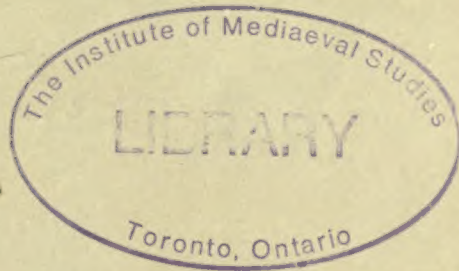


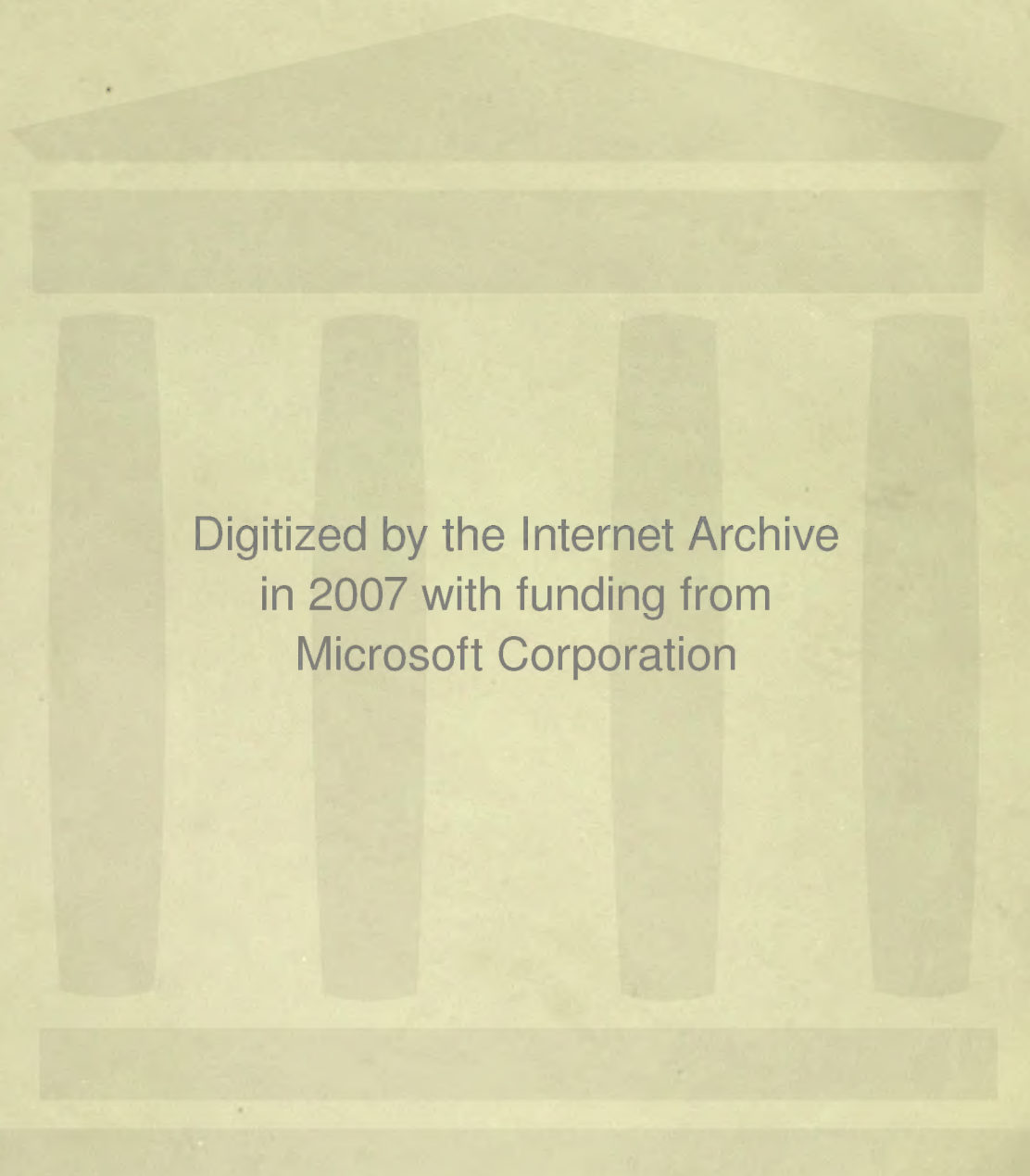
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SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE HOSPITAL OF ST. THOMAS OF ACON,
IN THE CHEAP, LONDON,
AND OF THE
PLATE OF THE MERCERS' COMPANY.

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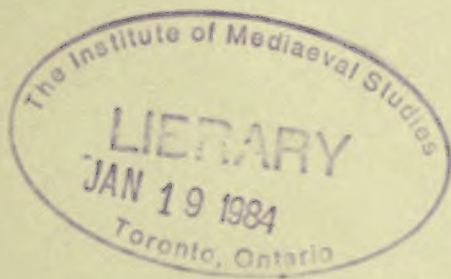
BY
SIR JOHN WATNEY, F.S.A.



SECOND EDITION.

PRINTED BY BLADES, EAST & BLADES, 23, ABCHURCH LANE, LONDON, E.C.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN the winter of the year 1889, at the request of the Council of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, I read a paper before the Society, at a meeting held at Mercers' Hall, on the Hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, and also described the plate belonging to the Company. The Court of Assistants of the Company afterwards asked me to print my papers, and in the following pages I have endeavoured to trace the history of one of the most famous of the ecclesiastical foundations in the City of London, in the days before the Reformation, and to give an account of the Company's plate, some pieces of which are said to have belonged to the Hospital.

The idea of the history of the Hospital was given me by the work of Mrs. J. Gurdelston Rolfe, the daughter of a Mercer and the wife of a Mercer, who, many years ago, wrote a metrical version of "The Legend of St. Thomas of Acon." The access allowed me to the archives of the Company have enabled me to bring to light many forgotten incidents in the lives of citizens

of London, in the times of the Plantagenet and Tudor monarchs, and many curious entries of the manners and customs of our forefathers.

It is to be regretted that fuller information as to the Hospital is not forthcoming. Its origin is shrouded in mystery, and its history, notwithstanding that there are three cartularies of its possessions extant, is very difficult to trace; even the names of its masters cannot be given with certainty. The care with which the records of the Company were kept, on the other hand, have rendered it comparatively easy to give an account of the silver plate, given to and acquired by the Company, from a very early period.

In almost every case I have followed the words of the old records, and have very seldom obtruded opinions of my own, preferring "to accumulate facts rather than paint pictures, and to chronicle events instead of suggesting comparisons or illustrations." In all instances I have followed the chronology of the times, and it must, therefore, be borne in mind that the year began on the 25th of March down to 1751.

My acknowledgments are due, first of all, to the Court of Assistants of the Mercers' Company, for their kindness in allowing me to make use of the muniments and records of the Company, and for undertaking the whole cost of the production of the book; and also to Mrs. Gurdelston Rolfe, for the valuable assistance afforded to me by the researches made by her; to Dr. Sharpe, Records Clerk in the Town Clerk's Office, for his abstracts of the cartulary of the hospital of St. Thomas, preserved at Mercers'

Hall, extracts from which are printed in the appendix; to Mr. William John Hardy, F.S.A., for researches made by him at the Record Office, and for much valuable information; and lastly to Messrs. Blades, East and Blades, for the care with which the book has been printed and the illustrations to it carried out.

JOHN WATNEY.

MERCERS' HALL,

LONDON,

September, 1892.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.



THE whole of the first edition of this work having been exhausted, the Court of the Mercers' Company requested me to prepare another edition. I have had much pleasure in complying with their request, especially as on this, and on the former occasion, they, with their usual generosity, have undertaken to defray the cost.

To a very great extent the present is a transcript of the first edition, but I have been able to collect some further information, particularly with reference to the early history of the Order of the Knights of St. Thomas and of the Hospital itself.

Since the book has been printed I have found a record in Latin of a journey to England of Leo von Rotzmital, a Bohemian noble, who was accredited as ambassador to King Edward IV. The ambassador and his suite, probably having never before seen the sea, crossed the Channel, and like many others were dreadfully seasick and lay on the deck as if they were dead. But they saw the white cliffs of Dover, which appeared to be mountains of snow rising from the sea, and sailing by Dover Castle, the strongest fortress in Christendom, the work, as it was related to them, of evil spirits, they at last came to Sandwich, then a prosperous sea-port. They then journeyed along the River Stour to Canterbury, which they

called Kandelberg, and were shown the relics of St. Thomas and the marvels of his shrine. Proceeding to London they saw the church of St. Thomas of Acon, where the saintly Thomas was said to have been born, and the tombs of his mother and sister, afterwards going to another "templum" where St. Kenhardus (Edward the Confessor) was buried.

As stated in the text I have not thought it necessary to reprint the extracts from the cartulary of the Hospital which formed so large a part of the previous volume.

My thanks are due to Mr. Herbert C. Welch, of the Guildhall Library, for correcting the proof sheets and seeing this edition through the press, and for the admirable index compiled by him, a feature wanting in the first edition.

MERCERS' HALL,

October, 1906.

JOHN WATNEY.

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THE HOSPITAL OF ST. THOMAS OF ACON,
AND
THE MERCERS' CHURCH.

The hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, in the Chepe in the City of London, was originally one of the houses of the military order of the Knights of St. Thomas of Acre, a body of men who formed themselves into a semi-religious order on the model of the Templars.

It is possible that the origin of the order may be traced to the vow of Richard I, when he was absolved from the guilt of his share in St. Thomas à Becket's death, to go for three years on a crusade, and to maintain 200 knights for a whole year for the defence of Palestine. These knights were to be regulated by the customs of the Templars.¹

The origin of the order is also attributed to William, the chaplain of Ralph de Diceto, for in the *Decem Scriptores*² we read that—

When the City of Acars or Acon, in the Holy Land (called also Ptolemais), was besieged by the Christians, one William, an Englishman by nation, being chaplain to Radulphus de Diceto, Dean of London, when he went to Jerusalem bound himself by a vow that if he should prosperously enter Acon he would build a chapel to St. Thomas the Martyr at his own charge, according to his ability, and would procure there, to the honour

¹ *Itinerarium Regis Ricardi* (Rolls Series), p. cxii.

² Quoted in Maitland's *Hist. of London*, vol. II, p. 886.

of the said martyr, a churchyard to be consecrated, which was done. Then many flocking from all parts to serve in this chapel, William himself, as a token of his Christianity, took on him the name of Prior, who, whilst he served bodily as a soldier of Christ, had an especial care of the poor; and he freely bestowed all his diligence and labour in the burying of the bodies of such as died, as well naturally, as of others who were slain with the sword.

Richard I of England, and Philip Augustus of France, after joining forces at Messina for the prosecution of the third Crusade, set out in the spring of 1191 for Acre. A great storm overtook the English fleet, and many of the ships were cast away on the coast of Cyprus. Richard, having succeeded in reuniting most of his scattered ships, appeared before Amathus at the beginning of May, rescued his bride Berengaria of Navarre, and his sister Johanna, the Queen Dowager of Sicily, and defeating and making prisoner of the Emperor Isaac Comnenus, made himself master of the island.¹

Matthew Paris² asserts that the knights were originally seculars, but that the order was re-modelled and affiliated to the Templars by Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester, during his visit to the Holy Land about the year 1230. He also says that Richard I on his expedition to the Holy Land in 1190, being overtaken by a storm in the Levant, was saved from shipwreck by the miraculous intervention of St. Thomas, who appeared to him and promised that he should come safely to land. He goes on to say that many citizens of London, who were on board ship in the following year when Acre was taken, founded a hospital there.

In the 'Theatre of Honour,' lib. 9, cap. 11, the author, in giving an account of the military orders of the Holy Land, says:—

The order of St. Thomas was instituted by the King of England, Richard, surnamed Cœur de Lyon, after the surprisal of Acars,³ and being of the English nation they held the rule of St. Augustin, and wore a white habit and a full red cross, charged

¹ Rev. Dr. Hackett's *History of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus*, p. 59.

² p. 437.

³ The statement of the master, Robert de Cardolio, in the letter written in 1279 to Edward I, quoted below, that the hospital at Acre was founded by the predecessors of the king, would seem to support this view.

in the middle with a white scallop. They took for their patron the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Metropolitan of England, Thomas à Becket, who suffered martyrdom (as his favourers say) under the King of England, Henry II of that name. Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester, who had been five years in the Holy Land (in 1231), removed the church there of St. Thomas the Martyr from an unfit place to a more convenient, and caused the Patriarch of Jerusalem to take order, that the brethren of this church, who were before laymen, might be under the Order of the Templars, wearing a cross on their breast.

Whichever of the above accounts is accepted as correct, it is clear that an order of Militant Knights was founded about the time of the third Crusade in honour of the martyred archbishop. Though it was widely distributed, it was never so wealthy or important as the Templars or Hospitallers. In London, however, where after a time the headquarters of the order were fixed, the Knights of St. Thomas were an influential body. The habit of the order was white with a red and white cross.

In early times, the brethren of St. Thomas endeavoured to provide for the succour and entertainment of poor pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land, for the relief of all indigent and infirm persons who might come to them for assistance, and for the collection of alms for the redemption of Christian captives from the Saracens.

In the 9th year of King John a messenger of the house of St. Thomas of Acon came to England to seek alms for the redemption of captives, and in the Patent Rolls there is a very interesting letter of safe conduct of that king, written on behalf of the master and brethren of the hospital at Acre, as follows:—

John the King to all, etc., greeting. Know ye that we have taken into our protection a messenger of the house of S^t. Thomas of Acon; and we pray you that when they come to petition you for alms for the redemption of the captives of the land of Jerusalem, you receive them kindly, and charitably assist them out of your goods. We further forbid anyone to impede them in this matter, or to do them any injury. Witness—William, Earl of Arundel, at Malmesbury, the 13th day of October (1207), in the ninth year of our reign.¹

¹ Itinerary of King John, Patent Rolls, edited by Sir T. D. Hardy, p. 99.

The Knights were building a new church in Acre, and de Mas Latrie, in his history of the island of Cyprus under the house of Lusignan,¹ prints from the archives in the Tower of London,² a letter from King Edward I commending Ralph de Coumbe, the master and the brethren of the hospital and church of Acre, founded in honour of St. Thomas, to the good offices of Hugh III, King of Cyprus and Jerusalem. This letter was probably written in the year 1279, as it was answered from Acre on the 15th September, 1279, by Robert de Cardolio (Carlisle, who appears to have been the master of the hospital at Acre), and the brethren "of the poor hospital and church of Acre, built in honour of St. Thomas." They said that the hospital owed its foundation (*sumpsit exordium*) to the ancestors of the king, that they had received with gratitude the king's cheering letter, from which they had understood that their poor house belonged not only to his ancestors, but was peculiarly his own, and that he would always render aid to it; that Cyprus and Assyria (Syria) suffering from scarcity, they were in consequence much oppressed with poverty, and that the church of St. Thomas, though commenced long since, had not been finished. They therefore asked that the master of the order might be sent into Syria without delay, as the king's poor house of Acre was suffering great damage through his absence. They said further that the condition of the Holy Land was such that, at the instigation of the devil, a great war had broken out between the Count of Tripoli and the Templars, while there were such dissensions among the Saracens that, with a little help, it would be possible entirely to destroy them.

The chronicle of the Teutonic Knights, in relating the capture of Acre, in 1191, places the Knights of St. Thomas at the head of the 5,000 men, whom the king of England sent into the Holy Land, and Herman Corner, writing a century later, mentions them among the defenders of Acre. After the capture of Acre, the order retired to

¹ II, p. 81.

² Royal Letters, No. 2,252.

Cyprus, where it had estates, and where Ludolphe found it in 1350.¹ The seat of the master of the order was at Nicosia in Cyprus, where it possessed the church of St. Nicolas Anglicorum. The master of the order was called in 1279 master of the whole order of the Knighthood of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the kingdoms of Cyprus, Apulia, Sicily, Calabria, Brundisium, England, Flanders, Brabant, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Cornwall.²

Some few names of the masters of the order have come down to us.

William de Huntingfeud, master of the Hospital of St. Thomas in London, and probably master of the whole order, 1267.³

Ralph de Coumbe, already mentioned as master in 1278.⁴

Frater Radulphus, "Magister Militiæ Hospitalis B. Thomæ Martyris de Acon Londini."⁵

Richard de Southampton, 11th Edward II, 1317.⁶

On the 7th August, 1323, brother Henry de Bedeford, knight, "master of the general order or religion of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon," in a chapter of the order, held in London, created John de Parys, prior and custos of the chapel of St. Nicholas in Nicosia, in the kingdom of Cyprus, with a proviso for the entertainment of any brother of the same order who might visit him.⁷ The brethren in Nicosia refused, however, to recognise Henry de Bedeford as master, and William of Glastingebury, the preceptor of the house, was at the head of the order there.⁸ He, on the 17th June, 1324, with consent of the chapter of his house, to wit, of brothers Nicholas de Cliftone, John de Parys and William de St. Bartholomew, appointed Nicholas de

¹ Histoire de l'Île de Chypre : by M. L. de Mas Latrie, II, p. 81.

² Bishop Stubb's Lectures, p. 210.

³ Itinerarium Regis Ricardi, p. cxiii.

⁴ de Mas Latrie, II, p. 81.

⁵ MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c. V, fo. 156. He may have been the same person as Ralph de Coumbe.

⁶ Rot. Parl., vol. I, p. 289.

⁷ MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c. V, fo. 283.

⁸ Itinerarium Regis Ricardi, p. cxiii.

Cliftone proctor against brother Henry, who claimed to be master of the said house before any judge or auditor whatsoever, ecclesiastical or secular, as well in civil proceedings, as in criminal; "actum Nicosiâ in Capellâ Sancti Nicolai, presentibus Henrico et Thomâ, presbyteris Anglicis, et prædicto Johanne, priore dictæ capellæ."¹

On the 30th August, 1344, Robert de Kendall, knight, preceptor general of the whole order of the Knights of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the kingdoms of Cyprus, Apulia, Sicily, Calabria, Brundusium, England, Flanders, Brabant, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Cornwall, etc., and of all the houses in other kingdoms in divers parts of the world subject to the same order, and the brethren thereof appointed Sir Henry de Colchester and William de Brunvill to collect money for the order for the defence of the Holy Land against the enemies of the Catholic Faith and blasphemers, the appointment being dated from Nicosia, in the house of Guddefrid, archdeacon and canon of the church of Famagosta, and vicar "in spiritualibus" of Philip, Archbishop of Nicosia.²

On the 2nd February, 1357, it is recorded that Sir Richard de Tykehill, an English chaplain in the diocese of York, wishing to provide for the health of his soul, and desiring to assume the habit of the brethren of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, on his bended knees prayed brother Hugh de Corteys, preceptor of the house of St. Thomas of Acon, in the kingdom of Cyprus, to receive him as a confrère of the said house. Brother Hugh accordingly received him into the confraternity of the said house by placing his crossed hands between the hands of the said preceptor, who promised him bread and water and the grace of the said house, having first received from the said Sir Richard the oath accustomed whilst touching the book, that he would observe the approved rules and the customs and ordinances of the order and house, promising to the preceptor obedience and

¹ MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c. V, fo. 283b.

² Ibid., 284b.



*One of the doors of the Church of St. Nicolas, Anglicorum in Nicosa
now called the Bedestan
From a drawing*

reverence, and vowing to preserve chastity and to live without private property; and thereupon the preceptor invested the said Richard with the habit of the said order, to wit, a mantle with a red and white cross. The ceremony was performed in the church of St. Nicolas Anglicorum, in Nicosia, one of the many churches which formerly adorned that city, in the presence of brother Francis de Gave, burgess of Nicosia, Sir Robert of Suyllington, canon, Sir Richard of Chatesby, an English priest, and William Gaston of England, Turcopolier to the King of Cyprus and many others.¹ Sir Richard de Tykehill was the last known brother of the order.

The order of the Knights of St. Thomas was from its beginning intimately connected with that of the Templars,² but did not share the fate of its more opulent brethren. The preceptories of the Templars were destroyed, of the Knights, some suffered death and imprisonment, all were disgraced, and the order was effectually disbanded; but the hospital in the Chepe continued in honour and prosperity, and the chimes of St. Nicolas Anglicorum, in Nicosia, the only church in Cyprus which was allowed to retain its bells after the island was taken by the Turks, still cheered the heart of many an English wanderer in the Levant. In 1379, and after that date, the mastership of the Order seems to have been held by the master of the hospital of St. Thomas in London.³

The principal houses or hospitals of the order abroad were in Nicosia, in Cyprus, and at Acre. The hospital at Acre fell after that town was taken, and that at Nicosia on the extinction of the Latin kingdom of Cyprus.

¹ MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c. V, fo. 285. The church of St. Nicolas, named after the patron saint of the archbishop, was situated close to the cathedral of Nicosia, and at the present time is used as a granary. It is about 130 feet in length, and has three apses at the east end. Its roof, which is barrel-shaped, is surmounted about the middle of its length by an octagon tower and dome, but its principal architectural feature consists in its three beautiful northern doors. It is now known by the Turkish inhabitants as the Bedestan. I am indebted for this information to the Rev. Dr. Hackett (*History of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus*), by whose permission I am enabled to reproduce a plate of one of the doorways of the Bedestan.

² The close connection of the hospital of St. Thomas, in Cheapside, with the Knights Templars is shown by the grant from Edward I of the advowson of Rotheley, *infra*, pp. 28, 29.

³ *Itinerarium Regis Ricardi*, p. cxiii.

The great abbey of St. Thomas the Martyr in Dublin is said to have belonged, originally, to the order of the Knights of St. Thomas; it, however, afterwards became a house of Augustinian canons of the order of St. Victor.¹

Gilbert Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, made a grant of lands in Kilkenny, in Ireland, to the knights and brethren of the house of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, and also to the house of St. John the Baptist at Kilkenny. This grant, and one from Fulk de Villars to the same knights and brethren, dated May, 1219, of a carucate of land, with a fit and convenient place at Pinam for building a church and houses there, and timber from the wood at Gressesey, sufficient for building the church and house, for cooking and other uses, also the site of his mill at Dignac, which they had built, or were about to build, and of which he and his heirs possessed the half and they possessed the other half, and also common of pasture in wood and meadow for their greater and lesser beasts; and also a grant from Edmund Bret, Lord of Karikmagriffin, to the knights and brethren of the same house, living at St. John in Karikmagriffin, of all his right and claim to tenements in Karikmagriffin, were confirmed by King Edward I, by charter dated at Westminster on the 5th June, in his 17th year, 1287, in consideration of a fine of five marks.²

The hospital of St. Thomas, in Cheapside, in London, with which we have more immediate concern, was founded by the sister of St. Thomas à Becket, about the year 1190, twenty years after his death. The Mercers are recorded to have been seated near the spot where their present hall and chapel stand in Cheapside at a very early period, and their congregated dwellings were distinguished by the general appellation of the Mercery. About the centre of this cluster of houses stood the house of Gilbert Becket, a citizen of London, and probably a Mercer, who, when travelling in the Holy Land, was taken

¹ Dugdale, *Monasticon*, vol. VI, p. 1140; and see J. T. Gilbert, *Register of the abbey of St. Thomas*, Dublin, 1889.

² MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c. V, fo. 273-4.

prisoner by a Saracen emir. According to tradition, after a confinement of a year and a half, he effected his escape by the assistance of the emir's daughter, Matilda or Maud, who had fallen in love with him, and had been converted to Christianity by his persuasions.

The journey of the fair Saracen to England, knowing but two words of English—"Gilbert" and "London"—her meeting with her lover, her baptism,¹ and her marriage, form one of the most interesting romances of the middle ages. Gilbert Becket was a man of considerable wealth; he was appointed Portreeve of London, an office equivalent to that of mayor, in the reign and by desire of King Stephen, in the place of Alberic de Vere, and erected a mortuary chapel in Pardonhaugh churchyard, under St. Paul's Cathedral, where he and his wife were buried.² He had several children by his wife, the eldest, Thomas, the future archbishop, having been born in his father's house in the Cheap, between 1116 and 1119. He was said to have been baptised in the parish church of St. Mary Colechurch, which formerly stood at the corner of the Old Jewry.³ It is probable that there were several other sons of Gilbert and Matilda, but their names have not come down to us. Three of their daughters are known: Mary was abbess of the great nunnery of Barking, in Essex; Roessa had grants of lands from King Henry II; and Agnes was married to Thomas Fitz Theobald de Helles, in Kilkenny. He received large grants of land in Ireland from King Henry II, and was the ancestor⁴ of the family of Butler, Earls of Ormond, and through them of the Boleyn family, eminent in the Mercers' annals. The last of the Boleyns was created, by Henry VIII, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, and was father of the ill-fated Queen Anne Boleyn, and grandfather of Queen Elizabeth, the most distinguished free sister of the Mercers' Company.

¹ The baptism of Matilda was shown in several of the stained glass windows, in which the history of St. Thomas was depicted.

² Dugdale, *St. Paul's*, p. 93. Weaver, *Funeral Monuments*, p. 378.

³ Patent Roll, 1 Hen. IV, p. 7, m. 29.

⁴ Carte, in his history of the Dukes of Ormond, throws a doubt on the descent of the family of Butler from Gilbert Becket, vol. I, p. 39; but see petition to Parliament quoted on page 48.

In the Company's Register of writings (which contains a Cartulary of the hospital), under date 1227, is contained a copy of a grant by Thomas, son of Theobald de Helles, to the master and brethren "Milicie hospitalis Sancti Thomae Martyris Cantuariensis de Acon," of all that land, with the appurtenances, which was formerly of Gilbert Becket, father of the Blessed Thomas the Martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury, where the said Blessed Thomas the Martyr was born, to build a church in honour of Almighty God, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the same most glorious martyr, which land was in the parish of St. Mary de Colechurch, between the land which was of Thomas, the son of Andrew Bokerell, towards the west, and lands which were of Peter, son of William Fitz Alulph and Womalen de Halywell, toward the east, and extended from the street of Cheap (a viâ fori) to the lands which were of Radulph Aswy and Acon and Helie, sons of Leo Blomidi, a Jew, towards the north, to hold to the said master and brethren and their successors in free, pure and perpetual alms. This grant was witnessed by Sir Eustace de Fauconberg, Bishop of London, Master Philip de Fauconberg, Master William de Porlee and others¹ and was exhibited at a visitation of Richard de Newport, Bishop of London, on the 7th of the ides of January, 1317, in the church of St. Thomas of Acon, and was also exhibited with an apostolical bull, at a visitation of Robert de Braybrooke, Bishop of London, held in the same church, on the 7th ides of October, 1383.²

¹ Cartulary at Mercers' Hall, fo. 1.

² This grant was confirmed by letters patent, granted by King Edward III, in the 14th year of his reign (Pat., 14 Edw. III, p. 3, m. 51) in the following words:—Rex omnibus ad quos, &c., salutem. donationem, concessionem, et confirmationem. quas Thomas filius Theobaldi de Helles, per cartam suam fecit magistro et fratribus militiae hospitalis S. Thomae Martyris Cantuariensis de Acon, in liberam, puram et perpetuam elemosinam, de totâ illâ terrâ, cum omnibus pertinentiis, quae quondam fuit Gilberti Beket, patris beati Thomae martyris Cantuariensis archiepiscopi, in quâ beatus Thomas martyr praedictus duxit originem, ad construendam basilicam in honorem Dei Omnipotentis, et Beatæ Virginis Mariæ, et ejusdem gloriosissimi martyris; quae terra est in parochiâ Sanctæ Mariæ de Colechurch.

The Fraternity of Mercers, not yet incorporated, were constituted patrons of the hospital, and their connection with it continued for upwards of three hundred years, until the hospital was suppressed at the Reformation.

Bishop Tanner, in his *Notitia*, quoted in Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. VI, p. 645, gives the following account of this hospital. He says:—

On the north side of Cheapside, London, in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, was founded by Thomas Fitz Theobald de Helles, and Agnes his wife, sister to Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the latter end of the reign of King Henry the II, an hospital to the honour of the Blessed Virgin and the said Archbishop, now styled Saint and Martyr. It was built upon houses and lands formerly belonging to Gilbert Becket, father to the Archbishop, and wherein his famous son was born. This hospital consisted of a Master and several Brethren, professing the rule of St. Austin, but were of a particular order which was about this time instituted in the Holy Land, viz.: 'Militiæ Hospitalis St. Thomæ Martyris Cantuariensis de Acon,' being a branch of the Templars.

The church could not be seen from the street, but it must have been a stately edifice. In it our ancestors worshipped, and in its immediate vicinity they have held their feasts and dispensed their charity for nearly seven hundred years. In it, too, they were buried, and for many centuries their good deeds have been had in remembrance by their successors, animated by the same devotion to their God, the same loyalty to their Sovereign, and the same love of and care for their brethren.

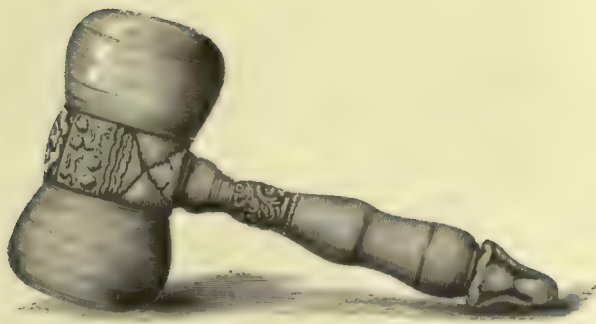
Certainly after the dissolution of the order of the Templars, and probably at some previous time, the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon adopted the rule of St. Augustine, or Austin, Bishop of Hippo, in Africa. This order of Augustinian canons was very popular in England, for Bishop Tanner says that he found above 175 houses of canons and canonesses in England and Wales.

In the history of this hospital two facts stand out which were of the utmost importance to the commerce and the education of London. The first, in order of date, was the foundation of a second fraternity

of St. Thomas à Becket of Canterbury, for trading beyond the seas—the famous company afterwards known as the Company of Merchant Adventurers. This company indubitably originated in an association by members of the Fraternity of Mercers, whose foreign trade far exceeded that of the other companies in the thirteenth century. The original charter of the Adventurers was granted to them under the name of the Guild or Fraternity of St. Thomas à Becket, by King Edward I, in 1296. Henry IV and Henry VI gave them further privileges. “The Merchant Adventurers patent,” as Hakluyt calls it, for the better government of the English merchants residing in Brabant and Flanders, was granted by Edward IV on the 16th April, 1462. The Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament of the 12th Henry VII, c. 6 (1497). This is not the place for me to record the close connection of the Mercers with the Merchant Adventurers, whose motto, “Dieu nous donne bonne adventure,” has been adopted in spirit by many members of the Company in recent as in ancient times.

One relic of the connection is preserved in the Master’s hammer, which bears the arms of the Tudor sovereigns and the Tudor rose, together with the arms of the Merchant Adventurers and the Maidenhead of the Mercers on the pommel. The date of the hammer is uncertain, but it cannot be later or earlier than the 16th century, and may probably be referred to the early years of Elizabeth.

I cannot, however, help here mentioning, from the Mercers’ books, a curious record which testified the importance of the Mercers amongst the Merchant Adventurers. In the year 1483 John Pykering, who had been governor of the Merchant Adventurers abroad for some years previously, being called before an assembly of the Mercers for having spoken against the wardens “alle hawty and roiall,” and full of pride, disdained to stand bare headed, but boldly did his cap on, alleging simple excuses and rather glorying in the deed. Upon



The Mercers' Company's Hammer.

which it was agreed, by an assembly of Adventurers of different fellowships, as advised by the assembly of Mercers, that he should be discharged from his office of governor, whereupon he submitted to the sentence of a General Court of the Mercery, which was that he should ask pardon on his knees. He was sore moved by this sentence, but was unable to obtain its relaxation, and kneeling down on his knees, in the presence of the Court, which consisted of four wardens, five aldermen, forty of the livery and thirty out of the livery, he repeated these words :—

Forasmuch as that I have offended you, my masters, the wardens, or any of you, in word or deed, or writing, to your displeasure and against right, I am sorry thereof, and acknowledge my offence, and pray your forgiveness.

The above complaint was not the only one against Pickering, for there is a note in the Register and Cartulary of the Mercers' Company of York that a complaint was made in the year 1478 by the Merchants of the North to the King and his Council against John Pickering that he did set "grevous and importable imposicyons, and chargies as it pleaseth hym, having no regard to their littel substaunce and porcyon upon the King's subjects, Merchants of the North ; and hath compelled the Northern Merchants to exhibit their cloth in places where he pleases, and not in the places accustomed, where it might be most to their profit, by the which the seid subjects be impoverished." And they desire the King by his letters missive to command John Pickering to cease such compulsions and impositions until such time as he shall be called before the King and his Council to answer thereunto. The King's reply is dated from Westminster, 12th November, 1478, and is addressed "To John Pickering, oon of y^e Court-Maisters of this oure Reaume hauntyng the parties of fflaunders." After stating the complaints preferred against him by the Merchants of York, Hull, Beverley, Scarborough, and other places in the North parts, it enjoins that from henceforth he shall demeane and entreat the said Mercers "in those parts beyond the sea

with all favour and honesty according to the ancient customs, so and in such wise as they have no cause to complain eftsoons " until he can prove before the King and Council why they should not be so treated, etc.¹

The second fact that I referred to above is the establishment by the hospital of a school within its precincts.

In the Parliament of the 25th Henry VI, 1447, a petition was presented by Master William Lycchefeld, parson of the church of Allhallows the Great, Master Gilbert, parson of St. Andrew's, Holborn, Master John Cole, parson of St. Peter on Cornhill, and John Neell, master of the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, parson of Colechurch, referring to the great number of grammar schools which had in times past been established in divers parts of the realm, besides those that were in London, and to the paucity of them in those days, and the great hurt thereby caused, and stating that "for as much as the City of London is the common concourse of this land, wherein is great multitude of young people, not only born and brought forth in the same city, but also of many other parts of this land, some for lack of school masters in their own country, for to be informed of grammar there, and some for the great alms of lords, merchants, and others, and which is in London more plenteously done than in other places of this realm, to such poor creatures as never should have been brought to so great virtue and cunning as they have, had it not been by the means of the alms above said." Wherefore, they complained to the Parliament that in London, where a sufficient number of schools and good informers in grammar should not, for the singular avail of two or three persons, grievously hurt the multitude of young people of all this land, "for where there is great number of learners and few teachers, and all the learners be compelled to go to the same few teachers, and to none other, the masters wax rich in money and the learners poor in cunning, as experience openly sheweth, against all virtue and order of

¹ Quoted in the *Antiquary*, XXII, p. 266; XXIII, pp. 27, 70.

the public weal ;” and for remedy besought the Parliament to intercede with the king that he, by the advice and assent of the lords spiritual and temporal then assembled, and by authority of the same Parliament, would provide, ordain and grant to the petitioners, that they might in their respective parishes set a person sufficiently learned in grammar to hold and exercise a school in the same science of grammar, and there to teach all that would learn.

The king willed that it should be done as desired by the advice of the Ordinary, or otherwise of the Archbishop of Canterbury, for the time being. This was the foundation, or perhaps more correctly, the second foundation, of Mercers’ School, for it is said that a school existed, long previously to the 15th century, on the site or in the immediate neighbourhood of the Mercers’ Hall ; a school again refounded at the Reformation, and existing at the present day in greater numbers than ever.

In the examinations or appositions held, until the suppression of those meetings, in St. Bartholomew’s churchyard, on the eves of all great festivals, the scholars of this school ranked with those of St. Paul’s and St. Antholin’s. Sir Martin Bowes was the last mayor¹ who presided on such an occasion, and gave, as his prize to the most distinguished scholar, a silver bow and a quiver of silver arrows.

The list of masters of the hospital, given by Dugdale, is imperfect, but I have been able to supplement it, and to compile the following from various sources :—

Henry de Neville, 1243.²

Ralph Waleys, in 1244 and 1248.³

William de Huntingfeud, 1267.⁴

Friar Robert de Conde or Conele, 1277.⁵

Henry de Dunolm, temp. Edward I.⁶

¹ Lord Mayor in 1545.

² Cartulary at Mercers’ Hall, fo. 113.

³ *Ibid.*, fos. 112, 114.

⁴ *Itinerarium Regis Ricardi*, p. cxiii.

⁵ Cartulary, fo. 100.

⁶ Rot. Parl., 8 Edward II, 1, fo. 289.

Edmond de London, temp. Edward II.¹

Friar Richard de Bardeley, 1314.²

Friar Henry de Bedeford, 1326.³

Ralph de Coumbe, 1331 and 1339.³

Friar Bartholomew de Colchestre, in 1340 and 1344.⁴

Friar William Myle, 1347.⁵

Thomas Sallowe, died in 1371.⁶

Richard Sewell, elected 3rd February, 1371.⁷

Richard Alrede, or Aldred, 1385,⁸ died in 1400.

Friar William Bovyn, or Bovyngton, elected in August, 1400,⁹
was master in 1419.

John Niel, or Neell, was master in the year 1428,¹⁰ and died
10th November, 1463.¹¹

John Parker succeeded Neell.¹²

John Harding was master in 1480, and died 17th October, 1492.¹³

William Hill, in 1500.¹⁴

Richard Adams, removed 23rd July, 1510.¹⁵

John Young, S.T.P., elected 16th September, 1510. He was
afterwards Bishop of Gallipoli in partibus infidelium, and Suffragan of
London, and died 28th March, 1526.¹⁶

Lawrence Gopfelar, or Gospelar, elected 7th April, 1526,¹⁷ was
master of the hospital at its dissolution in the 30th year of King
Henry VIII.

¹ Rot. Parl., 8 Edward II, 1, fo. 289.

² Cartulary at Mercers' Hall, fo. 56.

³ Ibid., fos. 100, 126-7.

⁴ Ibid., fos. 56, 100, 101, 175, 173. Will of
Matilda de Caxton, see p. 29.

⁵ Cartulary, fo. 57. Calendar of Wills, vol. II,
p. 56.

⁶ Manning and Bray, Surrey, vol. II, p. 450.
Dugdale, Monasticon, vol. VI, p. 646.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Cartulary, fos. 102, 134.

⁹ Ibid., fos. 105, 134, 135, 178, 179, 183.

¹⁰ Ibid., fos. 28, 43, 85, 92, 129.

¹¹ Dugdale, Monasticon, vol. VI, p. 646.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ MS. Cole, vol. XXVI, fo. 215b. Acts of Court,
19th July, 1481. Patent Rolls, 20 Edward IV,
p. 1, MS. in dorso.

¹⁴ Record Office, bundles of Ancient Deeds, C.
No. 1,736. Prer. reg. Moone, fo. 15.

¹⁵ Register of Bishop Fitz James, fo. 18.

¹⁶ Ibid. Harleian MS. 6,963, fo. 83.

¹⁷ In the Calendar of State Papers, domestic,
Henry VIII, vol. II, part II, no. 4,654, under
date 15th December, 1518, there is an order of the
Court of Sewers, held at Erith, in Kent, for levy-
ing a rate of 4d. per acre, within the level, in
which Thomas Fereby is mentioned as master of
the household of St. Thoams de Acres.

The number of brethren or canons of the hospital cannot have been large at any time of its history. In 1268, in a grant of King Henry III, it is said that the brethren were twelve.¹ In the petition for the incorporation of the hospital in 1444, the number of priests and clerks "doing divine service" is stated to be twelve or more.² In 1510, in the proceedings for the removal of Richard Adams from the mastership, only nine brethren were summoned by name.³ The number of brethren at the dissolution is not recorded; but there must have been at least eight, including the master, but probably not many more.⁴

The bell⁵ which aroused the brethren of St. Thomas to the service of Prime, at six o'clock in the morning, gave the signal for the opening of all the City wickets, the great gates being kept closed till sunrise. And while the tolling of the curfew at St. Paul's, at eight o'clock, was the signal for closing the shops in the City for the day, traffic in some of the open markets on Cornhill and on the Chepe was at an end as soon as the chimes of St. Thomas announced the commencement of vespers in that church.⁶

The hospital was the place of meeting of the livery companies on many solemn occasions during the civic year. On the morrow of the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude, 28th October, the mayor was sworn before the Barons of the Exchequer, or if that Court was not then sitting at Westminster, before the Constable of the Tower, or his deputy, and, returning into the City, entertained the aldermen, sheriffs, and others at the mayoralty feast. Strype has described the

¹ See page 27.

² See page 46.

³ See page 65.

⁴ See page 119.

⁵ See Riley's Memorials of London, 1868, pp. 96, 144, "Ordinances for the safe keeping of the City."

⁶ Liber Albus, Riley's Ed., p. 624. In Letter Book E, preserved among the archives of the Corporation, p. 142, is the following entry, "on Friday after the feast of the translation of St. Thomas (7th July), 15 Edward II (A.D. 1321) Hamo de Chigewelle, then Mayor, Roger de Frowik, and other aldermen, assembled at the Guildhall. It was agreed that the keys of the City should be entrusted to certain persons, who were to close the main gates at sunset, and keep them closed until sunrise, whilst the wickets (guigetti) were to be left open, until curfew rang at St. Martin le Grand, and then closed; not to be reopened until the first bell rang at St. Thomas de Acon."

subsequent ceremonies from an ancient manuscript which he had met with. The new Lord Mayor, he says, after dinner, on his inauguration day—

was wont to go from his house to the church of S^t Thomas of Acon, those of his livery going before him : and the aldermen, in like manner being there met together, they came to the church of S^t Paul, whither, when they were come, namely, in the middle place, between the body of the church, between two little doors, they were wont to pray for the soul of the Bishop of London, William Norman, (who was a great benefactor to the City, in obtaining the confirmation of their liberties from William the Conqueror), a priest saying the office of *de profundis*, and from thence they passed to the churchyard, where Thomas à Becket's parents were buried, and there, near their tomb, they said also for all the faithful deceased *de profundis* again. The City procession thence returned through the market of Chepe, sometimes with wax candles (if it was late), to the said church of S^t Thomas, and there the mayor and aldermen offered each a penny, which being done, every one went to his house.¹

It was probably on the occasion of this procession, in the year 1478, when Richard Gardener, a mercer, was Lord Mayor, that Robert Bifield, one of the sheriffs, for presuming to kneel too near to him at the shrine of St. Erkenwald, was fined by the Court of Aldermen in the sum of £50, to be paid towards the reparation of the conduits of London.²

In like manner, at the feast of All Saints, 1st November, the mayor was wont, together with his household, to proceed after dinner to the church of St. Thomas, as also the aldermen and the people of the mayor's livery, who met together there with the substantial men of the several mysteries, arrayed in their respective suits, and thence to the church of St. Paul to hear vespers ; and, upon the day of our Lord's Nativity, the mayor, aldermen and sheriffs, with those who were of the liveries of the mayor and sheriffs respectively, were wont to meet after dinner at the church of St. Thomas, and then to proceed

¹ Strype's Stow, vol. I, p. 555. See also Liber Albus, Riley's edition, p. 23. The entry in this book, after describing the ceremonies of Lord Mayor's day, concludes, "and the morning and the evening were one day," a parody of Genesis I, 5.

² Holinshed's Chronicle, vol. III, p. 348.

to the church of St. Paul, where, on the right hand side of the choir, in the stall next to that of the dean, the mayor would stand, the aldermen also taking their position each in order, according to his priority of rank, as well on the same side of the choir near the mayor, as on the other side, while vespers and complines were read ; which services being duly heard, they returned to St. Thomas, and then home.

A similar usage was observed upon St. Stephen's day, 26th December, and on St. John the Evangelist's day,¹ 6th May. Upon the feast of the Innocents, 28th December, the mayor, aldermen, sheriffs and others were wont to hear vespers in the church of St. Thomas of Acon, and on the morrow to hear mass there and vespers as well ; after which they returned home. The former ceremonial was observed also upon the feast of the Circumcision, 1st January, the feast of the Epiphany, 6th January, and the feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary, 2nd February.²

On Wednesday in the week of Pentecost, the mayor, aldermen, and others, were wont to meet at the church of St. Thomas of Acon, after which, preceded by a procession of the common folk of Essex, they moved on straight to the churchyard of St. Paul's.³

From these entries the importance of the hospital in the civic life of London may be seen ; these ceremonies continued down to the Reformation,⁴ when the church of St. Thomas no longer served as a meeting place of the livery companies of London, Guildhall being substituted for the purpose.

The cartulary of the lands of the hospital at Mercers' Hall was probably written in the 15th century. It is written for the most part in Latin, and abstracts from it, kindly made for me by Dr. Sharpe, keeper of the records of the Corporation of London, were printed in the appendix to the first edition of this book. It did not seem to me

¹ Ante Portam Latinam.

³ Ibid., p. 27.

² Liber Albus, Riley's edition, p. 24.

⁴ See Will of Sir Edmund Shaa, p. 55.

necessary to reprint them in this edition. There is another cartulary of the hospital in the British Museum, Cottonian MS., Tib., c. V, to which reference has already been made, and a third is among the records of the land revenue in the Record Office. The references to the cartulary, except where otherwise specified, are to the folios of that at Mercers' Hall.

The advowson and impropriation of the church of St. Mary de Colechurch was at a very early date in the hands of the master and brethren of the hospital. The church was situated at the corner of Westcheap and the Old Jewry, and before the Fire of London was a little room, built on arches, with vaults below. It is said to have owed its name to one Cole, its founder, who may have been the same person as Peter de Colechurch, who built London Bridge about 1163. There is no record of the manner in which the advowson was acquired, but by license, dated at the Lateran, XI Kal. February, in the 3rd year of his Pontificate (1256), Pope Alexander IV permitted the master and brethren to enter upon and retain the church, the profits whereof did not exceed five marks of silver by the year, provided a proper chaplain were appointed for service therein.¹ In the register of a visitation made by Archbishop Pecham in 1259, the master and brethren are recorded as rectors of the church, and a letter of Ralph de Baldock, Bishop of London, was exhibited in the Council of London, 23rd March, 1358, against the Rector of the Poultry, reciting letters of Henry de Sandwich, a former Bishop of London, dated the 23rd May, 1262, granting the impropriation of the church to the hospital, saving the right of the bishop and archdeacon.²

I find the following grants made to the hospital.

On the 5th Kal. December, 3rd Henry III, 1218, the dean and chapter of St. Paul's granted and confirmed to Theodoricus or Terricus, son of Edricus de Alegate, their mills in Wapping in fee, subject to the

¹ Cartulary, fo. 8.

² Ibid.

annual rent of five marks sterling,¹ and Terricus shortly after, in consideration of fifty marks sterling, granted to God and the hospital of the blessed Thomas the Martyr of Acon, in the City of London, and the brethren of the said hospital, the same mills, with the ditches, walls, waters and trees, and the meadows and pasture land thereto belonging, rendering thereout yearly to the said dean and chapter forty shillings and forty pence sterling, and to the said Terricus and his heirs a pound of pepper annually at the feast of Michaelmas, with a warranty of title against all men and women, as well Jews as Christians.²

In the 5th year of the reign of the same king, 1221, a firm agreement was made in the King's Court at Westminster, between the said dean and chapter, and the said Terricus, concerning the customs and services which the dean and chapter challenged of the said Terricus of the mill at Wapping, which mill Terricus had given to the hospital, and the grant thereof was confirmed to the hospital by the dean and chapter.³ In 1274-5, Richard de Ewelle granted by deed to the master and brethren of the hospital his tenement at Wapping, together with the mills and other appurtenances, about which a dispute had arisen between him and the hospital. The master and brethren undertook in return to find and maintain two chantry priests to celebrate divine offices for the souls of the said Richard, and his father and mother, Matilda his late wife, and others. By the same deed Richard de Ewelle granted to the hospital certain houses in Ismonger Lane (Ironmonger Lane), which the master and brethren had held, in exchange for the tenement at Wapping, at the annual rent of a ginger-root.⁴

In the 19th year of Henry III, 1235, certain lands in Culesdon, or Coulsdon, in the county of Surrey, were granted to the hospital.

¹ MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c. V, fo. 156.

² *Ibid.*, fo. 157.

³ Dugdale, *Monasticon*, vol. VI, p. 646.

⁴ *Cartulary*, fo. 53. Confirmed by Letters Patent, 14, Edward III. See post, p. 32.

These lands were probably the same as were described in a grant by Roger, son of Luke, Chaplain of Coulsdon in Surrey, and also Chaplain of Whatingdon or Watendone, a church or chapel in the parish of Coulsdon, who, in consideration of fourteen marks of silver, granted to the hospital half a virgate of land in Stansted, in the parish of Chaldon. Gilbert, son of Odo de Stansted, granted to the hospital a piece of his garden to build on, or otherwise dispose of, and two acres and one perch of the wood lying at the south end of a place called Raulineswork, and Sir William Hansard gave to the hospital all the land at Stansted, with the service of Luke, the said Chaplain of Watendone, which he had bought and held of Gilbert de Stansted, for which he paid 15s. a year. The last grant was confirmed by Odo de Stansted, and Gilbert his son.¹

John Beyvin, about the year 1230, granted to the house of St. Thomas and the brethren of the same an annual rent of 6d., for the maintenance of the light of the Blessed Virgin in the church, and charged the same on his tenement in the parish of St. Giles without Crepelgate.²

Henry III, by charter³ dated at St. Osyth, in Essex, the 5th March in his ninth year, 1244, granted and confirmed "Deo et hospitali beati Thome martiris de Acon, et fratribus militibus ibidem Deo servientibus," land and buildings in Cullesdon (Coulsdon), with the men and the appurtenances thereto belonging, saving the services due to the king in the said vill, and saving to the church of Chertsey a rent of eight shillings, and to William de L'isle a pound of pepper annually, as the said brethren held the same under the charter of Margaret, daughter of William. In the 18th year of Edward I, 1290, the master of the hospital had license to alienate to the Friars

¹ Manning and Bray, *History of Surrey*, vol. II, p. 450. The grant is stated to have been made to the hospital of St. Thomas de Acon, in Southwark, but this is probably a mistake, as the land is included in the charter of Edward III to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon in Cheap, mentioned below.

² Cartulary, fo. 185.

³ MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c. V, fo. 236.

Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem one carucate (100 acres) of land in Coulsdon, held of the abbey of Chertsey by 8s. 4d. a year and suit to the abbot's court in Coulsdon, and rendering to William de L'isle one pound of pepper for all services. The land was said to be worth five marks of silver.¹ It appears by a court roll of 12 Richard II, 1389, that the master of St. Thomas then held of the manor of Coulsdon two fields, called Southfield and Northfield, which are supposed to be part of the farm now called Stansted.²

Peter de Manley, about the same time, by charter, gave and confirmed "Deo et fratribus miliciæ beati Thome Martyris de Acon," in free pure and perpetual alms for the health of his soul, and of the soul of Isabella de Turnham his late wife, the hospital of St. James at Doncaster, with all the appurtenances and liberties thereto belonging, both within and without the said town, on condition that the said brethren should provide for ever a chaplain to pray for the souls of himself and his said late wife, and their ancestors and heirs.³

In 1239 Agnes, prioress of the church of St. John the Baptist, of Halywell, in Middlesex, and the convent of the same, granted to the master and brethren of the hospital of the knights of the blessed Thomas the Martyr of Acon, in that part of London where the blessed Thomas the Martyr was born, an annual rent of 20 shillings, issuing out of houses near "Coleskirke" (St. Mary Colechurch), which had been granted to the convent by William de Cornhull, Archdeacon of Huntingdon.⁴

¹ Rot. Parl., vol. II, p. 62. Manning and Bray, History of Surrey, vol. II, p. 450.

² Manning and Bray, History of Surrey, vol. III, p. 450.

³ MS. Cotton, Tiberius, c.V., fo. 255. In the same MS. there are numerous grants to the hospital of Acon of small pieces of land and small rents in Doncaster, and grants of land there are recorded (fo. 270) by Brother John, "preceptor miliciæ tocius anglia de domo sancti Thomæ Martiris de Acon," with the consent of the brethren, and (fo. 270d) by Brother Vincent, "humilis magister tocius ordinis beati Thomæ Martyris Aconensis," and the brethren of the house. No dates are given. On fo. 271 it is stated that Pope Honorius III, in a letter to the "prior and canons of St. Thomas of Acon had taken under the protection of the blessed Peter and of himself the church of Doncaster and the hospital of Berkhamstead, with all their possessions and goods." The letter is dated from Civita Vecchia, the Ides of June, in the 4th year of his pontificate (1220).

⁴ Cartulary, fo. 5.

About the same time the hospital became possessed of land and houses in Red Cross Street (in vico rubie crucis) in the parish of St. Giles without Crepelgate, of the grant of Robert Herlizun or Herlicon.¹ They seem, originally, to have belonged to the Benedictine Nunnery of St. John, Haliwell, and were subject to several quit rents, which are fully described in the cartulary. About the same time there is a quit claim by Reginald Skinner and Juliana his wife to the "Brethren of the House of the Knights of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon in the Chepe of London," charged on the same premises.² Robert Herlizun also granted to the hospital a stone house in Aldermanbury, a house in the parish of St. Michael Bassishaw, and a shop in Chepe, and his brother, Thomas, son of Thomas Fitz Richard, confirmed the grant of the house in the parish of St. Michael, which is described as being opposite the church. Herlizun appears to have been a brother of the hospital.³ In one of the deeds the hospital is described as the house of the Knights of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, in the Chepe of London, and in the other as the house of St. Thomas the Martyr de Acon in England.

In the year 1261-2, Hervey le Ferroun,⁴ in consideration of 48 marks sterling, granted to the hospital a house in the parish of St. Mary de Colechurch, which he had purchased three years previously, for 10 pounds of silver from John de Haspehale and Alice his wife.⁵

Some time before this the hospital obtained property in the parish of St. Michael Bassishaw, of the gift of Simon Semayne,⁶ part of which the master, Ralph Waleys, and brethren granted in 1244 to Robert de Brambeley and Agnes his wife in tail,⁷ other part to Adam de Melkestrate, draper, in 1248, covenanting, in default of title,

¹ Cartulary, fos. 180-189.

² Ibid., fo. 109.

³ Cartulary, fos. 6-7. Confirmed by Letters Patent, 14 Edward III. See post, page 32.

⁴ Ibid., fo. 110.

⁵ Ibid., fo. 187.

⁶ Ironmonger.

⁷ Ibid., fo. 112.

to give in exchange the sum of sixty shillings of quit rent out of their land at Collesdon, in Surrey, and other parts to Hugh le Noreys and Adam le Fuster and Alice his wife. Some lands in the parish of St. Michael, which were retained by the hospital, were the subject of a recovery in 1428, or thereabouts, by John Neell, master of the hospital.¹

John, son of Henry de Waltham, granted to the master and brethren a parcel of land and houses inherited by him from his father, at the east end of Westcheap in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, together with the advowson of the said parish church,² in consideration of an annual rent of £12, and in default of payment of the rent, power was given to John de Waltham to distrain on the lands of the hospital in the villis of Stratford, Northall and Culllesdon. This deed is without date, but it is witnessed by Michael Tony, mayor, and Nicholas Bat and William Viell, sheriffs, who held office 1247-8.³

Pope Innocent IV, by letter dated from Lyons the 14th Kal. July (18th June), 1248, to the Bishop of London, gave permission to the master and brethren of the house of the knights of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, residing in England, to erect a chapel near their house for the sole use of the brethren,⁴ and on the 24th February in the same year, Fulke Basset, Bishop of London, allowed the consecration of a piece of ground near the oratory for the purpose of a cemetery, wherein to bury members of the house, as well as pilgrims and others, who desired to be buried there.⁵ Pope John XXI, on the 1st July, 1320, permitted the burial within the hospital of all who by will desired to be there buried, unless they were excommunicate or under interdict, or usurers,⁶ saving the rights of the churches from which the bodies were taken.

In 1249, Philip Marmyun granted to the master and brethren 5s. annual quit rent, part of 20s. belonging to him, and arising

¹ Cartulary, fo. 124.

² de Waltham was perhaps a trustee of the advowson for the hospital.

³ Cartulary, fo. 7.

⁴ Ibid., fo. 1.

⁵ Ibid., fo. 2.

⁶ Ibid.

out of the tenement in which St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon was born, and in the same year he granted to them the remaining 15s., on condition that they paid one half-penny of silver within the month of Easter yearly. These two grants were also exhibited at the visitation of Richard de Newport, Bishop of London, in 1317, above mentioned.¹

About the year 1258, Martin, son of Gilbert le Bas, granted to the hospital land and houses in Redcrouche Strete, in the parish of St. Giles with Crepelgate.²

Richard de Walebrok made his will³ on the 18th March, 1267, in which he directed that his body should be buried in the church of St. Thomas, and gave, after the death of Christiana, his wife, to the house of St. Thomas, the reversion of a house and shops in the parish of St. Stephen, Walbrook, charged with the maintenance of chaplains in the said church for the good of his soul and the soul of his wife. He also gave to the hospital his coat of mail and iron head piece, and 10s. for a pittance⁴ on the day of his burial.⁵ Many years afterwards there was a dispute as to the validity of this devise, as being contrary to the statute of mortmain, and proceedings were taken against the master and brethren before the lord the king, Edward III, in Easter term, in his 42nd year, 1367, when the jury found that Richard de Walbrok made his will before the statute of mortmain

¹ Cartulary, fo. 2-3. Confirmed by Letters Patent, 14 Edward III. See post, p. 32.

² Ibid., fo. 189.

³ Proved in the Court of Hustings, in 1282, Hust. Roll, 13 (107).

⁴ A dole, portion, or allowance, said to have been derived from "pietas"; Richardson's English Dictionary, ed. 1844. William, parson of the church of St. Mary Woolnoth, is mentioned in the Letter Book, E. 85, as Pitancier of the community of parish chaplains in London, in 1319. Abbot Gasquet, English Monastic Life, p. 151, says that a "pittance" was a light or additional plate, consisting of cheese, fruit, nuts, or the like, served at supper, and, on p. 206, that, in the larger English monasteries, a "pittance cook" was specially detailed to fry or peach the eggs required for extra portions, or to prepare whatever else took their place in the dishes served as pittances to the community, or to individuals such as the president of the refectory, and the priest who had sung the High Mass. The Rev. Orby Shipley, in his Glossary of Ecclesiastical Terms, p. 361, says: "Pitancie were extra meals, allowed to the infirm members of a monastery, and to those who had been bled."

⁵ Cartulary, fo. 55.

was enacted, viz., in the reign of Henry III, and that he died in the same reign. The master was accordingly allowed to go without day, saving the king's right, if any.¹

King Henry III, by grant dated at Windsor, 20th April, in his 52nd year, 1268, granted to the master and brethren who were then twelve in number, the messuages and "the place with the appurtenance, yn the Cite aforesaid, being bitweane the Churche of St. Olave, and the place where St. Thomas was born, in pure and perpetual alms for ynlarging of their said grounds."² These premises appear to have been seized by the king from an unfortunate Jew named Benomye Mittam, and are described as "fifteen iron ells and a half in the front of Ironmonger Lane in the parish of St. Martin, which were the said Benomye's, of the fee of the hospital of St. Giles, and which Adam the Smith held, with two storehouses, which belonged to Moses, the Jew of Canterbury, in the parish of St. Olave's, and which were of the fee of Arnold le Rom, and of the king's escheats."³

In the cartulary is a deed of exchange in the year 1268, between the hospital and Richard le Poter, who held a house adjoining some of the land of the hospital. The hospital gave a piece of land in the parish of St. Mary de Colechurch, measuring six iron ells of the lord the king in length, and four ells in breadth, the said Richard to be allowed to build a wall or erect a building on the land. In exchange, Richard gave to the hospital a piece of land, measuring in length from north to south seventeen ells three inches, in breadth, near his kitchen wall on the north side, one quarter of an ell and one inch, and on the lower end, towards the south, half an ell and three inches.⁴ Probably about the same time Richard de Betoigne was summoned to answer a plea of assize of nuisance, brought by the master of the hospital, who complained that, owing to a defective water pipe, the hospital received

¹ Cartulary, fo. 61.

² Ibid., fo. 4.

³ Strype's Stow, ed. 1754, I, p. 570. See also Parton's account of St. Giles' Hospital.

⁴ Cartulary, fo. 29.

the water dropping from the tenement of the said Richard, contrary to the custom of the City of London, and to its damage. The master prayed that the nuisance might be viewed, and that the mayor and aldermen might do therein according to the custom of the City, and at their discretion. The defendant did not appear, and the assize was proceeded with. The mayor and aldermen, after a view, determined that the said Richard ought to receive the rain water from his building, which was contiguous to the tenement of the hospital, and to carry it off over his own land, without injuring his neighbour, and allowed him forty days to make the necessary alterations. If he refused or neglected to do so, the sheriffs were to carry them out at his cost, and he was fined forty shillings for contempt.¹

At the time of the Conquest the soke or manor and advowson of Rotheley, in Leicestershire, were in the possession of the Crown, and were granted by King Stephen about the year 1150 to Ranulph de Gernoniis, second Earl of Chester, who in 1152 had another grant of the same from Henry Fitz Empress, afterwards King Henry II. The soke and advowson came into the possession of John de Havecourt, who about 1218, being then a Crusader in the Holy Land, gave a considerable part of his property within the soke to the master and brethren of the Temple of Solomon in Hierusalem (the Knights Templars). The soke or manor must have come again into the hands of the Crown, for King Henry III, by charter dated the 16th August, 1219, granted to the Templars ("Miliciæ Templi in Angliá"), his manor of Rotheley, with the advowson of the church of the parish and the chapels belonging to it, in pure and perpetual alms. Shortly afterwards, Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, granted to the Knights Templars a very considerable parcel of land (*magnam quantitatem terræ*) in Rotheley, together with a wood called Rotheley Wood. From this time Rotheley was considered a preceptory of the

¹ Cartulary, fo. 44.

order, and became Temple Rotheley. In 1273, King Edward I, by charter dated the 28th November, after reciting his father's charter, and stating that he might for divers reasons have challenged the right in the advowson of the church and chapels, granted to the Templars that they might hold the said church with the chapels of Gaddesby, Hayham, Grimestone, Warnoteby, Caudewell, and Wykeham belonging thereto, for a pittance, "ad pitanciam fratrum conventus sui de Acon." The hospital of St. Thomas did not long enjoy the pittance, for in the year 1293 all the lands of the Templars in Leicestershire and Warwickshire were seized into the king's hands, as appears by the account of the sheriff of those counties for the year 1293-4, but the order regained the royal favour, and on the 6th August, 1296, King Edward I again confirmed to them the manor, with the advowson of the church and chapels, in as full a manner as they had been granted by his father, King Henry. No doubt the hospital received its pittance again, which, however, must have ceased in 1322, when the order of the Templars was dissolved and its property confiscated. Pope John XX assigned the property of the order to the Hospitallers, or Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and the manor and advowson of Rotheley were confirmed to the last mentioned order by charter of King Edward III, dated the 28th November, 1329.¹

In 1280 John de la Lynde granted to the hospital all his land, houses and rents in the parish of St. Olave in the Jewry, in pure and perpetual alms, and in 1293 the master and brethren acknowledged that they held the said houses, etc., which are described as being in Colechurch Street, opposite the church of the Friars of the Penance of Jesus Christ, formerly the house of Cresse, son of Moses the Jew, under the abbot and convent of Missenden, in Buckinghamshire, at the annual rent of five shillings.²

¹ Nichols, Leicestershire, vol. III, p. 941 et seq. Dugdale, Monasticon, vol. VI, p. 647.

² Cartulary, fos. 47-48.

In the year 1287-8, John, son of Adrian Hasswy, quit claimed to the master and brethren a messuage in Hysmongerlane, formerly belonging to Thomas Hasswy, his uncle.¹

At a very early date, probably at the end of the 13th or in the beginning of the 14th century, Sir Vincent Fitz Mile gave to the hospital a parcel of land lying between the land of Osbert Fuket and the land of John de Ounschere, saving the service of the chamberlain of St. Peter of Gloucester, viz., two shillings at the four terms of the year.² This land was most likely in close proximity to the hospital.

In the year 1314 a dispute arose with reference to the appointment of master of the hospital. It appears that the order of Templars, by an agreement between themselves and the principal master of St. Thomas, by whom may perhaps be meant the master of the order, as distinguished from the master of the hospital in London, had intruded themselves into the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, and claimed the right of appointing the master. King Edward I, at the request of the brethren of St. Thomas, appears to have appointed Henry de Dunolm, warden or master during his pleasure, by letters under the seal of the Exchequer, and after Dunolm's death, Edward II appointed Edmond de London master, and gave the right of appointment to the rector and brethren of the college of Bons Hommes, of Asherugg or Ashridge, Hertfordshire. The master and brethren of St. Thomas thereupon petitioned the king's Council, and produced their charter and the muniments of the foundation of the hospital, and further asserted that the relations and friends of St. Thomas the Martyr had founded it, that they, as well as many other citizens, and also the king's predecessors, had endowed it with tenements and rents, and that the brethren had had from the foundation of the hospital the

¹ Cartulary, fo. 52.

² Confirmed by Letters Patent, 14 Edward III. Cartulary, fo. 3.

right of appointing a master, until the Templars had intruded themselves. It appeared on the hearing of the petition that the hospital was not a royal foundation, and that the brethren had had the right of nominating to the mastership from the foundation, until King Edward I appointed Henry de Dunolm. The Council restored to the brethren the right of the appointment, and forbade the rector and brethren of Ashridge to interfere with it, and inasmuch as Richard de Southampton, the then master of the order, was abroad, they appointed Richard de Bardeley to act for him during his absence.¹

In the Patent Roll, 1 Edward III,² a petition of the Mayor and Commonalty of London to the King in Council is recited, praying that they might have the custody of the hospital, which by fault of good government was much depressed, and the chantries there of old established taken away, "as it is said," and the King because it had been made known to him and his Council that the possessions and goods of the house, by the carelessness of the masters, were dilapidated, gave to the Mayor and Commonalty the superintendence of the house and power to remedy any defects that might be found therein from time to time. The same King, in his second year,³ after reciting that it had been lately given in evidence before him in the last Parliament that the possessions and goods of the house of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, of London, by the carelessness of the masters thereof, had been dilapidated and wasted, and that in consequence he had given to the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London power to superintend the estate of the said house, and to remedy defects therein, and that he had since found that certain malefactors and disturbers of his peace had entered the said house by force of arms, and had broken open divers chests found there, and taken and carried away cups and other vases of silver, as well as books, chalices,

¹ Rot. Parl., vol. I, fo. 289, 8 Edward II, 1314.

² Part I, m. 10.

³ Patent Roll, part I, m. 31 d.

vestments, and other ornaments of the Church, and other goods and chattels to the value of £500, and also two horses and six oxen of the value of 10 marks from the Manor of Coulesdon, in the County of Surrey, belonging to the said house, and had perpetrated other enormities there contrary to the King's peace, and because the King was willing that such transgression should not go unpunished, he assigned to John de Bonsser, Robert de Kelleseye, and Robert de Asshele, or any of them, the duty of enquiring on oath in the said City and County by whom such transgressions had been perpetrated, and to hold inquisition thereon, and he ordered his Sheriffs of London, and the Sheriff of Surrey, that they should assist in the matter. It does not appear, however, that any action was taken.

King Edward III, by charter dated the 20th July, in his 14th year, 1339, granted a charter of confirmation to the master and brethren, of donations and gifts made previously to the hospital, and especially mentions the following grants, viz. :—the land granted by Thomas Fitz Theobald de Helles; land (probably in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch) lying between the land of Osbert Fuket and John Ounschere, given by Vincent Fitz Mile; two annual rents of 5s. and 15s. arising out of the tenement where St. Thomas was born, given by Philip Marmyun; a tenement and mills at Wapping, given by Richard de Ewell; a house in the parish of St. Stephen, Walbroke, given by Richard de Walbroke; a house in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, by Hervey le Feron; rents to the value of 20s. per annum, arising out of tenements in the same parish, by Agnes, the prioress of the church of St. John the Baptist, of Haliwelle, and the convent of the same; a mill and meadow in West Ham, in Essex, and of lands, rents, and buildings in Stratford and Brambeleye, and Stebbenhethe, given by John Richeman; a manor and lands in the parish of Culnesdon (Coulsdon), by Robert de Scotheus, and Margaret his wife, which manor and lands the master and brethren had of the gift of

ancestors of the said Margaret, and land called Porkele, with 6s. of annual rent, in the parish of Catherham, in the county of Surrey, by Sir John Haunsard, with the consent of Gondreda his wife.¹

In 1329, the hospital covenanted, upon the oath of Ralph de Combe, then master, and the chapter of the same, to contribute annually for ever the sum of six marks towards the maintenance of a chantry in the church of St. Thomas the Apostle, near the Royal, for the souls of John de Beresford, late merchant of London, and of Roesia his wife, and charged the same upon all their lands, tenements and rents in the parishes of St. Mary Colechurch, St. Olave Old Jewry, and St. Martin Pomeroy, the executors of Beresford paying to the master and brethren 100 marks in aid of their house.² The above deed of covenant was confirmed by Letters Patent dated the 6th March, 4th Edward III, 1329.³ The hospital in 1431, during the mastership of John Neell, bought up the charge.⁴

Some light is thrown on the state of the hospital during the 13th and 14th centuries by the wills enrolled in the Court of Hustings, extracts from which have been recently published by the Corporation of London. Many of the citizens, some of them described as Mercers in their wills, bequeathed lands, goods, and money, to the master and brethren, or founded chantries in the hospital church. In these wills the hospital is sometimes called St. Thomas of Acon, or de Aquine, or de Acris.

In 1329-30, Thomas de Norwyck, forbour (*i.e.*, furbisher of old arms and armour), directed his tenement in the parish of St. Mildred in the Poultry to be sold, and the proceeds employed in maintaining chantries in the several churches of St. Mildred, St. Thomas of Acon, and St. Mary de Colechurch.⁵ In 1339-40, Walter de Salyngg gave to

¹ Patent Roll, 14 Edward III, p. 3, m. 51. Dugdale, Monasticon, vol. VI, p. 646.

² Cartulary, fo. 127.

⁴ *Ibid.*, fo. 129.

³ *Ibid.*, fo. 128.

⁵ Calendar of Wills, vol. I, p. 355.

the master and brethren of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon seven marks of annual rent, issuing out of a seld in the parish of St. Mary le Bow, and the reversion of the said seld, after the decease of Thomas Meel and Goditha his wife, for the maintenance of a chantry in the said house of St. Thomas.¹

Matilda, relict of William de Caxton, buriller,² by her will dated the 26th May, 1339, desired to be buried in the church of the hospital, under the same stone as her late husband, and bequeathed money for the maintenance of three chaplains to celebrate in the same church for the good of her soul, and the souls of her husband and others. She left all her houses and rents in Shitebourne Lane, in the parish of St. Mary de Abchurch, towards the new work of the church of St. Thomas, and a brewery in Candelwykestrete to the master and brethren, for the maintenance of a perpetual chantry in the church, for which they were to give security under their common seal. To each of the secular chaplains in the same church she gave 12d., and to each of the friars regular of the same 5s., besides many other bequests for pious uses. Her will was proved on the 20th July, 1342, by Friar Bartholomew, master of the hospital, John de Horwode, and Friar Thomas de Sandwich, the executors.³

In 1340, John Godcheap, Mercer, bequeathed to Felicia his wife a tenement in the parish of St. Mary le Bow, for her life, if she should remain unmarried, with remainder to the master and brethren of the house of St. Thomas de Acon, for the maintenance of two chantries in the said church for the good of the souls of Jordan Godcheap and Matilda his wife, Ralph Godcheap and Margery his wife, and others.⁴

In 1349, Thomas de Cavendych,⁵ Mercer, directed his body to be buried in the collegiate church of St. Thomas de Acon, near the conduit of London, and made bequests for the maintenance of chantries therein.

¹ Calendar of Wills, vol. I, p. 436. ² Buriller or Boreller, maker of a coarse cloth known as "borel."

³ Cartulary, fo. 174-5. Calendar of Wills, vol. I, p. 458.

⁴ Ibid., p. 441.

⁵ Ibid., p. 547. Sheriff in 1283-4, and removed from office for being implicated in the murder of Lawrence Duket. He was ancestor of the Dukes of Devonshire.

In 1348, Alice de Brandon,¹ late wife of John de Orleton, by her will, desired to be buried in the church of St. Thomas de Acon the Martyr, near to the tomb of her aforesaid husband, and bequeathed to Jordan de Elsyng, Mercer, her nephew, and Margaret his wife, the tenement wherein she lived, in the parish of St. Mary de Colechurch, to the intent that they and their successors, tenants of the same, should maintain a chantry in the church of St. Thomas de Acon, for the souls of Geoffrey de Brandon, John de Orleton, Robert de Ely, John and Emma, the father and mother of the testatrix, and others, paying the chaplain six marks by the year, and the master of the said church, for the time being, six shillings and eight pence by the year. In the same year Henry atte Roche,² Chandler, bequeathed to the master and brethren the residue of his term in the lands and tenements which he held under them, except his mansion house within the gate. In 1349, John atte Barnet,³ after certain bequests to his wife and his son Roger, bequeathed the remainder of his property to the house of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, the master and brethren of the house to maintain his son, until he should receive advancement in religion, in their house or elsewhere, and to provide two chantries in the church of St. Thomas for his soul. In 1350,⁴ Robert Elsingg, son of William de Elsingg, Mercer, founder of the hospital of St. Mary within Crepelgate, usually called Elsing Spittell, bequeathed to his son Thomas, on his coming of age, eighty pounds, and, if he should die previously, the said sum to be distributed for pious uses, and amongst others, to the work of St. Thomas de Acres. In 1353, John de Besevile,⁵ Tailor, directed his body to be buried in the church of St. Thomas, and bequeathed to the master and brethren certain rents in the ward of Castle Baynard, and an entire suit of vestments, viz., a choir cope, a chasuble, and two tunics.

¹ Calendar of Wills, vol. I, pp. 612-3. Hustings Roll, 77 (215).

² Ibid., p. 513.

³ Ibid., p. 624.

⁴ Ibid., p. 637.

⁵ Ibid., pp. 674-5.

Other bequests were made, principally of small sums of money, by Roger Beyvin, in 1277; John de Oxenford, Vintner, in 1342; John Hamond, Pepperer, in 1348; John Dallyngg, in 1349; William de Grantham, Pepperer, in 1350; John, son of John de Preston, Corder, in 1353; William de Berkyngge, Fishmonger, in 1354; Isabella, relict of Thomas Corp, Pepperer, in 1355, Robert de Mannale, Chandler, in 1360; Thomas Starcolf, Mercer, in 1361; Thomas de Corner, Mercer, in 1361; Richard de Caustone, Mercer, in 1364; Alan Everard, Mercer, in 1366; Thomas Morice, Pleader, in 1368; John de Worstede, Mercer, in 1368; William Passeware, Draper, in 1369; Agnes, late wife of William Pickerell, Saddler, in 1373; John Hereawe, in 1375; Walter de Berneye, in 1377; Simon de Mordon, Stokfishmonger, in 1383; Richard Godechild, Cutler, in 1390; Johanna, relict of John Northburgh, Draper, in 1390; William Newport, Fishmonger, in 1391; John Dymmok, Taillour, in 1393; William Thame, Fishmonger, in 1396; John Shalyngford, Draper, in 1397.¹

About the year 1340 extensive works were undertaken to the church of St. Thomas, and there were many bequests about that time to the work or fabric of the church; by John de Hynton, Wax Chandler, in 1342; by William Box, in 1347; by Henry de Denecombe, in 1348; by Thomas de Herlawe, Armourer, in 1349; by John de Holegh, Hosier, in 1351; by Bartholomew Deumars, in 1352; by John de Godestowe, Draper, in 1355; by Robert de Hathfeld, Buriller, in 1356; by Thomas Brown, Woolmonger, in 1357; by Richard de Essex, Draper, and John Rote, Fishmonger, in 1361; by Simon de Pystoye, Apothecary, in 1366; by John de Evenefeld, Pepperer, in 1368; by John Not, Pepperer, in 1369; by Margery, relict of Thomas Brown, in 1376; by Juliana, relict of William de Stokesby, Vintner, in 1384; by William de Lincoln, Saddler, in 1392, and by Robert Somersette, Draper, in 1400.²

¹ Calendar of Wills.

² Ibid.

Bequests were made to the hospital in case prior gifts in the wills of the donors did not take effect by Peter Masoun, Tailor, in 1412;¹ Thomas White, Tiler, in 1419;² Alexander Sprot, Vintner, in 1438;³ Thomas Aleyn, Mercer, in 1437;⁴ Geoffrey Guybon, Tailor, in 1443;⁵ Sir William Estfield, Mercer and alderman, in 1446;⁶ John Clyff, Skynner, in 1456;⁷ John Asshe, senior, Mercer, in 1456;⁸ John Don senior, Mercer, in 1472;⁹ Elizabeth, widow of John Burell, Grocer, in 1498;¹⁰ Sir John Percyvale, knight, Merchant Tailor, alderman of Vintry Ward, and Lord Mayor 1498, in 1502;¹¹ Thomasine, his widow, in 1508;¹² and Thomas Draper, Mercer, in 1520.¹³

Nicholas de Leyk, by his will, dated the 27th May, 1361, after directing his body to be buried in the hospital church, willed that his son Thomas, together with all the rents and tenements to which he would succeed at the testator's death, should be placed under the guardianship of the master and brethren, and of William de Sallowe, Draper.¹⁴ The said William de Sallowe, by his will, dated in 1361, after directing his body to be buried in the hospital church, appointed the master of the house of St. Thomas guardian of John, son and heir of John Costantyn, if he should die during his minority, and the said master was also to have the custody of Idonia, daughter of the aforesaid John Costantyn, he finding surety for the same in the chamber of the Guildhall according to custom.¹⁵ William de Sallowe was probably brother of Thomas de Sallowe, who was master of the hospital at this time.

On the 10th July, 1367, 40 Edward III, Thomas de Purlee granted and demised to Thomas de Sallowe, master of the house of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, near the conduit of London, and

¹ Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 397.

² Ibid., p. 416.

³ Ibid., p. 485.

⁴ Ibid., p. 514.

⁵ Ibid., p. 530.

⁶ Ibid., p. 509.

⁷ Ibid., p. 545.

⁸ Ibid., p. 559.

⁹ Ibid., p. 583.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 604.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 605.

¹² Ibid., p. 618.

¹³ Ibid., p. 639.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 42.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 56.

the brethren of the same house, all his lands, rents and tenements, meadows, woods, feedings and pastures, in the vills and parishes of Cullensedene and Chalvedon (Coulsdon and Chaldon), in the county of Surrey, except certain lands on the north side of the church or chapel of Whatyngdon, for the term of 13 years from Michaelmas, 1367, paying to the Abbot of Chertsey, the chief lord, for the lands in Coulsdon 6s. 8d. a year for all services and demands, and to the prior and convent of Merton 5s. if they should distrain on the lands in Chaldon, as they had power to do.¹

Simon de Benyngton, Draper, by his will, dated the 14th October, 1368, gave to the master and brethren the reversion of certain rents arising from tenements in the parishes of St. Mary Colechurch and St. Antonine, upon condition that they should maintain a chantry in the church of St. Thomas, at the altar of St. Mary in Gisina, for the welfare of his soul, the souls of John de Abyngdon, Draper, and Idonia, his wife, and others.²

Stephen de Cavendissh, Draper, alderman (Mayor in 1362), and M.P. for London, who was probably son of the Thomas de Cavendych mentioned above, by his will, dated the 13th July, 1372, desired to be buried in the choir of the hospital church, and bequeathed to the master and brethren an annual quit rent in the parish of St. Mildred, Bread Street, on condition that they should provide tapers at his obit, and sing placebo and dirige, etc., upon his anniversary, for the good of his soul, and the souls of Thomas Cavendissh his father, and others.³

Walter de Chesthunt, son of Sir Walter de Chesthunt, knight, by his will, dated the 23rd October, 50 Edward III, 1376, desired to be buried in St. Mary's chapel, in the church of St. Thomas, near the tomb of his father, and gave to the hospital the reversion of lands,

¹ Manning and Bray, Surrey, vol. II, p. 450, quoting from the court rolls of the manor of Coulsdon.

² Cartulary, fo. 13.

³ Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 149.

tenements and rents, which he and Alice his wife had of the gift of John de Royston and Thomas de Clovyle, in the street of Bokelesbury, in the parish of St. Stephen, Walbrook, for the maintenance of four chaplains in the hospital church to pray for the good of his soul, and the souls of Alice his wife, and others.¹ De Chesthunt died in 1382, and his will was proved in the Court of Hustings on the 25th July in that year.² Disputes arose with reference to the property, which was called the Barge, and were not finally settled until 1438, when an arbitration was agreed on by John Neel, master of the hospital, and Thomas Catworthe, and others, under which the hospital recovered the property and paid to Catworthe 300 marks.³ King Henry VI, by letters patent dated at his manor of Shene the 15th January, 1440, after reciting that according to the laudable custom used and approved in the City of London, "a tempore quo non extat memoria semper hactenus," it was lawful for any citizen of the same City to bequeath his tenements therein as well as his chattels by his last will and testament in mortmain (*ad manum mortuam*)⁴ and further that Walter de Chesthunt being a citizen and freeman of the said City and participating in lot and scot (*lotto et scotto*) therein, made his will, bequeathing the reversion of the above tenements to the hospital, confirmed to the master and brethren all the above premises which had been seized by the Mayor, as the King's escheator, and granted a general pardon for offences which might have been committed against the statutes of mortmain.⁵

Richard Glemesford, Fellmonger, by his will, dated the 16th January, 1384, gave a chalice to the hospital church.⁶

The fraternity of Mercers, long before its incorporation in 1393, assembled in the hall and worshipped in the church of the hospital.

¹ Cartulary, fo. 80.

² Hustings Roll, III (7).

³ Cartulary, fos. 86 to 93.

⁴ This custom was recognised by King Edward III, by charter dated the 6th March, in the first year of his reign (1326-7), and confirmed by the same king, by letters patent, dated the 26th May, in his fifteenth year (1341), whereby he granted to the citizens of London, that they, their heirs and successors might devise their tenements, within the liberty of the said City, as well in mortmain, as in any other manner, as they had been anciently accustomed to do.

⁵ Cartulary, fo. 96.

⁶ Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 249.

One of such meetings is recorded in the ancient book of wardens' accounts in the possession of the Company. On the Monday next before the feast of St. John the Baptist (24th June), in the 14th year of the reign of King Richard II, 1390, an assembly of "toutz les bons gentz de la Mercere" was held "en la Sale de Seynt Thomas d'Acres," at which wardens were chosen, and the accounts of the previous wardens audited and allowed. The fraternity also used to meet at the Prince's Wardrobe, a hostelry in the Old Jewry, and at other hostelries in the City, or, sometimes, at the house of one of the wardens; but after this date, they met, ordinarily, in the hall of the hospital, and sometimes in the hospital church, and even after they had obtained a hall of their own, they occasionally held meetings for business and feasting under the hospitable roof of the master and brethren. In the very early years of the 15th century, the Company arranged with the master and brethren of the hospital for the purchase of part of their buildings, and in the wardens' accounts for the year 1407, and the following years, mention is made of indentures between the Company and the hospital, by which a chapel, perhaps in the hospital church, and a little room, "la sale del Mercerie," were granted to the Company.

Richard Warde, Shether, by his will, dated the 27th May, 1401, desired to be buried in the church of St. Thomas, and bequeathed to William Bovyngton, master of the hospital and the convent thereof, a tenement in the parish of St. Mary de Aldermary church, in trust to carry out the terms of his will, and also an annual quit rent of one mark, issuing out of a shop in the parish of St. Mary de Colechurche, near the conduit, and he directed the master and brethren to observe his obit. His will was proved on the 20th September, 1407.¹

Robert Guphey or Guppeye, Mercer, by his will, dated the 12th July, 1412, desired to be buried in the hospital church, where

¹ Cartulary, fo. 178.

the master and wardens of the Mercers' Company should ordain, and bequeathed to the Company certain houses in the parish of St. Lawrence Jewry, in a lane called Sevehodene Lane, near a tenement called the Cage, in trust to maintain thereout a chantry in the said church for the good of his soul, and the souls of John his father, Johanna his mother, Johanna and Johanna his late wives, and others; any overplus of the profits to go for the relief of the poor of the Company.¹

William Olyver, by his will proved in the Court of Hustings in 1432, gave to Matilda his wife his tenements, called "le Sterre" and "le Cheker," and rents in the parish of Allhallows, Bread Street, for her life, with remainder to the master and brethren of the hospital for the maintenance of chantries, and obits, and the maintenance of a chorister there to be called "Olyver's Querestre," who should attend religious services daily in the church "quatenus humanitas patitur."² It is probable that this gift did not take effect; for Henry Frowyk, in 1460, directed a chorister to be maintained in the hospital church, to be also called "Oliver's Querestre."

Robert, son of Robert FitzRobert, Grocer, by his will, dated the 27th October, 1434, gave to the master and brethren of the hospital a silver cup with covercle and gilt rim (in borduris deauratum), in English called "the grate grubbe," as a memento, and by a codicil gave the reversion of certain lands in the parishes of St. Martin Pomers and St. Mary Colechurche to the master and brethren, in the event of Thomas Melton dying without issue of his body, and charged them with the observance of his obit in the hospital church, with payment of certain sums to the poor of the crafts of the Goldsmiths, Grocers, and Tailors, and with other observances in connection with the tomb of Johanna, Countess of Ormond, within the chapel of the Holy Cross, in English called "the Rood of Lukes," in the same church.³ There are

¹ Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 395.

² Ibid., p. 460.

³ Ibid., p. 505.

many deeds in the cartulary among the land revenue records relating to this property, and it is not very easy to follow them, but it would seem that the premises became vested in the hospital, subject to the life interest of Margaret, widow of Robert FitzRobert, under a deed of the 1st March, 1470, on condition that the master and brethren fulfilled his will.¹ Margaret FitzRobert was daughter and heiress of Robert Beteigne, one of the "upright men of the parish of the blessed Mary of Colechurch," mentioned in a licence granted by Henry IV in the first year of his reign, 1399, in which it is stated that out of reverence of the glorious martyrs St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Edmund the King of Bury, who were baptised in the font of the church, divine service had been accustomed to be solemnized; and in which license was given to Robert Marshall, chaplain, Robert de Beteigne, and John Ballard to found a guild, or fraternity, in the said church in honour of St. Catherine, and a chantry for one chaplain, to celebrate daily for the prosperity of the king, while he lived, and for his soul and the souls of his father and mother, and his progenitors, and for the prosperity and souls of the wardens and brothers and sisters of the guild and their successors.

Nicholas Yeo, Draper, and alderman of London, by his will, dated the 6th April, 1438, gave to Friar John Neel, master of the hospital, and the brethren of the same, his lands and tenements in Westcheap, in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, they to observe the obit of his master, Thomas Pyke, and Alice his wife, in the church of St. Thomas, on the 1st June, unless reasonable cause prevented, saying and singing overnight, *Placebo* and *Dirige*, and celebrating a *Requiem* mass on the morrow, with tapers and gifts to the brethren attending, according to their dignity.²

In the year 1442 there is an entry in the wardens' accounts, which is continued from year to year until the dissolution of the

¹ Cartulary, fo. 6.

² Ibid., fo. 43.

hospital, of a payment to twenty-one or more priests and clerks of the hospital of St. Thomas for a dirge and mass of requiem for the brethren and sisters of the Company, "a Dieu passés."

In 1449 the Company, with the aid of Robert Baron and Thomas Muschamp, the receivers of their rents, newly furnished their chapel, and in the wardens' accounts for that year the following entries occur for payments for vestments and other things:—

Paid to a Galyman ¹ for a woman's gown ² of crimson velvet, plain, the sleeves lined with green velvet, plain - - - - -	12 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d
Also paid to Henry Torvet, goldsmith, for 210 pearls at 1½ ^d , and for 30 large pearls at 2 ^d - - - - -	31 ^s 3 ^d
Also paid for 2 ounces and a half of pearls - - - - -	36 ^s 8 ^d
Paid to John Curson for the Resurrection of needle-work - - - - -	5 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Paid to the said John for 127 pearls - - - - -	10 ^s 7 ^d
Paid to the said John for 158 powdering branches for the altar cloths	8 ^{li} 10 ^s 8 ^d
Paid to William Mylys for a crucifix, with Mary and John, for the second altar - - - - -	26 ^s 8 ^d
Paid to the said John Curson for purfleing of the said crucifix, and setting of the purfill upon the said crucifix - - - - -	12 ^s 0 ^d
Also to the said John for 2 maiden-heads - - - - -	11 ^s 8 ^d
Paid for an ounce and a-half of gold of Venice for the fringe of the frontal	6 ^s 8 ^d
Paid for fringe of silk to the said frontal and curtains, 6 ounces, at 15 ^d the ounce - - - - -	7 ^s 6 ^d
For two ounces of ribbon for the said curtains - - - - -	2 ^s 6 ^d
Paid for 4 yards of red and 4 yards of green tarteryn for curtains - - -	21 ^s 4 ^d
Paid to John Cave for sewing the said curtains, and for rings - - - - -	2 ^s 8 ^d
Paid to the said John Curson for making and sewing of the said altar cloths - - - - -	3 ^s 4 ^d
Paid for 2 ells Brabant cloth to the said frontals - - - - -	3 ^s 6 ^d
Paid for 2 yards of blue buckram for the lining of the said altar cloths -	3 ^s 0 ^d
To which lining John Penne gave a piece of buckram.	
Summa - - -	35 ^{li} 3 ^s 4 ^d

¹ Stow says that a little to the west of the Tower was Galley Quay, where the galleys of Italy and other parts used to unlade and land their wares. These strangers, who came with the galleys, were called galley-men, and sold wines and other merchandise.

² Possibly for an image of the Blessed Virgin.

Item paid to John Silkwith carpenter in Wood Street for 3 parclofes of timber for the three arches of the chapel of the Mercery - - -	16 ^s 8 ^d
Also paid for 40 bars of iron the weight of 95 lbs. at 1½ ^d lb. - - -	11 ^s 10½ ^d
Paid for 2 iron cases for the glass windows at St. Thomas of Acres in the chapel of the Mercery - - - - -	18 ^d
Paid for the setting of the glass in to the cases and for mending and making clean of the said window - - - - -	4 ^s 4 ^d
Paid for matting and for hassocks to the said chapel - - - - -	20 ^d
Paid to John — ¹ painter, in Aldgate, stone for painting 2 tables and 2 crests of the said chapel - - - - -	33 ^s 4 ^d
Paid for the portage of the said tables to his house and again - - -	12 ^d
Paid the said painter for painting the two vallies above the altars at St. Thomas and two small tables before the said altars with making black and varnishing the foresaid three parclofes - - - - -	34 ^s 0 ^d
Paid for a carpet of two yards and a-half long, and a yard and a-half broad, to the said chapel - - - - -	9 ^s 0 ^d
Paid for a pax bread of copper and gilt - - - - -	4 ^s 0 ^d
Paid for a pair of andirons, and a pair of tongs for the chamber of the Mercery at St. Thomas of Acres - - - - -	9 ^s 0 ^d
Summa - - -	6 ^{li} 6 ^s 4½ ^d
Paid for a yard of bawdekin of Cyprus red, for frontals - - - - -	23 ^s 4 ^d
Also paid for six yards of holland cloth for the said frontals - - -	3 ^s 0 ^d
Paid for four curtains to the said altars, four yards of red tarteryn, four yards of yellow tarteryn at 3 ^s , the tartren double - - - - -	24 ^s 0 ^d
Paid for 2 ounces-and-a-half of ribbon and fringe, for the said frontals, and curtains - - - - -	8 ^s 1½ ^d
Paid for buckram for the said frontals - - - - -	18 ^d
Paid for sewing of the frontals with the said cloth, and for sewing of the said 4 curtains, with the rings - - - - -	4 ^s 8 ^d
Paid for 4 yards and a-half of blue buckram for redellys ² for the 2 crests in the chapel at St. Thomas, and for painting the same, the sewing with the rings - - - - -	4 ^s 7 ^d
Paid for 3 yards and a-half of blue buckram for a curtain in the chapel, next the door - - - - -	21 ^d
For rings lyne and making of the said curtain - - - - -	8 ^d
Paid for one almyr to lay in the altar cloths and vestments - - -	20 ^s 0 ^d
Paid for a chest and a form for the said chapel - - - - -	7 ^s 8 ^d
Paid for 2 keys, one to the almyr and another to the chest - - -	6 ^d

¹ Blank in the account.² Red lilies.

Paid for hallowing of three new chesepill ¹ and a corporas case to the			
chapel of the Mercery - - - - -			3 ^s 0 ^d
	Summa - -	5 ^{li}	2 ^s 9 ^½ ^d

In a list of ornaments of the chapel for the next year are mentioned an image of the ascension of our Lady, a frontal with two maidenheads, the embroidery of a veil of red roses, embroidery of red roses and red lilies on the "chesepill," and an escutcheon of arms. These and other items were the gift of Baron and Muschamp.

About this time John Neel, or Neel, became master of the hospital. He has been mentioned before as one of the founders of the new grammar schools in London, and, with the exception of John Yong, who was elected master about 70 years later, was the most distinguished of all the masters of the hospital. In his time many bequests were made to the hospital, which was, as will be seen below, incorporated by Act of Parliament in the year 1444. He died in the year 1463.

In the year 1444, the master and brethren of the hospital preferred the following petition to Parliament:—

To the full wise and discreet Commons of this present Parliament, meekly shew, John Neel, master, and his brethren of the house or hospital of S^t. Thomas the Martyr of Acres in the City of London, that where one Thomas, the son of Theobald of Helles and Agnes his wife, sister of the said S^t. Thomas, gave and granted to the master and brethren, at that time being, of the hospital of S^t. Thomas the Martyr of Canterbury of Acres, all the land, with the appurtenances, that some time was Gilbert Becket's, father of the said S^t. Thomas the Martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the which land the said Martyr was born, to make there a church in the worship of God Almighty, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the said glorious Martyr, which lands be in the parish of S^t. Mary of Colechurch in London, to have and to hold to them and their successors in free, pure and perpetual alms for ever more; and afterward the noble prince, King Henry the III, progenitor of our Sovereign Lord that now is, the fifty-second year of his reign, by his letters patent granted to the master and brethren of the said house or hospital at that time being and to their successors, by name of the master and brethren of the hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acres in the City of London, for enlarging of their said ground, the messuage and the place with the appurtenances in the City aforesaid, lying between the church of St. Olave and the place where St. Thomas was

¹ Chasuble.

born, to have and to hold to them and their successors for evermore in pure and perpetual alms, and how that there hath been in the said house or hospital always sithence a master and brethren professed in the rule of St. Austin after the statutes and ordinance of the said house or hospital, and priests and clerks there, doing divine service, in the worship and pleasure of God and of our Lady and of the said glorious Martyr, and at this time being to the number of xii or more, and how that by misfortune and misgovernance the said house or hospital hath been in old time despoiled and great part of their evidences lost and destroyed, to the full great hurt of the said house or hospital and like to the disinheritance thereof hereafter without gracious remedy had in this behalf; please it your full wise and worthy discretions, at the reverence of God, to pray the king, our Sovereign Lord, that it please his noble grace to the worship of God, His blessed mother, our Lady St. Mary and of the said glorious Martyr St. Thomas, in support and sustenance of divine service in the said house or hospital, by the assent of his lords spiritual and temporal, and by the authority of this present Parliament, to ordain, establish and approve, that the said londes, tenementz and place, with the appurtenances, by the House or Hospitall of Saint Thomas the Martyr, and it so by the said authority to ordeign, stabliss and approve; and that the master and brethren thereof, the master and brethren of the house or hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acres, in the City of London, be called and reputed, and by that name may implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered in all manner of Courts, as well spiritual as temporal, and they by that same name may be persons able to purchase lands and tenements of all manner of persons, and take them of the gift as well of our sovereign lord and his heirs, as of any other person to have to them and their successors for evermore, and that they have their common seal, and whensoever it happen the said house or hospital hereafter, to void by death, cession, resignation, privation, or any otherwise than the brethren of the said house or hospital professed for the time being, without delay, and without any suit of any license of our lord king or of his heirs, may choose one of themselves, or another to be master of the said house or hospital, and him to the ordinary of the same house or hospital, or to any other person having the ordinary jurisdiction, present, as it hath been used aforetime, and he the said person so presented, in due form to admit; and also to write to the Archdeacon of London, for the time being, to induct the said person so chosen in corporal possession of the said house or hospital, and also without any charge of any pension or corrody,¹ at the prayer of the king, our Sovereign Lord, out of the said house

¹ A corrody was an allowance of bread, meat, clothing, lodging, and such like. Every founder of an abbey, or religious house, had power to assign in such house pensions or corrodies for such persons as he might appoint; and where the abbey or monastery was of royal foundation, the king might assign a pension or allowance to one of his servants out of its revenues.—Rev. Orby Shipley, Glossary of ecclesiastical terms.

or hospital in anywise to be granted, considering that there was never none granted therein aforetime, but that the said master and brethren of the house or hospital and their successors, against the king, our sovereign lord, and his heirs and successors, of all manner of pensions and corrodies be quit and discharged for evermore by the authority abovesaid, and also to grant, ratify, confirm and approve the estate and possession of the said now master and brethren in the lands, places, tenements and possessions above rehearsed, and all other possessions, by what name soever it be, afore this time, by our Sovereign Lord or his progenitors, or any other person given, granted, or devised to the said now master and his successors, or to any of his predecessors and successors, or by the said master or any of his predecessors in anywise recovered, and all this to grant to the said now master and brethren to have to them and their successors for evermore, saving to every of the king's lieges other than to them and their heirs, which any lands or tenements of fee simple to the said house or hospital or the master and brethren of the same, by whatsoever name the said house or hospital, or the master and brethren of the same, have been called afore this time, have given, devised, assigned or granted their title, right and interest, if they any have in the lands and tenements above said; and they shall pray God for the prosperity of the king, our Sovereign Lord and of all his liege people, and this for the love of God and in the way of charity.

The petition was read in Parliament, and "The Kyng, by thadvyse and assent of the Lordes Spirituell and Temporell, and the Communes of this his noble Roialme of Ingelond, beyng in this present parliament, and be auctorite of the same parlement, hath graunted this petition, and alle thyng' conteyned in the same petition; and wille and graunteth, be the advyse, assent and auctorite abovesaid, that it be doon in all poyntz as it is desyred by the same petition." The act is 23rd Henry VI (1445), c. 20.¹

It is stated in Carte's History of the Dukes of Ormond that James, Earl of Ormond, the fourth of his name, called the White Earl, granted the manor of Hukcote, in the county of Bucks, and the advowson of the parish church, with a croft called the Little Mill Ham, to the master and brethren of the hospital, on condition of their maintaining for ever two priests to pray daily for his soul, and the souls of others.² The earl died on the 23rd August, 1452, and was

¹ Rot. Parl., V, pp. 74-5. Dugdale, Monasticon, vol. VI, p. 646.

² Carte, History of the Dukes of Ormond, vol. I, p. 40. Malcolm, Londinium Redivivum, vol. IV, p. 559.

buried in the abbey of St. Mary, Dublin.¹ His first wife was Joane, or Johanna, daughter of Gerald FitzGerald, Earl of Kildare, who died in London without issue, on the 3rd August, 1430, and was buried in the chapel of the Holy Cross, called the Rood of Luke's, in the hospital church. By his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of William Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny, he had three sons, James, John, and Thomas, who all succeeded to the earldom, and one daughter, Elizabeth, married to John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. Elizabeth, Countess of Ormond, was also buried in the hospital church. In the "Historical Collections of a Citizen of London," edited by James Gairdner for the Camden Society, 1876, it is recorded that "in the monythe of August (1430), the iij day, deyde this Contesse Urmonde besyde Schene, and the viij day of the same monythe she was brought to London and ys buryde at Syn Thomas of Acrys."² It was considered advisable to have the grant by the fourth earl confirmed by Parliament, and on the rolls of Parliament, 32nd Henry VI, 1454, there is a petition by his eldest son, James, Earl of Ormond (who had been created Earl of Wiltshire in 1449), in which it is stated that he was seised of the said premises by the gift and feoffment of his father and of John Neel, the master of the hospital, and that in reverence of our blessed Lord Christ Jesus, and of his blessed Mother, our Lady St. Mary, and in worship of that glorious Martyr St. Thomas, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury, of whose blood the said earl, his father, and many of his ancestors were lineally descended, and which glorious martyr was born of his mother within the ground where the house or hospital of St. Thomas of Acres then stood, and also for the great tenderness and love that the said James, late Earl of Ormond, when he was alive, had unto that devout and holy place, and forasmuch as the mother of the said Earl of Wiltshire was buried within that holy place, he was disposed, agreed, and fully set that John Neel, the master of the said house or hospital, should have the said manor, advowson and

¹ Carte, vol. I, p. 39.

² p. 171.

croft, to the intent that he and his successors should find two priests within the said house or hospital perpetually and daily to pray for the good estate of the king and queen, and of the said Earl of Wiltshire during their lives, and for their souls when they had passed out of this world, and for the souls of the father and mother of the said earl and of the good Lady Dame Johane Beauchamp, late Lady of Bergavenny, his "graunt dame," and of all his ancestors. The petition then prayed that it might be ordained and established by the authority of the Parliament then assembled that the said John Neel, master of the said house or hospital, and his successors might enter into the said manor, advowson and croft, and hold the same for the purposes above mentioned. The prayer of the petition was granted, and an Act confirming it was passed.¹ James, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, was Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1451, Lord High Treasurer of England, 1454, and K.G., 1459. He was taken prisoner, while fighting on the Lancastrian side, at the battle of Towton, on the 29th March, 1461, and attainted and beheaded at Newcastle on the 1st May following. He died without issue, and his next brother, John, who had also been attainted for his devotion to the Lancastrian cause, was restored in blood by King Edward IV, and died, unmarried, in the Holy Land, in 1478. He petitioned Parliament in the year 1472 in almost precisely similar terms to the petition of his brother, and obtained an Act of Parliament confirming the grant.²

It was of this earl, that King Edward IV said that if honour, good breeding, and liberal qualities were lost, they might all be found in the Earl of Ormond. The third brother, Thomas, succeeded to the earldom of Ormond, and dying in London, on the 3rd August, 1515, was buried in the hospital church.³ His will is dated the last day of the month of July, 1515, and in it he bequeathed his soul to Almighty God and the blessed Virgin, and recommended it to the glorious Martyr

¹ Rot. Parl., V, fo. 257b.

² Ibid., VI, fo. 62a.

³ Carte: vol. I, p. 43.

St. Thomas, and directed his body to be buried in the church of St. Thomas of Acon, London, on the north side of the high altar, where the sepulture of Almighty God was used yearly to be said on Good Friday, as the sacrament would rest on his body, to the ghostly relief and comfort of his soul under the altar. He further bequeathed to the master and brethren of the hospital £40 for his funeral obsequies, and to keep an obit on the anniversary of his death for himself, his wife, his father and mother, and others. He also gave his "Sawter boke," covered with white leather, at his lodging in London, with his name written in his own hand at the end of the same, to be fixed with a chain of iron at his tomb, there to remain for the service of Almighty God, and for the good and comfort of such as might care to read and look upon it. His executors were Richard, Bishop of Winchester, Richard, Bishop of London, John Yong, Bishop of Calipolis, and others.¹ He left two daughters, the elder of whom married Sir James St. Leger, and the younger Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, a Mercer. His son, Sir William Boleyn, was father of Thomas, Earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, who was father of Queen Anne Boleyn, and of George, Lord Rochford, executed for participation in the alleged crimes of his sister. Lord Rochford died without issue, and on the death of his father, in 1538, the earldom of Ormond passed to Pierce Butler, Earl of Ossory. His son, James, succeeded to the titles on his father's death as ninth earl, and, dying in 1546, was buried in the hospital church.² The Earls of Ormond appear to have used the hospital as a residence when they came to London. In the bundles of ancient deeds at the Record Office is a receipt³ dated the 11th February, 1500, of Sir William Hille, described as master of the hospital, for 26s. 8d., for half a year's rent of the Earl of Ormond's chamber.

William Weste, Marbeler, by his will, dated the 20th April, 1453, bequeathed to Friar John Neel, master of the hospital, and the brethren of the same, a tenement in Bowyer Rowe, so that they

¹ Holder, Prerogative Register, fo. 8.

² Burke, Peerage.

³ C. No. 1736.

prayed for the souls of the said John Neel, after his death, of William and Lucy, his parents, and of Cristina Neel and others, and maintained a chorister, not exceeding eight years of age, to attend divine service and also observed his obit.¹

By his will, dated 3rd November, 1455, Elias, or Elys Davy, Mercer, bequeathed to the master and wardens of the Mercers' Company, and the commonalty of the same, three messuages in the parish of St. Michael Bassishaw, and charged the same with the maintenance of certain religious observances annually, at the tomb of Matilda, his late wife, in St. Mary's chapel, in the hospital church, with remainder in case of default, to the master and brethren.² He also founded almshouses at Croydon, of which he made the Mercers' Company overseers.

Sir Henry Frowyk, Mercer, Lord Mayor in 1444, and alderman of Candlewick Ward, by his will, dated the 7th September, 1453, and proved on the 31st May, 1460, after desiring to be buried in the church of St. Thomas, on the south side of the chapel of SS. Nicholas and Stephen, bequeathed to John Neel, the master, and the brethren of the hospital, certain rents in the parish of St. Pancras, charged with the observance of his obit, and the obit of Isabella his wife. And also bequeathed to them an annual quit rent of 10 marks, issuing out of lands and tenements in the parish of Allhallows, Bread Street, for the maintenance of a chantry in the hospital church, and to pray for his soul and the souls of his wife and of William Oliver and Matilda his wife, and further to maintain and educate two boys as choristers (choristas sive paraphonistas), to be chosen for their good characters and voices and for no other reason, one to be known as "Frowyk's Querester" and the other as "Oliver's Querester."³

In the year 1461, King Edward IV, by charter,⁴ confirmed the custody of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, in Berkhamstead, in

¹ Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 562.

² Ibid., p. 548.

³ Ibid., p. 542.

⁴ Patent Roll, 1 Edward IV, p. 2, m. 5.

the county of Hertford, to the master and brethren of St. Thomas of Acon. Bishop Tanner¹ says that there were, in the reign of King John, two hospitals for poor and infirm persons in Berkhamstead, one dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and the other, which was of both brethren and sisters, lepers, to St. John the Evangelist. Very little is known of these hospitals, but, in the reign of King John, Geoffrey Fitz Pier, who was created Earl of Essex on the 26th June, 1199, and died on the 2nd October, 1213,² gave the custody of both hospitals to the master and brethren of St. Thomas. The grant of the custody of the hospital of St. John the Evangelist was confirmed to the hospital of St. Thomas by Pope Honorius III in 1220,³ by King Edward II, in his 12th year, 1318,⁴ and King Edward III, by charter, in his 14th year, 1340,⁵ confirmed to them the custody of the hospital of St. John the Evangelist, while King Henry VI, in his 2nd year, 1423,⁶ granted the custody of the latter hospital to William St. Poole. On the dissolution of monasteries, St. John the Evangelist's spittle, or "le over spittle," and "le nether spittle house," which was at the south-east end of the High Street, probably St. John the Baptist's spittle, with all the lands belonging to them in Northchurch, Hemel Hempstead, and other places, were granted to Robert Hordem.⁷

In 1460, William Dunthorn, "common clerk of the City," gave for the ornament of the Mercers' chapel one pax-bred and two cruets, as a fee for his admission to the Company, and in the same year two basons of silver for the chapel were received from the executors of John Lok. They weighed 2 lbs. 4 ozs., and cost £5 2s. 8d. It appears from an entry in the wardens' accounts for the year 1460, that the executors paid £3 of the cost and the Company the remainder.

¹ Notitia, Herts, p. 4, hospitals.

² Burke, Extinct Peerage.

³ See note on p. 23.

⁴ Patent Roll, 12 Edward II, p. 2, m. 3.

⁵ Patent Roll, 14 Edward III, p. 3, m. 51. Dugdale, Monasticon, vol. VI, p. 647.

⁶ Patent Roll, 2 Henry VI, p. 1.

⁷ Patent Roll, 36 Henry VIII, p. 9. Chauncey, Hertfordshire, p. 586. Dugdale, Monasticon, vol. VI, p. 762.

In 1478 Sir Ralph Verney, knight, Mercer, and alderman of the City of London, who was buried in St. Martin Pomeroy, by his will¹ bequeathed to the master and brethren of the house of St. Thomas Acres, in London, 40s., they to sing *placebo*, *dirige*, and mass of *requiem*, by note, for him in their own church. And to the community of the fellowship of the Mercerye of London, towards the charges of the same fellowship, 20 marks. Sir Ralph Verney was admitted to the freedom in 1434, after an apprenticeship to Thomas Fauconer; was warden in 1448 and 1454, and master in 1459, 1464, 1471, and 1476.

In the 20th year of King Edward IV, 1480, a commission of sewers was issued to many persons, including Sir John Harding, master of the house of St. Thomas of Acres, to survey the banks upon the rivers of Thames and Leye, between the City of London and the bridge of Stratford atte Bowe,² and on the 8th August, 1 Richard III, 1483, a similar commission was issued to survey the shore of the River Thames from West Greenwich to Gravesend.³ It appears to have been usual to insert the master or some officer of the hospital in these commissions, probably because it held lands in Wapping and West Ham, which might be affected by the want of repair of the river walls on the banks of the Thames.

In the year 1481, John Conne, a member of the Company, by his will, bequeathed to the high altar of St. Thomas of Acres, the sum of £10 for the purchase of a pair of candlesticks of silver to be placed on the high altar, and the Company "of goodly disposition, intending to the honor of Almighty God," required the money to be received of his executors. As the money bequeathed was thought "passing small and little for to make any silver candlesticks for the said altar," the Company desired that they should be "the more larger, to the worship "of God, and that holy place." On the 7th March in the same year,

¹ Verney Papers, ed. by Camden Society, p. 26.

² Patent Roll, 1 Richard III, part 5, m. 20, d.

³ Patent Roll, 20 Edward IV, p. 1, m. 8.

John Fisher, alderman, and Nicholas Alwyn, two of the wardens, and with them Thomas Crispe, one of the executors of John Conne, "whom God assoil," being in the chapel of St. Nicholas, within the north aisle of the church of St. Thomas of Acres, there delivered unto Sir John Harding, the master of the place, a pair of candlesticks silver and parcell gilt of the weight of 46 ounces of troy, given to the high altar, by the fellowship of the Mercery, and by the will of the aforesaid John Conne, whereof the said fellowship gave towards the weight and making of the said candlesticks £4 in money, and the executors of the said John Conne gave and paid all the other part.¹

William Downer, the son of Richard Downer, one of the king's minstrels in the Tower of London, by his will, dated the 26th June, 1484, directed his body to be buried within the church of St. Thomas Acars of London, and willed that Agnes, his wife, should hold for her life his tenement in Eastcheap, in London, and that after her decease the said tenement should remain to the master and brethren of St. Thomas Acars, and to their successors for evermore, they to keep yearly, on the day of his death, an obit or anniversary for his soul, the souls of his wife, and father and mother, and all Christian people, with *placebo* and *dirige* on the even, and mass of *requiem* on the morrow following, solemnly by note for evermore.²

Richard Gardener, alderman of Walbrook Ward, and sheriff in 1469, by his will dated the 1st April, 1488, in default of an heir, left the sum of tenpence per diem to five poor men, in honour of the five wounds of Jesus Christ, and to five poor women, in honour of the five joys of the blessed Virgin Mary, the said men and women to be nominated by the mayor and recorder, and by the master of the hospital, and directed that certain lands and tenements in the parishes of St. Bartholomew the Less, St. Michael Queenhithe, and Holy Trinity the Less, should remain to the master of the hospital and his

¹ Acts of court, 19th July, 1481.

² Maitland, History of London, vol. II, p. 887.

successors subject to the above charge.¹ It is uncertain whether these houses ever came into the possession of the hospital, but if they did, they were sold before the dissolution.

Sir Edmund Shaa, knight, Goldsmith, who was Lord Mayor in the year 1482, the last year of King Edward IV, made his will on the 20th March, 1487, and desired that his body should be buried in the body of the church of St. Thomas of Acres between the pillar upon which the image of Michael the Archangel stood before the altar called St. Thomas's altar and the nether end of the church. And, in consideration that he had borne the office of the mayoralty of the City of London, he would that his body should be brought from his house to the parish church of St. Peter in Cheap, where he was a parishioner, and from there to his burying at St. Thomas of Acres, in discreet and honest wise, without pomp of the world, with 24 torches; each bearer to pray for his soul after his obsequies were done; and further that four honest persons of his craft, being in the livery of the fellowship, should bear his body from his house to his said parish church, and from thence to St. Thomas of Acres to his burying, each of them to have 6s. 8d.; and he desired that an honest marble stone should be provided by his executors to be laid upon his sepulchre, and that a convenable altar should be made at the same pillar for a priest to sing thereat, and also a convenable closure of iron, well and workmanly wrought, to close in the said altar in the manner of a chapel, of such mannerly room as a priest might usually stand within to say his mass at the said altar, and to have one within to help him, and that that closet should be made with a cleanly door of iron to open and shut, and to stand locked after mass be done, the priest to be found at the cost of the master and brethren of the hospital, either a brother of the hospital or a secular priest of good conversation, to sing mass daily for evermore at the said altar within the closet of iron, at such convenable hour as should be thought convenient by the said master and brethren, and to pray

¹ Calendar of Wills, vol. 2, p. 591.

specially for his soul, and for the soul of Julian, his best beloved wife, when God should call her to His grace, the souls of his father and mother, his brethren and sustern, and also for the souls of the most excellent prince King Edward IV, of his sister dame¹ late Duchess of Exeter, and of the late Lord Herbert, for all the souls that he was bound to pray for, and for all Christian souls; and further that the said priest when he should go to the lavatory, after the offering done of his mass, should turn his face to the people afore him, and should, for his soul and the souls aforesaid, say openly the psalm *De profundis*, with the versicles and collect thereto accustomed, after Salisbury's use. And further, he directed that at every common assembly to be made in the said church of St. Thomas of Acres of the mayor, aldermen and commons of the City at such solemn season of the year as of laudable custom they had used and would use to walk solemnly unto Paul's, the master and brethren should cause the said closet door of the altar to be unlocked and opened, so that the priests of the fellowship of his craft, if they should be there, or else the priest singing there for his soul might stand within the closet at the said altar and say evensong, to the intent that his fellowship might among their devout meditations remember the poor soul of his body there lying interred. And that the said master and brethren should for evermore yearly keep his obit in the hospital church on the day of his decease or within three days before or after. And he further willed that the said master and brethren should have to them and their successors in perpetuity of his gift good and sufficient livelihood within the City of London and the franchises of the same, to be amortised to them at his cost and charge, as should extend to the clear value of 25 marks by the year, and rather more than less, but that if the said master and brethren should make default in finding such priest or keeping his obit without reasonable cause, or should not keep the said livelihood in sufficient reparation, the estate of the said master and brethren in the

¹ Blank in will.

said livelihood should cease, and the same should remain to the wardens and fellowship of the said craft of Goldsmiths. His executors were his wife Julian, Sir Reginald Bray, knight, Geoffrey Downes, Thomas Rich, Mercer, and John Shaa, Goldsmith.¹ Sir Edmund Shaa died about the year 1487, when his will was proved, and Stephen Kelk, Goldsmith, by his will, dated the 20th December, 1493, touching the disposal of certain messuages in the parish of St. Michael, Cornhill, which he had acquired from Juliana Shaa, widow, Thomas Rich, Mercer, and John Shaa, Goldsmith, in fulfilment of the will of Sir Edmund Shaa, bequeathed the same to the master and brethren of the hospital, for the maintenance of a chantry priest in the hospital, to say masses and other services as in the will directed, and observe an obit, etc. This will was proved in the Court of Hustings in 1511.²

By deed dated the 13th February, 1494, Thomas Essex, son and heir of William Essex, demised his messuage in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, called the White Hart, in Westcheap, to Sir Henry Heydon, knight, John Warde, alderman and Grocer, John Breyteyn, clerk, William Sutton, clerk, Edmund Jenny, Robert Drury, John Heydon, and Robert Purches, Mercers.³ The premises appear to have become vested in John Wendy, Mercer, whose son and heir, Thomas Wendy, by deed dated the 17th April, 1505,⁴ granted them to Sir James Yarford and Thomas Gostwick, Mercers, and Thomas More, gentleman, probably Sir Thomas More, and they, by deed of the 16th June, 1509, surrendered them to Richard Feldyng, Mercer.⁵ Feldyng, by his will, dated the 20th November, 1515, bequeathed to the rector of St. Michael Bassishaw, and the wardens of the same church, an annual quit rent of 6s. 8d., to be paid out of the said messuage, on condition that they kept an obit, on the 10th October in every year, for the souls of Thomas Wendy and of his father and

¹ Milles, Prerogative Register, fo. 12.

² Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 617.

³ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 48, d.

⁴ Ibid., fo. 49.

⁵ Ibid., fo. 50.

mother, and of all the faithful deceased, and in default he bequeathed the same quit rent to the Mercers' Company, on condition that they should keep the same obit. He also bequeathed to the Company a further quit rent of 4s. 6d., and, subject to the two quit rents, bequeathed to the hospital the premises described as a messuage in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, between the tenement late of Peter Coventre, deceased, on the west part, the tenement late of Richard Charleton on the east part, the highway there on the south part, and the messuage belonging to the Mercers' Company on the north part.¹

By will dated the 6th March, 1500, Dame Elizabeth Hyll, widow, late the wife of Sir Thomas Hyll, knight, Lord Mayor in 1484, in which year he died, directed that her feoffees who stood seized of all her lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services in the parishes of St. Pancras in Chepe, Colchurch, St. Martin's in Ironmonger Lane, and elsewhere in the City of London, should, immediately after her decease, be feoffees to the use of her son Edward Hyll, and thereof to make estate to him and his heirs for ever, upon condition that immediately after her death he should suffer the master of St. Thomas of Acres of London and his successors to have so much of the said lands as amounted to the yearly rent of £8 sterling to be assigned to the said master and his successors. And she willed that the said master for himself and his successors should make a sufficient bond and surety for the finding of an honest priest to sing in the said church of St. Thomas at St. Thomas's altar daily for ever, to pray for her soul and for the souls of Sir Thomas Hyll, knight, late her husband; of Richard Hyll, of all her children, and all Christian souls. She also gave 100 marks to the making of St. Thomas's altar in the said church, and such stonework, ironwork, and other necessaries as should be required, and willed that such altar should be made by the advice and command of the master of St. Thomas and of her executors as soon as might be after her decease. She appointed her son Edward, and

¹ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 52.

her trusty "friend and lover," John Gawsom, one of the six clerks of the King's Chancery, her executors, and as her overseer, her brother Rauffe Tylney.¹ The above premises were conveyed by deed of the 1st October, 1514, by William Langford, son and heir of William Langford, and Margaret, his wife, in whom they had been vested upon the trusts of the will of Dame Elizabeth Hyll to John Yong, bishop of Callipoli, the master of the hospital and the brethren of the same.²

Richard Hyll, her son, made his will as touching his lands within the realm of England, on the 10th September in the same year, 1500, and after reciting that he and other feoffees to his use were seized in fee of all his lands and tenements in the City of London, directed that the said feoffees should stand seized of the same to the only use of his mother, Dame Elizabeth Hyll, for her life, and that, after her decease, they should release the same to one of themselves, being a freeman of London, who should by his testament lawfully devise them to the master and brethren of St. Thomas of Acres for ever, to the intent that they might pray for his soul, for the soul of Elizabeth his wife, and for the souls of his father and mother, of Sir William Huddesfeld, and Dame Katherine his wife, of his brothers and sisters, his friends, the owners of the said lands, and all Christian souls; the said master and brethren to find two priests to say mass at the altar of St. Thomas, standing in the body of the hospital church, praying specially for the souls above said, and to keep an obit in the same church on the day of his death. And as to his lands in the counties of Essex, Hertford, and Huntingdon, he directed that, after the death of his wife, his brother Robert Hyll should have so much thereof as would extend to the yearly value of 20 marks sterling to him and his heirs lawfully begotten for ever, that certain of his lands in Essex, which were out of the jointure of his said wife, of the yearly value of 8 marks, should be conveyed to his brother

¹ Moone, Prerogative Register, fo. 23. Cartulary, Cotton MSS., fo. 32, d.

² Ibid., fo. 27, d.

Edward Hyll, to be held by him and his heirs lawfully begotten, but if his said brothers should die without heirs, the said lands to be sold by his executors; and that all other his lands in Middlesex or elsewhere in England, should be sold by his executors, and by the parson of St. Peter, the master of St. Thomas, and the recorder and chamberlain of London. And he willed that the reversion of all the said premises (except those bequeathed to his brothers Edward and Robert) should be sold by his executors, and that if his said brothers Edward and Robert also should die without heirs, then the lands so bequeathed to them should be sold. He further willed that the sellers of the said lands should provide a strong chest to be set within the church or hospital of St. Thomas of Acres, in a convenient place, and that each of them should have a "soundry locke and key," so that it could only be opened with the assent of them all. In it were to be placed all the moneys received from the sale of his land, which were to be expended as follows:—first the sellers were to make within the body of the said church of St. Thomas of Acres, where the altar of St. Thomas then stood, "a newe auter yn the best and godelyst manner that by them "may be devysyd to the honour of God, of the blessed Virgin, of "St. Thomas and of all saints:" further they were to purchase with the said money, within the City of London, so many lands and tenements as should be thought sufficient to find and keep for ever as well five children to be "queresters" in the hospital of St. Thomas, as also for Jesus masse to be kept at the said altar by the clerks of the hospital on Fridays for ever, as was used to be kept every Friday to the honour of Jesus and of our blessed Lady in the "Croude" of the cathedral church of St. Paul. One of the clerks and the choristers were to sing nightly before the said altar, such "antynys" as were sung in the said cathedral and also nightly was to be said after the *salve*, the *De profundis*, with a devout collect for the health of his soul and of the souls aforesaid. And he directed that the residue of the money should be distributed by his executors in deeds of "pyte and charyte,"

viz., in enlarging and helping poor hospitals where the poor had been used to be lodged and comforted, in mending high ways about the City of London, and in other deeds of charity. He also willed that Sir Rauffe, who was then chaplain to his mother, should sing and say mass and other divine service for his soul and the souls aforesaid at the altar of St. Thomas for the space of seven years after his death, he to have for his salary ten marks sterling, together with meat, drink and lodging.¹ He appointed as his executors his mother, Dame Elizabeth Hyll, William Hyll, the master of St. Thomas of Acres, Walter Lace, doctor of "fesyk," and John Moore of London, gentleman, and his will was proved on the 12th May, 1501.²

In the same year, 1505, the hospital became possessed of several houses, afterwards described under the will of Sir William Martyn, alderman of London, who was Lord Mayor in 1492. He states in his will, dated the 20th August, 1505, and made concerning the disposition of his eight houses and his brewery called "le Belle," in the City of London, of which said houses three were in Basyng Lane, in the parish of St. Mildred, Bread Street, other three in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, to wit, between the messuage of the master and brethren of the hospital of St. Thomas on the east and north, and the messuage of the prior and convent of the hospital of the Blessed Mary of Elsyng within Crepelgate on the west side, and the highway of Cheap on the south, and the remaining two messuages in Ironmonger Lane, in the parish of St. Martin Pomers, between the messuage of the said master and brethren on the east and north, the tenement of William Campyn, Grocer, on the south, and Ironmonger Lane on the west, the brewhouse being in the parish of St. Stephen, Coleman Street, adjoining Armourers' Hall. These premises at one time belonged to William Langford, and Margaret, his wife, daughter and heiress of John Beteigne; and they conveyed them by deed of the 5th April, 1492, to Richard Hyll, William Martyn, Richard Heigham,

¹ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 29.

² Moone, Prerogative Registers, fo. 15.

Thomas Frowyk, Thomas Wyndoute, John Shaa, and John Storke, to the use of Richard Hyll, son of Thomas Hyll, and to fulfil his will. On the 11th November, 1501, Sir John Shaa, then Lord Mayor, Thomas Frowyk, Serjeant-at-law, and John Storke, Grocer,¹ released the same to Sir William Martyn, and the latter, in fulfilment of the will of Richard Hyll, and to the honour and glory of God, of the Virgin Mary, and of St. Thomas the Martyr, of Canterbury, called Acon, bequeathed to the master and brethren of the hospital the said eight messuages, to the intent that they might specially recommend to Almighty God in their prayers the souls of the said Richard Hyll and Elizabeth his wife, and the souls of the parents of the said Richard Hyll, viz., Sir Thomas Hyll and Elizabeth his wife, of Sir William Huddesfeld, knight, and Katherine his wife, of the brothers, sisters, and friends of the said Richard Hyll, and also the soul of the said Sir William Martyn, and the souls of the late owners of the said premises, and of all the faithful deceased, the hospital to find two fit chaplains of good conversation to celebrate masses at the altar of St. Thomas, founded in the body of the church of St. Thomas for ever, and observe an obit or anniversary on the 11th September, for the said Richard Hyll. And he also gave to the master and brethren the said brewhouse in Coleman Street, on condition that they should pray for his soul, and the souls of Morgan Wyllyams and Joan his wife, and of all the faithful deceased. The will was proved in the Hustings Court on the Monday next after the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, 18th October, 21st Henry VII, 1505.²

Sir Nicholas Alwyn, Mercer, and alderman of Bassishaw Ward, Lord Mayor in 1499, by a will dated the 18th November, 1505, bequeathed to the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of Mercers a messuage, in the parish of St. Antonin, which he acquired from John Colet, clerk, dean of St. Paul's, charged with the observance of an obit in the hospital church, or in the chapel annexed thereto, called

¹ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fos. 12, 13, 14.

² *Ibid.*, fo. 14, d.

the Mercers' chapel, for the souls of Thomas Wyndout, late Mercer and alderman, Thomas Northland, late alderman, Johanna his wife, and others. By another will, dated the 31st December, 1505, Sir Nicholas Alwyn bequeathed to Sir Richard Adams, clerk, master of the hospital and the brethren of the same, his tenement in Ironmonger Lane, in the parish of St. Martin Pomers, between the tenement of the prior and convent of Elsyng Spittle on the south part, and the tenement then late of Margaret Fitz Robert, and then belonging to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acar on the north and east, and his six messuages and a shop, and an alley or entry or lane in the parish of St. Pancras, in the ward of Cheap of old time called Puppekyrtyll Lane, also his little house called the "Seyghus," to the intent that they should, out of the rents and profits thereof, find an honest and virtuous priest, either a brother of the said house or a secular priest, to sing mass for ever at the altar in the chapel founded by Sir Edmund Shaa, Knight, late mayor of the City of London, within the church of St. Thomas aforesaid, and to pray specially for the souls of Hugh Shaa, son of the said Sir Edmund Shaa and Julyan his wife, of the brethren and sisters, kinsfolk and other benefactors of the said Hugh Shaa and all Christian souls; and besides yearly keep an obit on the 2nd March, on which day the said Hugh Shaa departed this life, beside the one which the said Sir Edmund Shaa assigned to be kept for himself in the said church, in which obit the said master and brethren should pray specially for the souls of the said Hugh, Sir Edmund and Dame Julyan, Nicholas Alwyn and of all Christian people, spending yearly on the said obit 10s., and praying specially for the soul of the said Hugh, and further keep in repair the said premises. And the will provides that if the master and brethren should make default in the performance thereof for six weeks, they should pay in the name of a "payne" to the Mercers' Company 10s., if for a quarter of a year 20s., and that if default should be made for half a year, then the gift of the premises should be utterly void, and he bequeathed the

same to the Mercers' Company for ever, they finding an honest and virtuous secular priest to sing mass daily when he should be disposed for evermore at the altar in the chapel founded by the said Sir Edmund Shaa, and to pray for the souls above rehearsed and keep the said obit, the residue of the said rents and profits to be converted to the proper use of the Company. The first will was proved in the Court of Hustings in the month of December, 1505, and the second will in the month of March in the same year.¹ The houses so bequeathed by the second will of Alderman Alwyn had been conveyed by deed of the 16th December, 1502, by Edward Underwood, clerk, to Edward Hyll, in fulfilment of the will of Dame Elizabeth Hyll. Edward Hyll, by deeds of the 19th and 29th December in the same year, granted them to Stephen Jenyns, Alderman, subject to a rent charge of £8 in favour of the master and brethren of the hospital, and he, on the 20th December, 1505, conveyed them to Nicholas Alwyn.²

John Hert, citizen and Brewer of London, by his will, dated the 20th April, 1509, gave all his land in the parish of St. James, Garlickhythe, after the death of his wife Isabel, and of Thomas Snodenham, Fishmonger, to the master and brethren of St. Thomas, upon condition that they kept a chantry in the church of St. James. In default of their so doing, he gave the same lands to the prior and convent of the Charterhouse, with a gift over, in case of their default, to the parson and churchwardens of St. James. On the 28th August, 1516, a deed was entered into between John, Bishop of Callipoli and master of the hospital, and the brethren of the same, and the executors of John Hert, for carrying out the provisions of his will.³

Richard Laykyn, Mercer, by will dated the 4th September, 1509, left lands in the City of London, after certain life estates mentioned in the will, to the Mercers' Company, charged with the maintenance of a chantry and obit in the Mercers' chapel. His will was proved in 1525.⁴

¹ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 23. Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 641.

² Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fos. 18, 19, 20.

³ Ibid., fos. 84 to 88.

⁴ Calendar of Wills, vol. II, p. 639.

On the 23rd July, 1510, Richard Adams, master of the hospital, was removed from his place by the Bishop of London for "certain legitimate causes," and the record of the appointment of his successor is contained both in the Register of Richard Fitz James, Bishop of London, and in the Acts of court of the Company. The Bishop's decree is dated the 16th September, 1510, and in it is stated that Robert Forman, master of arts, president of the house or hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr of Acon, of the order of St. Augustine, in the city and diocese of London, Robert Haryson, Thomas Lynne, Edmund Bradshaw and Richard Grenwod, priests, and Friars Richard Fynch, William Andrew, and John Chamburlayn, brethren of the same, did write to the lord Richard, Bishop of London, informing him that whereas Richard Adams, their late master or warden, had been removed by his lordship from his office on the 23rd of July then last, the chapter of the hospital had assembled on the 12th of August for the election of a successor, lest, for lack of a shepherd, the wolf should enter the fold, and that Tuesday, the 27th day of August, was unanimously agreed upon to be the day on which the election should take place; that letters citatory were addressed to each individual brother of the hospital, and were posted on the doors of the chapter house, summoning all to attend who had a right to engage in the business; that the letters were addressed by Robert Forman, the president, and the chapter of the hospital, to Robert Byndlows, a literate, enjoining him to summon individually Sirs Robert Harrison and Thomas Lynne, Edmund Bradshaw, William Shirlacres, and Richard Grenwod, priests, and Friars Richard Fynch, William Andrew, and John Chamburlayn, and all others having a right to attend, to be present at the appointed place on the day fixed for the purpose of proceeding with the election, and that those who failed to appear would do so at their peril. The letters, which were dated the 12th August, 1510, were duly posted on the doors of the chapter house on the 24th August, and remained there until the 27th,

on which day after mass of the Holy Ghost had been celebrated at the high altar of the church, and the bell rung to summon the chapter, the president and convent formed a full chapter, and appointed William Horsey, doctor of decrees, the Bishop's vicar general, Master Thomas Gotson, bachelor of laws, the Bishop's registrar, Master William Ford, master of arts, Master William Cowik, notary public, John Twit and Hugh Odam, literates, to be witnesses of the proceedings, and to attend throughout the business of the election. This being done, the president and convent invoked the aid of the Holy Spirit by singing *Veni Creator Spiritus, etc.*, on bended knees, with versicle and prayer or collect, as was customary. Thereupon Robert Byndlows, literate, came and certified that citations had been duly made, and he declared on oath that he had been unable to find Sir Richard Adams, late master of the said hospital, for the purpose of citing him to appear. The names of Friar Robert Forman, the president, Robert Haryson, Thomas Lynne, Edmund Bradshaw and Richard Grenwod, priests, as well as of Friars Richard Fynch, William Andrew and John Chamburlayn, brethren of the said house, and having a right to take part in the election, were taken down in writing, and publicly read over, as constituting a full chapter; others having or pretending to have a right to engage in the business, and especially Sir Richard Adams, being publicly summoned at the door of the chapter house, and not appearing. The president then gave orders for the election to be proceeded with; whereupon Master William Horsey, who had the management of the election, declared the reason of their having met together, and the president caused a certain monition and protestation in writing to be read, to the effect that if any were present who had no right to be present, they should at once retire, as it was not his wish or intention, nor the wish or intention of those whose business it was to make the election, that such should be present. The sentence of deprivation passed on Sir Richard Adams, late master of the hospital, for just and lawful cause by the Bishop, was next read by Master Thomas Gotson, notary

public and the Bishop's registrar, and ratified and approved. Immediately afterwards Master William Horsey, the director, publicly read the constitution of a general council, beginning *Quia propter, etc.*, and explained and declared the various forms of election. The president and convent, having considered what form of election they would use, unanimously agreed to proceed to the election by way of compromise, and to leave the choice of their new master or warden to the Bishop, promising to pay canonical obedience to whomsoever he might elect, the terms of the compromise being set out at length, and dated the 29th August, 1510. On the 16th September, the venerable Master John Yong, doctor of divinity, made his profession of the order of St. Augustine before John, Bishop of Argos,¹ who was acting for the Bishop of London, and solemnly promised to subject himself to the will of the Bishop whenever vacancies occurred, and to keep the ordinances of the place by God's help with piety and sobriety. On the same day the Bishop of London nominated the aforesaid Master John Yong to be the next master of the hospital, and desired that he might be admitted by Friar Thomas Lynne, who had been deputed for the purpose by the brethren of the convent. Master Yong was accordingly declared by the said Friar Thomas Lynne to be duly elected, and the Bishop of London being asked to confirm the election, either by himself or by his vicar-general, and to put the new master into corporal possession of the hospital, and duly install him therein, did on the same day (viz., 16th September) confirm the appointment, and direct the Archdeacon of London to induct the new master into real, actual, and corporal possession of the house or hospital aforesaid.²

The election of Dr. Yong is also recorded in the Acts of the court of the Company. It is there stated that, at an assembly of the livery

¹ John Tynmouth, afterwards vicar of Boston, in Lincolnshire, where he died in 1524, and where he was buried. Wood, *Athensæ Oxonienses*, 1815, vol. II, p. 724. Bishop Stubbs, in his *Episcopal Succession in England*, p. 146, says that he was suffragan of Sarum from 1510 to 1524.

² Bishop Fitz James' Register, fo. 18.

held on the 13th September, 1510, the Dean of St. Paul's, Dr. Colet, being present, a letter was read from the Bishop of London to the effect that as the hospital was deficient of a master and ruler, and that the brethren had put their consent of election wholly in the hands of the Bishop to elect such one as it should please him, and he perceiving none more able to occupy the said room than Doctor Yong, parson of Honey Lane, therefore would that he should have it, and be master of the said place; and Dr. Yong finding so many difficulties and objections to take the foresaid room of mastership, the Bishop required the Company to desire him to take it upon him. By the advice of Dean Colet two of the Company went for the said Master Yong, and brought him into the hall, to whom the Dean showed the mind of my lord of London, and in the name of the Company desired him to take the mastership upon him. Dr. Yong oftentimes thanked the Bishop and the Company of their good minds, but sought to excuse himself. Seeing, however, that the Bishop, the Dean, and the Company would not be content that he should refuse it, he agreed unto their request, on condition that the brethren of the place would also desire him to the same. Then the Dean sent for divers of the brethren, and desired them to go to their chapter house, and call the rest of their brethren to them and to know their minds, if they would have the said Master Yong to be their master or not. They went to their chapter house, and returned again into the hall, and brought answer that all the brethren by whole consent desired the said Master Yong, in the way of charity, to take their religion upon him, and after to be elected their master and ruler, to whose petition he assented, and then many thanks were given to him by the Dean and the Company, and so departed.¹

On Monday, the 16th day of September, Dr. Yong was presented a brother of St. Thomas of Acres by the suffragan and chancellor of the Bishop of London, and all the high mass time he sat in the choir lowest beneath the youngest brother, and when

¹ Acts of court.

high mass was done, they went unto their chapter house again, where he was elected master of the place, and brought out to the high altar, the whole choir singing *Te Deum Laudamus*, and after that done with other diverse ceremonies they went unto the chapter house again, when the brethren were sworn to be obedient to him, and then came out again to the high altar. The Bishop's chancellor then showed the people of the election done in due manner, and then went down and set him in his stall. The new master then went again to the high altar and offered and took up his offering again as parson, and then went down and rang his bell, and went about the church cloister led with two brethren, and then to Colechurch, and took possession as parson ; and so went home and made a worshipful dinner to many worshipful persons.¹

John Yong, or Young, was born in 1463 at Newton Longueville, in Buckinghamshire, where his family appear to have resided. At 11 years of age he was admitted a scholar of Winchester College, where he remained until 1480. On the 1st August in that year he was elected to a scholarship at New College, and after the statutable two years of probation, on the 1st August, 1482, succeeded to a fellowship. He appears to have regularly resided until the end of September, 1499, and in 1502 resigned his fellowship, which was filled up on the 9th April in that year. About this time he became a doctor of divinity, and rector of St. Martin's, Oxford. At the time of his election to the mastership of St. Thomas of Acon, he was parson or rector of Allhallows, Honey Lane, in London : he was appointed prebendary of Holborn, in St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 28th November, 1511, and prebendary of Newington in the same cathedral on the 10th February, 1513. On the 3rd July, 1513, he was consecrated Bishop suffragan of London, with the title of Bishop of Callipolis or Callipoli, a city in Thrace, *in partibus infidelium*, was appointed rector

¹ Acts of court.

of St. Christopher le Stocks, London, on the 23rd January, 1514, rector of St. Magnus the Martyr, London, on the 20th March in the same year, Dean of Chichester in 1517, and Warden of New College in 1521. He was also Archdeacon of London, and is said to have been Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. He was a friend of Dean Colet and of Erasmus. Yong has been often confused with a namesake, also educated at Winchester and New College, who was employed by Cardinal Wolsey in several embassies abroad, and was Master of the Rolls in the reigns of Henry VII and VIII, and Dean of York.

The reasons which induced the Bishop of London to remove Richard Adams from the mastership of the hospital are not given, but there can be no doubt but that the hospital was seriously in debt, the buildings had become much dilapidated, and the discipline of the house was lax and required reformation.¹ In a return, to be referred to more fully hereafter, made in 1518 to the legates of the Pope, it is stated that the debts of the house when Dr. Yong was elected master amounted to £718 17s. 5½d., its total income from all sources being £316 17s. 2d. per annum; and that £1,431 1s. 10d. had been expended by him in eight years in repairs. No doubt Dr. Yong paid part of the above sums out of income derived by him from his other preferments, but a considerable part was paid or lent by the Mercers' Company. There are many entries in the Acts of court of help given to the hospital. Thus on the 17th December, 1502, it was agreed that the master and brethren should have towards the reparation and building of their church £66 13s. 4d. sterling, whereof £33 6s. 8d. was to be taken out of the Company's treasure chest, and the rest levied amongst the whole fellowship. In March, 1511, at the urgent request of the master of the hospital, £100 was given to him towards redeeming the place out of debt and great decay, in which it had been left by his predecessor, half

¹ See pages 31 and 83, where it is stated that the hospital had in times past been hurt by unprofitable masters.

of the amount being raised by cessment on the members of the Company, and the remainder paid out of the common box.¹ It was further ordered that if any of the Company should not pay such sums of money as they should be cessed to pay by the cessors the second time it should be demanded, they should pay double. This threat, however, did not bring in the whole of the money, for on the 1st June following, 1512, it was agreed that such persons as had not paid the amounts in which they were cessed, were to pay between that day and Midsummer upon the pain recited in the ordinance, viz., 40s. sterling over and above the sums at which they were cessed.² On the 9th May, 1513,³ it was agreed that the master of St. Thomas should have a loan of £40 out of the common box, on his giving the Company an obligation under the convent seal, to repay the same by yearly instalments of £4 6s. 8d., to be received of the yearly rent of the house next adjoining the church door of St. Thomas on the west side.

In the year 1510, the Company found that they were much pressed for room in which to keep their banquet or supper, and besides that the door of the church of St. Thomas was so near the Mercers' chapel, that rude people walked daily up and down in the time of mass, to the great trouble of the priests and other people who were disposed to serve God. They therefore requested Dean Colet to speak to the master of St. Thomas, that the hospital might sell to them two tenements on the west side of Mercers' Hall, so that they might enlarge their chapel, and build some necessary rooms above it. The master of St. Thomas was sent for into the Hall, and at the request of the Dean, promised to speak to his brethren on the subject.⁴ Several members of the Company, including Sir James Yarford, were shortly afterwards deputed to speak to the master of St. Thomas, "and know "his mind how he would do in the said matter."⁵

¹ Acts of court, 24th March, 1511.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., 23rd September, 1510.

⁵ Ibid., 12th October, 1510.

On the 20th March afterwards the same persons had authority given to them by the general court to agree in the name of the Company with the master of St. Thomas for the purchase of the said houses, and on the same day it was agreed that the charges for the purchase of the houses, and the enlargement of the hall and chapel should be borne and paid by the Company, and that the members should be cessed according to their substance. The names of 66 members, who were present, are recorded, and the Company promised to be content, "no man saying the contrary."¹ The purchase was not immediately concluded, for on the 12th November, 1511, it was ordered that the persons, who were chosen on the preceding 20th March, should, in as goodly haste as might be, make an end with the master of St. Thomas, if they could come to any reasonable conclusion.²

On the 18th February, 1511, the master of St. Thomas was again sent for, and was asked whether he would sell the ironmonger's house next to the church door, and as they could not come to a conclusion about the purchase, it was agreed that the master should put all his demands in writing. After this conclusion taken, the master showed that he had in his custody certain bills of exchange, wherein Lynchyn Vyvald, merchant of Jean,³ was bound to pay to Edmund Reed, merchant of Norwich, the sum of £518, and that Reed had delivered the said bills to the master, to the intent that he should receive the said money, and deliver thereof unto the Company £500, so that they might enlarge their chapel and hall, and build other rooms as might be thought necessary. Thereupon Alderman Yarford said to the master that if he would be content to deliver the said bills into the hands of the master and wardens, they should endeavour to receive the money of the said Lynchyn, and that done they should return unto him the odd £18 sterling, and the master answered that he was well content

¹ Acts of court, 20th March, 1510.

² Ibid.

³ Genoa. Several members of the family of Vyvald, or Vivaldis, who were merchants and bankers at Genoa, are mentioned in the State Papers in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII.

so that the said wardens would be bound to save him harmless against the said Edmund Reed and his executors, whereunto the Company agreed. A bond was accordingly entered into by the wardens Nicholas Shelton, William Burwell, John Robyns, and Robert Asteley, for themselves and their successors, to save harmless the said master and his successors, masters of the house of St. Thomas of Acon, against the said Edmund Reed, his heirs and executors, and against all and every other person or persons whatsoever, of and for the said bills of exchange, and all damages and hurts which the same master or his successors might sustain by reason or occasion of the said three bills.¹

The conclusion of the matter does not appear from the Acts of court, but an indenture of bargain and sale, dated the 6th July, 4th Henry VIII, 1512, is preserved among the Company's muniments, made between John Yong, clerk, master of the hospital, and the brethren of the same, and Nicholas Shelton, alderman, William Burwell, John Robyns and Robert Asteley, wardens of the mystery of Mercers of London, and the commonalty of the same, whereby the master and brethren agreed that a parcel of ground in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, on the south side and west end of the church of St. Thomas, containing in length along by the street of Westcheap, east and west 43 feet of assize extending at the west end thereof from Westcheap northward 47 feet 4 inches of assize, and in breadth at the north end thereof, from the west wall of the said church of St. Thomas westward 12 feet and 11 inches of assize, and in the middle part thereof from the same wall westward 15 feet 9 inches of assize, reserving to the master and brethren an entry leading from Westcheap to the utmost part of the ground northward, unto the house which William Assheley, Grocer, then dwelt in, containing in breadth 4 feet of assize, and in height 9 feet and 2 inches of assize, should be conveyed to some person or persons free of the Company of Mercers in fee simple subject to a lease made to Morgan Williams and Johanne his wife for the term of

¹ Acts of court.

their lives, and another lease made to Thomas Michell, Ironmonger, for the term of twenty years, whereof seven years from Lady day last had expired, to the intent that the person or persons so named by his or their testament or otherwise should cause the same to be amortized and made sure to the Company. In recompense whereof the said wardens and commonalty covenanted within eight days after the estate in the aforesaid ground and premises was had and made in form above expressed, to cause as much lands and tenements of the said Company within the City of London as should be as good in building and yearly value as the said ground above mentioned, to be conveyed to the said master and brethren and their successors. And the deed stated that forasmuch as the said Company, for their singular devotion to the honor of God and of the blessed Bishop and martyr, St. Thomas of Canterbury, purposed by the grace of God to enlarge the said church of St. Thomas on part of the said ground, it was agreed that the said Company, by virtue of the said conveyance, should have for the purpose aforesaid all the said ground and premises, or as much thereof as they should think sufficient for them for their said purpose, leaving and surrendering to the hospital the residue of the said ground, and making recompense in other lands or tenements in value for so much as they should retain. And if the said Company should retain in their hands the whole of the said ground, and make due recompense as aforesaid, and for the improving and amending the same should build a tenement upon the west part thereof, then the master and brethren should not build any houses, walls, or other edifices so as to interfere with the light of the said tenement.

In the Cartulary among the Land Revenue Records is the following memorandum relating to the exchange :—

Herewith followeth the value with the charge of the house of St. Thomas and the fellowship of the Mercery changed over for another.

First the White Hart in Cheapside, which was belonging to the

Mercery, goeth for yearly rent - - - - -

10^{li} 10^s 0^d

Whereof goeth out in quit rent to the prior of Christchurch in Canterbury - - - - -	2 ^{li} 5 ^s 0 ^d
Item for the quit rent going out of the little house at the Mercers Hall ¹ - - - - -	0 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d
Item to the Mercery - - - - -	0 ^{li} 4 ^s 6 ^d
Item to the church of Bassynghawe - - - - -	0 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d
Summa of the quit rent - - - - -	3 ^{li} 2 ^s 10 ^d
Which sum deducted out of the aforesaid sum of 10 ^{li} 10 ^s 0 ^d the rest is clearly - - - - -	7 ^{li} 7 ^s 2 ^d
The two houses of St. Thomas, which stood by the south door of the church of St. Thomas, yielded yearly in rent - - - - -	9 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d
The offering of the said two houses after 14 ^d the noble was yearly - - - - -	1 ^{li} 13 ^s 0 ^d
	11 ^{li} 6 ^s 4 ^d
Thereof goeth out to the Charnel house of Paul's for the salary of a chantry priest there - - - - -	4 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Which quit rent deduct out of the aforesaid sum of 11 ^{li} 7 ^s 2 ^d rests clearly	7 ^{li} 7 ^s 2 ^d

And so appeareth an equal recompense over both the parties; the said house of St. Thomas bearing the charge of the quit rent going out of the White Hart, and the said fellowship of the Mercery bearing the quit rent of 4^{li} to the Charnel house at Paul's.³

The conveyance does not appear to have been made until after the chapel and hall had been completed. Two deeds have been preserved which deal with the site. The first is dated the 4th May, 1516, and is in the Cartulary among the Land Revenue Records.⁴ It was made between John Yong, Bishop of Callipoli, and master of the house or hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, and the brethren of the same house, and Richard Feldyng,⁵ citizen and Mercer, and by it the master and brethren granted to Richard Feldyng all their land, and the chapel called "le

¹ In another handwriting.

² It will be seen that there has been some mistake by the copyist.

³ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 55d.

⁴ Fo. 54.

⁵ He was the son of Sir Jeffrey Feldyng, Mercer, M.P. for the City of London, and Lord Mayor in 1454. He was admitted to the freedom of the Company by patrimony in 1472, and was warden in 1489 and 1509.

"Mercers' chapel," and the hall called "le Mercers' hall," together with all houses, etc., thereto belonging, situate in the parish of the blessed Mary of Colechurch, in the ward of Westcheap, between the tenement of the master and brethren, called "le Myghter," on the west part, and the tenement of the master and brethren, formerly of Sir Thomas Hyll, knight, in which John Hill, Grocer, then dwelt, and in which William Ayshley, Grocer, then deceased, formerly dwelt, on the west part, and lying along the street of Westcheap from the said tenement called "le Myghter" to the said tenement of the said Sir Thomas Hyll, and containing in length 76 feet 4 inches of assize, and lying on the east part from the said street of Westcheap to the church of St. Thomas, and containing there in breadth 32 feet 2 inches of assize and containing in breadth on the west part next to the tenement of the said Sir Thomas Hyll from Westcheap to the north part thereof 47 feet 4 inches of assize, and in breadth at the north end thereof from the wall called "le Westwalle" 15 feet 9 inches of assize, reserving to the said master and brethren for ever an alley or entry leading from Westcheap to the outward north part of the said land, viz., in the messuage in which William Ayshley formerly dwelt, to hold to the said Richard Feldyng and his heirs for ever to their use, and to fulfil his will.

The second deed is dated the 1st May, 1518, and is preserved in the same Cartulary and in the Register of Writings in the possession of the Mercers' Company.¹ It is also a grant from the bishop and brethren to the said Richard Feldyng of the chapel and hall, but contains some more land, and the description is different. The grant is of the chapel called "le Mercers' chapel," and the hall called "le Mercers' hall," built over the said chapel, and all the lands and tenements with the houses, etc., thereto belonging, in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, between the Myghter in part and the west end of the church of St. Thomas in part, and the lands and tenements of

¹ Cartulary, fo. 73. Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 170.

the master and brethren on the north part of the said church in part on the east part, and between the lands and tenements of the prior and convent of the blessed Mary of Ellsyng Spittel of London, in part, and between the tenements of the said master and brethren in Ironmonger Lane, then in the tenure of James Nelson and Henry Fitzherberd, Mercers, in part on the west part, and between the king's highway of Westcheap on the south part, and between the lands of the said master and brethren in Ironmonger Lane, then in the tenure of the said Henry Fitzherberd and of Thomas Walshe, gentleman, on the north part. The deed proceeds to give a still more accurate description of the premises; it goes on to say that the said chapel, hall, lands, etc., contained in length by the street of Westcheap from the Myghter on the east to the lands and tenements of the convent of Ellsyng Spittel on the west 98 feet 8 inches of assize, and in breadth on the east part next the Myghter from Westcheap on the south to the church of St. Thomas on the north 32 feet of assize, and in breadth on the west end of the church of St. Thomas from Westcheap to the same church $28\frac{1}{2}$ feet of assize, and contained in length on the north part at the west end of the same church from the church unto the capital tenement of the master and brethren in Ironmonger Lane, then in the tenure of the said Thomas Walshe, and before that of John Kyrkby, Merchant Tailor, $32\frac{1}{2}$ feet of assize, and in length at the west end of the same church from Westcheap to the said capital tenement in Ironmonger Lane 105 feet and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch of assize. Furthermore, the said lands and tenements contained in length on the west part next the lands and tenements of the convent of Ellsyng Spittel from Westcheap on the south part to the tenement of the master and brethren in Ironmonger Lane, then in the tenure of the said Henry Fitzherberd on the north part, 98 feet of assize, and in breadth from the lands and tenements of the said convent of Ellsyng Spittel to the west part of the church of St. Thomas 40 feet of assize, also in breadth from the lands and tenements next to the little cloister of the master and brethren on the

north part of the said church to the said tenement of the master and brethren in Ironmonger Lane, in which the said James Nelson then dwelt, on the west part 46 feet of assize, and in breadth from the houses of the master and brethren called the woodhouse and coalhouse on the east part to Ironmonger Lane on the west part 77 feet 6 inches of assize, and in breadth on the north part next the said capital tenement of the master and brethren in Ironmonger Lane from the woodhouse and coalhouse to the said tenement of the master and brethren, then in the tenure of the said Henry Fitzherberd 43 feet of assize, to hold to the said Richard Feldyng and his heirs for ever to their use and to fulfil his will. Both of these deeds are stated to have been given in the chapter house of the hospital.

The above conveyances were made to Richard Feldyng, so that he might demise the premises by his will to the Mercers' Company. This he carried out by two wills, the first being dated the 11th June, 1516, by which he gave and bequeathed the premises granted to him by the deed of the 4th May, 1516, by the same description as is contained in that deed, to the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of Mercers, and their successors for ever.¹ Feldyng by his second will, dated the 12th May, 1518, bequeathed to the master and brethren of the hospital of St. Thomas an annual quit rent of £6 13s. 4d. sterling, to be paid out of the premises granted to him by the deed of the 1st May, 1518, and subject to and charged with the said quit rent bequeathed the same premises by the same description as is contained in the deed to the said wardens and commonalty.²

The reason for the two conveyances and the two wills is not apparent, but I can only imagine that the Company found that the land granted to them by the deed of the 4th May, 1516, was not sufficient for their purpose, and that they desired to acquire a larger piece from the hospital. It was possibly then found convenient to grant the whole

¹ Mercers' Company's Book of Wills, fo. 66.

² Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 75. Book of Wills, fo. 68.

of the premises by the second conveyance. There is no record of the conveyance of land by the Company to the hospital. The deeds relating to this transaction were in some way lost, and "nobody knew thereof," but coming into the hands of Sir Richard Gresham, many years afterwards, he, at a court of assistants of the Company, held on the 12th July, 1542, brought them into court, and desired the wardens to lay them safely up among their evidences, so that they might be ready thereafter, if they should be called for.¹

Dr. Young was an energetic master, and insisted on the rights and privileges of the hospital. On the 12th July, 1511, Sir James Yarford,² who was then master of the Company, showed to the court of the Company that the master of the hospital had forbidden the Company's chaplains to say mass in their chapel, which was then in the hospital church, unless they were sworn to obey him.³ The Company do not appear to have objected, provided the articles to which the chaplains were required to be sworn were not prejudicial to the composition made between the hospital and the Company,⁴ and on the 21st March, 1512, at a quarter-day, an ordinance was made to the honour, laud and praising of Almighty God, for that it was well known that the fellowship of the Mercery of the City of London had long time had, and then had two chaplains at their costs and charge hired, as well to sing mass daily when lawfully disposed in the chapel called the Mercers' chapel, within the church of St. Thomas of Acon, in the City of London aforesaid, as to be helping in all other divine service, which had been or should be accustomed to be done in the said church, at all times convenient, and also to wait and attend upon the wardens and fellowship in their livery at buryings, dirges and masses done for

¹ Acts of court.

² Sir James Yarford was the son of William Yarford, of Kidwelly, in Wales. He was apprenticed to Stephen Gibson, and admitted to the freedom in 1485, was warden in 1499 and 1505, master in 1511, 1519, and 1527, alderman of Candlewick ward, sheriff in 1514, and Lord Mayor in 1519. He died 22nd June, 1527, and was buried in St. Michael Bassishaw.

³ Acts of court.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 21st July, 1511.

dyvers persons of the same fellowship, as of long time past it had been accustomed, with many other good and laudable deeds and dispositions, which also the said chaplains had always been accustomed to use, whereby the service of Almighty God had been and then was the better maintained in the said church, not only to His great honour and pleasure, whereby all the said fellowship prospered, the better to their great worship and profit in this world, but also to the great merit both of their bodies and souls after their departing out of this present life. And forasmuch as the said fellowship had lately perceived that their chaplains had many times absented themselves from the said service of Almighty God in divers manners, as well to His high displeasure as to the great disworship and lett of ghostly profit of the said fellowship, therefore for the redressing of the above default and that the chaplains should know their duties in the future it was by the whole Company agreed that the present and future chaplains of the said fellowship of the Mercery should be sworn in the presence of the wardens for the time being by oath, for the observing the articles under written, which articles the said wardens were to cause to be read and showed to the said then chaplains and likewise at every admission of any chaplain or chaplains, and such chaplains were to be sworn thereto.

The oath for the chaplains was as follows :—

YE SHALL SWEAR ye shall be true unto our liege lord the King, and to his heirs, kings of England, and ye shall be true unto the fellowship of the Mercery and their counsel keep in all things requisite that shall be unto you shewed, and during the time that ye shall serve the said fellowship, for the which service ye shall receive of them wages or salary, ye shall observe and keep the articles hereafter written to your power, as nigh as God will give you grace, so help you God and all Saints.

The articles which the chaplains were to be bound to observe are set out at length in the Acts of court, and are as follow :—

FIRST, it is ordained, by the authority and agreement of the said Court, that the chaplains of the Mercery daily, when they may lawfully be disposed, shall say masses in the chapel called the Mercers' chapel within the church of St. Thomas of Acon, in the

City of London, and there in their said masses to pray for and have recommended to Almighty God the good welfare and prosperity of all the fellowship of the Mercery being alive, or who shall be alive at such time or times when these Articles shall be shewed unto the said chaplains for the time being, and also to pray for all the souls of the said fellowship which be departed out of this world to the mercy of Almighty God, and specially for the soul of the King of noble memory, Richard II, which first incorporated the said fellowship of the Mercery, and licensed them to purchase lands and tenements in mortmain, as well as for the finding of their said chaplains, as also for the relieving of brethren of the said fellowship, which hath or shall happen to fall into decay ; and, also, the said chaplains shall pray for the souls of Richard Whittington and Robert Guppe, with other certain of his friends, whose names be contained in a little table daily standing upon the altar in the said chapel, which Robert gave certain lands to the said fellowship for the finding of a priest, as well to sing mass daily in the said chapel, as to be at all other divine service, which hath, is, or shall be done in the said church of St. Thomas, and also specially to pray for the souls of all them that hath been wardens of the said fellowship, and all other benefactors to the same, which hath given or procured anything to the said fellowship, for the which they ought the more to be remembered and prayed for, and of charity to pray for all Christian souls.

ALSO the said chaplains, when and as often as they shall be duly admonished or warned by the wardens, or by any other in their names, they shall wait and attend as well upon the said wardens and Company in their liveries at buryings and dirges and masses, which shall be done for any of the said Company, whereat the said wardens and Company shall be and attend in their liveries, as without their liveries at other times and places within the City of London, where it shall seem the said wardens for the time being to command the said chaplains or any of them to be and attend for the weal, worship and profit of the said Company.

ITEM, at all times in the year or years to come, at such times as divine service shall be done in the church of St. Thomas of Acon aforesaid, when the said chaplains shall not be commanded by any of the wardens for the time being to wait upon them, as is aforesaid, then the same chaplains shall keep the choir in the said church, and be helping to all divine service that shall be there done, in this manner hereafter following, that is to say, one of the said chaplains shall be helping in the said choir one week and the other of them another week, and so from week to week continually all the year, and so from year to year one of the said chaplains shall be helping in the said choir continually at all divine service that there shall be done, and always from henceforward one of the said chaplains shall be in the said choir by the hour of VI in the morning, and there to be helping to the service of God, which shall there be done unto such time as

he or they shall be accustomed to go to their dinners, and likewise at afternoons to their suppers, and that chaplain that shall keep the choir for that week that he keepeth it, if he may lawfully be disposed, he shall daily say mass at IX of the clock in the said chapel of the Mercers, and that other, that keepeth not the choir for that week, if he may lawfully be disposed, he shall daily say mass in the said chapel of the Mercers about the hour of VII.

ITEM, upon Sundays and all other festival days in the year, both the said chaplains together shall be helping in the said choir to the service of Almighty God, continually from the hours before limited unto such time or times that they shall be accustomed to go to their meals as is aforesaid.¹

Notwithstanding these regulations, and probably because in the oath prescribed for the chaplains they did not swear obedience to the master of the hospital, the dispute continued for some years, but it did not interfere with the good understanding which existed between the hospital and the Company. In the Acts of court, under date the 12th January, 1519, it is stated that the master of the hospital and the chaplains were sent for, and appeared before the court of the Company, and the master and wardens asked the master what trespass the chaplains had done that he had forbidden them to say mass in his church; the master answered, because they would not come to the choir upon the holy days, and moreover that they were disobedient in many other causes, for the which he would have them sworn to be obedient. After this the master and wardens commanded their clerk to read unto them the ordinance and oath for them made, and so it was done, and after the said oath and ordinance were so read, the master and wardens asked of them whether either of them were sworn to keep the said ordinance or not. They answered that the ordinance was to them read, but "they neither knew none oath." Whereupon the master of St. Thomas desired the assembly that the said chaplains, or one of them, might always be present in the choir at divine service, that was to say, at six of the clock in the morning, as well in the winter, as in the summer, and that they should come before one of the

¹ Acts of court, 21st March, 1512.

wardens and take the oath prescribed on the 21st March, 1512. Whereupon Sir Henry Egmunton, one of the chaplains, answered that he would be content to observe the ordinance, but in no wise to be sworn to none, and desired the master and wardens that he might continue to our Lady-day in Lent then next, and then with their good will that he might depart, with which answer the Company were content. Sir Nicholas Rychardson, the other chaplain, said that he would be ready always to take the oath and fulfil it, in as much as in him was, and so departed.¹

In the year 1512 the Bishop of London desired to appoint Dr. Yong his suffragan, and the latter, perhaps for the same reason that induced Dean Colet shortly before to commit the government of St. Paul's School to the Mercers' Company, viz.:—"that while there was no absolute certainty in human affairs he found less corruption in a body of married laymen like the Company of Mercers than in any other order or degree of mankind," endeavoured to secure to the Company the appointment of master of the hospital. This is recorded in the Acts of court of the Company under date the 21st February, 1512, where it is stated that the master of St. Thomas showed to the Company assembled that Richard Fitz James, Bishop of London, desired him to take upon him to be suffragan of London, which he was loth to do, for fear to incur the obloquy of the people, and because the office would prevent him from seeing to the profit of the hospital, which he much intended, and to have the same place kept in good order and prosperity in time to come. He said also that he would fain bring it to pass that the Company might be patrons of the said place and at every vacation choose such an able master as might be for the profit thereof, so that the hospital should not be hurt by unprofitable masters, as it had been in times past, and that he doubted not but that it might be done, if he would fulfil the Bishop of London's desire. Wherefore he desired to know the minds of the Company, what they thought

¹ Acts of court.

necessary to be done, as without their advice he would not take upon him the office of suffragan. The Company answered that they thanked him of his good mind, and as touching taking of the said office upon him, they counselled him that if he might obtain his purpose aforesaid, that is to say, that the election of the master might be in the Company for the weal of the place, that in no wise he should meddle therewith; notwithstanding, that if he could not obtain the grant of the said election, without taking upon him the said office of suffragan, they thought he might well take it upon him, considering his good intent, without any hurt in conscience.

There was considerable delay in carrying out the grant of the mastership of the hospital, which was occasioned by the necessity of obtaining the Pope's bull for the confirmation of it, but in the year 1514 a record is preserved in Bishop Fitz James' Register¹ of the sanction of the Bishop to the transfer of the right of electing the master of the hospital to the wardens and assistants of the Mercers. The letter in which the sanction was given was dated from the manor of Fulham, from the Bishop to Sir John Yong, master of the hospital, and to the brethren of the same. It recited that, whereas the master and brethren of the said hospital and convent of the same had, for certain good reasons, granted, that whensoever a vacancy should arise in the mastership of the said house in time to come, the wardens and assistants of the Company of the Mercers of the City of London should, within two months of such vacancy, nominate two men, approved in knowledge and morals, either secular priests or brethren of the said hospital, to the brethren of the said hospital for the time being, whereof one of them should be elected master, such election to be confirmed by the Bishop of London for the time being, but that if the said brethren and convent should fail to make an election within eight days of such nomination, the said wardens and assistants should be allowed to present one of the persons so nominated to the Bishop aforesaid by letters under the seal

¹ fo. 118.

of the Fraternity, and that the aforesaid brethren and convent should lose their right of election for that occasion; the master so elected to make oath that, if not already of the order of St. Augustine, he would take upon himself that order and habit within eight days of his institution, and that he would not diminish, put in pledge, or usurp any of the goods or privileges of the said house, which had been dedicated to God, nor pull down nor deface the buildings of the said house, but would render true account for the same every year to the wardens and assistants of the said Company; and reciting further that the master and brethren of the hospital had bound themselves by their letters to place themselves under the protection of the wardens and assistants of the aforesaid Company, and that Pope Leo X had signified his assent by bull "*sub plumbo*"; and that the aforesaid master had asked the Bishop to ratify and confirm what had been done in the matter, the said Bishop therefore by his letter signified his approval of all the premises as being to the benefit of the aforesaid hospital, saving the rights and dignity of the Bishop of London and his successors, and of the cathedral church of St. Paul.

Dr. Yong was shortly after, on the 3rd July, 1513, consecrated as suffragan Bishop of London, and assumed the title of Bishop of Callipoli.

The matter, however, was not finally settled until the year 1517, when the master of St. Thomas came to the court of assistants of the Company, and brought with him divers "quayres"¹ according to the tenour of the Pope's bull, whereby the Fellowship were made patrons and founders of the place or house of St. Thomas, containing certain ordinances and statutes drawn by learned counsel to be kept and observed by the master and brethren, which "quayres" before all the said persons were read in English, and it was agreed that the same should be showed unto Master Thomas More, for his advice and

¹ Probably quires, sheets of paper.

counsel therein, and that so done to be brought and delivered again to the master of St. Thomas, to the intent that he should cause two books indented thereof to be made and fair written, one of such books to remain with him and his brethren, and the other in Mercers' Hall with the Company, and the same to be sealed with their seals.¹

I should be very glad to be able to claim Sir Thomas More as a member of the Mercers' Company, and think that, from the following facts, I may do so with confidence. He was born in 1480, in Milk Street, Cheapside, where his father lived, and in 1502 was living within the Barge in Bucklersbury, in a house belonging to the hospital of St. Thomas.² About the year 1502 he was appointed under-sheriff of London, a judicial office of some importance and dignity at the time, which he resigned on the 23rd July, 1519, when he was appointed master of requests, and knighted, and sworn a member of the Privy Council. On the 21st March, 1508, Thomas More was made free of the Mercers' Company "by redemption gratis,"³ and it is most probable that he was the same "Master More" who was consulted by the Company in 1515. Unfortunately the admissions of freemen of the City during the early part of the sixteenth century are not extant, so that his connection with the Company cannot be traced from that source. The "quayres" have not been preserved, nor the opinion of Master More, but the opinion no doubt was favourable, for on the 20th July, 1515, the master and wardens brought the matter before the general court, and shewed that the master of St. Thomas had lately communed with them of divers matters concerning the good order,

¹ Acts of court, 5th March, 1517.

² In the Letters Patent of 12th August, 31 Henry VIII (1539), mentioned below, it is recorded that a message within the Barge had been demised by the hospital to Sir Thomas More and Alice, his wife, by lease dated 12th December, 1513. Alice Middleton was More's second wife, and her name is probably inserted by mistake, as he did not marry her until 1519, when he had removed from Bucklersbury, for that of Jane Colt, his first wife. In the grant by the King of the 20th April, 1541, he is described as Sir Thomas More. There was only one knight of that name in the early part of the sixteenth century.

³ Acts of court.

wealth and prosperity, which he intended, and always had intended, to bring the place unto, and so to leave it in the governance of the fellowship as patrons and defenders of the same for ever, as more clearly appeared by the Pope's bull, under lead, lately purchased for the same cause, and by a deed made by the said master and brethren of the said place, and sealed in their chapter house with their common seal, and delivered to the master and wardens for their deed, wherein they had declared that they would consent, according to the said bull (which bull and also the said deed of the master and brethren the master and wardens shewed unto the court); and that in the communication which the master of the said hospital had with the master and wardens he shewed that his mind was to bring the place to due order and religion, that was to say, to put away all lay people, such as were singers in his choir, and to have none other but such as were and should be made brethren of the said religion, which he might order, rule, and govern according to the same religion, and forasmuch as his good purpose could not be brought to the end thereof, without there might be made more houses and easements for the said brethren for to divide them from the company of lay people, therefore the master (of the hospital) intended, by the grace of God, and with the good help of the fellowship and other good friends, to cause to be builded, as well a frater house for the said brethren to eat and drink in, and to be separate from the lay persons, and an infirmary wherein they might be kept in time of sickness, as a garden for their recreation to walk in at divers seasons, so as to keep them from the occasion to walk further into the fields amongst lay people, and other divers things which the said master intended to do to bring the house in good order; for the accomplishment whereof he desired the Company to put thereunto their good will, and to help him with such a sum of money out of their common box as they should think necessary and convenient towards the performance of such a work. And when the master and wardens had shewed all this to the Company assembled, they answered

and said that they all thought the intent and purpose of the said master before declared to be very good and reasonable, and in consideration thereof and that he (the master of the hospital) was the man that caused the Company to have by the gift of Edmund Reed of Norwich the sum of £500 sterling, which the said Company could not have enjoyed without his help, it was agreed by the Court that he should have delivered unto him by the master and wardens out of the common box £100, as parcell of the said £500, towards the cost of building so that he and his brethren should enter into a bond under their convent seal, with condition that if the said £500 or any part thereof should be recovered from the hospital by the law that then the said £100 delivered to the said master should be repaid to the Company; and moreover that the said master and brethren should grant by writing that at such time as the chapel and hall thereupon should be made and enlarged at the cost and expense of the Company, they should by their writing obligatory sufficient in the law, bind themselves to the wardens and fellowship to suffer them freely and liberally at their will and pleasure to enjoy and occupy the said hall and chapel, with other houses that by them should there be built, and also that the master and brethren should grant the burying places within the chapel to be at the will and pleasure of the wardens and fellowship for ever without let or contradiction of the said master and brethren and their successors for ever or for as long as may lawfully be granted.¹ The transaction was carried into effect by a deed between John Yong, Bishop of Callipoli, and master of the hospital and the brethren thereof of the one part, and Thomas Baldry, alderman, William Buttery, William Browne, and Christopher Rawson, wardens of the Company, of the other part, in which it was recited that the Company had received £500 of the gift of Edmund Reed "by way of restitution," and had advanced to the hospital £100, part of that sum, by way of loan, for the repayment whereof one John

¹ Acts of court.

Mundy,¹ alderman of London, had become surety to the wardens, by quarterly payments of £2 5s., and that it had been agreed between the Bishop and the Company that if the £500 or any part thereof should be recovered against the Company, the hospital should repay the £100 within three months.² The Bishop and brethren also agreed that when the Company's chapel and hall should be enlarged the hospital would allow the Company, at their will and pleasure, freely to occupy the same hall and chapel, with any other houses they might build, and would also grant them burying places within their said chapel.³

On the 4th December, 1512, John Tilney, son and heir of Ralph Tilney, Mercer, conveyed to Richard Golofre, Mercer, all that tenement, or shop, in the parish of St. Leonard, Eastcheap, which came to him on the death of his said father,⁴ and which appears to have been held for the fulfilment of the will of Sir John Hardyng, master of the hospital of St. Thomas;⁵ and on the same day John Yong, master of the hospital, and the brethren of the same, granted to the said Richard Golofre their messuage,⁶ called "Le Belle," in Coleman Street. Golofre, by his will, dated the 30th July, 1513, gave his tenement or shop in the parish of St. Leonard, Eastcheap, and the Bell, in Coleman Street, to the master and brethren of the hospital, to the intent that the master and his successors should go yearly, in the month of October, to the parish church of St. Martin in the Vintry, and cause an obit to be there kept by the priests and clerks of the same church for the souls of Bartholomew Somersette, Haberdasher, and Agnes, his wife, and of all Christian souls; that the master, and his chaplain waiting on him, should, at the mass of requiem on the day after the obit offer 2d., that was to say each of them a penny; that the master

¹ John Mundy, who was afterwards knighted, was son of William Mundy, of Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire, and a Goldsmith. He was sheriff in 1514, and Lord Mayor in 1522.

² Register of Writings, II, fo. 45.

⁵ Ibid., fo. 66.

³ Acts of court, 20th July, 1515.

⁶ Ibid., fo. 69, d.

⁴ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 68.

should at the same time give to his chaplain 26s. 6d., to be distributed in the presence and by the advice of the churchwardens on the good work and ornaments of the same church, or honest men parishioners of the parish, and in their absence in manner following, viz. :—to the priests and clerks and children of the same parish, helping in their surplices at the said obit, 3s. 4d. amongst them, amongst the most poor people of the same parish 13s. 2d., viz. :—to every poor couple, man and wife, 4d., and to every "soole" man 2d., and to every "soole" woman 2d. ; to the wardens of the fraternity of our Lady in the same church for the hire of two tapers to burn at the said obit, together with their great candlesticks to set the same tapers upon, 8d. ; to the sexton for the ringing of the bells, 12d. ; amongst the poor men of Whytyngdon College, 12d. ; to the poor men and women of the Vintners, 12d. ; and to each of the churchwardens, 12d. The said chaplain was to make re-delivery of 3s. 4d. to the said master to pray specially for the souls aforesaid, and to detain for his own use and for his business and labour, 12d. It was further provided that if the master should be sick or compelled by the law, spiritual or temporal, to appear *in propria personâ* in any other place on the days of keeping the said exequies, he should make his deputy, one of the brethren of the hospital, to be present and to do in all things as above expressed, but that if the master or his successors should make default in the said month of October, then the said legacy to be utterly void.¹

In the year 1514 William Browne² the younger, who was apprenticed to his father, Sir John Browne, Mercer (Lord Mayor in 1480), by his will bequeathed to the Company his messuages, lands and tenements in the parishes of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East and St. Mary Magdalen, Milk Street, and in Wood Street, and directed that certain other lands should be purchased with money in his hands at the time

¹ Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 70.

² William Browne was admitted to the freedom of the Company in 1486, warden in 1501, master in 1507 and 1514, and Lord Mayor in the last named year, when he died.

of his death, so as with the rents of the premises bequeathed by him to produce a clear yearly value of £40, and directed that the Company should, out of the annual income thereof, find an honest chaplain of good name and fame to sing mass daily and to say his other divine service in the church of St. Thomas of Acon, and to pray specially for the souls of the said William, of his father and mother, of Kateryn, late his wife, and all Christian souls, paying yearly to such chaplain for his salary £8 6s. 8d., and that they should yearly in the said church keep an obit or anniversary solemnly by note, with *placebo* and *dirige* and mass of *requiem* on the morrow for his soul and the souls above said, spending yearly on such obit 13s. 4d. By a deed dated the 11th May, 1523, made between John, Bishop of Callipoli and master of the hospital and the brethren of the same, and the wardens of the Company, after stating the will of William Browne, and also the will of Richard Feldyng, of the 12th May, 1518, and further stating that the Company were bound to pay to the hospital an annual quit rent of £2 13s. 4d. out of certain tenements in the parish of St. Michael Bassishaw, and that the hospital was indebted to the Company in £100, secured by the bond of the hospital, dated the 7th September, 1515, it was agreed that the master and brethren, in satisfaction and payment of the said £100, should find a chaplain of good name and fame to perform the services according to the will of William Browne, for five years and a quarter from Christmas-day, 1525, and should keep his obit or anniversary during the same period; and further that the Company should be absolved from paying the quit rent of £6 13s. 4d. under the will of Richard Feldyng from Christmas-day, 1525, until Lady-day, 1531, and the said quit rent of £2 13s. 4d. from Midsummer-day, 1523, until the end of seven years and a quarter; the Company agreeing to pay to the hospital on Lady-day, 1531, 30s.¹

The hospital found that the space between Ironmonger Lane and the Old Jewry was not sufficient for their purposes, and accordingly

¹ Register of Writings, II, fo. 44.

applied to the Grocers' Company to let them some land and stables in the parish of St. Olave on the east side of the Old Jewry. The lease was carried out by a deed dated the 13th July, 1514, by which William Butler, alderman, John Wattes, and John Halle, wardens, and the commonalty of the mystery of Grocers, granted to John Yong, Bishop of Calipole and master of the hospital, and the brethren of the same place, the said land described to be bounded on the east partly by other land of the Grocers' Company and partly by Conyhope Lane,¹ on the west by the Old Jewry, on the north by a tenement belonging to the abbey of Barking, and on the south by a tenement of Latice Ireland, and to contain at the east end 66 feet 7 inches and at the west end 70 feet 8 inches, for a term of 99 years from Christmas, 1514, at the yearly rent of £10. The lease contains power for the master and brethren to remove the stables, and it would seem that they were not to be bound to build upon the ground, for a power of distress in default of payment of rent was given, not only on the ground demised, but also on two houses of the master and brethren in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, one called the Myghter, in the tenure of John Sandell, Vintner, between the church of St. Thomas on the west and north, the church of St. Mary Colechurch on the east, and Westcheap on the south, and the other called the Harpe, in the tenure of William Assheley, Grocer, and set between the messuage of the master and brethren in Ironmonger Lane in the tenure of John Thomas, Mercer, on the north, the tenement belonging to Ellysyng Spittell in part and the tenement of the master and brethren wherein Henry Fitzherberd dwelt in part on the west, the church of St. Thomas in part and the tenement wherein Henry Lodyngton, Grocer, lived in part on the east, and Westcheap on the south.² The hospital turned part of the land into a garden, but there were some buildings on it, and shortly afterwards, on the 27th April, 1518, the master and brethren obtained permission that, for their greater ease, they might make a gallery of convenient height and

¹ Now Grocers' Hall Court.

² Cartulary Land Revenue Records, fo. 81.

breadth overthwart the street of the Old Jewry, into a garden which they had lately purchased, so as the said gallery should be of such height as should not annoy man, horse nor cart, and to enclose a window on either side of the gallery, and therein yearly in the winter to have a sufficient light for the comfort of them that pass by.¹

In 1518, Cardinal Wolsey procured a papal bull for the visitation of monasteries,² and he and Cardinal Campeggio, who was associated with him as legate of the Pope, proceeded to carry out their commission by requiring returns to be made to them of the revenues and expenditure of the religious houses in England. The account rendered by the master of the hospital of St. Thomas is preserved in the Cartulary in the Land Revenue Records³ and a translation of it follows. From this it appears that the receipts of the hospital were for rents in other places than London £71 17s. 2d., and in London £230, and for the oblations, etc., of the rectory of St. Mary Colechurch £15, making in all £316 17s. 2d. The statement of expenses gives a good idea of the cost of keeping up a house of Augustinian canons in London at the time. The energy and perseverance of Dr. Yong is well shown by his collection of the enormous sum of £2,149 19s. 3½d. in eight years to place the hospital in a sound position, although he modestly attributes it to Divine providence rather than his own industry. It may be remarked that, although Dr. Yong was before this time Bishop of Callipoli, he is styled Master Yong, or master of the hospital, in the returns.

The estate of the place or house of Saint Thomas the Martyr called of Acon in the City of London, exhibited before the most reverend legates of the Supreme Pontiff the first day of the month of March, A.D. 1518, according to the reckoning of the Anglican church.

LONDON. HOUSE OF ST. THOMAS DE ACON.

Abstract of the true value of the estate of the house there by estimate, as well of all and all manner of rents and revenues to the use of the said house in any manner

¹ Strype's Stow, vol. I, p. 557.

² Gasquet, Henry VIII and English Monasteries, vol. I, p. 71. Brewer and Gairdner, Calendar, vol. II, No. 4,399.

³ Fo. 55d.

received, as of all and singular payments for any causes made and paid in one whole year commonly falling; to wit:

RECEIPTS.

Of the issues and profits divers of demesnes manors lands and tenements in divers counties of England, as by a book of particulars in the possession of the master of the said house remaining more fully appears by the year to the value of - - - - -	71 ^{li} 17 ^s 2 ^d
Of the issues and profits of divers rents within the City of London as by book of particulars in the possession of the master of the said house remaining more fully appears by the year to the value of - - -	230 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Of oblations and emoluments of the parish church of Saint Mary de Colchurch in the diocese of London - - - - -	15 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Sum total of Receipts - - -	<u>316^{li} 17^s 2^d</u>

PAYMENTS.

Repayment of quit rents - - - - -	42 ^{li} 3 ^s 6 ^d
Stipends of brethren, priests, clerks and other servants - - -	52 ^{li} 16 ^s 2 ^d
Purchase of bread - - - - -	24 ^{li} 9 ^s 0 ^d
Purchase of cheese and beer - - - - -	36 ^{li} 7 ^s 0 ^d
Expenses of diet of the hospital - - - - -	112 ^{li} 1 ^s 8 ^d
Necessary expenses for the hospital - - - - -	10 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Expenses of keeping up the church - - - - -	14 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Expenses outside as in business and other matters for the benefit of the said house - - - - -	10 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Expenses of exhibitions of the brethren and boys (choristers) in the house aforesaid - - - - -	9 ^{li} 17 ^s 8 ^d
Expenses of suits and pleas with rewards given to counsel and others	16 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d
Payments of money for observing obits - - - - -	15 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Purchase of firewood - - - - -	15 ^{li} 13 ^s 0 ^d
Expenses of the livery of the hospital - - - - -	15 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Expenses of the stable for horses - - - - -	6 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d
Repairs every year at least, as by the book of deductions in the possession of the master of the said house remaining more fully appears - -	53 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d
Sum total of deductions - - -	<u>434^{li} 1^s 4^d</u>

And thus the sum of deductions exceeds clearly the sum of receipts by 117^{li} 4^s 2^d

Debts of the house or hospital of Saint Thomas of Acon at the time of the admission of Master John Yong to be master of the said hospital, A.D. 1510, then due to divers creditors as more plainly appears by the book of account the same year, amount to the sum of - - - - - 718^{li} 17^s 5½^d

Which sum indeed the said John entirely discharged.

Expenses incurred by the same Master John Yong on repairs of houses, mills and other ruinous buildings and walls of the Thames,¹ and of new buildings as well within the City as without within the space of eight years ending at the Feast of St. Michael, A.D. 1518, amount to the sum of - - - - - 1,431^{li} 22^d

Sum total of all debts and expenses aforesaid - - - - - 2,149^{li} 19^s 3½^d

Which sum the said John paid, a fact attributable more to Divine Providence than to man's industry.

And accounts all told and allowances made, the said master owes to divers creditors at the present day, viz. :—the first day of the month of March, A.D. 1518, according to the reckoning of the Anglican Church - - - - - 58^{li} 0^s 0^d

Almost immediately after the date of the return, on 19th March, 1518, Wolsey, apparently without the concurrence of his brother legate, issued ordinances to be observed by the order of canons regular of St. Augustin, which were to remain in force until the feast of Holy Trinity, 1521.³

The Company, as has been seen above, purchased from the hospital houses for the enlargement of their chapel and hall, the hall being built above the chapel, and in the year 1516 began seriously to consider how they could best effect that object. Accordingly, at a general court held on the 3rd June in that year, whereat were present three aldermen, viz., Mr. John Allen, Sir James Yarford and Mr. Thomas Baldry, and of the Company besides to the number of 64 persons, the

¹ For keeping up the river walls.

² In the year 1522, the master of the hospital paid £133 6s. 8d. towards the annual grant of the spirituality towards the king's personal expenses in France, for the recovery of the crown of that realm. Brewer, Letters, etc., vol. III, No. 2,483, and in the year 1524 the hospital was rated at £200. Ibid., vol. IV, No. 964.

³ Gasquet, vol. I, p. 72. Wilkins, Concilia, vol. III, p. 613.

master and wardens shewed unto the Company that they and other persons with them, who were elected to devise, ordain and provide for the building and enlarging of the chapel and hall, had divers times and many had communication with the masons and other workmen, and had full knowledge what the charge should be for the said building, and that, forasmuch as the said work would be much chargeable, they desired to know of the aldermen and Company what they would of their good minds give to the said charges. The said aldermen, first for them and their brethren, aldermen of the Company, promised to give each of them towards the said buildings 20 marks to be paid quarterly, beginning at the next Michaelmas, the wardens and assistants then being, and that should be, during the said building each of them £4. in manner and form aforesaid, all the Company of the livery, each of them 40s. to be paid as aforesaid, and all other persons that were or should be free of the Company during the said term to give towards the said buildings each of them 20s. to be paid quarterly within the space of two years.¹

By letters patent dated the 1st July, 11th Henry VIII, 1519, after reciting that the master, wardens and fellowship of Mercers to their right great costs and charges, and to the laud and praise of Almighty God, had began to edify and build within the City of London a right goodly chapel, and also a house of stonework adjoining to the church of St. Thomas Acon in Cheapside, in a place of goodliest prospect of the said city, to the enlarging and beautifying of the said church and the increase and maintenance of God's service, which house they intended, God willing, should not only serve for them to keep their courts and assemblies in, and at all times accustomed to have their common resort thither to hold such counsel and recreations, as of old times for the politic order and governance of the said fellowship they had used to do, but also for the honour of the king and entertaining ambassadors and other noble personages, coming

¹ Acts of court.

from time to time into the said city, the king, considering their good and laudable purpose, and having tender zeal and mind that the said works should with all convenient expedition go forward to the full finishing of the same, gave license and authority to the master and wardens to retain and hire William Thorne, freemason, then being in their work, and twenty other persons, freemasons, and also bricklayers, carvers, joiners and other artificers, wheresoever they could get them within the realm, so that the same freemasons and artificers should not be taken from the king's works; and further not only to keep and retain in their own possession all such stone, timber and other stuff as they had provided for the said work, but also to provide at reasonable prices and convenient places all manner of stone, brick, timber, boards, plaster and other stuff necessary, with carriage for the same by land or by water, without suffering any manner of persons to take from them any part of their said stuff; provided that the aforesaid license should be no let or impediment to the king or any of his purveyors for their reasonable provision for any stone, timber, or other stuff necessary for the finishing of any of the king's buildings.¹

The gift or bequest of Edmund Reed to the Company for the enlargement of their chapel and hall has already been mentioned, and in the year 1519 a dispute arose between his widow and the Company and the master of St. Thomas touching the repayment of the same sum. It has been seen that Reed during his life had given bills to the amount of £518 to the master of St. Thomas, who was to deliver £500 thereof to the Company so that they might enlarge their hall and chapel, and that the Company had lent two sums of £100, part of the £500, to the hospital, for the repayment of which the master and brethren and John Mundy had entered into bonds. The remainder of the £500 appears to have been expended in enlarging the hall and chapel, as was stipulated by Reed, but in the meantime he died, and his widow summoned the master of St. Thomas and the master and

¹ Patent Roll, 2 Henry VIII, p. 2, m. 29.

wardens of the Company before Cardinal Wolsey, then Lord Chancellor, for repayment of the money. The proceedings, as detailed in the Company's Acts of court, are very curious, and display the Cardinal rather as an arbitrator than a judge. Probably the friendship which existed between the Cardinal and Bishop Yong induced the former to be more lenient to the Company. The entries follow :—

Generall Courte of oure fellyshipp holden the IXth daye of February, 1519.

To the said fellyshipp maister wardens shewed the cause of the assemble of the aforesaid Courte was consirning the 518^{li} receyved by 3 bills of exchange wheryn Lynchyn Vyvald, merchaunt of Jean, was bounde to paye to Edmunde Rede, merchaunt, of Norwiche, the whiche 3 bills were delyvred to the maister of Seint Thomas by the forsaid Edmund Rede, to the intent that he shulde receyve of the forsaid Lynchyn the forsaid some of 518^{li}, of the whiche the said maister of Seint Thomas shulde delyver unto the said felyshipp of Mercers the sume of 500^{li} to the intent that they shoulde enlarge their chapell and hall therewith and other rommes whiche by the said Company shoulde be thought necessary, the whiche some was receyved by maister wardens then beyng as shall appere at a Courte holden the 18th daye of February Anno 1511.

And forasmuche as the said mony was receyved by oure predecessours as is aforsaid, and that the maister of Seint Thomas is in grete suyte and trouble by the wyfe of the said Edmunde Rede for the delyvrie of the said some byfor my lorde Cardinall in the Chauncery for recourse to be had against the said maister for the said 518^{li}; insomuche that maister wardens that nowe be were commaunded by a Serjeant of armes for to appere in there own persons byfore his Grace in the Chauncery, by the houre of 8 of the klok on the morowe, and accordyng to his commaundment the said maister of St. Thomas and maister wardens dyde there appere, and immediatly they were commaunded to stande at the barr; and then my lorde Cardinall asked of the maister of Seint Thomas whether he wolde make answer unto the interrogatiffs and depocicions, that are layde agaynst hym by the wyfe of Edmund Rede and others, or not; the said maister aunsward and saide, that it was not the place that he sholde make aunswar unto, beseechyng his Grace to be good and gracious lord unto hym, in consideration for as muche as he had delyvred the sum of money aforesaid unto the wardens of the felyshipp of Mercers then beyng, according to the will and commandment of the said Edmund Rede, trustyng unto his Grace that he wolde not compell him to paye it twyce, for and if he sholde lye in prison all the dayes of his lyffe, he will never paye peny therof. Wherupon my Lorde Cardynall commaunded the said maister of Seint Thomas and

maister wardens to come up before hys Grace in the Chauncery, and so they came up and kneled down byfor hys Grace, to whom his Grace said: "Ye wardens of the Mercers, ye hear what the maister of Seint Thomas hath said, howe that he hath delyvered the sume whiche he nowe is in trouble for unto the use of your Company, and that he is not able of hymselfe to restore itt, and forasmuche as I perceyve that if the said money of Edmund Rede had not been delivered by the said maister unto your fellowship, as of free gyft, to the intent aforesaid, ye and your Company wolde never have begon your chargeable buyldyng, that ye nowe have begon; nevertheless I wolde advise you to fall to some good end and to eschew the trouble of the law and also in dischargyng your conciens, whereupon and ye woll that I shall be a mediator betwene you and theym, I shall do the best I can for you." Then maister wardens with our counceyle desired his Grace to remember the grete charge that they be yn, and they should pray for the prosperous contynuaunce of his Grace.

And immediatly his Grace saying unto the wyffe of Edmund Rede: "Ye are beholden unto the wardens of the Mercers, for they are contented I shall be a mediator betwixt you and the maister of Seint Thomas, can ye be so contented or not?" Whereunto she aunswored, that she was contented.

Whereupon his Grace gave in judgment, that the foresaide Edmunde Rede sholde have payde unto him and his assigns 300^{li} by the wardens and felyshipp of Mercers, for and in full payment of the 518^{li}, that is to say, 50^{li} in hand, and so every half-yere following 25^{li}, unto the sum of 300^{li} be contented and paid.

Than maister wardens immediatly besought his Grace to be good and gracious unto them, and that it wolde please his Grace to reserve the said judgment unto the tyme that they might call the fellyshipp in assemble together, for withoute the assent and agreement of theym alle they can make no graunt, wherunto his Grace was contented, that maister wardens shulde make relacion of their myndes and the Company's before his Grace in the Chauncery the morowe before none, whether they woll be so contented or not.

And after longe cogitation hadd amonges the said Company in conclusion theye all agreed, that maister wardens and the maister of Seint Thomas shulde go unto their learned counseyll, to aske their advise whether it were better to traverse in the lawe with the said Edmunde Rede, or else to encline to my Lorde Cardinall's mynde, and as oure counseyll and maister wardens shall do therein, high and lowe, the Compeny to hold theym theirewith contented and to afferme the same.

An Assembly of the assistants was held on the 11th February, 1519, to whom maister wardens shewed that they and the maister of Seint Thomas hath ben with oure

counceyll, and they advysed theym to encline to my Lord Cardynall's mynde, and incontynent they were commaunded to appere in the Chauncery before his Grace, unto whom his Grace saide: "Ye wardens of the Mercery, what is the mynde of your Company?" to whom they answered and said: "Yf it wolde pleas your Grace to gyve unto theym a longer tyme of payment thereof, the said Company is contented to pay the saide 300^{li}, as is aforesaid, to the said Edmunde Rede and his assignes for and in full contentacion of the said 518^{li} as is aforesaid."

Whereunto his Grace said unto the wyfe of Edmunde Rede in the presence of the Kyng's most honorable Counceyll, syttyng in the Sterre Chaumber: "Woman, ye be gretely beholden to the wardens of the Mercers, they be contented that ye shall have unto your husband's behove the sume of 300^{li} for and in full payment of the 518^{li} receyved by the maister of Seint Thomas of Acon, as is aforesaid, and accordyng to the judgment and decree that I gave you in the Chauncery yesterday, and to be payde in hand 40^{li}, and the rest yerely to be payde 40^{li}, on evry halfe yere 20^{li} unto the sume of 300^{li} be contented and payde, and that the saide wardens for the tyme beyng to be bounde for the payment thereof, and that youre counsell of bothe parties to sett their hands unto the decree and fynall determynacion, and the said decree for their discharge to be regestred in the Rolles," and incontynent the saide maister wardens payde unto the said Edmunde Rede's wyfe the 40^{li} aforesaide, and for the rest of the 260^{li}, the whiche maketh up the sum of 300^{li}, whiche the said wardens and their successours wardens were bounden in 13 severall obligacions of 20^{li} a pece and was sealed with oure comen seale of the Mercers, to be payde to Edmunde Rede Edmunde Rakwod and Andrew Sullyard esquyers as hereafter followeth:

First obligacion of 20 ^{li} to be payde at Michelmes	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
Seconde to be payde at Ester Anno 1521	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
3rd at Michelmes Anno 1521	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
4th at Ester Anno 1522	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
5th at Michelmes Anno 1522	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
6th at Ester Anno 1523	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
7th at Michelmes Anno 1523	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
8th at Ester Anno 1524	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
9th at Michelmes Anno 1524	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
10th at Ester 1525	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
11th at Michelmes Anno 1525	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
12th at Ester Anno 1526	-	-	-	20 ^{li}
13th at Michelmes Anno 1526	-	-	-	20 ^{li}

The word "payde" is written against each instalment.



The loss of this money, or rather the obligation to make repayment of it, was of serious consequence to the Company, and the master and wardens, shortly after the date of the decree, finding that the money for the re-building did not come in, in a general assembly of the livery on the 12th November, 1528, shewed that provision must be shortly made for money to finish the new building, or else it must stand undone, which would be to the great rebuke and disworship of the Company. They therefore desired to know whether they should raise the sum of £800 on the security of two annuities to be paid yearly for evermore out of the lands of the said fellowship, or whether the Company would give of their benevolence as much money as should be needful to finish the same. After long cogitation as touching the grant of the two annuities, considering that the persons desiring the same had so long deferred the conclusion thereof, it was agreed that it should be void and no more to be spoken of, and that the persons whose names were underwritten should make a book of their minds, first how much money must be provided for the finishing of the said work, and in what manner it should be levied, by benevolence or prest; viz. :— Sir Thomas Seymer and Mr. Michael English, aldermen, Thomas Hynde and John Parke, for the assistants, Robert Pakyngton and Robert Smyth, for the livery, and Robert Colyer and John Suffield, for those out of the livery.¹

A general court of the Company was held on the next day, at which the master and wardens caused a “book” which had been prepared in accordance with the resolution passed on the preceding day to be openly read unto the said fellowship. At this court there were four aldermen present, viz., Sir James Yarford, Mr. Thomas Baldry, Sir Thomas Seymer and Mr. Mighell Inglyssh, and 64 persons and more of the whole generality.

¹ Acts of court.

The "book" follows—

The prest to be borne as hereafter followeth—

First—6 aldermen promising to prest each of them towards the said building 20 ^{li} - - - - -	120 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
The wardens and assistants, which be in number 21 persons, promising to prest each of them 10 ^{li} - - - - -	210 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
All the livery, which is in number 66 persons, promising to pay each of them 5 ^{li} - - - - -	330 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
All other persons that be free of our fellowship being out of the livery, and in number 62 persons, promising to pay and prest each of them 50 ^s - - - - -	155 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Sum total amounteth - - - - -	<u>815^{li} 0^s 0^d</u>
This money to be paid in 4 payments, that is to say, one payment between this and Christmas next coming - - - - -	203 ^{li} 15 ^s 0 ^d
The second payment to be paid at Easter next following - - - - -	203 ^{li} 15 ^s 0 ^d
The third payment to be paid at Midsummer next ensuing - - - - -	203 ^{li} 15 ^s 0 ^d
The fourth and last payment to be paid at Michaelmas then next ensuing - - - - -	203 ^{li} 15 ^s 0 ^d
Sum total as afore - - - - -	<u>815^{li} 0^s 0^d</u>

The which prest of 815^{li} to be paid again as hereafter followeth—

The last day of June which shall be in the year of our Lord God, 1522.

The second payment shall be the last day of March, Anno Domini, 1523.

The third payment shall be the last day of December, Anno Domini, 1524.

The fourth and last payment shall be the last day of September, Anno Domini, 1525.

And at every payment that they shall pay or make of the said prest afore to have a warrant made by the clerk of our fellowship of the Mercery, and the wardens for the time being to be bound in the said warrant payable at the days above written.

Very strong measures were taken to ensure the payment. It was by consent and agreement of the aldermen, assistants and commonalty ordained and enacted, that if any of the said aldermen denied his prest money, when lawfully required, no person or persons of the fellowship should thereafter in anywise go, send or do to his pleasure, profit or worship, as shrievalty, aldermanship or mayoralty, or

any other manner or thing to his worship, and when the time should fortune of departing out of this present life, that no person nor persons being in the livery should bring his body unto the church, upon pain of £10 to be paid to the use of the common box; and further that if any persons being out of the livery should fail in paying the amount of his prest money to the collectors, he should never be accepted nor taken into the livery of the Mercery, nor thereafter have any preferment of office given by the fellowship. The following persons were chosen collectors, viz. :—John Parker and William Hollyes, for the assistants; Edmund Kempe and Thomas Keyle, for the livery; and Roland Hill and George Elliott, for those out of the livery, and it was agreed that the collectors should give their attendance every Wednesday, both forenoon and afternoon, to sit within the hall or court-house between the 13th November and the next Christmas, to the intent that every person might pay his prest money, and receive his said warrants for the repayment.¹

The threat was, no doubt, sufficient, for there is no further entry on the subject. One member, at least, was ready to assist to the utmost of his power. Richard Reynold, who was the son of John Reynold, admitted by patrimony in 1504, second warden in 1520 and 1531, and master in 1534, of the "good will and benevolent mind that he beareth unto this fellowship," had laid out of his own money for the furtherance of the new buildings, at a time when there was no money in the common box, the sum of £160. He wanted the money back, and it was agreed that the aldermen and assistants should pay at once the prest money that they would be cessed to pay at Easter, 1521, viz., each alderman £5, and each assistant 50s., so that he might be repaid.²

Another member of the Company also came forward to assist in the cost, and on the 29th April, 1521, the master and wardens showed

Acts of court, 13th November, 1520.

² Ibid., 28th November, 1520.

to the Company that a brother of the fellowship was willing to give £300 to the common box upon condition that one of the Company's chaplains should sing for him and his friends by name, and that his gift should be set as a memento in a table thereof at the altar,¹ at which the chaplain should be appointed to sing, such chaplain to have for his salary yearly £6 13s. 4d., with his gown when a new livery was given, and at all other times £7 6s. 8d., and that an obit should be kept in the Mercers' chapel after his decease, or else where his body should be buried within the City of London, and that the priests and clerks being at the said obit should have among them 10s. After the said dirge and mass done the said brother willed that there should be distributed among those in the livery there being present five marks, for a dinner to be kept in the hall of the Mercers, and two messes of meat and half a mark given amongst the poor beadmen of Whittington College, to the intent that they might pray for the soul aforesaid, and half a mark in deeds of charity where most need should be on the same day, and three loads of coals distributed in three sundry parishes of the value of 26s. 8d., and for two tapers for mass and dirge 1s. 8d. The court of assistants, to whom the matter was first unfolded, agreed to the request, but with a proviso that the priest should not be chargeable with any other soul on the same day, and desired the master and wardens to call a general court of the whole fellowship, to the intent that the said request might be laid before them, and affirmed firm and stable.²

The general court met on the 6th May, when the name of the proposed benefactor, Sir John Aleyn, was disclosed. They all with one whole consent agreed that his request should be granted and embodied in proper and sufficient writings sealed with the common seal, such writing to be prepared under the advice of Sir John Aleyn's counsel, but not to be prejudicial to the Company. Sir John Aleyn at the same time asked that he might "see it done in his life time," which the

¹ This table has been mentioned above; see articles for chaplains, 15th March, 1512.

² Acts of court.

Company agreed to.¹ Sir John Aleyn was the son of Richard Allen, of Thackstead, in Essex, and was admitted to the freedom of the Company in 1497, after serving his apprenticeship to Roger Bourgchier. He was warden in 1509, and master in 1516, 1525, and 1527. He served as Lord Mayor in 1525, and was one of the privy council to King Henry VIII. He is erroneously said in Weaver's *Funeral Monuments*, and in other books on the history of the City, to have built the Mercers' chapel, and his will confirms the impression, but it will have been seen from the above statement that he was only a benefactor towards the erection of it.²

On the 11th March, 1522, the Company agreed that Sir John Aleyn should have as much ground to bury the body of him within the chapel as should be thought necessary and requisite, both for him and his wife, so that it be both by the advice of the master and wardens for the time being, with the learned counsel of the said Sir John Aleyn.³ He died in 1545, and was buried in the chapel, but his tomb, after the purchase by the Company of the hospital church, was removed into it. By his will, which was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 3rd August, 1545, he directed that his body should be buried in the chapel which he had built, that mass should be said by his own chaplains and branches of ivy burnt on the altar, and that the Lord Mayor and aldermen should have spiced bread sent to them according to ancient custom. He bequeathed his collar of SS to the Mayor for the time being, to be worn on all festivals, and once yearly at his obit in Mercers' chapel. This collar was first worn by Sir William Laxton, a Grocer, Lord Mayor in the next year.⁴ Sir John Aleyn gave liberally to the compters in London, to the parish church and to all the poor of Thackstead, to all the wards of the City of London, and to the inmates of Whittington's almshouse.

¹ Acts of court.

² Weaver, *Funeral Monuments*. Newcourt, *Repertorium*, vol. I, 554. Stow's *Survey*, ed. 1755, vol. I, p. 251.

³ Acts of court.

⁴ Maitland, *History of London*, ed. 1775, vol. I, p. 238.

He also gave to the poor and needy married couples of each of the wards of London two red herrings on the day of his obit, to the poor single men and single women of the same wards each a red herring, and to the poor children six sprats each. His executors were John Pyke and his cousin Richard Allen.¹

The members of the Company who had lent money towards the building of the chapel and hall became clamorous for repayment, and there was no store of money in the common box wherewith they might be contented and paid. The court of assistants, therefore, on the 12th April, 1522, agreed that the master and wardens should appoint Hugh Clapton, Thomas Hynde, William Dauntsey and Michael Dormer, to take as much plate belonging to the Company as would suffice for the payment of the loan, and make sale thereof, for redeeming the same.² The quantity of plate sold and the amount realised do not appear in the books.

The new building, which was commenced in 1517 and finished in 1522, cost in all £2,735 18s. 10½d., of which the following particular is preserved:—

	£	s.	d.
Stone - - - - -	350	18	0
Boards, timber, wainscotts - - - - -	135	9	0
Bricks - - - - -	87	8	6
Lime - - - - -	65	0	9
Sand - - - - -	22	12	4
Mason's work - - - - -	951	12	1
Carpenter's work - - - - -	224	9	8
Labourers - - - - -	233	1	10½
Joyners and carvers - - - - -	116	13	1
Plumbers and lead - - - - -	109	17	0
Smiths - - - - -	92	13	10
Glaziers - - - - -	53	15	10
Sawyers - - - - -	50	16	0
Nails - - - - -	34	7	5
Rewards - - - - -	55	5	0

¹ Alen, Prerogative Register, fo. 1.

² Acts of court.

	£	s.	d.
Necessary expenses - - - - -	28	3	6
Carriage of stuff - - - - -	76	13	10
Custom of stone - - - - -	10	4	1
Plaster of Paris - - - - -	10	8	5
Plasterer's work - - - - -	6	12	0
Painters - - - - -	14	16	8
House rent - - - - -	5	0	0
Sum total - - - - -	<u>£2,735</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10½</u>

It is thus described by Weaver : " Before the hospital towards the street was a fayre and beautiful chappell, arched over with stone, which stood before the great olde chappelle (St. Thomas' church), and over which was the Mercers' hall, a most curious piece of work." Aggas's plan of London (*circa* 1560) has a rude sketch of a chapel, together with the great conduit in Cheapside, which stood in the street immediately below it.

Although the chapel was finished it was not altogether furnished, for the altar stood "naked," and on the 29th February, 1523, at a general court, the wardens moved that a platt, devised and drawn by one Walter Vandale, of Antwerp, carver, who was brought hither by Thomas Keyle, should be shown to the Company, who were content with it, and desired to know what the said Walter asked for making it and all its appurtenances by a limited date, whereupon he answered that it would be £50 Flemish, and that under that sum he could not live. The court discussed the matter apart, and decided that without a benevolence it could not be done, and the wardens then said that Sir John Aleyn had applied for the great place at Stebbinhethe (Stepney), formerly inhabited by Dame Christiana Colet, and the Company agreed that he should have it for the term of his natural life, whereupon he undertook to pay the said Walter Vandale £50 for the full furnishing of the said altar.¹

The chapel being now finished, the Company began to consider how it should be consecrated, and the fees to be taken for burials in

¹ Acts of court.

it, and a deed was entered into between the master and brethren of St. Thomas and nominees of the Company, dated the 16th October, 1524, by which it was agreed between the master and brethren and the wardens of the Company to the following effect:—that the chapel should be hallowed (consecrated) on this side the “feast of All Saints next coming”; that no one should be buried in the chapel or porch without the license of the wardens of the Company for the time being, the master and brethren having for every corpse there buried such portion of money as should be received by the wardens; that if it should fortune any person or persons there to be buried, and to have any hearse within the choir or church of the hospital such sums of money should be paid to the master and brethren as the master of the hospital for the time being and the wardens should reasonably think convenient; that if any persons had been benefactors to the hospital before that time to the value of 10 marks, £10, or thereabouts, they that had so done should pay nothing for such ceremonies but at the will of the same persons or their friends; that the master and brethren should not interrupt any part of the Company’s new building, viz. : the chapel, hall, kitchen, or any other of their houses nigh unto the said church in Westcheap; that the master and brethren should not thereafter erect any building or do any other thing which might be prejudicial or hurtful to any lights or walls of the new buildings; that the master and brethren and their successors, at their cost and charges, should always make clean the porch and entry coming into the church of St. Thomas, and also cause to be carried away the filth and uncleanness rising of the same as often as need should require, for the which grant and agreement afore rehearsed the master and brethren should have the vaults or cellars under the east end of the Mercers’ chapel as then occupied under the Mitre in Westcheap, they maintaining and repairing the pavement in the king’s high way there by all the length of the said chapel, as often as need should require for ever, and further, that a new pair of indentures should be made between the said parties to contain all the



BRASS IN NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL, OXFORD, TO THE MEMORY OF THE
BISHOP OF CALLIPOLI.

articles before rehearsed, changing no matter in substance, by the advice of the learned counsel of both the said parties.¹

As was the custom with other similar institutions, no doubt "pageants" were played at the hospital, but I only find one record of them, in the examination of Robert Smith before Bishop Bonner, in the time of Queen Mary, referring to one which he saw when he was a child waiting on a gentleman of Norfolk.²

Dr. Yong, Bishop of Callipoli, and master of the hospital, died on the 28th March, 1525, having previously prepared a memorial brass in the chapel of New College, Oxford, but as the inscription has not been completed, it is doubtful whether he was buried under it. The brass is figured in Boutell's *Monumental Brasses of England*, and a woodcut will be found on the opposite leaf. The length of the entire figure is 5 feet 7½ inches, but the head of the effigy, and also the head of the pastoral staff, have been broken away. The maniple is omitted; the chasuble is richly jewelled, and has a central apparel resembling a pall; the dalmatic is covered with embroidery, and rings are represented on every finger of both hands, over the gloves.

The inscription is in raised letters, the day of death not being filled in, and is as follows:—"Orate pro aiã Johiſ Yong, calipoleñ epĩ "et custodis huĩ collegii qui obiit anno dnĩ millmõ ccccc — die vero "mensis — cuivs anime propicietur Deus. Amen."

The annexed signature of the Bishop is taken from a certificate signed by him as archdeacon of London, to an inventory of the goods and ornaments of the parish church of St. Christopher le Stocks, copied in the memorials of that church published by Dr. Edwin Freshfield.³

¹ Register of Writings, vol. II, p. 278.

² Maitland, *Reformation*, p. 529.

³ For the information contained above with reference to Bishop Yong, I was indebted to the late Rev. Dr. Sewell, warden of New College, and to the following authorities: Bishop Stubbs' *Episcopal Successions in England*, p. 147. Wood's *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, vol. II, p. 729. Ditto, *Annals*, vol. I, p. 666; vol. II, p. 2. Newcourt's *Repertorium*, vol. I, p. 62. Mackenzie Walcot's *Fasti Cicestrenses*, p. 10.

Notwithstanding the Pope's bull, and the solemn agreements between the Company and the hospital, under which the right of choosing the masters of the hospital became vested in the Company, the canons claimed the appointment of the new master; but at a meeting of the court of assistants held on the 5th April, 1526, it was admitted, after long cogitation, that the right of election rested among the brethren of the house. They are stated to have put the election wholly into the hands of the chancellor of the Bishop of London, provided that he should name and choose such an able person, being a brother of the place, as God should put in his mind, and as he might think most convenient.¹

There is no further reference in the Acts of court to the election, but Lawrence Gopfeler was almost immediately appointed master. I have not been able to find anything about the previous history of Gopfeler, who did not distinguish himself during his occupancy of the office. He soon, however, found an occasion of difference with the Company, for I find that on the 18th June, 1526, at a general court appeared the master of St. Thomas, and declared that he was grieved by occasion of the Company's new building, which was hurtful to certain of his houses thereunto adjoining, and, as he said, contrary to the covenants in the "pair of indentures" made between his predecessor, master of the place, and the Company. The master further desired that the lead on the south side of the new building might be new cast, or else amended, for the safeguard of the vault of the church, or else in process of time it might grow into a further inconvenience and be hurtful to the place. Whereupon the Company assembled willed the master and wardens to peruse and enforce the said indentures, and thereupon to make to the master and brethren a reasonable answer, as they should think most convenient, and to amend the said lead or otherwise as by the oversight of the master and wardens and their workmen should be thought convenient and necessary.²

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

In 1534, the master and brethren were required, like all other corporations in the country, to acknowledge the supremacy of the king over all persons and causes, ecclesiastical as well as civil. To the deed of acknowledgment is affixed the corporate seal of the hospital, on which are two figures, one an archbishop, no doubt St. Thomas, seated, bearing a large cross with arms of equal length in his right hand, and a long cross in his left, and the other, half-length, addressing him, with the legend, SIGILL. COMMUNE. CAPITULI. FRATRU. BEATI. THOME. MARTIRIS. LOND. An engraving of the seal is on the title page. The acknowledgment is dated the 23rd January, 1534, 26th Henry VIII, and is signed by Laurentius Gopferler, the master, and the following six brethren, Thomas Lynne, Willyam Golstone, Jamys Cressey, Wylllyam Browne, Ihon Leycbery, and Wylllyam Dawson.¹

In the same year Parliament prescribed an oath, concerning the succession to the Crown, to be taken by all persons. Although not strictly within the limits of this book, I think that the proceedings of the Mercers' Company with reference to this oath will be acceptable to my readers.

The following entries are taken from the Acts of court for the year 1534 :—

Maister Rychard Raynolde, Sir Thomas Kytson, Rychard Jervyes, Walter Mersche, wardens, Generale Courte holden the XXth daye of Apprell.

Where was shewed by maister wardeins unto the worshipfull aldermen assistents and generalitie a comyssion whiche cam from my Lorde Mayre and Maister Recorder of this Citie Comyssioners assigned with other by the Kynges letters pattente, wherein the same maister wardeins desired counsell and advyse of the holle Company, what they wolde sholde be done consirnyng the matter comprysed in the sayde comyssion whiche was to theym redde oppenly in the face of the Courte, the tenure wherof herafter dothe ensue.

To the wardeines of the Merceres, Cristofer Askewe, knyght and mayre of the Citie of London and John Baker, Recorder of the same Citie, Comyssioners assigned by oure soveraigne Lorde the Kynges letteres pattente of comyssion to the maister and

¹ Rymer, *Fœdera*, vol. XIV, p. 519.

wardens of the mistere of Merceres of the Citie of London gretynge. We woll and commaunde youe on the behalfe of oure souveraigne lorde the kyng that youe the saide maister and wardeins, callynge to youe your holle Compenye, appere before us oon Mundave nexte comynge at oone of the cloke at afternoone at the Guyhalle (*sic*) of the same Citie, to do and here such thyngs as shal be thanne and there oon the behalfe of oure souveraigne lorde the kyng to youe and evrye of youe declared and oppened. And also that ye the sayde Mr. and wardeins brynge with youe youre comen seale whiche youe use comenly for youre affayres: fayle ye not herof as ye woll aunswere at youre parrelles. Given at the Guyhalle aforsayde the 18th daye of Apprell in the 25th yere of the raigne of our saide souveraigne lorde Kyng Henry the VIIIth.

AND after the sayde comyssion was redde and by the Compeny well perused and understoode, they concluded and fully agreed and determyned that maister wardeins and the holle Compeny shulde be redde and appere at the Guyhall of this Citie at the houre assigned in the sayde Comyssion. And that maister wardeins shulde take with them the comen seale and thaune and their sete the same to suche instrumente or other wrytynge, as theye shulde be requyered on the Kyng oure souveraigne lorde's behalfe, withoute any grudge or contradicion, lyke as theye shulde see other Compenyes there beyng doo.

AT oon of the clokke at afternone the same daye maister wardeins and the holle compenye were redde at the Guyhalle of the sayde Cittie and there taryed the comynge of my Lorde Mayre and Mayster Recorder, and at their comynge, as well oure Compeny as other Compenyes there beyng, were called up into the mayere's Courte, and there by Mr. Recorder the Kyng's Comyssion to theym was redde with an othe thereunto annexed, whiche was ordeined to be ministered to all the kyng's subjects, as well high as lowe, accordinge to an Acte of Parliament established and made for the kyng's succession in the Imperiall Crowne of this realme unto theym openly redde by Mayster Whyte, oon of the Under Shyrriffes of the sayde Cittie; and afterwarde was shewed forthe certein instrumentes in parchemente redde made in the name of evrye Compeny there beynge sevrallye by them selves concerning the sayde othe with their consents to the due execucion of the same, to the whiche theye were requyered to agree to sette their comen seales, to the whiche they answered they were well content and agreed as well ower Compenye as other there beynge; whereupon all persones were comaunded to go down into the hall, except the wardeins of Compenyes that were sworn afore, whiche were comaunded to tarry in the Mayre's Courte to his coming up again to sett their comen sealles to the instrumentes. Thaune my Lorde Mayre and Mayster Recorder wente doune and satt at the utter dore of the hall and toke the othes of evry persone there beynge goinge oute, and thaune cam up agayn and whereas other Compenyes thaune and their sealled their instrumentes, the instrumente of oure Compeny was spared at that

time, because they were not assured whether they had named the Compenye right, accordinge to the Kyng's Letters Pattente of Corporacion or no; wherupon mayster wardeins were comaunded to be afore my Lorde Mayre and Mayster Recorder the morrow after afore none at the Guyhall at IX of the clocke and to bringe their Corporacion with them and their comen seale; who, accordinge to the same comaundment, appered before my sayde Lorde Mayere, Mayster Recorder, the Aldermen and the Councell of the Cittie in the Councell Chamber, and thaune and there the Kyng's Letteres Pattentes of Corporacion were sene and the instrumente corrected and made according with the same, and mayster wardenes sett therto oure comen seale and subscribed their names, and delivered yt to my Lorde Mayere and Mayster Recorder, the Kyng's Comissioneres in that behalfe, the tenure of whiche instrumente herafter dothe ensue.

YE SHALL SWERE to bere faythe, truth and obedience alonely to the Kyng's Majestie and to his heires of his bodye of his most dere and intierly beloved lawfull wyffe, Quene Anne, begotten or to be begotten, and further to the heires of oure saide Sovraigne lorde, accordinge to the limitacion in the Statute made for sueritie of his succession in the Crowne of this Realme mencioned and contened, and not to any other within this Realme nor forren Auctorite or potentate. And in cas any othe be made or hathe bene made by youe to any other persone or persones, that than youe to repute the same vayne and adnichillate, and that to your connyng, wytt and uttermost of yower power and withoute gyle, fraude or other undue meanes ye shall observe, kepe, maynteyne and defende the sayde Acte of Succession and all the hole effects and contents thereof and all other Acts and Statutes made in confirmacion or for due execucion of the same or of any therin contened. And this ye shall doo agenst all manner of persones of what estate, dignitie, degree or condicion so ever they be. And in no wyse do or attempte nor to yower power suffer to be done or attempted directly or indirectly any thing or things prively or appertly to the lette, hindraunce, damage or derogacion therof or of any parte of the same, by any maner of meanes or for any maner of pretence, so helpe youe God, all Saintes and the holy Evangelists.

Generall Courte holden the XXth daye of Apprell.

BE it hadde in remembraunce, that the XXth daye of Apprell in the XXVth yere of the raigne of oure Sovraigne lorde Kyng Henrye the VIIIth, we, the Wardeins and Comonalitie of the Mistere of the Mercerye of the Citie of London, and evry of us by oure selves, did swere and have takeyn this corporalle othe above wrytten, befor Cristofer Askewe, Knyght, Mayre of the Citie of London, and John Baker, Recorder of the same Citie, Comyssoneres assigned amongs others for the same, agreynge for us and oure successors, with on holle assente and consente, to the due execucion of the same othe and

of all the holle effects and contents of the acts therin rehersed to the uttermooste of oure poweres. In wytnes wherof to these presents we have caused to be putte oure comen seale of oure mistere and corporacion the daye and yere above wrytten.

In 1534, a controversy is mentioned between the Company and the hospital, with reference to certain rents issuing out of part of the hall, and out of the White Hart in Cheap, which nearly adjoined it. Two of the wardens, Robert Pakyngton and Walter Mersche, were authorised to call learned counsel to them at the Company's charge, and to determine the matter.¹

Very shortly afterwards another dispute occurred. The master of St. Thomas refused to pay to the Chamberlain of London and to the Charterhouse certain sums of money which the Company considered the hospital was bound to pay, and the master and wardens were requested to call upon the master to make the payments, so that they should not be troubled for the default of the master and brethren, and further to call upon the master and brethren for the restitution of all such sums of money as the Company had laid out and paid on behalf of the hospital.²

On the 20th September, 1535, there is a further reference to this variance, which it is stated had long depended between the master and brethren of St. Thomas and the Company, and it was ordained that the wardens, with the assistance of Edmund Kempe, Robert Pakyngton, William Wylkynson, Robert Cherseye, Walter Mersche, John Appelyarde, and Bartilmewe Baron, or the more part of them, should call learned counsel unto them at the charge of the Company, and conclude the matter with the master and brethren and their counsel.³

On the 20th December, 1535, an indenture of composition between the Company and the master and brethren touching the payment of the quit rent mentioned below, was shown unto the Company.

¹ Acts of court, 20th March, 1534.

² Ibid., 27th April, 1535.

³ Ibid.

and the same was wholly referred to the discretion of the wardens, to finish and end the same, according as they thought best, for the benefit of the Company.¹ This indenture is dated the 24th December, 1535, and by it the master and brethren covenanted to pay out of the White Harte in Cheap, of which they were seised, the several rents of 6s. 8d. to the parson and churchwardens of St. Michael Bassishaw, 4s. 6d. to the Mercers' Company, and 13s. 4d. to the Chamberlain of the City, whilst on the other hand the Company covenanted to pay a yearly rent of £4 to the Charnel house of St. Paul's.²

The first notice I find of the impending troubles of the hospital, in consequence of the Reformation, is in a letter from Robert Ward to Cromwell, not yet Vicar-General, in April, 1535.³ He says:— "As I cannot speak with you, I am compelled to write. On Sunday last I was at St. Thomas of Acres, and at a sermon there on the north side of the church I spied certain windows wherein was pictured the life of St. Thomas, especially a superstitious and popish remembrance in the absolution of the king that was in that time. There were divers monks pourtrayed with rods in their hands, and the king kneeling naked before a monk as he should be beaten at the shrine of St. Thomas. This manner I have seen in divers other places,⁴ and have heard pardoners set forth, in the declaration of the pardon of St. Thomas, divers points wherefore he was slain in that he did resist the king. One is that he would not grant that whosoever set his child to school should pay a tribute; also that no poor man should eat certain meats except he pay a tribute; also that priests or clerks should be judged of any layman, whom they call secular judges. These words, with divers others, remaining in the people's heads, which they call the articles of St. Thomas and liberties of the Church of England,

¹ Acts of court.

² Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 167.

³ Letters and Papers of the reign of Henry VIII, arranged by James Gairdner, vol. VIII, p. 236.

⁴ In Coverdale's Remains (Parker Society's publications), p. 501. is a letter from Coverdale to Cromwell, dated 5th March, 1539, containing a report of Nicholas Hyde and John Gryse, of Henley-on-Thames, that "in a glass window of our lady chapel in the church of Henley, the image of Thomas à Becket, with the whole feigned story of his death, is suffered to stand."

with such pictures, shall be a great hindrance to the contentation of the king's subjects unless you help here."

The windows, however, stood some time longer, and, in the meantime, the lawlessness of the times was shown by a foul murder of a member of the Company as he was proceeding to mass at St. Thomas' church. The victim, Robert Packynton, belonged to a family which was in high esteem in the Company, and was at that time foremost among its members when coolness of judgment was required. He was admitted to the freedom in 1510, having been apprenticed to Symond Ryce, and was warden in 1528 and 1534. He had, as Member for the City of London, violently denounced the immorality of the religious orders. There is an account of his murder in Hale's Chronicle, ed. 1548, fo. 231, which is as follows:—

In this yere¹ one Robert Packynton Mercer, of London, a man of good substance, and yet not so riche as honest and wyse, this man dwelled in Chepeside at the sign of the Legg, and used daily at foure of the clocke, winter and sommer, to rise and go to masse at a church, then called Saint Thomas of Acres, but now named the Mercers' Chapel, and one mornynge among all other, beyng a great mistie mornynge, such as hath seldome be seene, even as he was crossyng the strete from his house to the church, he was sodenly murdered with a gonne, whiche of the neighbors was playnly hard; and by a great nombre of laborers at the same tyme standyng at Soper lane end,² he was both sene to go forth of his house, and also the clap of the gonne was hard, but the dede-doer was never espied nor knowen. Many were suspected, but none could be found fauty, howbeit it is true that forasmuch as he was knowen to be a man of great courage, and one that could both speake, and also could be harde; and that the same tyme he was one of the burgesses of the parliament for the Citye of London, and had talked somewhat against the covetousness and crueltee of the clergie, he was had in contempte with them, and therefore mooste lykely by one of them thus shamefully murdered, as you perceiue that Master Honne was in the sixth year of the reign of this Kyng.

Holinshead³ says that a murderer was condemned to die for a felony he had committed at Banbury, in Oxfordshire, and confessed the above murder. Foxe, in his Acts and Monuments,⁴ says that one of the

¹ November, 1536:

² Now Queen Street.

³ Chronicle, ed. 1586, p. 144.

⁴ Ed. 1563, p. 525.

suspected murderers was Singleton, sometime chaplain to Queen Anne Boleyn, who suffered death as a traitor in 1544, and that Dr. Incent, Dean of St. Paul's, on his death bed, confessed himself to be the author of it by hiring an Italian for sixty crowns or thereabouts to do the feat. He adds that Robert Packington was brother to Austin, or Augustine Packyngton, Mercer, who was employed by Tunstall, when Bishop of London, about 1529, to buy up at Antwerp all the unsold copies of Tyndale's New Testament, with the object of burning them at Paul's Cross. The result of the transaction however was that the translator was thereby provided with funds to print a new and more accurate edition. Robert Packyngton was buried in the Mercers' chapel.

Lawrence Gopfeler was employed by Cromwell in 1534 to obtain contributions or cessments from the religious houses in London. He wrote to Cromwell that he was in jeopardy of his life and was afraid to leave his house, for thirty persons armed with swords and staves came into his hall, demanding to speak with him, or else they would set fire to the house.¹

On the 20th June, 1536, the wardens showed to the Company how that it was rumoured in the court that the king, with his most gracious lady the queen (Jane Seymour), would be at the Mercers' hall on St. John's night (the 24th June) or St. Peter's night (the 29th June) to see the watch, and the Company desired that, if his grace did come, a banquet should be prepared for him at their cost in the best manner the wardens could devise for his grace's pleasure.² The king and one of his queens were present on several occasions at Mercers' hall, to see the marching watch.

A year previous to the dissolution, Lawrence Gopfeler, the master, and the brethren of the hospital, by indenture dated the 29th September, 29th Henry VIII, 1537, demised to Ambrose Barker a great messuage with the cellars, shops, solars, warehouses, and all

¹ Brewer, Letters and papers, 1534, No. 1636.

² Acts of court.

other appurtenances in the parish of St. Martin Pomers, in Ironmonger Lane, and a shop in the same parish in the occupation of John Theere, Leatherseller, for 99 years, from Lady-day, 1537, at the yearly rent of £5, and by another indenture dated the 1st June, 30th Henry VIII, 1538, they demised to the said Ambrose Barker, a tenement with the shops, cellars, solars and all other appurtenances, in which William Foster, citizen and Brewer, then lately dwelt, situate on the south part of the great gate of the aforesaid great messuage and in the same parish, for 99 years, from Lady-day, 1539, at the yearly rent of £1.

The master and brethren also, by indenture dated the 4th October, 29th Henry VIII, 1537, demised to William Barker, gentleman, their house, tenement or messuage,¹ with the cellars, solars, and all other appurtenances, which Henry Fitzherberd then last occupied in Ironmonger Lane in the said parish of St. Martin, between the tenement of the master and brethren on the north and south parts, the house or tenement appertaining to the Mercers' Company on the east part and the highway on the west part, for 30 years from Michaelmas Day, 1537, at the yearly rent of £3.

These three houses and the house "appertaining to the Mercers' Company," probably extended from the house belonging to Elsing Spittel, which stood at the corner of Ironmonger Lane, to the churchyard of St. Olave Jewry. The rents reserved by the three leases, and the reversions to the houses, after the expiration of the terms granted by such leases, became vested in the Crown by virtue of the deed of surrender of the hospital, which, as before stated, was dated the 20th October, 30th Henry VIII, 1538, and by Letters Patent under the great seal of the Court of Augmentations, dated the 20th June, 32nd Henry VIII, 1540, the king granted to the said Ambrose Barker the said annual rents of £5 and £1 for the then residue of the terms of years granted by the two leases first mentioned above, if Barker should so long live.

¹ This house was called the Picked Hatch. Acts of court, 29th April, 1527.

Wriothesly, in his Chronicle, vol. I, p. 87, under the date 1538, says that in September the image of St. Thomas à Becket, which stood at the high altar of St. Thomas of Acres in London, was taken down by Lord Cromwell's commandment, and all the glass windows in the said church that was of his story were taken down, with the image of his putting to death that was at the altar, where the saying was that he was born also, so that there should be no more mention made of him never, and, at p. 88, that on St. Ursula's day, the 20th October, the house of St. Thomas of Acres was suppressed, the master and brethren put out, and all the goods taken to the king's treasury, the same day being wont to be hallowed for the dedication of the same church afore the king's act last made.

Strype¹ says that the king commanded that Becket thenceforth should not be called a saint, but Bishop Becket, and that his images and pictures, throughout the whole realm, should be plucked down out of churches and chapels, and his days used to be festival should not be observed, and all services and offices, antiphons, etc., should be razed out of all books, and that his holydays should not be solemnized, to the intent that his grace's subjects should be no longer blindly led and abased to commit idolatry, as they had done in times past. In the Liber Albus the name of the archbishop is crossed out in every place where it appeared.

On the 20th October, 1538, the hospital was surrendered to the king. There must have been at least seven brethren at the time, but one only, Thomas Lynne, signed his name after Lawrence Gopfeler, the master, to the deed of surrender. The seal of the hospital was affixed to the deed, and from that seal, and that on the acknowledgment of the king's supremacy, the impression on the title page is copied.

The following is a copy of the surrender from the records of the Augmentation Office, in which it is numbered 139 :—

¹ Memorials, I, part I, p. 532.

OMNIBUS CHRISTI FIDELIBUS ad quos pñs scriptum pvenerit. Laurentius. Magister domus sive hospitalis de Acoñ London, als dicit Magister domus sive hospitalis Sancti Thome de Acoñ London et ejusdem loci confratres sive convent Salutem in Dño Sempiternã. Noveritis nos prefat Magistram ac confratres sive convent unaniñ assensu et consensu nñis animis delibat, ceri scienc et mero motu nñis ex quibusdam causis justis et raconabilibus nos animos et consciencias nñas spialiter moventibz ultro et sponte dedisse concessisse ac p pñtes damus concedimus reddimus et confirmamus illustrissimo in xpo principi et dño nño Henrico Octavo Dei gra Anglie et Francie Regi fidei Defensori, Domino Hibernie et in teri supremo Capiti Anglicane Eclie Totam dicit domu sive hospitale de Acoñ pdict. Ac totum scit fundu circui et precinct ejusdem domus sive hospitalis de Acoñ predict. Necnon oia et singula maneria dominia mesuag gardin curi toff teri et teni prat pasce pastur bosce reddit reucon svic molend passag feod mili ward maritag nativos villanos cum eo sequel comunas libertat fraunchesias jurisdiction offi cu le hundred vis fraunc plez ferias marcai parcos warren viva aquas piscarias vias chiminia vacuos fundos advocacon noiacon pñtacon et donacon eccliaz vicaria capell cantariaz hospitaliu et alioz ecclesiasticoru beneficioz quorecumq recti vicari cantari pencones porciones annuitat decimas oblaciones ac oia et singula emolumenta pficua possession hereditamci et jura nra quecuq, tam infra civitatem London qm infra Comitai Midd Cancie vel alibi infra Regnu Anglie Wallie ac Marchi eorundem eidem domui sive hospitali de Acoñ predict quoquomo ptineñ spectañ append sive incubeñ. Ac oimod chari evidenc scripi muniment nra eidem domui sive hospitali maneñ teri et teni ac ceteris pmissis cu ptineñ seu alicui inde pcell quoquomodo spectañ sive concerneñ. Habend tenend et gaudend dicit domu sive hospitale scit fundu circui et pcinct de Acoñ pdict necno oia et singula dñia mania teri teni rector pension et cetera pmissa cu oibz et siglis suis ptineñ prefato invictissimo Principi et Dño nño Regi hered et assign suis imppetuu cui in hac pte ad omni juris effect qui exinde sequi poterit aut potest nos et dicit domu sive hospitale de Acoñ predict ac oia jura nobis qualrcuq, acquisi ut decet subijcimus et submittimus dant et cocedent put p psentes damus et concedimus eidem regie majesti (sic) hered et assign suis omnē et oimod plenā et liberā facultat auctoritatem et potestatem nos et dicit domu sive hospitale de Acoñ predict unacu oibz et singlis maneñ teri teni reddit revercon svic et singlis pmissis cum suis juribz et ptineñ quibuscūq disponend ac pro suo libo regie volunta libito ad quoscūq, vsus majestati sue placent alienand donand convertend et transferend hujusmodi disposicion alienacon donacon conucon et translacon p dicta majestatē suā quovismodo fiend extunc ratificanñ rañ et grañ ac ppetuo firmu nos hituros pmittimus p pñtes Et ut pmissa omnia et singula suū debiñ sortiri valeant effect election insup nobis et successoribz nñis necnon oimibz querel provocacon appellacon

accionibz litibz et instanĉ aliisqz nřis remeđ et beneficiis nobis forsan et successoribz nřis in ea parte pretextu dispositionis alienationis translationis et converĉoñ predicti et ceteroz premissoz quatircūq, competentĩ et competitũ omnibzqz doli erroř metus ignoranĉ vel alicujus materie sive dispositioni exceptionis objectioni et allegacōi prossus semotis et depositis palam publice et expresse ex certa nřa scienĉ animisqz spontaneis renūciavimus et cessimus put p pñtes renūciamus et cedimus et ab ejusdem recedimus in hiis scripĩ. Et nos p̄fat̄ Magister et confratres sive conventi et successores nři dicĩ domũ sive hospitale p̄cincĩ scĩt mansionem et eccliam de Acoñ p̄dicĩ ac oĩa et singula maneria dñia mesuaq̄ gard curĩ tořĩ praĩ pasĉ pastũr bosĉ subbosĉ terrĩ tenĩ ac oĩa et singula cetera premissa cũ suis ptineĩ unĩvsis p̄fato Dño Regi heredĩ et assignĩ suis cont^a oēs gentes warrantizabimus imp̄petuũ p p̄sentes. In quoř testimōni nos p̄fat̄ Magister et confratres sive conventi sigillũ nřm comũne huic scripto apponi fecimus. Daĩ in domo nřa capitulari xx^o die mensis Octobris Anno Regni Regis Henrici supradicti trigesimo.

Per me Laurentiũ Gopfeler magistrũ

Per me Thomã Lynne

(LS)

The following memorandum is written under the deed of surrender:—

Et memorandum quod Die et Anno p̄dictis (20, Octobris 30 Hen. VIII, 1538) venerunt p̄dicti Magister et confratres in Domo sua capitulari in London. p̄dicta, coram Willielmo Peter p̄textu commissionis dicti Domini Regis ei in hac parte directæ et recognoverunt scriptum p̄dictum ac omnia et singula in eodem contenta in forma p̄dicta.¹

The master had an annual pension of 100 marks (£66 13s. 4d.), which was paid to him out of the revenue of the Court of Augmentations, and in the year 1553 the following pensions were payable to persons who had been brethren of the hospital, viz.:—Anthony Bradshaw and Humphrey Edward, £6 each, and William Dingley and Richard Baker, £5 each;² while Robert Evans, described as incumbent of St. Mary Colechurch, received £5,³ and Thomas Exmewe, another of the brethren of the hospital, had a pension of £7 6s. 8d. per annum for his life,⁴ but as their names do not occur in the accounts for 1553, it is probable that they died in the meantime.

¹ See Rymer, *Fœdera*, vol. XIV, pp. 619–20; Stow's Survey.

² Willis, *History of Abbeys*, vol. II, p. 141.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 140.

⁴ Records, Augmentation Office, Treasurer's Rolls of accounts, No. 2 b.

In the certificate of pensions payable to religious persons, known as Cardinal Pole's certificate, dated the 24th February, 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, fo. 3, the following payments are recorded as made in respect of the College of Acon, viz. :—Fee, William Cavendysshe, knight, auditor there, by the year, 40s. ; annuity, Robert Chidley, by the year, 40s. ; pension, Laurence Gopfeler, by the year, £66 13s. 4d. Gopfeler died in the year 1557, as his will is dated the 26th December in that year and was proved on the 18th March following.¹

I have endeavoured to trace in detail the gifts to the hospital of the greater part of its property, and will now proceed to give the best account I can from various sources of the property as a whole.

In the *Taxatio Cleri* within the diocese of London, made about the year 1291, preserved among the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum,² is the following account, which only relates to property within the City of London :—

Spiritualia Magistri Sancti Thomæ de Acon.

Ecclesia de Colechurche	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxvj ^s	vij ^d
Inde decima	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ij ^s	vij ^d	
Medietas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		xvj ^d	
Temporalia eiusdem Magistri in parochiis,										
Sancti Johñ de Walbrok	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	liij ^s	
Sancti Olavi juxta turrim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iiij ^s	
Sancti Egidii ex Crepulgate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	vij ^s	vj ^d
Sancti Bořhi ex Algate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		xiiij ^d
Sancte Marie de Colechurche	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xv ^{li}	iiij ^s	
Sancti Martini de Poiñis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cvj ^s	vij ^d
Sancti Swithini	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxvj ^s	vij ^d
Sancti Bořhi ex Bisshopesgate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x ^s	
Sancti Stephani in Judaismo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	lxvj ^s	
Sancti Bendci Shorhogge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	xx ^s	
Sñ pñiculār	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxx ^{li}		xij ^d	
Inde decime	-	-	-	-	-	-	lx ^s		l ^d q ^t	
Medietas	-	-	-	-	-	-	xxx ^s		ob	đi q ^t

¹ Noodles, Prerogative Register, fo. 14.

² Harleian MS. 60, fo. 9.

In the year 1524, among Cardinal Wolsey's procurations, Sr Thomas Acorns (*sic*) is rated at £200.¹

A valor in Latin is preserved amongst the King's Remembrancer's records in the Exchequer,² dated the 23rd October, 30th Henry VIII, 1538, taken on the oath of Lawrence Gopfeler, the last master. It is signed by him and by Thomas Myldemaye, the auditor of the hospital, and a translation of it follows. At the foot of the valor is a statement in English of the hospital bell, and an estimate of the quantity of lead, from which it has been possible to describe some of the buildings of the hospital.

The House or College of
St. Thomas of Acon,
London. } The Value of all lands and possessions there, by and upon
the oath of Laurence Gopfeler late master there taken
before Thomas Mildmaye, auditor of the lord the
King there the 23rd day of October in the 30th year
of King Henry VIII,

To wit:—

	Rents of assise there by the year	- - - - -	22 ^{li} 12 ^s 7 ^d
	Of a tenement in the parish of St. Olave in the Old Jewry by the year		7 ^{li} 15 ^s
	Of a tenement in the parish of St. Mary de Colchurche	- - -	44 ^{li} 10 ^s
Not in tithe.	Of a tenement in the parish of St. Mary le Bow	- - -	10 ^{li} 10 ^s
Encreasyd.	Of a tenement in the parish of St. Mary de Aldermay	- - -	66 ^s 8 ^d
	Of a tenement in the parish of St. Thomas the Apostle	- - -	13 ^{li} 3 ^s 4 ^d
	Of a tenement in the parish of All Hallows by the year	- - -	4 ^{li}
Not in tithe.	Canwykestrete	- - - - -	30 ^s
	Abchurche	- - - - -	20 ^s
	Cornehill	- - - - -	13 ^{li} 3 ^s 4 ^d
	St. John, Walbrooke	- - - - -	4 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d
	St. Stephen, Walbrooke	- - - - -	22 ^{li} 3 ^s 4 ^d
Not in tithe.	Le Barge	- - - - -	20 ^{li} 3 ^s 4 ^d
	Lothbury	- - - - -	50 ^s
	Bartholomew the little	- - - - -	60 ^s
	Colmanstrete	- - - - -	60 ^s
	St. Michael le Quern	- - - - -	17 ^{li} 18 ^d
	Bassyngshawe	- - - - -	53 ^s 4 ^d

¹ Brewer, Letters, etc., temp. Henry VIII, vol. IV, p. 1.

² Miscellanea $\frac{71}{8}$, 30th Henry VIII.

	Pletestrete - - - - -	11 ^{li} 7 ^s 4 ^d
	Luddegate - - - - -	4 ^{li}
	Westchepe - - - - -	17 ^{li} 3 ^s 4 ^d
	Basyng Lane - - - - -	63 ^s 4 ^d
	Estchepe - - - - -	13 ^s 4 ^d
Not in title	Iremonger Lane - - - - -	12 ^{li}
	The Master received	The sum of tenements with-
	192 ^{li} 17 ^s 1 ¹ / ₂ ^d	in the City of London - 244 ^{li} 3 ^s 1 ^d
	51 ^{li} 5 ^s 7 ¹ / ₂ ^d is allowed him there-	Whereof
	out—43 ^s for tithe and there remains	In fees, collection of rents
	49 ^{li} 2 ^s 7 ¹ / ₂ ^d	there, &c. - - - 6 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d
		Net value by the year - 237 ^{li} 9 ^s 9 ^d
45 ^s 12 ^d 4 ^d	Of the issues of the Rectory of the church of Colchurche in the	} 20 ^{li}
	hands of the late master and fellows there towards paying the	
	stipend of the Chaplain serving there by the year - - -	
6 ^s Thomas Turner	Harrowe on le Hill - - - - -	6 ^{li} a moiety received.
	Huccokott in County Bucks - - - - -	14 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d the whole received.
	Plumpsted - - - - -	40 ^s a moiety received.
Note to send for the fer- mor because he swyth for Michaelmas 27 th 1550 ^s	Taunton in County Surrey ² - - - - -	100 ^s
	Westbury - - - - -	60 ^s the whole received.
	Northampton Vill - - - - -	10 ^s the whole received.
	Bromeley - - - - -	4 ^{li} 14 ^s 4 ^d a moiety received.
	Westhame - - - - -	6 ^{li} 16 ^s 8 ^d a moiety.
		Received beside a moiety & 3 quarters thereon received.
	Wappyng - - - - -	12 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d with 38 ^s 4 ^d
		owed by Wy... 20 ^s owed by Sparr and 16 ^s 8 ^d owed by William Far...
	Ireland - - - - -	10 ^s now paid in hand by Earl Oystr ³ 10 ^{li} the third year past.

¹ This sum is altered from 245^{li} to 244^{li} 3^s 1^d

² This was probably the estate granted to the hospital in 1235. In Manning and Bray's *Surrey*, vol. II, p. 454, the manor of Tauntons is said to have been a farm consisting of a capital messuage and about 230 acres of land, of which the house and about 112 acres were in the parish of Coulsdon and 30 acres in Caterham; that it belonged to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, in Southwark, which is a mistake for the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon in the Cheap, and that on the 6th August, 15th Henry VIII, 1524, the hospital demised the manor of Taunton in Culliesdon, Watingdon and Caterham to Richard Hethe for 30 years, reserving Conclav. and Capell. a rent of 6^s 8^d. In the minister's account, however, Richard Heth accounts to the Crown for a rent of £5 3^s 8^d. In the Cartulary of the abbey of Chertsey (*Exchequer Q.R.*, *Miscellanea*, vol. 25) there is a rental of the manor of Culliesdon dated 12th April, 1496, in which it is stated that the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, London, held land and a tenement called Tauntons, and rendered therefor by the year 10^s, and also held one field called Halfield, and rendered therefor 21^d.

³ Earl of Ulster.

Plumpsted for the fishing there let to Stephen Byrde by indenture - - - - -	} 26 ^s 8 ^d a moiety received.
The sum 77 ^{li} 4 ^s 4 ^d	
The sum of value of lands and possessions aforesaid by the year - - - - -	} 314 ^{li} 14 ^s 1 ^d
Repayments of rents to divers persons by the year -	35 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d
as appears in a note book of receipts in my possession.	
Fee of Robert Chiddeley, gentleman, for good advice -	40 ^s
Fee of William Cavendyshe, Auditor - - - -	40 ^s
Sum of reprises 39 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d	
Net value further by the year - - - - -	275 ^{li} 7 ^s 5 ^d

further for the ferm of the site of the house of the Mercery — — — —

Woods	}	Plumpsted 50 acres at 20 years growe	
		Harrowe on le Hill 12 acres with hedgerowes 4 acres of 20 yere & thothir lately fellyd.	
		Hermitt Grove by the towne of Buckingham 5 acres of the age of 7 yeres.	
		Taunton in co. Surrey 20 acres lately felled.	
& spirituall promocyones	}	Presentable — Huckott in co. Bucks - - -	8 ^{li}
		Ympropyd — Seynt Mary Colchurche, London.	
		Chauntry — Donkestre - - - - -	53 ^s 4 ^d
		In maner (?) of an Hospital - }	Barkhamested - - 8 ^{li} 10 ^s

Laurentin Copfiter

Gouernour de la Marine

Bells.— One sold by the visitors at the time of dissolution of the house.

The galleries in the court yard with the porch at the entry into the hall and the covering of the well in the midst of the court, containing by estimation	-	-	2 fodders.
The house of evidence, by estimation	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ fodder.
The quire and body of the church throughout, containing by estimation	-	40	fodders.
The south aisle throughout leaded, containing by estimation	-	-	12 fodders.
The north aisle throughout leaded, containing by estimation	-	-	12 fodders.
The Mercers' chapel, containing by estimation	-	-	3 fodders.
The gallery over the counting house	-	-	1 fodder.
A parcel of lead over the little cloister, containing by estimation	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ fodder.
The chapel called John Saundell's chapel, containing by estimation	-	-	2 fodders.
The gallery next unto the church over the north part, containing by estimation	-	-	11 fodders.

From this account it appears that the gross annual rental of the lands, including the rectory of St. Mary Colechurch, was £314 14s. 1d., and the net annual income £275 7s. 5d. The profits of the timber at Plumsted, Harrow, Buckingham, and Taunton in Surrey, are not included. The "spiritual promotions," excluding the rectory of St. Mary Colechurch, amounted to £18 3s. 4d. more. There is a blank in the account for the ferm or rent of the site of the house of the Mercery, perhaps Mercers' hall and chapel.

In the 31st year of King Henry VIII, 1539–40, the Act for abolishing of diversity of opinions in certain articles concerning the Christian religion was passed, commonly called the Act of Six Articles. The king, shortly after the passing of the Act, charged the Lord Mayor to organise an inquest for the purpose of ascertaining any infractions of the statute, and Bonner, then Bishop of London, directed the inquest to sit in the church of St. Thomas. It is said that within the first fortnight seventy persons were condemned to scourging, fines, and imprisonment, but the king, on the intercession of Lord Audley, the chancellor, who was a member of the Mercers' Company, ordered their release.¹

¹ Hall's Chronicle, ed. 1509, p. 828. Foxe's Martyrs, vol. 2, p. 587.

Very shortly after the surrender of the hospital, on the 18th December, 1538, the general court of the Company ordered that suit should be made to the king for the church, lately called St. Thomas of Acres, and the mansion place thereof, with the small tenement adjoining, if they might conveniently be had. The negotiations seem to have languished, for at a court of assistants held on the 29th November, 1539, it was ordered that Sir John Alleyn, Sir Raufe Warren, Sir Richard Gresham, and Sir Thomas Kytson, aldermen, William Wilkynson and Richard Raynolds, aldermen's peers, and John Coke, Robert Palmer, William Lokke, Richard Jervyes, and Rollande Hill, assistants, should sue unto my Lord Privy Seal (Cromwell) for the purchase of the church and the houses about the same. Sir Richard Gresham moved the Lord Privy Seal, and reported to another court of assistants, held on the 15th March, 1539, when "the Company were fully minded for to follow the assent of the same, and referred all that matter to the wisdom and discretion of the Lord Mayor (Sir William Holles),¹ and the worshipful aldermen, wardens and assistants to do therein what they thought good, and whatsoever they did therein, the Company to be therewith content."²

By Letters Patent under the same great seal, dated the 12th August, 31st Henry VIII, 1539, the king granted to his beloved servant, George Harper, one of the esquires of his body, all that tenement and messuage with the appurtenances demised to Thomas More and Alice his wife, within the Barge in Bucklersbury, in the parish of St. Stephen in Walbrook, and all his great messuage with the gardens, cellars, and appurtenances within the Barge aforesaid, demised to Ralph Warner, alderman of London, and which lately belonged to the dissolved house or college of Acon,³ for the life of the said George Harper.

¹ Sir William Holles was the son of Thomas Holles, a yeoman of Stoke, county Warwick, and was admitted to the freedom of the Company by redemption in 1499, was warden in 1519, and master in 1529. He died in 1542, and was the ancestor of the Earls of Clare, Dukes of Newcastle, of his name.—Collins, *Noble Families*, pp. 54-56.

² Acts of court.

³ It is to be noted that the name of St. Thomas is carefully omitted in this and the subsequent grants.

The great mansion place adjoining the church was at this time let on lease to Benjamin Gunson, and the Company being anxious to obtain possession of it, on the 27th August, 1541, requested Sir Richard Gresham and Sir John Gresham to endeavour to come to terms with Gunson for the purchase of his lease.¹ It does not appear from the Company's records whether they were successful.

The said king, by an indenture under the great seal of the Court of Augmentations, dated the 8th November, 33rd Henry VIII, 1541, demised, among other premises, to Benjamin Gunson the rectory and church of the Blessed Mary of Colechurch, also lately belonging to the said house or college of Acon, and all tithes, oblations, obventions, profits and emoluments, to the same rectory belonging, for 21 years from Michaelmas day, 1542, at the yearly rent of £15 3s.

On the 17th March, 1541, the court of assistants, the Lord Mayor (Sir Michael Dormer) in the chair, ordered that Robert Cherseye, upper warden, with William Robynes and Humfrey Pakyngton, assistants, should take into their consideration the great charge of the Company for the proposed purchase of the lands from the king, and make a report to the Lord Mayor upon the subject, and the following persons were appointed "cessors" to finish and conclude the "seasement" of the Company, what every man should prest towards the charge of the purchase; viz., for the aldermen and their peers, Sir John Alleyn and Sir Raufe Warren, knights; for the assistants, William Lokke and Humfrey Packyngton; for the livery, John Royse and Robert Myrrydeth; and for the bachelors, Thomas Bonde and Edmund Alysaunder.²

On the 22nd March, 1541, the general court ordered that the aldermen and their peers should prest £10 sterling apiece to be repaid in three several sums of £3 6s. 8d. at Lady day, 1543, and in the two following years, the assistants £5 apiece, and the livery £1 apiece, to

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

be repaid by like payments, and that the collectors under-mentioned should levy the same immediately out of hand. The following persons were appointed to make the cessment, viz. : for the aldermen, Sir John Gresham, knight; for the assistants, Edward Borlas and Bartilmewe Baron; and for the livery, John Royse and Robert Myrrydyth. And it was further ordered that the aldermen and their peers should pay yearly for 15 years 48s. sterling apiece, by quarterly payments, the assistants 24s. sterling apiece, and the livery 12s. apiece, and the young men bachelors, free of the Company, 6s. apiece, in like manner in the name of quarterage, towards the great charge of the purchase of the king.¹

On the same day the Company ordered that money should be taken out of the treasure chest of St. Paul's School to make up the purchase money,² and the sum of £274 15s. 7d. was taken out accordingly and delivered into the hands of William Woodlefe, the second warden.³ On the 21st April, 1542, bills for the repayment of the prest money were sealed by the Company.⁴ On the same day it was ordered that certain members of the Company should call unto them workmen to view the altar, some time called Thomas Becket's altar, and that whatsoever they or the more part of them should do therein the Company would be therewith content and pleased.⁵

The negotiations between the king and the Company were eventually successful, for the king by Letters Patent under the great seal of the Court of Augmentations, dated the 21st April, 1541, to the praise of God and the increase of divine worship, and of the men of the mystery of Mercery of the City of London and their better sustentation, and also in consideration of £969 17s. 6d. sterling paid to the treasurer of the revenues of the augmentations of the crown by the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of the Mercery of the City of London, did grant to the said wardens and commonalty the

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

reversion of the aforesaid messuages, rectory, tenements, shops, and all other the premises above specified, and the aforesaid annual rents of £5, £3, £1, and £15 3s., and also the reversion of the rents aforesaid, and the messuages, rectory, tithes, lands, tenements, shops, cellars, solars, and other the premises in respect of which the same rents were paid; and also the church, within the said City of London, lately called the church of the said late college of Acon, London, then dissolved, such church in future to be called for ever the Church of the Mercers of his City of London, to the honor of God and the blessed Virgin Mary dedicated and founded, and the cloister of the late house or college of Acon aforesaid, and the vestry of the said late college and the chapter house of the same late college adjoining the cloister, and also the sexton's chamber near the church, and the church yard of the said late college, and the ornaments and implements of the said church and cloister, and all the lead thereupon, and the whole land and soil within the precinct of the cloister, and also four messuages and tenements which were then or late in the several tenures of Robert Bevycode, Richard Brymyingham, William Toweres and Thomas Forge or their assigns, situate in the parish of St. Olave, in the Old Jewry, London; and also a messuage and tenement in the tenure of Thomas Adams or his assigns, in the parish of the blessed Mary of Colechurch, in the Old Jewry, London; and four messuages and tenements in the tenures of John Holbany, taylor, Joan Swygnall, otherwise Joan Suygnall, widow, and William Tunne, otherwise Wm. Tryme, and afterwards demised to Stephen Cobb, in the same parish; and also a messuage or tenement late in the tenure of Joan Hille, widow, and two shops with the appurtenances, in the several tenures of William Buckefelde and John Lewes, and afterwards demised to Stephen Cobb, in the same parish, near the tavern called the Mitre, in Cheapside, and between the same tavern on the east part, and the said church of the college of Acon on the west part; and also a messuage and tenement then in the tenure of John

Syrcoke or his assigns, in the same parish ; and also two shops with the appurtenances, in the tenure of Robert Downe and his assigns, in the same parish ; and also a messuage and tenement, called the Mitre, and four shops under the same, late in the several tenures of Wm. Vere, Leatherseller, Robert Lewis, Wireseller, Robert Downe and Thomas Mychell, Ironmongers, and afterwards demised to John Sandell, in the same parish, and also two messuages and tenements late in the tenure of Thomas Barrete, and afterwards demised to Robert Downe in the same parish ; and also the rectory and church of the Blessed Mary of Colechurch, and the advowson, donation and free disposition and right of patronage of the rectory and vicarage of the same, and all houses, tithes, oblations, etc., to the same rectory and church belonging ; and also a messuage and tenement late in the tenure of Sir Thomas More, knight, or his assigns, in the parish of St. Stephen, in Walbroke, London ; and also a great messuage in the tenure of Sir Ralph Warren, knight, or his assigns, in the said parish of St. Stephen, Walbroke ; and also a great messuage or tenement, warehouses, and other buildings in the tenure of Ambrose Barker, or his assigns, and one shop late in the tenure of John There, otherwise Shere, and afterwards demised to the same Ambrose, in the parish of St. Martin in Ironmonger Lane, London, and three messuages and tenements in the several tenures of Thomas Starkey, William Barker and Thomas Man, in the said parish of St. Martin, and a messuage and tenement called the Bell, with the yard, in the tenure of John Fysher, in the parish of St. Stephen in Coleman Street, London, as fully and entirely and in as ample manner and form as the master and brethren of the said late house or college of Acon, or any of their predecessors in the right of the same house or college, had the same at any time before the dissolution of the same, or before that late house or college came to the hands of the king.

An indenture of bargain and sale was entered into between the king and the Mercers' Company on the same day as the above-

mentioned conveyance, viz. the 21st April, 1541, whereby, after reciting that the said king of his mere motion and benevolent grace, to the laud of God and maintenance of the said Mercers, and for the sum of £969 17s. 6d., had granted to the use of the wardens and commonalty and their successors for ever the church within the City of London, lately called the church of the college of Acon, with certain appurtenances thereto, together with the church of St. Mary Colechurch and certain other premises, it was agreed, in consideration of the king having granted the petition of the said wardens and commonalty aforesaid, that they should find three priests and chaplains, to be called the Mercers' chaplains, to sing and say masses and other divine service continually in the said church, such priests and chaplains on their admission to be sworn and charged, upon pain of losing their service, that they should in their masses pray to God for the king and all his progeny for ever. And the Company further covenanted, at their own cost and charge, to find and keep a free grammar school within the city of London perpetually, and also a sufficient master to teach 25 children and scholars freely, continuously for ever. And also yearly every Sunday in Lent to provide a learned man to preach a sermon in the Mercers' church for ever, the Company to have the governance of the church and the power of appointing and dismissing the said priests, chaplains, and schoolmaster.

The buildings which at the time of the Reformation occupied the site of Mercers' Hall, were burnt in the fire of 1666. No plan of them has been preserved.

The space covered by the buildings, which at the time of the dissolution belonged to the hospital and the Company, extended from the corner of Frederick's Place and the Old Jewry southward to the small church of St. Mary Colechurch, an upper room on arches or vaults, at the corner of Cheapside, along that street almost to the corner of Ironmonger Lane, where was a house belonging to Elsing Spittell,

northward along Ironmonger Lane to the churchyard of St. Olave Jewry, then eastward along Church Court, turning to the south to the west end of Frederick's Place, and extending at the back of the houses on the south side of Frederick's Place to the Old Jewry again. The frontage to the Old Jewry was about 120 feet, that to Cheapside about 190 feet, and that to Ironmonger Lane about 140 feet, and the depth from Cheapside northward about 70 feet, and from Ironmonger Lane eastward about 75 feet.

The entrance to Mercers' Hall appears to have been in Ironmonger Lane, where were some small houses, a great messuage, and a house or office belonging to the Company. In the grant from King Henry VIII seven houses are described as being in the parish of St. Martin Pomeroy, one a great messuage and another a great messuage with warehouses, these must have been in Ironmonger Lane or in St. Olave's churchyard; one of the houses was called the Harp, where William Assheley, Grocer, dwelt; four houses in the parish of St. Olave Jewry, probably in the Old Jewry to the northward of Frederick's Place, which were sold by the Company shortly after they purchased them; and eleven houses, one of them "a great messuage," held by William Gunson on lease at the dissolution,¹ and probably the same house as is mentioned in the Acts of court, 20th May, 1544, as Sir Rowland Hill's place, with the morrow mass priest's chamber and "two nedder rooms beneathe," in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, which must have been between Frederick's Place and the entrance to the church of St. Thomas. The Mitre tavern, where John Sandell, a Vintner, carried on his business, was in Cheapside (probably next to the church of St. Mary), on the upper floor, with four shops under it, and there was a house between it and the Mercers' chapel. Between the chapel and the house belonging to Elsing Spittell, was a house known as the White Hart. On the remaining part of the site the hospital church, the hospital itself, and Mercers' hall and chapel

¹ Acts of court, 27th August, 1541.

stood. The hospital also held a piece of land on the east side of the Old Jewry approached by a bridge over the street, and here was a garden or court for the recreation of the brethren.

The church is supposed to have extended from the east end of the present Mercers' chapel to the west end of the ambulatory or colonnade under the hall, and if so it must have been about 130 feet long; it was probably 40 or 45 feet wide. Newcourt¹ says, that before the Fire of London, the Mercers' church, that is, the church of the hospital, according to his own observation, was a large and noble structure, consisting of a choir and the body of a church, with side aisles. From the entries dispersed among the Company's records and elsewhere, it is clear that the hospital church consisted of a nave or body, with aisles and a high choir and two side chapels in the choir. Five or six chapels are mentioned, some of which were in the body of the church, and some in the side aisles, and five altars, besides the high altar. The chapels are those of St. Mary, or the Lady chapel, also called the chapel of Our Lady of Grace, on the north side of the church,² the Holy Cross, in which stood the rood of St. Luke,³ St. Nicholas and St. Stephen, in the north aisle,⁴ a chapel founded by Sir Edmund Shaa, Lord Mayor in 1482,⁵ Trinity chapel,⁶ and Saundelle's chapel.⁷ This last, however, may be the same as the Lady chapel, in which John Sandell desired to be buried.⁸ Two chapels are mentioned as having been situate on the north side of the church, and as having been sold to Sir Thomas Leigh for £20, but it

¹ Repertorium, vol. I, p. 534.

² Will of Walter de Chesthunte, 1376, Cartulary, fo. 80. Will of Elis Davy, 1455, Calendar of Wills, part II, p. 548. Will of Robert Gedge, 1531. Will of John Sandell, 1532.

³ Will of Robert, son of Robert Fitz Robert, 1434, Calendar of Wills, part II, p. 506. Acts of court, 19th March, 1543. Stephen Martyn de Luca by his will in 1426 desired to be buried "*in capellâ Lucanorum.*"

⁴ Acts of court, 19th July, 1482. Will of Henry Frowyk, 1459, Calendar of Wills, part II, p. 542.

⁵ Miller, Prerogative Register, fo. 12.

⁷ Valor, *ubi supra*.

⁶ Will of Richard Harman, 1494.

⁸ Acts of court, 20th June, 1550

is impossible to identify them, and two brazen chapels and two parcloses of wood, which were probably chapels next the choir door, are also mentioned.¹

The high altar was approached by steps,² and appears to have had a large cross on it; the other altars were those of St. Thomas, in the north part of the body of the church, over which was probably the image of his putting to death, mentioned by Wriothesly,³ of St. Mary in Gysnâ, or Gisinâ (lying in child-bed),⁴ probably in St. Mary's chapel, the Haberdashers' altar,⁵ the altar of St. Katherine,⁶ and the altar of St. Anne.⁷ Before the altar of St. Thomas was an image of Michael the Archangel, which stood on a pillar,⁸ and in the body of the church, beside the altar, was an image of St. Mary Magdalen.⁹ John Beyvin, about 1230, granted an annual rent of six pence for the maintenance of the light of the Blessed Virgin.¹⁰ Martyn Aleyn, 1432, desired in his will that an image of St. Martin should be put up in the south nave, opposite the altar of St. Thomas.

The church, from the number of eminent persons who were interred in it, must have been rich in monuments, but all, with the exception of that to Richard Fishborne, mentioned below, perished in the Great Fire.

On the north side of the church, perhaps in the north aisle, where the altar of St. Thomas stood, were stained glass windows,

¹ Renter warden's accounts, 1542-3.

² Acts of court, 6th December, 1533, and 6th September, 1553. Will of Ralph Freeman, Commissary court, 1405.

³ Will of Dame Elizabeth Hyll, Moone, Prerogative Register, fo. 23. Will of Richard Hyll, Ibid., fo. 15. Letters Patent, 4th September, 28th Henry VIII, 1536. ² Register of writings, fo. 189 d. Renter warden's accounts, 1550-1. Act 28th Henry VIII, c. 44. Thomas Garthe, 1505, desired to be buried in the north aisle, before the altar of St. Thomas.

⁴ Will of Simon de Benington, Cartulary, fo. 13.

⁵ Renter warden's accounts, 1542-3.

⁶ Will of John Hill, Haberdasher, Commissary court, 1516.

⁷ Will of John Thomas, Mercer, Commissary court, 1513.

⁸ Will of Sir Edmund Shaa, 1482.

⁹ Will of Richard Morrys, 1506.

¹⁰ Cartulary, fo. 186, see above, p. 22.

with the life of the saint depicted in them.¹ There were two pair of organs in the church,² a great bell hung in the choir,³ and a rood loft.⁴

The only records remaining which give any indications of the buildings are the grant from King Henry VIII, and the valor⁵ mentioned above. The valor gives the quantity of lead on the roofs of the buildings, and therefore only those buildings or rooms which had roofs are mentioned, while the description in the grant, though more detailed, is not very full. In the valor are mentioned the choir and body of the church, the north and south aisles, the Mercers' chapel,⁶ the chapel called Saundelle's chapel, the gallery next to the church, the little cloisters, the gallery over the counting house, the galleries in the court yard, perhaps the cloisters, with the porch at the entry into the hall, and the covering of the well in the midst of the court. A frater house and an infirmary are also mentioned.

In the grant from Henry VIII, the following buildings are specified: the hospital church, the cloister, the vestry, which was at the end of the church behind the high altar,⁷ the chapter house and the sexton's chamber, in addition to the cemetery or church yard.

The buildings used by the Company are described in the Acts of court, 20th June, 1541, as the hall, parlour, chambers, and weigh-house, and the Mercers' chapel, which had a porch before it. The only mention I can find of the contents of the chapel is that it had a rood loft,⁸ and that a fair tomb to Sir John Aleyn, as mentioned before, was placed in it. The Company's school was

¹ Gairdner, *Letters, etc., reign of Henry VIII*, vol. VIII, p. 236.

² Acts of court, 19th March, 1543.

³ This bell was sold at the dissolution, probably to Sir Ralph Warren, who gave it back to the Company. Acts of court, 20th June, 1544.

⁴ Renter warden's accounts, 1542-3.

⁵ Exchequer Q. R., *Ancient Miscellanea*, Augmentation Office, 71.

⁶ This was the chapel in the hospital church, and not the new chapel, which was underneath Mercers' Hall.

⁷ Acts of court, 26th March, 1548.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 16th June, 1560.

kept in it after the purchase of the church, and £10 8s. was paid in 1560 for "whytynynge" it.¹ This chapel was underneath the hall,² and was often used as a place of meeting for the Company. For instance, on the 19th May, 1538,³ an assembly was held "in our chapel at St. Thomas," to consider whether permission should be given to erect a tomb for Sir William Bayley, alderman, and Lord Mayor in 1524, in Whittington College. After deliberation the master and wardens "went up into our hall" and sent for the executors of the said Sir William Bayley, who were in St. Thomas' church, and at their "coming up" the deliberation was resumed.

We find also mentioned a buttery over the church, or more probably the chapel, which was new built in 1547, at a cost of £37 11s. 10d.;⁴ a warehouse for silk, under the hall,⁵ perhaps the same as the weigh-house mentioned in the grant from the Crown; a priest's chamber and a sexton's chamber on the north side of the church, sold to Sir Thomas Leigh;⁶ an armoury house in the hall;⁷ a chamber and kitchen, on the top of a building, for the leads over them were repaired in 1554;⁸ and a little buttery in the parlour, which was turned into a library in 1558.⁹

The Mercers had a chapel in the hospital church. It is said in the will of Sir Nicholas Alwyn,¹⁰ to have been "annexed" to the church, and in the articles for the Company's chaplain to have been "within the church of St. Thomas,"¹¹ and the door is said to have been near the church,¹² but when the new chapel was built, the Mercers ceased to use the chapel within the church.

¹ Renter warden's account.

² Acts of court, 15th July, 1515.

³ Acts of court.

⁴ Renter warden's accounts, 1547-8.

⁵ Acts of court, 15th May, 1542, 28th December, 1554.

⁶ Ibid., 28th March, 1550.

⁷ Renter warden's accounts, 1553-4.

⁸ Ibid., 1554-5.

⁹ Ibid., 1558-9.

¹⁰ Calendar of Wills, part II, p. 611.

¹¹ Acts of court, 21st March, 1512.

¹² Ibid., 23rd September, 1510.

There must in addition have been the lodgings of the master, the great hall and domestic apartments of the hospital, and the offices in which the business of the Mercers' and Merchant Adventurers' Companies was carried on.

The following chantries were founded in the hospital church, and many of them, no doubt, were kept down to the time of the dissolution: by Richard de Walebrok, in 1267; by Richard de Ewell, in 1274, for two priests; by Thomas de Norwych, in 1329; by Walter de Salyngg, in 1339; by Matilda de Caxton, in the same year, for three chaplains; by John Godchep, in 1340, for two chaplains; by Walter Deynes, Ironmonger, in 1348; by Thomas de Cavendych, in 1349; by Alice de Brandon, in the same year; by John Atte Barnet, in the same year, for two chaplains; by Robert de Felsted, Vintner, in 1350; by Richard de Kislingbury, Draper, in 1361; by Simon de Benyngton, Draper, in 1368; by Walter de Chesthunte, in 1379; by Symon Wynchecombe, in 1396; by Robert Guphy, or Guppeye, Mercer, in 1412; by William Olyver, in 1432; by James, 4th Earl of Ormonde, in 1452; and by James, 5th Earl of Ormonde and Earl of Wiltshire, in 1454, for two chaplains; by Sir Henry Frowyk, Mercer, in 1453; by Sir Edmund Shaa, Goldsmith, in 1482; by Dame Elizabeth Hyll, in 1500; and by Richard Hyll, her son, in the same year, for two priests; by William Martyn, in 1505, for two chaplains; by Sir Nicholas Alwyn, Mercer, in the same year; by William Browne the younger, Mercer, in 1514; and by Richard Lakyn, Mercer, in 1509.

On the 30th August, 1542, it is stated in the Acts of court that whereas the Company had purchased of the king's majesty the church with the buildings and leads thereto belonging, and also certain tenements in and about the same appertaining, some time called the church of Acon, as by special words in the king's most gracious Letters Patent manifestly appeared, it was agreed that the renter warden of the

Company should be always charged with the receipt of the said lands purchased and the payment of such necessaries as belonged to the church, and also the payment of £10, the yearly fee of the master of the Company's free school. On the 19th February, 1542, the members of the Company, in general court assembled, forgave one-third of the prest money owing to them.¹

The Mercers' church was again set open on the eve of St. Michael, 1541,² and an image of St. Thomas à Becket, which stood over the great gate of the hospital, was taken down by order of secretary Cromwell, and a maidenhead of stone set up in its place. We may be thankful, when St. Stephen's chapel was turned into the parliament house, and St. Martin's le Grand into a tavern, that the church of St. Thomas of Acon fell into the hands of our pious ancestors, and was still retained for the worship of God.

The purchase money to the king was not paid at the time of the purchase, but the second warden's accounts not having been preserved, the payments can only be gathered from the Acts of court. On the 27th August, 1541, it was ordered that all the members should be cessed towards the payment, and on the 20th September following that the cessment should be done out of hand. A further order was made on the 19th December to the same effect, and on the same day Sir Richard Gresham offered to lend the Company £354 5s. for fifteen years, at £17 10s. by the year, the principal to be repaid at the end of the period. The Company objected to the rate of interest, but ultimately agreed to pay £15 a year. The amount was made up as follows:—

Prested, <i>i.e.</i> , borrowed, from the members of the Company	-	-	-	£305	0	0
Loan from Sir Richard Gresham	-	-	-	354	5	0
Loan from St. Paul's School treasure chest	-	-	-	274	15	7
				<u>£934</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>

¹ Acts of court.

² Newcourt, Repertorium, vol. I, p. 554.

and the balance was probably paid out of the Company's funds. Quarterage for fifteen years was imposed upon the members of the Company to provide for the repayment of the above sums.

The sum of £354 5s. mentioned above as being lent to the Company by Sir Richard Gresham was really the money of Sir Francis Weston, knight, then deceased, and was lent to the Company by William, Earl of Southampton, Lord Privy Seal, and Sir John Russell, Lord Russell, and Lord High Admiral. The money was paid on the 27th October, 1542, to Sir Richard Gresham and Sir Rowland Hill, Richard Jervyes, George Ellyotte, and John Royse, wardens, in "fayre aungell nobles" at York Place, then called the King's Place, at Westminster. The Company at the same time gave to the Earl of Southampton and Lord Russell their bond in 1,000 marks sterling, conditioned to be void on payment to Henry Weston, gentleman, son of Sir Francis Weston deceased, at the feast of Easter, 1556, of £354 5s. sterling, and to Anne Weston, daughter of the said Sir Francis Weston, at the same time, of £225 sterling.¹

On the 15th May, 1542, it is recorded that the king's most gracious Letters Patent were showed openly to the court of assistants, such letters being under his great seal, surely confirmed and made unto the Company, for their clear and whole purchase of the church, lands and buildings, some time called the college of Acon, with certain tenements thereunto belonging, whereupon the master and wardens openly, in the face of the same court, desired the collectors to bring in the prest money according to the bills to them delivered, to the intent that payment might be made thereof out of hand to the king's grace, for the purchase, according unto the Company's promise, without any longer delay.²

The Company did not, however, immediately obtain possession of the site of the church and the hospital, for the king (Henry VIII) had, by indenture dated the 24th November, in his 31st year, 1539,

¹ Acts of court, 19th December, 1542.

² Acts of court.

demised the site of the college and other houses to Thomas Mildmay, gentleman, one of the auditors of the Court of Augmentations, for twenty-one years, at the annual rent of £3 6s. 8d., he covenanting to keep the same in repair, and the king by Letters Patent dated 10th February, in the 31st year of his reign, 1539, granted the reversion thereof to William Gonson, citizen and Grocer of London, and father-in-law of Mildmay. A series of complicated transactions, which I will endeavour to make clear, were necessary before the title was complete. The deeds, which are stated below, are still in the Company's possession.

By Letters Patent dated the 16th May, in his 34th year, 1542,¹ the king gave license to William Gonson to convey the reversion of the site of the college, etc., to Sir Ralph Warren, Mercer and alderman, and Gonson, by deed dated the 17th of the same month,² in pursuance of such license, conveyed the same reversion to Sir Ralph Warren, to be held of the king at an annual rent of 6s. 8d. by way of tithe.

On the 18th May,³ Thomas Mildmay attorned tenant to Sir Ralph Warren, on the 22nd May,⁴ Mildmay surrendered the lease held by him to Sir Ralph Warren, and on the 23rd May, William Gonson and Benedicta his wife, released the same to Sir Ralph Warren. On the 27th July, 1542,⁵ Sir Ralph Warren demised the house and site of the late college of Acon to the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of Mercers for a term of forty-eight years from Michaelmas day, 1542, at a peppercorn rent; and on the same day⁶ the Company entered into a bond to pay him £100 on Christmas day then next, the bond to be void on due performance of the above indenture. On the 18th January, 1542,⁷ by his will Sir Ralph Warren devised the same premises to the said wardens and commonalty and their successors for ever, and on the 3rd February

¹ Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 59.

² Ibid, fo. 59 d.

³ Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 60 d.

⁴ Ibid., fo. 61.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

following¹ he entered into a bond with the Company that he would do nothing to render the above will of no effect. He died on the 11th July, 1553, and was buried in the chancel of the church of St. Sythe or St. Benet Sherehog.

Although the Company had not yet paid the consideration for the Letters Patent conveying the site of the hospital to them, they appear to have dealt with the church as if it were absolutely their own, for on the 15th May, 1542, it was ordered that the two chapels of wood in the church, some time called Becket's church, next the door to the choir, should stand and remain still, and that the altar of wainscot with the two brazen chapels in the said church should be sold unto the most profit and advantage of the Company.² The altar of wainscot was sold to Thomas Curtis, Pewterer, for 10s., and in the same year John Parryes, Painter, was paid £2 13s. 4d. for garnishing the altar in the body of the church with maidenheads and stars of gold.³

On the same 15th May, 1542, it is recorded that Sir Ralph Warren had promised to give to the Company certain coloured glass towards the performance of the glass windows in the Mercers' church, the Company paying for the workmanship thereof and setting the same up, which glass Sir Ralph Warren immediately after delivered according to his promise and free gift.⁴ In the renter warden's accounts there is an entry of £5 paid to John Colleye, Glazier, for glazing the north side of the church.

On the 21st June, 1542, it was ordained that the worshipful persons named below should call unto them workmen to view the altar, some time called Thomas Becket's altar, and with what they or the more part of them should do therein the Company should be content and pleased, viz., Mr. Robert Cherseye, Mr. William Wodelefe, Mr. John Hare, wardens, Sir Rowland Hill, sheriff, Thomas Burnell, William Lokke, William Robynes, and Bartilmewe Baron.⁵

¹ Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 62 d.

² Acts of court.

³ Renter warden's accounts, 1542-3.

⁴ Acts of court.

⁵ Ibid.

On the 30th August, 1542, it was agreed that all the brazen chapels and the two chapels of wood next the choir door of the church should be sold by the wardens, to the most profit and advantage of the Company, and the money received therefor to be paid to the renter warden.¹ The brazen chapels were sold to John Seaven, Founder, for £24.²

On the 26th September, 1542, it was agreed by the general court that the stonework, with the carving and the altars of stone, should stand still, and the ground round about, where the two chapels stood close to the said altars, should be paved, and that a footpiece should be made for a priest to sing mass on, at the pleasure of the Company, and that the joined work colossed about the altars at the choir door should be clean taken away, the altars or the tables upon them to be in no wise disfigured nor taken away, but to stand still.³

On the 21st August, 1542, the court of assistants, finding that William Wodelefe, late second warden, had in his hands certain sums of money, the amount not being mentioned, agreed that he should pay the same to Sir Edward North, treasurer of the king's Court of Augmentations, in part payment for the church, buildings, and other tenements adjoining, he to bring the Company acquittance for the payment thereof, for their discharge thereafter.⁴ On the 30th August, 1542, it was agreed that Master George Ellyotte, second warden, should receive immediately out of hand of Sir Michael Dormer, knight and alderman, and Lord Mayor, in the name of Mr. William Dautesey, alderman, the sum of £122 10s. sterling, and also of Sir Ralph Warren, knight and alderman, £82 10s. sterling, and of Bartholomewe Baron, Mercer, £30 sterling, and of John Fisher, citizen and Poulter of London, £30 sterling, and likewise of William Woodlefe, late second warden, in part of payment of such sums of money as rested in his hands, £40 sterling, all which sums should be

¹ Acts of court.

² Renter warden's accounts, 1542-3.

³ Acts of court.

⁴ Ibid.

paid to the treasurer of the Court of Augmentations in the name of the whole Company, for the payment of their purchase, and that the master and wardens should bring in acquittance for the payment thereof, for the Company's discharge thereafter.¹

Richard Freeman was admitted to the place of master of the Company's free school for the number of twenty-five children to be taught there, the children of freemen of the Company to be admitted before any other; the rule and governance of the school to belong only to the renter warden, who was to admit the scholars with the consent of the other three wardens, provided that it should be lawful for the schoolmaster to take the profit and advantage of fifteen children over and above the yearly fee of £10, towards the better augmentation of his living. And it was further ordered that the school should begin at the then next Michaelmas, and that the wardens should, immediately out of hand, make ready a place where the master should teach.

On the 8th September, 1542,² the Company, in consideration of £99 3s. 7d., conveyed to Sir Ralph Warren their reversionary interest in two messuages and yards situate in the Barge in Bucklersbury, subject to the yearly rent or tenth of 22s. due to the king; on the 20th October in the same year,³ the Company, in consideration of £32 8s. 7d., conveyed to John Fyssher their reversionary interest in the messuage and curtilage called the Bell in Coleman Street near to Armourers' hall, subject to the yearly rent or tenth of 4s. due to the king, and on the 10th November in the same year,⁴ the Company in consideration of £32 8s. 7d., conveyed to Bartholomew Baron, their reversionary interest in two messuages in Bordehaw lane, over against the great conduit in Cheap, subject to the yearly rent or tenth of 3s. due to the king.

The great mansion place which is described in the conveyance from the king must have been in the Old Jewry, on the north

¹ Acts of court.

² Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 66.

³ Ibid., fo. 67.

⁴ Ibid., fo. 68.

side of the Mercers' church, and probably extended some distance down that street. At the time of the purchase from the king, it was in the tenure of William Gonson, who had made over his lease to Anthony Marler, Haberdasher. There were also two small tenements on the south side of the great mansion place and on the north side of the gate in the Old Jewry, in the tenure of Richard Burmyingham, at the rent of 33s. 4d., and of Robert Bevycode, at the rent of 45s. Sir Rowland Hill was anxious to obtain a lease from the Company of the three tenements, and made an offer for them on the 19th March, 1543.¹ A committee of the Company was desired by the court to view the houses, and the viewers reported that they were decayed and ruinous, whereupon the Company agreed that Sir Rowland Hill should have a lease granted to him of the three houses for fifty years from Lady-day, 1546, at the rent of £10 18s. 4d. for the first four and a-half years of the term, and £13 18s. 4d. for the remainder of it, he to keep all the houses in repair. The sexton's chamber, the morrow mass priest's chamber, and the stairs that went up into the leads at the east end of the church, and the lights on the north side of the church were to remain, "without any maner of dymnysshyng or shaddowyng of them," and the grammar school was to remain there, until such time as Sir Rowland Hill should provide another meet place for the said school. Sir R. Hill did not hold the houses long, for on the 20th December, 1546,² I find that Thomas Leigh, afterwards Sir Thomas Leigh, was in occupation of the great mansion place, and that permission was given to Sir Rowland Hill to make over the two small tenements also to him.

The following rental is taken from the Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 63d :—

THE RENTALE AND PARCELLES OF THE landes and tenements purchased of Kyng Henrye the viijth parcell of the dyssolved College of Acon in London accordinge to the Kynges letters pattentes before wrytten and mencioned.

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

Sainte Olave's
parish in the
Old Jewrye
in London.

Cooperburde
parish.

Colerchurche
parish.

Robert Bevycode for a tenement by yere nexte Sainte Olave's Church
 yearde xlv^o Richard Burmyngham, for a tenemente adionynge
 xxxij^o iiij^d Wm. Toweres for a tenemente xxxij^o iiij^d Thomas
 Forge, bedell of the warde, for a tenemente xxvj^o viij^d - - - - - vj^{li} xviiiij^o iiij^d

Thomas Addams, Rentegetherer to the late dissolved College of Acon,
 for a tenemente xliij^o iiij^d it is graunted hym for two lyfes for
 nothings. John Holdebern, tayllor, for a tenemente by yere
 xxxiiij^o iiij^d Johane Suygenalle, wyddowe, tallowe chaundeler, for
 a tenemente xxvj^o viij^d Wm. Troiue, tayllor, for two tenementes
 liij^o iiij^d all iiij tenements graunted to Stephen Cobbe by leace
 beringe date the xxx^{ti} daye of June Anno Regni Regis Henrici
 octavi xxx^{ti} for L^{ti} yeres payinge yerelye - - - - - vi^{li} xiiij^o iiij^d

Johanne Hille, wyddowe, for a tenemente which she latelye dwelte in
 And two shoppes lyinge and beyinge nexte the taverne called the
 Mytter in Cheape, vz., betwene the sayde Taverne on the parte of
 the Easte and the Church called Sainte Thomas of Acon, or the
 Mercers' Haulle, on the partie of the Weste, wherof one shoppe
 was in the tenor of W^m. Buckefolde and the other in the tenor of
 John Lewes graunted to Stephen Cobbe by leace dated the xxviiij^o
 daye of Auguste Anno xxix Henrici octavi 1537 for L^{ti} yeres payinge
 v^{li}

John Syrcoke for a tenement and two shoppes graunted hym by leace
 dated the vth daye of June Anno ix^o Henrici octavi for xl^{ti} yeres,
 and is in the tenor of Roberte Lewes. And nowe Stephen Cobbe
 dwellethe in the same and Rents by the yere - - - - - vj^{li} xiiij^o iiij^d

Roberte Downen, Iremonger, for two shoppes by leace berynge date the
 vijth daye of June in the xxiiijth yere of Kyng Henrye the viijth for
 L^{ti} yeres payinge yerelye - - - - - iiij^{li} vj^o viiiij^d

John Sendalle, Vintener, for the messuage called the Mytter in Chepe
 with fowere shoppes under the same wherof oon in the tenor of
 Roberte Lewes, wyereseller, an other in the tenor of Robert
 Vere, letherseller, an other in the tenor of Robert Dowenes, an
 other in the tenor of John Mychell, Iremonger, as by his leace
 thereof made berrynge date the laste daye of Marche, 1516,
 Anno vij Henrici octavi for LX yeres payinge yerelye - - - - - x^{li}

Beniemyne Gonson, grocer, hathe by leace the parsonage of Colle
 Church payinge yerelye xv^{li} iiij^o wherof deducte for the stypende
 of a preste viij^{li} and for synodes and proxees iiij^o So remaynethe
 clere yerelye - - - - - vij^{li}

Ambrose Barker for a tenement with a chapell and warehouses and a shope, some tyme in the tenor of John There, graunted to hym by Indentor dated the xxixth daye of Septembre in the xxix^t yere of Kyng Henrye the viijth for ^{xx}iiii^{ij} xix yeres he fyndinge all Reparaciones and quytrentes payinge v^{li} rente by the yere, and all his gyven hym freelye duryng the lyfe naturall of the saide Ambrose

v^{li}

Ambrose Barker a nother tenement with a shoppe and Celleres latelye in the tenor of Alice Neale, and graunted hym by Indentor of leace berryng date the fyrste day of June in the xxx^t yere of the raigne of Kyng Henrye the viijth for ^{xx}iiii^{ij} xix yeres payinge xx^s yerelye Rente and he to fynde all Reparaciones and quyterents and duryng his lyfe to pay nothinge - - - - -

xx^s

W^m. Barker a tenement by leace dated the fourthe daye of October in the xxixth yere of the Raigne of Kyng Henrye the viiith for xxx^t yeres payinge iij^{li} rente a yere wich is gyven Ambrose Barker for his lyfe payinge nothinge - - - - -

iii^{li} 1

Probat' Somma Sommarum of all the lands and tenementes purchasyd of Kyng Henry the 8th by this forsaid Rentale parcell of the Dissolved howse of Acon as afore ys sayd wth thadvozen - - liij^{li} xj^s viij^d.

Memorandum that after Ambrose Barker's deathe the said ix^{li} shalle remayne and come to the use of the Companye.

Memorandum Ambrose Barker and his Executors ar bounde to all Reparaciones and quytrentes payinge duryng the termes to come in his severalle leaces.

Memorandum be it Remembered that the Companye have bargayned and sould oute of their purchase to Sir Raufe Warren Knyghte and Alderman the barge of Buckelers burye in anno 1542, George Ellyote then beinge seconde Warden by his accompte more planely shalle appere.

Also the Companye have bargayned and sould to John Fysher pulter the Belle in Colman Strete also at the same tyme.

And in lyke maner the Companye have bargayned and sould to Bartilmewe Baron two tenementes in Bordehawelane over ayenste the greate Coundyte in Cheape in Anno Domini 1542 as by George Ellyottes Accompte shall playnely appere.

¹ The last three items make up £9, and the following note is appended to the rental:—"All this ix^{li} by yere whose fee simple we the Mercers do nowe enjoy by the Kinge's Letters Patentes beringe date the xxj daye of April Ann^o xxxiiij^{ti} Henrici viij w^c was Ann^o Domini 1541: yt is xxxj ago in April Anno 1572."

On the 22nd November, 34th Henry VIII, 1542,¹ more than a year after the date of the Letters Patent, Sir Edward North,² treasurer of the Court of Augmentations, acknowledged the receipt of £969 16s. 6d. from the Company, by the hands of Sir Rowland Hill the then master, for the gift, grant and clear purchase of the house, site, etc., of the dissolved house or hospital of Acon and of the church and parsonage of our Lady of Colechurch, with the advowson and patronage of the same, lately appertaining to the said hospital, which had been granted to the Company by Letters Patent under the great seal of England on the 21st April, 1541.

On the 19th December, in the same year,³ the Company appointed Dr. Smythe, master of Whittington College, Dr. Standyshe, of the same house, Dr. Wilson, the vicar of St. Lawrence Jewry, the suffragan of London, and Mr. Rudde to preach the six sermons in Lent in the Mercers' church according to their covenant with the king, and directed that each of them should have 6s. 8d. for his pains and labour.⁴

On the 19th December, 1542, Lady Seymour, widow of Sir Thomas Seymour, presented to the Company an altar cloth of yellow and white satin, and a chalice of silver and gilt weighing ozs.,⁵ and the Company with one assent rendered unto her their most hearty thanks, praying God to preserve her loving kindness unto them shewed therein. Lady Seymour also gave to the church a pair of curtains of white sarcenet and yellow.⁶ On the same day it was agreed that the bell that was in the church which Mr. Bryan Tucke had bought should be repurchased if the wardens could get the same at a reasonable price.

¹ Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 63.

² Sir Edward North was son of Roger North, a Mercer, and is said to have been educated at St. Paul's School. He was raised to the peerage, as Lord North, in 1553; he was ancestor of Lord Keeper Guilford, the Earls of Guilford and Lord North, the Prime Minister in the reign of George III, and was fourth husband of Margaret, Lady North, who bequeathed a sum of money to the Company for founding exhibitions for the universities.

³ Acts of court.

⁴ Blank in entry.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Acts of court.

and Mr. Wm. Dautesey and Sir John Gresham, knight and alderman, gave of their good wills 15s. sterling apiece towards the payment thereof.¹

About the same time, on the 19th February, 1542,² the Company made regulations as to burials in the church, and directed that any strangers, who desired to be buried in the high quire, should pay for the ground and "leaystowe" £6 13s. 4d., for the two side chapels £5, and for the body of the church £3 6s. 8d., "provided always that our own Company and fellowship of the Mercers be frank and free from any of the said sums, but only of benevolence and pleasure of the aldermen and assistants." This arrangement was varied on the 23rd March, 1544,³ when it was ordered that any brother free of the fellowship, of whatever degree or condition, or his wife, that should fortune or chance to be buried within the precinct or circuit of the church, should pay for the ground and leaystowe in the high quire, 40s., in the two side chapels 26s. 8d., and in the body of the church 13s. 4d., together with 3s. 4d. in addition to the sexton for making the grave.

On the 19th March, 1542, it was agreed, that all sums of money that were prested by divers persons unto the Company, for the payment of the purchase of the king's majesty's highness for the church buildings and leads to the same pertaining, with certain tenements also, should be repaid unto them again before Midsummer next coming, and that the yearly quarterage should then cease; and further that the persons to whom money was due should bring in their bills to the wardens before their prest money was paid; and that if the second warden should lack any money for the repayment of the aforesaid prest money, the renter warden should pay to him so much money as would suffice for the accomplishment of the same sums contained in the said bills of prest money, that act to be his sufficient discharge for the same.⁴

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

The following rent roll in the account of John Royse, reuter warden, from the 24th July, 1542, to the 15th July, 1543, relates to the lands so purchased from the king:—

LANDES PURCHASED BY THE MERCERE OF THE KYNG'S MAIESTE IN
SAYNTE MARVE COLCHURCHE.

Robert Downen, Iremonger, for the parsonage for $\frac{1}{2}$ a yere due at the Anunciacion of Oure Ladye laste paste, with the tythes and oblaciones over and besides 8 ^{li} for the stypende of a preste, serving the cure and 3 ^s for proxes, whiche parsonage is in the tenour of Benjamyn Gonson for terme of yeres, and it is charged to us for 7 ^{li} clere - - -	3 ^{li} 10 ^s 0 ^d
Thomas Adames and William Buteler for a tenemente in the olde Jurye graunted to theym duryng theire lyves, payinge therfor nothyng, whiche is rented at - - - - -	2 ^{li} 3 ^s 4 ^d
Stephen Cobbe for 4 tenementes in sevrall tenors, the oon in the tenor of John Holbein Tayllor, at 1 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d , the other in the tenor of Jane Suygnalle, Wyddowe, at 1 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d , the other two in the tenor of Jane Tryme, Wydowe, 2 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d for halfe a yere - - -	2 ^{li} 16 ^s 8 ^d
Stephen Cobbe for a house and four tenementes, late John Syrcokes by leace, for halfe a yere - - - - -	3 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d
Stephen Cobbe for a house with two shoppes by leace, for halfe a yere -	2 ^{li} 10 ^s 0 ^d
Robert Downen, Iremonger, for two shoppes by leace for halfe a yere -	1 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d
Mysteres Sendall for the greate tenemente or taverne called the Mytter in Chepe, for halfe a yere - - - - -	5 ^{li} 0 ^s 0 ^d
Antonye Marler for the greate mancion place, for halfe a yere - - -	3 ^{li} 10 ^s 0 ^d

SAYNTE OLAVES IN THE OLDE JURYE.

John Kyrkely for a tenemente, for halfe a yere - - - - -	1 ^{li} 2 ^s 6 ^d
Richard Burmyngham for a tenemente, for halfe a yere - - - - -	0 ^{li} 16 ^s 8 ^d
William Towres for a tenemente, for halfe a yere - - - - -	0 ^{li} 16 ^s 8 ^d
Thomas Forge for a tenemente, for halfe a yere due at the Anunciacion of Oure Ladye laste paste - - - - -	0 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d

QUYTERENTE GOYNGE OUTE OF THE LANDES PURCHASED OF THE KYNGE'S GRACE.

Payde to Roger Higham, collector of the tenthe oute of oure landes purchased of the kyng, as well of that we solde to Sir Raufe Warren, Bartilmewe Baron and John Fysher, as of that we do holde in oure handes, for a yere at Myghelmes laste paste - - - - -	7 ^{li} 8 ^s 10 ^d
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On the 18th June, 1543, it was agreed that the two closings of wainscot nexte the choir door in the church should be sold by the wardens to the most profit of the Company.¹ The two closings of wainscot, or parcloses, as they are called in the account, were sold to Sir Michael Dormer for £3 13s. 4d.²

On the 16th July, 1543, Richard Jervyes, alderman, George Ellyote, and John Royse, wardens, gave to Lady Mylbourne³ the Assumpcion of Oure Lady, with the habiliments thereto belongyng, without any penny paying therefor. Whereupon the said Lady Mylbourne promised to be as beneficial to the fellowship as though she were a sister of the same.⁴

On the 27th September, 1543, it was ordered that the master and wardens should have communication with Sir Myghell Dormer, knyght and alderman, to know at what houre his pleasure was that the morrow mass should be sung every morning in the church, which the Company thought meet to be at 5 o'clock in the summer and at 6 in the winter.⁵

On the 19th March, 1543, it was agreed that two pair of organs, and the loft in the rood chapel in the church should be sold by the wardens.⁶

In the renter warden's account for the year 1542-3, are some further entries of payments for various works to the church. £12 18s. 8d. was spent in repairs, and 2s. 4d. to Parries for mending the Haberdashers' altar. £2 3s. 3d. was paid for a piece of "bryselles," containing 43 ells at 10d. an ell, for altar cloths, 3s. for a sacrament cloth of changeable sarcenet with tassels of gold, £1 6s. 8d. for painting the rood loft cloth, containing 16 yards at 20d. a yard, and 12s. for a Bible, "set up openly for any man to read at."

¹ Acts of court.

² Renter warden's account.

³ Widow of Sir John Milborne, Draper, Lord Mayor in 1521, who died in 1535.

⁴ Acts of court.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

In the account of Thomas Leigh, rector warden, from the 24th July, 1543, to the 24th July, 1544, are the following entries:—

<p>Item, I charge me receyved of Sir Raufe Warren, knyght and alderman, for the tenth oute of a tenemente called the Barge in Bucklersburye, which saide tenemente the saide Sir Raufe Warren purchased of this Compenye, oute of theire generall and holle purchase, and the sayde tenth was due at Myghelmes anno 35 Henry VIIIth - - - - -</p>	1 ^l 2 ^s 0 ^d
<p>Also receyved of John Fysher, polter, for the tenth oute of a tenemente called the Bell in Colman Strete, whiche tenemente the saide John Fysher purchased of this Compenye oute of theire generall and holle purchase, which saide tenth was due at Myghelmes anno 35th Henry VIIIth - - - - -</p>	4 ^s 0 ^d
<p>Item, also receyved of Bartilmewe Baron, mercer, for the tenth oute of two tenementes in Bordelane, over ayenste the greate cundite in Chepe, whiche two tenementes the said Bartilmewe Baron purchased of this Compenye oute of theire generall purchase, and the tenth was due at Myghelmes anno 35th Henry VIIIth - - - - -</p>	4 ^s 0 ^d

On the 18th June, 1544, the wardens were authorized to make ten casements for the glass windows in the church.¹

At a court of assistants held on the 20th June, 1544, the following gifts of divers persons were announced:—

Item, of the gyfte of Sir Raufe Warren, a greate bell to ryng to Masse, whiche hangs on the high quere, a lytell sackerynge bell, a towell of dyaper for a preste to whyppe his hands on, containing 2 yards quarter longe, a sakermente clothe of whyte launc egged aboute with golde and knoppes gilte.

Item, of the gyfte of Robert Dowen, Iremonger, a reare dose and a fore dore of fustyan paynted with yellowe and blacke floweres, 2 curteynes of linnen clothe of the same worke, a vestemente complete of clothe of Bawdekeyn with thre skochynes the mydeleste redde whyte, a deacon and a subdecon complete of the same for the garnyshynge of the high aulter.

Item, of the gyfte of Mr. Halle, a vestemente of blacke camblet with a grene crosse of brydges satten, powdered with gartors complete, a corpores case of tynsell satten the on syde & the other syde cremyson velvete powdered with golde, a sackerynge bell in a frame of tymber, two candelstyckes of woode gilte.

¹ Acts of court.

Item, of the gyfte of Mr. Wylkynton, a frontell of crymson velvet which was some tyme a cope enbrodered, a candell stycke for an aulter of latten.

Item, of the gyfte of John Fysher, polter, an aulter clothe of dyaper for the high aulter in the high queyere.

In March, 1546, or April, 1547, immediately after the accession of Edward VI, Dr. Crome, a loud advocate of the party of movement, with the appetite for inconvenient dilemmas which belongs so frequently to clever unwise men, preached a sermon in Mercers' chapel, in which he worked the statute (for suppression of chauntries) into an argument against purgatory.¹

In the year 1547 an order was issued by the Protector Somerset for the general purification of churches throughout the kingdom,² and that all painted glass, statues, roods and rood-lofts should be laid low. The painted glass in the Mercers' church had been previously destroyed, and now the images were taken down "according to the king's injunctions," at a cost of 5s. 2d.³

In the same year £2 17s. 8d. was paid to Shribbe, who was employed in carpenter's work, for making two partitions in the church, 8d. for two communions, and 13s. 4d. for taking down the vestry at the east end of the church.⁴

In 1548 Stephen Cobbe, Haberdasher, had a lease of the vestry at the east end of the Mercers' church, behind the high altar, for 21 years from Lady-day, 1549, at the rent of 20s. by the year.⁵

At the quarter-day held on the 22nd June, 1549, it was agreed that the Company should, on the day of their accustomed banquet, have evensong in English, instead of dirge, and on the morrow the communion instead of the solemn mass, and this to be continued, from year to year, until further be known to the contrary.⁶

¹ Froude, *Hist. of England*, vol. IV, p. 200.

² *Ibid.*, p. 279.

³ Renter warden's accounts, 1547-8.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Acts of court, 26th March, 1548.

⁶ *Ibid.*

On the 25th September, 1549, the Company took into consideration the altering and transmutation of the chapel under the halle, and agreed that the wardens should have communication with such persons as would labour and sue to have the same for shops, and also to have good advice of workmen for the transposing thereof and the wardens were to make relation thereof to the Company at the next quarter-day.¹ And on the 20th December, the Company deferred the further consideration of the matter till after Christmas, and desired the Lord Mayor and the aldermen belonging to the Company, with the wardens and assistants, to take advice how the chapel might be "transformed" without any disfiguring or blemish of the same.² A "platt" was submitted to the court of assistants on the 10th January, 1549, by one Norton and Richard Asheton, freemasons, and one Ellis Dyealle, bricklayer, for the alteration of the chapel,³ but nothing was done until 1556, when the chapel beneath was ordered to be closed about with board,⁴ and the order was repeated in 1557, the object of the alteration being to make the chapel fit for the Company's grammar school.⁵

It has been seen above that the hospital buildings had become vested in Sir Ralph Warren, in trust for the Company, and that he had made a will devising the same to them. This arrangement, however, does not seem to have been satisfactory, and the deeds mentioned below were executed in the year 1550. They were, perhaps, rendered necessary by the sale of part of the premises to Thomas, afterwards Sir Thomas Leigh, to whom, on the 28th March, 1550, it was agreed that the sexton's and priest's chambers on the north side of the church should be sold, on condition that he should make over to the Company the lease which he held of the parsonage of St. Mary Colechurch.⁶ The first of these deeds is dated the 18th April, 4th Edward VI, 1550, whereby Sir Ralph Warren granted to Sir Rowland Hill, knight, then

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., 14th December, 1556.

⁵ Ibid., 28th April, 1557.

⁶ Ibid.

Lord Mayor, and Sir Thomas Leigh, the house and site of the lately dissolved college of Acon,¹ and by another indenture dated the 22nd April, 4th Edward VI, 1550, Sir Rowland Hill and Sir Thomas Leigh covenanted with the Company not to hinder or interrupt a school which the Company had erected for the education of children within the precinct of the church called the Mercers' church, on pain of payment of the sum of £200.²

By another deed dated the next day, the 23rd April, the Company granted to Sir Rowland Hill and Sir Thomas Leigh six messuages or tenements in the Old Jewry,³ and on the same day by another deed the Company granted to Sir Rowland Hill and Sir Thomas Leigh two chambers called "le Sextene's Chambor" and "le Prestes Chambor" on the north side of the Mercers' church, together with "le two Chappelles" adjoining the wall of the aforesaid church, for the sum of £30 paid to the use of the said Company.⁴

In the same year, 1550, one Clogger, who was sexton of the Mercers' church, and who "suddenly ran away like a thief in the night, no man can tell whither," stole two chalices, pall cloths, vestments, two altar cloths, organ pipes, books, ironwork, and "such other like things," and absconded. The wardens were, at a general court held on the 30th May,⁵ requested to call all persons suspected to have been of counsel with Clogger before them, and commit them to prison, by the Lord Mayor's commandment, till the truth of all things should be further known. At the same court it was agreed that a chalice, used at St. Paul's School, should be borrowed, until the Company could provide another, and on the 20th of June⁶ a "new, comely, and beautiful paule cloth" was ordered to be made like that given by Sir Ralph Warren, who had lately died. The other one which Clogger stole was the gift of Dame Alice Wyche. On the

¹ Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 84.

² Ibid., fo. 85.

³ Ibid., fo. 86.

⁴ Ibid., fo. 87.

⁵ Acts of court.

⁶ Ibid.

15th January, 1555,¹ a chalice was ordered to be bought for the church "beneath," and on the 25th September, 1556,² the chalice borrowed from St. Paul's School was ordered to be returned. The new chalice weighed 17 ozs. 9 dwts., and cost at 5s. 4d. an ounce, £4 12s. 4d.³

On the 26th September, 1550, it was agreed that the tenths received of Sir Ralph Warren and Robert Downen should be sold to them for twenty years' purchase.⁴

On the 22nd December, 1550, it was agreed that all the pillars in the church should be mended and made perfect, and the church new whited throughout, and also the glass windows mended, with such other necessary things as should need to be done at the costs and charges of the Company.⁵ The cost of these repairs was about £20.⁶ There are many other entries in the Company's books of the repair of the glass windows in the church.

In 1550, immediately after Ridley was settled in the see of London, the altar at St. Paul's Cathedral was taken down at night, and a table of wood erected in its place, and the council directed a similar change to be made throughout the country.⁷ On the 28th March, 1550, it was agreed in a general court of the Company, that all the altars in the church should be clean taken down before the next quarter day,⁸ which was done at the cost of £7 4s. 9d.⁹ In the renter warden's account for the same year, the sum of 11s. 1¾d. was paid for reparations in taking down Becket's altar, and cutting down the angels' howsing and garnishing about the church, according to the king's proceedings; a table of wainscot and the frame for the communion cost 13s., and new settles were made about the pillars of the church at a cost of £15 16s. 5d.¹⁰ On the 11th March in the next year,¹¹ an altar cloth of

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Renter warden's accounts, 1549-50.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Renter warden's accounts, 1550-1.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Renter warden's accounts, 1556-7.

⁸ Froude, vol. IV, p. 529.

⁹ Acts of court.

¹⁰ Acts of court.

¹¹ Acts of court.

fine gold arras, and two others of red and green velvet, powdered with flowers of gold, were ordered to be made into two pall cloths, and the remaining altar cloths to be sold. A cope was purchased for £1 13s. 4d., and another cope for holy days, from Mr. Jervyes, for £3.

Under the head of casualties in the renter warden's accounts for the same year, certain vestments, altar cloths, copes and albs are stated to have been sold to William Maynarde for £3. Certain tombstones were also sold to Ellis Dyalle for 8s., and two altars "one of Mr. Shawe's,¹ and the other Mr. Brown's," were sold to William Maynard for £1.

A curious inventory of church gear is preserved for the year 1551.²

This is the inventorye of all the churche geayre that doth remayne in the custodie of Ric Burmicham, keeper of our churche, made the 29th daye of Julye, 1551.

Firste two copes, whereof on of clothe of golde and the other clothe of bawdekyen, with the corpores and cape withe image of Venyse golde embrodered.³

Item three aulbes of lynon clothe with cheasabelles.

Item three tabel clothes, whereof on of dyapor, and the other two of playne clothe, and a hande towell playne.

Item a pyllowe of grene sylke to lay the boke on.

Item a challes of sylver and gylte withe the pattente belonginge to Paule's Scole.

Item a corpores case withe a clothe therein.

Item two crewetts of pewter.

On the 11th March, 1550,⁴ the Mercers' chaplains were ordered to read in the church ever Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, the English procession, and a chapter of the Bible or paraphrases, and such other like godly lessons as should stand with the king's majesty's proceedings, and to minister in the church, such days as above-said, the communion, according to the order of the book thereof set forth

¹ Sir Edmund Shaa.

² Renter warden's accounts, 1550-1.

³ One of these copes was bought of Robert Shribbe, the Company's carpenter, and the other of Mr. Jervyes. Ibid.

⁴ Acts of court.

by the king's majesty. On the same day the Italian preacher in Mercers' church for the Lent season being found to be preaching without license, was allowed to continue "this term," but thereafter was forbidden to preach without the license of the whole generality.

A proof of the "troublesome season" may be seen in the Acts of court of the 20th October, 1551, where it is recorded that by commandment of the Lord Mayor every man was to look straitly to his household and family, and that no man should talk or babble of the king's affairs, nor concerning the Duke of Somerset's captivity with his accomplices. And further, that certain of the Company should assemble daily at Cripplegate to arrest all suspected persons.

The result of the accession of Queen Mary is seen in the alterations made in Mercers' church, and in the services there. On the 6th September, 1553,¹ the court of assistants ordered that the high altar in the church should be set up again as it was before, and the steps to it made and raised, and that the wardens should take the advice of workmen for the best furnishing thereof, and should make provision for the garnishing thereof, and for the priests also, which was done at a cost of £2 9s. 8d., which was paid by the Company.² At the same time the sum of £1 13s. 4d. was paid to Mistress Large, for the rood loft cloth which Robert Large, her husband, changed when he was warden in 1550.³

On the 4th October, 1553,⁴ the wardens were directed to provide, at the cost of the Company, ornaments and other conveniences for the high altar lately set up, and also vestments, albs, altar cloths, and such other like things for the priests to do service in according to the Queen's highness' godly proceeding, and the laws of holy church. In the renter warden's accounts for the year 1553-4, payments are recorded to Lyveriche Forster, the clerk of the Company, of £1 for a mass book in vellum for the priest, £1 for a vestment and all things appertaining thereto, and sixpence for a sakeringe bell.

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Renter warden's accounts, 1553-4.

⁴ Acts of court.

Shortly afterwards¹ the priests' stipends were raised, Sir William Dingley and Sir Anthony Bradshaw receiving 20s. a year more, and Sir Richard Baker 26s. 8d. more.²

The image of St. Thomas, which had been taken down in 1538, was again set up by order of the Company. The following entry in the Acts of court, under date the 28th December, 1554, refers to this matter:—

WHERE AT this Court it was declared and showed by all Mr. Wardens how that they were all sent for before my Lord Chancellor being the Bishop of Winton³ for and concerning an image of S^t. Thomas of Canterbury that some time stood over the great church door in the street, the which was taken down a 15 or 16 years past by Mr. Cromewell's commandment and a maiden's head of stone set in the place, which now remaineth in the weigh house of silk under our hall, and also for the celebration of the day of S^t. Thomas of Canterbury, as it hath been before and 20 years before the Company purchased the church, then named S^t. Thomas of Ackeres; after the Court had heard Mr. Wardens speak and declare my Lord Chancellor's commandment, they all of one voice agreed and granted that the said Maiden's head shall be taken down out of hand and an Image to be graven in stone and new made and set up in the same place over the Church door, and also the Company to meet in the church beneath in their livery hoods on the morrow & there hear mass because it is S^t. Thomas of Canterbury's day in Christmas week, which was done and accomplished accordingly.

In the renter warden's account for the year it is recorded that a new picture of St. Thomas of Canterbury over the street door cost £4 8s. 6d.

Strype in his Memorials,⁴ under date the 14th February, 1554, says:—

The same day the image of the old abrogated saint Thomas Becket, martyr for the pope but traitor to the King, was set up in stone over the gate of S^t. Thomas of Acres, that is Mercers' chapel, by order of the Lord Chancellor & other bishops, in the habit of a bishop with his mitre & crosier, but within two days after, in the night time, his two fingers held up to bless were broken off, & the next night his neck too, & the top of his crosier. But the shame done to S^t. Thomas was highly

¹ Acts of court, 18th April, 1554.

² Renter warden's accounts, 1553-4.

³ Gardiner.

⁴ Vol. III, p. 209.

resented, and many that were looked upon as no friends to the present proceedings were suspected, and among the rest one Barnes, a Mercer, who lived over against the chapel, who therefore with some of his servants was committed. But though nothing could be proved against him yet he was fain to enter into a recognizance of a great sum of money both to watch it and to make good the image whensoever it should be defaced. The 2nd day of March it was set up again at his charge, and again the 14th day, at night, the head was broken off and one of the arms, so that on the 15th a proclamation went forth that whosoever did know, and would shew to the Mayor who had done this act should not only have his pardon, but be rewarded with an hundred crowns of gold. But the act still remained undiscovered.

Machyn in his diary says, under the year 1554:—

The xvij day of Feybruary at bout mydnyght ther wher serten lude feylous cam unto sant Thomas of Acurs, and over the dore ther was set the ymage of sant Thomas, and ther thay brake ys neke and the tope of ys crosier, the wyche was mad of fre-ston; with grett sham yt was done.

The xiii day of Marche in the nyght ther serten velyns dyd breke the neke of the ymage of Sant Thomas of Canturbere and one of hys armes broke.¹

In the year 1557 it was ordered that the chapel under the hall should be closed and made perfect for a grammar school,² and in the next year the Company desired the master and wardens to consult with a cunning joiner how the little house, formerly a buttery in the parlour, could be made into a handsome and proper library.³ The press and other items for the library cost £3 1s.⁴

The citizens of London showed great joy at the accession of Queen Elizabeth, and the Mercers were not less loyal than other companies. The Queen was crowned on the 15th January, 1558, and the companies made preparations for her progress through the City from the Tower to Westminster. The following entries from the Acts of court relate to the Queen's coronation:—

Quarter daye holden the XIXth daye of December, 1558.

Also it is agreed that Mr. Wardeins shal chose and pycke oute XII comely personable men oute of the Lyverey to be in velvette cootes and chaynes of golde to be as

¹ p. 82.

² Acts of court, 28th April, 1557.

³ Ibid, 21st September, 1558.

⁴ Renter warden's account, 1558-9.

wyffellers and stande before our Companye the daye the Quenes grace comethe thorough the Cyttye to Westmester to her gracious Coronacion and to have whyte staves in their handes to kepe the people from the Company that no prease be hadde there.

ALSO it is agreed that the Mr. Bachelers shall calle and assemble theyemselves and leaye their heddes togedder and consult for the honor of the Cytteye and the worshipe of this Companye for the furnytur of a barge and a foyeste upon the Theames with other goodly order garnishinge decking and furniture thereof in the goodlieste and beste manner that can or maye be devysed for the receyvinge of the Quene's grace from Westmester to the tower of London and to corrage them to do the same well the Companye have gyven theyem towarde their charge thereof 10^{li} which was never sene before, over and beside 3s. 4d. a pece of evrye bachelor that wayts and weres his whodde amonge them as they dyde at the Mayors going to Westmester to take his othe.

ALSO at the saide Courte it was agreed that the Lorde Mayor shulde consulte withe his bretheren the Aldermen for order to be hadde and taken consirnyng in what place it shall be thoughte meate that the Bachelers shalle stande in to the fayreste shewe of them all as the Quene's grace shalle passe thorowe this Cyttye to her gracious Coronacion and suche order and dyreccyon as his Lordshipe shalle appoyente therin it to be followed and done accordingly with diligence.

The image of St. Thomas was again in trouble, for Wriothesley, in his Chronicle, under date the 9th January, 1559, says that it was that day found broken, and cast down, and a bill set on the church door depraving the setters up thereof, while Il Schifanoja, writing to the Castellan of Mantua, on the 23rd of the same month, says that the statue of St. Thomas was stoned, beheaded, and thrown down entirely, and the stucco statue of a little girl placed in its stead.¹

Strype, in his Annals of the Reformation,² says that, on the 7th April, 1559, a gentlewoman was buried at St. Thomas of Acre, and as her funeral was performed after a different way from the then common superstitious and ceremonial custom, the journalist thought it was worth noting. She was brought from Bartholomew's besides Lothbury, with a great company of people, walking two and two, and neither priests nor clerks present (who used ever to be present, and that in considerable numbers, at the burials of persons of any note,

¹ Calendar of State Papers in North Italian Archives, vol. VII, p. 11.

² Vol. I, p. 187.

going before and singing for the soul of the departed). But instead of them went the new preachers in their gowns, neither singing nor saying till they came to the church; and then, before the corpse was put into the grave, a collect was said in English, whereas before time all was said in Latin. And the body being laid in the grave, one took earth and cast it on the corpse and read something that belonged to the same, and incontinently they covered it with the earth. And then was read the Epistle out of St. Paul to the Thessalonians for the occasion, and after this they sang the *Pater Noster* in English as well preachers as all the company, women not excepted, after a new fashion, and after all one went into the pulpit and made a sermon. This was accounted strange at the time; but it seemed to be partly the office of burial in king Edward's time, and some other additions to it; and this was somewhat boldly done, when as yet the old religion was in force.

A service book and psalter and a Bible were bought for the chapel for 15s. 8d.,¹ and on the 21st June, 1560, it was agreed² that the rood loft beneath, in the Mercers' church, should be taken down in decent order and manner, according to the Queen's highness's proceeding, and what remained to be honestly garnished in such seemly and comely manner as other parish churches. The cost of this appears from the renter warden's accounts for the year to have been £5 3s. 7d. In the same year the "anticke border" in the hall was mended, and maidenheads and Jesus made in the church, the glass windows and leads repaired and the church whited,³ and an hour glass for the preachers in Lent was purchased in 1561, costing 6s.⁴

In 1560 the wardens were informed that the Queen (Elizabeth) would come to the Company's annual supper, and the following curious entries occur on the subject in the Acts of court. The Queen, however,

¹ Renter warden's accounts, 1558-9.

² Acts of court.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Renter warden's accounts.

did not come at the time appointed, but she afterwards honoured the Company with her presence at their hall, and is said to have been then admitted a free sister of the Company.

COURTE OF ASSISTENTES holden and kepte on Sondaye at afternone beinge the XXIst daye of Julye 1560, present Sir Thomas Leighe knyght and alderman Mr. Ric Mallore Mr. Roger Martyn & Mr. Humfereye Baskerfelde aldermen Mr. Anthonye Hickman warden John Hare John Boyse John Baker Thomas Bonde William Gyfforde Ric Carrell and William Chesham assistants.

WHEREAS comunicacion was hadde of the great rumour and voyse that wente abrode thorrowe oute all the Cyttye of London & in everye man's mouthe playne that the quene's Majesty was fullye mynded to come to the Mercers' Haulle with all her Ladyes & Nobylite to be present at the Mercers' Supper to see the order thereof and the chossinge of the Wardeins then at that supper used and accustomed forasmuch as that the Supper for the Companeye and their gesses shulde be on the morrowe being Mounday at nyght and Marye Magdelene's daye; and that woorde came to Mr. Wardeins that her grace wolde be thereat; and the same shoulde be putte of unto Thursdaye followinge which shulde be Sainte James Daye. It is agreed by this Courte that the Salmond that be all redye provyded for the same supper shall be devyded amongst the Aldermen Wardeins & Assistents & every man to beare his parte and porcyon thereof accordinglye. And the venyson that is in this house to be given out by Mr Wardeins to the Aldermen & other of their friends as to theym shall be thoughte good. And other manner of preparacyon to be made for the same with as diligente spede as possible maye or can be & the straunge geasts bothe men & Ladyes to be bydden agen forthewith & not to be delayed.

WHERE ALSO Mr. John Gresham Jun^r. & John Ellyotte have broughte reporte and worde from Sir Thomas Gresham Knyghte, Upper Wardein of this Companey, unto Mr. Humfereye Baskeyfeld Alderman Master Wardeyn of this Companeye and to the reste of Mr. Wardeins howe that the quene's Majestie is fully bente and mynded to come to the Mercers' Haulle unto the Mercers' Supper whiche now of verrye force & necessiye muste be putte of unto Thuresdaye next whiche shall be Sainte James' Daye. And thereof this Assemble hadde delyberate and good consultacion for provysion thereof to be made with all spede that possible can or maye be for the honor of the quene's highnes & the worshiye of this fellyshippe. And it was thought good by this Assemble that Sir Thomas Gresham shulde be spoken with all & that the moste parte of the charges shulde be laied upon him for to beare because he is the begynner & doer of all this and the house contented to bear a porcyon therto yet notwithstandinge this Assemble deliberatlye consulted amongeste theymselves to reporte &

putte of this matter unto to-morrowe mornynge beinge Mondaye & theym all to meate here ageyn by 7 of the Clocke in the mornynge and Sir Thomas Gresham to have warninge to be here present with theym and then to talke & conclude with hym further therein & to determyne the same by their wisdomes and sadde discessiones whereupon theye wolde reste & provyde for the accomplyshement & furnytur thereof.

THAT worde was sente by Sir Thomas Gresham to Mr. Wardeine on Sondaye at nyghte at 9 of the clocke that they shulde procede on theirer banket accordinge to theirer preparacion made for the same for the quene is altered of her mynde and is not mynded to come to the same at this tyme.

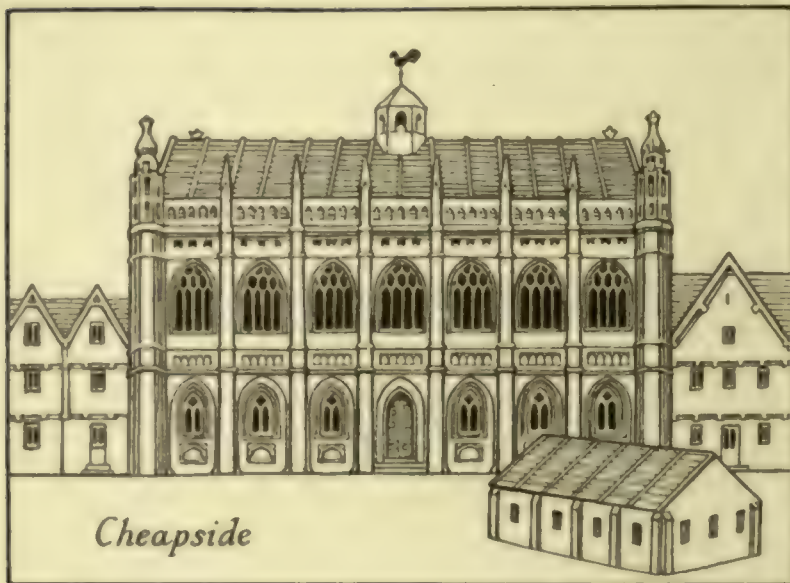
FURTHERMORE when the sermonde and service done in the Churche beneath on Moundaye at 5 of the clocke at nyghte a littell before the Companeye wente uppe to their Supper Whereunto came the Lord Marcus of Wynchestor Thresourer of England The Lorde Marques of Northehampton The Lorde Roberte Dudleye and other beside the states that the Company hadde bidden before It was by the Aldermen and Assistents agreed that all the assistents and livery of this Companeye shulde set in the haulte at Supper with their whoodds on their shoulderes in any wyse that theye might be knowen & sene to be the fellyshipe from others And that Mr. Wardeins at theirer goinge uppe and downe to see the haulte furnyshedde and the ladyes and jentilwomen served & chered shulde goo contynewellye with their whoddes on there shoulderes And the Clerke to go in like manner; and when theye do chose the Wardeins theye to wayere there whoddes on their shoulderes also; and the Clarke that berethe the Maistere's Cuppe to weare his whodde on his shoulderes also; the order and use of the whiche so done was by all the noble personages & other estates verry lawdable comended & praysed to be a goodlye order & usage mete to be contynewed and performed as heretofore good anncyente custome hathe ben and is comendable used & kepte in good memorye to endure & leade other that shall be come hereafter to followe the steappes of theirer annciente fathers in wysdome & antyquyte heretofore by them dyscretlye used well ordered kepte & mayenteyned.

On 8th January, 1565, it was agreed by the court of assistants that a lantern should be prepared, at the cost and charge of the Company, to be trim and fair, made to hang over the church door in the street, to the best device and fashion that could be, and that he that kept the church should always, in the winter season, from Allhallowtide unto Candlemas, at the time used to set out candle and lantern light, called and cried by the beadle of the ward, and should put in a fair great candle into the lantern lighted, there to burn and give light in the street as others did.¹

¹ Acts of court.



Hercules Hall and Chapel
 from the map by Ralph Agas circa 1560-70
 in the 6th edition of the *Cartographia of London*



Cheapside

Hercules Hall and Chapel a restoration based upon the drawing

In the year 1566, two arches and pillars of the choir of the chapel, towards the north side thereof, were found to be damaged, and and were ordered to be repaired,¹ which was done at a cost of nearly £40.²

Soon afterwards, the master and wardens informed the Company, assembled in general court, that they had placed one Martyndale to be schoolmaster beneath in the Mercers' chapel, to teach 25 children at a salary of £62 per annum, and that they had directed that he should not teach any greater number than 25, and they also reported that they had admitted him to read morning and evening prayers beneath in the chapel on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays weekly, at their pleasure, for which he was to receive £8 per annum.³

The Mercers' church was one of the churches to which strangers in London resorted, and was among those reported on by Sir Thomas Rowe, Lord Mayor in 1568, in obedience to an order of the lords of the Council. Strype⁴ says that this certificate was written in a great book, and that in that book several Venetians and some Dutch are said to go to church to St. Thomas of Acon, among them Gabriel Petrocho, Venetian, a chirurgen, Barbara, his wife, and their children; Jerome Venalia, merchant, and a Venetian, Lombard Venalia, Matthew de Guester, notary public, a Dutchman and a denizen, and Cornelis his wife, and his children, Paul Typoets, and Coruel de Hare, his servant.

In a manuscript in the Bodleian Library, describing the masters of the Charterhouse, it is said that the third, Dr. William Middleton, exchanged the school for the preacher's place in the Mercers' church. He then went to Venice, in the train of an ambassador, to perfect himself in Italian, and on his return into England was preferred to the Italian lecture in the church, which he held till he died. In 1566, the Bishop of London recommended to the Company one Jeronimus

¹ Acts of court, 23rd December.

² Renter warden's accounts, 1556-7.

³ Acts of court, 24th March, 1568.

⁴ Annals, vol. IV, p. 569.

Farlitus, an Italian preacher, who desired to preach the Gospel in the Company's chapel beneath, on Sundays and holidays, to the Italians, and other worthy personages of the realm who had the use of that tongue, to which the Company assented.¹ On the 18th June, 1568, Farlitus, or Ferolyimo, was paid £3 6s. 8d. for his services, provided that it should be no precedent for any other in like case thereafter.² In the same year, one Anthony Coranis, a learned man and preacher within Mercers' chapel to the congregation of Spaniards, by the permission of the Company, exhibited a bill or petition, stating that in respect of his great need, and forasmuch as his auditory were but poor men, and not able to maintain a preacher, his only relief being from certain bishops of the realm, which was very little to maintain him and his poor family, and praying that the Company would extend to him of their liberality what God should move their hearts unto. The Company granted him 20 crowns of gold at 5s. the crown.³

At a later period the celebrated Marco Antonio de Dominis, Archbishop of Spalato, preached to large congregations in the Mercers' church.

On the 22nd March, 1571, Henry Bishop made his earnest suit for a lease of the chapel for 21 years to make him a shop towards the street, but the Company, considering how much it would be defaced, and how they were pestered and troubled for lack of rooms when any business had to be done, determined that no lease should be granted to anyone, but that it should still continue and remain as it then was as a spare room to use if necessary.⁴ However, Jeffrey Ducket, a member of the Company, who was admitted to the freedom in 1549, after an apprenticeship to Hugh Brincklowe, in the year 1575 petitioned for a lease of "the chapel beneath," so that he might turn it into a shop, in which to carry on his trade of a linendraper. His suit was warmly supported by Sir Thomas Gresham, and the Company, considering that

¹ Acts of court, 23rd December, 1566.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid., 18th June, 1568.

⁴ Ibid., 22nd March, 1571.

the chapel was not used and was of no benefit to them, and further that it would please Ducket, agreed that he should have a lease for 21 years, at the rent of 20 marks per annum. He was to fit up the chapel for his purposes at his own charge, without defacing the roof or building into the street, or making any penthouse or stall without the wall, to maintain the building with all reparations, and to remove the body and tomb of Sir John Aleyn into some convenient place in the church, at his own expense.

On the 11th November, 1578, a former precept for the taking up of Bibles by the Company was considered, and it was agreed that the wardens should buy one for to stand and remain without in the hall, the same to be bossed and fast chained in some convenient place there.

In 1645 the Company, in the spirit of the times, agreed to lend their church and hall to the House of Commons for a solemn thanksgiving after the battle of Naseby.¹ The Members of both Houses dined at Grocers' Hall on the 19th June, the Common Council at Mercers' Hall, there not being room at the former hall for the whole company. Some time after the Company² petitioned Cromwell against quartering soldiers there, because the hall was too small, and sermons to the Lord Mayor and aldermen and to the Italian congregation were made in the chapel, and a free school taught there, and besides the hall was defective in the roof;³ but, with these exceptions, during the century preceding the Great Fire of London, there is no special mention of the church and hall.

The church for a time withstood the Great Fire of 1666, but it ultimately succumbed. Vincent says that the fire was something stopped in its swift course at Mercers' chapel, yet with great force in a while it conquered the place and burned through it, and then with great rage proceeded forward in Cheapside.⁴ Pepys, in his diary, under date 5th September, says that in walking homeward from viewing the effect

¹ Acts of court.

² Acts of court, 25th December, 1648.

³ Journals, vol. 40, fo. 134.

⁴ Rev. T. Vincent, *God's terrible voice in the City of plague and fire, 1667.*

of the fire, he took up a piece of glass of the Mercers' chapel, where much more was so melted and buckled with the heat of the fire as to be like parchment. Mercers' hall and all the surrounding buildings, as well as the church of St. Mary Colechurch, perished.¹

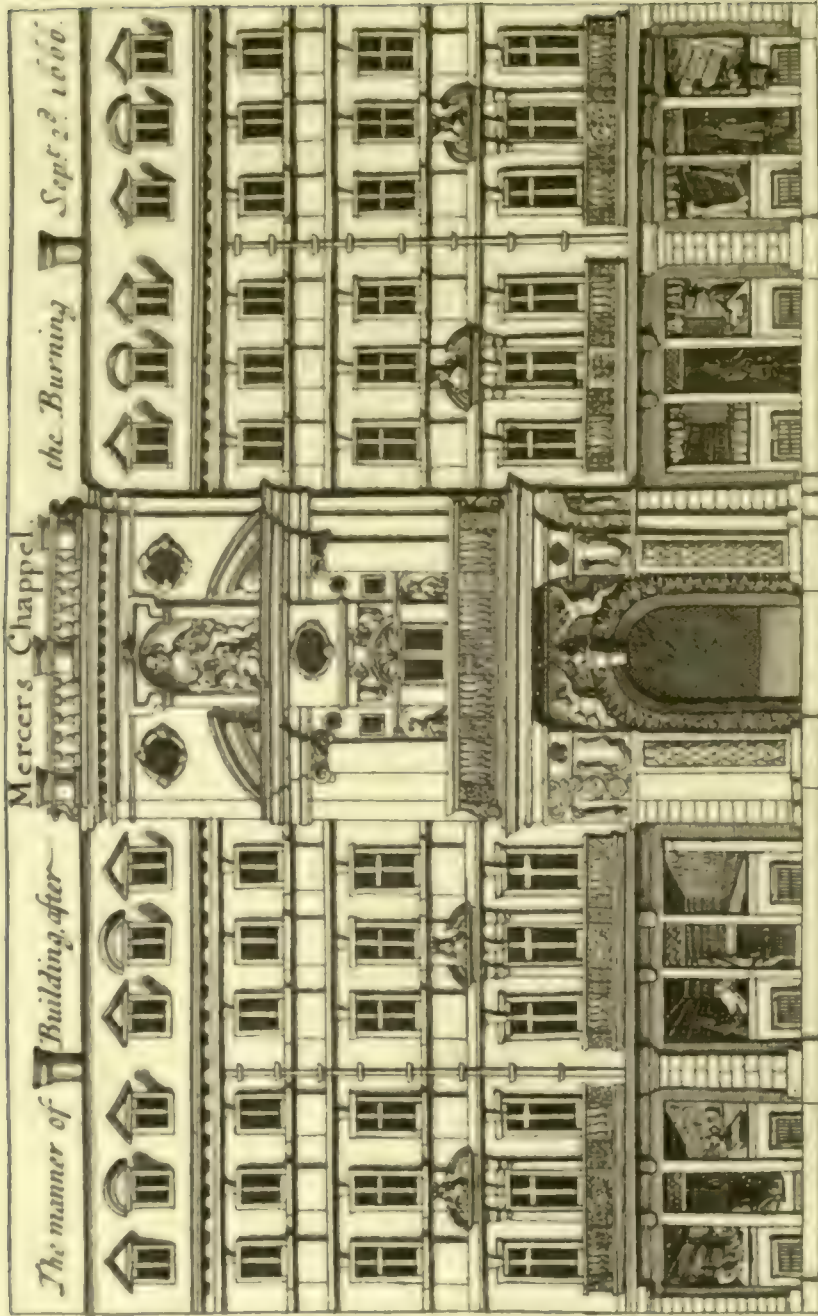
With the destruction of the hospital church my work is finished, and I will only, in conclusion, record the re-building of Mercers' hall and chapel, and note a few of the distinguished persons who were buried either in the church of the hospital or the cemetery adjoining it.

After the Great Fire the Company first turned their attention towards the re-building of the Royal Exchange and St. Paul's and Mercers' schools, and, when these were completed, they proceeded to re-build their church, thereafter called the Mercers' chapel, and their hall and offices. Edward Jarman, their surveyor, had, very soon after the fire, prepared plans for this purpose, but as he died before the Company were in a position to commence building, the plans were carried out by John Oliver, his successor in the office of surveyor.² Many of the old stones were used in the re-building, and indeed it is probable that the walls of the east end of the church were not so ruinous that they could not be made use of.

The Company considered that there was no occasion to erect so large a church as that which had been destroyed, and they accordingly built the present Mercers' chapel on the site of the choir of the hospital church, making an ambulatory on the site of the remainder of the church, as an entrance to it. The Company met for the first time in their new hall on the 11th August, 1682, and the chapel was soon afterwards finished and opened for divine service. The front of the hall towards Cheapside is shown in the drawing on the opposite page.

¹ The parish of St. Mary Colechurch was, under an Act passed in the 22nd year of King Charles II, for re-building the City, united, for ecclesiastical purposes, to St. Mildred in the Poultry, and the remains of persons who had been buried under the former church were removed into vaults under Mercers' chapel and hall.

² Acts of court, 2nd July, 1667, 12th November, 1669.



Mercers' Hall and Chapel
 Rebuilt after the Fire of London from a Prospect
 of London and Westminster by G. Kneller, H. Kneller and J. Kneller
 1677

The expense of the re-building severely taxed the resources of the Company, crippled as they had been by the necessity of erecting the buildings mentioned above, and a subscription was opened among themselves. Rowland Wynne, an eminent Mercer, and ancestor of the present Lord St. Oswald, contributed £500, and in recognition of his donation, his portrait was painted for the Company, and still hangs in one of the court rooms.¹ The Duke of Ormond promised to contribute £200 towards the chapel, in which several of his ancestors had been buried, but the money was never received.²

The re-building of the hall and chapel cost £11,881 3s. 4d., and the following "tables" of the names of the assistants and livery who contributed towards it, with the sums of money which each subscribed, has been preserved. The first table is without date, the second is dated in 1683.

A TABLE OF THE NAMES OF THE ASSISTANTS AND LIVERY OF THE RIGHT
WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MERCERS LONDON TOGETHER WITH THE SUMES
OF MONEY WICH EACH OF THEM HAVE SUBSCRIBED AND PAID
TOWARDS THE RE-BUILDING THEIR HALL AND CHAPPELL.

	li.	s.	d.		li.	s.	d.
Sir Richd. Ford, Knt., Aldn.	20	□	□	Mr. Walter Hampton -	150	□	□
Sir John Peake, Knt. - -	50	□	□	Capt. Gervase Lock - -	20	□	□
Fra. Flyer, Esq. - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Robt. Gilbert - - -	15	□	□
Wm. Barker, Esq. - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Hen. Norton - - -	20	□	□
Sam. Moyer, Esq. - - -	50	□	□	Capt. Thos. Hawley - - -	—	—	—
Rowl. Wynn, Esq. - - -	500	□	□	Mr. Lucy Knightley - - -	50	□	□
Hen. Spurstow, Esq. - -	50	□	□	Mr. Thos. Davis - - -	25	□	□
John Doget, Esq. - - -	50	□	□	Depty. Hum. Jones - - -	—	—	—
Hen. Bernard, Esq. - - -	20	□	□	Mr. Tho. Winspeare - - -	—	—	—
Tho. Papillon, Esq. - - -	50	□	□	Mr. Tho. Rich - - -	20	□	□
Mr. John Holland - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Nic ^o . Jackson - - -	10	□	□
Mr. Wm. Brunskett - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Peter Matthews - - -	25	□	□
Mr. Thos. Downay - - -	—	—	—	Mr. John Dover - - -	10	□	□
Mr. John Hawes - - -	15	□	□	Mr. Mich. Wilkins - - -	10	□	□
Mr. Robt. Ware - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Rowl. Hill - - -	10	□	□
Mr. Thos. Woodroffe - -	—	—	—	Mr. Wm. Hurt - - -	10	□	□

¹ Acts of court, 17th May, 1675.

² Ibid., 9th June, 1668.

	li.	s.	d.		li.	s.	d.
Mr. Oliver Wallis - -	20	0	0	Mr. Charles Carryl - -	-	-	-
Walter Lapp, Esq. - -	20	0	0	Mr. Sam. Moyer, Jun ^r - -	10	0	0
Mr. Walter Garfoote - -	-	-	-	Mr. Lucas Santen - -	-	-	-
Mr. Edw. Hopegood - -	30	0	0	Mr. Geo. Sitwell - -	20	0	0
Mr. Robt. Williams - -	25	0	0	Mr. Wm. Hedges - -	15	0	0
Mr. Fra. Lawrence - -	10	0	0	Mr. Mun. Browne - -	15	0	0
Mr. Mich. Webb - -	-	-	-	Mr. Fra. Ellaby - -	-	-	-
Mr. Nich ^s . Duncumb. - -	-	-	-	Mr. John Lloyd - -	10	0	0
Mr. Rowl. Worsop - -	12	10	0	Mr. Rob. Mellish - -	10	0	0
Mr. Mich. Godfrey - -	30	0	0	Mr. Edw. Cutts - -	-	-	-
More by him paid the Glazier for glazing the parlor with drawing room and buttry ladys chamber and gallery	22	0	0	Mr. Rob. Williamson - -	15	0	0
Mr. Tho. Langham - -	20	0	0	Mr. Hen. Sanders - -	12	0	0
Mr. Abra. Halstead - -	-	-	-	Mr. Valentine Adams - -	15	0	0
Mr. Tho. Tyte - -	20	0	0	Mr. Nath. Holton - -	15	0	0
Mr. Edm. Dethick - -	10	0	0	More given towards finishing the ladys chamber - -	10	0	0
Mr. Wm. Gostlin - -	10	0	0	Mr. Dudley North - -	-	-	-
More by him paid the mason for paving the quire of the chappell - -	75	0	0	Ben. Dethick, Esq. - -	-	-	-
Mr. W. Moyer - -	50	0	0	Mr. Wm. Robinson - -	20	0	0
Mr. Edw. Burrish - -	10	0	0	Mr. Xpofer Dodsworth - -	10	0	0
Mr. John Chapman - -	25	0	0	Mr. Marshall Bridges - -	-	-	-
Mr. Dan. Edwards - -	10	0	0	Mr. Edw. Bell - -	5	0	0
Mr. Nic ^s . Cooke - -	20	0	0	Mr. John Cooke - -	5	7	6
Mr. Edw. Boverie - -	20	0	0	Mr. Jasper Clutterbuck - -	15	0	0
Mr. John Gray - -	10	0	0	Mr. Rob. Abbot - -	10	0	0
Mr. John Beere - -	10	0	0	Mr. Lawrence Moyer - -	-	-	-
Mr. Fra. Hill - -	-	-	-	Mr. Wm. Nutt - -	20	0	0
Mr. Edm. Davenport - -	20	0	0	Mr. Edm. Harrison - -	20	0	0
Mr. John Morice - -	20	0	0	Mr. Tho. Lewisdan - -	8	0	0
Mr. Jeremy Elwes - -	20	0	0	Mr. Tho. Hawes - -	15	0	0
Sir Edw. Dearing - -	20	0	0	Mr. Edw. Allen - -	-	-	-
Mr. Adrian Poest - -	20	0	0	Mr. Tho. Goddard - -	10	0	0
Mr. Phineas Fletcher - -	10	0	0	Mr. Geo. Haughton - -	5	0	0
More given towards the finishing of ladys chamber	30	0	0	Mr. Edw. Beauchamp - -	-	-	-
Mr. Hum. Morice - -	20	0	0	Mr. Rich. Bond - -	10	0	0
Mr. Math. Carleton, Mer- chant - -	25	0	0	Mr. Edm. Buckeridge - -	5	0	0
				Mr. Maurice King - -	5	0	0
				Mr. Tho. Watts - -	5	0	0
				Mr. Wm. Strong - -	15	0	0
				Mr. Wm. Osboldstone - -	10	0	0
				Mr. Wm. Vessey - -	-	-	-
				Mr. Anth ^s . Bouchier - -	5	0	0

	li.	s.	d.		li.	s.	d.
Mr. Tho. Cowley - -	5	0	0	Mr. Hen. Bull - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Ben. Thorowgood - -	—	—	—	Mr. John Boys - - -	—	—	—
Mr. John Dod - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Rich. Lloyd - - -	12	10	0
Mr. Josiah Ebrall - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Edw. Shalcrosse - - -	—	—	—
Mr. John White - - -	6	0	0	Mr. Wm. Lock - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Tho. Raymond - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Tho. Dawnay - - -	—	—	—
Mr. John Davenport - - -	—	—	—	Mr. John Mascall - - -	10	0	0
Mr. Rich. Hobson - - -	—	—	—	Mr. John Taylor - - -	10	0	0
Mr. Tho. Blackmore - - -	20	0	0	Mr. John Jennings - - -	—	—	—
Mr. John Elwick - - -	13	0	0	Mr. Fra. Hill - - -	5	0	0
Mr. John Debnam - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Math. Carleton Tobac.	—	—	—
Mr. Rich. Hare - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Nic ^o . Fownes - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Robt. Holt - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Tho. Pory - - -	50	0	0
Mr. Rich. Urrey - - -	5	0	0	Mr. Wm. Bridges - - -	5	0	0
Mr. Symeon Fincham - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Edw. Roberts - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Joseph Hall - - -	5	0	0	Mr. Wm. Butler - - -	10	0	0
Mr. Saml. Totton - - -	10	0	0	Mr. John Archer - - -	—	—	—
Mr. John Ridgley - - -	10	0	0	Mr. Andrew Kendrick - - -	5	0	0
Mr. John Wase - - -	10	0	0	Mr. John Story - - -	10	0	0
Mr. Paul Palmer - - -	—	—	—	Mr. John Foche - - -	—	—	—
Mr. John Brand - - -	5	0	0				
Mr. Tho. Carleton - - -	20	0	0	Total - - -	2,416 ^{li}	7 ^s	6 ^d
Mr. Edward Carleton - - -	—	—	—				

A TABLE OF THE NAMES OF THE LAST LIVERY OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF MERCERS LONDON TOGETHER WITH THE SUMS OF MONEY
WHICH EACH OF THEM HAVE PAID TOWARDS THE RE-BUILDING
THEIR HALL AND CHAPPELL.
ANNO DOMINI 1683.

	li.	s.	d.		li.	s.	d.
Mr. Henry Warner - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Rich. Bucknam - - -	0	10	0
Mr. John Warfeild - - -	5	0	0	Mr. John Cholmeley - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Wm. Ashby - - -	10	0	0	Mr. Tho. Hamond - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Edw. Coltstone - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Wm. Gore - - -	25	0	0
Mr. Wm. Willis - - -	25	0	0	Mr. Heritage Lenten - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Tho. Thursby - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Wm. Rawlinson - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Wm. Trigg - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Francis Barry - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Jacob Turner - - -	20	0	0	Mr. Gervase Lock - - -	—	—	—
Mr. John Terry - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Rich. Bowater - - -	5	0	0
Mr. Thos. Traveis - - -	—	—	—	Mr. Nath. Strange - - -	—	—	—
Mr. Robt. Baden - - -	—	—	—	Mr. John Chapman - - -	—	—	—

	l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
Mr. John Wagstaffe -				Mr. Gabriel Lapp -			
Mr. Wm. Fitzhugh -				Mr. John Clagett -	5	0	0
Mr. John Came -				Mr. John Rickard -			
Mr. William Wallis -	5	0	0	Mr. Wm. Hussey -			
Mr. John King -				Mr. Edwin Browne -			
Mr. Tho. King -				Mr. John Hopkins -			
Mr. Sam. Mayne -				Mr. Bezaliel Sherman -			
Mr. John Banks -				Mr. Caleb Hooke -	10	0	0
Mr. Tho. Sheppard -				Mr. Rich. Chauncey -			
Mr. Robt. Freeman -				Mr. Griffeth Bodurda -			
Mr. Tho. Cary -	10	0	0	Mr. James Hutton -			
Mr. Ben. Smith -				Mr. Rich. Robinson -	5	0	0
Mr. Ben. Mercer -				Mr. Peter Watson -			
Mr. Rowl. Wynn -	15	0	0	Mr. Sam. Clarke -			
Mr. Justus Otgher -	10	0	0	Mr. Wm. Ivatt -			
Mr. Shem. Bracebridge -				Mr. Wm. Fawkener -			
Mr. Tho. Phipps -				Mr. Sam. Howard -			
Mr. Tho. Serocold -				Mr. Wm. Cary -			
Mr. Tho. Sanders -				Mr. Tho. Harwick -			
Mr. Andrew Boulton -				Mr. Nicholas King -			
Mr. Ben. Mosse -	5	0	0	Mr. Tho. Leigh -	5	0	0
Mr. Tho. Somers -	5	0	0	Mr. John Head -	5	7	6
Mr. Tho. Duck -	10	0	0	Mr. Wm. Boverie -	5	0	0
Mr. Ezechiel Wallis -				Mr. Tho. Trench -	15	0	0
Mr. Dan. Thomas -	15	0	0				
Mr. Fran. Levett -				Total -	225 ^{li}	7 ^s	6 ^d
Mr. Peter Pett -							

The church of St. Thomas was a favourite place of burial of the citizens of London, and a very large number of human bones, gathered together in charnel houses, have been found at various times since the Reformation, when excavations have been made on its site.

The burials of the Earls of Ormond, and of Elizabeth, Countess of Ormond, have been already noticed. Stephen de Cavendish, Lord Mayor in 1362, was buried in the north aisle of the church,¹ and his grandson, Thomas Cavendish, of the king's exchequer, desired by his will in 1524, to be buried near the tomb of his grandfather, if he should die in London.² There is a similar direction in the will of William

¹ Collins' Noble Families, p. 4.

² Ibid., p. 6.

Cavendish, the father of Cardinal Wolsey's biographer.¹ The family of Cavendish was long connected with the Mercers' Company, two at least having been members of it, and one of them was auditor of the hospital at the time of the Dissolution.

I have compiled the following list of persons buried in the hospital church from the Calendars of wills, which have been so often referred to, the Cartularies, the Acts of court, the Registers of the Prerogative and Commissary Courts,² and other sources, but the list is by no means complete. Nicholas de Leyk; Richard de Wynchecoumbe, Armourer; Edmund Deynes, Ironmonger; William Sallowe, Draper; and Richard Culley, Armourer, in 1361; Richard de Caustone, Mercer, in 1364; Peter Trente, Botel maker, in 1375; Thomas Shelley, in 1377; Walter de Chesthunte, in 1382, near the tomb of his father, Sir Walter de Chesthunte, knight; Richard Godechilde, Cutler, in 1389; William Rule, in 1390; Ralph Freeman, *coram altâ cruce* in 1405; Thomas Gernon, called Pike, sheriff in 1410; Robert Guphey or Guppeye, Mercer, in 1412; Thomas White, Tiller, in 1419, under the marble slab where lay the bodies of Margery, Margaret, and Joanna, his wives; John Lane, Mercer, in 1426; Stephen Martyn de Luca, in 1426, "*in capellâ Lucanorum*"; Martin Aleyn, Leatherseller, in 1432; William Oliver, Grocer, in the same year, who bequeathed to the hospital 100s. and twelve silver spoons; Sir John Trusbut, Mercer, in 1437; Margaret, wife of John Bracebridge, merchant of the Staple of Calais, in 1446; Sir Henry Frowyk, Mercer, mayor 1444, who died in 1460; Thomas Ilam, sheriff in 1479; Sir Edmund Shaa, Goldsmith, mayor in 1482; Thomas Norland or Newland, sheriff in 1483; Sir Thomas Hill, Grocer, mayor in 1485, in which year he died; Richard Harman, clerk, in 1494, in Trinity chapel; Ralph Tilney, sheriff in 1488, who died in 1503; Sir John Shaa, in the same year,

¹ Collins' Noble Families, p. 5.

² For many of these, I am indebted to Mr. J. C. Challenor Smith, F.S.A., the late superintendent of the Literary department, Court of Probate, Somerset House.

near his uncle, Sir Edmund Shaa; Thomas Garthe, in 1505; John Style, Mercer, in the same year, by the pillar next the church door, towards the school house by the wall; Richard Morrys, Vintner, in 1506, in the body of the church before the image of St. Mary Magdalen beside the altar; John Morrys, Mercer, in 1512; John Thomas, Mercer, in 1513, as near the altar of St. Anne as might be; Sir William Browne, Mercer, Mayor in 1513; Sir William Butler, Grocer, mayor in 1515; William Lambard, Mercer, in 1515, near the pulpit; William Ashley, Grocer, in the same year, "at the west door, near the parlour where I dwell"; John Hill, Haberdasher, in 1516, in the body of the church, beside the altar of St. Katherine; John Locke and Mary his wife, in 1519; Sir Thomas Baldry, Mercer, mayor in 1523; Robert Gedge, Mercer, in 1531, in the Lady chapel; John Sandell, Vintner, in the chapel of our Lady of Grace in the north side of the church, in 1532; Robert Pakynton, Mercer, in 1536; Sir William Locke, Mercer, sheriff in 1548, who died in 1550; Sir Richard Mallory, Mercer, mayor in 1564; Humphrey Baskerville, Mercer, sheriff in 1563; John Hare, in 1564, and Dorothy, his wife; Sir Thomas Leigh, Mercer, mayor in 1558, who died in 1571; Sir William Allen, knight, in 1574; Sir George Bond, mayor, in 1587; Richard Baron, Mercer, in 1591, and Alice, his wife; and Richard Fishborne, Mercer, in 1628.

Monuments were erected to most of the persons buried in the church before the Fire,¹ but none of them exist, except that to Richard Fishborne, which was erected by the Company to his memory, and on which he is described as "a worthy benefactor." One of the last interments which took place within the precincts of the chapel was in 1824, of Henry Clarke, of Wellick Grange, Northamptonshire, a great uncle of General Gordon of Khartoum.

¹ See Maitland's *History of London*, vol. II, p. 887.

SOME NOTES ON THE
PLATE OF
THE MERCERS' COMPANY.

SOME NOTES ON
THE PLATE OF THE MERCERS' COMPANY.

THE MERCERS' COMPANY, like many other corporations, possessed, in old times, a large quantity of silver and silver gilt plate, given by freemen on various occasions. The troubles of the 16th and 17th centuries, however, compelled them to sell almost the whole of it, and nothing remains of the plate which was in their possession before the Fire of London, except the Leigh cup and the waggon and tun. Fortunately, from the records of the Company, it is possible to trace in very many instances the pieces given to them, with the occasion of the gifts, the donors' names, the weight, and the cost, the date of sale, and the price received.

The Company's plate was entrusted to the care of the second or house warden. Many entries are found in the older books containing directions for its custody, but the second warden's accounts, in which lists of the plate and household goods of the Company were entered, not having been preserved before the year 1617, notices of it before that time have to be collected from the Acts of court and other sources.

Dame Alice Wyche made her will on the 16th June, 1474, in which she directed that she should be buried in St. Dionis Backchurch, by the sepulture of William Holt her first husband, and bequeathed the plate mentioned below to the fellowship of Mercers, for the honour and good continuance of the same. She further willed that the

Company should have and keep the same plate for evermore while it would last and endure and that it should not be sold, aliened or done away with.

This gift is thus recorded in the Acts of court under date the 20th February, 1474 :—

Whereas my lady Wyche by devise of her testament giveth unto the fellowship certain jewels or plate, which parcell be hereafter written, and that for a remembrance of her two husbands' souls and her soul, for whom there shall be yearly kept an obit during the time of sixty years, And that the Wardens for the time being, with certain of the fellowship, shall yearly be at the said obit during the time of the said sixty years, And over this she willed that our two Chaplains shall have the foresaid souls in their daily memory and also that the fellowship shall keep the said plate as long as it will last and endure, and not to sell or alien it away by any means.

These be the parcell—

First. 2 standing cups silver and gilt, of one sort, both covered, and every of them having a Columbine flower on the covering.

Item. Two potell pots silver and gilt, with my lady's arms on the lid.

Item. Two basons silver and parcell gilt, one with my lady's arms in midst on the covering, the other with a spout.

Item. A garnish of new silver vessels, which was bought beyond the sea, that is to say, 2 chargers, a dozen platters, 1 dozen dishes, 1 dozen saucers.

Lady Wyche's first husband was William Holt, a Mercer, who was admitted in 1418, after an apprenticeship to Symond Bartelot. Her second husband was Sir Hugh Wyche, who was the son of Richard Wyche of Wic Malban, in Cheshire, apprenticed to John Boston, and admitted to the freedom in 1420. He was warden in 1439 and 1445, master in 1451, 1457, 1460, and 1468, and Mayor in 1461. He was buried in the church of St. Margaret, Lothbury. Lady Wyche died on the 27th September, 14th Edward IV, 1474, and her will was proved on the 6th November, 1474, by Humphrey Starkey, recorder of London, Thomas Windofer, and her cousin, Henry Wells, priest.¹

¹ Prerogative register, Waltys, fo. 19.

On the 21st June, 1475, at a court, the will and devise of Dame Alice Wyche were affirmed, and an ordinance made concerning the bequest of plate, to the intent that the Company's priests should continually remember her soul and the souls of her two husbands, William Holt, and Sir Hugh Wyche, knight, as special benefactors of the Company, and the souls of her father and mother and their friends. The chaplains were to keep her obit yearly for the space of sixty years in the church of St. Denys (St. Dionis Backchurch), in the ward of Lime Street, where she was buried.

The Company set great store by this plate, for on the 23rd March, 1480, it was ordered that "a mighty treasure chest" standing unoccupied at Whittington College should be brought into their hall in St. Thomas of Acon, so that the plate of Lady Wyche's gift might be laid therein.¹

In 1483 John Fysher, gentleman, gave six gilt spoons on being admitted to the freedom.

On the 18th December, 1503, John Styles and Thomas Baldry, Mercers, executors of the testament of Thomas Wyndoute, alderman and Mercer of London, brought in to the wardens a standing cup, gilt, of the gift of the said Thomas Wyndoute, which was shewed openly in the court.² Thomas Wyndoute was apprenticed to Sir Henry Colet, and admitted in 1475. He was warden in 1492, and master in 1499, and was a notable benefactor to the Company.

On the 21st March, 1512,³ a salt of silver gilt, goodly wrought with imagery, with a cover thereto, of the gift of Robert Ymber, "whose sole God pardon," weighing 43 ounces, troy weight, was brought in by John Aleyn, Mercer, one of the executors of the said Robert, and there delivered into the custody of the master and wardens to the use of the Company of the Mercers of London,

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

to remain as long as it would endure.¹ Robert Ymber or Imber was apprenticed to John Baron, and admitted in 1485. He was warden in 1504 and 1511.

On the 20th March, 1518, a standing cup, clean gilt, of the gift of John Thomas, "whose soul God pardon," was brought in by Thomas Hynde, his executor,² and presented to the wardens. There were two Mercers about this time named John Thomas, either of whom may have been the donor of this cup. One was apprenticed to Thomas Bowes, and admitted in 1504; and the other apprenticed to Thomas Costwicke, and admitted in 1512. Thomas Hynde was also a Mercer, apprenticed to Richard Lakyn, and admitted in 1490.

On the 14th December, 1519, Dame Christiana Colet, widow of Sir Henry Colet, gave to the Company two great standing cups, with two covers, clean gilt, for the which gift the Company gave unto her great thanks.³ Sir Henry Colet was descended from a family long settled at Wendover, in Buckinghamshire, and was admitted to the freedom in 1462, having been apprenticed to John Colet, probably his elder brother. He was warden in 1470 and 1477, and master in 1480, 1489, 1495, and 1505. He served the office of Lord Mayor in 1486 with great credit to himself and benefit to his fellow citizens, and dying in 1505, was buried in Stepney Church. His wife was daughter of Sir John Knevet, and was mother of the celebrated Dean Colet, founder of St. Paul's School. She died in 1519, having survived all her 22 children, and was also buried at Stepney.

When the Company enlarged their chapel and hall about the year 1520, as is stated in another place, part of the money spent about the work was raised by prest or loan from members of the Company. In the beginning of the year 1522 the lenders called for repayment,⁴ and the master and wardens answered that there was no store of money in the common box wherewith they might be contented and

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid., 12th April, 1522.

paid; whereupon it was condescended and agreed that the court should appoint four persons, Hugh Clopton, Thomas Hynde, William Dauntsey, and Michael Dormer, who should take as much plate belonging to the Company as should suffice for the payment of the loans, and make sale thereof for the redeeming of the debentures of every person and persons as should appear by their specialities. There is no record of the quantity of plate sold.

In the same year King Henry VIII engaged in a war with France and Scotland, and compelled the City of London to lend him £20,000, of which the Mercers contributed £3,320, or about one-sixth of the whole. It was to be paid in money or plate. The following entry in the Acts of court, under date of 23rd May, 1522, refers to this loan:—

Whereas Maister Recorder on the Kyng oure Sovraigne Lorde's behalf made a mocion unto the Mayre, Aldremen and Comens, by the whiche hys Grace requyreth an ayde of 20,000^{li} by waye of prest by the said Comens unto hys Grace to be prested and to be payde oute of hande, whereupon incontynentie and upon the mocion of the said Recorder, the said lorde Mayre with the Aldremen comaunded a Comen Councell to be called, and unto theym by the comaundment of my lorde Mayre the request of the Kyngs Grace by the Recorder was shewed, Whereunto the Comen Councell agreed that the forsaid prest of 20,000^{li} shulde be levyed among dyvers and sundry felyshipps of the Citie of London, and that the plate of every halle shulde be brought yn to the Guylde hall and to be solde after the pryce hereafter following—that is to say—gylt plate at 3^s. 4^d. the onz., and not gylt at 3^s. the onz., and all masers at 2^s. the onz., and that certen cessours of evry felishipp to be chosen to cesse evry man of theyre said felishipp, lyke as theye be in habilitie, and among alle other fellyshipps oure said fellyshipp of Mercers were cessed at the somme of 3,320^{li}, to be payde by money or plate, and for the repayment of the foresaid prest of 20,000^{li}, certen Abbays to be bounde by theyre convent seales unto the Mayre, Aldremen and Comens for the repayment thereof within 8 months nexte ensuyng, and the bonds to be devysed by the learned Councell of the Citie, And the reste of oure plate was solde and the mony broughte yn to the Guylde hall.

SIR THOMAS SEYMER	}	<i>Cessours.</i>
HUGH CLOPTON		
RIC. RAYNOLDS		
SYMOND RYCE	}	<i>Associatt with theym.</i>
JOHN CLYFFORD		
JOHN YELLYN		

In Brewer's letters and papers,¹ under date 1522, is a valuation of the lands and goods of the inhabitants of London for this loan, in which the Mercers' Company are assessed in the parish of Colchurche, "in lands, charges deducted," £60, and in plate £88.

The next notice is under date the 18th December, 1527, when, at a quarterly court, it was ordained, by the consent of the generality, that all such jewels, plate and specialties as belong unto them, should be delivered by indenture from the second warden to the second warden, always for the time being, to the intent that the same jewels, plate and specialties might be forthcoming, from time to time, as should appertain. The practice of delivering the Company's plate from second or house warden to second warden, has continued to the present day.

The next piece of plate given to the Company, of which a record is preserved, was in 1531, when William Reade, late of Beckles, was admitted to the freedom, giving for a fine a pot of silver of the value of 40s. over and above the ordinary charges of the house.² It was probably sold in 1545.

On the 26th February, 1545, the court of assistants ordered the Company's plate to be sold, as appears from the following entry in the Acts of court under that date.

It is agreed by the sayde Assemble, dyvres good and reasonable consideraciones theym especiallye movynge, that all suche plate, bothe Cuppes and other Church plate as dothe remayne in this house unto the Compenyes use, of the gyfte of dyvres persones, as by the accompts apperes, shal be soulde, by Master Wardeins now beyinge, to the mooste profete and advauntage of this Compnye, and the moneye therof receyved to be employed and put to suche proffyttable use as shall and maye appere hereafter towards the paymente of the Compenyes greate dette, whiche theye are bounde for to paye by their comen seale.

The great debt here referred to was incurred by the Company in purchasing the church and part of the lands belonging to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon from King Henry VIII, in the year 1542.

¹ Vol. III, No. 2,486.

² Acts of court, 18th March, 1531.

In 1558, six persons were nominated to attend the Lord Mayor, Thomas Leigh, a Mercer, at his inauguration feast, and directions were given for providing plate at the feast. This plate did not belong to the Company, but was to be borrowed from the more opulent members, for the purpose of making as brave a show as possible at the mayoralty feast. Thomas Leigh was an eminent Mercer, and his bequests to the Company, including the Leigh cup, will be hereafter mentioned. Some very curious entries occur in the Acts of court of the ceremonies observed by the Company on his election as Lord Mayor in 1558. I make no apology for inserting them here.

EXTRACTS FROM ACTS OF COURT OF THE MERCERS' COMPANY RELATING TO THE
MAYORALTY OF SIR THOMAS LEIGH.

Generalle Courte and Quarter daye holden on Satter-daye the firste daye of
October 1558.

Mr. Thomas
Leighe
Ellecte
Lorde Mayor.

At the whiche Courte whileste the ordennance was a redying by the Clerke openlye, Maister Clement Newes, Upper Warden, accompanied with Mr. John Hare, Mr. John Baker, Mr. William Mayenarde, Mr. Thomas Bonde and Mr. John Mershe Senr., Assistants, all beinge 6 psones in noumber, according to the old aunciente order used, rose uppe and wente to sette Mr. Leighe, Alderman, newlye ellected Lord Maior of this Cittye of London at his place, and so accompanied hym to the Mercers' Hauille, in the presence of this Courte, and after his Lordeshippe being come and psente in the face of this Courte, after a certeyn pausing of tyme and restinge of himself, the saide Lorde Mayor Ellecte instanted and desyered the wholle Courte universallye to beare, shewe and owe unto hym like and semblable favour, aide and assistence nowe in the rome that he is chosen and elected unto, like as they have done unto other honorable men heretofore chosen to the some rome; to whome the wholle fellyshippe aunswered that he shoulde have all the aide, healpe and assistence in them possible, praying Almyghtie God to sende hym helthe and joy, with worshippe, in the office, who hartelye thanked theym all, and, after a certeyn space or tyme, the said Lorde Mayor Ellected rose uppe & deputed his waye whome agen, accompanied with the Upper Wardeyn and five of the Assistents before named, as they broughte hym hedder.

Six persons
nominated to
attende on the
Lorde Mayor.

After the departure of my Lorde Mayor Ellected, were by this Courte noiated 6 persons of the Assistents, to attende upon the said Lorde Mayor, dayle to the daye of the feaste be paste, and to see the Yelde haule hanged, and the Lordes Chamber, with the

ordering of his house and henchmen, and so on for the vittaylle comynge into the Yeldehaule, that it be good and seasonable, and all other thinge for to do, wh. shall be thoughte by them necessary to be done, as well for honor of the Cittye and the saide Lorde Mayor, as also for the worshippe of the fellowshipe, whose names hereafter follows:—

Mr. CLEMENTE NEWCE, Upper Warden.	Mr. JOHN MERSHE, Senr.
Mr. JOHN HARE.	Mr. WILLIAM GYFFORD.
Mr. JOHN ROYSE.	Mr. LEONEL DUCKETTE.

Four psones
to provide
the plate.

Also by the same Courte was noiated and appoyented to provyde plate convenyent to serve the Yelde haulle agenste the feaste there to be kepte for the Lorde Mayor's pte, and that theye see delyvre thereof to a trustye buttelor, whiche by the saide Lorde Mayor shall be appoyented in that behaulfe, and theye to see the same plate delyvred safelye agen to the ownares thereof ayen, when the feaste is done, the names of the same psones to gedder and provid the saide plate hereafter followe, that is to saye, of the lyvere:—

RYCHARDE BARON.	THOMAS LEVESON.
JOHN GRESHAM.	EDWARDE CASTELEYN.

Maister
Bacheleres
chosen.

Also at the same Courte was noiated, ellected and chosen 12 psones, oute of the livereye, to be Maisters Bacheleres for this psente yere, accordinge to the olde custome used, whiche shall have the order of their barge or foyeste, and all the younge men oute of the Lyvereye they shalle appoyente to attende and waiyte with theym, and all other thinges for to do, for the honor of the Lorde Mayor and the worshippe of this Companye, whereupon the ellection of the said 12 rested by the wholle house upon theis psones followynge:—

RYCHARD DUFFELDE.	WALTER COPYNGER.
EDMUNDE GRESHAM.	ANTONYE GARRETTE.
EDMUNDE HOGGANE.	HENRYE BELLAMYE.
ROBERT TRAPPES.	FRANCIS KELKE.
ALLEYN HILLE.	WILLIAM WROTTE.
THOMAS HARGRAVE.	ANTHONYE CALTHORPE.

Fowre moore
chosen to
case charges.

Also the said Courte, for dyvers good considerations theym speciallye movynge, fell to a further ellection of 4 psones more unto the saide 12 psones above named, because that such as theye were, remayned beyonde the see, and that theye 4 shulde be as Maisters Bacheleres to make the nnumber 16, for easement of charges, and if the same 4 psones do come whome in due season, theye to be amongeste the 12 to make 16, as Maisteres Bacheleres, And whedder the said 4 psones do come whome in due tyme or no

yet they shall be contributorye to all manr costs and charges in all thinges as the above said 12 Mr. Bacheleres shal be at, in as full and large and ample manner in everye condicion as the said 12 Mr. Bacheleres is or shal be at; the names of the said 4 Mr. Bacheleres so rested, noioted and appoyanted unto the said 12 Mr. Bacheleres above named by this whole courte ar theis psones following, that is to saye :—

LAWRENCE MYLLES.
THOMAS CRANEFELDE.

JOHN FITZWILLIAME.
WILLIAM MYRRYDETHE.

The
Bacheleres
lyvere
pewcke
& hode
cremesen
satten.

And imediatlye after the conclusion of the saide Ellection, It is agreed at this Courte that the Lyvereye gownes, wh. the said Mr. Bacheleres shalle were, and all other that shall attende and geo with theym, shall be pewcke, and their hoddes crimssen Satten, and whosoever weareth anye olde gowen or hodde, which is or shal not be honeste for the worshippe of this Companye to be worne, shalle forfayte, lose and paye to the Comen boxe of the Mercers 40 shillings for evye tyme so founde and proved.

A barge or
foyste.

Also it is agreed by this Courte, that as consernynge a barge for tryomphe of the Lorde Mayor and the Cittye upon Theames, at the Mayors goinge to Westmester, to take his othe as heretofore hath ben accustomed to be, that matter whollye in all poynts is referred and put to the dyscressiones of the 12 Mr. Bacheleres, highe and lowe, theye to order and devyse the same, wch theye wolle make or do after their wisdomes and sadde dyscressiones, and the Lorde Mayor and the Companye shalle holde theym selves pleased and contented therewh.

4 psones to
receyve
vitals.

Also at this courte it was concluded and agreed, that Mr. Wardeines shalle name and appoynte accordinge to the olde accustomed order used, 4 psones two of theym of the Assistents, and two of the Lyvereye, to attende at Yelde haulte for the receyvinge of the vyttayles, and to see that theye be good, sweate and seasonable, and to see the same in good order and consyned to the dressor.

XPOFER MERRYNGE.
THOMAS STACYE.

JOHN MEDELEVE.
THOMAS WALKER.

3 psones at
the dressors.

Also agreed at this Courte that Mr. Werdeynes shall name and appoynte 3 psones of this Companye more, beinge of the lyverye, to stande at the dressors, and to sette the meate fourthe in dewe course, and to calle alle furthe to be served.

RYCHARDE STOCKEBRIDGE.
THOMAS SEARLE.
JEFFERE DUCKETTE.

12 to sette
the geastes.

Also at this said Courte and Quarterdaye was noioted and appoyanted 12 psones whereof 5 to be of the Assistents and 7 of the Lyvere, to wayte at the Yelde haulte and

to sette everye man in good order, as well the whole haule, as in the Chamber of the Lords and Ladyes and that the same be served in order accordinglye:—

5 of the Assistants.

XPOFER MERRYNGE.
THOMAS CODMAN.
WILLIAM GYFFORDE.
RYCHARDE CARRELL.
LEONELL DUCKETTE.

The Lyvere.

HENRYE CAMPYON.
WILLIAM BYRDE.
JOHN ELLYOTTE.
XPOFER HEAVES.
HENRYE CREDE.
JOHN MEDELEVE.
JOHN ISHAM.

32 psones
cytteres.

Memorandum that 32 psones of the Assistents and Lyverie dothe sette in the Yelde haule this yere beside, bycause the Mayor is of this fellyshippe, And ever when a Mayor of this Companye is, then Whytsonday dynnar is not kepte at the Mercers haulte, because that all the Companye is lyttell yenoughe to serve at the haulte, and be sytteres besyde.

In 1566 the Lord Mayor issued a precept to the Companies to make a return of all their plate, jewels and goods ; but the return of the Mercers' Company has not been preserved.

The first list of plate to be found in the Company's books is contained in a memorandum in the Acts of court, under date the 23rd July, 1569, which is as follows:—

Memorandum, delivered to Mr. William Leonarde Second Warden, by Richard Stockbridge, clerke to the Company, by the comandement of Mr. Thomas Lewson, late seconde warden, three standinge coppes gilte with coveres, appteyninge to the haulte, which be accustomed to chuse the Master and Wardens, with one black leather case, belonging to the greatest of them, whereof the greatest cuppe beinge chased about with maiden heddies and flaggons, with the maiden and an unicorne in the toppe of the cover, was of the gifte of Sir Thomas Leigh, and waith three score five ounces, three quarters and a half ; the seconde standinge cupp, of the gifte of Dame Isabell Gresham, with her armes enameled in the topp of the cover, waithe fourtie ounce, three quarters and a half ; the third standinge cupp with the cover, of the gifte of my ladie Warren, late wife of Sir Thomas White, Alderman, havinge a redd rose enameled in the knoppe, wayinge twentie fower ounce and halfe large, delivered, as aforesaid, the 23rd daie of Julie, 1569.

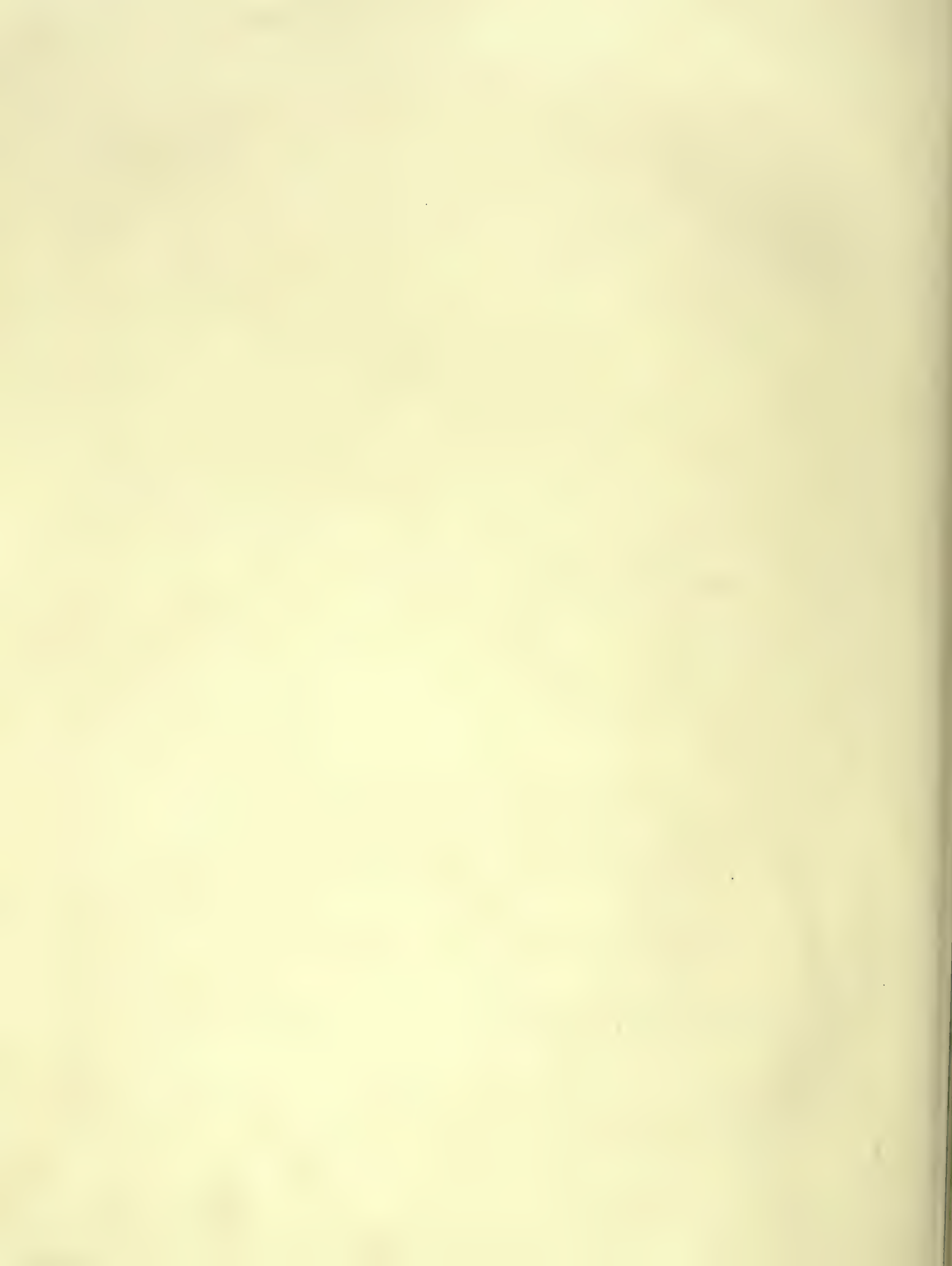
The Leigh cup, the first mentioned in the above memorandum, and the only one of the three still in the Company's possession, was



TO ELECT THE MASTER OF THE MERCERIE HITHER AM I SENT

AND BY SIR THOMAS LEIGH FOR THE SAME ENTENT.

The Leigh Cup.



given to the Company by Sir Thomas Leigh, son of Roger Leigh, of Willington, in Shropshire, who is mentioned above. He was descended from a very ancient family, settled before the Conquest in the township of High Leigh, in Cheshire, was apprenticed to Sir Thomas Seymer, knight, and admitted to the freedom of the Company in 1526. He married Alice Barker, niece of Sir Rowland Hill, also a Mercer, and ancestor of the present Lord Hill. He appears to have belonged to the Merchant Adventurers' Company, and to the Company of Merchants of the Staple, was warden of the Mercers' Company in 1544 and 1552, master in 1554, 1558, and 1564, and Lord Mayor at the accession of Queen Elizabeth in 1558, when he was knighted, and died the 17th November, 1571. He was buried in Mercers' Chapel, under a fair monument, on which the following epitaph, which is supposed to be the composition of Lady Alicia Leigh, wife of Sir Robert Dudley, son of the Earl of Leicester, was inscribed :—


Sir Thomas Leigh bi civil life,
 All offices did beare,
 Which in this City Worshipfull
 Or honourable were :
 Whom as God blessed with great wealth,
 So losses did he feele,
 Yet never changed his constant minde
 Tho' fortune turn'd her wheele.
 Learning he loved, and helpt the poore,
 To them that knew him deere ;
 To whom his lady, and loving wife,
 This tomb has builded here.

Obiit 17 Nov. 1571.

Sir Thomas Leigh was the ancestor of the present Lord Leigh, of Stoneleigh, in the county of Warwick, who some years ago placed a brass, with the above epitaph, to his memory in the ambulatory of Mercers' Chapel. The following is an extract from his will :—

I give and bequeath to my loveing Brethren, the Company of the Mercers, one faire cupp, and standing cupp of silver, all guilt, garnished with maidenheads, roses and flaggins, with a cover of the like work enameled blew, as the boddy of the cupp is, with

posies therein graven, and a maiden in the knopp, with a unicorne fawning on her lap; and the same cupp, I give them, to use it at the choosieing of the Wardens of the Company, if they shall thinke it soe good.

This cup is said by tradition to have belonged to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon; it bears a small black letter "b," the plate mark of the year 1499-1500, and as a maker's mark  and has been attributed, erroneously, to Benvenuto Cellini. It is, with the exception of the Anathema cup at Pembroke College, Cambridge, the earliest hanap or covered cup known to be hall-marked. It is a silver-gilt grace cup with a cover, 16 inches high, and 6½ inches in diameter; the foot is supported on three pilgrims' bottles or flagons, and is surrounded by a band of finely pierced Gothic tracery, surmounted by a cresting of trefoils; the same enrichment is continued round the lower part of the cover. The body of the cup and cover has a complete network of lozenge panels, in raised corded patterns, within which are maidenheads and flagons alternately, with roses at the points of intersection. On the top of the cover is a hexagonal boss, with buttresses, on the dome of which is seated a maiden with a unicorn reposing in her lap, the word "Desyr" being engraved on the animal's side. On the six panels of the boss are coats of arms in enamel: 1, the arms of the City of London; 2, gules, on a cross engrailed, between four unicorns' heads, erased, argent, five bezants, for Sir Thomas Leigh; 3, the arms of the Merchant Adventurers' Company; 4, the arms of the Merchants of the Staple; 5, argent, the cross of St. George, gules; 6, the arms of the Mercers' Company. On two bands round the cover and body of the cup, the following couplet is inscribed in small gold capitals on blue enamel, with maidenheads between each word:—

To elect the Master of the Mercerie, hither am I sent,
And by Sir Thomas Leigh for the same intent.

On the inside of the cover is engraved a double rose with a large seeded centre. Both cup and cover are stamped with a maidenhead,

probably to denote that they belonged to the Company. The cup must have been very considerably altered at or shortly before the time when the Company acquired it. This was not unusual, as is evidenced by the alteration of the magnificent grace cup of St. Thomas à Becket, which was formerly at Corby Castle, and now in the collection of the Duke of Norfolk, and which was added to and adorned many years after Becket's death, probably by Queen Katharine of Aragon, in whose possession it was.

The Leigh cup has been exhibited at various times, and was selected, with other pieces of plate belonging to the Company, for reproduction for the South Kensington Museum ; a copy is also in the museum founded at Berlin by the Empress Frederick of Germany, when Crown Princess. The Company some years since offered a copy to the Grocers' Company, as a slight mark of their appreciation of the kindness of that Company in allowing them to use Grocers' Hall for their entertainments during the time that Mercers' Hall was being partly rebuilt. The inscription on the bands, written by the late Dean of Lincoln, a member of the Court of Assistants of the Mercers' Company, was as follows :—

Sodalitati Sodalitas, Amicis Amici
Grati animi monumentum, MDCCCLXXXI.

The next cup mentioned in the memorandum was given by Dame Isabella Gresham, whose maiden name was Worpfall, she having been married first to one Teverson. After his death she became the second wife of Sir Richard Gresham, who was apprenticed to Thomas Middleton, and admitted to the freedom in 1507. He was warden in 1525, master of the Company in 1533, 1539, and 1549, and Lord Mayor in 1537 (the year in which King Edward VI was born). He contemplated the building of the Royal Exchange after the plan of the Burse at Antwerp, with which he was well acquainted from his frequent journeys to the Low Countries as agent of King Henry VIII, an idea which was afterwards carried out by his son, Sir Thomas

Gresham. He is said to have induced King Edward VI to found the Royal Hospitals of Bridewell, Bethlehem, St. Thomas and Christ.

A very curious letter, of which a copy is below, was addressed by him to Thomas Cromwell, then Vicar-General, on the occasion of the death of Queen Jane Seymour, an event which occurred a few days after she had given birth to Edward VI.

Myne humble dieuty rememberyd to your good Lordeshipe, &c. Yt shale please You to understand that by the commandement of the Ducke of Northefolk, I have cawssyd XIIII massys to be sayde within the Cite of London, for the sowle of our Moste Gracious Quene. And whereas the Mayor and Aldyrmen, with the Commenors was lately at Powlles, and ther gave thanckes unto God for the birth of our Prynce, my Lorde, I doo thyncke, yt wher convenyent, that ther shuld bee allsoo at Powlles a sollem dirige and masse; and that the Mayer and Aldyrmen, with the Commenors to be there, for to praye and offer for Hyr Grace's sowle. My Lorde, yt shall please you to move the Kynges Highnes, and hys pleasser knowen in thys behalfe. As knowethe God, who gyve you goode helthe, with long lyve. From London, thys Thurssdaye, the VIIIth daye of November. My Lorde, yf ther be eny allmes to be gyvyn, ther ys many power pepyll within the Cite.

Your own at your Lordeshipes Commandementes,

RVC. GRESHAM.¹

In the same year, 1537, the following augmentation to his arms was granted to him and his posterity by Christopher Barker, Garter King-at-Arms; on a chief, gules, a pelican between two lions jamps erased or, armed azure. This augmentation was not used by his sons. He died at his house at Bethnal Green, on the 21st February, 1548, and was buried in the church of St. Laurence Jewry. His second wife survived him, dying in April or May, 1565. By her will, which is dated the 23rd April, 1561, and proved in the Prerogative Office, on the 18th May, 1565,² she appointed her stepson, Sir Thomas Gresham, one of her overseers. It contains the following bequest, referring to the cup given to the Company:—

Item. I not onely give and bequeathe to the Worshipfull Companye of the Mercyers x^{li} in money, to by spent for a dynner to be hadd amongst theym, but also a

¹ Cott. MS., Nero, C.1.

² Morrison, fo. XVI.

standing cupp, wh a cover, having a pellican upon the said cover,¹ all gilte, weinge in the hole by estimacion xli ounce, requiringe theym for my sake, and at the request of my said executors, or one of theym, to graunt unto Robart Tom, my servaunt, one of the small tenements in Ladlane, which they late hadd of my gifte, when the same shall next become voide, after my decease, for terme of xxi yeres, for the accustomed rente heretofore paid for the same.

This cup weighed $40\frac{7}{8}$ ozs. Lady Gresham also gave to the Company her mansion house, and other houses in Lad Lane, now Gresham Street. The plate she bequeathed to the Company was sold in the year 1633, and four broad wine bowls were purchased on which her arms were engraved, as will be noticed hereafter.

The third cup was given by Dame Joane or Jane Warren, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of John Lake, of London, gentleman, and widow of Sir Ralph Warren, who was son of Thomas Warren, a Fuller, and grandson of William Warren, of Terring, in Essex. He was apprenticed to William Buttry and was admitted to the freedom in 1507, was warden of the Company in 1521, master in 1530 and 1542, and Lord Mayor in 1537 and 1544. In the latter year, amongst the eminent citizens of the twelve companies who lent King Henry VIII money on lands mortgaged to them, the name of Sir Ralph Warren appears as lending £500; on the same occasion Sir Rowland Hill lent £300, and Sir Richard Gresham £500. He was twice married; by his first wife, Christian, he had two children, Richard and Joane, the latter married Lord Cromwell, son of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex and Vicar-General. From Lady Cromwell were descended Oliver Cromwell and John Hampden. His second wife was Joane Lake, above mentioned.

On the 22nd March, 1541, the following entry is in the Company's books² :—

Whereas the Worshipefull Sir Raufe Warren, Knyght and Alderman and Mr. Wardein of this Compenye, of his good favorable mynde by hym alwayes bourne

¹ The pelican was no doubt in allusion to the augmentation to the arms of Sir Richard Gresham, mentioned above, and the cup had probably belonged to him. In the list of plate made in the year 1578, it is said that Lady Gresham's arms were enamelled on the top of the cover.

² Acts of court.

unto thys Compenye, shewed, presented and freely gave unto theym a paule clothe of clothe of golde valenced withe purpell clothe of golde with the scripture therupon embrodered rounde aboute in damaske golde which scripture signifyeth in the Vngelyshe tonnge¹ "Credo quod Redemptor Meus." The Compenye percyyvynge his charytable and godlye mynde by his worshippe always borne unto theym, rendered and gave unto hym there mooste harte and gentill thanks, prayinge Almyghtye God longe to preserve and contynewe his worshippe in good prosperyte and healthe to the pleasure of God.

Sir Ralph Warren, by his will, dated 30th June, 1552, proved 5th August, 1553,² bequeathed to the Company £100 for the maintenance of 20 nobles per annum, towards a dinner on Midsummer day. He died on the 11th July, 1553, and was buried in the chancel of the Church of St. Sythe, or St. Benet, Sherehog. There is a curious entry relating to his burial in Machyn's diary:—³

The same day, wyche was the xvj day of July, was Raff Warren, knyght, mercer and alderman and twysse [lord mayor of] London and marchand of the stapull and Marchand Ven[turer, buried] with standard and v pennons of armes, a cott armur, . . . a helmett, mantyll and crest, and sword, and a xij dosen of schochyons: and ther wher my lord mere morner . . . berer, the iiij sqyre mornars, and mony aldermen at ys beryng: [there] wher mony mornars in blake, and in blake cotes, and ther wher L. gownes gyffyn unto L. men, of rats coler of a m . . . a yerd; and ther dynyd my lord mayre and mony aldermen, [and] ther wher as gret dener as I have sene.

A monument was erected to his memory by his widow, with the following inscription:—

Here lies buried the Right Worshipfull Sir Ralph Warren Knight, Alderman and twice Lord Mayor of this City of London, Mercer, Merchant of the Staple of Callis, with his two wives Dame Christian, and Dame Joane, which said Sir Ralph departed this life the 11th day of July An. Dom. 1553.

The gift of Lady Warren's cup is thus recorded in the Company's books, under date of 19th December, 1558:—

Whereas at this Courte was presented and openlye shewed a faire gilte standinge cuppe with a cover, poize XXIV ozs. and 20 marks of good newe currante money, to be gyven to the poure men of Mr. Whittington almes house evrye yere, duringe 20 yeres space, by 13^s 4^d a yere, that is to saye, to evrye poure man 1^s a year and the tutor 1^s 4^d, to

¹ Sic.

² Prerogative Court, *Taske*, I, fo. 16.

³ p. 36.

the said 20 marks be rounde oute, yerely to be gyven on the daye that the dynnar is accustomed to be kepte in the Mercers haulle for Sir Raufe Warren, Knyght and Alderman, deceased, for the whiche gyfte and jentyll remembrance of Dame Johanne Warren, Wyddowe, so borne to this Companye, theye all of on voice and mynde thancked her and prayed God to prosper her and sende her longe lyfe and well for to do, for her lovyng kyndenes and good harte borne to this Companye.

Lady Warren's cup was gilt, graven about like the scales of a fish, and had a purple rose enamelled on the top of the cover. It weighed 24 oz.

Lady Warren afterwards married Sir Thomas White, knight, an eminent Merchant Taylor, who was Lord Mayor in 1553, and founded Merchant Taylors' School, and the college of St. John the Baptist in Oxford. She died, without issue by either husband, on the 8th October, 1573.

About the year 1572 the following list is entered in the Register of Writings,¹ of the plate needed for the Mercers' supper :—10 standing cups gilt with covers, 24 nests of goblets or bowls with 4 covers, 20 salts with 2 covers, 8 dozen drinking pots with 2 covers, 2 dozen spoons, 10 basons and ewers parcel gilt, and 3 pairs of great silver pots.

Eleven spoons, with pear shaped bowls and hexagonal handles with angular knops, in a leather case, which are supposed to have belonged to Whittington College, came into the possession of the Company before the year 1756, having probably been removed for safety from the College to Mercers' Hall. They are still among the Company's plate. All of them have the arms of Sir Richard Whittington engraved on the back of the bowls, and seven have in addition the following marks in the bowls : a leopard's head, crowned, and on the back of the handles a lion passant, the date letter indistinct, but probably for the year 1565, and the maker's mark, R.K., over a mullet or star of five points. The other four spoons have no marks at all, and were probably made to replace some which were lost or worn out.

¹ Vol. II, fo. 117d.

The next piece of plate of which the Company became possessed was the waggon and ton, given them by William Burde. He was apprenticed to John Blundell, was admitted to the freedom on the expiration of his apprenticeship in 1548, and served the office of warden in 1564 and 1573, and of master in 1588. During the period of his second wardenship, in 1573, he presented the wagon and ton to the Company, as appears from the following entry in the Acts of court of the date 28th July, 1573:—

Item at this Courte Mr Willm Burde, Upper Warden this year, presented to this Court, as of his proper gift to the Company, the peeble of plate following, videlicet, towe Jewells of gilt plate, whereof one is a waggon, standing on fower wheeles, with a tonne, the other is a faire salte, with a cover, bearing his arms thereon sett, inclosed in two cases made for the same, with claspes of silver; the same towe Jewells to remayne to the Company, for ever, of his free gift, to this intent following, viz—that the Wardens and their successors shall hereafter every year at their greate election dynner, bestowe upon towe poor men or women of the same Company the value of 3s. 4d. in meate and 8d. in wyne, and if they fail to perform his minde herein, then the same Jewells to retourne to Mirabell Burde, his daughter, and her heires.

On the 6th October, 1574,¹ the then wardens of the Company, Vincent Randall, Thomas Egerton, Antony Garrard and Ambrose Smythe entered into a bond with Mirabelle Burde in the sum of £80, in which the "towe Jewells" were valued at 100 marks, and the conditions of the gift of them to the Company are set out. The wardens bound themselves and their successors to keep the same plate in their common hall, and not let the same out of it, except for necessary mending, burnishing, washing or making clean thereof, and in the surveyors' dinner at Paul's School yearly, and at such other dinners as the Company might make in any place out of their hall where they should meet and assemble, and not to sell or make away with it, with provision that if it should happen that it should be lost by misfortune of fire, "which God forbid," then the wardens and their successors should not be charged with such loss, but if it should happen

¹ Register of Writings, vol. II, fo. 281.



Made by P. S.

The Wagon and Tun.

that the same should be stolen, then the wardens should make like jewels of the like value. The salt, notwithstanding the injunctions of the donor, was sold during the troubles of the 17th century, as will be seen hereafter, but the waggon and ton are still in the Company's possession. They are said to have belonged to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, like the Leigh cup, and were made at Breslau, probably in the early part of the 16th century. They bear the mark (w) of that town, together with (P), no doubt the maker's mark. Copies of them are in the South Kensington Museum.

The waggon weighs 64 oz., and is silver gilt on four wheels, and moved along the table by clock work. At each end, over the wheels, is a raised platform on stages, ornamented with scrolls and circular medallions, enamelled with the arms of the City and the Mercers' Company; on one is a hare seated with a leaf in its mouth. These stages have flat covers, surmounted by female figures on enamelled pedestals of birds and flowers. Between the two stages is a sunk medallion, probably representing Judith and Holofernes. In front of the waggon is a figure in a low broad-brimmed hat, and on the first stage is an eagle before a pedestal. The waggon is elaborately chased and engraved over its entire surface. The waggoner or coachman—for he is called by both names in the old records—is not described in the original list copied above, but must have been put on at a very early date, as in some of the old lists of the Company's plate it is stated that the figure has been lost. In a "Note of plate lost by William Time, the Company's butler," in the year 1643, among other items it is stated that the coachman, valued at 13s. 4d., was lost. The modern figure was made in the reign of Queen Victoria. The silver gilt barrel, weighing 40 oz., intended to contain sweet waters, rests on a foliated knob, upon a lozenge pedestal with large oval foot, on which are four bosses of blue and green, enamelled on silver; on the top of the barrel is a raised funnel of silver, on blue enamel, and above is a square

ornament with four projecting dolphins, on which are four female busts and dolphin's head gargoyles; at the summit is an eagle on a globe. The picture of a "Kynge standinge on the toppe, holdinge a Sceptor," mentioned in the list of plate below, and the leathern case, have been lost.

Burde was appointed to the office of Comptroller of the Petty Customs (*Parva Custumæ*) in the port of London, by Letters Patent dated 3rd August, 2nd Elizabeth, 1560, and held that appointment until 1568, and was, besides, a merchant of consideration both in England and abroad. He was the subject of a State trial, proceedings having been commenced against him in 1571. Some particulars of these proceedings are related in two curious documents preserved in the Company's books, one a certificate that he had cleared himself from the charge of concealing customs from Queen Elizabeth, which had been brought against him, and the other, a letter of testimonial from the Lord Mayor and aldermen of London, to be used by him when abroad. Both of these documents, which throw light on the manner in which our ancestors lived, are printed below.

A Certificate¹ of the clearinge of the said Willm Byrde for the Concealmt of Custome from her Ma^{tie} wherewth he was unjustly charged and the prove and circumstance concerning the same matter certified by vertue of her Highnes Comyssion in that behalf & directed to the Lord Thresourer of England and Sir Walter Myldmay as followth vid^l.

TO SIR ROBERT CATLYN knighte cheiff Justice of England and to other the Quene's Ma^{ties} Justices of Her Benche and to Gilberte Gerrarde Her highnes Attorney Generall and to all other her officers and Mynisters there Sir Willm Cycill of the honourable Order of the Garter knighte Baron of Burghley lorde highe Thresourer of England and Sir Walter Myldmay knighte Chauncellor and Under Thresourer of Her Maties Court of Exchequer and to everye of them gretings WHEAREAS of Sovereign Ladie Queene Elizabeth by her l^{tes} patente dated at Gorambury the 20th day of August in the 12th yere of her highnes reigne did assigne appointe and give authority by the same to Olyver Dawbney of London gent and to his sufficient deputies and assignees beinge thereto authorised under his hand writinge by all lawful waies and meanes that he or

¹ Register of Writings, vol. III, fo. 34d.

they could do to examyne viewe see shearch and trie out as well all and everye the paiements and Receipte of all some and somes of money theretofore to her Majesty due for any Custome subsidy Importe and other such like duty And the w^drawinge and concealment from her Highness of any such somes of monney to her Ma^{tie} due for any the causes aforesaid and all and every the forfeitures and penalties therupon dependinge from the tyme of the excep^õn for those matters in her highnes free and generall pardon graunted by parliament in the eight yere of her Ma^{ties} reign unto the date of her Lr^{es} Patente aforesaid and to trie and shearch out by all waies and meanes the causes manners and circumstances thereof in every degree and condicion WHEAREUPON the said Olyver Dawbney makinge one Richarde Carwarden of London Citizen and Merchaunt tailor and other his sufficient deputies to examyne viewe shearch and trie out all and singular the premises Who upon the examynacon perusinge considera^õn and conference of Her Majesty's Books of the Custome House of the Porte of London made by Willm^{ur} Burde Collector of Her highnes Custome within her porte of London of the Cockete of clothes out of the same porte unto the partes beyond the seas to be transported and by Will^m Rivett his Controller and by Thomas Colshell Surveyor of the same port and by Ric Gray Shercher of the same porte conserninge the accompt of the said Willm^{ur} Burde from the feaste of St. Mighell the Archanngell in the 16th yere of her highnes Reigne unto the same feaste then next following of and for the said office and all manner of agrements entries precepts paiements and other things whatsoever dependinge and incident to the same And they both upon their long and great travell by the space of towe years or thereabout finding tryng and shearching out at leingthe by the said books made by the Surveyors and Shearcher aforesaid and the rest agreying wth the same certeyn erres defects and suspicions in the entries of the same whereby they supposed some concealments and wthdrawings of sundry somes of monney to Her Ma^{tie} due to have byn made by the same Will^m Burde for Her highnes Custome subsidy and Impost of the said tyme and yere unto hym paid to her Ma^{ties} use by reson of his said office AND THEYE therupon informynge the said Gilbert Gerrard her Ma^{ties} Attorney Generall of the same who fourthwith comynge before her highnes in her Majestie's bench at Westm^r upon Friday next after the feast of St. Hillary in the 14th yere of her reigne did put in an Informa^õn there against the said W^m Burde of the concealment of Custome from her Ma^{tie} of 693 short clothes contrary to the forme of the Statute made in the thurde yere of the reigne of the late kinge Henry the Sixte And to the same the said Willm^{ur} Burde beyng called to answer the next terme after w^tout delay and pleading thereunto not gilty a Jury of the County of Middlesex therupon beyng Impannelled and so proceding to the triall thereof Did fynd the said Willm^{ur} Burde to have concealed the Custome due unto her Ma^{tie} for towe hundred fourescore and five clothes pcell of the said 693 clothes specified in the aforesaid informa^õn

That is to saye for the custome of nyne clothes receaved of Humfry Whitelock valued at three pounds every clothe and for the custome of fowerscore lower clothes receaved of Willm Hewit valued also at 3^{li} every clothe and for the custome of one hundred and twelve clothes receaved of George Lubkyn valued also at three pound every cloth and for the custome of fourescore clothes receaved of John Raynkyn valued at three pound every clothe And of the concealment of the custome of the residue of the said 693 clothes the sayd Jury Did say that the said Willm Burde in no wise was guilty as by the same Recorde in the terme of Easter in the said fourtenth yere of her highnes reigne *rotolo decimo inter placita regine* more plainly dothe appere WHEAREUPON the said Willm Burde shewing hym self to be moch grieved and in his owne conscience and knoledge vexed sued and condempned Did make his most humble suite unto the Quenes Ma^{tie} declaringe thereby that certeyne psois which the said Willm Burde ment to have produced in her hignes said bench as witnesses to have testified for hym good and sufficient matter to the said Jury for his cleare discharge touching the pmisses and that both could and would upon theare othes have declared in her Ma^{ties} said bench the same to the said Jury were at the tyme of the said triall in the partes beyonde the seas and elsewhere for lack of whose testimony he also saith the said Jury was occasioned to give the said verdict for her highnes against the said Willm Burde wch otherwise as he affirmeth they wolde not or at the least justly ought not to have done AND so thereupon her highnes graciouslie consideringe the sute of the said Willm Burde and not mindinge to take any advantage againste him by reason of the said verdict if the said Willm Burde coulde either by the testimony of the said witnesses or by anny other meanes or matter make it appeare to us that in trothe or in conscience he ought not to be charged or vexed for the premisses It hathe pleased her Ma^{tie} by her lres Patente bearinge date at Westm^r the 16th day of December in the XVth yere of her reigne to will and authorise us first to cause that there shoulde not be any Judgment given for her Ma^{tie} upon the said verdict duringe such tyme as to us shoulde be thought convenient And also to call before us as well her highnes said Attorney generall and such others as we shoulde think mete to be called as also the said Willm Burde and such other as he shall bring before us and thereupon to heare and examyne and by all meanes we canne to trye out the truthe in the pmisses and howe farre in right and conscience the said Willm Burde is or ought to be charged And further by the same Lres Patente hath given unto us full power and authority thereupon not onlye to take such order for the cleare discharge of the said Willm Burde his heires executors and administrators of and for all or so moche of the premisses as we in our opynions and conscience shoulde think he ought not to be charged with or to us shoulde be thought mete But also to set such fyne upon the said Willm Burde for so moche of the pmisses as we shoulde think in

conscience he ought to be charged with accordinglie as we shoulde think convenient And also hathe willed and required us and by these her highnes Lrēs of Comission hathe given us full power and authority that upon paiement of the said fyne or bondes by us takyn for the paiemt thereof to her Ma^{tie}s use at daies by us to be appointed or other order by us in the p^{ri}misses to be made and takyn that we do thereupon for her highnes and in her name give warrant and commandment in writinge under o^r handes to her Ma^{tie}s Attourney Generall for the tyme beyinge to confesse in her highnes said bench that her Majesty is satisfied of all such sums of monney as might or ought to be adjudged for her highnes in her said bench by reason of the verdict aforesaide or else to withdrawe the said sute or no further to prosecute in the same or by any other meanes to make the said verdict voide frustrate and of none effecte as to us shal be thoughte conveniente And further to do or cause to be done all and everie other matter and thinge whatsoever for the clere exoneracoⁿ and discharge of the said Will^m Burde his heires executors and admynistrators of and for all fynes forfeitures or penalties whatsoever that by reason of the said Informa^cōn and Verdict might in any wise unto Her Ma^{tie} accrue other than of and for such fyne as by us shoulde be assessed And also for the clere exoneracoⁿ and discharging of all such psoⁿs as stande bounde to her highnes in her said Bench as Suerties for the said Will^m Burde touchinge the p^{ri}misses and for the making void of all and everie his and their bond whatsoever concerninge the same as to us shal be thoughte meete and convenient And further her highnes by the said Lrēs Patente hathe willed and comaunded that those her l^res patente to us directed or the enrolmente thereof shal be both unto us and also upon o^r certificate under o^r handes to you her Ma^{tie}s Justice of her bench and to her highnes Attourney Generall and to every of you a full and sufficient warrante for the doyinge and executinge of all and everie the premisses accordinge to the teno^r effecte and meaninge of the same l^res patente THEREFORE know ye that we havinge called before us the said Oliver Dawbney Richard Carwarden and Will^m Burde and also you Gilbert Gerrard her highnes said Attourney Generall and havinge consideratelie harde viewed and examyned all th allega^cōns testimonials witnesses proofes and matters that as well the said Will^m Burde could p^{ro}duce and averre for hymself in discharge of the said verdict and all and singular the p^{ri}misses As also that the said Olyver Dawbney Richard Carwarden or you her Ma^{tie} said Attourney Generall could produce and averre in mayntennance of the same verdict and of all or anny part of the p^{ri}misses And for the better understanding of all the p^{ri}misses we the said comysshioners by the consent and agrement of the said Oliver Daubney Richard Carwarden and Will^m Burde have caused Peter Osborne the Thresourers Remembrancer of the Exchequer named and chosen on the part of the said Oliver Daubney and Richard Carwarden and likewise Thomas Aldersey citizen and haberdasher of London named and chosen on the behalf of the said Will^m Burde, to have

as well the viewe and shearch of all her Matie's Custome Bookes as also to examyne all other allegcōns and proofes on the behalf of either of the said parties touching the pmisses who upon the said viewe shearch and examination by them hadd have under there handes and seales and the handes of the said Daubney Carwarden and Willm Burde certified to us all there doinge proceedinge and examinaçōns in the pmisses at large In wch certificat amonge other thinge it appeareth unto us that touchinge the said 112 clothes of George Lubkins and the said 4 score clothes of the said John Raynkin that the said Willm Burde before the said verdict hadd truly aunswered the Quene's Ma^{tie} for the custome and subsidie thereof and is not therein to be charged with anny concealment or mysdemeanor to her Ma^{tie} for or concerninge the said 112 clothes and 4 clothes aforesaid And as touchinge the clothes of the said Humfry Whitlocke they certifie that the same were not entred in the said Customers booke thoroughe and by the negligence and oversight of the said Willm Burde's clark and not of any will or purpose by the said Willm Burde to conceale the same from her Ma^{tie} And as touchinge the said 84 clothes of the said Willm Hewette the same persons do certifie that there was not any pretended or wilfull concealment in the said Willm Burde of the same clothes nor that the monney due to her Ma^{tie} for the custome and subsidie of the same clothes ever came unto his handes but that one of his clarks w^out his consent or privitye did receive the same and kept it to his owne use as the same clark upon his othe hath confessed and deposed ALL w^{ch} thinges we havinge duellie waied and that her Matie of her goodnes so graciouslie considereth of the said Willm Burde's sute that she is not mynded to take anny advanntage against hym by reson of the said verdict if in trouthe and conscience he ought not to be charged for the pmisses and also that it appeareth by the said examynaçōn unto us that the said Willm Byrd hath charged hymself in his said booke with 2613 Clothes and in Monney for the custome and subsidie of them with the some of 943^{li} 2^s 10^d more then the said Olyver Dawbney or the shercher's booke or the Marchaunte generall confessione for the said tyme and yere do or canne charge hym wth WE HAVE THEREFORE thoughte it conveniente and mete to declare and judge the said Willm Burde fully cleare and gittles of the offence wherewth he is burdened by the saide verdict and of all privitie knolege and consente to any false concealment wherewt^h he hath byn charged Yet notwithstandinge findinge some negligence in the said Willm Burde for that he did not so diligentlie looke to the doinge of his clarke and servaunte as he ought to have done we have therefore set a fyne upon the said Willm Burde for the oversight of his said Clark that entred not the said 9 clothes for the falsehood of the other of his said Clark that received the custome and subsidie of the said 84 clothes to his owne use without the knolege of the said Willm Burde FOR WHICHE fyne we have taken order with the said Willm Burde for the paiement thereof to her Ma^{tie}'s use AND THEREFORE we by vertue of our said Comission do will and require as well you the said Gilberte Gerrard her Ma^{tie}'s

Attourney Generall to w^drawe the said sute nowe dependinge in her Ma^tie's benche against the saide Willm^r Byrde and no further to prosecute in the same and by all other means that canne be hadd to make the same verdict void frustrate and of none effecte As also you the said Sir Robert Catlyn Cheif Justice of her Ma^tie bench and other the Quene's Justices Officers and mynisters there that ye further do or cause to be done all and every other matter and thinge whatsoever for the clere exonera^on and discharginge as well of the said Willm^r Byrde his heires executors and administrators of and for all forfeitures and penalties whatsoever that by reason of the said informac^on and verdict might in anny wise come or growe to the Quene's Ma^tie as also of all such ps^ons as be bounde to her highnes in her benche as sureties for the said Willm^r Byrde touchinge the premises AND THIS our Certificate under our handes wth the enrolment of the said lr^{es} Patentes to us directed shall be to you and everie of you a full and sufficient warrant for doyinge and executinge of all and every the p^{ri}nses Dated the 17th daye of February in the yere of the reigne of o^r Sovereign Ladie Elizabeth by the Grace of God Quene of England France and Ireland Defender of the faithe the sixteenth.

W. BURGHELY.

WA. MILDMAY.

EXTRACTED out of certeyne Lr^{es} Patente of our Sovereign ladie the Quenes moste excellent Ma^tie that nowe is under the greate sealle of England dated the sixeth¹ daie of Januarie in the three and twentieth yere of her highnes reign amongst other thinge That w^{ch} hereafter doth follow vizt. :²

ELIZABETH Dei gratiâ Anglie Francie et Hibernie regina, fidei defensor etc. Omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint salutem: Inspeximus quasdam literas testimoniales Willelmi Allen Militis Majoris civitatis London et aldermannorum ejusdem civitatis cum sigillo commune eorundem Majoris et aldermannorum sigillatas in haec verba.

TO ALL true Christian people unto whome this pⁿte writinge of Testimoniall shall come to be seene heard or read William Allen Knight Mai^o of the Cittie of London and Alderman of the same Cittie greatinge in our Lord God everlastinge forasmuch as in matters where a man's truth and honesty shall come in question his former life and behaviour dulie considered doth greatlie availe either to give him credit or contrarywise to make his dealing suspected AND fas^much as true dealing honest behavio^r and vertuous livinge doth deserve of all men love favo^r and worthy comenda^on WE therefore the said Maio^r and Aldermen to the intent that if anny matter shall happen wherein William Burde Citizen and Mercer of London shall be put in triall of his dealinge in anny forren place or country where he is not well knowne have

¹ Sic.² Register of Writings, vol. III, fo. 34.

thoughte good by these p̄ntes to signify unto all that shall the same see reade or heare that the same William Burde beyinge nowe of the age of fiftie yeres or there aboute and having for the space of Thirtie-five yeres lived w̄th the same Cittie in honest and worshipfull callinge hathe in tymes past exercised the trade and traffique of merchandise as a merchante venturer and free of the said right worshipfull Company of Mercers w̄th the same Cittie beyinge alwaies hadd reputed and taken of great credit bothe in worde and deede as well within the same Cittie of London as in forren countrees beyonde the seas and elsewheare AND aboute twelve years past the said Willm̄ Burde was called unto the Quene's Ma^{tes} service having then comytted unto hym an office of great trust of Receipte in her Ma^{tes} Custome house of London and at this tyme p̄tite he dothe remayne And hathe to o^r knolege ever since used hym best in the exercise of the same office so faithfully toward the Quene's Ma^{te} and so honestly and uprightly towards all men that have hadd dealinge wth him in the said office and otherwise as may worthele deserve comendac̄ōn and praise of all that knowe hym AND further we never knewe hym detected accused or even suspected of anny cryme falshood dishonesty or indirecte dealinge towards any nor accompted to be ann troublesome p̄son amongst his neighbours but a right good peacemaker and a helper of the poore willing and redy to further all good doinge and a profitable subjecte in all payments to her Ma^{te} And a favourer at all times of goddes word and religion IN FAITH and testimonie of all wth premises we the said Maior and Aldermen have caused the seale of Office of Mayoralty of the said Cittie to these o^r p̄tite l̄tes of Testimoniall to be sett WRITTEN at London the fourth day of June in the yere of o^{ur} Lord God One thousand five hundreth seaventie towe And in the fourteenth yere of the Reign of o^r Sovereign Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of Englande Fraunce and Ireland defender of the faith etc. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes Teste meipsa apud Westmonasterium quinto die Januarii anno regni nostri vicesimo tertio.

BASELL.

In the year 1578 the Company ordered a book or register to be compiled of all their property, and this register, beautifully written in a vellum book, is still in their possession. It is headed as follows:—

1578

The Book of Register

Conteynyng the whoale state of the house in lands and rentes, plate and ymplements, with all other commodities whatsoever growinge ffrom tyme to tyme, belongynge and apperteynge unto the Mysterye and Companye of Mercers of the Citie of London, devided into 3 accomptes or charges, that is to saye, the Renter Warden's charge uppon ytselfe, the Second Warden's charge, otherwyse callede the husbonde of the house, uppon yt selfe, and the Thyrd Warden's accompte or charge, otherwyse called the

Surveiore of Powle's Scoole, uppon ytselfe; Regesterede and sete downe in order by me, John Cheke, Mercer, Seconde Wardeyne, otherwise called by the name of husbonde of ye house, for this yeare begune in July, anno 1578 and endinge in July, anno 1579 as at large appeareth the followinge:—

In this book is the following list of plate:—

Plate belonging unto ye Companie of Mercers at this date, and in the yeare of our Lord God 1578, as at large appeareth bye the pticulers followinge:—

Firste, of the gyfte of Dame Jane Warren, viz. a standinge cuppe with a cover, all gilte, and all graven aboutt lyeke the skales of fyses, with a purple roose enamelede upon the toppe of the covere, waighinge all togeathere 24 ozs., say	24 oz.
Moare of the gyfte of Dame Isabell Greshame, Wedowe, viz.:— a standinge cupp wyth a cover, all gilte, pounsede all aboute, with her armes enamelede upon the topp of the covere, waighinge all 40 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ say poize	40 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Moare of the gyfte of Sir Thomas Leighe, Knight and Alderman of London, deceassed, viz., one standinge cupp and covere all gilte, vearye curyously wrought with maidenheades, rooses, and flaggons, and enamelede aboute with blew amell and sundrye poesies graven about it, with a maiden of silver upon the topp of the covere, holdinge a unioarne; which peace of plate hathe a fayer leather case to keape it in, and doeth waye besydes ye case poize	65 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Plate of the gyfte of Mr. William Burde, of the Citie of London, Mercer, in his lyfe time, viz a charriote or waggone of silvere, with 4 wheles, all gilte, and vearye well wrought, wayinge by itself with the irone woorke thearein	64 oz.
Also a ffayere greate square salte, with a cover, all gilte apperteininge to the same wagone, with an Egle Burde on the topp of the saide salte, holdinge his armes, and doth waye	41 oz.
Also on other peace of plate ¹ dubble gilt, with a picture of a kynge standinge on the toppe, holdinge a sceptor, wayinge togeather	40 oz.
All which said pcelle does way all toe geather	145 oz.
and is esteamed to be worth 8s. the oz.	58 ^{li} 2 ^s .
Also the case of leather, wherin to put all the saide pcelle of plate, with 7 claspes of silver, to claspe it togeather, vallewed at	38 shillgs.

¹ This is the "tonne" referred to in subsequent lists.

Also the Steele worke in and aboute the same wagon, to make it to move from plase to plase, at	6 ^h 13 ^s 4 ^d
So that the whoale, as it is estimated, doeth amounte in value to the some of... ..	66 ^h 13 ^s 4 ^d
and doethe waye all together oz. to the number of	145 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Moare of the gyfte of Sir Roger Martyn, Knight and Alderman of London, decessede, viz., a vearye faire large standinge cupp, with a covere, all dubble gilte, and curioslye wroughte with a ¹ standinge on the toppe of the sayede covere, ² being by hym given to choose the Wardeins thearewith, from tyme to tyme, which doeth waye all to geather ounces ye number of	82 oz.

Sir Roger Martin, who came from Long Melford, in Suffolk, was apprenticed to Humfrey Pakyngton, and admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1540. He was a benefactor of the Company, master thereof in 1563, 1567, and 1573, alderman of Broad Street Ward, and Lord Mayor in 1567. He lived in Soper Lane, now Queen Street, and dying in 1573, was buried at St. Antholin's in Budge Row, under a tomb on which was the following inscription:—

Unto Sir Roger Martin, Knight,
A Mercer and a Merchant late ;
By wisdom, and by waies upright,
That so both wealth and worship gate.
Well sain'd, belov'd of each Estate ;
Pleasant and sage in gravity,
Rose by Degrees in Dignity,
First Alderman elected here,
Then Shrieve, and then Lord Maior he was,
Pass'd all with praise. His faithful Peere,
Dame Elizabeth, erected has
This Monument, in Mind, that, as
With him a while in Tomb to stay,
So afterward in Blisse to joy alway.

Ex D. Elizabeth octo prolium Parens, obiit in Christo, die 20 Decemb. An. Dom
1573, et regni Reg. Eliz. 16.

¹ Blank in original.

² In subsequent lists it is stated that Sir Roger Martyn's arms were engraved on the cup.

Here lyes the Lady Martin eke,
 Of Grecia Soyle, and Castlynes Race,
 Both constant, vertuous wife and meeke.
 That shewed herselfe in any place.
 And God endued her so with grace,
 That she both liv'd and dy'd with Praise.
 Two husbands had she in her Days,
 Whose Corps are both inclosed here,
 Together with the foresaid Dame:
 Her love to them was aye so dear,
 Her cost and charge sustain'd the same:
 These three, their Deeds will shew their Fame:
 Who, as she lived in Amity,
 So here she sleeps in Unity.

Domina Elizab. cum Maritis. Credimus quod Redemptor noster vivit, Et novissimo die videbimus Deum Salvatorem nostrum, Job 19.

John Heydon, by his will¹ dated the 11th March, 1579, gave £40 to the Company to make a gilt cup with his arms. With this legacy the Company purchased a great standing cup and a cover, weighing 98 oz., and engraved his arms upon it. He was born in the parish of Woodbury, in Devonshire, and apprenticed to Philip Cockeram. He was admitted to the freedom of the Company in 1555, was warden in 1576, master in 1582, sheriff of London and Middlesex in the same year, and, dying during his shrievalty, was buried in the church of St. Michael Royal. By his will he also bequeathed £1,000 to the Company, to be lent to young men of the Company, the interest to be applied in yearly payments to the poor of Whittington College (which then adjoined the church of St. Michael), of several parishes in the City of London, and of Woodbury, and to relieve poor prisoners confined for debt in the prisons of the City.

Between the years 1579 and 1617, when the next list appears in the books, the Company had acquired a large quantity of plate.

¹ Mercers' Company's Book of wills.

On the 28th June, 1583, at a court of assistants, it was reported that certain parcels of plate had been bought, amounting to 779 oz., at 5s. 8d. an ounce, which came to £220 14s.,¹ and on the 3rd July Mr. Warden Hungate was directed to provide and buy, for the house's store, 4 dozen of spoons, as the wardens should think convenient.²

On the 20th March, 1583,³ Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Elkyn and Mr. Dereham, together with the wardens, were appointed to talk with Thomas Knolles and Samuel Knolles, the sons and the executors of the Lady Martyn, deceased, whether they would part with plate for the Company's use, and if they would, then to take of them plate to the value of £200, or else to provide it in some other place, where they might best chepe the same.

In 1586 Richard James was admitted to the freedom by redemption, and gave six spoons which cost £3 6s. 8d.⁴ His name does not appear in the Company's books as warden or master.

Peter Symonds was a native of Winchester, where he built almshouses, called Christ's Hospital, which still exist. He was admitted to the freedom in 1563, having been apprenticed to Johanne Wilkynson, and was warden in 1583. By his will, dated the 24th April, 1586, in which he described himself as citizen and Mercer of London, he directed that a sum of £10 per annum, which the Company had covenanted with him to pay in such manner as he might direct, should be distributed in certain proportions in charity. In addition to the poor of the Company, he made provision for the poor of the parish of Allhallows, Lombard Street, of Christ's Hospital in Winchester and of Christ's Hospital in London. Part of the gift to Christ's Hospital in London was to be expended in the purchase of raisins, to be distributed, after service on Good Friday in Allhallows Church in Lombard Street, among 60 of the children educated in that hospital. The gift in the will to the parish of Allhallows is as follows :—

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

Item. I will give and devise unto the Parson and Churchwardens of All Saints here in London in Lumberd-street yearly for ever three Pounds two shillings eightpence of good and lawfull money of England, to be employed and paid by the aforesaid Parson and Churchwardens every year for ever in manner and form following, which 3^{li} 2^s 8^d I will and devise that the same shall be received of the Wardens and Commonaltie of the Companie of the Mercers as part of the 10^{li} payable by them and as may appear by their Indenture made between me and them, viz. thirty shillings of that 3^{li} 2^s 8^d I will and devise shall be paid yearly for ever by the said Parson and Churchwardens of All Saints in Lumberd Street aforesaid here in London on and upon the Fryday morning, commonly called Good Fryday which is before Easter, unto the children of Christ's Hospitall in London, with condition that the same Children of Christ's Hospitall, or threescore of them at the least, shall upon the same Good Fryday in the morning every year for ever, come unto the said Church of All Saints in Lumberd Street and there in the same Church and Chancell shall receive by their Treasurer the sum of 30^s accordingly; and three shillings fourpence, part of that 3^{li} 2^s 8^d before named, the Parson and Churchwardens shall every year for ever, upon the same Good Fryday, bestow that 3^s 4^d in good raisons and to divide the same raisons into threescore parts in papers, and when the children of Christ's Hospitall shall come upon Good Fryday as aforesaid, then the said Parson and Churchwardens shall give unto every child a part of that so appointed; and although this gift may be thought very frivolous, yet my mind and meaning being hidden may notwithstanding be performed, praying God to make all those Children happy members of this Commonwealth. Amen.

Item. I further will and devise that 16^d every year, for ever, part of 3^{li} 2^s 8^d before expressed, shall be paid by the Parson and Churchwardens of All Saints aforesaid upon the same Good Fryday yearly unto the Beadles of the Hospitall that shall come with the same children.

Item. I further will and devise that 20^s., parte of the foresaid 3^{li} 2^s 8^d., shall bee paid yearely for ever by the forenamed Parson and Churchwardens of All Saints, London, to the Parson and Churchwardens or their deputy of the parish of Chawdwell in Essex, where my land and manor lyeth, for the poor of the same parish.

Item. I further will and devise 5^s., part of that 3^{li} 2^s 8^d before named, shall be employed unto three score penny white loves of good sweet white bread, which sixty penny white loves, I will shall bee carried yearely for ever unto the new Church Yard upon that day when the sermon is there made, I think upon Whitsonday, and upon a stone or table there the same bread shall stand as unto the Churchwardens shall thinke good, and after the sermon ended the sixty loves shall be delivered unto sixty poore people, such as the Churchwardens shall thinke good, &c.

Item. I further will and devise that 3^s residue and the rest of 3^{li} 2^s 8^d aforesaid, I will 2^s thereof every year for ever shall be paid

unto the Churchwardens of All Saints in Lumberd Street in London aforesaid for their pannes to be taken heroin from time to time, and the other 12^d to the Clarke and Sexton of the said Church of All Sants as aforesaid.

Sixty of the youngest boys in Christ's Hospital, until the year 1892, attended divine service at the Church of Allhallows on Good Friday, when, after a sermon preached by the rector, each boy was presented with a bag of raisins, a new penny, and an Easter card. Peter Symonds, by his will, also bequeathed to the Company a bason and ewer of silver, and on the 20th May, 1607, the Court of Assistants desired Mr. Warden Backhouse to provide a bason and ewer according to the will of Mr. Symonds. They weighed 210 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

William Elkin, or Elkeyn, by his will dated the 22nd August, 1592,¹ gave a bason and ewer, parcel gilt, with his arms on it, weighing 83 oz., and a little gilt standing cup weighing 15 oz. He was apprenticed to Richard Elkeyn, and admitted to the freedom in 1554, was warden in 1582, master in 1586 and 1592, and alderman of Cripplegate Ward. By his will he also gave £100 to the Company, to be lent to two young freemen, the interest to be paid to the poor almsmen of the College founded by Sir Richard Whittington, besides bequeathing £800 to Christ's Hospital for charitable purposes and £60 to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

In the year 1600² Edward Hynton was made free of the Company, giving a piece of plate valued at £5 according to his offer.

In 1603³ Stephen Stock was admitted on his promise to buy a piece of plate of the value of £5.

In 1606⁴ William Spurscowe was admitted on paying a piece of plate value twenty nobles, and giving two bucks against the election dinner.

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

George Salter gave three double gilt bowls, weighing $59\frac{3}{4}$ oz. He was apprenticed to William Oldeborrowe, admitted to the freedom in 1585 and was master in 1608, in which year he died.

A curious item in the next list of plate is a gilt salt, with "Virginia lot" on the top. The colony of Virginia had been founded, partly by citizens of London, and was first settled as an English colony under charter of King James I, in the year 1607. There are several entries in the Acts of court of applications by the Lords of the Privy Council and the Lord Mayor for contributions towards carrying on the colony or plantation in the early years of the 17th century. At a General Court, held on the 4th of April, 1609—

The precepte of my Ld Maior, and the letter of the Counsell and Company of the honorable plantation of Virginia being redd, It is fully agreed, that this Company shall adventure 200^{li} towards the same voiage of Virginia, to be paid by the husband of the house, and the bill of adventure to be taken in the name of the Wardeins of the Company of the Mercers, for the use of the same Company, and if the said husband want money to performe the same, then it is to be supplied by 100^{li} either out of Poules Schole accompt or Gresham accompt, which can be first got in, and this order to be a discharge for the payment thereof.

At a General Court, held the 20th December, 1610—

It was declared, that Mr. Wardeins had bin called before my Lord Mayor, and had charge to call the Company together, to know their pleasure touching a further supplie for the furthering of the ho^{ble}. planta^õn in Virginia, for that the Company here were not very ample, Mr. Wardeins are appoyented to answer my Lord Maior, that they cannot give any absolute answer in this business, till after the hollidaies, and that the Company shall then be called together for that purpose.

The answer of the Company was as follows :—

Accordinge to his Lordshippes commandment, the said Company on Thursday last, the 20th of this instant December, at their hall assembled, but not in very ample numbers, to whom it was effectually propounded by Sir Baptist Hicks, Knight, our Master, for supplie to the said planta^õn, their answer, for the present is, that there was already adventured, out of their stock, a competent some of money, and aunswerable to

that which other Companies of this Cittie have done, besides the large adventures of many particular brethren of the said Company; and their resolution therefore was, not to adventure any further out of the stock of the said Company.

At a General Court and Quarter-day, held on the 21st May, 1612—

At the request of Sir Thomas Smith, Knight, it is fully agreed that this Company shall adventure 50^{li} in this present lottery for Virginia, and this order shall be a sufficient warrant to the seconde Wardein for the paiement thereof.

At a General Court and Quarter-day, held on the 25th May, 1614—

Touchinge the letters of the Lordes of his M^{ties} most hon. privie Councell, touchinge the adventuringe in the lottery for Virginia, it is agreed that this Company shall adventure towards the same lotterie, out of the generall stock, the some of fiftie poundes.

In the second warden's accounts for the year 1617-18, among "the old debts doubtful," is the following entry:—

Owing, which was paid for the Company's venture to Virginia 200^{li}. More there was put into the lottery for Virginia, anno. 1612, 50^{li}; the Company's prizes came to 10^{li} 10^s, for payment the Company had a salt with a cover guilt, poize 33 oz, at 6^s 10^d per oz, which amounted to 13^{li} 6^s 6^d, so the prizes deducted, was left clear 39^{li} 10^s, as in Mr. John Crouch's¹ account appeareth; more adventured in the year 1615 in the lottery for Virginia, for which the Company had 222 lots, as in Mr. Fishborne's account appeareth 49^{li} 16^s 8^d.

Thomas Walthall gave a standing cup weighing 31 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$. He was apprenticed to Richard Pointer, and admitted in 1575, was warden in 1603, and master in 1607, having been elected for part of the year, on the death of Thomas Cordell.

In 1607,² John Clarke, some time servant to one Dallon, a Grocer, was made free of the Mercers' Company at the request of Sir Henry Mountague, recorder of London, paying £3 6s. 8d., or a piece of plate of that value.

Richard Candler gave a standing cup with a cover, weighing 58 oz. There were two Mercers of that name, one apprenticed to

¹ Second warden in 1615.

² Acts of court.

Sir Thomas Gresham, and admitted in 1565, and the other apprenticed to one of the same name, who might have been his father, and admitted in 1600. The piece of plate was probably given by the latter.

Sir Henry Rowe by his will gave £25 to the Company to be laid out in the purchase of plate, and the Company, with the legacy, bought a fair round double salt, gilt, with a pyramid weighing 52 oz.¹ He was the son of Sir Thomas Rowe, a Merchant Taylor, who was alderman of Bishopsgate Ward, and Lord Mayor in 1568. Sir Henry Rowe was apprenticed to Matthew Field, and admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1571, was alderman of Portsoken Ward, and afterwards of Cornhill Ward, served the office of warden in 1591, and of master of the Company in 1593, 1599, 1603 and 1608, and was elected Lord Mayor in 1607. By his will he also gave £200 to the Mercers' Company, to be lent to two young freemen, and directed the interest to be distributed amongst the poor of St. Martin Outwich, and Hackney, in Middlesex.

John Gardiner² bequeathed to the Company in 1617 a fair bason and ewer, double gilt, weighing 84 oz. He was apprenticed to John Haydon, admitted in 1572, and was warden in 1595 and 1605.

Thomas Awdley, or Audeley,³ gave a very fair bason and ewer, double gilt, weighing 94 oz. $\frac{1}{8}$, as a fine for not serving the office of warden in 1618. He was the son of John Awdeley, and admitted to the freedom by patrimony in 1592.

The second warden's accounts, as has been said before, are not preserved previously to the year 1617, and the following list of plate appears in the account for that year. The names of the donors do not appear in many cases, and it is not possible at this distance of time to trace them. A great part of it was probably purchased.

¹ Acts of court, 24th February, 1612.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid., 8th September, 1618.

The Company's plate and the weights of the same as in former accounts appeareth as followeth, viz. :—

Imprimis. One dozen of guilt potts with covers, weight	212 oz.
Item. Halfe a dozen of guilt pots, without covers, with handles, poize	079 oz.
Item. Three dozen and a halfe of parcell guilt spoones, with maidenheads	095 oz.
Item. One dozen and a halfe of gilt spoones, with knobbs, poize ...	045 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. One dozen of parcell guilt spoones, with wild men, poize ...	020 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. Three coasted ¹ salts, gilt, without a cover	084 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. A great coasted salt with a cover and unicorne on the top, poize	048 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. Three coasted salts with cover and a trencher salt, poize ...	060 oz.
Item. A square gilt salt with a cover and bird on the top, poize ²	041 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. A waggon and a tonne, all gilt, poize	161 oz.
Item. Two nests of faire guilt bolles with covers, poize	195 oz.
Item. Three guilt bolles pounced whereof the one is bigger than the others, poize	023 oz.
Item. Three guilt bolles graven with a cover, poize	034 oz.
Item. Three double gilt bolles, poize	030 oz.
Item. Three graven bolles, gilt, with a swan in the midst, poize ...	022 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. Three double collick ³ bolles, parcell gilt, poize	029 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. A standing cup, with a cover, gilt, with a rose in the top, poize ⁴	024 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. A standing cup, gilt, bossed, with the Lady Gresham's arms, poize	040 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. A small standing guilt cup, with a cover and globe, poize ...	015 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. A small standing cup, gilt, with a maydenhead on the top, poize	017 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. A great gilt boll, with a cover, poize	107 oz.
Item. A great gilt boll, without a cover	020 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. A plaine gilt boll, with cover	016 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. A standing cup, gilt, enamelled, with a maydenhead and an unicorn, poize ⁵	065 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$

¹ A coasted salt, or coaster, was a salt cellar, which was passed about the table, as distinguished from a standing salt, which remained in its place.

² Given by William Burde.

³ A collick was a pail with one handle, the Latin equivalent being *haustellum*.—Holyoke's Latin Dictionary, 1640. In Ray's "Collection of North Country Words," 1691, it is defined as a "great piggin."

⁴ Lady Warren's cup.

⁵ The Leigh cup.

Item. A great standing cup and a cover, with Mr. Heydon's armes, poize	098 oz.
Item. A great standing cup, gilt, with Sir Roger Martin's arms, poize	082 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. A small standing cup, guilt, with a cover, with Mr. Hogan's armes, poize	035 oz.
Item. A bason and ewre parcell gilt, with knourles, poize	104 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. A bason and ewre parcell gilt, graven	083 oz.
Item. A bason and ewre parcel gilt, with Mr. Howland's armes, poize	090 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. A bason and ewre parcel gilt, with Mr. Alderman Elkyn's armes, poize	080 oz.
Item. A faire bason and ewre, of Mr. Simond's guift, poize... ..	210 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. Two livery pots, chissell square, poize... ..	098 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. Two plaine livery pots, gilt, poize	116 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. Three bowles, double guilt, of Mr. Salter's guift, poize ...	059 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. One guilt salt with Virginia lott on the top, poize	039 oz.
Item. One standing cup of Mr. Thomas Walthall's guifte, poize ...	031 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item. Three gilt pots with covers, of Mr. Higgs, ¹ his gift, poize ...	060 oz.
Item. One dozen of white pots chased with long handles, poize ...	159 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. Fowre white bolles, of Mr. Roger Howes' ² guift, poize ...	055 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item. One white boll of John Clarke, for his freedom by redemption, poize... ..	011 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. A white round trencher salt, with the Companies' arms, poize	005 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item. Three white potts with covers, graven with maydenheads, poize	064 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item. Three white bowles, graven and pounced with maydenheads, poize	037 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. One salt of the guift of Mr. Lowe, ³ for overplus in money, poize	044 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item. One standing cup of Mr. Candler's guift with a cover, poize	058 oz.
Item. A gilt boll, without a cover, of the guift of Sir Roger Owen, ⁴ poize	018 oz. $\frac{1}{8}$
Item. A fayre round double salte double guilt with a piramides, of the guift of Sir Henry Rowe, Knight, poize	052 oz.
Item. A fayre bason and ewre double guilt of the guift of Mr. John Gardiner deceased, poize	084 oz.
Item. A very faire bason and ewer double guilt of the guifte of Mr. Thomas Awdley to be excused for serving Warden poize...	094 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$

¹ William Higgs, apprenticed to William Higgs, was admitted in 1598, and Thomas Higgs, his brother, was admitted in 1612.

² Admitted to the freedom, gratis, in 1589.

³ George Lowe, apprenticed to John Stocker, was admitted to the freedom in 1618.

⁴ Admitted gratis by redemption in 1616.

The total weight of the above plate was 3,356 oz., which may appear to be a large quantity for a Company to be possessed of at that period. But it will be remembered that there were no investments then, as there are at the present time, and that a very considerable portion of the savings of the community was invested in this manner. A great part of the wealth of Sir Thomas Gresham was found, at his death, to consist of gold chains,¹ and in 1593 a German wrote that he had visited England, and had seen in Lombard Street "all sorts of gold and silver vessels exposed for sale, as well as ancient and modern coins, in such quantities as must surprise a man the first time he sees and considers them."²

In the same accounts for the years 1617-18 appears "A briefe of the plate particularly before mentioned," which is as follows:—

- 11 standing cuppes with 10 covers guilte.
- A waggon with a tonne to sett on the same.
- 11 gilt salts with 4 covers, whereof two are trencher salts, the one guilt, the other white.
- 6 dozen of spoones, whereof one dozen halfe guilt, the other parcell guilt.
- 4 livery potts, guilt, with covers.
- 5 basons and ewres, the one guilt, the others parcell guilt.
- 33 potts, whereof 15 with lids, and 6 without lids, and one dozen white, without lids.
- 10 nestes and 2 bowles, with 3 covers, whereof one nest parcell guilte, and 8 bowles white.
- 1 great bowle, with a cover, guilt.
- More, one standing cupp of Mr. Candler's guifte.
- More, one salt of Mr. Lowe's guift.

In the second warden's accounts for the year 1619-20 there is a note that the following pieces had been sold:—

A coasted salt guilt, without a cover	...	...	...	...	...	058 oz.
Item. Two nests of faire guilt bolles, without covers, poize	...	...	...	...	...	148 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item. A great guilt boll, with a cover, poize	...	...	...	...	...	107 oz.
Item. Three white potts, with covers, graven with maydenheads, poize	...	...	...	...	...	064 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item. Three white bolles, graven and pounced with maydenheads, poize	...	...	...	...	...	037 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$

The prices paid for these pieces of plate are not given.

¹ Francis ; History of the Bank of England, vol. I, p. 29.

² Ibid.

In the Acts of court for the year 1620, under date 6th May, is the following entry :—

Sold to Thomas Vyner, Goldsmith, the 5th of May, a^o 1620, 3 old
 cupp covers, gilt, weighing 52 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. at 5^s 8^d p. oz. 14^{li} 18^s 11^d
 3 flat boules, gilt, weighing 23 oz., at 5^s 8^d p. oz. 6^{li} 10^s 4^d
 Bought of him then 1 silver chafing dish, 6 wine bolles, 1 sugar dish, and 1 spoute pott.

In the list of plate for the year 1619-20,¹ the following four items appear for the first time, having been purchased from Thomas Vyner:—

Item.	Six wine bolles white	...	...	...	...	...	052 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item.	One sugar dish white poize	...	...	...	...	...	011 oz. 3 dwt.
Item.	A silver chafing dish, poize	...	...	...	...	...	036 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item.	A spout pot white	...	...	...	...	...	032 oz.

In 1624-5 there is an entry of:—

Three nest of white wine bolles bought with Mr. Aldrn. Hallidayes
 legacy, poize 83 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$

And in the second warden's accounts for this year is the following entry :—

Paid for three nests of silver wine bolles, bought with the surplusage
 of mony remaying of the 50^{li} given by Mr. Alderman Halliday
 for a dynnar for the Company 23^{li} 6^s 0^d

Alderman William Halliday, or Holliday, was apprenticed to William Higgs, and admitted in 1589. He was warden in 1606, and master in 1617 and 1624, elected sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1617, was alderman of Cripplegate Ward, and was buried in the church of St. Lawrence Jewry. By his will, dated the 16th December, 1623, he gave £200 to the Company to be lent, free of interest, to two young freemen. He also gave to the Company £50 to provide a funeral dinner. From the second warden's accounts for the year 1623-4, it appears that a dinner was provided at the hall on the 18th March, 1623, costing £27 18s. 3d., and that with the remainder of the £50 were purchased the three nests of wine bowls above mentioned. They were sold in 1642

¹ Second warden's accounts.

At a General Court on the 15th February, 1625, Thomas Witherings, free of the City by redemption, was admitted to the freedom of the Company, giving a piece of plate, value £5, and a buck for the wardens' feast. The piece of plate is described as a cup of silver and gilt, with his name inscribed, and a maidenhead engraved thereon, and is said in the warden's account for 1625-6 to have weighed $14\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

On the 12th May, 1626,¹ Mrs. Lee, widow of John Lee, Mercer, deceased, gave a gilt standing cup and cover weighing 30 oz. 14 dwts., as a remembrance of her husband. There were two Mercers named John Lee, either of whom might have been the husband of the donor of the cup; one, apprenticed to John Cheke, turned over to Richard Barrett, and admitted to the freedom in 1596; the other, apprenticed to Thomas Cressey, and admitted in 1608.

At a General Court on the 24th May, 1626, Thomas Chamberlaine, afterwards knighted, and warden in 1643, and Elisha Robins, having taken up the freedom of the City, were admitted to the freedom of the Company, and gave each 20 marks in plate, and on the 9th June in the same year it is recorded that Thomas Chamberlaine gave four white beere bolles weighing 46 oz., less 10 dwts., valued at £13 6s. 8d. (20 marks), and Elisha Robins gave four white beere bolles, which were of the same weight.

On the same day Abraham Viel, being capable of being admitted to the freedom of the Haberdashers' Company by patrimony, was admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company, giving twenty marks in plate, and it is recorded, that on the 13th August, 1628,² he presented a gilt cup, with a cover, for his redemption, weighing 30 ozs. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$, William Dawes, Thomas Winspeare, George Law, and Richard Hunt being the cup bearers.

On the 9th June, 1626,³ it is recorded that John Howe, having paid ten pounds for his freedom, to be laid out in plate, gave besides

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

five marks. The wardens were desired by the Company, with the money, to buy such plate as they thought best, and on the 5th September in the same year it is recorded that John Howe gave a silver gilt cup, weighing 39 ozs. 4 dwts., valued at £13 6s. 8d.

In the same year, 1626,¹ Thomas Win promised a piece of plate of the value of £5 for his freedom by redemption.

At a Court of Assistants held on the 29th August, 1628, it was agreed that the legacy of £37 10s. od. given by Mr. Fishborne for the purchase of a piece of plate, should be bestowed in a fair silver voyder, with his arms graven in it, and in the list of plate for that year the voyder is stated to have weighed 128 ozs. Richard Fishborne was one of the most munificent benefactors to the Company. He is said to have been found, as a baby, in the river Ouse, which flows through Huntingdon, and to have thence derived his name. He was apprenticed to Sir Baptist Hicks, and admitted in 1596, was warden in 1615 and 1624, but never was master. By his will, dated the 30th March, 1625, he gave to the Company £9,020, and directed that, of that sum, £500 should be laid out in land, and that out of the income thereof payments should be made for sermons in Mercers' Chapel; that £2,800 should be laid out in purchasing two or more impropriate parsonages, rectories, or church livings; that £1,000 should be laid out in land, and the income paid for the maintenance of a lecture in the parish of St. Bartholomew by the Exchange, and to the poor of that parish; that £420 should be laid out in land, and the income thereof disbursed for a sermon and a yearly dinner for the Livery of the Company; that £300 should be devoted to payment of the cost of purchasing the above lands; that £1,000 should be laid out in land, the income to be distributed in clothing among poor brethren or widows of the Company; and that the remaining sum of £2,000 should be laid out in land, and the income distributed for charitable purposes in the town of

¹ Acts of court.

Huntingdon. In the copy of the will which the Company possess, there is no mention of a legacy to buy plate. Mr. Fishborne died on the 8th April, 1625, and was buried in Mercers' Chapel, in the ambulatory of which his monument, with a full length figure of him in a furred gown and ruff, simply inscribed "Richard Fishborne, mercer, a worthy benefactor," escaped the Great Fire of London, and still occupies a conspicuous place.

On the 9th February, 1629,¹ Arthur Robinson, afterwards knighted, presented and delivered two deep white silver "bolles," weighing 29 ozs. 16 dwts., for his fine by composition for being excused serving the office of upper warden. He was apprenticed to Thomas Walthall, and admitted in 1601, had already served the office of warden in 1613.

On the 7th May, 1630,² was presented to the master and wardens "a white silver beere boule," of the gift of Mr. Giles Garton, executor to the Lady Goddard, deceased, in regard of the use the said executor made of the hall at the funeral of the said lady, the "beere boule" weighing 10 oz. 17 dwts. In the second warden's accounts for the year it is stated that 2s. 6d. was given, as a reward, to the person who brought it.

John Banckes, who was apprenticed to Sir Baptist Hicke, and admitted in 1598, was warden of the Company in 1615 and 1625, and master in 1630, in which year he died. By a deed dated the 19th August, 1619, he granted to trustees for the Company, a cottage and about six acres of land at Holloway, in the parish of Islington, upon trust, to divide the proceeds between the Governors of Christ's Hospital, the Barbers' Company, and the Mercers' Company. He gave to the Company, on the 15th February, 1625, 13 silver and gilt badges, to be worn by the almsmen of Whittington College on their gowns. In 1630 he gave three silver

¹ Acts of court.

² Ibid.

gilt beakers, weighing $74\frac{1}{2}$ oz., a silver voyder, weighing 134 oz., and two silver flagons, weighing 210 oz. The three beakers are still among the Company's plate, and are 8 inches high, tapering $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the top, and 3 inches at the bottom, with maidenheads in relief on the sides. Two of these beakers bear the date mark for 1604, and the third that for 1605, the maker's mark on all three being "A. B." in linked letters on a shaped shield, probably for Anthony Bennett.



On the 11th February, 1630, at a Court of Assistants, at the request of Mr. Tichborne, executor to Mr. Banckes, it was agreed that

Whereas he hath delivered to the Company two white silver flaggons, and 10 dozen and a halfe of pewter trenchers, and a picture, as the legacy of the said Mr. Bankes, which, nevertheless, are not mentioned in his written will, if he be hereafter troubled about the same, and the value of the said legacy recovered from him, then the Company will restore the said flaggons and pewter.

The following is a copy of the acquittance given to the executor:—

Received, the 4th of Febr'y A.D. 1630, by us Roger Hanyng, John Holland and William Lee, Wardens of the Mystery of the Mercers of the City of London on the behalf and to the use of the Wardens and Commonalty of the said Mystery of Mr. Robert Tichborne executor of the last will and testament of Mr. John Banckes, late Citizen and Mercer of London, deceased, these severall parcels following, viz.:— Three silver beakers gilt waighing three score and fourteen ounces and an halfe. One silver voyder white weighing one hundred thirty four ounces, which were by the said Mr. John Banckes, by his last will and testament, given and bequeathed to the said Wardens and Commonalty and their successors. More received of the said executor at the same time, for the use aforesaid, two silver flaggons white weighing two hundred and ten ounces and ten dozen and an halfe of pewter plate trenchers, together also with a picture of the said Mr. Banckes in a table, with a curtaine of seagreene taffata sarsenet, which said flaggons, trenchers and picture were given to the said Wardens and Commonalty by the said Mr. Banckes, by word of mouth before the said executor and others, after his said will was made, and we the said Wardens and Commonalty do for us and our successors acknowledge the receipt of the said severall legacies, and do hereby clearly discharge the said Robert Tichborne, the executor, and his executors and administrators, of, for and concerning the same, for witness whereof the common seale of the said Wardens and Commonalty is hereunto affixed, the day and year first above written.

Nathaniel Bishop was apprenticed to Henry Bishop, and admitted to the freedom in 1597. He was warden in the year 1608, and again in 1615, and died in 1630, having by his will, dated the 11th February, 1630, directed his executors to purchase a piece of plate for the Company, and also to provide "good handsome poore gownes" for threescore men, to attend therewith at his funeral, at a cost of 15s. apiece. It is recorded in the second warden's account for the year 1631-2, that Edmund Mynne and John Rust, his executors, had paid £15 for the purchase of three "beere bolles," which weighed 52 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$.

William Ferrers, who was apprenticed to Henry Bishop, and admitted in 1575, was warden in 1600 and 1609, and master in 1621.

By his will he bequeathed to the Company £200, to be lent to three honest young freemen, for five years, and also a piece of plate of the value of £10, upon which his armes were to be engraven, and the sum of £25 for a dinner on the day of his funeral. Thomas Ferrers, his executor, paid to the Company in 1631,¹ the said legacy of £200, and delivered to them four silver wine bowls, weighing together 35 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$. Francis Bishop, Goldsmith, was paid £5 in the same year "for graving armes and words upon the bolles of Mr. Ferrers' guift."²

Thomas Cooper, son of William Cooper, was admitted by patrimony in 1604. He gave, in 1631,³ one dozen silver trencher plates, weighing 101 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$, and a silver trencher salt, weighing 4 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$, for his freedom by redemption.

In the year 1632,⁴ the second warden, Mr. Thomas Cowles (who was apprenticed to Robert Leighe, and admitted in 1591), took out to be exchanged or mended the following pieces of plate:—

- A standing cup, with a cover gilt, with a rose on the top.
- A standing cup, gilt, bossed with the Lady Gresham's armes.
- A fruit dish of silver.
- A gilt standing cup, with a maydenhead on the top.
- One of the broad gilt cups, with a swan in the midst.

In his accounts for this year the following item appears:—

Received for 88 oz. 8 dwts. of old plate, sold at 5 ^s 6 ^d the oz.	...	24 ^{li} 6 ^s 2 ^d
And paid Thomas Vyner, goldsmith, for 9 broad wine boules containing 97 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ at 5 ^s 6 ^d per oz., and for graving the armes, 4 ^s 6 ^d	... ..	26 ^{li} 19 ^s 0 ^d

In the list of plate for 1633,⁵ the following two items appear for the first time:—

Five broad wine bolles, bought with the plate exchanged	...	55 oz. 3 dwts.
Item, fower broad wine bolles of the Lady Gresham's guift, bought with old plate of her guift exchanged	... ..	35 oz. 7 dwts. 12 grs.

¹ Second warden's accounts.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

The total weight is 97 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$, corresponding with the weight of the 9 bowls purchased as above. Subsequently 2s. 8d. more was paid "for graving the Lady Gresham's armes upon certeine new silver bolles."¹

In the same account there is this entry :—

Received for a silver sugar dish sold, weighing 11 oz. 3 dwts.,
at 5^s p. oz. 2^{li} 15^s 9^d

This sugar dish was one of the four pieces purchased from Thomas Vyner on the 5th May, 1620, before mentioned.

In the same year, 1631, William Smith, who was apprenticed to Sir Thomas Bennett, Knight, and admitted in 1613, and who was warden in 1628, gave a silver spout pot. In the second warden's accounts, the item relating to its purchase occurs :—

Paid Adam Knightley, goldsmith, for a faire silver spout pot,
containing 35 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$, at 5^s 6^d per oz., 9^{li} 14^s 4^d, and for graving
the armes 6^d of the gift of Mr. William Smith, Mercer ... 9^{li} 14^s 10^d

In the list for the year 1635-6, three silver beer bowls, weighing 39 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$, are mentioned as having been given by Richard Sabyn. He was apprenticed to Edward Worsope, and admitted in 1588, and was warden in 1626. From an item in the second warden's accounts for the year 1637, it appears that the bowls were purchased from Mr. Thomas Vyner, Goldsmith, at a cost of £10 17s. od.

Thomas Vyner, who is mentioned above, carried on the business of goldsmith in Lombard Street, on the site of the present Post Office. He was a member of the Goldsmiths' Company, and Lord Mayor in 1654, when he was knighted by the Protector, Cromwell. On the accession of Charles II in 1660, he was created a baronet, and dying on the 11th May, 1665, was buried in the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth.

¹ Cripps, in *Old English Plate*, p. 79, says that plate given to public bodies, having been worn out, has been re-made at subsequent periods, or exchanged for more useful articles, and the original date engraved on the new made plate.

In 1635,¹ William Robinson, Mercer, son and executor to William Robinson, Mercer, deceased, presented, as a legacy from his father to the Company, a nest of three white silver wine bowls, weighing 74 ozs. The donor of this plate was the son of John Robinson, and was admitted by patrimony in 1610. He was warden in 1628.

John Dethick was admitted to the freedom in 1638, paying £30 for a fine, of which £20 were returned to him, and the remaining £10



expended in the purchase of a gilt salt, weighing 31 oz. 9 dwts.² It is round, 6½ inches high, and 7½ inches in diameter, and bears the arms of the donor and those of the Company. The plate mark is of the year 1638, and the maker's mark "C. F." in a monogram on a shaped shield. John Dethick was the son of John Dethick, of West Newton, and grandson of Edward Dethicke, of Middleton, in Norfolk. He was master of the Company in 1649, being then alderman of Cornhill ward, and again in 1656, and Lord Mayor in the same year, when he was knighted. In his mayoralty the Company exhibited a pageant

¹ Second warden's accounts.

² Acts of court, 15th August, 1638.

on the 25th October, being Lord Mayor's day, called "Charity Triumphant; or, the Virgin's Shew," of which a copy is preserved in the British Museum.

On the 14th January, 1638,¹ the Company sold to Thomas Vyner a gilt basin and ewer, of Mr. Thomas Audley's gift, at 5s. 3d. per oz. poize 94 oz.; a gilt bason and ewer of Mr. John Gardner's gift, at 5s. 3d. per oz. poize 83 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$; and a parcel gilt bason and ewer, of Mr. William Howland's gift, at 5s. per oz., 90 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$; and bought of the same Thomas Vyner, instead of the former plate, a gilt bason and ewer, at 5s. 9d. per oz., poize 129 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$; a gilt bason and ewer, at 5s. 9d. per oz., 104 oz.; and a parcel gilt bason and ewer, at 5s. 3d. per oz., poize 92 oz. 12 dwts.

In the year 1640, Henry Russell, who was the son of Henry Russell, and admitted by patrimony in 1581, gave to the Company a fair standing cup, weighing 44 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$. The cup was presented by his executor, as appears by the following entry in the Company's books:—

1640, July 10th. The Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth, Countess of Exeter, late wife to William, Earl of Exeter, who was executor to Henry Russell, Esquire, deceased, did this day send to the Company one high standing cup of silver and gilt, with a cover to it, weighing 44 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$, for a legacy bequeathed by the said Henry Russell to the Company.

In the year 1641, Thomas Wells, who was apprenticed to Robert Washborne, and admitted to the freedom in 1641, gave a silver tankard weighing 14 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$.²

In 1642, Dame Elizabeth, Viscountess Campden, widow of Sir Baptist Hicks, Viscount Campden, gave to the Company a fair silver voyder, with a large voyding knife, which weighed 135 ozs. The entry of Lord Campden's freedom in the Company's books, under the year 1580, is as follows:

Baptyste Hycke, the sonne of Robert Hycke, late of London, Yermonger, but, while he lyved, he occupied the retaile of mercerye, made free with us, and of the Citty of London, per redemption, gratis.

¹ Acts of court.

² Second warden's accounts.

He kept his shop in Cheapside, and made a large fortune by selling silks and velvets to the Court on the accession of James I, by whom he was knighted. He is said by Strype¹ to have been one of the first citizens who, after knighthood, kept their shops, and in 1607, being charged with it by some of the aldermen, he gave this answer, that his servants kept the shop, though he had a regard to the special credit thereof, and that he did not live altogether upon the interest, as most of the aldermen did, laying aside their trade after knighthood. He built a large house in St. John Street, called Hick's Hall, at a cost of £600, in which, till its demolition on the erection of the new Sessions House on Clerkenwell Green, the Justices of Middlesex held their sessions. He served the offices of warden in 1597 and master in 1604, 1611 and 1622, and was a munificent benefactor to the Mercers' Company, bequeathing a moiety of the tithes arising out of the township of Woodhorn, and other places in Northumberland, for the maintenance and advancement of poor scholars from St. Paul's School to Trinity College, Cambridge. Sir Baptist Hicks was created in 1628 Viscount Campden, with remainder to his son-in-law, Lord Noel, who was the ancestor of the Earls of Gainsborough. He died on the 16th October, 1629, and was buried under a magnificent monument erected by his wife at Campden, in Gloucestershire.

Lady Campden, his widow, bequeathed £3,100 to the Company, with the income of which they founded lectureships at Grantham and Wakefield, and also £1,000 to be lent to young men free of the Company, gratis for four years.

Down to this time the records of the Company show the acquisition of plate, the few entries we meet with of sales being in cases where articles were evidently worn out or damaged and required replacing; but the troubles of the civil wars had now begun, and the Company were compelled to call in all moneys due to them to meet

¹ Strype's *Stow*, ed. 1754, vol. II, p. 486.

the levies for money and arms made upon them both by King and Parliament, and, in addition, to sell a large quantity of their plate. Before a Committee of the House of Commons in the middle of the last century, it was proved on oath by the then Clerk of the Company that £3,030 had been lent by them to King Charles I in the year 1640; that £6,500 had been lent to the Parliament in 1642; that £88 was due for arms delivered out of the Company's armoury to the Parliament in the same year, and £71 13s. 4d. for arms delivered to the City; and that the further sum of £3,200 was lent to the City in the same year. These sums, although taking the form of loans, were paid on letters from the Lord Mayor, enforced by demands from the King and his Council, or by orders of the Parliament to the Corporation, and the Corporation itself had been compelled to become a borrower from the Companies, to satisfy the exactions of the parties who alternately swayed the government. The so-called loan to the King was secured on the bond of the Earl of Manchester and nine other lords at 8 per cent. interest, and it was stipulated in the bond that half of the sum should be paid on the 22nd October, 1641, and the remaining half on the 30th October of the same year.

The members of the Company, owing to the derangement of trade caused by the civil war, were not able to meet the demands made upon them, and the Company could not so readily as previously raise money "upon their seal," so that in the year 1642, they were compelled to sell a large quantity of plate, a list of which is contained in the second warden's accounts, and is as follows:—

A note of such plate, as has bin sold this yeare, and of the weights of the same.

Imprimis, one doz. of gilt potts and eleven covers, which, together	
with one cover lost, weighed	212 oz.
Item, half a doz. of gilt potts, without covers, poize	79 oz.
Item, one doz. and a half of gilt spoones, with knobbs, poize ...	45 oz. less 3 dwts.
Item, eleaven gilt spoones, with wild men, except one knob lost, which	
together with one other spoone lost, weighed	20 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, two coasted saltes gilt, without covers, poize	26 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$

Item, a great coasted salte gilt, with a cover and unicorne on the top, poize	48 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, three coasted salts, guilt, with one cover, and a trencher salt ...	60 oz.
Item, three gilt bolles graven, poize	28 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, three double gilt bolles, poize	30 oz.
Item, two graven bowles gilt, with a swan in the midst, poize	15 oz. $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, three double collick bolles, parcell gilt, poize	29 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a small standing cup, with a cover and gloabe gilt, poize	15 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item, a great gilt bolle, without a cover, poize	20 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, a plaine gilt bolle, with a cover, poize	16 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, a small standing cup, with a cover, with Mr. Hogan's armes, poize...	35 oz.
Item, a bason and ewer, parcel gilt, with knorles, poize	104 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a bason and ewer, parcel gilt, graven, poize	83 oz.
Item, a bason and ewer, parcell gilt, with Mr. Howland's armes, poize at first 90 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$, and being exchanged, weighed	92 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a bason and ewer, parcell gilt, with Mr. Alderman Elkyn's armes, poize	80 oz.
Item, two gilt livery potts, chissell square... ..	98 oz. $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, two plaine livery potts gilt, poize	116 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item, three bolles double gilt, of Mr. George Salter's gift, poize... ..	59 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, one standing cup, of Mr. Thomas Walthall's guifts, poize... ..	31 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, three gilt potts with covers, of Mr. Higgs, his guift	60 oz.
Item, one doz. of white potts chased, with long handels, poize	195 oz. $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, three white bolles of Mr. Roger Howes' guift, together with one reserved, weighed... ..	59 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, one white bolle of John Clarke, for his freedom by redemption	11 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a gilt bolle without a cover, of the gift of Sir Roger Owen	18 oz. $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, a faire round double salt gilt, with a piramide of Sir Henry Rowe's guift poize	52 oz.
Item, six wine bolles white... ..	52 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, a silver chafing dish, poize	36 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a spout pott white	32 oz.
Item, eight wine bolles, bought with Alderman Hallidaye's legacy, together with one lost, weighed	83 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a gilt bolle without a cover, of Thomas Witherings, for his freedom by redemption	14 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a standing cup with a cover gilt, of Mr. John Lees' guift	30 oz. 14 dwts.
Item, fower white beere bolles of Elisha Robins, for his freedom by redemption	46 oz. 6 dwts.

Item, a standing cup with a cover gilt, of John Howes, for his freedome by redemption, poize	30 oz. 14 dwts.
Item, a standing cup with a cover gilt, of Abraham Viel, for his freedome by redemption	30 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a silver voyder, of the guift of Mr. Richard Fishborne, poize	128 oz. less $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Item, two silver bolles, of the guift of Sir Arthur Robinson, to be excused for serving the place of upper warden, poize ...	29 oz. 16 dwts.
Item, a silver bolle of the guift of Mr. Giles Garton, exor. to ye Lady Goddard, poize	10 oz. 17 dwts.
Items, two silver flagons of the guift of Mr. John Banckes, poize ...	210 oz.
Item, one doz. of silver trencher plates of Mr. Thomas Cowper, for his freedome by redemption... ..	101 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, five broad wine bolles, bought with plate exchanged ...	55 oz. 3 dwts.
Item, fower broad wine bolles bought with plate exchanged of the Lady Gresham's guift, poize	42 oz.
Item, a silver spout pott of the guift of Mr. William Smith, Mercer	35 oz. 7 dwts. 12 grs.
Item, three silver beere bolles, of the guift of Mr. Richard Sabyne, poize...	39 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$
Item, a faire standing cup, of the guift of Mr. Henry Russell, poize ...	44 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$

In the repertory, or Acts of court, are the following entries showing the quantity of plate sold, and the sums received for it:—

12th April, 1643.

Sold unto Thomas Vyner, goldsmith, of white plate, 14 wine cups, 9 broad wine bolles, 14 beere bolles, one chafing dish, one dozen of pots without covers, two spout pots, 11 spoones, one silver voyder, one dozen of trencher plates and two silver flaggons, weighing in all 1,121 oz., 15 dwts. 0 grs. at 4 ^s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d per oz., which cometh to ...	273 ^{li} 8 ^s 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^d
Sold unto him more of parcell gilt plate, fower basons and ewers, three broad bolles, one dozen and an half of spoones, and a piece of silver, weighing in all 435 oz., 10 dwt., 0 gr., at 5 ^s per oz. which cometh to	108 ^{li} 17 ^s 6 ^d
Sold unto him more of gilt plate, 4 livery pots, three salts with covers, fower salts without covers and a trencher salt, one and twenty pots, fowerteene covers, three bolles, eleaven standing cups, and eight covers and nine broad wine bolles weighing in all 1,216 oz., 5 dwt., 0 gr. at 5 ^s 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d p. ounce which cometh to	316 ^{li} 14 ^s 7 ^d
Summa totalis ...	699 ^{li} 0 ^s 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^d

And in the second warden's accounts for the year 1642-3 is the following entry:—

Received of Mr. Thomas Vyner, goldsmith, for plate sold him, the particulars whereof appear in the beginning of this account, and the prices in the repertory of this year ... 699^{li} 0^s 9^d

In the same book of second warden's accounts is a list of the plate remaining after the sale.

The Companie's plate that remayned, with the weights of the same, as followeth:—

Imprimis, three dozen and a half of parcell gilt spoones, with maidenheads, poize	95 oz.
Item, a square salt with a cover and bird on the top, poize	41 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$
Item, a waggon and tunn all gilt, poize	161 oz.
Item, a standing cup gilt enameled with a mayden-head and unicorne, poize	65 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, a great standing cup with a cover gilt, with Sir Roger Martin's armes, poize	82 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, a great standing cup with a cover, with Alderman Heydon's armes, poize	98 oz.
Item, a faire bason and ewer gilt, of Mr. Symonds' gift, poize... ..	210 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, one white bolle of Mr. Roger Howes' guift, which together with 3 which are sold weighed	59 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, a white round trencher salt, with the Companie's armes, poize	5 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, one salt of the guift of Mr. Lowe, for overplus in money, poize	44 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, one cup with a cover, of Mr. Richard Candler's guift, poize ...	58 oz.
Item, a faire bason and ewer double gilt of the guift of Mr. John Gardner, poize at first 84 oz., but being chainged weigheth ...	103 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, a faire bason and ewer double gilt of the gift of Mr. Thomas Audley, to be excused serving warden, poize 94 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but, now chainged, weigheth	129 oz.
Item, two white beere bowles, of Sergeant-Major Thomas Chamberlain's, chainged for fower beer bolles, which weighed 46 oz.	46 oz., 18 dwt.
Item, three silver beakers of the guift of Mr. John Banckes, poize ...	74 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, one silver voyder, of ye same guift, poize... ..	134 oz.
Item, one silver trencher salt of Mr. Thomas Cowper's, which he gave with some other plate for his freedome by redemption	4 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{8}$
Item, three silver beere bolles, of the guift of Nathaniel Bishop, poize	52 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, fower silver wine bolles, of the guift of Mr. William Ferrers ...	35 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, three nests of wine bolles, of the guift of Mr. William Robinson senr. poize	74 oz.
Item, a gilt salt of Mr. John Dethick, for his freedom by redemption	31 oz., 9 dwt.
Item, a silver tankard of the guift of Mr. Thomas Wells, for his freedome by redemption, poize	14 oz. $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$

Item, a fair silver voyder with a large voyding knife of the gift of the Honble Baptist, Lord Viscount Campden, and Dame Eliz, his wife, poize	135 oz.
Item, one gilt salt, with Virginia lott on the top, poize... ..	39 oz.

In 1643 (12th May) there is a note of plate lost at several times by William Time, the Company's butler, with the value of each item set against it, as follows:—

A coachman of silver and gilt	0 ^{li} 13 ^s 4 ^d
Three parcell gilt spoones with the knob of another	1 ^{li} 10 ^s 0 ^d
A cover of a pot silver and gilt weighing 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs.	0 ^{li} 19 ^s 5 ^d
One wine cup white	2 ^{li} 5 ^s 0 ^d
	5 ^{li} 7 ^s 9 ^d

On the 16th May, 1643, the Court was acquainted that the value of the plate lost by Time was £5 7s. 9d., and it was ordered that he should pay that sum to the master and wardens, and they were empowered to deal with him as they should think meet. And on the 13th November, 1644, the debt due by him was, on his petition, remitted.

In 1644¹ Francis Nicholson, who was apprenticed to Thomas Cordell, and admitted in 1619, for being excused from serving the place of upper warden, gave a silver tankard, weighing 25 oz. 11 dwts.

In 1645,² the Company received of the gift of William Lee, Mercer, deceased, who was apprenticed to Benjamyn Deicrowe, and admitted in 1613, a gilt cup with a cover, weighing 45 oz. 7 dwts., and six silver trencher plates, weighing 73 oz. 14 dwts. In the second warden's accounts for this year are the following items relating to the receipt of the legacy and the purchase of the plate:—

Received of the executor of Mr. Williams Lee, decd, per Mr. Cludd, for the buying of plate of his gift 35^{li}

And—

Paid Mr. John Perin, goldsmith, for a gilt bolle and cover, and for six trencher plates, bought with Mr. Lee's legacy as p. bill 36^{li}

In the year 1650 the Company received two silver bowls, weighing 57 oz. 11 dwts., as a legacy from Nicholas Askwith, Mercer,

¹ Acts of court, 20th September, 1644.

² Second warden's accounts.

deceased, who was apprenticed to James Anton, and admitted in 1587. He was warden in 1608 and 1621, and became master on the death of John Banckes, in 1631. The following entry is recorded in the Acts of court on the 19th February, 1650:—

There were now presented unto this Court by Mr. Abraham Chamberlain, grocer, two silver bolles, the one weighing 28 ozs. 15 dwts., and the other weighing 28 oz. 16 dwt., as part of the legacies of Mr. Nicholas Askwith, mercer, deceased, to this Company, each of the said bolles having the Companys and the benefactors armes upon them, with this inscription, The gift of Nicholas Askwith, decd, some time Master of this Company, An^o. 1650.

On the 19th February, 1651¹ it is recorded that upon the petition of Robert Doyley, it was agreed that on payment of £50 to the Company's use, he should be made free by redemption, and on the 14th May, in the same year, it was referred to the master and wardens and Mr. Moyer, to admit the said Robert Doyley, upon his payment of the said £50, into the freedom of the Company, and they were empowered to return him back what they should think fit of the same sum. Doyley afterwards delivered to the master and wardens two silver tankards, weighing 40½ oz. 2 dwts., costing £10, for the use of the Company, and was admitted to the freedom. The remaining £40 appear to have been remitted.

In 1652, Anthony Bedingfield, deceased, who was apprenticed to William Johnson, and admitted in 1628, gave, in remembrance of his love to the Company, a silver bason and ewer, weighing 184½ oz. 2 dwts., two silver flaggons, weighing 210 oz. 18 dwts., two silver standing cups and covers, weighing 126¼ oz., four silver salts, weighing 130½ oz. 2 dwts., and three silver collick cans, weighing 91 oz. 18 dwts. In the Acts of court, under date the 20th May, 1653, the following entry concerning the gift and its cost appears:—

Robert Lowther, Esquire, one of the executors of Anthony Bedingfield, Esquire, late deceased, did now present unto the Master and Wardens, the particular parcells of plate hereunder specified as of the bequest of the said Mr. Bedingfield unto the Company, viz.:—

¹ Acts of court.

One silver bason and ewer and two silver flaggons, wt. 395 oz., at 5 ^s 6 ^d	108 ^{li} 12 ^s 6 ^d
Two silver standing cups and covers, fower silver salts, three coll ¹ cans of silver, weight 348 oz., at 5 ^s 6 ^d	95 ^{li} 14 ^s 0 ^d
The gravings of 13 coates of armes and the mottoes cost	1 ^{li} 19 ^s 0 ^d
	<hr/> 206 ^{li} 5 ^s 6 ^d

On the 17th August, 1658,² on the petition of Benjamin Cooke, merchant, he was granted the freedom of the Company, by redemption, on paying a fine of £50, which the master promised in his behalf to see forthwith paid to their use, and he was immediately admitted to the freedom in open Court, and heard the freeman's oath read to him, to which he promised obedience; and then, a motion being made for mitigation of the aforesaid fine, the Court weighing the several reasons which were urged to show that he deserved favour, did at length remit the said fine, and ordered that he should forthwith bring in £20, to be laid out in plate, by direction of the wardens for the use of the Company. It does not appear what plate was purchased.

The book of second warden's accounts is missing from the years 1656 to 1666, and the lists of plate during these years are therefore not extant. In the autumn of 1666, the Great Fire of London happened, and although it does not appear that any of the Mercers' Company's plate was burnt (as was the case with that of many of the other Companies), almost immediately afterwards the Court of Assistants, at a meeting on the 19th October, 1666, held at Gresham College, in the lodgings of the Gresham Lecturer on Civil Law, resolved that in regard of the great loss the Company had sustained by the late fire, and that they might retrench their charge as much as might be, their plate should be sold (except certain peices which the wardens should think necessary to spare for the Company's use), so that money might be raised to pay off interest on their bond debts, and at a General Court and Quarter-day, held at the same place, on

¹ Sic.

² Acts of court.

the 1st November, 1666, the above order was confirmed, and it was left to the master and wardens to make the most of the plate, either by coining or selling it.

In pursuance of these orders, almost all the remaining plate was sold to Rowland Worsop,¹ a member of the Company, the following entry in the warden's accounts for the year 1666-7 giving the only particulars of the sale now available :—

Recd of Mr. Rowland Worsop, Mercer, for 183½ ozs. of white plate sold him at 5^s 1^d per oz., and for 850½ ozs. of gilt plate, sold at 5^s 9^d p. oz., comes to 702^{li} 16^s 8^d

Four pieces only were saved, and all of these are now in the Company's possession. They are thus described in the accounts for the same year :—

Imprimis, a waggon and tun, ² all gilt (with a coachman lost), poize ...	161 oz.
Item, a standing cup, ³ all gilt, enameld with a maidenhead and unicorn, poize	65 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$
Item, three gilt beakers, of Mr. Jno. Bancks, his gift, poize	74 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$
Item, a gilt salt of Sir John Dethick, for his freedom by redemption, poize	31 oz. 9 dwt.

The Company's seal, which, although not a piece of plate in the ordinary sense of the term, may, as being made of silver, be fittingly referred to here, was either burnt or lost in the Great Fire, and a new one, exactly copied from the old one, but a trifle larger, was made, an engraving of which is annexed.

Starting with the four pieces enumerated above, there is no difficulty in tracing the plate downwards. The Company never obtained such a wealth of plate again, but gifts are still found in the books, some given by members to be excused serving the office of warden, or by lessees on having a lease granted to them. It does not appear that any of the plate acquired after the Great Fire has been sold.



¹ Son of John Worsop, and admitted by patrimony in 1649.

³ Given by Sir Thomas Leigh.

² Given by William Burde.

In 1673, the first piece of plate after the Fire was given to the Company. It was a silver loving cup, inscribed, "the gift of William Hurt," is 12 inches high, with a baluster stem, and weighs 27 oz. 15 dwts. There are two coats of arms on this cup, that of the Company, and the other borne by the Hurts of the counties of



Stafford and Derby. It is of a type which is first found about 1638, and bears the date mark of the year 1650, and a maker's mark, "H.G.," with two pellets between a mullet, or star of five points, above and below the letters. Mr. Hurt was the son of Thomas Hurt, of the city of Bristol, merchant, and was apprenticed in 1632, for eight years,

to William Hurt, Mercer, merchant adventurer of England, and free of the East India Company. He was admitted to the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1643, and gave the cup on his being excused from serving the office of second warden in 1673.



In 1679, the two staves or maces, which are carried before the Master and Wardens at dinners in the hall, and on other solemn occasions, were made, and the Company paid Mr. Edward Pinfold, Goldsmith, for his bill for the same, £29 5s. od. There are no marks on them. Edward Pinfold was a member of the Company who lived at the sign of the "Black Lyon" in Lombard Street, and was apprenticed to Roland Worsop, and admitted in 1678.

In 1686, Mr. Robert Northleigh, a member of the Company, who was apprenticed to Jeremy Elwes, and admitted in 1686, presented twelve silver table spoons, which bear the date of 1685, and as a maker's mark, a coronet over the initials "I. S." They are in most excellent preservation.

The next in order of date are two silver salts of octagonal form, very similar to that given by Sir John Dethick. They are $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and engraved with the arms of the Company, one is inscribed "Ex dono Henrici Sumner Ar," and the other, "The gift of Alexander Wright." On the top are four volute guards, intended to sustain a napkin to keep the salt clean. The date mark on the Sumner salt is for 1684-5, and the maker's mark, "D," in a shaped shield. The mark on the other is illegible, but it is of about the same year, and both salts were given to the Company in 1684.

Two large loving cups were presented by the Bank of England to the Company in 1694, they are silver gilt, and weigh 127 oz. $\frac{1}{2}$. They are 15 inches high and $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with baluster stems, and the centre of the bowls is frosted. On each cup is a shield, with a figure of Britannia seated, surrounded by heaps of guineas, which was the stamp on Abraham Newland's bank notes. On the foot is inscribed, "The gift of ye Governor and Company of the Bank of England to the Worshipful Company of Mercers." The date marks are for the year 1694, and the maker's marks, "I. R.," with a crown above and a shell below, in an oval shield, probably of John Ruslen, of London. The Bank of England was established in the year 1694, and carried on its business in Mercers' Hall for a short time. The gift is thus described in the second warden's accounts:—

Item, two large silver bowles, guilt with gold, presented to the Company by the Bank of England, being part of the recompense for their use of the Company's hall.

A third cup to match was made a few years since. The Company in 1887, on the occasion of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria,



Bladen & Co. Sc

Loving Cup,
Given by the Bank of England.





Alenteith.
Given by William Lydenham.

presented to their members reduced copies of the cups, and on the recent resignation of Mr. Frederick William Walker, High Master of St. Paul's School, the Company gave him a reduced copy in gold.

Two silver monteiths with lion handles and scalloped edges, the centres fluted, standing on gadrooned feet, were given in 1699 by William Sydenham, for the use of the hall, in which his land lottery was drawn. The Company's arms, and those of the Sydenham family, are on the sides of the bowls. They are 9 inches in height, and 13 inches in diameter, and each weighs 72 oz. 15 dwts. The date mark is for the year 1699; the maker was Robert Timbrell of London; maker's mark "Ti.," with a mullet or star of five points above and below.

In 1894, the quingentenary of the grant of the first charter of the Company, small copies of these bowls were presented to the members.

Two circular silver salvers, 15 inches in diameter, with gadrooned edges, on feet ornamented in like manner, bear the arms of the Company. They weigh 103 oz. 15 dwts., and were given by the English East India Company in 1700, in part of the recompense for the use of the hall to take subscriptions for two millions of money. They were made by Samuel Hood of London, and bear the date mark for the year 1702.

Two plain round silver flagons, 18 inches high and 6 inches in diameter, on large round feet 11 inches in diameter, are engraved with the arms of the Company, and with two other shields of arms, emblematical of the donors, with this inscription—"The gift of ye Corporation of ye Mines Royall, ye Minerall and Battery Works, anno Domini, 1718." The plate mark is for the year 1718, and the maker's mark "Ho." in a shield, for Edward Holaday, of Grafton Street. In the year 1717 a company was projected for the insurance of ships and merchandise and was called "The Mercers' Hall Marine

Company." A pamphlet in the British Museum (8,225, a. 38) gives a list of the subscribers of £1,000,000 to carry on the work. Charters in those days were granted very charily, and without a charter, a joint stock company was unable to carry on business. So the Mercers' Hall Marine Company petitioned the Crown for a charter, but without success, and in 1718 it amalgamated with another body of "Knights, Citizens, and Merchants" which was also seeking a similar favour. A charter not being forthcoming, the subscribers obtained possession of two charters granted by Queen Elizabeth, one, dated the 10th October, 1564, to the Governors, Assistants, and Company of the Mines Royal, giving licence to search for gold, silver, copper and quicksilver in certain counties in England and in Wales, and the other, dated the 17th September, 1565, to the Governors, Assistants, and Society of the Mineral and Battery Works, giving them licence to search for mines, etc., in other parts of England, not included in the first charter. The subscribers thereupon commenced to transact business under the name of the Court of Assistants of the Mines Royal Mineral and Battery Works. But in December, 1719, they waited on the King (George I) with a petition for a charter, which was referred to the Privy Council, and a charter was, on the 5th November, 1720, granted under the name of the Corporation of the Royal Exchange Assurance, which has carried on business in the Royal Exchange ever since, with the exception of the period required for the erection of a new Exchange after the fire in 1838.¹ These pieces of plate were given to the Company for the use of their hall to take subscriptions.

I find on the 8th July, 1756, that an account was taken by Mr. William Knight, warden, of the weight of the Company's plate, and the several parcels were then found to weigh as undermentioned, viz. :—

¹ I have taken the above particulars from an Historical Sketch of the Royal Exchange Assurance, by Mr. W. N. Whympere.



FLAGON GIVEN TO THE MERCERS' COMPANY BY THE CORPORATION OF
THE MINES ROYAL MINERAL AND BATTERY WORKS.



	ozs.	dwt.
A waggon and ton, gilt	156	.
An enamelled standing cup and cover, gilt	63	.
Three beakers, the gift of Mr. Banks	74	.
A gilt salt	31	5
A white standing cup	27	10
A salt, the gift of Mr. Wright	37	10
A salt, the gift of Mr. Sumner	35	.
Twelve silver spoons	17	15
Two large silver bowls, gilt	127	15
Two large silver monteiths	143	.
Two large silver salvers	103	5
Two large silver flaggons	176	5
	<hr/>	
Thirteen badges and eleven old spoons, supposed to have belonged to Whittington College	992	5
The Company's arms upon two staves, with the rims of four bowles and ornaments about 4 coronets, computed at	35	10
	<hr/>	
	72	5
	<hr/>	
	1,100	ounces.

The badges and the bowl rims and coronets are no longer in the Company's possession, but all the rest of the plate is still in Mercers' Hall. The coronets were no doubt used at the election of the Master and Wardens of the Company, when they were tried on, or "perused the heads" of the guests at the election dinner or supper, until they were found to fit the heads of those members who had been previously chosen into office.

A silver oblong plateau was presented to the Company in 1794. It is 18 inches wide and 2 feet 7 inches long, and stands on four feet, with a pierced border of scroll work all round. An epergne stands on it, resting on six legs, designed to hold lights or flowers. Its entire height is 26 inches. This very handsome ornament for the table is inscribed:—"To the Worshipful Master Warden the Wardens and Commonalty of the Company of Mercers London from the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for the issue of Exchequer Bills for the Assistance of Commercial credit as a testimony of the

sense the Commissioners entertain of the liberality and readiness with which the use of Mercers' Hall was granted for the purposes of carrying on the business of the Commissioners July 2 1794." This plateau bears the hall mark for 1794, and was made by Pitts and Preedy, of London.

The Company have also a copy in silver of the Warwick Vase, which was presented by the Company to Mr. James Barnes, a former Clerk, and given to them by Mr. Henry Eugene Barnes, the late Clerk of the Company, on his retiring from office in 1875, and a very elegant silver inkstand given to Mr. James Barnes in 1845 by the Gresham Committee for managing the Royal Exchange and other institutions founded by Sir Thomas Gresham, on his retiring from the office of clerk to that committee, which he had held for twenty years. The King, when Prince of Wales, used this inkstand on signing the roll on his admission to the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1863, and it was given by Mr. Henry Eugene Barnes to the Company in the same year.

The Company have also in their possession a massive loving cup and two salts, all of silver, belonging to the warden and poor men of Trinity Hospital, in Greenwich, which is under their management. The hospital was founded by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, K.G. He was the second son of the poet Earl of Surrey, and was born about the year 1539, at Shotesham, in Norfolk, in a house which still exists, where his father and mother rested while on the way from London to Norwich. His father was attainted and beheaded in 1546, and his eldest brother, Thomas Howard, fourth Duke of Norfolk, was also beheaded in 1572, for intrigues with Mary, Queen of Scots. Lord Northampton was described by Bishop Godwin as "The learnedest among the nobility and the most noble among the learned." During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, he endeavoured vainly to obtain favour at Court, but on the accession of James I, honours and offices were heaped upon him. He was created Earl of Northampton and Lord

Marnehill in 1603, and was made Lord Privy Seal and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Knight of the Garter. His participation in the infamous intrigue of his niece, the Countess of Essex, with Carr, the favourite of James I, is well known, and he probably only escaped by his death, which took place on the 15th June, 1614, from being charged with complicity in the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury. He built a hospital at Greenwich, for a warden and twenty poor men, twelve from



the parish of Greenwich and eight from the parish of Shotesham ; another at Clun, in Shropshire, for a warden and twelve poor men, and a third at Castle Rising, in Norfolk, for a governess and twelve poor women.

The hospital at Greenwich was dedicated to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, but was not finished at the time of Lord Northampton's death. By his will, dated the day before his death, he directed his executors to procure his hospital at Greenwich to be founded and incorporated, and to be endowed with lands in Kent and



LOVING CUP PRESENTED TO TRINITY HOSPITAL BY THOMAS, EARL OF
ARUNDEL AND SURREY.

at Charing Cross, adjoining Northampton House, which was built by him, and was afterwards better known as Northumberland House. He directed, by his will, that the oversight of the hospital at Greenwich should be given to the Mercers' Company, and was almost the only benefactor to the Company who was not a member of it or connected with it.

Lord Northampton was buried in the chapel of Dover Castle, but in 1696, the old chapel having become ruinous, the Mercers' Company removed his body and the monument which had been placed over it to the chapel of the hospital at Greenwich. The hospital was incorporated by charter of James I, dated the 5th June, 1615, and statutes were made by John Griffith, one of his executors, and the Earls of Arundel, Suffolk, and Worcester, his overseers, for the proper government of the hospital.

The loving cup, which weighs 68 oz. 16 dwts., was given to the hospital on the 23rd February, 1616, the day of the dedication of the hospital, by Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, great-nephew and heir of the Earl of Northampton. It bears as a date-mark a Lombardic "T" for the year 1616, and, as a maker's mark, "S.O." in a shaped shield. The cup and the two salts bear the arms of Lord Northampton, the larger salt weighs 24 ozs. and the smaller 5 oz. 5 dwts., and both bear as a date mark the small italic letter *a* for the year 1618, and, as a maker's mark, "R.W." in a shaped shield over a cinquefoil. Woodcuts of the larger salt are on page 241, and of the loving cup faces this page. The hospital has a number of silver spoons, one, the master spoon, with a figure on the top; the date mark is for the year 1618, and the maker's mark is a crescent enclosing a five-pointed star in a shaped shield. The loving cup has the following inscription:—

Hoc charitatis poculum hospitali sanctæ et individuæ Trinitatis Grenwici, ab Henrico Howardo, comite Northamptoniæ, fundato, Thomas, comes Arundeliæ et Surriæ, heres eius proximus, ipso consecrationis die xxiii Febr. MDCXVIII, donavit.

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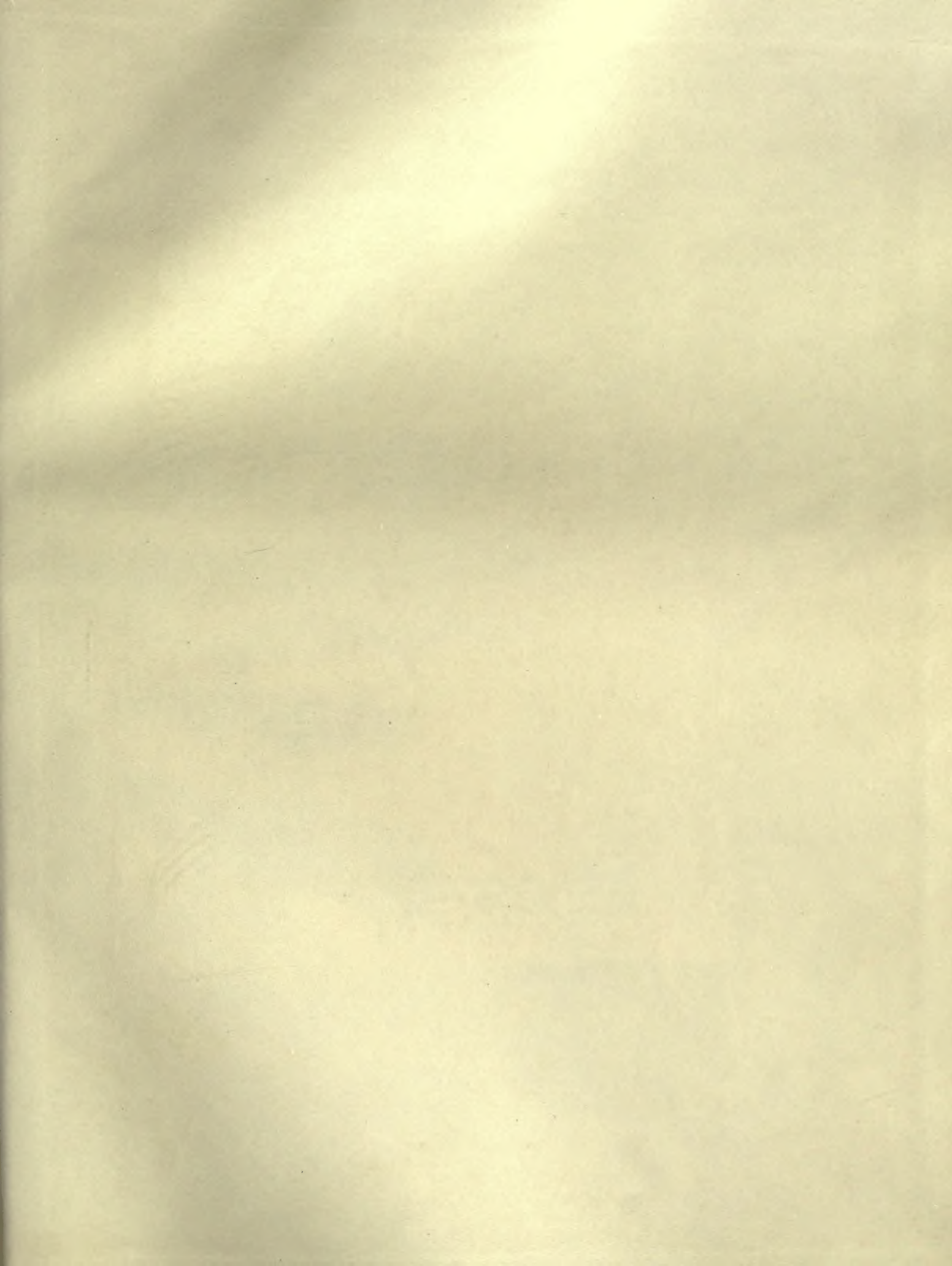
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