



THE STORY
OF
THE IRISH SOCIETY.

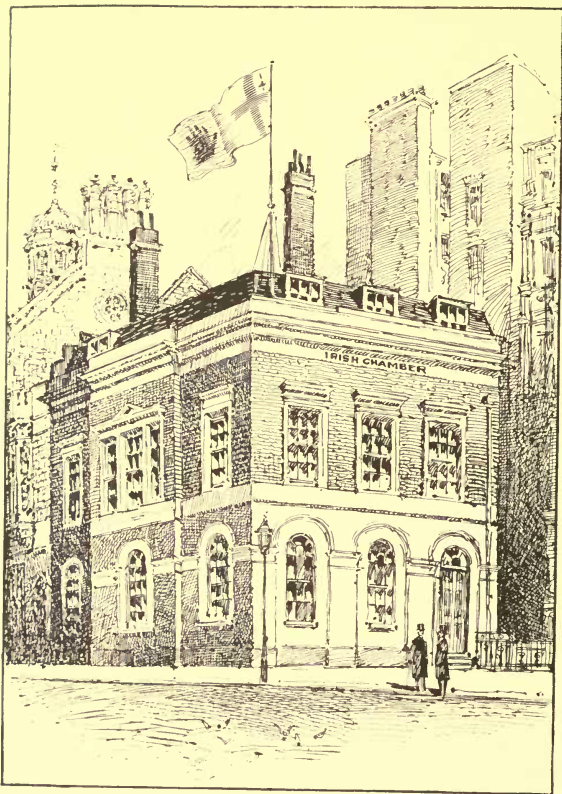
Edmund & Irene Andrews



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MCMXXII

you fool! to seek companions in a crowd!
Into thy room, and there upon thy knees,
Before thy bookshelves, humbly thank thy God
That thou hast friends like these!



The Irish Chamber, originally in the Guildhall, was destroyed by fire in 1786, and many of the Society's records were lost. The Chamber pictured was built in 1823.

THE STORY OF THE IRISH SOCIETY

*Being a Brief Historical Account of the Foundation
and Work of the Honourable the Irish Society of
London.*

(2nd Edition)

BY
JOHN BETTS

Printed for the Honourable the Irish Society in
celebration of the Tercentenary of the granting
of the Society's Charter in 1613.

IRISH CHAMBER, LONDON.
1913

(Reprinted 1921)

FOREWORD.

THE deep interest naturally evoked in the affairs of an Institution closely allied to the Corporation of London, founded by Royal Charter in 1613, and carrying on its work continuously and successfully from that time up to the present year of grace, 1913, is the excuse, if such be needed, for the publication of the accompanying pages, issued :

To commemorate the Tercentenary
of the Society
of the Governor and Assistants, London,
of the new Plantation in Ulster,
within the Realm of Ireland,
commonly called

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY,

Established by Royal Charter, 1613.

Several excellent publications, notably "A Concise View of the Irish Society, 1822," have appeared. These give in a matter-of-fact style certain dates and particulars of work done by the Society, and afford the student opportunities of research and inquiry over a wide and largely unexplored domain. In the archives of the Corporation and of the Society a mass of material awaits the energies of some industrious scribe who, in dealing with the sturdy and stirring times which gave birth to the Hon. the Irish Society, may enrich our Civic history by unfolding the Society's growth and tracing its expansion during the centuries down to the Reign of his present Majesty King George V.

In the meantime, this little work is offered to those interested in and associated with the doings of the Society. It is not put forth as a complete history, but as a simple story of strenuous times. Mr. John Betts has performed his task in an admirably workmanlike manner, and presents to us a charming and historically correct view of the early days of the Society's momentous undertaking, carrying us with him over the centuries in the assurance that we are following facts agreeably and lucidly placed before us.

Mr. Carl Hentschel, a member of the Court of Assistants, has gratuitously given his technical and practical experience in advising on the production of the various illustrations which adorn the book. Many of the pictures have been selected by him after considerable trouble in tracing their whereabouts and procuring faithful copies. Mr. Hentschel has, in addition, superintended the production of this little volume, and on behalf of the Society I tender him grateful thanks.

ALFRED J. NEWTON,
Governor.

17, CUMBERLAND TERRACE,
REGENT'S PARK,
LONDON.

May 23, 1913.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

WITH gratitude I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. Sharpe. It is due in no small degree to his research work at Guildhall that this story has been written. Moreover, he was kind enough to give me certain hints which proved most useful. Mr. F. J. Craker, of the Town Clerk's Office, also assisted me by transcribing a number of records. Mr. Bernard Kettle, the Librarian at Guildhall, took a great interest in searching for pictures and documents; Mr. Durie Miller, the Secretary of the Irish Society, spared no pains to answer my constant questioning; while my indulgent chief, Mr. George Rooke Collingridge, not only read my MS., but gave me assistance in ways too numerous to mention.

J. B.

LONDON,
1913.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE demand for copies of "The Story of the Irish Society" not only amongst members of the Corporation of the City of London but from several institutions, including Libraries at home and abroad as well as from the General Public, was far in excess of all anticipations, with the result that the original edition is now exhausted. The Court of the Society recently decided that a reprint with certain additional information was eminently desirable.

In this second edition of the "Story" an appendix giving in chronological order a very brief synopsis of the principal events in the history of the Honourable the Irish Society has been added. Members have repeatedly expressed the view that in the limited period of two years—their term of office—it would be helpful to have a short summary of the salient incidents in the Society's long and eventful history in addition to the Story contained in the first edition. The assistant secretary, Mr. J. R. Leverington, junior, has applied himself with great assiduity to the collection and verification of the following details, which I am persuaded will be fully appreciated not only by the members of the Society but by all who are concerned in the true welfare of Londonderry and Coleraine and vicinity in particular and Ireland generally.

It is useful to take this opportunity of pointing out that the income of the Society—at the present time about £16,000 per annum—is used exclusively for the benefit of the inhabitants of Londonderry and Coleraine and neighbourhood in the furtherance primarily of Education, as witness the Society's schools at Coleraine, admittedly second to none in Ireland or elsewhere; the support by substantial grants in aid of the funds of Foyle College, Magee College, St. Columb's College and the Technical School, London-

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION

derry ; and the Coleraine Academical Institution, and by the gift of various Scholarships and Exhibitions tenable at the Universities.

The inhabitants of Londonderry readily acknowledge their indebtedness to the Society for the possession of a singularly beautiful and appropriately furnished Guildhall, a toll-free bridge and many great public improvements only partly set out in the following pages. The same conditions prevail at Coleraine, as a perusal of the accompanying details will exemplify.

The benefactions of the Society embrace not only important public institutions but many organised minor societies for the relief of distress as well as for the encouragement of the higher branches of adult education and also for stimulating some acquaintance with music, singing and other easily acquired homely arts some little familiarity with which may help to brighten domestic surroundings.

ALFRED J. NEWTON,

Governor.

17, CUMBERLAND TERRACE,
REGENT'S PARK,

LONDON, N.W.1.

November, 1920.

CHAPTER I.

TUCKED away in a corner of the yard which forms the approach to the Guildhall in the City of London is an unostentatious, two-storey building known as the "Irish Chamber." Part of the range of buildings familiar in the abstract as "Guildhall," but separated from the main group by a narrow way, the house and its position are singularly like the Society itself; for the Honourable the Irish Society is a part of, and yet distinct from, the Corporation of London—a part within the whole which boasts a separate existence. It goes upon its way as the centuries are thrust behind into history, quietly, sedately and "honourably," without much reference to the great neighbour from which it arose, from which it continues to derive its personnel, and under the shadow of whose flag it rests securely and in peace.

For the origin of the Honourable the Irish Society one must go back to more troublous times—back to "a spacious past, when Englishmen applied hand and brain and a divine far-sightedness even to the small matter of ruling a solitary square mile of wonderful territory";* and back to days when there was a more generous appreciation of

* "The English Race," April, 1913.

the work accomplished by the City on the part of those in authority at Westminster.

1600—9

This year the Society is celebrating the tercentenary of its existence—1613-1913—but actually the delver after the real origin will have to go back still further. So far as Corporation records are concerned, he will have to commence with the year 1609; while, if the true sources from which the organisation sprang are to be discovered, and the reasons which made the Society necessary are sought, the conditions of English domination in Ireland must be examined.

For many years before, and up to the time of our own Queen Elizabeth, the North of Ireland was in a constant state of rebellion. The native Irish, under their own turbulent chiefs, rejoiced in a fight. When they were not warring against the common enemy, the English, they were contending for chiefship among themselves. The principal chiefs in and around Londonderry were at this time the O'Cathans or O'Kanes*—a branch of, and tributary to, the O'Nials. Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone—who, with Sir John and Sir Cashir O'Doherty, as representatives of powerful families, divided practically the whole† of Ulster between them—chose, after one of the periodic rebellions, to visit the English Court,

* "Ireland," Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall, vol. iii., p. 220.

† With the exception of Down and Antrim.

and to make submission to Queen Elizabeth. Upon returning to Ireland, however, he found it necessary to show that loyalty to the Queen had in no way altered his claim to independence, and he again broke out into rebellion. This was the last straw, and the English Government, despite its anxiety to hold the country under the native chiefs, was compelled to take strong measures. Accordingly, certain Roman Catholics of distinction, as history records, were found guilty of treason, and the estates of the O'Neills and the O'Dohertys were declared escheat to the Crown.* Now it is one thing to proclaim the forfeiture of land—another to obtain possession and hold it in peace. The English Government therefore were not allowed to have matters quite their own way. Families, deep-rooted on the soil, holding chiefships more or less at the will of the people, are a little difficult to dispossess. Anyhow, a Commission had to be appointed by the Crown in 1602 to define the lands and the rights of the rebels, and it was followed by another in 1609. The result of the findings of the Commissions was duly reported to the Rolls Office.

1600-9

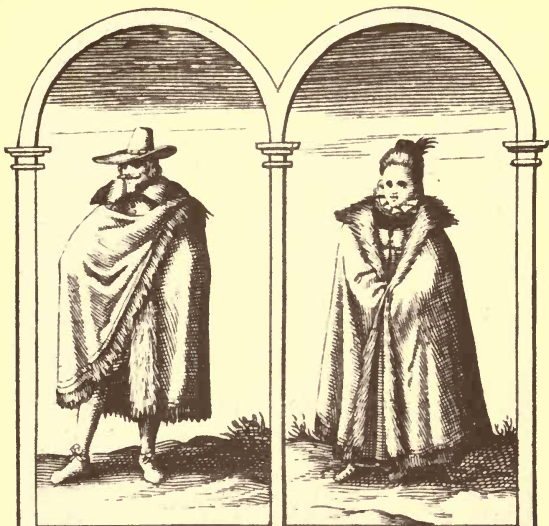
* This is but a rough outline of an interesting story. Sir George Pawlet, the English Vice-Provost, who was governing in the absence of Sir Henry Docwra, appears to have exasperated and insulted Sir Cashir O'Doherty, and so caused revolt. See "Ordnance Survey," 1837, p. 39. For a proper understanding of the relationship of the chiefs to the rebellion the reader can scarcely do better than read "Stolen Waters," just published by Mr. T. M. Healy, M.P.

1600-9

In the meantime the Irish kept the hands of the Government full ; so full in fact that the Earl of Salisbury, Lord High Treasurer to King James I., who by that time had succeeded Elizabeth, suggested the establishment of a Protestant Colony. In these days of religious tolerance, it is considered "bad form" to trench too much upon religious differences ; but the faithful historian must record the fact that the Roman Catholic religion played a considerable part in the matter. It was a necessity of the day that the Colony should be Protestant. Accordingly the Privy Council drew up certain conditions* for the occupation of the escheated lands by English, Scottish and Irish settlers. Under the conditions, preference was given to English and Scotch settlers, who were to pay only £5 6s. 8d. per 1,000 acres, the Irish having to pay precisely double.

The King, or his advisers, did not put forward the scheme without one or two artful little contrivances to induce settlement. Thus the King was to distribute the lands "of his princely bounty, not respecting his own profit." Nor were the lands going begging, if the "orders" were true ; for there were "importunate suitors for greater portions than they were able to plant."

* "A Collection of such Orders and Conditions as are to be observed by the undertakers upon the Distribution and Plantation of the escheated Lands in Ulster."



The Gentleman of Ireland

The Gentlewoman of Ireland



The Wilde Irish man



The Wilde Irish Woman

From the margin of Spede's Map of Ireland, 1609. The original is in the possession of the Society.

Nevertheless the settlers of the quality which the King desired did not come forward. The fact is the North of Ireland, in the opening years of the 17th century, was not a particularly desirable spot. It was remote from England ; the native Irish were in rebellion ; and the peace and security which formed the lot of the English were quite obviously not to be enjoyed by foreign squatters on the escheated lands. For these, among other, reasons, the offer was not taken up. No sufficient body of men could be found by the Government at Whitehall to carry out the scheme.

1600-9

CHAPTER II.

1609 FOLLOWING a custom which has obtained in this country since William the Norman succeeded in making himself master of England, the City's aid was evoked. The fact was the Privy Council realised that money was required ; and where to get it so easily as the City ? Accordingly, in the early part of the year 1609, the King, " conceiving the City of London to be the ablest body to undertake so important a work," directed the Earl of Salisbury to write a letter to Sir Clement Edmonds, the City Remembrancer, desiring him to acquaint the Lord Mayor (Humphrey Weld) that the Earl wished a conference with him on the subject.

The inducements offered to the City are contained in a document dated May 28th, 1609, and entitled " motives and reasons to induce the City of London to undertake the plantation in the North of Ireland " ; and they have been very tersely transcribed in brief by Dr. Sharpe. " The King offered to make over to the City of London the City of Derry and another place near the Castle of Coleraine, with adjacent territory, and with exceptional advantages as to custom dues and Admiralty jurisdiction. As an inducement to accept the King's offer, the citizens were

assured that the country was well watered and suitable for breeding cattle ; it grew hemp and flax better than elsewhere ; it was well stocked with game, and had excellent sea and river fisheries ; and it contained such abundance of provisions as not only to supply the plantation, but also to assist towards the relief of the London poor. Besides these advantages, the City, which was so overcrowded ' that one tradesman was scarcely able to live by another,' would have an opportunity of getting rid of some of its surplus population, and at the same time render itself less liable to infectious diseases. If the citizens wanted a precedent for what they were now called upon to undertake, they were invited to look at what Bristol had done for Dublin in the reign of Henry II. The plantation of Dublin by Bristol, which reflected ' eternal commendation ' on the latter City, had done much towards civilising and securing that part of Ireland, and it was greatly to be hoped that the precedent so set would now be followed by London, more especially as the advantages to be gained were far greater." The only addition which it is necessary to make to Dr. Sharpe's admirable *précis* of the document in question is to state that a separate paragraph is accorded to " The Profits which London shall receive by this Plantation,"—a point it is well to bear in mind as the story unfolds.

In " A Concise View of the Irish Society,"

1609 published in 1822, the period between the invitation to the conference by the Earl of Salisbury and the meeting between the Lords of the Council and the citizens is glossed over ; but it is precisely at this stage that the story is of interest. Everything goes to show that the Corporation of London had no desire to be cumbered with Irish estates. The planting of the escheated lands had no attraction for it. As Dr. Sharpe says the City merchant and the trader required to be assured of some substantial benefit before embarking in such an undertaking. The citizens of London could apparently see none ; nor had the people at large before them. It is a fact worth bearing in mind. In the light of present-day knowledge, and with present-day facilities, this may appear strange. Dr. Sharpe considers that it was " a goodly prospect indeed." But was it so goodly ? It is of no use considering the matter in the light of the 20th century. It has to be seen through the eyes of the people of the opening years of the 17th century. There is no correct method of writing history except that which enables the writer to shut his eyes to the future, and to fix his whole attention resolutely and impartially on the particular period under review. At any rate, the goodly prospect was not good enough for the Government. It was not good enough for the countrymen at large. So it was to be forced upon the City.



James I.

Like most diplomatists, the Lord Mayor, who was not particularly anxious to go into conference, temporised. Nothing, in short, was done until Saturday, July 1st, 1609, when the matter was brought direct to the Court of Aldermen by the Lords of the Council. On that day a Special Court was held at which there were also present "divers selected Commoners." Doubtless the Commoners in question were representatives of the City Companies. At this Court it was decided to invite the Livery Companies to consider the matter. This, by the way, was done by precept of the Lord Mayor—an interesting side-light on the conditions of government in the City in those days. It may as well be pointed out here, for it will make other happenings clearer, that at this stage of City evolution the Companies were very closely in touch with the Guildhall. Every citizen belonged or was attached to a Guild. He was either an apprentice, a member, or a full Liveryman, so that the action of the Companies was of interest to every inhabitant of London. This explained, much that happens in the future is made clear. At any rate, the precept was duly issued, and contained an instruction to the Companies to appoint Committees. What the reply of the Companies was is not upon record; but, from the Corporation archives, it would seem that the Lord Mayor did not consider it satisfactory. On the following July 8th, the

1609

1609 Lord Mayor issued another precept. He rebuked the Companies for their attitude, and declared that sufficient attention had not been paid to the matter. They were to re-consider their attitude and send representatives to the Guildhall on Friday, July 14th, with "such reasons and demands as are fit to be remembered, required or considered of in the undertaking of so great and honourable an action."*

This behest the Guilds duly obeyed. On July 14th they appeared by representative before the Court of Aldermen, and brought their answer with them in writing. What this answer was does not appear in the Corporation record (Repertory 29, fo. 60b). A blank space for the answer to be entered is left, and has never been filled. Probably the answer may yet be in the archives of one of the interested Companies, but the writer has not been able to obtain it. As a result of the meeting on the 14th, a deputation was nominated to carry the answer to the Lords of the Council, apparently on behalf, not of the Corporation, but of the Companies themselves. At this the Lords of the Council were angry! They had asked for conference with the City.

Accordingly the Recorder was instructed to inform the Lords that the Companies had acted

* I am indebted to Dr. Sharpe for the references to this part of the story, and to Mr. Overall, for so long the Principal Clerk in the Town Clerk's Department at Guildhall, for much kind help in inspecting and reading the original records.

under a mistake and intended—in the exaggerated language of the day—“ nothing undutiful.” As a result of this, a deputation from the City was nominated to confer with their Lordships, and the conference took place on July 18th. Doubtless the upshot was satisfactory so far as it went, for before the end of the week “ a full and large conference ” took place. It was at this stage that the City was induced to enter upon the Irish venture ; for the Companies were so satisfied as to the profitable nature of the undertaking that they made their decision in accordance with the desire of the Government. It is stated, in the “ Historical Narrative,” written in 1864, under the guidance of Deputy Sir Charles Reed, that the (or a) conference took place on or about July 30th, at the house of Sir John Jolles, and that Sir William Cockaine (Alderman) was present ; but the date does not fit and may be erroneous, although the discrepancy is more likely due to reckoning in the “ old style.” However that may be, the Corporation and the Companies were by July committed to the adventure to this extent : they made it a condition that they should send their own representatives over to Ireland to view the property. If, upon inspection, it should prove to be otherwise than represented, and likely to be unprofitable, the City was to have the right to withdraw from the undertaking altogether.

The result of this conference with the City

1609 authorities was conveyed to the Masters of the various Companies interested by the Lord Mayor on Monday, July 24th, 1609, and his precept further ordered the Masters to call together the Liverymen and to inquire from them what amount they were prepared to contribute towards the furtherance of "so famous a project." The result was to be entered into a book for the purpose in order that His Majesty "may be informed of the readiness of this City in a matter of such great consequence." A note, too, was to be made of any who failed to contribute, while a fine was to be imposed upon those who did not answer the summons to attend.

Here we have another interesting side-light on the method of the times. Just as the King brought pressure to bear on the Lord Mayor and the Corporation, and as the Lord Mayor brought pressure to bear on the Guilds, so the Masters bring pressure to bear upon the individual members of the Companies, with the result that the money for the Irish venture had to be found, not from existing surplus funds, but by the individual Guildsmen, the Citizens—much, in fact, as if to-day a rate were to be levied at Guildhall. It is just as well that this should be understood, and that it should be made clear that the Citizens of London originally found the money—were in fact taxed—for the betterment and prosperity of the lands in the North of Ireland.

THE FIRST DEMAND ON THE COMPANIES.

On the opposite page is a reproduction of the first communication from the Court of Aldermen to the Companies, July, 1609. It reads :—

Ulster
Plantacōn

At this Court in the p^resence of divers selected Comoners of this Cittye (warned for that purpose) was openly read a certeyne piect [project] in writinge reco^mended vnto this Cittye by the right honorable Lo. of the Kings ma^{ty} most honorable Privey Councell by expresse direction of the Kings most excellent ma^{tie} concerning a plantacon in the North parts of Ireland wth motives and reasons to induce and pswade this Cittye of London to vnder take plantacon there And with intimacon of the Kings ma^{te} most gracious favor and love to the Cittizens of London to graunt vnto them the first offer of so worthy an action w^{ch} is likly to prove pleasinge to al mighty god honorable to the Cittye and profitable to the vndertakers wherevpon it is ordered that p^rcepts shalbe p^resently sent to all the severall Companies of this Citty requiring them p^resentlie to assemble together a Competent number of the gravest and most substanciale men of their severall Companies and to consider advisedly of the said piect And every Companie to n^ominat [nominate] fflower men apeece for their severall Companies of best experience to consider and sett downe such reasons orders demands and other circumstances in writinge as is fitt to be remembred required or p^rformed in the vnder taking of soe worthy and honorable an action and the names of those p^rsones nominated for every severall Companies to be certified by writinge to the Lord Maior before the fiveth daie of this instant Jvlye and lastlie it is ordered y^t the said piect and precept shalbe entred in the Journall verbatim.

CHAPTER III.

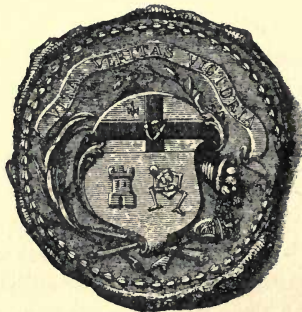
UP to the moment we have seen only the Lord Mayor and the Court of Aldermen in consultation with the King and his Council. The matter comes now before the Court of Common Council. On July 30th, 1609, a deputation of Aldermen and Commoners waited upon the Lords of the Council, seeking permission, in accordance with the arrangement, to appoint four inspectors to visit Ireland, and view the site of the suggested Plantation. To this course the Lords agreed, and accordingly on Tuesday, August 1st, 1609, the questions involved came before the Court of Common Council. It was settled that four "wise, grave and discreet citizens" should be appointed to make the journey, and choice fell upon John Brode, or Broad, Goldsmith; Hugh Hamersley, Haberdasher; Robert Treswell, Painter Stainer; and John Rowley, Draper. At a later stage Hugh Hamersley's name was withdrawn, and John Mun, or Muns, was nominated in his place. They were given written instructions, and according as they reported the City was to act. The citizens of London were, at any rate, to take some precaution, and to enter upon the venture on practical lines.

1609

Nor was this journey of the four grave and wise citizens of London altogether an easy matter.

1609 The reader must cast his mind back to 1600, and consider the state of the country. It was not a matter of a few fairly comfortable hours of enjoyable travel. On the contrary, roads were unsafe and the journey to Ireland was not to be lightly undertaken.

To-day a visit to Ireland merely involves a short run to Holyhead by rail and a night journey by boat to Dublin. Then the journey was a very different matter. There is no record, so far as the writer knows, of the means by which the four citizens reached Londonderry; but it is safe to assume that the entire journey was made by ship. Pictures of the opening years of the 17th century show the Pool of London



THE ARMS OF LONDONDERRY.—The figure of a skeleton seated on a bank or rock with a tower on the dexter side. It is, or was, popularly believed that the skeleton had reference to the fate of Sir Cahir O'Doherty, who destroyed Derry in 1608, and was supposed to have been starved to death. The story does not appear to be true. Ulster King of Arms granted the arms at the request of John Rowley, mentioned elsewhere, in 1613, and mentions in his grant that before the death of Sir Cahir, the arms were death, or a skeleton sitting on a massive "Ston."

crowded with sailing craft—small indeed to the eyes of the present generation ; ships with high poops and cumbersome square sails, rather blunt bows, and “crankie” in appearance. Yet it was in such boats that Englishmen of the old days ventured on more perilous journeys than that to the North Coast of Ireland, and did business with the Continent, and with India and other parts of the world. Nevertheless the voyage to Ireland was no light one. It is somewhat surprising to find how short a time the Commissioners were upon this great business. They were not appointed by the Court of Common Council until August 1st ; yet by the end of November we find them back in England, presenting a report, consulting first with the Court of Aldermen, and in the opening days of December making appearance before the Court of Common Council. Before we arrive at that stage, however, there is an interesting story to be told of the methods by which the Lords of the Council secured a favourable report from these “grave and wise” citizens. The story is not one which redounds to the credit of its projectors. It appears that the Lords of the Council were most anxious that the report of the Commissioners should be favourable, and they decided to leave no stone unturned to make it so. They accordingly wrote letters to the representatives of the Crown in Ireland. Firstly, they directed that, upon the

1609

1609 arrival of the citizens in Ireland, Sir Thomas Phillips should guide them upon their travels ; and secondly, they instructed Sir Arthur Chichester, the Lord Deputy, to see that they were afforded every comfort and all possible assistance. Especially was Sir Arthur to "order the company" the City's agents were to keep. He was instructed to use the greatest care and discretion as to those with whom they should view the land, and their conductors were to be men of such understanding and experience that they should be able "both by discourse and reason to controule whatsoever any man shall reporte either out of ignorance or malice, and to give the undertakors satisfacon when they shalbe mistaken or not well informed of any particular." The citizens were to be shown and conducted over the best roads, while on all possible occasions they were to be lodged in the houses of Englishmen, where they could receive proper entertainment after the English fashion ; a method which suggests that the Lords of the Council were fearful that, if the true condition of the country were open to the inspection of the visitors, the report would not be of the character they were anxious to obtain. Nor was Sir Arthur Chichester left any loophole for mistake or for misunderstanding. He was sent a copy of the "project," and told in no uncertain language that all it contained was to be supported. The conductors of the City's Commissioners were in fact



Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury,
Lord High Treasurer to James I.

to be "well prepared before-hand to confirme and strengthen every part thereof by demonstracon as they may plainly apprehend and conceive the commodities to be of good use and profit." 1609 While all that was satisfactory was to be disclosed, matters likely to temper the rosy view of the Commissioners were to be kept from them. Matters of distaste, such as fear of the Irish, of the soldiers, officers, and such like, were not to be so much as named. These could be put right afterwards, and were only matters of "discipline and order." Moreover, the agents of the Government were not to be niggardly in their promises. Should the citizens desire any more concessions, or express a desire, "whether it be the fishing, the admiralty, or any other particular which may serve for a motyve to enduce them," the same was to be conceded at once. Moreover, added the Lords of the Council, no private interests were to be allowed to stand in the way whether the interests were those of Sir Arthur Chichester himself or of anyone else. This suggests that the Earl of Salisbury was aware that both Chichester and Phillips had interests of their own. Phillips was practically in possession of some of the land.

Sir Arthur Chichester proved himself a good and obedient servant. He certainly appointed men who did his bidding, and carried out the wishes of the Lords in London. Sir John Davys, one of the King's Commissioners engaged for the

purpose, wrote, under date August 28th, to the Earl of Salisbury :

1609

“ The Londoners have now come, and exceedingly welcome to us. Wee all use our best rhetorick to persuade them to go on with their plantation, which will assure the whole island to the Crowne of England for ever. They like and praise the cuntrey very much, —specially the Banne and the river of Logh Foyle.”

Unfortunately one of the members of the deputation became ill ; so much so in fact that he desired to return. Sir Arthur Chichester, however, used every means to comfort and retain him. On this Sir John Davys says that it was feared such a happening might influence the City's agents, and all was done “ lest this accident should discourage his fellow citizens.” Accident, too, helped the Crown in their design. The Deputation saw the best of the country, and the country at its best, for during the time of their visitation, the Irish, who had been out in rebellion against the English, were flocking in, and making their submission in greater numbers than had been the case for some time. All this, of course, was dutifully brought to the notice of the City's Agents.

Writing to the Earl of Salisbury in September, Sir Arthur Chichester was able to give a good report of the efforts made to please the Londoners. They had assured him that they had been much

impressed by what they saw, and that, upon the report they would make to the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen and the Court of Common Council, the Plantation would be undertaken. Sir Arthur was at pains to endorse the wisdom of their view, and to declare that they would be enemies to themselves if they did not go forward with the project. At his suggestion they sent some samples of the produce of the country to the Lord Mayor, and he obtained a quantity of raw hides, tallow, salmon, herrings, eels, pipe staves, beef, and the like for them. In addition, he gave them samples of iron ore, and promised to find specimens of lead and copper for them.

By such means was the City committed to the Irish venture.*

* Anyone with sufficient leisure may obtain some interesting reading at the Record Office. The citizens were regularly "tricked."



CHAPTER IV.

1609

THE Commissioners were true to their word, and by the end of November they are seen presenting their report to the Court of Aldermen. And it was as favourable as they had promised Sir Arthur Chichester it should be. They brought to the Court not only their own account of the journey undertaken at the command of the City, but in addition certain answers from Sir Arthur Chichester which had been put to him respecting doubtful points. They also submitted a "plott," or, in other words, a map of the country they had viewed. The Aldermen ordered the documents to be enrolled by the Remembrancer "in a faier booke, wherein the letters and other things comytted to his charge and care are recorded and entered," and also in the journals by the Clerk of the Orphans. Neither of the directions would appear to have been observed, for no trace of the report in question appears in the Journal or in Remembrancia. The report was next brought to the notice of the Court of Common Council.* This was on December 2nd, 1609, and the matter was duly debated. As a result it was resolved to appoint a Committee specially for

* It will be observed that the Aldermen were at this period exercising their right of examining and discussing matters before they were allowed to go to the Court of Common Council.

I have the pleasure to receive from you
 your kind letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the
 same, and in answer to inform you that the same
 has been forwarded to the proper authorities for
 their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 your obedient servant,

The enclosed papers are for the
 use of the several Departments, and
 are to be distributed to the
 several offices, as directed by
 the enclosed orders. I am,
 Sir, very respectfully,
 your obedient servant,

Instructions for sending Precept.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING THE
PRECEPT.**

The Court of Aldermen fixed the Companies to which the Lord Mayor should send precepts. Opposite is a reproduction in the Repertory :—

Theis preceptes ware directed to the twelve principall companyes and to theis other Companies hereafter named, viz^t :—

Dyers	Plumbers
Leathersellers	Inholders
Pewterers	Coops (Coopers)
Cutlers	Joyners
Whitebakers	Weavors
Tallowchaundlers	Woodmongers
Armorers	Scriveners
Girdlers	Stacōners and
Sadlers	Imbrotherers
Barborsurgeons	

the purpose. The Committee were to go into details, and to carry further the negotiations with the Privy Council. It is recorded that this Special Committee and the Court of Common Council met five times and debated the matters incident to "so great a business" at some length. They reported to the Court on Friday, December 15th—rather quicker work than obtains under present circumstances at the Guildhall. The Committee recommended the further carrying on of negotiations with the King; but the most interesting part of the report was the recommendation that a Company should be formed; that an Act of Common Council should be passed for raising a sum of £15,000, to be assessed on the members of the wealthier Companies; that Corporations should be settled for Derry and Coleraine; and that the management of the Plantation should be in the hands of men in Ireland appointed by the Company, who were to act upon the advice and direction of the Company in London. This report was duly approved by the Court of Common Council, and thereupon it was sent to the Lords of the Council. It was in fact taken to Whitehall by a Deputation on Sunday, December 17th.

1609

Upon the answer of the City as a whole, the Lords were satisfied; indeed it is said that they found the main outline "much to their liking." But they were displeased with the limit of £15,000, urging that it was insufficient to buy

up the private interests which remained outstanding in connection with the escheated lands. Accordingly this part of the report was amended, 1609 the Lords "rejecting" it, and the City had to consent to the sum being raised to £20,000. Although the City did this with reluctance there is plenty of evidence to show that the Lords remained dissatisfied with the financial arrangements; and indeed results showed the City to be wrong, and the Earl of Salisbury and his colleagues right so far as finance was concerned. One cannot help feeling, however, that, despite the City's acceptance of the project, and their arrangements to go forward with it, they had little heart for the scheme. They had had long and costly experience of sovereigns. Money, so often raised for the use of the King's Government, had a knack of being entirely lost, and no one can read the story of these negotiations without acquiring the impression that the citizens of London felt they were being compelled to find money which would never return. It is only fair that these facts should be borne in mind. To put it bluntly, the citizens of London were compelled in the 17th century to find money for a project about which they were not keen.

It is only in the light of this reluctance that the City's financial arrangements can be understood. They desired to keep down their loss as much as possible.

The matter of the £20,000 being settled, if with some degree of dissatisfaction to the Privy Council, the way was cleared for an agreement. A new committee was appointed, upon which were the four "grave and wise" viewers of the Irish estate, and it was their duty to confer with the Commissioners appointed by the Privy Council to effect the transfer. The first work of the Committee was to find money, and it was arranged that a preliminary £5,000 of the £20,000 involved should be obtained. Accordingly the chief Companies were assessed according to the corn assessment; a method which gave rise to considerable dissatisfaction. It was said that the rate was unfair, inasmuch as great changes had made themselves apparent since the assessment was fixed. Thus, in the words of the record: "Divers Companies are decayed and others growne to bee of greater liability, so as particuler men of some Companies are now exceedingly overcharged and others greatelye favoured." At any rate, the Merchant Taylors' Company was called upon for £1,872, the Grocers' for £1,748, the Mercers' for £1,640, while some of the lesser Guilds each contributed £10. Later, when another assessment was made, there was revision, and the sums contributed were more in accordance with the prevailing opulence of the Guilds. 1610

CHAPTER V.

1610 THE terms upon which the City was to go into this venture were duly set out and the document signed on January 28th, 1610. On the one side the articles were executed by the Right Honourable the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, while the Committee appointed by Act of Common Council represented the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London. The document is not a long one, and is worth perusal with care.

“**First.** It was agreed by the City, that the sum of £20,000 should be levied; whereof £15,000 was to be expended on the intended Plantation, and £5,000 for the clearing of private men's interests in the things demanded.

“**Second.** Also, that, at the Derry, two hundred houses should be built, and room to be left for three hundred more; and that four thousand acres, lying on the Derry side, next adjacent to the Derry, should be laid thereunto, bog and barren mountain to be no part thereof but to go as waste for the City: the same to be done by indifferent commissioners.

“**Third.** Also, that the Bishop and Dean of the Derry should have convenient plots of ground for the scite of their houses at the Derry.

“**Fourth.** Also, that Coleraine should be situated and built on the abbey side; and that one hundred houses should be built thereon, and room left for two hundred more; and that three thousand acres of land should be laid thereunto, viz. one thousand acres to be taken on the abbey side, next adjacent to the town: and

THE ANSWER OF THE COMPANIES.

At a Special Court of Aldermen, held on Friday, July 14th, 1609, 7th James I., the answer of the Companies was received. The record runs :—

Weld Mai^r Record^r Benet, Hallyday, Craven,
Swinerton, Jolles, Bolles, et ffarrington
vic. [Sheriff] &c.

Plantacōn
in Ireland.

This daye the parsons of all the severall
Companies of this Cittye selected and
chosen to advise and consider of the
offers motives and reasons sent from the
Lords of the Kings Ma^{ts} most ho : Privey
council touching the plantacōn intended
in the North of Ireland being here as-
sembled delivered their answe^re in writing
and opinion touching the same to this
Court in writing the effect whereof
followeth in theis words.

The actual reply of the Companies was never entered. The blank space shown was never filled up. It will be seen that the first portion of the record has nothing to do with the Irish venture ; but it is interesting as showing how the Repertory was kept, and how closely the entries follow. Paper was then rather more expensive than it is to-day.

that, if it should please the King's Majesty, at his charges, after some good proceeding in the Plantation, to erect and maintain a bridge in perpetuity for a common passage over the river, between the town and county of Coleraine. Then it was agreed the other two thousand acres to be taken on the other side of the river ; otherwise the whole three thousand acres were agreed to be taken on the abbey side, next adjacent to the town of Coleraine.

1610

“ **Fifth.** That the measure and account of land should be after the Balliboes, according to the King's last survey.

“ **Sixth.** That the rest of the territory and entire county of Coleraine, estimated at 12,000 acres, more or less, undertaken by the City, be cleared from all particular interests, except the Bishop and Dean of Derry's inheritance ; and except certain portions of land to be assigned unto three or more Irish gentlemen at the most, then dwelling and settled in the county of Coleraine, who were to be freeholders to the City, and to pay them some small rent ; the same portions and rent to be limited by commissioners to be indifferently chosen between his Majesty and the City.

“ **Seventh.** That the woods and the ground, and soil of Glanconkene and Killetrough, extending from the county of Coleraine to Ballinderry, be wholly to the City in perpetuity ; the timber trees of those woods to be converted to the furtherance of plantation, and all necessary uses within Ireland, and none to be made merchandize.

“ **Eighth.** That the soil of so much land within, and amongst the woods of Glanconkene and Killetrough, which stood charged as surveyed lands, to be undertaken in like form as the county of Coleraine.

“ **Ninth.** That the City should have the patronage of all the churches, as well within the said City of the Derry and town of Coleraine, as in all lands to be undertaken by them.

“ **Tenth.** That the 7000 acres laid to the city of Derry and town of Coleraine, should be in fee farm, at the rent of 53s. 4d.

1610

“**Eleventh.** That the city of Derry and town of Coleraine, and 7000 acres of land to them, shall be holden of the King in free burgage.

“**Twelfth.** That the residue of the county lands and woods, and all such lands as were to be undertaken, should be holden of the King in common socage.

“**Thirteenth.** That the customs of all goods imported, or to be exported, poundage, tonnage, the great and small customs, should be enjoyed by the City for the term of 99 years, within the city of the Derry, town and county of Coleraine, and ports and creeks thereof, paying yearly 6s. 8d. to his Majesty as an acknowledgment ; and to have the like within the port of Portrush.

“**Fourteenth.** That the salmon and eel fishing of the rivers of Bann and Lough Foyle, and all other kind of fishing in the river of Lough Foyle, so far as the river floweth ; and in the Bann to Lough Neagh, should be in perpetuity to the City.

“**Fifteenth.** That the City should have liberty to transport all prohibited wares growing upon their own lands.

“**Sixteenth.** That the City should have the office of admiralty in the coasts of Tyrconnell and Coleraine, and all the royalties and profits thereunto belonging ; and should have their own ships and goods, which should happen to be wrecked at sea in Ballyshannon and Oderfleete, and in all the coasts, ports, and creeks, along and between them, saved and reserved to themselves.

“**Seventeenth.** That the City should have the like liberty of fishing and fowling upon all that coast as other subjects had ; and that it should be lawful for them to draw their nets and pack their fish upon any part of that coast that they fish upon, and carry the same away ; and that they have the several fishing and fowling in the city of Derry, and town and county of Coleraine, and all the lands to be undertaken by them ; and in the river of Lough Foyle, so far as it floweth, and of the river of Bann unto Lough Neagh.

“**Eighteenth.** That no flax, hemp, or yarn, unwoven, be carried out of the ports of the Derry and Coleraine,



The four citizens sent by the Corporation to view the situation proposed for the new Colony.

without licence from the city officers ; and that no hides be transported raw, without licence, out of those ports.

1610

“ **Nineteenth.** That as well the cities and towns, as the county of Coleraine, be freed from all patents of privileges theretofore granted to any person ; and that thereafter no patent of privilege be granted within the said several cities, towns, and county of Coleraine, and other the undertaken lands ; and that the said city of Derry, town and county of Coleraine, should be freed from all compositions and taxes which might be exacted or imposed by the governor or governors of those parts.

“ **Twentieth.** That the city should have the castle of Culmore, and the land thereunto, in fee-farm, they maintaining a sufficient ward of officers therein.

“ **Twenty-first.** That the liberty of the City of Derry and Coleraine should extend three miles every way.

“ **Twenty-second.** That the City should have such further liberties to the Derry and Coleraine, as upon view of the charters of London, the Cinquè Ports, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, or the City of Dublin, should be found fit for those places.

“ **Twenty-third.** That all particular men’s interests in the places about the Derry and county of Coleraine, and in other the undertaken lands be cleared and freed to the city (except as excepted in the sixth article).

“ **Twenty-fourth.** That sufficient forces should be maintained at the King’s charges, for safety of the undertakers, for a convenient time.

“ **Twenty-fifth.** That for settling and securing all things touching the said Plantation, his Majesty would give his royal assent to acts of parliament in England, and the like in Ireland, to pass.

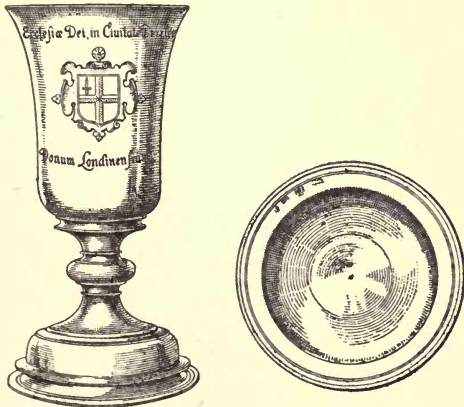
“ **Twenty-sixth.** That the City should have time, during the term of seven years, to make such reasonable demands as time should shew to be needful, but could not presently be foreseen.

“ **Twenty-seventh.** Lastly, that the City should, with all speed, set forward the said Plantation, in such sort

as that there should be sixty houses built in Derry, and forty houses in Coleraine, by the 1st of November then next following, with convenient fortifications, and the rest of the houses, with the fortifications, should be built and perfected by the 1st of November, 1611."

1610

It will be seen that on the one side the City was to purchase the private interests remaining for £5,000, and to spend a further £15,000 upon the Plantation—no small sum for that period. On the other side, the lands were to be the City's "in perpetuity." In fact there was to be a full conveyance of the territory to the City.



Chalice and Paten given to Londonderry Cathedral, in 1613, by the Irish Society.

CHAPTER VI.

THIS agreement came before the Court of Common Council two days after it was signed, and the Court had to consider the next step. Following the advice, therefore, of the original Committee, they decided to set up a Company to carry on the undertaking. This method may appear peculiar to the present age. In those days, it seems to have been the customary plan. It will be remembered that the Commission of Sewers was practically so constituted, and remained for long a distinct branch of the Corporation, deriving its power from the Court of Common Council, but yet maintaining a perfectly distinct existence, and owning no superior authority. The Court of Common Council regarded itself as a legislative body pure and simple, and immediately administrative business came in its path the duty was delegated to a body specially created for the purpose. To those interested in the growth and development of the Court of Common Council, the circumstances in which the Irish Society had its origin are manifestly of importance. To-day the Court is a little timid of its powers. However that may be, the Irish Society came into existence by virtue, in the first place, of an Act of Common Council.



The Rt. Wise and Valiant Arthur Chichester,
First Lord Chichester,
some time Lord Deputy of Ireland.

The Court ordained that, " for the purpose of conducting the said Plantation, a Company should be constituted and established within the City of London, which should consist of one Governor, one Deputy-Governor, and twenty-four Assistants ; and that the Governor and five of the said Assistants should be Aldermen of the City of London ; and ' the Recorder ' of the City should likewise be one of the same Assistants ; and the Deputy and the rest of the Assistants should be Commoners of the same City ; which Company thenceforward, in every year, should be elected and chosen at the first Common Council to be held after the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary ; at which time the Deputy and twelve of the Assistants for the year precedent, might be removed, and one other Deputy, and twelve other Assistants in their steads, should be newly elected, to join with the other twelve Assistants that were not removed for the year ensuing ; and the next year, those that continued the year before might be removed, so that twelve of the Assistants might continue the space of two years."*

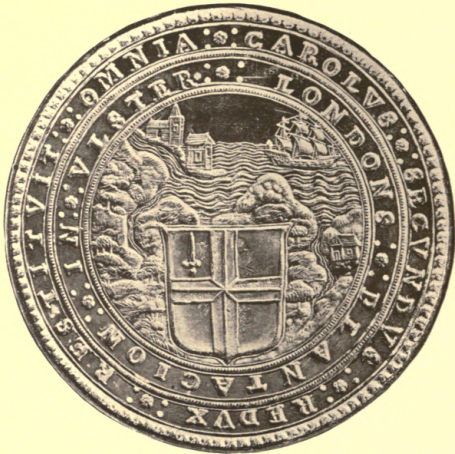
In addition, and among a number of other provisions, power was given for the holding of Courts, and for treating, debating, and determining all matters affecting the Plantation. In short, as already explained, all power was handed over to

* " A Concise View," page 27.

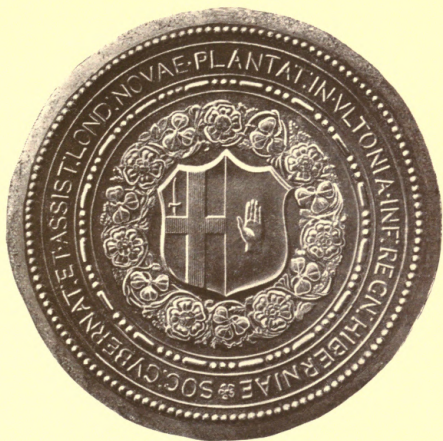
1610 the Company. This done, the Chamberlain was appointed treasurer, and provision was made for the appointment of a Secretary, a Beadle, and other officers known to City constitution. Having declared that whatever the Company in Court assembled should do was to be "firm and stable," the Court of Common Council practically retired from the scene—except, as we shall see later, so far as money was concerned.

Thus the Society came into being. The first Governor was Alderman William Cockaine, one of the Sheriffs of the City, and the Deputy-Governor, William Towerson. It was ordained that the Society should meet in the Wardrobe at Guildhall. Tristram Beresford and John Rowley were appointed General Agents for the City, and proceeded to Ireland prepared to take possession of the estates.

The Lords of the Council, on their part, wrote to Sir Arthur Chichester conveying the news of the completion of the matter. They stated that the "noble and worthy work in the Plantation in Ulster" had been undertaken by the City, mentioned the election of the agents, and gave instructions for their fitting reception. Sir Arthur was to see that their requirements were fulfilled, and a sufficient supply of labour was to be placed at the disposal of the agents for the purposes of the Plantation, such as the felling of timber, the digging of stone, and the burning of



FACSIMILE OF THE OLD SEAL.—An interesting survival of the early days of the Society. The die is of silver and is in an excellent state of preservation. The Seal and the Antique Box in which it was contained are preserved at the Irish Chamber. The earliest mention made of the Seal in the Records is 1676.



FACSIMILE OF THE PRESENT SEAL OF THE SOCIETY.—This Seal was made in 1826 and was designed by Mr. Gilpin Gorst—at that time Deputy Governor of the Society.

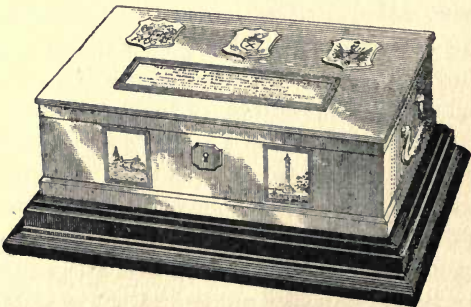
lime. Nor were the Lords of the Council unmindful of the services of Sir Arthur in bringing about the success of the scheme. For forwarding a work which the King had so much at heart, he was assured he would not go unrewarded. 1610

But, although the Lords of the Council made a show of fulfilling their side of the bargain, the City had much cause for complaint. Whatever the agents did in Ireland, the fact remains that the City was not legally put in possession of the land. That is to say, there was no assignment and the fact affected the financial operations of the Corporation adversely, as such a contingency naturally would. Indeed, not only was there delay in giving possession, but the King's Councillors were not slow to take advantage of the position.

Six weeks had scarcely elapsed from the signing of the articles before the Lords of the Council endeavoured to retract. The City was asked, among other things to refrain from taking possession of a certain 2,000 acres which it had been agreed should be assigned to them. Necessarily, the Irish Society was in a quandary. It did not intend to assent to so barefaced a piece of chicanery. Accordingly, therefore, the Governor, Mr. Alderman Cockaine, went to the Corporation, and the result was the calling of a special Court of Common Council, doubtless after the Court of Aldermen had considered the question. The Court was held on June 7th, 1610, and a long

1610

debate ensued. In the end the Court decided that the Irish Society must stand upon its undoubted right. This proper course seems to have been taken with hesitation. Anyhow, six weeks later, on July 22nd, 1610, there is an entry in the Journal reversing the original decision, and the 2,000 acres were allowed to go, although certain other demands on the part of the Government were rejected. As usual, the Englishmen found a way out by compromise. Even in those days it was difficult to stand against Governments, and, strong as the City is when essentials are in dispute, the great Corporation has had on countless occasions to take the line of least resistance.



Casket presented with the Freedom of the City of Londonderry, July 20th, 1909, to Sir Alfred Newton, Bart., Governor of the Hon. the Irish Society.

CHAPTER VII.

ALL this was not helpful to the undertaking at the London end of the venture. Money was urgently needed. The City had guaranteed to find £20,000. The agents were in Ireland spending money. Yet it was difficult to obtain. The Companies were not willing tax gatherers; and the records show that they regarded their contributions in the light of a tax. Nevertheless, they had to pay according to the assessment, although the Court of Aldermen found their hands full in the process. The Wardens of the Mercers' Company, the Clothworkers' Company, and certain other Guilds had to be committed to prison by the Aldermen for default. The fact was the Companies were unable to pay with ease. As already stated, they were each assessed according to the corn assessment, and, following custom, the members of the Guild were in turn assessed by their Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants. In many cases, the members either would not or could not find the money, which was a considerable sum for those days. As an instance of what happened, the case of Sir John Spencer, a Clothworker, from whom £200 was due, is worth quoting. It is interesting because of the story attaching to Spencer, who was called

1610

“rich Spencer,” and was one of the occupiers of Crosby Hall. His daughter desired to wed Lord Compton, but for some reason the match was forbidden by her father. The story goes that Miss Spencer hid herself in a basket, and was lowered from one of the windows of the old City palace into the arms of her lover. Of course, the marriage duly took place, and Queen Elizabeth herself ultimately made peace between the parties. Lord Compton, after the death of his father-in-law, had to pay the £200, although he seems to have put the Court to some trouble, and the money was only forthcoming after a great deal of



Framed Houses dispatched with immigrants from London, 1613, and erected in the Diamond at Londonderry, and in the Diamond at Coleraine, for occupation by the English settlers. Some of these houses were in existence and tenanted up to about 1850.

solicitation. This is by the way ; but that rich Spencer should have been in arrear seems to show how unpopular the venture was in the eyes of the citizens compelled to contribute. Sir John Spencer had plenty of the good things of this world, but he refused to liquidate the sum at which he was assessed by his Guild. 1611

Moreover, when money was collected, there appears to have been difficulty in getting it safely into the hands of the agents in Ireland. A letter from Sir Arthur Chichester to the Earl of Salisbury tells of pirates infesting the north coast of Ulster bent on intercepting the money for the works of the City at Coleraine.

Whatever the difficulties of collection and dispatch were, the fact remains that between January, 1610, and March, 1611, £20,000 was obtained for the Plantation from the City Companies. It was to prove insufficient, as the Earl of Salisbury had foreseen. With a perspicuity peculiarly the gift of the Cecils, he had urged on the City the need for more money at the time of the original negotiations. He and his fellow Lords of the Council had rejected the suggestion that £15,000 should be raised, but, doubtless under compulsion, had been diplomatic enough to consent to the £20,000 levy. He saw that the City could not turn back, and that the additional money would be forthcoming. Probably the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen had a shrewd

idea of the position also, and they had sought to limit the liability. It was not to be. The
1611 £20,000 was raised and spent, and in January, 1611, the question of finance was evidently in the minds of all concerned in the City. Unfortunately no records of the Irish Society itself are in existence bearing upon this time, the minute books and other documents having been destroyed by fire. As a consequence, the story has to be pieced together from the Corporation records and from the Irish State papers preserved in the Record Office. Reading between the lines, therefore, it may be inferred that the pecuniary difficulties which beset the early years of the venture gave rise to the ultimate form which the Society was to take. The Companies, pressed for money by the Corporation on behalf of the Society, would certainly want some sort of guarantee or undertaking as to where it was going, and when they might expect some return. Early in the year 1611, therefore, we find the first mention of a division of the lands. The Journal of the Court of Common Council again gives us the clue to what happened. On January 31st, 1611, the Guilds were ordered to declare within a week whether they were prepared to accept allotments of the estate in proportion to the moneys advanced. It was carefully explained that if they did accept lands, they would have to bear the brunt of their development according to the

articles agreed upon between the City and the Crown ; but they were informed that they might, on the other hand, leave the letting and the management generally in the hands of the Irish Society upon their behalf. It was further explained that, whatever course they might choose to adopt, nothing could free them from their liability to contribute to the venture. There were, it was pointed out, buildings to be erected, lands to be cleared and settled, fortifications to be built and provided for, and tithes to be freed. All this was done by precept of the Lord Mayor, who was the authority invoked in matters of difficulty. On the whole, the suggested division of the lands appears to have been acceptable to the Guilds, for the Mercers, the Grocers, the Drapers, the Fishmongers, the Goldsmiths, the Salters, the Ironmongers, the Vintners, the Dyers, the Pewterers, the Founders, the Whitebakers, the Broderers, the Armourers, the Tylers and Bricklayers, the Blacksmiths, the Weavers, and the Woodmongers, each accepted the suggestion, and expressed willingness to take lands, and perform the duties of development and settlement. Others were anxious to leave the matter to the Society. The question of division, however, was not pressed at the moment.

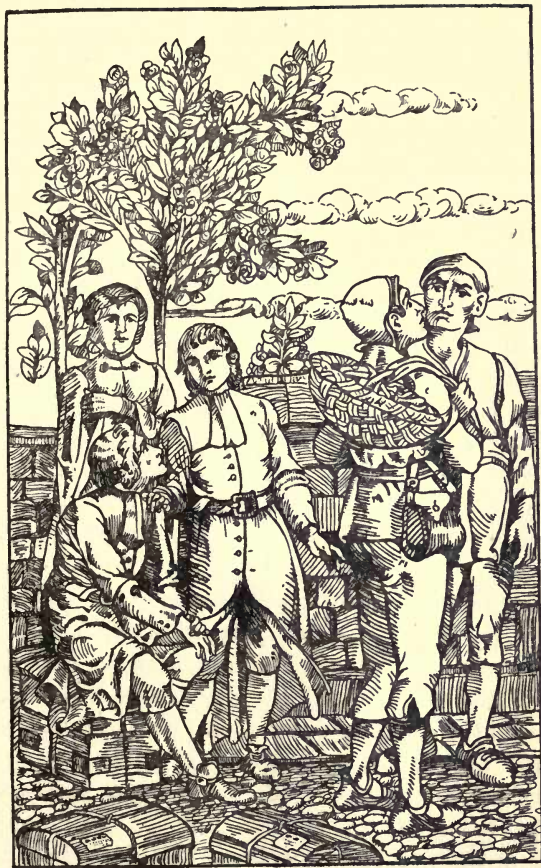
CHAPTER VIII.

1611-12

THE Society was still faced with the financial difficulty, and all other questions had to remain in abeyance until the all-important problem was solved. The £20,000 had disappeared somewhere in Ulster. What exactly was done is not now discoverable.* More had to be subscribed; and so we find the Court of Common Council resolving that a further £10,000 must be raised forthwith. Thereupon the Court appointed a day by which the Guilds were to be allowed their choice. They had either to continue to pay assessments at the same rate, and on the same terms as before, or to lose their money and all share in the ultimate profits of the Plantation. In the language of the City of to-day, the Society was to undergo financial re-construction, and the shareholders had either to pay the call or to go out. To-day the shareholders would at least receive the value of their shares, if saleable; but the Guilds were offered no such concession. It was frankly a case of pay more or lose all. By August 10th, 1611, £5,000 had to be raised, and a like sum by July, 1612.

Again, the dissatisfaction with regard to title

* A list of works executed in Derry appears on page 74.



Arrival at Londonderry of Christ's Hospital boys, to be apprenticed in Londonderry and Coleraine, 1616.

1612

broke out. The lands had never been assigned, while 2,000 acres had been lost. Apparently it fell to the lot of the Grocers' Company to take action. Other Guilds may have done so as well, but in the case of the Grocers the minute has been preserved. The Company objected to pay the assessment, and called upon the Lord Mayor not to go further until the City was assured of the estates. The City pressed for assignment, only to be met with expressions of dissatisfaction from the Government as to the progress of development. It appears that there had been some transfer or exchange of lands as between some of the settlers and Sir Thomas Phillips, who was then the Governor of the County of Coleraine; and Sir Thomas was not satisfied with his bargain. Whatever the reasons, Sir Thomas and the settlers were not particularly friendly, and he made himself obnoxious to the Irish Society in consequence. He intermeddled with matters concerning the Plantation, and generally made himself a nuisance—so much so, in fact, that the Governor and Assistants of the Irish Society had to remonstrate with him, and some correspondence took place. This may have had its effect on the Lords of the Council. At any rate, there is enough evidence to show that there was dissatisfaction, and it culminated in a letter of enquiry from the King to Sir Arthur Chichester, the Lord Deputy. This letter, happily preserved, throws much light on the

situation, and its tenor probably supplies reasons why the assignment of the lands was so long delayed. It reads :

“ By the King.—Right, trusty, and well-beloved, we greet you well.

1612

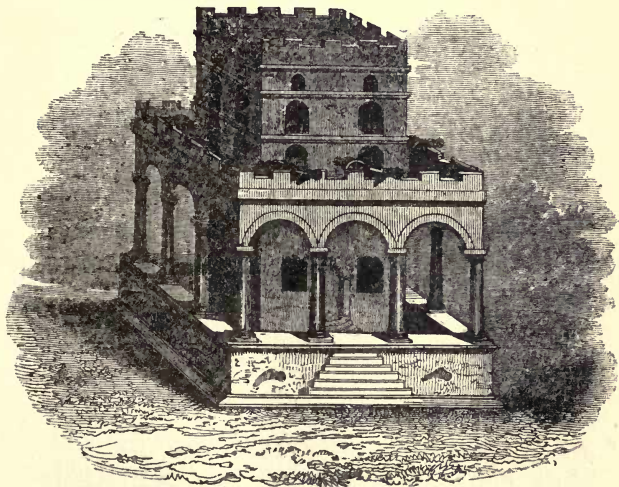
“ It is well known unto you how great a revenue we might have raised to our crown, by our escheated lands in the province of Ulster, if we had not preferred the reformation of that disordered country by a civil plantation to be made therein, before the private profit which we might have reaped by it. For the more steady effecting whereof, we made liberal donations of great proportions of those lands, so escheated unto us, to divers British undertakers and servitors, with favourable tenures and reservations for their better encouragement, and enabling them, in their estates, to expedite the work of their Plantation, according to those articles which they voluntarily bound themselves ; but, as we are informed, they have made so slow progression therein, hitherto, that neither the safety of that country, nor the planting of religion and civility amongst those rude and barbarous people, which were the principal motives of the project, and which we expected as the only fruits and returns to us of our bounty from them, are any whit, as yet, materially affected by them. We are not ignorant how much the real accomplishment of that Plantation concerns the future peace and safety of that kingdom ; but if there were no reason of state to press it forward, yet we would pursue and effect that work, with the same earnestness as we now do, merely for the goodness and morality of it ; esteeming the settling of religion, the introducing of civility, order, and government, among a barbarous and unsubjected people, to be the acts of piety and glory, and worthy also a Christian Prince to endeavour. Though we understand by some of the undertakers and servitors there, with whom we had speech, that there is a general backward-

1612

ness and slack proceeding in the Plantation, yet the particulars thereof are either concealed from us, or diversely reported unto us, every man being willing to improve his own merit in that service, and to transfer the faults and omissions therein upon other men ; wherefore, we have thought fit, for our particular information, to have a true and exact survey taken, and, with as much speed as conveniently you may, transmitted unto us, of the whole state, as it now stands, of the Plantation ; wherein we precisely require you, that respecting only your duty to us, and this commandment of ours, and setting aside all favour, partiality, care, or fear, to please or displease any man, you make a sincere and faithful narration unto us, what every undertaker and servitor is bound to do by the articles of the Plantation, what he hath already done, whether slightly or substantially, and wherein any of them are deficient ; and this we would have performed by you, in so particular a manner, that every man may bear his own burthen, and his own reward ; and that we being truly certified, by this inquisition, where the obstructions be, may likewise better know the ways hereafter how to open and remove them. And because the Londoners here pretend the expense of great sums of money in that service, and yet (as we are informed) the outward appearance of it, in their works, are very small ; we require you to give us a true account of what they have done, and to make, as near as you can, a true valuation of it, that they might discover the ignorance or abuse of their ministers, to whom they have committed that employment ; and withal to send us your opinion what course were fittest for them to follow hereafter, both for their own good and advancement of our service, in the management of that business. We have been informed, that some undertakers, who had portions assigned unto them, at the first allotment, have sold them away to men of mean ability, and unfit for that service ; and that some other undertakers, which before had more land than they were able to plant and

inhabit, according to the articles of the Plantation, have, notwithstanding, gotten the proportions of other undertakers, by contract with them, into their hands, which we conceive to be an impediment so mischievous to the progression of the Plantation, that we require you to take particular cognition of the several transactions in this kind, and make certificate of them unto us, in that survey which we are to receive from you. We rely on your integrity to discharge this trust which we repose in you; and you will deserve well the favour we bear you, and the dignity of your place wherein you are appointed, and will submit all respects whatsoever to the faithful execution of the trust which we have laid upon you. Given under our signet, at our palace, &c., the 21st December, in the tenth year of our reign of England, France, &c. and of Scotland the forty-sixth.

1612



The ancient Town House, which had a military as well as a civil character. From a drawing in the Phillips' MS. Date about 1616.

1612

“ We are so desirous to understand from you the true state of the Plantation, that once again we do strictly injoin you to give us a faithful account of this trust which we repose in you, without care or fear to please or displease any of our subjects, English or Scottish, of what quality soever.”

Just what the answer to that letter was, from the standpoint of the City, we have no means of knowing. That the £20,000 had been collected we have evidence, and that it had been duly despatched we may honestly believe ; but as to its exact employment, or how far it went upon the large estates handed to the City, is a matter upon which, in the absence of the record of the Irish Society, no light can now be shed.



Symbolum

in Wanda

Studeat Symbolum hoc esse in fidei...
 Omnia sunt in fidei...
 In nomine...
 Amen.

...
 Amen.

The Charter of Charles II. under which the Society now exists.

CHAPTER IX.

UPON December 29th, 1612, a Privy Council was held at Whitehall. There were present Sir Henry Montague, the Recorder of the City, and Mr. Alderman Cockaine, "the Governor of the City's Plantation in Ulster," together with divers other Aldermen and Commoners. The matter under discussion was His Majesty's "proposed grant"—quaint wording, considering that the lands involved in the "proposed grant" had already swallowed up £30,000 of the City's money, and that dissatisfaction at the slowness of the proceedings had been expressed! Nevertheless, the "proposed grant" was duly discussed, and to some purpose, for upon this occasion the terms of the Royal Charter were definitely arranged. Indeed, there is some ground for thinking that the Charter was then considered in draft, for in the following March (March 29th, 1613) it was duly executed and delivered to the Irish Society. Thus the City was at last placed in legal possession of its land, two years and three months after the "articles" committing the City to the venture had been signed.

The event gave an impetus to the work. Moneys outstanding—and something over half of the last assessment had not been paid—now came

1613

in, and the Chamberlain, who had borrowed from the Chamber to meet current requirements in Ireland, was repaid. Still, the Society was in debt, for all the £30,000 raised had been spent, together with a further £3,000. Nothing remained but for the Common Council to make another levy. Upon the 30th April, 1613, within a month of the formal granting of the Charter, this was done, and the Court asked for another £10,000. The capital sum involved was growing. In all, the Guilds were now committed to an expenditure of £40,000, and there still appeared no limit to the capital necessary for the enterprise. The Guilds grew restless under the continual imposts, which made so severe a drain upon the resources of their members. On the other hand, the King's dissatisfaction is equally apparent—a dissatisfaction due in all probability to the state of the country at the time, and his anxiety to secure it, in the words of Sir John Davys, “to the Crowne of England for ever.” To be severe on James is easy, but it is pretty evident that there was much fault on both sides. The City had been “jockeyed” into an enterprise it disliked, while those responsible in the City had not been candid as to the sum of money which the venture involved. That the Government knew the financial proposals to have been insufficient has been pointed out. Whether the Guilds knew is another matter; it does not appear that they did. Nor did the Corporation as a whole, or the Irish Society, apart

from the two or three men who had been behind the scenes. The result was dissatisfaction all round. What happened was a gross under-1613capitalisation of the whole venture. Thus it is that the Guilds were restless on the one hand, and the King and his Council dissatisfied on the other.

The Charter being granted, the King considered he was entitled to urge forward development, and this he did to some purpose. He wanted a more vigorous prosecution of the whole scheme, and particularly did he desire the erection of fortifications at Derry and Coleraine. This promised more expenditure. Naturally the Irish Society was in a difficult position, and again there was recourse to the Common Council—doubtless after it had been found impossible to get along without the help of that body, for with the management and development of the estates the Court was unconcerned. The machinery of the Corporation was only invoked when its power as to levying assessments, through the instrumentality of a precept from the Lord Mayor, was necessary. But the Court on this occasion was not satisfied to make the levy without inquiry. As a result of pressure from the Guilds, the Court decided that “some great and worthy magistrate,” as well as “some commoner of special countenance and credit,” should go to Ireland to make inquiry. With courtier-like diplomacy, the members coupled their decision with the promise

1613

that no time should be lost in carrying out the King's wishes ; but it is not difficult to see that behind the stiff formality of the record was some feeling. Stormy scenes in the Court may be imagined. The choice of the Court fell upon Mr. Alderman Smythes* and Mr. Matthias Springham, both Assistants of the Society. It was resolved that they should visit the Plantation, take an exact survey and account of the various operations, and report to the Court. For this purpose an Act of Common Council was passed investing them "with full powers to act at their discretion in the ordering, directing, and controuling the measures of the . . . Plantation."†

This Act is one of the curious incidents of the period. Despite the full powers granted to the Irish Society—powers that, originally derived from the Corporation, were now theirs under Royal Charter—the Court of Common Council appointed delegates to inquire into the Plantation. It is true that full instructions were also given to the Commissioners by the Irish Society "in writing," but that detracts in no way from the significance of the Act of Common Council.

* George Smythes, Alderman of Bridge, Governor of the Irish Society 1614-15.

† "Concise View," page 33.

CHAPTER X.

IT was upon Midsummer Day, 1613, that the Court of Common Council sent the two Commissioners to Ireland. On November 8th, their report was before the Court ; it was sent home from Dublin. It contains a peculiarly miscellaneous fund of information. The Commissioners reported, for instance, that they had presented two silver-gilt communion cups to the churches of Derry and Coleraine, and mentioned certain allowances made to the Members of Parliament for Derry and Coleraine, who, it is said, were elected and appointed by the Society. It appears, also, that the Commissioners delivered new Charters to Derry and Coleraine in lieu of the old ones which were surrendered. According to this same report, the prices of provisions in Ulster were then : For a cow or bullock, 15s.—about one halfpenny per lb. ; a sheep, 16d. to 2s. ; a hog, 2s. ; barley, 11d. a bushel ; oats, 4d. a bushel ; and strong beer, 16s. a barrel. This last was represented as being an exorbitant price. The fishings in the possession of the Society were let for £866 13s. 4d. per annum, on a three years' lease.

1613

On the subject of the fortifications, the Commissioners had consulted ten military experts, and plans had been drafted. It was necessary for the material to be gathered before the walls were

commenced, and this the Commissioners recommended should be taken in hand at once.

1613

The important part of their pronouncement, however, had reference to the division of the lands among the Companies, already mooted, but temporarily in abeyance owing to the pecuniary difficulties which had to be encountered. The Commissioners took the trouble, as doubtless they were instructed, to make very full inquiry into the values of the various properties, and out of this knowledge they had, with the assistance of the City's Agent, the gentlemen of the county, and the Surveyor, made a tentative division of the estates into twelve parts. This scheme they offered for the consideration of the Court; but with respect to the city of Derry, and the town of Coleraine, with the territories, the ferries and the fishings, they could make no division, declaring that it would be better for them to be administered by the Irish Society itself, and not divided. These lands consisted of 4,000 acres in the case of Derry and 3,000 acres in the case of Coleraine.

The appointment was duly accepted by the Court, a "plott" or map being laid before the meeting; and the report generally was received.

Accordingly, on December 17th, 1613, in the same year as the Irish Society secured its Charter, a special meeting of the Court of Common Council was convened for the purpose of allocating the lands among the Companies. The method

was a little complicated. Altogether £40,000 had been contributed in various proportions by the Guilds. To overcome the difficulties, it was arranged to group the Companies according to their payments, so as to make up a twelfth part of the £40,000 subscribed. Each group was to be under the wing of one of the twelve great Companies. Where there had been a larger payment than £3,333 6s. 8d. the Company stood alone as a possessor of an estate, and the overplus was joined to the proportion of another group which was responsible. The following shows the position at a glance, and from it may be seen the relative interest the City Companies had in the Irish Plantation :

1613

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
MERCERS	2,680	0	0			
Innholders	200	0	0			
Cooks.. ..	200	0	0			
Embroiderers	153	0	0			
Masons	100	0	0			
	<hr/>			£3,333	0	0
GROCCERS (in part)				3,333	6	8
DRAPERS	3,072	0	0			
Tallow-chandlers	260	0	0			
	<hr/>			£3,332	0	0
FISHMONGERS	2,260	0	0			
Leathersellers	950	0	0			
Plasterers	40	0	0			
Glaziers	32	0	0			
Basket-makers	32	0	0			
Musicians	20	0	0			
	<hr/>			£3,334	0	0
GOLDSMITHS	2,999	0	0			
Cordwainers	250	0	0			
Painter-stainers	44	0	0			
Armourers	40	0	0			
	<hr/>			£3,333	0	0

Some Interesting Figures.

1613

SKINNERS	1,963	0	0		
Stationers	520	0	0		
White-bakers	480	0	0		
Girdlers	370	0	0		
				<hr/>	£3,333 0 0
MERCHANT TAILORS (in part)					3,333 6 8
HABERDASHERS	3,124	0	0		
Wax-chandlers	80	0	0		
Turners	68	0	0		
Founders	60	0	0		
				<hr/>	£3,332 0 0
SALTERS	1,954	0	0		
Dyers	580	0	0		
Saddlers	390	0	0		
Cutlers	225	0	0		
Joiners	164	0	0		
Woolmen	20	0	0		
				<hr/>	£3,333 0 0
IRONMONGERS	1,514	0	0		
Brewers	500	0	0		
Scourers	370	0	0		
Coopers	280	0	0		
Pewterers	240	0	0		
Barber Surgeons	230	0	0		
Carpenters	200	0	0		
				<hr/>	£3,334 0 0
VINTNERS	2,080	0	0		
Overplus from Grocers	540	13	4		
Woodmongers	200	0	0		
Weavers	100	0	0		
Plumbers	80	0	0		
Poulterers	80	0	0		
Tilers and Bricklayers	80	0	0		
Blacksmiths	64	0	0		
Fruiterers	64	0	0		
Curriers	44	0	0		
				<hr/>	£3,332 13 4
CLOTHWORKERS	2,260	0	0		
Overplus from Merchant Tailors	752	13	4		
Butchers	150	0	0		
Brown-bakers	90	0	0		
Upholders	44	0	0		
Bowyers	20	0	0		
Fletchers	20	0	0		
				<hr/>	£3,336 13 4
Total				<hr/>	£40,000 0 0

The following Companies were to pay, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The Mercers	0	6	8			
Drapers	1	6	8			
Goldsmiths	0	6	8			
Skinners	0	6	8			
Haberdashers	1	6	8			
Salters	0	6	8			
Vintners	0	13	4			
	<hr/>			£4	13	4

1613

And the following to receive, viz. :—

The Fishmongers	0	13	4			
Ironmongers	0	13	4			
Clothworkers	3	6	8			
	<hr/>			£4	13	4

Lots were then cast and, as a consequence, each of the twelve Companies left Guildhall as the possessor of an Irish estate in trust for itself and certain other Guilds. The estates were immediately assigned to the Companies, the conveyance being made by virtue of the Charter, leaving the Irish Society in the position as we know it to-day—the owner of Londonderry and Coleraine and the lands attached, together with the woods and ferries, the fishing, and the rights of admiralty. Even now the Companies could not get complete possession of the estates for which they had paid so heavily ; and, when it is remembered that the aggregate worth of the entire estate granted to the Irish Society was only £1,800 per annum, a little of the City's reluctance may be understood. The Companies sent out agents, and took possession so far as they could ; but they, and the Irish Society too, still required

the King's licence to hold the land in mortmain, and that was not granted until September, 1615. 1615 It may be stated here, a little in advance of the story, that the licence was granted "to the end that they might be the better encouraged and enabled to proceed with and finish the same plantation, and in future times reap some gains and benefits of their great travails and expenses bestowed therein"; somewhat tardy acknowledgment on the part of the King that the City had been at some trouble, to say nothing of expense, in the matter. That James did not expect that there would be any profit may be assumed. Neither he nor the City thought so, and both he and the City were right. Much more money and much more trouble had to be encountered before any "profit" was to accrue to the citizens.



Siege of Londonderry, 1688-9
 (From an Engraving by E. R. de Hooge. The reference notes are in Dutch.)

CHAPTER XI.

BEFORE the Companies had well taken over possession of their estates, another levy of £5,000 was demanded, and this had to be found by February, 1614. The financial position may be made clear if it is said at once that a further £7,500 was asked for in 1615, raising the total to £52,500.* 1614

More trouble was now to be encountered. In September, 1614, Sir Josias Bodley was appointed by the Lord Deputy of Ireland to enquire into the progress of the Plantation. He seems to have been given a roving commission to examine the settlement, and to report as to whether the Londoners, as they were called, were fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

Sir Josias was not satisfied and he made a very strong report alleging negligence. As a result, the King called upon the Lord Mayor and the Aldermen for information. Thereupon the Irish Society issued a precept requiring the Guilds to report, and the King was communicated with in due course. He was not to be appeased, however. His representatives in Ireland com-

* These figures are taken from the Records of the Corporation. The "Concise View" states that over £60,000 was ultimately subscribed. If so, it does not seem to have been raised through the instrumentality of a Lord Mayor's precept.

1615 plained of the slow progress made. Apparently the Companies were lax in accomplishing the King's desire. They were, it seems, good to the natives ; and, while they introduced settlers, they failed to do so to the extent desired, remaining content to let land to the Irish as well as to new-comers. The following letter written to the Lord Deputy of Ireland by the King, explains the position very clearly :

“ Right, trusty, and well-beloved, we greet you well”

“ We received lately from you, a relation of the present state of the Plantation in Ulster, set down with seeming clearness and order, by the pen of Sir Josias Bodley, according to the exactness of the survey thereof, taken lately by himself by our commandment, that we acknowledge his care and industry in performance of this service, and do require you to give him thanks in our name for it. We have examined, viewed, and reviewed, with our own eye, every part thereof, and find greatly to our discontent the slow progression of that Plantation ; some few only of our British undertakers, servitors, and natives, having as yet proceeded effectually by the accomplishment of such things in all points as are required of them by the articles of the Plantation, the rest, and by much the greatest part, having either done nothing at all, or so little, or by reason of the slightness thereof, to so little purpose, that the work seems rather to us to be forgotten by them, and to perish under their hand, than any whit to be advanced by them ; some having begun to build, and not planted, others begun to plant, and not built, and all of them, in general, retaining the Irish still upon their lands, the avoiding of which, was the fundamental reason of that Plantation. We have made a collection of their names, as we found their endeavours and negligencies noted in the service, which we will retain

as a memorial with us, and they shall be sure to feel the effects of our favour and disfavour, as there shall be occasion. It is well known to you that if we had intended only (as it seems most of them over-greedily have done), our present profit, we might have converted those large territories to our escheated lands, to the great improvement of the revenue of our crown there ; but, we chose rather for the safety of that Country, and the civilizing of that people, to depart with the inheritance of them at extreme undervalues, and to make a Plantation of them ; and since we were merely induced thereunto out of reason of state, we think we may without any breach of justice make bold with their rights who have neglected their duties, in a service of so much importance unto us, and by the same law and reason of state, resume into our hands their lands, who have failed to perform, according to our original intention, the articles of Plantation, and bestow them upon some other men more active and worthy of them than themselves ; and the time is long since expired, within which they were bound to have finished to all purposes their Plantation, so that we want not just provocation to proceed presently with all rigour against them. Yet we are pleased in grace, and that they may be the more inexcusable if they be deficient in their duties hereafter, to assign them a further time, which shall be to the last day of August come twelve months, which will be in the year of our Lord 1616, which we are determined shall be final and peremptory unto them ; and at which time we are resolved to seize into our hands, the lands of any man whatsoever, without respect of persons, whether he be a British undertaker, servitor, or native, that shall be found defective in performing any of the articles of the Plantation, to which he was enjoined. Our express pleasure therefore is, that as soon as this limited time of favor shall expire, that Sir Josias Bodley shall presently take a particular survey of the Plantation as it then stands, and whomsoever he shall certify to be deficient in any point

1615

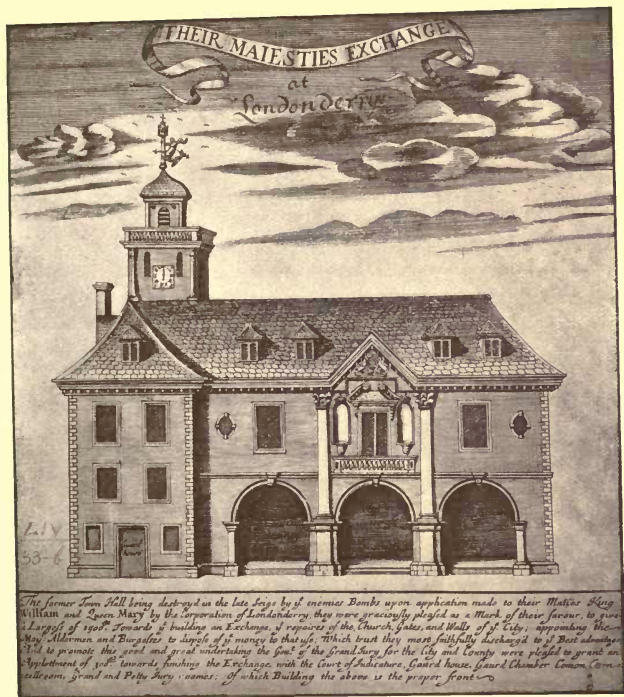
1615

to which he is bound touching the Plantation, that presently you seize into our hands the proportion or proportions of those lands wherein he hath made his omission ; and that you grant a custodium of them to any such person or persons as you shall think fit, till we signify our further pleasure to you touching the disposing of them ; and as we do let you know, so we require you to give them notice whom it concerns, that we do expect full performance in all points of the articles of the Plantation by the time above specified, as well from all such as do now hold any lands of the Plantation, by purchase or mesne conveyance, from any of the original grantees or patentees, as we would have done from them whose rights they have required, notwithstanding any former conveyance or toleration granted under any pretext unto any of them heretofore. And because we will have no man to pretend ignorance of that which we expect from him, in performing the true meaning of the articles of the Plantation, we require Sir Josias Bodley to take a review of the relation of his last survey sent unto us, and thereupon, with as much convenient speed as he may, signify to the Londoners, and every undertaker, servitor, or native, or to their servants or assigns, that dwell upon their lands, their several defects and omissions, either in matter or form, that all things accordingly may be reformed and performed against the next survey, which we have appointed to be taken hereafter of the Plantation there. Given under our signet at the Palace of Westminster, the 25th March, 1615."

To this Letter the King subjoined the following observation, written with his own hand :

"My Lord, in this service I expect that zeal and uprightnes from you, that you will spare no flesh, English nor Scottish ; for no private man's worth is able to counterbalance the particular safety of a kingdom, which this Plantation, being well accomplished, will procure."

That was a remarkable threat, and it bore fruit later on.



The Second Town House, 1692.

CHAPTER XII.

QUICK to find fault, the Privy Council was not slow to make use of the City and the new Society when it suited them. In May, 1615, news was received of an Irish conspiracy to surprise and destroy the new Plantation. Derry and Coleraine were, in particular, aimed at. The Society was at once apprised, and military precautions were taken at the expense of the Guilds. Arms and munitions of war were obtained by the Companies, and sent to the Hall Keeper at Guildhall, by whom they were transmitted to Ireland. On their part, the Court of Common Council, interested immediately any big work was in hand, proposed the erection of a keep or citadel at Coleraine, and the Society was asked to consider the matter.

1615

In the meantime the organisers of the conspiracy were discovered and brought to justice. After trial at Derry, six "gentlemen of the north," "who were near kinsmen of Tyrone," were found guilty of treason and executed.

At this stage the King's activity in enquiring into what the Londoners were doing seems to have proved fruitful; for the Society issued precepts to the Companies requiring them to send one or two artisans with their families into Ulster to settle there. At the same time, in order that

1616

Derry might not in future be peopled wholly with Irish, the Society resolved to send out twelve boys from Christ's Hospital, together with other poor, to be apprenticed. This was duly done, and it was further ordained that the inhabitants should be precluded from taking Irish apprentices. Moreover the Society advised the kind of artisan whom it was thought wise to introduce. Thus weavers of common cloth, fustians, and new stuffs, felt makers, trimmers of hats and hat-band makers, locksmiths and farriers, tanners and fellmongers, ironmongers, glassmakers, pewterers, coast-fishermen, turners, basket-makers, tallow chandlers, dyers, and curriers were the skilled workmen whom the Society considered it wise to send. They were duly despatched, although perhaps not in quite the numbers the King desired. Indeed, this seems to have been the root of much of the trouble. Neither the Society nor the Guilds appear to have comprehended—at least if they comprehended they were slow to act—that it was essential to people the land with English. Perhaps it was difficult to deal with the Irish, or to make the place sufficiently attractive for English settlers, who were accustomed to live in a very different style from the natives.

In March, 1616, the situation was becoming ominous, and the Society approached the Court of Common Council with a view to sending two Commissioners into Ulster. The Court agreed, and

appointed two members of their own body. This did not suit the Society, although formerly, as we have seen, it had consented to a similar proceeding. The Society accordingly declined the services of those appointed, and the Court nominated the Governor of the Society, Mr. Alderman Proby,* and Mr. Matthias Springham, the latter of whom had performed the same service before. Still the Society chose to lean upon the Corporation, and the authority of the Commissioners was derived from writings given under the Common Seal of the City. Simultaneously, the Society made some attempt to meet the desires of the King by urging on certain of the Companies the necessity of performing the conditions of the Plantation. To the Goldsmiths' Company, for instance, it specially wrote complaining of the "great slowness" with which the estates were being developed, or more probably settled; for the Government were not nearly so concerned with the prosperity of the land as with securing the settlement upon it of those subjects of the King who had no religious or racial bias objectionable to the English Crown.

1616

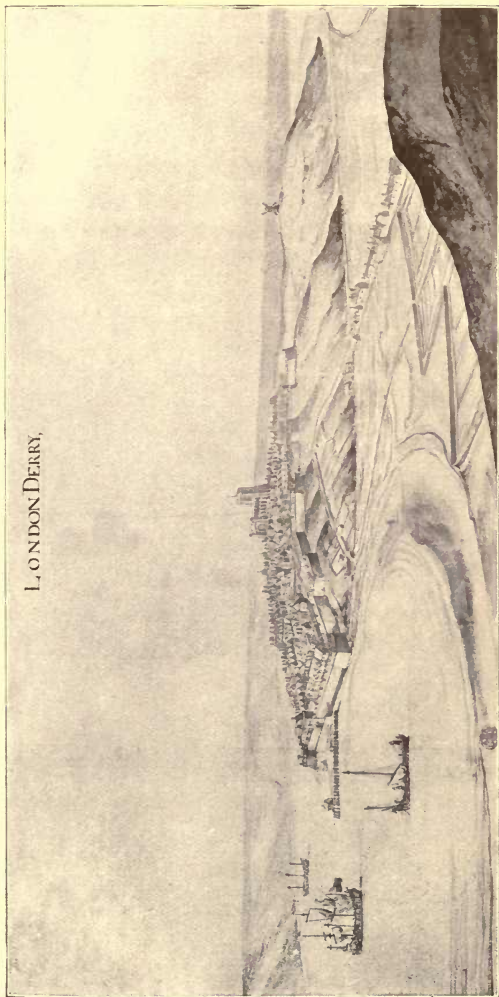
In July, 1616, the two Commissioners reported. They told of the condition of affairs which does not seem to have been quite so unsatisfactory as the constant expressions of dissatisfac-

* Peter Probie, or Proby, was Alderman of Queenhithe, a Barber-Surgeon. He sat as M.P. for Hull and afterwards for Liverpool, and was Knighted in 1623.

1617 tion from the King would indicate. But probably that was due to the fact that the report was confined to Derry and Coleraine. The fortifications were examined, and certain recommendations made; and, finally, the Commissioners declared the Lord Deputy, still Chichester, to have been satisfied. Beyond that they presented swords as presents from the City of London to the Mayors of Derry and Coleraine. Three hundred acres were allotted as a site for a school which Mr. Springham promised to erect at his own expense in the following year.

Still the Crown was uneasy and dissatisfied, and frequent are the records to this effect. At this distance, and in the absence of the original records of the Society, it is impossible to arrive at any fair opinion beyond the one already expressed as to the cause. Nothing, however, can dispute the £50,000 or £60,000 expended by the City—a fact which is strangely at variance with James' letter, already quoted, to the effect that the work "seems rather to us to be forgotten." Anyhow, the year 1617 again saw the appointment of Royal Commissioners to inquire into the progress of the Plantation, and to these Commissioners the Mayor and Corporation of Derry presented a petition complaining of grievances suffered at the hands of the Society. Nevertheless, the Lord Deputy Chichester does not seem to have been so particularly annoyed with the Society and its doings, for, despite the existence

LONDON DERRY,



Londonderry about 1700.
(From a Water-Colour Drawing in the British Museum.)

of yet a further Commissioner in the person of Nicholas Pynnar, appointed to make a survey, he granted Lough Neagh to the Society at a rental of £100 per year in fee farm. The Irish Society, by the way, seems to have no proper record of this grant. Mention is made of the grant in the "Historical Narrative," published by the Society, and originally taken from the records which were burned. Mr. T. M. Healy, M.P., has just published a book, entitled "Stolen Waters," alleging that the Society are the owners of the Lough so far as fishing is concerned. 1624

By the year 1624 matters had become so strained as to lead to the appointment of another Commission. It is a little difficult to follow the doings of the various Commissions; this one was evidently designed to do big things. Upon it were Lords Grandison, Carew, and Chichester,* and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was subsequently added. This Commission reported in September, 1624, and drew up a list of twenty-three articles which the Londoners were to perform under the direction of Sir Thomas Phillips. To these articles the Irish Society is reported to have paid no heed,† and the threatened sequestration took place. The City appears to have been

* Sir Arthur Chichester was created Baron Chichester of Belfast, February, 1612.

† In the absence of Irish Society records, which might tell another story, I have been bound to rely upon Government records. Necessarily they are *ex parte*.

r624

warned twice between September and November. Sir Thomas Phillips was appointed to receive the rents, the whole county of Londonderry being seized into the King's hands, and was instructed to employ the proceeds upon the fortifications of Derry and Coleraine.



THE ARDAGH CHALICE.—Found near Ardagh, in Co. Limerick, in 1868, by a farmer digging potatoes, at Reocrasta. Tradition says that on the occasion of a certain incursion of the Danes the Irish took refuge on the spot and secreted treasures. The work is of the 10th century. The replica, as shown, was presented to Lady Newton at the Londonderry Guildhall, on July 31st, 1912, when her Ladyship unveiled the window given by the Mercers' Company.

CHAPTER XIII.

ALL this was hard enough, but now, 1625, Charles I. ascended the throne, and matters went from bad to worse. Sir Thomas Phillips appears to have been the evil genius, and to have used all his influence against the much-tried Irish Society and the Londoners' Plantation. We find him urging the King to revoke the Charter, and seize into his own hands the territories in Ulster. But even Charles was unable to do this without some show of doing justice. The City was not likely to accept meekly the loss of the money expended, and pretty strong representations were made to the King and the Privy Council. Nevertheless, the sequestration was not annulled until 1627, in which year yet another Commission made unfavourable statements as to the Plantation. It is difficult to believe that this was done with honest intent. Indeed, events almost prove the reverse. In 1628 there was further sequestration, and the rents in the city and county of Londonderry were appropriated to the King's use. This sequestration was revoked by the Lords in England on July 28th of the same year, having been in force since May 3rd. There is evidence of a further Commission being at work in 1629, and by this time nothing short of open robbery,

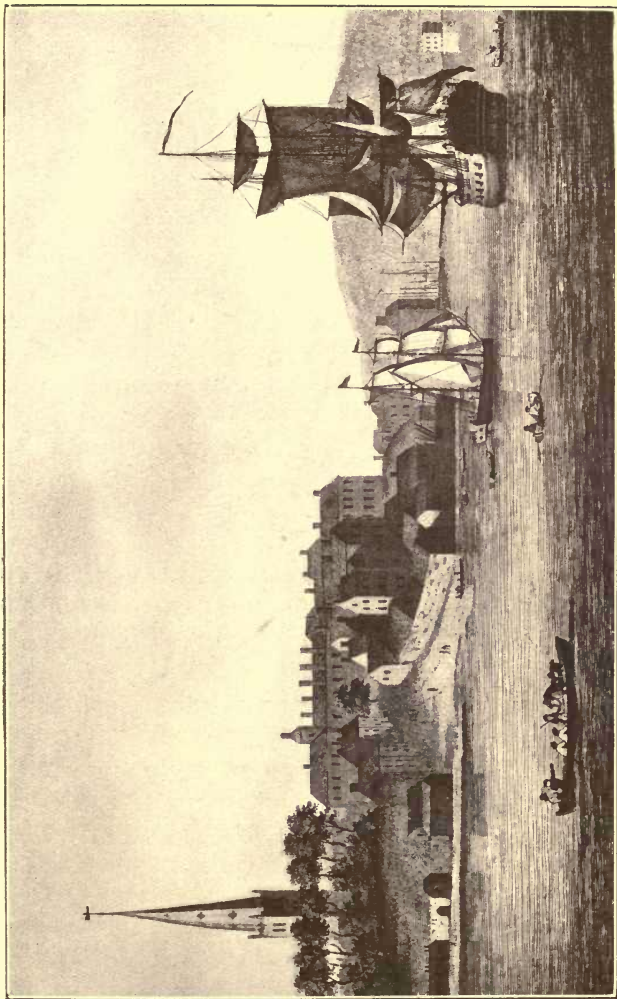
1629 legalised if possible, seems to have been the intention. One statement of the Commissioners is of interest here. They returned the total disbursements of the Londoners in Londonderry from January 2nd, 1609, to 1629, as follows :

For 77½ houses, at £140 a house	£10,850
For 33 houses, at £80 a house	2,680
For the Lord Bishop's house	500
For the walls and fortifications	8,357
For digging the ditch and filling earth rampire, £1,500; and for levelling earth to lay the rampire, £500	2,000
For building a faggot quay at the water-gate	100
For two quays at Lime Kilns	10
For the building of the Town House	500
For two quays at the Ferry	60
For carriage and mounting the ordnance ..	40
For arms	558
For a guard house	50
For the platform for bulwarks	300
For some works done at the old church ..	40
For sinking 22 cellars and sundry of the houses not done at first, at £20 a cellar one with another	440
For the building of lime kilns	120
	<hr/>
	£26,611

or, according to the addition in the Commissioners' account, £27,197.

The Society and the settlers must have got pretty tired of Commissions and inquiries !

In 1631, Charles wrote a series of letters to the Lords Justices of Ireland, talking of gifts of "large proportions and privileges," and asserting that "above the rest" his "Father, of blessed



Londonderry, before the erection of a Bridge, showing the Ferry, about 1795

memory," " was most enlarged to the Londoners." They had been chosen " for their ability and professed zeal to public works," but, for " private lucre," they had " broken and neglected both their general printed ordinances." So far, the Londoners had spent huge sums on the Plantation, whereas the expenditure did not balance the income until 1623. Consequently, the reference to " private lucre " seems particularly unjust.* But Kings may do many things ! However, his letter, which well repays perusal, tells of the decision to " question " the Irish Society " in our High Court of Star Chamber," and instructs the Lords Justices in Ireland to examine witnesses, upon interrogatories, " for discovery of the truth." Then ensued a correspondence between the Lords of the Council in England, and the Irish Lords Justices, and in a letter of August 7th, 1631, Sir Thomas Phillips is referred to as one " whose diligence, fidelity, and circumspection, we are well assured of."

1631

While this inquiry was proceeding, the estates were again sequestrated in 1632, and Bishop Bramhall was appointed chief receiver. All this was the outcome of intrigue, and a desire for

* Hill, in " The Plantation of Ulster," is particularly violent against the " Cockneys," and accuses them, in round terms, of neglect and misdeed. He represents the City as having been anxious to enter upon the enterprise for self-aggrandisement, and he sees in the Irish Society's method of keeping the native Irish on the ground, not a policy of humane treatment, but a dastardly effort to wring more money out of the soil. In conclusion, he is prepared to accept the evidence of Phillips, who had his own reasons for disliking the Londoners. It is difficult to think that Hill had access to all the records in London.

1634

aggrandisement on behalf of certain interested people ; but the story is difficult to unravel, and indeed not possible within the compass of the present volume. Appearances show that the City was in a tight corner. That the citizens would be dispossessed was evident, and those behind the scenes in Ireland were not backward in endeavouring to secure possession while there was time. The "diligent" Phillips, whose interests had been adversely affected originally by the grant to the City, was not unmindful of himself ; while Chichester, who appears to have been prepared to sink immediate benefit for the good of the State—perhaps with a diplomatic eye for the future—kept a close watch upon the fishing rights. This, too, is another story worth investigation by all deeply interested in the City's efforts in Ireland.

The result of the "inquiries" of the Court of Star Chamber was judgment against the Society, and in 1634 the Court ordered the Letters Patent of James I. to be surrendered and brought into Court to be cancelled. Naturally the Society was alarmed, and attempted to obtain redress. Nevertheless, times were such that the Society had to see its rights confiscated without being able to do very much. In the words of the time, "thinking that the King at his leisure would grant them a remedy, they submitted without impatience." It was much more likely that coming events were casting shadows before, and that the far-sighted

could see how fast the position between the King and his subjects was approaching breaking point.*

While this was happening in London, Bishop Bramhall procured patents to several large parcels of the Irish Society's lands for the King. 1635

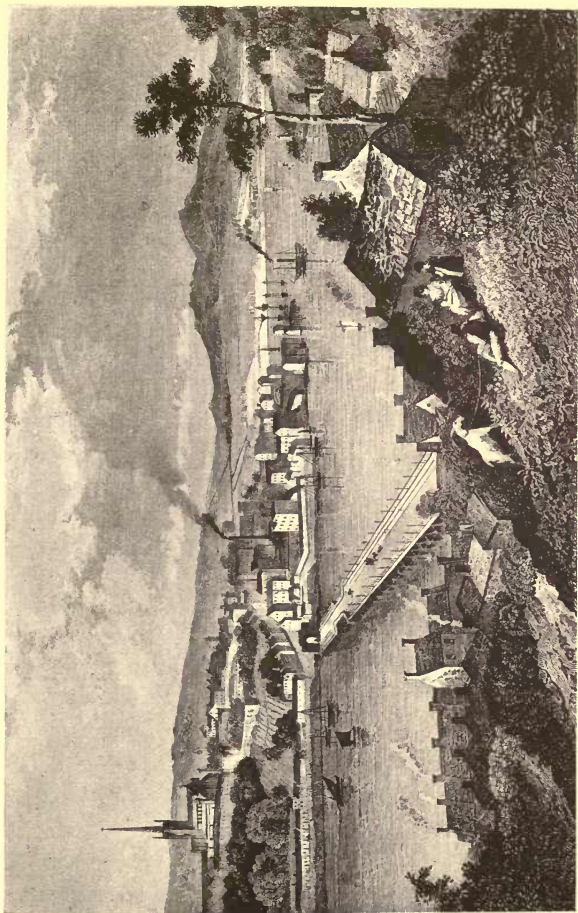
Nor was the Star Chamber judgment the worst that was to befall the Society. The City was, in 1635, sued for non-performance of the Articles of the Plantation, and mulcted in the huge fine of £70,000. All kinds of allegations were brought before the Court, and particularly its partiality for the "mere Irish," whom it refused to huddle on to small reservations, to perish of disease and starvation. Moreover, it was said that the citizens had possessed themselves of lands, and taken profits which were not properly theirs; that they were never intended to have so much land; and, above and beyond all, that they had taken possession before any grant was made to them. This was surely the last straw in the indictment, for it has been shown with what difficulty the City secured the definite assignment of the properties, although it had possession and was spending large sums of money.

Against the exaction of the fine the City appealed direct to the King himself, presenting a petition to his Majesty at Hampton Court in

* About this time, Mr. Justice Berkely, sitting in the Court of Star Chamber, told Richard Chambers, as an excuse for refusing to hear him, that there was one rule of law, and another rule of government; and that many things might not be done by the rule of law which might be done by the rule of government!

1635 September, 1635. The appeal was not effective. Charles was surrounded by circumstances of great difficulty. He could not do justice to the City without interfering with his supporters in Ireland, who were deriving benefit from the various sequestrations, and from the judgment. However, the City tried to do by arrangement what it had failed to effect by an appeal to justice. A Committee of the Court of Common Council was appointed with a view to finding a way out of the difficulty. The City was firm on one point ; and that was in refusing to surrender the land. Incidentally, too, it was felt to be a grievance that the Corporation should be implicated in the affair. The Charter had been granted to the Irish Society, and we find the Lord Mayor and Commonalty urging the point that the City, as a whole, had merely lent its influence to the venture for the purpose of raising money.

In May, 1636, the Committee reported, and a suggestion was made that the matter should be settled by payment to the King of £100,000 in instalments of £20,000. Considering the difficulties of the King financially, his trouble with Parliament, and the growing dissatisfaction touching the matter of Ship Money, the offer might have proved helpful to his Majesty ; but it was not accepted. The King's advisers had evidently others to consider. At any rate, they demanded £120,000, and coupled it with a decision that the City must pay £5,000 to Sir Thomas Phillips,



Londonderry about 1830.

and surrender the Castle of Culmore and the rights of fishing. The negotiations dragged on for years, the City in the meanwhile becoming more estranged from the King, not, of course, merely because of the Irish trouble, but in connection with the constitutional difficulties which came to a head under Charles. Eventually, on payment of £12,000, the City was "pardoned" for having broken the terms of the Charter. This, points out Dr. Sharpe, was a sum of which the Queen happened to stand in need at the time.

1637

In 1637 the proceedings in the Star Chamber were re-opened. The City, the Society, and the Companies were served with a *scire facias* of eighteen skins of parchment reciting various rights originally granted, and called upon to show cause why judgment should not pass. It was well known to the City that the judgment would be adverse, and the Irish Society only offered a conditional appearance in order to secure the attendance of the agents for Ireland. The result was as surmised, and what had before been determined; but the actual judgment of the Lord Chancellor was not delivered until the following Hilary term. Then the Letters Patent were formally revoked, and the City was condemned to lose its estates. The Charter was ordered to be surrendered, although this was not actually done until 1639. The decree of the Court was entered in the Petty Bag Office.

1639

It is difficult to calculate the loss to the City ; but the sum has been put at £130,000, which had been spent on the estates, plus what had been expended by the tenants, and plus also the £12,000 which the City had paid as a fine. Altogether a very pretty business !



The building of Londonderry Cathedral was completed by the Society in 1633. The tablet as above is in the entrance porch. The inscription reads : " If stones could speak then London's praise should sound who built this church and city from the ground, 1633."

CHAPTER XIV.

To follow with any degree of clearness the happenings of this period with regard to the Irish Society is a little difficult, without reference to the general history of the time. It must suffice to say that Charles managed to estrange himself from the City, and the people were groaning under very real wrongs. Charles wanted money, and the Aldermen had a particularly unpleasant time. There were the Scottish trouble, the question of Ship Money, and the calling and the hasty dissolution of the Short Parliament. Nevertheless, despite all kinds of injustice, the City found money for the King, and received him upon his return from Scotland in the early part of 1641. Upon that occasion, he made a declaration to the effect that he was much troubled by the judgment that had taken away the Charter of the Irish Society, and impounded the estates ; and redress was promised. This promise he was never able to redeem ; but a Parliamentary Bill was contemplated to give effect to the King's declaration. At the time, the Recorder pointed out that the Irish Society was in abeyance or had been dissolved, and inquired what provision should be made for vesting the estates. The City in the same year petitioned Parliament—the Long Parliament

1641

1641

—against the sentence of the Star Chamber, and, despite their laborious duties, and the turmoil of the times, the Commons, supported as they were by the City, found time to attend to the matter. An interesting statement in the petition is the declaration that the citizens had been unwilling planters, and only undertook the venture at the King's most earnest desire. The petition further set forth that Londonderry and Coleraine had been rebuilt ; the Castle of Culmore repaired and entrenched ; fifteen churches erected or rebuilt ; roads made ; schools built ; and one of the most barbarous places in the Kingdom made into one of the most civilized. Not only had the estates been taken, but there were arrears of rent to the tune of £20,000.

The Long Parliament dealt with the matter during the last fortnight of their first Session, and finally declared the judgment of the Star Chamber to be *ultra vires*. They characterized the sentence as not only unjust but unlawful, and ordered the discharge of the *scire facias* and the reinstatement of the Society.

The Irish rebellion followed immediately afterwards, and Derry became the chief place of refuge for the Colonists of the whole Ulster Plantation. The twelve great Companies played no small part in the defence of the town, and the succour of the people. From the City itself four ships were sent with all kinds of provisions,

clothing, and accoutrements. The Guilds sent two pieces of ordnance each to add to the twenty pieces provided in past years by the Irish Society. That assistance preserved Derry, and was, in fact, the principal means of quelling the rebellion.* 1650

At its termination the Londoners sent over Commissioners to re-take possession, a task which, it seems, they were able to accomplish, in part at any rate ; and leases were granted, and rents collected.

But it was not until Charles I. had lost his crown and his head that the City was able to secure a proper recognition of its rights. In 1650 Cromwell had played his part in Ireland, and Bradshaw is seen writing of the intention to plant certain sea-ports. He speaks of the City's rights, " or pretended " rights, in Derry and Coleraine, and makes inquiries as to whether the claim is to be vindicated.

The Lord Mayor is seen, too, acting under instructions from the Court of Aldermen, and conferring with the Companies on the subject, with the result that the rights of the City were asserted, the Charter of 1613 being duly set up. In the event, the Privy Council urged the restoration of the rights of the Society in 1654, and Cromwell

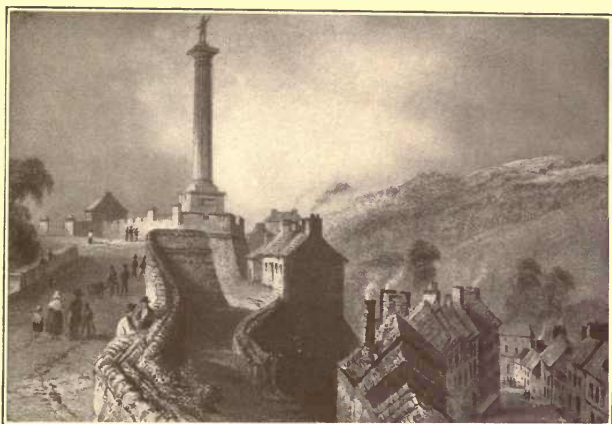
* The Commanders of Londonderry subscribed in true Ulster fashion to a " League," and stated " We pray the Lord reward them and preserve [' the Honourable City of London '] and continue His mercy with them, and direct His judgments in these evil times for them that it may still continue a City flowing with plenty for ever."

issued Letters Patent in 1658 ordaining that it should enjoy the same rights as had been conferred under the Charter of James.

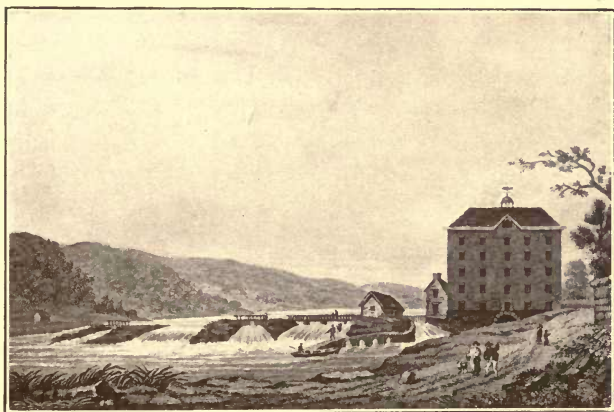
1660

Upon the restoration of Charles II., in which the City played so important a part, the question of title had to be re-opened, the new King refusing to recognise the acts of the Protector. A deputation waited upon him in October, 1660, from the Livery Companies, and his reply was: "That his Majesty would perform what his father had promised, and more, and that his Majesty would deny the City nothing; that his Majesty found they dealt honestly with him, and his Majesty would deny them nothing."

Accordingly, on April 10th, 1662, Charles II. granted a new Charter setting out the clauses of James' Charter, and, in fact, repeating with very little alteration all it contained. One important matter, however, continued to give trouble—the customs of tonnage and poundage of Londonderry. Frequent application to be put in possession of its rights was made by the Society, but no action followed. Finally, after negotiation, a payment of £6,000 was agreed upon as a set-off. The right thereupon lapsed.



Walker's Monument, built on a Bastion of the walls of Londonderry.



The Old Mill and Salmon Leap at Coleraine—the Society's Fishery.

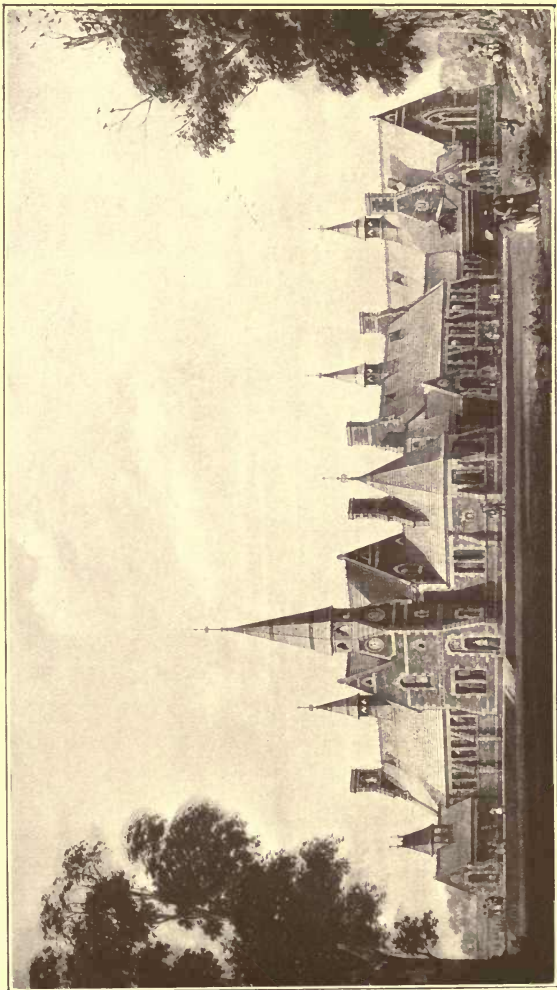
CHAPTER XV.

THUS end the stirring times of the Society. Londonderry, of course, was to undergo fresh trouble; but it did not directly concern the Society. Nevertheless, it would be difficult to write even a short account without mentioning such a glorious incident in the annals of the City, with which the Irish Society is so interwoven, as the Siege of Londonderry. The gates of Derry were shut against Lord Antrim, who commanded the King's 6th Regiment of Foot. Lundy, the Governor, professed the Protestant religion, and had joined in proclaiming William and Mary; but he was faint-hearted, if not, indeed treacherous, and made arrangements to capitulate. Then came an exhibition of the indomitable spirit of the citizens. So long as the English language remains, their wonderful effort will spur men to emulation. James laid siege to the city for 105 days, and during that time the citizens held out with unexampled heroism in the midst of all the horrors of assault, pestilence, and famine. In the end, the blockade was raised by the *Mountjoy*, filled with stores, breaking the boom across the Foyle, and thus relieving the starving garrison.

The Court of the Society directed certain of their members to wait upon the Rev. George

1690 Walker, the Governor, and tender their thanks and congratulations for his services in the preservation of the city; while Lord Shrewsbury, on behalf of King William, wrote of "the eminent and extraordinary services" of the Governor and inhabitants.

Later, the Society was asked for assistance to repair the devastation caused by the siege. The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council were approached. As a result the Corporation and the Companies contributed £100 apiece, and the money was sent as immediate relief to the inhabitants. Further relief was subsequently granted, while the Society played a great part by abating rents in the rebuilding.



The Irish Society's School at Coleraine.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE Society was at last to settle down in peace, and, as a consequence, the remainder of the record is tame and uneventful compared with the excitements under James and Charles. In fact, beyond the ordinary work—all the more useful perhaps because prosaic—there is little to tell. True, at the outset, the Society had to fight for some of its land which had been alienated by the Bishop of Derry. Victory rested with the Society after a long struggle, but magnanimously enough the members agreed to a yearly payment to the Bishop. This little trouble notwithstanding, we find the Society continuing to contribute to the Cathedral, which was built, in 1633, at its sole cost, at an outlay of £4,000.

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, then, the Society is seen managing its property, spending large sums upon public works, and dividing the balance between the London Companies. Sooner or later, however, the discharge of the last duty was bound to give cause for offence. The Society interpreted its functions as being first and foremost those of a trustee for public purposes. On the other hand, the Guilds—who, be it remembered, had found the money—urged that the Society held property in trust for them after the needs of the whole estates had

1830 been satisfied. Whatever balance remained was theirs, the Companies urged, and should, as a matter of equity, be divided amongst them. Up to about the year 1830, the Society did, as a fact, pay dividends to the Companies, but that distribution was only made after such sums as it deemed fit had been applied to education, public works and charity. In 1832, the disagreement culminated in legal proceedings. One of the Companies entered an action against the Society, calling for a statement of account, and demanding dividends in excess of those being paid. Shortly, the action centred round the question—Is the Irish Society a trustee for public purposes, or is it a trustee for the Livery Companies? The case was carried to the highest Court, and the Lord Chancellor's judgment is of the deepest interest. He declared the members of the Court of the Society to be public officers, and said that, after satisfying public purposes—as to the extent of which they had complete discretion—they would be right in dividing any surplus among the Companies. The effect of this decision was to establish the fact, beyond all doubt, that the Irish Society exists for the general good of the community living on the lands granted to the City, and for that general good the Society continues to use its funds. As the income enjoyed can never under any circumstances satisfy all public needs, the net result has been to exclude the Companies from any further

share in the proceeds. A plain statement of fact will explain the position. During the last fifty years the sums voted to schools, charities, public improvements, and the support of the Derry and Coleraine Corporations total no less than £456,000. The income is approximately £14,500 a year to-day.*

1900

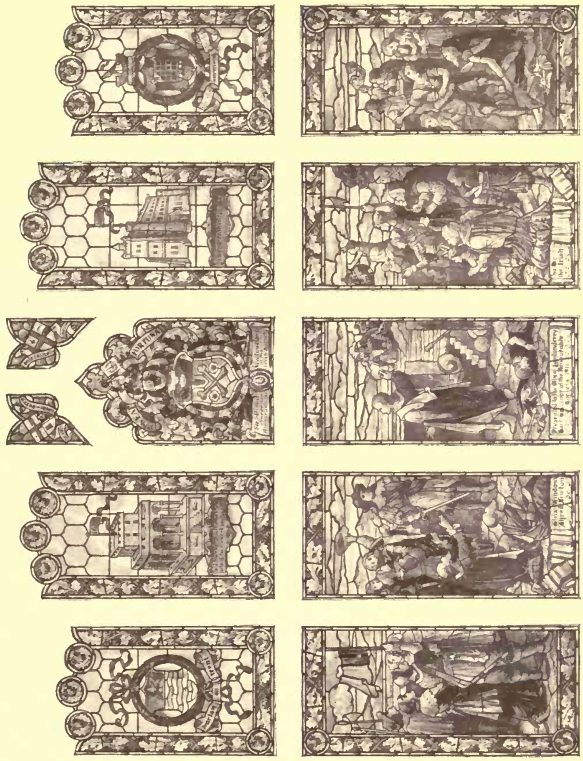
Necessarily, the administration of funds of this character is open to criticism from time to time. Thus it goes without saying that questions relating to the management of the Irish Society have been raised in the House of Commons. Some sixty or a hundred years ago, when, to speak frankly, there was general slackness in public life, the complaints perchance might have had some substance in fact. That is to say, there was not in the expenditure on administration the economy which rules to-day. However, the Society has met the enemy in the gate, and withstood several determined onslaughts in Parliament; and who can doubt that, by a continuance of its career of usefulness, it will long remain as a connecting link between the great City of London and the gallant city which has passed through so much trouble to achieve its present prosperity?

Some perchance there yet be who would prefer local administration, but, however that may be, it

* In 1907, the Society and the Guilds sold their agricultural estates to the Irish Estates Commissioners. After paying off bonds the balance was invested.

1913

is idle to deny that Londonderry and Coleraine are fortunate in the twentieth century in the possession of the Irish Society. The benefit is theirs, wholly and altogether. The London Corporation, forced though it was to undertake the responsibility and incur great trouble and expense at the dictation of an arbitrary Government in troublous times, has never reaped the slightest pecuniary advantage from the association. Full and ample, however, is the reward it possesses in the knowledge that the district over which it exercises authority is one of the most prosperous and the happiest of any in the country. To London accrues the satisfaction of having given of its best to ensure "the greatest happiness of the greatest number."



The "Newton" Window.

LONDONDERRY GUILDHALL.

One of the most beautiful features of the newly-erected Londonderry Guildhall consists of the handsome stained glass windows. The majority have been given by the London Companies and by the present and past Governors. The Society's window, the upper lights of which are embellished with the Coats of Arms of the Grocers', Drapers', Fishmongers', Skinners' and Vintners' Companies, and given by them, portrays in five lights the history of Derry. It is the Tercentenary gift of the Society. Other Companies presenting windows are: the Mercers, the Salters, the Ironmongers, the Pewterers, the Cutlers, the Girdlers, the Carpenters, the Painter Stainers, the Scribes, the Musicians, the Turners, and the Glaziers.

The "Newton" Window.

The "Newton" window, presented by Sir Alfred Newton, Bart., to commemorate his Governorship, shows in the lower lights the relief of Derry after the siege of 1689.

This scene is an adaption of the well-known painting by Folingsby representing the citizens grouped on the walls at the moment when the famous ship *Mountjoy* had broken the Boom.

The middle upper light is filled with the Arms of Sir Alfred Newton, encircled with his Chain of Office as Sheriff of London and Middlesex, 1888, and the Mace and Sword as Lord Mayor of London, 1900; above appears his motto—"Faveat Fortuna." The remaining lights show the Arms of "Harwich" and "Burton-on-Trent"—two towns with

which Sir Alfred is intimately connected, the former being represented in Parliament by his son, Mr. H. K. Newton ; " Londonderry Cathedral " in 1688, and " Londonderry Old Town Hall or Exchange "—now the site of the Diamond Gardens.

The border surrounding the window represents the Oak Leaf and Acorn, having reference to the ancient name of Derry, viz., Daire-Calgach—" The Grove of the Oak." The inscription reads—" This window presented to the City of Londonderry by Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bart., Governor of the Hon. the Irish Society, A.D. 1911."

The arrangements for supplying the windows given by the above-named Companies were left in the hands of the Irish Society, who, mindful of Irish interests and recognising the artistic talents recently developed in Ireland in the production of high-class designs in stained glass, placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. Campbell Brothers, of Belfast. *The Times* of 21st September, 1912, stated :
" . . . The Londonderry Guildhall is a fine modern building, the chief treasures in which are the stained glass windows presented by the various London Companies that once owned land in Ireland, and have not forgotten the old association."

In the large Assembly Hall of the Guildhall, there still remain some vacant windows waiting to be utilized by the Guilds associated with the original Plantation. It is hoped they will take advantage of the opportunity to record permanently their connection with the Plantation of Ulster.

COURT OF THE HONOURABLE
THE
IRISH SOCIETY, 1923

Governor

COL. SIR T. VANSITTART BOWATER, Bart., Alderman.

Deputy-Governor

PERCY WILLIAM BERRIMAN TIPPETTS, Esq.

Assistants

SIR ERNEST WILD, Knt., K.C., Recorder.
HARRY JOHN NEWMAN, Esq., M.A., Alderman.
FREDERICK JAMES BARTHORPE, Esq., Alderman.
SIR HAROLD JOHN DE COURCY MOORE, Knt., Alderman.
CHARLES ALBERT BATHO, Esq., Alderman.
ISIDORE NATHAN JACOBS, Esq., Alderman.
JOHN MORGAN RICHARDS FRANCIS, Esq., J.P.
FRANK THOMAS, Esq.
SIR CURTIS GEORGE ASHDOWN, Knt.
HARVEY EDWARD PREEN, Esq. (Deputy).
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EDWIN JOHN VENNER, Esq.
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WILLIAM JOHN TRICE, Esq.

Secretary

J. R. LEVERINGTON, Esq.

Solicitor

LEONARD J. MATON, Esq., B.A.

General Agent and Solicitor. (Ireland)

E. M. F.G. BOYLE, Esq.

*Society's House,
Londonderry.*

LIST OF GOVERNORS OF THE IRISH SOCIETY

From 1610 to the present year 1921.

- 1610-14. MR. ALD. WILLIAM COKAYNE (Farringdon, Knighted 1616).
1614-15. MR. ALD. GEORGE SMYTHES (Bridge).
1615-16. MR. ALD. THOMAS BENNETT (Bishopsgate and Billingsgate).
1616-22. MR. ALD. PETER PROBY (Queenhithe, Knighted 1623).
1622-25. MR. ALD. ROBERT JOHNSON (Langbourn).
1625-26. ALD. SIR HUMPHREY HANDFORD (Castle Baynard).
1626-36. MR. ALD. ROBERT PARKHURST (Portsoken and Bread Street).
1637-38. ALD. SIR EDWARD BROMFIELD (Dowgate and Walbrook).
1657-60. ALD. SIR THOMAS FOOTE (Broad Street and Coleman Street).
1662-68. ALD. SIR THOMAS ADAMS (Portsoken, Billingsgate and Cornhill).
1668-76. ALD. SIR JOHN LAWRENCE (Queenhithe).
1676-87. ALD. SIR WILLIAM TURNER (Farringdon Within, Candlewick and Castle Baynard).
1687. ALD. SIR WILLIAM PRITCHARD (Broad Street and Bridge Without).
1687-88. ALD. SIR PETER DANIELL (Bridge).
1688-89. ALD. SIR WILLIAM PRITCHARD (Second Term).
1690-92. ALD. SIR JOHN LAWRENCE (Second Term).
1692-1706. ALD. SIR ROBERT CLAYTON (Cordwainer and Cheap).
1706-21. ALD. SIR WILLIAM WITHERS (Farringdon Within).
1721-27. ALD. SIR FRANCIS FORBES (Dowgate).
1727-35. MR. ALD. ROBERT ALSOP (Queenhithe).
1735-41. MR. ALD. JOHN BARBER (Castle Baynard).
1741-44. MR. ALD. DANIEL LAMBERT (Tower, Knighted 1744).
1744-45. ALD. SIR ROBERT WESTLEY (Queenhithe, Lord Mayor 1743).
1745-85. MR. ALD. ROBERT ALSOP (Coleman Street and Bridge Without).
1785-93. MR. ALD. BRASS CROSBY (Bread Street).
1793-98. MR. ALD. THOMAS HARLEY, Privy Councillor (Portsoken).
1798-1805. MR. ALD. PAUL LE MESURIER (Dowgate).
1806-17. MR. ALD. HARVEY CHRISTIAN COMBE (Aldgate).
1817-35. MR. ALD. JOHN THOMAS THORP (Aldgate).
1835-43. ALD. SIR MATTHEW WOOD (Cripplegate).
1843-63. MR. ALD. JOHN HUMPHREY (Aldgate).
1863-73. ALD. SIR WILLIAM ANDERSON ROSE (Queenhithe).
1873-83. ALD. SIR SYDNEY H. WATERLOW (Langbourn, Lord Mayor 1872).
1883-93. ALD. SIR JOHN WHITTAKER ELLIS, Bart. (Broad Street).
1893-1906. ALD. SIR GEORGE FAUDEL-PHILLIPS, Bart. (Farringdon Within.)
1906. ALD. SIR ALFRED JAMES NEWTON, Bart. (Bassishaw. Removed to Bridge Without, 1920).

MEMORANDA
OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS

in the

History of the Honourable the
Irish Society

(1609—1920)

MEMORANDA OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS
IN THE HISTORY OF THE HONOURABLE THE
IRISH SOCIETY

(1609—1920)

James I requested the Corporation of London to consider 1609
a project for establishing a Protestant colony on the forfeited
estates of the O'Neills and O'Dohertys in Ulster. The Privy
Council and the Corporation came to an understanding in
the matter, and ultimately a deputation was sent by the
Corporation to visit the estates. On their return they
presented a report, and following this an agreement was
entered into between the Privy Council and the Corporation. 1610

The City thereupon appointed a "Company"—consisting
of a Governor, a Deputy Governor and twenty-four Assistants
—to manage the plantation, and agreed to raise a sum of
£20,000, of which £15,000 was to be spent on the plantation
and £5,000 in the acquisition of private interests. The
required sum was raised by levy on the various Companies
on the basis of their corn rate assessments, but £20,000
was found to be insufficient, and other assessments were made
from time to time which eventually amounted to over £60,000.

The Governor of the Society, the Recorder, and other 1612
Assistants attended a meeting of the Privy Council and dis-
cussed various matters relating to the plantation. At this
meeting the constitution, powers, etc., of the Society were
finally settled.

On March 29th, 1613, the Society was formally constituted, 1613
established and incorporated by Royal charter by the name of
"The Society of the Governor and Assistants of London of the
New Plantation in Ulster, within the Realm of Ireland."

This charter defined and established the City and County
of Londonderry, and granted municipal rights to the citizens.

On June 28th a charter was granted to the town of Coleraine.

The first Visitation by the Society took place in this year, Mr. Alderman Smithes and Mr. Matthias Springham (both Assistants of the Society) being sent over, with full powers, "to take an exact survey and account" of the plantation. On their return the two Commissioners reported the desirability of making a division of the lands in Ireland amongst the several Companies, and this division was made at a Court of Common Council on December 17 of that year.

1614 The Lord Deputy of Ireland appointed a Commissioner (Sir Josias Bodley) to examine into the progress of the plantation, and following upon this James I asked for information from the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen. The Society thereupon issued precepts to the twelve Companies requiring them to make certificates of the state of their respective plantations.

Later on in this year the Society requested the Companies to send one or two artisans with their families to settle in Ulster, and directions were also given that "twelve Christ's Hospital and other poor children" should be sent to Derry as apprentices and servants. The Society also suggested certain trades as suitable to be introduced into Ulster.

In this year the Privy Council warned the Society of a conspiracy which had been discovered to surprise and destroy Derry and Coleraine, and the Society thereupon issued precepts to the twelve Companies to furnish arms, etc., for defence, which were transmitted by the Hallkeeper of Guildhall to Ireland.

1615 A Licence was granted by the Crown to the twelve chief Companies to receive and hold in mortmain any possessions in the gift of the Irish Society, and corresponding powers were also granted to the Society.

1616 Early in this year the Governor and an Assistant visited the estates, delegated with full powers "to view examine and regulate whatever was necessary in regard to the affairs of the plantation." They subsequently presented an exhaustive report to the Society on a variety of matters concerning Derry and Coleraine.

The Crown appointed Commissioners in Ireland to enquire 1617
into the affairs of the Plantation.

A general survey was made by the Commissioners of the 1618
works of the Companies on their respective plantations.

The City of Derry received its charter of incorporation. 1621

The Society built the "town-house" of Londonderry. 1622

The Crown directed a sequestration of the City's estates 1624
in Ireland which was opposed by the City.

The whole County of Londonderry was illegally ordered 1632
to be sequestrated, and the rents levied for the King's
(Charles I) use.

The Cathedral of Londonderry, which had been built by 1633
the Society, was completed.

The Court of Star Chamber directed that the letters patent 1634
granted to the Society by James I should be surrendered and
brought into Court to be cancelled. The City complied under
protest and made application for redress.

Dr. Bramhall (Bishop of Londonderry) procured letters 1635
patent from Charles I granting large portions of the Society's
lands. The Bishop allowed the matter to remain in abeyance
until 1637, when further letters patent were granted to him
for the Quarter-lands.

The City of London, the Irish Society, and the twelve chief 1637
Companies were ordered to appear in the Court of Chancery to
show cause why judgment should not be passed to cancel
the charter granted by James I. The Lord Chancellor
subsequently gave judgment that the letters patent to the
Society for the City and County of Londonderry were "revoked
cancelled and made void."

At a banquet in Guildhall given to Charles I he made 1641
a public declaration promising the City that the judgment
depriving the Society and the Companies of their possessions
should be reversed, but the outbreak of the Irish rebellion
apparently prevented the fulfilment of this promise. Parlia-
ment, however, when petitioned by the Corporation, resolved
that the sentence pronounced by the Star Chamber was
unlawful and unjust and that the estates should be restored.

During the Irish rebellion this year Derry underwent its

first siege. The Society had several years previously provided 20 pieces of artillery for defensive purposes, and in the emergency the twelve chief Companies each sent two pieces of ordnance ; the City of London not only sent artillery, but despatched four ships containing provisions, clothing, and various munitions.

The trouble between Charles I. and the Parliament came to a head and the Civil War broke out in 1642, and in 1649 Derry sustained another siege, this time by the Royalist troops, which lasted four months ; the City was ultimately relieved by Parliamentary troops under Owen Roe O'Neill, and in the following year the whole of Ulster was reduced by the Parliamentary Army.

1654 The Privy Council made an order advising the restoration of all the rights of which the Society had been deprived.

1656 Oliver Cromwell, who had become Lord Protector, gave the Society full recovery of its rights, privileges and properties, and granted letters patent confirming the Society as originally constituted.

1658 The Society made new conveyances to the twelve chief Livery Companies confirming their respective portions of land in Ulster.

1660 Upon the restoration of Charles II. the City of London petitioned for a reversal of the judgment (as promised by Charles I.) given against their first letters patent, but as it was considered that the proceedings would be too tedious the King in 1662 granted a new charter confirming, with very little alteration, the Society in all the possessions and rights granted by the charter of 1613, and the Society subsequently made fresh conveyances to the companies confirming the grants already made to them.

1668 A great part of the city of Londonderry was destroyed by fire, but was afterwards rebuilt by the Society.

1675 The Society appointed a Master of their Game—which principally consisted of red deer—at a salary of twenty marks a year.

1676 A dividend was made to the twelve Companies, and the Treasurer was directed to receive the rents due from several of

the Companies in respect of their manors. These rents were reserved originally as acknowledgments of the seignorial rights or paramount jurisdiction of the Society in respect of 94 freeholds granted at 13s. 4d. each. These "native freeholds" have since been sold, with the exception of 32 held by the Grocers' Company, upon which they continue to pay rent to the Society.

The Corporation of Londonderry appealed to the Society 1685 for an abatement of rent on account of the "great decay of trade," and the Society promised assistance.

The Bishop of Derry laid claim to the Quarter-lands 1687 under the letters patent granted in 1637; long and expensive litigation ensued; the Bishop was unable to establish his claim, but the Society made concessions, and the matter was finally settled in 1704 by Act of Parliament in the reign of Queen Anne.

The great Siege of Derry commenced, the gates being 1688 closed against the troops of James II on December 7th.

The siege continued for 105 days, and ultimately the 1689 starving garrison were relieved by the breaking of the boom across the Foyle by the relief ship *Mountjoy* on July 26th. The King, William III, sent a letter congratulating the Governors of Derry—the Rev. George Walker and John Michelburn—upon the "eminent and extraordinary service" they had performed in the defence of Derry.

Upon the siege being raised the Society asked for contributions from the Livery Companies to repair the damages caused by the siege and to assist the inhabitants.

The Corporation of Londonderry requested further 1690 assistance from the Society in connection with rebuilding the city, and the Society made large grants of their timber for this purpose.

The Society sent over Commissioners to Londonderry to 1692 view the "wastes and ruins caused by the siege." The Commissioners had power to make abatement of rents and to augment the terms of leases, and the same was done in Coleraine.

The Society resolved to establish a free school in Coleraine. 1705

- 1707 The Society, at the request of the Corporation of Londonderry, presented the city's address of loyalty to Queen Anne.
- 1709 The Corporation of Coleraine solicited the Society to encourage the establishment of linen manufacture as a means of increasing the trade and prosperity of the town.
- 1712 A memorial was made to the twelve chief Livery Companies emphasising the importance of preserving a growth of young timber on their estates.
- 1713 The Society at this time granted very few leases for a longer term than 41 years, or for "lives certain."
 "Violent and tumultuous" proceedings took place in the Common Council of Coleraine, at which the sword and mace were forcibly seized. [*N.B.*—The style adopted by the Corporations of Londonderry and Coleraine was in conformity with that employed in London.] Further troubles arose in Coleraine, and in consequence of these dissensions the matter was brought before the Council Board of Dublin, and a representation was made by the Society to the Lord Lieutenant on the subject, and later on the Privy Council of Ireland ordered the Mayor to appear before them and answer complaints made against the Corporation.
- 1714 The Society directed the Corporation of Londonderry to adjust the city boundaries in accordance with the map made by Thomas Neville.
- 1715 The corporate rights of Coleraine were threatened, and the Society took steps to protect them and advanced money for legal expenses in connection therewith.
 The Corporation were asked to report as to the progress of the free-school in Coleraine.
 Further disturbances arose in the Corporation of Coleraine; the sword and mace were again forcibly seized and taken away.
- 1718 The Society had a report prepared containing the proceedings relative to the first building of Coleraine bridge, and informed the Corporation that it was incumbent upon them to keep the bridge in repair.
- 1720 This year was the first recorded occasion when the Society publicly advertised their fishings to be let.

The fishings were let to Henry O'Hara and Tully O'Neill 1721
for 41 years at £2,000 a year, but the lease was subsequently
cancelled, and as a satisfactory letting could not be arranged
the Society took the management of their fisheries into their
own hands. It was found, however, that the charges exceeded
the value of the fish taken.

The fishings were let to Claude Jammieau, who paid 1724
£16 5s. a ton on the fish caught (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^{d.} per pound).

The Speaker of the House of Commons sent an order for
the production of the Society's charter, and a committee of
the Society attended the House with the charter.

A project was brought forward for making a port at 1725
the town of Rathmullin on Lough Swilly which was opposed
by the Corporation of Londonderry as likely to be prejudicial
to their rights and interests.

The practice of letting lands by auction was introduced into 1726
Ireland by some of the chief Livery Companies, and the same
method was recommended by the General Agent to the Society.

277 tons of timber were ordered to be supplied for the 1727
Coleraine bridge, but the Society afterwards considered it
would be best to erect the bridge with stone, and subsequently
gave £500 towards the cost.

During this year the Society demanded an explicit
account from the Corporation of Coleraine of their title to
their present possessions, the Society being of opinion that
the dominion of the whole town was vested in themselves
by the charter, and that they had legal control over all the
proceedings of that Corporation.

It was proposed to make the town of Ballycastle a port, 1729
but the Society opposed the measure as likely to become
detrimental to their interests.

The fishings were let for 21 years at £1,200 a year,
payable in London.

The Society opposed the design of making Rathmullin 1732
a port, and prepared a memorial which they presented to
the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland stating the injurious effects
resulting from Ballycastle and Rathmullin being made ports
for the discharge of goods.

1733 The payment of rent in English money for the Quarterlands was found inconvenient.

An inquiry was instituted by the Society into the cause of the decline of the free-school at Coleraine.

The Society resolved not to grant any leases for a longer period than 41 years or "three lives certain," except in cases of new buildings, and then for only 61 years.

1734 The Corporation of Coleraine made a return to the Society showing all their holdings in Coleraine held under the Society and a sworn statement of the rents and profits from them. At the end of this list a note was added to the effect that they had not included "the quay, the citadel, some small cabins, and two small parks taken in from their commons," as they considered these "to belong to the Corporation of right." The Society, however, would not admit such right, but insisted on a proposal being sent for the various premises, etc.

1735 The Society agreed to a proposition to build a "market house" in Coleraine and subscribed £200 towards the cost and supplied timber for the building.

A great deal of distress was prevalent in Coleraine at this time and the Society consented to respite the payment of the half-year's rents, due at Lady Day, until after the harvest.

At this period the Society appeared to have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining satisfactory proposals for the disposal of salmon from their fisheries. Ultimately they became their own merchants, and proposals to export the produce to Venice and Leghorn were agreed to.

1736 The Corporation of Londonderry had previously submitted by-laws—which had been approved by the Society—relating to the election of members of that Corporation; apparently the obligations set out in the by-laws were ignored, and in consequence the Society suspended the voluntary annual allowance to the Corporation of £90 10s. until they conformed to the by-laws.

In this year a Commission of Justices was appointed to inquire into the management of the Society's woods, which apparently caused dissatisfaction.

The Lord Chief Justice Singleton undertook to settle 1738 all the differences existing in the Corporation of Londonderry respecting their by-laws as to the election of members and other matters ; and he afterwards transmitted to the Society a by-law which he had prepared.

This year a new school was established in Coleraine by the Society " for teaching poor children gratis to read write and comprehend accounts."

A silver-gilt salver, cup and cover were ordered by the 1741 Society for presentation to Lord Chief Justice Singleton for his services on the Society's behalf, but they were unable to induce him to accept it, and the plate, with a suitable inscription, was accordingly given to the City of London for the use of the Lord Mayor. It is now included in the Mansion House plate.

Important reports were made relative to the bridge, 1742 quay, market-house and other improvements at Coleraine, and the Society contributed £2,050 towards building the bridge, and £700 and 35 tons of timber for building a " market house."

The fishings were let at £620 a year for 21 years, 1748 determinable at the end of 7 or 14 years.

The Society directed that all lands and houses then 1752 " out of lease " should be advertised, in order to ascertain their true value.

A proposition was submitted to the Society for making 1756 the River Bann navigable.

The fisheries were granted by lease for 23 years to 1760 Henry Hamilton at £912 a year.

The Society supported an application made by the Corporation of Londonderry to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland for parliamentary assistance towards the reparation of the quays. The application was complied with.

The opinion of the Recorder of London was obtained as to 1766 whether it would be legal for the Society to let houses, etc. in Londonderry and Coleraine in perpetuity. The Recorder was of opinion that the Society had the power, and subsequently a report was made to the Society setting out the reasons for the propriety of granting leases renewable for ever.

- 1768 The Corporation of Londonderry applied for leave to quarry stones at Termonbacco for repairing the City quay ; a report was made setting out the Society's right to the quarries, and in the following year, 1769, the Corporation received the Society's permission to dig for lime and stone.
- The Corporation also sent a memorial to the Society asking for their consent to the making of a bridge over the Foyle. The memorial was referred to a committee of the Society, who recommended that consent should be given, and in the next year (1769) the Corporation offered to send an engineer and submit plans for the suggested new bridge.
- 1778 A translation and transcript (very beautifully written and bound) of the Society's charter from Charles II was made at a cost of 250 guineas. This volume is kept at the Irish Chamber.
- 1781 A proposition was made for enclosing part of the strand at Londonderry, the committee of the Society to whom the proposition was referred, in reporting thereon, drew attention to encroachments made by the Derry Corporation at the ship quay.
- 1782 The Corporation of Coleraine petitioned the Society with reference to the removal of obstructions on the River Bann and improving the navigation.
- 1784 A lease was granted to the Corporation of Londonderry for 21 years, renewable septennially, of part of the strand of Lough Foyle, a proposition for the embankment of the strand having been made in 1781.
- 1786 Early in this year a fire had occurred at Guildhall, London, in which part of the old Irish Chamber (then situated in Guildhall) had been destroyed ; the books and papers, which had been rescued, were ordered to be examined and a list made.
- The Society assented this year to the proposition for erecting a bridge over the Foyle at Londonderry.
- 1788 The Corporations of Londonderry and Coleraine had been required by the Society to submit their by-laws to them for confirmation—apparently there had been a lapse in the practice, for the General Agent was directed to inquire whether any by-laws had been recently made.

£200 was granted for repairing the "market-house" at Coleraine, but the Society's General Agent was directed to keep the keys in his own possession unless the Corporation of Coleraine undertook to keep the building in repair. 1789

The proposed timber bridge at Londonderry, to the erection of which the Society had given their assent in 1786, was estimated to cost £10,000, and application was made by the Derry Corporation to the Society for a lease of the tolls in perpetuity, which was granted.

In this year it was directed that the Secretary of the Society should be sworn before the Mayor at a Court of Aldermen, and that the Officers should be elected annually.

The Society contributed £100 towards suppressing the rebellion in Ireland. 1798

A contribution of £200 was made by the Society towards rebuilding the Cathedral spire at Londonderry. 1802

The Deputy Governor and Treasurer of the Society had an interview with Sir George Hill (the Recorder of Derry) on the subject of the Bill then before the House of Commons for rebuilding the Londonderry bridge, when it was arranged that foot passengers should not pay tolls for bundles under 30 lb. weight, and that the rights of the Society should be preserved. 1814

In this year a deputation went to Ireland, surveyed the property and made a general inquiry into the Society's rights. This inquiry is stated to have produced very important and beneficial results. The principal matters to which attention was directed were "the establishment of schools, the right of the Society to control the proceedings of the Corporations of Londonderry and Coleraine, the right to the slob or strand enclosed from the Rivers Foyle and Bann."

A report was made as to the building of Coleraine School. 1816

It was reported that the Court House at Coleraine had been usurped by direction of the Marquis of Waterford, and directions were given to take steps to regain possession and free use thereof. 1818

A statement and full report were prepared respecting the Corporation leases and sent to the Law Agent so that 1819

he might advise the Society thereon. At this time there were a number of matters in dispute between the Society and the Corporation of Londonderry, and with the object of bringing about a settlement of these various matters a deputation visited Londonderry.

1820 An important report was presented to the Society chiefly concerned with improvements for Coleraine by "making a public sewer, widening streets, building cottages and making a road on the shore of the Bann for a public walk or mall, and removing nuisances."

1821 The General Agent reported that a large quantity of earth had been removed in making excavations for the new gaol at Londonderry and suggested that a favourable opportunity was thus presented for making a water-wall so as to prevent the tide from encroaching on the shore. The suggestion was approved and the General Agent was authorised to contribute a sum not exceeding £50 towards the cost of making the improvement.

The following inscription was placed over the doorway of Coleraine School: "This school, founded in the year 1705 by the Honourable the Irish Society of London, was rebuilt at their sole cost in the year 1821."

The Society opened negotiations with the Improvement Committee of the City of London for the purchase of the land upon which the present Irish Chamber stands, the old Irish Chamber having been on the right hand of the principal entrance to the Guildhall.

1825 The Law Agent of the Society was instructed to commence proceedings against the Corporation of Londonderry under the Act of 1814 for rebuilding the bridge.

1827 A Salmon Fishery Bill was introduced into Parliament this year the provisions of which were detrimental to the interests of the Society. The Society petitioned against the Bill, which was abandoned. It was, however, again introduced in the following year (1828), but again abandoned.

The purchase of a perpetuity lease made to Isabella Thompson and others was completed. This was the first purchase of a perpetuity interest made by the Society, who

had resolved that all perpetuity interests should be purchased whenever practicable in order to give the Society their original jurisdiction and control as a public body over their estates.

At the end of the year a deputation from the Corporation of Londonderry attended and submitted all their accounts for inspection and continued in attendance from day to day for the purpose of explaining the particulars of their income and expenditure, in order to induce the Society to discontinue the action in Chancery against the Corporation under the Derry Bridge Act, by which they were required to set apart £1,000 a year for the purpose of building a substantial bridge ; and it was ultimately agreed that the Corporation should invest £500 a year, and that the proceedings should be withdrawn.

A proposal was brought forward in the Court of Common Council for altering the usage of electing members to the Society from the twelve chief Companies. Up to this time Assistants had been appointed from among such members of the Common Council as were liverymen of one or other of the Companies originally interested in the Irish estates, but subsequent to this date members of the Irish Society were appointed from the wards in rotation in the same manner as the Corporation Committees. 1831

The Corporation of Londonderry sent a deputation to the Society asking for assistance in extricating them from their difficulties, and many conferences were held. Finally the Society agreed to sustain for one year the expenses (not exceeding £750) asked for by the Corporation for the support of the magistracy on the condition that immediate steps were taken to decrease the tolls of the bridge to the scale of the year 1800, so as to benefit the whole community trading to Londonderry as well as the whole province of Ulster.

A Bill was filed by the Skinners Company against the Society, the Associated Companies, and the Corporation of London, seeking to prove that the Society were trustees of the estates for the various companies concerned. A great deal of litigation ensued, and the suit was ultimately carried to the House of Lords, when the Lord High Chancellor (Lord Lyndhurst) and Lord Campbell in 1845 pronounced in favour of the 1832

Society, declaring them to be trustees for public purposes and not private trustees for the Livery Companies.

1834 A grant for the first time was made for the official salaries of the Corporation of Derry. This grant has since been merged into other voluntary payments now made to the Corporation of Londonderry.

In this year the Society erected monuments in Glendermot churchyard to the memory of Colonel Mitchelburn and Colonel Murray, English officers who distinguished themselves in the defence of Londonderry during the siege in 1688-9.

1838 The Society made application to the Government that the Culmore lands and revenue should be made over to the Society to aid the building of a toll-free bridge over the Foyle. Later on in the year the Londonderry Bridge Bill was passed; the old bridge having been built at a cost of £16,294 and opened in 1791.

This year the Society promoted the construction of the Londonderry and Enniskillen Railway, and, in 1844, the construction of the Londonderry and Coleraine Railway.

1844 1848 The Londonderry Improvement Bill passed, and in the following year, 1849, the Society agreed to make an annual grant of £500 to the Derry Corporation, such sum to be allocated for improvements.

1849 "Government House" was erected on the town land of Ternonbacco, the property of the Society, as an official residence for their General Agent, and for the use of the Society. The property was sold in 1906.

1850 The Society granted a site of 20 acres for the building of the "Magee Presbyterian College" in Londonderry; the College is endowed under the will of Mrs. Magee, of Dublin, who left £20,000 for that purpose. The Society in 1853, at the request of the trustees, gave £1,000 towards the building instead of the site previously granted—the erection of the College was completed early in 1861.

1853 The Society sanctioned the establishment of the Coleraine Academical Institution as a school for intermediate middle-class classical education.

A proposal to render the River Bann navigable from the sea to Coleraine by removing the bar of sand at the mouth of the river was sanctioned by the Society. 1854

Grants of £2,100 were made towards the cost of constructing waterworks for the city of Londonderry, and a grant of land, together with a sum of £1,000 a year for seven years was made to the city for dock purposes.

The Society erected infant schools in Coleraine, and gave £2,500 towards the building of the Coleraine Town Hall. 1856

Grants amounting to £750 were made by the Society towards alterations and repairs to the Cathedral Church in Londonderry. The cathedral was rebuilt in 1663 at a cost to the Society of £4,000. 1858

On the death of the Governor of Culmore Fort (Lord Strafford) the Society approached the Government with the object of obtaining possession of the lands of Culmore, and after lengthy negotiations the Society purchased the fee simple of the Fort and lands from the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. 1860

The Society endowed a Professor's Chair at the Magee College, Londonderry. 1861

The new bridge at Londonderry (known as the Carlisle Bridge), towards which the Society had contributed £10,000, was opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. 1863

In this year the Society made a conditional grant to the Coleraine Town Commissioners of £10,000 towards the cost of opening up the navigation of the River Bann.

To encourage the outlay of capital in the erection of a better class of buildings on the Society's estates, and also to facilitate the building of warehouses, etc., the Society determined they would in future grant leases for the term of 80 years in cases where the amount to be expended should be deemed adequate.

The Society let by public tender their salmon fisheries in the Foyle and Bann for the sum of £4,625 a year. 1864

In this year the Visitation visited the Bann, and made a survey of the bar, and subsequently the Society confirmed the grant (provisionally made in the previous year) of £10,000

for the projected works for opening up the navigation of the river.

The Society granted a further sum of £250 a year for five years towards the general expenses of Magee College, upon condition that the Institution was opened for instruction in the following year, 1865.

1865 This year the Society also built a new school at Molenan and new houses for the coastguard at Culmore.

The Society ordered the construction of a new road along the shore at Culmore and the erection of a protecting water-wall. These works were completed in 1867 at a cost of about £530.

In this year the Society agreed to erect new schools at Coleraine. The foundation was laid during the Visitation of 1867, the building being completed and opened for public instruction in 1869, the total cost amounting to nearly £5,500.

1866 A motion was brought before the House of Commons by Mr. T. Kennedy, M.P. for Louth, recommending that the property of the Society should be vested in trustees appointed by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, but the Government declined to support this motion, and, ultimately, only various returns were asked to be submitted to Parliament.

1867 In order to provide a better approach to the quays at Londonderry the Society agreed to purchase the tenants' interests in a block of buildings at Shipquay Place, and to rearrange the land thus acquired; the cost of the improvement exceeded £6,400. Arrangements were also made for widening Clarendon Street, and the Society gave up to public use their interest in land required for the purpose.

The Society brought forward the question of freeing Londonderry Bridge from toll, and offered to assist this object by a grant of money to be paid annually over a period of years. A Bill for this purpose was introduced into Parliament, but met with such opposition that it was withdrawn.

The Town Commissioners of Coleraine applied to the Society for a variation in the grant of £10,000, made in 1864, by appropriating £3,000 to assist in deepening the River Bann, the Commissioners having decided to carry out that portion of the work first. The Society agreed to the proposal.

A new scheme for the management of Foyle College was drawn up on the suggestion of the Society, and eventually the management of the College was, by a special Act of Parliament, placed on a satisfactory footing. 1868

The Society entered into an arrangement for purchasing sundry rights of fishing claimed by certain parties in the River Bann above the Cutts at Coleraine, which resulted in the Society becoming undisputed owners of the whole fishery in the Bann from Lough Neagh to the sea. 1869

Mr. Maguire, M.P. for Cork, brought forward a motion in the House of Commons suggesting the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the Society's management of their estates, but after a long debate the motion was withdrawn upon the suggestion of the Government.

The Society granted £1,000 to assist in the erection of a suitable building for the Londonderry Academical Institution, which was founded in 1868 for the purpose of preparing boys for college and mercantile pursuits. The Society had previously offered a grant of their interest in any site upon their property which might be selected for this building, but a suitable one could not be obtained on the Society's estate.

The Society agreed to extend the term of building leases from 80 to 99 years, in cases where the outlay contemplated was deemed adequate. 1870

The Society granted a sum of £200 a year for three years towards the general expenses of Magee College, conditional upon the full number of Professors' Chairs being maintained out of the other funds available for the purpose. 1871

A deputation was appointed by the Society to wait upon the Secretary of State for War with a view of inducing the Government to select Londonderry as a military centre. 1872

The Society entered into an arrangement with the lessees of the Foyle and Bann Salmon Fisheries for a renewal of their lease at an increased rent of £5,000 on the condition that the lessees took steps to establish oyster culture in Lough Foyle. 1873

A deputation was appointed to wait upon the Chief Secretary for Ireland with reference to certain alterations in the fishery laws which it was considered desirable to obtain.

In this year the Society's rights to the whole fishery in the River Bann, from Lough Neagh to the sea, were most satisfactorily established in a trial on appeal before Baron Dowse at the Londonderry Assizes.

Alderman and Colonel Sir W. A. Rose, who had been Governor of the Society for ten years, resigned, and the Court of Common Council appointed Sir Sydney H. Waterlow (who was then Lord Mayor) as his successor.

1874 The Society decided to communicate with the Government and the Bishop of Derry with a view of obtaining such legislation respecting Foyle College as would place it on a proper and satisfactory footing, and afford the Society that representation in its management which it was considered right it should possess, having regard to the large contributions annually granted towards the support of that institution. A Bill giving effect to the Society's desires was accordingly promoted and passed into law the same year.

The Society petitioned against the Londonderry Port and Harbour Bill before Parliament, but subsequently withdrew their petition and made a further free grant of valuable land for the extension of quays, shipbuilding, timber ponds and other harbour purposes.

In this year the Society made a grant of £1,000 for the purchase of land for a cemetery at Coleraine, on condition that it would be available for the burial of persons of all denominations.

1875 The Society provided additional accommodation at the Coleraine Schools, and various improvements were carried out at a cost of upwards of £1,000.

The Society purchased, at a cost of over £700, from the Irish Church Temporalities Commissioners the head rents of the land in rear of Foyle College, and also the land forming the site of the building. These rents were formerly paid by the head master, but the Society on becoming the purchasers allowed the lands to be held for the use of the College rent free.

The Society increased the annual grants for Londonderry Cathedral, and £300 was voted for the restoration and general

repair of the building. The Society also agreed to grant £210 annually to the Londonderry Academical Institution.

The Society granted £2,500 (paid in annual instalments of £500) to the Coleraine Town Commissioners to assist in the provision of a better water supply to the town, and, in return, the Commissioners supplied water without charge to the Society's Schools. In the same year the Society granted the Commissioners a site at a nominal rent for market accommodation.

The Society again had under consideration the question of freeing Derry Bridge from toll, and subsequently offered to assist the Bridge Commissioners in this important undertaking by contributing one-half the cost of freeing the bridge—except for railway traffic. This offer the Commissioners accepted, and the Society at once contributed £200 towards the Parliamentary expenses involved by the scheme. 1876

The Coleraine Town Commissioners asked the Society for assistance in carrying out improvements to the navigation of the River Bann, which were estimated would cost upwards of £55,000, and the Society agreed to contribute £25,000 (by yearly payments of £1,000 for 25 years) conditional upon the Commissioners obtaining an Act of Parliament enabling them to obtain a loan from the Treasury.

The Society agreed to put Foyle College buildings into tenable repair, provide accommodation for the head master, erect an infirmary and considerably increase for a period of 8 years the grants annually made towards the support of the College. The cost of the works amounted to upwards of £1,600, and in carrying them out it was found necessary to utilise for school purposes portions of the building which had hitherto been used as a Chapel and Diocesan Library. The Society therefore granted £100 a year for five years towards the expense of providing suitable accommodation in the city for the library on the understanding that it should be open to the general public. 1877

In this year Mr. C. E. Lewis, M.P. for Londonderry, brought forward in the House of Commons a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the

administration of the Irish Society. In the ensuing debate the motion was opposed by the Chief Secretary for Ireland (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bt.) and on a division the motion was negatived by a majority of 55.

To enable the Coleraine Town Commissioners to raise a loan from the Government for the Bann navigation works, the Society consented to a guarantee rating of 2½d. in the pound over the liberties of Coleraine.

The Society agreed to raise £40,000 by the issue of debentures of £100 each to provide for the payment of the grant promised by the Society for freeing Londonderry Bridge.

1878 Derry Bridge was made free from toll. A deputation from the Society attended in Londonderry and the ceremony of freeing the bridge was performed by the Governor. The Society's contribution towards this object amounted to nearly £40,000.

The Coleraine Town Commissioners petitioned the Society to alter the terms of the promised grant of £25,000 for the improvement of the navigation of the River Bann, and on certain conditions the Society agreed to increase their grant to £30,000, to be paid by yearly instalments of £6,000. An agreement was ultimately arrived at between the Society and the Commissioners for the appointment of a body to be called "the River Bann Navigation Commissioners" to carry out the works in lieu of the Town Commissioners, and
1879 in the following year (1879) the Commissioners applied for Parliamentary powers for the work.

1880 The Recorder's Court at Derry having been merged in the County Court Judgeship, the Society, upon the application of the Derry Corporation, agreed to continue the annual payment of the sum of £200, which, since 1848, had been allowed towards the support of that Court, provided the money was employed for public improvements; thereby making in all £700 a year allowed to the Corporation for this purpose.

1881 Prior to the passing of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, the Society, in order to remove any feeling of insecurity felt

by their tenants, decided, as regards agricultural tenancies at will, that no revaluation should be made of any holding until after at least 21 years had elapsed since the last valuation. Later on in the same year the Land Act was passed; this was subsequently extended by Lord Ashbourne's Act of 1885.

The Society decided to raise the £30,000 required for the Bann Navigation works by issuing 4 per cent. bonds in a similar manner to that adopted when the amount required for freeing Derry Bridge was obtained. The redemption of these bonds was completed in 1903.

Mr. James Brooke, an old inhabitant of Londonderry, had bequeathed a sum of £10,000 for the provision of a People's Park in Derry, and the Society offered the Corporation some 50 acres at Pennyburn on condition that they purchased the tenant's interest, but the Corporation failed to come to terms with the tenant, and the Society's offer was declined.

In connection with the promotion of a Bill by the 1882 Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners, the Society made a free grant to them of so much of the shore of Lough Foyle as was required for extension of the quays.

The works at the mouth of the Bann were completed, and during the Visitation, a memorial stone commemorating the Society's gift of £30,000 towards the improvements was unveiled.

The Derry Corporation had submitted a scheme for a better supply of water to the Local Government Board, which had been approved, and in connection therewith the Society made a grant of £400 for ten years.

Repairs to Foyle College were carried out at a cost to the Society of £450, and a grant of £2,000 was made this year for the enlargement of the Parish Church of Coleraine.

Sir Sydney Waterlow, Bt., M.P., having resigned the 1883 Governorship of the Society, which he had held for ten years, the Court of Common Council appointed Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, Bt., as his successor.

The London Government Bill was introduced into Parlia- 1884 ment; the Bill contained a clause providing for the abolition

of the Society. The Government, however, subsequently withdrew the Bill.

The Channel Fleet, under the command of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, visited Lough Foyle during the Society's Visitation, and the Society—as holding the office of Vice-Admiral of the district—presented an address and were entertained to luncheon on the flagship.

The Society further assisted the Coleraine Harbour Commissioners in connection with dredging works in the River Bann by making a grant of £4,250.

1885 T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales visited Londonderry, and the Society made a grant to the funds raised for their reception.

The Society made a grant to the Corporation of Londonderry of £16,000 and a site in Shipquay Place for the erection of a new Town Hall on condition that the Corporation paid a perpetual Fee Farm Grant of £400 a year.

A sum of £1,000 was granted towards the cost of enlarging Londonderry Cathedral; and a further grant of £200 a year for five years was made towards liquidating the debt incurred in the restoration of Coleraine Parish Church.

1886 The Society had a survey and valuation made of all their agricultural property held under lease, and it was decided that where the valuation was less than the rent received to reduce the rent to the amount of the valuation, provided the new rent was accepted by the lessee and recorded in the Land Commission Court. Subsequently the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887, was passed, empowering all leaseholders to apply to the Land Commission to have judicial rents fixed, in the same manner as provided in the Act of 1881 for tenants at will.

1887 In this year the Governor (Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, Bt., M.P.,) laid the foundation stone of the new Town Hall, Londonderry.

1888 A Select Committee was appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the terms of the Society's charter and administration of the property, etc. The Commission was presided over by the Right Hon. John Morley, M.P., and various reports were presented, but it was not until May, 1891,

that their final report was laid before Parliament. In the result no action was taken by the Government.

The new Guildhall in Londonderry was opened by H.E. 1889 the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (Lord Zetland) during the Visitation.

The Coleraine Harbour Commissioners applied for assistance to enable them to erect a training wall at the mouth of the River Bann, to prevent any further silting up of the sand, and, after the Society had appointed an engineer to report on the scheme, a grant of £3,500 was made.

A writ was served on the Society in an action taken against 1891 them and the Livery Companies in the Court of Chancery, Dublin, by the Attorney General for Ireland, with the object of having the Society and the Livery Companies declared to be Trustees as regards their Irish estates, and, *inter alia*, settling a scheme for the future management of the Society. The action was heard before the Master of the Rolls in Dublin in 1898, and resulted in judgment being given for the defendants (the Society and the Livery Companies) with costs.

Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, Bt., resigned the Governorship 1893 of the Society, which he had held for ten years, and the Court of Common Council elected G. Faudel Phillips, Esq., Alderman (created a Baronet in 1897) as his successor.

A site at Foyle Hill, Londonderry, was granted to the Corporation at a nominal rent for the purpose of erecting a Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

The Society voted £750 towards the enlargement of the 1894 Academical Institution at Coleraine.

At the instance of the Society Foyle College and the Derry 1895 Academical Institution were united and placed under one management. The Society promoted a Bill for this purpose, which became an Act in 1896, and granted an endowment of £800, and capitation fees up to £300 a year, and £220 a year for scholarships.

In lieu of the grants hitherto made to St. Columb's Col- 1896 lege, Londonderry, the Society granted an endowment of £500 a year, and allowed £100 a year to provide free scholarships.

In this year the Society granted the Corporation of

Londonderry £400 a year for ten years in connection with improvements to the water supply, and £125 a year for thirty years to the Coleraine Town Commissioners for a similar purpose.

1898 The Society decided, that in lieu of the grant of £400 a year to the Londonderry Corporation towards the extension of the waterworks, to make a free grant of the site of the Guildhall—the Corporation having paid to the Society since 1885 an annual rent of £400.

The trustees of the late Mr. Brooke, having come into possession of a sum of money left for the provision of a People's Park at Londonderry and finding the sum insufficient for the purpose, applied to the Society for assistance, and the Court voted £6,000 for this purpose.

1899 In connection with the widening of Foyle Street, Londonderry, the Society granted £2,100 to the Corporation to enable them to acquire the tenants' interests in buildings to be demolished for the improvements, and also vested a field at Lone Moor in the Corporation for a recreation ground for children.

1900 The Society granted the Coleraine Urban Council £70 a year for thirty years in connection with the enlargement and improvement of the Town Hall, and made a free grant of land to the Council to form portion of a public park (Anderson Park).

1901 The Society granted £300 towards the erection of a Methodist Church in Carlisle Road, Londonderry, and £200 in connection with the Strand Road Presbyterian National Schools.

1902 The Society parted with their interest in slob-land near Londonderry Bridge for purposes connected with the Great Northern Railway. Two-thirds of the slob-land when reclaimed was handed over to the Port and Harbour Commissioners for public use.

1903 The slob-lands at Myroe and Ballykelly were seriously damaged by a severe storm; the Society contributed £1,500 towards the cost of repairs and allowed the tenants three years' abatement of their rents.

In July of this year T. M. King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra visited Londonderry and were presented with an address from the Society.

The Irish Land Act was passed affording facilities to the agricultural tenants to purchase their holdings on favourable terms. The Society's agricultural tenants applied for leave to purchase; 198 holdings were dealt with, and the Commissioners fixed the total amount to be received by the Society at £99,207, but required that all interests secured or chargeable on the lands should be discharged. These secured interests consisted of Londonderry Bridge Bonds, Coleraine Bann Bonds, and a loan from the Commissioners of Public Works. After discharging these obligations an amount of £17,638 remained. Part of this sum was received in Consols, and the remainder was invested by the Society.

The Governor, Alderman Sir G. Faudel-Phillips, Bt., 1906 G.C.I.E., retired, and the Court of Common Council unanimously elected Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bt., as his successor.

The Society granted £1,000 to the Londonderry Borough Council for works in Brooke Park in order to provide work for unemployed.

In order to assist the Coleraine Urban Council in their 1907 scheme for the provision of workmen's dwellings, the Society granted a site in Society Street, Coleraine, at a nominal rent of £1 a year for so long as used for that purpose.

The Society granted £1,000 to the Londonderry Corporation to assist them in providing accommodation at Lone Moor Fields for the North-West of Ireland Agricultural Society's annual show, conditional upon the Agricultural Society paying the sum of £800 towards the work.

The Local Government Board (Ireland) applied to the 1908 Society for assistance in connection with proposed sewage works at Shantallow and Ballynashallog, and the Court agreed to contribute a sum not exceeding £500 towards the proposed improvement.

The Guildhall at Londonderry, erected at the Society's expense in 1890, was destroyed by fire on April 19th. The Derry Corporation applied for assistance, and the Court granted £5,000, conditional upon the total expenditure not exceeding £16,300. The memorial stone was laid by the Governor (Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bt.) at the Visitation in 1909.

Subsequently it was found that the proposed building would not provide all the accommodation required, and the Council were therefore obliged to accept a tender for £24,000, and applied to the Society for consent to the increased expenditure. This the Society gave, and the Council borrowed the necessary sum on the security of the rates. The principal and interest of the sum was to be repayable in fifty years, at an estimated rate of about £600 a year, and in 1910 the Society undertook to pay this amount each year until the loan was extinguished.

The use of drift nets for salmon fishing off the coast was found to be seriously affecting the salmon fishing in the Foyle and Bann, and the Society took action against the drift-net fishermen to restrain them from using drift nets for salmon fishing off the coast. The Society were supported in their action by the Fishermongers' Company and by the fishery
1909 lessees. Early in 1909 the case was heard by the Master of the Rolls (Ireland), who decided against the Society. The Society appealed against this decision, and the appeal was heard in 1910 in Dublin, the judgment of the Master of the Rolls being confirmed. The Society, however, took the case to the House of Lords, but this further appeal was also dismissed in January. The same year, however, the Department of Agriculture in Ireland held an inquiry into the use of drift nets, at which the Society was represented by counsel, the result being that the use of drift nets longer than 1,500 yards was rendered illegal, and the capture of salmon by drift nets was prohibited within a mile of the mouth of the Bann.

The Londonderry Corporation unanimously resolved to offer the Freedom of the City of Derry to the Governor, Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bt., in recognition of his and the Society's prompt and sympathetic consideration and aid in the restoration of the Guildhall. The Freedom of Derry is very rarely granted, and there is no record of any former Governor having received it. The Certificate of Freedom was presented in a gold casket to the Governor during the Visitation.

A grant of £500, subsequently increased to £600, was made towards the erection of St. Eugene's National Schools in the Northern Division of Londonderry.

During the Visitation the vacant site in the Diamond, 1910 Londonderry, where the old Town Hall originally stood, was handed over to the Council for use as an ornamental garden, to be maintained at the expense of the Society.

The new Guildhall for Londonderry was nearing completion, and, on the suggestion of the Governor, the Livery Companies were invited to provide suitable stained glass windows for the building. Windows were also presented by the Governor, by former Governors of the Society and Mayors of Derry, and ten past Deputy Governors also subscribed and presented a window.

The Society agreed to assist the Coleraine Harbour Commissioners in carrying out an extension and improvement of the harbour by a grant of £2,500, payable by yearly instalments of £250. 1911

The bastions on the city walls of Londonderry were laid out as ornamental gardens at the expense of and maintained by the Society.

The Society granted a further sum of £200 a year for 1912 three years towards the upkeep of the Coleraine Academical Institution.

This year was the tercentenary of the Society. To 1913 celebrate this event the Society gave the lower portion of the principal window in the Assembly Hall of the Londonderry Guildhall. The window portrays in stained glass historic scenes connected with Derry and the Society. The beautiful upper lights were presented by the Grocers', Drapers', Fishmongers', Skinners', and Vintners' Companies, and the window was unveiled during the Visitation, when a ball was given at Guildhall to the inhabitants of Derry and Coleraine.

The citizens of Londonderry, to commemorate the tercentenary, and in appreciation of the Society's work and influence, provided by public subscription a portrait of the Governor, Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bart., which was hung in the Guildhall of that City; a beautifully bound album, containing illuminated addresses to the Society and to the Governor, was presented to the Society, and in addition, various other interesting presentations as souvenirs of the event were made to the Governor and Deputy Governor.

During the visit to Coleraine this year the Society gave a stained-glass window for the Town Hall in commemoration of their 300th anniversary. An address from the Urban District Council and the Harbour Commissioners, contained in an illuminated album and other interesting presentations were made, including some very handsome specimens of Irish linen given to Lady Newton on behalf of the linenworkers of Coleraine.

The Society before leaving Coleraine entertained at a dinner in the Town Hall the members of the Urban Council, the Port and Harbour Commissioners, and the leading inhabitants and clergy of the county and district.

- 1914 Owing to the outbreak of the Great War the usual annual Visitation to Londonderry and Coleraine was not made this year.
- 1915 The annual Visitation was resumed this year. The Society agreed to preserve the site of the water bastion at the East Wall, Londonderry, and had it railed in and planted with shrubs, etc.
- 1916 A new survey of the Society's estates was made—the previous one having been made in 1858.
- 1917 As the lease of the Foyle and Bann fisheries expired in 1919 the Society negotiated with the lessees for a fresh lease, but were unable to come to terms. The fishings were therefore advertised and in the following year (1918) let to Sir
- 1918 Charles Petrie, Bt., for 31 years at an increased rental. Several fishery rights and privileges were acquired by the Society and incorporated in the new lease.

The Port and Harbour Commissioners, Londonderry, leased from the Society the slob-land known as Madam's Bank for 100 years at a graduated rental. The Commissioners leased the land thus acquired to the North of Ireland Shipbuilding Company for an extension of their works.

- 1919 The Society contributed to the War Memorials to be erected in Londonderry, Coleraine and Limavady.

Extensive repairs were carried out to Ballougry and Culmore schools, and the Society also authorised improvements to their schools in Coleraine at a cost of nearly £1,000.

Owing to the disturbed state of Ireland and of London- derry in particular no Visitation took place this year. A Scroll of Honour was placed in the Society's schools at Coleraine detailing names of the boys educated at the schools who lost their lives in the Great War.



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