of his inquiries, and particularly by the Master, Mr. W. Spencer Watson, M.B., F.R.C.S. ; the Wardens, Mr. Serjeant Robinson, Mr. Isaac Wilcox, and Mr. Daniel Morgan, with Past Masters Alderman Cotton, Moses Dodd, Charles O. Humphreys, and Colonel R. P. Laurie, C.B., M.P., who were appointed by the Court to assist him with their advice.





INTRODUCTION.

FEW subjects have offered a more fertile theme for conjecture or a more attractive field for research than the origin and early history of the Trade Guilds. Mankind has, from the earliest periods, evinced a propensity to dwell in communities, although this predilection is often found to be modified by national characteristics. The lithic monuments, hut circles and earthworks with which our own island abounds, testify to its influence in the conditions under which primeval man dwelt in early Britain; while we see it to-day exemplified in the tribal communities of pastoral nomads in Asia and Africa. In the early days of pre-historic times this circumstance was probably the result of a necessity for self-protection against common enemies, and, later on, with the growth of civilization, it just as probably arose from the social instincts of man.

Among the earliest institutions and corporations of which we have cognizance and mention were those communities known in Roman history by the name of *collegia*. The term *collegia*, however, embraced corporations of various descriptions; some were of a strictly religious

character, others legal, while others—and with these we are most concerned—were purely trade corporations, resembling our own guilds and livery companies. It is not quite clear how they all arose; the *collegia opificum*, however, appear to have sprung into existence in the early days of Rome. Plutarch indeed attributes the origin of these last named to the reign of that more or less mythical personage, Numa, its second king, of whose political measures he informs us that “that which is most admired is his division of the populace according to their trades. For whereas the city (as has been said) originally consisted of two races which stood aloof one from the other and would not combine into one, which led to endless quarrels and rivalries, Numa, reflecting that substances which are hard and difficult to combine together can nevertheless be mixed and formed into one mass if they are broken up into small pieces, because then they more easily fit each other, determined to divide the whole mass of the people of Rome into many classes, and thus by creating numerous petty rivalries to obliterate their original and greatest cause of variance. His division was according to their trades, and consisted of the musicians, the goldsmiths, the builders, dyers, shoemakers, carriers, coppersmiths, and potters. All the other trades he united into one guild. He assigned to each trade its special privileges, common to all the members, and arranged that each should have its

own time of meeting, and worship its own special patron god.”¹

Lampridius also ascribes similar measures to Alexander Severus, of whom he says that he formed corporations of all vintners, sellers of pulse, makers of *caligae* (a kind of military shoe), and, in general of all the other crafts in Rome.²

We have frequent mention of these corporations, moreover, at various periods of Roman history. The bakers at Rome, the *collegium pistorum*, a distinct and important guild, are frequently mentioned. Nor were the *collegia* confined to Rome proper. Their existence is to be traced in the remotest provinces of the empire. We have had handed down to us, among the letters of the younger Pliny, one addressed to the Emperor Trajan, referring to the establishment of a guild or corporation of artificers (*Fabri*)³ at Nicomedia, the ancient capital of Bithynia, formerly a Roman province on the Asiatic coast of the Sea of Marmora. There is also an interesting account in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries⁴ of the researches of Mr. A. J. Evans, M.A., F.S.A. at Illyricum, a Roman province on the east coast of the Adriatic,

¹ Numa, cap. xvii., Bohn's Plutarch.

² "Corpora omnium constituit vinariorum, lupinariorum, caligauriorum et omnino omnium artium." Lampridius, cap. xxxiii. (*Alex. Severus*).

³ Epistolæ x., 42, 43.

⁴ Archæologia, vols. 48 and 49. .

with an inscription at Salonæ, relating to a guild of artificers—*Collegium Fabrorum veneris*¹—and belonging apparently to the fourth century of the Christian era. Evidences of similar organizations have been discovered at Lyons, Marseilles, and other parts of Roman Gaul, in ancient Helvetia, in Britain itself, and elsewhere where the Romans had colonies. Some very interesting testimony is furnished by Orelli in his collection of ancient inscriptions.²

Briefly stated, these *collegia* were associations in which the members of each trade were united together, not only for social intercourse, but for the regulation of and self-protection in trade. They possessed a common corporate fund, and other characteristics; on the whole, presenting a striking analogy to the modern English trade guilds, of which they are by many writers, and with some amount of reason, considered to be the progenitors as they were the prototypes.

Mr. Hallam is of opinion that the mediæval Guilds were institutions of independent origin and had no connection with the *collegia* of the Romans, and the present Bishop of Oxford and Professor Freeman have clearly expressed a

¹ The term *fabri* was a generic one applied generally to workers in hard substances, such as the smiths, *fabri aerarii* or *ferrari*, and the carpenters, *fabri tignarii*; the *fabri veneris* were craftsmen of a more artistic order.

² "Inscriptionum Latinarum Selectarum Collectio" (Zurich, 1828), numerous examples.

similar opinion in respect of the early English Guilds.¹ These are weighty authorities, entitled to more than ordinary respect ; nevertheless to many minds the analogy between the *collegia* and those later but kindred organizations which diffused themselves through the social and commercial life of the various nationalities of mediæval Europe is far too striking to be reconciled by the convenient plea of accident. Professor Freeman says that “the gap between the Roman and English periods is hidden by the blackness of darkness which shrouds our settlement in Britain, and which to those who have eyes teaches much more clearly than any light could what the nature of that settlement really was. Had there been any continuity between the institutions of the two periods, that blackness of darkness could hardly have been.”²

Doubtless the authoritative and learned writer himself is disposed to acknowledge that the implied total disappearance of these institutions—which existed in England during the Roman occupation—during the few centuries in which we unfortunately have no record of their being in existence, and their sudden re-appearance identical in all essential principles under the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy, is a coincidence hardly less than phenomenal. It must be borne in mind

¹ See the Introduction to the “Report of the Livery Companies Commission,” p. 8.

² *Ibid.*

that the Romans were encamped in Britain for four centuries. Like the Ottomans in Europe, the English in India, they were in the country, but not of it. Yet in the period of their occupation, they succeeded in moulding the physical features of the country into conformity with the advanced strides of their southern civilization. Their high roads and limitary walls intersect the land in every direction ; over chains of hills and across valleys they go, in absolute disregard of anything like natural obstacles or impediments, remaining to the present day stupendous monuments of engineering ingenuity. Their bridges which spanned our rivers, like their aqueducts, were all scientifically constructed, and their masonry almost imperishable. Every year the spade and the plough turn up fresh relics, in the shape of *tegulae*, pottery, coins, votary tablets, and altar pieces, etc., vestiges, as a writer in the "Quarterly Review" has well remarked, of a more uniform type of civilization than is to be met with between the same latitudes to-day. Similarly they have left their impress indelibly upon our language and literature. Is it therefore unreasonable that some should profess to discover traces of their institutions in our own of to-day? It is not difficult, for instance, to recognise in the *aula publica* of the Romans a close resemblance to our Guildhall, and Fitzstephen, in his well known description of London, traces a strong affinity between many of our present civic institutions and their Latin parallels.

Without, however, attempting, in imitation of more competent writers, who with more or less satisfaction to themselves have endeavoured by various methods of historical evolution to discover the precise origin of the English Trade Guilds—a task obviously not strictly within the legitimate province of this essay—it may suffice here to say that the term “Guild,” as has been clearly shown by Herbert and other writers, is a derivation of the Anglo-Saxon “gildan,” to pay, a word possessing close affinities in other northern dialects, and signifying a society or association, supported by individual contribution. The basis of the early English trade guild was the observance of a common code of ordinances, regulating the craft to which it belonged, while other essential features in the organization were a common worship, with usually a special patron saint, a common social feast, and lastly, a common fund, which not only provided for the craft purposes but served to relieve the poor members, and oftentimes to defray their burial expenses.

The early and rapid growth of London, the commercial importance of which was recognized and testified to by Tacitus, probably did much to foster and develop these guilds in England. One of the earliest London trading guilds of which we have cognizance was the guild of Steelyard merchants,¹ amply described by Stow, and, according

¹ Now extinct.

to Herbert, the founders of the famous Hanseatic League. They were recognised in a decree of Ethelred in the year 967, and probably existed at a much earlier date. Certain it is that by the fourteenth century the guilds had become a dominant factor in the social organism of England.

CHAPTER I.

ANTIQUITY AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE COMPANY.

Fitzstephen's Description of the Guilds.—The "Saddlery of Westchepe."—The Conventual Church of St. Martin's-le-Grand.—Ancient Convention between the Saddlers and the Convent.—Great Antiquity of the Company.—Their earliest Charters and Liberties.—The City Letter Books and their notices of the Company.—Curious Ordinances of the Saddlers and Joiners.—A Dispute between the Saddlers and the Loriners.—Craft Jealousy.—A Faction Fight.—The Wages of a Saddler settled by Royal Ordinance.—The Saddlers and the Girdlers.—Ordinances of A. D. 1363.—The Company contribute to Edward III.'s French Wars.—Charter from Edward III.—Representatives on the Common Council.—A despotic Mayor, Nicholas Brembre.—The Company petition the Crown and Parliament.—Incorporation Charter from Richard II.—Interesting Dispute between Master and Yeomen Saddlers.—Charter from Henry VI.—Charter from Edward IV.—Charter from Henry VII.—The Company in 1537.—Charter from Henry VIII.—Statute of Chantries Act, 1 Edw. VI.—The Charter of Elizabeth.—The Ordinances of 1561.—The first English Lottery.—Grant of Arms.—The Company's Mottoes.

 WILLIAM FITZSTEPHEN, a monk of Canterbury, the clerk, remembrancer and biographer of Thomas Becket, in his description of London, written in the latter part of the twelfth century, informs us that from a very early period the various crafts of London had their own separate district in the City allotted to them for the exercise of their several trades.

The early Trade
Guilds of Lon-
don.

He says, "the followers of the several trades, the vendors of the various commodities, and the labourers of every kind, are daily to be found in their proper and distinct places according to their respective trades."¹ This statement is, moreover, supported by the existing nomenclature of many modern City streets and thoroughfares, the names of which recall the trades and occupations anciently plied in the several localities, such as the Poultry,² Cordwainer Street,³ etc. Similarly the Saddlers of London were anciently to be found at the west end of Cheapside, or, as it was called, Westchepe, their locality bearing the distinctive name of the "Saddlery." Among the ancient wills enrolled in the Court of Husting, at Guildhall, there is a will of one Isabella Bokrel, "The Saddlerie dated 1280, in which mention is of Westchepe." made of a tenement in the Saddlery of Westchepe.

Over against "the Saddlery" stood the famous conventual and collegiate church of St. Martin's-le-Grand, founded by Wythred, or Withu, King of Kent, in the eighth century, and

¹ Dr. Pegge's edition: "Singulorum officiorum exercitatores singularum venditores, singularum operarum suarum locatores cotidiano mane per se sunt locis distincti omnes ut officiiis." (*De dispositione urbis.*)

² Described by Stow as the special locale of the London Poulterers.

³ Shoemakers, so-called from their using the famous leather of Cordova.

confirmed in 1058 by the Conqueror with its old Saxon indulgences of *sac, soc, tol, dot, sheam*, etc., but, above all, the dangerous privilege of sanctuary for political and criminal offenders. It occupied the site of the modern General Post Office until 1548, when it was destroyed. Foster Lane, which bounded Saddlers' Hall on the west, skirted the precincts of St. Martin's on the east, so that the ancient Hall of the Guild stood immediately under the walls of the Sanctuary. This proximity produced an intimate relationship between the Guild of Saddlers and the Dean and Canons of the convent, which is recorded in an interesting document, fortunately still extant, which establishes the singular and unique antiquity of the Saddlers' Company.

This document is preserved among the archives of St. Martin's-le-Grand, now in the custody of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and consists of a small piece of stout parchment some eight or nine inches long, by about six wide, upon which is inscribed in the handwriting of the twelfth century a convention between the guild and the convent. No portion of the seal remains, and the slip of parchment to which it originally adhered is likewise gone. ^{1154 A.D. circa.} Madox takes notice of this convention in his "Firma Burgi," published in 1726, and ascribes the handwriting to the reigns of either Henry II. (A.D. 1154-1189), Richard I. (1189-1199), or

The collegiate church of St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Curious ancient convention between the convent and the Saddlers' Guild.

John (1199-1216), and most plausibly to the first of these, a view supported by several experts to whom it has been submitted.¹ There is a copy of the convention in the old Register of St. Martin's-le-Grand, a beautifully transcribed volume, in a handwriting of the period about 1400 A.D., and a second copy in a long roll of Indulgences, which appears to have escaped previous notice. This last is in a handwriting of about the reign of Edward III.²

By the courtesy of the Dean of Westminster we have been permitted to take a photograph of the convention, and a facsimile is appended. The endorsement on the reverse side, "Lra de Ghild," etc., it will be noticed, is of a later period than the handwriting of the text, and belongs probably to the reign of Edward I.; the other endorsement,

¹ In the same bundle of documents—No. 2 of those relating to St. Martin's-le-Grand—there is an Indulgence by William, Bishop of Norwich, in a precisely similar handwriting to that of the convention, also without date, but probably written between 1146 and 1174, when William Turbus was Bishop of Norwich. Moreover, the late Mr. Burt, who arranged these archives, has described this parcel as extending from Henry II. to Henry VIII., the former date doubtless referring to the grant to the Saddlers' Company and the Indulgence by William, Bishop of Norwich.

² The copy in the Register is headed by the following rubric: "Nota per hanc literam sequentem quæ incipit Conventus Sancti Martini London quæ est litera fraternitatis Sellariorum London quod dicta ecclesia erat diu ædificata et dotata ante adventum Conquestoris in Anglia ut ibi patet, quæ est contra assertiones Johannis Carpenter' et sequacium suorum."

Couentē Ecclē
capellano. Londonie Aldremano H.
capellano. quatuordecim; 7 Om̄ib; Seniorib; Gilde
ellagore Amicis 7 cōsrib; suis. salutes 7 orōnes xp̄o
et vob; tā p̄sentib; q̄ futis h. eē. Antiquē statutu it̄ usā
relat; 7 urām ggregationē. sel uos eē. fr̄es 7 participet
in bñficiis q̄ sunt ī Ecclā S̄i martini nocte & die.
missis. 7 psalmis. 7 orōnib; 7 vigilis; & p̄ hęc. sciat
esse vob; gcessas notātim una q̄q; ebdomada duas missas.
videlicet vna p̄ viuis. 7 altam p̄ defunctis fr̄ib; uob; e
gregationis; Et sciatū concessā esse vob; sonationē capa
narū nr̄e ecclē. 7 p̄cessionē. 2. Cantū libe 7 honorifi
ce. Et sciatū canonicos p̄ tēpore esse paratos auxiliis 7
consiliis uestre dom̄. tanq̄ fr̄. 7 ur̄os coadiutores;
Vos autē sic ante statū fuit. 7 in capitulo ur̄o recordatū est
ad festū S̄i martini de uestra p̄sentia. 7 de ur̄a elemosina
cū caris inde facto. ecclā beati martini uisitabitis.
De Sancto nich. ii. 7 de d. missis. 7 aliis bñficiis ur̄is. Ecclā
S̄i martini ī multis indigentē sic apparet. 7 uos uidetis. re
memorare si uob; placuerit. uos p̄cam. Antiquē autē q̄suetu
do fuit. 7 in recordatū ē ī capitulo ur̄o tēpore dñi Arnal
di ur̄i Aldremāni. qd̄ de unaq̄q; fr̄is defuncti receptione.
7 cāpanar̄ pulsatiōe. ecclā S̄i martini octo denar̄ habet
bit. Vat.

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, written in a cursive script.

128

“Indulgence,” is of a still later date, apparently about the reign of Edward III.

For the following translation of the convention we are indebted to Dr. Reginald Sharpe, Records Clerk in the Town Clerk’s Office, Guildhall:—

“CONVENTION.

“The Convent of the Church of Saint Martin, London, to N the Aldermen and N the Chaplain and N the four echevins and all the Elders of the Guild of Saddlers, their friends and brethren, [sends] greeting and prayers in Christ. Be it known to you both present and to come that it has been ordained of old between our Church and your congregation, to wit, that you are brethren and partakers of all benefits which be done in the Church of Saint Martin, by night and by day in masses, psalms, prayers, and vigils. And, moreover, know ye that there have been granted to you by name two masses every week, to wit, one for the living and the other for the dead brethren of your congregation. And know ye that there has been granted to you the ringing of the bells of the Church and procession, and churchyard fully and honorably. And know ye that the Canons for the time being are prepared to give aid and counsel to your house like brethren and your fellow-helpers. Ye shall, moreover, as has been before ordained and is now recorded in your Chapter, attend in person at the Church of the blessed Martin on the Feast of Saint Martin with your alms and wax tapers therewith provided. Moreover we pray you, if you will, remember the Church of Saint Martin, which as you see is clearly in much need, with ‘Saulesoth,’¹ and bequests and

¹ “Saulesoth,” otherwise “Soulesceat,” was a legacy

other of your benefits. It was also the custom of old and now is recorded in your¹ Chapter when Sir Ærnaldus was Alderman that for every reception of a deceased brother and for ringing of the bells the Church of Saint Martin shall receive eight pence. Farewell!”

Herbert, alluding to this convention, unhesitatingly remarks that “the mention immediately after the Conquest of ‘ancient Statutes’ then existing between so remote a Saxon foundation as St. Martin’s-le-Grand College and the Sadlers, together with the old custom said to be recorded in the latter’s chapter of the time of their Alderman Ærnaldus (also a Saxon name) leaves little doubt of the Sadlers being a veritable Anglo-Saxon Guild, and consequently the oldest on record of all the present Livery Companies.”

The allusion to the Alderman Ærnaldus is explained by the fact that anciently the title of alderman was applied solely to the chiefs of guilds. Towards the reign of Edward III., the title of Master superseded that of Alderman, which became exclusively applied, instead, to the heads of City wards.² It seems extremely probable that the early segregation or grouping of the guilds or crafts, as mentioned by Fitzstephen, was at the time the only divisional distribution of the City,

anciently bequeathed at death to the parish priest, instead of any tithes that might be forgotten.

¹ “Nostro” in the copy in the Register.

² Herbert’s Historical Essay, p. 17.

and that it was the origin of its division later on into wards.¹

The Saddlers' Company claim to have received their first charter from Edward I. in the first year of his reign, A.D. 1272. This is Earliest charters and liberties of the Company. repeatedly affirmed in their Minute Books; it is also confirmed by Maitland, and other historians. Inasmuch, however, as the earliest records of the Company have been lost or destroyed, we are unable circumstantially to corroborate this claim. The charters granted before the reign of Edward III. (1327-1377) were, moreover, not enrolled. That charters and grants of liberties *were*, however, granted by earlier monarchs than Edward III. is clear from the Charter granted to the Weavers' Company by Henry II., which recites liberties granted to that guild by Henry I.

Again, the Goldsmiths' Company, who are recognised as a Company or fraternity in a Statute of Edward I., did not receive a charter of incorporation until the reign of Edward III., while the Weavers' Charter of Henry II. was not confirmed until the same reign (Edward III.). Maitland, alluding to the convention between the Saddlers' Guild and the Convent of St. Martin's-le-Grand, which he assumes to belong to the reign of Richard I., imagines the Company to have been an adulterine, *i.e.*, unlicensed guild, "seeing it was

¹ This view would seem to be supported by the modern appellation of Cordwainers' Ward.

only incorporated by Letters Patent of Edward I., by the appellation of the Wardens or Keepers and Commonalty of the Mystery or Art of Saddlers, London." The reason assigned is clearly anything but a strong one, and fails to support his assertion or to make that assertion convincing. It is not unlikely that the Saddlers' Company, even if they had no earlier charter than that of Edward III., had a grant of liberties. It is extremely likely that they did; for we find that in the 26th year of the reign of Henry II., A.D. 1180, or nearly one hundred years before the reign of Edward I., that monarch made a swoop upon the adulterine guilds, or guilds set up without the king's license, no less than eighteen guilds in London alone being amerced or fined; this eighteen included the Goldsmiths. Now the Saddlers' Guild is not mentioned in the list, and seeing that the guild was, even at that early period, old-established, and could not, had it been unlicensed, have escaped similar treatment, there is every ground for assuming it to have been a warranted guild. Moreover, such an assumption is supported by the fact that the Exchequer Roll of the same year contains a note of the amercement of a guild of Saddlers of the City of York.¹

¹ Pipe Roll, 26 Henry II., membrane, 5 dors.

"Of pleas of the same in the City of York.

"Robert Parsons and Robert Hugges render account of two marks for customs which they unjustly demanded.

"The same sheriffs render account of twenty shillings from the Guild of the Saddlers for the same."

The earliest historical incidents connected with the Saddlers' Company are, for the reason set forth in the Preface, mostly derived from the archives of the Corporation. The City Archives contain an interesting record in the year 1309 (temp. Edw. II.) of the early ordinances of the Saddlers and Fusters or Joiners of London, which, while they give some interesting information touching the saddlery trade at that early period, also throw a curious light upon the relationship of the two crafts. The ordinances in question recite that much damage was happening daily unto the great lords and people of the land by reason of the deceits employed in the making of saddles. The Saddlers of London, when charged with the spuriousness of their goods, were in the habit of transferring the blame to the Joiners, whose particular and apparently exclusive function, we learn from the same source, was the manufacture of the saddle-bows. Matters reaching a crisis, the two crafts assembled before the Lord Mayor, Sir John le Blound (or Blount), and the Aldermen on the Monday following the octave of St. Michael, and prayed that the ordinances of the mystery of the Joiners in use in the time of their ancestors might be renewed, and that six members of the mystery should be empowered to search and stamp all goods belonging to the craft with a hall mark. The ordinances set forth that naughty apprentices who had run away from their masters, with other

A. D. 1309.
Ancient Articles
of the Saddlers
and Joiners.
Arbitration be-
tween the crafts.

deceitful men, did resort to the woods, which, as Fitzstephen informs us, were in those days in close proximity to the City, and did there secretly patch up saddle-bows in the roughest and most deceitful manner imaginable; the parts being often simply glued together and made of unseasoned wood, often perfectly green. Under the cover of night, these would be smuggled into the City and disposed of to dishonest Saddlers and Painters, who after painting them or covering them with leather, velvet, or cloth, would offer them in that unfit state for sale. The consequence of all of this was, we are told, that when the wood became dry the saddle-bow would shrink, and the saddle itself collapse, an eventuality which was not unlikely to extend to the rider.

To remedy all this, it was thereupon ordained that in future no Joiner should make saddle-bows of less than quarters (*si noun de quarter*), which Mr. Riley, in his interesting comment on these articles, construes as the quarter of the horizontal section of the trunk of a tree.¹ The wood was to be dry before it was painted, and each Joiner was required to have his own mark for marking all goods of his manufacture; Painters were forbidden to paint any saddle-bow made outside the City, until they had been viewed and approved and received the official mark of the jurors appointed to examine them by the mystery. No Joiners were to be permitted to work in the woods, and

¹ Introduction to *Liber Custumarum* (Rolls Series), p. lvi.

all goods which should be found to be deceitfully wrong were ordered to be taken to the Guildhall and condemned, and thence carried to Westchepe and burned. No Joiner who was not of the mystery was allowed to take an apprentice, and even then not unless he were of ability to support him. Lastly, among other obligations imposed upon them, the Joiners were forbidden to have any old saddle-bows, or parts thereof, in their possession.

Eleven years later—namely, in 1320—we read
A.D. 1320. of a dispute between the Saddlers
Dispute between the Saddlers and the Loriners, Joiners and Painters. and the Loriners, or makers of bits and other metal work for horse furniture. The dispute appears to have arisen out of the ordinances of the Loriners, confirmed to that craft by William Fitz Richard, Mayor, in the forty-fifth year of the reign of Henry III. (A.D. 1261). According to these, the Loriners enjoyed the prescriptive right of what was virtually a monopoly of their particular branch of trade. This privilege, however, was regarded by the Saddlers as an infringement of their own liberties, for they appeared to have considered the sale of everything connected with the furniture and trappings of horses as belonging to their own domain. Accordingly they instituted a suit against the Loriners before the then Mayor, Hamo de Chigewell, and obtained an injunction. More than this, the obnoxious ordinances of the Loriners were ordered to be burned in Westchepe. The result of this suit was in no way calculated to

reconcile the two crafts ; nor did it. On the contrary, their mutual hostility increased to such a degree of intensity that seven years later, in 1327, we read of sanguinary affrays taking place in the streets of Cheap and Cripplegate between the Saddlers on the one side, and the combined forces of the Loriners, Joiners, and Painters on the other—affrays which set the whole City by the ears.¹ The account given in the City Letter Books is quaint and interesting ; it is partly in Latin and partly in Norman French. The record purports to be “An agreement made between the men of the trade of the Saddlers of London of the one part, and the men of the trades of the Joiners, Painters, and Loriners in copper and iron of the same City, of the other part.”²

“Be it remembered, that whereas a certain affray lately took place between the men of the trade of the Saddlers of the City of London, of the one part, and the men of the trades of the Joiners, Painters, and Loriners,

¹ Such affrays as that between the Saddlers and the Joiners were not uncommon between the serving-men of the crafts, who were not slow to identify themselves as a fraternity with the quarrels of individual members. Northouck relates a sanguinary battle in 1226 between the Goldsmiths and the Tailors, in which many combatants were slain, thirteen of the ringleaders being executed. Maitland records an affray in 1339 between the Skinners and Fishmongers, and the old Chronicle of London mentions one among the men of the different crafts on Blackheath in 1375.

² Letter Book E., fol. 176. I have adopted Mr. Riley's careful translation (“Memorials of London,” pp. 156-162).

as well in copper as in iron, of the same City, of the other part, by reason of a certain rancour and dissension which had lately arisen between them—namely, on Thursday, the Feast of our Lord's Ascension [20 May] last past; upon which day certain of them, on either side, strongly provided with an armed force, exchanged blows and manfully began to fight, as well in Chepe as in the street of Cripelgate, and elsewhere in the same City; on which occasion certain among them were wickedly, and against the peace of our Lord the King, killed, and many others mortally wounded, by reason of which dissension and exchange of blows, the greater part of the City was in alarm, to the great disgrace and scandal of the whole City, and the manifest peril thereof; and which dissension and exchange of blows became so serious and so outrageous, as hardly to be appeased through the intervention of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and officers of the City; such contention being, however, at last, so well as it might be, allayed by the Mayor, Sheriffs, and other officers of the City, the said Mayor and Sheriffs appointed a day for the men of the trades aforesaid to appear before them at the Guildhall, namely, the Friday following, being the morrow of our Lord's Ascension, to the end that they might set forth their reasons on either side.

“Upon the said day, there came accordingly to the Guildhall the men of the said trades, and, in presence of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Aldermen, did set forth their grievances in writing. Whereupon a certain Petition was presented to the Mayor by the Joiners, Painters, and Lorimers; the tenor of which is as follows:—

“To the Mayor, and to the Aldermen, and to the good Commonalty of London, shew
 Petition by the Joiners, Painters, and Lorimers. and make plaint the Joiners, Painters, Lorimers in copper, and Lorimers in iron;—That whereas they have always been free of

the City, in bearing their charge of tallages and other contributions, as equals and as commoners, according to their power ; the Saddlers of the City, against the franchise of the same, by conspiracy and collusion among themselves, have ordained and established, and thereunto among themselves, have made oath that no one of the trades aforesaid shall be so daring as to sell any manner of merchandize that unto their own trade pertains, either to freemen of the City or to other persons, but only to themselves, in the business of saddlery ; the which thing is notoriously against all the commonalty of the said City, and all the realm. And because that the trades aforesaid would not assent to this thing, against their oath to the City made, the Saddlers, against the peace of our Lord the King, maliciously and by force of arms have assailed the trades aforesaid, as well in their own houses as in the high streets ; some persons whereof have been killed, some maimed, and many wounded and maltreated. They therefore do pray the Mayor and all the Commonalty, that redress for this thing may be made to them, in such due and good manner that they may be enabled to live in peace, and to follow their trades as they have done heretofore.

“And further, the trades aforesaid make plaint ;— That whereas after the Saddlers have received from them certain goods pertaining unto their trades, and have become possessed of the said goods in their own houses, if the good folks of the said trades come there to ask for their payment, they are bandied about among the said Saddlers with offensive words, and sometimes beaten, and in other ways maltreated ; by reason whereof they have not the daring to demand payment of their debts, and therefore the said Saddlers now are in their debt ; that is to say, they owe to the Painters £100 and 35s., to the Lorimers in copper £84 15s., and to the Lorimers in iron £100 8s., and to the Joiners £10 11s. 4d. ;

the total of which amounts to £297 9s. 4d.; to the great damage and impoverishment of the said trades, and as to the which they pray for favour and redress.

“‘ And further, whereas the great lords of the realm do give their old saddles to their palfreymen, these persons sell them to the said Saddlers, who then try to harness them afresh, and to sell them for new, to the loss of all the commonalty of the realm.’

The Saddlers’ “ Answer made to the Petition :—

Reply to “ ‘ As to the first point in this Petition,
the Petition. the Saddlers say that they never did so,
and never will do so. As to the second point, they have their recovery before the Sheriff, by plea of debt. As to the third point, they concede that from henceforth no old saddles shall be harnessed for re-sale as new ones, and that if any such be found, the same shall be adjudged upon before the Mayor and Aldermen.

“ ‘ And also, the Saddlers aforesaid have conceded for themselves and for all their trade that among them no confederacy or alliance shall be made, either against the City, or against the aforesaid Joiners, Lorimers, and others of their companionship, at any time to come, on pain of paying 10 tuns of wine to the Commonalty of London, whosoever shall be convicted thereof. And that in the same manner the Joiners, Lorimers in copper and in iron, and Painters, shall [be answerable] for themselves and for their trades.’

“ And a certain petition was also presented to the Mayor and Aldermen, the tenor of which is as follows :—

“ ‘ To the Mayor and to the Commonalty of the City of London, shew and make plaint the Saddlers of the said City; that whereas contumelious words had arisen between William de Karletone, Saddler, and William de Stokwelle, Painter, and by reason of such words, six good folks of the one trade and six of the other, did

interfere therein, and appoint a day of love¹ at St. Paul's Church, as between the aforesaid William and William, namely, Wednesday, the Feast of St Dunstan ;² the aforesaid William de Stokwelle, compassing mischief, did cause all the Painters, Joiners, Lorimers, (and) Gelders³ to be collected, together with other workmen, in order to act by force of arms, and in affray of the said City ; and then took counsel to make the Saddlers aforesaid concede, by compulsion, that if any man of the one trade shall have cause of offence, as against any one of the other trade, then in such case, all the Painters, together with all the [other] trades, shall no longer be bound to work, but shall close their selds ; and that if any offence shall be found to have been committed on the one side or the other, the parties shall not be reconciled without two of each trade [intervening therein].

“ ‘ And further, the aforesaid copresmethes⁴ have made an ordinance among themselves, out of their own heads, that if any strange workman of the same trade shall come to the said City, he shall not be received on any terms, until he shall have made oath to conceal their misdeeds.⁵ And whereas the said Painters and Joiners do set every point of their trade at a fixed price, at no time has there been any certainty as to the aforesaid points in practice established ; by reason whereof, they are making themselves kings of the land, to the destruction of all the people of the land, and to the annihilation of the Saddlers aforesaid. As to the which they pray for redress.’ ”

¹ A day for making terms of reconciliation.

² The Deposition of St. Dunstan, 19th May, must be meant.

³ Meaning gilders.

⁴ Coppersmiths—the Lorimers in copper.

⁵ Malveiste.

“As to the first point in this Petition,—the Lorimers and others of their companionship have made answer, that they never have done so, and they never will do so. To the second point they have made answer,—that no strange workman of their trade ought to work among them if he be not admitted and sworn among them, and have not done that, in presence of the Mayor and Aldermen, which unto the franchise of the City pertains. And as regards that they have set up certain prices in their trades,—they altogether deny the same.’

“And hereupon, for avoiding still greater peril, and for making and re-establishing concord and peace among the men of the said trades, it was ordered and agreed that six Aldermen should be chosen, to be present at a certain day and place; and that the men of the trade aforesaid should appear before them, for the purpose of treating of peace and concord among all. And the following Aldermen were chosen;—namely, Nicholas de Farndone, Hamon de Chigwelle, Reynald de Conduit, Henry de Seccheford, Thomas de Leyre, and John de Caustone; who, upon being chosen, named a day for the men of the trades aforesaid to appear before them, the same Aldermen, at St. Martin’s-le-Grand, in London, the following Sunday, namely, there to treat of peace and concord, as before mentioned.

“Upon which day there met at the place aforesaid, as well as the Aldermen before mentioned, as the men of the said trades, in great multitudes on either side. And after they had begun to treat of the business aforesaid, by reason of the multitude of people present, they were not able to expedite the business, or to bring it to a conclusion; whereupon it was ordered by the said Aldermen, and agreed to by the men of the trades aforesaid, that certain persons of the trade of the Saddlers, and in like manner, certain persons of the

trades of the Painters, Joiners, and Lorimers, should be chosen to treat in behalf of each such trade, for re-establishing peace between them.

“And hereupon, there were chosen, by assent of the whole Commonalty, of the trade of the Saddlers, Ralph de Bliithe, Richard Bukskyn, Alan de Frechebeke, Gilbert de Balsham, John de Champaigne, and Robert de Bristolle. And of the trades of Joiners, Lorimers in copper and in iron, and Painters, there were chosen, by assent of all such trades, Robert de Suttone, and Walter le Kew, copresmythes, Ralph le Gilder, and Richard de Bernham, ironsmythes, Robert de Donemowe, and Richard le Whyte, Joiners, Henry de Denecombe, and Geoffrey le Purtreour,¹ Painters. Who, being so chosen, together with the Aldermen aforesaid, they began to treat of peace, as before stated. But on that day they could not bring the said matter to an end; by reason whereof, they named a future day, that is to say, the Tuesday following, then to meet again, in order to treat more at length of peace and concord, as before mentioned.

“Upon which day they met, and there they did ordain and establish final peace and concord; which, in a certain schedule delivered to the Mayor and Aldermen, is more fully set forth; the tenor of which is as follows:—

“Whereas dissensions and strifes have been moved between the folks who are Saddlers of London, of the one part, and the folks who are Joiners, Lorimers in iron, Lorimers in copper, and Painters of the same city, of the other part; thereupon, by ordinance of common friends, that is to say, of Thomas Rys, Richard Denys, Walter le Mazerer, Hugh de Brandone, John de Castelacre Nicholas Crane, and Thomas de Berkyng, the which

¹ The portrayer.

have been chosen and thereunto ordained by the Saddlers before-mentioned ;¹ and of Henry Moncoy, John Saleman, Adam Pykeman, Thomas de Havering, John le Kynge, and John Coterel, the which have been chosen and thereunto ordained by the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters aforesaid ; the which ordainers, with one consent and one will, have made agreement and peace in this form between the parties aforesaid : [it was agreed], that is to say :—

“ That if the Saddlers aforesaid, or any one of them, or any of their successors, shall, at any time to come, after this present time, offend against the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters aforesaid, or shall maintain any one of their household, or any other person whatsoever, in so doing, and shall thereof, by good and lawful persons, be convicted, and will not in due form make amends ; then, in such case, the Saddlers aforesaid do will and do grant, for themselves and for their successors, that they shall be bound to pay unto the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters aforesaid, ten tuns of good wine, and to render the same within one month next ensuing after the offence of which conviction shall have been so made ; and also other ten tuns of good wine unto the Mayor and the Commonalty of London, at the same time to be paid and rendered. And in all the ways in which the Saddlers aforesaid, for themselves and for their vadlets and their successors, have bound themselves as towards the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters aforesaid, in the same manner have the ordainers aforesaid ordained that the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters before-mentioned, for themselves, for their vadlets, and for their successors,

¹ It would appear that these were a second body of arbitrators, appointed probably through the inability or failure of the first.

shall be bound as towards the Saddlers before-mentioned.

“And further, by the said ordainers it is ordained, that if the Saddlers aforesaid shall receive or take back, or any one of them shall receive or take, the persons of their trade hereinafter named, or any one of them, who have withdrawn themselves for the offences which they have committed against the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters aforesaid, such names being here specified and set forth, namely:—Nicholas Bonere, John Bonere, William de Carleton, Alexander de Oundle, Roger de Wyndesore, John de Houghtone, Roger le Clerke, his vadlet, John de York, saddler, and John de Coventre, saddler, or from their goods and chattels in any manner shall maintain or sustain them, or maintain and sustain any one of them, before they shall have given satisfaction, and made peace and agreed with the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters aforesaid, and shall, by good and lawful persons, be convicted of so doing, then, in such case, they shall be bound to pay twenty tuns of good wine; that is to say, ten tuns of wine to the same trades of the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters, within the month next ensuing after they shall have been so convicted; and the other ten tuns of wine to the Mayor and to the Commonalty of the said City. And that these ordinances and grants shall hold good and be valid, as well against the Saddlers aforesaid, as the Joiners, Lorimers, and Painters before-mentioned, they shall be enrolled in the Husting at London, for ever to endure; and also in the paper of the chamber of Guildhall aforesaid.’

“And further, the men of the trades of Joiners, Painters, and Lorimers in copper and in iron, presented to the Mayor and Aldermen a petition, the tenor of which was as follows:—

“‘To the Mayor, to the Aldermen, and to all the Commonalty of London, make prayer the Painters, Joiners,

and Lorimers in iron and in copper, dwelling in the City of London, that no stranger, of whatsoever condition he may be, shall be admitted to, or suffered to follow, any of the said trades in the same City, before he shall have been received at the Husting in presence of the Mayor and Aldermen, by assent of eight reputable men who shall be chosen to keep and oversee the same trades; and shall have found for the Commonalty sufficient surety among persons of the same trades as he is bound to do. And if any person be found to contravene the ordinance aforesaid, he may be amerced in the sum of one mark, in manner below stated.

“And also they pray that no manner of work belonging to the same trades that has once been used, shall be afterwards repaired for resale thereof; and if it shall so happen that any such repaired work shall be found on resale, that it shall be forfeited to the Mayor and to the Commonalty.

“And, further, they pray that every time that any freeman shall be found to contravene the points aforesaid, or any one of them, he shall be amerced in the sum of one mark at the Chamber of the Guildhall, without having release or pardon thereof.”¹

In 1350, the City Letter Books record a remonstrance from the King to the

A. D. 1350.
Wages of Saddlers fixed by Royal Ordinance.

Mayor and Sheriffs, directed against the high rate of wages demanded by Saddlers and other artificers of the City, in the following words² :—

“Edward, by the grace of God King of England and

¹ The result of this petition is not stated.

² Letter Book F., fol. 148, b. The original is in Latin.

France, and Lord of Ireland, to the Mayor and Sheriffs of London, greeting. Whereas it has been ordained and agreed, among other ordinances lately made by us, [our] prelates and nobles assisting us, for avoiding the dearness of workmen and other servants, that Saddlers, Skinners, Cordwainers, Cobblers, and all workmen and artificers soever, shall not take for their labour and work more than was accustomed to be paid to such in the 20th year of our reign over England, or in the five or six common years next preceding, in places where they happened to be working, under a certain penalty in the aforesaid ordinance contained, as is more fully in the same ordinance contained, and we have charged you that you should cause that ordinance to be publicly proclaimed and observed in places within that City and suburbs of the same. And now, from information of noblemen as well as others who, by our command as well as for divers causes, flock both to the same City and suburbs and there remain, we have learnt that notwithstanding the ordinance aforesaid having been proclaimed in the aforesaid places, yet, inasmuch as the penalty contained in the said ordinance is not enforced against those who do not observe the same, the said workmen and artificers not considering the ordinance and proclamation aforesaid, nor fearing the penalty in the same ordinance contained, sell the work of their labour for what they will, and take more for their work of this kind than was wont to be paid to them in the said years before the ordinance from the same noblemen and others, to the loss and prejudice of the same noblemen and others, and contrary to the ordinance and proclamation aforesaid. And because it is in vain that laws are made unless they be duly executed, we command you that you cause the aforesaid ordinance to be observed in the City and suburbs aforesaid, and that you punish and chastise those who act contrary to it,

as you shall see ought to be done in accordance with the ordinance aforesaid, lest complaint thereon again reach us whereby we should have to take strong measures against you as their abettors.

“Witness myself at Westminster, the 7th day of December, the 23rd year of our reign over England, and the 10th year of our reign over France. And be it known that that writ, after proclamation thereon made, was delivered to Walter Turk, Mayor, and remains with the said Mayor.”

Six years afterwards we find the Saddlers' Company again taking action to prevent an infringement of their liberties by another guild; this time it is the Girdlers. In the Close Rolls of 30 Edward III., deposited at the Public Record Office, there is enrolled an order from the King in Council, dated 6th October, 1356, which sets forth that upon the petition of the Girdlers' Company the King had proposed to grant to that Company the right of confiscation of all girdles of inferior workmanship. The Saddlers' Company, however, protested against this grant to the Girdlers, on the ground of its interference with their own liberties and trade, and their representations seem to have made due impression, for we read that the King thereupon stayed execution of his former mandate, issued in favour of the Girdlers.

The text of the document is in Latin and the following is a translation :—

“ For the Saddlers
of the
City of London. } The King to the Mayor and
Sheriffs of London, Greeting.
Whereas lately the Girdlers of
our City of London by their
petition exhibited before us and our Council in our
Parliament at Westminster, held after the Feast of the
Purification of the Blessed Mary, in the first year of our
reign of England, showed forth to us that whereas it
had been anciently ordered and used in the City afore-
said, that none of the said Mystery should cause girdles
of silk, wool, leather, or linen thread to be adorned with
baser metal than brass, battery, iron or steel ; and if any
work be found ornamented with baser metal that work
should be burnt. And because the said Mystery in the
City aforesaid then stood greatly damaged and defamed
because certain men of that Mystery, dwelling without
the City aforesaid, have made those girdles of false
work, such as lead, pewter, and tin, and other base
material by which the people of our said City and realm
have been deceived to the damage of the same, and
scandal of the men of the aforesaid Mystery. The said
Girdlers have besought us that we would approve the
ordinance and grant abovesaid, and further grant that
the ordinance and custom aforesaid in the City aforesaid
and elsewhere throughout our whole realm may be for
ever firmly observed. And we, for avoiding such decep-
tions and damages, and for the common good of our
people, willing to incline to the supplication aforesaid,
have by our letters patent accepted and approved the
ordinance and custom aforesaid, Willing and granting
for us and our heirs that the same ordinance and grant
may be observed and maintained in the City aforesaid
and elsewhere, throughout our whole realm, for ever ; and
that in the same City and every other city, borough, and
good town of the same realm, where such workmen be,
one or two upright and faithful men of that Mystery

may be chosen by the men of the same Mystery there dwelling to observe the premises and to make scrutiny as often as it shall seem expedient, and if any Girdler's work should be ornamented with lead, pewter, or tin, or other base material by the said men so elected, it may be presented to the scrutiny aforesaid before the Mayor of the City aforesaid, or before the mayors or Keepers of other cities, boroughs, and vills of our said Kingdom in places where the said false work shall be found, and by consideration of the said Mayor or Keeper the said false work shall be burnt, and by their discretion the workmen punished for their false work, and the amerciaments coming from such punishments shall remain to the Mayors and Keepers and the Commonalty of the places where such work shall happen to be found. And that the men of the Mystery aforesaid so elected for making the scrutiny aforesaid in the City aforesaid as often as they shall come to other cities, boroughs, or vills of the said Kingdom where the said Mystery is used, together with other men of the same Mystery for this elected, may in places where they come, make scrutiny of such works and defaults of the same workmen [and] present them to the Mayor and Keepers of the places aforesaid, as is aforesaid, as in our Letters Patent thereof made is said more fully to be contained. And although lately by our writ we commanded you that in the City aforesaid and its suburbs, and in other places within your liberty where you should deem it expedient, you cause those Letters to be publicly proclaimed, and our ordinance and grant abovesaid as much as to you pertains to be firmly upheld and observed in the same City and Suburbs. Yet nevertheless, after the issuing of the said writ so to you directed, the Saddlers of our City aforesaid before us and our Council have seriously complained that they by pretext of the ordinance aforesaid are manifoldly disquieted by

wrongly asserting that they are able to ornament girdles with metal not prohibited without offending against such ordinance, which ought not of right to bind them, and which manifestly tends to the damage of the people of our Realm, that the said Girdlers have mis-used their Mystery aforesaid and by seeking thereupon a remedy by us to be afforded for the good of the Commonwealth. We have caused the execution of the said writ to be postponed, as well for such causes as on account of various doubts which seem here and there to arise in that business, until the next Parliament, that then the same business may be fully discussed and determined with deliberate counsel. And therefore we command you that you in the meantime wholly refrain from making the execution of our mandate aforesaid if it has not already been made, forewarning the parties aforesaid that they be present in Parliament, that is to say, the aforesaid Girdlers (are) to exhibit their Letters Patent aforesaid there, and as well they as the said Saddlers, to put forth their grievances and reasons thereupon and further to do and receive what upon the premises should then happen to be ordained in that Parliament if they should see it to be expedient to themselves. And that you then have there the names of those by whom you have caused those parties to be forewarned, and this writ, wholly returning without delay to him, or them, to whom it shall belong, whatsoever work of the aforesaid Saddlers touching girdles has been presented before you, if any, by colour of the said ordinance by the said conservators in the said City. Witness the King at Westminster on the twenty-sixth day of October [A.D. 1356].

“By the King himself and his Council.”¹

¹ The Parliamentary Rolls do not show the issue.

In 1363 (36 Edward III.) we find in the City Books the following ordinances ratified
 A.D. 1363. to the Saddlers' Company, upon their
 Ordinances of petition, which is stated at length :¹—
 36 Ed. III.

“To the honourable and just lords, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, the Saddlers of the same City humbly make their supplication that the points and ordinances beneath written, ordained by the masters of their said mistery, may be allowed for the common profit of the realm and the honour and preservation of their mistery.

“First, that no woodwork of a saddle coming from the joiner be found rotten: And that each Saddler make the saddle well stretched, with good leather throughout within and without, with good ligament or with good canvas, under penalty beneath written.

¹ Letter Book G., fol. 101 b.; the original is in Norman French. These are the earliest ordinances of the Company which are recorded, and it will be interesting to compare them with the ordinances of the Saddlers of Paris in the thirteenth century:—

“None may be a Saddler in Paris nor sell saddles trimmed with shoe-leather unless he buys his trade from the King, and those to whom the King has given power, according to his pleasure, sell on the King's behalf for 16 sols;* and of those 16 sols the King has given 10 sols to his principal Chamberlain and 6 sols to the Constable of France.

“The trade of Saddlers has three ‘Viewers’ (*Prud'hommes*), appointed by the common assent of all or of the greater number, who are required to swear upon the Saints before the Viewers

* The sol or sou, the French shilling, equalled the tenth part of our shilling. This coin, however, varied in value, the “sou de Paris” differing from that in use in other parts of France.

“Also, that no Saddler cover, nor cause to be covered, the woodwork of an old saddle to sell again as a new saddle, unless it be the saddle of another to be repaired or newly covered, under penalty beneath written.

“Also, that no one make the covering or the seat of any saddle of sheepskin, and that no pannel of a saddle be made of sheepskin, black nor red, which is called ‘purs-lether,’ under penalty beneath written.

“Also, that no woodwork of a saddle be covered with ‘past’ (paint or pastre), unless it be cloth or velvet, under the penalty.

“Also, that no pannel be lined, except with ‘velt’

of the trade that they will well and loyally preserve their trade to their power, and that they will make known the offences of their trade to the Provost of Paris, or to whosoever shall be in his place in the Provostship.

“All those who are of the trade of Saddlers at Paris are bound to come and assemble themselves together, and at the request of the three trades, or of the two when they have need to have their advice, as when they have taken a false work, to have their advice in judging it. And if they will not come on their request the Provost of Paris gives them a Serjeant, who makes them come by the power of the Provost.

“No Saddler or vendor of saddles ought to buy the business of the King unless he works in shoe-leather, or the saddles which he sells are trimmed with shoe-leather; so long as the saddles which he makes, or which he sells, are all trimmed with cowhide or all with basil; and he cannot trim them or sell them unless they are trimmed entirely with one.

“None may dye, or cover, or put any manner of covering on a saddle which is broken above the fastening of the peak, nor on a saddle which is broken more than in two places above the peak. And if any such manner of saddles is found by any one soever, it ought to be burned without (power of) redemption and without any delay.

“None may trim a saddle covered with any kind of cover-

(felt), or with other stuff that is good and lawful, under the same penalty.

“Also, that no harness be made new unless it be good and sufficient, and not lined with old leather, under the same penalty.

“Also, that no seat of a saddle be nailed with nails of tin, but only with nails of iron, under the same penalty.

“Also, that no sewing nor skirts be nailed with nails of tin nor of pewter, if they be not well and lawfully rivetted with iron or with latten, under penalty beneath written.

ing nor dyed with any manner of dye which is not well and truly curried, that is to say, all the four (*cors*) of every bow from one peak to the other, which is called currying by (*chantians*), unless they be varnished saddles made for Templars or persons in religion, or saddles which (*demuerent*) varnished fustian; and whosoever shall otherwise do it (the saddle) shall be burned when it is found without redemption and without ransom.

“No Saddler may put old curried furniture with new work, that is to say, that the saddle be new or old, the drapery new or old, or the covering be new or old, unless he make it at the request of some person other than one of the trade who shall have desired and wished that it be made with new and old *sewn together*.

“No Saddler may stitch basil with shoe-leather or any other manner of leather unless it be in a saddle which is called a bassette (a country saddle).

“No Saddler may stitch basil with cowhide nor with calf for any furniture of what kind soever. And if any does so the work should be burned.

“No Saddler may put hair into a saddle trimmed with shoe-leather, that is to say, (one) of which the seat and lappet are of shoe-leather, and if he do so the saddle should be burned.

“No Saddler ought to make a sumpter saddle, or saddle trimmed with shoe-leather or black basil, unless the currying thereof is well and sufficiently curried.

“Also, that no saddle nor harness be ornamented with old cloth instead of new cloth, under the penalty aforesaid.

“Also, that no alien nor foreigner of the said mistery coming to the said City be suffered to keep house or shop, but that he be first examined by the four masters of the said mistery, who are elected and sworn, whether he be able and sufficient to work in the said mistery or not. And if he be able and sufficient, that they cause him to come before you that he may be

“None may paint in gold colour the back of a saddle, unless it be covered with fine gold, without mixture of silver, which is called parcel gold (or parcel gilt), but the saddle-bow in front he may paint with what he pleases; and if such a saddle is found it should be burned.

“None may put on a saddle or buckler anything stamped or laid on or colour-stamped (?) (*ieteiche d'estain*) unless in the case of one who is obliged of necessity to remove two or three (?) (*escurians*) from a saddle which one of the Viewers has bought, and he may make these (?) (*escurians*) of dyed thread at the request of the purchaser. And if any make a saddle contrary to this regulation the saddle should be burned.

“Saddlers call a thing stamped or laid on or colour-stamped when any one works on moulds, whatever kind of moulds they be, and afterwards attaches the moulded thing with glue to the saddle-bow, and of such work they say that it is not good or true, nor ought so to be sold, for all relief work ought to be made in *plâtre a pencil* both on the saddle and on the buckler.

“No Saddler may have dealings with a Silversmith about covering his masterpiece, that is to say, saddle, buckler, or targe, with gold or silver from the Silversmith; for the Silversmith when he has dealings with their gold and silver does not give such gold or silver as he ought, nor so that there may be profit or honour to the Saddlers. And if any does so he shall pay a fine of 5 sols to the King.

“No Saddler may trim any saddle to store or sell unless it has been first twice curried well and truly, that is to say,

acknowledged as good and sufficient before the commonalty according to the requirements of the franchise of the City, under the same penalty.

“Also, if any such be found not able nor experienced in the said mistery, be he foreign or alien, let him be compelled, by the four masters aforesaid, to serve other masters of the mistery, until he be able and sufficient for the common weal, and also [become] free of the City, under the penalty aforesaid.

besides the first time. And if any do otherwise the saddle should be burned.

“No Saddler ought to make (?) (*lege*) on his sumpter-saddle or any other, that is to say, that which is put on the end of the bows of the sumpter which carry the coffers, unless it be made of horsehide, or pigskin, or cowhide, or some other suitable leather, and all in one piece, and if it be made in any other manner the saddle should be burned.

“Saddlers may trim for a man who is not of the trade his saddle or sumpter-saddle with such trimming as he shall bring to them, be it old or new, and may put in canvas with hair if he brings the hair from without.

“None may buy a saddle trimmed with shoe-leather to sell again in Paris unless he have purchased the trade from the King, and if he do so, he who sells the business of the Cordwainers on the King's behalf may take the saddle and do with it as he will.

“If any Saddler have lost anything belonging to his trade, such as a (?) (*boudre*), which is what they call the covering of a saddle for a horse or service-horse, or any other thing whatsoever it be, he should inform the Master of the trade, and the Master should cause it to be given up to him if he knows where it is.

“If any Saddler is buying anything belonging to his trade within the City of Paris or without, and any of the trade of Saddlers has given the earnest penny, or the hand-grasp, or has made a bargain, he may have a share and bargain of whatsoever it be belonging to his trade, be it painting, trimming of

“Also, if any master, or vadlet, or servant disagree, owing to some dispute between them, let no other master of the said mistery be so daring as to put or help the aforesaid vadlet to any work until the master and the vadlet shall have been brought to a reasonable agreement by the four masters of the said mistery, under the same penalty.

“Also, if any vadlet or servant of the said mistery has served any master in the said mistery for any fixed term, by covenant between them made, and no default be found in the vadlet or servant, and the master, from

shoe-leather, or anything else, and if he who demands a share wishes to take half of it, he shall take as little as he should pay for and of any manner of thing be pleased for the price he should pay.

“None of the trade may trim a saddle if it be not sold before it is trimmed unless they be saddles for store or varnished saddles, or white saddles of polished white, or fustian saddles, nailed on the rings behind with metal nails, without any gold nails, and if any makes one in any other manner, the saddle may be given up and sold for nothing, for work which is trimmed before it is sold is neither good nor sufficient, and (saddles) are not trimmed before they are sold with any loyalty. And if he does this in any other manner he shall pay a fine of 10 sols to the King.

“No Saddler may put a saddle in a window either below or above overlooking the street unless it be on a peg, that is to say, that the saddle-bow be over the peg, and if any one does so he shall have a fine of 12 deniers * to pay to the King.

“None may work on Sunday nor on the four feasts of Our Lady, that is to say, in mid-August, in September, at Candlemas, and in March, unless it be in arms for a shield in case of need, or to put one (?) (*estoviz*) and one breast leather to a saddle, or to attach harness to a sumpter-saddle, that is to say, the

* Penny. The old French penny equalled in value the tenth part of our English penny.

malice or evil disposition, will not pay the said vadlet or servant his wage for his service, according to the agreement between them made, or that the master wish him to do service against his will after his agreement has been well and lawfully fulfilled, that then the master suffer the same penalty.

“Also, if any vadlet or servant of the same mistery can be found in any default towards his master, whether it be by covin or enticement of another, or by his own malice, let him suffer the same penalty.

“Also, if anything of the said mistery, in manner

crupper and the breast leather, and if he does otherwise he shall pay a fine of 20 sols, half to the King and the other half to the brotherhood.

“No Saddler may have more than two apprentices to his trade, that is to say, one in painting and one in trimming, unless it be his child or his wife’s child, or some poor person whom he maintains out of charity and without agreement for money or service.

“No Saddler may take apprentices other than the persons above named unless he take them at least for a term of three years’ service, and at least at 8 livres of deniers* and 5 sols to the brotherhood; and for more money and longer service he may take them, but for less money or shorter service he may not take them.

“The apprentice must not enter on the business until he has paid his 5 sols, and the master 5 sols for each apprentice, to the brotherhood.

“The three Masters of the trade, or two, or one (of them) ought each month, once at least, to go through the houses to protect the above-named trade of Saddlers, and ought everywhere to take bad work where they find it, show it to the Viewers, and if it is found and adjudged as bad it should be burned by the Provost of Paris.

“Every Saddler and every one of his varlets ought, and is

* The livre, like the sol, differed in value in different parts of France.

before-mentioned, be found defective, secretly or openly, which can lawfully be found or proved by the four masters of the said mistery, let the same thing be destroyed by the decree of the Mayor and discretion of the said masters and let him in whose possession such thing be found suffer the same penalty.

“Also, that it be allowed at any time to the four masters aforesaid of the said mistery, to search house, shop, and chamber within the franchise of the said City,

bound by oath, to make known to the Masters of the trade if any one of the trade, be he their master, or their neighbour, or another, transgresses in any of the things above-named against the aforesaid trade.

“No Saddler may take a varlet into the service of his trade for more than one day unless the varlet has sworn on the true Saints that he will do his trade well and truly, and observe the above-named regulations, and if he does otherwise he shall pay a fine of 5 sols to the King; and if the varlet has not been willing to work for another at his trade for two days or more continually, and he can prove it, and if he proves it he shall be quit of the 5 sols, and he against whom he shall prove it in his presence shall pay them.

“None may, or ought, to put into his work nails of ivory or enamel of any kind soever, and if he do so the work should be burned, for the work is not good nor true.

“No Saddler may put into his work goods made outside the City of Paris before the goods shall have been inspected by the Viewers who protect the trade, that is to say, painting by the Painters, coverings and thongs and saddles by the trimmers, and saddle-bows by the Carpenters, and if any put them into his work he shall forfeit the work, and it shall be burned, and he shall pay a fine of 10 sols to the King.

“None may work at the trade of Saddlery in Paris, that is to say, trim shoe-leather, unless he have bought the trade from the King, or had the work from a man who has bought the trade from the King.

wherever any saddle or harness appertaining thereto can be found, and lawfully to examine them whether they be good and suitable in manner aforesaid or not. And whensoever any prove rebellious against the four, and are unwilling to allow them to search in manner aforesaid, then let them take a serjeant of the Chamber with them to any place where any such can be found, and let him whosoever rebels suffer the same penalty.

“No Saddler or any other may deliver a trimmed dyed saddle before it has been varnished, unless it be a sumpter-saddle, and if he do so he shall pay a fine of 5 sols to the King.

“None may nor ought to put (?) (*contresangles*) nor other harness, unless it be good and true, that is to say, if it have not one border of (?) (*conane*), that is to say, of pigskin, or have at least one border of new leather which is as good, and whoever does so his work shall be burned.

“None may nor ought to call out to or address a purchaser who is before another’s stall, nor before another’s house, if he do so he shall have a fine of 5 sols to pay to the King and 5 sols to pay to the brotherhood.

“None may nor ought to refuse to allow anything of his trade to be seen by the Masters, sworn guardians of the trade, to see of them is anything finable therein. And if he do so he shall have a fine of 10 sols to pay to the King.

“No Saddler or Painter owes anything in respect of anything which he sells or which he buys belonging to his trade provided he uses it in his work, save 40 sols de Paris, which every Saddler of Paris and every Lorimer, for whatsoever he sends out, ought each year to pay to the King at the fair of Saint Ladre (Saint Lazare), and thereby is he free to go to fairs and markets; and these 40 sols the four Viewers of the trade assess, more on one, less on another, as it seems good to them. And these four men, or two of them at least, demand at the Chatelet one Serjeant to take from each of those who

“Also, if any covin or assembly of the Company be secretly made by the vadlets and servants of the said mistery, for obtaining from their masters more wages than they ought (to have) in their mistery, to the prejudice of the people, and it can be discovered or proved, let such suffer the penalty beneath written.

“Also, if any master, vadlet, or servant, alien or foreign, be discovered, and by the four masters proved in any default aforesaid, let him pay for his first offence to the Chamber of the City, 6s. 8d.; for the second offence, 13s. 4d.; for the third offence, 20s.; and, for the fourth, let him abjure the mistery within the City of London, according to the judgment of you and the four masters aforesaid.

“The names of those elected before the Mayor and Aldermen for keeping the aforesaid articles, viz. :—

WILLIAM LINCOLNE,	} <i>Saddlers.</i> ”
JOHN POUNTFREIT,	
ROGER EXCESTRE,	
GERARD ATTE NOOK,	

are assessed what is assessed on him. And these four men elect the Master of the trade each year.

“Saddlers who trim with shoe-leather or other leather of what kind soever, and those who sell saddles trimmed with any kind of curriery, ought to aid the Cordwainers in paying the (?) (*hueses*) to the King, and thereupon they may work in any kind of curriery they please.

“The Masters who shall be appointed to protect the trade are quit of all the charges and all the expenses, and of all the outgoings which they say on their oath they have paid and disbursed to protect the trade, and they may, and ought to, assess and collect, from one more, from another less, according to what seems good to them, saving the taxation due to the Provost of Paris, if need there be.”—Regulations relating to the Trades of Paris, collected in the XIIIth Century, and known under the name of the Book of Trades of Stephen

In the year 1364, we learn from the City Books, that the Saddlers' Company, among others, contributed the sum of one hundred shillings towards the support of the King in the prosecution of his French wars. This is one of the earliest instances of a general levy upon the Livery Companies for State purposes, although, as we shall presently see, the custom was destined to become more frequent and extended. In return for this patriotic support of the Companies, but more probably with a view to encourage their development — for Edward III. was a thorough protectionist—the King gratified them by a more liberal distribution of charters. If the extent of the contributions of the several Companies enumerated in the manuscript is any measure of their order of importance or relative wealth, the Saddlers' Company would appear, at this time, to have ranked about the twenty-first.

The same year Edward III. granted the Saddlers' Company the first charter or license which is recorded to them on the Rolls.¹

Boileau; published for the first time in its entirety from the Manuscripts of the King's Library and the Archives of the Kingdom, by G. B. Depping (Title LXXVIII.).

¹ Patent Roll, 37 Edward III., part 2, membrane 7. The original is in Latin. This, however, must not be misinterpreted as a Charter of Incorporation, which, it is claimed, was granted to the Company in 1272.

Carpenter, in the "Liber Albus" (Rolls Series, i., 536), has the following record of letters patent granted to the

“For the Saddlers { The King to all to whom, &c.,
of London. { Greeting. The just men, the Saddlers
of our City of London, and of other cities, burghs, and
vills of our Kingdom, have besought us,
AD. 1364. by their petition exhibited before us and
Charter from Edward III. our Council, in our last Parliament, that
whereas very many Saddlers dwelling in divers parts of
our said Kingdom, not being content with lawful gain,
do daily make saddles for sale of rotten and ill-seasoned
wood, and of false and weak hides, cloths, and trappings,
causing them to be garnished with nails of lead, tin, and
pewter, and do not desist daily to make divers other
deceits and deceptions in their works, and, nevertheless,
sell those saddles at a great price, to the damage and
deception of us and all our people, and also to the
manifest scandal and disgrace of just and faithful
Saddlers. We wish, for the common good and profit of
the said Kingdom, and for preserving the honour of that
trade, and of the faithful workmen of the same, to ordain
a fit remedy for such faults. We, for such failings and
deceptions, and for avoiding the injuries and grievances
which might happen to us and our people upon this,
Being willing to assent to their prayer in this behalf, of
our special grace have granted for us and our heirs, that
as well in the said City of London as in every other
city, burgh, or vill of the said Kingdom, where the trade
of saddle-making is now exercised, or hereafter may

Saddlers' Company in the thirty-seventh year of this reign :
“Charta Sellariorum in Hustengo de Communibus Placitis
tento die Lunæ proximo post festum Sancti Petri in Cathe-
dra anno regni Regis Edwardi Tertii quadragesimo septimo.
(Hist. Roll of Common Pleas, No. 97.)

N.B.—The letters patent are dated 1st December, 37
Edward III. but were apparently not enrolled till 47 Edward
III.

happen to be exercised, one or two just and faithful men of the said trade shall be elected and assigned by the Saddlers dwelling there to overlook and take charge of that trade, and to make scrutiny of the defaults which may happen to be found there in the work of Saddlers, as often as there shall be occasion, and present all those defaults to the Mayor and Bailiffs or Keepers of the vills, places, and markets where those defaults shall be found [We] being willing that all such false works so presented may be burnt by the discretion of the said Mayor, Bailiffs, or Keepers, and that the Saddlers making them may be punished by heavy amer-ciements, which same amer-ciements shall remain for ever with the aforesaid Mayor, Bailiffs, and Keepers and Commonalty of the places where those defaults shall happen to be found, and that they who are elected to make such scrutiny in the City of London may present in form abovesaid such defaults found in other cities, burghs, and vills, together with others elected there. In [witness] whereof, &c.

“Witness the King at Westminster, the first day of December.

“By the King himself and Petition of Parliament.”

In the 50th year of the same reign, A.D. 1377, the Saddlers' Company are recorded
A.D. 1377. as sending four members to the Common Council, which at that time was composed of representatives of the guilds; only nine of the Companies sent more members than the Saddlers, who contributed as many representatives as the Clothworkers, Ironmongers, and Salters, and twice the number of the Leathersellers, Brewers, and other important crafts.

In the same and the succeeding years we have the following record of the election of the Company's Executive :—

“Election of Masters of Saddlers.

Rumbold Bodd	} Masters of Saddlers sworn to faithfully discharge their duty, and such defects as they shall find in the same mistery faithfully to present to the Mayor and Aldermen, and to rule and supervise the same mistery, to wit Thursday next before the Feast of S. Peter ad Vincula [1 Aug.], the 50th year of the reign of King Edward the Third after the Conquest [A.D. 1376].” ¹
Walter Yong	
John Cole	
Simon Byrthorp	

“Masters of Saddlers sworn.

Richard Stacy	} These are elected Masters of the Saddlers and presented by good men of the same mistery, and sworn the 9th day of July in the 1st year of the reign of King Richard the Second after the Conquest [A.D. 1377] to rule well the said mistery and to faithfully present such defects as they shall find, and faithfully to perform all other duties as appertain to the said office, &c.” ²
Thomas Soysse	
Robert Forster	
William Sherewode	

¹ Letter Book H., fol. 43 b.

² Ibid., fol. 68 b.

In the tenth year of Richard II. we find the
A.D. 1386. Saddlers' Company championing the
A despotic Lord liberties of the City, which were as-
Mayor. sailed by the then Mayor, Sir Nicholas
 Brembre. Sir Nicholas Brembre was elected
 Lord Mayor in 1377, and re-elected in 1383, and
 the two following years. A Chronicle of London¹
 has the following account of his proceedings :—
 "Also in this year (1385-6) Sir Nicholl Brembre
 was chosen maire ageyne be the said craftes and
 be the men of the contre at Harrowe, and the
 contre there aboughte, and not be fre eleccion of
 the citee of London as it oweth to be ; and the
 oolde halle was stuffed with men of armes overe
 even be ordinaance and assente of S^r Nicholl
 Brembre for to chese hym maire on the morwe ;
 and so he was."

A further account of the ill deeds of this mag-
 nate is furnished in a petition by the Saddlers'
 Company to the King and Parliament, which is still
 preserved in the Public Record Office, among the
 Rolls of Parliament,² although unfortunately it is
 in a very fragmentary condition ; it is in Norman
 French, and the following is a translation of as
 much as can be deciphered :—

"To the most excellent and most powerful Lord our
 most dread Lord the King and to the most noble and

¹ A Chronicle of London from 1089-1483, written in the
 fifteenth century, and printed from MSS. in the British
 Museum ; Ed. by Sir W. H. Nicolas, 1827. There is a copy
 in the Guildhall Library.

² Parliamentary Petitions, No. 7,484.

wise Lords of this present Parliament Their poor lieges the Saddlers of London most humbly beseech and complain against Sir Nicholas Brembre, Knight, that whereas the said Master Nicholas, in his Mayoralty, in the first year of the reign of our said Lord the King, demanded of the Wardens of the said Mystery the Charter granted and confirmed to them by the noble progenitors of our said Lord the King, in which Charter were granted divers articles in prohibition of the deceits practised by divers strangers, as plainly appears by the copy annexed to this. At which time the Wardens of the said Mystery answered the said Sir Nicholas, that they would not deliver their said Charter to him without command of the King or Parliament. The said Nicholas grievously threatening them that he would drive them out at the point of the sword and cause the whole of the said City to rise upon the said Mystery. For fear of which and for the safety of their lives they delivered to him their Charter, which he has detained and still detains to the prejudice of the Crown of our said Lord the King, and the great damage and injury of the said Mystery. Wherefore they pray a remedy and upon that which the law demands for the sake of God and as an act of charity. Also the said suppliants complain against the said Sir Nicholas and others his accomplices of this, that the said Sir Nicholas, with the assent of others, his confederates aforesaid, usurped to himself royal power in this, inasmuch as it had been usual in the said City, time out of mind, and by their royal charters granted and confirmed, [that] when the Mayor of London shall be elected his election shall be by the Commonalty and free men of the said City, until the aforesaid Sir Nicholas and the others, his accomplices, by their conspiracy and evil imaginings to destroy the good men of the said City and oppose the freedom of the same, caused certain men who were their

confederates to be summoned to the Guildhall of the said City on the Feast of St. Edward the King in the seventh year of the reign of our Lord the King who now is, to elect a Mayor. And the said Sir Nicholas, by the assent of all the others, proclaimed in divers parts of the said City and charged every man of the said City on pain of imprisonment and on pain of towards the King that none be so daring as to be at the said election but those who were summoned, and those who were summoned were summoned by the consent of the said Sir Nicholas and his to that election who would be caused to oppose their Franchise. The said Sir Nicholas and the others, his confederates, ordained certain men, as well strangers as others, to the great at the Guildhall aforesaid to make that election, and to put to death all other men who were not summoned if they came there to the said election, by which he willed and the most noble and wise Lords in this present Parliament of this horrible thing done against the law and the Crown there may be made a due remedy, for the sake of God and as an act of charity.

“ complain against the said Sir Nicholas that whereas he, with the consent of others, his accomplices, usurped to himself royal power by coming to the ‘Chepe’ with a great multitude of men . . . (to the) fear of all the good men of the said City, and there put to death John Costantyn, Cordwainer, and afterwards came to the shops of divers Saddlers and threatened them to have in the same manner by which each of them should be put out of the said City, and not allowed to come there for fear of losing their lives. And afterwards the said Sir Nicholas took certain men Mystery and put them in prison without any answer in the law, to the great fear of their lives and the loss of their goods, so that he and the others,

his confederates, usurped to themselves royal power Lord the King that it please our said Lord the King and the Lords aforesaid, for this deed done against the Crown and the law of the land, to cause them accordingly”

The rest of the document is too fragmentary for a connected translation to be made.¹ The career of this despotic Mayor, however, was brought to an untimely end the following year, when he was implicated in a treasonable conspiracy and executed.

In the eighteenth year of his reign, 20th March, A. D. 1395. 1395, Richard II. granted the Company a Charter of Incorporation, in the following words :—

Incorporation
Charter from
Richard II.

“Richard, by the Grace of God King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom the present letters may come, Greeting. Our well beloved liege men of the Mystery of Saddlers of our City of London have besought us that whereas many men of the Mystery aforesaid, of venerable estate, and very often being by old age and feebleness and other infirmities and misfortunes come to so great poverty and need that they know not (how) to live, nor fitly to keep themselves, and our said lieges piously sympathizing with the estate of such poor, feeble, and infirm old men, as well present as to come, by means of our license purpose to acquire lands, tenements, and rents, to the value of twenty pounds by the year for the sustentation of the said poor,

¹ In the same bundle are like petitions from the Mercers, Founders, Painters, Armourers, Embroiderers, Spurriers, and Bladesmiths.

feeble, and infirm old men, and of one Chaplain to celebrate divine service, for the healthful estate of us and for the souls of our progenitors, and for the souls of the founders and sustainers of the aforesaid alms for ever. We wish graciously to grant to them our royal license in this behalf. We being favourably inclined towards the pious intention and laudable purpose of our well beloved lieges, especially since they manifestly tend not only towards mercy and inward affection towards one's neighbour, but also to the increase of divine worship, of our special grace, and for sixty pounds, which the same our liege men of the Mystery aforesaid have paid to us, into our hanaper, We have granted and given license for us and our heirs to the same men of the Mystery aforesaid, that they, for the good governance of the Mystery aforesaid may have a Commonalty of themselves for ever. And that the men of the Mystery and Commonalty aforesaid may every year elect and make four Keepers from the men of the Commonalty and Mystery aforesaid, to supervise, regulate, and duly govern the Mystery aforesaid, and every member of the same. And also from time to time for ever, to correct and amend the faults of the Mystery aforesaid, and that the same Keepers and Commonalty and their successors may acquire lands, tenements, and rents with appurtenances to the value of twenty pounds by the year, as well within our City of London as without, provided that those which shall be without our said City be not held of us in chief. To have and to hold to the same Keepers and Commonalty, and their successors, in aid of the sustentation of the said poor, feeble, and infirm old men, and of one Chaplain to celebrate divine service for our healthful estate while we live, and for our souls when we shall have migrated from this light, and for the souls of our progenitors, and for the estate and souls of the men of the Mystery and Commonalty aforesaid, and

for the souls of all the faithful dead, for ever, according to the order of the aforesaid Guardians and Commonalty thereof to be made. In witness whereof we have made these our letters to be made patent. Witness, Edmund, Duke of York, Keeper of England, at Westminster, in the twentieth day of March, in the eighteenth year of our reign."

Two years later (20 Rich. II.) we obtain from the City Letter Books an interesting account of a dispute between the masters and the yeomen or serving-men of the Saddlers' trade, which gives us an excellent insight into the customs of the guild at that early period. The record, which is partly in Latin and partly in Norman French, narrates that :—

A.D. 1397.

Dispute between
Masters and
Yeomen Sad-
dlers.

"Whereas there had arisen no small dissension and strife between the masters of the trade of Saddlers of London, and the serving-men, called yeomen, in that trade; because that the serving-men aforesaid, against the consent, and without leave of their masters, were wont to array themselves all in a new and like suit once in the year, and oftentimes held divers meetings, at Stratford and elsewhere without the liberty of the said City, as well as in divers places within the City; whereby many inconveniences and perils ensued to the trade aforesaid; and also, very many losses might happen thereto in future times, unless some quick and speedy remedy should by the rulers of the said City be found for the same; therefore the masters of the said trade, on the 10th day of the month of July, in the 20th year, &c., made grievous complaint thereon to the

excellent men, William More, Mayor, and the Aldermen of the City aforesaid, urgently entreating that, for the reasons before mentioned, they would deign to send for Gilbert Dustone, William Gylowe, John Clay, John Hiltone, William Berigge, and Nicholas Mason, the then governors of the serving-men aforesaid, to appear before them on the 12th day of July then next ensuing.

“And thereupon, on the same 10th day of July precept was given to John Parker, Serjeant of the Chamber, to give notice to the said persons to be here on the said 12th day of July, &c. Which governors of the serving-men appeared, and, being interrogated as to the matters aforesaid, they said that time out of mind the serving-men of the said trade had had a certain Fraternity among themselves, and had been wont to array themselves all in like suit once in the year, and after meeting together at Stratford, on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [15 August] to come from thence to the Church of St. Vedast, in London, there to hear Mass on the same day, in honour of the said glorious Virgin.

“But the said masters of the trade asserted to the contrary of all this, and said that the Fraternity, and the being so arrayed in like suit, among the serving-men, dated from only thirteen years back, and even then had been discontinued of late years; and that under a certain feigned colour of sanctity, many of the serving-men in the trade had influenced the journeymen among them, and had formed covins thereon, with the object of raising their wages greatly in excess; to such an extent, namely, that whereas a master in the said trade could before have had a serving-man or journeyman for 40 shillings or 5 marks yearly, and his board, now such a man would not agree with his master for less than 10 or 12 marks or even 10 pounds yearly; to the great deterioration of the trade.

“And further that the serving-men aforesaid, according to an ordinance made among themselves, would oftentimes cause the journeymen of the said masters to be summoned by a bedel, thereunto appointed, to attend at Vigils of the dead, who were members of the said Fraternity, and at making offerings for them on the morrow, under a certain penalty to be levied, whereby the said masters were very greatly aggrieved, and were injured through such absenting of themselves by the journeymen so leaving their labours and duties, against their wish.

“For amending and allaying the which grievances and dissensions the Mayor and Aldermen commanded that six of the said serving-men should attend in the name of the whole of the alleged Fraternity, and communicate with six or eight of the master Saddlers aforesaid, etc. ; both parties to be here, before the said Mayor and Aldermen, on the 19th day of July then next ensuing, to make report to the Court as to such agreement between them as aforesaid. And further, the Mayor and Aldermen strictly forbade the said serving-men in any manner to hold any meeting thereafter at Stratford aforesaid, or elsewhere, without the liberty of the said City, on pain of forfeiture of all that unto our Lord the King, and to the said City, they might forfeit.

“On which 19th day of July, came here as well the masters aforesaid as the governors of the serving-men ; and presented to the Mayor and Aldermen a certain petition, in these words :—

“‘Gilbert Dustone, William Gylowe, John Clay, John Hiltone, William Berigge, and Nicholas Mason, do speak on behalf of all their Fraternity, and do beg of the Wardens of the Saddlers that they may have and use all the points which heretofore they have used.’

“Which petition having been read and heard, and divers reasons by the said masters unto the Mayor and Alder-

men shown, it was determined that the serving-men in the trade aforesaid should in future be under the governance and rule of the masters of such trade: the same as the serving-men in other trades in the same City are wont and of right are bound, to be; and that in future they should have no Fraternity, meetings, or covins, or other unlawful things, under a penalty, etc. And that the said masters must properly treat and govern their serving-men in the trade, in such manner as the serving-men in like trades in the City have been wont to be properly treated and governed. And that if any serving-men should in future wish to make complaint to the Mayor and Aldermen, for the time being, as to any grievance unduly inflicted upon him by the masters aforesaid, such Mayor and Aldermen would give to him his due and speedy meed of justice as to the same.”¹

Henry VI., in the third year of his reign (12th October, 1424), confirmed the Charter of Edward III., which he recites, and to which he adds nothing of importance in his own.² In the twenty-fourth year of his reign (3rd February, 1446) he confirmed the Charter of Richard II., which he recites by *inspeximus*, concluding with the following words, which are all that are added:—“And we the Letters aforesaid and all and singular in the same contained have ratified and confirmed by the tenor of these presents, and for us and our heirs as

A.D. 1424.

First Charter
from Henry VI.

A.D. 1446.

A second Charter
from Henry VI.

¹ Letter Book H., fol. 309 (Riley's "Memorials," pp. 542-544).

² Patent Roll, 3 Henry VI., part 1, mem. 27.

much as in us lies accept, approve, ratify, and confirm them to our well-beloved Laurence Braunche, John Sawyer, Richard Danton, and William Coddesson, now Keepers of the Mystery of Saddlers of the City aforesaid, and the Commonalty of the same and their successors as the Letters aforesaid reasonably witness. In (witness) whereof, &c., witness the King at Westminster, on the third day of February, A.D. 1446. For two marks paid into the hanaper." ¹

On the 5th of May, 1463, being the third year of his reign, Edward IV. granted a Charter to the Company. This is an *inspeximus* of that granted by Richard II., after reciting which it concludes with the following words:—"But we the Letters aforesaid and all and singular contained in the same having ratified and confirmed for us and our heirs as much as in us lies, do accept, approve, and to our well-beloved William Bird, Thomas Hertwell, William Portlouth, and John Abell, now Wardens of the Mystery of the Saddlers of the City aforesaid, and to the Commonalty of the same and their successors by the tenor of the presents, do ratify and confirm them as the Letters aforesaid reasonably testify. In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made patent. Witness ourself at Westminster the fifth day of May, in the third year of our reign, A.D. 1463." ²

A.D. 1463.
Charter from
Edward IV.

¹ Patent Roll, 24 Henry VI., part 1, mem. 13.

² Patent Roll, 3 Edward IV., part 1, mem. 19.

Henry VII., by Charter granted in the eleventh
A.D. 1495. year of his reign, 28th October, 1495,
Charter from recites and confirms the first of Henry
Henry VII. VI., which, as already stated, is an in-
 speximus of that of Edward III. The Charter
 of Henry VII. contains no additional words.¹

A Return in the Public Record Office of all
The Company in the Companies' members for the year
A.D. 1537. 1537 places the Saddlers' Company
 twenty-sixth in order of precedence, with a mem-
 bership of sixty. The last three names men-
 tioned in the list of the Company's members are :
 "The good wife Pounce, the good wif Coupir,
 and the good wif Yong."

Henry VIII., in the thirty-second year of his
A.D. 1540. reign (11th June, 1540), granted a
Charter from Charter which confirms and recites
Hen. VIII. that of Henry VII., but adds nothing
 to it.²

In this year we have the earliest historical
A.D. 1545. notice of Saddlers' Hall, which was
 the scene of one of the trials of poor
 Anne Askew, one of the first English protestant
 martyrs, who was burned at Smithfield the follow-
 ing year.³

¹ Recited in Charter of Elizabeth. Patent Roll, 1 Eliz.,
 part 2, mem. 4.

² Ibid.

³ Foxe's "Acts and Ordinances."

In the first year of Edward VI., 1547, when England was on the crest of the wave of the Reformation, the Crown, by the re-enactment of an Act passed in the last year of the reign of Henry VIII., confiscated all chantries, colleges, chapels, and bequests for superstitious uses, such as masses, obits, etc. After appropriating the revenues from this source for two years, the King allowed the Companies to redeem the charges at twenty years' purchase. In order to do this the Companies were obliged to sell other property. The following particulars of the redemption by the Saddlers' Company are furnished by Strype :—

	£	s.	d.
“They purchased of the Kinge in Rente per ann.	32	05	02
They sould tenements to buy the same per ann.	21	14	08

Sum of the yerelie payments out of the Rents
purchased—

	£	s.	d.
In pensions to poor decased Brethren	14	00	00
In Exhibitions to Schollers	05	06	08
To ther Almesmen	21	16	08

Sum of the yerelie payments 41 05 04”

The Charter granted by Elizabeth in the first year of her reign (9th November, 1558) is a long and ample one, setting out the Charters of Edward III. and Richard II., and their confirmation by Edward IV.

A. D. 1558.
Charter from
Elizabeth.

and subsequent monarchs, together with a long incorporation Charter by Elizabeth herself. The Company are therein incorporated by the name of the Wardens or Keepers and Commonalty of the Mystery or Art of Saddlers of the City of London, and are empowered to receive and possess lands, tenements, and franchises; to enforce a quarterage of 3*d.* upon all freemen of the Company for the sustenance of the feeble poor and old men of the Mystery or Art aforesaid, and for the improvement of the state of the commonwealth of the Wardens, &c.; to enforce payment of any sums levied upon the commonalty by the Wardens, with the assent of eight Assistants; and generally to do and manage all the affairs of the Company. The Charter, moreover, confirmed to the Company power to exercise supervision, scrutiny, and correction over all makers of saddles, bridles, bits, reins, stirrups, girdles, and harness, or other things pertaining to the art of saddlery, as well aliens as freemen, within the vills of Southwark and Westminster, and a two-mile circuit of the City. The Company were also empowered to deface and destroy all deceitful wares and to punish their makers, "so that the correction and punishment of such be not exercised against the law of England or the ordinances and statutes thereof made, or against the customs and liberties and privileges of the City of London."¹

¹ The original Charter is still in the Company's possession.

The powers conferred upon the Company in this Charter were supplemented by the ratification, three years afterwards, of the Company's ordinances.

A. D. 1561.
Ordinances confirmed 4 Elizabeth.

An Act of Parliament of the 19 Henry VII., 25th January, 1503, enacted among other things : That no Master, Warden, or Fellowship of Crafts or Mysteries, or any of them, or any Rulers of Guilds or Fraternities, should take upon them to make any acts or ordinances, nor to execute any acts or ordinances by them heretofore made in "disheriting or diminution" of the King's prerogative or any other, or against the common profit of the King's subjects and liege people, unless such acts or ordinances were examined and approved by the Lord Chancellor and Treasurer of England, the Chief Justice of either Bench, or three of them, or else before the Justices of Assize when on circuit in that shire where the ordinances were made. The confirmation recites that "the Wardens, cominaltye and fellyshippe of the Mysterie of Sadlers enfranchized w^hin the Citeye of London haveinge divers auncient rules ordynnces and othes heretofore tyme out of mynde, by their predecessors ordeyned devised and made for their conservaçon, rule, good order and governance of the same, their Misterie and fellishipp, w^h Wardens and Comminaltie not willinge in any wise to infringe in any thinge the foresaide Acte of Parlyament, but myndfull in all things to have the same observed and kept and being also desirous to have their foresaide auncient rules ordynnces

and othes to be dulye executed vppon their foresayde fellowshippe and misterie for the good governannce and maytennance of the good order of the same, and the abolyshments of the contrarye, have thereuppon exhibited and p'nted vnto vs their petition withe a booke contaynyng the same new Rules Ordinannces and othes instantlye desiring vs that we all and everye the said Rules Ordinannces and othes wolde oversee pervse and examyne and the same correcte reforme and amende and also to allow^e ratifie and approve after due manner and forme as by the foresaide Acte of Parliamint is required."

The ordinances, confirmed A.D. 1561, are twenty-seven in number. They set forth the rules for the guidance and government of the Company, and appoint the oaths to be taken by the Wardens, Assistants, and freemen.

The year 1567 was remarkable for the first
 A.D. 1567. Lottery which took place in England.
 The first English lottery. It was introduced by Queen Elizabeth, who is stated to have borrowed this expedient for publicly raising money from the practice of continental governments. The Lord Mayor, in obedience to Royal commands, issued a precept to the Companies, requiring them to participate in the venture. The Saddlers' Company's Audit Book for the year 1568 bears the following entry in reference to the incident:—

"Item we fynde disborsed into the Lottarie of thouse stocke, xv℥."

The allusion to "the house stock" indicates that the contribution was made from the Treasury chest of the Company, and that it was not, as was usually the case, levied by "the pole" upon the members of the fellowship. In the peremptory demands which Elizabeth was in the habit of making upon the Companies, she considerately commanded that the money to be lent (*sic*) to her should be raised in this manner. This degree of consideration, however, does not appear to have mollified the Companies, who were invariably the poorer by the amount they furnished her, if not in their individual, certainly in their corporate, capacity. The stipulation afforded in itself a trustworthy prospect of the chances of repayment.¹

¹ According to Stow, the drawing for this Lottery was commenced at the west door of St. Paul's Cathedral on the 11th January, and continued uninterruptedly by day and by night until the 6th of May following. As an assuring feature it was stated that the Lottery was to consist of all prizes, but the amounts drawn were ridiculously trivial. Mr. Alfred Kempe gives an interesting account of this Lottery, derived from the Loseley MSS., and instances a number of the mottoes used by the City Companies and others, some of which are very quaint and amusing.

"We Brewers God sende us

A good lot to mende us.

Per John Bankes, of the parish of St. Gyles, *s. d.*
 (No.) 47,699 1 3

God make all sure for the Armorers.

Per Thomas Tindal, London, (No.) 182,833 1 2

In the Company's Audit for the year 1584-1585, we find an allusion to one of those royal progresses which Queen Elizabeth was so fond of making from time to time through various parts of the country. The incident of the Queen's return on the occasion is described by Stow, who, in his annals, informs us that on—

“The 12th November the Queene's maiesty (returning after her progresse) came to her Manor of St. James, where the citizens of London, to the number of 200—the gravest sorts in coats of velvet and chaines of gold, on horsebacke—and 1,000 of the companies on foote (having with them 1,000 men with torches, ready there to give light on every side, for that the night drew on) received and welcomed her.”

The Company's record of the event is as follows :—

We Cookes of London, which work early and late,
 If anything be left God send us part. *s. d.*
 Per Rich. Tomson, Lond., (No.) 268,094 ... 1 2

For the Haberdashers.

Our sum put in

Is in hope to win. ... 3 4

I am a pore maiden and faine would marry,
 And the lacke of goods is the cause that I tarry.
 Per Sibbel Cleyon, (No.) 51,832 2 1

We putt in one lotte, poer maydens we be ten,
 We pray God send us a good lotte that we all may
 say amen.

Per Dorothe Hawes, of Cheapside,

(No.) 44,963 1 2.”

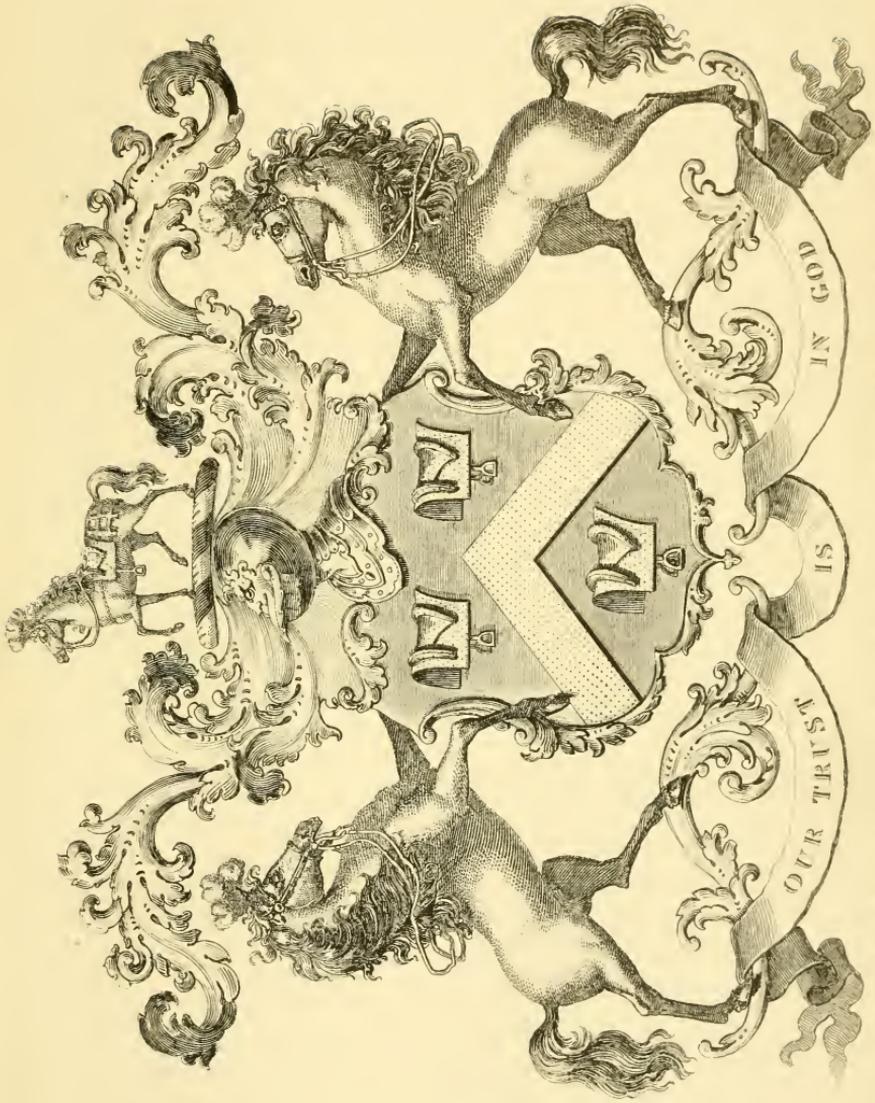
Lotteries were suppressed by an Act 10 William III., c. 23, which declared them nuisances, but they were revived in subsequent reigns.

“Item, we the saide auditors have receavid and brought in for certayne of our yeomandric, w^{ch} were assigned to holde certayne torche lights at hir Mat^{tie} comyng by the Parke Corner to St. James, w^{ch} they p’digally and laciviously burned homeward, being whole and vnoccupied vij^s iij^d (Fine).”

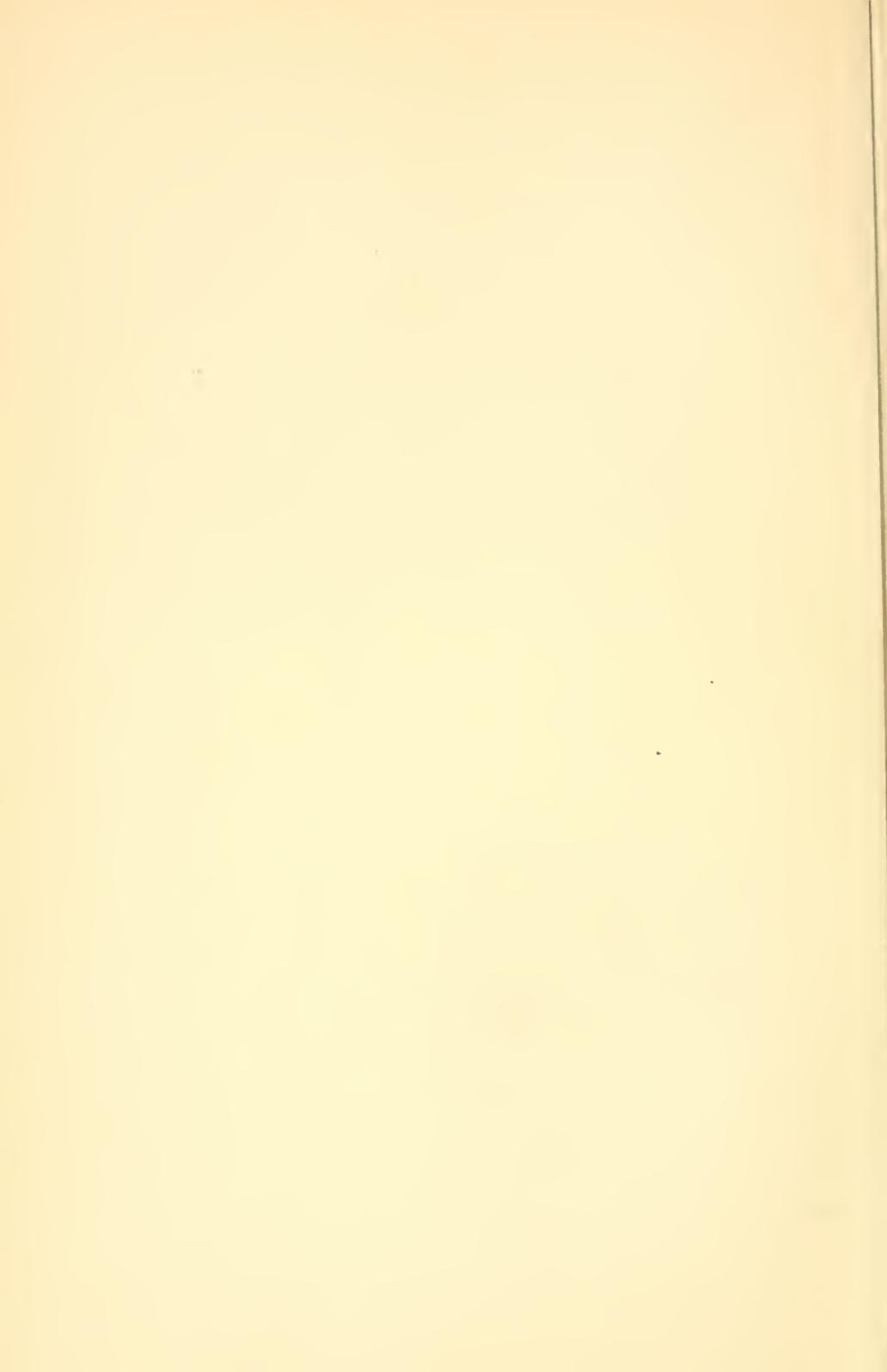
The Company received their first grant of arms, with supporters, on the 20th
A. D. 1585.
Grant of Arms. October, 1585. The original grant has unfortunately not been preserved.

The arms are:—*Azure*: a chevron between three manage saddles complete, *or*. *Crest*: on a wreath a horse passant, *argent*, crined, bridled, saddled, and trappings, *or*; on his head a plume of three feathers, *argent*. *Supporters*: two horses *argent*, maned, hoofed, and bridled, *or*; on each head a plume of three feathers, *argent*.

Two mottoes were recorded to the Company in the original grant: “Hold fast, Sit sure” over the crest, and “Our trust is in God” under the arms. Both mottoes are recorded to the Company at the Visitation of London in 1633. The first motto has subsequently been dropped, but the reason cannot be ascertained. In a collection of the arms of the City Companies in the Library at Guildhall, entitled “London’s Armoury,” and engraved in 1677, the first motto only is recorded. But in MS. No. 6,860, of the Harleian Collection, which appears by the handwriting to belong to a somewhat earlier period, the second motto only occurs, and this is likewise the case in the Harl. MS. No. 472.



ARMS OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SADDLERS.



CHAPTER II.

HISTORICAL NOTICES CONTINUED.

COMPANY'S ORDER BOOKS COMMENCE.—A Glance at the State of the Company in the beginning of the XVIIth Century, internally and in Relation to the Craft.—Cheapside in 1600 A.D.—Its Churches.—The Little Conduit, Cross, and Standard.—The “Mermaid.”—The Compters.—Ludgate. HISTORICAL NOTICES CONTINUED: Gunpowder Plot.—King of Denmark Visits the City.—James I. grants the Company a Charter.—Frequent Occurrence of Plagues during this Century; that of 1607.—Company's Ordinances Ratified.—Gowrie Conspiracy.—“Ayde Money.”—Colonization of Virginia.—Interference by the Crown in Company's Domestic Concerns.—Company's Scholars at the Universities.—The Colonization of Ulster.—The Palatinate.—Introduction of Coaches; opposed by the Company.—Coronation of Charles I.—Whifflers.—The Plague of 1630.—The Incident of Dr. Lambe.—The Restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral.—St. George's, Southwark.—The Era of the Revolution.—Heavy Exactions from the Companies.—Bury St. Edmund's, Plague at.—Ship-money.—Loans to Charles I. and the Parliament.—Plate sold to raise Money, and Money borrowed by the Company.—Trouble in Ireland.—Further Demands upon the Company.—The “Solemn League and Covenant.”—The Company and the Supply of Saddles to the Army.—Gunpowder Stock.—Battle of Worcester.—“Ye States Armes.”—Saddlers' Hall in 1653.—The Restoration.—Straitened Circumstances of the Company.—Their Contribution to Charles II.—More Exactions.—Coronation of Charles II.—War with Holland; enforced Contributions.—The Ship “Loyall London.”—The Great Plague of 1664.—The Great Fire.—Arrangements for the Re-building of the Hall.—Lord Mayors' Shows; Processions by Water.—Alderman Dashwood; his Gift.—The Company's Barge Cloth.—Attractions of the Water Pageant for the Company.—The Custom Discontinued.—“Stands.”—The King's Esquire Saddler.—The Company and the Coachmakers.—Quo Warranto.—The Company Surrender their Charter.—New Charter Granted by Charles II., 1684.—Tyranny of James II.—His Removal of the Wardens and Assistants.—The same removed from the Livery of the Company.—Their Restoration.—The threatened Invasion by William of Orange frightens James.—

He returns the former Deed of Surrender, and offers to grant the Company a New Charter.—Abdication of James II. and Succession of William III. and Mary II.—The Company propose to raise two Dragoons.—Loans to William III. Repaid.—Sir Richard Blackmore and Saddlers' Hall.—Saddlers' Hall in the Eighteenth Century; Description of, by Hatton and Maitland.—Entry of George I. into London.—“A Good Trumpett and Kettledrum.”—The Company in their “Stands.”—Frederick, Prince of Wales, visits Saddlers' Hall, 1736.—Accepts the Freedom of the Company, and is elected Perpetual Master.—Presents his and the Princess's Pictures.—The Freedom of the Company conferred on Members of his Household.—Birth of George III.—The Company attend and congratulate Princess Augusta.—A Bonfire in Cheapside, “when the Princess is brought to Bed.”—The Scotch Rebellion; Devotion of the Company.—Death of the Prince in 1751.—Voluntary Fund for the Defence of the Country.—Saddlers' Hall partially destroyed in 1815; completely destroyed in 1821; re-built in 1822.—Worthless Saddles destroyed in 1822.—Alderman Sir Peter Laurie's Mayoralty.—Processions by Water.—Almshouses at Isleworth.—Saddlers' Company Prizes for improvements in Military Saddles.—Livery Companies' Commission, 1880.



WE have now arrived at a period when the earliest extant minutes of the Company commence, and when, in consequence, we cease to be dependent upon the records of the Corporation and upon the information derivable from other sources. The condition

of the Company in the beginning of the seventeenth century, as it is exhibited to us in the light of their own records, presents a peculiarly interesting picture. The Company then represented practically the whole saddlery craft of London, and the powers vested in them by their Charter from Elizabeth, and by their ordinances, constituted them a very *imperium in imperio* for all purposes touching the problems and customs of the trade. They fixed

the term of apprenticeship, protected the apprentice from the tyranny of the master, and supported the master in exacting due obedience from the apprentice. They settled the differences of wages and other questions between journeymen and the Saddlers who employed them; decided the eligibility or otherwise of a journeyman to set up in trade for himself, and examined his wares from time to time to see that they were honestly wrought. These prerogatives, however, were only in conformity with existing statutes of the realm, in the framing of which, when they related to the trades carried on in the capital, the City took an active part, either by petitioning the Crown and Parliament, or by other methods of representation; but the powers vested in the City were commonly extended to the other cities and corporate boroughs of the country, many of which had their own separate craft guilds, with similar powers of trade supervision, search, &c., as we gather from the Charter granted to the Saddlers' Company by Edward III.¹

The insight afforded into the internal condition of the Company, its corporate customs, and the relationship existing between its members, is no less interesting. The Wardens, with eight or more of the Assistants, constituted an authority in all cases of trade as well as internal disputes, and against their dicta there was no appeal; at least, few or none cared to appeal if the privilege were

¹ See p. 37 *et seq.*

open to them. The repeated employment of the word "*fellowship*" in the early minutes, under circumstances where, in modern times, the word *Company* is usual, furnishes us with a key to the whole principle which, as it were, underlay and pervaded the corporate fabric—the principle of mutual protection and support. But this bond was never, for one moment, allowed to interfere with the punishment of any member of the guild for an offence committed in trade, when the punishment would, under similar circumstances and for a similar offence, be visited upon those *not* free of the guild. Indeed, it happens singularly and curiously enough, that the heaviest punishments recorded in the Company's books are those imposed upon members of the Company.

On certain occasions in the year, the Company in their several ranks, Wardens and Assistants, cloathing and yeomanry, dined together, and the loving cup—still a familiar institution in the entertainments of to-day—is a vestige of the earliest and remotest of those fraternal gatherings, although the precise antiquity of the custom is unknown. A common "house" fund was raised by contributions, quarterage, and fines, supplemented by occasional legacies and bequests. From this fund doles were distributed by the Wardens at the Hall door, after every assembly of the Company, and the poor were sustained, in old age and decay, by quarterly allowances or pensions. When a member died, his remains received a last tribute of respect by the attend-

ance of the whole Company at the funeral, and, if the circumstances of the widow and orphans were destitute, they were relieved from the common "stock" or "house" fund.

It has not been thought expedient to interrupt the thread of historical narrative by more than a passing allusion to the internal affairs of the Company at this stage; a more ample account of their ordinances and of the curious and interesting incidents arising out of their application, will be found in a separate and subsequent chapter.

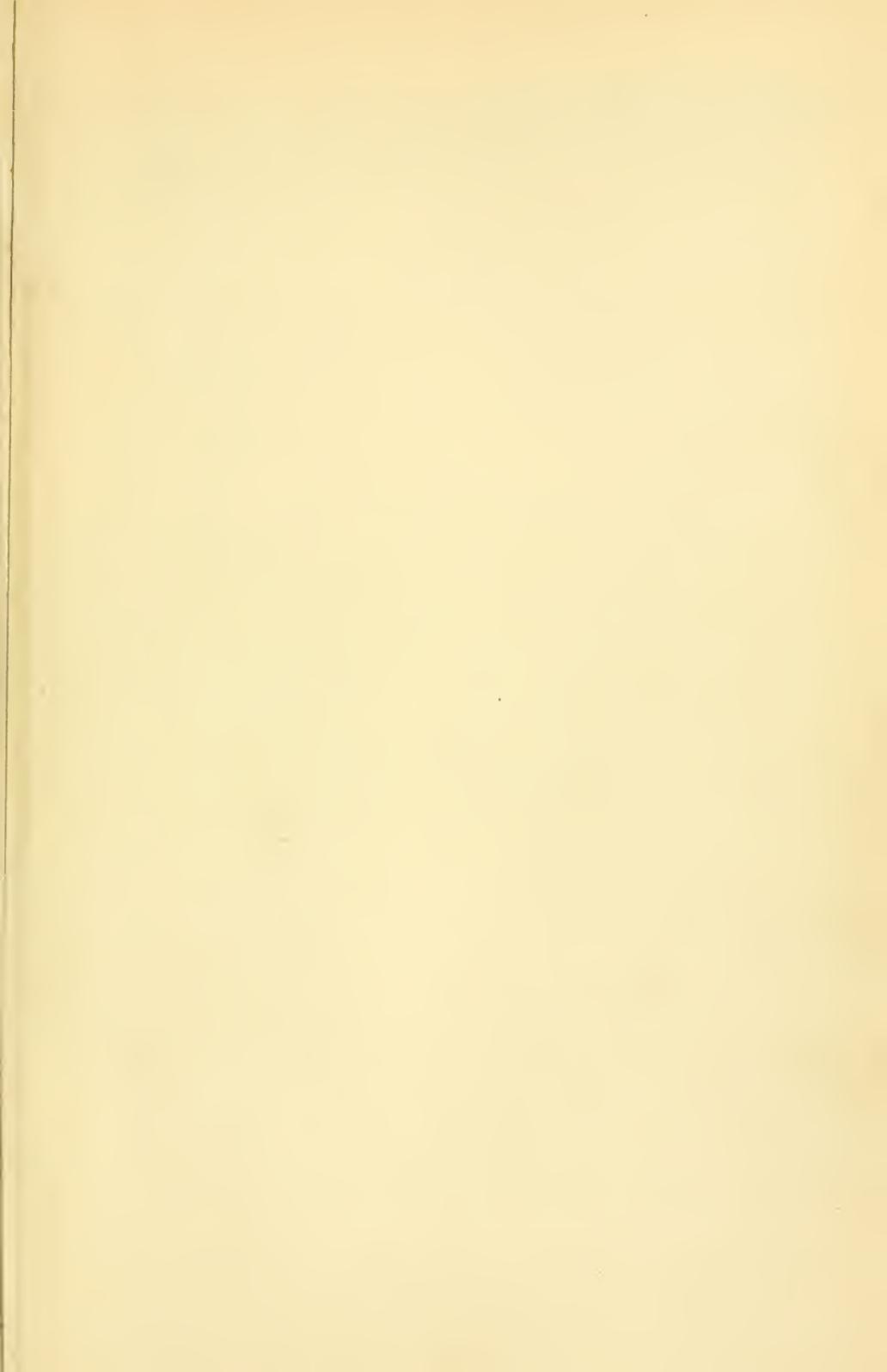
It is pleasant to conjure up in our minds, however, an approximate picture of Cheapside in the seventeenth century. Cheapside as it appears at this period, and we are assisted in this mental effort by the frequent mention in the Company's Order Books of places once famous landmarks, but now, alas, known to us only in name. Cheapside, or Westchepe, as it was more commonly called, was undoubtedly the most historically important thoroughfare in Old London, the probable consequence of its being the high road from the City to the west—from the Tower to Whitehall and Westminster—the favourite route of State pageants and processions. Its two rows of shops were at once the richest and handsomest in Old London, the south side being mostly occupied by wealthy goldsmiths. Great has been the change in the commercial life of the citizens since then. Then, each tradesman or merchant worked at his craft, or "set forth his wares to the shewe" in

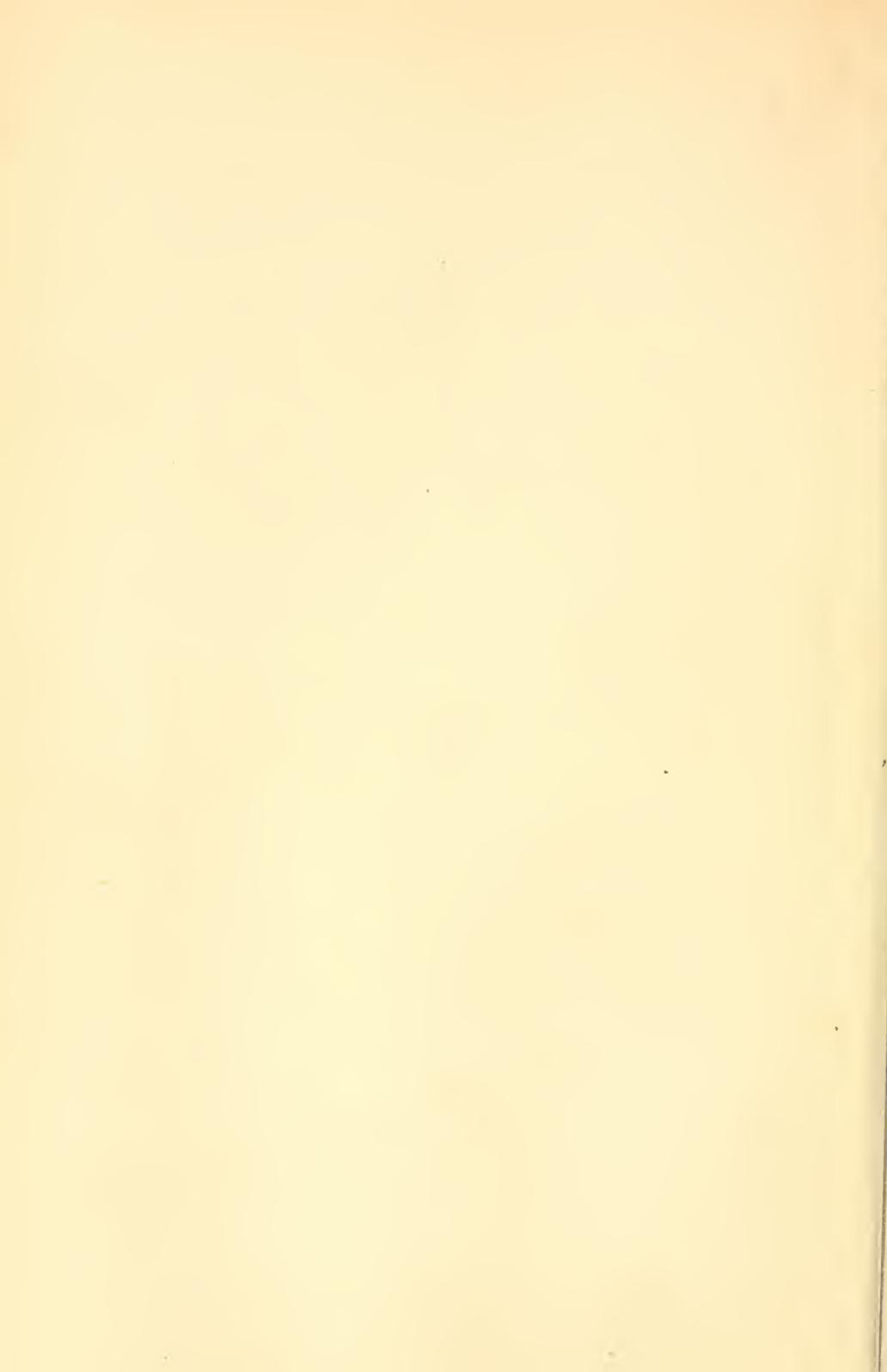
an open chamber, or seld, which projected from the general front outline of the house into the street to the height of the first floor. The same four walls that contained his stock in trade contained his *lares* and *penates*; the same roof sheltered his family and his apprentices.

Cheapside was famous for its churches; the number of which to be met with in the City before the Great Fire seems to us marvellously out of proportion to the population. Three churches formerly stood in Cheapside; all were destroyed in the Fire, but two disappeared entirely from the scene and were not rebuilt. These were the parish churches of St. Michael-le-Querne and of St. Peter Cheap.¹ The former stood at the western extremity of the street, on a spot now occupied by Peel's Monument; the latter at the west corner of Wood Street. Happily, the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, which was rebuilt after the Fire, still remains to recall much that is dear to Londoners in the legendary past of their historic City. From the spire and arches of its tower were hung lanterns at night as beacons to the few solitary travellers that frequented the streets of the City after nightfall;² while from the belfry of the same church curfew rang out at nine o'clock each night for centuries, after Henry I.

¹ The parishes of St. Michael-le-Querne and St. Peter Cheap are now joined with that of St. Vedast, with which the Company are still associated.

² These are shown in the View of London, 1643, in the Sutherland Collection.







CHEAPSIDE IN A.D. 1639.

THE EARLIEST AUTHENTIC VIEW OF CHEAPSIDE, WITH THE CROSS AND STANDARD, ILLUSTRATING THE PROCESSION OF MARY DE MEDICI, MOTHER OF THE CONSORT OF CHARLES I., AND SHOWING THE LIVERY COMPANIES IN THEIR STANDS. A NORTH-EAST VIEW.

(Taken from an old Print published in Le Serres, "Histoire de la vie de la Reine Mere du Roy tres Christian dont sa Grande Bretagne")



had withdrawn the despotic injunction imposed by the Conqueror upon the citizens. Nearly opposite Foster Lane stood the Little Conduit,¹ a famous meeting place for the city housewives and others who gossiped over their buckets and pitchers; and a rendezvous for City apprentices after their day's work was over. Nearly opposite Wood Street stood the famous Cheapside Cross, one of a number erected by Edward I. to perpetuate the memory of his beloved Queen Eleanor.² Close to it, and nearly opposite Honey Lane, stood the Standard, with its executions, and its readings of royal edicts and State decrees. Every house or shop was known by its distinctive sign, which projected over the footway to the road to such an extent, moreover, as sometimes to require its temporary removal to make way for public processions passing through the street. The houses belonging to the Company, and let out by them, are generally spoken of in the Order Books by the signs by which they were known. Thus, for

¹ So called in contradistinction to the Great Conduit at the east end of Chepe, between Bucklersbury and the Poultry, which brought the first supply of sweet water from Paddington to London.

² There were twelve in all, viz., at Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Stoney Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, St. Albans, Westcheap, Charing, Geddington, Northampton, and Waltham—the several stages at which the body of the Queen rested during the journey from Hardeby, near Lincoln, where the Queen died, and Westminster. Cheapside Cross was erected in 1293, rebuilt in 1441, defaced in 1581, and demolished in 1643.

instance, we have mentioned the "Adam and Eve without Temple Bar," the "Crown at Holborn Conduit," the "Blue Boar at Holborn Conduit," the "Talbot" or "White Talbot" in Wood Street, the "Golden Bull in Chepe" the "Goat in Chepe," the "Dolphin in Westchepe," the "White Lion in Cheap," and lastly, and most famous of all, the "Mearmayd Taverne in Westchepe."

Very little interest attaches to any of these, excepting the "Mermaid," which stood on the same side of the street as, and close to Saddlers' Hall, on a spot which may be identified with a fair amount of ease, between Gutter Lane and Foster Lane. The earliest mention of it in the Company's books is on the 14th February, 1614:—

"This daie likewise Richard Harrison is fyned in ten shillings for fetching of wyne the last q'ter daie at the Mearemayd, in West Chepe, being formerly intymated to fetch it elsewhere by reason of an offence committed by the new Tennt vpon the Lord Mayor's daie last."

Again, on the 27th May, 1628:—

"At this Court Thomas Clowes desired to have his Lease of the Mearemayd Tavern, made equal with the terme he hath in the house some tyme graunted to Mr. Fleet out of w^{ch} hee hath taken three roomes to add vnto the Taverne. The w^{ch} his request it is referred to the view of Mr. Warden Houghton Mr. Warden Symson John Laney and Nathaniel Bush."

This tavern was destroyed in the Great Fire,

but the Company's tenant at the time refused to rebuild it, notwithstanding that they offered him an extended lease. The stones remaining in the ruins of the Hall after the Great Fire of London were ordered to be collected and secured in the vaults of the "Mermaid."

How far the "Mermaid Tavern" is identical with the "Mermaid" of Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher, and contemporary wits, is a question which, notwithstanding its attractiveness, we refrain from entering upon. All the property owned by the Saddlers' Company in Cheapside was situated on the north side of the street between Foster Lane and Gutter Lane, and has been retained by them to the present day. It may be mentioned that the position of this "Mermaid" is clearly discernible in La Serre's print attached, which represents it as situated some fifteen houses westward of St. Peter, at the corner of Wood Street, a distance which, if any one will take the trouble to inspect that part of Cheapside, allocates it with a fair amount of precision to the position claimed for it, namely, midway between Gutter Lane and Foster Lane.

In the immediate vicinity of Cheapside or Westchepe stood two famous institutions repeatedly mentioned in the Order Books of the Company. These were the Compters or Counters. They were prisons for debt and minor offences, and were under the control of the Sheriff. One stood in the Poultry, upon the site of the present Grocers' Alley, the other on the east side of Wood Street.

The Wood Street Counter, however, from its proximity to the Hall, occurs the more frequently in the Company's records. To this prison were committed offending and recalcitrant members of the Company, and all contumacious makers of bad saddles. The rapacity and extortion practised by the gaolers in these Counters were notorious, and whenever a mild remonstrance from the Company failed to induce conformity with its laws, a short lodging therein was usually sufficient to produce the desired effect, and the quondam offender would quit the Counter a sadder, perhaps a wiser, but certainly a poorer man.

1622. *April 30th.*

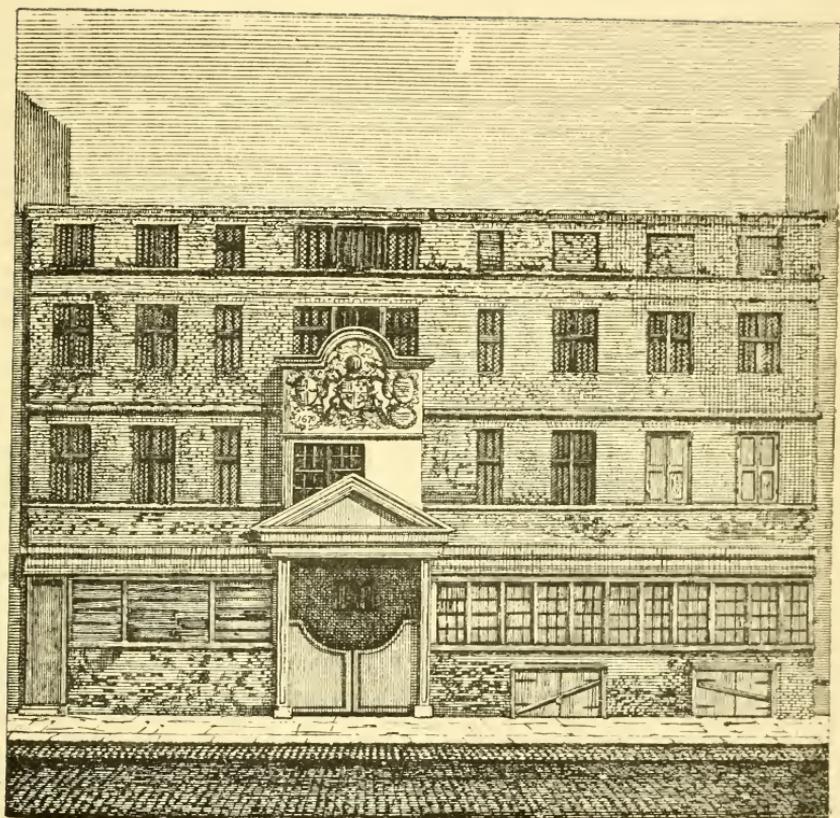
“To be given to Will^m Boyton a poore brother in the Counter in the Poultrie for to free him out of prison at the discreaçon of o^r M^r soe as it exceed not thirtie or fortie shillings.”

1610. *March 12th.*

“Item given to Edmond Reynolds for his releasement out of the prison of the Counter three pounds.”

1619. *November 11th.*

“This daie Roger Lloyd was committed to the Counter for that he refused to laye down his fynes for not appearing three several tymes (to attend the Lord Maior) vpon suñons given him by the Beadle, and afterwards vpon his submission his ymprisonement was remitted and hee payed ij^s vj^d w^{ch} was given to the officer.”



THE OLD WOOD STREET, COMPTER.

1620. *October 3rd.*

“The same daie Robert Dowgill was questioned for his vnseemely behauior in o^r hall on that daie the wardens of the yeomandrie were chosen. And also for abusing his late m^r Mr. Robert Labourne and Mr. Daniel Holdenbie in vnseemely speeches as also for carrying himself in vnseemely manner towards this Court ffor w^{ch} misdemeanors he was ordered to laye downe severall fines and submitt himself to this Court w^{ch} he refused to doe ffor w^{ch} his contempt he was comitted to the Compter from whence vpon his submission and laying downe his fines vz. xx^s hee was released w^{ch} was given him back the next Court daie vpon his late m^r his request whom he had offended except iij^s vj^d w^{ch} the officers had.”

1622. *September 17th.*

“The same daie Thomas Smythsby complayned of Robt. Dowgill ffor that he had disgraced him to S^r Anthony Ashley concerning the making and allowance of velvet of a sadle for his Ladie vpon hearing (of w^{ch} complainte) the p^ties on both sides. It is thought mete and soe ordered that the said Dowgill shall laye downe his fine according to o^r orders and submit himself to the table w^{ch} he refused to doe. Wherevpon it is thought mete and soe ordered that the said Dowgill be comited to the Counter (vpon the Lord Maior his command) wherevpon (the officer being p^sent) the said Dowgill being called againe before his going to the Counter to knowe his resolu^õn submitted himself and laid downe his fine accordingly being xl^s whereof hee had given him xx^s and paid xx^s w^{ch} was delivered to Warden Pilchard. Given to the officer that came to carry him to the Counter ij^s vj^d paid by the Renter.”

Fennor, an actor, describing in 1617 the Wood Street Counter, alludes to the frequent occupation of this prison by members of the Saddlers' craft. He says: "As in a citty there is all kinds of trades, so is there heere, for heere you shall see a cobbler sitting mending olde shooes, and singing as merrily as if hee were under a stall abroad; not farre from him you shall see a taylor sit crossed-legged (like a witch) on his cushion threatning the ruine of our fellow prisoner, the Ægyptian vermine; in another place you may behold a Sadler empannelling all his wits together how to patch this Scotch padde handsomely or mend the old gentleman's crooper that was almost burst in pieces."¹

Frequent mention occurs of another famous prison, Old Ludgate: This was anciently a free debtors' prison, and, according to Strype, its tenants were chiefly merchants and tradesmen who had been driven to want by losses at sea. Its mention in the Company's books is mostly in connection with the relief of poor members of the Company, who found themselves involuntary inmates.

1607. *April 18th.*

"It was then ordered and agreed that John Atkinson, being a prisoner in Ludgate, shulde have of the howse charge to kepe him to werke a hide of lether and a cople of calves skyns w^{ch} cost xxiiij^s."

¹ "The Compter's Commonwealth, or a voiage made to an infernall Island," by William Fennor, A.D. 1617. In the Library of the B. M.

1610. *July 17th.*

“Item given to James Mathewe for his releasement out of the pryson of Ludgat xlvij^s.”

On a later occasion the Company's Beadle was incarcerated, and the Court, perforce for the credit of the Company, were fain to bail him out for Twenty Pounds; notwithstanding which, when, on another occasion the Beadle's son-in-law found himself in the same situation, the Company entertained *his* application with less grace and placability,

Less frequently, but under similar circumstances, we find mention of the old Marshalsea Prison, which stood in High Street, Southwark.

The year 1605 was memorable for the Gunpowder Plot, to return thanks for the frustration of which the Company attended at St. Paul's, and the occasion is alluded to in the following minute:—

1605.
Gunpowder
Plot.

1605. *November 12th.*

“This Court Day there was given to a woman at Pole's Crosse for setting out a forme for the Companye xvij^d.”

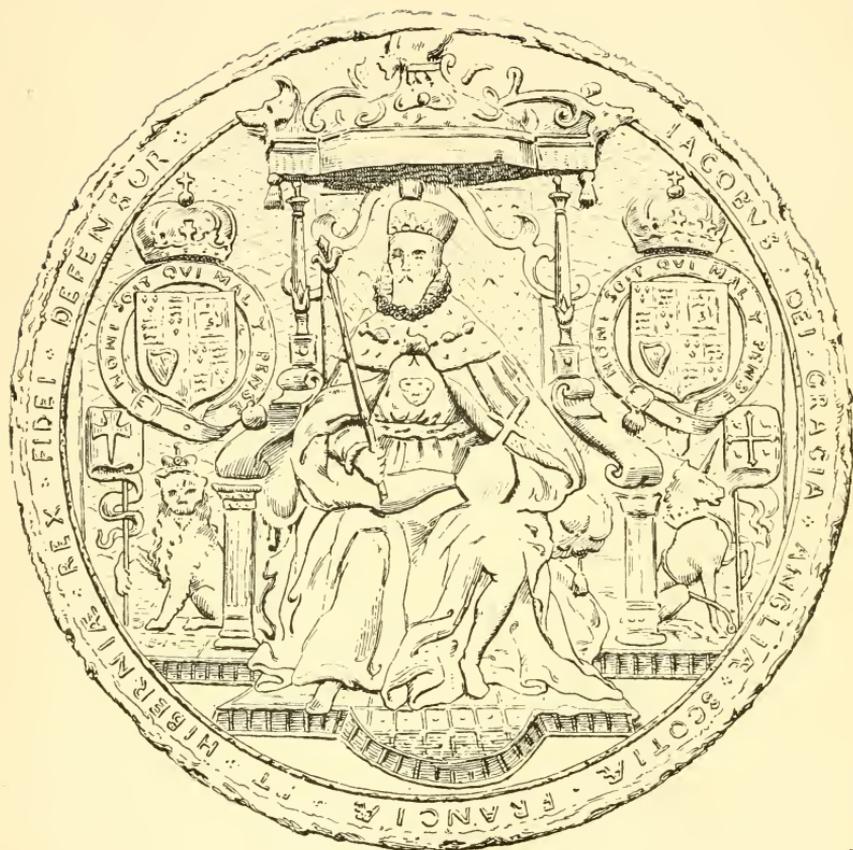
The following year the King of Denmark, brother to the consort of James I., visited England, and was received by the citizens of London with every sign of rejoicing. As was usual on such occasions, the

1606.
The King of
Denmark.

Companies all turned out in their Liveries. The incident is fully described by the Chronicler Howes,¹ but is only casually alluded to in the Company's records in the following minute :—

¹ The description given by Howes is very picturesque, and affords an excellent idea of the character of these early pageants and spectacles :—

“They were received by the Lord Maior at the east end of Tower Streete, in a robe of crimson veluet, bearing a golden sceptre in his hand before the Kings vntill he came to Temple Barre; as these greate Potentates with their sumptuous trayne passed along the streetes, the King of Denmark seriously observed the huge multitudes of common people thronging in every corner, and the unimaginable number of gallant ladies, beauteous virgins, and other delicate dames, filling the windowes of euery house with kinde aspect, saluting their worthinesse with health and hearty welcome wheresoever they past. Vpon the great fountain in Cheapeside was erected the bower of the Muses, with pleasant musicke. At the west end of Cheapeside, by the Goldsmith's Row, neere vnto the pageant, sate the great Elders of the Citie in scarlet robes, where the Recorder, after he had made a solemne oration in Latine on the behalfe of the Citie, presented the King of Denmark with a faire cup of gold, who, with as great kinnesse accepted it; then the pageant, after it had ceased her melodious harmony, began to express the purpose thereof, viz., Diuine concord, as sent from Heauen, descended in a cloud from the top vnto the middle stage, and with a loude voyce, spake an excellent speech in Latine, purporting their hearty welcome, with the heavenly happines of peace and unity amongst Christian Princes, &c., but through the distemperature of the vnruely multitude, the Kings could not well heare it although they enclined their eares very seriously thereunto. At the faire Fountaine in Fleet Streete was a pleasant pastorall device, with songs wherewith the Kings were much delighted; this Fountaine, and diuers others ranne cleare wine.”



SEAL OF JAMES I.
ATTACHED TO HIS CHARTER TO THE
SADDLERS' COMPANY.
OBVERSE.



SEAL OF JAMES I.
ATTACHED TO HIS CHARTER TO THE
SADDLERS' COMPANY.
REVERSE.



1606. *November 18th.*

“ This Courte Daye Will^m Bedford promysed the Company to bringe in his fyne imposed upon him the next Court Day for y^t he attended not vpon y^e Company at the two kinges rideing throwe the Cytie and other absence and misdemeanors.”

On the 20th March in the following year, being the fourth year of his reign, James I. granted the Company a Charter, which is an inspeximus and confirmation of that of Queen Elizabeth. It confers no new powers, and concludes with the following words, which are all that are added:—

“ And we the Charters, letters patent, and all the grants and confirmations aforesaid, and all and singular in the same contained, having ratified and confirmed them for us, our heirs and successors, as much as in us lies, do accept and approve, and to our well-beloved Nicholas Holbeame, John Byngham, Thomas Solomon, and John Hall, now Wardens or Keepers of the Mystery or art of Saddlers of the City of London aforesaid, and the Commonalty of the same Mystery or art and their successors by the tenor of the presents do ratify and confirm (them) as the Charter, letters, grants, and confirmations aforesaid in themselves reasonably testify. In witness whereof, &c., witness the King at Westminster the twentieth day of March. By six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence paid into the hanaper.”¹

¹ This Charter is still in the Company's possession.

The seventeenth century was memorable among other things for a series of fatal epidemics which visited England at various intervals, and were particularly felt in the capital. The ^{Plagues.} first occurred in 1603-4, and destroyed over 30,000 lives in London alone. The second broke out in the summer of 1607, and is alluded to in the following minutes:—

1607. *July 28th.*

“John Williams o^r Tenn^t in Dayes Alley hath graunted to avoide his Cellar of the Costermonger (for fear of infection) betwixt this Courte Day and Christmas next and soner if he can.

“Goodwif Fourche is warned to avoide the Costerd monger out of hir house at Christmas next or afore if she can possible.”

On the 17th April, 1608, the Company obtained an amendment and ratification of their ordinances. The powers therein conferred were but little ^{A.D. 1608.} modified from the ordinances ratified <sup>Ordinances rati-
fied.</sup> in the previous reign; the order for the search was enlarged and the necessary qualifications for a householder—*i.e.*, a shopkeeper—defined, and the remedies and penalties against any violation of the rules made for the good government of the Company were increased.¹

¹ The ordinances of James I. are signed by the Earl of Dorset and Chief Justices Fleming and Edward Coke.

In August of the same year, the anniversary
A.D. 1608. of the King's delivery from the Gowrie
The Gowrie Conspiracy eight years previous,¹ the
Conspiracy. Company again attended at Paul's Cross to return
 thanks, a custom which they annually observed
 until 1616.

In June of the following year the Court of the
 Company were specially convened to
A.D. 1609. raise "ayde money," a tax levied
"Ayde money." throughout the kingdom, on the occa-
 sion of the knighting of Prince Henry. The
 following May the Prince was created Prince of
 Wales, and the Company, in common with the
 other Companies, took part in the processional
 ceremony; on this occasion it is recorded that a
 Liveryman of the Company, for absenting him-
 self from the ceremony, was committed to prison.

In the year 1609 mention occurs of the scheme
 for colonizing Virginia. That country
Virginia. had been taken possession of by
 Raleigh in the previous reign, and unsuccessful
 attempts had been made to colonize it. James
 was very desirous of accomplishing this, and in
 1606 and 1610 granted patents for the formation
 of two expeditions. In 1609 the Lord Mayor

¹ This was a conspiracy to dethrone James VI. of Scotland. James was decoyed into the Earl of Gowrie's house at Perth, 5th August, 1600; the plot, however, was frustrated, and the Earl and his brother slain.

issued a precept to the Companies, to induce them to join in an adventure. The Saddlers' Company joined in the undertaking, but the amount subscribed by them is not stated ; it was levied upon the cloathing and subsequently repaid.

The following minute furnishes an example of the custom of interference by the King in the affairs of the Companies, when favourites were concerned.

1610. *November 6th.*

“ At this Courte Mr. Richard Lucy o^r Tennt in Cheape bein a Suter to o^r Company for a newe lease of his house, and to obtayne the same he brought the King's highnesse's hon'able letters w^{ch} were wth due Revrence and in all humblenesse receaved. At which tyme in respect of the said letters the said Mr. Lucy was offered (that if he wolde depart from the same howse at the ende of his terme of yeres that he hath yet to come therein) the some of ffyftie pownds in lawfull money gratis w^{ch} money he the said Mr. Lucy refused.”

The records of other Companies, notably the Grocers, Ironmongers, Merchant Tailors, and others, afford similar instances throughout the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., of attempts by the Crown to influence them in matters of purely domestic concern.¹

¹ *Vide* Herbert's "Hist. Essay."

The Company appear from a very early date to have supported a number of poor Scholars at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Company's
scholars at the
Universities.

1613. *July 27th.*

“It was this day ordered that Giles Rankin the sonne of John Rankin being now a Scholler in St. John Baptist’s colledge in Oxford was graunted to have fortie shillings a yeare paied hym towards his maintenance of his studie in good literature in Oxford the first payment to be made him at the feast of St. Michael the Arch-anngeall next ensewing.”

1621. *October 9th.*

“This daie a petiçon from Thomas Akers was read in Co^{rt} (being one of o^r Schollers) whereby hee desired to have his exhibiçon of xl^s p. ann. encreased w^{ch} was rayised to fower marks p. ann. (£2 13s. 4d.)”

Frequent gifts were also made to other poor Scholars to buy books. Each of the Company’s Scholars at Oxford or Cambridge “going out” B.A. received from the Company a gift of 5 marks (£3 6s. 8d.), which was doubled upon his passing M.A.¹

In 1614 St. Vedast Church was repaired and enlarged, and the Company contributed the sum of ten pounds towards the

St. Vedast’s
Church.

¹ The Company’s Scholarships are now awarded to boys of the City of London School.

cost thereof. Strype tells us that at the same time "to this Church at the Chancell end, the breadth being 20 yards and above, was added 20 feet of ground, which ground so to lengthen the Church was given unto the Parish out of a faire Court then belonging to the Saddlers' Hall." This may have been so, as the Company owned a small court, leading from a lane which anciently connected Foster Lane¹ with Gutter Lane. The lane itself appears to have belonged to the Company.

The gift of land, however, although mentioned by Strype, is not recorded in the Company's books.

An entry in the Company's books for this year Colonization of
Ulster. makes mention for the first time of a matter which exercised an important influence in the affairs of the Livery Companies of London, viz., the colonization and settlement of Ulster. In the early part of the reign of James I. a considerable part of the province of

¹ Foster Lane is of very great antiquity: under the name of St. Vedast Lane it is mentioned in the Letter Books of the Corporation as early as 1281, and in 1305 there is mention of the lease of a house therein to Sir John de Leek, who was Clerk to Prince Edward, son of Edward I. (Riley's "Memorials.") Both the lane and the church are frequently mentioned by the old chroniclers and historians, by some they are called St. Foster, and by others St. Vedast. The correct name was probably a compound of the two—St. Vedast Foster, under which designation the church is known to this day.

Ulster, including the six counties of Armagh, Tyrone, Coleraine, Donegal, Fermanagh, and Cavan was vested in the Crown by an act of attainder of certain Roman Catholics of distinction who had rebelled against the Crown in the reign of Elizabeth. James proposed to the City to undertake the settlement of these forfeited estates and the formation of a Protestant colony. An agreement was arrived at between the Privy Council and the Corporation, one article of which was that £20,000 should be levied, £15,000 of which was to be expended upon the plantation, and £5,000 towards clearing away private interests. A Committee was appointed by the Common Council, consisting of a Governor, a Deputy-Governor, and 24 Assistants, known as the Irish Society, and they were put in possession of their estates, a Charter being granted to them on the 29th March, 1613. Arrangements were next made in the City for raising and collecting the sum agreed to. This was at length determined

The Company compelled to purchase Irish lands. to be done by the twelve principal Companies, and the Lord Mayor issued a precept for that purpose.

The sum originally agreed upon was, however, found insufficient, and other assessments were made from time to time, which eventually exceeded the sum of £60,000. At a meeting of the Court of Common Council, on December 17, 1613, the newly acquired lands were allotted in twelve portions to the twelve chief Companies. The money actually disbursed upon the planta-

tion at the time of the allotment amounting to £40,000, was divided into twelve shares of £3,333 6s. 8d., payable by each of the said twelve Companies, who were required to associate with themselves certain of the minor Companies. This was arranged in such a manner that the whole of the Companies participated in the undertaking—four or five of the smaller Companies being associated with each of the principal ones. The Saddlers' Company were associated with the Salters' Company in chief, with whom were also grouped the Dyers, Cutlers, Joiners, and Woolmen. The following were the amounts of their several contributions:—

				£
Salters	..	..	..	1,954
Dyers	..	..	..	580
Saddlers	..	..	..	390
Cutlers	..	..	..	225
Joiners	..	..	..	164
Woolmen	..	..	..	20

				£3,333

In November, 1620, Frederick V., Elector
A.D. 1620. Palatine, and son-in-law of James,
Palatinate. who had accepted the Crown of Bohemia, and shortly afterwards been driven from his possessions, appealed to the Lord Mayor for pecuniary aid, and a contribution of £5,000 was levied upon the Companies.¹ The Saddlers'

¹ "Remembrancia," D. 414.

Company were called upon for their quota of £50, which was levied upon the cloathing, as we read in the following minute :—

1620. *December 13th.*

“ It is this daie ordered that the L[£] w^{ch} o^r Companie is topaic by p^rceptinto the Chamb of London p^rsently toward the release of the Pallatinate shalbe levied on the cloathing of this fellowship by the pole each man paying xx^s a peece.”

This sum was repaid to the cloathing by the Court in the following July.

The introduction of coaches¹ into England was a distasteful innovation to the Company, presumably as being calculated to interfere with the custom of riding, and consequently to injure their trade. On the 16th July, 1620, the minutes relate that :—

A. D. 1620.

Coaches introduced.

¹ Coaches were almost unknown in England during the middle ages. The knights were proud of their horsemanship, and disdained any such means of conveyance. The few “chares” in use in early times were the object of perpetual ridicule. As represented in ancient manuscripts they were rude, cumbrous, and inconvenient contrivances on four wheels. Taylor, the Water Poet, published in 1623 a curious satire on coaches under the title of “The world runnes on Wheeles, or Oddes betwixt Carts and Coaches.” He tells us facetiously that “in the year 1564, one William Boonen, a Dutchman, brought first the use of coaches hither, and the said Boonen was Queene Elisabeth’s coachman ; for indeede a coach was a strange monster in those dayes, and the sight of them put both horse and man into amazement. Some said it was a

“This day upon request made unto the Wardens and Assistants both by the Clothing and Cōaltie of this Fellowship and also by divers Country Sadlers that they would be pleased to p’fer a Bill in P’liament to redresse the multitude of coaches interlopers and hawkers It is ordered by this Court that there shall be a Bill drawne and p’ferred in P’liament for redresse of the same inconveniences and there is appoynted for the following of the same business Mr. Robt. Labourne Tho. Porter Tho. Mills John Lawney Nathaniell Burt and Cyprian Morse. At the same assemblie Henry Gardiner of Maidstone and Solomon Bishop of Cranbrook in the Countie of Kent, Sadlers, undertooke to send unto o^r M^r betweene this and this daie fortnight the some of X^e towards the said charge.”

great crab shell brought out of China, and some imagine it to be one of the pagan temples in which the cannibals adored the devill; but at last all these dowbts were cleared, and coachmaking became a substantiall trade. . . . The cart is an open transparent engine that any man may perceiv the plain honesty of it, there is no part of it within or without but it is in the continual view of all men. On the contrary, the coach is a close hypocrite, for it hath a cover for any knavery, and curtaines to raile or shadow any wickedness. . . . Moreover, it makes people immitate sea-crabs in being drawne side-ways, as they are when they sit on the boote of the coach; and it is a dangerouse kinde of carriage for the commonwealth if it be rightly considered, for when a man shall be a Justice of the Peace, a Serjeant, or a Counsellour at Law, what hope is it that all or many of them should use upright dealing, that have beene so often in their youth and daily in their maturer or riper age drawne aside continually in a coach, some to the right hand and some to the left, for use makes perfectnesse, and often going aside willingly makes men forget to goe upright naturally.”

On several occasions steps were taken to restrict the use of coaches. In the supplementary calendar of the Records in the House of Lords there is a Draft Bill, dated 5th November, 1601, which it is not unlikely the Company were instrumental in promoting. It is entitled "an Act to restrain the Excessive and Superfluous use of Coaches within the realm of England." It sets forth that in consequence of the great increase in the use of coaches, the Saddlers' trade is likely to be ruined; and not only so, but evil disposed persons who dare not show themselves openly for fear of correction, shadow and securely convey themselves in coaches and cannot be discerned from persons of honour, besides which the roads are cloyed and festered and horses lamed. In future, no one under the degree of a Knight or a Privy Councillor, Queen's Counsel, &c., or paying £50 to the subsidy assessment, shall ride or travel in coaches under penalty of £5 for every offence, and no person shall let coach or coach-horses to any but those hereby authorised to use them upon pain of forfeiting the same. It was read for the first time on November 5, but on the second reading two days later it was rejected, and, as a compromise, a Bill touching the breed and maintenance of horses was ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney-General.¹ In 1635 they had become so numerous as to be considered a nuisance by the Court, and had to be

¹ Report of the Hist. MSS. Commission.

limited by the Star Chamber. Pepys, writing on the 7th November, 1660, says, "notwithstanding this was the first day of the King's (Charles II.) proclamation against hackney coaches coming into the streets to stand to be hired, yet I got one to carry me home."

The introduction of stage coaches was similarly resented by the Company, and in 1670 a Bill was ordered by them to be drawn up and preferred in Parliament against the obnoxious vehicles. The Company also resolved to reward any person who should be instrumental in procuring the enactment of the Bill. The Clerk's services in this direction were recognised by a gift of one hundred pounds, but the steps taken were without any material effect, as events have shown.

In 1624-5, the City was visited by a pestilence in which 35,403 persons perished. On each occasion of these plagues the Lord Mayor prohibited all public feasts and assemblies, and the following minute is probably in reference to this interdict:—

A.D. 1624.
Plague.

1626. *August 10th.*

"At this Court it is ordered that there shall be a Masters' dynner kept in private manner w^houte any solemnitie as hath byn accustomed."

Charles I. succeeded to the throne in 1625, and on the 3rd of May in that year, we read that—

“At this Court were appointed to be Whiflers at the
 “Whiflers.” King’s Coronacõn, viz., Abell Caine, Daniell
 Haldenby, Thomas Carter, Michael
 Helmsley, Edward Hill, Edmund Sheppard, Richard
 Gervices, and John Burgess (members of the Livery).”

The precise derivation of the term “Whifler” has exercised the minds of many writers. It seems tolerably clear, however, that “Whiflers” were so called from their custom of carrying long wands, which they brandished about to clear the way for the pageant, thereby making a whifling noise. The word is of frequent occurrence in the Company’s books, as every year the Company appointed a number of the junior members of the Company to act as Whiflers in the Lord Mayor’s procession. Other Companies did the same.

A plague broke out again in 1630, resembling
 a spotted fever, and was particularly
 fatal, destroying life within four or five
 days. All public assemblies were
 suppressed by an order of the Lords of the
 Council, and a precept was issued by the Lord
 Mayor to the Companies accordingly. The
 Company’s records refer to it as follows :—

A. D. 1630.
 Plague.

1630 *May 25th.*

“At this Court the Lord Mayor’s letter sent vnto the
 Companie being read whereby it was desired that
 meetings at o^r Hall be forborne during the tyme of the
 visitaçõn It is ordered accordingly that all extraordinary

meetings be forborne except Midsomer daie for the elec̃on of officers at the Guyldhall and on q^{ter} daies.”

On the same day we read that—

“At this Court their was given to Captayne Whistler our old Armor and 14 Calervers compleate The Armor when hee sawe them refused it and toke onely the Calervers.”

In 1628 a noteworthy incident took place in the City. On the 18th June, Dr. A.D. 1628.
Dr. Lamb. Lamb, a conjuror, and a creature of the unpopular Duke of Buckingham, was mobbed by a crowd in Cheapside, and so severely handled that he died the same day in the Poultry Compter, where he had been taken for attention to his injuries. Tidings of the incident reached the ears of the King, who was so incensed thereat, that he imposed a fine of £6,000 upon the City, and threatened to withdraw its Charter. The fine was subsequently reduced to 1,500 marks, the burden, as usual, falling heavily upon the Companies. The Saddlers' Company's proportion was £10 and is thus alluded to :—

1633. *January 30th.*

“This Court beinge called by p'cept from the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen for the Levyinge of x^l by the pole accordinge to the p'cept for the death of Doctor Lambe was leavyed the same daie accordingly.”

On the 25th May, 1630, we learn that—

“ At this Court upon a petiçōn exhibited vnto this Court by the inhabitants of the p'ish of St. George in Southwarke for reliefe towards the re-edifyng of their p'ish Church and Steeple It is ordered by this Court that there shalbe given them towards it Fortie Shillings to be paid by the Renter Warden.”

In 1631, Bishop Laud, who three years before had been raised to the see of London, took in hand a project for the restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral, then imperfect and in decay. In April of the same year he obtained a commission for that purpose from Charles I., who was strongly interested in the undertaking, not only from his attachment to Laud, but by reason of his own personal inclinations and tastes—being a great lover of the arts. The work, consisting chiefly of a new west portico, was entrusted to Inigo Jones, but the undertaking, although liberally subscribed to by the City, by Laud, and the King himself, was not popular, and gave great offence to the Puritans. The work got on but slowly. The Lord Mayor received an exhortation from the King, to assist in raising the funds for the purpose, and the Companies were, as usual, called upon to contribute. The following are the Company's records :—

1631. *February 16th.*

“ At this Court the Bishop of London's lre was read for repairinge of Paule's Church To give an answere the next Court daie.”

1632. *May 10th.*

“At this Court the repairinge of Paule’s Church was considered of and it is ordered that there shalbe given towards it the sum of fifteen pounds to bee paid by Xℓ a yeare if the worke goe on, if not to cease The first to be paid p’sently.”

Ten years afterwards, a sum of nearly £17,000 remaining in hand of the restoration fund for the still unfinished works, was appropriated by the Parliament. The edifice itself was turned into a barracks for Cromwell’s iconoclasts, and its sacred precincts into a ninepin court for his profane and brawling troopers. Archbishop Laud was beheaded in 1644.

We now enter upon the era of the Revolution, the period from which to the Restoration is memorable in the annals of the Company, by reason of the prolonged strain upon its resources consequent upon the rapacity of Charles I., and the exigencies of the State during the subsequent internecine struggles of the country.

The first demand of Charles I. upon the City for money which affected the Saddlers’ Company appears in their minutes on the 20th December, 1627, which record a precept received from the Lord Mayor for the loan of £600, and the money is ordered to be borrowed at interest upon the Company’s seal. The reason for the precept is not stated, but, according to the City records, it

was in pursuance of an act of Common Council, passed the same month, agreeing to furnish the King with a loan of £120,000.¹ From the same source we learn that the Wardens of the Saddlers' and of the Founders' and Glaziers' Companies were committed to Newgate for not having used their best endeavours to carry out the Lord Mayor's precept, although, curiously enough, the incident is nowhere recorded in the Company's books.²

The town of Bury St. Edmunds suffered terribly from a plague in 1636-7, and the distress of the inhabitants evoked the sympathy of the Company. We read that on the 7th November, 1637—

“At this Courte there was given to the Town of St. Edmunds Bury being visited w^h the plague 11^l paid by y^e Renter.”

The attempt of Charles to levy ship-money
A.D. 1640. was not more palatable to the Sad-
Ship Money. dlers' Company than to the City at large. On the 27th June, 1640, a Special Court was convened to consider the precept from the Lord Mayor for ship-money. It is recorded that—

“At this Co^{rt}e the cause for ship-money was debated accordinge to the direcōn of y^e R. Honble. the Lord

¹ “Remembrancia,” p. 196.

² Ibid., footnote.

Maïor, w^h the Courte doth not conceave they ought to pay."

The sequel to this odious impost forms a familiar incident in English history.

In August of the same year, when the great civil struggle was plainly impending, and the discontented Scottish Covenanters were about to cross the English border against the King's troops, the Lord Mayor issued a precept to the City Companies for the provision of ammunition. Accordingly, at a meeting of the Court of the Company, on the 27th of that month—

"Itt was ordered that there shalbe 3 barrells of gun-
 Ammunition. powder provided according to a p'cept
 from the Lord Maïor, and also maches
 and Bulletts."

The following month, Charles, in his dilemma, created by the successes of the Scots, who, unflushed with their victories, had opened negotiations with him, summoned a council of the peers to York, to meet him on the 24th September. The peers met in Council and sent a deputation of six of their number to London, and obtained
 Enforced Loans. from the City a loan of £200,000, the burden of which, as usual, fell upon the Companies. The Saddlers' Company were called upon for £600, and their record is as follows:—

"A Co^{te} Day kept on Wednesday, the 7th day of October, by direc^on of the Lord Maïor, for the Loane

of 600^l to ye King's Matie, all the Wardens and Assistants being p'sent. Att this Co^{rt}e a lre from y^e ryhte No^{ble} y^e Lo Maior, directed to o^r M^r and Wardens, was read, wherein was enclosed a lre to y^e Lo Maior from y^e King, and a lre from y^e Lords from Yorke, w^{ch} were all read, whereupon it is ordered that the said money shalbe taken up att interest."

In June, 1642, the Court were again specially
A.D. 1642. summoned to consider a precept from
Compulsory the Lord Mayor, demanding the loan
Loan of £1,000. of £1,000 for the Parliament for one
 year, which was ordered to be complied with.
 In order, however, to raise the money, the Com-
 pany were reduced to selling £100 worth of plate,
 and to borrowing the other £900 at interest.

The following is a list of plate sold on the
 occasion :—

	The ounce.				
	oz.	dwts.	s.	d.	£ s. d.
Eleaven dozen of spoones, p'cell guilt, weighing ...	24	12	@	v. j.	62 03 0
Four flat guilt bowles ...	98	10	,	v. iij.	25 17 3
Three flat p'cell guilt bowles	46	15	,	v. iij.	12 05 3
One guilt bowle w ^h a cover	20	10	,	v. iij.	5 vij. viij.
One guilt bowle and cover	15	10	,	5 3	4 02 6
	cix ^l xv ^s . viij ^d .				

In the following August, a further demand from
 Parliament for £200 was read, but the Company
 "in regard of the greate somes of mony they
 have alreadie borrowed, were unwilling to lend
 any more ;" and, immediately ensuing, an order
 is made discontinuing all feasts and dinners.

The next month, on the 3rd September, a Court was hastily summoned "upon a request made by the Committee, to borrowe the Companie's armes to helpe to furnish the Lord Generall. It was ordered that there shalbe lent sixteene swords and Belts D^d by appoynt^{mt} to Mr. Swayne, the keep^r of the Guyld-hall. This Companie is p'mised to have such warrant for the receipt of them back againe as other Companies of the Cittie haue."

The same month (13th September) the Company agreed to lend the supplementary £200 to the Parliament.

These continual demands told heavily upon the Company. Their meetings were ordered "to be sparingly and not to exceed at any Court daie above thirtie shillings." The whole of the Company's plate was, about this time, ordered to be taken out of the Treasury and sold, a decision which appears to have cost the Court an effort, for we find the Court resolving "that when the Company is out of debt there shalbe new plate bought in the room of that plate which was given under the last will and testament of any of the Company, and of as good value." The step, moreover, was held to be one of such unusual moment and importance, that the whole of the Livery and Yeomanry were assembled to consider it, but they adjourned without giving their adherence to the proposal, although at a subsequent meeting they did so.

Demand followed demand, until the Company

had scarcely a penny in their exchequer, and were moreover largely in debt. So exhausted had their condition become that they were even compelled to sell their old Corselet in the Hall.

Whilst civil war was raging in England troubles were brewing in Ireland. The native Irish had risen upon the English and Scotch colonists in Ulster, perpetrating deeds of violence unsurpassed by those of more recent times. The distress caused to the Protestant colonists in Ireland was sufficient excuse for a fresh demand upon the City Companies, and on the 4th July, 1643, "the Wardens Assistants Liverie and Commonaltie being assembled there was a lre read being sent from the right honourable the Lord Maior according to direçõns from the Lords and Coñions in Parliament thereby desiring the Companie to collect what sums of money they could for the relief of the Protestants in Ireland whereupon the greater p^t p^sent rated themselves accordingly."

In August of the same year the threatened approach of the Royal troops upon the capital induced the City authorities to pass an Act for obtaining a loan of £50,000 from the Companies upon the City Seal for defensive preparations, and a precept was issued to the Saddlers' Company for £600. The Company, however, expressed themselves "unwilling to borrow this sum in regard of the great sums they owe already;" but they were willing there should

be "borrowed £500, according to the Company's old proportion of 100 quarters of wheat."

The reference here to the Company's proportion of 100 quarters of wheat deserves a passing explanation. The City of London had from an

Corn Custom. early period adopted the custom of maintaining a store of wheat for providing food for the inhabitants and preventing extortion and "corners" in times of scarcity. The origin of the custom is unknown, but in the early part of the sixteenth century the Companies appear to have been rated for a contribution to enable the City to purchase a store. In 1578, however, the Companies determined to keep their own stores, and the City allotted them granaries at Bridge House for the purpose, but as their control of these granaries was subject to interference, they, in course of time, removed their several stocks to their own Halls.¹ The allusion to the custom in the Company's books is rare, and, as in the previous minute, only indirect. The Company's quota here stated as 100 quarters of wheat is in the City books stated to have been 90 quarters. Rye and meal were subsequently added:—

1630. *March 24th.*

"The p'cept for 3 quarters of meale to be delivered to the Alores deputies of Lyme Street and Cordwayners' Wards was read whereupon it is ordered that there

¹ Herbert's "Hist. Essay," p. 130 *et seq.*

shalbe given to Mr. Rayment towards the serveing of the said three quarters of Meale ij[℥] ij^s weekly during the Companyes pleasure.”

1631. *June 24th.*

“At this Court the p^{re}cept for Rye was read. It is ordered that the Wardens shall give such order as they thinke.”

1636. *August 15th.*

“At this Court Warden Newton having one hundred Pounds of the Companies on his hand towards the furnishing of the Granarie at the Bridge house allowed the Companie for o^r corne wh^{ch} he had undertaken for three yeares w^{ch} expired at Midsomer last w^{ch} was d^a to our M^r.”

Directly after the Fire of London the Company directed the Wardens to inspect their granary, and after this no reference to it whatever occurs in their books.

In the following September (1644) the Parliament adopted the famous Solemn League and Covenant, which was a Declaration to preserve the Reformed Church in Scotland, to promote the reformation of religion in England, and to “abolish all popery, prelacy, and schism.” The adoption of the Covenant was enforced in Scotland, and many of all ranks were compelled to subscribe to it in England, including the Saddlers’ Company, as we gather from the following minute :—

A.D. 1644.
Solemn League
and Covenant.

1644. *March 20th.*

At this Court it is ordered that the Wardens Assts. and clothinge, and the new liverie that is to bee taken in, shall bringe in their Certificate that they have taken the last Covenñte.¹

On the 17th April, 1645, the following minute
1645. occurs :—

“At this Court it is ordered that the petiçõn now read shalbe ingrossed and delivered in the name of the Company unto the Committee that p’vide saddles for the armie.”

We may safely construe the object of this petition as being to obtain a contract for the manufacture and supply of saddles for the army. The Calendars of State Papers about this period contain numerous records relating to the part taken by the Company and its members in furnishing the army, as will be seen from the following excerpts :—

1639. *January 14th.*

“Order of the Committee of the Council of War. That some of the principal saddlers of London attend the Earl of Essex, who is to treat with them touching the furnishing a proportion of good saddles, with bits, straps, and other appurtenances according to a pattern

¹ The Solemn League and Covenant was a modification of the National Covenant, drawn up at Edinburgh five years previously, as a protest against the attempt of Charles to enforce Episcopacy upon the Scotch.

brought out of the Low Countries, which was sent to the Earl by his Comptroller, and to know at what prices they will furnish the same, and how many a month, whereof the Earl is to make certificate." ¹

1640. *January 24th.*

"Order of the Committee of the Council of War. The Earl of Newport, as Master of the Ordnance, to certify what number of serviceable saddles are in each of his Majesty's store houses here, or in the north, and what number of saddles the Company of Saddlers will undertake to deliver monthly." ²

Also warrants by the Council of State for the payment of money³—

1651. *June 3rd.*

"From the Treasurer of War to William Pease, Daniel Holdenby, Thomas Webb, Joshua Shepheard, Nathaniel Walters, Henry Ward, William Hussey, and William Chevall, Saddlers, for 1,000 saddles delivered into the stores, the sum of £850;" also

1651. *June 16th.*

"From the same to Nathaniel Walters, Humphry Gaywood, and William Storer, Saddlers, for 100 pack saddles with their furniture for the army in Scotland, £75."

1651. *July 9th.*

"From Major-General Harrison to Nathaniel Walters William Stoarer, and Humphry Gaywood for 200 pack saddles for the army in Scotland, £150."

¹ "State Papers, Domestic," Charles I., vol. cccix., No. 78.

² Ibid, vol. cccxlii.

³ Ibid

A minute of the Company's proceedings in July, 1652, records that the above-mentioned Nathaniel Walters was fined 30s. by the Company "for making defective saddles for y^e State's service."

Among the numerous other obligations imposed upon the City Companies, was a re-
 1649. quirement to keep a store of gunpowder for the defence of the City; the Saddlers' Company appear to have had their "gunpowder house" in the garden of a house belonging to them at London Wall. On the 22nd January, 1649, we read that—

"At this Court our master received nyneteene pounds tenn shillings for the gunpowder he sold of the Companies."

On the 3rd September, 1651, Cromwell
 Battle of Worcester. defeated the Royalist troops at Worcester, and his army entered and plundered the City, and on the 19th December ensuing, the following minute occurs:—

"Att this Corte upon y^e petiçõn of Anthony Norris of Worcester a member of this fellowship being plundered there at the comeing in of the army. It is ordered that y^e Renter Warden shall deliver forty shillings to Mr. William Freeman to bee sent to him as the guifte of this Company."

On the 17th October, 1651, it was ordered that—

“There shalbe a Banner made an ell square against y^e next Lord Maior’s day with the States armes upon it.”

About this time an order was issued from the
The King’s
Arms. Council of State, commanding the removal of the arms and pictures of the late King from all churches, common halls of the Companies, and other public places, and accordingly we find the following minute immediately ensuing upon the one just quoted :—

“Att this Corte it is ordered that y^e late King his armes shalbee pulled downe and destroyed, and white glasse put in y^e place.”

During the latter part of the period of civil war
The Fine of
Marlborough. the Halls of the City Companies were nearly all occupied by various Departments of the State for the transaction of public business. The Guildhall was used as a Parliament House. Weavers’ Hall was the office of the Exchequer, Goldsmiths’ Hall the national bank, and so on. Saddlers’ Hall in 1653 was occupied by the Commissioners for collecting funds for the relief of the City of Marlborough, which in the April of that year was almost totally destroyed by fire. Curiously enough, the circumstance of this occupation of their Hall is nowhere alluded to in the Company’s books, although mention occurs of a subscription towards the relief of the inhabitants. In the archives of the City of Chester, however, there are preserved letters from the Commis-

sioners for managing and ordering collections for the distressed inhabitants of Marlborough dated 9th June, 1653, from Saddlers' Hall, accompanying orders of the Council of State for the same purpose.¹

The Restoration took place eleven years after the execution of Charles I., and on the
 1660.
 The Restoration. 28th February, 1660, occurs the first indication of the return of the Company's loyalty to the throne.

“Ordered y^t y^e Master and Wardens doe forthwith agree with some able workmen to sett up the King's Armes in painted glasse in the hall-window where it formerly stood.”

The occasion of the public entry of Charles II. into London on the 29th May, 1660, was made one of surpassing splendour. Evelyn picturesquely describes the rejoicing occasioned by the event.

“This day his majestic, Charles II., came to London after a sad and long exile and calamitous suffering, both of the King and Church, being 17 years. This was also his birthday, and with a triumph of above 20,000 horse and foote brandishing their swords and shouting with inexpressible joy; the wayes strewed with flowers, the bells ringing, the streets hung with tapestry, fountaines running with wine, the Maior, Aldermen, and all

¹ Reports of the Hist. MSS. Commission, Appendix viii., p. 386.

the Companies in their Liveries, chaines of gold and banners."

To such straitened circumstances had the Saddlers' Company been reduced by the late excessive exactions and enforced loans, that we find them compelled to order that "no allowance should be made to any member who rode to bring in the King's ma^{tie} and the two Dukes but y^t every man beare his owne charges."

The City, however, exemplified its joy in Contribution to a still more substantial manner, by Charles II. voting in Common Council the sum of £12,000 to the Royal Purse. The following is a record of the Company's contribution :—

1660. *May 28th.*

"P^d into the Chamber of London according to an act of Common Councill of the 2^d of May, 1660, 144[£] being soe much assessed upon the Company to be p'sented to his Maiestic and the two Dukes."

In September following the Company were again called upon to contribute, this time pursuant to an Act of Parliament, "for y^e speedy p'vision of money for y^e disbanding the forces of this kingdome both by land and sea."

On the 25th of that month it was—

"Ordered y^t Hanley y^e Beadle doe warne in all the Assistants and Liverie to appeare upon Saturday next, being Michaelmas day, to bring in their pole money, and Mr. Beighton and Mr. Thos. Pease (are) appointed to receive y^e same."

The coronation of Charles II. in the following
A.D. 1661. spring gave occasion for more re-
Coronation of Charles II. joining, and afforded another oppor-
 tunity for extorting money from the
 impoverished Companies. The Saddlers' Com-
 pany appear to have been called upon for two
 contributions towards the cost of the civic pre-
 parations; the amount of the first sum is not
 however stated. The following record gives
 some idea of the financial destitution to which the
 Company had been brought :—

1661. *May 9th.*

“Borrowed of Mr. Edward Smith for the use of the
 Company, April 15, 1661, 36£, w^{ch} he is to be allowed
 interest from that time.

“P^d the same tyme the sayd sume of 36£ into the
 Chamber of London, being a second p'portion assessed
 upon y^e Company by an act of Common Council dated
 9^o Aprill instant, towards the finishing of y^e triumphall
 arches erected against his ma^{ties} intended passage
 through the Citty as by S^r Thomas Slayer his acquit-
 tance doth appeare.”

On the 27th November, 1662, the City Com-
A.D. 1662. panies turned out to receive the
 Russian Ambassador, and at a meet-
 ing of the Court of the Company on the following
 month it was ordered “y^t those gent' who ridd to
 bring in y^e ambassador should be allowed their
 charges.” The expense individually involved on
 this occasion, however, was apparently less than
 that incurred on the occasion of the incoming of

the King, when the members were compelled to bear their own charges, for Pepys informs us that “their black velvet coats and gold chains remained of their gallantry at the King’s coming in.”

On the 29th September, 1663, the Company assembled to receive a precept from
 1663. the Lord Mayor, “signifying the King’s Royal intention of passing through this Citye at his return from his progresse with his royal consort, and to p’vide xiiij of y^e grauest and best of the Company to be on horsebacke apparelled with velvet coats and Gold Chaines. To be in a readynesse to attend y^t service this Court did then appointe those persons hereunder named to ride, viz., the Foure Wardens, Mr. Clowes, Mr. Mason, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Holdenby, Mr. Dashwood, Mr. Smith, Mr. Pease, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Milson, and Mr. Sheppard.”

In 1664 the City again came to the assistance
 1664. of the State, and granted the King a
 Dutch wars. loan of £100,000 towards the support of the war with Holland. Recourse was had as usual to the Companies, and the contribution of the Saddlers’ Company was assessed at as much as £700. Their exchequer being empty, the Company were compelled to borrow the whole sum at interest, as the following minute shows:—

1664. *November 5th.*

“Upon reading of a letter from the right hon^{ble} Sr John Lawrence, Knight, Lord Maior of the Citye of

London, thereby signifyeing y^t the Citty had undertaken to serue his Ma^{tie} with the Loan of 100,000^l upon speciall occasion, and thereby did desyre for the reputation of the Company that the Company should advance £700 towards the same upon such security as the Citty had taken of his Ma^{tie}, and y^t the Company would certifie y^e Court of Aldermen upon Tuesday next the tyme when they would pay in the same, whereupon it was ordered y^t y^e Warden should forthwith take upp 700^l upon the Company's security, and pay in the same with as much speede as might be, whereupon Mr. Edward Smith p'mised to prude them CCC^l from the parrish of Lambeth at 5^l p. cent. p. ann. and CCC^l more he would lend them at y^e same rate, and Mr. Milson promised C^l at y^e same rate, whereupon y^t was ordered y^t y^e Wardens should give the Company's security for y^e same."

The next contribution the Company was called upon to make was in 1665. One would think that the enforced loans which had so impoverished the Companies would have left little inclination on their part for spontaneous contribution. This time, however, their patriotism was stirred, the occasion being the war with the Dutch, which had again broken out. The City resolved to present the King with a war-ship, and to call it the "Loyall London,"¹ partly doubtless to identify it with the City, and partly to replace

¹ Evelyn has the following entry in his diary, 8th June, 1666: "I saw the London Frigate launched, a most stately ship, built by the City to supply that which was burnt by accident some time since. The King, Lord Maior, and Sheriffs being there with a greate banquet."

the old ship, the "London," one of the navy of the Commonwealth, which had been destroyed. The cost was £10,000, and the proportion paid by the Saddlers' Company was £124.

Dryden has the following lines upon the incident :—

"The goodly London in her gallant trim,
 The phoenix-daughter of the vanished old,
 Like a rich bride does to the ocean swim,
 And on her shadow rides in floating gold.
 Her flag aloft, spread ruffling to the wind,
 And sanguine streamers seem the flood to fire ;
 The weaver, charmed with what his loom designed,
 Goes on to sea and knows not to retire.
 With roomy decks, her guns of mighty strength,
 Whose low-laid mouths each mounting billow
 laves,
 Deep in her draught, and warlike in her length,
 She seems a sea-wasp flying on the waves.
 This martial present piously designed,
 The loyal city give their best-loved King,
 And, with a bounty ample as the wind,
 Built, fitted, and maintained to aid him bring."

The Great Plague of London first appeared in
 A.D. 1665. 1664. Increasing in malignity, and
 The Great spreading with fearful rapidity, it
 Plague. carried off in its ravages, it is said,
 nearly 100,000 persons. No meetings of the Com-
 pany took place between July, 1665, and January,
 1666, and the annual election of Master and War-
 dens, which should have taken place, according
 to custom, in the August of 1665, was postponed

until the January following, the cause being ascribed in the minute to "y^e late contagion." The Company appears to have suffered heavily from the pestilence, as in July, 1666, only four members were assembled at a meeting of the Court, which could not, in consequence, be held. This deduction is likewise supported by the numerous appointments which were shortly afterwards made to the Court and Livery.

The desolation produced by the Plague was consummated by the Great Fire, which immediately supervened. This fearful conflagration, which within four days destroyed 13,200 houses and 89 churches, including St. Paul's, and laid waste 400 streets, gave the finishing blow to the material possessions of the Company. Nearly all the Companies' Halls were destroyed, the exceptions being the very few outside the area of conflagration, and of these the principal were the Leathersellers' and the Carpenters'. Saddlers' Hall perished with the others, but the Company fortunately rescued their plate—what little mercifully remained to them—the burial cloth or pall, and a few of their books, such as appear to have been in use at the time, and thus easily accessible. The system of insurance of houses and furniture was not introduced until the following year, consequently this final catastrophe, coming upon the Company in their already impoverished condition, completely prostrated them. Moreover, with the loss of

A. D. 1666.

The Great Fire
of London.

their property, which nearly all lay within the area of the Fire, they were temporarily deprived of their immediate source of income. The Fire raged from the 2nd to the 6th September, and on the 25th of that month the Court met at Christ's Hospital, and, after viewing the ruins of the Hall, ordered—

“That Mr. Braithwaite forthwith employ some labourers or workmen to digg up the bricks, and take up all such lead and iron as belongeth to the Hall, and to secure them in the vaulte lately belonging to the Mermayde Tavern, and make up the same wth bricks to preserve the same.”

At the same meeting it was ordered—

“That the Wardens shall sell all the Companye's plate (except the two cupps given by Alderman Dashwood and Mr. Fisher), and convert it into money, to helpe to pay the Companye's debtes.”

Two Assistants were ordered to “go downe into Kent” to try and dispose of the Company's estates near Maidstone. The Wardens were likewise ordered to “make sale of all the iron, pewter, lead, and linnen that shalbe found in the ruines of the late fire.” Indeed, so hard were the Company now pressed, that they were compelled to dispense with the services of their under-beadle, and porter, and even to discharge a number of their pensioners. The next assembly of the Court was held at the house of an Assistant, Mr. Pease, at Bishopsgate. On the 30th October we have the following record :—

“Sould by the Wardens, by order of Court, two hundred eighty-two ounces and a halfe of guilt plate, at 5^s 6^d p. ounce, and four hundred twenty-seaven ounces and a halfe of white plate w^{ch} came to one hundred eighty-fower pounds twelve shillings and nine pence, w^{ch} was left wth the Wardens.

“There is now remayneing in the Wardens hands by order of Court one guilt bowle wth a cover of Mr. Alderman Dashwood’s guift, weight sixty-two ounces and a halfe, one silver and guilte bowle wth cover, weight sixty-two ounces, of the guift of Mr. Fisher, one nutt-megg cupp¹ slipped with silver and guilt, seaven browne dishes with silver tippes, and one seale in a box.”

And immediately ensuing is a record of two hundred pounds and interest paid with this sum for debts owing by the Company.

A small Committee was now appointed “to supervise the worke and workemen for the rebuilding of the Hall,” although nearly two years slipped by without any start being made. However, the following minutes occur in 1668 :—

July.

“Ordered that Mr. Thos. Davis shalbe ymployed on the rebuilding of the Hall, and that he be allowed xv^d a yard for sifting and carrying away the rubbish at fifty-five shillings a rodd for workmanshipp and lyme to the first floor.”

October 8th.

“Ordered that Mr. Braithwaite shalbe the bricklayer for the rebuilding of the Hall at 8^l 6^s 11^d a rodd, for

¹ This evidently refers to the cocoa-nut cup still preserved by the Company.

all worke that shalbe done between this and the first of April next."

November 30th.

"It is ordered that Mr. Davis, Bricklayer, shalbe workman to the Company for the rebuilding of the Hall and the other concernes of the Company, and that he shal be allowed viij^s a rodd, he being to rubb, gage, and sett all the brickwork there to be done.

"It is ordered that Mr. Hodgkin be carpenter for the erecting of the Hall at five pounds tenn shillings per square (? nothing stated), without flooreing, the sunners to be xvij inches every way, the girders xiiij inches every way, and the joysts 9 inches by 3."

In the following August also occurs an order for the wainscoting of the Hall at 10 shillings per yard. The cost of rebuilding the Hall was in a measure provided for by the summoning of sixty-three persons to take up the Livery, the fee for which had recently been increased to £10. Apart, however, from the expediency of replenishing the Company's treasury, such a step had indeed become almost a necessity by reason of the attenuation of the Company caused by the recent Plague. A few of the members so summoned pleaded poverty caused by their losses in the Fire, and were excused from serving for a time, for which many of them gratified the Company by a gift of money towards the rebuilding of the Hall. During the two years ensuing, numerous payments made to the workmen occur from time to time, amounting in the aggregate to £1,708 16s.

In addition to this sum there is an entry of £2 16s. paid to an ironmonger for "Bandealers and Musketts," and on the 15th August, 1670, it was—

"Ordered that the Master shall provide one dozen and a halfe of Turkey worke chayres for the use of the Company, and two dozen of cushions."

During the rebuilding of the Hall the Company usually assembled at Christ's Hospital, but on one occasion it was recorded that they met at the Cooks' Hall, for which accommodation they paid 10 shillings. The Hall appears to have been completed by the end of 1670, having taken two years to rebuild, and immediately ensuing we find an order letting it to the Distillers' Company for their Court meetings, for which they paid £10 per annum rent.

On the 15th August, 1692, it was ordered—

"That the Hall or any rooms below Stayers now layd thereunto shall not be lett to any conventicle or Dancing Master, or such like concerne, But the same may and shall be let for Companyes or Pattentees to meete in, and every one of this Company are desired to use their endeavours to engage such and as many Companyes or Pattentees as possible they can to take the same to meete in."

In 1694 the Hall was let for eight months for the drawing of a public Lottery for £61,000. The same year the Company granted a lease for 21 years of "the greate roome, or Court Parlor, together with two other rooms to the Governor and Company for smelting downe Leade with

Pitt Coale and Sea Coale," at the yearly rent of Thirty Pounds.

Again, on the 12th February, 1718, it is recorded—

"That the Clerk have liberty to lett the Hall and Court Parlour for Funerals and sales of goods during pleasure of y^e Court, he making good all damages arising thereby."

In the rebuilding of the Hall the Company appears to have infringed the right of light belonging to St. Vedast Church adjoining, and on the 20th July, 1669, the Company subscribed £60 towards rebuilding St. Vedast, or St. Foster, as it is called in the minutes, on condition that they should be exempt from all claims by the Church in respect of the said infringement, and from all liability of taxes for the rebuilding. Shortly afterwards we find the Company refusing effectually to pay a rate levied on the parish for pewing the Church. In 1698 the Court appointed a Committee of their number to wait upon Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St. Vedast, and to request him to take steps to put sufficient bars to the Church windows to prevent all possibility of access from the Church to the Company's premises.

The Company's Order Books contain frequent allusion to the great civic pageant of the year, the Lord Mayor's Show. The

Lord Mayors'
Shows.

ancient custom of the Livery Companies in attending the Lord Mayor in State by water, in a stately procession of canopied barges rowed by liveried oarsmen with gay music, "drummes and ffifes," and banners and streamers flying, must have furnished a very picturesque spectacle. Every year the Company engaged a barge or "ffoyste" decorated with an awning or "barge cloth" and a score or two of silk pennants and banneroles; and the following minute is one of a number of similar records occurring regularly every year:—

1609. *July 11th.*

"Xxofer¹ Topping was this Quarter Day admytted o' Waterman to fynde vs a barge to holde xl men on the least."

By the year 1662, however, the Company would appear to have followed the Company's State Barge. example of other Companies, and to have obtained a barge of their own.

1662. *September 26th.*

"Ordered y^t y^e M^r and Wardens with the advice of Mr. Smith shall take care to p'vide a house for y^e Company's bardge against y^e Lorde Mayor's day next."

1681. *October 6th.*

"Ordered the Comp^a attend by water on the Lord Mayor's day and that Mr. Frith Master of the Windsor Barge serue with his said Barge and Two Wherryes and

¹ Christopher.

haue ffive pounds and tenn shillings for the same and his mens Breakfasts and Dinners and they to fetch and bring back the Comp^a Banners and Streamer.”

In 1671 Mr. Alderman Francis Dashwood, an enthusiastic member of the Company, presented them with £100, a considerable sum in those days, to purchase bunting for their State Barge. This sum we read was invested in the following manner :—

“ Two Streamers each of them sixteen feet long, the whole breadth of the Taffety.

“ Three Banners each to be six feet square.

“ Two dozen Pendants an ell of Taffety to make four of them.”

The banners and streamers were to cost ten pounds a piece, and the pennants twenty shillings each. The balance of the sum was laid out in a handsome canopy, or barge cloth, of the character of which we shall get some notion from the following minute :—¹

1672. *February 26th.*

“ At this Cort severall persons being Imbroiderers by Trade appeared about undertaking the Imbroiderery of the Companye’s Barge Cloth and each of them did severally and apart propose the rates and prices they would doe the same for and this Court finding that Mr.

¹ In an inventory of the Company’s effects, as late as 1736, we find mention of wooden pegs round the top of the Hall “to hang the Bargecloth on.”

Henry Steevens had proposed and offered to doe it at the lowest and most reasonable termes, did then agree with the said Mr. Steevens and the said Mr. Steevens did undertake to doe and complete in workmanlike manner the Grand Coate with Helmet Crest and Mantle to contain an ell in breadth and a yard in depth each of them for three pounds a peice. The Horse for nyne shillings a peice the Escution with Compartlem^t at eight shillings p. piece the Bordering tenn inches or thereabouts in breadth according to the patterne that shall please the Master and Wardens at fower shillings and sixpence p. yard and for such crimson worsted as he shall use to be in Grayne, and all Cruel to be fine and to doe the Grand Coate Horse and Escutions according to the patternes to be delivered and forthwith to goe on to the doeing and compleateing of the said workes."

These processions were apparently attended with considerable expense, for on the 17th December, 1674, it is recorded that—

" This Court takeing notice of the greate charge they are at by goeing by water on the Lord Mayor's Day and that severall Companyes doe ease themselves of such charge doe order that on the next Lord Mayor's Day and soe afterwards this Compa^e shall not attend by water but that the same charge be saved."

The attractions of the custom, however, still lingered, and in the following September the decision was rescinded; the reasons that impelled the Court to this step are thus recorded:—

1675. *September 23rd.*

" This Court tooke into Considera^on an order made at a Court the xvij December last that this Company

should not attend by water on the Lord Mayor's Day and alsoe the late guift of Francis Dashwood Esq. for banners and streamers for their better accommodaõn on that day and that this Company is as well able to defray the charge thereof as formerly Doe think fitt to repeale and make void the said recited order and Doe order that this Company shall attend this yeare by water on the Lord Mayor's Day as formerly they have done and for that purpose it is referred to the M^r and Wardens to hyer a Barge and provide Trumpetts for the same day."

After the lapse of a few years, however, the Company adhered to their first resolution, and contented themselves with their railed stands, a custom which they maintained until the early part of the present century. In 1784 occurs an order prohibiting the drinking of wine and the use of tobacco, and in 1797 the Livery petitioned the Court to abolish the stand and the beef breakfasts, and in place thereof to permit their ladies to dine in the evening, a request which it is stated the Court "agreed to for that year."

The Calendars of State Papers contain frequent reference to an official known as the "King's Esquire Saddler." King's Esquire Saddler. Such mention occurs as early as 1444. This functionary was invariably a member of the Company. When, however, in 1680, a coachmaker was appointed to this distinction, the Company were so much concerned at the new departure that they appointed a deputation from the Assistants to make representations to the King. The Company's records

inform us that “ His Majesty took well the care the Company had that he should be well served ” and the coachmaker was dismissed from the office, and a freeman of the Company appointed in his place.

In 1684 Charles II., who had long been vexed and incensed at the spirit of opposition shown by the citizens to his papistical tendencies, and with the ill-concealed intention of rendering the City more amenable to his wishes and to the influence of the Court party, proceeded against the Corporation by a writ of “ Quo Warranto,” and obtained the arbitrary forfeiture of the City Charter. Similar processes were issued against several of the City Companies with the object of placing their government in the hands of men well disposed to the Court. There remained to the Saddlers’ Company no help for it but to pacify the King by a surrender of their Charter, and by a confession of implicit reliance upon his goodwill; and on the 10th April, 1684, we find it recorded in the Company’s Minutes that—

1684. *April 10th.*

“ This Court taking notice that several ‘ Scire Facias ’ or Quo Warrantos have of late beene brought in his Ma^{ties} name by the Attorney-Generall against severall of the Companies of this Citty and being informed that his Ma^{ties} pleasure hath beene signified to some of them that he will only allow their Charters soe as to putt the

Surrender of the
Company’s
Charter.

governing part therof into the hands of such persons as may be most Loyall and Serviceable to his Ma^{tie} and this Comp^a being readely willing to submitt their Charter to his Ma^{tie} pleasure thereon doe think fitt and order And it is hereby ordered that the M^r and Wardens of this Company Mr. Alderman Rich, Mr. Kempe, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Wareing and Mr. Fisher or any five or more of them, doe forthwth attend Mr. Attorney-Generall and pray that noe Scire Facias or Quo Warranto issue out ag^t this Comp^a for that this Comp^a doe and will offer and lay their Charter before his Ma^{tie} whenever his Ma^{tie} shall require the same. And the said p[']sons are hereby appointed a Co^mittee to draw up and prepare a peti^{ti}oⁿ fitt for this Comp^a to present to his Ma^{tie} if Mr. Attorney-Generall shall approve thereof And the said Co^mittee are to present to this Court such peti^{ti}oⁿ as they shall soe draw up. And it is further ordered that all other the Assistants of this Comp^a may if they thinke fitt be present at all the meetings of the said Comittee and to act wth them therein.”

The Livery were thereupon called into Court, and the foregoing order read to them, and their assent obtained thereto. The Company having waited upon the Attorney-General and communicated their resolution, were directed by him “to petition his Ma^{tie} and make such surrender as other Companyes did.” The following petition and surrender were thereupon drawn up and duly sealed for presentation to the King by Mr. Alderman Rich and others :—

“To the King’s Most Excellent Ma^{tie}—

“The humble peti^{ti}oⁿ of the Wardens or Keepers and

Commonalty of the Mistery or Art of Sadlers of the City of London.

“ Humbly sheweth

“ That y^e pet^{rs} are by Seuerall Auncient Grants and Charters under the Greate Seale made to them by y^e Ma^{ties} Royall progenitors, Kings and Queenes of England, Incorporated by the name aforesaid By w^{ch} divers Franchises, priuiledges and imunities were granted to them.

“ That y^e pet^{rs} takeing notice that Quo Warrantoes have beene lately brought by y^r Ma^{tie} against some of the Comp^{as} of this City

“ Doe before any Quo Warranto yssue out against y^r pet^{rs}.

“ Most humbly submit themselves to y^e Ma^{ties} good will and pleasure.

“ And y^e pet^{ers} earnestly begg y^e Ma^{tie} wilbe graciously please to continue their former Charters with such regulations for the governm^t of the said Company and the weale thereof as y^r sacred Ma^{tie} shall think fitt And that Richard Banner their Clerke may be continued.

“ And y^r pet^{rs} as in duty bound shall pray, etc.”

THE SURRENDER TO HIS M^{TIE}.

“ To all to whome theis p'sents shall come. The Wardens or Keepers and Commonaltye of the Mistery or Art of Sadlers of the City of London send greetcing. Knowe yee that wee considering how much it importes the governm^t of our Company to have men of knowne Loyalty and approved integrity to beare offices of magistracy and places of trust. The said Wardens or Keepers by and with the advice and consent of the majority of the Assistants of the said Company haue granted, surrendered, and yielded up And by their presents do grant surrender and yield up unto his most gracious

Ma^{tie} Charles the Second By the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, and his heyres and successors, all and singular the powers Franchises, Libertyes, priviledges, and authorities whatsoever and howsoever granted, or to be used or exercised By the said Wardens and Assistants By vertue of any right, tytle or interest vested in them by any Charters, Letters patents, Custome or prescription in force of or concerneing the electing, nominating, constituting, being or appointing of any person or persons into or for the seuerall and respective offices of Wardens or Keepers and Assistants, and doe hereby humbly beseech his Ma^{tie} to accept of this Surrender and doe with all submission to his Ma^{ties} good pleasure implore his grace and favour to regrant to the said Wardens or Keepers and Assistants the nameing and chooseng of the said officers And the said Libertyes and Franchises or soe many of them and in such manner as his Ma^{tie} in his greate wisdom^t shall iudge most conducing for the governm^t of the said Company and with and under such reservations, restrictions, and quallifications as his Ma^{tie} shall be pleased to appoint. In witnes whereof the said Wardens or Keepers haue hereunto affixed their Comon Seale, etc.”

At a Court held in August, the Committee reported that they had presented the petition and surrender to the King, “and his Ma^{tie} well recieved the same and was graciously enclined to grant the matter thereof, and had referred the said petition to Mr. Attorney Gen’all.” Whereupon power was given to the Committee “to manage and procure the confirmation of the Company’s Charter wth such further priviledges as can be gained.”

The new Charter was granted to the Saddlers' Company on the 24th December following, and read at the Quarter Court in January, when the Wardens, Assistants, and Clerk took the oath and subscribed the declaration. Charles II. died during the next month (6th February, 1685), and was succeeded by his brother, James II., and in the month of May, in view of the approaching election of Parliament, the Company were reconstituted a Livery, and were called upon by the Lord Mayor, pursuant to an injunction from James, to return a list, for ratification by the Court of Aldermen, of such Liverymen who were of the "best, more discrete, and sufficient members of y^r Company *being persons of approved and unquestionable Loyalty,*" an obvious indication of the King's intention to influence the selection of voters. The affairs of the Company appear to have gone on pretty smoothly during the next two years, despite the increasing dissatisfaction of the City and country against the ill-advised King, who had let loose the reins of monarchical despotism and tyranny, and arrogated to himself the prerogative of ruling the national will and conscience without the aid even of a Parliament; for, to obviate the inconvenience of their want of compliancy, he had dispensed with that assembly altogether.

The Charter of the late King, Charles II., to the Saddlers and other Companies, provided for the right of the King to remove any

Warden, Assistant, or Clerk at the royal will, or by an Order in Privy Council, and further imposed upon the Companies subjection and obedience to the Mayor and Aldermen. In September, 1687, James exercised this power in an arbitrary and unequivocal manner by suspending, or rather discharging from office, a large number of the Wardens and Assistants of the Companies. On the 12th October, the Saddlers' Company were assembled to receive the following communication from the Lord Mayor and Order in Council :—

‘Peake Major.

“Martis the iiiij^o Octobr^r 1687 Ano R. Jacobi
Secundi Anglia, tertio.

“Whereas his Ma^{tie} by order of Councill (now sent down to this Court) hath ben pleased to Remoue seuerall Masters and Wardens and Assistants of seuerall Companies of this Citty, and comanded this Court to Signifye his Ma^{ties} pleasure therein to the said Companies. It is Ordered that a cobby of the said Order of Councill (for soe much as concerns each Company) be made by Mr. Towne Clerke and delivered to the Clerks of the said respective Companies to be by them entered in their Companies Bookes.

“At the Court at Windsor the xxvth of
Septemb^r 1687.”

“By the King's most Excellent Ma^{tie} and the Lords
of His Ma^{ties} Most Honb^{le} Privy Councill.

“Whereas By the Late Charters granted to the seuerall Companies of London, It is provided that his Ma^{tie}, his heyres and Successors, may by Order in Councill from tyme to tyme displace or remoue the

Master Wardens and Assistants of the said seuerall Companies or any of them, and thereupon the place or places of such person or persons soe remoued should be voyd ; And whereas his Ma^{tie} in Councill is pleased to order, And it is hereby ordered accordingly, That Thomas Fisher, Edward Fisher, Wardens, S^r Peter Rich, Edward Benskin, Robert Wareing, Francis Bulsell, W^m Morgan, John Sawyer, John Webb, Robert Johnson, Robert Stoakes, Henry Petter, Thomas Chew, John Hall, Cadogan Thomas, and Elias Rich, Esq^r, Assistants of the Company of the Saddlers, be and they are hereby remoued and displaced from being any longer Wardens or Assistants of the said Company.

“And His Ma^{ty} is further pleased to order that the Lord Major and Court of Aldermen doe forthwith signifye his Ma^{ties} pleasure herein to the said Company.

“WM. BRIDGEMAN.

“A True Coppy of the Order of
Councill.

“Wagstaffe.”

Then follows this terse minute :—

“Vpon readeing of w^{ch} said Orders this Court was broake up.”

The displacement of these Assistants was immediately followed by an order of the Court of Aldermen, removing them from the Livery.

The vacancies thus created in the Court were, for the most part, filled by the election of other Assistants to take their places. But the disorder already occasioned was complicated by the refusal of some resolute members thus elected to serve, and of others to take the oath of allegiance prescribed by the Charter.

The intelligence of the preparations of the Prince of Orange forced James in dismay to restore the City Charter and the privileges of which the Liverymen had been deprived, but the concession came too late to give him any favour with the citizens.

On the 10th October, 1688, the Company received an order from the Lord Mayor restoring the displaced members, consisting of all those already enumerated, and one or two others removed at a subsequent period. The same were accordingly restored to their former places and privileges and were re-admitted Assistants.

On the 4th December following, the Master and Wardens of the Company received a summons from the Lord Chancellor to attend him at Whitehall, which they obeyed, when his Lordship informed them—

“That by his Ma^{ties} order he had delivered back to the seuerall Companyes of this Citty the seuerall Deeds of Surrender by them made upon their taking new Charters. And that the surrender made by this Company to his late Ma^{tie}, bearing date the xijth Aprill, 1684, was lately come to his Lordshipp's hands, and he now delivered it back to the said Wardens to cancell, and his Lordshipp declared the said surrender was not enrolled and for want thereof it did not amount unto any surrender of the Companye's old Franchises or Libertyes mençoned in such surrender. And that it was his Ma^{ties} pleasure to leave them in the same state and condiçon they were in at the tyme of the makeing of the said surrender, and that his Ma^{tie} would give the Comp^a any new Grant or Charter. But his Lordshipp declared the

delivery back of the said surrender was sufficient, and that the Comp^a neede not putt themselves to the charge of any new Charter.”

At the Court following this interview the restored surrender was cancelled.

The abdication of James II. and the succession of William III. and Mary restored tranquillity to the City, and initiated a period of comparative repose so far as the Companies were concerned.

1689.
Succession of
William and
Mary.

In June, 1690, James having, with the assistance of France, invaded Ireland with a small army, the Company received a precept from the Lord Mayor, directing them to raise “suche number of Horse and Dragoons, or make a subscrip^{ti}õn of money out of the Comp^{ies} Stock as they shalbe willing to doe for their Ma^{ties} service on the present occasion of the feare of the French their invadeing this Kingdom,” whereupon the Court agreed to raise and equip two Dragoons. At their next meeting, however, the Court discharged the obligation by paying £50 instead. The Company followed up their subscription by proposing to the authorities that they should be entrusted with the making of the saddles and furniture for the Dragoons to be so raised, adding that they would furnish the same at moderate rates, and distribute them amongst their members, “that soe the same may

1690.

be done with care and speede." The result of the proposal is, however, not recorded.

The same month, the Company being informed that the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and
 1696. Common Council had agreed to advance a considerable loan to the
 Loan to William and Mary. King and Queen, upon the security of the hereditary revenue to be settled on their Majesties by Act of Parliament, at the rate of six per cent. interest, decided to advance £100. In order, however, to furnish this sum they were reduced to borrowing it of one of their members, which they did at five per cent. This was followed by another loan of £100 to the Crown six years later, which was raised in a similar manner. Both loans, however, were duly repaid with interest.

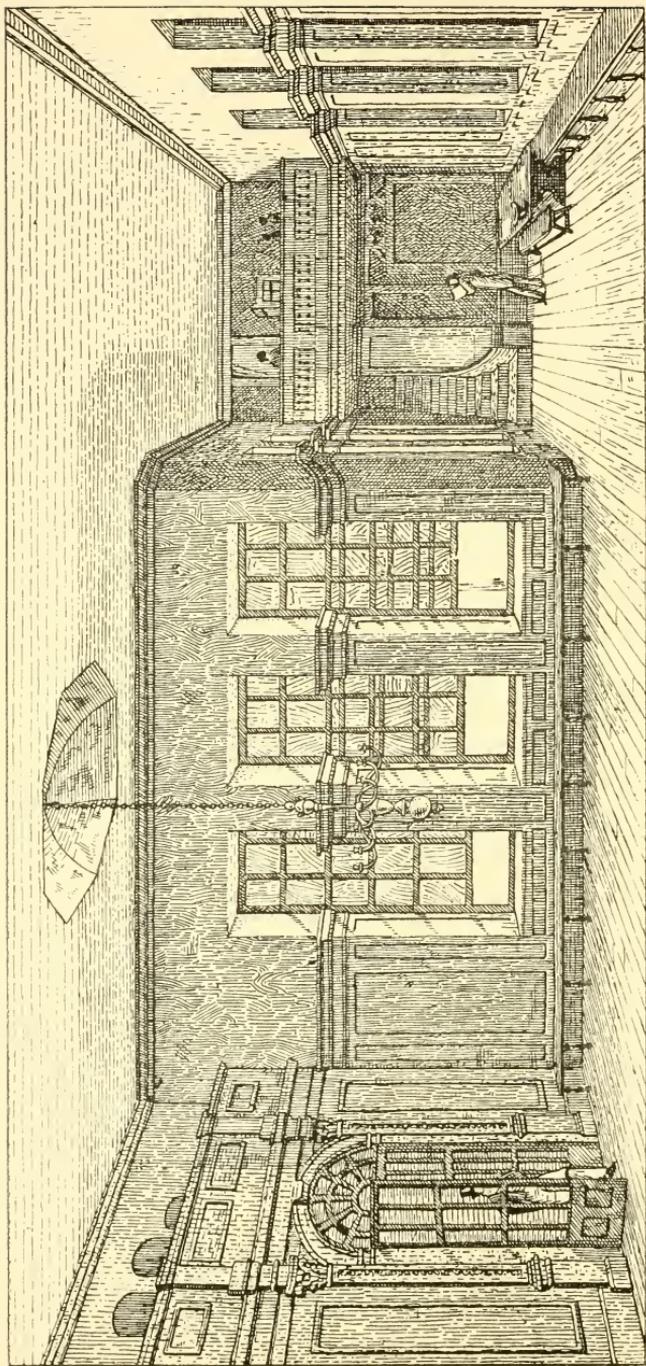
About this period Saddlers' Hall becomes associated with the name of Sir
 Sir Richard Blackmore and Saddlers' Hall. Richard Blackmore, the epic poet, one of the Court physicians to William III. and Queen Anne. Blackmore was formerly a schoolmaster, but he exchanged his profession for that of medicine, and supplemented this again by indulging his taste for poetry. His poems, which are ponderous and voluminous, earned him favour at the Court, but although Addison considered his "Creation" one "of the most useful and noble productions of our English verse," the merits of his works has not been sufficient to earn a similar judgment by posterity.

His poems are characterised by a high religious tone, and his denunciation of the immorality of the time brought upon him the wrath and ridicule of Dryden, Garth, and Pope, as well as of Tom Brown and other minor wits. His residence at Saddlers' Hall earned for him the titles of "the City Bard," "the Cheapside Knight," and a score of others very similar. He was not a member of the Saddlers' Company, but there is a slight flavour of the atmosphere of his surroundings at the Hall in his defence of his first great work, "Prince Arthur." He says, "I am not free of the Poets' Company, having never kissed the Governor's hands," alluding to which Dr. Johnson says, "He had lived in the City till he had learned its note." When Blackmore published his "Satire upon Wit," Garth replied with a pungent epistle in rhyme, addressed—

"TO THE MERRY POETASTER AT SADDLERS' HALL
IN CHEAPSIDE.

Unwieldy pedant, let thy awkward muse
With censures praise, with flatteries abuse
To lash, and not be felt, in thee's an art
Thou ne'er mad'st any, but thy school boys, smart.
If B— l's immortal wit thou would'st descry
Pretend 'tis he that writ thy poetry.
Thy feeble satire ne'er can do him wrong,
Thy poems and thy patients live not long."

Tom Brown addresses him as "Richard Blackmore on the two wooden horses before Saddlers'



INTERIOR VIEW OF SADDLERS' HALL, 1821.

Taken, by kind permission, from a Water Colour Drawing by Shepherd, in the possession of John E. Gardner, Esq.

Hall," and alludes to the Saddlers' Company in the following distich :—

"'Twas kindly done of the good-natured cits
To place before thy door a brace of tits."

proceeding—

"For Pegasus would ne'er endorse the weight
Of such a quibbling, scribbling, dribbling knight."

Blackmore was knighted by William III. upon the publication of "King Arthur."

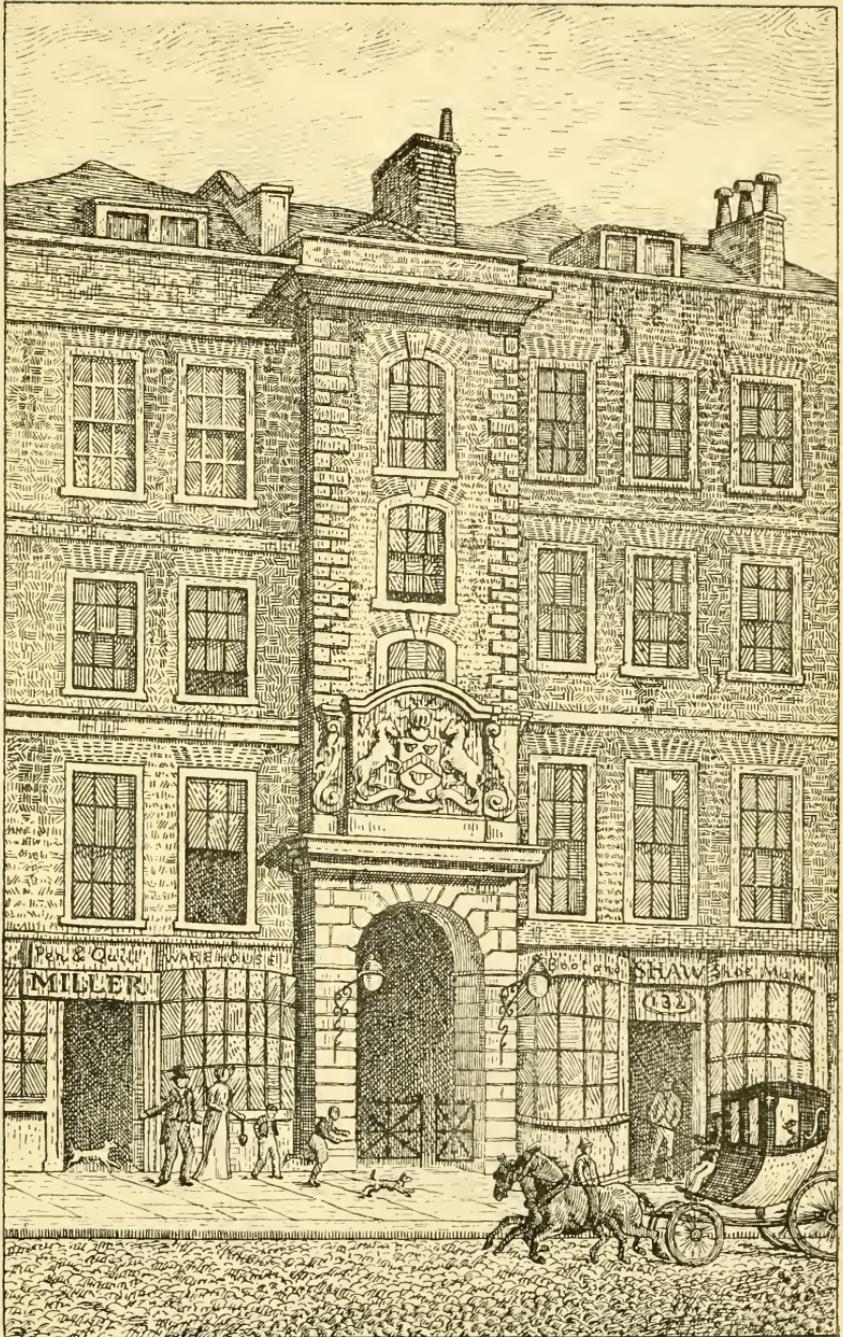
Very little can be gathered concerning the old Hall, *i.e.*, the one built after the Fire of London. From a minute on the 18th May, 1714, we learn that it had a cupola, or "Lanthorn," and in another place there is an order for the flooring of the room over the Hall. In 1668 the Company, upon completion of the building, contracted with the New River Company for a supply of water, taking a lease for eleven years at 45*s.* fine, and 45*s.* per annum rent. The occasional mention of a Pump in the Company's Kitchen, and of another Pump in Day's Court close by, gives us an idea of the Company's alternative supply. The Hall did not abut on Cheapside directly, but was approached from the main road by a small passage known as Saddlers' Hall Court, in which was the Clerk's House. Hatton, in his "New View of London," published in 1708, describes Saddlers' Hall as "adorned with fretwork and wainscot." Maitland in 1774, gives the following account of

it :—" Saddlers' Hall is situate near the end of Foster Lane, in Cheapside, at the upper end of an handsome alley, at the entrance of which is an ornamental doorcase, and an iron gate, and is a very compleat Building for the use of such a Company. It is adorned with Fretwork and Wainscot, and the Companie's arms carved in Stone over the Gate next the Street."

In September, 1714, George I. made his public entry into London, and to celebrate ^{1714.} the event the Company decided "to have new Standards, or Trophies, and this Court left the management thereof to the Mr and Wardens, Mr. John Heylen, and Mr. Thomas East, he being a Mercer, and this Court also ordered four Sir Loins of Beef, Eight Leggs of Pork, and Turnyps, and one dozen and a half of Rabitts frigusseed, and six Buttered Aple Pyes, to be for the Company's Dinner that day."

In the following January, on the occasion of the King and Court attending a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's, the Company ordered a "double stand" to be put up, and further, that "James Humphreys, a member of this Company, attend them wth a good Trumpett and Kettledrum as musick for that day."

On special State occasions it was the custom, as will be gathered from incidents ^{Processions.} referred to in the preceding pages, ^{The Companies} in their stands. for the Companies to stand along the



EXTERIOR VIEW OF SADDLERS' HALL, 1811.

Taken, by kind permission, from a Water Colour Drawing by Shepherd, in the possession of John E. Gardner, Esq.



route of procession in railed stands (as we see them in La Serre's print illustrating the entrance of Mary de Medicis, mother of the Consort of Charles I.). The arrangement and marshalling of the Companies was done by the direction of the City authorities, each Company being allotted a specified extent of rails and position, according to its importance and precedence. The City Books contain a list showing the amount of space allotted to the several Companies on the occasion of the coronation of Henry VIII. and Katherine of Arragon. The Saddlers' Company, on that occasion, ranked as the 20th, and were allotted 14 yards of rails. These rails were kept in the Company's cellar, and brought out as occasion required. Their Stand appears to have been in Cheapside, in front of their Hall, and on one occasion they resisted an attempt to oust them from their old position.

1714. *September 25th.*

"Sir Sam^l Stainer the Lord Mayor for this year haveing been pleased to order that this Company in case of any publick shews in Cheapside shall maintain their standing in the front of their Hall adjoining to their own ground, and where they have stood time out of mind till of late years, upon a representa^on p'sented to him for that purpose of the first of September inst. this Court thereupon ordered the s^d representa^on to be entered in their books and the same is as follows:—

"To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor.

"The Humble Representa^on of the Mar. and Wardens of the Company of Sadlers, London.

“That the Livery men of the s^d Company are 70.

“That the said Company is very ancient and gav Livery in the reyne of Edward the First, and being seized of the inheritance of a large piece of ground between Gutter Lane and Foster Lane in Cheapside they have had their standing on their own ground before their Hall and their other houses belonging to them there on all solemn shows time out of mind till very lately. That in respect the said Company don't claim any precedence before other Companys but stand rather below their degree only for the sake of their own ground, and therefore they hope they shall be allowed their ancient stand according to custom without p'judice to their right of p'cedency on any other occasion.”

Howes, in his account of the procession of James I. from the Tower to Westminster, on the occasion of his coronation, thus describes the mode in which these stands were used ;—

“The Companies of the Citie martialled according to their degrees were placed the first beginning at the vpper end of Marsh Lane and the last reaching to the Conduict in Fleet Street or thereabout, their seats being double-railed, vpon the vpper part whereof they leaned ; the streamers, ensignes and banners of each particular Company decently fixed.”

On the 24th October, 1721, the Court ordered—

“That if any member shall not come to the Hall on Lord Mayor's Day before the Ma^r goes to the stand such person shall forfeit half a crown or not be admitted at the dinner, and notice thereof in writing is ordered to be added to the tickets.”

After the pageant on Lord Mayor's Day was

over, the Company returned to their Hall, and dined together. Towards the middle of the eighteenth century music was introduced at this feast, and on the 25th July, 1757, we have the following minute, the pastoral allusion in which is interesting :—

“Ord^d that four guineas be allowed Mr. Goodwin for the musick to be provided on Lord Mayor’s Day next exclusive of the Pipe and Tabor.”

It was one of these occasions that led to the introduction of Prince Frederick of Wales to the Company in 1736, the circumstances being as follow :—

On the 29th October, 1736, being Lord Mayor’s Day, Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of George II., with his Consort, the Princess Augusta, who had a taste for witnessing this historic civic pageant, honoured the Saddlers’ Company by a visit to their Hall, in order, as the minute records it, “to see their method, manner, and behaviour on that publick day,” and having been saluted by the Court of Assistants, they were graciously pleased to drink prosperity to the Company. The Master and Clerk of the Company were subsequently deputed to wait upon the Prince to request permission to place the pictures of their Royal Highnesses in the Company’s Hall, and to solicit his acceptance of the Freedom of the Company—a permission which the Prince,

1736.
The Prince of
Wales joins the
Company.

having received the Company's deputation in person, readily accorded. On the 18th of November, the Court of Assistants, according to previous appointment, waited upon the Prince in a body at St. James's, and the incident is fully narrated in the following minute:—

“Their Clerk in a short speech returned him their thanks for y^e honour conferred on them by his Royall Highnesses presence at their hall, and requested y^e favour of him to accept of y^e Freedom of their Company, and that he would permit them to have his picture in order to transmit to posterity so great an Honour. His Royall Highness thereupon graciously condescended to accept of y^e Freedom and to permit them to have his picture and y^e Master presented him with the copy of his Freedom in a gold box, together with y^e account of y^e antiquity of y^e Company. And afterwards his Royall Highness did y^e Court of Assistants y^e Honour to introduce them to y^e Princess of Wales, when y^e Clerk in y^e name of y^e Company in like manner returned hir y^e Company's thanks for y^e honour done them by Her Royall Highnesses presence and requested y^e favour of her to permitt them to have her Picture, w^{ch} Her Royall Highness also graciously condescended to grant, and all y^e Court of Assistants and their Clerk had y^e honour of kissing their Royall Highnesses hands and his Royall Highness was pleased to order 50 guineas to be given to y^e Master to distribute amongst the Servants of y^e Company at y^e discretion of y^e Court.

“And they were afterw^{ds} by his Royall Highnesses order, refreshed with wine.”

At a Court held on the 26th of the same month, Lord Baltimore having written to inquire “the length and breadth of y^e canvas on which the

Prince and Princesses Pictures should be drawn," the Clerk was ordered to "waite upon his Lordship with the length and breadth of y^e Canvas of y^e pictures of King Charles and King James the Second which are in y^e Court Room."¹

The Court on the same day resolved to present the Freedom of the Company to the Lords and Grooms of His Royal Highness's Bedchamber, to his Treasurer and Secretary, and to Her Royal Highness's Chamberlain, and copies of the Freedom in silver boxes having the Arms of the Company engraved and gilt were accordingly delivered by the Clerk to the following:—

Gentlemen of the Bedchamber to His Royal Highness, Frederick, Prince of Wales.

"The Right Honourable Henry Bridges, Marquiss of Cænarvon.

The Right Honourable Charles Calvert, Lord Baltimore.

The Right Hon^{ble} Francis, Lord North.

The Right Hon^{ble} William Villiers, Earl of Jersey.

Chamberlain to the Princess of Wales.

• Sir William Irby, Baronet,

Grooms of the Bedchamber to Her Royal Highness Princess of Wales.

The Hon^{ble} Col. John Lumley.

The Hon^{ble} Col. William Townsend.

The Hon^{ble} Col. John Schutz.

John Evelin, Esq."

¹ The picture of the Princess was destroyed in one of the fires in the beginning of this century, together with those of Charles II. and James II. That of the Prince still hangs in the Company's Hall.

The Company made no attempt to conceal their satisfaction at the distinction conferred upon them by the Prince, and the expression of their loyalty took various forms. The January Quarter Court was transferred from the 25th to the 20th, being the Prince's birthday, while the Audit Day was altered to the 19th of November, being the birthday of the Princess.

In July of the following year the Prince, having previously given his consent, was
1737. elected Perpetual Master of the Company, and the title of Prime Warden was adopted by the Acting Master. At the same time, a Banner was ordered to be made for the Company with the Prince's arms.

On 4th June, 1738, the Princess having given
1738. birth to a Prince (George William Frederick, afterwards George III.), the opportunity suggested itself, both to the City and to the Company, as a fitting occasion to pay their respects. At a Court on the 24th June, the Company were informed by Sir William Irby, Chamberlain to the Princess, that the Prince had appointed "Monday, the 27th inst., to receive the compliments of ye City, and Wednesday, the 28th, for the Company's." Accordingly, on the day named, the Court assembled at 10 a.m., and proceeded to Norfolk House to congratulate their Royal Highnesses, "when the Clerk, in the name of the Company, addressed them in the words following :—

“May it please your Royal Highnesses—

“The Company of Saddlers esteem themselves greatly honoured by your Royal Highnesses’ permission to congratulate you on this happy occasion.

“The Increase of your Royal Highnesses’ family presents us with a pleasing Prospect, and spreads universal Joy over the whole nation.

“And this Company, by Inclination as well as Duty, most humbly begg leave to assure your Royal Highness that none more ardently wish a long continuance of Prosperity to your Royal House.

“And, in process of time, they doubt not but this young Prince will become a Blessing to Posterity by your Examples.”

To which His Royal Highness made answer to the following effect, viz. :—

“That he returned the Company thanks for their dutiful Address to him and the Princess, and that he should take all opportunities to shew his Regard to the Company.”

And afterwards the Company were regaled with wine.

On the 4th May, 1739, the Court passed the following order :—

“That when the Princess of Wales shall be brought to Bed of a Prince or Princess, for the future, the Clerk of the Company for the time being is empowered to order a Bonfire to be made before the Hall. But if there is a sufficient time to acquaint the Master thereof the Clerk is to do it.”

We likewise learn that a similar form of

procedure was in vogue on the anniversaries of the birth of their Royal Highnesses.

In 1742, however, this custom was ordered to be discontinued, for reasons explained in the following minute :—

November 19th.

“Whereas several of the Company’s Tennants adjoining to the Hall, and other persons in the neighbourhood, this day petitioned this Court to discontinue the Illuminations without doors which have been usually made on the Birthdays of the Prince and Princess of Wales, by reason of the great mobbs assembling together and the Injurys they generally receive thereby, the same was taken into consideration by the Court, and it appearing to this Court that great Inconvenience and Damage have been done to the Petitioners by such Illuminations, the Court therefore ordered that the same be discontinued this night and for the future, and that an advertisement be putt into the Papers specifying the reasons why the same were discontinued.”

On the 16th December, 1743, the Court again waited upon the Prince and Princess
 1743. at Leicester House, to congratulate them on the birth of Prince William Henry.

The next and last occasion was on the birth of Prince Henry Frederick, two years afterwards, in 1745, a year memorable for the Scotch Rebellion. On that occasion the Court presented the Prince and Princess with the following interesting address :—

“May it please your Royal Highnesses—

“The Company of Sadlers most humbly beg leave to

approach your Royal Highnesses to congratulate you on the birth of another Prince, and on the happy recovery of the Princess. The increase of your Royal Family at this time is an event which must greatly rejoice the heart of every true Briton, as it adds strength to our happy constitution now attackt by lawless rebels in favour of an abjured Popish Pretender.

“Permit us (S^r) to take this opportunity of expressing our utter abhorrence to the detestable Rebellion raised against the government of your august Father joined with some of his deluded and ungratefull subjects senseless of the invaluable blessings they have enjoyed under his most just and mild administration, an administration by which their religion their laws their liberties and properties have been most inviolately preserved.

“Surely nothing less than madness can excite these wretches to attempt to change such blessings into curses.

“But as the wages of sin is death we hope the day of payment is not far off.

“Animated (S^r) with these sentiments wee crave leave most humbly to assure your Royall Highness of our firm attachment to His Majesty’s Royal Person and government. And that we will heartilly join his loyal subjects and with them cheerfully contribute all in our power to quell the factious spirits of all the restless enemys to your Royal House whether foreign or domestick.

“Wee presume S^r to add our fervent prayers that the Almighty would bless your Royal Highnesses with Happiness and Prosperity And that your Royal descendants may transmit to latest posterity the virtues of their illustrious Parents as the means effectually to destroy the vain hopes of all future Pretenders to disturb the peace and government of these kingdoms.”

To which His Royal Highness was pleased to answer to the following effect :—

“Gentlemen—Your dutifull expressions of loyalty to my Father are very agreeable to me, and I give you mine and the Princess’s Thanks for this repeated instance of your great respect to us and my Family and I shall take all opportunitys of shewing my regard to the Company.”

“And they all had the honour to kiss their Royal Highnesses’ hands, and were afterwards by his Royal Highnesses Command regaled with wine.”

The loyalty of the Company during the period of the Rebellion was not confined to
^{1745.} words, as on the 12th December, 1745, we find the Court resolved that—

“In commiseration of the particular hardships and inconveniencys which must be suffered by such soldiers as are employed in his Majesties Service during the winter season towards the suppression of the present unnatural Rebellion to subscribe the sum of one hundred pounds to be applied towards their Relief, Support and Encouragement pursuant to a scheme lately published commonly called the Veteran Scheme, and for that purpose it is ordered that the Renter Warden do forthwith pay the said sume into the Chamber of London.”

The Prince of Wales died in 1751,¹ at the age of forty-four, and in the following
^{1751.} year the title of Prime Warden of

¹ The event produced the following ribald but familiar Jacobite epitaph :—

the Company was exchanged for the old title of Master.

Henceforward the records of the Company contain little of general public interest. The increase of stability to the throne gave the Company an opportunity of turning their attention to internal affairs, and their participation in public events is in but few cases of more than civic importance.

In the year 1798 occurs a record of £200 subscribed by the Company to the "Voluntary Fund for the Defence of the Country," recalling to our minds the sacrifice which the country was called upon to make at a period when, having barely recovered from the strain of the American War, England was forced into a long and bitter struggle with France. The Company had not the required sum in their exchequer

A. D. 1798.

"Here lies poor Fred,
Who was alive and is dead ;
Had it been his father
I had much rather ;
Had it been his brother
Still better than another ;
Had it been his sister
No one would have missed her ;
Had it been the whole generation,
Still better for the nation ;
But since 'tis only Fred,
Who was alive and is dead,
There's no more to be said."

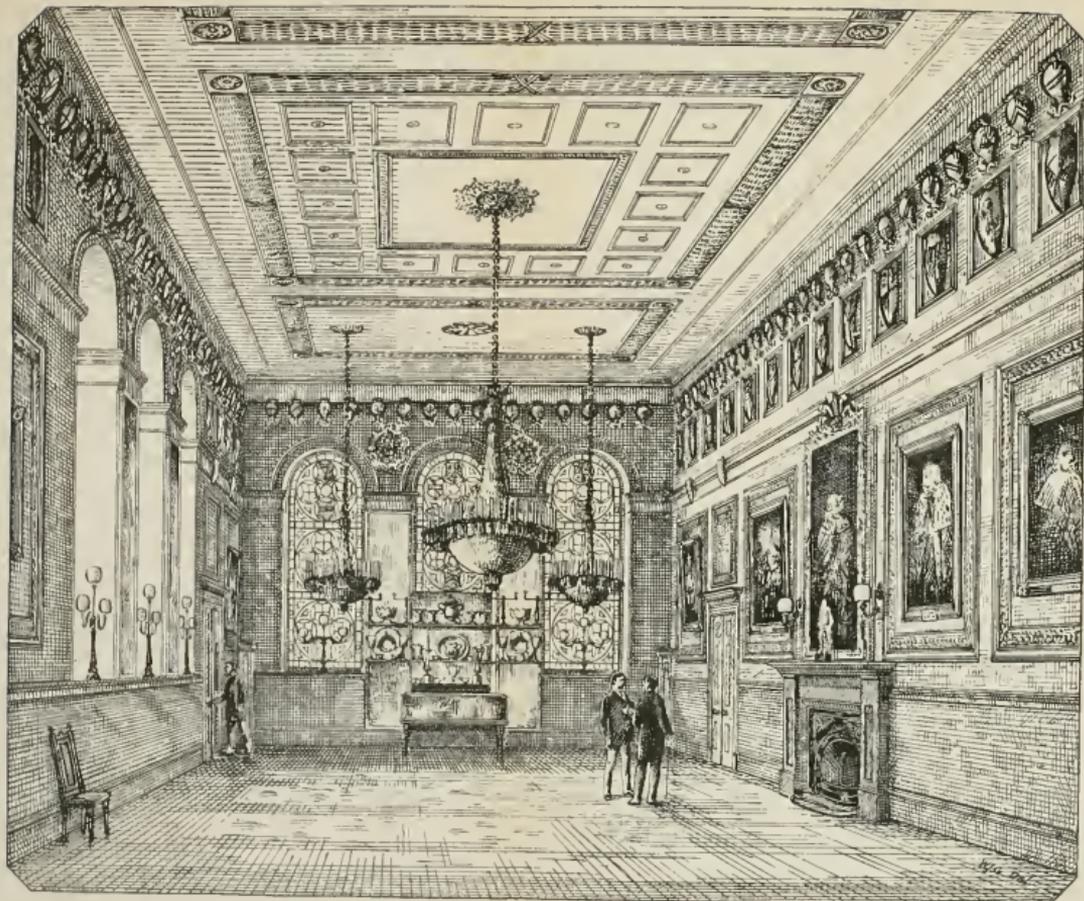
at the time they voted it, but a member of the Court quickly and spontaneously advanced it. For some time past the Company had voluntarily relinquished all dinners, although one would have thought that the glorious battle of the Nile, and other brilliant successes of their countrymen, would have afforded them many reasonable occasions for rejoicing.

In 1815 the Company's Hall, which from time to time had undergone extensive repairs and alterations, suffered by a fire which Fire at Saddlers' Hall. completely destroyed the Clerk's House.¹ The Royal Exchange Insurance Company reimbursed the Company the sum of £600 for the house in the passage, and the Hand in Hand Office paid them £589 5s. in respect of the damage to the Hall. Both of these sums were invested in £2,000 Reduced Annuities, purchased for £1,145.² Nothing was apparently done in the way of repairing the

¹ In 1863, the entrance to Saddlers' Hall, then an open passage or gateway, was moved some 30 feet eastwards, from No. 143 to 141, Cheapside, the old entrance being built over. In 1884, Half-moon Passage, a parallel court leading from 140, Cheapside, into a yard at the side of the Hall, and belonging to the Company, was covered in by new buildings.

² During the twenty-three years from 1793-1815, the period of the great French war, the National Debt was increased by upwards of £600,000,000, money being borrowed in the most reckless manner. In 1815 a loan of £36,000,000 was raised, each subscriber of £100 receiving £174—three per cent.—and £10, four per cent. stock.





INTERIOR VIEW OF SADDLERS' HALL.

Hall, the damage to which does not appear to have been very great, and the Courts of the Company were occasionally held at the New London Tavern close by. In 1817, however, the Court seriously entertained the question of letting the Hall and adapting the premises of the London Tavern, which appear to have adjoined, and the lease of which had nearly fallen in. The following year, 1818, the necessary repairs to the Hall were stated as involving an expenditure of £3,000. The Court, however, were indisposed to half measures, and appear to have contemplated the entire rebuilding of the Hall. Nothing, however, was done until March, 1821, when their course was unexpectedly shaped for them by the entire destruction of the Hall in a conflagration which broke out in a house belonging to the Company in Foster Lane, and tenanted by Messrs. Butler and Sons, manufacturing chemists. There was now no help for it but to rebuild. The unexpired term of Messrs. Butler's house was purchased by the Company, and part of the site of their house, together with the Clerk's House, was thrown into the new Hall. The furniture, wine, and plate, were removed without loss, and the painted glass windows escaped, and were carefully taken down and apparently reset in the new building. The furniture and the materials saved from the fire were ordered to be sold by public auction, and realised £500. The present building was erected from designs by the Company's surveyor, Mr.

1821.
The Hall
destroyed.

Jesse Gibson, and the first stone was laid on Thursday, 7th March, 1822. The wine cellar had been added to the Hall in 1805, being taken out of the ground in what was called "the front yard" of the Hall and inaugurated by a pipe of Port. Previous to this date we learn that the wine consumed by the Company was procured from the caterer who supplied the dinners. In the same year the Court decided to supply the Stewards' and Lord Mayors' Feasts from the Hall Kitchen. These feasts had hitherto been supplied from outside, very probably from the adjacent London Tavern.

One of the instances recorded of the Company exercising their full prerogative of search was as late as 1822. The Company having been informed by various London Saddlers that a certain Mr. Deykin, of Holborn, was in the habit of having a great quantity of worthless saddles made and disposing of them by auction, made a rigorous search throughout the City to find the whereabouts of the maker. Succeeding in the discovery, they appropriated sixteen of the said worthless saddles, being made of old trees covered with new leather, and appointed a jury of London Saddlers to view them, by whom they were at once condemned. Mr. Deykin being summoned to appear before the Company, and to show cause why the saddles should not be destroyed, denied the Company's prerogative ; but of this they endea-

Rebuilt 1822.

A. D. 1822.
Worthless saddles destroyed.

voured to convince him by straightway ordering the trees and webbs to be broken, and the saddles returned to him to use the leather. Mr. Deykin's counsel being present during the incident, the Company refused to hear him, and no more protest was made.

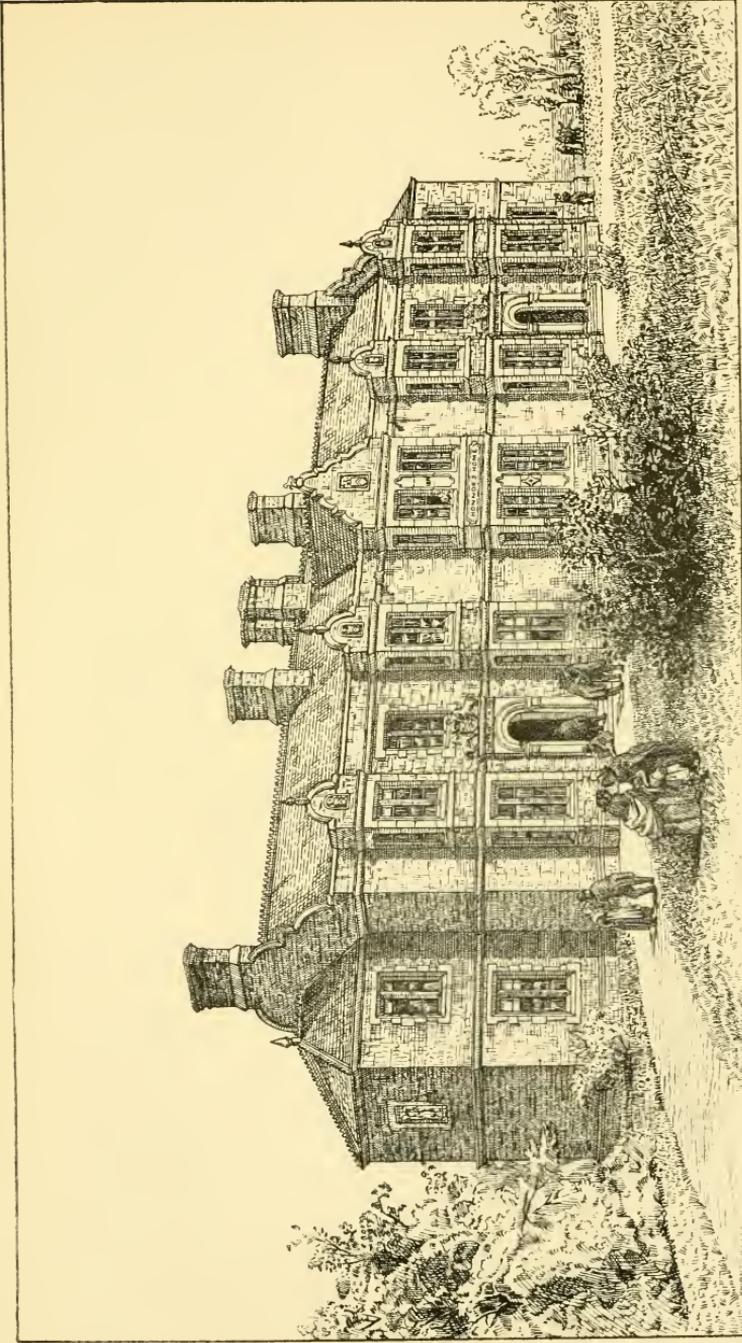
The last occasion but one in which the Company took a prominent part in a public pageant was in 1832, in the mayoralty of their distinguished member, Alderman Sir Peter Laurie. The Order Books relate how in that year they attended Sir Peter to be sworn in as Lord Mayor; how, after having breakfasted with the Lord Mayor elect, they joined the civic procession at Guildhall, embarked at the Tower on a State barge, accompanied by a band, and were rowed by 24 oarsmen to Westminster, where, after the ceremony of swearing-in, they re-embarked and landed at Blackfriars. The Company considered the occasion a fitting one to purchase new silk banners and the Royal standard, the Union flag and banners, with the City arms, Company's arms, and the arms of H.R.H. Prince Frederick of Wales, Past Master, then purchased, still remain in the Company's possession. Sir Peter Laurie at the same time presented the Company with a banner of his arms and a long silk streamer, which are similarly preserved.

This was apparently the last occasion in which the Company took part in a pageant or State pro-

cession by water.¹ The mayoralty of Mr. Alderman Cotton, then Master of the Company, in 1875, was the next and last occasion in which the Company took a prominent part, but the ceremonial had by this time become modified into the form with which we are more familiar.

In 1859 the Company built their Almshouses at Spring Grove, Isleworth, known as Honnor's Home. In 1769 Young George Honnor, a member of the Company, bequeathed to the Company the residue of his estate, amounting to £2,828 10s. 5*d.*, the interest on which was directed to be devoted to the relief of any Master, Warden, or Assistant that might come to decay. This provision not being applied for, the interest accumulated, and was added to the capital until, in 1855, the amount had increased to £17,995 4s. 4*d.* In that year the Company applied to the Court of Chancery for an extension of the application of the benefits to poor members of the Company, and a scheme was sanctioned giving them power to erect almshouses out of part of the accumulations, and to maintain therein eight poor Freemen, Freewomen, or widows of Freemen of the Company. The Company contributed £1,000 towards the buildings from their own private

¹ The last procession of the Lord Mayor's Show to Westminster by water was on Monday, November 10th, 1856.



HONNOR'S HOME.
THE COMPANY'S ALMSHOUSES AT ISLEWORTH.



funds, and the pensions are largely increased by supplementary grants from the Company. The first stone of the Home was laid on the 30th August, 1859, by the Master of the Company, Peter Northall Laurie, and the building was erected from designs by the Company's Surveyor, Mr. Fred. W. Porter, F.R.I.B.A. It was completed in September, 1860.

In 1873 the Company, with a view to promoting the art with which they are associated, offered a series of premiums ranging from ten to fifty guineas for improvements in military saddles. Three judges were appointed by the Horse Guards, together with two members of the Court, Saddlers by trade. Previous to entering upon the competition, the Company received a series of suggestions from the Horse Guards, as to the prime requisites in a military saddle, one of which was that it should be as light as possible, but sufficiently strong to carry a Dragoon, his arms, and ammunition, equipments and accoutrements, and to be able to stand rough usage and exposure on service in the field. Another was that, as the horses in a cavalry regiment are constantly changing, the saddle must be made so that it could be altered by slight shifting, or other method easily effected on service, to fit horses differing in shape on the back and withers. It was also to be made in three sizes so that it could be changed, in case of necessity, according to the size of the

Saddlery Com-
petition, 1873.

horses. Again, the saddle was to be made in such a way that the trees or panels could be easily altered or repaired; the intention being to reduce the weight on the horse's back, the present British regulation saddle, according to the authorities at the Horse Guards, being too heavy, and the hind fork, which is made to carry a heavy tightly packed valise, being higher than necessary. It was also stated that there was an intention that the total weight to be usually carried in marching order should be reduced to 16st. 10 lb., but the saddle was to be sufficiently strong to carry extra weight. In awarding the premiums the following points were considered—lightness, strength, durability; general fitting for broad, ordinary, and narrow backs; ventilation for the horse's back; simplicity; dimensions of the rider's seat; cheapness, and easy fitting to the horse's back.

For the guidance of competitors, military saddles from Germany, France, Belgium, and America were exhibited, but the competition was not productive of any improvement in the present English military saddle. The saddles were tested by the Military Authorities, but no award was made.

In the following year, however, the Company again offered a prize of 50 guineas, which was supplemented by one of 100 guineas, offered by Mr. Deputy Harris, the Master of the Company. The conditions were much the same as in the previous

Second Saddlery
Competition
1874.

year, and a jury was appointed upon the joint nomination of the Horse Guards and the Saddlers' Company. The saddles sent in were publicly exhibited for some days in the Company's Hall, and the Exhibition was honoured by an official visit by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, who was accompanied by General Sir Richard Airey, G.C.B., Adjutant-General of the Forces; Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Ellice, K.C.B., Quartermaster-General to the Forces; Major-General Sir Thomas M'Mahon, C.B., Commanding the Cavalry Brigade, Aldershot, Inspector-General of Cavalry; Colonel Middleton, C.B., Deputy Adjutant-General Royal Artillery; Colonel Clifford, V.C., C.B., Assistant Adjutant-General; Colonel Oakes, C.B.; Colonel Fraser, V.C., C.B.; Captain Fenn, Inspector of Saddlery, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and other distinguished Officers.

With the exception of these few incidents little of consequence remains to be chronicled. The Municipal Corporations' Inquiry in 1834, to which the Company gave full information, possibly foreshadowed the Livery Companies' Commission in 1880. Here similarly the Company, although formally refusing to admit the legality of the Commission, furnished full returns.

In connection with this Inquiry the Company feel great satisfaction in remembering that their honoured Past Master, Mr. Alderman Cotton,

then Senior Member of the City, and a member of the Royal Commission, signed the Minority Report, and presented an independent protest to the Crown, and thereby in all probability assisted materially in preventing the Commission from overstepping the limits and original intentions of the Inquiry.

CHAPTER III.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY.

The Constitution of the Company.—The Master and Wardens, Origin of their Titles.—Renter Warden.—Under-Renter.—“Cupfillers.”—Election Day.—Election of Wardens.—The Livery.—Quarterage.—The Yeomanry.—Translation.—Feasts, Quaint Custom.—The Yeomanry’s Dinner, or Bartholomew Feast.—Religious Observances of the Company.—Burials, the Funeral Pall, or “Burial Cloth.”—Courts or Assemblies.—Fines.—The Company a “Fellowship.”—Members not to rebuke one another; not to sue one another at law without license.—Peacemaking, Quaint Incidents.—Etiquette at Meetings.—Light-coloured Clothes prohibited at Meetings.—Apprentices “polled close.”



HE Company appears, from its earliest record, to have been governed by four Wardens and about twenty Assistants. The earliest titles of the Wardens recorded in the Company’s books are (1) Master; (2) Upper Warden; (3) Second Warden; (4) Renter Warden. The title of Upper Warden was, however, in August, 1663, adopted as an alternative or supplementary title to that of Master, the Wardens then ranking as Master or Upper Warden, Second Warden, Third Warden, Renter Warden. In the year 1737, upon the election of Frederick Prince of Wales as perpetual Master of the Company, the *de facto* or Acting Master assumed the title of Prime Warden, which, however, was relinquished

shortly after the death of the Prince in 1751, and the old title of Master resumed.

The title of Key Warden (Second Warden) is, in connection with the Saddlers' Company at least, quite modern, and only occurs for the first time as recently as 1859, no cause being assigned for its assumption. The title of Quarter Warden appears to have been adopted by the Third Warden in 1704; the intention of the change in the title was probably connected with the receipt of quarterage—a function previously performed by the Renter Warden, but now discharged by the Third Warden. This, however, is not absolutely clear, inasmuch as we find occasional mention subsequent to this date of the payment of quarterage to the Renter Warden. There never appears to have been any attempt to interfere with the title of Renter Warden. In the year 1609, however, we find mention of the office of Under-Renter. of Under-Renter :—

1609. *September 11th.*

“This Court Day George Cooke was chosen of Vnder-Renter to execute his office as heretofore hath byn accustomed for this yere insuying. At w^{ch} tyme it was fully agreed by all the Wardens and Assistants that the Vnder-Renter that hereafter shalbe shall be chosen by the box or Cadett (?)¹ in Suche manner as the Wardeins be and hav been chosen.”

The Under-Renter is not mentioned again, but

¹ Probably the old ballot box which still remains in use.

in place of him we find mention the following year of the election of two "Cupfillers,"
 Cupfillers. who appear to have been members of the Livery. Their office is probably defined in the name, although another function is recorded to them in 1634:—

1634. *March 19th.*

"At this Court it is ordered that the cupfiller shall take charge of o^r naperie and deliver it to washings and receive it back again and not suffer it to be lent out to any."

Upon the Renter devolved the custody of the keys of the "Treasurie," or Plate and Money Chest, a charge which must occasionally have been a little irksome, albeit honourable, as we read on one occasion that he was fined five shillings for coming to Court without his keys, and on numerous other occasions in smaller amounts for being late.

The ordinances of the Company, ratified in the reign of Elizabeth, set forth that
 Election of Wardens. on the day fixed for the election of Wardens—the 14th August—the Assistants, Livery, and the householders of the mystery, *i.e.*, those who kept shop, should assemble at the Hall before the hours of nine o'clock in the morning, under a penalty of twelve pence—the same to be employed in the relief of poor members. Upon assembling, the Company proceeded by couples

to church to hear Divine Service ; the Wardens walking first, then the Livery, the "householders" next, and lastly, the freemen. After returning to the Hall, the Company proceeded to the election of Wardens for the year ensuing, or for *two* years if it was thought convenient, and any Warden refusing office forfeited the sum of forty shillings, to be levied upon his goods and chattels. The ordinances ratified 6 James I. increased the fine for absence from the election from twelvecpence to three shillings and fourpence, and made no mention of the necessity for the attendance of the Livery and Commonalty, whose participation in the election would appear from the following minute to have been discontinued by these latter ordinances :—

1646. *August 14th.*

"At this Co^t the Liverie appeared without sumons, and by appoyntment sent into the Court twoe of them, viz^t., Thomas Jones and Will^m Deacon, to make knowne to the Court their desire w^{ch} was that they desired to ioyne with them in the eleccion of Wardens w^{ch} the Court denyed."

The ordinances ratified 21 Charles II. make it clear that the privilege and power of the election of Wardens is restricted to the old Wardens and Assistants, and set forth that after hearing Divine Service *subsequent* to the election, the Assistants and Livery shall dine together, and that at such dinner the old Wardens "shall solemnly make an open presentation and confirmation of the said

election in the said Hall in the presence of all such of the said Livery and others then and there assembled." These ordinances also increase the penalty for refusing to serve the office of Warden to ten Pounds, and there are instances where the penalty has been increased to twenty.

The Company's books do not inform us the colour of the Livery, but on one occasion, when seventeen members were chosen on to the Livery, 16th April, 1664, instructions were given to the Clerk "to repair to all ye seuerall persons aforesaid and deliver unto them their patterns of their cloath for their gowns and hoods." The ceremony of clothing or conferring the Livery consisted in the putting on of the hoods of the newly-elected members, which was performed in open hall by the Master—a custom which is still performed in a modified form.

The ordinances of Elizabeth empowered the Wardens and Assistants as often as they chose to elect so many of the younger men of the mystery into the Livery and clothing "as shall seem unto them meet and convenient for the worship of the City and the honesty of the fellowship," and a fine of 3s. 4d. was imposed upon each person taking up the Livery. Any member "of his obstinacy and forwardness" refusing to take upon him the clothing was ordered to pay a penalty of 40 shillings. Instances are on record as late as 1783 of members prosecuted by the Company for refusing to take up the Livery. The ordinances

of 21 Charles II. increased the fine on joining to ten pounds, to which are added 10 shillings to the Clerk, and 3s. 4d. to the Beadle; while the penalty for refusing the clothing is increased to twenty pounds. The number of the Livery is not restricted either by the ordinances or Charters.

Quarterage, *i.e.*, a quarterly subscription or contribution, paid by every freeman of the Company, is first mentioned in the Charter of Elizabeth, and is therein fixed at 3d. This was increased to 6d. by the ordinances of 1669, which also direct it to be paid by every unmarried sister of the fellowship, although the Charter of Charles II., 1684, only requires it to be paid by every *Freeman* "for the support of the infirm poor and old men of the mystery or art aforesaid, and for the amending of the state of the commonwealth of the Wardens," &c.

The frequent mention of the word "yeomanry" in the Company's books is a little perplexing. The yeomanry appear to have been a distinct class from, and subordinate to, the Livery. The term is also met with in connection with other Companies, and apparently corresponds to the "bachelorie" of certain of them. In the dispute between the serving-men and masters of the Saddlers' trade in the reign of Richard II., related on p. 46 *et seq.*, the serving-men are also called "yeomen." Moreover, in that account the serving-men are charged with corrupting the

journeymen, inferentially a distinct and different body. Viewed in that light it is possible that the apprentices were intended—in this particular incident it is extremely likely. Again, on numerous occasions we find in the Company's books records of apprentices bound for terms of seven and eight years, the apprentice being described in scores of instances as "yeoman," and the ordinary impracticability of holding a man apprentice after he had attained his majority would suggest that these yeomen were decidedly very young men. We are inclined to think, however, that wherever the word yeomanry occurs as referring to a class, the body intended to be understood is the shopkeepers—"householders," as they were called. In the ordinances of 21 Charles II., it is stated that the members of the Livery shall be taken into the clothing from the yeomanry; the ordinances of 6 James I., moreover, contain an enlargement of the liberty of the yeomanry for keeping apprentices, from all of which it is pretty clear that whatever may have been the original signification of the term, the term yeomanry referred to the working members of the trade and Company next below the Livery, in contradistinction to those members of the Company who pursued other trades and occupations. The yeomanry are mentioned as attending the quarter Courts.

The ordinances of the Company prohibited any member from translating himself out of the Company to any other Mystery,

Translation from
the Company.

fellowship, or occupation without the express consent of the Wardens and Assistants of the Saddlers' Company in writing under their common seal, upon a penalty of twenty pounds, half of which penalty was to be paid to the Crown and the other to the Company.

1663. *December 22nd.*

“Ordered y^t Edward Fisher, Carpinter and member of this Company at his earnest request and his p'mise to giue unto this Company a peece of plate shall be translated to y^e Comp^a of Carpenters.”

A somewhat similar law seems to have been adopted by other Companies, as on the 22nd December, 1653, we read that—

“At this Court Robert Waring whoe on the 29 September last was translated by cosent of six of the members of y^e Society of Goldsmiths to this Society (the Saddlers) was made free of this Society and gave 20s. to the use of the poore of this fellowship. D^d to Warden Milsonne xx^s.”

On the 13th October, 1663, three members of the Company having assumed the trade of Innholders and been proceeded against by the Innholders' Company, were defended by the Saddlers' Company, although the cause and the result is not stated. That the Company, however, did not always resist the translation of its members is clear from the following :—

1666. *January 23rd.*

“This day John Gase a member of this Company appeared and desired leaue of this Court that he may be translated over from this Company to the Company of Bakers in regard hee hath left of the profession of a Sadler and hath betaken himselfe wholly to the traide of a Baker. It was therefore ord^red y^t y^e say^d John Gase shall have leaue to be translated to the Bakers according to his desyre he first paying to the Wardens for the use of the (fellowship) the sume of Tenn Pounds.”

And afterwards at the same Court :—

“It is ordered y^t John Gase a member of this Company and now exercise y^e traide of a Baker shall from henceforth serue y^e Company with breade upon all occasions.”

Concerning the feasts of the Company the most important was what was called the ^{Feasts.} Master's Feast, which was held after the election of Wardens on the 14th August. What little we know about the other feasts is gathered from a minute on the 27th November, 1645, which fixes the expenditure on those occasions. For instance, the expense for victuals, wine, and all other charges of the—

	s.
“4 quarter search dinners (was) not to exceed.	30
4 usual quarter days	40
Michaelmas (Lord Mayor's feast)	45
5 November	30
Midsummer Day with half of livery.. ..	45
Audit Day	40
View Day in September	£3
Special Meetings of the Wardens ..	12d. a head.”

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If any money were spent in excess of these sums it was ordained that the Wardens should pay such excess themselves. The Entertainments of the Company, however, appear from time to time to have been regulated by their finances, the condition of which not infrequently—especially during the epoch of civil war in the seventeenth century—prevented any festivity. Similar minutes to the following occur over and over again :—

1618. *December 31st.*

“It is this daie ordered that whereas the ancient custom hath byn to kepe one qter dynner yearly in the month of Januarie that this yeare the said dynner shall not be kept in respect of the manie suits the Companie now have.”

1696. *July 2nd.*

“ It being moved that by reason of the scarcity of money and badness of Trade the same ffeast may not be kept this year the same is ordered accordingly.”

That the Company were not to be trifled with in the matter of their diet is clear from the following record :—

1614. *February 14th.*

“This daie Warden Boyden is fyned in twentie shillings for that at our last gen'all quarter day hee p'vided not such dyet to the Companie's good liking as heretofore hath bin accustomed.”

A curious custom, and one which also obtained with other Companies, was in vogue with the Saddlers' Company. This was for the junior members of the Livery to wait upon their seniors at all feasts and dinners, a custom which, doubtless, had its origin in the early Christian Church. The following excerpts from the minutes are adduced in illustration :—

1617. *August 7th.*

“At this Court it was fully concluded that there should be a Masters Dynner kept att our Hall on Tuesdaie the xixth daie of this p'sent month. There were appoynted to be wayters at the same dynner Thomas Hall, Will^m Collins, Robert Dowgill, and Will^m Allat.”

1619. *October 7th.*¹

“This daie Robert Dowgill, Nathaniel Forman, Thomas Goodale, and Henry Eleoch were appointed Whiflers to waite on the Companie on the Lord Maiors daie next.”

1631. *September 14th.*

“At this Court upon the request of Mr. Warden Burt his sonne Nathaniell Burt is to be taken into the

¹ The records of the Vintners' Company show that the practice with that and other Companies was “for the youngest of the Liverye at the chief feasts and solempnities at the Coen Hall to have caryed the dyett to all the tables, and afterwards sett themselves according to their places.” See paper read by the late Mr. W. Overall before the London and Middlesex Archæological Association, entitled “Some Account of the Vintry, and of the Vintners' Company.”

Clothinge of this fellowship and likewise it is ordered that Daniell Potter, Michael Helmsley, and Thomas Starkey shalbe also taken into the Clothinge to serve on the Lord Maiors daie."

1632. *December 20th.*

"At this Court William Grantham was fined in ij^s vj^d for not wayting on Michaelmas Daie whereof he paid xij^d w^h was delivered to Mr. Warden Pease."

It was customary for a yeomanry's dinner to be held annually on or near St. Bartholomew's Day (24th August); this was the origin of the present Stewards' Festival. Two members of the Livery were annually and in turn appointed by the title of "Wardens of the Yeomanry and Stewards of the Lord Mayor's Feast." From a minute in September, 1607, and again in July, 1614, we learn that the Wardens of the yeomanry were elected publicly in the Hall at a general assembly, and that after their election they made a banquet to the Assistants and Livery, who accompanied them home for the purpose. Subsequently the newly elected Wardens of the yeomanry were required to feast the yeomanry in the Hall, on or about St. Bartholomew's Day, usually a few days later, to which feast we find by a minute on the 14th August, 1713, the members were allowed to bring their apprentices and boys; the obligations of the Wardens of the yeomanry ceased upon giving a dinner to the Assistants and Livery on Michaelmas Day, known as the Lord Mayor's Feast. Failure to keep these feasts involved a fine of £20, which

was paid to the Renter Warden, who was required to hold the feast himself therewith, and the Court usually allowed the Wardens of the yeomanry, or Stewards, £4 towards the cost, which was not infrequently supplemented by a buck. As time went on the Court appear to have introduced their ladies to these feasts, as we gather from a minute of 8th August, 1677 :—

“ This day Mr. Robert Johnson and Mr. John Randall, late chosen Stewards for the Bartholomew feast, appeared and declared as formerly they would hold the Feast but not treat the women. The Court ordered them better to consider of it.”

The Court appear to have “ better considered of it ” shortly afterwards, for we find that in March of the following year they agreed to allow the Stewards £15 towards their charge. This liberality appears to have been discounted by a resolution at the same time, requiring the Stewards to provide music and wine and victuals, according to a *ménu* appointed by the Court.¹

¹ From a MS. by the late Mr. W. C. Humphreys, Master of the Company in 1863, which has been placed in our hands, it appears that it was formerly the custom at the Stewards' Feast for the newly elected Stewards, wearing crowns of laurel and tinsel, to parade the Hall, accompanied by two members of the Livery next in rotation to serve the office, and preceded by the Beadle and Under Beadle in gowns, with their maces and by a band of music. The procession would halt at the chair of the Master, who would drink to the Stewards' health, and address them in felicitous terms. The custom is in the

The following curious minutes are selected from a large number relating to this feast.

1605. *November 12th.*

“At this Courte Nicholas Mathew and Anthony Clowse being this yere Wardeynes of our yeomandry and also Stuards of the Lord Maior’s feaste were granted by the M^r Wardens and their Assistants towards their charge for keeping those dynners fowre pounds to be paid to them by the Wardene Rent.”

1607. *September 17th.*

“It was fully ordered at this Courte that George Potter and Rowlande Hodges shall at their charge make a dynner for ye Wardens Assistants and Livery on Michelmas Daye next after this Courte Daye to such as come to choosing of the Lord Mayor in respect that the Company did not charg them at their owne houses after their election to beare the charge of the yeomandrye’s dynner.”

1608. *February.*

“George Potter and W^m. Pilcharde late Stewards of the Lord Mayor’s Feast shalbe paide towards their charge fower pounds and more for baking of venyson 13s. which the Clerke p^d.”

1614. *July 19th.*

“Whereas Olliver Houghton and Nathaniel Burte were warned to appear this first daie of September before our Mr Wardens and Assistants and by them were made acquaynted concerning their clec^on to be Wardens of the yeomandry this next yere

Houghton and Burte fined by reason of a p^{re}cept p^{ro}hibiting feasts by the Lord Mayor.

memory of members still living, and was discontinued about 1855. There is little doubt that it remained from very remote times.

ensuing w^h elec^on hath bin accustomed to bee made publickly in o^r Hall at a generall assembly. And after the saide elec^on soe made the said new elected Wardens were to make a banquet to those that accompanied them to their houses. It is this day ordered that the said Olliver Houghton and Nathaniell Burte shall insted thereof make a dynner upon the fife of November next fo^r our M^r Wardens and the rest of the Assistants and Livery at there owne charge at such place as they shall be appointed whereof they both gave their consent."

1625. *July 19th.*

"It is this daie ordered that Toby Harvest and Thomas Hough (by and wth their assente and consente) shall pay or cause to bee paid to this fellowship in lieu of the charge they should have borne at the yeomandries' dynner and the Lord Maior's daie The some of xx^l a peece if either of them shalbe living¹ the Tuesdaie next after Bartholomew daie next coming viz., ffifteene pounds a peece and the other ffive pounds a peece is to be paid by them on the Lord Maior's daie next ensuing."

1625. *March 2nd.*

"At this Court Toby Harvest brought in his ffine of twenty pounds w^h was delivered to the Wardens.

"It was likewise ordered that upon the delivering of a good sweete and fatt buck of season there shalbe given unto the said Toby Harvest the some of ffower pounds."

¹ This saving clause refers to the plague than devastating London, in which over 35,000 persons perished.

1627. *December 6th.*

“At this Court it is ordered that the Wardens of the yeomandrie shall have given them the some of ffive pounds and a noble ande xxvj^s viij^d is allowed for a messe of meate on the Lord Mayor’s daie.”

1631. *November 17th.*

“At this Court it is ordered that there shall be paid to Wardens of the yeomandrie for two messe of meate w^{ch} they p’vided on the Lord Maior’s daie in the Parlor Vℓ. And it is further ordered that the Renter Warden shall paie them towards their charge the sum of fower pounds.”

1640. *August 6th.*

“At this Co^{rt} itt is ordered that Thomas Jones and Josuah Sheppard shall keepe their yeomandries dynner att the accustomed tymes of St. Bartholomew and the Lord Maior’s Day.”

In 1624 it was ordained that “the custom of bringing home the Wardens of the yeomanry having been long ago broken off by reason of some disorder to the discredit of the fellowship, the said custom of ‘bringing home’ and the charge arising therefrom should be wholly remitted, but that the yeomanry’s dinner, or Bartholomew’s Feast, as well as the Lord Mayor’s dinner, should be continued.”

The Company ensured a fair supply of venison by requiring the annual gift of a buck from their tenants, or a monetary equivalent. The practice was by no means an uncommon one at the time :—

1611. *May 30th.*

“It was ordered at this Courte that M^r John Hall shall have a Lease of his newe Dwelling house in Westchepe knowen by the signe of the Broode Hen and black beare for the terme of one and thirtye yeres to begyn at Mids^r next for the yearly rent of eight pounds and a bucke of season being a fallowe Deere or iij^g in money for not delyvering the same. The first paym^t to begyn on August next and to resyne his olde lease.”

Another quaint custom in connection with the granting of the Company's leases was the presentation by the tenant of gloves to the Assistants when the lease was sealed.

The ordinances, ratified 21 Charles II., appoint twelve Courts to be held during each year, *i.e.*, four quarter days, and two other Courts in each quarter at convenient times. Every member of the fellowship, without a reasonable excuse, failing to attend a meeting of the Company at the hour for which he was duly summoned, usually 9 o'clock in the morning, was liable by the ordinances of Elizabeth to a penalty of five shillings, and if he absented himself altogether, to a penalty of forty shillings. Any more serious offence committed either against the State or the fellowship was punishable by any fine the Wardens might choose to inflict, in addition to imprisonment at the discretion of the same body :—

On 7th February, 1610, we read that—

“Robert Christie (a member of the Court) for disobedience against the whole Company was this Court day committed to the Counter in Wood Street.”

1609. *September 11th.*

"Yt was ordered at this Courte by a whole consent that Roger Tvrner shuld (for great misssdemenours or speeches agaynst the whole Company of Wardeins and Assistents) be sent to the Counter w^{ch} was p^sently effected to answere the same."

1614. *October 11th.*

"It is this day ordered vpon the humble petiçõn of Christopher Harwood that the said Xtopher (being prisoner in Ludgate) being detayned for his fees w^{ch} amount vnto xxx^s shalbe discharged out of the said prison soe as hee bee by payment thereof discharged of his sayd ymprisonment."

The ordinances of James increased the penalties. Those ratified by 21 Charles II. imposed a special fine of 6s. 8d. upon the Wardens for absence from the Court meetings, although this was subsequently increased. Records similar to the following occur frequently in the minutes :—

1633. *July 13th.*

"At this Court Mr. John Laney, Will^m Abbott, and Thos. Harrisonne were fined in vij^d a peece for cominge late w^{ch} was delivered to M^r Warden Lee."

"At an assemblie the 27th daie of March, being the King's Coronacon daie, there were fined in xij^d a peece for late cominge Tho^s Mason, W^m Freeman, John Cox, Edmond Hillyard, Daniell Holdenbie, Thos. Tanner, Will^m Grantham. D^d to M^r Warden Lee, vij^s."

1634. *July 17th.*

"At this Court Willm. Freeman, Robt. Bollinge, Andrew Gowland, Ellis Parrie, were fined in twoe shillings

six pence a peece for cominge late, w^{ch} was D^d to M^r Warden Lee, x^s."

1644. *October 15th.*

"At this Court it is ordered that there shalbe a Court on Wednesdaie come se'night. And it is further ordered that he w^{ch} shalbe wantinge at nine of the Clock, at w^{ch} time the Court is to sitt, is to paie for a fine ij^s vj^d for his or their late cominge."

1654. *August 14th.*

"At this Court Edward Smith (a warden) paid thirty shillings for a fine for his absence on Quarter Day. D^d Wardⁿ Melsonne xxx^s."

The Company's ordinances were devised and calculated to remind members that they belonged not only to a Company but to a *fellowship*. Members were expressly forbidden "to revile, rebuke or reprove," or otherwise to "behaue unseemly" to one another upon a pain of five shillings, increased by the ordinances of 1669 to ten shillings. The act of striking or assaulting another member was punishable by a fine of twenty shillings.

The incident recorded in the following minute is curious and interesting :—

1641. *November 18th.*

"At this Court Warden Cox complayned on Robt. Dowgill for that he had abused (him), and at the same tyme he was likewise complayned of by diverse others of the Assistants. After w^{ch} he beinge asked whether he would submit himself to the Table he answered he knew

their malice, and being called to goe into the Hall he flung out of the Court sayinge I see y^{or} malice is against me. And being called in againe he answered You can doe mee noe hurt and I will doe you noe good. And soe goinge out of the Court and throwing off his gowne sayinge Farewell, you are willing to be rid of mee and I am as willing to be rid of you. Vpon w^{ch} his misdemeanour contempt and scornfull carrynge It is ordered that he shall not be warned to doe the Companie any service."

At a subsequent Court we are informed that the delinquent presented himself and asked to be heard in defence and to be received, but upon the imposition of a fine and the question being put to him whether he would "frame himself that they might hereafter live brotherly together," he replied "that he feared if hee should come amongst them he should break out again, w^{ch} modest answere satisfied the Court for the p'sent," and it was ordered that when he desired to be readmitted he should pay his fine and submit himself to the Table.

So rigorous was the regulation imposing a respectful demeanour between members enforced, that on one occasion when a member of the Livery had been removed from the Court for disobedience, one of the Assistants, for calling him a "base fellow," was promptly reprimanded and fined.

1610. *February 16th.*

Robert Christie "Robert Cristie for disobedience agenst
a fyne of v^s. whole Company was this Court Day
comytted to the Counter in Wood Street."

“Mr. Holbeame for saying that Robert Christie was
 but a base fellowe, being so disobedient as
 the said Cristie showed himself at this
 Courte, a fyne of v^s.”

Mr. Holbeame
 a fyne of v^s.

1703. *October 20th.*

“At this Court the said Mr. John Shelton and John Wynd were ord^d to withdraw and then the question was put what ffine should be laid upon the said John Wynd for reviling the said Mr. Shelton with opprobrious language for charging him with having made saddles of sheepskin leather in open Court held the 20th Oct. last and at other times and places, and thereupon the said John Wynd was fined 10^s for his said offence, and afterwards the said John Wynd being called into the Court and acquainted with his ffine, he affronted and abused the Court very much, reviling them with bad language and saying that some men could sin without any regrett or remorse, and made a sort of May game of the Court, and afterwards the question was put what fine should be laid upon him for abusing and affronting the Court, and thereupon he was fined 40^s for the said offence.”

No member was allowed to sue another at law without the permission of the Wardens first had and obtained. In the event of a grievance or dispute between them, the member so aggrieved was required to make complaint and “shew his cause of grief” unto the Wardens, who, upon hearing both parties, gave “an order for an unity, peace, and concord to be had between them according to right, equity and conscience.” When the dispute was of a serious nature it was customary for the parties to be summoned and asked whether they would submit themselves to

the Table of the Court. If one refused, permission was given for an appeal to the law. Remarkably enough, there is no instance in the Company's Order Books of an appeal to the law after a judgment or award had been made by the Wardens.

1608. *October 10th.*

"This quarter daie Robert Labourne for arresting of Thomas Newbury wthout leave demanded of his Wardens and Assistants was fyned according to the orders of o^r house to paye fortie shillings and paide but five shillings for y^t was seene the said Labourne had good cause of action."

1609. *September 11th.*

"It is ordered that Richard Chambers shall have license to take the lawe of John Downes for want he came not in upon warning."

1647. *November 5th.*

"At this Court John Cox (an Assistant) was fined in ten shillings for misdemeamour against Warden Perkins in the p'sence of our M^r and for arresting him without asking leave of the Company."

The Company's method of settling differences between its members deserves a passing illustration.

1606. *November 20th.*

"This daie Nicholas Newton and Roger Lloyd were fyned in 5^s apiece for misdemeaours committed by them both one against the other the last quarter day

whereof was given them back againe to drink in wyne xij^d. And at the same tyme they promised love each to th'other."

1639. *December 17th.*

"The difference between Thos. Harrison and Robert Dowgill this day being heard by this Court. Itt is this day ordered that they shall be loveing friends and all differences shall bee ended. And y^e Robt. Dowgill shall drinke to Thos. Harrison first and shall say if I have overshot myself in words I am sorry and the said Thos. Harrison shall pledge him and they both shall shake hands."

In one instance we read that the Court were called upon to settle a quarrel between two Assistants and their respective wives. As may be anticipated, in a case where contending ladies were parties the Court was unsuccessful, and the opponents and their better halves were allowed to invoke the supreme arbitrament of the law.

The etiquette of the Company was quite *de rigueur*. Quitting a Court before the assembly was over, or conversing during the Court, was promptly punished by a fine. Members were forbidden to attend the Courts in light-coloured suits, and more than one member paid the penalty of his Bohemianism. In fact, this offence being repeatedly brought under the attention of the Court, it became, in 1644, the subject of a special prohibition.

1644. *July 9th.*

“At this Court it is ordered that none of the Assistants or Clothinge of this Fellowship shall come to the Hall either on q’ter daie or at any Generall Meetings when the Assistants and Clothinge meete in a light-coloured suite upon paine to forfeit for every tyme soe comeinge twoe shillings and sixpence.”

On one occasion we read of two members fined for attending the Court in lawyers’ gowns. Under a régime so absolute the opportunities of adding to the Company’s exchequer were numerous enough. The proceeds, however, derived from these penalties were put into the Poor Box, from which the Company’s poor were relieved by the Wardens at the Hall door after every Court.

In the matter of the personal appearance of their journeymen and apprentices the Company appear to have exercised æsthetic discriminations, although not of the modern type, as we gather from the following curious minute :—

1607. *May 15th.*

“At this Court the late apprentice of Roland Newton named Wm. Dennard, and the apprentices of Bywell and Browne named Henry Cavill and Anthony Seale wearing long hair were polled close and Thomas Solomon the younger his man was polled also.”

The Company’s faculty of ratiocination seems to have been quaint and original, judged from the following incident :—In the year 1719 a Livery-

man, who had challenged the Master to a duel, was ordered to be prosecuted, in order, as the minute naively remarks, "to bring him into a Christian temper."

The religious observances of the Company deserve more than a passing notice. Going back as far as Anglo-Saxon times, we learn from the convention between the Saddlers and the Canons of St. Martin's-le-Grand, which throws a curious light upon the religious customs of the Guild, that, in those early days, the Company, among other spiritual observances, were in the habit of attending the Chapel of the Convent on the Feast of St. Martin. The present practice of attending St. Vedast's on Election Day is of great antiquity.¹ The City archives inform us that in the fourteenth century the serving-men of the Saddlers' trade were in the habit of attending Divine Service in that church on the Feast of the Assumption, properly the 15th August, in imitation, it appears, of their masters, who, it is probable, continued their attendance at St. Martin's-le-Grand until the demolition of the Sanctuary in 1548, when they transferred their

¹ Within recent years it was the custom for each member of the Company and the Chaplain to be presented by the Renter Warden with a bouquet, which was carried to the Church, a practice now discontinued.

spiritual connection to St. Vedast.¹ The custom of having a Chaplain, whose office it now is to preach the Election Sermon before the Company, dates at least as far back as A.D. 1398, when Richard II. granted to the Company in his Charter to have "one Chaplain to celebrate divine service for our healthfull estate while we live, and for our souls when we shall have migrated from this light, and for the estate and souls of the men of the mystery and commonalty aforesaid, and for the souls of all the faithful dead for ever."

The frequent allusion to burials recalls a custom of some interest. Upon the death of a brother or sister of the fraternity, the body was taken into the Common Hall and there covered with the Company's State Pall or Herse-Cloth. In ancient times, we learn from the convention already referred to that the interment took place in the cemetery of the Convent of St. Martin's; subsequently the precincts of St. Vedast afforded a resting-place for the remains of departed members. The whole Company appear to have been summoned to the funeral; the ordinances of Elizabeth imposed a fine of sixpence for late attendance at, and of twelve pence for total absence from a burial; the ordinances of 1608 increased

The Company's
Pall or Burial
Cloth.

Burials.

¹ St. Vedast, which adjoins Saddlers' Hall, abuts on the site of the old Sanctuary of St. Martin's.

these penalties to two shillings and sixpence and three shillings and fourpence respectively. Misdemeanour at burials were similarly punished.

1609. *October 16th.*

“The same daye rec. of Alexander Corser, for wearing of a hatt at John Hall’s buryall vj^d.”

1633. *May 14th.*

“At this Court Daniell Potter was fined ij^s vj^d for coming in a fallinge bande to the buryall of Mr. Freeman, whereof hee paid vj^d w^{ch} was D^d to Mr. Warden Pease.”

1633. *June 18th.*

“At this Court Edmund Sheppard was fined in ij^s vj^d for not coming to the buryall of Mr. Thomas Freeman, whereof hee paid xij^d w^{ch} was delivered to Mr. Warden Pease.”

The funeral was generally followed by a feast or repast, towards the charge of which the departed member customarily bequeathed a sum of money. When this did not happen, the Company appear to have borne the expense. In November, 1645, however, the Court ordered that no more should be spent in burial feasts than was bequeathed for the purpose.

The following minute refers to the burial of an Assistant, who apparently died in straightened circumstances :—

1655. *February 4th.*

“At this Court it is ordered that Warden Sheppard shall lay out £5 in wine and Naples biskett for Mr. Christy his Buriall and deliver to Mrs. Christy 5£ in money as the guift of this fellowship.”

In certain bye-laws of the Company, laid down in 1624, it was “ordeyned that ever hereafter at the buriall of any other brother or sister, there shall be no service of comfitts, bread, nor wyne given to the Liverie in the streets, but whatsoever shall be given shall be paied in readie money to be laied out in a dinner or supper for the said fellowship.”

The Hall was occasionally let for burial ceremonies and feasts on the occasion of the death of persons not members of the Company, and the letting of the Hall for funerals was at one time a privilege permitted to the Clerk. In April, 1721, however, this privilege was withdrawn, the Clerk being allowed only 13s. 4d. on each funeral, the rates for which are thus defined :—

“When the Hall and all the avenues are hung with mourning and an alcove made, five guineas.

“When hung with mourning without an alcove, at three guineas.

“When made use of without mourning, two guineas.

“And the undertakers to make good all damages.”

From a minute about the same time we also learn that prior to this it was the custom for the

Wardens on these occasions to receive the gift of rings as their *douceur*.

The funerals very frequently took place at night. Machyn, in his diary, gives an interesting account of one in 1552.

“The xv day of Juin was bered Baptyst Borrow the melener without Crepull-gate in Saint Gylle’s parryche with a penon a cote armur and a harold and with xxij stayffes-torches and so xxij pore men bere them and many morners in blake and the Company of the Clarkes wher ther and ys plase was hangyd with blake and armes vj dozen.”

Mr. Thomas Adderley, a member of the Company and an antiquary of some note, writing to the “Gentleman’s Magazine,” in 1813, states that the Saddlers’ Company still had in use at that time the old funeral sconces remaining from the custom of burying corpses by torchlight—a custom which, he adds, was still fresh in his memory.¹

The Company still possess their old funeral pall, or “burial cloth.” It consists of a rectangular panel of rich crimson brocaded velvet interwoven with gold thread, 6 feet 4½ inches in length and 22 inches in breadth, the pattern consisting of two rows of seven medallions of a conventional foliate design. Attached to each of the four sides, and of the same length as

¹ These are no longer preserved; they were probably destroyed in one of the two subsequent conflagrations from which the Hall suffered.

the side to which it is attached, is a flap of crimson velvet. Each of the two longest flaps contains three embroidered panels, divided from each other by spirally fluted columns; the centre panel contains an elliptical shield, *gules*, surrounded by a glory, *or*, and bearing the sacred initials IHS in plain Italian letters of gold thread. The shield is supported by five angels. On either side of the centre panel is another panel containing on a shield (which is in the form of a banneret ornamented with a top and bottom border of six trefoils, and is suspended by a hand, *or*) the arms of the Company, viz., *azure*, a chevron, *or*, between three sumpter saddles of the same. On one of the longest flaps is embroidered in gold thread and in old English characters the words—

“In te Dñe sperabí nō,”

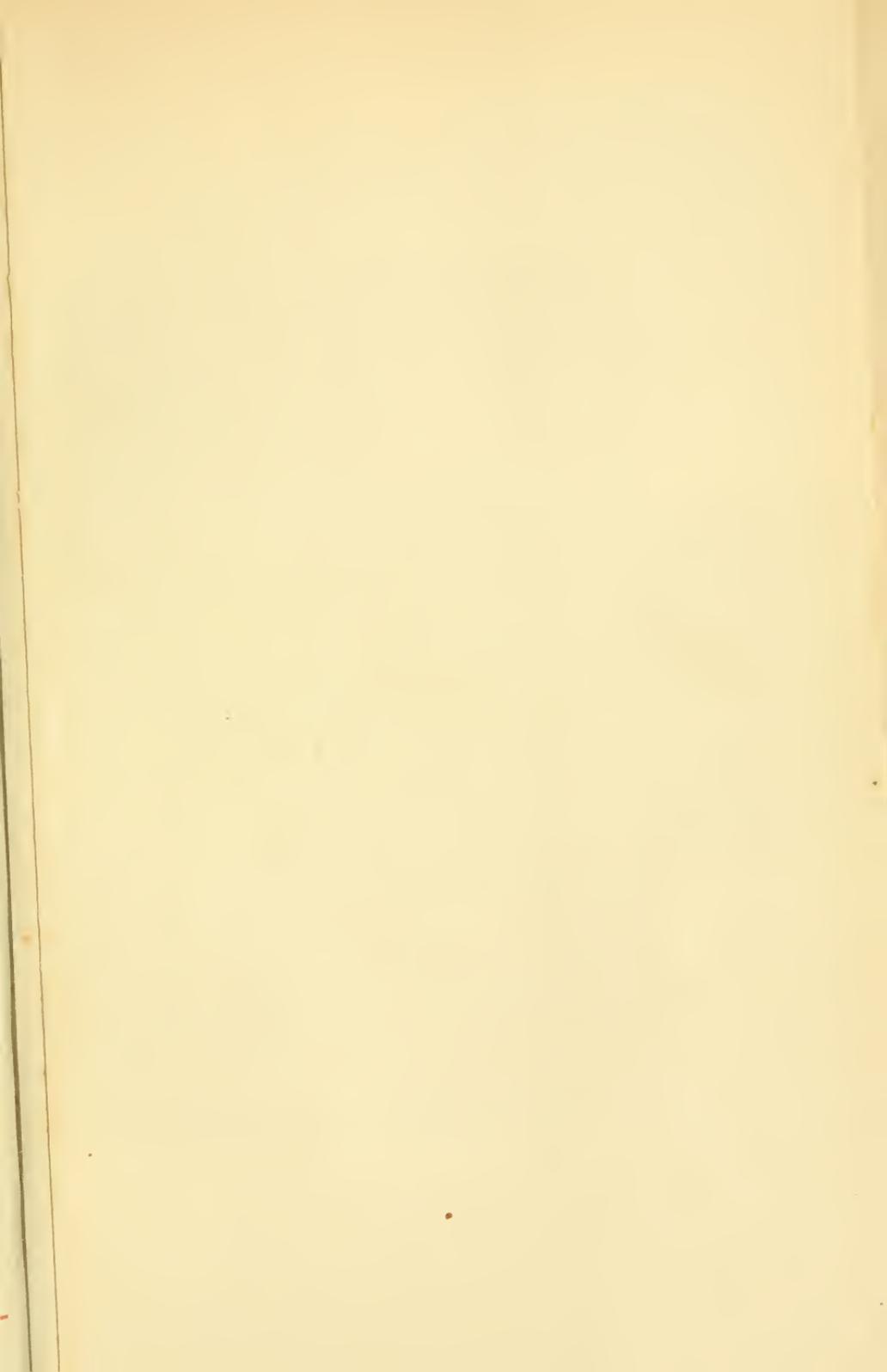
and on the other—

“Cōfunder in eternū.”¹

The two shorter flaps at the ends of the pall simply contain each three panels similar to those already described. The four flaps are skirted by a broad gold fringe, the full dimensions of the pall being 9 feet by 4 feet 7 inches.²

¹ The last verse of the Te deum, properly—In te Domine speravi. Non confundar in eternum.

² The Funeral Pall is still brought out and placed upon the table at each Quarter Court immediately ensuing upon the death of an Assistant.



Dale, the beginning of the 16th Century.



*A representation of the ancient Funeral Pall of The
Worshipful Company of Saddlers.*

CHAPTER IV.

THE COMPANY AND THE TRADE.

The Company anciently all of the Craft.—Impracticability of restricting it to Members of the Trade.—The Ordinances of the Company in harmony with the Laws of the Period.—Statute of 5 Eliz. c. 4.—All Trades to be learned by Apprenticeship.—Apprentices to the Saddlery Trade examined by the Wardens.—Number of Apprentices limited by Ordinance.—Regulations concerning Apprentices.—Curious Custom upon taking up Freedom.—Spoons.—Accumulate and are exchanged for other Plate.—Responsibility of Apprentices. The Company Mediate between the Apprentices and their Masters.—Saddlers only allowed to Open Shop conditionally.—“Proof-piece.”—Ordinances impose Honesty of Dealing.—Saddles to be made Openly.—To be Viewed by Company before Sold.—“Forreyners.”—Statute 5 Eliz. c. 8.—The Leather Market at Leadenhall.—Searchers and Sealers of Leather.—Custom of Search.

HERE is every reason to believe that originally the Saddlers' Company was exclusively composed of members of that craft. In course of time, however, the inheritance of the right to the freedom of the Company by patrimony, coupled with the disinclination of sons to follow the trade of their father, led to the introduction into the Company of members who followed other trades and pursuits. In the beginning of the seventeenth century the Company's Order Books clearly show us that the Court was not composed entirely of members of the Saddlers' craft, although the trade was represented thereon, and this has con-

tinued down to the present day. The Company made repeated attempts to compel persons practising the business of a Saddler to join the Company, and in 1695 endeavoured to procure an Act of Common Council for that purpose. Notwithstanding, however, that under a recent Act of Parliament they succeeded, in 1703, in compelling "foreign" Saddlers to pay quarterage and to fine for "opening shop," they appear to have shortly afterwards relinquished a systematic exaction of the obligation. This is not inexplicable when we recollect that the Company represented the leading interests of the trade, while "foreign" Saddlers were probably for the most part men who had not properly qualified themselves to exercise the craft by serving the prescribed course of apprenticeship and in other ways, and who also not only in relation to the circumstances of their trade, but in respect of the privileges of citizenship, were at an immense disadvantage as compared with free Saddlers. Never was a City Company more intimately connected with its craft, never were its ordinances directed more assuredly with a view to the promotion of that particular trade which it was designed to foster and protect.

The Company's ordinances were of necessity in strict conformity with the laws of the period, which it must be stated were very stringent and arbitrary so far as they affected trade and artificers. One of the most important statutes to which reference is frequently made in the Company's

Statute 5 Eliz.
c. 4. books is that of the 5th Elizabeth, c. 4,
entitled "An Acte touching dyvers
orders for artificers Laborers servantes of Hus-
bandrye and Apprentices," many of the enact-
ments of which sound curious in times like the
present. This statute enacted *inter alia* that no
artificers (in which category Saddlers are expressly
included) should take any workman to work with
him for a less time than one year. It also enacted
that the rates of wages of artificers, husbandmen,
labourers, and workmen should be ascertained
yearly by Justices, &c., in Sessions, certified into
Chancery, approved by the Privy Council, and
proclaimed by the Sheriffs. The most important
enactment of this statute, however, so far as it

concerned the Company, was Section
xxiv., which ordained that "it shall
not be lafull to any pson or psons,
other than suche as nowe doo lafully use or
exercise any Arte Misterye or Manuell Occu-
pacion, to sette uppe occupie use or exercise anye
Crafte Misterye or Occupaõn nowe used or occu-
pied within the realms of Englande or Wales
Excepte he shall have been brought uppe therein
seaven yeares at the least as Apprentice in maner
and fourme abovesaid, nor to sete anye person on
woorck in suche Misterye Arte or Occupaõn being
not a workman at this Day Except he shall have
bene Apprentice as ys aforesaid orels having
served as an apprentice as ys aforesaid shall or
will become a Journeyman or be hyred by the
yere; upon payne that every p'son willingly

Trades to be
learned by ap-
prenticeship.

offending or doing the contrary shall forfeite and lose for every defaulte fourtye shillings for every monethe.”

Similarly the Company's ordinances forbade any member to teach the art of Saddlery to any person (except his own son) unless and until that person had been bound apprentice to him for the purpose. Every Master was bound to present his apprentice to the Wardens at the next assembly in the Common Hall of the Company after the binding, in order that the Wardens might examine him, and, as the ordinance expresses it, see “whether hee bee a Freeborn subject of the King of England or not, and to see whether hee bee cleane and whole lymed” (limbed), etc. Upon the apprentice being duly admitted to serve, his master paid unto the Wardens 2s. 6*d.*, increased in 1669 to 6s.

Regulations con-
cerning
Apprentices.

1605. *November 12th.*

“It was further ordered at this Courte that Thomas Potter for keeping of Goodale, his apprentice, two yeres together and not in all that tyme presented him, was fyned for that fault for breaking the orders of o^r house twenty shillings w^h he paid to Warden Penyale.”

1609. *December 5th.*

“At this Courte Oliver Houghton was appoynted to bringe in his fyne for keepinge a prentyse unrepresented at the next quarter day.”

1627. *January 17th.*

“At this Court Robert Barthrop complained of William Standysh for teaching a stranger his trade, being not bound, and for haveing of twoe apprentizes w^{ch} he ought not to haue, ffor w^{ch} his offence hee is fined in fforty shillings, w^{ch} hee is to bring in the next Court daie.”

By the ordinances ratified 3rd Elizabeth, no member of the Company was permitted to take any apprentice or other person to work for him in the art of Saddlery until that member had been licensed to do so, as well as to keep a shop to his own use by the Wardens and Assistants of the Company. The number of apprentices to be kept, moreover, was strictly limited. The Wardens of the Company were not allowed to keep more than three apprentices at any one time. Members of the Clothing or Livery were restricted to two; and Freemen who were not of the Livery were not allowed to take a second apprentice until the first had entered upon his last year of servitude.¹ In 1608, however, the liberty of the yeomanry to take a second apprentice was extended to a year earlier, that is to say, when the first had entered upon his last year but one of service.² Minutes similar to the following occur over and over again :—

¹ Ordinances, 3rd Eliz., 1560-1.

² Ordinances, 5th James I.

1606. *November 18th.*

“This Courte Daye Henry Yate brought in his fyne of xx^s for sondry consideracons he was released of the same fyne for and vpon the payment of five shillings w^{ch} he paide for keepinge of three Apprentices contrary to o^r order.”

If it happened that the master died before the apprentice was out of his term, the Wardens of the Company were empowered to remove the apprentice after compensating the widow, and to set him over to finish his term with another member. If, however, the widow of the deceased member remained single and carried on her husband's craft, or if she married another member of the Company, she was at liberty to retain the apprentice. In the latter contingency, however, it was expressly stipulated that the number of apprentices to be kept jointly by the former widow and her second husband should not exceed the number permitted to any ordinary member.

Every master, after his apprentice had served his time, was required to present him to the Wardens of the Company, and to make a declaration that he had duly fulfilled his term. The apprentice was thereupon sworn to be obedient to the rules of the Company, and after paying 2s. 2d.¹ was presented by the Wardens to the Chamberlain of the City and admitted to the freedom of the Company.

¹ Ordinances, 3rd Eliz. ; increased to 6s. by the Ordinances of Charles II.

Failure to fulfil this ordinance was, as in all other cases, punished by a fine.

1626. *October 18th.*

“At this Court Will^m Cam complained of Edward Hill for that hee would not make him free his terme being expired the said Hill being twice warned in appeared not to shew cause wherefore hee would not make him free. It is ordered that he shall attend o^r M^r tomorrow in the forenoone w^{ch} if hee refuse to doe then hee is to bee comitted to the prisonne of the Comter for his contempt.”

In 1624 it was ordered “that all such as shall Curious custom be made free hereafter do either grati-
upon taking up
Freedom. fie the Company with a silver spoone
“Spoons.” weighing twoo ounces at the leaste according to a patterne w^{ch} shall be shewed them or ells to continue the ancient custome (*i.e.*, a fine) and to be made free at the fower vsuall quarter daies kept for the said Societie.”

The first mention of the gift of a spoon upon taking up the freedom, however, occurs previous to this order, viz., in 1619, and alludes to another old and curious custom common on such occasions.

1619. *February 22nd.*

“This daie Patrick Barrell gaue to the Companie a little silver spoone in regard he made the Wardens and Assistants noe dynner when he was made free.”

Singularly enough, the custom of making a

dinner upon the occasion of taking up the freedom is nowhere else alluded to throughout the Company's books. The improbability, not to say impossibility, of an ordinary apprentice being able to contribute such a sum as would be involved in a dinner to about 20 persons inclines us to believe that this custom could only apply to persons taking up the freedom by redemption and not by servitude. This explanation, however, is purely speculative. If it be correct, a minute in 1626 acquaints us with the fact that by that time the gift of a silver spoon had become general on all occasions of the bestowal of the freedom, whether by patrimony, servitude, or redemption.

1626. *December 7th.*

“At this Court Thomas Addisonne, the sonne of Thomas Addisonne, being made free by patrimony, Will^m Cam, late appren. to John Greenwaie, Thomas Bassett, late apprentice to William Pease, and John Lidget, made free by redemp^{co}n, foure silver spoones, the said Lidget's spoone being afterwards delivered him backe vpon the bringing in of a litle silver bowle.”

In one instance a spoon is recorded as weighing $6\frac{1}{4}$ ounces ; occasionally the spoon is described as being engraved with the donor's name, and on numerous occasions the spoons were “guilt.”

As many as twelve spoons are recorded as being presented at a single Court, signifying as many freemen enrolled. From time to time, as these spoons accumulated, they were taken out of the Com-

Spoons
exchanged for
other plate.

pany's treasury and sold, or exchanged for other plate.

Minutes similar to the following occur now and again :—

1654. *October 17th*

“ At this Court it is ordered that our M^r and Wardens with two antient M^{rs} shall buy foure table-cloaths and 12 doz. of napkins of diaper and cupboard cloaths and towelles and to change the spoones for plate reserving 8 doz. for the vse of the Hall.”

And again in the following month we read :—

“ Att this Court the Auditors delivered out of the Treasury a C[£] to Warden Jones and to our M^r and Wardens six dozen and eight Siluer Spoones whereof 26 guilt all which were sould for 33[£] 05^s 10^d and at the same tyme there was bought foure standing siluer Salts Cellars two trencher Salts and fowre beere boules weighing 127^{oz} 9^d wth at 5^s 6^d p. oz. 35[£] : 0j^s : 00^d paid 2^s 6^d for marking them which makes 35[£] 3^s 6^d. There was bought at the same tyme fowre diap table clothes containing 34 yards and 6 dozen of napkins containing 78 yards and a Court Cupboard Cloth containing 3 yards all which cost 18[£] 13^s 10^d.”

Towards the end of the seventeenth century, however, the Company appear to have reverted to the old practice of a pecuniary payment, and several entries occur from time to time of “ x^s paid for a spoone.”

The ordinances of the Company imposed a fine upon any master presenting his apprentice for the

freedom before he had served his full term, even when the apprentice had served seven years. Apprentices were frequently bound for eight years, and instances even occur in the Company's records of bindings for as long as eleven years.

Seeing that the minds of many have been and are sometimes exercised with regard ^{Responsibility of Apprentices.} to the question of the responsibility of a minor in fulfilling his articles of apprenticeship, as well as with the allied question of the liability of an apprentice who attains his majority before he has fulfilled his obligations, it may not generally be known that the statute already alluded to, viz., 5 Elizabeth, c. 4, section xxxv., takes cognizance of the difficulty and disposes of it in the following words: "And because ther hath bene and ys some question and scruple moved whether any p̄son being wthin thage of one and twentye yeres and bounden to serve as an apprentice in any other place than the said Citie of London shoulde bee bounden accepted and taken as an apprenyce. For the Resoluçõn of the said Scruple and Doubte be yt enacted by authorite of this p̄nte Pliam^t That all and every suche p̄son or p̄sons that at any time or times from hensforthe shalbe bounden by indentures to serve as an apprentice in any Arte Science Occupaçõn or Labour according to the tenor of this Statute and in maner and fourme abovesaid albeit the same apprentice or any of them shalbe within the age of one and twentye yeres at the tyme of making of their severall indentures shalbe bounden to

serve for the yeres on their severall indentures contened as amply and lardgly to every extent as yf the same apprentice were of full age at the time of making of suche indenture any Lawe Usage or Custome to the contrary notwithstanding."

Clause xix. of the same Statute seems to throw some light upon the difficulty suggested by the allusion on numerous occasions in the Company's Books of bindings for as much as eleven years already mentioned. It gives liberty to householders in any city or corporate town, provided they be at least 24 years of age, to take an apprentice "to serve and bee bounde as an apprentice after the custome and order of the Citie of London for seven yeres at the least so as the tearme and yeares of suche apprentice doe not expyre or determyne afore such apprentice shall bee of thage of foure and twentye yeres at the least."¹

We learn from the Company's ordinances, however, that it was occasionally permissible for an apprentice to be remitted of an unexpired term of years if "the residue of his terme shalbe forgiven him by speciall legacye of his M^{er} conteyned in his laste will and testament."

As has been already stated, apprentices could appeal to the Company against arbitrary exactions of or improper treatment by their masters, and masters could invoke the intervention of the

¹ This Statute was not repealed until the early part of the present century.

Company in the case of contumacious or rebellious apprentices.

1619. *January 18th.*

“This daie M^r Chamblaine sent his letter (to the Companie) on the behalfe of Will^m Ratcliff the apprentiz of Thomas Whitney, shewing thereby the want of such necessaries as were fitt for him to haue. The w^{ch} compt being examined and found true It is ordered that the said apprentize shalbe taken from his said M^r and to serue the remainder of his terme wth such a M^r as his friends can p[’]vide for him. His M^r is to deliver vp his Indentures and his apprent to be saved from him.”

1607. *October 20th.*

“At an assembly of the said Wardeins and Assistents on the first quarter daye being the 20 Day of October 1607, William Lazenbye made a complaynt of James Harwigg his apprentice for many evilles and misdemeanours agenst his M^r comytted Was thretned to be whipped and the beadell sent for and he made great signes of amendmen^t wth weeping and Lamenting asked his Master’s forgiveness, was at his request and other of o^r assistents the said apprentice was discharged of his ponysh^m^t vpon amendment.”

Every apprentice, upon completing his term of
 “Proof piece.” apprenticeship, was required to make
 a trial saddle, or other piece of work
 pertaining to the Saddlers’ craft, with “his own
 hands, cunning, and knowledge,” at the Hall.
 This “proof piece,” as it was called, was viewed
 by the Wardens, and if they were satisfied with
 the workmanship the maker, after satisfying one
 or two other conditions, had license given to him

to open shop, or if he were not able to set up a shop, they determined the scale of his wages as a journeyman. The motive of the latter act is stated to be in order that "he should not only learn his occupation more perfectly, but also following their good example of living and order of their household, should be better able discreetly and politicly to keep and order a shop to his own use and benefit, civilly and orderly to rule and govern his household and family, and to train them up in virtue and godly exercise to the honour of God, the worship of the said mystery, and to the profit of the commonwealth."

No member of the Company was allowed to open shop until he had been examined by the Wardens and Assistants as to his "honest conversation, cunning, and knowledge of the art, and of the substance of goods." The ordinances of 3 Elizabeth recite the necessity for the avoidance of inconveniences likely to ensue from persons setting up shop before they are of ability to pay ready money for such wares as they require in the trade, and prohibits any journeymen or apprentice opening shop unless he be worth "of his own proper goods twenty marks (£13 6s. 8d.)," and the ordinances of 21 Charles II. increased this amount to £20, in order, it is stated, that he may be able "to keep and use the room of an honest householder and save his credit." If the candidate satisfied these conditions he paid the Company 3s. 4d., and was forthwith allowed to set up in business.

1609. *December 5th.*

“Rec. of William Lynton who made his Saddell in o^r hall the xxvij Daye of Novemb^r w^{ch} was viewed and liked of and he was admytted to open shoppe and paid to the Companyes vse iij^s iij^d.”

1606. *October 28th.*

“It was ordered at this Assembly that Symon Smeathe shall make his M^r piece Saddell before the last daye of October next after this Assembly. And for that the saide Symon had often tymes warnyng to make his saddell and Did it not and that he opened his shope wthout license contrarye to the orders of o^r house kept fforens was fyned to pay xl^s w^{ch} he promysed to bryng in afore the next Court daye.”

1609. *December 5th.*

“Calvert Chamberlen late apprentice to Tho. Addison made his Saddell in the hall by the Wardenes appoyntm^t w^{ch} was viewed and seene the xxvjth of October 1609.”

Members were forbidden to entice away the servant of another member, and journeymen and other servants were forbidden to serve for any less period than a year, or to quit service under a quarter's warning on pain of forfeiting 40s.

The ordinances of 5 Elizabeth likewise set forth that any member attempting to allure away the customer of another member, or uttering words to the detraction of another member, or of his wares, should forfeit five pounds. The punishment for this offence was reduced to 40 shillings in the subsequent ordinances of 1608 and 1669,

although happily no instance of this offence occurs in the Company's records.

The ordinances prohibited any persons from making Saddlery wares otherwise than in open shop, common fair, or market, and expressly

Saddles to be made openly. forbad any member of the Company buying or using any wares made covertly or privately. The regulations against foreigners, *i.e.*, non-freemen, were stringent, and strictly enforced. No member was allowed to buy or sell any saddlery wares made by a foreigner, or by any person who had not served an apprenticeship of seven years to the trade,

To be viewed by the Wardens. until such wares had been viewed and approved by the Wardens. No freeman was permitted to employ a foreigner

"Forryners." without the consent of the Wardens first had and obtained, and then only in urgent cases and for short periods. Nor was a freeman allowed to work for a non-freeman outside the City of London without a similar license. The employment of a foreigner involved in the reign of Elizabeth a fine of 2s. 6d. a week during the offence, and in the following reign this penalty was increased to 2s. 6d. per day.¹

1606. *December 9th.*

"Richarde Harrison being one of o^r Lyverie came this Courte and desired to have a forren Sædler to worke wth him."

¹ Ordinances, 5 James I.

1626. *August 31st.*

“This daie Michaell Harman was fined in five shillings for setting forreyners on worke, whereof hee paid ij^s vj^d.”

A Statute, 5 Elizabeth, c. 8, entitled “An Act touching Tanners Courriours Shoemakers and other artificers occupyeing the cutting of

Leadenhall.

Leather,” established Leadenhall as the only market in the City for the sale of tanned leather, and enacted that none should buy such leather except those who intended to work it into wares, Monday being the only day upon which it could be purchased. Further, all tanned hides or skins before they were sold were required to be examined and sealed by authorities appointed by the City. The bartering of leather at any other place was prohibited under a heavy penalty; an exception, however, was made in favour of the “Sadlers and Gyrdlers,” who we read “maye selle theyr Neckes and Shreddes of tanned leather redd wthout incurring any Payne or Forfeiture for the same.” The office of searching and sealing was to be performed by four or more expert persons appointed annually by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City. This Act was repealed 1 James I., c. 25, but an Act which had been previously passed in the same year, 1 James I., c. 22, re-enacted its principal provisions with some little modification. Sections 30 and 31 require the Mayor and Aldermen to elect eight searchers from one or

Searchers and
Sealers of
Leather.

more of the following Companies, viz., Cordwainers, Curriers, Saddlers, and Girdlers. The following are the Clauses in question :—

“Section 30.—Provided always that none of the several Masters and Wardens of the several Companies of Cordwainers, Curriers, Girdlers, or Saddlers, shall search any person or persons but such as use and exercise the mystery or occupation of the said Master and Wardens, and that the Coachmakers dwelling within the said City of London, or three miles from the same, shall be under the Survey and Search of the Master and Wardens of the Company of the Saddlers of London.

“Section 31.—And be it further enacted that the said Mayor of the City of London and the Aldermen for the time being, upon like pain of forty pounds likewise to be levied and employed, shall likewise yearly appoint eight of the most substantiall, honest, and expert persons, being Freemen of some of the Companies of Cordwayners, Curriers, Saddlers, or Girdlers within the City of London, whereof one shall be a Sealer and keep a Seal for the sealing of Leather, to be prepared, who shall be sworn before the said Mayor and Aldermen for the time being to do their office truly. Which said Searchers and Sealers shall view and search all and every tanned hide, skin, or leather which shall be brought as well to the market of Leaden Hall as to any other lawful Fair or Market therefore usually appointed within three miles of the said Citye, whether the same be sufficiently and throughly tanned and throughly dried, according to the true purport and meaning of this Statute or no. And finding it sufficiently and throughly tanned and throughly dried in such manner and form as bys this Statute is appointed, shall seal the same with the said Seal.”¹

¹ This Statute contains many curious enactments ; among others, that calves shall not be killed under five weeks old ;

And we accordingly read that every year the Company elected two searchers and presented them to the Court of Aldermen for approval.

1607. *May 12th.*

“Marke Branche at this Courte was granted the goodwill of the Company to be a Sutor to y^e lorde Maio^r for to be one of the Searchers and Sealers of Lether, and that they wolde assist him therein as much as they maye.”

1663. *July 13th.*

“Richard Benskyn, } appointed Searchers
William Caine, } of Leather.”

One of the most important prerogatives vested in the Company by their Charter from Edward III., and confirmed to them in subsequent char-

ters and ordinances, was the power to search the shops and houses of all persons using the Saddlers' trade, and of condemning all ill-made wares that they found. No Saddler, freeman or non-freeman, was permitted to send any saddle out of London, either to the country fairs or for exportation abroad, until it had been viewed by the Wardens, or other

that Butchers shall not be Tanners, and that all Tanners shall be apprenticed; that with a view to the preservation of bark for tanning, oaks shall only be felled in barking time, *i.e.*, in the months of April, May, and June; it also prohibits Shoemakers selling shoes on Sunday before morning service is over.

properly constituted authorities of the Company.¹ Ill-made saddles were generally attended by the imposition of a fine and a precept for amendment. The fine imposed by the ordinance of Elizabeth was not to exceed 2s. 6*d.* each offence, with a penalty for obstructing or resisting the Company in their search of 20s. The ordinances of 5 James I. increased these penalties to 5s. and £5 respectively, and these penalties were confirmed by the ordinances of 21 Charles II. (1669); these last ordinances give the Company jurisdiction over "all manner of works, wares, and stuffs whatsoever, belonging to the furniture of horses." The Charter of Charles II. (1684) distinctly specifies "Saddles, chains, buttons, stirrups, girdles, and horsecloths, as of other thing whatsoever appertaining or belonging to the art or mystery of Saddlers aforesaid." Instances, however, are repeatedly recorded of even portmanteaus and other wares being condemned, from which it would appear that the Company exercised jurisdiction over all Saddler-made wares.

The Act of 5 Elizabeth, c. 8, already alluded to, not only imposed the obligation of search upon the Wardens of the Company, but imposed a fine of £5 upon them for every instance of defective wares which they allowed to escape their attention.

Section xxi.—"Or yf any Shoemaker Sadler or other Artificer using cutting or workeing of Leather doe make

¹ Ordinances, 5 James I.

any wares of any tanned leather insufficiently tanned and of tanned or curried leather being not sufficiently tanned and curried as ys aforesaid, or doe not make their wares belonging to their severall Occupatyons sufficiently and substantially, that then the Wardens of Every of the said Companie of Sadlers Curriours Shoemakers and other artificers using and exercising cutting of tanned leather for the tyme being shall forfait and lose for every such Defaulte and offence to bee comitted or done by any pson or psons under their Order Surveye or Searche Fyve Poundes."

Section xxii.—"Provided alwaye and be yt enacted That all and every Artificer dwelling or inhabiting or wth hereafter shall dwell or inhabyte wthin the Citie of London or three myles compas of the same using or exercising any Manuell Occupaçon of cutting or worcking of Leather into made wares shall contribute paye and bee under the Survey and Search of the Wardens of suche Companies of the said Citie of London as Thartificer comonly using the like Occupaçon being Free men of the same Citie of London and of the same Companye bee touching and concerning onely their wares and stuff made of or wth Leather, in like manner fourme as other Freemen of the same Companye dothe to the Wardens of their Companye wthin the said Citie."

The search visits of the Company appear to have been made regularly on the four quarter Court days, as well as at intervening times not specifically stated. If the defect either of material or workmanship were very bad, the saddles or other articles were promptly defaced. Sometimes they were publicly burned at the door of the maker, at other times they were taken to Cheap-

side and there burned, while at others, again, they were taken to Smithfield and there destroyed by the same process. Occasionally the defect lay in the saddle-tree—the wooden body of the saddle—which was sometimes an old tree re-employed and sometimes made of unseasoned wood ; when this was so the leather would be taken off and returned to the maker to be re-used, and the saddle-tree broken and destroyed.

The following are a few excerpts in illustration of the custom, taken from some hundreds of similar cases which the Company's Minute Books record :—

1605. *November 16th.*

“ James Ramsey a forren^r for making of pillions of olde stuff and twill had them defaced and cutt to peces because the Kinges publicke shulde not be deceaved wth them and was pardoned of his imprisonment and notwth-standing warned he was to mende his workmanship upon a greate payne.

“ At this Courte Rowland Hodges for having in his howse and shoppe in the tyme of search made by the Wardens xv male pillions bought of a forren^r made of evill and naughtie stuffe was fyned for that fault five shillings w^{ch} was paide to Symon Penyale.”

1606. *March 12th.*

“ The same xvth daye of April, 1607, being a third Quarter Day as aforesaid the Company being assembled at their hall they were requested by the Wardeins and Assistants to viewe a number of Sadles covered with sheep's leather w^{ch} were taken in sundry searches made

by the said Wardeins and Assistants synce the last quarter daye being seaven great Horse Sadles and two padds garded and trymmed wth Spanish lether shep's lether and turkey Lether and tenne Scottish Sadles covered w^h white sheep's lether. All w^h by a full consent of the gen^raltie of the workmen of this Company are adjudged unlawfull and deceptfull ware^s and not fitt to be uttered nor sold but to be burned."

1607. *May 12th.*

"After this Court Daye (viz.) the xvth daye of Maye, 1607, the evill Sadles and unlawfull wares taken from dyverse of the Company in their searches being ordered to be burned were burned accordingly in West Smythfeld the same xvth of Maye by the Wardeins in the presence of diverse of the Assistants."

1608. *September 15th.*

"George Marr was this Courte Daye fined for a Side Sadle very faulty beside evill workmanship and paid ij^s vj^d and the same Sadle was sensured to be burned at his doore."

1612. *July 21st.*

"Yt was ordered the day and yere last abovesaid that John Lawney was fyned to pay ten shillings for making of Roles stuffed wth hay in his side Saddels rownd about the seat and for that he wolde not pay the said fyne he was sent to the Counter."

1634. *January 21st.*

"At this Court Will^m Freeman, Edmond Sheppard, and Wil^m Kettle beinge complayned of for carrying awaie of wares to Sturbridge ffaire wthout searching by the

Wardens and others accordinge to o^r orders. They all submitted themselves to the Court wth p[']mise not to offend in the like kinde hereafter Will^m Freeman offering to cleere himself upon othe for what was layd to his charge. Their offenc^s p[']doned."

1648. *October 31st.*

"At this Court Richard Beighton was fined for two naughtie strapps vj^d."

Occasionally a Saddler objected to the search ; when this was the case, however, the objection was simply the result of a consciousness of offence in trade, and a foreboding of the inevitable seizure of his goods constituting that offence. Nevertheless, the Company's prerogative was not to be disputed. The recalcitrant Saddler was summoned before the Wardens and Assistants of the Company, and if he refused to conform to the fine or other punishment imposed, a warrant was promptly obtained from the Lord Mayor or Recorder, and the offender summarily committed to prison.

1609. *August 14th.*

"The daye and yeres aforesaide Thomas Moore a Journeyman and s[']vant vnto one Robert Dycars a Collermaker of the p[']ishe of St. Giles in the Field for mysusing the Wardeins aforenamed in their search by resisting them and slandering them was sent for by a warrant graunted out under the hande of the Worshipfull Recorder of London and being brought before the saide Company of the Sadlers he the said Thomas Moore

for his offence so done and comytted, in humble manner upon his knees acknowledged his faulte and cravid pardon and for that fower or fyve of the neighbours of good sort dwelling in the saide p'ishe have bound themselves by their words that he the saide Thomas Moore shulde henceforth be of good behavio^r the Company granted his releasement."

1635. *April 14th.*

"At this Court Thomas Capp appⁿtice to Tho. Gardner and Mathias Younge apprenticed to (?) Black-Smith appeared at this Court according to an order made by the R. Ho^{bl}o the Lord Maior the 17th daie of March last past To make their publike submission upon their knees for resistinge the Wardens in their search at the said Gardners Shop. The w^{ch} submission they both did accordingly in the hall at a full Court upon their knees acknowledging their fault."

1673. *June 11th.*

"M^r George Borrett haveng refused the Search made by M^r Warden Blount and others and being taken by a Constable upon the Companyes Warrant for the five pounds by him forfeited for soe doing but at his request discharged upon his promise to appeare at this Court and to abide by the judgement of the same and now appeareing and submitting himself accordingly this Court doe think fitt to fine him for such his offence and for defective ware Twentie shillings the w^{ch} he willingly paid the Wardens."

1701. *July 2nd.*

"Upon the complaint of M^r Warden Chandler M^r Shelton and others that M^r Walter Coates did deny the

search and threatened to strike them with a hammer and giving very abusive words It is ordered he be fined five pounds for soe doing and that he be summoned to appeare at the next Court to answer the same."

The search was exercised with the utmost impartiality, no atom of favour being shown to a member of the Company if an ill-made saddle were in question. Instances occur of Wardens and Assistants being similarly fined. In illustration of this, an incident which took place in 1703 may be here cited :—

1703. *October 20th.*

"This Court being informed by Mr. Gunton, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Carter, that certaine Sadlers having undertaken to furnish a great number of Sadles for the use of his Portugall Majesty, they have been to search and saw the same and found the seats to be made of the worst of sheepskin and the panells stuffed with hay. Did thereupon now order a Remonstrance to be drawn up and presented to the Envoy of his Portugall Matie to represent the same as a manifest Cheat and tending to the great dishonour and disgrace of her Majesty's Government and the City of London and in particular of this Corporaçon."

A remonstrance was accordingly drawn up and presented. A large number of saddles destined for the expedition to Portugal were condemned, and two members of the Company, who were implicated in their manufacture, were fined the then large sum of £20 each.

The old custom of search, in ensuring a high standard of excellence for English manufactures, engendered in Englishmen a firm patriotic faith in the superiority of English goods, and in the skill and honesty of English workmanship. Moreover, the fact remains, as an interesting corollary, that, at the present day, English saddles and harness are in high demand all over the world; and this branch of English industry, curiously enough, appears in little danger from foreign rivalry.

A LIST OF SOME ANCIENT MASTERS
AND
WARDENS OF THE COMPANY.

Anglo Saxon times	Ærnaldus	Alderman.
A.D. 1363	{ William Lincolne ¹ John Pountfreit Roger Excestre Gerard atte Nook	} Wardens.
1377	{ Rumbold Bodd Walter Yong John Cole Simon Byrthorp	} Wardens.
1378	{ Richard Stacy Thomas Soysse Robert Forster William Sherewode	} Wardens.
1446	{ Laurence Braunche John Sawyer Richard Danton William Coddessen	} Wardens.
1463	{ William Bird Thomas Hertwell William Portlonthe John Abell	} Wardens.
1558	{ Robert Smyth Henry Crowder William Storer David ap Thomas	} Wardens.
1562	{ William Wytt Peter Robynson John Webbe John Philpott	} Wardens.

¹ See Addendum, p. 233.

A.D. 1582	{ William Newton James Howford John Marshall John Cox ¹	} Wardens.
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MASTERS.

1605	Nicholas Holbeame.	1622	Thomas Potter.
1606	Roger Allanson.	1623	Ditto.
1607	Richard Sawter.		<i>Second time.</i> }
1608	John Byngham.	1624	Phillip Boydon.
1609	Ditto.	1625	William Pilchard.
	<i>Second time.</i> }	1626	George Potter.
1610	Thomas Salomon.	1627	George Walker.
1611	Ditto.	1628	John Houghton.
	<i>Second time.</i> }	1629	Henry Symson.
1612	Richard Sawter.	1630	John Laney.
	<i>Second time.</i> }	1631	Samuel Clarke.
1613	Gregory Francklin.	1632	Nathaniel Burt.
1614	James Howson.	1633	Robert Cristie.
1615	Robert Labourne.	1634	Ditto.
1616	George Cooke.		<i>Second time.</i> }
1617	Ditto.	1635	William Pease.
	<i>Second time.</i> }	1636	Luke Lee.
1618	Ditto.	1637	Thomas Sallomon.
	<i>Third time.</i> }	1638	Nicholas Newton.
1619	Ditto.	1639	Thomas Clowes.
	<i>Fourth time.</i> }	1640	Ditto.
1620	Anthony Clowes.		<i>Second time.</i> }
1621	Ditto.	1641	Benjamin Potter.
	<i>Second time.</i> }	1642	William Phelipps.

¹ Founded a Trust, which is administered by the Company under a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners, for the relief of poor members of the Company, and of the Saddlers' trade.

² Founded a charity of which the Company are trustees, and bequeathed to the Company a silver-mounted cocoa-nut cup.

1643	Thomas Harrison.	1656	William Pease.	} <i>Second time.</i>
1644	Toby Harvest.			
1645	William Freeman.	1657	William Milsome.	
1646	Ditto.	1658	William Jones.	
	} <i>Second time.</i>	1659	Joshua Sheppard.	
1647		Thomas Smithsby.	1660	Kenelme Collins.
1648	Daniel Haldenby.	1661	John Cooke.	
1649	John Cooke.	1662	Thomas Mason.	
1650	Edward Perkins.	1663	Thomas Pease.	
1651	Thomas Webb.	1664	Edward Bensky. ⁴	
1652	Thomas Starkey.	1665	Ditto.	} <i>Second time.</i>
1653	Francis Dashwood. ¹			
1654	Edward Smith. ²	1666	Francis Patricke.	
1655	William Pease. ³	1667	John Tanner.	

¹ A rich Turkey merchant, Alderman of the City of London, but did not serve the office of Lord Mayor. Elected Master in 1653, he presented the Company in the same year with a handsome silver gilt standing cup and cover weighing sixty-two ounces and a half, which are still preserved. His gift of a barge cloth and banners has already been noticed. Upon his death, in 1683, he bequeathed the sum of £30 to be distributed amongst the poor of the Company, and a smaller sum to the Company for a supper at his funeral. According to Burke he married a daughter of Mr. Alderman Sleigh, and was grandfather of Lord de Spencer, an ancestor of the present Sir Edwin Abercromby Dashwood, Bart., and Sir John Gage Saunders Sebright, Bart. His son, Sir Samuel Dashwood, was Alderman of the Ward of Aldgate, and served the office of Lord Mayor in 1702, whose daughter married the fifth Lord Brooke, an ancestor of the present Earl of Warwick.

² Alderman of the City of London, but did not serve the office of Lord Mayor.

³ Founded a charity, which is at present administered by the Company under a scheme sanctioned by the Charity Commissioners, for the relief of poor decayed Saddlers and their widows, preferentially those free of the Company.

⁴ Presented the Company with a silver salt.

1668	John Tanner.	}	1675	Edmond Lee. ¹
	<i>Second time.</i>		1676	John Anderson.
1669	John Barwell.	}	1677	Edmond Lee.
1670	John Gaine.			<i>Second time.</i>
1671	John Mason.	}	1678	Peter Rich. ²
1672	Richard Pemble.		1679	{ Samuel Tomlins.
1673	Edward Kempe.		{ Francis Patricke.	
1674	William Chevall.		<i>Second time.</i>	

¹ Presented the Company with a silver tankard.

² The name of Sir Peter Rich figures prominently in City history during the latter part of the seventeenth century as the nominee of the Court party for civic honours. The Company's minutes record that on the 8th October, 1675, 'This Court considers that Peter Rich, Esq., one of the Livery of this Company, is one of his Maties Justices of the Peace, one of the Leuetenncy, hath beene in nominacon for one of the sheriffs of this Citty, and hath had sev'rall other offices of honor and trust conferred on him Doe thinke fitt to make choyce of the said Peter Rich to be one of the Assistants of this Company, and hereby order the Clerke to acquaint him therewith and desire his acceptance of the same.'

At a Court held the following January, the Livery demurred to Rich's selection to be an Assistant, but upon the order of the Court being read to them we are informed that "the Livery departed well satisfied." In August, 1678, Rich having, as the Order Books inform us, been chosen Sheriff, was discharged of the offices of Renter Warden, second Warden, and Upper Warden, and elected Master. In 1680, the then Master dying, Rich was again elected to the chair for the remainder of the year. His election as Sheriff in 1678 was not confirmed, the party spirit in the City being exceedingly strong between the Court and the popular parties. In 1682, however, he was again elected and sworn into the office of Sheriff, and, according to a minute on the 25th September of that year, he desired "that sixteene of the Livery of this Company would attend him habited in their Livery Gownes to Guildhall on Thursday next and on Saturday after to Westminster in a barge, being what

1680	Peter Rich.	}	1682	Robert Waring	}
	<i>Second time.</i>			<i>Second time.</i>	
1681	Robert Wareing.		1683	Samuel Shenton.	

customarily (is) done by all Companies to their members that happen to come to such office. In 1683 he was chosen Alderman for the ward of Aldersgate, and in 1684, Luttrell, in his diary, informs us, "Sir Peter Aylworth Chamberlain of London being dead, his Majestie hath constituted Peter Rich, Esq., in his stead." According to a MS. account of the Chamberlains of London, in the Library of the Corporation, he represented London in 1685, and was knighted by James II. the same year. The following year, however, we learn from Luttrell that Sir P. Rich was turned out of the office of Chamberlain, and a Mr. Hy. Loades, the candidate of the popular party, elected in his stead; but in 1688 Rich was re-elected to that office. The factious opposition, however, which grew keener and keener every year, was again too strong for Rich, and in 1689 he was displaced from the office of Chamberlain, and Mr. Leonard Robinson, the candidate of the popular party, elected. In 1690, Rich was again defeated by Robinson. But in 1691 he instituted an action in the King's Bench against Sir Thos. Pilkington, the Lord Mayor, "for a false return not to be duly chosen Chamberlain of London," and the jury gave him £130 damages. Having again put up for Chamberlain, he was once more defeated by Robinson, by 2155 to 1882 votes. In August, 1692, he died and was buried at Lambeth. There is no doubt that Rich was throughout the instrument of the Court party. A tract in the Guildhall Library, entitled "A new year's gift for the Tories," accuses Sir John More, Mayor in 1682, of "with force of arms and in a hostile manner" constituting Dudley North and Peter Rich, Sheriffs, although not returned by the Common Hall. It also alleges that Sir Peter Rich, when Alderman in 1690, did illegally dissolve a Wardmote, and that he was accused by a Mr. Bellamy in the same year of the murder of Lord Russell. Rich brought an action against Bellamy for libel, and according to this authority he only received 6s. 8d. damages, but Luttrell states it to have been four nobles (£1 6s. 8d.). Sir Peter Rich appears to

1684	Edward Kempe.	1698	John Pack. ⁵
1685	Thomas Fizer. ¹	1699	Robert Stoakes.
1686	Ditto. } <i>Second time.</i> }	1700	Henry Petter.
1687	Laurence Evans.	1701	John Osborne.
1688	Charles Nevill.	1702	John Shelton.
1689	Edward Fisher. ²	1703	Elias Rich.
1690	Walter Furnace.	1704	John Sawyer. } <i>Second time.</i> }
1691	John Sawyer. ³	1705	Joseph Lewis.
1692	John Webb.	1706	John Shelton. } <i>Second time.</i> }
1693	William Broman.	1707	Michael Hinman.
1694	Thomas Shireman.	1708	John Wynde.
1695	Henry Chandler.	1709	Michael Hinman. } <i>Second time.</i> }
1696	Richard Gunton. ⁴		
1697	Robert Johnson.		

have been a man of good parts. He was Colonel of the Southwark or Blue Regiment of Militia, and he is credited with having, in 1691, "invented a way that every horseman shall carry behind him 150lb. weight of hay, made up into a trusse in form of a portmanteau, which shall last a horse three weeks, and 'tis well approved of." (Luttrell.) In 1681 he presented the Company with a handsome silver cup and cover, which is still preserved by them, and on his decease his widow, Lady Anne Rich, presented the Company with a further souvenir, consisting of a pair of large silver candlesticks, weighing 67 ounces 5 dwts., likewise preserved.

¹ Presented the Company with a silver salt.

² Presented the Company with a silver gilt cup and cover.

³ Presented the Company with a handsome silver tankard.

⁴ Bequeathed two Trusts, which are administered by the Company under schemes sanctioned by the Charity Commissioners, one for the relief of poor members of the Company or trade, the other for providing premiums for the apprenticing of poor boys.

⁵ Presented the Company with a handsome silver punch bowl.

1710	John Heylin. ¹		
1711	John Hutchinson.		
1712	Edwin Salusbury.	1737	H.R.H. Prince Frederick of Wales.
1713	Ditto. } <i>Second time.</i>		John Holme.
1714	Charles Hamond.	1738	Henry Heylyn.
1715	Thomas Shireman.	1739	Joseph Tomlins.
1716	William Wilcox.	1740	William More.
1717	Ditto. } <i>Second time.</i>	1741	William Poole.
1718	Michael Tesmond. ²	1742	Thomas Burder.
1719	Ditto. } <i>Second time.</i>	1743	Thomas Colebrook.
1720	John Heylin. } <i>Second time.</i>	1744	James Tickner.
1721	Edward Parratt.	1745	John Nash.
1722	Thomas Sherman.	1746	Thomas Warren.
1723	John Sculthorpe.		Thomas Thompson.
1724	John Hutchinson.	1747	George Holgate.
1725	William East.	1748	Matthew Kitchiner.
1726	Joseph Tomlins.	1749	John Brown.
1727	Charles Eady.	1750	George Scullard.
1728	William Poole.	1751	Edward Pennyman
1729	Thomas Harris.	1752	John Barker.
1730	George Holgate.	1753	Nehemiah Brooks.
1731	Edward Parratt.		William Moore. } <i>Second time.</i>
1732	John Tomkins.	1754	John Smith.
1733	Robert Lathwell.	1755	John Pritchell.
1734	Edward Halsey.	1756	John Harford.
1735	Thomas Sherman. } <i>Second time.</i>	1757	Richard Snow.
1736	John Holme.	1758	Richard Beale.
		1759	Thomas Taylor.
		1760	William Huthwaite.
		1761	Henry Riesenbeck.
			Matthew Kitchiner. } <i>Second time.</i>

Prime Wardens, see p. 138.

¹ Presented the Company with a large silver gilt mace for the Upper Beadle.

² Presented the Company with a handsome silver punch bowl.

1762	William Exell.	1787	Arthur Tawke.
1763	John Brown. } <i>Second time.</i> }	1788	Robert Precious. ²
1764	George Blaksley.	1789	Thomas Pickford.
1765	Young George Honnor. ¹	1790	Joseph Bradney.
1766	James Knight.	1791	William Earlom.
1767	William Box.	1792	John Reed.
1768	Thos. Woolhead.	1793	Edward Heylyn. } <i>Second time.</i> }
1769	David Humphreys.	1794	Mathias Peter Dupont.
1770	{ Henry Tooker. Alexander Pepper.	1795	William Hanscombe. } <i>Second time.</i> }
1771	Richard Pepys.	1796	Benjamin Moore.
1772	William Bishop.	1797	Henry Edmonds.
1773	Thomas Christie.	1798	Thomas Slade.
1774	Richard Heaviside.	1799	Joshua Knowles.
1775	Thomas Newton.	1800	Noah Hester.
1776	Edward Pennyman. } <i>Second time.</i> }	1801	James Philipson.
1777	James Christmas Arthur Humphreys.	1802	Thomas Griffith.
1778	Robert Withers.	1803	John Sabb. } <i>Second time.</i> }
1779	Edward Heylyn.	1804	John Perkins.
1780	William Hanscombe.	1805	John Yew Griffith.
1781	William Langley.	1806	Stephen Ardesoif.
1782	Henry Page.	1807	Richard Burton.
1783	Edward Jeffs.	1808	Joseph Seward.
1784	James Benwell.	1809	William Smart.
1785	John Sabb.	1810	James Benwell.
1786	Joseph Davidson.	1811	John Reed. } <i>Second time.</i> }

¹ Founded a Trust for the relief of decayed members of the Company, from a portion of the funds of which the Company's Almshouses at Isleworth were built, and are maintained according to a scheme sanctioned by the Court of Chancery. (*See p. 144.*)

Presented the Company with a silver candelabra, coffee pot, and various other articles of plate.

1812	John Sabb.	1830	George Raye.	} <i>Second time.</i>
1813	Thomas Adderley. ¹			
1814	Hayter Reed.	1831	Thomas Bishop.	
1815	Richard Earlom. ²	1832	Joshua Peacock.	
1816	Charles Griffith.	1833	Sir Peter Laurie. ³	
1817	Thomas Slade	1834	Thomas Pickford.	
	<i>Second time.</i>	1835	George Denham.	
1818	Joshua Knowles.	1836	James Palmer.	
	<i>Second time.</i>	1837	George Dinsdale.	
1819	James Philipson.	1838	Thomas Cradock. ⁴	
	<i>Second time.</i>	1839	Henry Edmonds.	
1820	George Raye.	1840	John Mitchell.	
1821	Daniel Quare.	1841	Edward Withers.	
1822	George Bishop.	1842	Charles Cradock. ⁵	
1823	Thomas Milroy.	1843	Henry Douthwaite.	
1824	William Williams.	1844	Andrew Haigh Milroy.	
1825	John Dell Poynter.	1845	James Kitson.	} <i>Second time.</i>
1826	William Prosser.			
1827	John Fulbrook.	1846	Benjamin Bacon	
1828	James Kitson.		Williams. ⁶	
1829	Henry Heylyn.	1847	John Laurie. ⁷	} <i>Second time.</i>
	Hayter Reed.	1848	Henry Heylyn.	
	<i>Second time.</i>			

¹ An antiquary of some note.

² A mezzotint engraver of considerable repute.

³ Was Sheriff of London in 1825, Lord Mayor in 1832, and Alderman of the Ward of Aldersgate. He was President of Bethlem Hospital, and Chairman of the Union Bank of London.

⁴ Founded a Trust for the benefit of poor members of the Company, administered by the Company.

⁵ Founded a Trust for the benefit of the Company's poor, administered by the Company.

⁶ Ditto, ditto.

⁷ Sheriff of the City of London in 1845, and formerly M.P. for Newport.

1849	Isaac Neal. ¹	1863	William Corne
1850	Joseph Peacock. ²		Humphreys.
	<i>Second time.</i>	1863	Benjamin B. Williams.}
1851	John Thwaites.		<i>Second time.</i>
1852	Jeffery Smith.	1864	Captain William Slark.
1853	Hayter Thornton Reed.	1865	Hayter Thornton Reed.
1854	Henry Townes.	1866	Archibald McDougall.
	{ William Milroy.	1867	William Vezey Bishop.
1855	{ Charles Cradock. }	1868	Joseph Edward Fisher.
	<i>Second time.</i>	1869	Henry Heylyn.
1856	Charles Griffith.		{ Edward Griffiths.
1857	Nathaniel Nicholls.	1870	{ Charles Griffiths. }
1858	Peter Northall Laurie.		<i>Second time.</i>
1859	James Peachey.		{ Charles Wills.
	{ Thomas Cradock. }	1871	{ Peter Northall Laurie. }
	<i>Second time</i>		<i>Second time.</i>
1860	{ Andrew Haigh Milroy. }	1872	Thomas Huggins.
	<i>Second time.</i>	1873	Henry Harris.
1861	William Hugh Powell	1874	Archibald McDougall.}
	Prosser.		<i>Second time.</i>
1862	Thomas Porteen	1875	William James Rich-
	Smith.		mond Cotton. ⁴

¹ Presented the Company with a silver rose-water dish.

² His portrait hangs in the Wardens' room.

³ In 1875 he presented the Company with two handsome standing loving cups with covers.

⁴ Formerly Alderman of Lime Street Ward, but now represents the Ward of Bridge Without. Was Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1868, and Lord Mayor in 1875, and represented the City of London in Parliament from 1870 to 1879. Took an active part in the inquiries of the Livery Companies' Commission, of which he was a member, and rendered considerable service to the Livery Companies. He is Chairman of the associated Guilds, and was first (provisional) Chairman of the London School Board, of which he was a Member from 1870 to 1879. He is a J.P. for London, Hampshire, and Middlesex. His portrait, by Mr. Cyrus Johnson, painted by order of the Company, hangs in the Hall.

1876	Andrew Row McTaggart Milroy.	1881	Alfred Ridsdale.
1877	Moses Dodd.	1882	Hayter Marsh Reed.
1878	Richard James Nicholls.	1883	William George Peachey.
1879	William James Nutting.	1884	Archibald McDougall, junior.
1880	{ Frederick Field. William Jas. Richmond Cotton. <i>Second time.</i> }	1885	{ Moses Dodd. ¹ <i>Second time.</i> }

¹ In August, 1885, Lord Halsbury, then Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, would, in the ordinary course, as Key Warden, have been elected to the office of Master, but owing to exigencies of State his Lordship was compelled to decline the office, and Past-Master Dodd was elected thereto a second time. Upon the resignation, however, of the Conservative Ministry in the following February, Mr. Dodd invited Lord Halsbury to serve the office of Master for the remainder of the year, which invitation his Lordship having accepted, Mr. Dodd resigned the Chair, and Lord Halsbury was elected Master accordingly.

“At a Court of the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, holden at their Hall in Cheapside, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 11th day of March, 1886 :—

“It was resolved unanimously,—That this Court, having this day accepted the resignation of Past-Master Dodd, second time Master of this Company, in favour of the Right Honourable Lord Halsbury, who on last Election Day requested that he might not be put in nomination for election to fill the office of Master of this Company, in consequence of having previously accepted the appointment of Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, and who on his retirement therefrom having intimated, on the invitation of Past-Master Dodd, his willingness to accept the Mastership of this Company if elected, and his Lordship having just been unanimously elected as Master of this Company for the remainder of the current year, this Court hereby tenders to Past-Master Dodd their cordial thanks for the very efficient manner in which he has at all times attended to the duties and interests of this Company, and the great courtesy which he has on all occasions shown to its members.

“It was further resolved unanimously,—That Past-Master Dodd be invited to co-operate with the present Wardens during the remainder of the current year, and be, and he is hereby elected, a member of the Wardens’ Committee accordingly.

1885	The Right Hon. Lord Halsbury. ¹	1887	Col. Robert Peter Laurie, C.B., M.P. ³
1886	Charles Octavius Humphreys. ²	1888	William Spencer Watson, M.B., F.R.C.S.

“It was further resolved unanimously,—That Past-Master Dodd be requested to take the chair of the Company at all its meetings when present during the temporary absence of the Master.

“It was further resolved unanimously,—That this, together with the three foregoing resolutions, be engrossed on vellum, signed by the Master, and forthwith forwarded with an official letter by the Clerk of this Company to Past-Master Dodd.

“HALSBURY,
“Master.”

¹ The Right Hon. Hardinge Stanley Giffard, Baron Halsbury of Halsbury, co. Devon, Lord High Chancellor of England, M.A., was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, 1850, became Q.C. 1865, was Solicitor-General from 1875 to 1880, and was appointed Lord High Chancellor 1885. He resigned February, 1886, and was re-appointed in the following July. He represented Launceston from 1877 to June, 1885, when he was created Baron Halsbury. His Lordship's portrait, by Mr. Cyrus Johnson, hangs in the Hall.

² Was Clerk of the Company from 1862 to 1868, and Solicitor from 1862 to 1878, when he resigned the retainer of the Company to take his seat on the Court.

³ Robert Peter Laurie was one of the earliest members of the Volunteer Force, having joined it in August, 1859. Since April, 1867, he has been Lieut.-Colonel Commandant of the 3rd London Volunteers. He was elected member for Canterbury in 1879 at a bye election. At the General Election in 1880 he was again returned for that city, but with the Hon. A. E. Gathorne Hardy was unseated on petition. In 1885 he contested the representation of Bath, and was only defeated by nineteen votes. In 1886, however, he was returned for that city by a large majority. In June, 1887, the Companionship of the Bath was conferred upon him in recognition of his services to the Volunteer Force. He is a J.P. for Kent.

THE COMPANY IN 1889.

THE MASTER, WARDENS, AND COURT OF ASSISTANTS.

	Admitted on Livery.	Admitted Assistants.
MASTER.		
William. Spencer Watson, M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng.... ..	1857	1881
WARDENS.		
Benjamin Coulson Robinson, Serjeant-at- Law	1861	1882
Isaac Wilcox	1859	1882
Daniel Morgan	1860	1883
ASSISTANTS.		
Thomas Porteen Smith*	1831	1855
Henry Heylyn*	1842	1861
Charles Wills*	1843	1861
William James Richmond Cotton,*Alderman	1870	1870
Andrew Row McTaggart Milroy*... ..	1847	1866
Moses Dodd*	1848	1867
Richard James Nicholls*	1852	1868
William James Nutting*	1853	1872
Alfred Ridsdale*	1853	1872
Hayter Marsh Reed*	1856	1873
Archibald McDougall*	1857	1876
The Right Hon. Lord Halsbury*... ..	1860	1876
Charles Octavius Humphreys*	1850	1878
Colonel Robert Peter Laurie, C.B., M.P.*	1857	1880
Theophilus Goodwin	1845	1863
Lieut.-Gen. John Wimburn Laurie	1856	1883
William Sturdy	1859	1888
Isaac Dan McDougall	1861	1888
Frederick William Porter, F.R.I.B.A.	1861	1888
John Terry	1862	1889

* Have passed the Chair.

LIVERY.

	Admitted.
William Pickford	1850
John Buchanan Nicholls	1856
Charles Griffith, M.A.	1857
John Ring	1858
John Knowlton Preedy	1860
Charles Goldsworthy Smithers	1862
William James Prosser	1863
Thomas Horsey	1863
Thomas Porteen Smith, jun.	1864
Frederick William Mart	1864
Peter George Laurie	1864
John Prosser	1866
Colonel Julius D. Dyson-Laurie	1866
Philip Lawdeshayne	1866
Charles Horsey	1866
Walter McDougall	1867
Alfred St. George McAdam Laurie	1869
Walter Alfred Satchell, F.R.C.P. Edinburgh, M.R.C.S. England	1869
C. Lang Huggins	1870
Peter Paget	1870
George Henry Hogan... ..	1870
Henry Frederick Griffin	1870
Joseph Lewis	1870
Isaac Harris Wrentmore	1870
Frederick McDougall... ..	1871
Walter Lawley... ..	1872
Henry Augustus De Ros Hyde	1873
John Welch	1873
William Henry Cotton	1874
Charles Walters Dodd	1875
Henry Savory Way	1875
Joseph Snowden, C.C.	1875
Sir John Braddick Monckton, Town Clerk ...	1875
William Hardinge Humphreys	1876

Reginald Peter Northall-Laurie, J.P.	...	...	...	1873
Frederick Henry Reed, M.I.B.A.	...	...	...	1877
Francis John Hames	...	...	...	1877
Arthur Byrne Hudson, C.C., F.S.I.	...	...	...	1878
Arthur Booty	...	...	...	1861
John Howard Maynard	...	...	...	1874
Edmund Thomas Bruff	...	...	...	1877
Frederick Horsey	...	...	...	1878
Henry W. Prosser	...	...	...	1878
William John Gilks	...	...	...	1879
Robert Hughes Humphreys	...	...	...	1880
Charles Frederick Crawford	...	...	...	1880
Henry Edward Kaye	..	...	...	1880
Raymond Louis Roumieu	...	...	...	1880
Nowell Stanhope Stott	...	...	...	1880
Captain George Dering Remington Williams				1883
Horatio Porter	...	...	...	1883
James Francis Kershaw	...	...	...	1883
Frank Tayler, C.C., F.S.A., F.R.G.S.	...	...	...	1883
Francis William Way	...	...	...	1884
Lieutenant John Halliburton Laurie	...	...	...	1886

OFFICERS.

Chaplain—The Rev. Edward Rudge, LL.B.

Clerk—John William Sherwell.

Solicitor—William Hardinge Humphreys.

Surveyor—William Hudson.

Clerk-Assistant

Beadle and Hallkeeper

} Charles William Forge.

SUPPLEMENT.

A DESCRIPTION OF SOME PLATE AND OTHER ARTICLES OF INTEREST IN THE COMPANY'S POSSESSION.

THE "COCOA-NUT" CUP.—Bequeathed in 1627 by Robert Labourne, Master of the Company in 1615. This is a covered Cup, enclosed by three vertical bands and supported by a baluster stem; the mountings are of silver gilt, richly chased. The sides of the cocoa-nut are beautifully carved in three tableaux, representing the Annunciation, the Adoration of the Magi, and the Nativity. Probably belonging to the latter part of the fifteenth, or the early part of the sixteenth century, a period which was rich in such specimens. Height 12 inches. Plate I.

THE "RICH" CUP.—This is a very elegant, two-handled, covered porringer-shaped Cup, presented to the Company in 1681, by Alderman Sir Peter Rich (Master of the Company in 1678 and 1680). Height, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches; diameter, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; original weight, 35 oz. 5 dwts. It is inscribed "*The gift of Peter Rich Esquire,*" and is beautifully decorated in repoussé work with acanthus leaves round the Cup and on the cover, the handle to which is formed by eight acanthus leaves erect. Hall mark, 1681. Plate III., fig. 4.

THE "DASHWOOD" CUP.—This is a handsome silver gilt standing Cup, or "Loving Cup," 20 inches high and $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. On the sides of the Cup, which are plain and frosted, are three panels, containing the arms of the Company, the arms of the donor, Alderman Sir Francis Dashwood, Master in 1653, and the inscription, "*The gift of Sir Francis Dashwood to the Worshipfull Company of Saddlers, London, May, 1654.*" The cover is cone-shaped and surmounted by a horse, saddled and bridled (the Company's crest). Original weight, 62 oz. 15 dwts. Hall mark, 1651. Plate II., fig. 8.

THE "FISHER" CUP.—This is a tall standing or "Loving Cup" and cover, silver gilt. Height, 21 inches; diameter, 7 inches. It is richly chased, and bears the arms of the Company and of the donor, with the figures of two horses, saddled. The intervening spaces are filled in by the acanthus form of decoration, so common at the period. The cover is cone-shaped like that of the "Dashwood" Cup, and is also surmounted by a horse, saddled and bridled; under the rim of the cover is inscribed, "*Ex dono Guilielmi Fisher generosi in memoriam patris sui. Edwardi Fisher olim hujus Societatis membri, Anno Dni. 1662.*" Hall mark, 1661. Original weight, 61 oz. 15 dwts. Plate II., fig. 1.

THE "LEE" TANKARD.—A massive Tankard, presented in 1676 by Edmund Lee, Master

of the Company 1675 and 1677. Height, 8 inches ; diameter at base, $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It is richly chased round the sides, on which is represented a hunting scene, in which the quarry, a stag, is being pistolled. The large handle and the rim of the cover are treated in acanthus work, which is also adopted round the base ; the centre of the cover contains the armorial bearings of the donor. Original weight, 62 oz. Hall mark, 1676. Plate II., fig. 5.

THE "SAWYER" TANKARD.— This was presented in 1695, by John Sawyer (Master of the Company in 1691). It is a large Tankard with overhanging hinged lid and purchase, and large bow handle. It is quite plain, and bears the arms, crest, and motto of the Company on the front, and underneath, the inscription, "*The gift of Mr. John Sawyer, late Master of the Company, anno 1695.*" Height, 8 inches ; diameter at base, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, tapering to $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Hall mark, 1686. Plate IV., fig. 6.

A similar Tankard, but somewhat smaller, is one purchased by the Company in 1677 with the proceeds of a sale of spoons. It is $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, and 6 inches in diameter at the base, tapering to $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The arms, crest, and motto of the Company are engraved on the front. Original weight, 33 oz. 15 dwts. Hall mark 1676. Plate IV., fig. 3.

A SILVER EWER AND BASON. — Alderman Smith's bequest. The Ewer is $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and bears the arms of the Company and of the donor (Alderman Edward Smith, Master in 1654) engraved. Hall mark, 1691. Plate IV., fig. 8.

The Bason, or Rosewater Dish, is 22 inches in diameter, is richly decorated in repoussé with a wreath of fruit and flowers, the terminals enclosing the arms of the donor. The centre rises in a boss which is bordered by another floral wreath enclosing the Company's arms, crest, and motto. *Circa*, 1680. Plate II., fig. 4.

This Bason and Ewer were purchased with a bequest of £30, but cost £41 16s. 6d. Original weight, 126 oz.

THE "PACK" MONTEITH.—This is a handsome Punch Bowl, presented by John Pack (Master 1699). Height, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter, 13 inches. The top is scalloped in eight, and the sides are ornamented by as many heart-shaped panels outlined *en rouleau*. Two swinging handles depend from lions' faces on opposite sides. The arms of the Company and the donor are on separate panels, a third contains the donor's monogram, and a fourth the inscription, "*Ex dono Johannis Packe armigeri et Dignitissimæ Societatis Ephipiariorum præsidis.*" Hall mark, 1698. Original weight, 59 oz. 12 dwts. Plate V., fig. 1.

THE "TESMOND" MONTEITH.—Presented by Michael Tesmond (Master 1720). The rim is scalloped in eight, the indentations differ somewhat from those of the "Pack" Bowl, resembling battlements. On the sides, which are without chasing and otherwise quite plain, are two shields bearing the arms of the Company and of the donor, together with this inscription, "*Michael Tesmond vetustissimæ Ephippiariorum Societatis per Biennium Præses hoc Dono dedit Sep. 24, 1720.*" Two swinging handles also depend from lions' faces on the side. Height, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter, 13 inches; original weight, 76 oz. 10 dwts. Hall mark, 1720. Plate V., fig. 6.

THE "FIZER" SALT.—This is a plain octagonal Salt, in shape resembling an hour-glass with four arms or horns extended vertically from the top, and which, according to Mr. Cripps, supported the napkin which covered the salt, the latter being placed in a circular depression or cavity on the top. It was presented to the Company in 1687 by Edward Fizer (Master 1685 and 1686), is engraved with the Company's arms, and bears the inscription, "*The gift of Thos. Fizer, Master of the Working Saddler Company, 1686-1687.*" Height to salt, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, the horns extend an inch higher; original weight, 37 oz. 10 dwts. Hall mark, 1686. Plate V., fig. 5.

TWO OCTAGONAL SALTS.—Dumb-bell or hour-

glass shaped, purchased in 1677 with the proceeds of sale of spoons. Each has four arms or rests, a circular depression for the salt, and is engraved with the Company's arms. Their respective dimensions are :—

Height, extreme, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; diameter at base, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches ; original weight $32\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Hall mark, 1676.

Height, extreme, 6 inches ; width at base, 7 inches ; original weight, 27 oz. 12 dwts. Hall mark, 1676.

CIRCULAR SALT (hour-glass shape).—The gift, in 1690, of Edward Benskin, Master 1664 and 1665. It has three arms and a circular depression for the salt, and contains the inscription, "*The Gift of Edward Benskin, Member of this Company. The 18 Septemb^{er}, 1690.*" Extreme height, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; diameter at base, 8 inches. Hall mark, 1661. Plate V., fig. 2.

THE "RICH" CANDLESTICKS.—A pair presented, in 1692, by Lady Rich and Elias Rich, the widow and son of Sir Peter Rich. They have fluted Doric columns and octagonal bases. Height, 13 inches ; width at base, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; original weight, 67 oz. 14 dwts. Hall mark, 1692. Plate II., fig. 3.

THE "BANNER" CANDLESTICKS.—Richard Banner, formerly Clerk of the Company, bequeathed in 1720 the sum of £20, with which were purchased,

pursuant to the bequest, a pair of Candlesticks, weighing 64 ounces. They have fluted Doric columns and octagonal bases, and are engraved with the arms of the donor. Height, 13 inches; width at base, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. No Hall mark. Plate II., fig. 2.

THE "PRECIOUS" CANDLESTICK.—Bequeathed in 1810 by Robert Precious, Master 1788. Engraved with the Company's arms, crest, motto, and supporters. Height, 16 inches; to top of branches, 28 inches; width of branches, 24 inches. Hall mark, 1787. Plate IV., fig. 5.

THE "ADDERLEY" TESTIMONIAL.—This consists of a pair of silver Claret Jugs of very chaste design, presented by the Court to the Company in 1847, "*as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Thomas Adderley, Esq., a member of the Court during 38 years, and in testimony of his high character and private worth.*" Height, 14 inches; ornamentation, vine leaves and grapes, engraved and intaglio. Hall mark, 1847. Plate III., fig. 2.

ROSEWATER DISH.—The gift of Isaac Neal, Master 1850. Fruit and flowers in repoussé. Diameter, 22 inches. No Hall mark. Plate III., fig. 3.

"WILLIAMS" CUP.—A large two-handled covered

Cup. Height 17 inches; extreme width, 15 inches; inscription, "*Given to Toosey Williams, Scots Greys, on the 'Flying Dutchman' winning the St. Leger, September 12th, 1849, by A. Massingberd, 13th Light Dragoons.*" Bequeathed to the Company by Benjamin Bacon Williams, Master 1846 and 1863. Subject: Boys with Grapes and Wheat. It bears the Dublin assay mark corresponding to the year 1753. Plate V., fig. 4.

THE "McDOUGALL" CUPS.—A pair of Loving Cups, presented by the late Mr. Archibald McDougall, Master 1866 and 1874; a pair of silver gilt standing cups of tapering shape, and covers, with baluster stem. On the sides of each cup are the arms of the Company and of the donor; the mantling is carried round the cup and forms the prevailing feature of the decoration. Immediately above the base are four horses' heads, crested and bridled. The covers are 8 inches in diameter and each is surmounted by a horse saddled, crested, and bridled. Height, 21 inches. Hall mark, 1875. Plate II., fig. 1.

TOP OF UNDER-BEADLE'S MACE (12 inches high).—A horse saddled and bridled, supporting in front a shield with the Company's arms. It bears the following figures inscribed, "*11 8 6*," the meaning of which is not clear. The trappings of the horse, and the character of the shield, suggest the sixteenth century, to which period it probably

belongs. There is no Hall mark Plate IV., fig. 7.

TOP OF BEADLE'S MACE.—A horse, silver gilt, crested, bridled, and saddled, supporting in front a shield with the Company's arms. The gift, in 1711, of John Heylyn, Master 1710. No Hall mark. Plate IV., fig. 9.

SILVER WAITER on feet; length, 19 inches; width, 14 inches. Presented in 1797 by Edward Heylyn, Master 1779 and 1793. Hall mark, 1796. Plate IV., fig. 4.

TWO SILVER PUNCH LADLES, with gilt bowls, each $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and engraved on the handles with the arms, crest, and motto of the Company. One of these was presented by Mr. Richard Burton, in 1811, and bears the Hall mark of the same year. It contains, in the bowl, a fine large gold coin of Queen Elizabeth, on one side of which is a crowned figure of the Queen in profile, with sceptre and orb, and around it the motto "POSVI : DEUM : ADIVTOREM : MEVM ;" while on the reverse are the royal arms of France and England quarterly, together with the inscription "ELIZABETH : D.G. ANGL : FRA : ET : HIBER : REGINA." The other Ladle was presented by Mr. Wm. Smart in 1817, and bears the Hall mark of that year. In the bowl is a fine large gold coin of Queen Anne, dated 1708, of which the reverse is seen on the underside of the bowl.

COFFEE CUP.—Hall Mark, 1730. Presented in 1789 by Robert Precious. Plate IV., fig. 1.

SIX TAPER OR PIPELIGHT CANDLESTICKS.—Baluster stem and bases hexagonal. Height, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Hall mark, 1720. Purchased by the Company. Plate V., fig. 3.

A PAIR OF SILVER CANDLESTICKS of very graceful pattern designed, after the style of Flaxman, from the antique. An elegant stem or pedestal, decorated at the shoulders with rams' heads upon a festooned base, supports an amphora-shaped vase or urn (but without arms), which holds the sconce. Height, 12 inches. Hall mark, 1738. Plate IV., fig. 2.

ANOTHER PAIR exactly similar but of later date, and bearing the Sheffield assay mark; the date mark is, however, not legible.

A SILVER-MOUNTED RAM'S-HEAD MULL, presented by Thomas Porteen Smith, Master in 1869. The lid of the box is mounted with a fine yellow cairngorm, which again is surmounted by the figure of a horse, saddled and bridled. The head is a very handsome one, and the horns are tipped with two other cairngorms of a darker colour. The mull bears the Edinburgh assay mark, the date of which corresponds to the year 1853.

The remainder of the Company's plate is

mostly modern, and possess few features of more than ordinary interest.

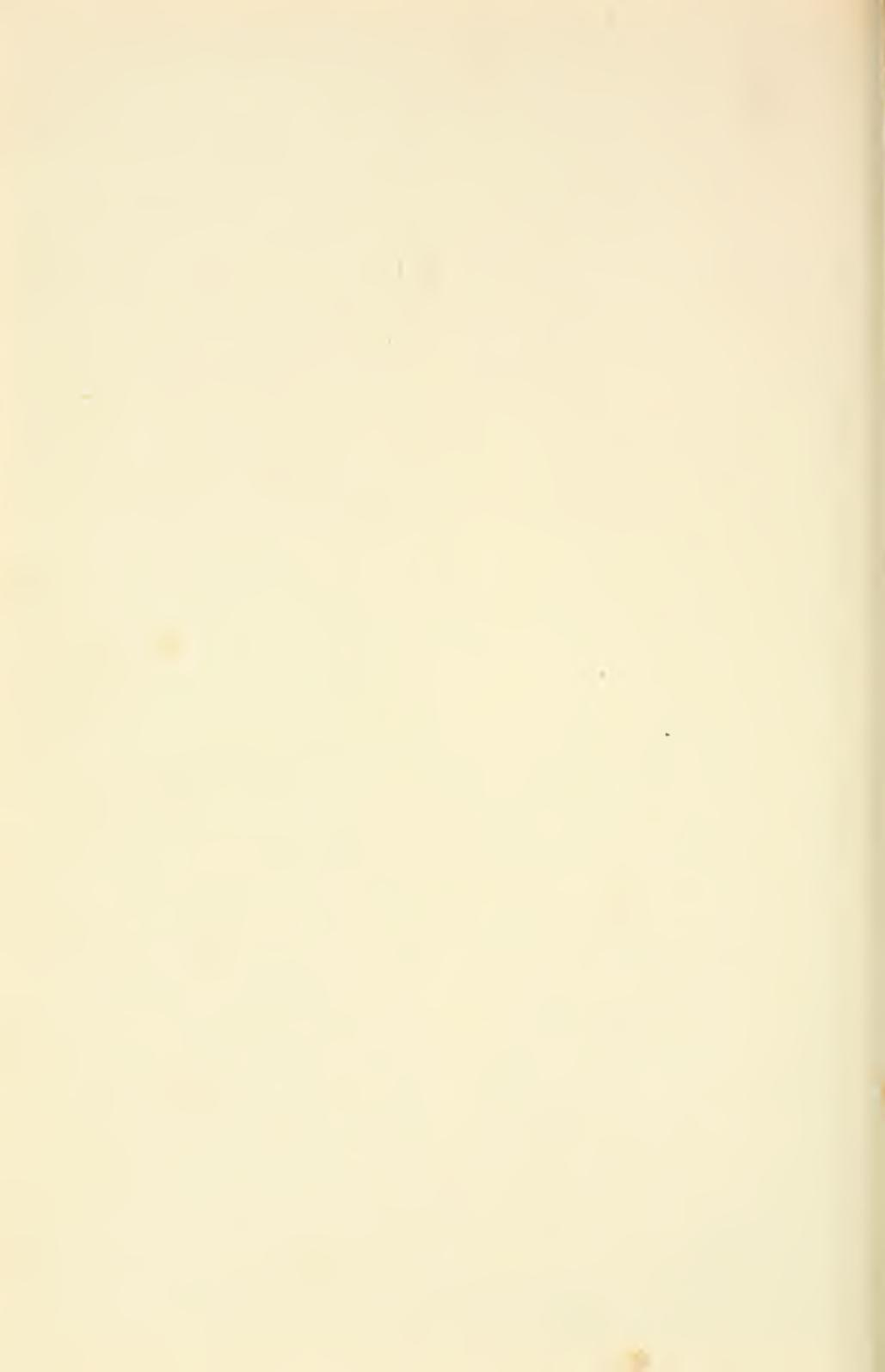
An interesting relic consists of an ancient BALLOT BOX. It is of wood, painted, resembling in shape a Chinese pagoda. It bears date 1619, and has been in regular use ever since for the annual election of Wardens.

There is also preserved an ANCIENT BOOK bound in leather, with large brass hasps, containing illuminated portions of the four Holy Gospels, with which are bound copies of ancient ordinances, wills, and covenants, in handwriting extending over a period from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries. The Wardens, Assistants, Livery, and Freemen are severally sworn upon this venerable book, which bears on the front cover the following inscription engraved, in brass frame :—

Who : so : on : yis
 shall : he : never : were.
 of : our : clothe :
 crolle : hym : forswere :



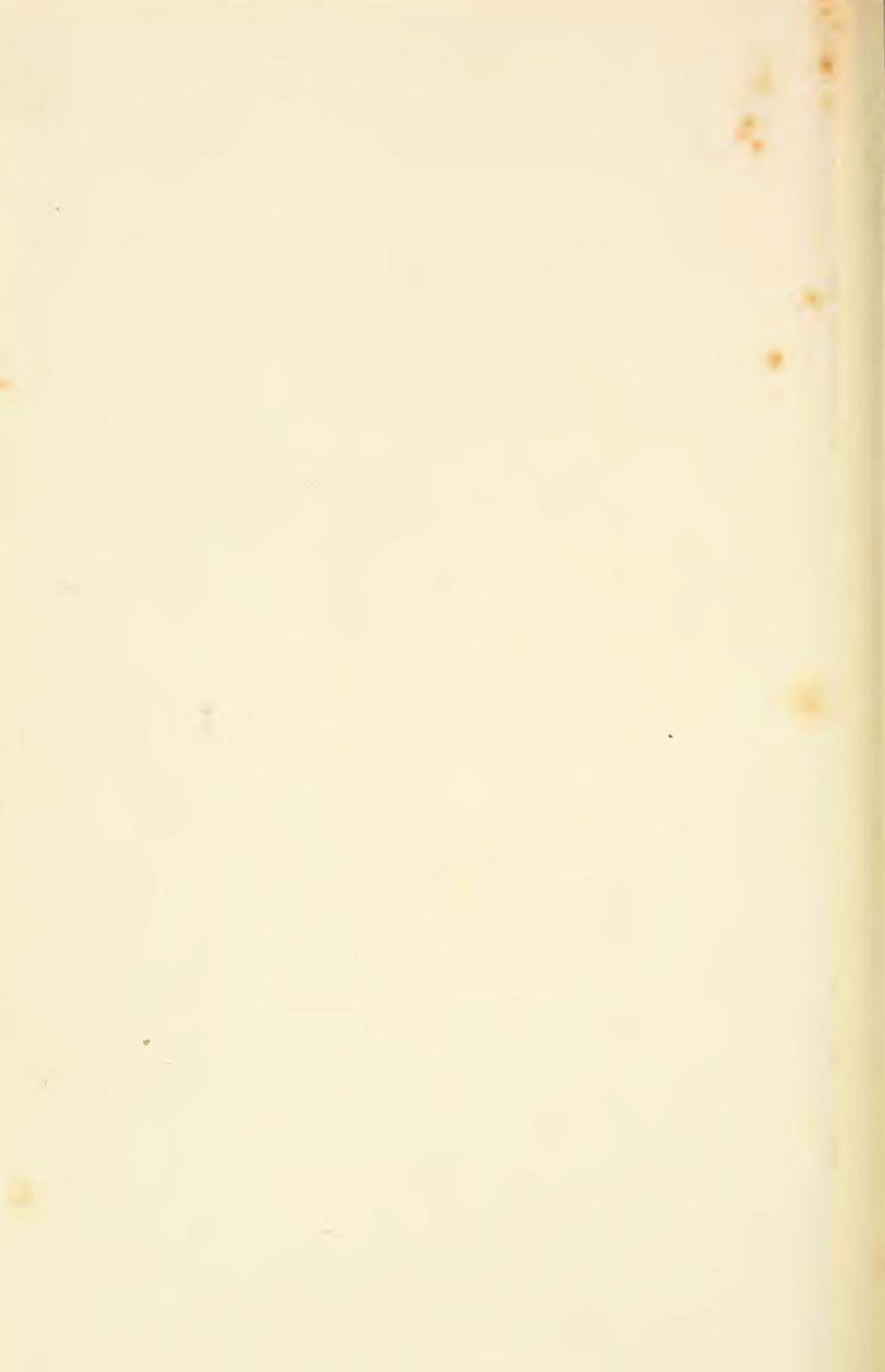
THE COCOANUT CUP. HEIGHT 12 INCHES.







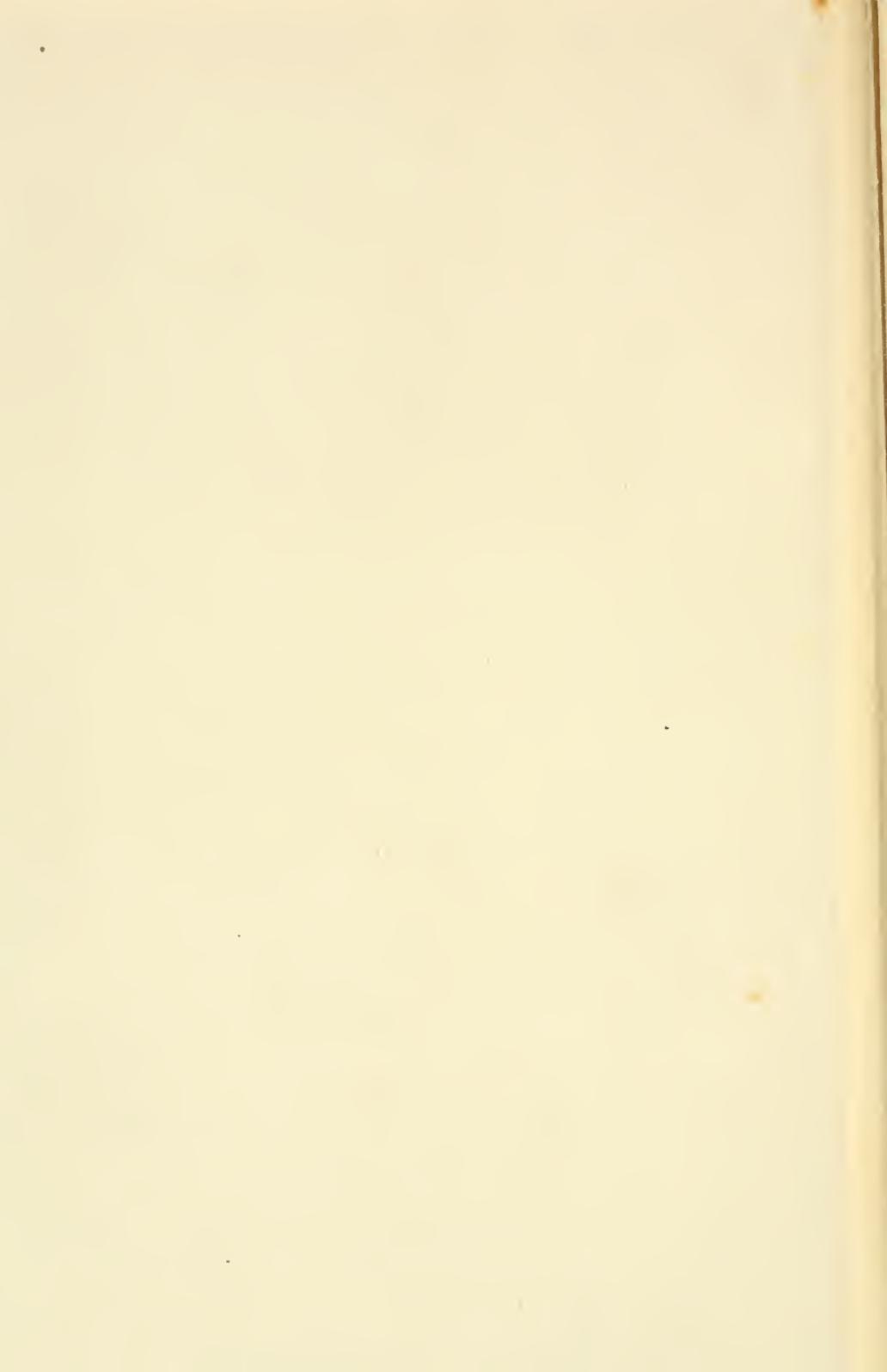












PICTURES.

IN THE HALL.

A full-length portrait of H.R.H. Frederick Prince of Wales, said to be by Fyshe.

A portrait of the Right Hon. Baron Halsbury, Lord Chancellor, Past-Master, by Mr. Cyrus Johnson.

A portrait of Queen Anne, by Clostermans.

A portrait of Pitt, by Romney.

A portrait of Mr. Alderman Cotton, by Mr. Cyrus Johnson.

A portrait of Alderman Sir Peter Laurie. Painter unknown.

A portrait of Mr. Bishop, Common Crier. Painter unknown.

IN THE COURT ROOM.

“The Triumph of David,” after Poussin, by Mr. J. E. Fisher, Master in 1868.

“Venus instructing Cupid,” by Carlo Moratti.

IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM.

“Dutch Boers Carousing,” by Van Ostade.

IN THE WARDENS' ROOM.

Portrait of Mr. Joseph Peacock, Master 1832
and 1850.

IN THE ENTRANCE PASSAGE.

Full-length portrait of Mr. Sheriff John Laurie,
M.P. for Barnstaple, and Master in 1847.

ADDENDUM.

The Will of William de Lincolne, Saddler, dated 20th November, 1392, proved November, 1393, and enrolled in the Court of Hustings, Guildhall, contains the following bequest: "Item, to the wise men of the mistery of 'Sadellers' of London, I leave ten marks on condition that they make a common Hall (*unam aulam communem*) to the use of the said mistery within three years next after my decease, and if they make not the Hall aforesaid within the said three years, I then leave the said ten marks to be distributed by my executors among the poor of the said mistery of 'Sadellers' of London."



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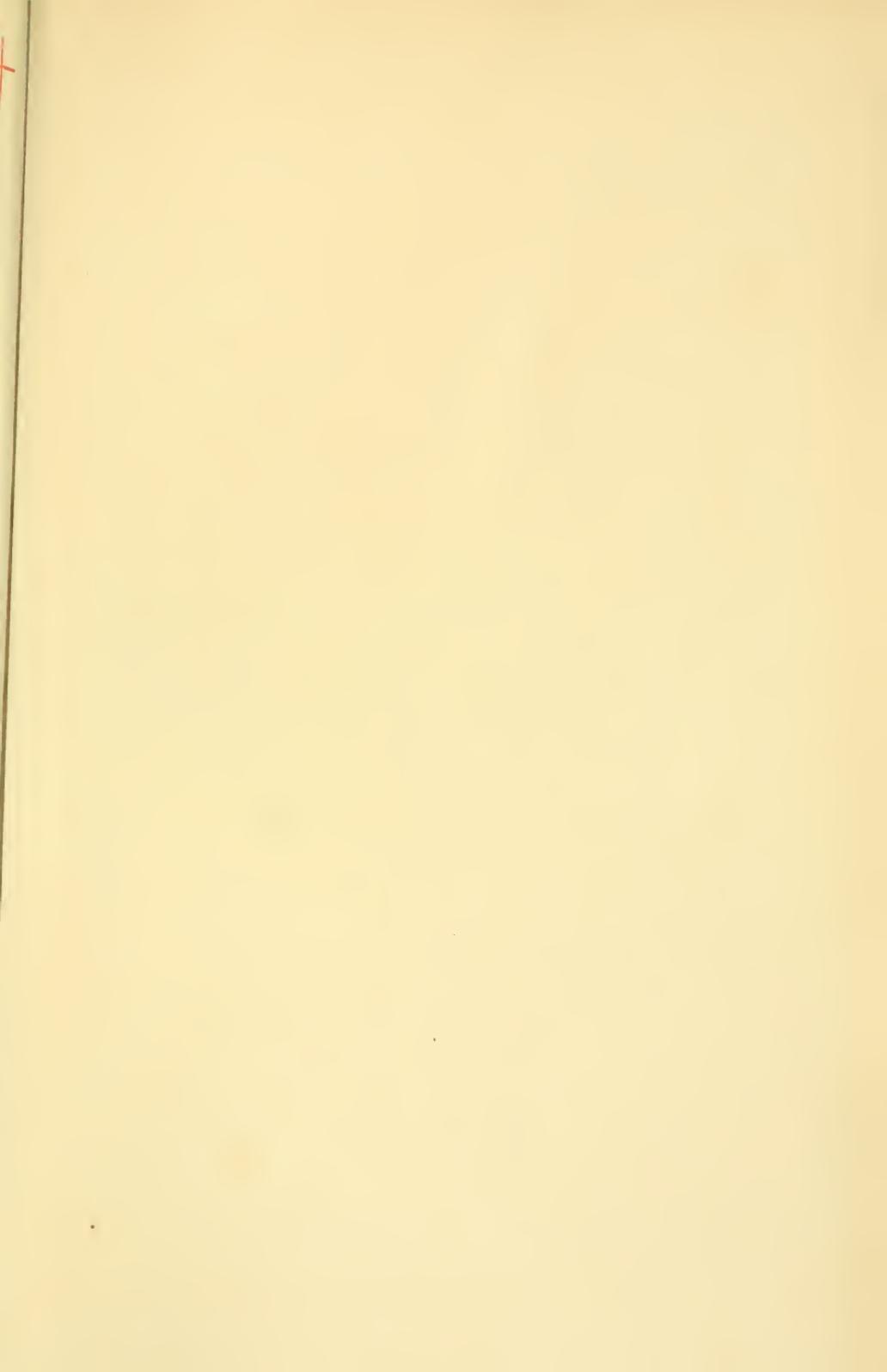
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