

**The ancient halls of the city guilds / drawn in lithography by Thomas R. Way, with some account of the history of the companies, by Philip Norman, F.S.A.**

**Contributors**

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ANCIENT HALLS  
OF THE CITY  
GUILDS





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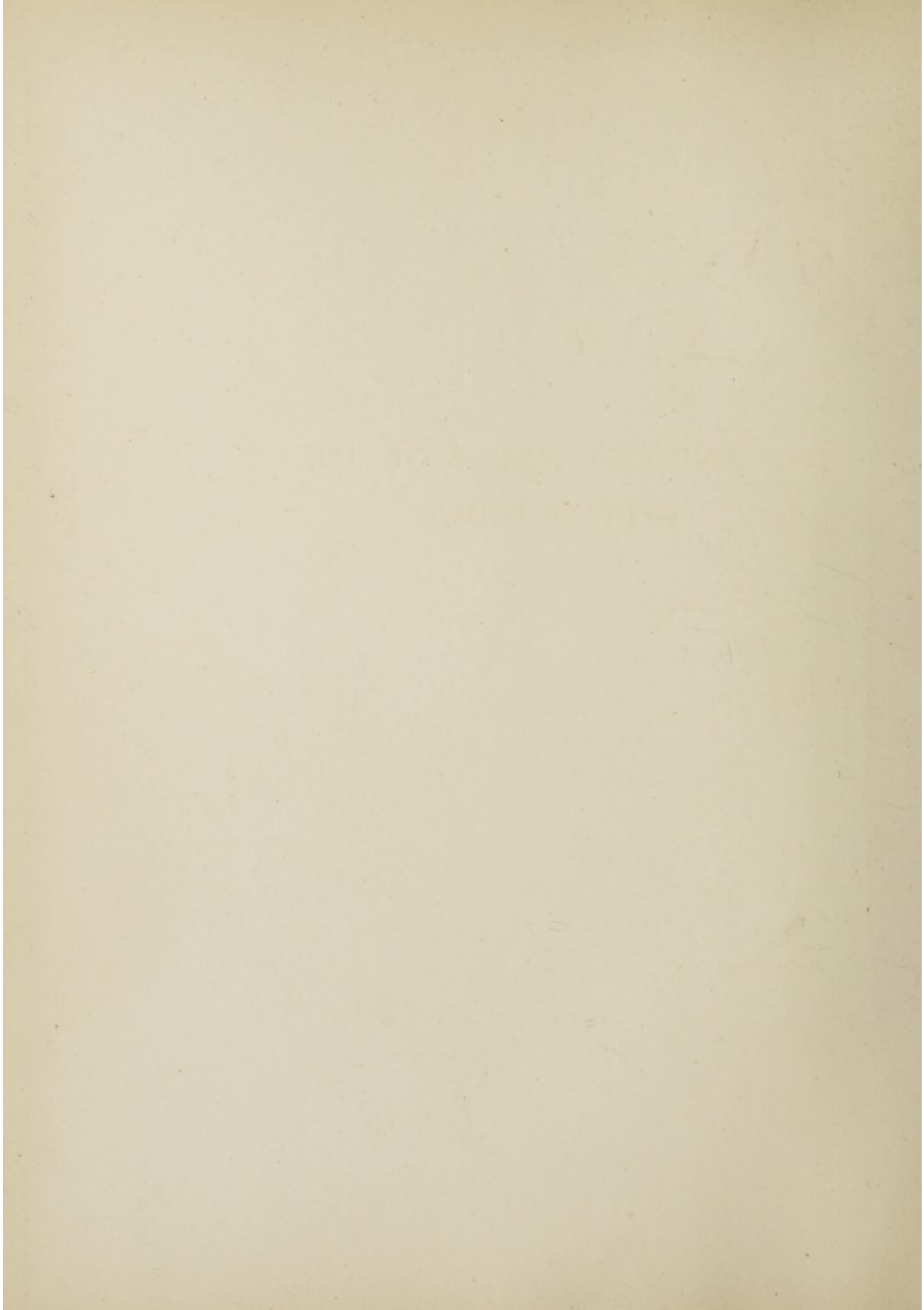
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THE ANCIENT HALLS OF THE  
CITY GUILDS



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THE LITHOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN PRINTED BY  
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*J. R. Way.*



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78 1861



THE ANCIENT HALLS  
OF THE  
CITY GUILDS

DRAWN IN LITHOGRAPHY BY  
THOS. R. WAY

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY  
OF THE COMPANIES BY  
PHILIP NORMAN, F.S.A.



LONDON: GEORGE BELL AND SONS. MDCCCIII

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## PREFACE

SOME three years ago Mr. Philip Norman took a small party of members of the Art Workers' Guild to visit the halls of the Mercers', Skinners', and Brewers' Companies and astonished them with the beautiful interiors, and in some instances exteriors, preserved by these Guilds. To those who have not had the privilege of seeing them, their very existence is undreamed of, hidden as they are in most cases behind blocks of offices in the tortuous back streets of the city.

How differently our city has grown up from those delightful old towns in Flanders, where the homes of the Guilds are built round the sides of some great square, with the Hôtel de Ville or great market building with its vast belfry as a dominating feature—and even too, as at Brussels, the ancient palace of the kings. It is a pity that the same scheme was not carried out in London, and a great square made, with the Guildhall as the dominating feature. Then perhaps there would have been less temptation to the Companies to rebuild their halls, giving over the frontages to blocks of offices and banks. The value of these sites is now so enormous that there are but few Companies which have not given way to the temptation.

In my last volume I attempted to gather together the



Ancient Royal Palaces in and near London—the official residences of the Sovereigns of our country; and the present subject—the official residences of those merchant princes who have so greatly helped to build up our country's greatness—seemed a fitting sequel. Few indeed of the City Halls can compare in age with some of the Palaces, nearly all having been destroyed in the Great Fire; yet most of those illustrated in this book were rebuilt within a few years of that catastrophe, and many of the finest buildings are the work of Sir Christopher Wren and his immediate followers. They are thus of very great artistic as well as antiquarian interest, and worthy to rank with the Royal Palaces, with some of which Wren's name is also closely connected. The many fine modern halls lie out of the scope of this work in which, with the single exception of the Fishmongers', none built later than the eighteenth century have been included.

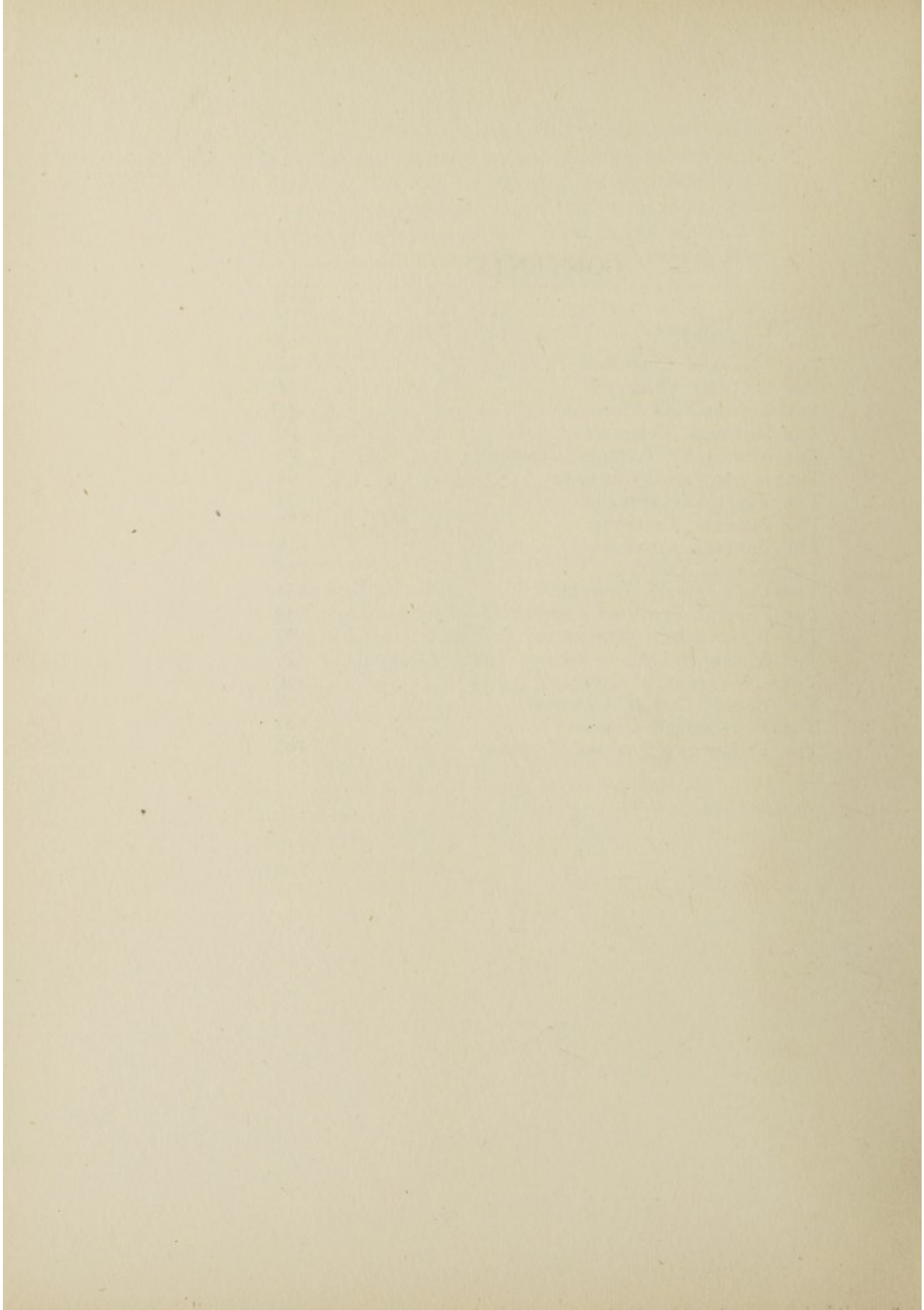
I have been fortunate in persuading Mr. Philip Norman to lay aside his brush for awhile and to give some of the fruits of that intimate study of the history and antiquities of the City of London which entitle him to rank as one of the first living authorities on the subject. I desire to offer him my thanks not only for the original idea of the volume, but for the untiring manner in which he has helped me during its progress.

My thanks are also due to the Masters and Wardens of the Companies to whom I applied for permission to make the drawings, they having in each case given me the freest access to their buildings and every facility which I needed to complete my work.

T. R. WAY.

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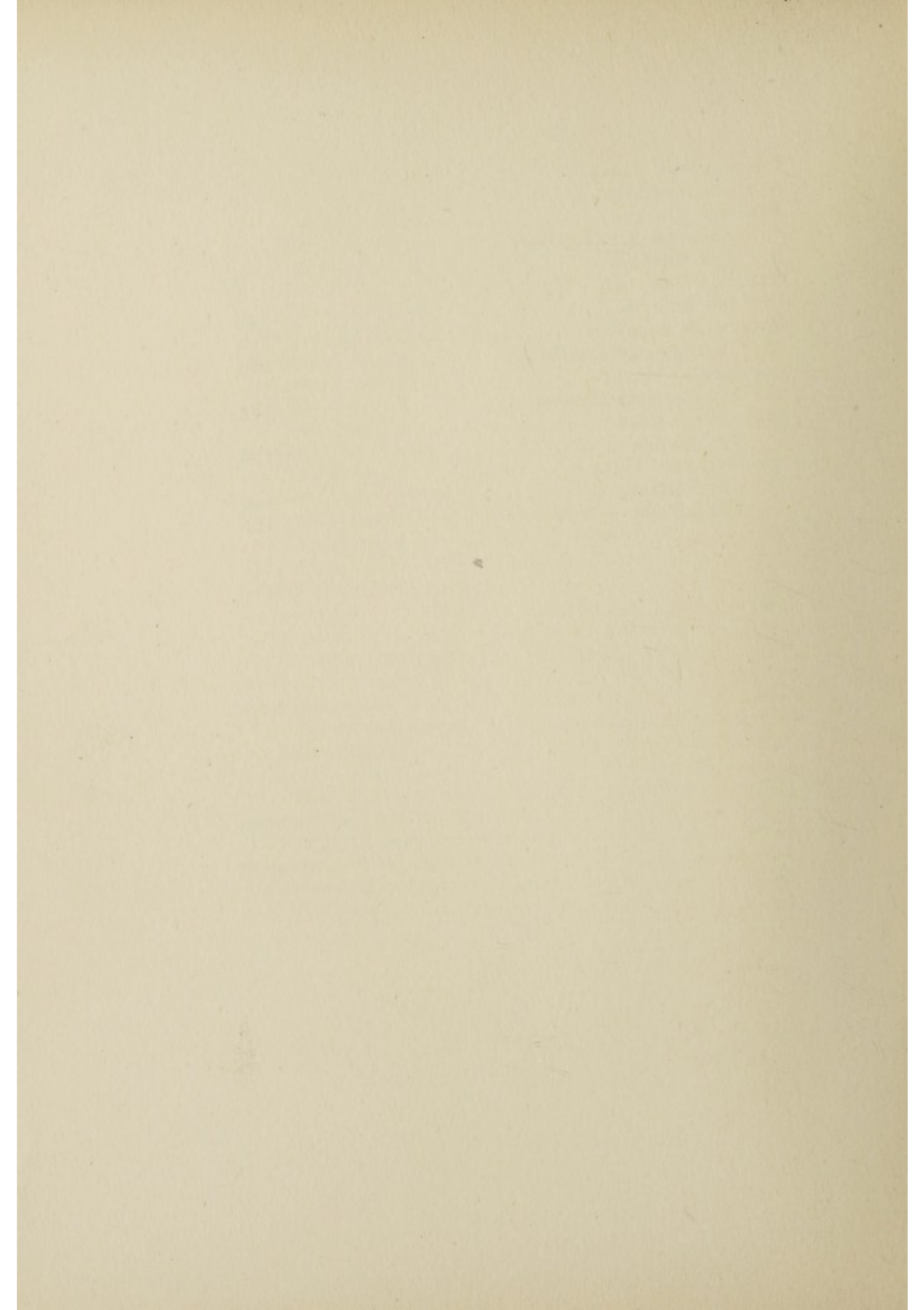
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## INTRODUCTION.

**M**R. WAY having proved to us again and again that London, in spite of fogs, street improvements, motor cars and other drawbacks, is full of picturesque charm, has now made a series of illustrations of the old halls connected directly or indirectly with the corporate life of the City, and it is my privilege to write the accompanying notes.

We are all well acquainted with the fact that the Lord Mayor is a most important personage, and that year after year the duties of his office are admirably discharged. We have all seen the Guildhall and the Mansion House, and have a dim notion that certain City Companies justify their existence not only by giving excellent dinners, at which there is much post-prandial eloquence, but by generous outlay and sustained efforts to promote the well-being of their fellow-men. Now, however, that the City has ceased to be a place of residence, even Londoners (unless they happen to belong to one of them) as a rule know very little about these old Guilds, which in fact are numerous, some of them still powerful, and each with a good deal of interest in its history.

Without attempting to discuss the origin of Guilds in general, such as the Guild Merchant, Religious Fraternities, Frith Guilds and others, which would be out of place in a volume of this kind, it will be enough for us to remark that Craft Guilds, of which our City Companies are a survival, were organized by members of trades and handicrafts for the



purposes of mutual aid, of religious observance, and to create for themselves, as far as might be, a monopoly in each particular business, excluding all those who had not been formally admitted to it, the mediæval workers being in truth altogether opposed to freedom of industry.

Craft Guilds are first mentioned as having existed in London during the reign of Henry I. At the beginning, however, they had no official position, being merely tolerated on payment of an annual rent or ferm to the Crown. The oldest charter of incorporation known to have been granted to a City Craft Guild is that given by Henry II. to the Weavers' Company, confirming privileges possessed by them in the time of his grandfather, in consideration of a yearly payment of two marks of gold. It has on it the name and seal of Thomas à Becket, then chancellor.

When once a Company was constituted on a stable basis its members would naturally desire to obtain a place of assemblage, where they could meet together for purposes of social intercourse and business, and no doubt such places were acquired by the richer associations before any great lapse of time. Several of the City Halls had been originally private houses, left by members for the benefit of their Guild. Our information about them is somewhat scanty, but we know more or less what these early Halls must have been like, from the examples of Inns of Court and Chancery, College Halls, and last not least the Guildhall, which, although from the first it was far more important than the Hall of any City Company, was of a similar kind. Partly destroyed in 1666, it has since then been very much altered, but as we shall presently see, behind its mask of modern building and "restoration," the old features can be dimly discerned. The Great Fire, which partly burned the Guildhall, attacked unsparingly the Halls of City Companies, and chiefly from this cause, in part from later reconstruction, there



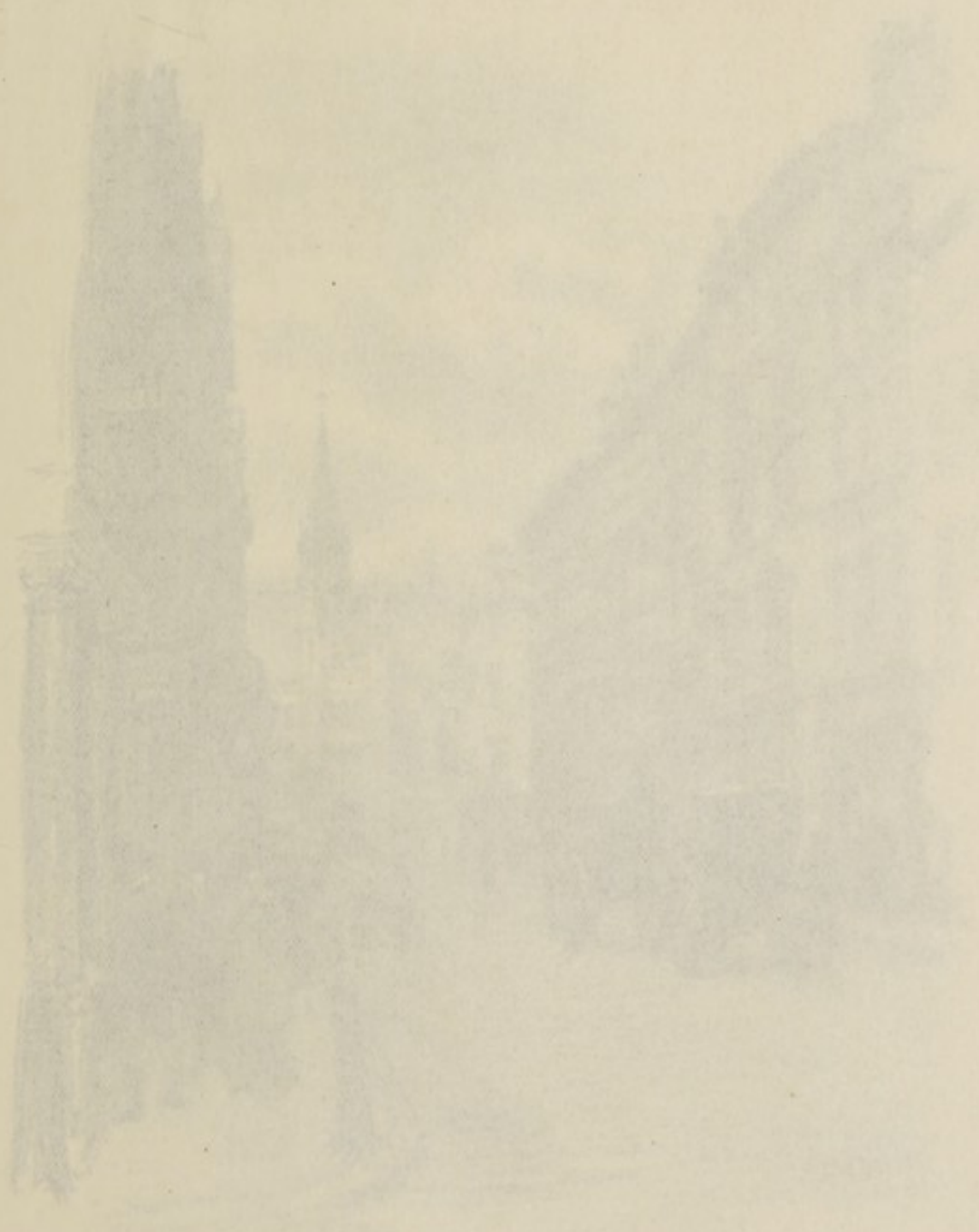
is now no Company's Hall which can claim to be mediæval, although, as we shall see presently, mediæval fragments and bits of later work, dating from before the Fire, remain in a few of them. The usual style of those which have escaped modern rebuilding is that which we owe in the main to Sir Christopher Wren, with perhaps added work by some Georgian architect. Almost forty Halls still survive, while the number of the Companies is nearer eighty than seventy. Of these, twelve rank as the Great Companies, to one of which in former times it was necessary for the Lord Mayor to belong. There are, by the way, three degrees of membership to a City Company—the possession of the Freedom, membership of what is called the Livery, and a place on the governing body called the Court of Assistants. The Liverymen of the Companies, who are also Freemen of the City, elect most of the City officials, and propose each year to the Court of Aldermen two Aldermen, one of whom is chosen by that body to be Lord Mayor. Until the Reform Act of 1832 they had the exclusive right of voting for members of Parliament for the City. As to the origin of the term *Livery* when thus applied, it may be remarked that in ancient times every full member of a Guild became entitled to wear its Livery, which was uniform in shape and colour for all the members. In its modern sense, to take up the Livery means to acquire the right of voting. From the use of this word in connection with the Guilds they are often called Livery Companies.

Mr. Way has drawn for us the Guildhall, the centre of civic life; he has stood at street corners and sketched quaint old houses, almost elbowed out of existence by staring modern ones; he has introduced us to rooms splendidly adorned and famous from their associations. He finds, however, as we have found, that it is not always the wealthiest Guilds, or those with the fullest historical interest, whose buildings attract



one the most, it is often those of secondary importance, with means enough to meet their everyday requirements, but not to tempt them to rash architectural display. The home of such a Company is now and then, by a happy coincidence, placed in some quiet lane into which the roar of London hardly penetrates. Thither, as to a harbour of refuge, we have found our way, after struggling with the full tide of traffic in the neighbourhood of the Bank or the Royal Exchange; and seeing before us a quaint doorway with cleft pediment, surmounted by a shield of arms, we were tempted to ring the bell and to place ourselves under the charge of some kind official, who looked as if he ought by rights to have been dressed in a square-cut coat with long-flapped waistcoat and the other garments of a sober citizen of the reign of Queen Anne. Here we found not splendour but harmony; the place seemed fashioned for the student and recluse, as much at least as for the man of business.

In such delightful nooks has Mr. Way refreshed his spirit, and drawn for us the quiet Courtyard, the massive Staircase with its turned balusters, the Court-room hung with the portraits of worthies, once famous, now for the most part forgotten, and the well-proportioned Hall which still retains, in general plan at least, some hint of its mediæval ancestry.

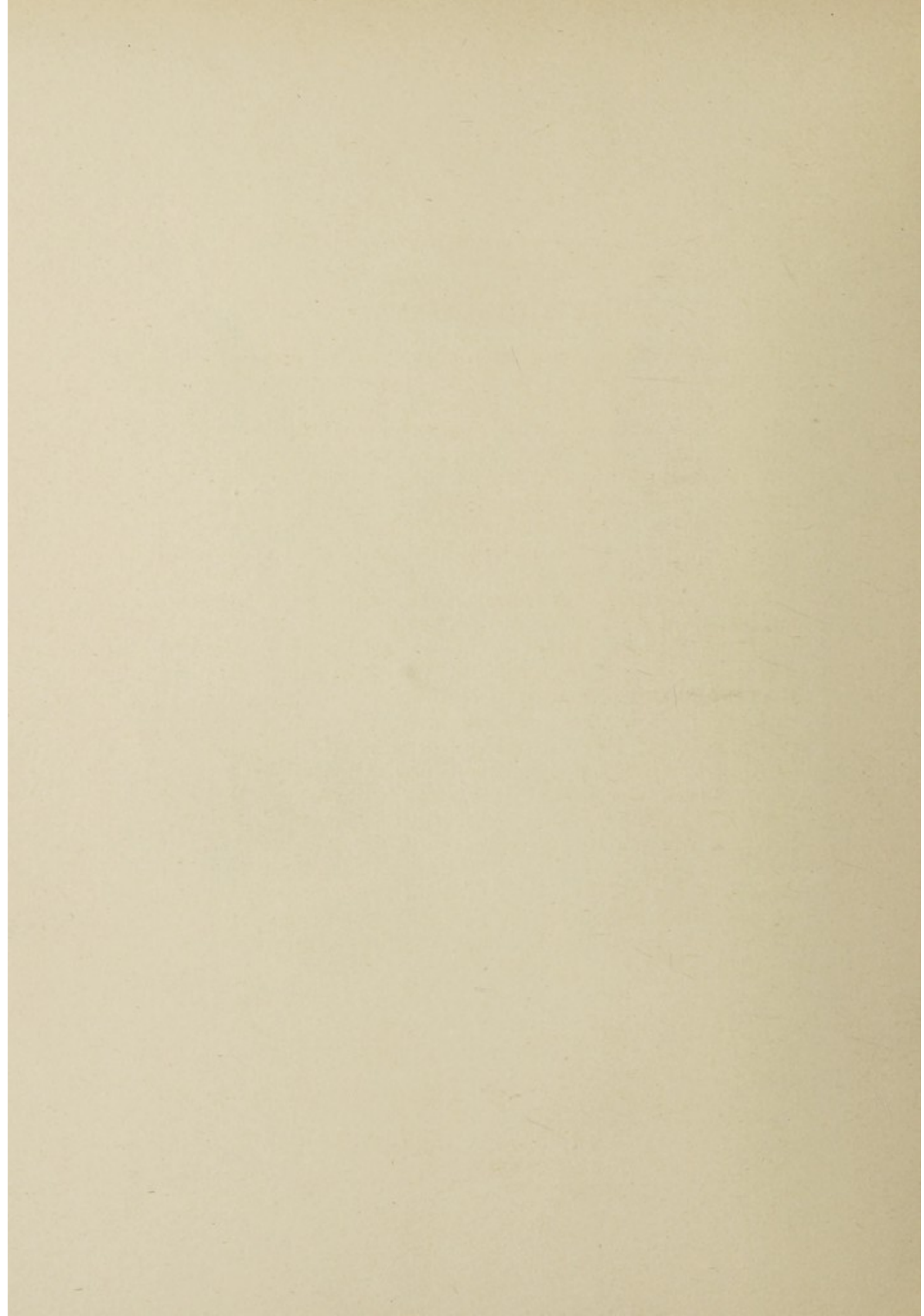




now the most, it is often those of secondary importance, with means enough to meet their every-day requirements, but not to exempt them to such architectural display. The home of such a Company is now and then, by a happy coincidence, placed in some quiet lane into which the roar of London hardly penetrates. Thither, as to a harbour of refuge, we have found our way, after struggling with the full tide of traffic in the neighbourhood of the Bank or the Royal Exchange, and seeing before us a quaint downway with cleft pavement, surmounted by a shield of arms, we were tempted to ring the bell and to place ourselves under the charge of some stout official, who looked as if he ought by rights to have been dressed in a square-cut coat with long-flapped waistcoat and the other garments of a sober citizen of the reign of Queen Anne. Here we found not splendour but homeliness; the place seemed fashioned for the student and recluse, as much at least as for the man of business.

In such delightful nooks has Mr. Way refreshed his spirit, and drawn life in the quiet Courtyard, the massive Staircase with its twisted balusters, the Court-room hung with the portraits of ancestors, once famous, now for the most part forgotten, and the well-proportioned Hall which still retains, in general appearance at least, some hint of its mediæval ancestry.







## THE GUILDHALL.

AS the Lord Mayor is the most important civic personage, so is the Guildhall by far the most important civic building. Although as a piece of architecture now thoroughly incongruous, it has at least the merit of usefully fulfilling its purpose; while there is a certain element of picturesqueness in the fact that here may be seen, strangely united, the active conditions of modern life, with the forms and memorials of remote antiquity. For the man who wishes to make himself acquainted with the places representative of corporate life in the City of London, it is best to begin with this busy centre, and afterwards to visit the quiet Halls of the Companies.

The Guildhall, with its main entrance from the yard of that name at the north end of the comparatively modern King Street, Cheapside, is of uncertain age; those best able to judge consider that it existed at least as early as the twelfth century. Stow says that the original Guildhall stood in Aldermanbury, and that "the courts of the mayor and aldermen were continually holden there until the new bery court or Guildhall that now is was built and finished." He adds that he himself saw "the ruins of the old Court-hall in Aldermanbury, which of late has been employed as a carpenter's yard." The late Mr. J. E. Price, however, in his descriptive account of the Guildhall, published by the Corporation, showed that this must have been a mistake, and



that there is no evidence of the Guildhall having ever stood on a site other than that which it now occupies. The fact is, that it was at first much smaller, covering the western part only of the present site, and that it had an entrance up a passage from Aldermanbury.

An enlargement of the ancient building doubtless took place in the year 1326, when a grant of timber and lead was made towards the works then being carried on at the Hall and Chapel. By 1411 the old Guildhall had become inadequate for its purpose, and, as we are told by Stow and Fabyan, the task of rebuilding it was begun; "towards the charges whereof the Companies gave large benevolences; also offences of men were pardoned for sums of money towards this work, extraordinary fees were raised, fines, ameracements, and other things employed during seven years, with a continuation thereof three years more." The rebuilding took a long time; it is recorded that in 1414 or 1415 Henry V. granted to the City free passage for four boats by water, and as many carts by land, with servants to each, to bring lime, rag, and freestone for the work at Guildhall. Further help was given by gifts and bequests of individual citizens. Thus in 1422 the executors of the famous Richard Whittington, doubtless carrying out his wishes, contributed £20 towards the paving of the Great Hall, and the next year £15 more "to the said pavement with hard stone of Purbeck"; they also glazed some of the windows. Whittington or his executors also helped to build the east end of the Guildhall, and on the east side of what is now called Guildhall yard they built a Chapel with a library adjoining it on the south. Other portions dating from the earlier years of the fifteenth century were the Mayor's Court and the Council Chamber, and last of all, namely, in 1425, "a stately porch entering the great hall was erected." According to Stow, money was given in 1481 by William



Hariot (or Heriet), mayor, "to the making of two loovers in the said Guildhall, and towards the glazing thereof," but apparently they were not put up until ten years afterwards. A kitchen was added in 1501, "by procurement of Sir John Shaw, goldsmith, Mayor, who was the first that kept his feast there." To meet the expenses then incurred, the various City Companies contributed, the Mercers £40, the Drapers £30, and so on in proportion to their means.

The Guildhall was much injured in the Fire of 1666. It was restored shortly afterwards at great cost, nearly £35,000 being expended on it. Of the mediæval building not much remains that is visible, at least above ground. The walls of the great Hall are chiefly ancient, as is the very fine crypt beneath, and to the north of it one can discern some fragments of the old kitchen and bakehouse; part of the south porch also remains. Before the Great Fire the Hall had a timber roof in the style of the time of its erection. The woodwork having been destroyed, the walls, which before had been only about 30 feet in height, were raised 20 feet, and were surmounted by a flat roof covered with lead in place of the former high pitched one. This continued until 1866-7, when the whole was thoroughly "restored," with the addition of a lofty open timber roof, and inside it now has the appearance of a new building. The dimensions are, length 152 feet, width 49 feet, and height 89 feet to the ridge of the roof. It contains monuments of historic interest, but feeble, perhaps one should say pernicious, as works of art, to the great Lord Chatham, to William Pitt, to Lord Nelson, to the Duke of Wellington, and to Beckford the Lord Mayor, father of the author of "Vathek."

The two giants now in the gallery at the west end of the Hall are known as Gog and Magog, but according to F. W. Fairholt, who published a little book about them in 1859, their real names were Gogmagog and Corineus. Such



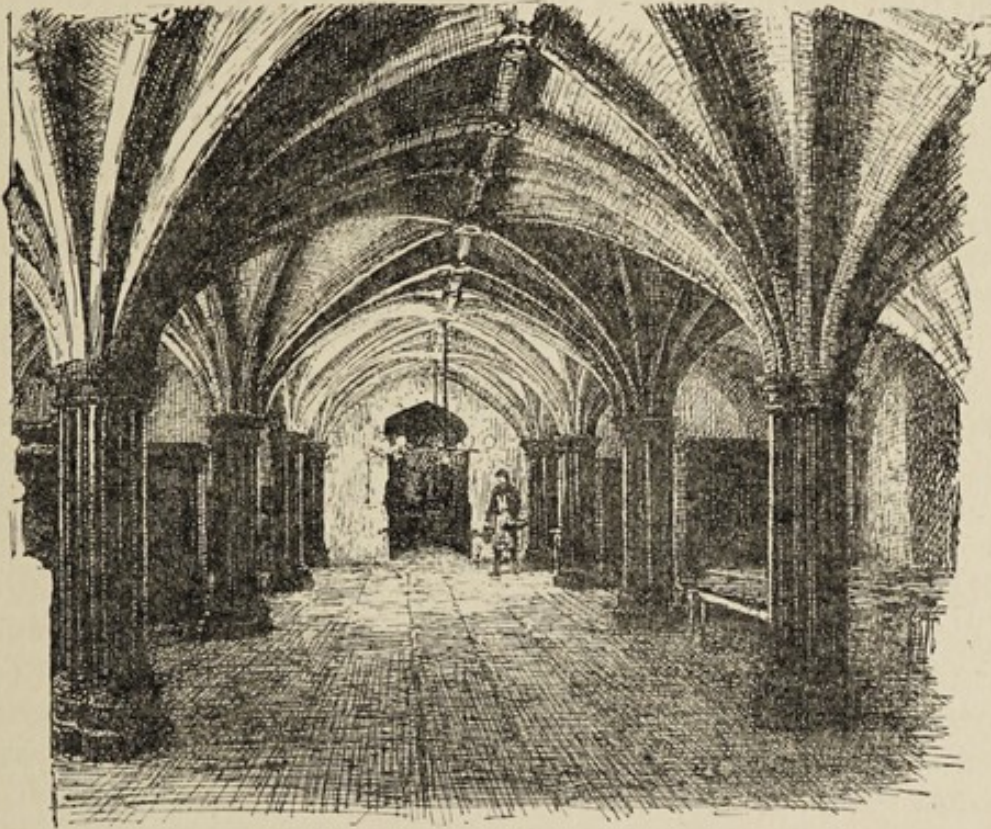
figures were often carried about in procession through the City from the sixteenth century onwards. Thomas Jordan, the City Poet, tells us how in the Lord Mayor's show of 1672, "two extreme great giants, each of them at least 15 foot high," were "drawn by horses in two several chariots, moving, talking, and taking tobacco as they rode along." These giants, which were of comparatively light material, appear to have escaped the Great Fire, but, having become old and dilapidated, in 1707 they were replaced by the present figures—the work of Richard Saunders, a carver of King Street, and captain in the City train-band. They are of wood and strongly constructed, although hollow within, being evidently meant, not to be carried through the City on festive occasions, but for a permanent place in the building. Until certain alterations in 1815, they stood, as Hone tells us, with the old clock and a balcony of iron-work between them, over the stairs leading from the Hall to the Courts of Law and the Council Chamber.

In the Great Hall various important meetings take place. On a raised dais at the east end, called the Husting, is held the Court with that name, of ancient origin; the Husting Rolls of the wills of citizens, still preserved, go back to 1258-9, and those of deeds relating to the tenure of land in the City, to the year 1252. Here also are held the Common Halls, which may be briefly described as meetings of members of the various City Companies. They are held on Midsummer day for the election of Sheriffs, on Michaelmas day for the election of the Lord Mayor, and on other special occasions. The full title of a Common Hall is "The meeting of Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several Companies of the City of London in Common Hall assembled." A public dinner is given in this Great Hall every 9th of November by the Lord Mayor just elected; men of high distinction are always among the guests. A curious



account of such an entertainment is to be found in Pepys's Diary under the date October 29, 1663.

For the artist or antiquary by far the most interesting part of the structure as it now stands is the Crypt extending under the Hall. It consists of two almost equal portions. The eastern Crypt, 76 to 77 feet in length by about 46 feet,



THE EASTERN CRYPT. GUILDHALL.

and of an average height of 13 feet 7 inches, dates no doubt from the rebuilding in 1411. It is vaulted and groined, being divided into bays, four from east to west, and three from north to south, by six clustered columns each consisting of four shafts. In the north and south walls are mullioned windows now partly blocked up; through one of them on



the south side there is now a passage communicating by steps with the upper hall. The shafts are of Purbeck marble, the capitals, bases, and vaulting ribs of freestone, the filling-in being apparently of chalk. At the intersections and meeting-points of the ribs are handsome carved bosses, with coats of arms, sculptured roses, heads, and other designs. The east end has a fine doorway of a style in harmony with the crypt, and on each side of it, in the thickness of the walls, are small staircases which formed a means of access to the hall above, but the upper openings, if they still exist, are blocked by wainscoting. This Crypt was visited by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, July 9th, 1851; it now serves in part the purpose of a kitchen; there are boilers and other apparatus used at the Lord Mayor's feast.

The western Crypt is divided from that just referred to by a stone wall with a plain pointed doorway in the middle. Its vaulting was supported by octagonal pillars two feet in diameter, corresponding with pillars still attached to the walls, and also forming what may be called three aisles. In the west wall, windows are still visible at the ends of what would have been the north and south aisle, and probably there was a doorway in the middle; there are also remains of windows at the sides. This crypt, however, has been very much mutilated, the vaulting has been destroyed and it has been blocked up by brick walls and vaults. One cannot now tell the reason; perhaps it suffered greatly in the Fire, or it may have fallen into a state of natural decay, for this has all the appearance of being older than the eastern Crypt, which is not to be wondered at, because, as we have already pointed out, when the Guildhall was rebuilt in the early part of the fifteenth century it was lengthened eastward. We may suppose, therefore, that the then existing Crypt, or part of it, was retained, and probably it dates from the enlargement which had taken place in 1326.



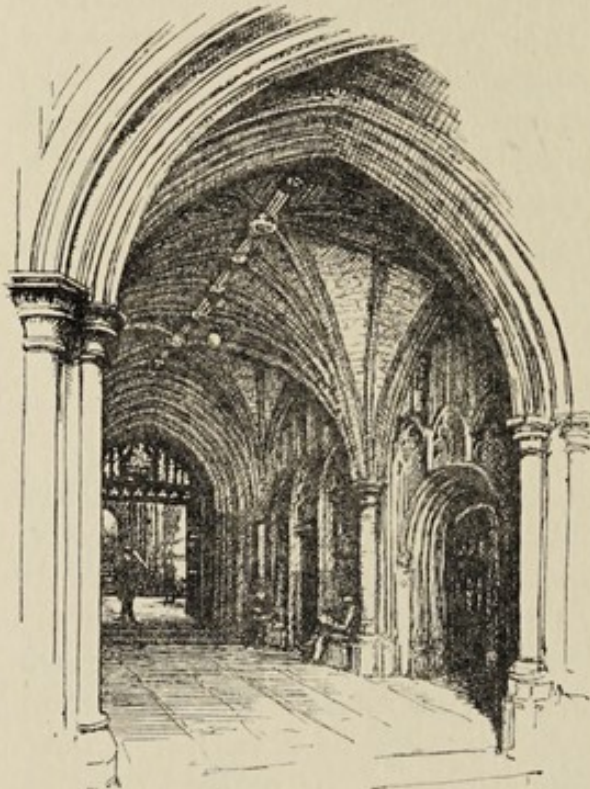
We have seen that the south entrance of the Hall from Guildhall Yard is through a Porch dating from the earlier part of the fifteenth century. This was at first a stately structure ; and, before the alterations made by Dance, was a good deal in advance of the main building ; externally we get a very good idea of what it was like from drawings by Carter and Schnebbelie, although in their time it had already been mutilated. It consisted of two stories ; below there was the existing archway of entrance, and on each side were ornamented niches with statues, two on each side. These four lower figures represented Religion, Fortitude, Justice, and Temperance. On the upper story were two other figures ; between them had been originally a figure of our Saviour, as we learn from some lines written by a certain William Elderton in the sixteenth century, beginning :

Where Jesu Christ aloft doth stand  
Law and Learning on either hand.

This figure doubtless disappeared when everything considered by the authorities to be a mark of Popery was swept away, and the City arms were probably added by Wren's advice in 1671. In 1789, George Dance junior, the City surveyor, vulgarized the front of the Porch, leaving it much as it appears at present. The six statues, which until then had been spared, were taken down and deposited in a cellar. They were afterwards given to Thomas Banks the sculptor, and at his death in 1809 were bought by H. Banks, M.P., for £100. Sir A. Westmacott, R.A., writing on sculpture in 1846, mentions them as choice examples of the union of Italian with English feeling in art during the early part of the sixteenth century. Within the Porch its chief points of interest are to a great extent uninjured. There are two bays of groined vaulting, the walls having recessed mouldings and traceried panels. The ribs of the vaulting, which spring from half



pillars, are at their intersections adorned with bosses of varied designs. The two chief bosses bear the arms of Edward the Confessor and of Henry VI. ; among the rest are the Angel of St. Matthew, the Lion of St. Mark, the Bull of St. Luke, and the Eagle of St. John, also the letters *i h s*. By a minute of the Common Council of October 19, 1899, authority was



THE PORCH. GUILDHALL.

given to expend a sum not exceeding £250 on the restoration of this Porch, which was accordingly done. The opening on the west side, into the Comptroller's office, is now one panel further north, or nearer the Guildhall, than it was before, an old doorway having been found here. The comparatively modern doorway, used until this restoration, was then closed up.

In the Hall opposite to the Porch entrance is an important archway, the position of which seems to have been shifted in

the early part of the last century, being placed one bay further west than before. It leads to the new Council Chamber, the old Chamber, the Aldermen's Court-room, and other offices, each no doubt suitable for its purpose, and as fine as paint and gilding can make it, but of no special interest to us, except, perhaps, the Court-room of the Aldermen, which has a ceiling painted by Sir James Thornhill.



Mr. J. E. Price says that there was certainly a Chapel here as early as 1280, but having become too small for its purpose, it was pulled down in 1429 by licence of Henry VI., and, as we have seen, was rebuilt from funds supplied by Whittington. It was next to the Guildhall, and is shown in various old views. On the front were latterly three stone figures, representing Edward VI., Charles I., and perhaps Elizabeth. In course of time services were discontinued, the Chapel became a Court of Requests, and in 1822 it was pulled down. The statues found their way into a mason's yard, but were afterwards recovered, and in 1839 were placed on pedestals at the east end of the interior of the Guildhall. In 1865 they were removed, and now adorn the staircase leading from the modern Library to the Museum.

The books of the old Library were "borrowed" by the Protector Somerset, and even in Stow's time it was dismantled, having become a storehouse for clothes. Abutting on the south side of the Chapel, after the Great Fire stood Bakewell or Blackwell Hall, a large brick building with two courts behind extending as far as Basinghall Street. Here in mediaeval times, and later, there was a great market for woollen cloth. It had been first rebuilt in the sixteenth century, and was cleared away in 1820 to make room for the Bankruptcy Court. The present Library with its Museum, and the Art Gallery, cover the site of the old Chapel and a great deal more; the former was opened in 1872, and the latter in 1886. It is needless to say that these modern institutions have done their work admirably, and the writer is indebted to their permanent officials for frequent acts of courtesy and most useful help. The same remark applies to the Records Department of the Town Clerk's Office. The Museum contains a great collection of interesting objects, chiefly found in the City; but unfortunately nothing can be seen there without artificial light, for it is, in fact, the base-

ment of the Library, on about the same level as the closely adjoining Crypt. There is also, at present, no printed catalogue, so that except in the case of a few large objects one finds it difficult seriously to study the contents.



## THE MERCERS' COMPANY.

THE order of precedence of the City Companies, now rigidly adhered to, is not dependent on the dates of their various Charters of Incorporation, but was in early times a matter of etiquette, regulated by the mayor and aldermen ; indeed, until the reign of Henry VIII. it seems to have varied considerably. Be this as it may, the Mercers' is the first of the twelve great companies on ceremonial occasions, it also stands in the first rank on account of its antiquity and very great importance. The origin of the Guild is almost lost in myth, but an undoubted fact is its early association with the Hospital of St. Thomas of Acon, or Acres, in London, which was founded by Thomas Fitz Theobald de Helles and Agnes his wife, sister of St. Thomas à Becket, about the year 1190, or twenty years after the death of the latter. Bishop Tanner in his "Notitia," quoted by Dugdale, says that "this hospital consisted of a Master and several Brethren, professing the rule of St. Austin, but were of a particular order which was about this time instituted in the Holy Land, viz., Militiæ Hospitalis St. Thomæ Martyris Cantuariensis de Acon, being a branch of the Templars." The Fraternity of Mercers, not yet incorporated, were made patrons of the newly founded hospital, and their close connection with it continued until its suppression in 1538. The Mercers, however, are thought to have been settled near the site of the present hall and chapel in Cheapside at a much earlier period than the date of the foundation of the hospital, their quarter being

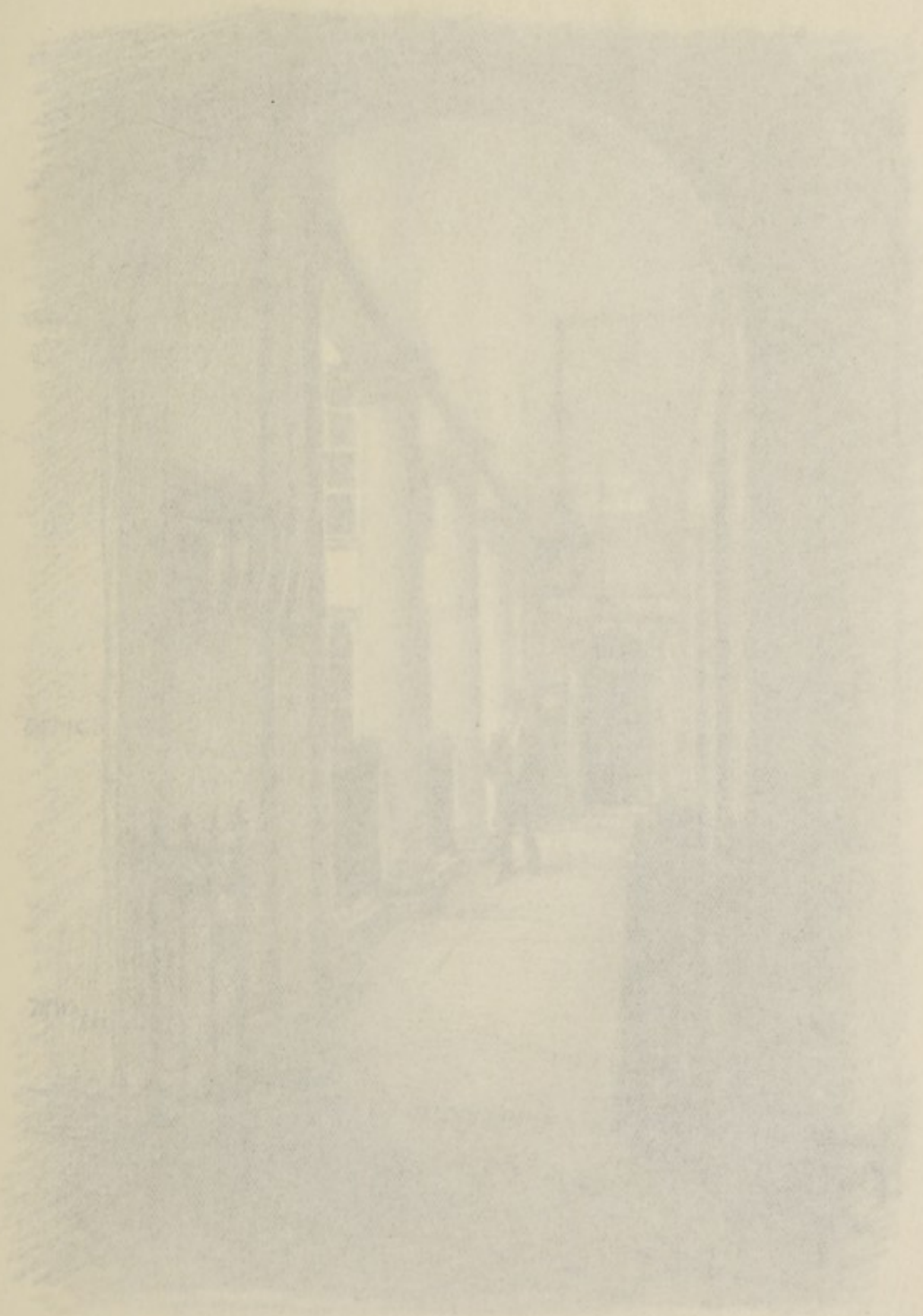


distinguished as the Mercery. In the midst of the group of buildings occupied by them had stood the house of Gilbert Becket, probably himself a mercer, about whom it has been said, that, when travelling in the Holy Land, he was taken prisoner by the Saracens, that he escaped with the help of the Emir's daughter, who had fallen in love with him and whom he had converted to Christianity, that she followed him to England, knowing only two words of English, that they met and were married. One of these incidents is the subject of a charming picture by the late G. J. Pinwell, called "Gilbert à Becket's Troth." In fact, however, the wife of Gilbert had belonged to Caen, he himself having been a merchant at Rouen. He settled in London, rose in course of time to the rank of Portreeve, an office equivalent to that of Mayor, and founded a mortuary chapel in Pardon churchyard by St. Paul's Cathedral, where he and his wife were buried.

Among the Company's documents, under the year 1227, is a copy of a grant by Thomas, son of Theobald de Helles, to the hospital of St. Thomas, "of all the land with appurtenances formerly belonging to Gilbert Becket, father of the blessed Thomas the Martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury, where the said blessed Martyr was born, to build a church in honour of Almighty God and the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the same most glorious Martyr, which land was in the parish of St. Mary de Colechurch, between the land which was of Thomas, the son of Andrew Bokerell towards the west, and lands which were of Peter, son of William Fitz Aluph, and Womalen de Halywell towards the east, and extended from the street of Cheap to the lands which were of Radulph Aswy and Acon and Helie sons of Leo Blomidi a Jew, to hold to the said master and brethren and their successors, in free pure and perpetual alms."

In the interesting account of the hospital, by Sir John







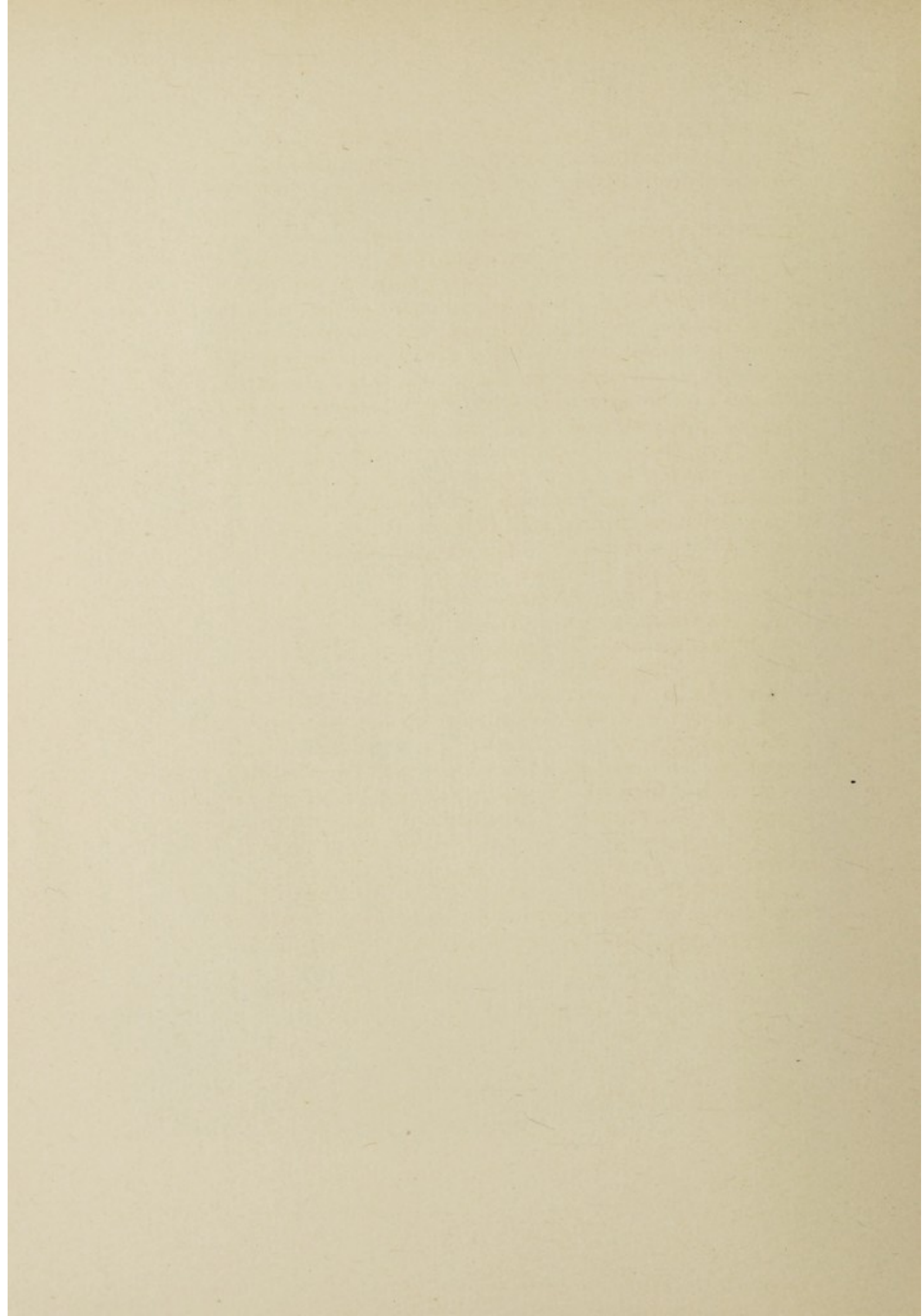




DESIGN

W. W. 1872







Watney, F.S.A., the present clerk to the Mercers' Company, (privately printed) we are told that two facts connected with it have had great influence on the commerce and the education of London. "The first in order of date was the foundation of a second fraternity of St. Thomas à Becket of Canterbury, for trading beyond the seas, afterwards known as the Company of Merchant Adventurers. This Company indubitably originated in an association by members of the Mercers' Company—and, we may be sure, took its name from the foundation under whose shelter the Mercers grew and prospered. Its original charter was granted by King Edward I. in 1296." The Merchant Adventurers became gradually detached from the Mercers in the fifteenth century, this result being partly brought about by the opening of the trade to Flanders in 1497, and yet more so in 1564, when Elizabeth by charter constituted them a distinct Corporation in England, but the last link between the two was only severed by the Great Fire, which destroyed the office held by them under Mercers' Hall. A relic of the connection is preserved in the Master's hammer, which bears the arms of the Tudor sovereigns and the Tudor rose, together with the arms of the Merchant Adventurers, and the maiden's head of the Mercers on the pommel. The fact connecting the hospital with education is the establishment of a school within its precincts, after a petition to Parliament in the twenty-fifth year of Henry VI., or 1447. Perhaps there had been a school long before in the immediate neighbourhood of Mercers' Hall, but the school founded in 1447, and refounded at the Reformation, was that known as the Mercers' School, which has perhaps never done more useful work than it is doing at the present day.

To return to the early history of the Mercers. They seem to have been recognized as a Guild as far back at least as the year 1172, and their high position in early times is



shown by the fact that they had as a member the third Mayor of London—Robert Serle, known as le Mercer, who first held office in 1214. But for some reason not quite apparent a long interval elapsed before their first Charter of Incorporation, which was granted by Richard II. in 1393. In that document the Mercers are described as “Homines de Misteriæ Mercerae” which is usually translated, “Men of the Mystery of Mercery,” the word mystery, as thus used, not implying any secret association, which would be the case if it were derived from the Latin *mysterium*, but merely office or ministry, from *ministerium*. It should therefore, by rights, be spelt with an *i*, to distinguish it from the better-known word with similar sound, but a different meaning.

Herbert, in his account of the twelve great companies, tells us that mercer in ancient times was the name not of a vender of silk but of a dealer in small wares. “Merceries then comprehended all things sold retail by little balance or small scales (in contradistinction to things sold by the beam or in gross), and included not only toys, together with haberdashery and various other articles connected with dress, but also spices and drugs; in short, what at present constitutes the stock of a general country shopkeeper.” It is probable, however, that those who were called mercers dealt in most commodities except food and the precious metals. The silk trade, which latterly formed the main feature of the mercers’ business, is stated in an Act of 33 Henry VI., to have been carried on by the “silkwomen and throwsteres of London,” who, in petitioning for that Act, prayed that the Lombards and other strangers might be hindered from importing wrought silk into the realm, contrary to custom, and “to the ruin of the mystery of silk-making and other virtuous female occupations.”

After the year 1300 the mercers seem to have extended their trade very much. An Act of 37 Edward III. would



appear to prove that they then sold woollen cloth but no silk. In 1351 several Mercers were imprisoned in the Tower for a violent assault on Lombard merchants, with whom, no doubt, there was trade rivalry. In spite of the remarks quoted above from an Act of Henry VI. the Mercers were in his reign undoubtedly dealing to a large extent in silk and velvet, having resigned the sale of the minor articles of apparel into the hands of the Haberdashers, whose Company may be considered a branch of the Mercers, and broke off from them, being incorporated in 1448. The Mercers gradually became a mixed body of merchants and shopkeepers, and this is manifest from their ordinances of 1504. Some were probably both merchants and shopkeepers; thus Sir Roger Martin, who died in 1543 and was buried in the church of St. Antholin, Budge Row, was described on his monument as "mercier and merchant," and Lady Campden, widow of the man perhaps best known as Sir Baptist Hicks, who had kept a mercer's shop at the White Bear, Soper Lane End, Cheapside, in her will, dated 1642, not only distinguishes between the commercial and shopkeeping part of the Company, but between those among the shopkeepers who still sold silks in the Mercery and those who were dealers in them elsewhere.

We have seen that from the latter part of the twelfth century the Mercers as a guild had held a strong position in the City, and they became still more powerful by their appointment as trustees of the charities of the famous Richard Whittington, repeatedly Master and Warden of the Company, and (if one counts a short tenure of office after the death of Adam Bamme), four times Mayor of London. This great merchant, whose knighthood appears to be as legendary as the popular tale about him and his cat, which has delighted children for so many generations, and which, although accepted as true by Samuel Lysons and Sir Walter Besant,



seems merely to be an adaptation of a similar legend known before Whittington's time in Persia and elsewhere, has left a more solid claim to remembrance owing to his great wealth and his charities. Whittington died in 1423 at his house in the parish of St. Michael Paternoster Royal. Here, on what afterwards came to be known as College Hill, he founded an almshouse or hospital (removed to Highgate in 1808). Shortly after his death certain ordinances were drawn up for the management of Whittington College, as it was usually called. These ordinances are preserved with the utmost care at Mercers' Hall; attached to them by way of frontispiece is a miniature painting—a fine example of early fifteenth century art—which represents the close of Whittington's earthly career. He is shown in bed, his face thin and beardless, and by his side, receiving apparently his last instructions, are his executors, the names being written on their dresses; one of them is John Carpenter, the compiler of "Liber Albus," and to whom we owe the City of London School. Whittington's physician is also there, and a group of bedesmen with rosaries stand at the foot of the bed.

Another notable event in the history of the Mercers' Company was their selection by John Colet, Dean of St. Paul's, son of Sir Henry Colet, Mayor and Mercer, for the management of St. Paul's School, founded by him in 1512. Situated at the east end of St. Paul's Churchyard, it was rebuilt after the Great Fire, again rebuilt on the old site in 1623-24, and removed to Hammersmith sixty years afterwards. Still more power and influence have accrued to the Company from its connection with the celebrated Sir Thomas Gresham, who gave the Royal Exchange to the City Corporation and the Mercers' Company, on their undertaking to institute a series of lectures on Divinity, Civil Law, Astronomy, Geometry, Rhetoric and Physic, to be read in the



dwelling-house of the founder, bequeathed by him for the purposes of a college. Gresham's house stood in Bishops-gate Street, with the garden and offices extending to Broad Street. It was pulled down in 1768, the ground which it occupied being made over to the Crown for a perpetual rent of £500 a year. The present Gresham College, at the corner of Gresham Street and Basinghall Street, was built in 1843. The business connected with Gresham's gift and bequest is managed by the Gresham Committee, consisting of the Lord Mayor with other representatives of the City Corporation, and a select number of the Mercers' Company.

We have seen that the Mercers first dwelt about the site of the present Hall. They afterwards moved further west, to the part of Cheapside lying between Friday Street and the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, near the famous Cheapside Cross. Stow, in 1598, speaks of them as living chiefly in Cheapside, St. Laurence Jewry, and the Old Jewry. They lingered about the neighbourhood even after the Great Fire, as Strype records in his edition of Stow, published in 1720. The passage is worth quoting because it tells us the changes wrought here when this part of the city was rebuilt; it runs thus: "Beyond the Great Conduit, on the south side of Chepe, are now fine and large houses for the most part inhabited by mercers, up to the corner of Cordwainer Street (Bow Lane), which however in former times were but sheds or shops with terraces over them, as of late some remained at Soper lane end (Queen Street), where a woman sold roots and herbs. But these sheds or shops, by encroachment on the high street, are now largely built on both sides outwards and also upwards towards heaven four or five stories high." The offices of firms connected with the silk and lace trades are still rather numerous in Cheapside; but, as is the case with most of the city guilds, it is long since the Mercers' Company have had any particular



connection with the trade which they nominally represent. The reason of this is not far to seek. We must bear in mind that from time immemorial the freedom of a company could be obtained in four ways—by apprenticeship, which has to a great extent died out, by patrimony or inheritance from a father, by redemption or purchase, and by election *honoris causâ*. During the middle ages it was more usual for sons to follow their fathers' occupations than at present, but guilds into which members were admitted by patrimony must very soon have contained men of no occupation, or of occupations different to those from which the guilds derived their names. Moreover from an early period the freedom was occasionally bestowed on persons who had been apprenticed to any of the members irrespective of their callings.

In the year 1698 the Mercers' Company took up a scheme for granting annuities to the widows of clergymen at certain rates of interest, on sums paid during the lives of their husbands. The object was to pay off a load of debt with which the Mercers were then encumbered, but the rates of interest being too high, the result was that they got into further difficulties, and in 1754 had to petition Parliament. They then owed more than £100,000, part of which sum had been lent to Charles I. and to his opponents during the Civil War, with further liabilities in prospect, and their income was only £4,100 a year. Arrangements were made by Act of Parliament, 4 George III., which enabled them by degrees to free themselves from debt. It need hardly be said that, owing to wise administration and the immense natural increase in the value of their estates, since then, from the financial point of view, they have flourished exceedingly.

Amongst their property the Mercers possess many houses in London which are marked with the well-known arms,



a demi-virgin couped below the shoulders, with hair dishevelled, crowned, and issuing from clouds. These arms and the motto "Honor Deo" were granted in 1568; but the use of the maiden's head must have been considerably earlier. In 1541, after the purchase of the site of the hospital by the Mercers, the image of St. Thomas the Martyr, which stood over the great gate, was taken down by order of Secretary Cromwell and a maiden's head of stone set up in its place. Perhaps, however, the selection of the arms was partly made in honour of Queen Elizabeth. Strype says: "When any of this company is chosen mayor, or makes one of the triumphs of the day wherein he goes to Westminster to be sworn, a most beautiful virgin is carried through the streets in a chariot, with all the glory and majesty possible, with her hair all dishevelled about her shoulders, to represent the maiden's head which the company give for their arms; and this lady is plentifully gratified for her pains, besides the gift of all the rich attire she wears." In the mayoralty procession of 1686 there was such a chariot, said to have been drawn by nine white Flanders horses, three abreast, in rich trappings of silver and white feathers. The "maiden chariot" is described, in Elkanah Settle's account of the pageant, as "22 feet high, the whole chariot and also the wheels entirely of embossed work, all of silver, the canopy being most sumptuously enriched with angels, cherubim, etc." The arms and standing of the Company are thus alluded to in a song, first sung after a dinner given in honour of Sir John Peakes, mercer, who was Lord Mayor in 1686:

Advance the Virgin, lead the van,  
Of all that are in London free,  
The Mercer is the foremost man  
That founded a society.

*Chorus*: Of all the trades that London grace  
We are the first in time and place.



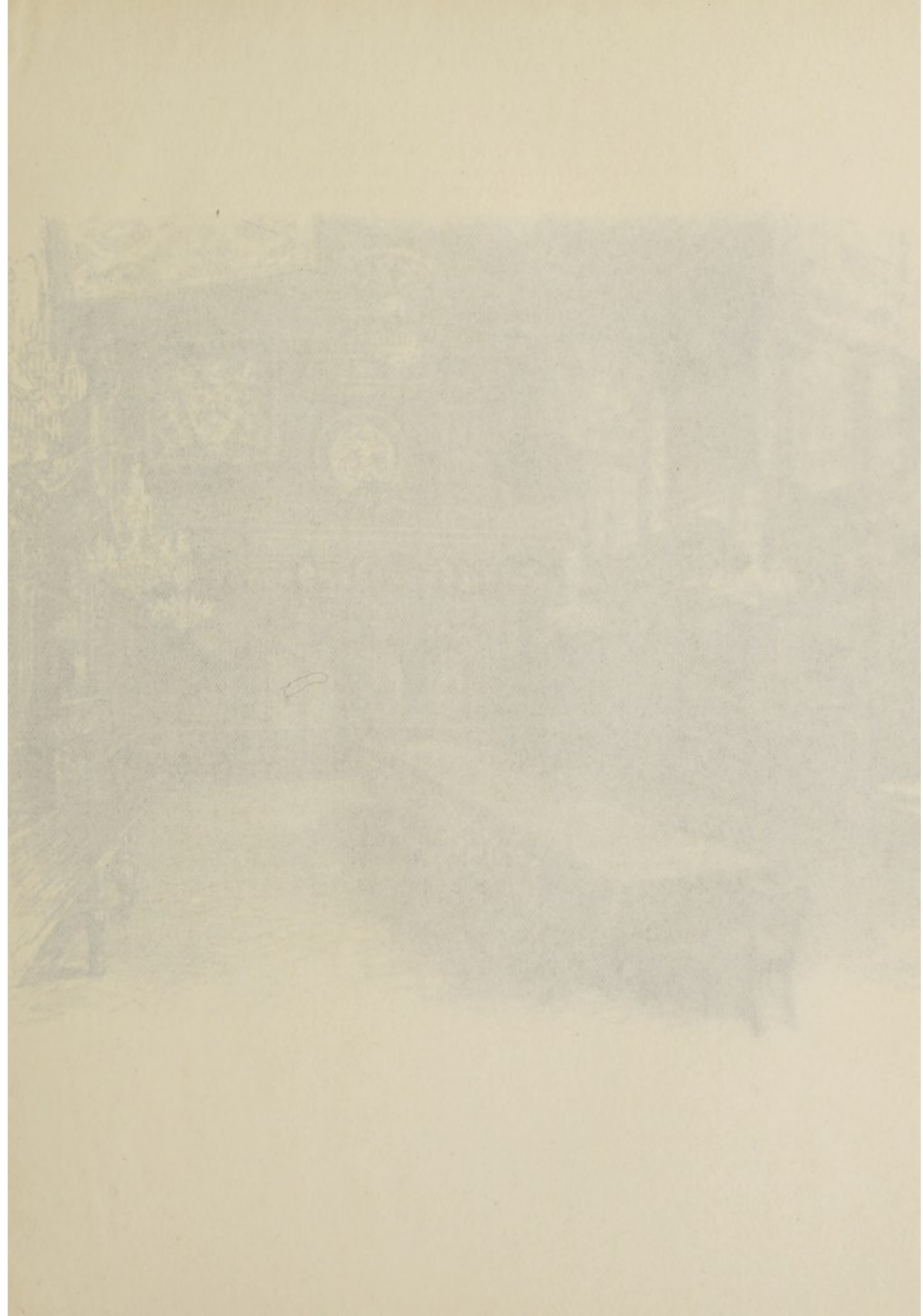
When Nature in perfection was,  
And virgin beauty in her prime,  
The Mercer gave the nymph a gloss,  
And made e'en beauty more sublime.

*Chorus* : In this above our brethren blest,  
The Virgin's since our coat and crest."

The maiden's head also appeared as the arms of the now defunct Pinners' Company, with the motto, "Virginitas et unitas nostra æternitas." It was assumed as a badge of the Parr family, previous to the marriage of Catharine Parr with Henry VIII. They derived it from the family of Ros of Kendal.

Of the original Hall of the Mercers' Company we have no special knowledge. For many years their Chapel formed part of the church of St. Thomas of Acon. In 1510 they found that they were much pressed for room in which to keep their banquet, and that the door of the church of St. Thomas was so near the Mercers' chapel, that people attending the latter were disturbed. The Company, therefore, negotiated with the hospital for the purchase of tenements, with their appurtenances, on the west end and south side of the church of St. Thomas, that is to say, nearer Cheapside, in order that they might enlarge the hall and chapel. The acquisition of this ground was a task of time and difficulty, but we learn from a patent roll of 1519, or 2 Henry VIII., that they were then building "a right goodly chapel, and also a house of stonework adjoining to the church of St. Thomas Acon—to the enlarging and beautifying of the said church—which house they intended, God willing, should not only serve for them to keep their courts and assemblies in, and at all times accustomed to have their common resort thither, to hold such counsel and recreations as of old times for the politic order and governance of the said fellowship they had used to do, but also for the honour of the king and entertaining ambassadors and other noble personages coming into the city."





When Nature in perfection was,  
And to give colour to her prime,  
The flowers gave her a blush & gloss,  
And made her beauty more sublime.

*Chorus:* In the world our beauties live,  
The flowers which perfume the air.

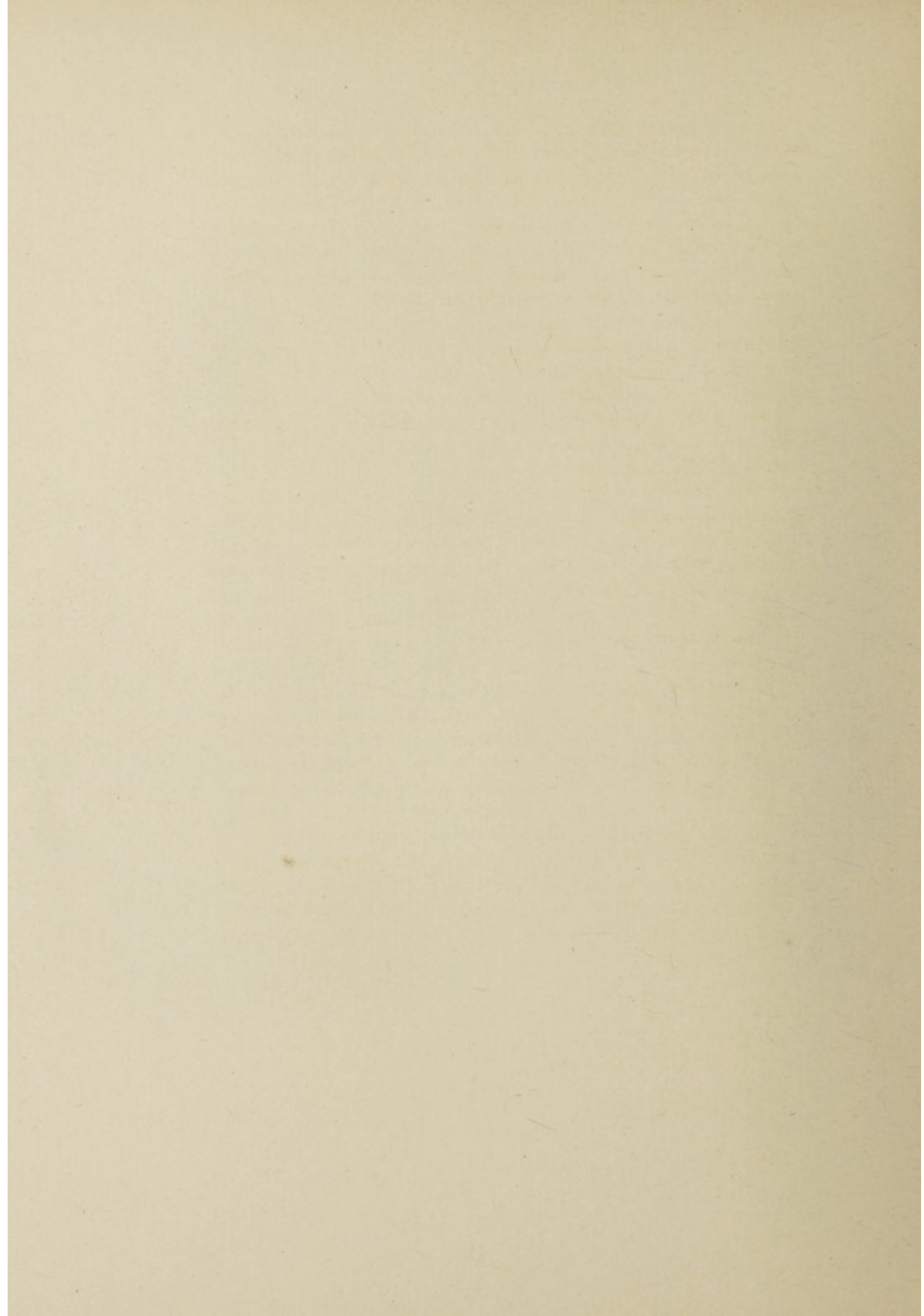
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License was therefore given to the master and wardens of the company to hire certain "freemasons and artificers," and also to provide stone, brick, timber, and other material necessary for the carrying out of the work. The building operations, which had been commenced in 1517, were not finished until 1522; the following year an artist from Antwerp was employed to carve the altarpiece of the chapel, which was consecrated in 1524. After this the Mercers ceased to use the chapel within the hospital church. The Hall is shown as an important building in the view of London by Van den Wyngaerde and in the plan attributed to Agas. The following description by Weaver proves that it was over the chapel: "Before the hospital, towards the street, was a fayre and beautiful chapelle, over which was the Mercers' hall, a most curious piece of work."

The hospital of St. Thomas of Acon having been surrendered to the king on the 18th of December, 1538, the Mercers' Company in 1541 bought it, with its various buildings, together with the church, rectory and advowson of St. Mary Colechurch, for the sum of £969 17s. 6d., the Company, among its obligations, covenanting to keep a free grammar school within the City of London perpetually. Sir John Watney tells us that the space covered by the buildings, which at the time of the Dissolution belonged to the hospital and the Company, extended from the corner of Frederick's Place and the Old Jewry southward to the small church of St. Mary Colechurch, an upper room on arches or vaults, at the corner of Cheapside, along that street almost to the corner of Ironmonger Lane, where was a house belonging to Elsing Spital, northward along Ironmonger Lane to the churchyard of St. Olave Jewry, then eastward along Church Court, turning to the south to the west end of Frederick's Place, and extending at the back of the houses on the south side of Frederick's Place to the old Jewry again.



The frontage to the Old Jewry was about 120 feet, that to Cheapside about 190 feet, and that to Ironmonger Lane about 140 feet, and the depth from Cheapside northward about 70 feet, and from Ironmonger Lane eastward about 75 feet.

The church of the hospital, which became the chapel of the Company, consisted of a nave with aisles, a chancel or choir, and various chapels, extending from the east end of the present Mercers' chapel, to the west end of the ambulatory or colonnade under the hall; it must therefore have been about 130 feet long by 40 to 45 feet wide. Here many famous people were buried, of whom record is preserved. On the north side of the church had stood the altar of St. Thomas "with the image of his putting to death," and on the stained glass windows events in the life of the saint had been depicted, but these marks of honour to his memory were destroyed at the Dissolution. In 1554, during the reign of Queen Mary, an image of St. Thomas was again set up, in place of the maiden's head, over the entrance towards the street, and was twice broken in the night by those who objected to it, but was not finally destroyed until 1559. Two years before this, the chapel under the hall was put in order for the purposes of the grammar school, space there being doubtless also found for the office of the Merchant Adventurers. The school, however, appears to have been moved, for a time at least, as we find that in 1575, on the advice of Sir Thomas Gresham, the chapel was let to Jefferey Duckett, a member of the Mercers' Company, that he might turn it into a shop, in which to carry on his trade of a linen-draper.

In 1645 we find the Mercers, through force of circumstances perhaps, agreeing to lend their church and hall to the House of Commons for a solemn thanksgiving after the battle of Naseby, but soon after, they petitioned Cromwell against quartering soldiers there, "because the hall was too small



and sermons to the lord mayor and aldermen and to the Italian congregation were made in the chapel, and a free school taught there, and besides the hall was defective in the roof."

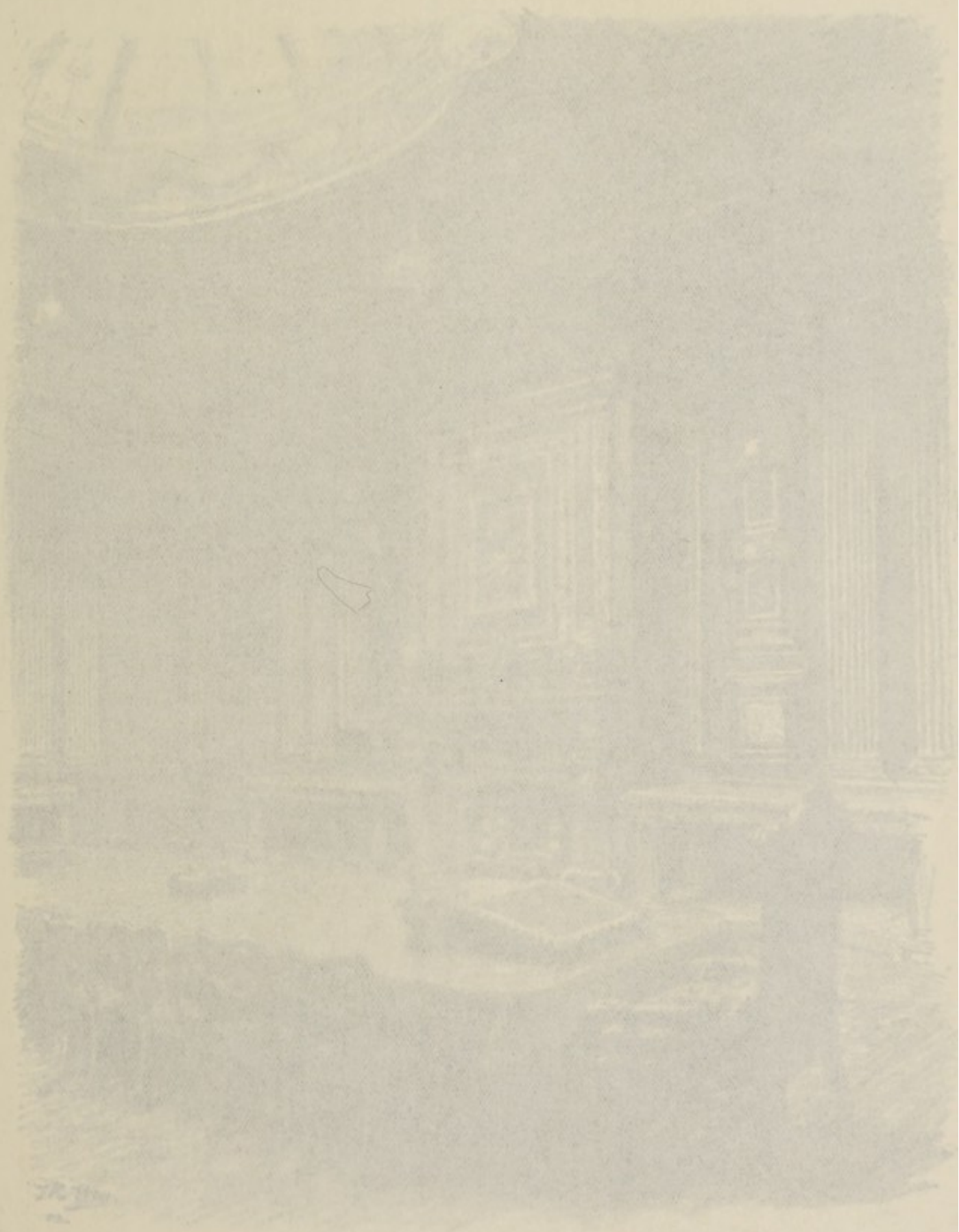
In the Great Fire, Mercer's Hall and all the surrounding buildings perished. Sir John Watney records that after the fire the Company first turned their attention to the rebuilding of the Royal Exchange, and St. Paul's and Mercers' schools, they then rebuilt their church, thereafter called the Mercers' chapel, and their hall and offices. For this latter purpose, Edward Jerman, their surveyor, had prepared plans, but dying before the work could be taken in hand, they were carried out by John Oliver, who succeeded him in the office of surveyor. Many of the old stones appear to have been used again. The present Mercers' Chapel, which dates from this re-building, is plain, but well proportioned, and has most of the old fittings. Its doorway may be seen in one of the illustrations to this volume, which is taken from the west end of the open ambulatory, and shows some of the columns supporting the Hall above. This stately room, where the Company first met on the 11th August, 1632, is approached by a staircase on the south side of the ambulatory; it has high panelled woodwork richly carved, and an ornamental plaster ceiling, the effect being enhanced by the banners which Mr. Way fortunately found displayed. Another drawing represents with admirable effect a portion of the Court-room on the same floor, which contains more than one fine picture. To the left of the mantelpiece, here shown, is a full length portrait on panel, of Sir Thomas Gresham, at the age of twenty-six, attributed to Holbein, but more likely by Girolamo da Treviso. It was painted on the occasion of his marriage with Anne, daughter of William Ferneley and widow of William Read, a Suffolk gentleman. The initials of Gresham and his wife, with the



motto LOVE SERVE AND OBEI are on the background on one side, and on the other is his merchant's mark surmounted by the date 1544, and THOMAS GRESHAM, 26. The frame, coeval with the picture, is ornamented with gold letters on a blue ground, the following sentence being repeated on its four sides, DOMINUS. MIHI. ADIUTOR. T. G. There are also in the same room a three-quarter length portrait of Gresham, and a small head. The portrait of Dean Colet strikes one as being later than his time, and that of Whittington is apocryphal. Another nice old room on the same floor is the Parlour, excellently lighted and in frequent use for purposes of business. A painting of the second Royal Exchange adorns the passage at the top of the staircase. Of late years the Company has added a gorgeous room for state occasions, when the entrance through the modern front in Cheapside is thrown open, the usual entrance being from Ironmonger Lane on the west side of the Company's buildings.

One of the facts marking the early importance of the Mercers' Company is that up to the end of the seventeenth century nearly seventy of its members had attained the rank of Mayor, or Lord Mayor as he is now called. Among them one finds a long list of men whose descendants have been ennobled. Thus Sir Thomas Coventry was ancestor of the present Earl of Coventry; Sir Geoffrey Fielding was ancestor of the Earls of Denbigh; Sir Geoffrey Boleyn was grandfather of Thomas Earl of Wiltshire, who was father of Anne Boleyn and therefore grandfather of Queen Elizabeth; the daughter of Sir Thomas Baldry married Lord Rich, himself sprung from Richard Rich, mercer, and in the female line ancestor of the present Lord Kensington; Sir William Holles was ancestor of the Earls of Clare of that name, and in the female line of other noble families; Sir Rowland Hill was a collateral ancestor of the present Viscount Hill. Sir Baptist Hicks, never Lord Mayor, was ancestor in

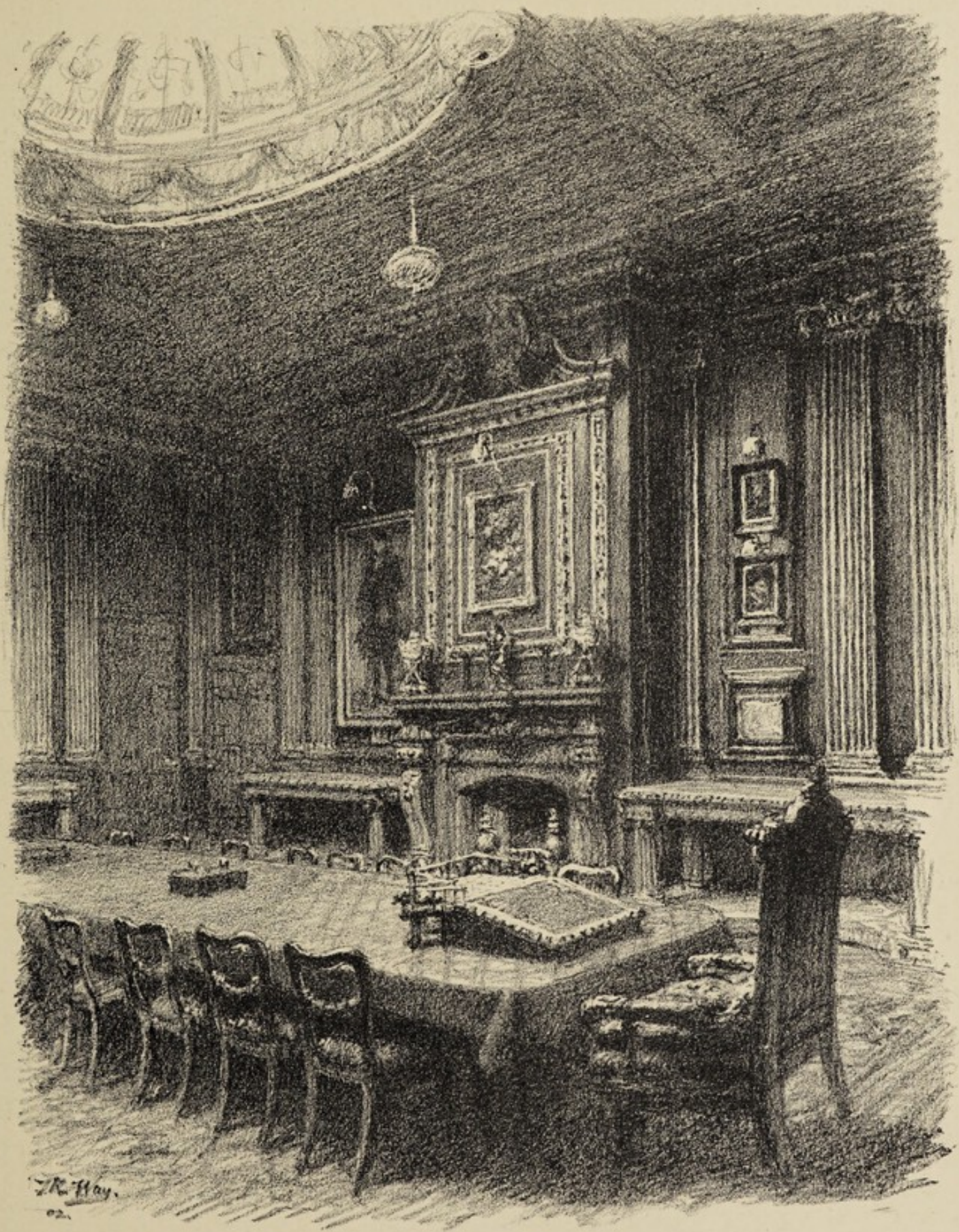




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J.R. Hay.

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the female line of the present Earl of Gainsborough. Four Greshams attained distinction, Sir Richard, Lord Mayor in 1537-38, was father of John, knighted by the Protector Somerset on the field of Mussleburgh in 1547, and ancestor of Lord Braybrooke; a daughter, Christian, married the wealthy Sir John Thynne of Longleat in Wiltshire, from whom is descended the Marquis of Bath; his second son, Sir Thomas, the founder of the Royal Exchange, left no legitimate descendant. His brother, Sir John, Lord Mayor in 1547-48, was ancestor of Marmaduke Gresham, made a baronet in 1660, whose representatives in the female line are the Leveson-Gowers of Titsey. Among illustrious honorary members the Mercer's Company claims to number King Richard the Second and Queen Elizabeth.

The Mercers possessed in early times a large quantity of silver plate, almost all of which was sold in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The oldest and most famous piece now in their hands is the Leigh cup given by Sir Thomas Leigh, Master of their Company in 1554, 1558 and 1564, and Lord Mayor at the accession of Elizabeth in 1558. He belonged to the ancient family settled at High Leigh in Cheshire, and married a niece of Sir Rowland Hill, much of whose wealth she inherited. Sir Thomas Leigh was ancestor of the present Lord Leigh of Stone Leigh, in Warwickshire, who has placed a brass to his memory in the ambulatory of Mercers' Chapel, where there are other memorial inscriptions. The cup weighs nearly sixty-six ounces. Sir John Watney tells us that it is said by tradition to have belonged to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon; it bears the plate mark of the year 1499-1500, and may be described as a silver-gilt grace cup with a cover 16 inches high and 6½ inches in diameter. The foot is supported on three pilgrim's bottles. On the top of the cover is a maiden seated, with a unicorn in her lap which has the word "Desyr"



engraved on its side. On the panels of the boss are coats of arms in enamel, namely, the arms of the City of London, of Sir Thomas Leigh, of the Merchant Adventurers' Company, of the Merchants of the Staple, the cross of St. George and the arms of the Mercers' Company. On two bands round the cover and body of the cup are the following lines in gold and blue enamel:

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

On the inside of the cover is engraved a double rose and the cup and cover are stamped with a maiden's head. The cup was, no doubt, a good deal altered at or shortly before the time when it came into the hands of the Company.

Another important piece of plate is the wagon and ton given by William Burde during his second wardenship in 1573; he was Master of the Company some years afterwards. Like the Leigh cup, they are said to have belonged to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon and were made at Breslau, it is thought early in the sixteenth century. The wagon, of silver gilt on four wheels, is moved about the table by clock-work, and is elaborately ornamented with scrolls, medallions and coats of arms. Above each pair of wheels is a stage with platform, and on each platform is a female figure standing on a pedestal. In front of the wagon is a wagoner with a low-crowned hat, made in the last century to replace one lost in the year 1643. Between the stages is a silver gilt barrel weighing forty ounces, and intended to contain sweet waters. It rests on a decorated stand and is surmounted by an ornamental design, having at the top an eagle.

There are three beakers given by John Banckes (who had been apprentice of Sir Baptist Hicks) bearing the date mark for 1604, and a silver gilt salt weighing over thirty-one



ounces, purchased from part of John Dethick's fine when he was admitted to the freedom in 1638. He was afterwards twice Master of the Company and Lord Mayor in 1656. Two staves or maces surmounted by the maiden's head were made by Edward Pinfold, a member of the company in 1579, who lived at the Black Lion in Lombard Street. Two large loving cups were presented by the Bank of England in 1694, the year of its establishment, for the use of the Company's Hall. Eleven spoons with pear-shaped bowls have engraved on their backs the arms of Whittington, and seven of them have marks which seem to indicate 1565. They were probably brought from Whittington College. The Company have also in their hands a massive loving cup and two salts from Trinity Hospital, Greenwich, the affairs of which they administer. The hospital was founded by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, who died in 1614. The cup has a date mark for the year 1616; the salts were made two years afterwards. There are other fine examples, described in Sir John Watney's admirable monograph.



MERCER'S HALL. COLONNADE



## THE DRAPERS' COMPANY

THE Drapers resemble most of the other important companies in the fact that they existed as a fraternity long before they were incorporated. The establishment of the Weavers' Guild in the time of Henry I., shows that there was then a considerable manufacture of cloth in London, and it must of necessity have been bought and sold. English cloth made of Spanish wool is mentioned in an ordinance of Henry II., and there are other early references quoted by Herbert in his account of the twelve great Livery Companies. The position of the cloth industry in the reign of Edward III. is clearly known. Observing that the woollen weavers were decreasing in number, he prohibited the export of English wool, and the import of cloth from abroad, and he invited weavers from the low countries, who were then considered the most skilful, to settle here in order that the methods of manufacture might be improved. It thus came about that many families of woollen and linen weavers arrived in England, and established themselves in Candlewick ward. They came from Flanders and Brabant, and had their separate meeting places, the former in St. Laurence Poultry churchyard, and the latter in that of St. Mary Somerset.

In 1361 the king removed the wool staple from Calais, and decreed that there should be staples of wool in nine English towns, the chief one being at Westminster. Some years later the headquarters of the staple appear to have been changed to Staple Inn, Holborn, and in 1397, a weekly



market was established for the sale of country cloths at Blackwell Hall, an order being made by the Common Council, eight years afterwards, that the keeper of Blackwell Hall should be appointed by the Drapers' Company, and presented to the Lord Mayor and aldermen for confirmation.

The Drapers' Company is stated, in the introduction to its ordinances of 6 Henry IV., to have been founded in the year 1332, but there are allusions to it very much earlier, though it is not mentioned among the eighteen adulterine guilds (so called) who were compelled to pay fines in 1180 in token of their allegiance to the Crown. In 1363 the Drapers paid the sum of 50 marks towards the expenses of the war with France, and in 1364 they received their first charter of incorporation. In a subsequent charter of 17 Henry VI., or 1438, they are styled the "Master, Wardens, Brethren, and Sisteren of the Guild or Fraternity of the blessed Mary the Virgin, of the Mistery of the Drapers in the City of London." Arms were first granted to the Drapers in 1439.

The Drapers in ancient times dwelt chiefly about Cornhill; after the coming of the Flemish weavers they spread into Candlewick ward, along Birchin Lane, and almost if not quite to Stocks Market. Lydgate in his poem called London Lackpenny, written in the reign of Henry V., says :

Then went I forth by London Stone  
Throughout all Canwyke Street  
*Drapers* much cloth me offred anone.

The account books of the Company begin in 1475, but the earlier ones are lost. Among the annual charges, says Herbert, are those for minstrels in accompanying the new sheriffs by water, and on attending the Lord Mayor's Show "potacions at our Lady Fair in Southwark," making the



Company's trade search, costs of the election feast, pensions of poor, payments for obits and chantries, together with such charges as were common to all the Companies when called upon by the state or the city for public purposes, as, to ride in procession, or assist with men and money on great emergencies. For instance, in November 1483, twenty-two members of the Livery received various sums, under the name of riding money, for attending the coronation of Richard III., when they were among the four hundred and six Liverymen "riding in murrey coloured coats," who formed part of the procession. In 1485 there is an entry of £2 for boat hire to Westminster when Parliament was sitting, "to put up our Bill for a reformation of cloth making." On that occasion they took with them on the barge, by way of refreshment, "pippyns," ribs of beef and a bottle of wine. In 1496, £4 was expended for "a riding to the King to Woodstock," at which place all the companies were obliged to attend "by my lord the mayors commandment." In 1499 there is a payment of thirty shillings "to Crosby, carpenter, for the fraym in Chepe, where we stod at the comyng in of the princes Dame Kateryn oute of Spayn in our livrey." In 1503 a great dispute took place between the Drapers and other companies about the dying of cloth, which was settled by the Lord Mayor and aldermen. In 1521 the Drapers were prominent in arranging about a contribution which the Government demanded from the Great Companies, towards the fitting out of ships of discovery, to be under the command of the famous Sebastian Cabot, but we may conclude, from the accounts of him by his biographers, that the contemplated voyage did not take place.

Non-freemen were excluded from the draper's trade, and members were not allowed to employ them ; the latter were enjoined on all occasions to keep the secrets of the craft. As happened elsewhere, women were not only admitted to



the freedom of the Company, but could carry on business and take apprentices, and when they died and were buried they were followed to the grave by other members with the same respect and ceremony as the men. Apprentices were kept under strict discipline, the punishment inflicted on them being sometimes of a singular nature. Thus, one John Rolls, having been guilty of a grave offence, was brought before the master and wardens on a court day, when, the case being proved, two tall men, their features concealed by hoods, entered the room "with two penyworth of burchen rods and there—w<sup>t</sup> owten any word spekyng, they pulled off the doublet and shirt of the said John Rolls, and there vpon hym (beyng naked) they spent all y<sup>e</sup> seid rodde for hys said unthryfty demeano<sup>r</sup>."

At St. Bartholomew's and Southwark fairs the Drapers with the Merchant Taylors examined and measured the cloth, having for that purpose the "Draper's Ell," said to have been granted to them by Edward III., sometimes called in their books, the Yard or the Company's Standard.

The Mayors of London who belonged to this Company have been very numerous; it is worth while to mention a few of them. One evidence of its ancient origin is a statement, generally accepted, that the first Mayor, Henry Fitzailwin, whose name is associated with the famous "assize" (the earliest London building act), was a Draper, and left to them all his lands in the parish of St. Mary Bothaw. Sir John de Pulteney, also a Draper, was Mayor in 1331, 1332, 1334, and 1337, and will always be remembered as one of the greatest citizens of the fourteenth century. After him is named the parish of St. Laurence Poultney, where he founded a college of priests adjoining the church, and died at his house hard by, called by Stow the Manor of the Rose, a fragment of which was in existence until quite recently. He had previously dwelt in the perhaps better-



known mansion of Cold Harbour. William Pulteney, Earl of Bath, the famous orator and rival of Sir Robert Walpole, was descended from his sister, and the present Earl of Crewe is now the representative of the family. The Earl of Essex is descended from Sir William Capell, Draper, twice Mayor in the early part of the sixteenth century. James Brydges, Duke of Chandos, the builder of Canons, and perhaps the best remembered of the various titled people of his name, was of the same family as Sir John Brugges or Bruges, Mayor in 1503. Coming to more recent times, a prominent Lord Mayor from the Drapers' Company was Sir Robert Clayton, elected in 1679-1680, when the pageants performed at his cost on the day of "initiation and instalment" (29 Oct., 1679), were described by Thomas Jordan in a tract entitled "London in Luster." Sir Robert, who was also a Scrivener, rebuilt a considerable part of St. Thomas's Hospital, helped towards the foundation of the Mathematical School at Christ's Hospital, and was a generous benefactor to the poor. At his house in the Old Jewry he and his wife gave great entertainments, "his banquets vying with those of kings." Among many other Drapers of mark who held the highest civic office, Sir John Norman, Mayor in 1453, may fairly be mentioned. He gave to his Company certain tenements on the north side of All Hallows church in Honey Lane, "they to allow for the beam and lamp 13<sup>s</sup>. 4<sup>d</sup>. yearly from this lane to the Standard," but he is chiefly remembered as the first mayor who went by water to Westminster to be sworn in, previous mayors having ridden. "He caused a barge to be made at his own charge, and every company had several barges, well decked and trimmed to pass along with him: for joy whereof the watermen made a song in his praise beginning, Row thy boat, Norman." So says Munday in the third edition of Stow's "Survey," quoting from Fabyan; no doubt the



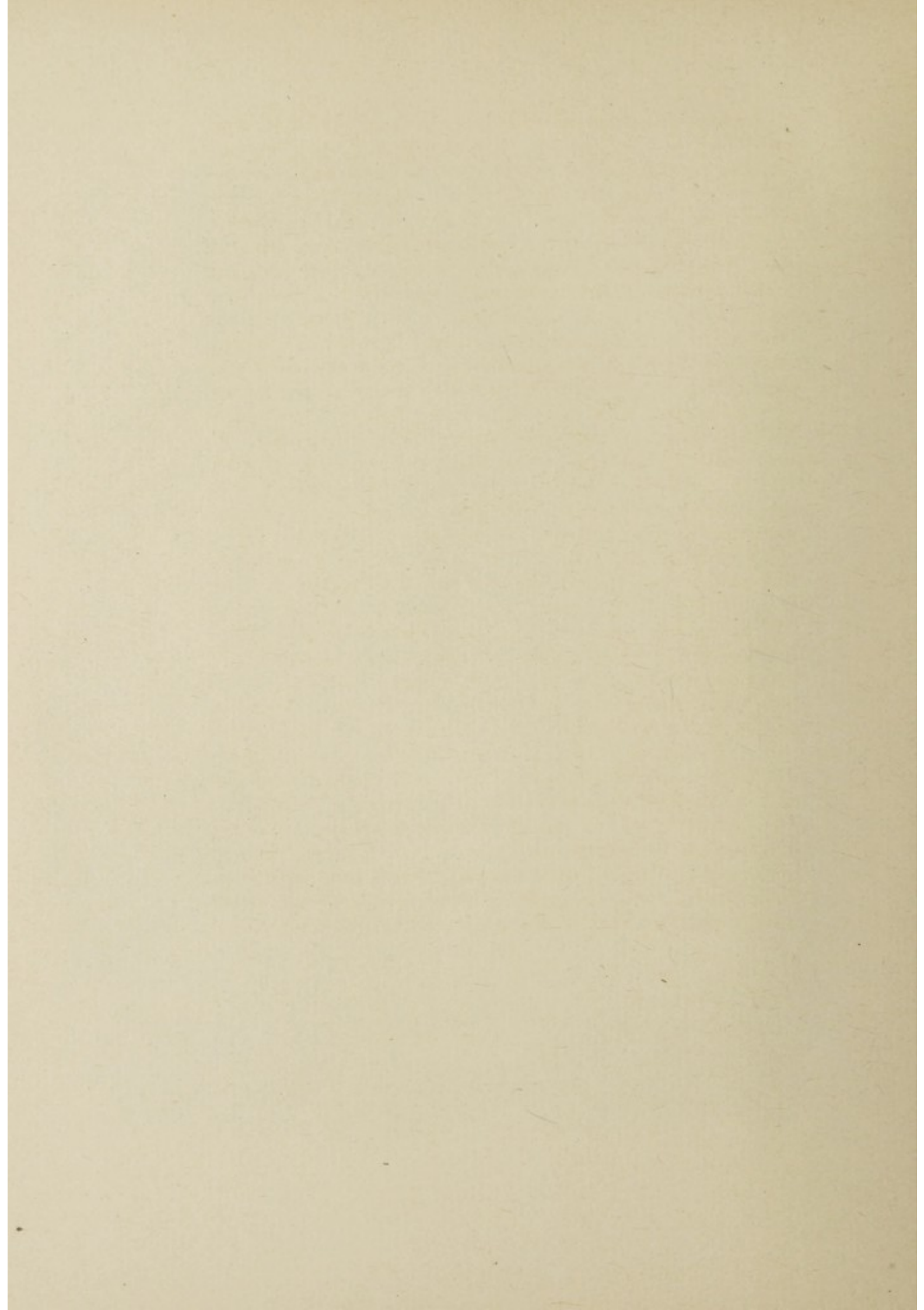


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Companies used barges for water processions some time previously.

The observances of the Drapers in early times are described at some length by Herbert. As was the case with other guilds, they consisted chiefly in the annual ceremonies, including the dinner at the election of master and wardens, the celebration of the funerals of deceased members and their obits, and attendance and pageantries of state and civic triumphs by land and water. The ceremonies at the election in 1522 occupied three days. Important persons, especially the higher ecclesiastics, were often invited to the feasts; thus in 1519 there were among the guests the Bishop of Carlisle, the Master of St. Thomas of Acon, the Prior of Holy Trinity, Aldgate, the Prior of St. Bartholomew, the Prior of St. Mary Overy, the Master of the College of St. Laurence Pulteney and the Prior of the Austin Friars. In the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries the Drapers maintained priests and altars in various City churches.

The Guild had a hall in St. Swithin's Lane long before that in Throgmorton Street. It was first known as John Hend's Hall in the year 1405, he being a distinguished Mayor and Draper, who rebuilt the church of St. Swithin London Stone, where he was buried. After "Hend's Hall" had passed into the hands of the Company, references to its repair and fitting up are numerous, and from them we gather that it was an important structure; the dining hall had a raised floor at the end where was the "high table"; this end was at one time hung with blue buckram and had nine forms for the table besides a cupboard or "beaufet." The kitchen had no less than three fireplaces. Among other rooms enumerated was the ladies' chamber, devoted to the use of sisters of the Company, where they sometimes dined apart. It seems to have been used by the married women only, another room called the chekker room being



“for maydens.” The ladies, however, usually dined with the men. It is recorded that in 1479, King Edward IV., after inviting the chief citizens to a grand hunt in Waltham forest and feasting them there in an arbour built for the occasion, “in order not to forget the city ladies, but to preserve his good understanding with them also,” sent them a present of two harts, six bucks, and a ton of wine, with which the Lady Mayoress entertained the aldermen’s wives and others at Drapers’ Hall.

The Company’s present buildings in Throgmorton Street cover the site of the mansion of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, “against the gate of the Friars,” which he began to occupy about 1524. In making his garden he encroached on the land of the father of John Stow, as the latter in his Survey declares. This house and garden, having been forfeited by Cromwell’s attainder, came into the hands of the king, who after long negotiation sold it to the Drapers’ Company, the business being completed in 1541. Herbert prints from the records a schedule of the building at the time of purchase. This ground appears never to have formed part of the property of the Austin Friars, but adjoined it on the west.

Sooner or later it is advisable to say a few words about the Irish estates of the various city companies, and the present is as favourable an opportunity as seems likely to occur. In the early part of the seventeenth century a scheme was set on foot for colonizing a great tract of land in the north of Ireland, which in 1607 had been declared to be forfeited to the Crown. This scheme was known as the “Plantation of Ulster”; efforts were made by James I. to induce the City of London to take part in it, and in July 1609, the matter having been laid before a Court of Aldermen, was by them referred to the Livery Companies. After various negotiations and transactions which are duly



set forth in "London and the Kingdom," by Dr. R. R. Sharpe, in 1611 eight of the chief companies, namely the Mercers, Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Goldsmiths, Salters, Ironmongers and Vintners, and ten of the lesser companies, agreed to take up allotments of the Irish estate in proportion to money advanced by them. Finally the other companies gave in their adhesion, the Irish Society, still in existence, and charged with the task of looking after this property, being incorporated in 1613. That year the land was allotted, the great companies combining with the others in such a way as to make the total contribution of each to amount as far as might be to one twelfth of the whole sum (£40,000) contributed. Further sums were afterwards raised until the whole amount subscribed for the plantation was £52,500. "It was not until 1623 that the profits began to exceed the costs, and the Irish Society was in a position to pay a dividend." The Drapers had the Tallow Chandlers as sub-sharers in the portion assigned to them. In course of time some of the Companies have sold their property, the Merchant Taylors, the Goldsmiths, the Vintners and Haberdashers did so long ago.

It remains for us to describe the actual structure and precinct of Drapers' Hall in Throgmorton Street. The Company remained for many years in quiet occupation of the house that had once been Thomas Cromwell's. In February, 1660, when General Monck was preparing for the Restoration, he had his headquarters here, and occupied also the adjoining house of Alderman Walis. In the Great Fire, Drapers' Hall was destroyed, being rebuilt shortly afterwards from the designs of Edward Jerman, carried out by Cartwright Mason. In 1774 there was another serious fire here, after which the front with its decorations was added by the brothers Adam. The structure was again remodelled, and to a great extent rebuilt, in 1866-1870, the



open courtyard being preserved, but a new front constructed. And now the whole building has again undergone transformation. The front just referred to has disappeared, and that newly built is not occupied by the Drapers' Company, nor was it designed for them, except the entrance to the hall from Throgmorton Street. This entrance, also the very handsome staircase of marble and alabaster, and the office entrance in Throgmorton Avenue, are the work of Mr. T. G. Jackson, R.A.

The northern part of the building, which faces the private garden still in existence, dates probably from the rebuilding after the fire of 1774. Here, on the ground floor, is the pleasant room occupied by the Clerk to the Company, and above it is the parlour, which contains over the mantelpiece a portrait of Sir Robert Clayton, one of Jonathan Richardson's best works, painted for the Company in 1706. In this room, also, are the following noteworthy pictures; a head of Charles I. by Mytens, a beautiful portrait of a Clerk to the Company named John Smith, said to be the last painted by Gainsborough, and a portrait supposed to represent Henry Fitzailwin, the first mayor of London, but by whom or when painted is a question; it is, however, comparatively modern and of small merit as a work of art. The Court-room, on the same floor and on the north side of the courtyard, is among the older portions of the building, but like the parlour, has been somewhat modernized. It contains three interesting portraits. Over the mantelpiece is the well-known one said to represent Mary, Queen of Scots, with her son, afterwards James I., and attributed to Zuccherò. The child appears to be four or five years old, but James, while still an infant, was separated from his mother. Whatever its origin, it is an agreeable picture, and the features and costume of the lady bear no small resemblance to those in well authenticated portraits of Mary



Stuart during later life. At one end of the room is a portrait of Sir Joseph Sheldon, Lord Mayor in 1675-1676, by Gerard Soest, a native of Westphalia, who came to London about 1656 and worked here for many years with a good measure of success. After settling in England he improved himself by studying Vandyck. At the further end of the room (which is otherwise decorated with tapestry) is a spirited full-length portrait of Lord Nelson, painted by Sir William Beechey, the price of which was 400 guineas. There are other interesting pictures in the Company's possession. The grand reception room and the very large banqueting hall date from the rebuilding of 1866-1870. The decorations of the latter are not yet finished; it is well proportioned and has a stately appearance.

Among the plate is a famous cup presented in 1578 by William Lambarde, the historian of Kent, who founded almshouses at East Greenwich called the College of the Poor of Queen Elizabeth; his father, John, was Draper, Alderman, and Sheriff of London. The cup, with its cover, is of most elegant workmanship, and, although with an English hall-mark, is somewhat Italian in character, hence in the popular mind the name of Benvenuto Cellini has been associated with it. Around the rim is the following inscription: "A proctour for the poore am I: remember them before thow die." The cover is surmounted by a modern figure of Queen Elizabeth. A piece of plate, perhaps more curious than beautiful, is what is known as the "voider," which in appearance somewhat resembles a fish slice. It was probably used to clear crumbs and other remains of food from the table; another suggestion is that it was to take the slices of meat from the carver, and to put them on the plates at dinner. An inscription on it tells us that it was given by Sir Edward Barkham, Knight and Alderman in 1634. Other plate worthy of mention is a



tankard given by John Kendrick, Draper, in 1627, the Taylor loving cup, and the bowl presented by Lady Garaway, the two last dating from after the Great Fire.

The Company was once fortunate in possessing a large and beautiful garden, extending north-west in the direction of London Wall. In the earlier time, after its purchase with the house that had been Cromwell's, it seems to have been often put to base uses, such as the drying and bleaching of clothes. Thus in 1551, the gardener having complained that for this reason the herbs therein were destroyed, the Court made an order "that henceforth no manner of person should drye nor bleach their naperye in the sayde gardeyne, to whomsoever they belonge, except such naperye as belongs to the fellows." No doubt the nuisance was abated, and, owing to its various attractions, among them the fine view then obtainable towards the north, access to the garden was soon sought after by leading people in the neighbourhood. For instance, in September of the same year, the Privy Council applied for a key on behalf of the French ambassador then living at "my Lady Roche's house in Austyn Friars," which the Company agreed to, with the thrifty proviso that his steward should pay for having the key made. In one case, at least, about the same time, there was an annual charge of £3 for admission. In November, 1552, various orders were issued, which help one to picture to one's mind the then condition of the garden. Thus in future no one was to dry linen or woollen clothes there except those who were or had been wardens. No strangers were to play bowls unless none of the Company should wish to do so, neither were they to take herbs or fruit. The master and wardens were to have the fruit, flowers and herbs for their year.

After the Great Fire, the garden appears to have been, partly at least, thrown open to the public, for Ned Ward in



his "London Spy" commends it as a fashionable promenade "an hour before dinner time." Throughout the greater part of the nineteenth century this was the finest open space available in the city, where, even a generation or two ago, there was still a large resident population. George Grote, when first married and living close to his father's bank in Threadneedle Street, used with his young wife to frequent the garden; and Macaulay during early childhood, his parents then having a house in Birchin Lane, was often taken there for air and exercise. As his nephew records, "so strong was the power of association upon Macaulay's mind, that in after years Drapers' Garden was among his favourite haunts." In the writer's youth, this region, although one might hear from thence the "hum of high 'Change and the roar of Capel Court," was still almost rural in appearance. The Garden itself had a pond with a fountain, smooth turf, trees, and well-kept walks. It was somewhat square in form, its greatest length being nearly 400 feet. Overlooking it stood a house, No. 21 Austin Friars, once the home of Herman Olmius, a famous merchant from the Low Countries, whose grandson became Lord Waltham. This house, not destroyed until 1888, had a garden of its own, which was bounded by the wall of another seventeenth century house, with lodges and fore-court facing Great Winchester Street; whilst the Drapers' garden also adjoined a garden at that time attached to Carpenters' Hall. About 1873 an arrangement was made between the two Companies, under which by far the greater part of the open space belonging to them has been covered with bricks and mortar, the present thoroughfare known as Drapers' Gardens and Throgmorton Avenue occupying much of the site. Many, including the writer, have witnessed the change with the keenest regret; it must, however, be borne in mind that in its last years Drapers' Garden was not much frequented, owing to the fact



that people had almost ceased to reside in the City, a result brought about by a variety of well-known causes, one being the prohibitive amount charged as inhabited house duty. The increased income has been generously spent.

As may be seen from Mr. Way's illustration, the Drapers still have a pretty strip of garden at the back of their hall; it formed no part of the larger garden which was built over, having apparently always been more or less private. In the summer it is made gay with flowers, and the tender green leaves of the trees here depicted, lose nothing by contrast with their black stems. Mr. Way has chosen an excellent point of view, from the north end looking towards Throgmorton Street. In this outer portion are planes, a sycamore, and young mulberry trees. The sanctum between the stone balustrade here shown and the Company's buildings, although perhaps less tempting to the artist, is embellished by three objects, each worthy of mention. In the centre a fountain flows perennially; near the balustrade (just hinted at in our view) is a leaden statue, a good reproduction from the antique, cast no doubt in the eighteenth century, when there was a regular manufacture of such work in Piccadilly and elsewhere. The third object should not be overlooked by lovers of old London, it is a mulberry tree bowed down by age, but still healthy, and tended with loving care. Even this year it bore fruit, which perished, alas, before it was ripe—a prey to the foggy atmosphere of London.



## THE FISHMONGERS' COMPANY

THE Fishmongers' Company is of ancient origin, being among those London guilds amerced in 1154, the twenty-sixth year of Henry II., for conducting their affairs without the royal licence, a fact which would imply that it had existed some time previously. No doubt the original object of the founders was to obtain special privileges enabling them to monopolize to a great extent the fish trade in the city and its liberties.

During the middle ages, fish, both fresh and cured, formed an important part of the national diet, the supply being great, while the habit of abstaining from meat on fast days promoted its use. In the reign of Edward I., as Herbert tells us, salt haddock, mackerel and sturgeon are mentioned in the list of pontage duties of London Bridge; herrings were sent from Yarmouth to Hull, and from Hull to London, the king's household was supplied with lampreys from Gloucester, and salmon is charged for among his household expenses. Even whales, when taken near our shores, were apparently salted for food. Among the prices fixed by the king were 3*d.* a dozen for the best soles, 6*d.* for turbot, a penny each for the best mackerel in Lent, and the best pickled herrings were to be bought at the rate of twenty for a penny. A quarter of a hundred of the best eels cost only 2*d.*, the same price per gallon is the charge mentioned for oysters, and other fish in proportion. The same king, in his first year, ordained that no one should store fish



in his cellars to retail afterwards at exorbitant prices, or buy before those who supplied the royal table had made their choice, and it was forbidden to keep fish in London beyond the second day, except that which was salted. A city assize, arising perhaps partly from this ordinance, declared that no fishmonger should water fish twice, or sell what was bad, under penalty of a fine for the first and second offences. In the case of his offending a third time he was to be "jugyd to a pair of stockys openly in the market-place." In the eighteenth year of the reign of the same monarch the Fishmongers' Guild was fined 500 marks for forestalling, contrary to the laws of the city; and soon afterwards it was thought advisable to make fresh rules for the trade, to be found in the compilation of 1311 called Liber Horn. Among these is one declaring that "no fishmonger shall buy fish beyond the bounds appointed, namely the chapel on London Bridge, Baynard's Castle and Jordan's Key," the object apparently being to prevent their meeting the boats before they reached London. "No fish was to be brought in any boat without first being landed at the chapel on the bridge; fresh fish was only to be sold after mass and salt fish after prime."

Of the importance and wealth of the Fishmongers in 1293 Stow gives evidence. It seems that in the said year, "for victory gained by Edward I. against the Scots, every citizen according to their several trades made their several show, but especially the fishmongers, which in a solemn procession passed through the city, having, amongst other pageants and shows, four sturgeons gilt carried on four horses; then four salmons of silver on four horses; and after them six and forty armed knights riding on horses, made like luces of the sea; and then one representing St. Magnus, because it was upon St. Magnus' day." In the year 1339 there was a great dispute with the Skinners' Company on



the question of precedence, culminating in a riot and the execution in Cheapside of two of the ringleaders; an act of severity approved by the king, who indemnified the magistrates. An order was made three years afterwards by the mayor and aldermen for reconciling the two fraternities.

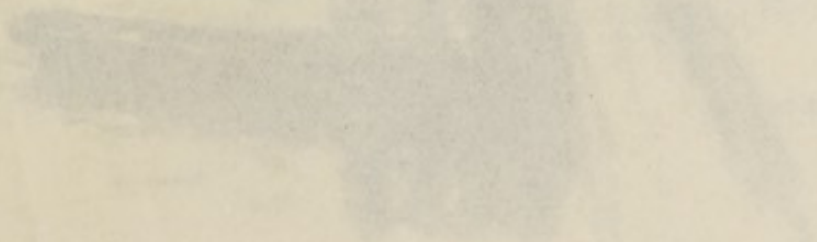
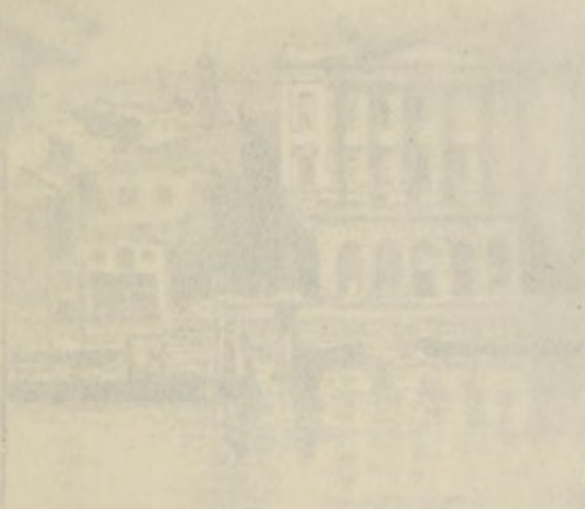
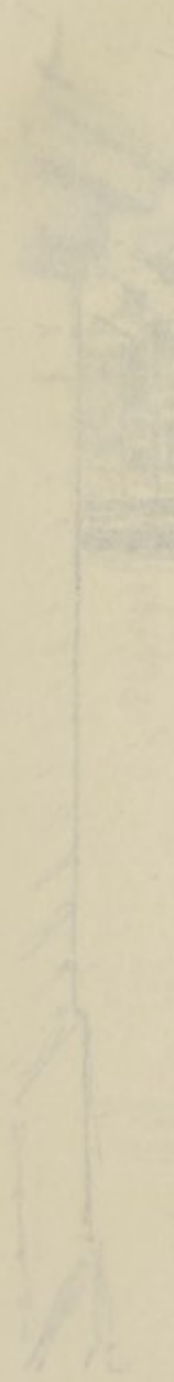
There is reason to suppose that a charter was granted to the Fishmongers by Edward I. in 1272, and that there was also a charter dating from the reign of his successor. But the earliest one extant is a patent of 37 Edward III., or 1363, the very year when the Company opportunely subscribed £40 to the king towards carrying on his French war. This patent confirms certain grants made to them from time immemorial by his predecessors, and states that it had been the custom for them to sell fish in three places, "in Bridge Street, Old Fish Street and in a place called the Stocks, except stock fish, which belongs to the mystery of Stock Fishmongers." Here we have a distinct allusion to a second Fishmongers' Company, but we do not know precisely when or under what circumstances it came into being. No doubt there were two Companies flourishing side by side, Stow calls them respectively the Stock-fishmongers and Salt-fishmongers, but sometimes one finds it difficult to discriminate between them, for the allusions are rather confusing, and as applied to fish, the words "Salt" and "Stock" mean very much the same thing. It may be mentioned, by the way, that "the Stocks," afterwards Stocks Market, was, according to Stow, so called from a pair of stocks, put up for the punishment of offenders, and although *stock*-fish were no doubt sold here as well as other kinds, this seems a likely derivation. Stocks Market continued to be used for the sale of meat and fish until the time of the Great Fire. When rebuilt it became a market for fruit and vegetables; the site is now, in part at least, covered by the Mansion House.

In a confirmation by Edward III., dated July 15th, 1364,



of the patent of the previous year, the vintners of Gascony, who brought wine into the country, were allowed to buy and export herrings in proportion to their cargoes, and leave was given to the stock-fishmongers to sell their fish in all parts of the city, but they were not allowed to meddle with the sale of other fish. In the reign of Richard II. the Fishmongers were for a time rather badly treated. In 1380, when John de Northampton was mayor, he aroused prejudice against them by accusations of fraudulent dealing. He also obliged them to say that their trade was no craft, and was therefore unworthy to be reckoned as one of the misteries. On this account no doubt, in spite of the service rendered to the king by their valiant member Sir William Walworth, in 1382 Parliament enacted that the office of mayor was not to be held by a Fishmonger. The next year, however, they pleaded their own cause in Parliament, and recovered their former rights. In a charter of 22 Richard II., or 1399, there is notice of Stock-fishmonger Row, of which more anon, it extended from Old Swan, formerly Ebgate Lane, Upper Thames Street, to the Water-gate, at one time called Oyster-gate on account of its being the ancient landing-place for oysters. A charter of 11 Henry VI., or 1433, is simply addressed to the mistery of the Fishmongers of the City of London, and seems to unite all members of the trade in one body. In 1508, however, the Stock-fishmongers received a charter which erected them into a distinct and separate guild. This last separation only continued a short time, the two Companies being formally united by charter of Henry VIII. in 1536, embodying the substance of certain articles of union which had been agreed on more than twenty years previously. The Stock-fishmongers conveyed their property to the Fishmongers for their joint benefit, and the Stock-fishmongers' chapel at the church of St. Michael, Crooked Lane, called the Chapel of St. Peter and St. Sebastian, was

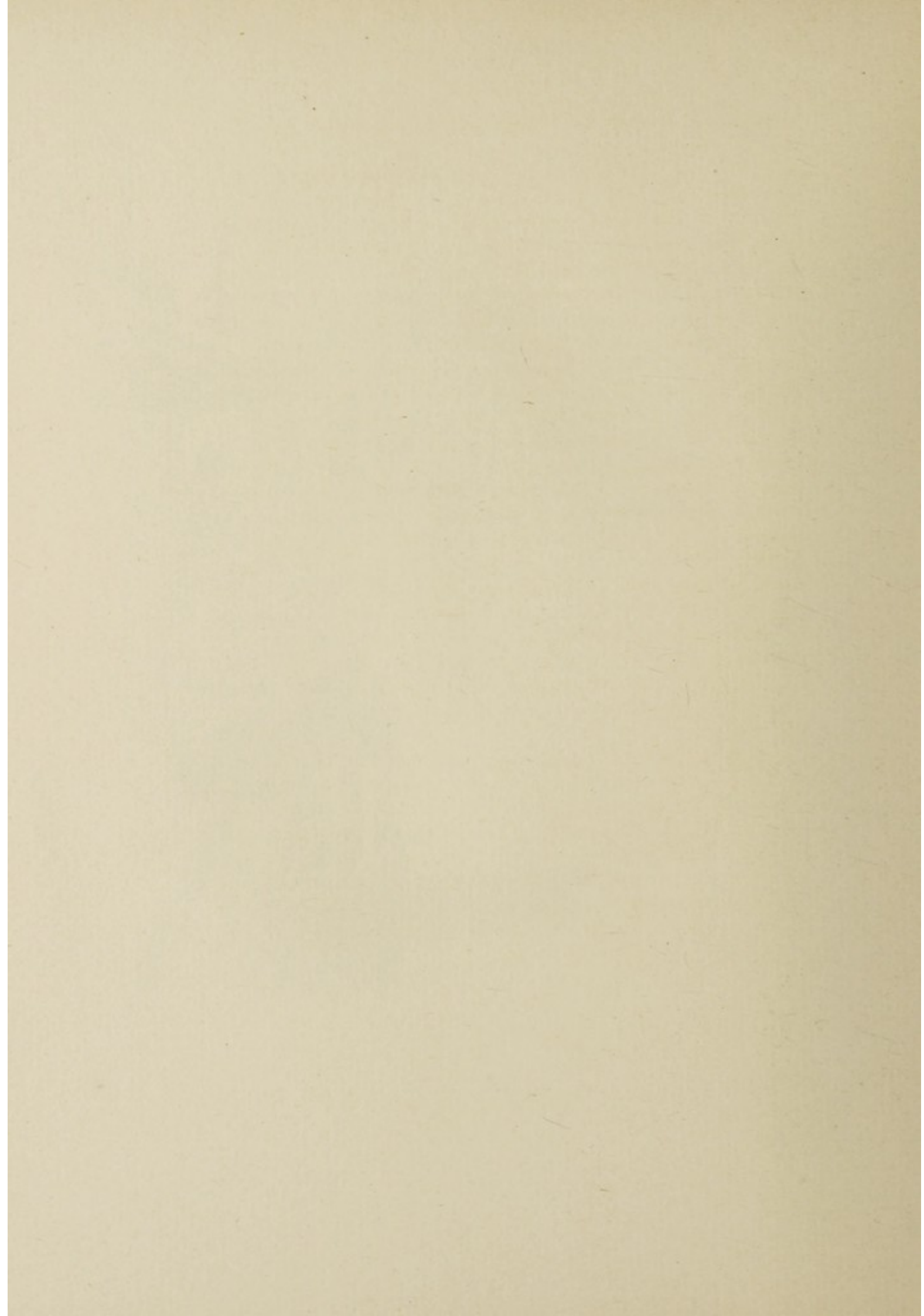




of the patent of the previous year, the vintners of Gascony, who brought wine into the country, were allowed to buy and export herrings in proportion to their cargoes, and leave was given to the stock-fishmongers to sell their fish in all parts of the city, but they were not allowed to meddle with the sale of other fish. In the reign of Richard II. the Fishmongers were for a time rather badly treated. In 1380, when John de Northampton was mayor, he aroused prejudice against them by accusations of fraudulent dealing. He also obliged them to say that their trade was no craft, and was therefore unworthy to be reckoned as one of the mysteries. On this account no doubt, in spite of the service rendered to the king by their valiant member Sir William Walworth, in 1382 Parliament enacted that the office of mayor was not to be held by a Fishmonger. The next year, however, they pleaded their own cause in Parliament, and recovered their former rights. In a charter of 22 Richard II., or 1399, there is notice of Stock-fishmonger Row, of which more anon, it extended from Old Swan, formerly Ebgate Lane, Upper Thames Street, to the Water-gate, at one time called Oyster-gate on account of its being the ancient landing-place for oysters. A charter of 11 Henry VI., or 1433, is simply addressed to the mystery of the Fishmongers of the City of London, and seems to unite all members of the trade in one body. In 1474, however, the Stock-fishmongers received a charter which directed them into a distinct and separate guild. This last separation only continued a short time, the two Companies being formally united by charter of Henry VIII. in 1536, whereby the substance of certain articles of union which had been agreed on more than twenty years previously. The Stock-fishmongers conveyed their property to the Fishmongers for their joint benefit, and the Stock-fishmongers' chapel at the church of St. Michael, Crooked Lane, called the Chapel of St. Peter and St. Sebastian, was









henceforth considered to pertain to the united Company ; for the future there was to be but one hall. After this there were various charters and re-incorporations, which it is needless to mention in detail.

The Fishmongers possess some ancient title-deeds, but have no wardens' accounts or minutes of an earlier date than 1592. In the ordinances of the Goldsmiths a curious custom is mentioned. It appears that they used each year to exchange with members of this Guild eight suits of new livery, with hoods, which were worn by the several recipients in token of the friendship existing between the two bodies. By an ordinance of 1426 it was decreed that on the festival of St. Peter, when the elections took place, the brothers and sisters of the Fishmongers' Company should attend at St. Peter's Church, Cornhill, and there hear a solemn mass and make offerings. At this church they kept a general obit, while both fishmongers and stock-fishmongers kept obits at different churches for individuals, the stock-fishmongers early adopting the church of St. Michael, Crooked Lane, as their usual burying place, its south aisle, which they added, being the chapel of St. Peter and St. Sebastian already alluded to. Herbert says that the fishmongers "anciently maintained no less than three priests or chaplains to officiate at the company's funeral commemorations and other religious observances, which was one more than is mentioned by any other of the companies."

The business of the landing of fish in London has for centuries been concentrated at and about Billingsgate, although in earlier times Queenhithe was its successful rival. Henry III., in order to increase the queen's revenue, prohibited the landing of fish from fishing vessels except at that port ; and a fish market grew, if indeed it had not already grown, to the north of Queenhithe, about the street known to us as Old Fish Street, between Bread Street and Old



Change, and along Fish Street Hill running from it to the Thames. In after years, when larger vessels came to be used, the fact that Queenhithe was above bridge gave an overwhelming advantage to Billingsgate, the passage of old London Bridge, even for small craft, being difficult and dangerous. On the formation of Queen Victoria Street the eastern part of Old Fish Street was destroyed, and the remainder became part of Knight-riding Street. Fish Street Hill, sometimes called New Fish Street, runs from Eastcheap to Lower Thames Street, and was the main thoroughfare to old London Bridge.

The government of the fishmongers' trade is stated in the fourteenth year of the reign of Edward II. to have been originally under the supervision of the sheriffs of London, who from time immemorial had held two courts of halmote yearly. Cases were there tried by these officers, the courts, we are told, being composed of *all* the fishmongers of the city, and to have been then kept in Old Fish Street, Bridge Street and Billingsgate. The inner management of the fraternity was in the hands of two bailiffs, until the charter of incorporation of Edward III., when four wardens were appointed, and in 1399 their number was increased to six. In the ordinances of 1499, or 1 Henry VIII., it is declared that once in two years, and as much oftener as need shall require "the wardens and other quest persons of the craft, shall name and chuse of themselves" six wardens to have the rule and governance for the whole ensuing year. The number is still the same, and the chief of them, whose office is equivalent to that of Master, is known as the Prime Warden. Among the rules as to the sale of fish, in these ordinances, is one that no Sunday markets shall be openly kept in Lenten season, or fish exposed for sale at any wharf, cellar, or open door or window, "pike at the water side, in tanks or in gardens, where they be usually fed and kept, only excepted."



A trade search was to be made from time to time by the wardens and the mayor's officers. Any member of the craft neglecting, when summoned, to come to the hall or the market, or to attend a dirge, anniversary, or burial, or to take part in a procession with members of the craft, or with the mayor, unless he showed reasonable cause for his absence, was to be fined at the discretion of the wardens. They were also to be fined if, when chosen, they did not "ryde to rescue the king, quene, prynce, or any other estate at the king's commandment."

Herbert gives a list of twenty-eight Mayors belonging to this Company up to the year 1716. One of the most important among them was John Lovekyn, the first in order of time, who held that office in 1349, 1359, 1366 and 1367 and also represented the city in two parliaments. A native of Kingston-on-Thames, his original dwelling in London was in the parish of St. Mary-at-Hill. He was by trade a stock-fishmonger, and early in the reign of Edward III. moved to the parish of St. Michael, Crooked Lane, where his mansion looked on to the Thames a short distance west of London Bridge. To this property we shall refer at some length when describing the Company's hall. He rebuilt the church of St. Michael at his own cost, and according to Leland founded St. Michael's College in connection with it, but Stow says that Walworth was the founder. Lovekyn died in 1368 and was buried in the choir of St. Michael's, Crooked Lane, "under a fair tomb with the images of him and his wife in alabaster." Stow relates that his monument was removed, a flat stone "garnished with plates of copper" taking its place. About the year 1870 a brass plate in Walkerne church, Hertfordshire, to Richard Humberstone (1581), having become loose, was examined and found to be a palimpsest. It had previously formed part of the memorial to Lovekyn, probably the second, and had on it three Latin



lines by way of epitaph, the date of his death being wrongly given thereon as 1370.

A still more famous Mayor was Sir William Walworth, also a stock-fishmonger and originally Lovekyn's apprentice. When that worthy died Walworth was chosen to succeed him as alderman of Bridge Ward. He was elected Mayor in 1374 and again in 1380. It was during his second term of office, in June, 1381, that Wat Tyler, at the head of a band of Kentish peasants, attacked London and was slain by Walworth at Smithfield in the presence of Richard II., for which act the king "with his own hands decorated with the order of knighthood the said mayor" and also rewarded him with a grant of £100 a year. In 1383 Walworth was one of the men elected to represent the city in parliament. He died in 1385 and was buried in his newly erected north aisle or chapel of St. Michael's church. His tomb was destroyed by the reformers and a second monument to him perished in the Great Fire of London.

Among Mayors of later times who belonged to this Company the following may be briefly alluded to. Sir Isaac Penington, who resided in Wood Street Cheapside, was an ardent Puritan, and represented the city in both the Short and Long Parliaments. In August, 1642, when the royalist Lord Mayor, Sir Richard Gurney, was expelled from office, Penington succeeded him, and ardently supported the opposite party. He was colonel of the 2nd or White regiment of the city forces, helped to fortify London against the king, when, if we may believe Butler, the women in their enthusiasm,

"Marched rank and file with drum and ensign,  
T'entrench the city for defence in;  
Raised ramparts with their own soft hand,  
To put the enemy to stand."

As lieutenant of the Tower Penington conducted Laud to



the scaffold, and was appointed a member of the commission for the trial of the king, but refused to sign the death warrant. About 1655 he got into financial difficulties owing perhaps to his lavish support of the parliamentary party. At the Restoration he was attainted for treason and committed to the Tower, where he died, after rather more than a year's imprisonment.

Sir John Gayer was Prime Warden of the Fishmongers in 1638, and in 1646 was elected Lord Mayor. While in office he strongly resisted an ordinance by parliament for compulsory service in the militia, being in consequence expelled from office, and for a time imprisoned in the Tower. He died in 1649, and by his will left £200 for an annual sermon to be preached in the church of St. Catherine Cree, Leadenhall Street, to commemorate his escape from a lion, years before, when travelling in Asia Minor. The preacher was to receive £1, the clerk 2s. 6d., the sexton 1s., while the remainder of the interest was on that day to be distributed among the necessitous parishioners. The sermon is still preached although Gayer's money has been taken under the City Parochial Charities Act. In 1899 it was preached by the Rev. E. H. Gayer, presumably a member of the same family.

We will close our list of Mayors with Sir Thomas Abney, who held office in 1700-1 and was member of parliament for the city. A great supporter of St. Thomas's Hospital, he may also be remembered as the friend and patron of Dr. Isaac Watts. He kept his mayoralty in a grand old house in Lime Street, which seems to have been built by Richard Langton about the year 1600. The site of it had been occupied in the fifteenth century by Lord Scrope of Bolton, and was left by Richard Knight in 1501 to the Fishmongers' Company. From a monograph with measured drawings by G. H. Birch and R. Phené Spiers one



learns that it was standing in 1872. Mantelpieces from thence are preserved in the Guildhall Museum and at South Kensington.

A member of the Company whose name does not figure among those of civic dignitaries, but will not soon be forgotten, is Thomas Doggett, comedian, who in 1721 left money for the purchase of a coat and badge, to be rowed for each year on the 1st of August from the Swan in Upper Thames Street to the Swan at Chelsea, in remembrance of George I.'s accession to the throne.

Stow tells us that the two guilds of Fishmongers had at one time no less than six halls, two in Thames Street, two in New Fish Street, and two in Old Fish Street. Perhaps we need only trouble ourselves about those in Thames Street, concerning which there is a fairly complete record. Fishmongers' Hall stood on a piece of ground, the site of four tenements, occupied in 1368 by John Lovekyn, Simon Morden, William de Changeton, and Richard de Rothinge. Afterwards there were five tenements, the Company's conveyances of them prove that they occupied a frontage of 120 feet by Thames Street, and an average breadth of 200 feet from thence to the Stock-fishmongers' Hall, the latter being built on a second piece of ground, also formerly belonging to him, which was slightly eastward of the first, and had a frontage of only 45 feet, and an average depth of 66 feet. The site of the whole was called in old charters Stock-fishmongers' Row. John Lovekyn is proved to have held all this land in free burgage, the exact position of Fishmongers' Hall being distinguished in his will from that of Stock-fishmongers' Hall and his other estates by being described as on the south side of the parish of St. Michael, Crooked Lane. The particulars connected with Lovekyn's ownership, and subsequent ownerships and tenancies of the land on which afterwards stood Fishmongers' Hall, until the building of that structure,



are given in detail by Herbert. Suffice it to say that Lovekyn died without issue, that after the death of his widow his own residence, with other property came into the hands of his quondam apprentice Sir William Walworth, and was occupied by him. Sir William Askham, who had been Walworth's apprentice, also a stock-fishmonger, and twice Mayor of London, succeeded him in the ownership and occupation of this "great tenement," so described in Askham's will; which passed from him through Thomas Botiller, *his* apprentice and afterwards alderman, to Sir Thomas Sackville, to Robert Whitingham and others, and from them to Sir John Cornwall, Lord Fanhope. From him in 1434-35 it passed by lease for life, with the reversion after his death, to the Fishmongers' Company, and they, having obtained possession of the other tenements, here established their hall, which was at first only Lord Fanhope's messuage, increased as time went on, to meet their requirements. It was not until the nineteenth year of the reign of Henry VII. that, the purchases being completed, it was agreed that they should abandon their other halls and occupy only one building in Thames Street. Lord Fanhope's mansion became the hall of the united Companies when they were amalgamated in 1536.

Stock-fishmongers' Hall had been built at the back of Lovekyn's residence between the time of his death and the grant of the charter of 1399, which mentions this hall in Stock-fishmongers' Row, while existing deeds prove that the site had been occupied by various tenants a few years previously. In the nineteenth year of Henry VII. an agreement was made between the two Companies about the letting of Stock-fishmongers' Hall. From this time it went through various vicissitudes until its final destruction in the Great Fire.

Fishmongers' Hall, of which, as we have seen, Lovekyn's house had formed the nucleus, is shown in Hollar's view of



1647 as a more or less square structure with two courtyards, facing the river. It was completely gutted in the Great Fire, but for a time the river front remained standing. As we have seen to have been the case with the Mercers' Company and the Drapers' Company, Mr. Edward Jerman, the surveyor, was called in, and it was he who made the design for a new hall, though his work has been sometimes ascribed to Sir Christopher Wren. The result appears to have been a handsome building, chiefly of brick, with stone quoins, cornices and window cases; it inclosed a courtyard, large and lofty, of which the dining-hall formed the south side. It began to be occupied in December, 1669, but was not quite finished until 1671.

The present London Bridge is about 200 feet west of the old structure, the building of it therefore involved the removal of Jerman's hall. The present home of the Fishmongers occupies with some dignity a commanding position at the north-west angle of the bridge, the former site being now more or less covered by the roadway. It is a semi-classical stone-faced fabric, built in 1831-1833, from the designs of Henry Roberts. The east front has over it, carved in stone, the present arms of the Company, with their supporters, namely a mermaid and a merman, the latter armed, the former with a mirror in her left hand, and the motto, "all worship to God only." On entering, one faces the grand staircase, on the landing of which stands a wooden statue of Sir William Walworth, now painted white. It was in the former hall, and Horace Walpole tells us that it was executed by Edward Pierce the younger, who died in 1698. Walworth grasps in his right hand a dagger and underneath are the following lines:

“ Brave Walworth Knight Lord Mayor y' slew  
Rebellious Tyler in his Alarms  
The King therefore did give in lieu  
The Dagger to the Cityes Armes.”



Stow writes at some length refuting this popular derivation of the arms of the city; that which was usually called Walworth's dagger being in truth the sword of St. Paul. A weapon, said to be the actual one with which Sir William struck down the rebel leader, is still in the possession of the Fishmongers, being now kept in their strong room. Mr. W. Carew Hazlitt, in his account of the Livery Companies, gives a drawing of it. In the Court Dining-room on the first floor, overlooking the river, are good full length portraits of the Margrave and Margravine of Anspach, painted by Romney in 1797. They were presented by the Margravine.

The Banqueting Hall is large and well lighted; it has portraits of royalties, among them one of Queen Victoria. Downstairs, the Court Waiting-room has the following good pictures representing London topography:—A view of old Fishmongers' Hall and Billingsgate is by J. T. Serres; Greenwich Hospital is by James Holland, 1842; while that excellent painter Samuel Scott, the friend of Hogarth, is represented by a view of old London Bridge from the Surrey side, with the houses on it before the year 1757, not unlike a view at the Guildhall, and by Westminster Bridge in 1747. These last two pictures are from the collection of Sir E. Walpole. In the same room is a finely embroidered funeral pall. This is one of the state palls or hearse-cloths used in celebrating the obsequies of deceased members. Although labelled Walworth's pall, it is clearly not earlier than the reign of Henry VIII. after the union of the two Companies, their arms being here united as at present. Herbert, who describes it fully, thinks that it was the last Catholic pall used by the Fishmongers. During recent years it has several times been exhibited. In this room there is a chair made out of the wood and stone of old London Bridge and given to the Company in 1832. The distinguishing feature of the Court-room, which is also on the ground floor, overlooking



the river, is a succession of modern coats of arms of prime wardens, carved and painted, which are given to them by the Company in their years of office. In a glass case near the foot of the staircase is a flag presented to the first Earl St. Vincent after the victory of 1797 from which he took his title. There is also a full length portrait of him by Beechey.

The Fishmongers have a fine collection of silver plate; we can only mention a few pieces. A circular rose-water dish, with vase and cover, is 15 inches in diameter and 3 inches deep. It has on the rim the following inscription: "The gift of Robert Salusbury Esq<sup>r</sup> late Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of London Anno 1765." In another part are the initials T. E. S. and a date, 1622. At the bottom of the dish, on a raised centre, appear the arms of Salusbury. There are also the Company's arms and a further inscription, which runs as follows: "This dish, with a ladle, was presented to an ancestor of Robert Salusbury Esq<sup>r</sup> by Sir Paul Pindar, Ambassador of King James the first to the Ottoman Emperor Sultan Achomet Cham." The weight is 41 oz. 19 dwts. The ladle of the same date accompanies it. A loving cup of silver gilt, 14 inches high and 7 inches in diameter, is inscribed, "The Gift of James Paule Esq<sup>r</sup> Master or Prime Warden of the Wor<sup>ll</sup> Company of Fishmongers of London Anno Dom<sup>ni</sup> 1690," showing that both titles were used. On the cup are the Company's arms, and arms ascribed to Frodsham. Weight 54 oz. 7 dwts. One culls almost at haphazard two more examples. A silver monteith or John Bull bowl, 10 inches high and 15 inches in diameter, on a broad foot, is inscribed, "The Gift of S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Abney Kn<sup>t</sup> & Ald<sup>'r</sup>m'n Master or Prime Warden of y<sup>e</sup> Wor<sup>ll</sup> Company of Fishmongers London from Midsomer '94 untill Midsomer '96." It has the Company's arms and presumably those of Sir



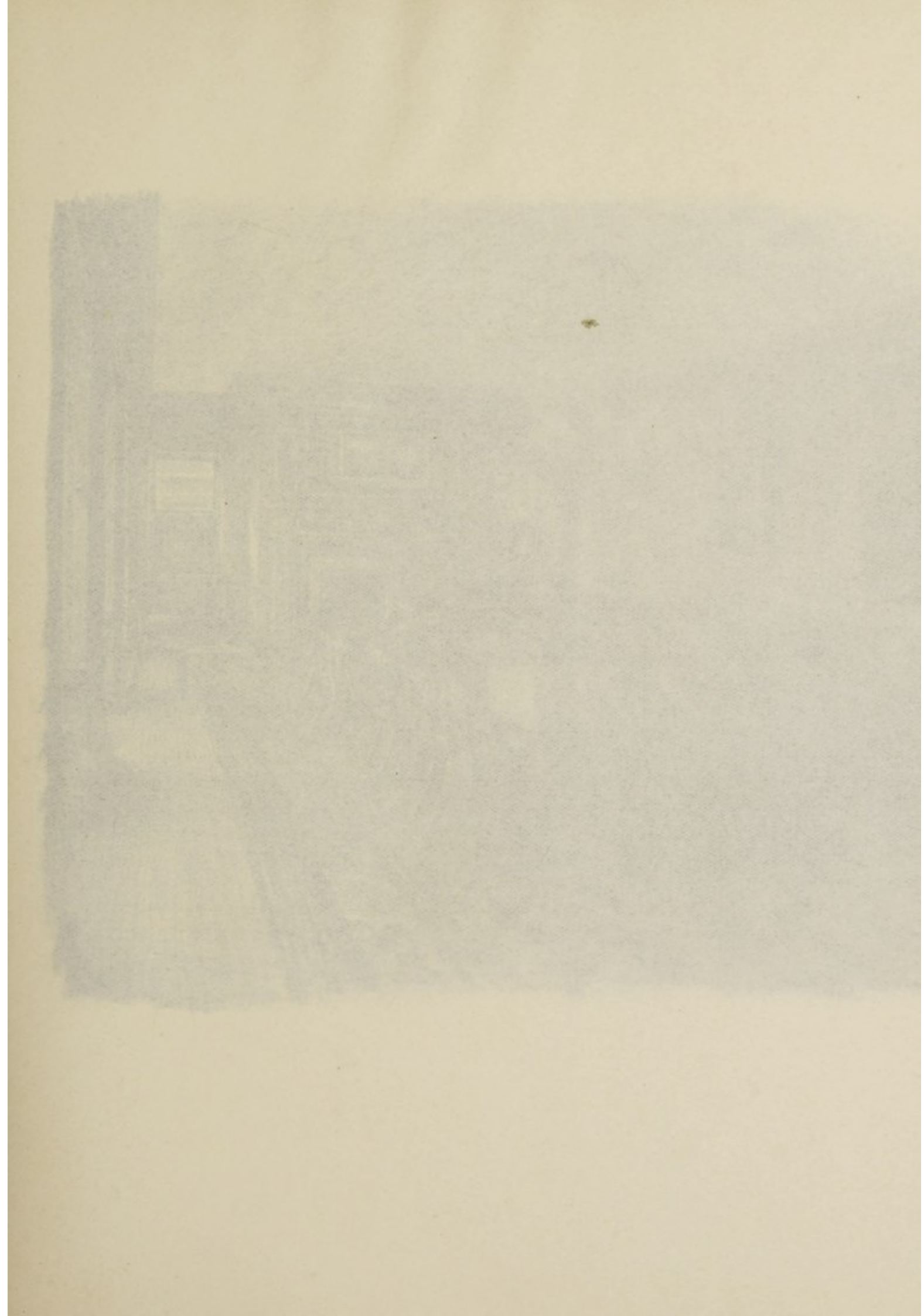
Thomas Abney. Weight 74 oz. 12 dwts. A massive parcel gilt chandelier, 3 feet 9 inches high, with 17 branches, weight 1,330 oz., has three large dolphins entwined, and on the upper part a pineapple. Below are three shields whereon are the arms of the Company, those of Sir Thomas Knesworth, and the following inscription: "In Grateful Remembrance of Sir Tho<sup>s</sup> Knesworth K<sup>t</sup>. A principal Benefactor to the Worshipfull Company of Fishmongers, London, 1752."

Mr. Way's lithograph was drawn from the steps on the Surrey side of the Thames, immediately west of London Bridge, and is now of special value and interest, for this picturesque arrangement of bridge, hall, and water has, alas! ceased to be. The widening of the bridge by footpaths carried on iron girders, which is now in progress, has obliterated the view, the stairs themselves must become inaccessible, and we shall soon forget that here Dickens laid the scene of Nancy's interview with Mr. Brownlow and Rose Maylie, and that here Noah Claypole ensconced himself as an unseen listener.

## THE SKINNERS' COMPANY.

IN this uncertain climate fur has always been highly valued, perhaps more so formerly than at present. In the time of the Plantagenets it was worn chiefly by the richer and more powerful classes, some kinds being looked upon as princely adornments. Hence it arises that ermine still decorates the robes of great personages on ceremonial occasions. The buying and selling of skins became an important industry, and already in the year 1319 the Skinners in London had formed themselves into a trade guild. Their earliest Charter, confirming previous regulations, was granted by Edward III. in the first year of his reign. It mentions various kinds of fur, with names strangely unfamiliar to us now, such as minever, popel, bogy and stradling; describes the mode of packing them, and empowers representatives of the Company to exercise supervision over the sales of furs at the fairs of Winchester, Stamford, and at other great fairs within the realm. A statute, which came into force eleven years afterwards, restricts the wearing of fur to the royal family, and to "prelates, earls, barons, knights and ladies, and people of the Holy Church which might expend by year an c<sup>li</sup> of their benefices at the least." And in a proclamation of 1351 we are told that "whereas the common women, who dwell in London and resort unto the same, have assumed the fashion of being attired in the manner of good and noble dames and damsels," for the future they are not to use garments trimmed with fur, such as "menevyr,

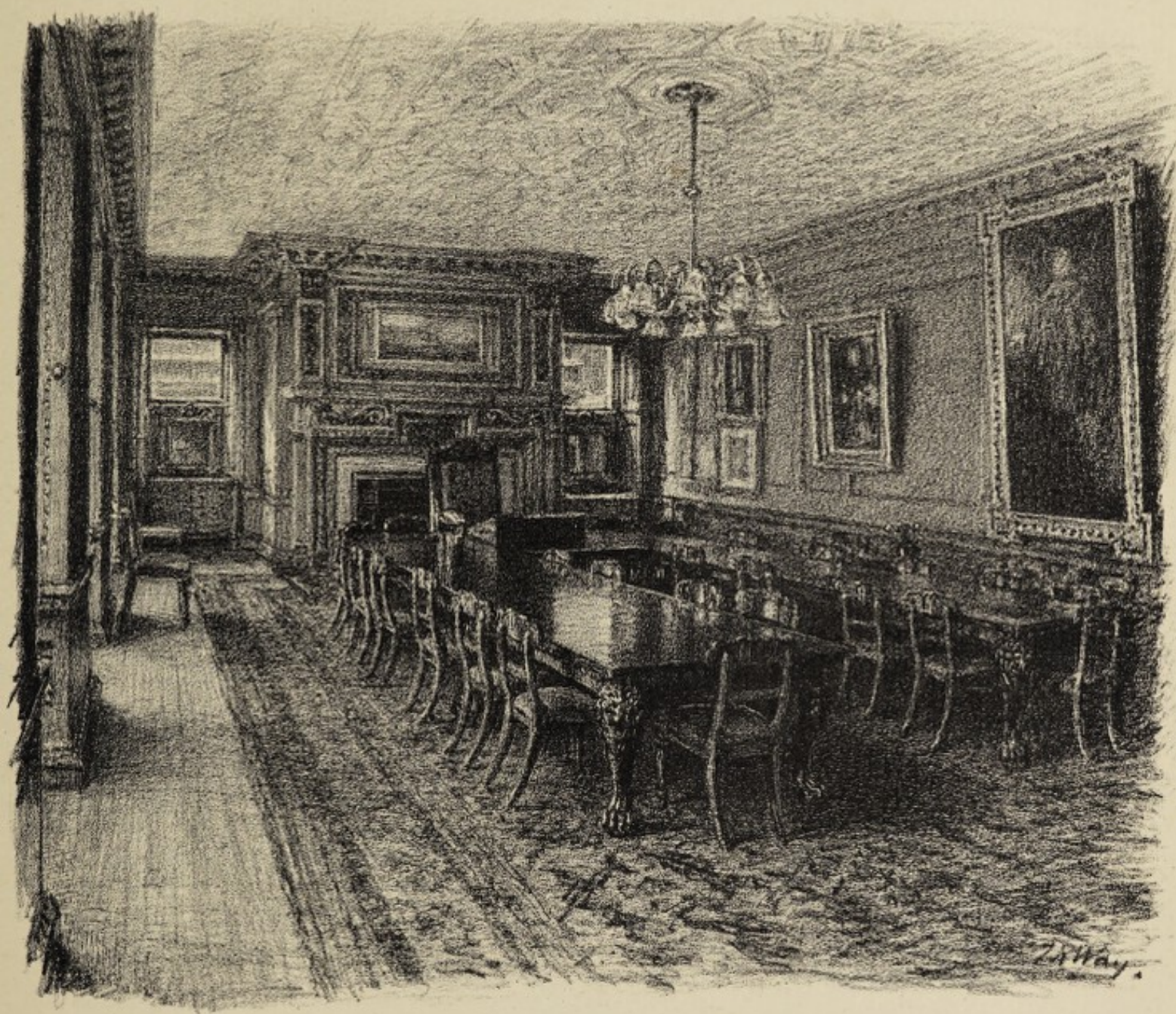




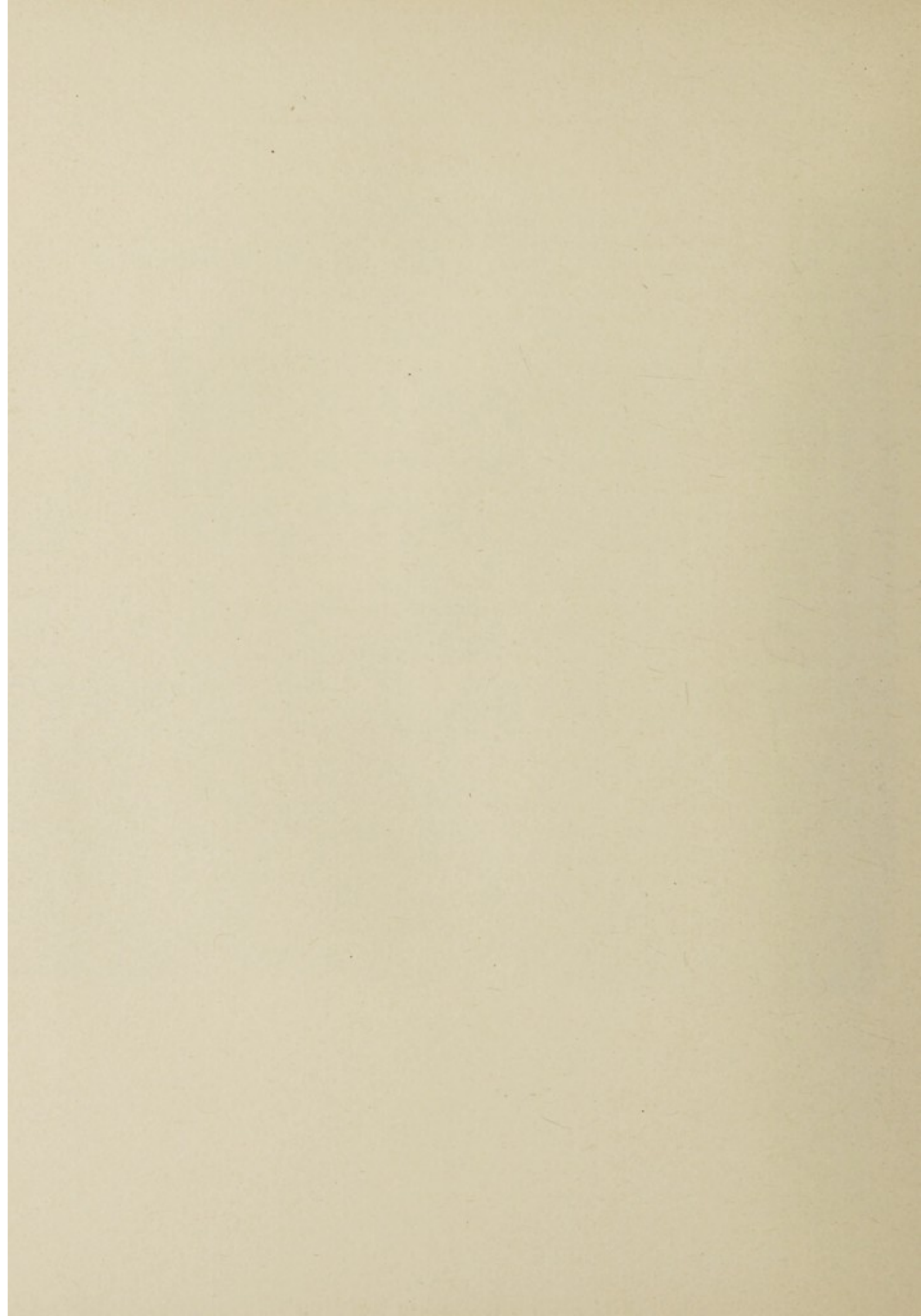
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grey, purree of stranlyng, popelle of squirrels, bys of rabbits or hares, or any other manner of noble budge," under penalty of forfeiting the same. As late as the reign of Henry IV. the "wearing of ermine, lettice, pure minevers, or grey, by wives of esquires" was prohibited, unless they themselves were noble, or their husbands warriors or mayors of London. On the Charter of Henry VI. to the Leathersellers' Company, an event which took place in 1444, there is a representation of him handing that document to the liverymen, and they wear a costume furred at the skirts and round the collar. The use of fur in the liveries of the City Guilds had probably by that time been long customary.

In 1339, as we have noted on a previous page, the Skinners had become powerful enough to strive for precedence with the Fishmongers, the quarrel ending in a riot and the execution of two of the ringleaders. In 1364 they contributed £40, the same amount as the Drapers and Fishmongers, to aid the king in his war with France. Throughout the middle ages there was acute rivalry between the various Companies, we therefore need not be surprised that in 1483 another noteworthy struggle for precedence took place, this time between the Skinners and the Merchant Taylors. We are told that the dispute ran high, blows were exchanged, and after vainly endeavouring to settle their differences by such illogical methods, they submitted the question to the then Mayor, Sir Robert Billesdon, and the Aldermen, who decided that they should dine together annually, at the Skinners' Hall on the Vigil of Corpus Christi and at the Merchant Taylors' Hall on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Further it was arranged that the Skinners should take precedence of the Merchant Taylors at the various processions for the next year, beginning at Easter, that for the following year the Merchant Taylors were to have precedence, and so on alternately, except in the case of



the Lord Mayor being chosen from one of the Companies, when, during his year of office, that Company should have precedence. This settlement, known as the Billesdon award, gave general satisfaction, and one hears no more of quarrels between the two Companies. They still exchange friendly greetings and dine together. On these occasions the chief toast of the evening is given by the presiding Master in honour of the guests who are being entertained; the words of the toast, when given in Skinners' Hall, are as follows: "The Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Skinners drink health and prosperity to the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, also to the Worshipful Company of Skinners; Merchant Taylors and Skinners, Skinners and Merchant Taylors, root and branch, and may they continue, and flourish for ever."

The original Charter, of 1 Edward III. or 1327, was followed by one granted in the sixteenth year of Richard II. or 1392, which of his special grace, and "for sixty pounds paid into the hanaper," confirms the Skinners' fraternity of Corpus Christi, and gives them leave to maintain two chaplains, whose duty it was to perform funeral and other services for the brothers and sisters of the guild. It also allows the Skinners to hold an election feast, and to wear a livery at the annual procession of Corpus Christi. This procession was a very grand affair. Each year, on the afternoon of the day of Corpus Christi, it passed through the principal streets of the City "wherein was borne more than one hundred torches of wax (costly garnished) burning light, and above two hundred clerks and priests in surplices and copes singing. After the which were the sheriffs' servants, the clerks of the compters, chaplains of the sheriffs, the mayor's sergeants, the counsel of the city, the mayor and aldermen in scarlet, and then the Skinners in their best liveries. Subsequent charters and licences in mortmain granted to the Skinners'



Company are described more or less fully by Herbert, and in the Return made to the City of London Livery Companies Commission of 1880.

We are told by various authorities that in 1395 the Skinners, who had before been divided into two brotherhoods, one at St. Mary Spital and the other at St. Mary Bethlehem, were united under Richard II. To what extent these kindred bodies had branched off does not appear, it is certain that within the guild two fraternities existed side by side for many years after the time of Richard II. The earliest records kept at Skinners' Hall are two richly illuminated volumes relating respectively to the craft or fraternity of Corpus Christi and the fraternity of Our Lady. It appears that for making or altering the rules of either it was necessary to have mutual agreement between them. The book of the fraternity of Corpus Christi gives a copy of the Charter granted by Richard II. ; then follow the statutes of the Company for the regulation of trade. Next come the names of the founders and brethren and sisters, headed by Edward III. and other royal and noble personages.

The book relating to the fraternity of Our Lady begins with the rules for the management of that body, it being recorded that what follows, "ys ordeynyd and assented be the maistrys and wardennys of the crafte of skynneris with the xvi off ye company of Corp'is xpi, and be the wardennys and y<sup>e</sup> xvi of the bretheryn and felawship of oure lady. The xxiiij day of April in the yeer of oure lord god m.iiijlxxij and the xii yeer of kyng Edward the iiij<sup>th</sup>." It contains a list of the brethren, an inventory of the goods of the fraternity in 1441, and other interesting items. Among the rest there is an illuminated painting of Margaret of Anjou, a member, Queen of Henry VI., with an attendant, kneeling ; and in 1471, or the second year of Edward IV., the fact that his Queen also became a member is thus recorded. "Our



moost good and gracious Quene Elisabeth, Soster unto this oure fraternite of our blessed lady and moder of mercy, Sanct Mary virgyn the moder of God." Of her also there is an illuminated picture. In a list of brethren and sisters of the year 1445, we find persons living at Reigate, St. Albans, Aldenham, Godstone, and other places, and among them were gentlemen, butchers, a doctor, a dyer, a joiner, and a silk-wife.

A chantry of Corpus Christi and St. Mary annexed to the church of St. Mildred, Poultry, was established from funds of an earlier endowment in 1394. This chantry and religious establishment were confirmed in 1408 by letters patent addressed "pro fraternitate, Corporis Christi per Pelliparios civitatis London erect." We have been told that the building did not adjoin St. Mildred's church, but was in Conyhope Lane, now Grocers' Hall Court, and that the site, together with that of the house between it and the street, is or was occupied by Nos. 34 and 35 Poultry.

As a check to acts of lawless violence then so common in the streets at night, Henry III., during the year 1253, commanded watches to be kept in the cities and chief towns of England. From this order grew the custom in London of keeping the watch on the vigil of St. John, and on that of St. Peter and St. Paul, when the lighted streets were lined with armed men, while a strong force marched through the City. In the orders for "setting out the watch" on the vigil of St. Peter and St. Paul in 1466, the Skinners ranked the sixth among the Companies, a position which they now hold, and twenty of their number were in attendance. At the coronation of Richard III. they were the seventh of the Companies ordered by the Common Council to ride out and receive the king.

The court books of the Company begin during the year 1551, but on the first page is an entry having reference to



an order made in 1518, to the effect that any member of the Company known to be of substance who failed to represent it when called upon "to be a Bachelor for the honoure of this Cyte of London," that is on occasions of civic ceremony, should be fined £10. A much later entry, namely, that dated Oct. 6, 1671, is to the following effect: "The Lord Maior elect (Sir George Waterman) desired a Committee might be chosen to manage the preparacon for the Lord Maior's Day, and that some show might be made in Cheap-side, and that some Gentlemen Ushers, Budge and Rich Batchelors might be chosen for the service of the day. Ordered that the fines of the Gentlemen Ushers Budge and Rich Batchelors be for the Charge of the Lord Maiors Day." Another set of books, namely the renter warden's accounts, begin in 1535-36. It seems that one of the wardens, under that title, was and is responsible during his year of office for the account of the Company's income and disbursements. Among innumerable entries is a series in 1648 about the quartering of soldiers in the Hall.

After the fifteenth century, as commerce extended, and garments other than those made of fur became comparatively cheap and plentiful, the trade of the Skinners declined. Writing in the year 1567, a correspondent of Hakluyt, the geographer, regrets that the wearing of furs should not be renewed, "especially in Courts and among Magistrates, not only for the restoring of an old worshipful Art and Company, but also because they are for our climate wholesome, delicate, grave, and comely, expressing dignity, comforting age, and of long continuance, and better with small cost to be preserved than those new silks, shags, and rags, wherein a great part of the wealth of the land is now hastily consumed."

The trade continuing to decline, especially after the incorporation of the Eastland merchants in 1579, who took up the business of buying and exporting skins, in 1592 the



Skinners petitioned Queen Elizabeth "that no pedlars or petty chapmen might gather or engross any skins or furs of the breed of England, but under licence of the Justices of the Peace"; and further, "that those who were thus licensed should not make sale of any such skins or furs so gathered by them, except to some persons known to be of the trade of Skinners"; and that all others might be restrained from buying and transporting them. The Eastland Company opposed this attempt to preserve a monopoly; and it was also resisted by the Lord Mayor and aldermen, who declared that if the terms of the petition were granted it would be "to the exceeding great prejudice, not only of the City; but of all other traders into foreign ports within the whole Realm." It thus came about that the petition failed, and the Skinners' Company, though always affluent and respected, ceased to be all-powerful in the trade which it nominally represents.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth difficulties also arose between the working members of the Guild, called the artisan skinners, and the governing body, which did not entirely cease until the year 1749.

Stow claims as founders and brethren of this fraternity no fewer than six kings, nine dukes, and two earls, and Herbert gives a list of twenty Skinners who held the mayoralty between 1348 and 1698. Of these perhaps the greatest benefactor to his Company was Sir Andrew Judd, native of Tunbridge in Kent, near which town he inherited considerable estates. He also made a large fortune as a trader in furs, and having been elected Lord Mayor in 1550, during his year of office, occupied, as Stow tells us, a "fair house" in Bishopsgate Street, which had before been used for a similar purpose by Sir William Holles, ancestor of the Earls of Clare of that name. Sir Andrew founded and endowed Tunbridge grammar school, which holds so high a



position among the educational establishments of England. By his will the management of it was vested in the Skinners' Company. He also founded an almshouse for poor men of his Company, near the church of St. Helen, Bishopsgate Street. It has been asserted by Dr. Cox in his Annals of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, that in this case he was only acting as executor to his cousin Elizabeth, widow of Sir William Holles, and this statement seems to be borne out by her will, proved March 28, 1544, but it is evident from an entry in the Court books that he considered himself the founder. Stow, however, does not mention the name of Lady Holles in connection with the charity, which was augmented by Judd's daughter, Alice Smythe, of Westenhanger, Kent. The almshouse was rebuilt by the Company in 1729, but the site was let on building lease about ten years ago, and soon afterwards the Skinners' almshouses, founded under the will of Lewis Newbury in 1683—a picturesque group in the Mile End Road—also disappeared. With the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, these and other charities have been united, the almshouses being rebuilt on an extended scale at Palmer's Green, New Southgate, Middlesex. Sir Andrew Judd died in 1558, and was buried in the church of St. Helen, Bishopsgate Street. A quaint Elizabethan monument marks his resting place. The inscription, in doggerel rhyme, gives quite a little biography of him. From this we learn that,

“ To Russia and Moscova,  
To Spayne Gynny withoute fable,  
Traveld he by land and sea,  
Both mayre of London and Staple.  
The Commenwelthe he norished  
So worthelie in all his daies,  
That ech state fullwell him loved,  
To his perpetuall prayes.  
Three wives he had, one was Mary,



Fower sunes, one mayde had he by her.  
 Annys had none by him truly,  
 By dame Mary had one dowghter.  
 Thus in the month of September,  
 A thowsande fyve hunderd fyftey  
 And eyght, died this worthie staplar.  
 Worshipynge his posterytye.  
 Sr Andrew Judd Knt."

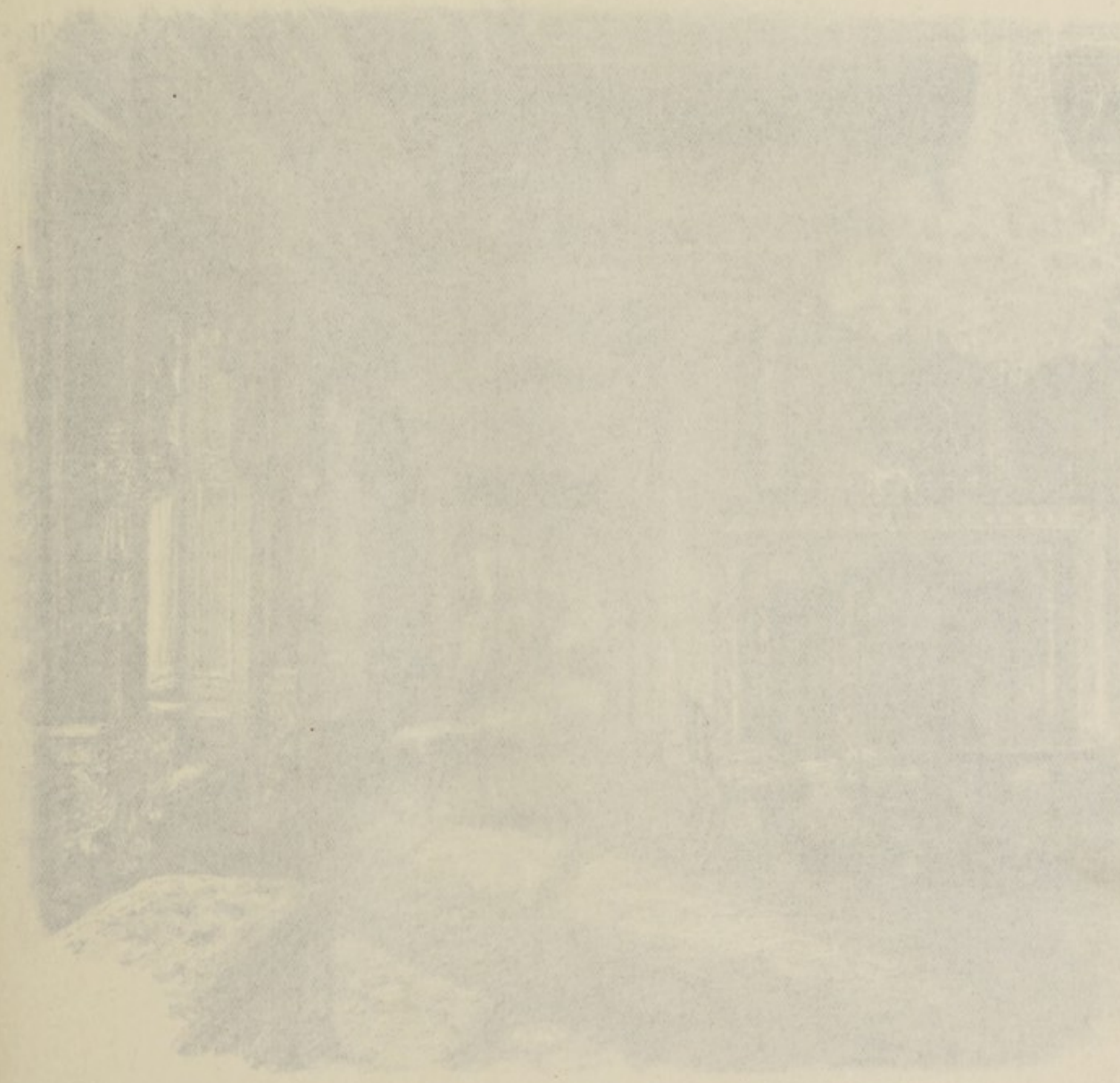
Henry Machyn in his diary describes Sir Andrew's funeral as having been conducted with great pomp. His sons died without issue. His daughter, Alice Smythe, inherited his wealth, and from her in the male line were descended the Viscounts Strangford.

Among other mayors of this Company the following should not be forgotten. Thomas Legge held office in 1347 and 1354, and gave £300—a very large sum in those days—to help the king in carrying on his war with France. He is said to have married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; from him is descended the present Earl of Dartmouth. Sir Thomas Mirfine or Merfyn, was master five times and Mayor in 1518. He had three daughters, of whom the eldest, Margaret, married as her second husband Sir John Champneis, also a Skinner, who became Mayor in 1534. Francis married Sir Richard Cromwell, great grandfather of the Protector, while the third daughter, Mary, was Sir Andrew Judd's first wife and mother of Alice Smythe. Sir Richard Dobbes or Dobbs held office in 1551. There is a portrait of him, when sixty-five years of age, belonging to Christ's Hospital. It has under it lines beginning:

Christes Hospital erected was, a passinge dede of pittie,  
 What tyme Sir Richard Dobbe was maior of y<sup>is</sup> most famous citie.

Machyn gives a very curious account of his funeral and of that of his widow. Sir Wolstan Dixie, Lord Mayor in 1585, was of an old Huntingdonshire family. Like Sir Andrew





Power was, and she had be by her,  
 Anne had been the true,  
 By that she had the daughter,  
 That in the month of September,  
 A day was the hundred fifty  
 And she was the worthy scapier.  
 What she was the scapier.  
 A day was the hundred fifty

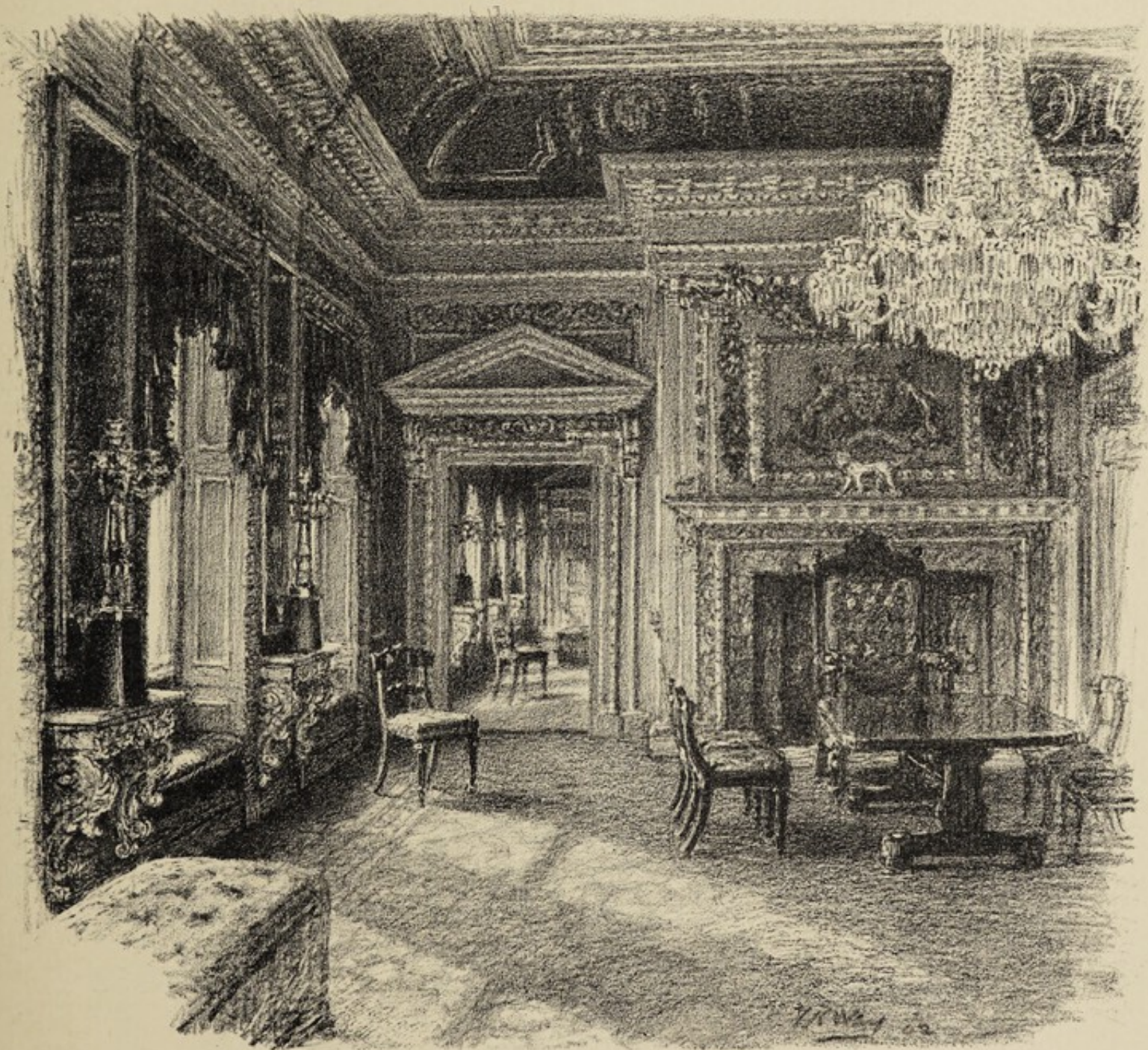
Henry Machyn in his diary describes Sir Andrew's funeral as having been the most magnificent great pomp. His sons died without issue. His daughter, Alice Smythe, inherited his wealth, and from her the male line were descended the Viscounts Fitzmaurice.

Among the members of this Company the following should not be forgotten. Thomas Legge held office in 1347 and 1359, and gave £100—a very large sum in those days—to help the king in carrying on his war with France. He is said to have married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; from him is descended the present Lord Fitzmaurice. Sir Thomas Mirfyn or Merfyn, was master of the Company and Mayor in 1518. He had three daughters, of whom the eldest, Margaret, married as her second husband Sir John Champneis, also a Skinner, who became Mayor in 1525. Francis married Sir Richard Cromwell, grand chamberlain of the Protector, while the third daughter, Anne, was Sir Andrew Judd's first wife and mother of Alice Judd. Sir Richard Dobbes or Dobbs held office in 1575, and left a portrait of him, when sixty-five years of age, hanging in Christ's Hospital. It has under it lines of Latin.

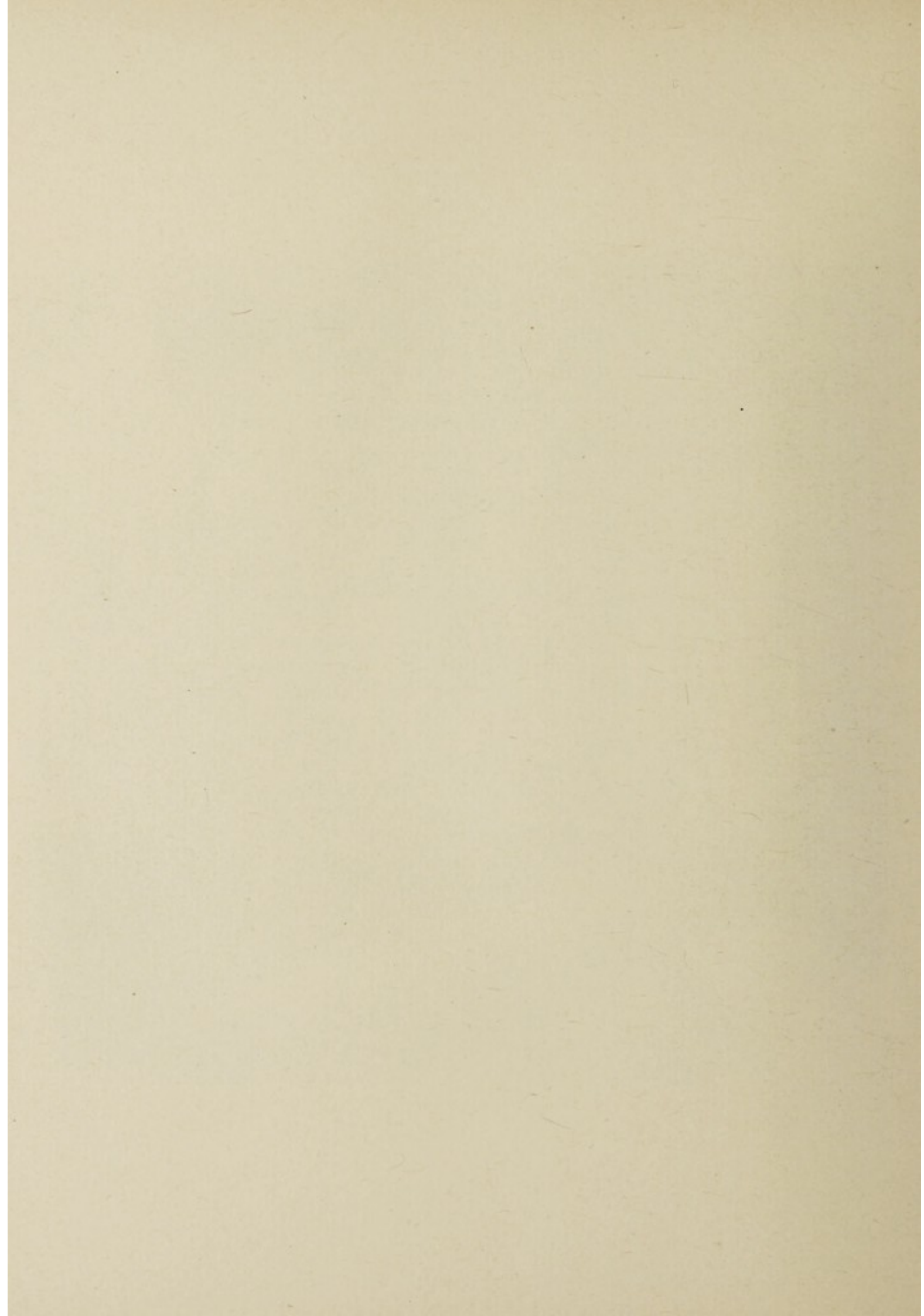
Christo Hospitali in anno regni Henrici octavi  
 What time Sir Andrew Dobbes was mayor of y<sup>e</sup> most famous citie.

Machyn gives a very interesting account of his funeral and of that of his widow. Sir Thomas Dixie, Lord Mayor in 1585, was of an old Huntingdonshire family. Like Sir Andrew











Judd, he made a fortune as a merchant trading with Russia. There is a portrait of him also at Christ's Hospital, of which institution he was a liberal benefactor; he also subscribed towards the building of Peterhouse, Cambridge. From him Sir Alexander Dixie is descended.

Sir William Cokayne, Lord Mayor in 1619, and first governor of the Irish society, was knighted on June 8, 1616, at Cokayne House, his residence in Broad Street exactly opposite the church of St. Peter le Poer, after entertaining the King and the Prince of Wales at a banquet. He died in 1626, in his sixty-sixth year, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral; four years afterwards his widow married Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, first Earl of Dover. Cokayne's only surviving son was created Viscount Cullen, a dignity which became extinct or dormant in 1810 by the death of the sixth viscount; his six daughters had each of them £10,000 on her marriage, and they all married into families which either possessed titles or afterwards acquired them.

Sir Robert Tichborne although of the Skinners' Company, was by trade a linen draper, carrying on business "by the little Conduit in Cheapside." On the outbreak of the Civil War between Charles I. and the Parliament he sided with the latter, and was in 1643 a captain in the yellow regiment of the London trained bands. In 1647 he was a colonel, and Fairfax appointed him Lieutenant of the Tower. Tichborne was an extreme independent, and on Jan. 15, 1649, presented a petition to Parliament in favour of the execution of the King; he was afterwards one of the King's judges and signed the death-warrant. He was a member of the Little Parliament, was knighted by Cromwell on Dec. 15, 1655, and summoned to his House of Lords in 1657; in 1656 he was Lord Mayor. After the Restoration Tichborne surrendered in obedience to a royal proclamation; he was tried at the Old Bailey in Oct., 1660, and sentenced to death,



but the sentence was never carried out, and he remained a prisoner for the rest of his life, dying in the Tower, July, 1682. He was the author of two religious works, both published in 1649. There is an interesting print of Sir Robert as Lord Mayor, on horseback, engraved in 1657. The original copperplate was bought at Flushing a few years ago and presented to the Skinners' Company.

Sir Thomas Pilkington, Lord Mayor in 1689, 1690, and 1691, also represented the City in Parliament on various occasions, and was twice master of the Company. In June 1681, he and Shute were elected sheriffs, this being a victory over the court party—and the following year he and his fellow-sheriff, “defeated, by an exceptional exercise of their authority, the Lord Mayor’s efforts to secure the election of the court candidates, Dudley North and Ralph Box.” The Lord Mayor informed the king that the sheriffs had behaved riotously. With others they were summoned before the Privy Council and fined in various amounts, Pilkington having to pay £500. On laying down his office he was charged with declining to accompany members of the corporation, on April 10, 1682, to pay respects to the Duke of York on his return from Scotland, and for using abusive language about the duke. The latter claimed £100,000 damages, and on the case being tried in the autumn of the same year a Hertfordshire jury decided against Pilkington for that amount. He was then committed to prison, where he remained for nearly four years. When James II. was driven into exile, and William and Mary came to the throne, he enjoyed the royal favour, and at his installation banquet in the autumn of 1689 he entertained the King and Queen with the Prince and Princess of Denmark.

Sir Humphrey Edwin, originally a Barber Surgeon who afterwards joined the Skinners' Company, is chiefly remembered as a dissenter, who nevertheless, when chosen Lord



Mayor in 1697, accepted the office, and took the sacrament in the form at that time prescribed by the Corporation Act. Shortly afterwards, namely on Oct. 31 and Nov. 7, he attended Nonconformist worship in full civic state, and on Nov. 9 there was a meeting of the court of aldermen "to consider a complaint of the sword-bearer against the Lord Mayor for compelling his attendance on the occasion, when the Lord Mayor was deserted by all his officers except the sword-bearer who was locked in a pew. Edwin promised not to repeat his action, and it was ordered 'that the like practice shall not be used for the time to come.'" Opinions differed as to which meeting-house was attended by the Lord Mayor; according to a letter written soon afterwards it was More's, a contemporary skit describes it as Salters' Hall, and other accounts say that it was Pinners' Hall. Penkethman, in his comedy of "Love without Interest," 1699, writes as follows: "If you'll compound for a catch, I'll sing you one of my Lord Mayor's going to Pin-makers' Hall to hear a snivelling non-separatist divine divide and subdivide into the two and thirty points of the compass." The rest of Edwin's mayoralty passed off without event, except that for a short time, when he was suffering from ill health, Sir Robert Clayton took his place. Towards the building of the London workhouse in Bishopsgate Street, which was begun in his mayoralty, he gave £100 and a pack of wool, a present suggesting that he was a wool merchant. His eldest son, Samuel, married a daughter of the Earl of Manchester. It appears that from his fifth son, John, is descended in the female line the present Earl of Crawford and Balcarres.

In the renter warden's accounts are various references to the Skinners' Barge used for state occasions. At first it was only hired. Thus in 1544-45 there is payment for a barge "at suche time as the Company with the Companye



of Taylors did associat Maister Judd and Maister Wilford, Sheriffs, to take the othes." In the same year they hired a barge when the Lord Mayor went by water to Westminster, and paid £1 os. 4d. for it. In 1655 they agreed to have a barge of their own. In an entry of March 6 in the following year we are told that "it were (*sic*) necessary for the Company to build themselves a new barge, having often bin caryed in poore boates that sometimes could not carye the Company to their journeyes end." The barge was built, and in the following year the committee tried her by making a voyage to Putney. Shortly afterwards there is mention of a barge house. In 1728 or 1729 the barge was repaired, and in 1738 the court contracted with a man named Hall to build them one like the Fishmongers' barge for £439; and Mr. Thomas Nash, then master, was to provide glass and furniture. There are other curious entries which are somewhat too long for insertion. An event to be remembered was the opening of the Coal Exchange in 1849, which our late Queen Victoria graciously honoured by her presence. The Skinners and other Companies attended Her Majesty in their barges during her progress down the river, and afterwards accompanied her back to Whitehall. The barge was thoroughly repaired in 1855, but when the civic processions came to an end the Company regretfully gave it up. It was sold to Mr. Searle for £75, and afterwards for many years was afloat at Oxford, as the boathouse of Queen's College, alongside of several other old City barges, all of which have now disappeared. The Skinners' and the Goldsmiths' Companies together rented a barge-house at Chelsea, first from the Bishop of London and afterwards from the Apothecaries' Company.

Stow tells us that on the west side of Dowgate "standeth the Skinners' Hall, a fair house, which was sometime called Copped Hall, in the Parish of St. John upon Walbrook.



In the nineteenth year of Edward the Second Ralph Cobham possessed it with five shops, etc." The Skinners have a series of early deeds relating to this property. The first, dated 1295, is a grant of Copped Hall, between the king's highway on the east and the stream of Walbrook on the west, by Edmund Earl of Cornwall to his faithful merchant Reginald of Thunderley. As far as one can make out from subsequent deeds, the Company began, towards the end of the fourteenth century, to use the original Hall, or one built on its site. This was about the time when the two fraternities, mentioned on a previous page, became united. Entries in the books of the Company show what was the internal arrangement of the banqueting hall, at least in its later days. On glancing at an inventory of 1580 one finds that, like the rest, it had a raised dais at one end, and a cupboard for plate, a minstrels' gallery at the other end, a long table, a carving table, and other furniture. The walls were not wainscoted, but were hung with tapestry and decorated with the arms of the Company and with those of distinguished members. The Great Fire of London destroyed this City Hall with many others, but the books and plate were removed in time to a place of safety. The first meeting after the fire was held in the vestry house of St. Martin's Outwich. There were subsequent meetings at Leathersellers' Hall, at the Bull in Bishopsgate, the vestry of St. Helen's and other places.

In 1668 it was agreed that "the front houses at Skinners' Hall towards the street be built with what speed they conveniently may." The rebuilding of the Hall was proceeded with on the old site, but the name of the architect or surveyor does not appear. Among the expenses is a charge of £326 for cedar, no doubt for the wainscoting of the cedar room still in existence. In 1695 the Hall was let to Sir Owen Buckingham, sheriff, and in 1696 it was let to the Lord Mayor for £200. In 1698 it was let to the new East



India Company for a year and three quarters at an annual rent of £250. In 1700 this new Company, on its amalgamation with the old Company in Leadenhall Street, presented the Skinners with a carved mahogany table and four large silver candlesticks. A few of the changes in the building on Dowgate Hill since the Great Fire may be briefly chronicled, and allusion made to its present aspect. The present front to the street was built by Mr. Richard Jupp, the Company's architect or surveyor, about 1790. It has Ionic pilasters and a pediment on which are the Skinners' arms. Passing through a passage one enters a courtyard, the usual adjunct of a City Company's premises. Facing one, that is towards the back, is the older portion of the building, containing the Hall and the other more important rooms. As seen from the courtyard it is a pleasant structure of red and dark bricks laid chequerwise. The Hall was very much altered, indeed almost rebuilt in 1847-1848, by Mr. George Moore, who was then architect of the Company, and about twenty years ago further alterations were made. It is large and well proportioned, but from the artistic point of view has no special interest. The staircase, of the type which was common immediately after the Great Fire, is exceptionally massive and handsome; the plaster work here was probably put up in 1737. On the right of the upper landing is the Cedar room or Cedar Drawing room, the panelling being of that wood. Although part of the old building, it has been a good deal altered. In 1772 the floor was changed and a new ceiling provided. The room was modernized at the same time as the Hall, and in 1876, when Mr. Charles Barry was master, a coved ceiling was substituted for the eighteenth century one. It is still a handsome apartment, as is well shown in Mr. Way's lithograph. On the mantelpiece is a carving of the crest, and above are the arms and supporters of the Company. The Oak parlour is approached by a flight



of steps from the landing half way up the staircase. Until 1889 it was divided into servants' rooms, but fortunately a carved overmantel remained, also the panelling and part of



SKINNERS' HALL. THE OAK PARLOUR

the decorated plaster ceiling, and it now has quite an old fashioned look. But perhaps the pleasantest apartment at Skinners' Hall is the Court-room on the ground floor, of which an illustration is also given. In the overmantel a view of Tonbridge school has been inserted; it was the work

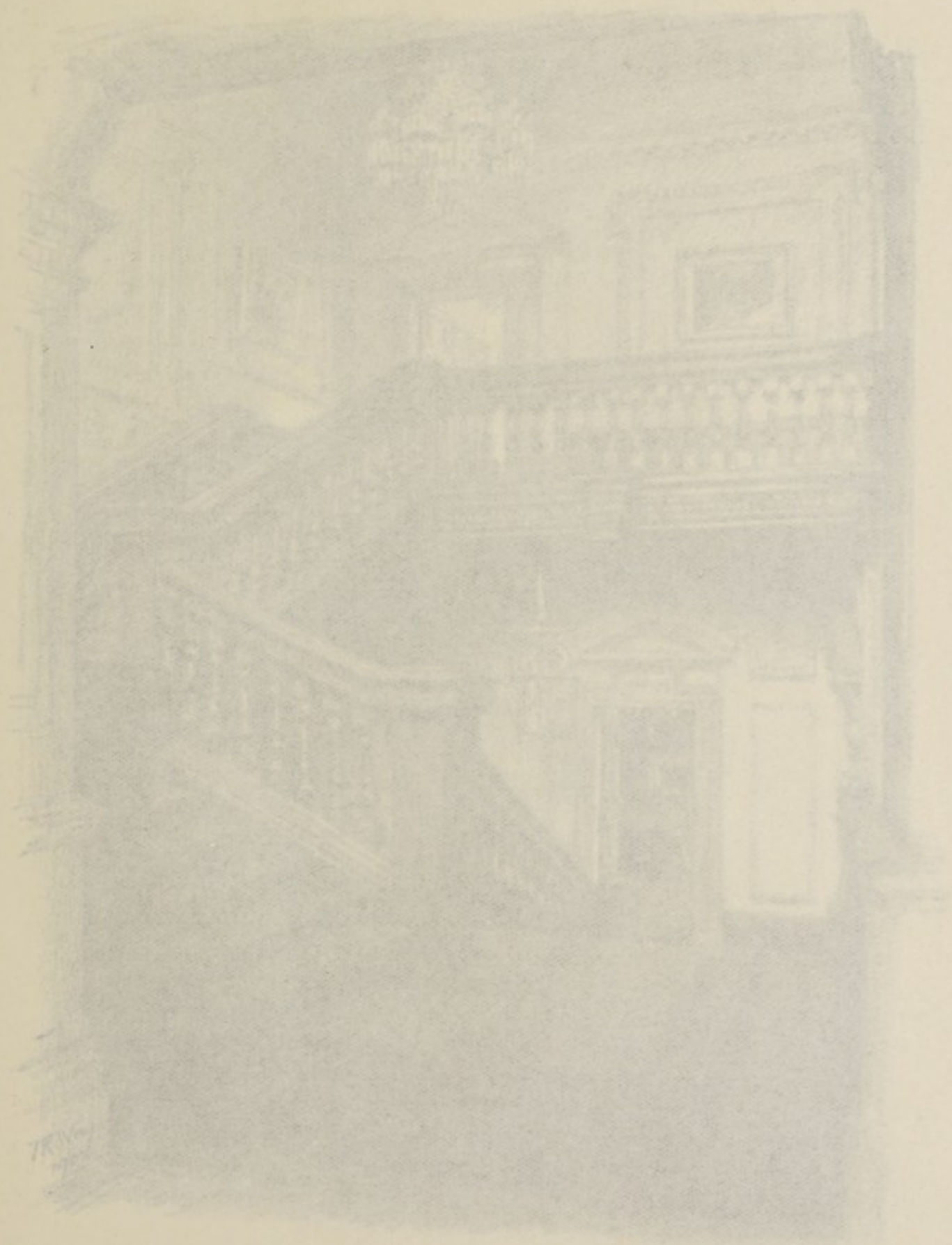


of a former master, painted by him in 1831-1832. There are here two notable portraits; the half length of Sir Thomas Smythe, Sir Andrew Judd's grandson, in his costume as commander of trained bands, is well painted and historically interesting. He was a benefactor of the Skinners' Company and a man of mark, whom, if space allowed, we would describe more fully. There is a monument to him with effigy in the church of Sutton-at-Hone. Another interesting picture, though of less value as a work of art, is a full-length portrait of Sir Thomas Pilkington, painted by Thomas Linton in 1693.

At the back of the buildings a small piece of garden still survives. Part of this seems to have belonged in former times to Whittington College, and was bought in 1670. As in the case of the Drapers' garden, it is embellished by a mulberry tree, which forms perhaps its chief attraction and seems fairly vigorous. By the offices is one of those fine leaden cisterns which used to be so common in the City. Their date is generally between 1700 and 1780; in this case it is 1762. Another noteworthy object is the renter warden's iron chest, made in 1685, of which Mr. Wadmore gives an illustration. It is very heavy, and has an elaborate arrangement of locks; the original cost was £15 3s.

As in the case of the other great companies, the Skinners possess some valuable plate; perhaps the Cokayne loving cups attract one's attention the most. They are "five silver and guilt cuppes on the fashion of a cocke," bequeathed to the Company by Mr. William Cokayne, father of the Lord Mayor, in 1599. Each is 16½ inches high and stands on a pedestal formed like a turtle, its weight being 72 ounces. The plate mark is for the year 1565. Another important piece is the Cowell rose-water dish, weighing 72 ounces, which was given or bequeathed by a Skinner of that name in 1625, but has the plate mark of 1566. The Peacock cup is in reality a





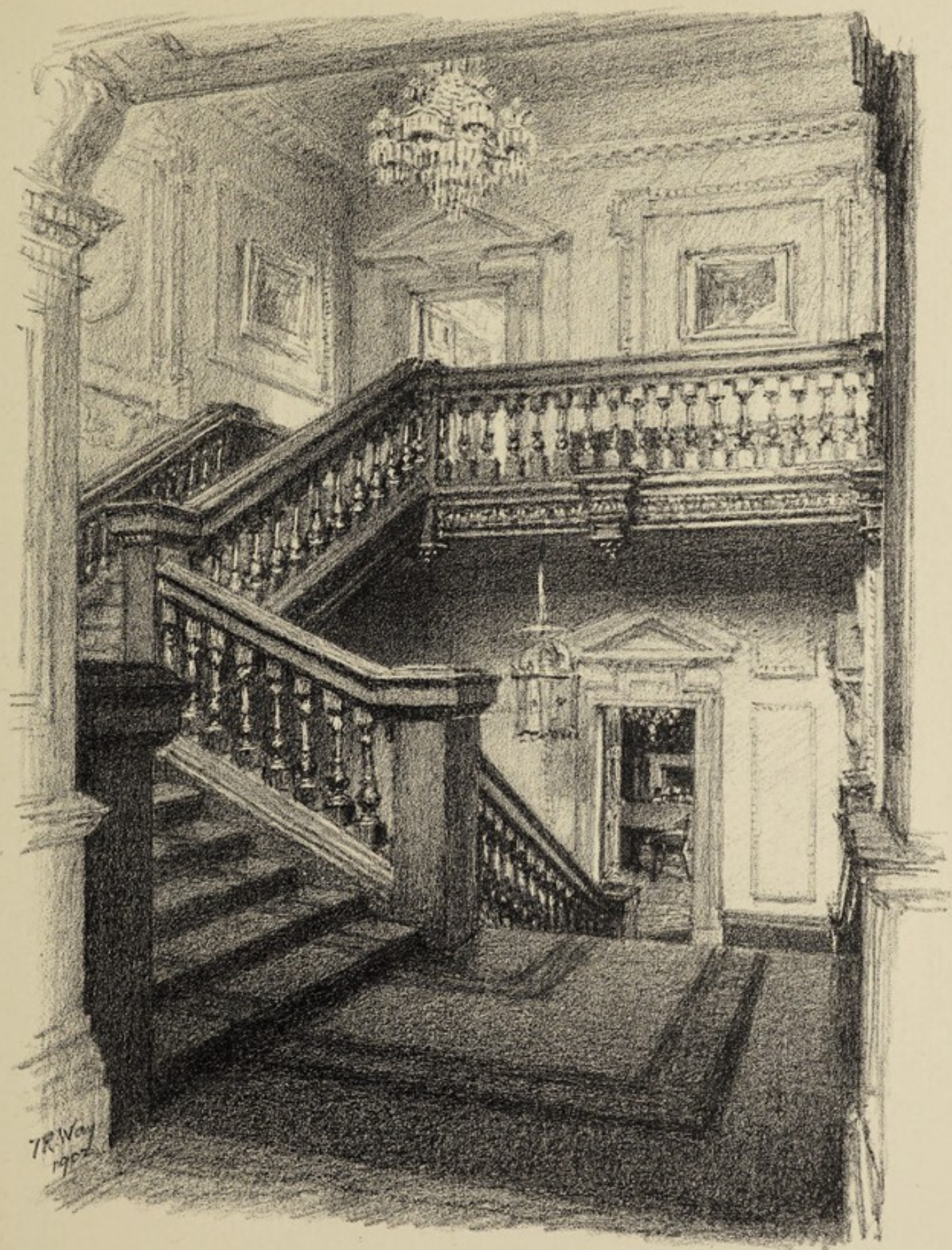
TRINITY

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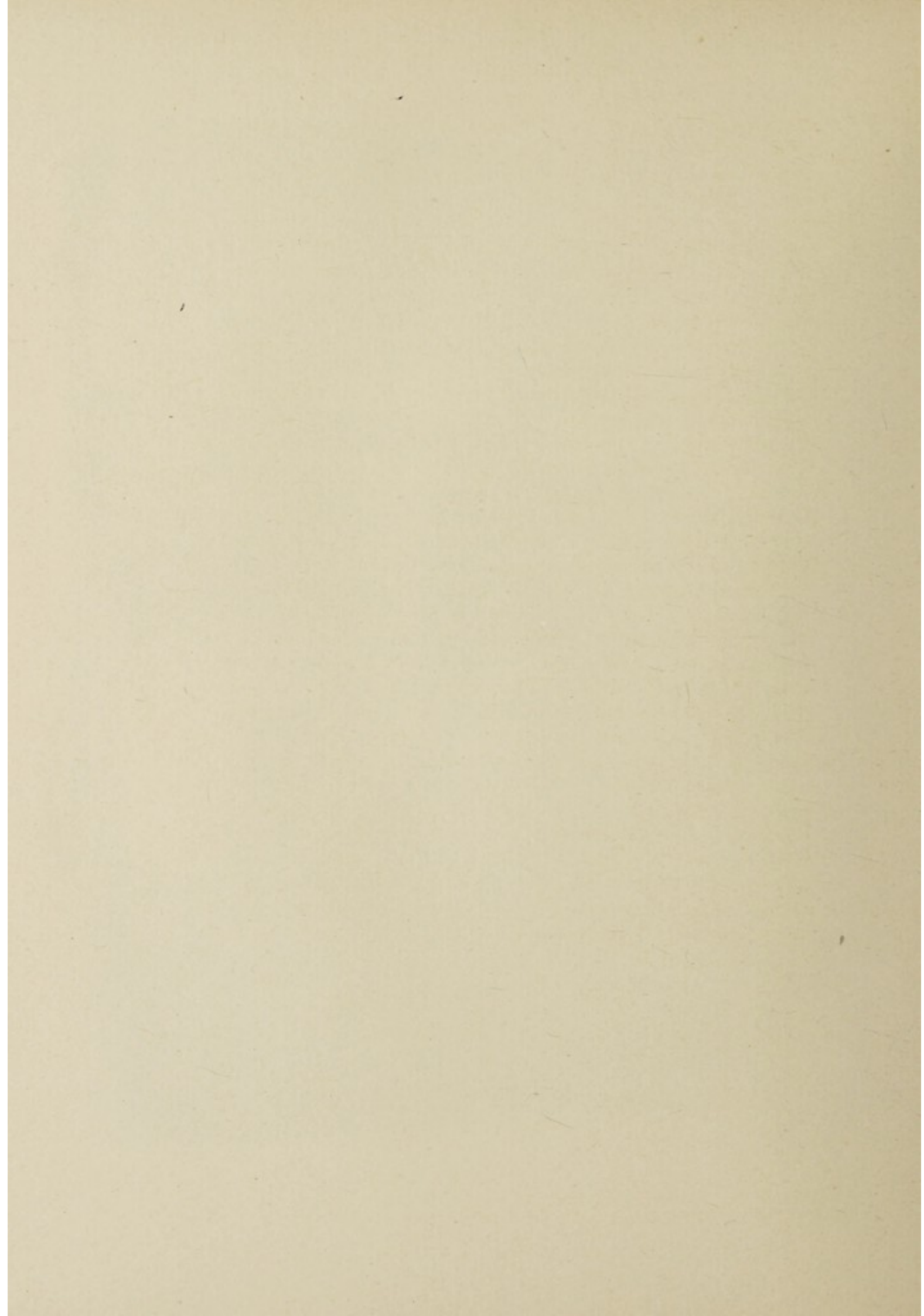
As in the case of the other great companies, the Skinners possess some valuable pieces; perhaps the Cokayne loving cups attract one's attention the most. They are "five silver and gilt coppes on the outside of a cocke," bequeathed to the Company by Mr. William Cokayne, father of the Lord Mayor, in 1599. Each is 16½ inches high and stands on a pedestal formed like a tusk; its weight being 72 ounces. The plate mark is for the year 1604. Another important piece is the Cowell rose-weigher, weighing 72 ounces, which was given or bequeathed by a Mr. Cowell of that name in 1625, but has the plate mark of 1580. The Peacock cup is in reality a





T.R. Way  
1902







silver peahen with three peachicks. When the head is removed it can be used as a loving cup. The weight is over 62 ounces, there is no plate mark, on the foot is a coat of arms. The ground, says Mr. Wadmore, is embossed with figures of reptiles, turtles, snails, and tree roots. On the base is inscribed, "The gifte of Mary, ye daughter of Richard Robinson, and wife to Thomas Smith and James Peacock Skinners, 1642." Thomas Smith and James Peacock were Masters in 1629-30 and 1638-39 respectively. To an oak pedestal, made for this cup of late years, a silver badge having on it the arms of the Company (1719) is now affixed; it used to be worn on his left arm by the barge master. The leopard snuffbox is a silver leopard with collar, representing the crest of the Company. The head is removeable, forming a snuff-box; the body forms another snuff-box. This weighs 34 ounces, and was given by Roger Kempmaster, in 1680. There is much fine plate besides, which is described, and some of it figured, in the catalogue of the City Companies' plate exhibited at the Ironmongers' Hall in 1861.

Before quitting the subject of this important Guild it will be right to mention an old custom still kept up. It takes place at the Hall on Dowgate after the annual election dinner to the Court and Livery, and is known as the "ceremony of cocks and caps." The "cocks" are the silver gilt drinking vessels already described. The dinner is presided over by the out-going master, who has seated on his right hand the master-elect. A procession is or as late as 1902 was formed, consisting of musicians with horns and trumpets, ten boys from Christ's Hospital, that being the number nominated for maintenance by the Company, ten junior liverymen bearing the five cocks and five caps, the two beadles with their staves, and the clerk. The procession, having marched round the centre table, halts, and the master announces that it is his duty to select as his successor



one whom the master's cap will fit. Trials are made on one or two of the guests seated on the master's left hand, but these prove misfits, and cap number one having been fitted on the master-elect, cock number one is used by the outgoing master to drink the health of the new master. The three wardens and the renter warden are afterwards elected in a similar manner. The following extract from "The Times" of June 6, 1896, will give a good idea of what has been of late years the course of proceedings on election day. "The Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated by the Skinners' Company in the customary manner on Thursday. The Court met in the morning and elected the master and wardens for the ensuing year. At two o'clock the usual procession, headed by boys from Christ's Hospital, and including the master and wardens, the clerk of the Company, and other officers, left Skinners' Hall, and proceeded to the church of St. Mary Aldermary, where a sermon was preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is an honorary member of the Company. The election banquet was held in the evening, when the ancient ceremony of 'cocks and caps' was performed."

Many of the facts which we have recorded are set forth in an "Account of the Worshipful Company of Skinners of London," by Mr. James Foster Wadmore, senior Past Master of the Company, and we gratefully acknowledge the help derived from it. We have had the opportunity of seeing an advance copy of this work, which has been recently printed, and is, we are informed, about to be offered to the public. It grew from a paper which appeared among the Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, now many years ago, and was afterwards republished. The present volume is far more important, and evidently much pains have been taken to make it as complete as possible. Whilst correcting the proof of this paragraph, we hear, with much regret, that within the last few days Mr. Wadmore has passed away.



## THE MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY

**A**MONG the great Companies the Merchant Taylors' looms large in the eyes of the public, and it has an illustrious history, which is set forth in three thick and learned volumes issued for private circulation by the late Mr. C. M. Clode, whom the writer had the privilege of knowing. He occupied the chair in 1873-4, and in the title page of his "Memorials of the Guild," claims to have been the 574th master in succession.

Probably the earliest mention of members of the craft as an associated body occurs in an account of one of those quarrels, between the various trade guilds, which in mediæval times were so common. In this case it was between the Taylors and the Goldsmiths; a riot ensued, resulting in the conviction and punishment of the leaders on both sides in November, 1267. The next event, which we learn from Stow, is a grant by Edward I., in 1299, of his licence to adopt the name of Taylors and Linen Armourers of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist, and to hold their feast and election yearly on midsummer or St. John the Baptist's day. Their second name took its origin from the fact that, besides being tailors, they also made the padding and interior lining of armour, then rather an important industry. Sometimes in ancient documents they were called "scissorii," or "mercatores scissores," an indication that they cut out garments besides sewing them.

In March, 1326, the first Charter was granted by Ed-



ward III., who early in his career fully comprehended the growing wealth and importance of the City guilds, and to whom so many of them owe their charters. This document of the Taylors and Linen Armourers confirms their previous privileges dating "from the time whereof there is no memory." At the time referred to they were great importers of wool, but they only contributed £20 towards the cost of the king's French war, which would not indicate that they were then a very wealthy guild. After 1361 they obtained a grant, recorded in their records, but not mentioned by Dugdale, of a chapel on the north side of St. Paul's Cathedral in honour of St. John the Baptist, for service and prayers on behalf of them "that are or shall be of the Fraternity." In a will dated 1368 mention is made of the new chapel at the north door of St. Paul's. In 1385 Richard II., following, it is said, the example of his grandfather Edward III., became an honorary member, and in 1390 he gave them their second charter, chiefly confirming previous grants. In 1401 the Saracen's Head, Friday Street, was purchased by them, this being one of the oldest London hostelrys; rebuilt after the Great Fire, it existed as an inn until 1844. In 1401 also, Henry IV. and the Prince his son were admitted to the honorary freedom of the Company. In 1407 the charter was again renewed and licence was given to hold their lands in mortmain. In 1436-37 the London Guilds were dealt with in an Act of Parliament which obliged them to register their charters or letters patent before the Mayor, and to submit their ordinances for his approval, and for record at the Guildhall. A fourth charter in 1439 gave the Company an exclusive right of search and control in the City over men practising their craft. Under this charter an annual search was made at St. Bartholomew's Fair, which for several centuries was the great cloth fair of England. In 1442 the Taylors



strenuously opposed the election of Robert Clopton, draper, as Mayor, favouring one of their own brethren, by name Ralph Holland, who afterwards left them property. They became so violent in their opposition that some of them were committed to Newgate. Trade rivalry doubtless accounted for this outbreak, the two guilds being somewhat in the same line of business. It was probably in revenge that Robert Clopton during his mayoralty obtained an order for the suspension of the Taylors' last charter, on the ground that it was illegal; but in 1460 Edward IV., who, like all his immediate predecessors, had joined the Guild as honorary member, granted them a fifth charter confirming the previous one, which on account of Clopton's action had become for a time of little or no value. Before this, namely, in 1455, the chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral being insufficient for their requirements, the Taylors established and endowed a chapel at their hall, and obtained from the Pope leave to celebrate masses there. In 1480 they received their first grant of arms. It was "Silver, a pavilion between two mantles imperial purple, garnished with gold in a chief azure, a holy lamb within a sun." The original crest was "A pavilion, purple, garnished with gold, being within the same our Blessed Lady St. Mary the Virgin in a vesture of gold sitting upon a cushion azure, Christ her son standing naked before her, holding between his hands a vesture called tunica inconsutilis (seamless), his said mother working upon that, one end of the same vesture set within a wreath gold and azure, the mantle purple, furred with ermine." The present arms, crest and supporters were granted in 1586. In 1484 arose the famous contest for precedence with the Skinners', which was alluded to in our last chapter.

Henry VII., another royal member of the Company, granted them their final charter, save those of mere con-



firmation, in 1502. He recites that as they "daily do use occupy and exercise, in all quarters and kingdoms of the world, all and every kinds of merchandizes, to the renown honour and benefit of our kingdom and subjects," and are accustomed to deal in such merchandize, especially in woollen cloth, both wholesale and retail in London and other parts of England; therefore "we of our especial grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, do transfer and change the said Guild and Fraternity in the name of the Guild of Merchant Tailors of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist in the City of London." Thus the additional title of Linen Armourers was given up, and the "Taylors" henceforth were known as Merchant Taylors. This charter enabled them to take in "whatsoever persons, natives, whom they might be willing to receive into the said Fraternity without the hindrance or disturbance of any person or persons of any other art or mystery of the City," and thus from this time, if not previously, they ceased to belong altogether to the trade which they nominally represent. In this, however, as in other Guilds, there was long trouble between the working members of the craft, called here yeomen or bachelors, and the governing body. As early as 1415 it is said that "these servants and apprentices congregate and assemble together by themselves, without the government or supervision of the superiors of the trade." In 1417 they petitioned the mayor and aldermen for leave to assemble yearly at the church of St. John of Jerusalem near Smithfield, but that was refused unless they went with the master. However, they formed themselves into a sort of fraternity governed by four "warden substitutes," so called. A chief object with them seems to have been to crush the competition of men not members of the Guild. Clode says that the organization was not abolished until 1691; apparently they were freemen.



The more we study the records of the London Guilds the more apparent it becomes that before the advent of Protestantism, religious observance was mixed up to a remarkable extent with the everyday life of our citizens. A religious origin might plausibly be attributed to most, if not all, of the great London Companies, and yet it seems clear to the writer that the religious element in them was always subordinate to the commercial one. The effects of the Reformation, were, however, severely felt by these associations, for, although treated as secular and therefore not suppressed, most of the property which had come into their hands was charged with annual payments in support of chantries for the souls of the various donors. The Act of Parliament of 37 Henry VIII. for the dissolution of chantries, colleges, and free chapels, had given these and the property connected with them to the Crown, but they do not appear to have been wholly taken possession of until 1547 or the first year of the reign of Edward VI. At that time inquiries were made by the King's commissioners, and the Merchant Taylors' reply enables one to ascertain what were the religious endowments then in their hands. They denied having a chapel of their own, presumably it had fallen into disuse, but they acknowledged having endowments for nine priests and twenty-three obits or services in the chapel on the north side of St. Paul's and in various City churches. These annual charges, amounting in all to £102 *os.* 10*d.*, were sold by the Crown to the Company, which to redeem them had to part with land to the extent of over £2,000.

The year 1561 was a remarkable one in the annals of the Company, for it saw the beginning of the Merchant Taylors' School. The names of two excellent and noteworthy men occur to us in connection with its origin. Sir Thomas White had been Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company about 1535, and later had aided them in



the purchase of the obit rent charges. He was elected Lord Mayor in 1553, was on the commission for the trial of Lady Jane Grey and her adherents, and had a considerable share in suppressing Wyatt's rebellion; but he will perhaps be chiefly remembered as the founder (1555) of St. John's College, Oxford, which was dedicated to the praise and honour of God, the blessed Virgin Mary, and St. John the Baptist (patron saint of the Merchant Taylors). He also took a considerable part in the foundation of the Merchant Taylors' School, and out of the fifty fellowships created and endowed at his college he reserved forty-three for the Company's scholars. But Richard Hills or Hilles was chiefly responsible for the establishment of the school, the statutes of which were modelled on those of St. Paul's school. He it was who contributed £500 towards the purchase of the west gatehouse, courtyard, galleries, and part of the chapel, forming a moiety of that mansion in the parish of St. Laurence Pountney, which Stow calls the Manor of the Rose, and which, as we have mentioned, had once been the residence of Sir John de Pulteney. This was adapted to the requirements of a school, the entrance being in Suffolk Lane. The Great Fire irreparably damaged this ancient structure; the school was shortly afterwards rebuilt on the same site, and was removed to the London Charterhouse in 1875.

What is known of Mr. Richard Hills must chiefly be gathered from the history of his Company. On account of religious difficulties he lived in exile during some years, but returned after the death of Henry VIII. He was Master of the Merchant Taylors' immediately after the foundation of their school in Suffolk Lane, and one or two of the items of expenditure during his official term must have been repugnant to him, for he was a zealous Protestant. Thus money was paid for a mass at the feast, for re-erecting a roodloft in



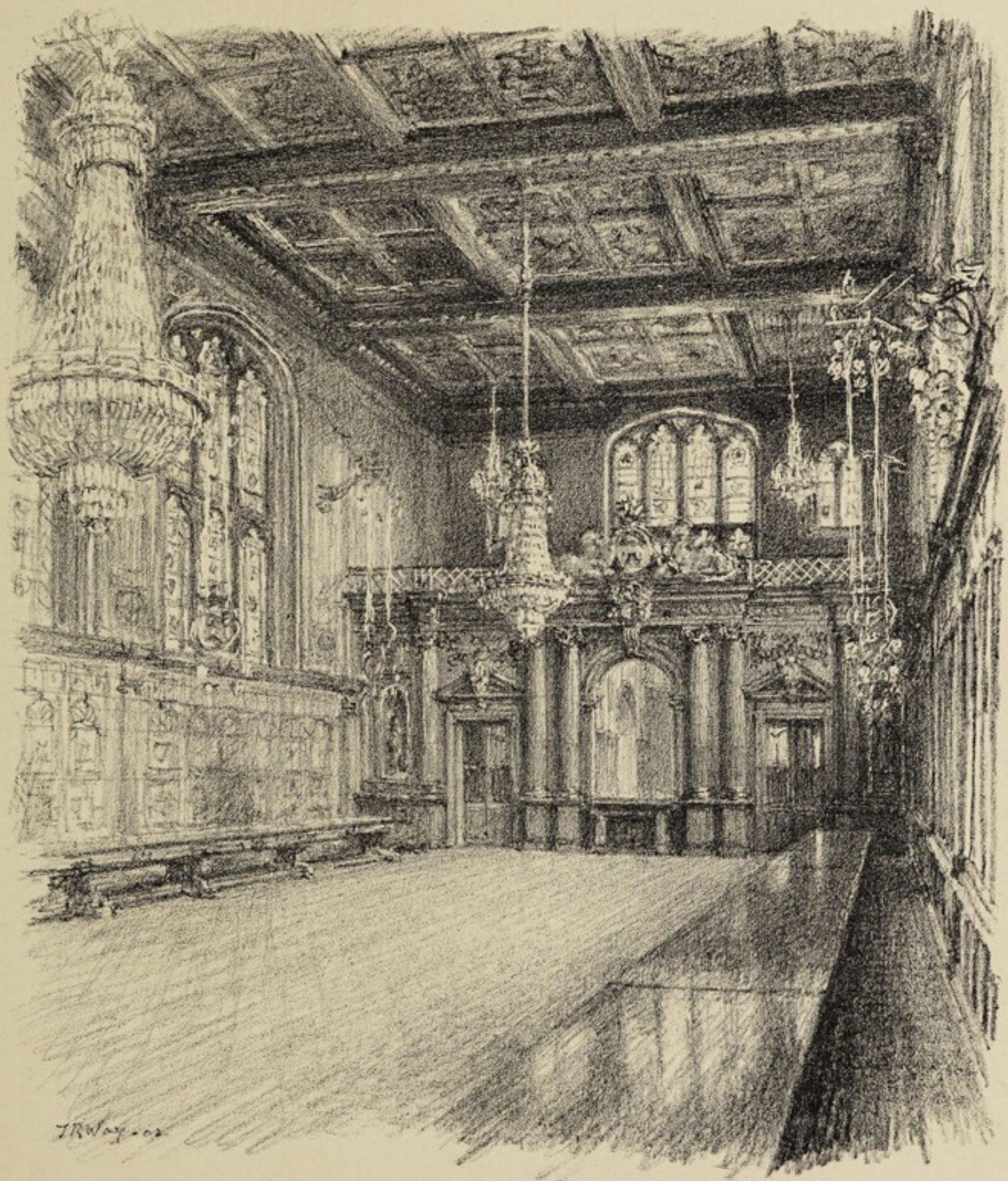


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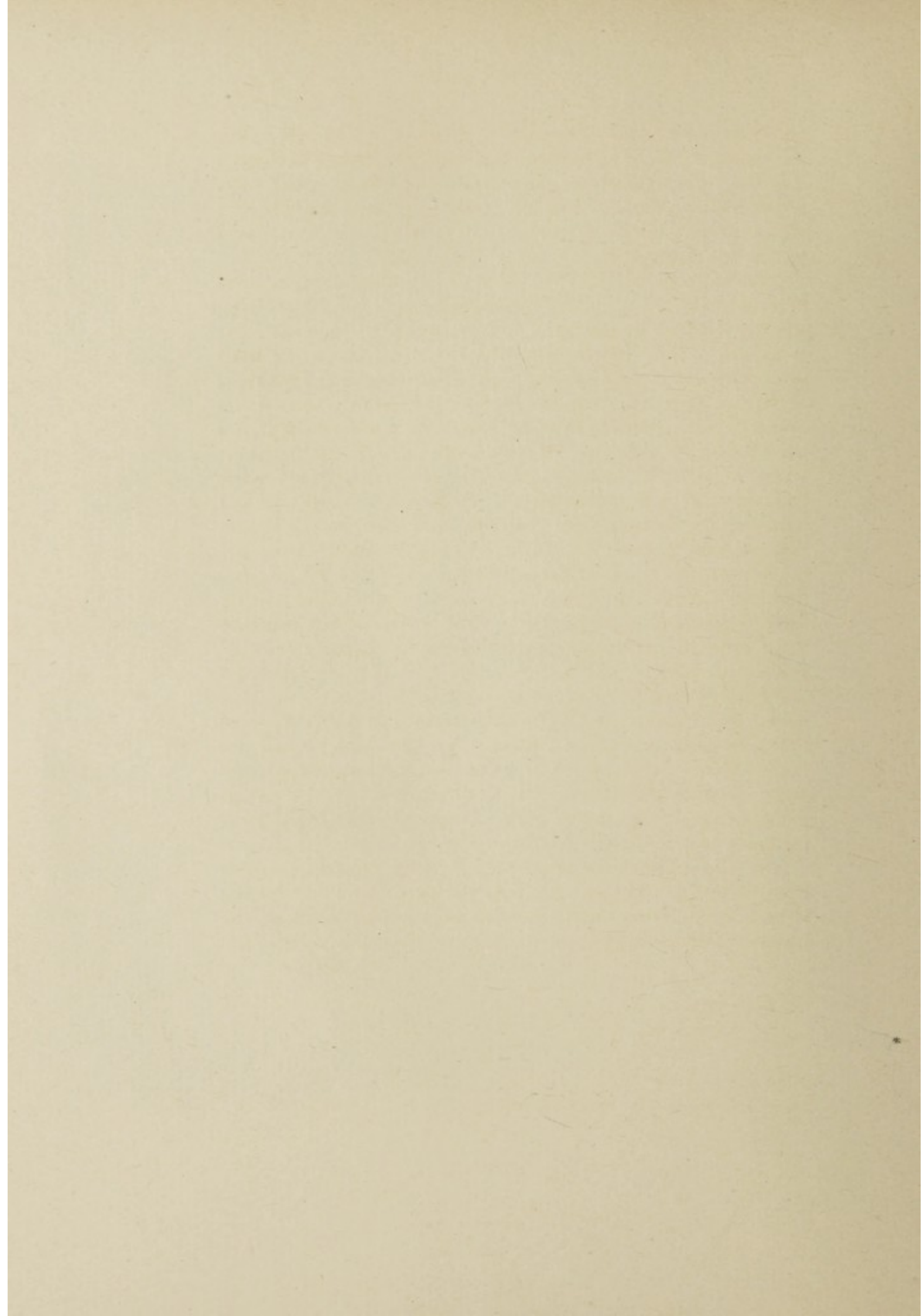
When a member of Mr. Richard Hills must chiefly be gathered to the memory of his Company. On account of religious differences he was in exile during some years, but returned to England in the reign of Henry VIII. He was Master of the Merchant Taylors' immediately after the foundation of their school at St. Paul's, and one or two of the items of expenditure during his official term must have been repugnant to the views of a zealous Protestant. Thus money was paid for the purchase of a boat, for re-erecting a roodloft in





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St. Martin's Church, and in similar ways. The rest of his life was largely devoted to the affairs of the Merchant Taylors. He established almshouses on Tower Hill, supplementary to those at the hall, and at his death in 1586-87, although he had sons, he seems to have left most of his means to the destitute poor.

On October 21st, 1571, we find the Company, in conjunction with the Vintners, discharging their duty by setting an armed watch at the gates and posterns of the city, from 6 o'clock in the morning until 5 in the evening, to keep in check, and if necessary apprehend all idle and disorderly persons. The next year "188 good tall clenly and of the best picked persones of the Company" were ordered to attend the Queen on May day, of which number 94 were "to be armed in fair corsletts with pikes," the rest variously equipped, and they were to assemble at the Artillery Yard without Bishopsgate, known later as the old Artillery Ground. Among the records in April, 1581, is an order from the Queen to use various "French strangers" who had arrived in London "well and quietly," two discreet members being told to see to the execution of this order. They were to warn citizens to behave courteously towards the strangers, above all things, "not to quarrel or commit any affray or breach of the peace." These strangers were French refugees, fleeing from persecution. In 1588 the Lord Mayor directed that this Company should furnish 35 men well armed, for the Queen's service against the Spanish Armada. On June 7, 1607, James I. paid a memorable visit to the Company, when he and the King of Denmark were entertained by them at a cost of more than £1,000.

In 1609, the year when the scheme for the Ulster Plantation was first set on foot, James I. also pressed the City Companies to aid in the colonization of Virginia, the immediate benefits suggested being, as regards Londoners,



that the City and suburbs would be eased of "a swarm of unnecessary inmates, a contynual cause of dearth and famyne and the very originall cause of all the plagues in this Kingdome." To the emigrants the inducement was that they would have at once "meate, drink, and clothing, with an house, orchard, and garden (for the meanest family), and a possession of lands to them and their posterity. On general grounds the cause was recommended as "an action concerning God and the advancement of religion, the present ease, future honour, and safety of the Kingdome, the strength of our Navy, the visible hope of a great and rich trade and many secret blessings not yet discovered." In response to this appeal the Guild subscribed collectively £200, and in addition members in their individual capacity "ventured with the Virginia Company" £586 6s. 4d.

During the Civil War the Merchant Taylors paid large sums to help each side, but chiefly the Royalists. Thus in 1640 they raised £5,000 for the service of the King, and in 1644 £4,050, their share of £50,000 borrowed from the several Companies. Altogether these forced loans or gifts amounted to no less a sum than £19,500. Part of the money they had to borrow at eight per cent., and in 1644 they raised nearly £900 by selling plate. The sympathy of the Guild seems on the whole to have been with Parliament, as was generally the case in the City.

The next important event in the history of the Merchant Taylors was the Great Fire, to which we shall presently revert. The closing years of the reign of Charles II. were marked by hostile actions against the civic authorities. The Corporation having first been reduced to submission in 1684, proceedings were taken by the King against the City Companies, with the view of getting into his own hands the power of appointing and dismissing those who administered their affairs. This Guild, like the rest, made a virtue of



necessity, they surrendered their special privileges and remained more or less in a state of subservience to the Crown until the advent of William and Mary, by whom the ancient charters were restored. Yet we have one pleasant reminiscence of the Merry Monarch in connection with Merchant Taylors' Hall. In 1682 the London apprentices drew up an address, signed by great numbers of them, expressing their determination to stand by the government, whose supporters invited 1,500 of them to a great feast here. It took place on August 9, and to contribute to its success Charles issued the following warrant: "Walter Dicker, Pray kill a brace of very good bucks and only paunch them ; and carry them whole, put upright in a cart, stuck with boughs, to Merchant Taylors' Hall, on Tuesday next for the apprentices' Feast."

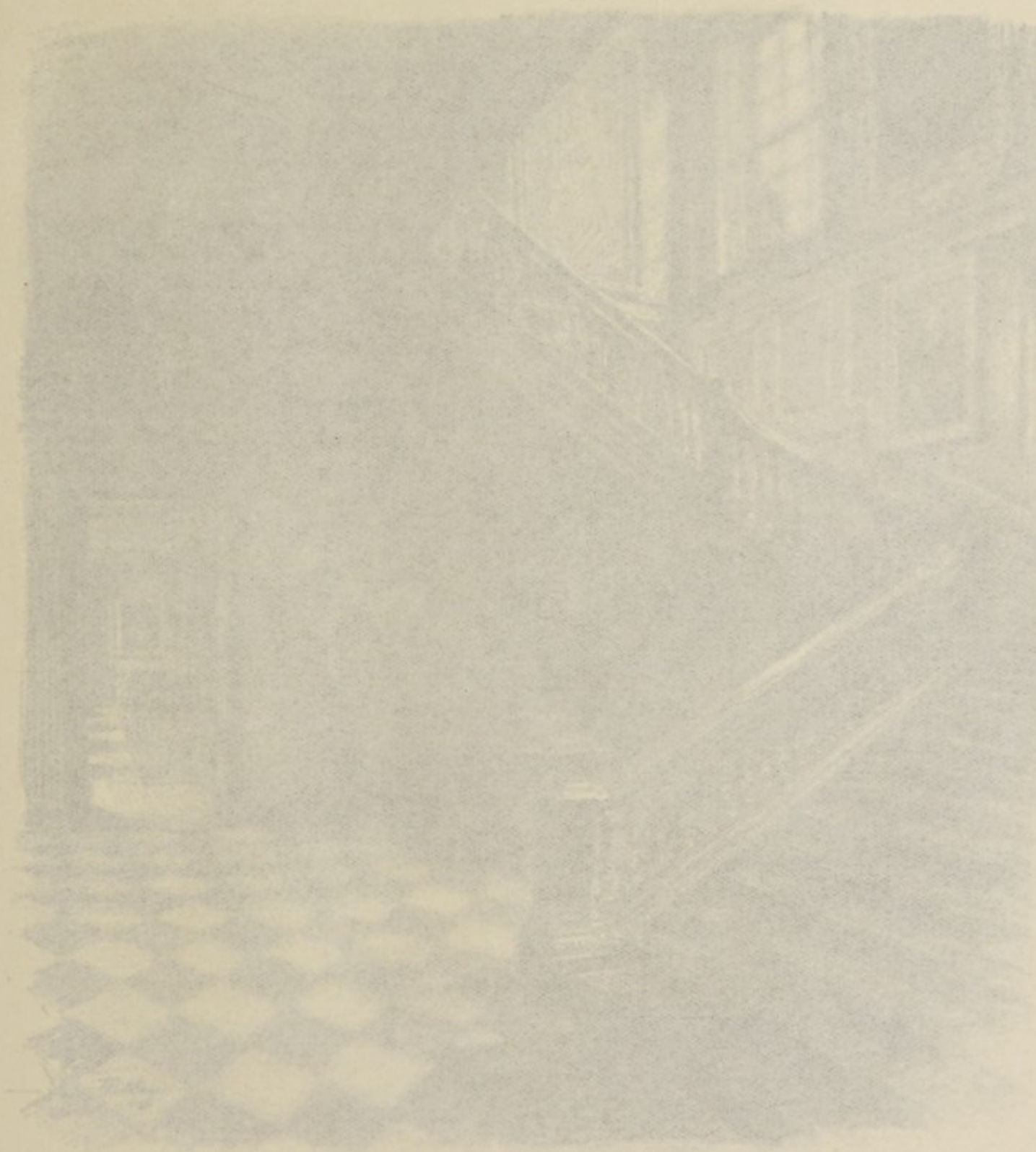
The Merchant Taylors have on their records a brilliant list of honorary members, but among citizens there have perhaps been fewer men of high eminence than in one or two of the other Companies. Strype gives a list of nineteen Merchant Taylors who attained the rank of Mayor before the end of the seventeenth century. We have already mentioned Sir Thomas White. Among the rest Sir William Craven, who came from Yorkshire, was elected warden of the Company in 1593, the year that the plague was "hot in the city," and Lord Mayor in October, 1610; in preparation for which event the Company voted a hundred marks "towards the trimming of his lordship's house." He held a high position among his fellow citizens, but is now chiefly remembered as the father of John Craven, founder of the Craven scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge, and of the more famous William, Earl of Craven, the gallant soldier and friend of Elizabeth Stuart, Queen of Bohemia and "Queen of Hearts." Sir Abraham Reynardson, Master of the Company in 1640, was Lord Mayor in 1648-49 and refused to



proclaim at Cheapside and the Exchange the order of the Commons for abolishing the King's office. For his high-spirited conduct he was degraded, fined, and suffered two months' imprisonment in the Tower. Sir Patience Warde, who was Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1671-72, and was elected Lord Mayor in 1680, assisted in the rebuilding of the school in Suffolk Lane after the Great Fire, and owned the remainder of the site of Pulteney's Inn, where he made for himself a dwelling. A crypt which had formed part of the original mansion remained until 1894.

Among other eminent members Herbert claims a place for Sir John Hawkwood, the famous leader of free-lances, who died at Florence in 1394, and was buried in the Duomo, where there is a fine monument to him, but the tradition that he began life as a London tailor probably originated in Italy. Sir William Fitzwilliam the elder, sheriff of London in 1506, was certainly a member of the Company, Master in 1499, and probably instrumental in obtaining their charter of 1502. He became treasurer and high chamberlain to Cardinal Wolsey, whom he entertained at Milton Manor, Northampton, during his disgrace, 1-5 April, 1530. By deed he settled twelve hundred marks on the Merchant Taylors for certain religious uses, now applied to divinity scholars at St. John's College, Cambridge. He was ancestor of the Earls Fitzwilliam. The famous old London antiquary, John Stow, from whom we have so often quoted, was admitted to the freedom of the Merchant Taylors, Nov. 25, 1547, but was never a liveryman. He seems to have been a working tailor, and in 1579 the Company allowed him an annual pension of £4, which Robert Dowe, then Master, liberally supplemented. This pension was at Dowe's suggestion increased by £2 in 1600. Stow died in 1605, and was buried in the church of St. Andrew Under-shaft, Leadenhall Street, where his widow put up an interest-





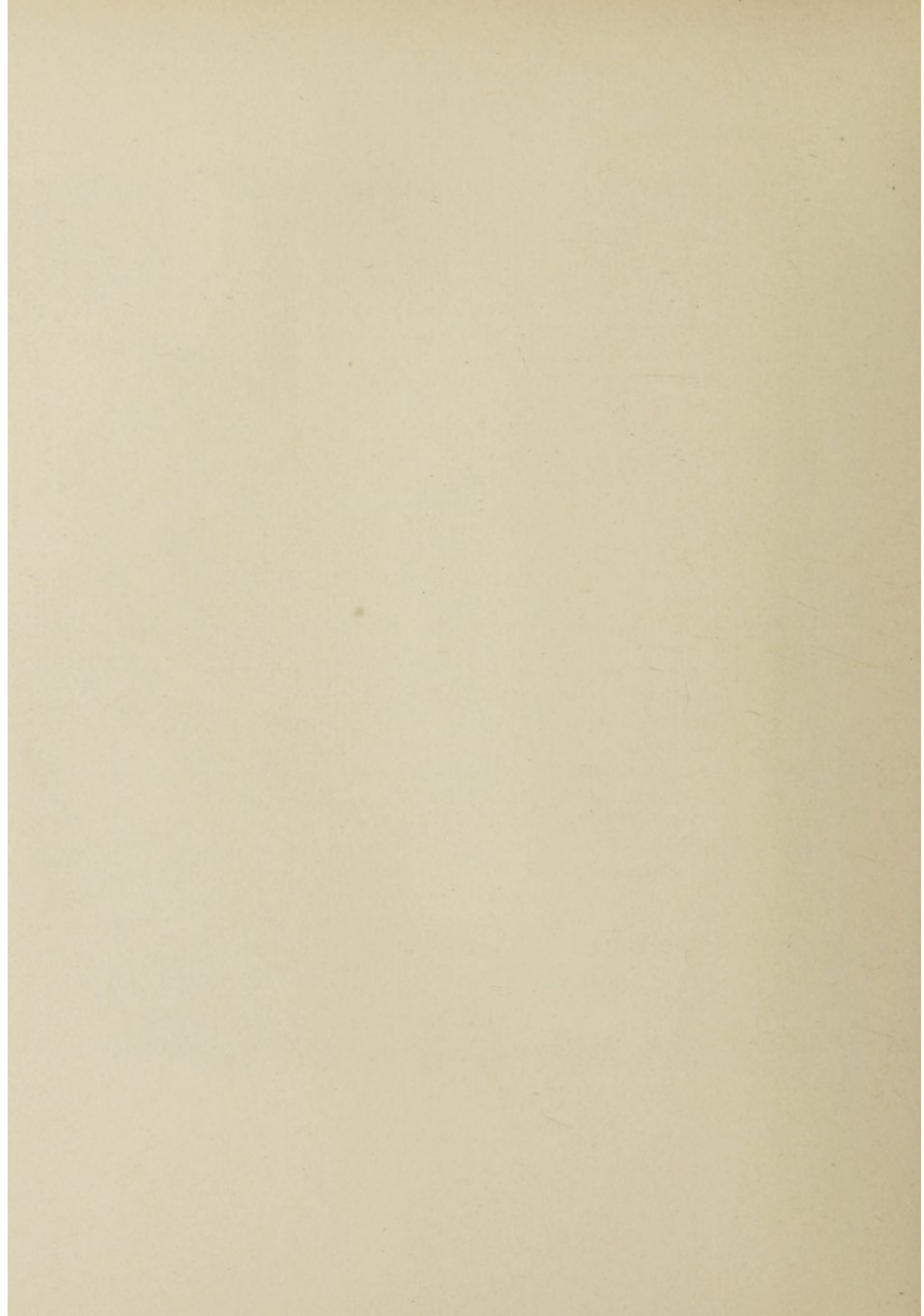
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ing monument to him, with effigy to the waist almost of life size. The material is alabaster which has been coloured, not, as is usually said, terra cotta. The above named Robert Dowe also deserves a passing record. He was a benefactor to his Company and to the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, and dying in 1612, was buried in the church there. His monument with effigy is to be seen in the present structure. He left a sum of £50 to provide that the clerk or bellman of St. Sepulchre's, Newgate Street, should go under Newgate on the night preceding the execution of a criminal, and ringing his bell, should repeat certain lines exhorting him to repentance. He also gave directions that the largest bell of St. Sepulchre's should toll on the mornings of the executions, "To the end and purpose that all good people hearing this passing-bell may be moved to pray for those poor sinners going to execution."

We now come to a consideration of the Hall of the Merchant Taylors with its adjacent buildings, which for Mr. Way has had, we are sure, special interest. There is mention in the old records of at least one hall appertaining to the Guild, besides that on the present site. Thus Stow tells us that the latter was called "the new hall, or tailors' inn, for a difference from their old hall," which was near the back of the Red Lion in Basing Lane, and in the ward of Cordwayner Street. And we find that as late as the year 1593 "Mr. Wright, the common clerk," asked leave to become tenant of the old hall, which Herbert speaks of as being at Dowgate. However, we are only concerned with the property on the south side of Threadneedle Street, part of which had been covered by the mansion of Edmund Crepin, which was occupied in 1331 by Sir Oliver Ingham knight, and was then conveyed, for the use of the Guild, to John de Yakeslee the king's tentmaker. Fortunately the original document is still extant; a translation of it appears in Riley's



“Memorials of London,” from which we learn that this “principal dwelling-house” had a great gate towards Cornhill with a solar or room above, and another great gate towards Broad Street. The limitations of the property are fully described. From this it is clear that the houses forming the north side of Threadneedle Street did not then exist, and that the name itself, or Threeneedle Street, as Stow calls it, had not as yet arisen. Whether its etymology can be attributed to the establishment of the Taylors in this street is an open question. In 1406 the Guild acquired under the will of John Churchman, as executor of William and John Oteswiche, the advowson of the church of St. Martin Oteswiche, or Outwich, and various houses in Bishopsgate Street close to their hall. Adjoining pieces of land came to them by degrees, and they now hold property here in four parishes, namely, those of St. Martin Outwich, St. Benet Fink, St. Michael, Cornhill, and St. Peter, Cornhill.

The garden at the Hall was originally, no doubt, of considerable extent; there are several curious references to it in the Company's records of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Thus in April, 1579, it was ordered that the Bowling Alley there should be “reformed and made agayne as it was.” In 1598 it was found that the garden had been so trodden down by the great number of people assembling there on quarter days and other such occasions, that it was thought advisable not to go to much expense in laying it out. When James I. paid his visit in 1607, the neighbouring houses had begun to destroy the privacy of the open space. Thus we find the Court agreeing “to build up the garden wall adjoining to the tavern (probably that known as ‘The Grasshopper’ in Threadneedle Street), to take away the prospect of those walking on the leads of the tavern,” and thereby overlooking the garden. However, it must still for a time have been a pleasant place, for in March, 1625,



application was made by the East India Company that leave might be given to the Persian ambassador, who was lodging at Alderman Halliday's house, which adjoined it, to walk there for his recreation. Not only was leave given, but he was allowed to make a door from the house to the garden. Space was occasionally needed for the stowage of various articles which the Company was compelled to keep, either on its own account or for the benefit of citizens generally. Thus ordinances of Henry VII. directed the master and wardens to buy at the fair of Kingston-on-Thames timber and materials for the repair of their houses, and to store them at the hall. Gunpowder and arms were also stored here, so that from time to time any open ground outside the buildings must have been encroached upon.

A leading object of all the London guilds being the practice of charity to poor members, one finds that almshouses were almost invariably established near the other principal buildings. This was the case with the Taylors, their almshouses, seven in number, being built on Churchman's land in 1414, and forming a quadrangle. There is a well known bird's-eye view of them between the Hall and the church of St. Martin Outwich, taken from a drawing of 1599 by William Goodman. They were partly destroyed in the Great Fire, the almsmen being afterwards pensioned off and the site let on building lease.

The Hall, as shown in Goodman's drawing, was a tall structure with an arched entrance and a high-pitched roof, surmounted by a louvre; but this view is more or less conventional. It had doubtless been rebuilt since Crepin's time, perhaps late in the fifteenth century. In 1518 it was repaired at a cost of £50, and the next year £20 more was spent upon it. From the accounts of the Company in 1512 it appears that there was then a chapel to the east. In 1502 the Hall was hung with Arras tapestry, illustrating the life



and death of the patron saint. In 1567 it seems to have had silk flags and banners hanging by way of decoration; in 1584 it was re-roofed with slate. In 1587 thirty coats of arms were painted on glass and put up in the windows, and the next year a handsome screen, replacing the ancient one, was erected at the entrance. The Hall was not wainscoted until 1620, the walls having been previously bare, except when covered by tapestry. The floor was of earth rush-strewn until 1646, when, being found "inconvenient and oftentimes noisome," it was paved with red tiles. The Hall premises were damaged by the Great Fire, but from recent discoveries it is clear that much escaped without severe structural injury. The church of St. Martin Outwich, close at hand, escaped altogether.

The first steps taken by the Master and Wardens after the Fire, when the buildings were sufficiently cool to explore, was to collect the melted plate, which weighed no less than 200 pounds, and was immediately sold to form the nucleus of a fund for restoration. The repair of the Banqueting Hall was a gradual process, the Livery assembled there for Lord Mayor's day in 1668, but it was not ready for regular occupation until towards the end of 1671. There is an entry in the Company's books about the rebuilding of the screen in front of the entrance as late as July 1673. Three years later designs for further rebuilding were ordered, those by Mr. Avis and Mr. Lann being chosen, and the added portions were not finished until 1683.

Mr. Clode says that the fire so reduced the Company's resources that the Banqueting Hall and the rooms adjacent had to be let out at the best rent that could be obtained from competent tenants. The East India Company rented it at £200 in 1728-1730, and held meetings there as late as 1767. "The business of the South Sea Company, before their own premises were built, was there carried on, and



meetings in relation to the bubble before it absolutely burst were also held there." In the eighteenth century also it was an occasional meeting place of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons.

It is strange that, as far as the writer is aware, the name of the architect or builder who reconstructed the Banqueting Hall does not appear. There seems, however, to be considerable reason for supposing that the work was done under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren, whose father was educated at the Merchant Taylors' school, and who himself is said to have been an honorary member of the Guild. This ample and sumptuous Hall, as it stands to-day, is of peculiar interest, because it is in fact merely an adaptation of the mediæval structure. Recent investigations have shown that the walls are, in great part, if not wholly, ancient, and in the year 1894 Mr. W. Hilton Nash, the architect to the Company, exposed to view, on the north side at the



MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL. GOTHIC RECESS IN GREAT HALL.

west or dais end, the architectural details of an arched recess, hitherto concealed. It was found to have delicate fan tracery, and, although thought by some to be merely a recess, has perhaps more the appearance of a blocked up oriel window. Mr. Way's lithograph represents effectively the entrance end of the Hall, with its very handsome carved screen, and the debased Gothic windows which the architect designed as appropriate to an ancient building; only those at the sides however are of Wren's time. Before the Fire, no doubt



there was an open timber roof, such as one sees still at Crosby Hall and in other similar structures.

The Hall, which is on the ground floor, runs east and west, being concealed from Threadneedle Street by a block of offices, built in 1844. East of it is a still older relic. This is a Crypt, its floor about twelve feet below the level of



MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL. THE CRYPT

Threadneedle Street. It is less than thirteen feet wide and is now two bays long, another bay having been destroyed. It is divided by arched ribs, crossing from side to side, and again crossed by diagonal ribs. The points of intersection are without bosses. These ribs spring from corbels formed of grotesque heads. The spandrils are filled in with squared



chalk. In the writer's opinion the crypt dates from the earlier part of the fourteenth century and it perhaps formed part of Crepin's house, occupied by Sir Oliver Ingham. In this connection it is right perhaps to quote the fact that in 1646 a lease was granted "to L. Newman of the old hall and cellar under it, near the company's garden," on condition "that the ancient passage into Cornhill from the hall, be preserved to the company." This supports the idea that Crepin's hall for some reason not being found convenient, the present Hall was built on a slightly different site, many years after the acquisition of the property, the older structure being left standing.

Immediately to the south of the crypt is the spacious Kitchen, another ancient building. It is of stone, nearly square in plan, the walls are lofty, and the whole breadth of the northside is occupied by threefour-centred arches enriched with mouldings, the central (and widest) arch now forming the entrance. Corbels within, high up, must once have helped to support a timber roof. At present it is a question what purpose this kitchen originally served, some hazard the opinion that it formed part of the chapel; the existing masonry is not older than the beginning of the sixteenth century. There seems to be no certain evidence how long it has been used for its present purpose, but after the Great Fire we are told that "the ground where the Company's kitchen lately stood" was let at a peppercorn rent "for a warehouse," provided that a roof was put to it by the tenant, which looks as if the walls remained standing. When a fire took place in 1765, which threatened the east end of the Hall, it destroyed part of the kitchen, probably the present one.

It will be unnecessary to describe the rest of the buildings at length. The staircase, like that of Skinners' Hall, is effective from its simplicity and fine proportion, which facts are well conveyed in Mr. Way's lithograph. The



Court Dining-room, formerly known as the Council Chamber, and the Court Drawing-room, formerly the King's Chamber, were both built some time after the restoration of the Hall, probably about the year 1681. The former has old carving and panelling, and over the mantelpiece is a portrait head of Charles I. There are other handsome rooms, and portraits, some excellent, of royal persons beginning with Henry VIII., of great public characters, and old Masters of the Company. South of the Hall is a court-yard often gay with flowers.

It has been previously pointed out that attendance at the funerals of deceased brethren formed one of the duties of a member of a London Guild, and we mentioned the fine Pall or Hearse Cloth belonging to the Fishmongers. In the case of the Merchant Taylors, by an ordinance of Henry VII., it was declared that any member who was in good health and who, having been summoned, failed to attend the funeral of a brother or sister of the Company (provided that the deceased had not died of the Plague) should be fined 6s. 8d. When a Master died those who had served the office of Warden were to carry the body for burial, "upon the pain of forfeiture of 10s." In either case the Pall of the Fraternity covered the coffin, and a dinner at the Hall succeeded the funeral, the cost of which was often from £20 to £40, any balance remaining was paid into the "common box." Two of the Merchant Taylors' palls exist. They are very handsome, and were exhibited at the South Kensington Museum in 1862, and at the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries in 1874. The late Sir Wollaston Franks considered the date of the older one to be between 1490 and 1510, the second, which is more elaborate, being about thirty years later. The general construction of such palls usually consists of a breadth of cloth in the centre, about six feet by two in dimensions, to the sides and ends of which are attached embroidered velvet flaps, rectangular in shape and



about ten inches in breadth, the whole being covered with fine embroidery. The Company possesses an interesting old carpet which used to be lent for election days by Mr. R. Proctor, master in 1593, bought at the price of £10 from his widow, apparently in 1618.

The Merchant Taylors, as beseems them, have some fine plate, in spite of their forced sale and the loss in the Great Fire. One of the handsomest pieces is a circular rose-water dish, parcel gilt and nineteen inches in diameter, weight over sixty ounces. In the centre, which is enriched with three *repoussé* panels, are grotesque heads, fruit and flowers, and on a raised boss is a shield with the arms of Offley. On the border are the arms of the Company and those of the Merchants of the Staple. There is also a merchant's mark, and the inscription "This is the gift of William Offley." He was a Merchant Taylor and Lord Mayor in 1556. The date mark is for the year 1590. A somewhat similar dish, considerably heavier, is decorated with dolphins and fruit in *repoussé* work. Various tankards and loving cups date from after the Fire. A silver-gilt punch bowl, fifteen inches across and eight inches deep, weighs no less than 120 ounces. It is finely engraved, and dates from the year 1700. Round the edge of the foot is inscribed, "Mr. James Church gave towards this Plate one hundred ounces."

Perhaps the most interesting, although the most homely, article in silver is the standard yard measure, with which the Company's officer, the "aulner," measured the cloth sold at Cloth Fair or at St. Bartholomew's Fair. It is about five-eighths of an inch in diameter, and weighs thirty-six ounces. Near each end are engraved the arms of the Company. The silver yard was last used in 1853 for the purposes of the search. A petition of Edward Thruxton, beadle of the Company in the time of Mr. Kympton, that is in 1596-97, states that, while Thruxton's wife was in the country, the silver yard

and mace were both stolen out of his house, since which time he had caused them both to be made "new agayne much fairer than they were before" at his "owne proper coste." According to his account the price of the yard was £6 4s. and that of the mace £2 11s. 6d. The latter also exists.

The Merchant Taylors have been famed for their hospitality and good fellowship:

Now I remember,  
We met at Merchant Taylors' Hall at dinner  
In Threadneedle Street,

says Sir Moth in "The Magnetic Lady," by Ben Jonson, who knew what he was writing about, having been paid £20 "for inventing the speech to his Majesty and for making the songs" when James I. was feasted there in 1607. Those who are privileged to take part in one of their modern entertainments will certainly not forget it—and the recollection will be altogether of a pleasurable nature; there will be no qualms or self-questionings.



## THE IRONMONGERS' COMPANY

**D**OUBTLESS there were extensive iron works in England during the Roman occupation, and the manufacture of iron was carried on in Saxon times; but we hear little or nothing about dealers in this metal until in the year 1300 complaint was made by them to the Mayor of London and the court of Aldermen, against the smiths of the wealds (of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex), and others, for bringing the ironwork of wheels for carts to the city of London, which were much shorter than previously had been the custom, to the great loss and scandal of the whole trade of ironmongers (ferrones). Whereupon there was an inquisition, or, as we might term it, an inquiry, and three measuring rods were prepared and "sealed with the seal of the chamber of Guildhall, London," of which one was kept there for reference, another was delivered "to John Dode and Robert de Paddington, ironmongers of the market (or of Chepe), and the other was delivered to John de Wymondham ironmonger of the bridge," and they swore that they would give notice to all merchants bringing such iron to the city from the wealds or elsewhere, that if it was not of proper length or breadth it would be forfeited.

The earliest mention that has come to light of the Ironmongers as a guild is in the thirty-seventh year of the reign of Edward III., or 1363, when the various companies made their payment to the king for carrying on his French war. On this occasion thirty-two companies are enumerated, and



the total amount subscribed by them was £452 16s., when the Ironmongers appeared eleventh on the list and contributed £6 18s. 6d. About this time they are described as congregating in Ironmongers' Lane and the Old Jewry, where they had warehouses, shops, and yards, and Stow mentions the names of several leading Ironmongers who were buried in the churches of St. Olave, Jewry, or St. Martin, Ironmonger Lane. Strype speaks of the craft as afterwards moving into Thames Street. In the City Records, under the year 1397, it is related that "William Sevenoke, son of William Rumschedde, of Sevenoaks, in the county of Kent, late apprentice to Hugh de Boys, citizen and ironmonger," came before Richard Whittington, Mayor, and the aldermen, and swore that he and his master were really of the mystery of the Grocers and not of the mystery of the Ironmongers. On payment of 40s. he was allowed to join the Grocers. In 1409, and again seven years later, Richard Marlow, Ironmonger, was elected Mayor. In his first term of office, says Stow, there was "a great play at Skinners' well which lasted eight days, and was of matter from the creation of the world; the most part of all the great estates of England were there to behold it." Sir John Hatherley or Adderley, Ironmonger, was chosen Mayor in 1441, and Strype tells one of various useful works done in the City during his year of office, for instance, the making of various conduits of fresh water with leaden pipes three miles in length, the building of a public granary and the re-edifying of Cheapside cross. In 1456 the Guild, although not yet incorporated, obtained a grant of arms. Their motto was originally "Assher dure," which is equivalent in modern French to *acier dur*, apparently in allusion to the three "gads," or plates of steel borne as part of the arms. In comparatively modern times it has been changed to "God is our strength."



In 1455, and previously, to judge from an entry in the "ancient book of orders," the Ironmongers had been governed by two wardens without a master. In 1462 they were first incorporated, paying £20 for the privilege. Under their Charter they were to have a master and two wardens. They were also to have a common seal and leave to hold "lands tenements rents and other possessions whatsoever" to the value of ten marks a year. The original of the seal, in silver, still exists, and is supposed to have been made shortly after the granting of the charter. In 1481 we find the Guild possessed of the manor of Norwood in Middlesex, and it seems to have remained in their hands for about a century, when Robert Chamberlayne, presumably the person who held the office of master in 1594, alienated it to Gregory Fynes, Lord Dacre. The Freemen, or Yeomanry, of the Guild, as early as the year 1497, petitioned for leave to have their own executive in the shape of two wardens, to whom they should pay 8s. a year each, and this was allowed. No separate organization is now kept up, but the "Yeomanry" continue to have two annual dinners at the Hall. On these occasions the senior warden of the Company presides. We would here mention that, among the Ironmongers, all members of the Livery belong to the Court or governing body.

In the Company's "ancient book" there is a pathetic entry under the date 1523 to the effect that, in the fourteenth year of his reign, Henry VIII. borrowed a large sum from the City, "off the whyche some of money he comandyd to haue all the money and plate that was belonginge to any Hawlle or Crafte in London. To the intent that the money myght be lentt w<sup>t</sup> the more eise. At the whiche comandement he hade all oure money belongynge to oure Hawlle." It amounted to £25 14s.; they were also obliged to sell plate to the value of over £25, to pawn the rest, and



to subscribe individually to a loan which amounted to £219, the king taking the whole of the proceeds.

The Company's accounts of receipts and expenditure commence on July 1, 1540. Among the items in this first presentation of accounts by the then wardens, Robert Lyng and Robert Mannyng, the following appear worthy of quotation; the spelling has been modernized:

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Paid for our barge for two years to Westminster . . . . .                                | xxxix <sup>s</sup>                  |
| Paid to a glazier for xxviii quarrels of glass . . . . .                                 | ii <sup>s</sup> viii <sup>d</sup>   |
| To a scrivener to read our writings . . . . .  | ii <sup>d</sup>                     |
| For a gardener for a day and a half for cutting of vines and dressing of roses . . . . . | xii <sup>d</sup>                    |
| To a gardener for v days' work . . . . .   | iii <sup>s</sup> iiiii <sup>d</sup> |
| For cutting of the knots of y <sup>e</sup> rosemary in the garden . . . . .              | x <sup>d</sup>                      |

On the occasion of the solemn mass, after payments to the curate, deacons, priest, clerks and others who took part in the ceremony, occur those for Gascon and sweet wine, for a Suffolk cheese and two Banbury cheeses, for comfits, spice-bread, roses and lavender, "sweet holy water," etc. etc. At the coming of the Queen, no doubt Anne of Cleves, there were payments for the hire of the barge to Greenwich, for food, drink, and various adornments, and similar items of expenditure when the Queen went by water from Greenwich to Westminster. In the accounts from June 1540 to June 1542 are various entries which relate to the setting of the Midsummer Watch on the eve of St. John the Baptist, to which we have alluded in our account of the Skinners' Company. As time went on this became a gorgeous spectacle which amused and delighted Londoners until about



the middle of the sixteenth century. One of its features was the great number of cresset lights or lanterns borne on poles, supplied partly by the civic authorities, and partly by the guilds, and various entries relate to these cressets, and the labour connected with them. Others have reference to arms and armour. In 1544 the Company supplied four bowmen and ten billmen to go with the King's army into France. Their costume was to be "after the Duke of Norfolk's fashion."

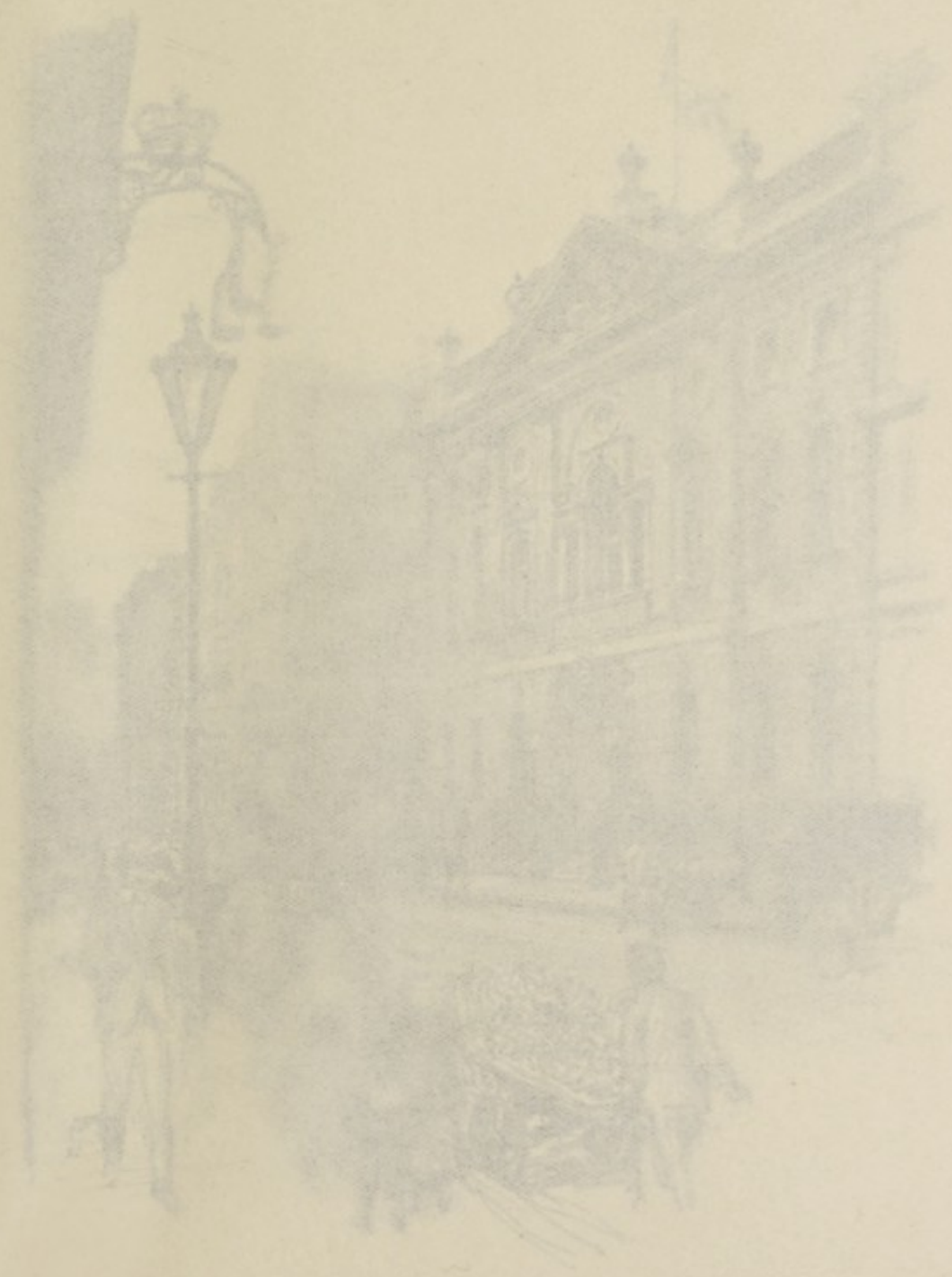
In 1558 the Company had to advance no less than £666 13s. 4d. for the service of the crown, being their part of the compulsory loan levied on the City for the prosecution of the Queen's French war, which ended with the loss of Calais. As may be gathered from our pages, such instances of forced payments wrung from the City occur again and again. In 1558, at the "fetching in" of the new Queen (Elizabeth), the Guild paid nearly £25 towards the expense for pageantry, and furnished twenty men in harness with satin dresses, and two "whiffers" with white staves. The next year they supplied men in armour and otherwise richly dressed to attend the May-game before her Majesty at Greenwich. During Elizabeth's reign there are other references to these "Mayings." At this period the Guild exercised considerable supervision over its own trade, being empowered to fine and otherwise punish those who sold goods of an inferior description. The Ironmongers helped manfully in measures of defence against the Spanish aggressions. In 1609-11, on acquiring their Irish estate, they named it the Manor of Lizard, after the two lizards forming their crest, somewhat as the Skinners called their estate the Manor of Pellipar, pelliparius being the mediæval Latin word for skinner. During the Civil War period the Ironmongers tried hard to resist the levying of forced loans by each side in turn. Thus, alone of the City Companies,



they refused in 1640 to contribute a share of more than £50,000, demanded by Charles I. to defend him against Parliament, but the same year they had to subscribe to another loan levied by the King, and in 1642 and 1643 paid largely to the other side. In 1671 the neighbouring church of Allhallows Staining having partly fallen down, application was made for leave to use Ironmongers' Hall on Sundays for divine service, and doubtless such leave was granted.

Londoners have always been fond of shows and processions, a fact brought home to us of late years on various memorable occasions. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Lord Mayor's Show was the chief of London sights. Elaborate Pageants, so called, were usually produced on land and water, the Company to which the elected Mayor belonged to a great extent providing them. The word pageant, originally the stage or scaffolding on which an exhibition took place, came in course of time to be applied not only to the different parts of the show, such as the "Trade Pageant," the "Triumphal Pageant" etc., but to it as a whole. It was also used to denote the compositions by various writers, some of whom held the appointment of City Laureate, consisting of the songs, speeches, etc., arranged for these shows. Such descriptive pamphlets form the subject of a volume written for the Percy Society by the late Mr. F. W. Fairholt. One of the earliest of the more elaborate Lord Mayors' Shows was that which took place at the inauguration of Sir William Draper in 1566, and there are many entries in the Company's account book relating to it. There was a water spectacle in addition to that on land. Four partisans, or fieldpieces, were borrowed from the Tower, besides 160 smaller guns, called chambers, which were placed on the banks of the Thames and fired at intervals. A vessel or "Foiste" for fireworks had ten pairs of oars in addition to the masts, and the royal





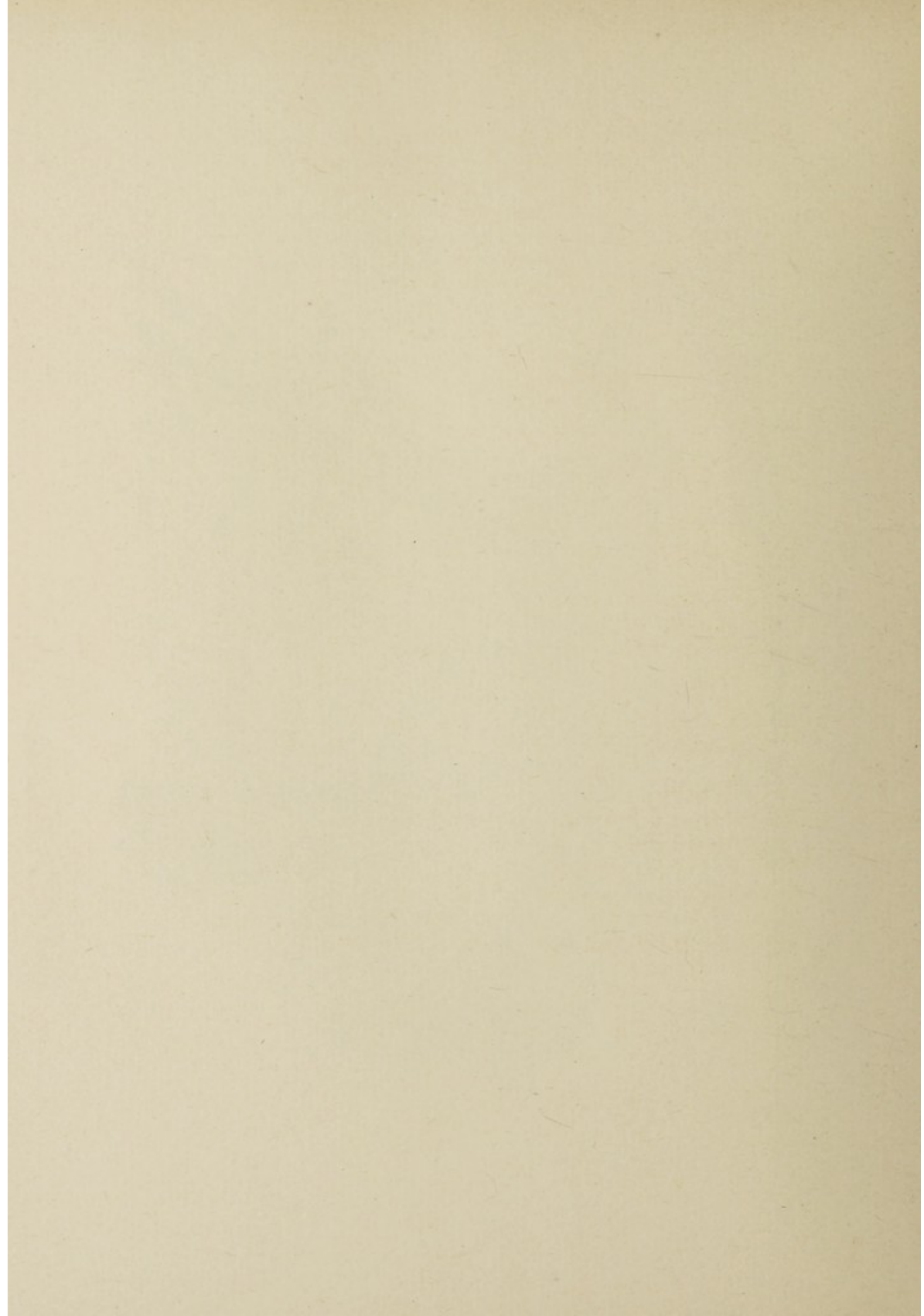


... to ... a share of more than ... to defend him against ... they had to subscribe to ... King, and in 1642 and 1643 paid ... In 1871 the neighbouring church ... partly fallen down, application ... Hall on Sundays for ... such leave was granted.

... fond of shows and pro- ... of late years on various ... In the sixteenth and seventeenth ... Show was the chief of London ... were usually produced ... to which the elected Mayor ... providing them. The word ... scaffolding on which an ... of time to be applied ... of the show, such as the ... "Triumphal Pageant" etc., but to ... the compositions ... held the appointment of ... of the songs, speeches, etc., ... descriptive pamphlets ... written for the Percy Society ... One of the earliest of ... Shows was that which ... of Sir William Draper in ... the Company's account ... was a water spectacle in ... or fieldpieces, were ... the smaller guns, called ... the banks of the Thames ... "Fete" for fireworks ... to the masts, and the royal









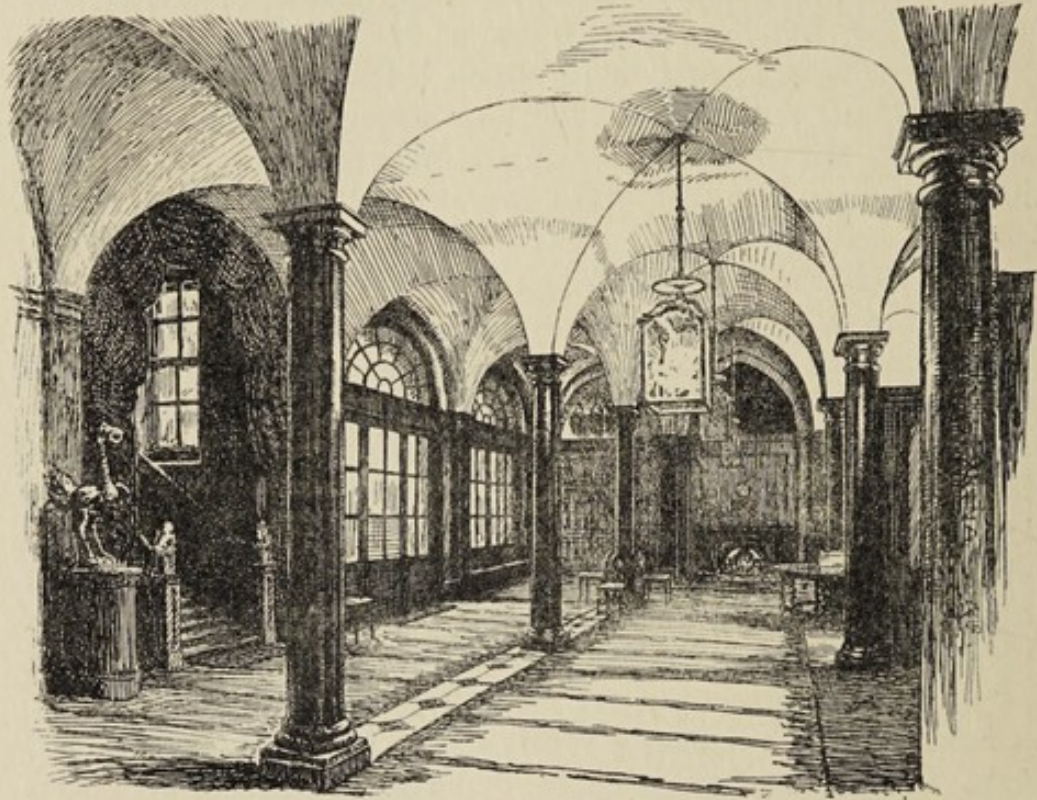
arms were displayed from the maintop, besides a flag of the "red crosse" from the foretop; 700 lbs. of gunpowder were used in the celebration. Other famous mayoralty pageants, in honour of Mayors from the Ironmongers' Company, were those of James Cambell in 1629, of Sir Christopher Clitherow in 1635, of Sir Robert Gefferey in 1685, and of Sir George Thorold in 1719. Clitherow's pageant was written by the dramatist, Thomas Heywood, and entitled "Londini salus salutis, or London's Harbour of Healthe and Happinesse." In its production Heywood was associated with John and Mathias Christmas, the cost was £180, which included five hundred "bookes of the declaracōn of the shew."

Already in the year 1494 Ironmongers' Hall stood in the parish of Allhallows Staining, and probably more or less on its present site; this is proved by an item in the churchwardens' accounts. It was entered through a gateway having a little chamber over it, and the entire building appears to have been, as now, quadrangular. The dining hall or refectory had a lead-covered roof, it was wainscoted, and the floor was strewn with rushes. In 1556 there was a court chamber hung in part with tapestry, and an armoury containing 17 back and breast plates, 17 pairs of splints, 12 gorgets, 12 swords, 11 daggers, 14 sheaves of arrows, 4 coats of russet frieze, 4 white coats, besides corslets, skull caps, black bills, morris pikes, and other arms and accoutrements.

The Hall appears to have been rebuilt in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it escaped destruction in the Great Fire, but was again rebuilt in 1748, the name of the architect, Thomas Holden, with the date, appearing on it. The façade is designed in the classic style of the period, having a rusticated lower story, pilasters of the Ionic order, and a central pediment with the Company's arms; the material is Portland



stone. It stands on the north side of Fenchurch Street, and although not admirable as a specimen of architecture, has picturesque elements which are well shown in Mr. Way's lithograph. He has introduced with happy effect the old-fashioned sign of the Crown and Three Sugar-loaves still to be seen on the opposite side of the street. The Company's



IRONMONGERS' HALL. THE VESTIBULE

premises are ranged round a courtyard, the Banqueting Hall being in front on the first floor. To the left of the entrance is a committee room known as the Long Parlour. It is wainscoted and contains the following interesting topographical pictures. An oil painting of the present buildings not many years after they were finished. A picture, probably



by Scott, of Westminster from Lambeth, showing Westminster Abbey, Westminster Hall, St. Margaret's Church, and part of the old Bridge. There is also a water-colour elevation of Sir Robert Gefferey's Almshouses, which still exist in the Kingsland Road. This worthy Lord Mayor, who was also more than once Master of the Ironmongers, died in 1703, aged upwards of ninety, leaving a large sum to his Company, with which these almshouses were built.

To the right of the vestibule or entrance hall is the Court-room, containing pictures, some of them not without merit, of various worthies who have held the office of master, apparently the most recent among them being that of Mr. John Nicholl, F.S.A., Master in 1859, who wrote an account of the Company. Among the best is one attributed to Cornelius Janssen, of Thomas Thorold, Master in 1634, 1644, and 1645, habited in a scarlet gown and ruff with a gold chain. He was grandfather of Sir George Thorold and of Sir Samuel, both Masters of the Ironmongers; the family had at different times four baronetcies conferred on it. On each side of the principal staircase, facing the entrance, are carved statues or figures on pedestals. One represents St. Laurence, patron saint of the Ironmongers; the other is an ostrich with a horseshoe in its beak, indicating the taste for iron, as a form of nutriment, which it was supposed to possess. This carving, however, is now usually called the "dodo." Half way up the stairs, which by the way have very good wrought iron railings, is a statue of William Beckford, the famous Lord Mayor of 1763 and 1770, who was also Master of the Company. It resembles that in the Guildhall, and was given by his son, the author of "Vathek." The Banqueting Hall upstairs, which was remodelled in 1847, and is richly fitted and decorated, contains a full-length portrait of Admiral Viscount Hood, by Gainsborough, another of Admiral Lord Exmouth, by Beechey, and portraits of other interesting



people connected with the Company. Among them, above the gallery, is one of Izaak Walton, who was admitted in 1618, and served as a Warden in 1637-39. It is a copy, but we are glad to be reminded of his connection with the Company.

The Ironmongers, like the Fishmongers, the Merchant Taylors, the Vintners, the Brewers, and the Saddlers, possess a Funeral Pall, which in this instance is framed and hung up in a fairly good light. It consists of a centrepiece six feet five inches and a half long, and twenty-one inches and a half wide, richly ornamented with fruit and flowers in dark crimson on cloth of gold, having a deep border of black velvet and another of white sarsenet. On the black border at the head and feet are two tabernacles; beneath one of them is an inscription, partly illegible, from which one gathers that it was given by John Guyva, a member of the Guild; from the Company's records we know that this was in 1505. On each side are the Ironmongers' arms, a figure of the blessed Virgin surrounded by angels in glory, and various saints, the whole embroidered in richly coloured silks and gold. No doubt this border is comparatively modern, the old figures having been applied to it.

The election ceremonies of the City Guilds seem in ancient times usually to have culminated in the crowning of the newly elected Master and Wardens; we have seen that there is a survival of this ceremony at Skinners' Hall. The crowning in ancient times took place with veritable garlands, which by degrees became of a permanent nature, more resembling caps or coronets. At a most interesting exhibition of antiquities and works of art held in Ironmongers' Hall, May 8th, 1861, garlands lent by various Guilds were shown. There were three garlands belonging to the Ironmongers which still exist, but the custom of crowning the Master and Wardens has long been discontinued. John



Evelyn, in his Diary, thus alludes to it: "September 21, 1671. I dined in the City at the fraternity feast in Ironmongers' Hall, where the four stewards chose their successors for the next year, with a solemn procession, garlands about their heads and music playing before them; so coming up to the upper tables where the gentlemen sat, they drank to the new stewards, and so we parted." Each garland consists of a fillet of velvet about three inches wide, that of the Master is crimson, and the Wardens' are green, all padded and lined with silk, and ornamented with the arms and crest of the Company engraved on small silver plates, and enamelled in their proper colours. Four garlands of the Barbers still survive, dating from 1629, and still used on Election day and also on Court days in receiving guests; they are thought to be the handsomest specimens in the City. The Master's is of crimson velvet with gold tassels, surmounted by a silver band, having the arms, supporters, and crest on one of the shields, together with the Tudor rose crowned, within a foliage of oak leaves and acorns, which are gilt. The garlands of the Wardens are similar but somewhat less ornamented, that used by the Renter Warden having green velvet. The Leathersellers and Carpenters also possess garlands, which were exhibited in 1861.

The Ironmongers still possess some very interesting old plate, in spite of Tudor "harrying;" perhaps the early specimens which remain did not contain enough silver to excite cupidity. Two mazer bowls, flat shaped, six and a quarter inches in diameter and two and a half inches deep, have silver-gilt mountings of the fifteenth century. In the centre of each bowl inside is a raised boss whereon is a Gothic trefoil in green and black, with the Company's arms in their proper colours. Round the rim of one of the bowls, is the invocation in Latin to the Virgin Mary. A pair of parcel-gilt silver salts of hour-glass form, with six-



foiled sides, have respectively the plate marks for 1518 and 1522, and have sometimes been used as stands to the mazer-bowls, although not otherwise connected with them. A cocoa-nut cup or hanap, with silver-gilt bands and mountings, eight and a half inches high, is supposed to belong to the sixteenth century. A silver tobacco-box of oval shape given by a Mr. Waddup, dates from 1663. Of later specimens there is a fine collection which is duly described in the catalogue of the Ironmongers' exhibition, an important volume compiled by a committee of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society.



## THE VINTNERS' COMPANY

IT is natural enough that we should find the Vintners among the twelve great London Companies, because from the days when Noah planted a vineyard, if not earlier, wine has had a powerful influence on the conduct of man, and he has worked with plodding industry to produce that which "maketh glad his heart," and "is a good familiar creature if it be well used," although, alas! it sometimes "steals away the brain."

Wine seems to have been produced in this country at an early date. When, by the marriage of Henry II. with Eleanor of Aquitaine, that rich province became an English possession, we of course bought the better wine of Guienne and Gascony. From that time a regular importation of French and other foreign wines grew up. Still, in spite of our uncertain climate, we continued to produce native wine. Thus, to give one or two instances, we find that in 1289 Thomas de Cantilupe, Bishop of Hereford, renewed a vineyard at Ledbury, and it yielded seven pipes of white wine and nearly one of verjuice or vinegar, an indication that there was not much sunshine in that season. Again, in 1314, Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, bargained with the crown that in whatsoever part of the year he or his successors should die, his or their successor should have all the product not only of the land sown before death, but also of his vineyards and winepresses. In the fourteenth century both vineyards and wine wharfs are mentioned in connection with the parish of



St. Martin Vintry. Thus in 1330 Adam de Sarum left tenements and brewhouses, etc., in the parish of St. Mary Bothaw, and at the wine wharf, St. Martin's Vintry, and in the will of Robert de Barsham special notice is taken of vineyards which, among other property, he left to his son in the same parish.

In the opinion of those most competent to judge, the Vintners were to all intents and purposes incorporated in the year 1364 by letters patent of Edward III., and the terms of these letters patent were confirmed by a charter of Henry VI. in 1427, a subsequent charter being granted by him in 1437. But it is clear that they were a recognized body long before. Thus in 1282 Edward I. gave Botolph Wharf to Henry de Kingston, and confirmed it to him for the use of the Vintners, he paying a silver penny to the king yearly at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. They seem anciently to have been divided into two classes, the *Vinetarii*, a word which has been usually translated vintners, and the *Tabernarii*, or taverners. The former were wholesale importers, and the latter retail dealers who kept taverns or cellars. Stow says, "The Vintners in London were of old time called Marchants Vintners of Gascoyne;—they were as well Englishmen as strangers borne beyond the seas, but then subjects to the kings of England, great Burdeaux merchants of Gascoyne and French wines; divers of them were mayors of this city." He goes on to mention the prices of Gascon and Rhenish wine in those days, namely, the former not more than 4*d.*, and the latter 6*d.* a gallon; and quotes the following instance of the public punishment of dishonest dealing in the trade. When John Rainwell was Mayor of London in 1411, having found that the Lombards were in the habit of adulterating sweet wine, he had the heads of about fifty butts and other vessels broken in various public places, "so that the liquor running



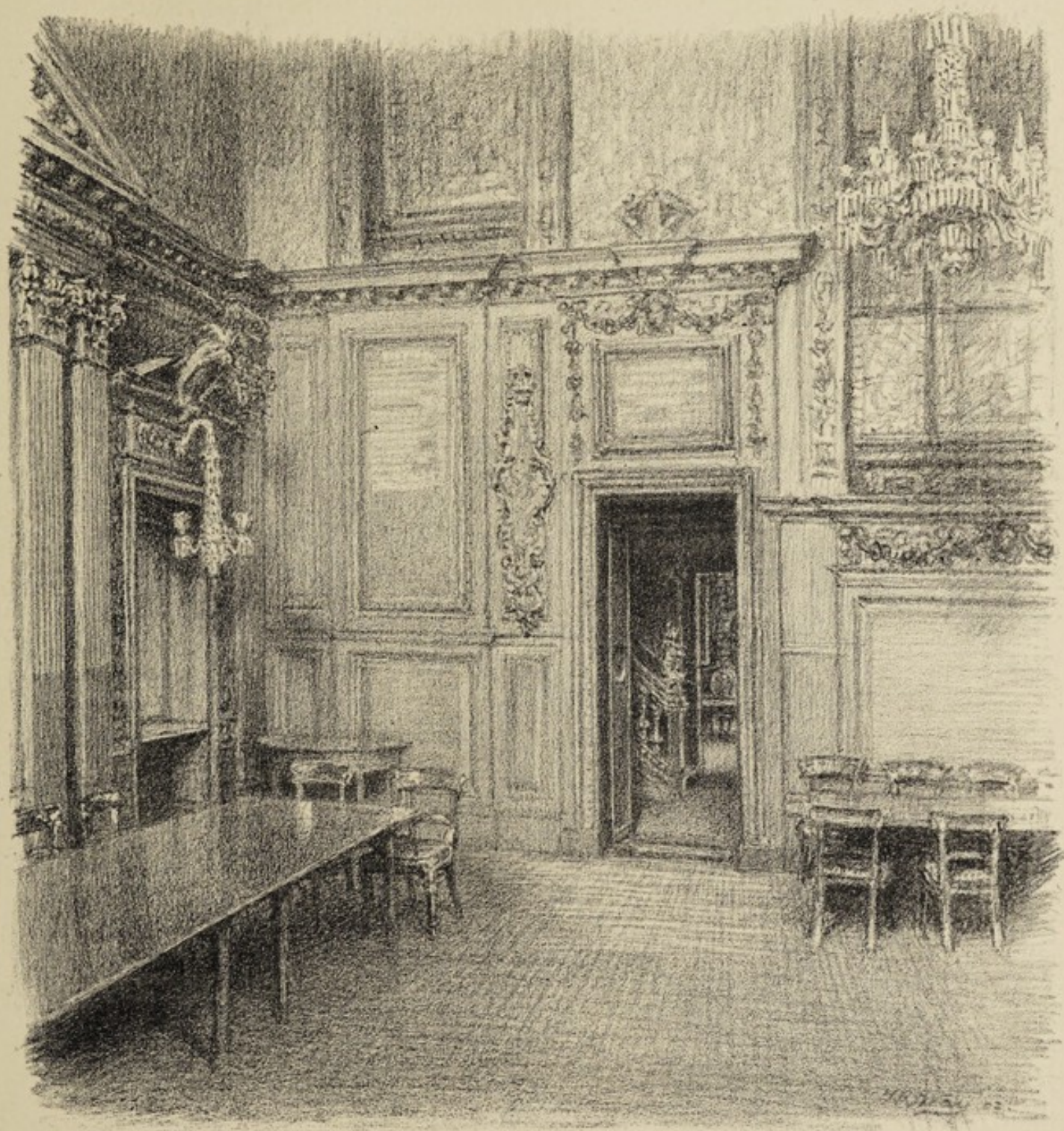


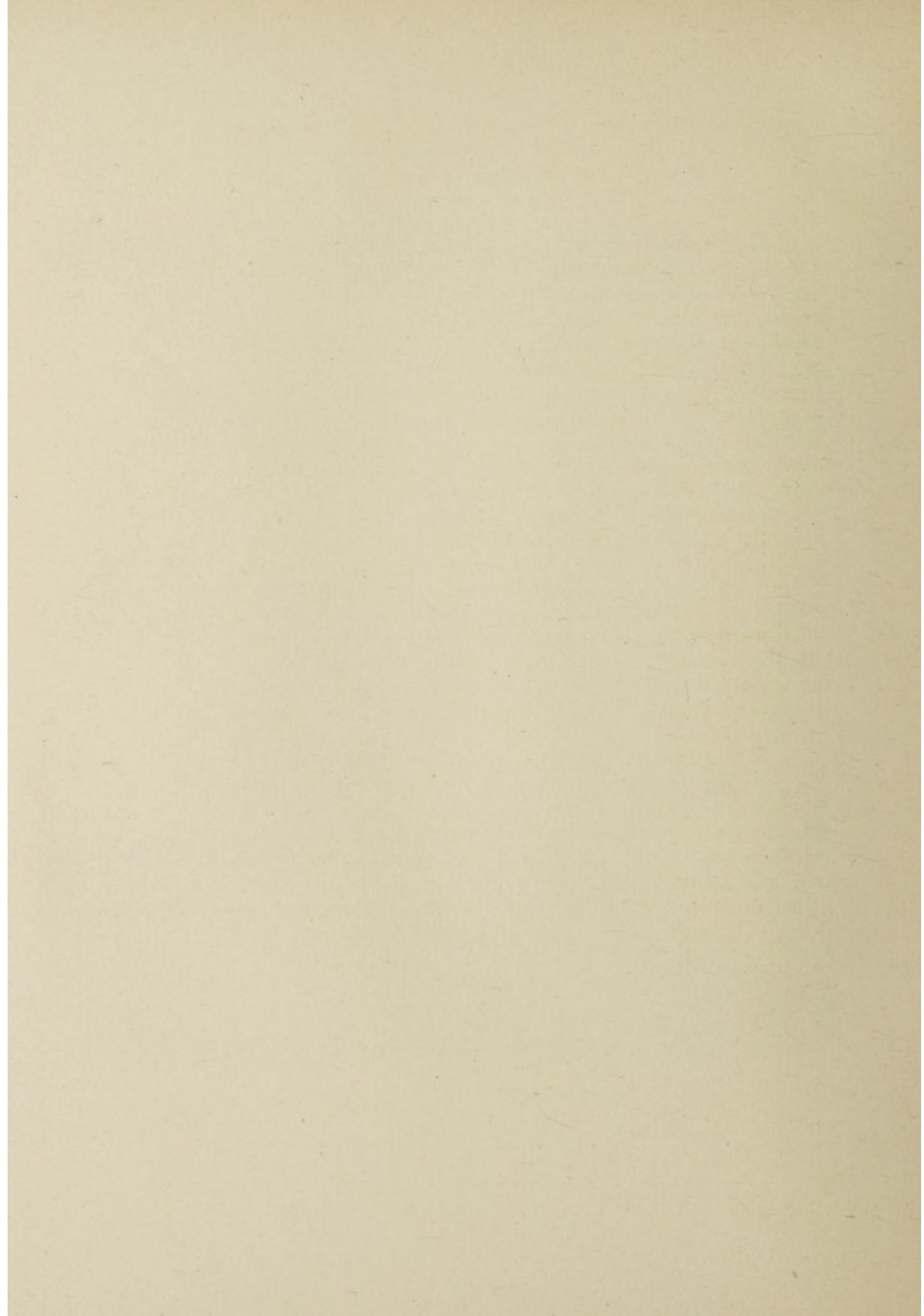


St. Martin Vintry. Thus in 1030 Adam de Sarum left tenements and broadways in the parish of St. Mary Bothaw, and at the same time St. Martin's Vintry, and in the will of Richard the First special notice is taken of vineyards which, as his property, he left to his son in the same locality.

In the opinion of the most competent to judge, the Vintners' guild was organized and purposes incorporated in the year 1252 by the charter of Edward III., and the terms of their charter were confirmed by a charter of Henry III. in 1257, a subsequent charter being granted by him in 1267. It is clear that they were a recognized body long before. Thus in 1282 Edward I. gave Botolph Wharf to Henry de Gousson, and confirmed it to him for the use of his house, by paying a silver penny to the king yearly on the day of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. These wharves, which have been divided into two classes, the *Wharves of the Vintners*, which has been usually translated *Vintners' Wharves*, or *Taverners*. The former were wholesale dealers, and the latter retail dealers who kept *liquor* in their houses. Now says, "The Vintners in London were first called *Marchants Vintners of Gascoyne* and were as well Englishmen as strangers borne beyond the sea, but they were subjects to the kings of England, great buyers and sellers of Gascoyne and French wines; divers of them were also of this city." He goes on to mention the price of Gascon and Rhenish wine in those days, namely the former not more than 4*d.*, and the latter 6*d.* a gallon. He gives the following instance of the public punishment of a dealer in the trade. When John Rainwell was Mayor of London in 1411, having found that the Lombards had the habit of adulterating sweet wine, he had the heads of about fifty butts and other vessels broken in various public places, "so that the liquor running









forth, passed through the citie like a stream of raine water, in the sight of all the people, from whence there issued a most loathsome savour." Another fraud practised was the use of false measures; thus in the second year of the reign of Henry VI. a petition to Parliament prays the Commons tenderly to consider "how of old tyme, tonnes, pipes, tertians, hoggeshede of wine of Gascoyn, barells of heryng and eles, and buttes of samon, comyng by wey of merchandize into this lond out of straunge countrees, and also in this lond ymade shulden be of certein mesure," but then "by subtilte and ymagination" they were "made of lesse mesure in deceite of the peple and to the notable damage of the roialme of England." In the tenth year of the same king's reign there was a similar complaint about the wines of Gascony. In 1447 a coat of arms was granted to the Company, namely, Sable, a chevron between three tuns argent. These arms were confirmed in 1530 and in 1634.

Stow says that the original Hall stood in "Spittle lane of old so called, since Stodie's lane, of the owner thereof named Stodie. Sir John Stodie, vintner, mayor in the year 1357, gave it with all the quadrant wherein Vintner's Hall now standeth, with the tenements round about unto the Vintners; the Vintners built for themselves a fair hall, and also thirteen alms houses there for thirteen poor people, which are kept of charity and free." These almshouses were in fact devised to the Company, with other lands and tenements, under the will of Guy Shuldham, dated 1446. Sir John Stodie, or Stodeye, was a member of parliament for the City on various occasions, and married a granddaughter of the better remembered Sir John Gisors, Mayor of London and Constable of the Tower in 1311, who, according to Stow, owned both the Vintry and Gerrard's or Gisor's Hall. In the seventeenth century, and no doubt previously, the ruling members of the Guild exercised the power of punishing those vintners



who disobeyed their authority. Thus, on October 12th, 1609, they order "that a pair of stocks shall be provided and placed in the Common Hall of this Company, and that the offenders shall sit therein in the view and sight of the whole assembly." This building was burnt down in the Great Fire, when unfortunately some of the books of the Company were destroyed, after which the Vintners met for a time at the Bell Inn, Nicholas Lane, and at the Fleece, Cornhill. In the course of years a new hall was built by subscriptions among the members, more or less on the same site, which was opened April 10, 1671. The question has arisen, was the hall designed by Sir Christopher Wren? To this one can only say that it is somewhat in his style, just as the halls designed by Jerman show Wren's influence, but that the Company possesses no record of his having been employed here. Herbert tells us that it occupies the site of the almshouses, which after the fire were removed to the Mile End Road. At first houses stood in front, which the Company let, but after a time they were pulled down for the widening of the street and the enlargement of the Company's premises.

The Hall, as it stands to-day, is on the south side of Upper Thames Street, with an open courtyard in front and two wings projecting forward; on the east side are the clerk's residence and various offices. The premises are partly in the parish of St. James, Garlickhithe, and partly in that of St. Martin Vintry. It is of brick, as we learn from Hatton's "New View of London" (1708), but has unfortunately been plastered and painted over. The Dining Hall is large and well proportioned, with a gallery over the entrance; it has some finely carved panelling, which is naturally attributed to Grinling Gibbons, and at the dais end a fine pediment supported by pilasters, as shown to the left in one of Mr. Way's lithographs, with the royal arms above. Close to the doorway, which he has left open, appears what is now perhaps a



unique feature in a City Company's hall. This is a sword-rest, the material being wood, whereas in City churches, where such rests are numerous, they are almost invariably of iron. It has vine ornament delicately carved; above is a crown, on one side the City arms, on the other the arms of the Company, and below the arms of Sir Thomas Rawlinson, master in 1687, and again in 1696. Mr. Milbourn, however, in his notices of eminent members of the Company, says that he was not entitled to these arms, which are, Gules, two bars-gemelle between three escallops argent. He was son of a vintner at the Mitre tavern in Fenchurch Street, and himself married the daughter of the landlord of the Devil tavern by Temple Bar. He was elected Lord Mayor in 1705, and no doubt this rest was then put up to hold his sword on state occasions; it is no longer used. In the hall is a modern inscription to Henry Picard, Vintner, who was Mayor in 1356. Like Stodeye he married a granddaughter of John Gisors, and Stow says that he resided in the large house of stone and timber over against St. Martin's Church, with vaults for wine, which was called the Vintry, and had belonged to Gisors. At this house it is recorded that Picard entertained five kings.

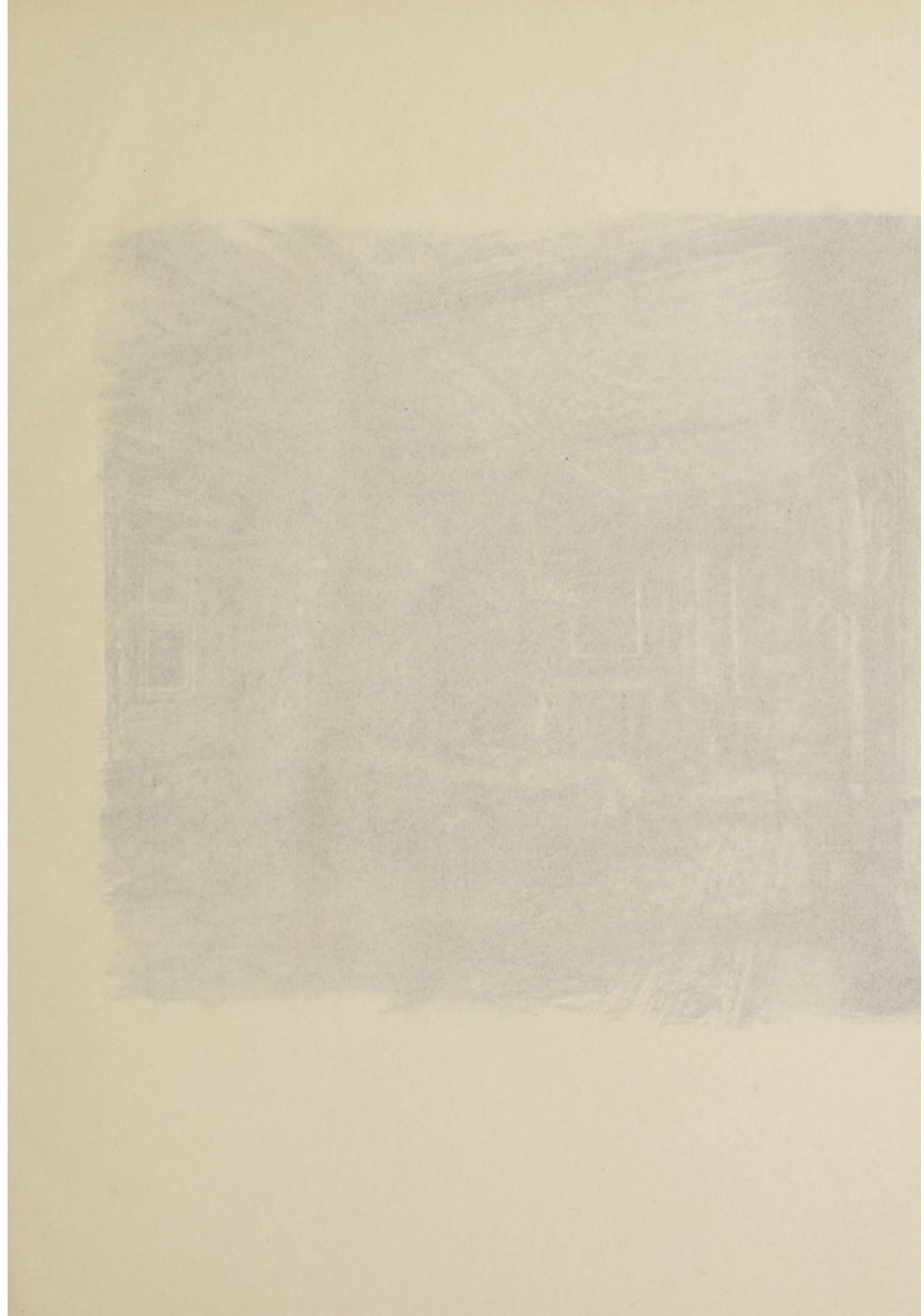
Looking through the doorway as represented in our lithograph, one sees the foot of the very handsome staircase, the newels and balusters of which are somewhat elaborately carved and gilt, a lion and a unicorn being introduced on the former. Beyond that again is the doorway leading into the Court-room; of this apartment a lithograph is also given. It is taken from the entrance near the staircase, and the full-length portrait immediately opposite represents Queen Mary, wife of William III. To the spectator's left is the mantelpiece decorated with fine carving, and empanelled there is a picture of St. Martin, the patron saint of the Company. By the table, in front of the mantelpiece, stands the Master's chair,



with beautifully carved grapes and vine leaves, the arms of the Vintners' Company, and other decorations. At the opposite end of the room, not shown in our lithograph, is a very handsome stamped and painted leather screen, perhaps of the seventeenth century. Other portraits in this room worthy of remark are those of Charles II., of William III., of the Duke of Monmouth (a poor likeness), of Sir Thomas Rawlinson and of Benjamin Kenton. The last-named gentleman, though never Lord Mayor, was Master in 1776, and an eminent member of the Company. His career was remarkable. Apprenticed in early life to a tavern keeper in Whitechapel, he afterwards became a drawer at the Crown and Magpie, Aldgate High Street, and by degrees honourably gained a very large fortune. He built a house in the Minories which still has his monogram on the fanlight. Here he carried on the business of a wine merchant, and dying in 1800 at the age of 82, left large sums in charity. To the Vintners' Company he bequeathed £4,250, with which, supplemented by a further donation from his residuary legatee, the Vintners' almshouses in the Mile End Road were rebuilt. An annual sermon is preached in Stepney Church to his memory, which is attended by members of the Company, and afterwards there is a dinner at Vintners' Hall.

After the Great Fire Sir Christopher Wren produced a general plan for rebuilding the City, which included the formation of a river quay extending from Blackfriars to the Tower of London, and in part adorned by the City Halls. If this scheme had been carried out the Vintners' Hall could have been rebuilt on its own ground, for until comparatively recent years it had a garden to the south, running down towards the river, which is mostly now occupied by Hambro Wharf. On part of the ground, however, a smoking-room has lately been built, which communicates with the dining-



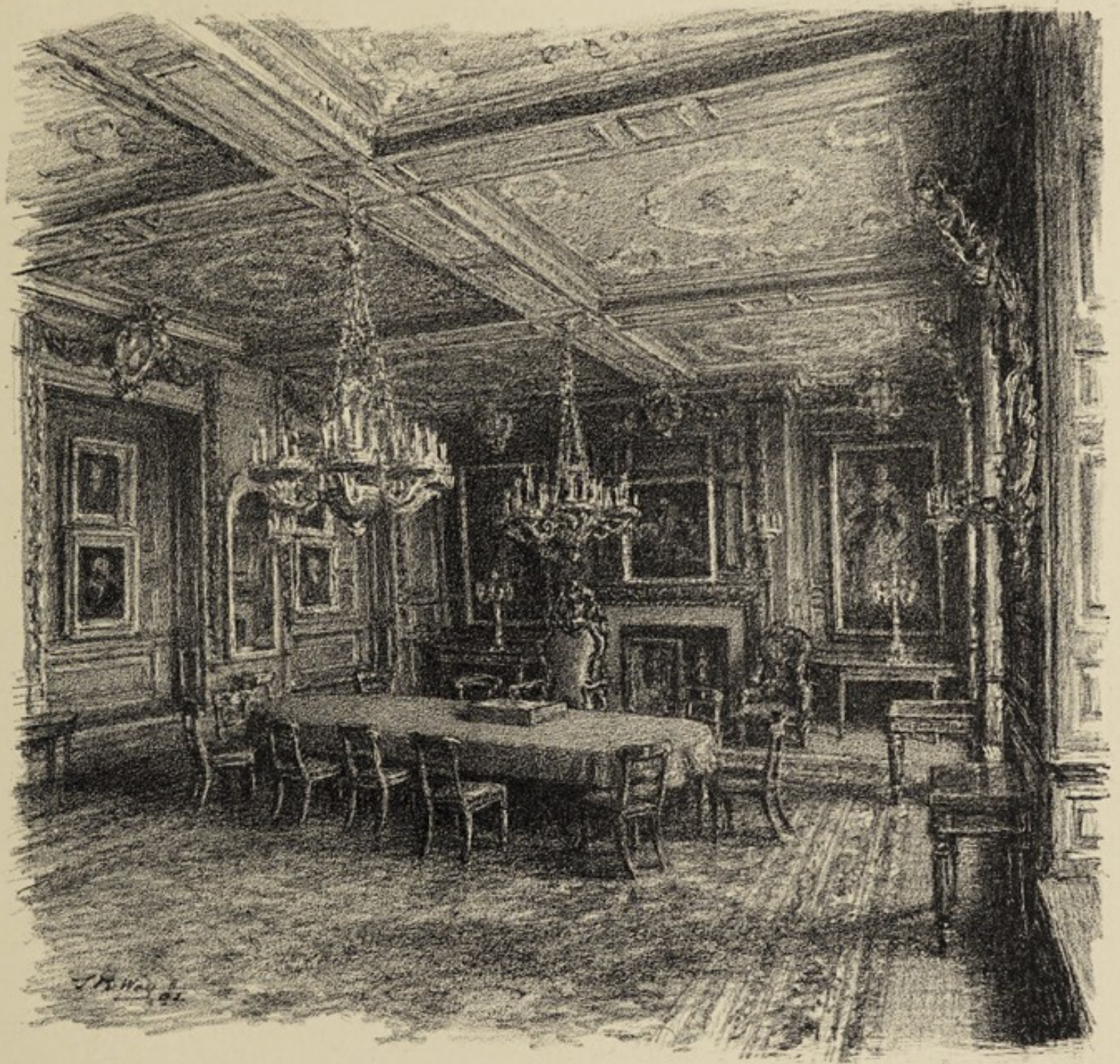




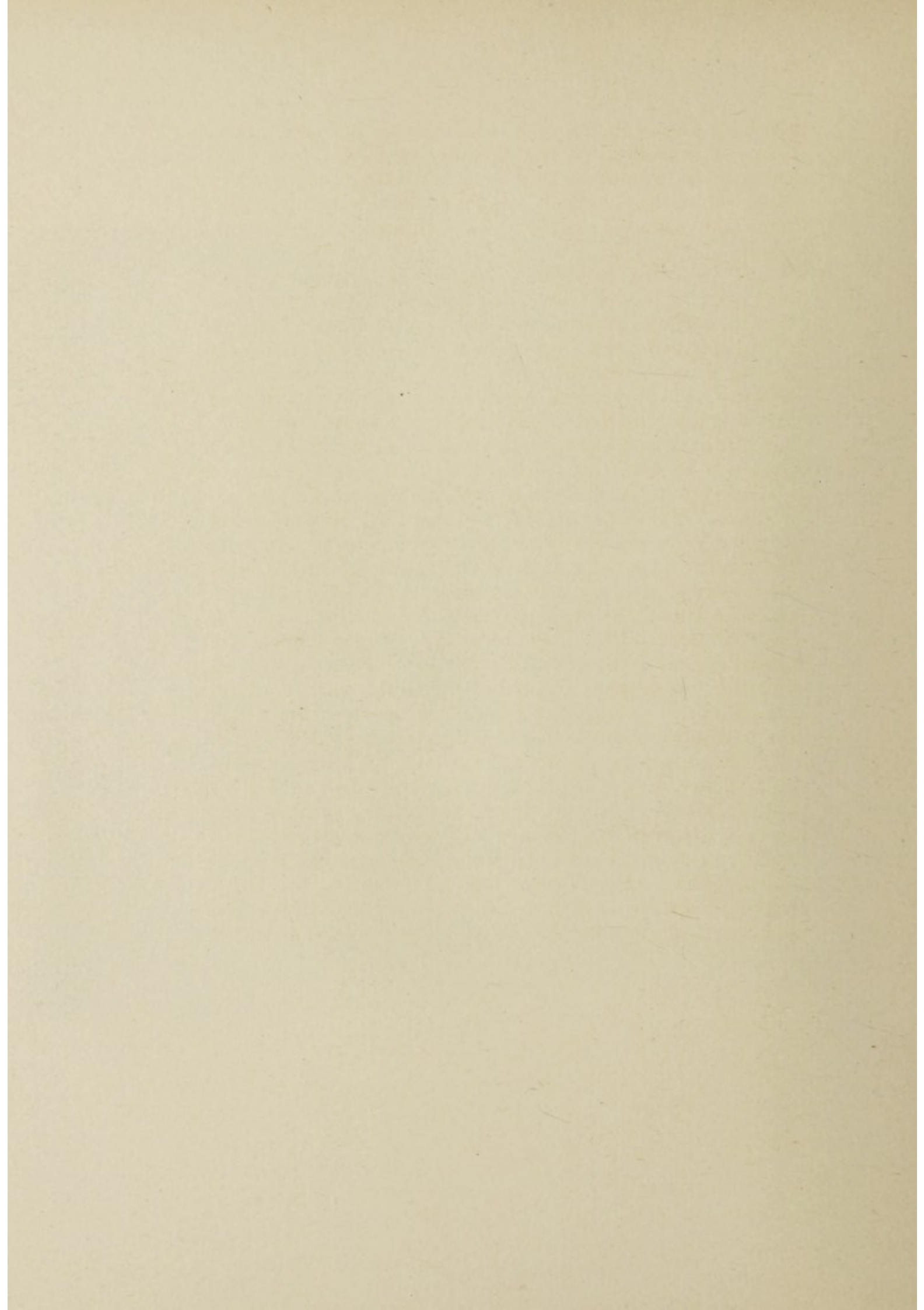
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hall by a passage, opposite to that leading into the courtroom. This passage, and the smoking-room itself, have been utilized for the display of a very interesting set of relics possessed by the Company, which, as there is an admirable opportunity of studying them, we shall mention with some detail.

An unusually complete collection of muniments is on the walls, of which the oldest are the letters patent, in French, dated at Westminster, July 15, 38 Edward III., or 1364. The great seal in green wax is attached. The object of this charter was to regulate the trade in wine with Gascony, and in order that less money should pass out of the kingdom the Gascon merchants were empowered to buy dried fish and cloths in England for exportation. They were not to sell wine by retail, and all wine coming to London was to be discharged and landed above bridge towards the Vintry, so that the King's butler, his gauger and searchers, might know where they should be warehoused, and take the customs and tolls. The next document consists of letters patent, in Latin, confirming, by what is known as *Inspeximus*, the previous charter. They are dated in the 6th year of Henry VI., or 1427. Then follows the second charter of Henry VI., of the year 1438. In this the Vintners first appear distinctly as a Guild, with leave to choose four masters or wardens, and to have a common seal and power to purchase lands in London to the value of £20. The document, which is only fourteen lines long, has an initial letter drawn in pen and ink, with the motto, "Sit soli deo honor in evum;" the great seal is in splendid condition. Bye-laws of 23 Henry VII., or 1507, are engrossed on four skins of vellum. The first has an illuminated initial of Saint Martin dividing his cloak with the beggar, and is further decorated with the royal arms supported by a lion and dragon, portcullises, roses, vines growing out of tuns, and



other designs. At the end are various signatures, among them that of Archbishop Warham, then Chancellor.

A few other documents are well worthy of mention. A charter granted by Mary in 1554, and intended to counteract the supposed bad effect of a statute made in the previous reign, is written in English, and has the great seal in yellow wax, with Mary's effigy, and the motto "Temporis filia veritas." A charter of Philip and Mary, 1558, is beautifully illuminated, and has St. Martin dividing his cloak with the beggar, and portraits of the king and queen seated. In the upper margin appear their arms and other ornaments; the sides also are decorated. Among the designs is a skull with the motto "Nosce teipsum" and the merchant's mark of Stephen Mason. This charter empowers the Company to purchase lands of the value of £40 a year, as well of Stephen Mason of Weveringstrete in the county of Kent, citizen and Vintner, as of any other person. He was no doubt trustee of the estates which the Guild already possessed. A charter of Elizabeth, dated 1559, is adorned by a charming pen-and-ink drawing of her, very young and seated, with the royal arms and other ornament; it has the signature of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Bye-laws of the same queen, issued in 1594, have an illuminated full-length portrait of her; below are various seals, among them that of Lord Treasurer Burghley, with his signature. Charters of James I. and James II. have fine seals and interesting portraits.

In the passage hangs a piece of tapestry in splendid condition and perhaps of unique interest, because it was certainly made for an English church in 1466. It was once the reredos of an altar, is now framed and glazed, and measures about 6 feet 7 inches by 3 feet 7 inches, being divided into two compartments. That to the left represents St. Martin on horseback dividing his cloak with the beggar.



That to the right is said to represent St. Dunstan saying mass at a high altar, and listening to an angel choir above. Behind him stands a monk holding a cross, and there are other people in attendance forming a congregation. Below is an inscription in Latin: "Pray for the souls of John Bate and of Joan his wife and for Walter Hertford, their son, a monk of this church, A.D. 1466." Now Walter Hertford is known to have been a monk of Christchurch, Canterbury, and finally sub-prior. In Canterbury cathedral was an altar dedicated to St. Martin, and another to St. Dunstan, and so it is thought that this tapestry was made for an altar in the cathedral church of Canterbury. How it came into the possession of the Vintners' Company is not apparent; the fact of their patron, St. Martin, being represented would account for their acquiring it when the opportunity occurred. An engraving of this tapestry was kindly shown to the writer. Pasted on to the back of it is a descriptive account written and initialed by the Rev. Thomas Barham, author of the "Ingoldsby Legends," who was chaplain to the Guild.

The Funeral Pall of the Vintners is one of the most perfect which we have had an opportunity of seeing, the material being cloth of gold and purple velvet pile. At each end are represented in embroidery acts of charity by St. Martin. In the centre of each side border is the Virgin Mary seated, with the body of our Saviour in her lap. To the right and left are figures of Death, and above them labels with mottoes.

The Vintners possess some interesting plate, of which we will mention a few specimens. The oldest is a cocoa-nut cup, mounted in silver-gilt with a date mark for 1518. A circular silver beaker and a silver wine cup, were both given by Anthony Pawle, merchant "to his Majesties Wine Porters 1638." The "milkmaid cup" is a small wine cup silver-gilt, in the shape of a girl, whose petticoat forms the cup. Above



her head she holds a small vessel in the form of a pail; on the under side is a Tudor rose. The pail is hung on pivots let into scrolls from the hands of the figure. It has no plate marks, but belongs to the seventeenth century. New members are expected to drink from this double cup without spilling the contents. A square saltcellar, silver-gilt, has on the panels figures in relief of Justice, Fortitude, Temperance and Chastity, and the cover is surmounted by a female figure standing on a vase and holding a shield with the arms of the Company. This was given by the Master, by name John Powell, in 1702. It is 12 inches high, and the plate mark is for the year 1689.

The Vintners have enjoyed the right of keeping swans on the Thames at least from the beginning of the sixteenth century, probably long before. The earliest record preserved concerning their swans is in accounts for the year 1509, when money was paid for "uppyng of Swanes." It may be remarked, by the way, that the rest of the swans in the upper Thames are owned by the Crown or by the Dyers' Company; also that, according to the law of England, the swan is what is called a royal bird. When found, in a partially wild state, on the sea or on a river, unless marked it is presumed to belong to the Crown; whoever steals or destroys swans' eggs is liable to a penalty of 5*s.* for every egg, and to steal a swan is felony. According to ancient custom, each year in the late summer, the Royal swan-keeper and the representatives of the Vintners' and the Dyers' Companies make an expedition up the river and mark the cygnets; the process is called swan-upping. The royal mark used to consist of five diamonds, the Dyers' of four bars and one nick, the Vintners' of the chevron or letter V and two nicks. These marks have been simplified. The word "nicks" was formerly corrupted into necks, and as the vintners were often tavern keepers the Swan with two Necks



became a common sign. Of late years the Vintners' Company has introduced black swans. They are kept up chiefly in the neighbourhood of Cleeve Lock, and thrive well, being apparently as capable of holding their own as the white swans.



## THE BREWERS' COMPANY

**A**MONG the Great Companies, the Vintners', just described, ranks eleventh in order of precedence. Then follows that important Company the Clothworkers', of which Samuel Pepys, the diarist, was Master, but of this we have no illustration, as its buildings are entirely modern. The minor Companies, some famous for their wealth and influence, many for their interesting associations, are headed by the Dyers', the second Company possessing the privilege of keeping swans on the Thames. Next comes the Company of which we will now give a brief account.

While, owing to the climate and the expense of transport, wine in England, even of the cheaper kinds, must always be somewhat of a luxury, the fermented drink in vogue among the mass of the population is, and from early times has been, that essentially British product, ale or beer. It is natural, therefore, that the Brewers' Company should maintain to-day the high position which it held five hundred years ago, and that it should be one of the very few City Guilds admitting to membership only those who belong to the trade which it nominally represents. If one looks through the lists of masters and wardens during recent years, one finds that most of the leading brewers, whose names are so familiar to us, have held office at the charming old Hall in Addle Street.

As was usually the case, this Company existed for many years by prescription before it was incorporated. In an



ordinance of the reign of Henry IV., persons engaged in the various branches of the malt liquor trade are described as brewers or brewsters, hostillers (innkeepers), hucksters, etc. The hucksters used to sell by retail. In 1320 the Lord Mayor and aldermen forbade their selling ale on London Bridge. In 1376 the men of this craft returned five members to the Common Council, six being the maximum. They are mentioned in an ordinance of the seventh year of the reign of Henry IV. as the "mystery of Free Brewers," and the City authorities gave them a constitution. The freemen of the Guild were yearly to elect four, namely, two masters and two wardens of the part east of the Walbrook, and four like persons of the part west of the Walbrook, whose business it was to regulate the trade and see that good sound ale was brewed, and to report offenders to the Chamberlain of the City. About the same time considerable complaint was made that brewers were in the habit of selling short measure. Beer is popularly supposed to be malt liquor with the addition of hops, brewed therefore after the introduction of that plant, an event which, in spite of the well-known couplet, is believed to have taken place before the middle of the fifteenth century. The following early mention of beer shows that it was then a liquor of inferior quality to ale, but we are not told if it then contained hops or not.

6 Henry V. A.D. 1418: "Thursday the 15th day of September—present the Mayor, Sevenok, Reinwell, Pervys, Arnold, Merivale, Betterendon.—It was ordered that the brewers of the ale that was presented to our Lord the King, at the siege of the City of Roan (Rouen), should have for every tun of 200 tuns of ale, 30 shillings; and that the same brewers should pay for the vessels holding such ale and for the hooping of such vessels; making in all £300.—And that the brewers of ber should have 13s. 4d. for every tun of 300 tuns—making £200." In 1419 there were about

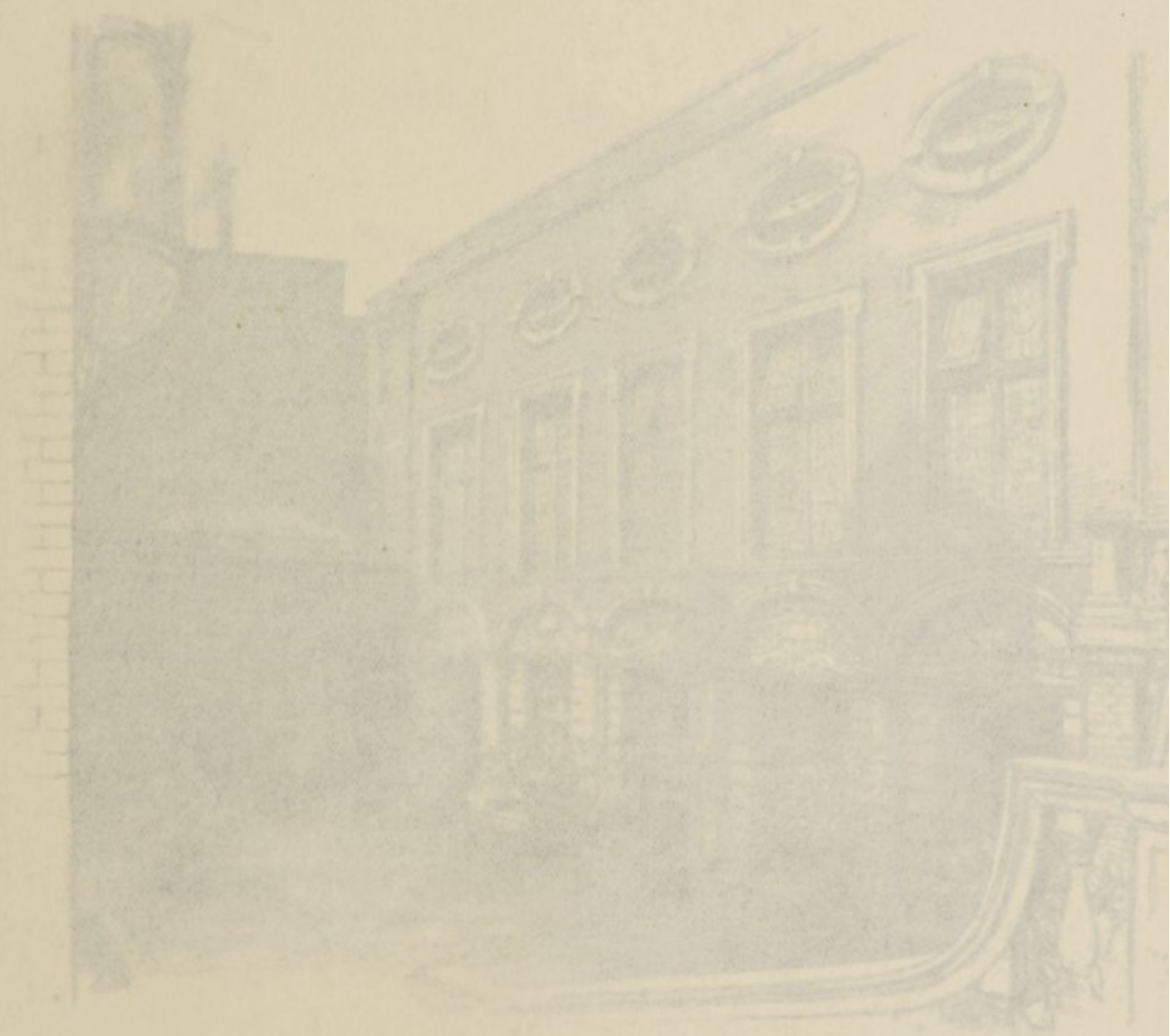


300 brewers in the City and liberties. That same year, in order to insure accurate measure, the famous mayor, Richard Whittington, ordered the coopers to mark with an iron brand all casks made by them. Each cooper was to have his own special brand, and they were all to be entered on a list.

The records still preserved at Brewers' Hall are most interesting for the illustration they afford of the habits and customs of the citizens of London. Beginning early in the fifteenth century, and originally kept in Norman French, it was by a resolution passed in the reign of Henry V. decided that "henceforth should be noted down in our mother tongue the needful things that concern us."

For some reason Whittington seems to have been prejudiced against the Brewers, and more than once was at loggerheads with them. Thus (say their records), in 1422, his mayoralty having expired, Robert Chichele, the then Mayor, "sent for the masters and twelve of the most worthy of our company to appear at the Guildhall; to whom John Fray, the recorder, objected a breach of government, for which £20 should be forfeited for selling dear ale. After much dispute about the price and quality of malt, wherein Whityngton, the late mayor, declared that the brewers had ridden into the country and forestalled the malt, to raise its price, they were convicted in the penalty of £20; which objecting to, the masters were ordered to be kept in prison in the Chamberlain's company, until they should pay it, or find security for payment thereof." Whereupon, the Mayor and Court of Aldermen "having gone homeward to their meat," the masters, who were left in prison, "asked the Chamberlain and his clerk what they should do; who bade them go home, and promised that no harm should come to them; for all this proceeding had been done but to please Richard Whityngton, for he was the cause of all the





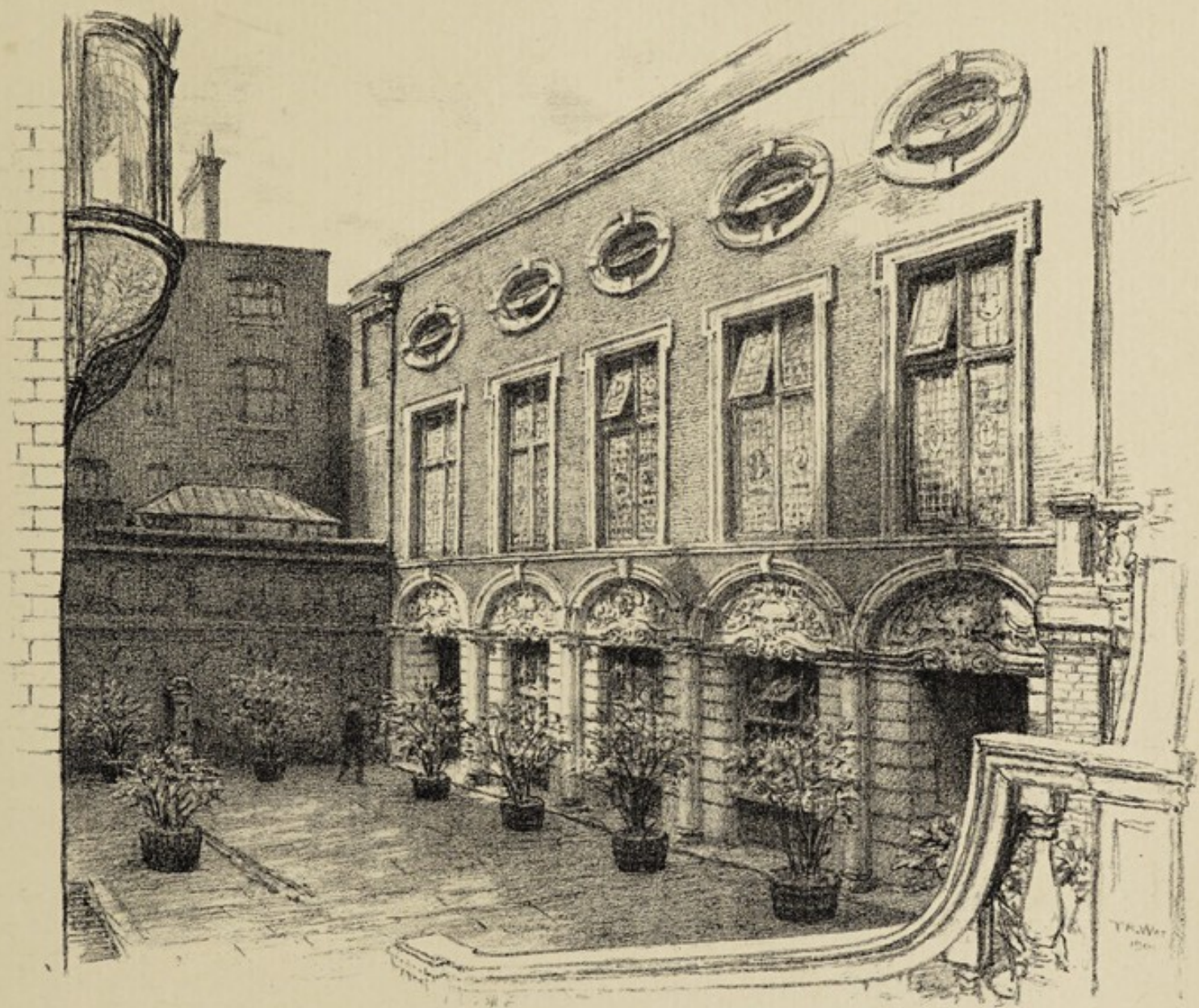


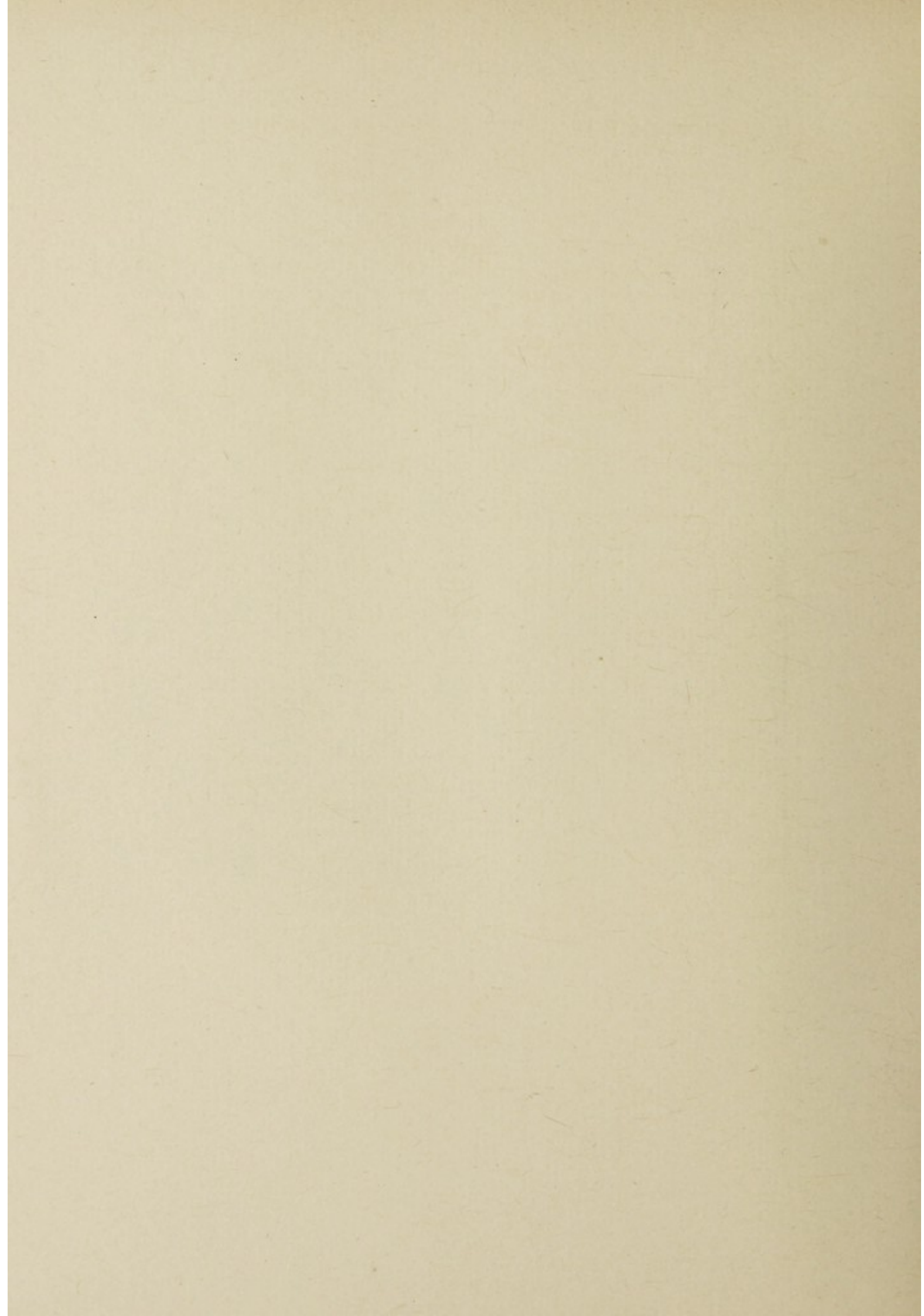
200 brewers in the City and liberties. That same year, in order to adopt a more accurate measure, the famous mayor, Richard Whittington, ordered the coopers to mark with an iron brand the casks made by them. Each cooper was to have his own special brand, and they were all to be entered on a list.

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The case against Whittington seems to have been presented against the Brewers, and more than once was at issue with them. Thus (say their records), in 1422, his term of office having expired, Robert Chichele, the then Mayor, took for the masters and twelve of the most worthy of the citizens to appear at the Guildhall; to whom John Fox, the brewer, objected a breach of government, for which a fine should be forfeited for selling dear ale. After much dispute about the price and quality of malt, wherein Whittington, the late mayor, declared that the brewers had abused the country and forestalled the malt, to their own profit, they were convicted in the penalty of £20; which sum being due, the masters were ordered to be kept in prison at the Chamberlain's company, until they should pay the same, or find security for payment thereof." Whereupon, the Mayor and Council of Aldermen "having gone homeward to their houses, the masters, who were left in prison, "asked the Chamberlain and his clerk what they should do; who told them to go home, and promised that no harm should come to them; for all this proceeding had been done but to please Richard Whittington, for he was the cause of all the









aforesaid judgment." It is further stated that "the offence taken by Richard Whityngton against them was for their having fat swans at their feast on the morrow of S<sup>t</sup> Martin." In 1420 Thomas Greene, master, and the wardens of the Company agreed to meet at "Brewershalle" once a week for the transaction of business; and this is the first time that one hears of the hall as a permanent building. When the ordinances were made for the regulation of the craft in the seventh year of Henry IV., to which we have already alluded, it is clear that a regular place of meeting had not yet been acquired. The Mayor, in 1424, by name John Mitchell, is spoken of by the Brewers as "a good man, and meek and soft to speak with." When he entered on his office they gave him an ox costing 21*s.* 2*d.* and a boar, and he "advised them to make good ale that he might not have any complaint against them."

In the sixteenth year of the reign of Henry VI., that is in 1437, the first Charter was granted to the Brewers. They were thenceforth to be a corporate body with a common seal and power to take and hold land, and they were annually to elect a master and wardens with power to control the members of the mystery, and the processes connected with the brewing of any kind of malt liquor in the City and suburbs for ever. In 1468 a coat of arms was granted to them, which was confirmed in the time of Henry VIII. It is, Gules, a chevron argent, charged with three barrels sable hooped or, between three pairs of barley garbs saltirewise proper—Crest: On a wreath a demi-Moorish woman couped at the knees proper, her hair dishevelled or, habited sable, frettée argent; her arms extended, holding in each hand three ears of barley of the second. Motto: "In God is all our trust." In the following year it is evident that the Brewers occupied a high position, for they mustered 210 men for the City Watch, this number being ten men more than



the number of the Mercers, or the highest of all in the City Companies.

From existing documents it is evident that for many years, from the time when the brewing of beer became common, there was in existence a fellowship of beer brewers, more or less distinct from the ale brewers, who were already formed into a Company governed by a master and wardens.

In 1444 William Lounde and Richard Veysey were appointed surveyors of the beer brewers of London, who during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries numbered in their ranks people from the Low Countries—quite a colony of them settled in Southwark, where there was even a Flemish burial ground. This Southwark settlement of foreign brewers took place no doubt on account of the advantage of being near the Thames water, for Stow, when mentioning the localities of various trades, says that “the brewers for the more part remain near the friendly water of Thames.” An ordinance of the twenty-first year of the reign of Henry VIII., has the phrase, “no manner of Berebruer, *Ducheman* or *other*,” and adds that “no manner of Berebruer Englishe or straunger, shall have and kepe in his house above the number of two Coblers to amende their vessells.” Reference continues to be made to the Beer-brewers as more or less distinct from the Ale-brewers; indeed, in the reign of Edward VI., when there was trouble between the Beer-brewers and the Court of Common Council, it is ordained by the latter that forasmuch as “most evydently yt hath apperyd that this notable stoberness of the beare bruers hath rysen by the counseyll and provocation of the ale-bruers,” for the future the two crafts shall not unite, nor shall the Ale-brewers compel anyone to come into their Company. However, in the third year of Queen Mary’s reign a petition was presented by the Brewers



to the City fathers reciting that the two crafts had formerly been united to the convenience of both, and praying that the restriction might be removed. This was accordingly done, and from that time the Brewers' Company has represented, without challenge, both ale and beer brewers. For long afterwards, however, as we are told by "John Bickerdyke," in his entertaining volume called "Curiosities of Ale and Beer," four Surveyors of the Beer-brewers, being "substantyall sadd men," were elected every year to supervise their branch of the trade.

Even as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the smoke question began to be a trouble in London. The Brewers, therefore, understanding that Her Majesty "findeth herselfe greatly greved and anoyed with the taste and smoke of the seacooles used in their furnaces," promise on one occasion to use wood only in their furnaces near Westminster Palace. We have seen that in mediæval times the City authorities treated in a very off-hand way the sale of bad wine; much more recently similar methods were applied to beer. Thus in 1597 it was ordered that two and fifty pipes or barrels of beer "being neither fitt for man's body nor to be converted into sawce (that is vinegar)—shall have the heades of all the same pipes beaten owte, and the beer poured out into the channells, part in Cheapside, part in Cornhill, and part in Bishopsgate." After the reign of Elizabeth one hears less of differences between Brewers and those who regulated the government of the City. In 1614, however, the Lord Mayor "finding the gaols pestered with prisoners, and their bane to take root and beginning at ale houses, and much mischief to be there plotted with great waste of corn in brewing headstrong beer, many consuming all their time and means, in sucking that sweet poison," had survey taken of all victualling houses and ale-houses, which were found to number more than a thousand. He tried to



limit the quantity of beer and ale consumed, but with no permanent effect. In 1626 the Brewers' Company seems to have been far from flourishing. In a petition to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen it is said that the Company contains but six beer-brewers and a small number of ale-brewers, and that the other brewers belong to other Companies. They beg that no person be allowed to set up a brewhouse in the City except a freeman of their Company. The petition was referred to a committee. As late as the year 1752 a similar petition was presented and allowed.

If, however, at one time the Brewers' Company was not altogether prosperous, the brewers themselves have flourished exceedingly, and to-day, in proportion to their numbers, there is no more wealthy and powerful section of His Majesty's lieges than those who are or have been in the trade. Without disrespect to Vintners, Innholders, and other distinguished dealers in the juice of the grape, we will venture to quote the following couplet, which no doubt finds an echo in the breast of every affluent brewer :

"Then long may here the ale-charged Tankards shine,  
Long may the Hop plant triumph o'er the Vine."

On behalf of the uninitiated public we hope that it may continue to be the hop *plant* rather than the hop *substitute*; against which, in spite of the assurance that it is as good as the real article—and even bitterer, we confess to having a slight prejudice.

From the sixteenth century onwards members of this trade have been distinguished for their acts of charity. As early as the year 1514, Stow recites that, "John Tate, brewer, then a mercer, mayor 1514, caused his brewhouse, called the Swan, near adjoining to the hospital of St. Anthonie in London, to be taken down for the enlarging of the said church, then newly built, a great part of his charge. This







that the quantity of beer and ale consumed, but with no increase of price. In 1520 the Brewers' Company seems to have been very flourishing. In a petition to the Court of Burgesses in 1520 it is said that the Company employed 1000 men and a small number of ale-tubbers, and that the other brewers belong to other Companies. It was then that no person be allowed to set up a brewhouse in the city except a freeman of their Company. This petition was referred to a committee. As late as the year 1550 a similar petition was presented and allowed.

At one time the Brewers' Company was not only a powerful body, the brewers themselves have flourished accordingly, and as day, in proportion to their numbers, there has been a wealthy and powerful section of His Majesty's subjects who are or have been in the trade. With-  
out doubt, Vintners, Innholders, and other distinguished members of the race of the grape, we will venture to quote the following couplet, which no doubt finds an echo in the heart of every affluent brewer:

"How long may here the ale-charged Tankards shine,  
Till the Hop play triumph o'er the Vine."

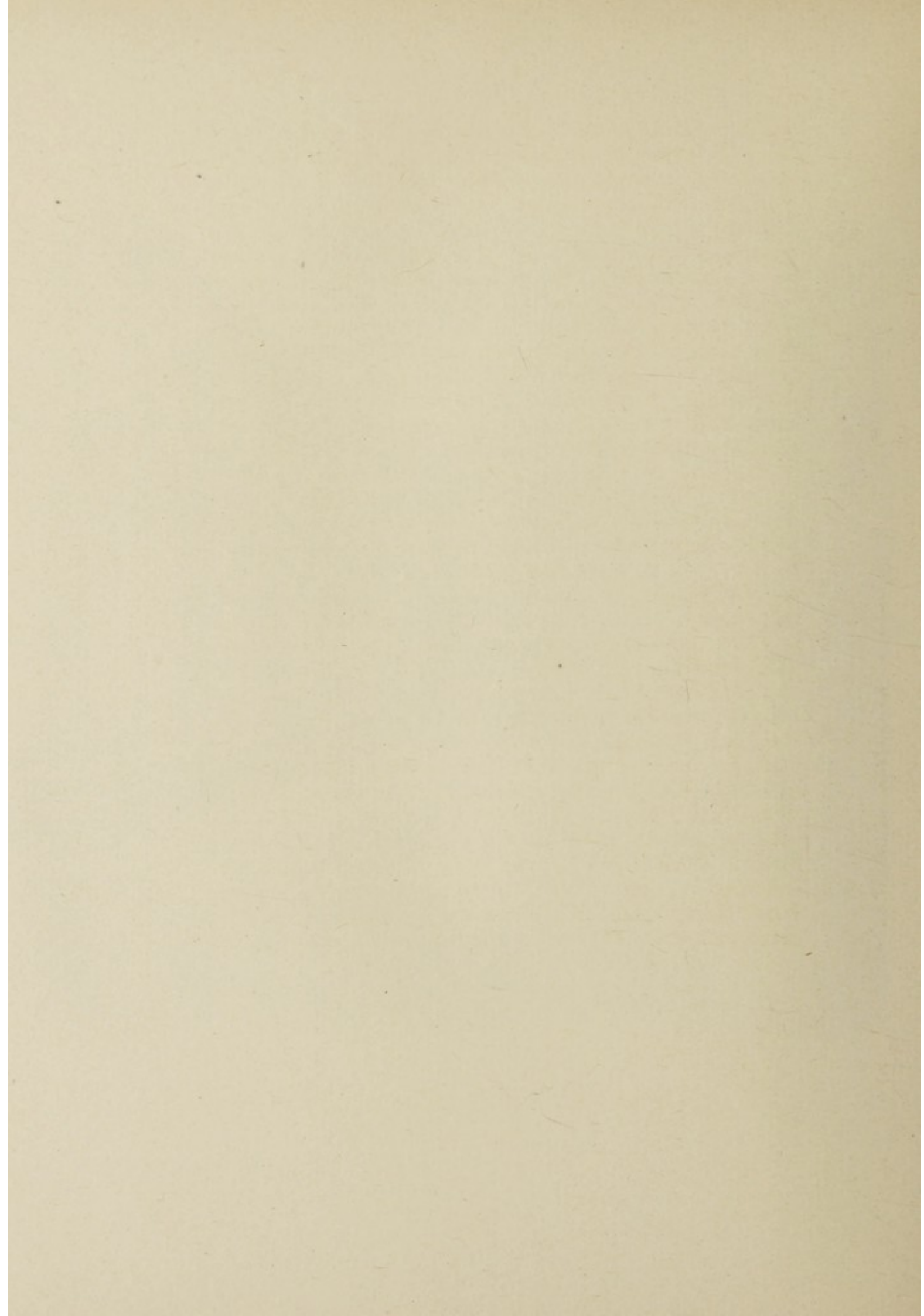
In regard to the uninitiated public we hope that it may be induced to try the hop *plant* rather than the hop *substitute*; and in spite of the assurance that it is as good as the hop itself—and even bitterer, we confess to having a preference for the hop.

In the sixteenth century onwards members of this trade were distinguished for their acts of charity. As early as the year 1219, Stow records that, "John Tate, brewer, died 1219, caused his brewhouse, called the hospital of St. Anthony in London, to be taken down for the enlarging of the said hospital, then newly built, a great part of his charge. This









was a goodly foundation, with alms houses, tree school, etc." Another generous man was Alderman Richard Platt of this Company, who will always be remembered in connection with useful charities which he founded, and which still flourish under the wise administration of the Brewers. His epitaph at the church of St. James, Garlickhithe, supplies perhaps the necessary information about him, it runs as follows: "Here lyeth the body of Richard Plat, Brewer and sometime chosen Sheriffe of London. The Founder of a Free School and sixe Almshouses in Aldenham in the County of Hertford. Hee died the 28 of November 1600, having taken to wife Alice Birtles, the daughter of John Birtles Esquire, and having issue foure sons and one daughter." Next in time, and of considerable importance are the benefactions of Dame Alice Owen (1547-1613), which are described in the third and subsequent editions of Stow's Survey. We learn that she was the widow of Master William Elkin, Mercer and Alderman of London, and "afterwards married to the learned lawyer Master Thomas Owen, one of the reverend Judges of the land." Among other charitable acts, she expended over £1,400 in the purchase of land at Islington and the building and endowment of almshouses and a school there. These she handed over to the Brewers' Company, which still holds them in trust. It seems that Islington was her native place, and "in the time of her childhood she hapned there to escape a great danger, by means of an arrow shot at random in the field, where shee was then sporting among other children, the arrow missing all the other, pierced quite thorow the hat on her head, and (God be praised for it) did not touch her with any other harme." That is why she placed the school and almshouses at Islington. Among the later benefactors were Alderman James Hickson, who in 1686 devised the manor of Williotts and certain premises in South Mimms, Middlesex, to found

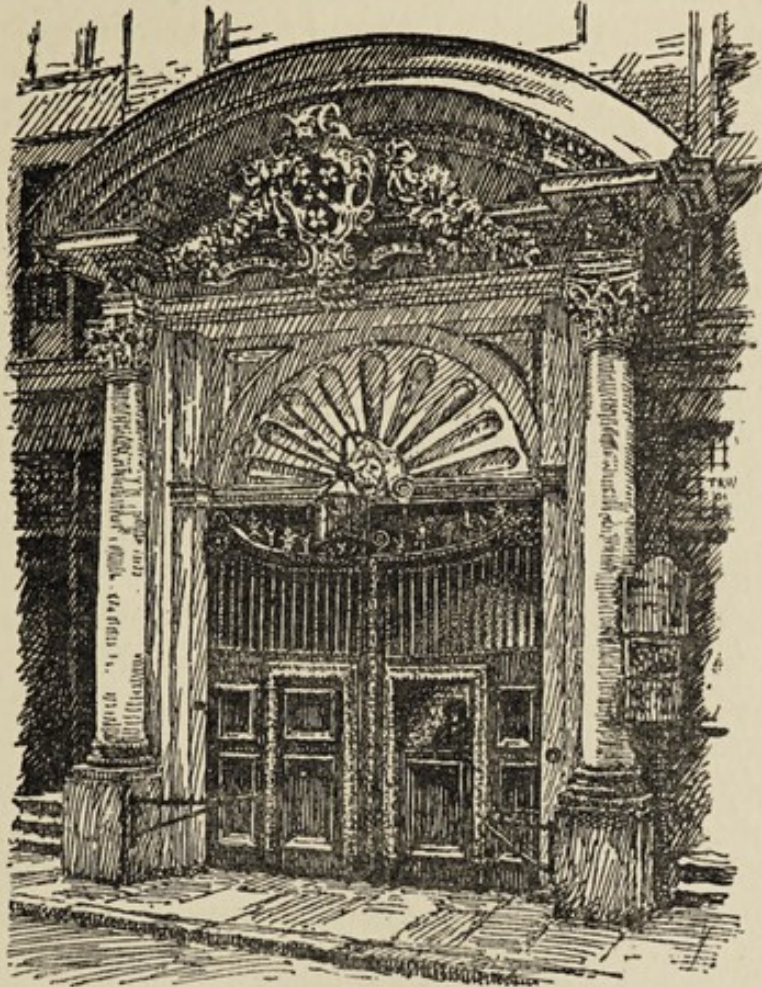


and endow a school at Allhallows, Barking, and almshouses for six poor persons at South Mimms ; Harry Charrington, who in 1799 redeemed the land tax on Mr. Platts' estate on condition that the Company should add £24 a year annually to the income of the almspeople ; and Samuel Whitbread, who gave by indenture in 1794 the Great Barford estates, containing over 237 acres, upon trust, the profits to be devoted to the support of one or two Master Brewers of the age of 50 years, who shall have carried on the trade of a Master Brewer within the Bills of Mortality or two miles thereof for many years in a respectable manner, £100 to be paid to one and £50 to the other. A pension may also be given to their widows. He also gave, or sold for a slight consideration, property called the Whitecross Street Estate, on condition, after the payment of certain trusts, that the residue be devoted to the poor afflicted of the Company. It was he whose brewery was visited by George III. and his Queen, which event Peter Pindar has described in some rather ill-natured though humorous verses.

We have seen that in the year 1420 mention is made of Brewers' Hall, and from that time until the Great Fire it is probable that they always met at the same place in Addle Street, a turning out of Wood Street, Cheapside ; Stow describes it as "a fair house." Brewers' Hall was almost entirely destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, and was rebuilt partly by subscription and partly by pawning plate which was never redeemed. The premises in Addle Street were, however, not wholly the freehold of the Company until 1860, when the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's sold certain parcels belonging to them for nearly £3,000. The building is approached from Addle Street through a remarkably picturesque, though ponderous doorway, of which an illustration is here given. Passing by a passage under a screen of modern warehouses, known as 18 and 19 Addle



Street, and rebuilt in 1876, one finds oneself in a quiet quadrangle, having a structure on the right-hand side with steps leading up to it, which was repaired or partly rebuilt in 1893; while on the left there is a blank wall, and in front



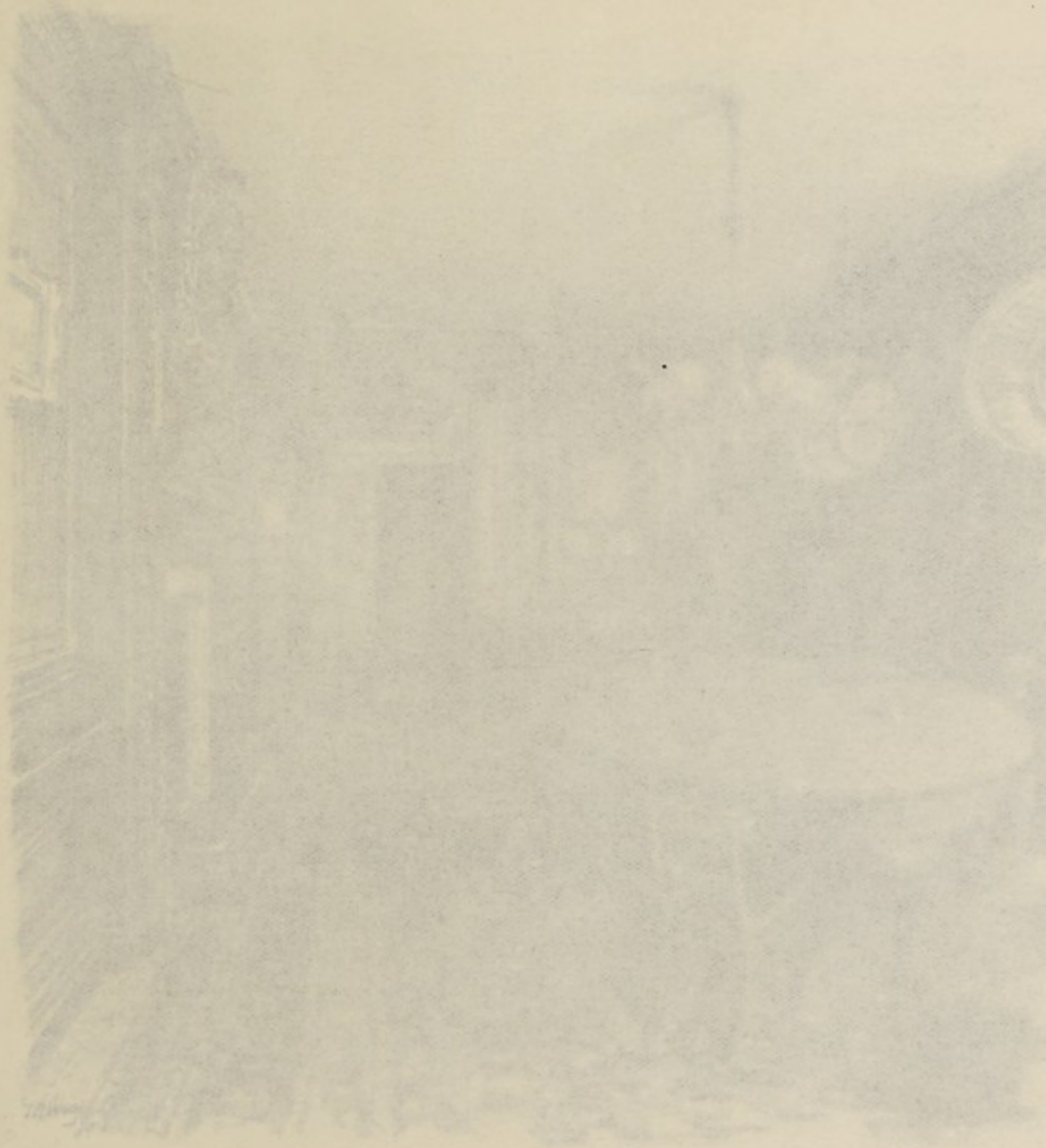
BREWERS' HALL. ENTRANCE DOORWAY.

the very quaint building which contains the Dining Hall and the Court-room. The Hall is on the first floor, approached by an old-fashioned staircase. One enters through a splendid carved wooden screen, shown in one of our lithographs;



the date of it is 1673; it has the arms of the Company and a minstrels' gallery above, still used on the occasion of the Company's dinners. The room, which is free from modern paint and gilding, is finely panelled throughout and has portraits of the following benefactors, namely, Alderman Richard Platt (1528-1609), Dame Alice Owen (1547-1613), Alderman James Hickson (1607-1689), Samuel Whitbread (1720-1796), John Baker (1737-1818) and Harry Charrington, master in 1813. Another and perhaps more interesting relic shown here is the last of the Funeral Palls to which we shall have the opportunity of drawing attention. This is considered to be a very fine specimen of late fifteenth or early sixteenth century work. It is fully described in the catalogue of works of art exhibited at Ironmongers' Hall in 1861. At each end is the figure of St. Thomas of Canterbury, holding his crozier, his right hand held in benediction; on each side is represented the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are reminded that St. Thomas and St. Mary were patrons of this guild.

The Court-room, on the same floor, is at the back, projecting into a small shred of garden which still remains. There is here, besides a large and pretty window at the end, a row of oval windows, like the port-holes of a ship, corresponding with the upper tier in the banqueting hall. The room is panelled to the ceiling and it has a fine carved mantelpiece. An inscription informs us that "Sir Samuel Starling, alderman, and a worthy member of this Company did wainscott this parlour in the year 1670, the said Sir Samuel Starling being then Lord Maior of London." It seems almost an act of treachery to recall to our readers the fact that on September 8th, 1666, the diarist Pepys accuses this worthy alderman of having given only 2*s.* 6*d.* to about thirty men who had saved his house from destruction in the Great Fire. He adds that Starling "did quarrel with

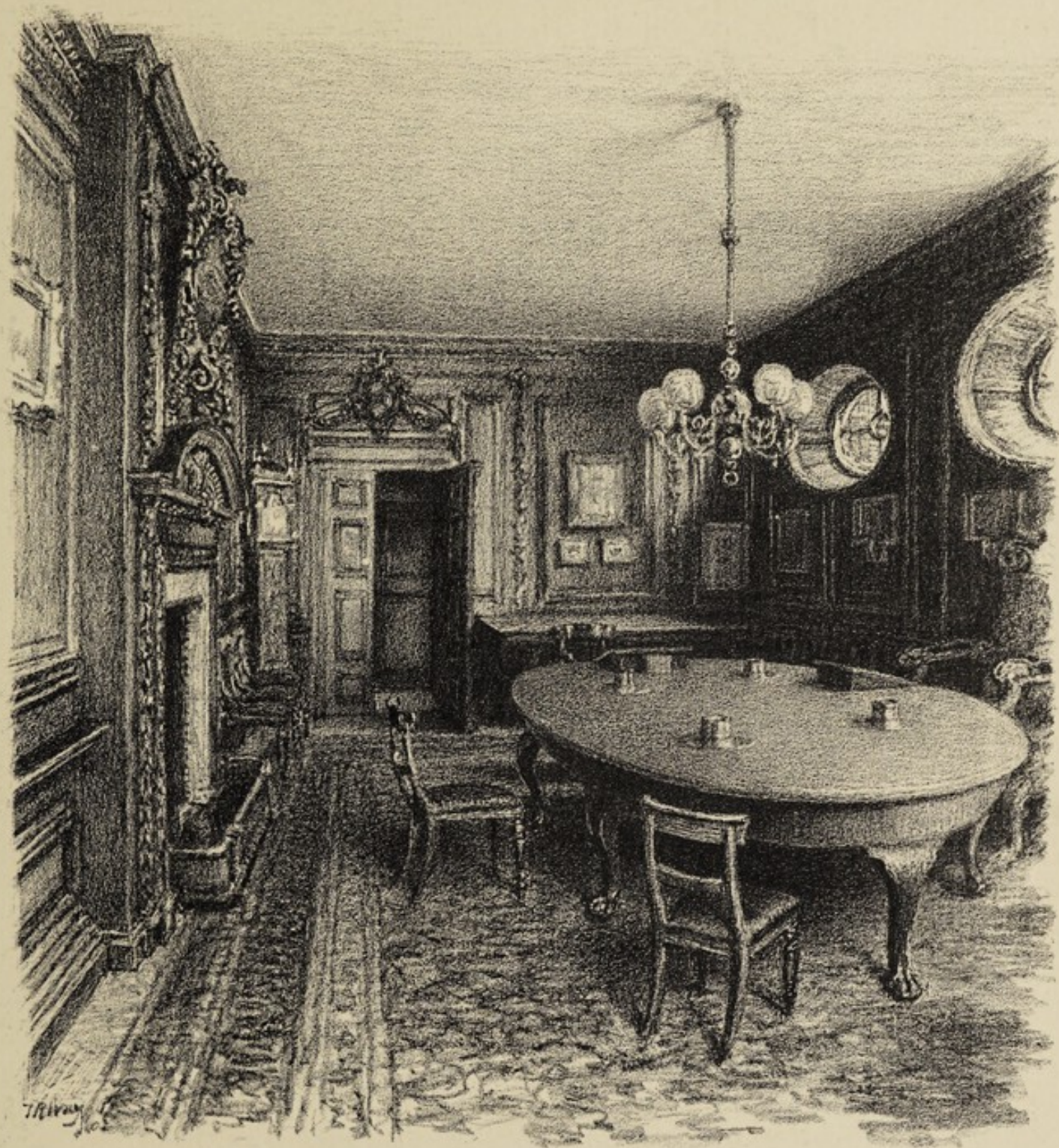




the date of it is 1571. It has the arms of the Company and a ministerial-looking dress, all used on the occasion of the Company's dinner. The room, which is free from modern paint and gilding, is finely panelled throughout and has portraits of the following benefactors, namely, Alderman Richard Phipps (1545-1589), Dame Alice Owen (1547-1613), Alderman James H. Owen (1627-1689), Samuel Whitbread (1739-1798), John Owen (1777-1818) and Harry Charrington, master 1800-1810. Another and perhaps more interesting relic shows the shape of the Funeral Palls to which we allude in the preceding chapter of drawing attention. This is a specimen of the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century work. It is fully described in the notes on the page 100. It is exhibited at Ironmongers' Hall in London. The figure of St. Thomas of Canterbury, kneeling on the right hand held in benediction; on the left hand the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is believed that St. Thomas and St. Mary were the patron saints of the company.

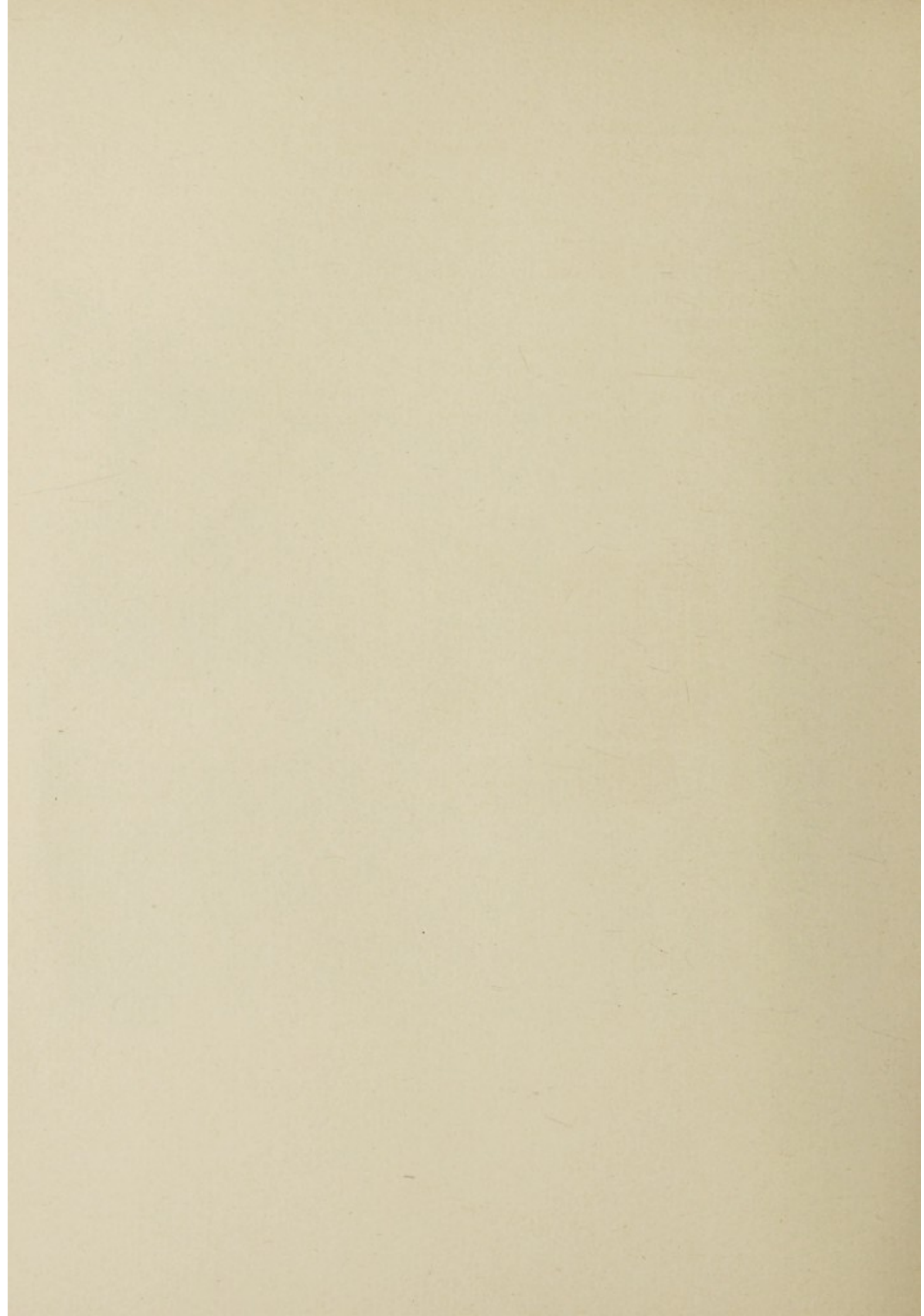
On the same floor, is at the back, projecting into the garden which still remains. There is a large and pretty window at the end, like the port-holes of a ship, corresponding to the upper tier in the banqueting hall. The ceiling is of the same wood and it has a fine carved inscription. The inscription informs us that "Sir Samuel Starling, a worthy member of this Company, died in the year 1670, the said Sir Samuel being then Lord Mayor of London." It is interesting to recall to our readers the fact that in the year 1666, the diarist Pepys accuses Sir Samuel Starling of having given only 2s. 6d. to about 1000 poor people who were saved his house from destruction in the Great Fire. It is said that Starling "did quarrel with



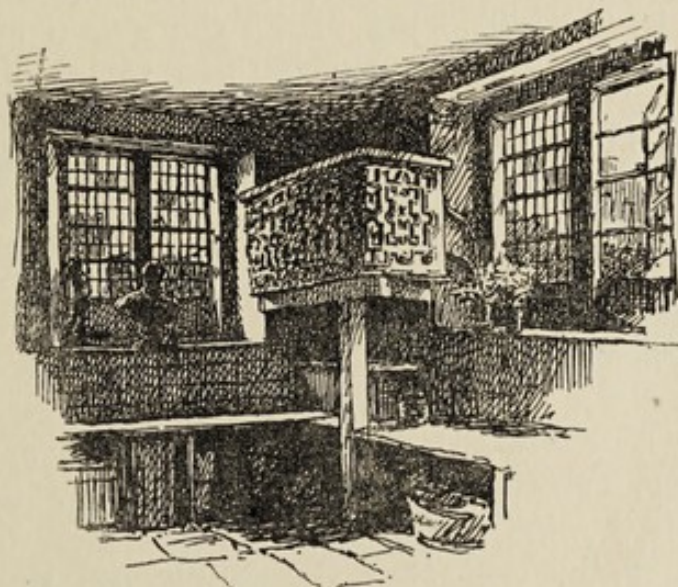


T. R. Vaux





some that would remove the rubbish out of the way, saying that they come to steal." The fine oval table shown in our lithograph is said to have been used in old days on the Company's barge, as were a couple of banners in the hall. Hanging upon one side of the room are various charters and other documents, among them the second grant of arms (35 Henry VIII.), with an illuminated border and a figure in a tabard. On the ground floor, with casement windows looking out into the garden, is the delightful old Kitchen, by some thought to have escaped the Great Fire and to be part of the previous hall. If so, the external brickwork has been renewed. It has the original spits, and a beautiful old lead cistern dated 1671, with the arms of the Brewers' Company upon it.



BREWERS' HALL. KITCHEN.



## THE BARBERS.

ONE of the most interesting of the minor Companies is that of the Barbers, formerly the Barber-Surgeons, associating as it did the names of a profession and a craft which according to our modern ideas have nothing in common. There is, however, an existing reminiscence of the fact that barbers formerly practised one of the minor surgical operations, in the pole still so often displayed by them as a sign. This represents the staff which was grasped by the patient while being bled; the stripes on it are in imitation of the fillet or bandage tied round his arm. It happens also that one of the earliest mentions of the Barbers in London is an ordinance quoted in *Liber Albus*, which forbids their advertising this branch of their business in an objectionable manner under pain of paying two shillings to the use of the Sheriffs.

In 1308 Richard le Barbour was elected and presented by the Barbers of London before the Mayor and Aldermen, to supervise the craft of Barbers, and he swore that if he found any of them keeping disorderly houses or otherwise acting in an unseemly way he would distrain upon them. Mr. Sidney Young, author of the "*Annals of the Barber-Surgeons*," points out that this unpleasant duty was no doubt imposed on Richard le Barbour because the Barbers in early days superintended baths or bagnios, a favourite resort of improper characters.

From this date, though unincorporated, the Barbers



doubtless existed as a Trade Guild, they were composed of two classes, namely those who practised the ordinary business of a barber, which seems to have included phlebotomy and tooth-drawing, and those who practised the more difficult operations of surgery. But, existing alongside of our Guild, also by prescription, was another Fraternity, that of the Surgeons, and these two bodies were more or less opposed. Thus in 1369, the Surgeons obtained from the Mayor and Aldermen an ordinance giving them power over unskilful practitioners, while in 1376 the Barbers obtained somewhat similar powers, two Masters being on their petition appointed to rule their Craft and to see that none belonging to it should be admitted to the freedom of the City until their efficiency had been proved by due examination. Perhaps to appease the feelings of the rival company, in 1390 four Master Surgeons were appointed for the purpose of inspecting those of the Barbers who practised surgery, and it is worthy of note that among the practitioners were women. In 1410, however, the powers granted to the Barbers in 1376 were confirmed to them, with the addition that they should enjoy the same "without the scrutiny of any person or persons of any other craft or trade under any name whatsoever—either as to shaving, making incision, blood letting or any other matters pertaining to the art of Barbery or of Surgery, in the craft of the said Barbers now practised or to be practised hereafter."

The earliest notice of the existence of a Barbers' Hall is to be found in a list of the City Companies' Halls, dated 5 Richard II., or 1381, when it stood as now in the parish of St. Olave, Silver Street, and doubtless in Mogwelle, now Monkwell, Street on the present site.

In 1388 Richard II. sent writs throughout the kingdom inquiring into the nature of then existing guilds and fraternities both social and religious. A great many of the returns relating to London religious fraternities and to trade



guilds throughout the country still exist, but the original documents relating to London Trade Guilds are not forthcoming. There is, however, at Barbers' Hall, a vellum book written out in the seventeenth century, wherein is a certified copy of the return made by the Barbers to the writ of Richard II., that copy being made in the year 1634 from the original in Norman French, then preserved in the Tower of London. According to the return, the Company had "neither tenements nor rents to their common use." They recite an old document "made of the time to which memory runneth not." It opens with a pious dedication, and provides that poor brethren whose poverty has not been through their own fault shall have an allowance of  $10\frac{1}{2}d.$  a week. Other rules relate to such matters as attendance at funerals and obits of deceased members, that no man shall entice away another's servant, attendance at Mass and at the Feast once a year. Later ordinances, probably made about 1387, relate to the Master, the Livery, and payment for the Feast.

To meet the requirements of man, whose beard grows each day alike, barbers have a tendency to keep their shops open on the Sabbath. This in 1413 produced a letter of remonstrance from Thomas Arundell, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Mayor and Aldermen. "Seeing that temporal punishment is held more in dread than clerical, and that which touches the body or the purse more than that which kills the soul," he begs them to inflict a fine on the Barbers who shall transgress in this respect. An Ordinance was therefore made that no Barber, his wife, son, daughter, apprentice or servant should practise his craft on Sundays within the liberty of the City, on pain of paying  $6s. 8d.$  for each offence;  $5s.$  thereof to be contributed to the new work at the Guildhall, the rest to the Wardens or Masters of the Barbers' Company.



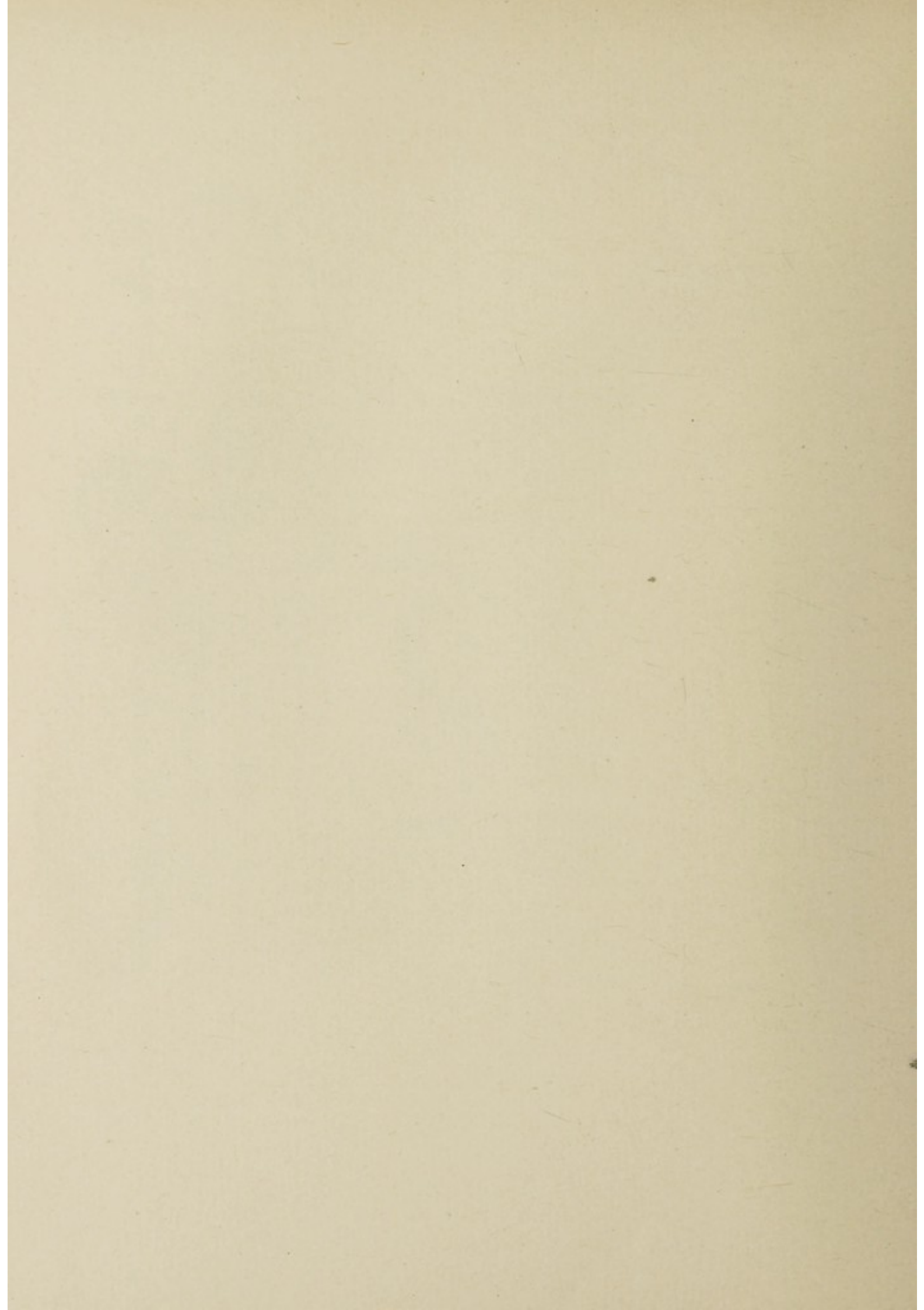


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We pass on to a great event in the annals of the Barbers, resulting no doubt from the increased importance of the Guild, namely the obtaining of a Charter of Incorporation in the first year of King Edward IV., 1462. The original document, with its fine seal, is still preserved in the Hall of the Company, and relates a good deal more to surgery than to the work of the barber. Among other matters it recites that, owing to unskilful treatment by Barbers and Surgeons, "some of our liegemen have gone the way of all flesh, and others through the same cause have been by all given over as incurable and past relief." The Guild was apparently to have supervision over all surgeons in the City and suburbs, and power was granted them to punish offenders by fine and imprisonment. No doubt rivalry continued with the unincorporated Guild of Surgeons. In 1493, however, the two bodies came to an agreement by which they were to work together on all questions connected with surgery and control them. In 1497 they conjointly gave a diploma to one Robert Anson, who at their request had been examined by Dr. John Smyth in "the conyng of surgery," and was "founde abyll and discrete to vse the practice of surgery, as well a bowte new woundis as cansers, fystelis, vlceracions and many other disessis and dyuers." In 1511, however, an Act of Parliament was passed, for what reason is now uncertain, which appears to have granted in the City to the Bishop of London and Dean of St. Paul's power to license all surgeons; and this would have interfered very much with the powers of the two Companies, but it seems to have been repealed almost at once.

In 1512 the Charter of the Barbers' Company was confirmed by Henry VIII., and in the thirty-second year of his reign, 1540, the Barbers' Company and the unincorporated Company of Surgeons, more or less rivals for so many years, became one body corporate under the title of "The



Maisters or Governours of the Mystery and Comminalte of Barbouris and Surgeons of London." The dead bodies of four criminals were to be supplied to them every year for dissection, and, in the words of Mr. Young, "inasmuch as various persons exercising the faculty of Surgery used to take into their house for cure, people afflicted with the pestilence and other contagious diseases, and 'do use or exercise barbari, as washynge or shavyng and other feates thereunto belonging'; the same was declared 'veraie perillous,' and it was enacted that no one using the faculty of Surgery should practise Barbery, and that no Barber should practise any point in Surgery, the drawing of teeth only excepted."

It is time to refer to that great treasure of the Barbers' Company, the picture by Hans Holbein, now in the Court-room, which certainly represents the Union of the Barbers' Company with the Guild of Surgeons in 1540, though in this case we must accept the fact that Holbein has placed in the hand of Henry VIII. a Charter with seal instead of an Act of Parliament. The picture, 10 feet 2 inches long, by 5 feet 11 inches high, is painted on panel, and contains nineteen figures. On the king's right kneel Dr. John Chambres, Dr. William Butts, both his physicians, and Thomas Alsop the Royal Apothecary. On his left, also kneeling, are Thomas Vicary, Sergeant-Surgeon, and the then Master, who is receiving the Charter. Sir J. Ayleff, Surgeon to the King is next, and then Edmund Harman the King's Barber and one of the witnesses to his Will. The rest have mostly been identified. This is one of the most important of Holbein's pictures; it was probably painted immediately after the union of the two companies, for Holbein's life was then drawing to a close; indeed there may be some truth in the report alluded to by Van Mander that the artist did not live to complete it. Pepys in his Diary, under the date August 29, 1668, writes as



follows: "At noon comes by appointment Harris (the actor) to dine with me; and after dinner he and I to Chirurgeon's Hall, where they are building it new very fine; and then to see their theatre, which stood all the fire, and which was our business, their great picture of Holben's, thinking to have bought it by the help of Mr. Pierce for a little money: I did think to give £200 for it, it being said to be worth £1000; but it is so spoiled that I have no mind to it, and is not a pleasant though a good picture." In 1618 James I. wrote to the Company expressing a wish to have the picture copied. The College of Surgeons possesses what is supposed to be the original cartoon.

The first of the Court Minute Books which has been preserved begins in 1550. Many of the earlier entries relate to forced loans and charges of various kinds: others to arms and munitions of war. Thus, August 6, 1599, the Master and Wardens of the Company were ordered to deliver to the freemen the Company's armour, in "suche order as it may be, in safetye readie for her Majestie's service"; when the Master took for his own use "one muskett fflaske and tuche boxe one headepeece and one rest." In the following year twelve members of the Court were ordered to meet at the Hall on the 13th of November, with twelve freemen "to wayte uppon them with everyone twoe staffe torches in his hande" and to ride with the Lord Mayor to Chelsea and thence conduct the Queen to Westminster. They formed part of a great procession which is described in Stow's *Annales*.

On May 25, 1610, the Company was ordered by the Lord Mayor to be ready in their "bardge well and richlie sett forthe" on the 31st January following, to meet Prince Henry, eldest son of the King, at Chelsea, on the occasion of his coming from Richmond to Whitehall to be created Prince of Wales. The Barber-Surgeons, however, did not



then possess a barge of their own, although they had been in the habit of hiring one. Thus on October 22nd, 1577, they agreed with "Mr. Skarlet the Queenes Bargeman" for the hire of "a barge called the Greyhounde belonging to the maydes of honor." It was not until 1663-4 that they built themselves a barge and barge-house, at considerable expense. The latter was at Lambeth, the ground belonging to the Archbishop, but the lease, expiring in 1723, was not renewed, the Company not then having a barge, and the demand for rent being thought excessive.

New by-laws having come into force extending the power of the Company over surgical matters, they determined in 1636 to build a theatre for lectures and for anatomical demonstrations, and in carrying out the work they employed as architect Inigo Jones, who about the same time designed for them a Court-room or Parlour. The Theatre, oval in form and more or less detached from the other buildings, extended to the old City wall, which here formed the boundary of Cripplegate churchyard. A plan of it is preserved among the drawings by Inigo Jones at Worcester College, Oxford, and the following quaint description is from Hatton's "New View of London," 1708: "The theatre is commodiously fitted with four degrees of cedar seats, and adorned with the figures of the seven liberal sciences, the twelve signs of the zodiack, and the sceleton of an ostrich put up by Dr. Hobbs 1682, with a busto of King Charles I. Two skins on the wood frames, of a man and a woman in imitation of Adam and Eve put up in 1645; a mummy scull given by Mr. Loveday 1655. The sceleton of Atherton with copper joints (he was executed) given by Mr. Knowles in 1693. The figure of a man flea'd, where all the muscles appear in due place and proportion, done after the life. The sceletons of Cambery Bess and Country Tom (as they there call them); and three other sceletons of humane bodies. The roof of the theatre

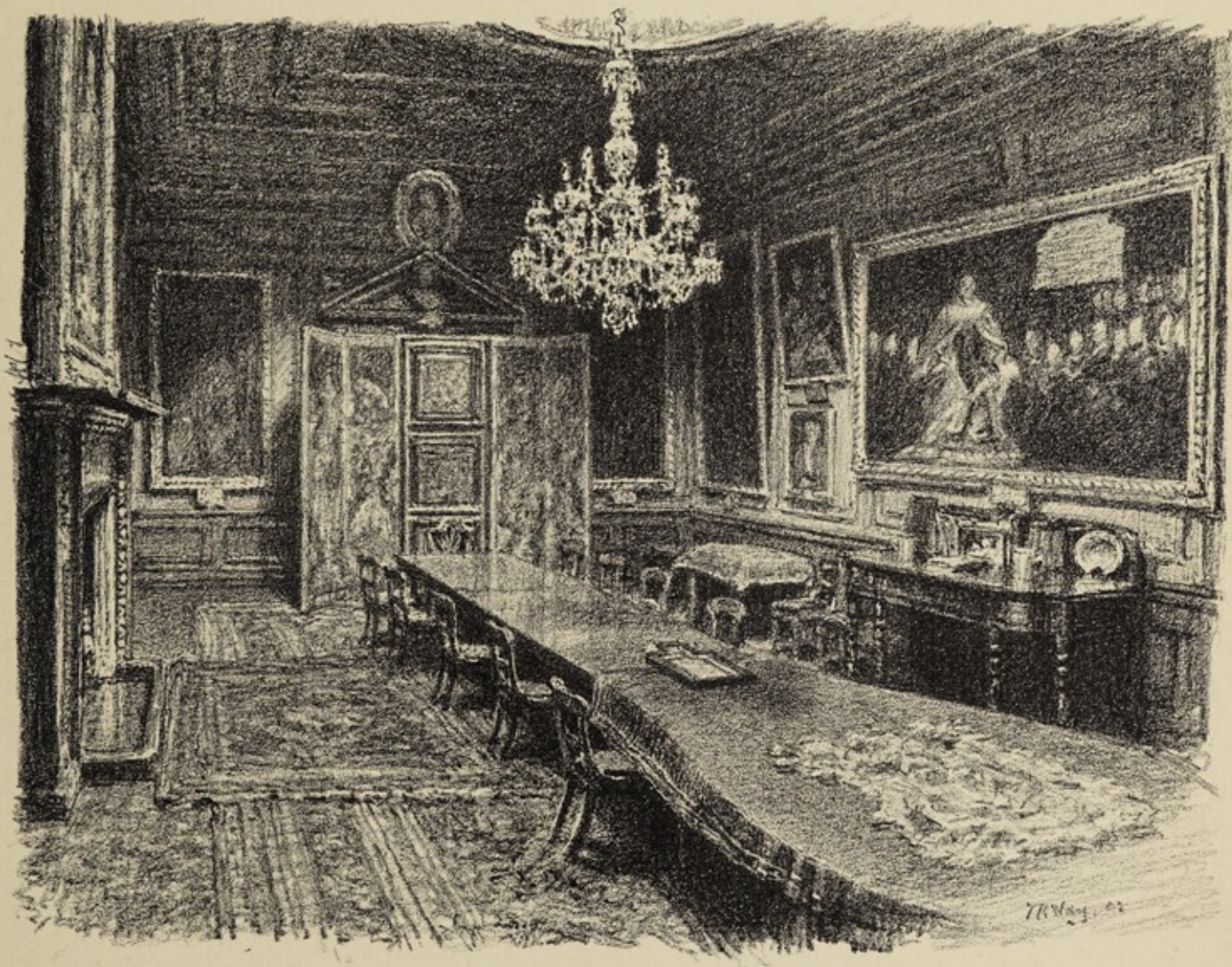




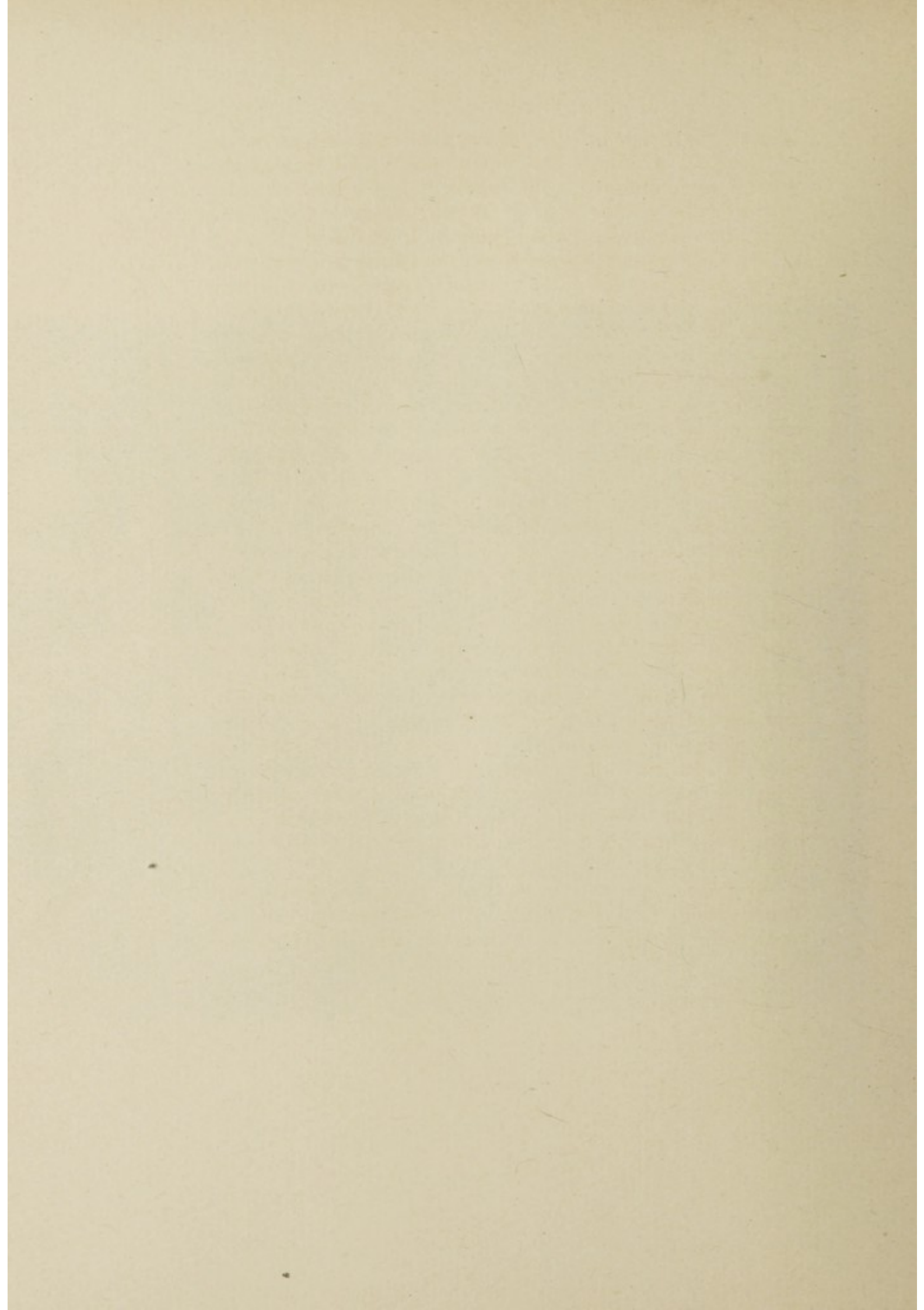
then possess a barge of their own, although they had been in the habit of hiring one. Thus on October 22nd, 1577, they agreed with "Mr. Walter the Queenes Bargeman" for the hire of "a barge called the Greyhounde belonging to the maydes of honor." It was not until 1663-4 that they built themselves a barge-houze, at considerable expense. The latter was, however, the ground belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, expiring in 1723, was not renewed, the Company not then having a barge, and the demand for rent being too oppressive.

New laws were now come into force extending the power of the University in surgical matters, they determined in 1636 to build a theatre for lectures and for anatomical demonstrations. In carrying out the work they employed as architect Christopher Wren, who about the same time designed for them a hall, called the Parlour. The Theatre, oval in form and most conveniently placed from the other buildings, extended to the west wall, which here formed the boundary of Cripplegate. A plan of it is preserved among the drawings of Christopher Wren at Worcester College, Oxford, and the following is a brief description is from Hatton's "New View of London." The theatre is commodiously fitted with four degrees of seats, and adorned with the figures of the seven planets, the twelve signs of the zodiack, and the ostrich, which was put up by Dr. Hobbs 1682, with a head of King Charles I. Two skins on the wood frames, of a man and a woman in imitation of Adam and Eve put up in 1655, a mammy skull given by Mr. Loveday 1655. The skeleton of Atherton with copper joints (he was executed 1654 by Mr. Knowles in 1693. The figure of a man being shown all the muscles appear in due place and proportion, even to the life. The skeletons of Cambery Beas and Cambery Beas (as they there call them); and three other skeletons of humane bodies. The roof of the theatre









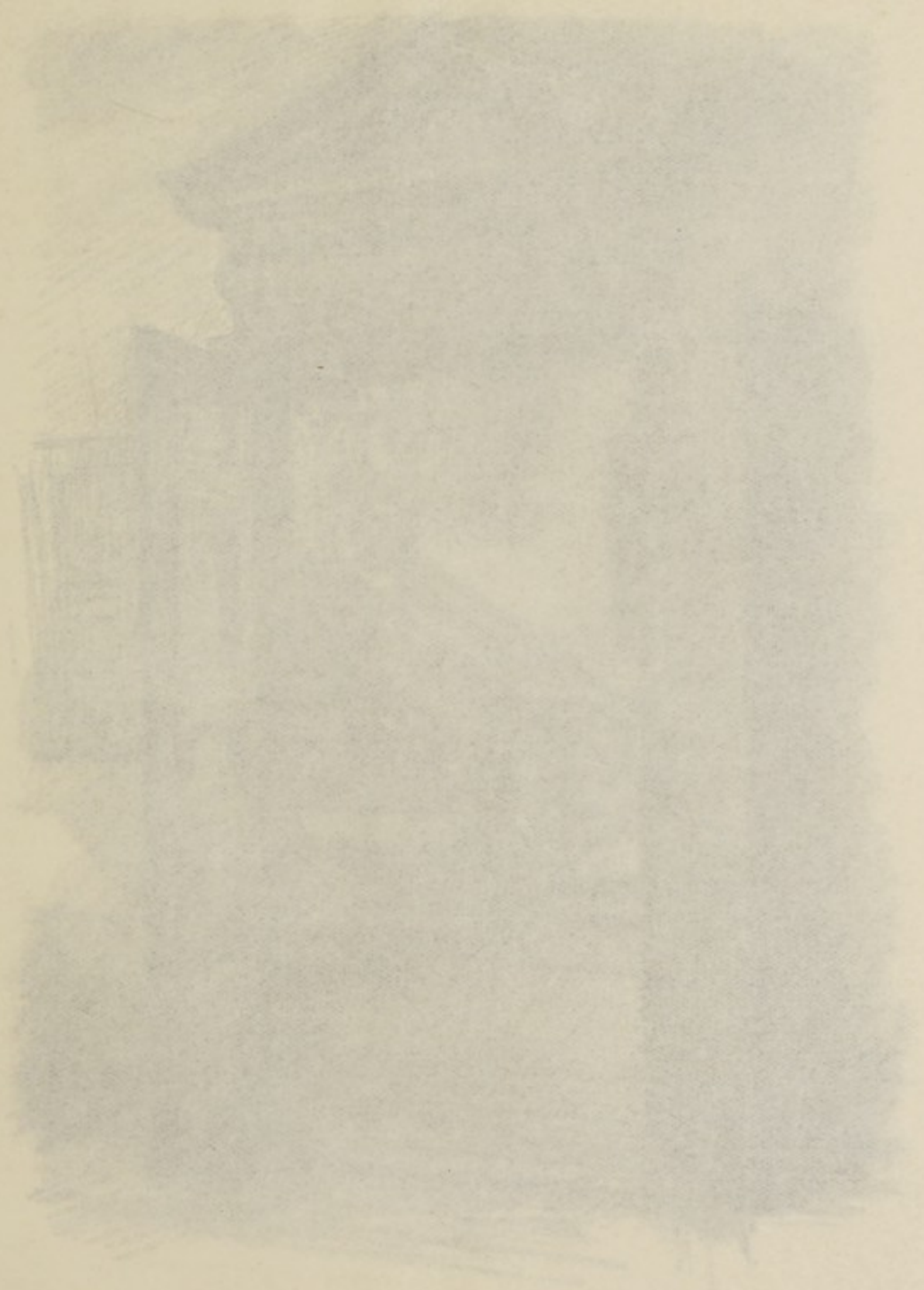
is an elliptical cupolo." As the last scene of his "Four Stages of Cruelty," Hogarth has drawn with awful realism the dissection of a criminal in this theatre. It was restored under the direction of the Earl of Burlington in 1730-31, and pulled down in 1784, houses being built on the site.

The old entrance of the Barber-Surgeons' property from Monkwell Street led by a covered passage into an ample courtyard, and was immediately opposite to the main entrance of the old Hall, which stood back originally, occupying the space between the courtyard and a bastion of the City wall. In 1607-8 a Court-room was built within the bastion (or bulwark as it is called in the minutes), the room being divided from the Hall by a partition. Many years afterwards this screen was removed, and the Court-room became part of the Hall, which thus had an apsidal end. The Hall was so much injured in the Great Fire that it had to be rebuilt, and the later erection was pulled down in 1864, together with the kitchen and larder on the south-west and the houses in front, the site being now occupied by warehouses which also cover the greater part of the Courtyard. A new passage has been made from Monkwell Street to what remains of the Courtyard, and one enters the Company's buildings through a massive and picturesque Doorway on the right, of which an illustration is here given. It dates from 1671, has a grotesquely carved lintel, with the arms of the Company, in the projecting hood above, and was moved to its present site in 1864, having until then formed the street entrance. In the passage to the principal Staircase are doorways which were taken from the destroyed Hall. The Staircase itself, leading to a Committee-room and other apartments, is in its original position and has the old newels and balusters.

We have seen that Inigo Jones, besides designing the Theatre, built for the Company a Court-room, no doubt to replace that which had been absorbed into the Hall, and



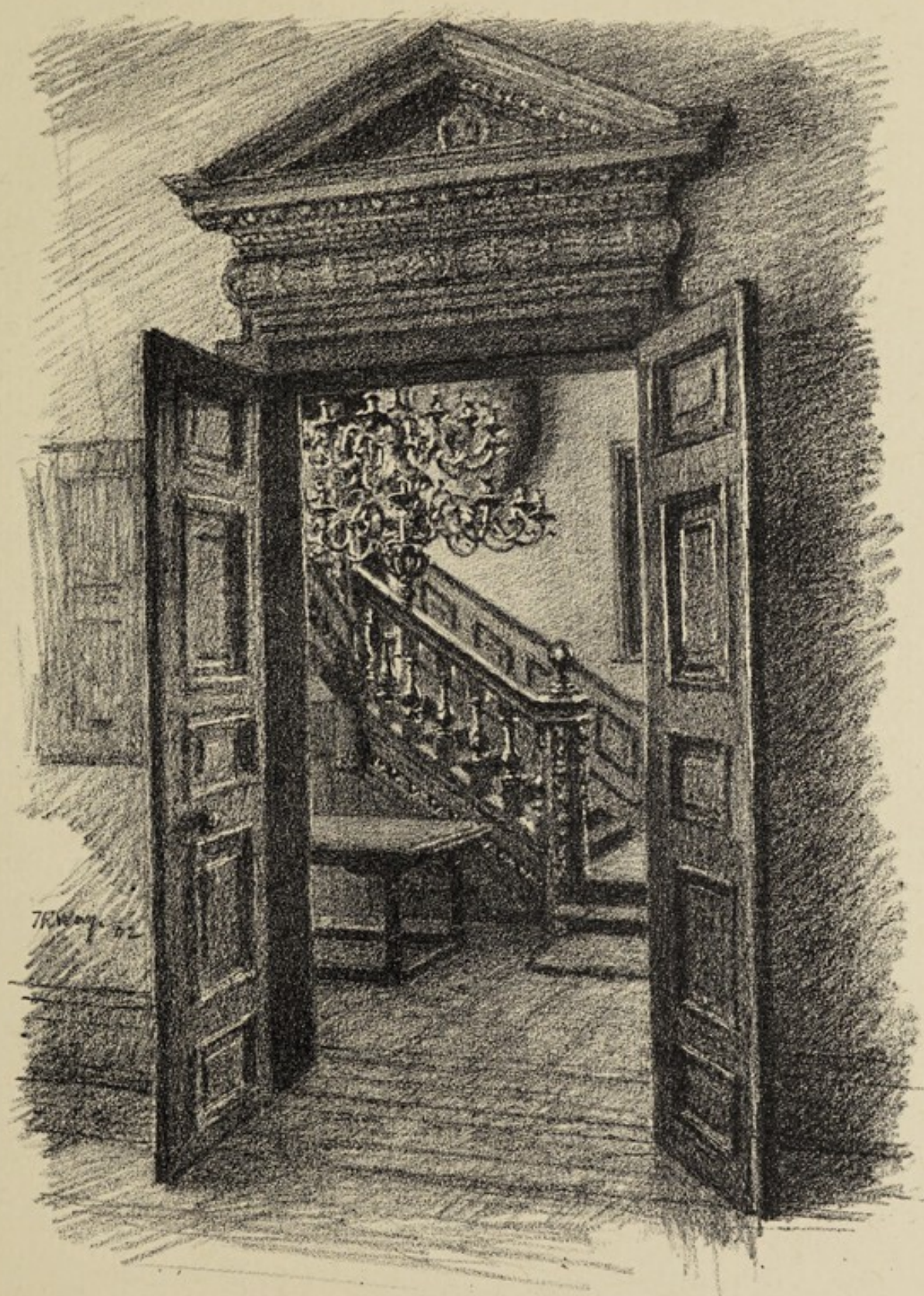
fortunately his Court-room still exists. As Mr. Way shows us, it is a charming apartment, but in course of time has been somewhat altered. Its cupola was added in 1752, and was raised in 1864, presumably because the light was then diminished by the building of the adjacent warehouses. The handsome chandelier was given by a former Master in 1754. Here, on one side of the famous Holbein picture, hangs an interesting portrait of Inigo Jones attributed to Vandyck, and as a pendant to it is a fine specimen of the art of Sir Joshua Reynolds, representing J. Paterson, Master of the Barbers' Company in 1776. Over the fire-place is another portrait worthy of remark, namely, that of the Duchess of Richmond, "La Belle Stuart" of the Court of Charles II., who figures as Britannia on various medals. The long table is partly covered by a cloth having embroidered on it the arms of the Company and of the City of London, said to have been formerly used for the decoration of the barge; and at one end of the room is a fine old leather screen, which now has only four folds with a modern panelled centre, but formerly had eight folds, as described in an inventory of 1712. There is no foundation in fact for the tradition that this screen was presented out of gratitude, by a malefactor who had been hanged and was resuscitated under the reviving influence of attempted dissection. But such revivals happened again and again from the sixteenth century onwards. Thus, in 1587 it was agreed that for the future, in such a case, "the charges aboute" a "bodie so revivinge shalbe borne by such p'son as shall happen to bringe home the Bodie"; and we are told in the Company's minutes that as late as November 23rd, 1740, "William Duell (who had been indicted at the Old Bayley for a Rape and had received sentence of Death for the same) was carried to Tyburne in order to be executed, where having hung some time was cutt down and brought to the Company's Hall in order to be



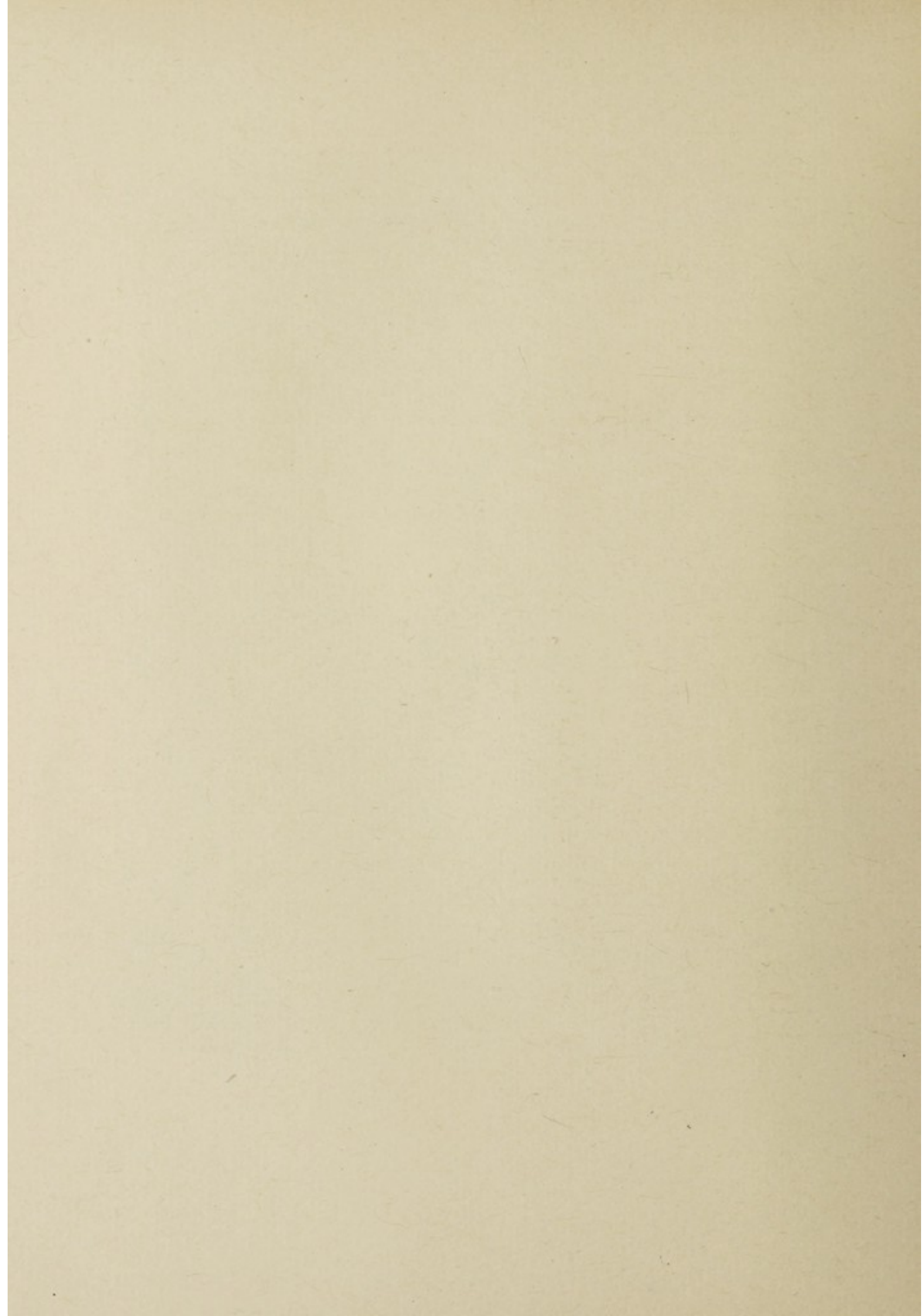


fortunately his Court room still exists. As Mr. Way shows us, it is a charming apartment, and in course of time has been somewhat altered. Its height was added in 1752, and was raised in 1864, presumably because the light was then diminished by the building of the adjacent warehouses. The handsome chandelier was given by a former Master in 1754. Here, on one side of the famous Holbein picture, hangs an interesting portrait of Inigo Jones attributed to Vandyck, and as a pendant to it is a fine specimen of the art of Sir Joshua Reynolds, representing J. Paterson, Master of the Barbers' Company in 1765. Over the fire-place is another portrait worthy of the work, namely, that of the Duchess of Richmond, "the Rose of Brabant" of the Court of Charles II., who figured as the reverse on various medals. The long table is partly covered by a cloth having embroidered on it the arms of the Corporation of the City of London, said to have been formerly used for the decoration of the barge; and at one end of the table stands the old leather screen, which now has only been filled with a modern panelled centre, but formerly was of wood, as described in an inventory of 1712. It may still be noticed in fact for the tradition that this screen was brought out of gratitude, by a malefactor who had been executed and was resuscitated under the reviving influence of a surgeon's detection. But such revivals happened again and again from the sixteenth century onwards. Thus, in 1587 it was agreed that for the future, in such a case, "the charges shalbe" a "bodie so revivinge shalbe borne by such person which happen to bringe home the Bodie"; and we are told in the Company's minutes that as late as November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1740, "William Duell (who had been indicted at the Old Bailey for a Rape and had received sentence of Death for the same) was carried to Tyburne in order to be executed, where having hung some time was cutt down and brought to the Company's Hall in order to be









dissected, where he had not been five minutes before Life appeared in him, and being let blood and other means used for his recovery, in less than two hours he sat upright, drank some warm wine and look'd often round him, and before he was carried back to Newgate which was about Twelve o' the Clock at Night he severall times pronounced distinctly the word DONT." It seems that this youth, who had gone through such varied and unpleasant experiences, was only in his sixteenth year; he was transported for life on his recovery.

As science advanced it was not to be expected that Barbers and Surgeons, who had originally been rivals, but whose callings had gradually so far diverged, would continue in one body. Thus it happened that after a close union of over two hundred years they were separated by an Act of Parliament passed in 1745, or 18 George II.; the Barbers paying the Surgeons a sum of £510, transferring to them an annuity of £16, and being re-incorporated with a license in mortmain to the extent of £200 a year. Their library, which consisted of a large number of ancient manuscripts and books on surgery, was shortly afterwards sold to Mr. Whiston the bookseller for £13!!

The Barbers' Company possesses some valuable plate, among the rest a silver gilt Grace cup and cover, presented by Henry VIII. on the occasion of the union of the Barbers and Surgeons in 1540. It is in fine condition, although Mr. Young says that at different times it has been stolen, pawned, and sold. Pepys, who dined with the Barber-Surgeons, alludes in his Diary to the four bells hanging on it, "which every man is to ring by shaking after he hath drunk up the whole cup." Another most interesting piece, called the Royal Oak cup, was presented by Charles II. in 1676. Its stem and base represent the trunk and roots of an oak tree, and it is said to commemorate the King's escape at Boscobel.



## THE BAKERS' COMPANY

THIS Guild, which is the nineteenth in order of precedence, appears to be very ancient, having existed by prescription long before it was incorporated. The Bakers were called in old documents by the late Latin term *Bolangerii*. Maitland, in his "History of London" (edition 1756), says that in 1155, which was the second year of Henry II., they were charged in the great Roll of the Exchequer with a debt of one mark of gold, adding that this seems to give reason for supposing that the ancient guilds had held their privileges in fee-farm from the Crown. There are many early references to the baker's trade, which appears only natural if we consider what an important part bread—the staff of life—has played in the economy of man ever since he reached the agricultural stage of civilization. Many of these references, however, have to do not with their rights but with matters of discipline, for in mediæval times the bakers were either unfortunate or somewhat addicted to turbulence and other forms of wrongdoing, and London does not appear to have suffered from too little government.

Thus in the twenty-sixth year of Edward I., or 1298, a mandate from the King was received by the City authorities declaring that it had come to his knowledge that "the bakers and brewsters and millers in the city do frequently misconduct themselves in their trades, and that misdoers by night, going about with swords and bucklers and other arms,



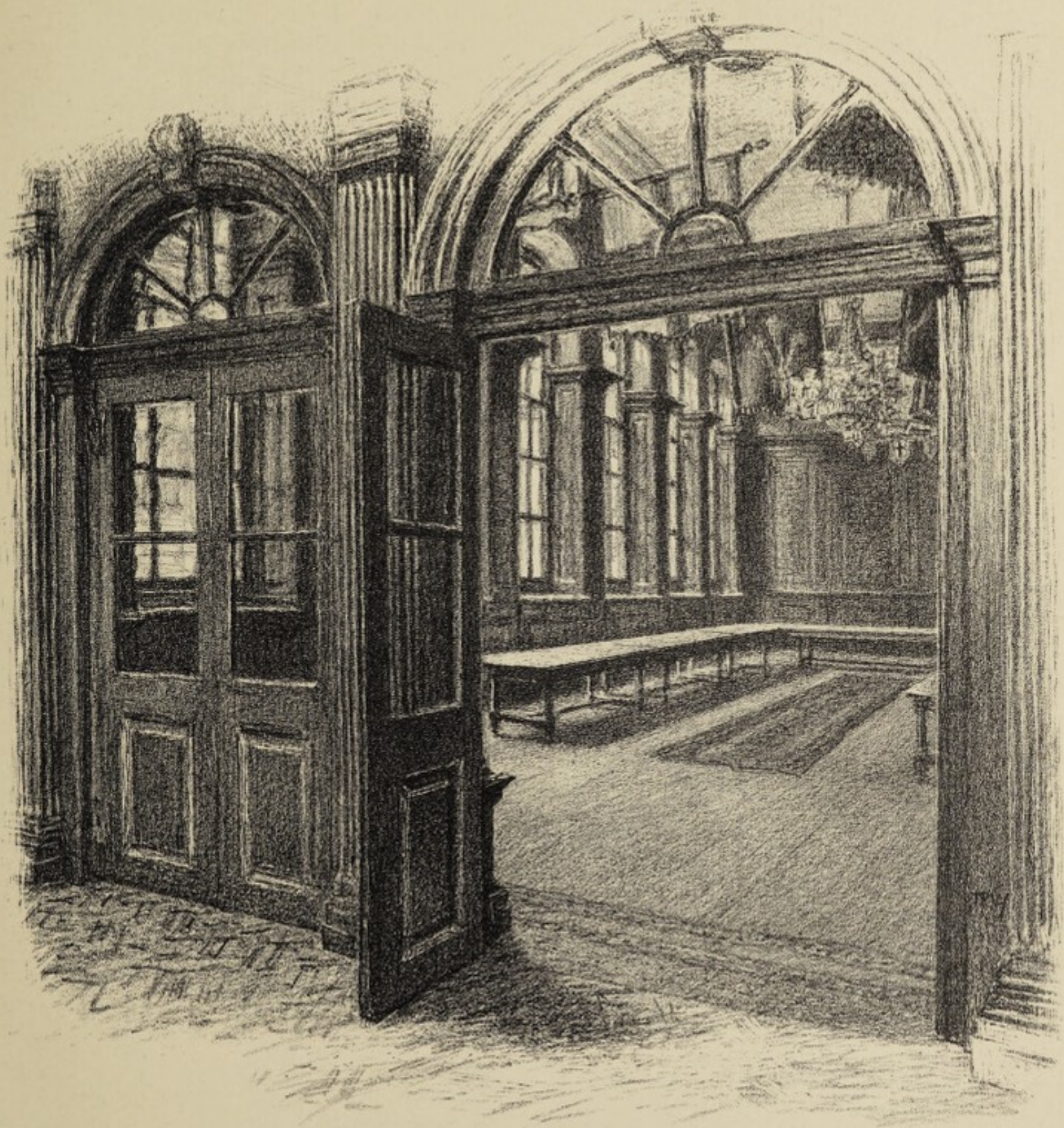


## THE BAKERS' COMPANY

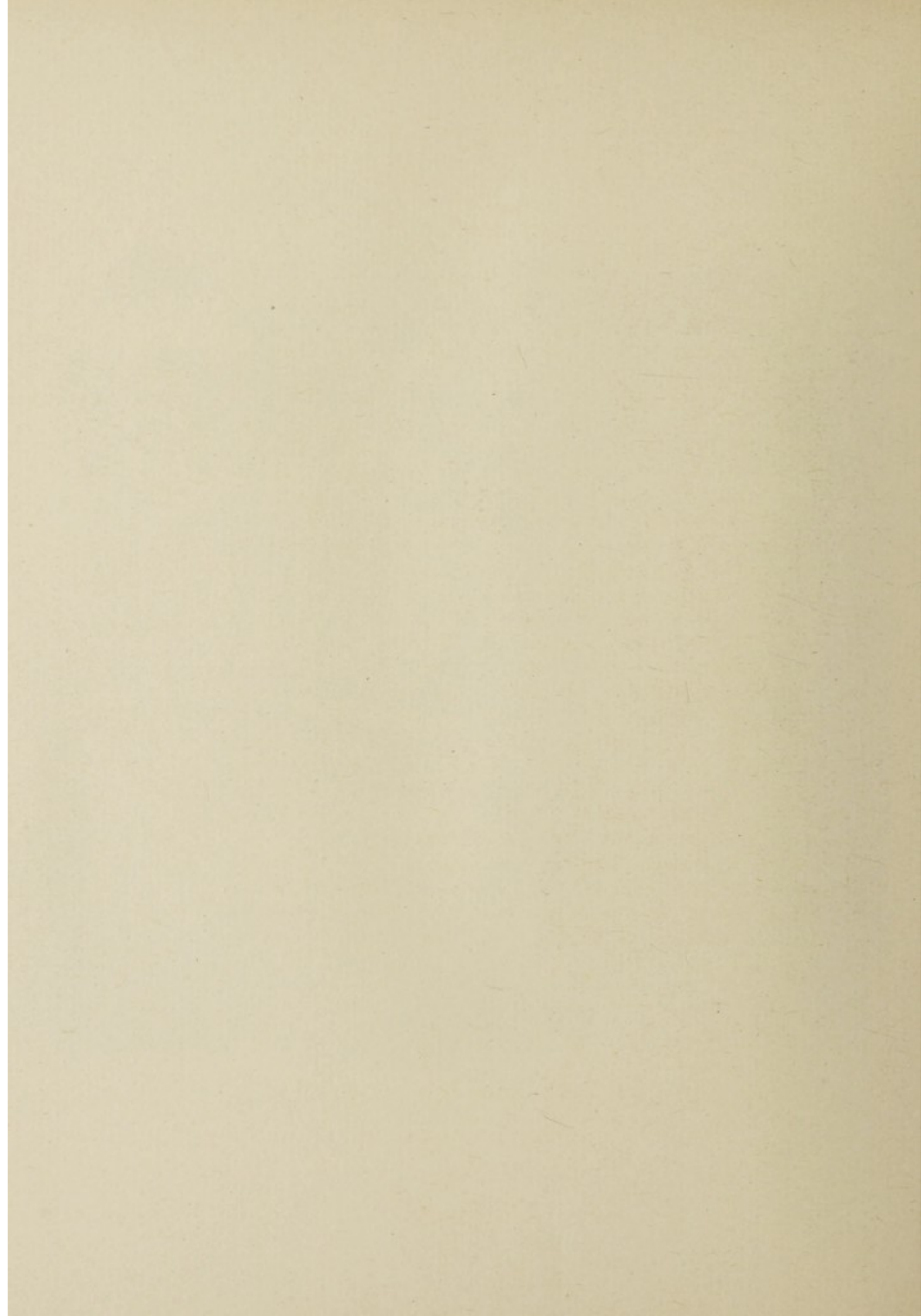
THE Guild, which is the nineteenth in order of precedence, appears to be very ancient, having existed by prescription long before it was incorporated. The Bakers were called in old documents by the late Latin term *Bolwerell*. Stowland, in his "History of London" (edition 1757), says that in 1155, which was the second year of Henry II., they were charged in the great Roll of the Exchequer with a debt of one mark of gold, adding that this seems to give reason for supposing that the ancient guilds had held their privileges in fee-farm from the Crown. There are many early references to the baker's trade, which appear very natural if we consider what an important part bread—the staff of life—has played in the economy of man ever since he reached the agricultural stage of civilization. Many of these references, however, have to do not with their rights but with matters of discipline, for in mediæval times the bakers were either unfortunate or somewhat addicted to turbulence and other forms of wrongdoing, and London does not appear to have suffered from too little government.

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as well at the procuration of others as of their own malice, do beat and maltreat other persons, and are wont to perpetrate many offences and enormities to the no small damage and grievance of our faithful subjects." He therefore enjoins the Mayor "to chastise such bakers, brewsters and misdoers with corporal punishments."

Again, there are many records of the penalties inflicted on bakers who sold either short weight or a bad quality of bread, for the modern theory that adulteration is merely a (legitimate?) form of competition, had not yet occurred to any one—except perhaps to the offenders. Among the ordinances relating to the trade is one that "if any default shall be found in the bread of a baker of the City, the first time let him be drawn upon a hurdle from the Guildhall to his own house through the great streets, where there may be most people assembled, and through the great streets that are most dirty, with the faulty loaf hanging from his neck. If a second time he shall be found committing the same offence, let him be drawn from the Guildhall through the great street of Cheap in manner aforesaid to the pillory, and let him be put upon the pillory and remain there at least one hour in the day. The third time he shall be drawn and his oven shall be pulled down and he shall be made to forswear the trade within the City for ever." On a document in the town clerk's office at the Guildhall, called "*Liber de Assisis Panis*," there is a sketch dating from the time of Edward I. of a baker being drawn on a hurdle by two horses for using short weight. The deficient loaf, which is of circular form, is hanging about his neck. This sketch is reproduced for the publication of "*Liber Albus*" edited by H. T. Riley. Instances of such punishments are recorded, thus, in 1316, Agnes Foting of Stratford, who used short weight, forfeited her bread, which was given to the prisoners in Newgate; while John in the Lane, Southwark, and Gilbert Pany, for similar



offences, were sentenced to be drawn on hurdles. The latter, this being the third time that he was found in default, was further debarred from practising the trade of a baker in the City for ever. In the year 1387 a man was pilloried for inserting a piece of iron in a loaf in order to increase the weight. Other punishments were for the sale of bread made of "false, putrid and rotten materials." Accustomed as we are to the cross on the Good Friday bun, it is interesting to note that in 1252, the bakers having adopted the custom of putting the name of Jesus, the Agnus Dei, and sometimes the cross on their bread, Henry III., by a mandate from St. Edmund's Bury, forbade the use of such sacred symbols.

We have seen that the Bakers are held to have been associated together as early as the year 1155; it is an accepted fact that they were recognized as a Company in the first year of Edward II. or 1307. For centuries there were two distinct branches of the trade, it being laid down in early ordinances that those who made "tourte" or coarse brown bread, were not to make white bread for sale, but the White and Brown Bakers seem to have acted as one fraternity, at least on public occasions, for in 1376, when two members of the trade were placed on the Common Council, and in 1469, when 44 armed men were supplied by them for the Watch, there is no hint of their being divided. They remained a Guild by prescription until 1486, when Henry VII. granted them a Charter which was confirmed by Henry VIII. in his first year, or 1509, and the latter is looked upon as their first formal Charter of Incorporation. At this time the White and Brown Bakers seem to have been more or less separate, for they were expressly united into one guild by Queen Elizabeth in 1569, although in 1594 the Brown Bakers occupied a distinct meeting-place in the basement of Founders' Hall, Lothbury. Presumably they struggled to



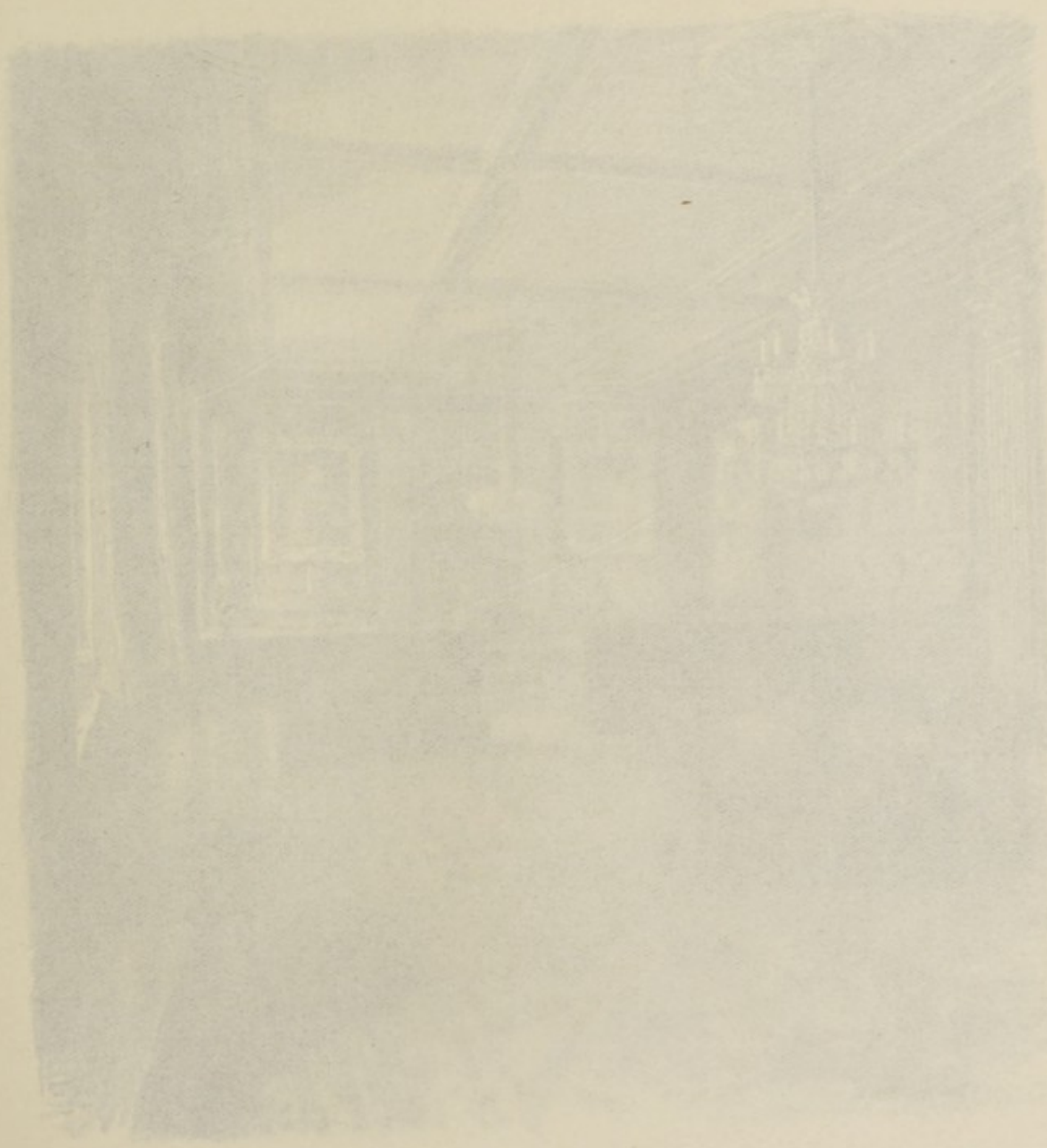
separate themselves again, and with success, for the two were disunited by a charter of James I. in 1622. In the fourth edition of Stow's Survey (1633) they thus appear with different coats of arms, but they were again and finally united in 1686, if not before.

The Hall of the Company in Harp Lane, Great Tower Street, stands on the site of the mansion of John Chichele, citizen and grocer, who was elected Chamberlain of London in 1437. He was son of an Alderman, and nephew of a Mayor, and also of an Archbishop of Canterbury, and married a daughter of Sir Robert Knolles, who acquired wealth in the French wars of Edward III., and received the freedom of the City for having dispersed the rebels in St. George's Fields after Wat Tyler had been killed in Smithfield. By his wife the chamberlain is said to have had as many as twenty-four children, one of whom, Elizabeth, was three times married, first to Sir Thomas Kiriell or Criol, secondly to Sir Ralph Ashton, and then to Sir John Bouchier, but she died without issue. The house came into her possession, and after her decease, in 1498, was conveyed by her executors and feoffees to Richard Rogers, who bought it on behalf of the Company, and a little later it was converted into their Hall. This mansion was destroyed in the Great Fire, being rebuilt shortly afterwards, and we are told in the "New View of London" that it was "beautified" in 1683. The Banqueting Hall is there said to have been adorned with a "picture of St. Clement, the Patron of the Company and that of Justice." Again destroyed by a disastrous fire which began in Thames Street, January 13th, 1714, the whole was rebuilt a second time in 1719, being wainscoted and finished in 1722. A new roof was put on it in 1806, and the interior was restored about 1825, under the superintendence of James Elmes, who wrote a Life of Sir Christopher Wren wherein,



by the way, he attributes the design of the previous Hall to that great architect, but according to him every important hall in the City was designed by Wren, a theory which we know to be unsupported by the facts.

The Bakers' premises are on the east side of Harp Lane, the Hall standing back, and being masked by a range of offices which replaced smaller houses about twenty years ago. In the passage are some modern designs in black and white, of the nature of sgraffitto work, representing scenes from the history of the Bakers' Guild. On the right hand are the Beadle's quarters, and at the back of an open courtyard is the plain brick building which contains the chief apartments of the Company. One approaches it by a flight of steps, and, passing through the entrance, finds on one's left the handsomely wainscoted Court-room. The end where the Court conducts its business is separated from the rest of the room by a low partition, adorned with a carved lion and unicorn, and over the Master's chair are the arms of the Company. To the spectator's left is a three-quarter-length portrait of Sir John William Anderson, Bart., a former master, also M.P. for the City, and Lord Mayor in 1798. On the opposite side of the chair is a portrait of Walter Anderson Peacock, "Deputy of the Ward of Bishopsgate without, the active originator of the Bakers' Almshouses at Hackney, and Master of the Company for two successive years," presented by him in 1844. On the ironwork of the fireplace is the date 1798, above it hang various shields of arms of former masters and wardens in old needlework. In this room there is a small clock, with the date 1714, presented about twenty years ago by one of the Gilbey family, and a remarkably fine old "grandfather" clock. There are also the official weights and scales formerly used. Beneath is an inscription referring to the rights and privileges of the Company, which these scales in some sort represented. In the Charter of James II., the last





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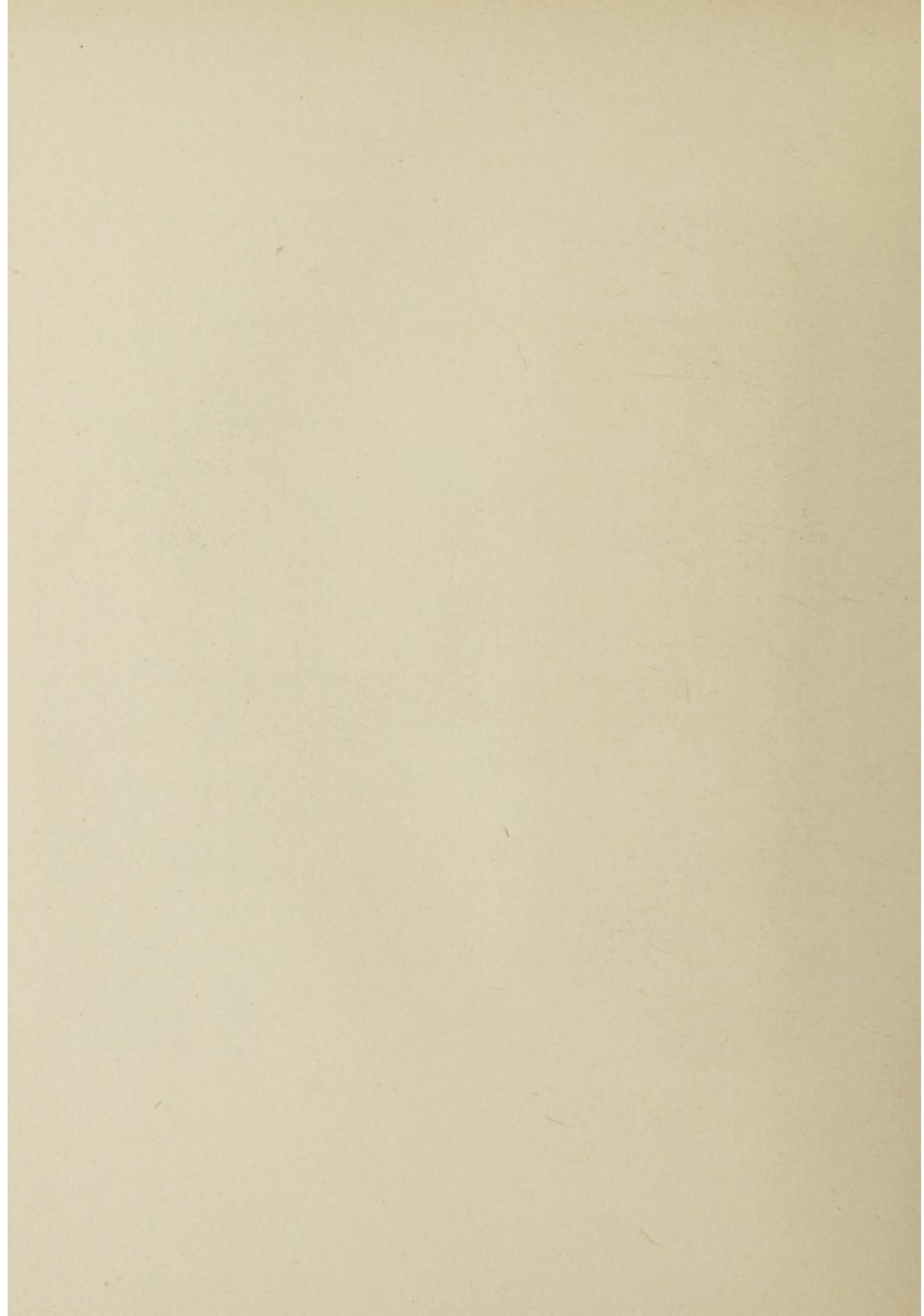
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J. H. P. 22.





which was granted, the Company's powers were defined to be "to search and weigh the bread to be made and sold by the bakers within the City and for 12 miles in the suburbs, to examine if the same be good; to seize unwholesome bread, and to impose fines with power of distress." These rights continued to be exercised until the several Acts of Parliament, then in force for regulating the Assize of Bread,



BAKERS' HALL. STAIRCASE.

were repealed A.D. 1815 in the 55th year of the reign of George III. The laws relating to the trade appear to have been further altered in 1822, since which time the special powers of the Bakers' Company as regards the control of the trade have ceased to be.

On the upper floor, approached by an old-fashioned staircase, is the Banqueting Hall. It is finely panelled,



and has a handsome oak screen, which is shown in Mr. Way's lithograph, the decorations are otherwise commendably plain and simple. On occasion the Hall is beautified by a display of banners with coats of arms. A small Committee room is on the same floor. Here hangs the map of London with the date 1647, sold by C. Danckers at Amsterdam, which is placed in Vertue's catalogue among Hollar's works. If we are not mistaken one or two of the other City Companies have this map, which is far from common.

The Bakers' Company possesses various interesting muniments. A book dating from May 1499 consists chiefly of lists of White Bakers and Brown Bakers who were recipients of clothes or livery, which shows that the two classes were then under the same government, although perhaps not wholly united. This book also contains the following notice of the man who acquired Bakers' Hall for the Company: "Mr Richard Rogers deceased the xiiij day of September A<sup>o</sup> 1506, and the obet is kept; y<sup>e</sup> dirige y<sup>e</sup> xiiij day of September and the mas the xiiij day of Septebr, and lieth in Seynt Botolphis Chirche by Billingsgate." A minute book of the order and proceedings of the Court of the Company beginning in 1536, has some quaint entries of fines. Thus on the 19th of February, 1536, "Davyd John is commanded to bryng in vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup> at the next court day for noon-sealyng of his halfpenny manchettes." On the 8th of August, 1543, "Richard Morys promysed to bring in xi<sup>s</sup> the next Court day for his mysbehavo<sup>rs</sup> and bending his bow within the Kings citie of London against John Warner." These and other curious extracts from the old books of the Bakers' Company are given in a paper by the late John Gough Nichols and others, which is printed in the third volume of the Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, 1870.



## THE CORDWAINERS' COMPANY

**D**OUBTLESS from remote times the industries connected with the preparation and useful employment of skins had become important in this country, and there were men who held, as men have since, that there was nothing like leather. Among the Roman remains found in London and preserved at the Guildhall Museum, are beautiful shoes or sandals, elaborately nailed, which almost certainly were made by London craftsmen. But we may pass to the time when the various branches of this industry had already been formed into recognized guilds. Of these, besides the Skinners, described on a previous page, there were the Cordwainers, Tanners, Curriers, and Leathersellers. The first known ordinance of the Cordwainers of London (strictly those who worked in Cordovan leather) was made in the fifty-sixth year of King Henry III., A.D. 1272. The provisions and statutes then formulated under the direction of Walter Henry, Mayor of London, were designed "for the relief and advancement of the whole business, and that all frauds and deceits may be hereafter avoided." The Cordwainers, Tanners, and Curriers, were to have "separate rights and regulations as to working alum-leather and tan-leather, and for preparing cowhide, etc.", and were not to interfere with each other under penalty of half a mark, and no apprentice was to be received without the consent of the Mayor and commonalty of London. It was further declared, in order that the rules and regulations then made might be faithfully



kept, that the Cordwainers had elected "twelve good and lawful men as principal keepers," their duties being to enforce obedience to the rules and to levy fines. The carrying of shoes for sale was restricted to the space between Soper Lane, now Queen Street, and Corveysere (an old form of Cordwainer) Street, now Bow Lane.

In 1364 the Cordwainers subscribed ten marks towards the French war of Edward III., their contribution being fifteenth in order among those of the various City Companies. In the eleventh year of Henry IV., or 1409, an ordinance was passed for settling differences between the workers of new leather called cordwainers, and the workers of old leather called cobblers; and in this ordinance mention is first made of the wardens of the mystery of Cordwainers. Twelve men belonging to this Guild attested and put their seals to the document.

The first Charter of Incorporation was granted by Henry VI. in 1439, "whereby, in consideration of the payment of 50 marks, he granted to the freemen of the mysterie of Cordwainers of the city of London, that they should be one body or commonalty for ever, that they should every year elect and make of themselves one master and four wardens to rule and govern the said mysterie, and all men and workers of the mysterie and commonalty, and all workmen and workers whatsoever of tanned leather relating to the said mysterie, to search and try black and red tanned leather and all new shoes which should be sold or exposed for sale, as well within the said city as without, within two miles thereof. To have perpetual succession and a common seal. To be fit and capable in law to acquire and purchase for themselves and their successors for ever lands, tenements, rents and other possessions whatsoever, and from any person whatsoever. And further to acquire lands, tenements and rents, as well in possession as in reversion, within the city of



London and the suburbs thereof, to be held of the Crown in free burgage, to the amount of £10 per annum. To examine and prove black and red tanned leather, and to regulate the sale of boots and shoes in the city of London and within two miles thereof."

The foregoing charter was confirmed by a charter of Philip and Mary in 1557, and by the charter or letters patent of Queen Elizabeth in 1562, which also grants that "the commonalty of the Society may yearly elect according to the ancient custom of the city of London 12 discrete and honest persons to assist the master and wardens in the rule and government of the Myserie." It further extends control over persons exercising the trade to a distance of three miles round the city and suburbs, and it gives the Company a right to hold lands of the annual value of £20, over and above the lands they were authorized to hold under the charter of Henry VI. In the tenth year of James I. a new charter was granted increasing the number of assistants to sixteen, granting further powers for the management of the trade, and largely increasing the value of lands which could be held by the Company. A charter of the first year of James II. appears to have been afterwards annulled by Act 2nd William and Mary cap. 9; but this Act restored and confirmed all previous charters.

The following brief entries from the records of the Company in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries show, some of them, how much supervision was exercised over the action of members:

- 1595-6. Receaved of three several persons which left New Work and made Old Work . . . . . iijs  
1595-6. Richard Minge and another for late comeing on the quarter



|         |  |                                |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|
|         | daye and comeing in his<br>cloake . . . . .  | xij <sup>d</sup>               |
| 1595-6. | Spent atte the Buriall of Mr.<br>Bullock's wyfe over his guift   | vi <sup>s</sup> x <sup>d</sup> |
| 1598-9. | Severall men of the Companie<br>for not comeing to burialls .  | x <sup>s</sup> iv <sup>d</sup> |
| 1598-9. | Mr. Shawe and Mr. Clarke,<br>Wardens of Yeomanry, their<br>several fynes of iiij <sup>s</sup> for not<br>making their dinner . . . | viiij <sup>s</sup>             |
| 1600-1. | Mathew Birkhed, for a fyne<br>for making boote of ill lea-<br>ther . . . . .   | xij <sup>d</sup>               |
| 1606-7. | Receaved of severall of the<br>Livery for not attending the<br>buriall of a brother Livery-<br>man xij <sup>d</sup> each . . . . . | viiij <sup>s</sup>             |
| 1625.   | X <sup>s</sup> allowed towards the buriall<br>of W. Birkeck, an ancient of<br>the Court, he dying very<br>poore.                   |                                |

The Cordwainers have given a name to one of the twenty-six wards of the City, which marks the district where they chiefly dwelt. John Yonge, one of the twelve Cordwainers attesting the agreement made in 1409 between the Cordwainers and Cobblers, in the year 1440 gave to the Cordwainers' Company certain land in Distaff Lane for the purposes of a Hall, and on this site, in part at least, the present Hall stands, not as is generally stated in Cordwainer Ward, but in the adjoining Bread Street Ward. In a Harleian MSS. (541) of the year 1483 the halls of the Inns of Court and of the twenty-five Livery Companies in London then possessing them, are enumerated; among the latter



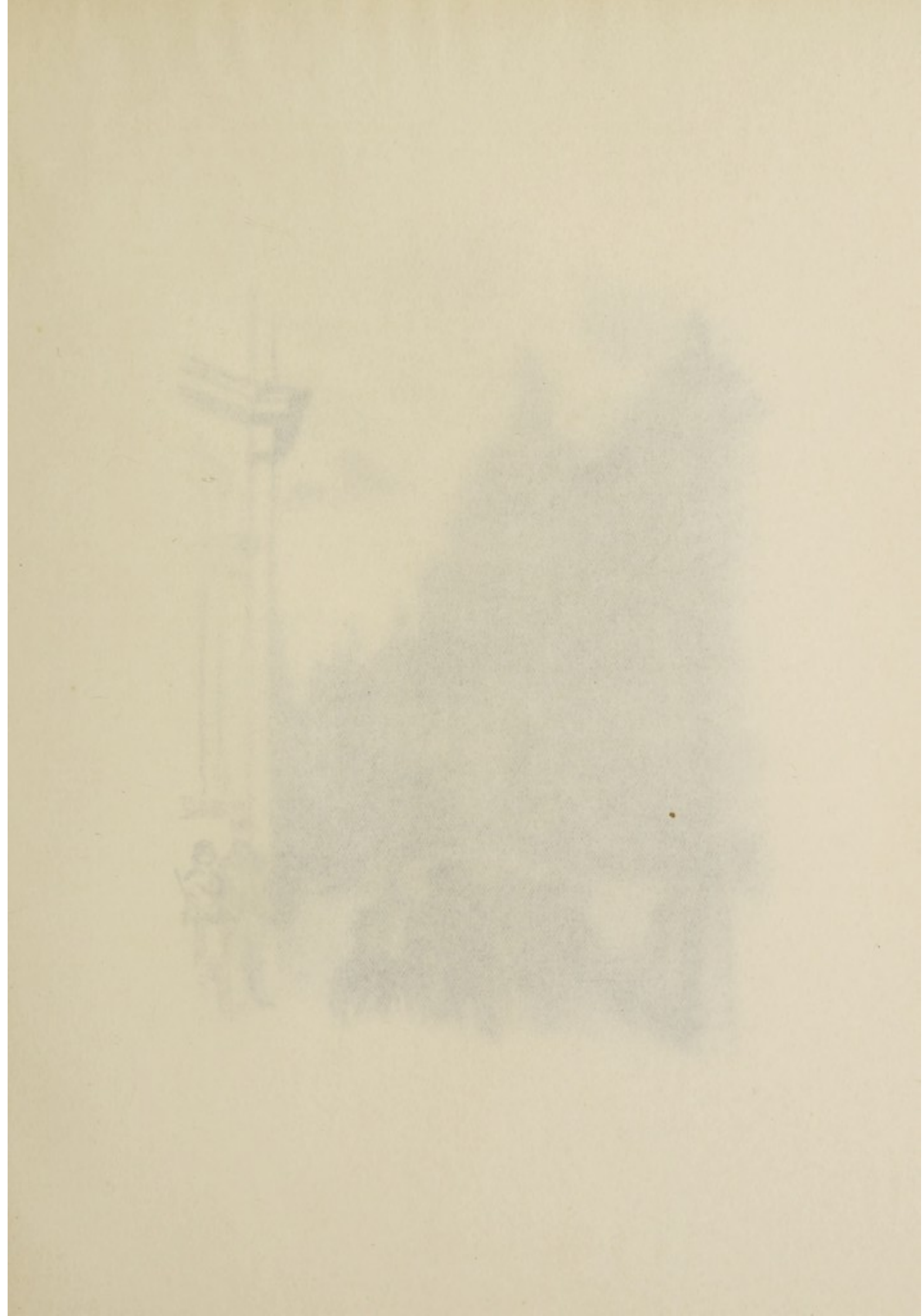
Cordwainers' Hall is twenty-first. Thomas Nicolson, a master of the guild, gave land and tenements for the building of a "more apt and better" Common Hall. In consequence, as Strype relates, "this ancient Corporation in the year 1577 built a fair and new Hall for themselves, and on Tuesday July 23rd, the same year, they made a magnificent feast for their friends, which they called their house-warming." This second hall was completely destroyed by the Great Fire, when most of the early records of the Cordwainers also perished, and all their plate was sacrificed for the purpose of raising a fund to meet their obligations and to reinstate the Hall. This plate contained among the rest a piece purchased with a sum of £12 which, in the year 1623, was left by Camden the historian for the purpose. It had on it the following inscription: "Gul Camdenus Clarenceux ffilius Sampsonis Pictoris Londinensis dono dedit." With the money raised from the sale of this plate, and from the generous contributions of members, a new Hall shortly made its appearance, being completed in 1670. The present building, the fourth erected for the Cordwainers on the same site, was designed by Sylvanus Hall, the Company's surveyor, the foundation stone being laid January 1st, 1788. Owing to the extension of Cannon Street which has absorbed Distaff Lane, the building is now on the north side of Cannon Street. It is a stone-fronted fabric of fair proportions, with a pediment adorned by the Company's arms, but has no special merit as a piece of architecture, and is now dwarfed by the neighbouring houses of business. Mr. Way would hardly have introduced it into a lithograph if it were not for the grand dome of St. Paul's Cathedral rising in the background, which makes one forget some uncongenial elements, and gives an air of dignity to the whole scene. Inside one can hardly say that the Company's premises have any special beauty or appear-



ance of fitness of purpose to recommend them. The Dining Hall is on an upper floor ; it contains a painted window to the memory of John Came, Cordwainer, unveiled by the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., May 13th, 1896, which was the centenary of his death. In what is called the Lower Hall there is a marble urn with a tablet, to the memory of the same person, executed by the sculptor Joseph Nollekens. It appears that Came, by his will, dated 1782, gave in trust to the master, wardens and assistants of the Company no less a sum than £37,200 in 3 per cent. government annuities, and £100 per annum short annuities, the interest arising therefrom, subject to certain small charges, to be by them distributed annually among blind persons, deaf and dumb persons, and clergymen's widows. He died in 1796, aged 78 years, and was buried in the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, London.

Our great Colonial Secretary is a Liveryman of the Company, and his family has been connected with it for two previous generations. On this subject we venture to quote the following passages from a pamphlet printed at the time of Mr. Chamberlain's visit. "In connection with the ceremony of the inauguration of Came's memorial window by the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., it is interesting to note that William Chamberlain, his great uncle (master of the Company in the year 1794) and his uncle, also named William (master in the year 1826), each bequeathed a handsome legacy to the Company for the purchase of plate, on which there are respectively the following inscriptions. On the stand of a silver tea-urn :

"Purchased with the Legacy of One Hundred Pounds, bequeathed to this Company by their greatly revered and highly respected Father, William Chamberlain, Esquire, deceased, who was admitted on the Livery the 3rd of May,

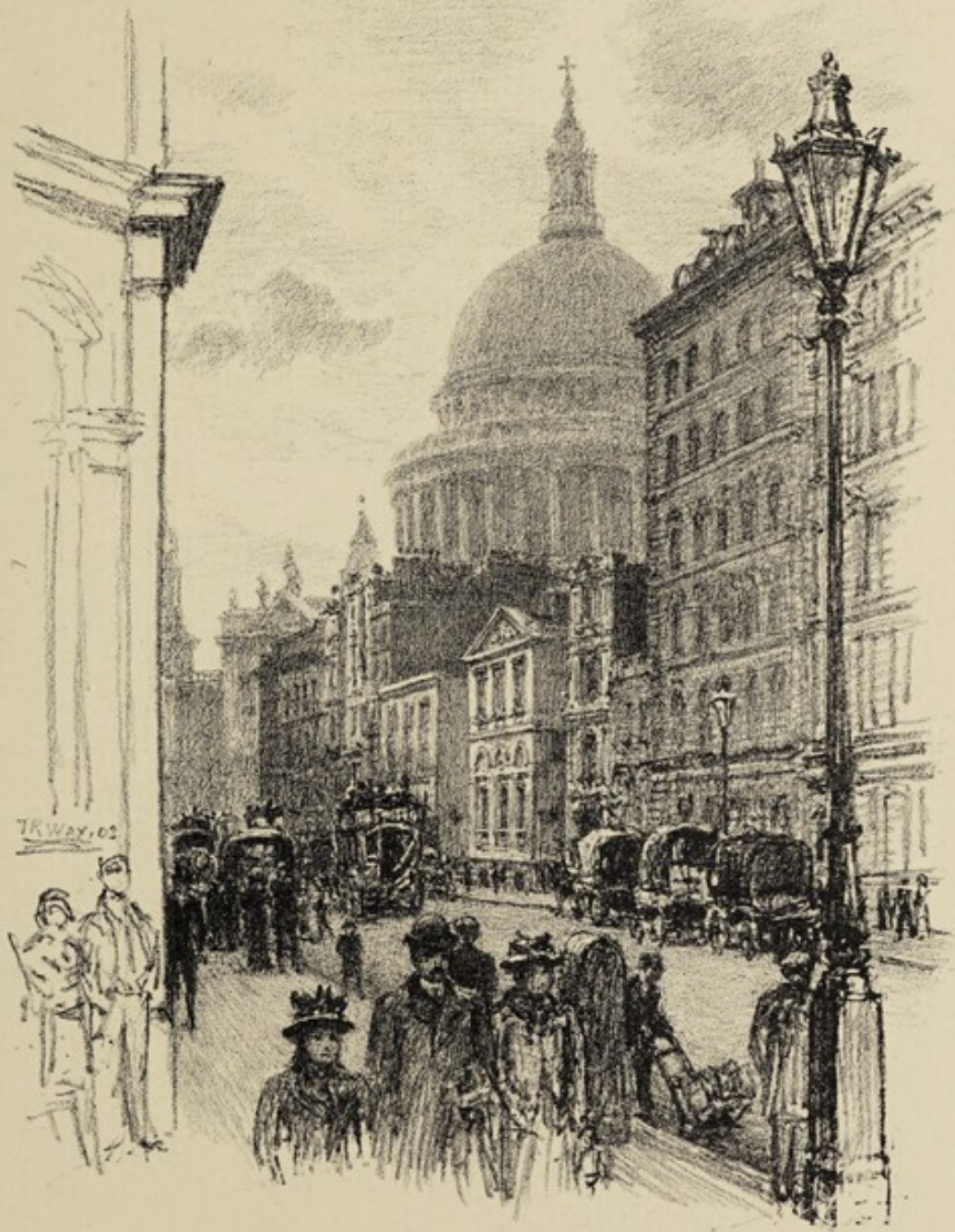




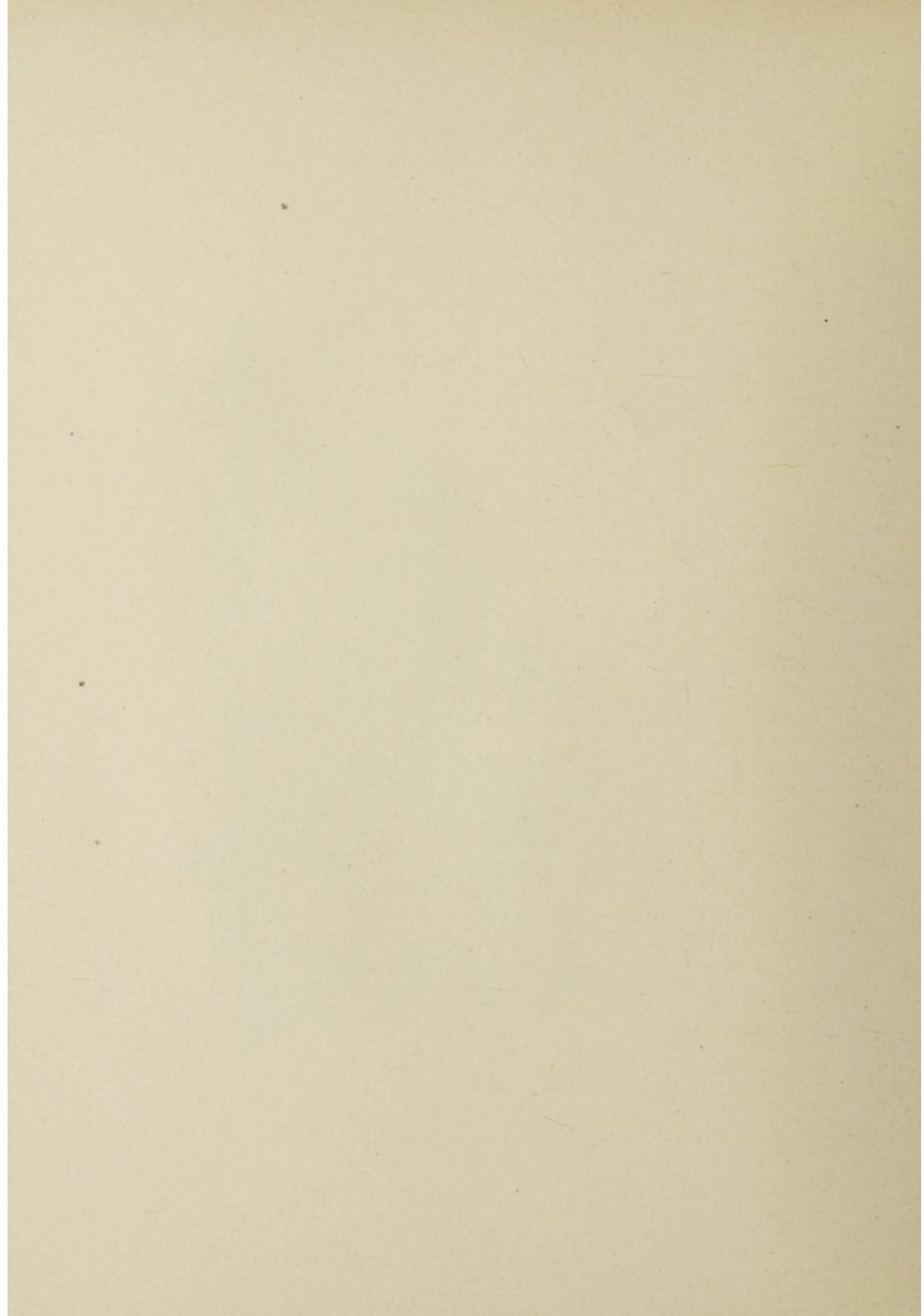
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The present Livery Secretary is a Liveryman of the Company, and his family has been connected with it for two centuries. On this subject we venture to quote the following passages from a pamphlet printed at the close of Mr. Chamberlain's visit. "In connection with the unveiling of the inauguration of Came's memorial window by the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., it is interesting to note that William Chamberlain, his great-grandfather (master of the Company in the year 1794) and his uncle also named William (master in the year 1826), each bequeathed a handsome legacy to the Company for the purchase of plate, for which there are respectively the following inscriptions. On the stand of a silver tea-urn :

"Purchased with the Legacy of One Hundred Pounds, bequeathed to this Company by their greatly revered and highly respected ancestor, William Chamberlain, Esquire, deceased, who was possessed on the Livery the 3rd of May,







1769, served the office of Master in the year 1794, and was a Member of the Court of Assistants for the period of 41 years."

On a pair of wine coolers :

" William Chamberlain, Esquire, who served the office of Master of this Company, bequeathed the sum of One Hundred Pounds for the purchase of a pair of wine coolers, Mr. John King, Master, Mr. William Heath, Mr. James Davies, Mr. Ebenezer Heath, Mr. William Marsden, Wardens."

The Colonial Secretary joined the Guild in 1857, and, following the good example of former Chamberlains, he also, in conjunction with members of his family, has presented the Cordwainers with a fine piece of plate, which has on it this inscription : " In Remembrance of Joseph Chamberlain, who was Master of the Cordwainers' Company in 1846, and of Richard his brother, Master in 1848." His distinguished son, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, is also a member.

Since the passing of the Act of 5th George IV. cap. 47, the active control by the Company of the cordwainers' business has ceased. They have, however, for many years helped technical education in various ways. We have before us a note on an interesting exhibition held by them at the Hall in 1895. It contained a competitive section of modern boots and shoes for which prizes and certificates were awarded ; while the loan collection included a large number of historic footgear, from a Crusader's shoe to some tiny boots and shoes made at Brighton for the late Empress of Germany when a child. The City Corporation lent some of their treasures, including many Roman and mediæval specimens. From South Kensington came a variety of oriental work besides some remarkably fine Italian and



Spanish panels of decorated leather. The Liverpool Corporation lent the cap, gloves and shoes worn by Lord Byron in Greece in 1822, boots and gloves worn by Henry VI., and boots alleged to have been Cromwell's.

## THE PAINTER STAINERS' COMPANY.

THE Company of Painters, or Painter Stainers, was in some sense the forerunner of our Royal Academy, and although perhaps more democratic than that distinguished body, for it admitted all those who had served their apprenticeship, its attitude towards "outsiders" was not altogether dissimilar. Apparently the first allusion in the City Records to a follower of this art occurs on the eve of St. Botolph (17th June), 1284, when Nicholas Bacun, painter, acknowledged himself bound to Hugh Motun in the sum of 20 shillings for cinople, vermilun, canevas (canvas), vernis (varnish), and verdigris, to be paid, one moiety at the Feast of St. Bartholomew (24 August), the other at the Feast of St. Michael (29 September), without further delay. Here we have a proof that varnish was then used for painting. A passage in Liber Horn of the time of Edward II. proves that oil was thus early mixed with colours. As quoted in Riley's memorials, it runs thus: "Rules as to painting old and new saddles:—It is provided that no one put any but good and pure colours upon gold or silver; that is to say, good cynople, good green, good vermilion, or other colours, tempered with oil, and not brasil (a coarse red) or indigo of Baldas (Bagdad?), or any other bad colour." We must bear in mind that Painters did not then confine themselves to the production of pictures, if indeed they had already to any appreciable extent undertaken that work. Their business relations with the Saddlers



caused from time to time considerable friction, culminating in a violent affray, with much bloodshed, in which the Joiners and Loriners took part. This seems to have been in 1327, an agreement being shortly afterwards arrived at between the rival Guilds; and it is clear that, though not yet chartered, each was already recognized as an associated body with privileges and duties.

In 1467, as the result of a petition to the Court of Aldermen, the bye-laws of the Painters were granted under the City seal, authorizing them to assemble in the City and to elect two Wardens with at least six others to assist them in governing the craft. The rules are elaborate. Any man of the craft refusing to attend when summoned by the beadle, was to forfeit 1 lb. of wax, half of which was to be used for lighting the Guildhall chapel, so perhaps then members of the craft were chiefly dwelling in the neighbourhood of the Guildhall. "Church-work" is spoken of, and the materials to be used in executing it, also sign painting. Two years later the *Painters* are mentioned as contributing twenty men-at-arms to the City Watch, while in the same list the *Stainers* appear as supplying fourteen men. In 1485, however, among the Guilds represented at the funeral of Henry VII. the *Stainers* are absent, and in 1501-2 the first municipal reference occurs to Painter *Stainers*, who are then said to possess a Livery. It seems likely, therefore, that in the interval between 1485 and 1501, as Mr. Carew-Hazlitt suggests, there had been an amalgamation. Arms had been granted in 1486, but the Guild was not incorporated until 1581 by Elizabeth, as "The Master, Wardens and Commonalty of the Freemen of the Art and Mystery of Painters, commonly called Painters *Stainers*, within the City of London and the suburbs and liberties thereof." The Charter, still preserved, is on one sheet of parchment, with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth as the initial ornament: it



was the result of a petition addressed to the Queen in 1575, setting forth that the competition of persons who had not been apprenticed to them, whose productions nevertheless readily found purchasers, occasioned the decay of the craft in the hands of those who considered themselves its proper exponents. Supplementary to this Royal Charter is a deed called "The Book of Ordynances of the Peynter-Steyners" signed by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer and two Lords Chief Justices, with their arms. It has Lord Burleigh's signature. In 1612 an Act of Common Council was passed giving the Guild increased powers.

An interesting little account of the Painter Stainers was written in 1880 by Mr. G. C. Crace, then Master, and printed for private circulation. He reminds us that a picture on canvas was formerly called a stained cloth, as one on panel was a table, perhaps from the French *tableau*. An inventory of pictures belonging to Henry VIII. has, "Item, a table with the picture of the Lady Elizabeth her Grace. Item a stained cloth with the picture of Charles the Emperor."

John Browne, created Sergeant-Painter to Henry VIII. in 1511, at a salary of *2d.* a day and four ells of cloth annually at Christmas worth *6s. 8d.* an ell, and elected an Alderman in 1522, by his will dated September 17th of the same year and proved in 1532, conveyed to the Guild of Painter Stainers, to which he belonged, his house in Trinity, now Little Trinity, Lane, which became their first Hall and was in use until its destruction in the Great Fire. We read that it was "beautified" in 1630. On November 16, 1664, and on July 3, 1666, John Evelyn attended meetings there. He records observing "divers pictures in the great room, some reasonably good." After the Fire for a short time the Guild met at Cooks' Hall. The rebuilding on the same site was begun after December 20, 1668, when a Committee ap-



pointed for the purpose, met "Mr. Luck, the bricklayer, and Mr. Bell, the carpenter," and contracted with them for the construction. There is no mention in the records of any architect or surveyor having been employed, and probably the work was done with as little expense as possible. To raise money for it the Plate was mortgaged and several members of the Court lent sums of £50. The idea, therefore, that Sir Christopher Wren furnished the designs for the present Hall has no evidence to support it, nor does the appearance of the Hall buildings lead one to suppose that this is the case. It seems to have been finished by the end of 1669, and in the spring of 1670 the use of it was granted to the German Protestants on Sundays and holy days for two years at £24 a year.

The Minute-books still in existence date from 1623, and prove what considerable powers were formerly possessed by the Company, and also that they sometimes supervised not only the painting of pictures, but various kinds of decorative work. Thus on December 13, 1631, they received the following intimation from the Lord Chamberlain: "I desire the Masters of the Kings and Queenes Barges to cawle unto them the Master and Wardens of the Company of Peynter-Steynours in London; and such other discreet men as they shall think fitt of the said Company, to make request of them to view the Kings and Queens New Barges, and to make a trewe valuation and Estimate of the Woorke done by John de Cretz, in painting, tryimming, and gilding the said Barges, and certify your knowledge under your hands, (signed) Pembroke Montgomery." The estimates of John de Cretz were, for the King's Barge "newly done" £270, for the Queen's, which was only repaired, £40. The Master and Wardens of the Painter Stainers, having viewed the work, estimated its value respectively at £250 and £32. On the 10th of March, 1673, there is a minute, "That the Painter of Joseph



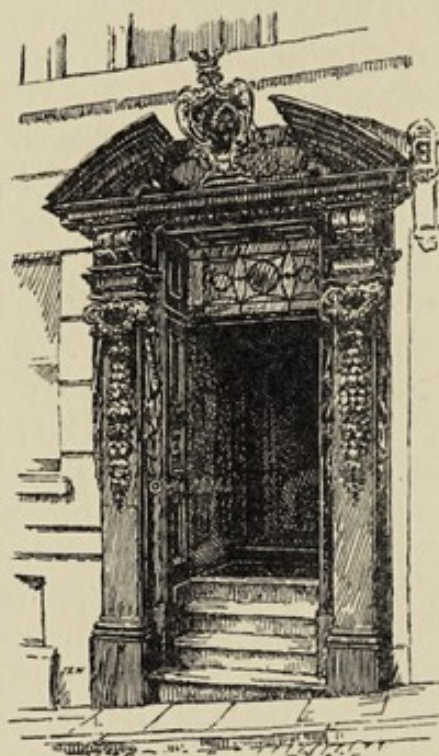
and Pottifer's wife and the Foure Elements be fined £3. 6/8 for such bad work." From long before the time of their incorporation, until the middle of the last century, the Painter Stainers contained in their ranks many of the best artists of the day. Even now the name of Sir Edward Poynter, P.R.A., appears in the list of Assistants. In the time of Henry VIII., besides Sir John Browne, who gave the Hall, John Hethe and Andrew Wright, both Sergeant-Painters to the King, were Liverymen. In the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth, William Herne, her Serjeant-Painter, is mentioned as Upper Warden of the Guild. In May, 1635, Inigo Jones, "the King's Surveyor, was invited to dinner and very lovingly came and dined with the Company." In 1687 invitations to the annual Feast of St. Luke were signed by Antonio Verrio and Sir Godfrey Kneller. Among painters of distinction, Sir James Thornhill, Hogarth's father-in-law, was on the Livery.

The Painter Stainers' Company, although possessing no large property of its own, has the management of some very useful charities, from funds bequeathed by various benefactors. By far the greater part of the capital which supports these charities is derived from the will, with codicil, dated respectively 1780 and 1781, of Mr. John Stock, of Hampstead, described as "Painter to His Majesty's Dockyards." The annual income of this bequest is distributed, chiefly in the form of annuities of £10 a year each, to blind persons who must be at least sixty-one years of age and have other qualifications. Other recipients are "poor lame painters of the Company, more or less incapacitated by illness arising from the injurious effects of painters' colours," also poor curates, and two poor liverymen of the Company, aged over fifty years. The other charities are administered on similar lines.

The present Hall is approached through the pretty



doorway of which an illustration is here given. It has been described in Hatton's "New View of London," 1708, as "adorned with a handsome screen, arches, pillars and pilasters of the Corinthian order, painted in imitation of porphyry with gilded capitals." He gives a list of pictures on the walls, and adds that "the ceiling is finely painted



PAINTER-STAINERS' HALL.  
ENTRANCE

with Pallas triumphant, with the arts and fame (attended by Mercury) suppressing their enemies, sloth, envy, pride, etc., done by Fuller." The ceiling decorations have unfortunately disappeared, but the pictures remain on the walls, and concerning these pictures we will say a few words, for the interior of the building has not at present any special interest. In the Hall proper fifty-three pictures, of varying degrees of merit, are arranged; we can only allude to a very few of them. A picture painted and presented by Charles Catton, R.A., who was Master in 1783, reminds us that although he began life as apprentice to a coach-painter, and also practised

sign-painting, he was one of the foundation members of the Royal Academy. He also held the office of king's coach-painter. A landscape by George Lambert (who with Rich founded the old Beefsteak Club) has figures by Hogarth representing the story of the Babe with bloody hands from Spenser's "Faerie Queen." A sunset by Robert Aggas, who died in 1679, is called by Walpole "the best of his extant



works." A view of the Great Fire of London by Waggoner, an artist not otherwise known, is of considerable interest, although so dark that it is difficult to make out the details. It is mentioned in Hatton's account of the Hall as being there in 1708, and was badly engraved for Pennant's "History of London." It somewhat resembles a larger picture of the same subject belonging to the Society of Antiquaries, which, however, in the opinion of the late Sir George Scharf, belonged to the second half of the eighteenth century. A specimen of the work of Edwin Long, R.A., called "Choosing a Deity," was bequeathed to the Company in 1893. There are also pictures by Francis Barlow, William Taverner, Jacob Pen, Isaac Sailmaker, Peter Monamy, J. Baptiste Monoyer, Sebastian Ricci, Gaspar Smitz, Robert Smirke, R.A., and Sir John Medina, all men of a certain mark; and, among the rest, the following noticeable portraits: Charles I., after Vandyck, by Henry or "old" Stone, son of the famous master-mason; Charles II., by Gaspar; Catherine of Braganza, by Houseman; William III., painted and presented by Sir Godfrey Kneller; a good portrait head of himself, painted and given in 1866 by George Richmond, R.A., who was a Liveryman. Last, not least, over the fireplace there is a portrait of William Camden the historian, who was a member of the Company, presented by Mr. Morgan, Master in 1676. The painter is unknown, but it is a work of merit. In the Court-room, over the mantelpiece, is a portrait group of John Potkyn, Master, and Thomas Carlton and John Taylor, Wardens in 1631; it is referred to in the minutes for September 16, 1632. It will thus be seen that many of the pictures still remaining were saved from the Great Fire.

The Company also saved some old plate, which as we have seen, they were obliged to pledge when rebuilding their Hall, but fortunately part of it at least remains with them. One of their proudest possessions is the Camden silver



cup and cover; the money to purchase it was left to them by the famous Camden in the following words: "Item, I bequeath to the Company of Painter Stainers of London, to buy them a piece of plate in memorial of me, Sixteen pounds, to be inscribed Gulielmus Camdenus Clarenceux, Filius Sampsonis Pi&ccedil;toris Londinis dono dedit," which inscription is on the rim of the cup. As may be seen it is almost identical with the inscription on the lost Camden cup of the Cordwainers. "From the bottom of the bowl to about half way up the sides are large *repoussé* acanthus leaves terminating in tuns. It stands on a bell-shaped foot, to which it is attached by a baluster stem and four scrolls with female heads. The cover is surmounted by a perforated pinnacle and a figure of Minerva holding a shield on which is a fess engrailed between six cross-crosslets fitchée." Sampson Camden, the father, was a painter by profession, and is supposed to have painted a portrait of Queen Elizabeth. There are other interesting pieces of plate which we have not space to describe. In the church of St. James Garlick-hithe an annual sermon is preached on St. Luke's day to the Livery of the Painter Stainers' Guild.

## THE INNHOLDERS' COMPANY

IN taking up the study of the Innholders' Guild we are tempted to turn our minds, if only for a few moments, to the inns and taverns of old London which have been mentioned by great writers, or are in some way associated with them, and have thus become famous for all time. London was once rich in these houses of entertainment; it was but a generation ago that the old Tabard, the assembling place of Chaucer's "Canterbury Pilgrims," or rather its immediate successor, was still standing in the Borough High Street, within a stone's throw of the White Hart Inn, whence Jack Cade sallied forth to attack London, and where in more peaceful days Mr. Pickwick (as real a personage to most of us) for the benefit of his own and future generations, discovered Sam Weller. From the sixteenth to the nineteenth century London taverns were a favourite resort of men of brains, of pleasure, and of leisure. If it is only in imagination that we can picture to ourselves the haunts and the wit-combats of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and if it requires the eye of faith to conjure up a vision of Samuel Johnson in that delightful old corner at the Cheshire Cheese with which his connection is rather shadowy, many Londoners must still be living who have seen Thackeray at "The Cave," to which Colonel Newcome paid one memorable visit, and we ourselves have sat perhaps on the seat which Tennyson occupied when, in a mood of pensive meditation, he thought out "Will Waterproof's Lyrical Monologue."



We must not pursue this fascinating subject, our business being to describe briefly the Innholders and their pretty Hall, having prepared ourselves by a personal visit, and by studying an excellent paper by Mr. J. Douglass Mathews, F.S.I., which we had the pleasure of hearing him read in the building itself on June 12, 1894. The trade of the Innholders in London is one which boasts an early origin, but perhaps it hardly goes back so far as those of the Brewers and the Vintners. The Louterell Psalter shows an inn or tavern of the fourteenth century, having, by way of sign projecting in front, a pole usually called the alestake, although the bunch of branches at the end, giving it the appearance of a broom, reminds one rather of the old saying, "good wine needs no bush." At the time that this drawing was made wayfarers lodged usually either at great houses or at monasteries, where hospitality was exercised as a matter of course. J. Dawson Turner, a great authority, doubted if there were so early any London places of entertainment which supplied food and beds besides liquid refreshment. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, as Riley tells us in his introduction to "Liber Albus," and as we gather from the work itself, the persons whose business it was to receive guests were called Hostellers and Herbergeours. The line of distinction between them is not very evident; they are classed together in City ordinances. For instance, in 1365, "No hosteler or herbergeour shall make bread for his guests in his house, but shall buy of common bakers;" also "All the hostellers and herbergeours who keep hostelrys and herbergerys in the City of London, and in the suburbs thereof, shall sell hay and oats at a reasonable price—they shall not take more than twopence for finding hay for one horse for a day and a night, and if they sell their hay by boteles they are to make them in proportion to the same price." Keepers of wine-taverns and alehouses, and victuallers (who merely sold pro-



visions) do not appear to have lodged their guests any more than the cooks to whose tables strangers were in the habit of resorting.

Throughout the fourteenth century there are references to the Hostellers and Herbergeours, but as far as we are aware, the first mention of them as a Fraternity by prescription occurs in a petition by "Men of the Mistery of Hostillars," in 1446, addressed to the Mayor and Aldermen, praying them to confirm certain ordinances, among which is the following: "That the Wardens have power to search all Hosteries and to inform the Mayor Chamberlain of such guests or people as they find not of good rule or good name or fame." In October, 1473, a further petition was presented, stating that they had been heretofore improperly called Hostellers, by which term no distinction was made between them and their servants, who were Hostellers indeed, and begging that all of the craft, being freemen and keeping inns within the City and liberties, should henceforth be named *Innholders*, and this petition was granted. Another petition was presented in 1483 to the effect that no person should lodge guests or horses in private or petty *Ostryes*, but that all such guests and horses should be lodged in open *Inns*, having signs hanging in the open streets, lanes, or places.

In 1509 the Innholders applied for a Charter, and in 1514 King Henry VIII. granted their request. This their first Charter gives leave to the then Master and three Wardens of "the art and mystery of St. Julian le Herberger of Innholders of the City of London," to create and establish a Guild, and to admit brothers and sisters of the said Guild. The Master and Wardens were to be elected annually, with power to hold meetings and to invest the brothers and sisters with a particular sort of gown or hood; they were also to have a common seal. This Charter, which still exists, has



an illuminated border, with the red rose of the house of Lancaster, the red and white rose of the Tudors, and the badge of Katherine of Arragon. Within the initial H is a miniature of the youthful king, and figures kneeling clad in blue-gray gowns edged with scarlet, while in the opposite corner is a figure of St. Julian in armour, with cloak and cap. He owes his adoption as patron saint of the Company to the fact that he is said to have turned his dwelling into a lodging place or hospital for the sick and destitute.

A second Charter, granted by Charles II. in 1663, reciting an Act of Common Council of the same year and the former Charter, enjoins that all Innholders both in the City and within three miles thereof shall be free of the Company, to enjoy the benefit of the messuage, lands, goods and chattels belonging to it, and to elect the Master, Wardens, and Assistants. This Charter, also in existence, has a portion of the great seal appended, and is written in Latin on five skins of vellum. "The first skin has a richly gilded border containing at the top the royal arms, and at the side shields of the several quarterings; within the initial C is a painted miniature of Charles II., but the borders have partially flaked off. The borders round the next three skins contain well executed representations of birds and flowers with shields, badges, etc. The borders round the fifth skin contains at the top the royal arms between those of the City of London and the Company of Innholders, and at the sides the proper supporters bearing banners with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, and the arms of the City and Company." These last, by the way, had been granted in 1634. James II. compelled the Innholders to surrender all their rights, and then granted them another Charter, which, however, was rendered null and void in the next reign. In 1758 the privileges of the Charter of 1663 were questioned, and it was held that the



King could not, without the foundation of some custom, for the purpose, restrain the common law right of the subject to exercise any trade, or compel anyone to be free of the Company, and therefore the power could only apply to the City of London.

The governing body consists of a Master, three Wardens and a Court of Assistants, numbering in all 24, and they meet once a month. Stow mentions the original Hall among divers "fair houses," but very little is known about it, beyond the fact that it was on the same site as the present building, and that it was destroyed in the Great Fire. After that event, the Innholders decided to rebuild it as conveniently as possible, with due regard to economy, no doubt an important consideration. It was for this reason perhaps that no architect or surveyor seems to have been employed, but the work was carried out by bricklayers, carpenters and other artificers, who were directly answerable to the Company, the whole cost of the rebuilding being a little over £1,200. Mere craftsmen had then the knack of producing something well proportioned and appropriate. A gallery across one angle of the Dining Hall was added in 1681. After the destruction of the Hall, and before it was finished, the Company held its Courts in 1667 at the George Inn, Aldersgate, and afterwards at various inns in the City. In 1691 the use of the Hall was granted to the Poulterers' Company, which held its meetings here for several years. In 1842, a sum of nearly £700 was expended on the structure, Sir William Tite being the architect. Soon after this a fire occurred in the cellar, which was occupied by a basket maker.

In 1882 it was found that all the Hall buildings were in a very dilapidated condition, and Mr. Douglass Mathews was asked to survey and report upon them. Some portion was found to be unsafe, and it had become necessary to do a



great deal of rebuilding. Fortunately the work was intrusted to Mr. Mathews, and he has carried it out in the



INNOLDERS' HALL. ENTRANCE DOOR

most conservative spirit. He found that the old Dining Hall could be retained, but the roof and ceiling required renewal. All the rest of the building was so ruinous that



it had to come down, three out of the four walls and the entire superstructure being removed. This being the case, one is surprised that apparently there is so little change.

Innholders' Hall is on the south side of College Street, formerly Elbow Lane, which is one of those back-ways in the City frequented by comparatively few people, and still retaining an old-fashioned air. The entrance from the street, drawn for this book by Mr. Way, is a charming specimen of its kind, and has only been in part renewed. The entrance passage and staircase are entirely modern; and a new doorway from the former leads into the Dining Hall, a well proportioned room of moderate dimensions, with some good panelling, and apparently very much in its original condition, except that the windows have been re-arranged and stained glass inserted in them, consisting chiefly of coats of arms. Some old glass, containing the arms of John Knott, master for the third time in 1670, and of Captain Pennay, master in 1678, have been placed in a window on the staircase. The painting over the fire-place in the Hall is of interest as representing Mr. Charles Druce, formerly clerk to the Company, and the first of four generations of Druce who have worthily held that office, which is still retained by a great grandson of this gentlemen. We are reminded of two late members who have been Lord Mayors by the portraits of Sir Chapman Marshall and Sir Polydore de Keyser.

The Reception room or old Court-room, also on the ground floor, to the right of the entrance passage, though almost entirely rebuilt, appears much in the same condition as when first erected after the Great Fire, except that the width has been increased by the removal of a large stack of chimneys. It has its old oak wainscoting, and a modelled plaster ceiling which contains in the spandrils the Arms of the King, of the City, of the Innholders' Company, and the



date 1670. Here are two rather interesting topographical pictures, painted perhaps early in the nineteenth century, but without date or signature. One represents, on panel, the opening of London Bridge, and the other a Lord Mayor going on board his barge at Blackfriars Bridge. A poor modern picture of Richard Whittington, sitting on the mythical milestone at Highgate, reminds one that he was in truth closely associated with the parish in which the Hall stands, and that the College named after him was hard by. There is an allegorical representation of Charles II. dispelling rebellion and instituting a reign of peace. The quaint sporting picture over the fireplace represents "Totteridge, property of Mr. H. Boot, winning King's plate of 100 guineas for horses etc., not more than six years old, carrying twelve stone. Eleven to eight on Totteridge who won easy." It was painted by Francis Sartorius, a well-known artist, in 1798. The fine old upright clock was given in 1739, and has always kept time in the Court-room. The chairs for the Master and Wardens are considered to date from soon after the Great Fire. The cushion placed in front of the Master is covered with dark velvet, and has embroidered on one side the initials "C . I 1684" and on the other "J J 1808." It was probably re-covered in that year, but the earlier embroidery is original. On the first floor is a modern Court-room, which looks well suited for its purpose, and above that are rooms for the Beadle.

By a lucky chance the Company at the time of the Great Fire, saved some interesting old plate (part of it however was sold some years afterwards). It seems that a resolution had been passed in July, 1665, that all plate belonging to the Company should be removed to the Master's house, to be kept there by him for their use. This appears to have been the Ram Inn, Smithfield, to which, it is



needless to say, the Fire did not extend. A selection of the remaining old plate was exhibited at Ironmongers' Hall in 1861; among the pieces were the following—perhaps the choicest specimens now in the hands of the Company. Two circular salts, silver gilt, each  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height and diameter. They have the arms of the Company and are inscribed, "This salt is the gift of John Wetterwortt 1626," the plate marks, however, are for the year 1566. A standing cup, silver gilt,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, is on a moulded baluster stem with repoussé foot. It has two narrow beaded bands; the two lower divisions are engraved with leaves and flowers, in scrolls, and round the upper part is inscribed in pounced letters,

"Though I be gon Remember me,  
For as I am so you shall bee.

The gife of Grace Gwalter in Remembrance of her Deceased husband John Gwalter, the 27 of februarye 1599." The mark shows that it dates from 1599, and it has the maker's initials, "R.C." Twenty-one Apostle spoons, parcel gilt, vary in length from  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 inches, and in date from 1609 to 1661; the earliest being inscribed, "John Faussett Innholder 1609." Five have engraved on them either "Sancte Julian" or "Sancte Gillian." The Osborne cup, silver gilt,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, has a plain taper bowl, a moulded baluster stem, and round foot. It weighs over 36 ounces and was given by Thomas Osborne in 1658, the year in which it was made.



## THE STATIONERS' COMPANY



STATIONERS' HALL

THE study on which we are engaged is so full of interest, and so ample is the material at hand, that in our short account the difficulty is to preserve due sense of proportion, selecting only what is most attractive and characteristic. The Stationers, of whose headquarters Mr. Way has drawn two lithographs, occupy no very exalted position among the City Guilds—in 1556 the Court of Common Council directed that they were to rank “next unto and after the Poulters,”—but Mr. C. R. Rivington, F.S.A., the present Clerk to the Company, has good reason for saying that the Stationers' Hall can boast of a greater notoriety than any similar institution. To a learned paper by him, first read in 1881 and afterwards incorporated in Mr. Edward Arber's Transcript of the Stationers' Company, 1554-1640, the following pages are largely indebted. We would add that Mr. Rivington belongs to a family long and honourably connected with the trade ; the title is known to us of a book “printed by Charles Rivington at the Bible and Crown in St. Paul's Church Yard, 1715.”



In 1903 the Guild might appropriately celebrate its five hundredth birthday, for as early as A.D. 1403 a petition was presented to the Mayor and Aldermen by "men of the craft of Writers of text-letter, those commonly called Limners, and other good folks, citizens of London, who were wont to bind and to sell books," asking to be allowed to elect yearly two wardens—a limner and a text-writer—who might superintend these trades, and punish offenders, "according to the general ordinance made as to rebellious persons in trades of the said city." The petition was duly granted, and the Fraternity thus formed was in point of fact the original Stationers' Company. When, some seventy years afterwards, printing was introduced into England, that business naturally fell into their hands and gave them greatly increased importance. In 1556 the Guild was incorporated by Philip and Mary. Their Charter begins thus: "Know ye that we considering and perceiving that certain seditious and heretical books, rhymes, and treatises are daily published and printed by divers scandalous, malicious, schismatical, and heretical persons, not only moving our subjects and lieges to sedition and disobedience against us our Crown and dignity, but also to renew and move very great and detestable heresies against the faith and sound doctrine of Holy Mother Church, and wishing to provide a suitable remedy on this behalf." Although a prayer for incorporation had proceeded from the Stationers' Guild, we may gather from this opening passage that the Charter was granted chiefly to furnish our rulers with a convenient weapon for the suppression of books which they considered to be disloyal or heretical. Queen Mary had previously, before her marriage, in 1553, forbidden the printing of "books ballads rhymes and interludes" without special licence, and in the following year Parliament had prohibited the issue of any book to the slander or reproach of the "King or Queen" under the penalty of loss of the



right hand. They had also issued a proclamation to the wardens of every Company to search the heretical books from abroad. The title in full of the newly incorporated Guild was "The Master and Keepers or Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery or Art of a Stationer of the City of London." The first Master was Thomas Dockwray, John Cawood and Henry Cooke being the first Wardens. The incorporation was celebrated by a dinner at the Hall, the charges for which have been preserved. In 1559 the charter was confirmed by Queen Elizabeth, and after various vicissitudes it was again confirmed and re-granted by William and Mary. The original documents were destroyed in the Great Fire, and the present copies date from about 1684.

Although the motive of Philip and Mary in their grant of a charter was apparently a selfish one, the Stationers, nevertheless, obtained by it a strong position, power being given to prevent any person from printing in the realm without their licence, except patentees, and to search for, seize and appropriate all unlicensed books. But over them, at least in religious matters, were always the religious authorities. Thus in 1565 the Bishop of London, and three other High Commissioners, commanded the Wardens to seize certain stationers in St. Paul's Churchyard, who were accused of sending forth "certayne Engleish bokes of corrupt doctryne to the defaminge of relygion established by publyk authoryte," and to imprison them until they could find sureties in £40 each to appear before the commissioners at the next court. When such peremptory proceedings called forth a protest from the Lord Mayor, he was curtly told by the Archbishop of Canterbury not to interfere. In 1615 the Archbishop declared that no Bibles should be bound without the Apocrypha under penalty of a year's imprisonment. Later the Star Chamber made itself felt; in 1637 it issued a decree limiting the number of the Founders of



printing letters for the whole of the kingdom to four ; and directing that the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the Bishop of London, with six other Commissioners, should supply the places of those four as they became vacant.

The earliest written record in the Company's possession is the first "Wardens' Account Book." It is bound in leather, each side of the cover being "ornamented with the figures of a stag, a hare, and some other animal within a double border," and the first entry dates from 1554. A livery was granted to the Guild in 1561. The following early notices of the Stationers have been extracted from the records by Mr. Rivington. On May day, 1572, twenty-two men were provided by the Company for a "Shewe" before Queen Elizabeth. In 1588-9 the Master and Wardens, and six of the comeliest personages of the Livery, were required by the Lord Mayor to attend him at the Park corner above St. James's on horseback, in velvet coats with chains of gold and staff torches, to wait on Queen Elizabeth for the "re-creating of her Majesty in her progress from Chelsea to Whitehall." In 1619 it was ordered that "Livery gowns faced with fur were to be worn between Michaelmas and Easter on all days of solemnity." The Company, like others, from time to time erected a stand or wooden platform hung with cloth in one of the thoroughfares, and attended there on such occasions as the following ; in 1619 when the King went to St. Paul's Cathedral to hear a sermon ; in 1638, when the King, Queen and Queen-mother passed through the city, and again in 1641, when the King was entertained by the civic authorities at the Guildhall. Nine years afterwards the portrait of Charles I. and the Royal Arms were removed from the Hall, and the Arms of the Commonwealth substituted, and in 1654 the Lord Mayor informed the Company that they must attend the Lord Protector on his going to dine at Grocers' Hall.



We will now say a few words about the Company as a trade guild, touching briefly on the subjects of printing and copyright. The object of the Brotherhood, which existed so long before the granting of a Charter, was in part to assist members of the various crafts connected with the manufacture of writing and later of printing materials, by the creation of a joint stock fund to be applied to purposes of trade. It was thus a trade association, and Mr. Rivington says that trading has continued in unbroken succession until now ; “ to the great advantage of the poorer members of the Company and the widows of deceased partners, who participate in the gains and profits with the partners for the time being ; and since the Incorporation no person has been admitted a member of the Company except persons actually engaged in the trade, and apprentices who have bonâ fide served their time, and persons born free, who according to custom could claim their freedom.”

Within the Guild there have been no less than five different trade undertakings, called respectively the “ Ballad Stock,” the “ Bible Stock,” the “ Irish Stock,” the “ Latin Stock,” and the “ English Stock.” The Stationers also at one time printed in Scotland under a patent from the Scotch Parliament, but they abandoned this business in 1669. The “ Irish Stock ” was subscribed for the purpose of carrying on trade in Ireland, but, like the Scotch business, it was not very profitable, and seems to have been given up about 1661. The “ Bible Stock ” must have been an important undertaking. Both the Company and the King’s Printer claimed the right of printing Bibles, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the matter was referred to the High Commissioners. They decided that Richard Juge, then her Majesty’s Printer, should have the exclusive printing of the Bible in quarto and the Testament in decimo sexto ; the rest could be printed by him and by the Company





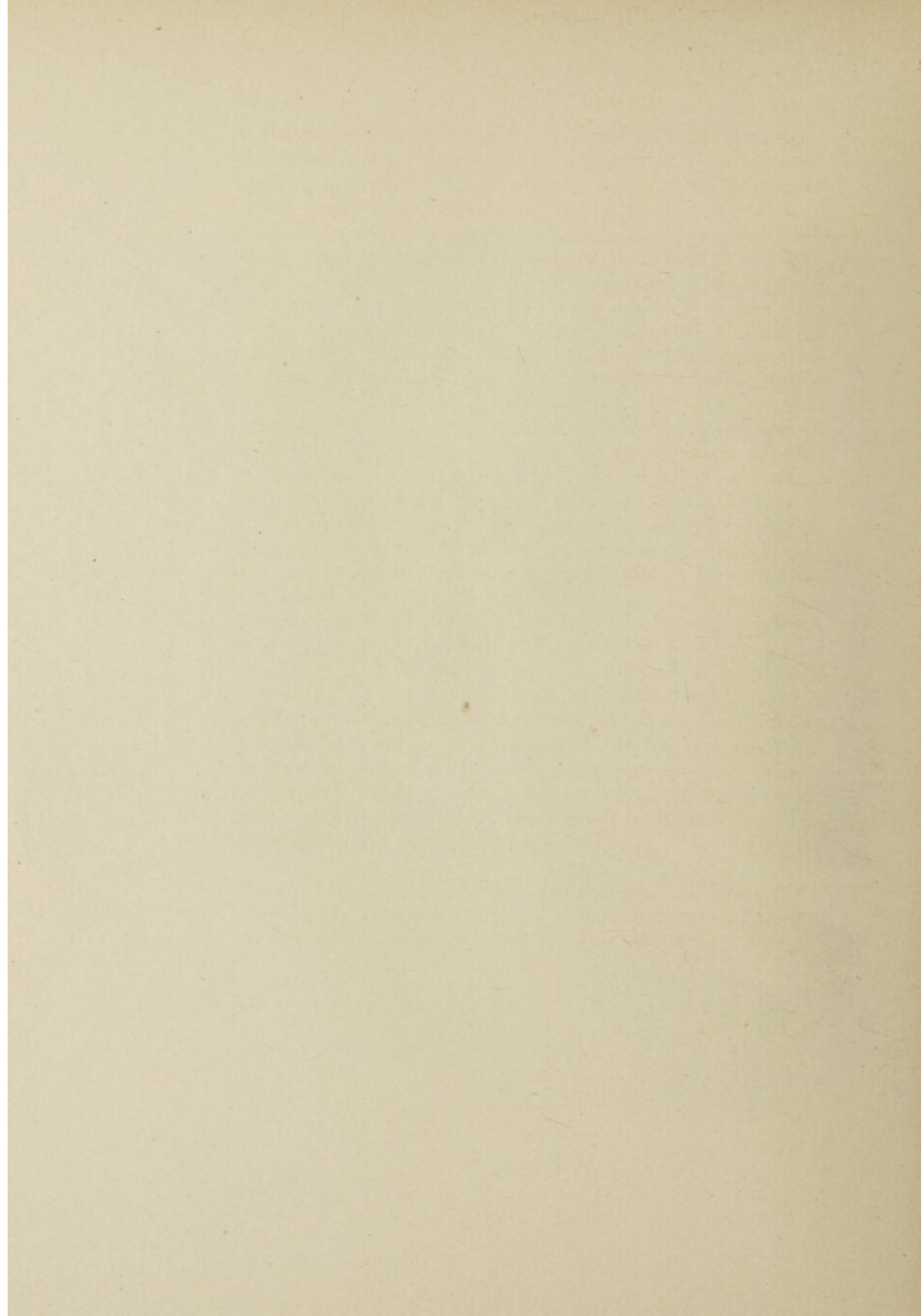
We will now see a little more about the Company as a trade guild, touching mainly on the subjects of printing and copyright. The origin of the Brotherhood, which existed so long before the granting of a Charter, was in part to assist members of various other crafts connected with the manufacture of books, especially of printing materials, by the creation of a fund to be applied to purposes of trade. It was the result of an association, and Mr. Rivington says that apprenticeship continued in unbroken succession until now: "The fund was for the benefit of the poorer members of the Company, and the widows of deceased partners, who participated in the profits of the Company for the time being. In consequence of the incorporation no person has been admitted a member of the Company except persons actually engaged in the trade, and apprentices who have bonâ fide served their time, and become born free, who according to custom are entitled to their freedom."

Before the Charter there have been no less than five different companies, called respectively the "Ballad Stock," the "Irish Stock," the "Latin Stock," and the "English Stock." The Stationers also at one time had a monopoly granted under a patent from the Scotch Parliament, but they abandoned this business in 1669. The "Ballad Stock" was established for the purpose of carrying on trade in ballads, but, like the Scotch business, it was not very profitable, and seems to have been given up about 1661. The "Irish Stock" must have been an important undertaking. The Company and the King's Printer claimed the right of printing Bibles, and in the reign of Queen Elizabeth the matter was referred to the High Commissioners. They decided that Richard Jugge, then her Majesty's Printer, should have the exclusive printing of the Bible in quarto and the Testament in decimo sexto; the rest could be printed by him and by the Company









Other competitors were the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. In 1623 a decree was made by the Council at Whitehall, declaring the University of Cambridge and the Company to have the joint right of printing all books except the Bible, Books of Common Prayers, Grammars, Psalms, Psalters, Primers and Books of the Common Law, which were assigned to the University, and the Almanacks, which belonged to the Stationers. In 1629 further disputes were adjudicated on. The partners in the Bible stock helped materially the revision of the Bible; part of its expense was subscribed by them, and the Company allowed the use of a room at Stationers' Hall, where the work of revision was carried on. The "English Stock" was subscribed in order that advantage might be taken of grants conferred on the Company by James I. The first Grant, made in 1603, gave to the Company the exclusive right of printing all Primers, Psalters, and Psalms (the books of common prayer, and the privileged books of the King's printer excepted), and also all Almanacks and "Prognostycacions" which were allowed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London, or one of them. The second Grant included the A B C, with the little Catechism and the Catechism in English and Latin, compiled by Alexander Nowell. The monopoly long claimed by the Company under these grants has now been swept away for something like a century, but Mr. Rivington tells us that the "English Stock" still flourishes, and a considerable profit continues to accrue to the partners from the publication of the Almanacks and the "Gradus ad Parnassum," the sole survivor of a long list of school books which formerly issued from Stationers' Hall.

As regards Copyright, the Stationers long held a commanding position, and they possess a documentary treasure of great value in the series of Registers of works entered for



publication at Stationers' Hall, beginning in the year 1554, of which Mr. Edward Arber has made such accurate transcripts. It must not, however, be supposed that every book published was "entered at Stationers' Hall," although this was the case with the vast majority. In the reigns of Elizabeth and succeeding monarchs, works appeared from time to time under special letters patent exempting them from the jurisdiction of the Company. Registration is now no longer compulsory; it seems, however, that under the Copyright Act of 1842, every possessor of a published work must register his claim in the books of the Stationers' Company before legal proceedings can be taken.

In 1679 the Stationers built a barge, which was manned by a crew of twenty men, and lasted until about the year 1722, when they replaced it by a second barge. In 1761 a dispute arose as to the order of the barges in the water procession on Lord Mayor's day, when it was decided that the Stationers' Company, as the youngest possessing a barge, should lead the way. Whilst the procession awaited the Lord Mayor's return from Westminster, the Stationers' barge used to be rowed across to Lambeth Palace, that members of the Company might pay their respects to their patron the Archbishop. With reference to this custom the following statement appears in Allen's "History of Lambeth" (1826): "On the annual aquatic procession of the Lord Mayor to Westminster, the barge of the Company of Stationers, which is usually the first in the show, proceeds to Lambeth Palace, where they receive a present of sixteen bottles of the Archbishop's prime wine. This custom originated at the beginning of the eighteenth century. When Archbishop Tenison enjoyed the see, a very near relation of his, who happened to be Master of the Stationers' Company, thought it a compliment to call there in full state and in his barge; when the Archbishop, being informed that the number of the company



within the barge was thirty-two, he thought that a pint of wine for each would not be disagreeable; and ordered at the same time that a sufficient quantity of new bread and old cheese, with plenty of strong ale, should be given to the watermen and attendants; and from that accidental circumstance it has grown into a settled custom. The Company, in return, present to the Archbishop a copy of the several almanacs which they have the peculiar privilege of publishing." The last civic water procession to Westminster took place in 1856, when Alderman Finnis was chosen Lord Mayor. The fine barge then possessed by the Stationers' Company was one of those which found their way to Oxford; it was bought by Exeter College, and remained on the river for many years as the barge of the College boat club.

The Guild is not a rich one, but various benefactions have been made which are loyally administered for the benefit of the poorer brethren. The earliest gift recorded is that of the widow of Stephen Kevall, master in 1560 and 1565, who bequeathed to the Company a house in Dark House Lane, on the west side of Billingsgate, subject to a rent-charge for the benefit of the parish of St. Mary-at-Hill. The site of this house has been absorbed by the market. In 1612 the Stationers received from Alderman John Norton £1,000, which was spent on the purchase of an estate in Wood Street; the rent of it, with small sums left by other benefactors, forms part of the endowment of the Stationers' middle class day school, established in 1861 on the site of Bensley's printing office in Bolt Court, Fleet Street, which in its turn was on the site of Dr. Johnson's last dwelling, where he died in 1784. This school has lately been moved into the suburbs. Alderman Norton also left £150 to the parson and churchwardens of the parish of St. Faith, the revenues whereof he directed to be yearly distributed among twelve poor persons to be chosen by the



Stationers' Company, six of them to be free of the Company and six to be parishioners of St. Faith's. Each person was to receive one penny loaf and two pence every Wednesday, and the vantage loaf to be given to the clerk. He further willed that a sermon should be preached every Ash Wednesday, for which the preacher was to have 10s., and the residue of the yearly revenue was to be bestowed upon the Stationers' Company (at their hall) in cakes, wine, and ale, either before or after the sermon. Each Liveryman used latterly to receive a glass of ale and a packet of spiced buns. In more recent years there have been substantial gifts and bequests from various well-known men. Among them may be mentioned William Strahan the King's printer, friend of Dr. Johnson, and predecessor of the Spottiswoodes; Charles Dilly, at whose hospitable table Johnson and Wilkes made each other's acquaintance; Luke Hansard, who printed the Journals of the House of Commons; two respected members of the Nichols family, and Charles Whittingham, founder of the Chiswick Press.

The Hall of the Brotherhood before incorporation was in or near Milk Street, and its supposed site is still possessed by the Company. Some time before 1570 they moved to St. Paul's Churchyard and established themselves on its south side in the Ward of Castle Baynard. Their Hall here, or the frontage of it, was in 1606 let to Mr. Edward Kynaston, vintner, who, in 1606, converted it into a tavern with the sign of The Feathers, and in 1671 the site was sold to Sir William Turner for £420. In 1611 Abergavenny House, which had been the residence of Henry Nevill, sixth Earl of Abergavenny, and before that of other noblemen, was bought and adapted for the requirements of the Company. It occupied the ground lying between Amen Corner and the Chapter House estate on the north, the church of St. Martin, Ludgate Hill, on the south, the City Wall on the west, and



the garden of London House on the east. Mr. Rivington says that the Company bought part of this garden, now forming the eastern side of Ave Maria Lane, but afterwards sold it. In 1635 "divers of the Assistants and Livery having repaired to the Hall and other places upon solemn days of meeting, in falling bands, doublets slashed and cut, and other indecent apparel not suitable to the habit of citizens," were reprov'd and threatened with fines, the assistants being ordered to come to the Hall on Court days in ruff bands. In 1654 the Hall was so dilapidated that the Livery dinner on Lord Mayor's day was held elsewhere, and the following year the copyright of the "Book of Martyrs," a work which had been often reprinted, was sold to provide funds for its repair. In the Great Fire the premises, with their contents, were irreparably injured. The Registers, which escaped, are thought to have been at the clerk's house on Clerkenwell Green.

The first meeting of the Company after the Fire was at Cooks' Hall, and later they met at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. A committee was appointed to arrange for the rebuilding, and in 1670 it was agreed with Stephen College (known as "the Protestant Joiner," who was hanged at Oxford in 1681), to wainscot the hall "with well-seasoned and well matched wainscot, according to a model delivered in," for the sum of £300. His work is still in fine condition, showing how well he fulfilled the contract. Mr. Rivington notes that the Hall was often let out for various purposes. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries it was sometimes let for funerals on payment of small fees, part of which used to be given to the poor of the Company. In 1667 it appears to have been handed over to the parish of St. Martin, Ludgate, for eighteen months, without payment, whilst their church was being rebuilt; which leads one to the conclusion that after the Fire, in spite of the destruction of the seal and



other relics, a good deal of the building for a time remained standing. "St. Cecilia's Feast, and several county feasts were annually held at Stationers' Hall; in 1701 sacred music was performed on various occasions; lotteries have been drawn in the building, the Grand Lodge of Freemasons has met in the Court-room, and in 1745 the Hall was let to the Surgeons' Company "upon condition that no dissections were made therein." The Hall, as rebuilt after the Great Fire, was of brick, but in 1800 it was cased with Portland Stone from the designs of Robert Mylne, architect, who, on an external plaque, has employed ornament identical with that seen on buildings designed by the brothers Adam. Alterations were made and a new wing added in 1888.

The building is not exactly beautiful, but it is well-proportioned and spreads itself out in a way that reminds one pleasantly of the days when land hereabout was not worth an appreciable sum per square foot. One feels also that it is appropriately placed, for the weary wayfarer gladly takes refuge in Stationers' Hall Court from the crowded thoroughfare of Ludgate Hill, while close at hand he finds himself in a region which from early times has been more or less connected with the stationers' trade, and is still the headquarters of the publishing business. The very street names tell the story, for though at one time St. Paul's Churchyard, close at hand, may have been the chief home of printers and booksellers, was not old Stow right in saying that Paternoster Row was so called "because of stationers or text writers that dwelt there who wrote and sold all sorts of books then in use, namely, A, B, C, with the Pater Noster, Ave, Creed, Graces, etc?" The nomenclature of Ave Maria Lane, Creed Lane, and Amen Corner may also thus be accounted for.

On approaching the Stationers' buildings from the east, that is from Ave Maria Lane, we see the Banqueting Hall



with its comparatively modern stone casing in front of us; and passing through a forecourt, and by a fine plane tree which struggles bravely on, although since late alterations it has, alas! no appreciable space from which to draw nourishment, we find the entrance door in the new wing on the right-hand side. The chief apartments are upstairs. The first to be entered is the Stock-room, which is entirely modern but has been fitted with the handsome old woodwork from a previous apartment. It contains portraits of men connected in various ways with the Company. Among them are good likenesses of Steele and Prior, given by John Nichols, master in 1804. He himself is also here represented, as are Archbishop Tillotson, Robert Nelson the religious writer, in whose arms Tillotson died, and Tycho Wing, who is labelled "astrologer" in the "Dictionary of National Biography"; his portrait, painted in 1731, is by J. Vanderbank. Descending by two or three steps from the Stock-room, we find ourselves in the Banqueting Hall. Here, as Mr. Way reminds us in his lithograph, there is a beautiful carved oak screen at the south end, its doorway surmounted by the Royal Arms, and having the Company's arms in the tympanum, which is supported by Corinthian columns. There is the usual minstrels' gallery. At the opposite end of the room is a modern stained glass window, wherein Caxton appears in his printing house showing proofs to his royal patrons. The border shows marks or devices of famous printers. Other windows have portraits of great men to whom the Stationers would thus do honour. The walls are adorned by shields of members of the Company. The oak floor of the room is a particularly fine one.

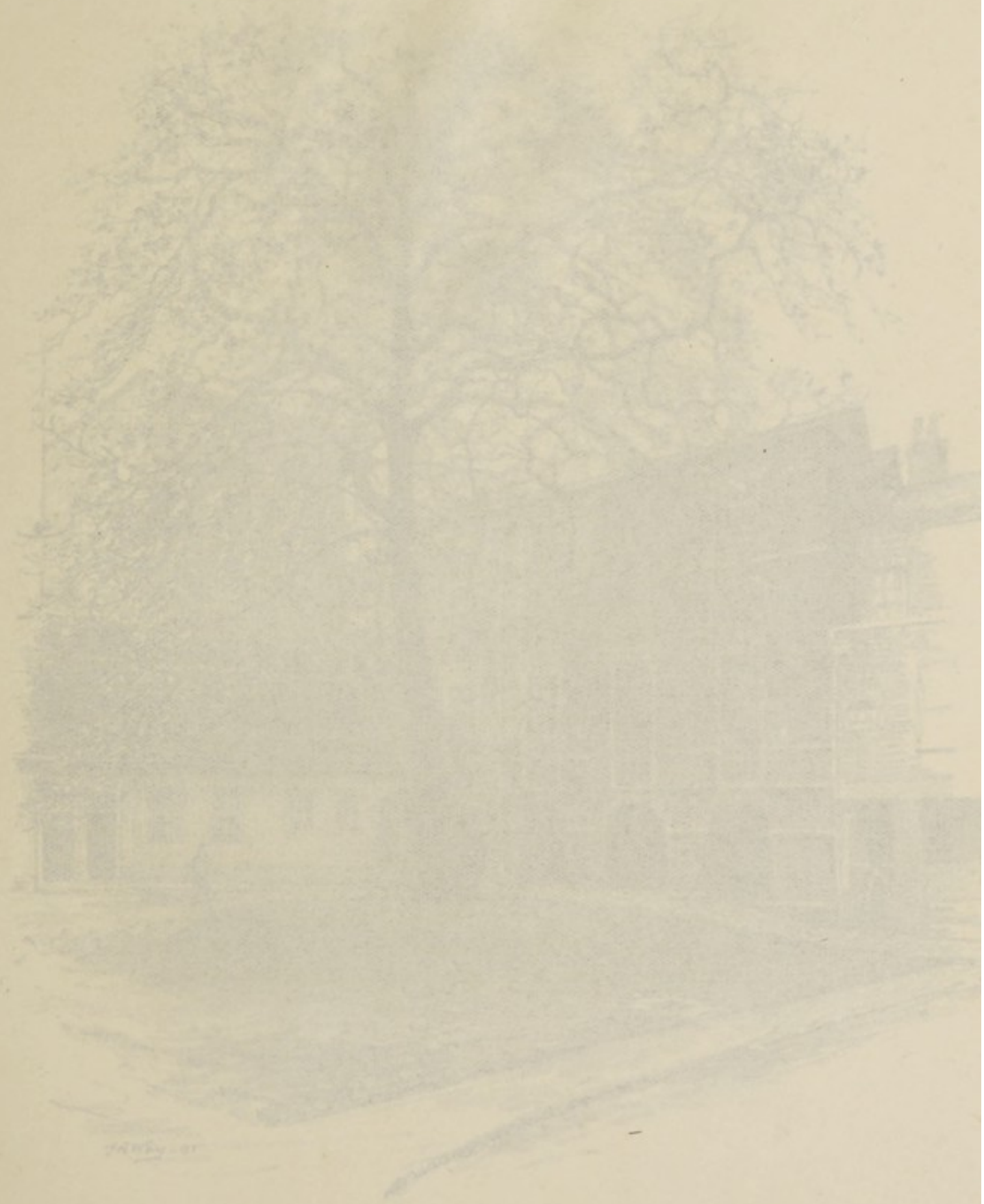
The Court-room communicates through a lobby with the Hall. It contains some interesting portraits, notably those of Samuel Richardson, printer and novelist, and of his second wife, both by Highmore. He was Master of the Company



in 1754, and lies buried in the middle aisle of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street. Another portrait is that of John Boydell, engraver, publisher, and Lord Mayor, who tried so hard to encourage native art in England. He was Master of the Company in 1784. The two Charles Whittinghams, uncle and nephew, are also represented. The west end of this apartment forms a sort of alcove, marked off from the rest by two columns; it is called the Card-room, and must touch the site of the old City wall. Here are portraits of Thomas Guy, William Strahan and others, there is also a large picture by Benjamin West, the Quaker president of the Royal Academy. It is of a style now out of fashion, the subject being, we are informed, "King Alfred dividing a loaf with a pilgrim." At the back of the Banqueting Hall is a courtyard or garden, which forms the charming subject of Mr. Way's second lithograph. He shows the north-west corner, and towards the centre of the composition is a plane tree, which fortunately has more elbow room than that already referred to. It was planted some eighty years ago by a former official, and does credit to the atmosphere of London. The pleasant brick structure to the right with arches below, contains the Court-room, while the range of picturesque low buildings to the left, resembling almshouses, were never, as one might suppose, used for charitable purposes, but for the storage of goods; they mark the line of the City wall. On the south side of this courtyard, not visible in the illustration, stands the church of St. Martin Ludgate, its foundation wall appearing to date from before the Fire.

In 1563, when the Lord Mayor applied for a return of the Stationers' land, plate, jewels, and money, they replied, "We have neyther land, plate, joieles or stoke of moneye, but onlye a house with serten implementes for our necessarye uses, and at what tyme we meyte together." They had, however, gifts of plate from their early masters, chiefly





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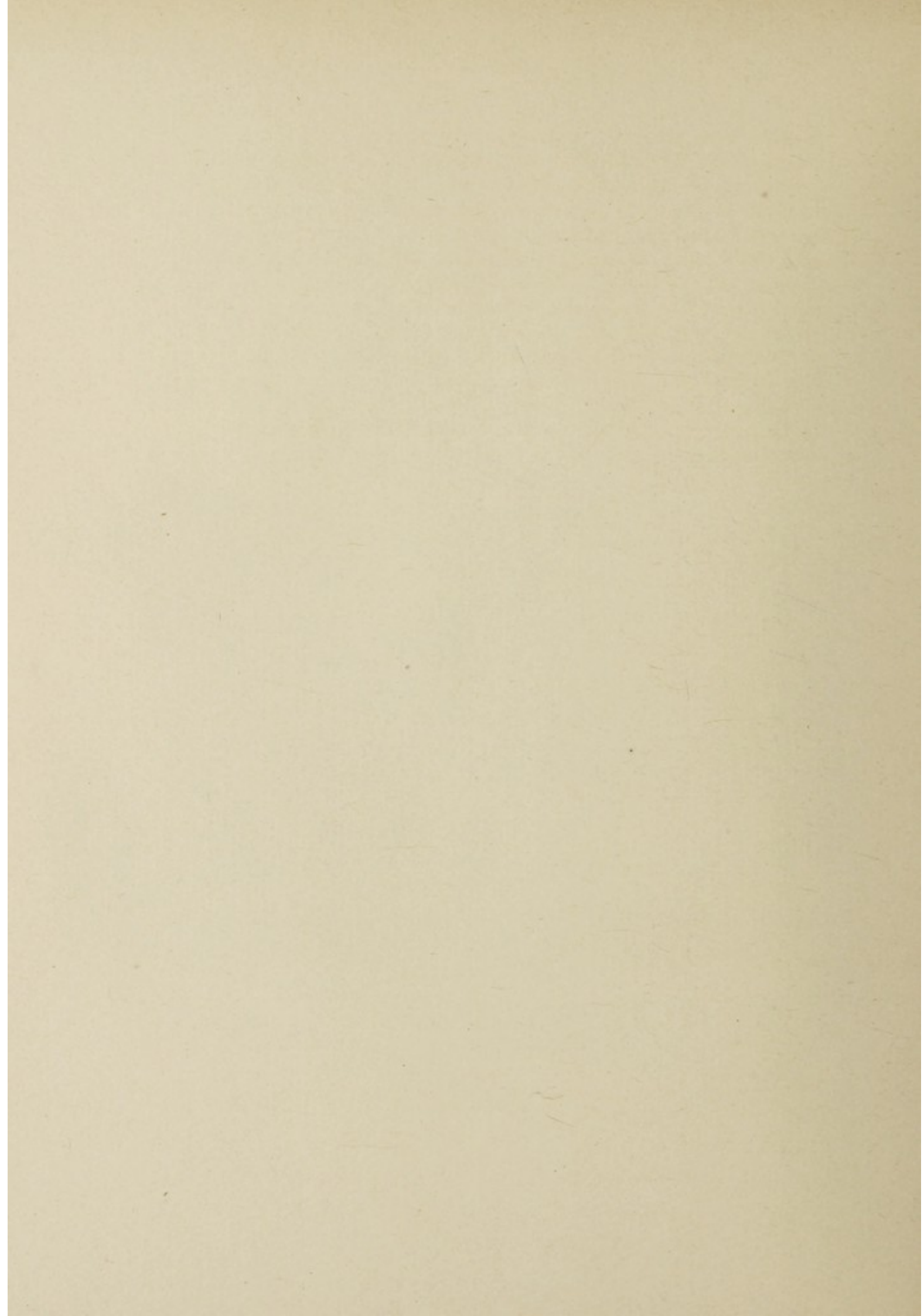
in 1754, and has moved in the middle aisle of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street. Another portrait is that of John Boydell, engraver, 1733-1806, and Lord Mayor, who tried so hard to encourage engraving in England. He was Master of the Company in 1776. The two Charles Whittinghams, uncle and nephew, are also represented. The west end of this apartment forms a room of its own, marked off from the rest by two columns. It is called the Card-room, and must touch the site of the old New wall. Here are portraits of Thomas Guy, William Storer, and others. There is also a large picture by Benjamin West, the first president of the Royal Academy. It is in a style of the 18th century fashion, the subject being, we are told, "a young man dividing a loaf with a pilgrim." In the hall of the Inspecting Hall is a courtyard or garden, which was the charming subject of Mr. Way's second engraving. It shows the north-west corner, and towards the middle of the composition is a plane tree, which fortunately has more elbow room than that already referred to. It was planted about eighty years ago by a former official, and does not like the atmosphere of London. The pleasant brick walkway on the right with arches below, contains the Court-room, and the range of picturesque low buildings to the left, resembling stables, were never, as one might suppose, used for charitable purposes, but for the storage of goods, they mark the line of the City wall. On the south side of the courtyard, not visible in the illustration, stands the church of St. Martin Ludgate, its foundation wall appearing to date from before the Fire.

In 1571, when the Lord Mayor applied for a return of the Stowery land, plate, jewels, and money, they replied, "We have neither land, plate, joicles or stoke of moneye, but onlye a house with certen implementes for our necessarye uses, and at what tyme we meyte together." They had, however, gifts of plate from their early masters, chiefly











spoons; here are brief descriptions of two of them: "A spoyn of the gyfte of Master Regunde Wolfe, all gylte, with the pycture of Saint John; a cuppe all gylte with a cover of the gyfte of Master Way, called a Mawdelen cuppe, wayinge ix ounces." In 1581 it was agreed that every Master, during his term of office, should present a piece of plate weighing 14 ounces at the least. But alas, in 1643, all the Company's plate, except the standing cup which had been given by a Mr. Hulet, was sold; the proceeds were used for the payment of debts, the result apparently of Royal borrowings. The Master and Wardens are elected each year on the Saturday after St. Peter's Day. After the election it was the custom to crown them with garlands, but this has been discontinued long ago.



APOTHECARIES' HALL. ENTRANCE

## THE APOTHECARIES' COMPANY

UNTIL early in the seventeenth century the Apothecaries seem to have been included in the great Grocers' Company, which possessed the right, confirmed to it in a Charter of April 9, 1606, of selling drugs among its other commodities, and control over all druggists, confectioners, and tobacconists. Thus the prototype of Shakespeare's apothecary in "Romeo and Juliet," of whom he gives so graphic, if uncomplimentary an account, with his

"Alligator stuff'd, and other skins  
Of ill-shap'd fishes; and about his shelves  
A beggarly account of empty boxes,"

was perhaps a "Citizen and Grocer." But on December 6, 1617, the Apothecaries, dissatisfied with their subordinate



position, and helped by the king's apothecary, Gideon De-laune, obtained a Charter of Incorporation from James I., who, according to Strype, so favoured them that he called them *His Company*. This Charter recites the wish of the Apothecaries to be dissociated from the Grocers on the ground "that the ignorance and rashness of presumptuous empirics and unexpert men may be restrained, whereupon many dis-commodities, inconveniences, and perils do arise, to the rude and incredulous people."

The objects of the Charter, as briefly stated in the Report of the Livery Companies' Commission (1881), are—To restrain the Grocers, or any other City Company, from keeping an apothecary's shop or exercising the "art, faculty, or mystery of an apothecary within the City of London or a radius of seven miles." To allow no one to do so unless apprenticed to an apothecary for seven years at least, and at the end of that term such apprentice to be approved by the master and wardens and representatives of the College of Physicians, before being allowed to keep an apothecary's shop or to dispense medicines. To give the right of search in London or seven miles around it, of the shops of apothecaries or others; to test their drugs, and examine all persons "professing, using, or exercising the art or mystery of apothecaries." It also confers the right to burn any unwholesome drugs in front of the offender's door, and to summon him before a magistrate. Last, not least, it gives permission to make, buy and sell drugs. The Apothecaries' Arms—"Azure, Apollo in his glory, holding in his left hand a bow, in his right an arrow, all or, bestriding Python the serpent, argent," were perhaps suggested by the king. Be it remembered that Apollo was father of Æsculapius, God of medicine. The supporters are unicorns, the sinister supporter of the Royal arms being a unicorn, then lately brought from Scotland. The crest is a rhinoceros, and the motto, "Opiferque per



orbem dicor." The Grocers naturally opposed the separation of the Apothecaries from them, and in this they were supported to some extent by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen; however, the king's influence on the other side carried the day.

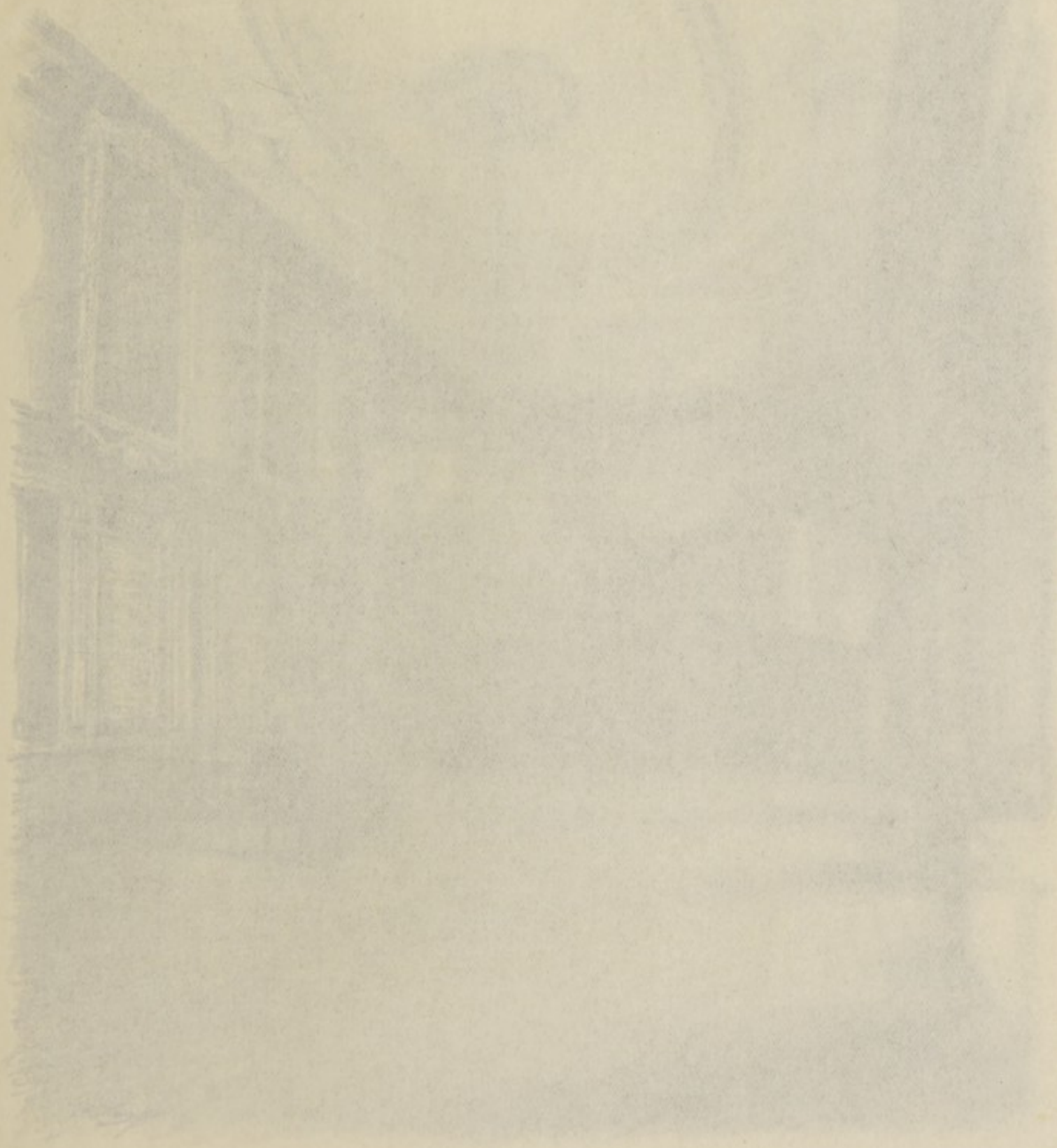
In course of time considerable friction arose between the apothecaries and physicians, who grew jealous when they saw the success of men apparently poaching on their preserves. Hence a resolution of the physicians in 1687 that they would "give their advice gratis to all their sick neighbouring poor when desired, within the city of London, or seven miles round," and the establishment, about nine years afterwards, of a dispensary of their own for the sale of medicines at their true value. Poets were on the side of the College; Dryden expresses their feelings in the following lines:

"The Apothecary tribe is wholly blind.  
From files a random recipe they take,  
And many deaths from one prescription make.  
Garth, generous as his Muse, prescribes and gives;  
The shopman sells and by destruction lives."

Garth, both physician and poet or poetaster, fanned the flames with his "Dispensary," and Pope aided and abetted his friend. Ill feeling continued for many years, and there was more than one action at law in which the Apothecaries held their own; but at length the Physicians ceased to attack their humbler rivals.

By means of the Apothecaries' Act of 1815, the powers of the Company were very much increased. This Act created a court of twelve examiners, who were to be members of the Apothecaries' Company and of at least ten years' standing, to be appointed by the Master, Warden, and Court of Assistants, whose duty it was to examine all candidates for the profession in England and Wales, as to their skill in the science and practice of medicine; and five others to examine







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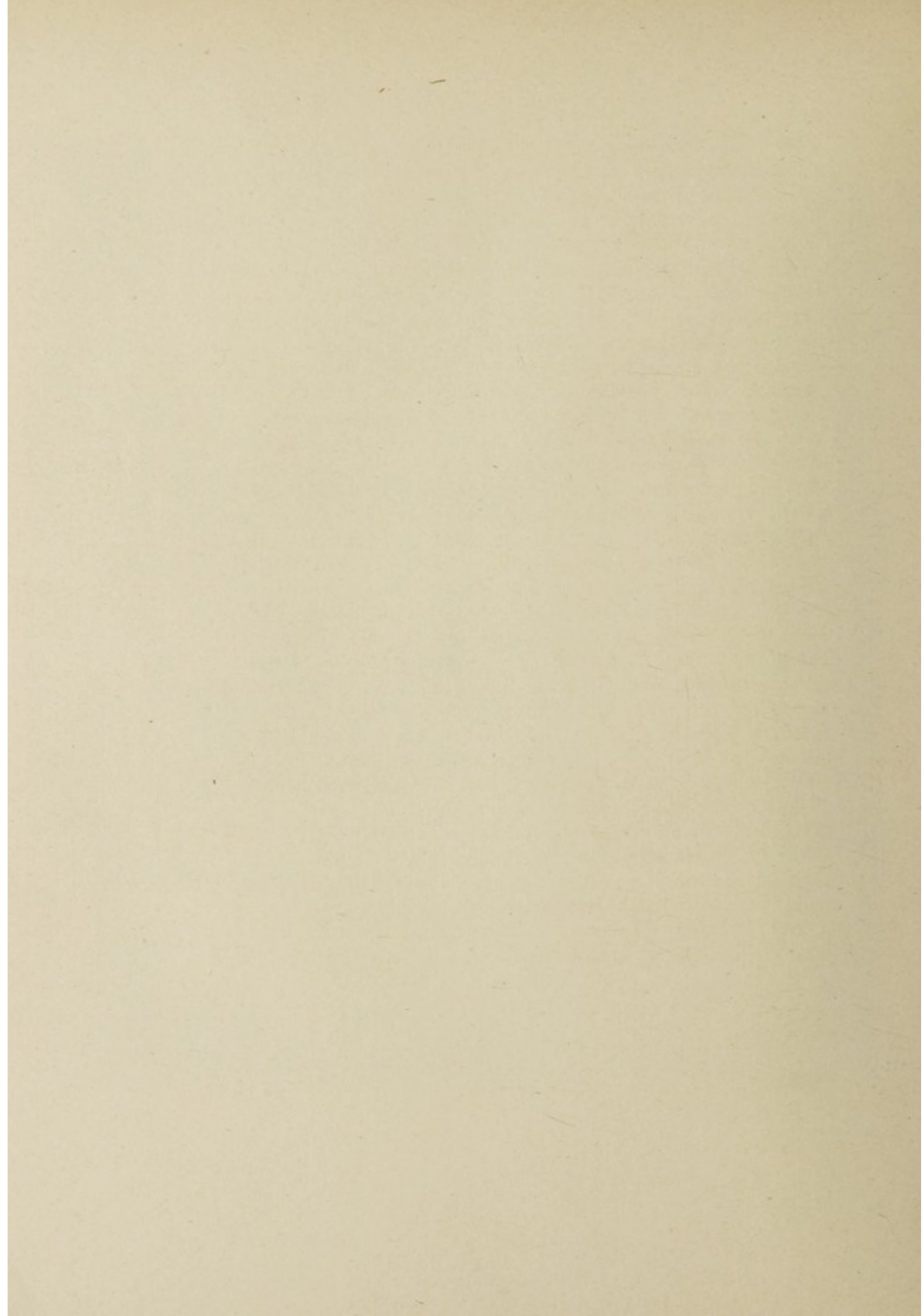
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assistants for the compounding and dispensing of drugs. It allowed the Society to receive fees for granting the respective licences, and to recover penalties for practising without such licences, the rights of the Surgeons and Physicians being duly reserved. Two restrictions under this Act were removed by an Amendment Act of 1874, namely those with regard to the twelve examiners, and a rule that candidates for examination should have served an apprenticeship of five years to an apothecary. At present the Apothecaries' Company is one of the three great medical licensing bodies for England and Wales. With regard to the permission, under the Charter of 1617, to make, buy and sell drugs; in former years members were allowed to raise money among themselves, and to create stocks or shares for the purpose of obtaining pure drugs, and to carry on such trade in the name of the Company for their own personal profit. Owing to such trade having resulted in a loss, this private partnership was dissolved at the end of 1880, and the Company now carries on this business in its corporate capacity.

For many years the Apothecaries held in trust the Botanic Garden at Chelsea. They had obtained a lease of the ground from Lord Cheyne as early as 1673, and it was secured to them under a grant from Sir Hans Sloane, dated February 16, 1722. It was to be used as a physic garden; if not so used the grant would become void, and in such event the garden was to be handed over, with similar restrictions, to the Royal Society and the College of Physicians. The trust was faithfully observed, a rent of £5 being paid to Sir Hans Sloane and his heirs. In 1733 a statue of Sir Hans by Michael Rysbrack was placed in the Garden. Throughout the eighteenth century, before London had invaded Chelsea, this garden flourished under a succession of able gardeners, of whom perhaps the most distinguished was Philip Miller, author of the *Gardener's Dictionary*;



Linnæus visited him here in 1736. In 1683 four cedars were planted in the garden near the river; they were then about three feet high, and two of them grew to be very fine trees. The larger one was fatally injured in a storm many years ago, and nothing but the stump remains; the other is standing, although in a moribund condition. By degrees the garden ceased to be of practical value, and the expenses connected with it became a severe tax on the resources of the Company, which has never been too well off. Within the last two or three years, an arrangement having been made with the London Parochial Charities' trustees, that body with some slight help from the Government has taken over the cost of maintenance. The ground is saved from being turned into streets and a square, a fate which at one time seemed imminent, the old buildings have been pulled down; a laboratory, a lecture room, glass-houses, etc., have been erected in their stead, and are used by students of botany from polytechnics and other educational establishments. The garden was opened under the new régime, July 25, 1902.

The first Hall and dispensary was founded in Water Lane, Blackfriars, in 1633, on the site of "Cobham's House," which belonged to Lady Howard of Effingham. References to it are few and far between, but it is worth while to mention that on January 29, 1660-61, Samuel Pepys saw a performance here of the play called the "Maid in the Mill," acted by Sir William Davenant's Company, to his "great content." They used this Hall whilst the building of their Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre was in progress. The Hall was destroyed in the Great Fire and the present structure erected shortly afterwards. Garth, in his "Dispensary," describes its position thus :

"Nigh where Fleet Ditch descends in sable streams,  
To wash his sooty Naiads in the Thames,  
There stands a structure on a rising hill,  
Where tyros take their freedom out to kill."



This, however, will no longer apply, for the Fleet ditch has disappeared, the "rising hill" is still perceptible, but the "tyros," after a stiff examination, are at least qualified to cure. It is, in truth, a charming old Hall, its attractions appearing perhaps all the greater, because, though on classic ground, it is now in the midst of commonplace surroundings, and close to the very modern railway station of Ludgate Hill. It is on the east side of Water Lane, and is built in the form of a quadrangle, having to the south Printing House Lane and to the north Playhouse Yard, both suggestive of old memories. On the former side is the entrance of the Dispensary and retail department, where the Society carries on business; the portion to the south is at present occupied by a well-known firm of typefounders. On passing from the street into the quiet courtyard one faces the Dining Hall, which is on the first floor, it is lighted by double tiers of windows, those above being circular, and by a circular window at the south end. Here is a handsome wooden screen, with the Apothecaries' arms splendidly carved, and below is the bust of Gideon Delaune, who, besides being principally concerned in obtaining the first charter, was of great service to the Company in other ways. His kinsman Thomas Delaune, author of a little book about London, says of him that "he lived piously to the age of ninety-seven years, and worth (notwithstanding his many acts of publick and private charity) nearly as many thousand pounds as he was years, having thirty-seven children by one wife, and about sixty grandchildren at his funeral. His famous pill is in great request to-day, notwithstanding the swarms of pretenders to pill-making." It seems, however, that he had only seventeen children, few of whom grew up, and his grandchildren were less than thirty in number. This bust was saved from the Great Fire; he is represented with a square beard, dressed in a robe, or perhaps in the livery of the Apothecaries. He held the office of



Master in 1637. The three chairs in front, for the Master and Wardens, were made in 1845-1847, from a branch of one of the cedars planted in the Physic Garden in 1683. So we are told by an inscription, which records the name of the then Master and Wardens. The oldest portrait in this room represents John Lorrimer, Master in 1654. There are here also portraits of James I., Charles I., William, Mary and Queen Anne. At the north end above the gallery, are the Royal arms. Picturesque banners adorn the room. This fact, and much more that is of interest, can be gathered from our friend's excellent lithograph. One of his figures is that of the Beadle, whose ancient and honourable office is frequently mentioned in the various records of the City Companies. We long to see him, if not with beard and ruff, at least in a cocked hat, his nether limbs arrayed in some more sightly garment than the hateful trouser.

From the Hall we pass to the Court-room on the north side, with its fine old panelling and pictures. The mantelpiece, which is shown in Mr. Way's second lithograph, has the following inscription carved in relief: "L. G. Altissimus de cælo creavit medicinam 1691." The text is from Ecclesiasticus, and has been rather a favourite one with doctors, but it is incorrectly given; the proper reading is "de terrâ." Above is a portrait of Gideon Delaune, here described as "Serenissimæ Annæ, Regis Jacobi primi Uxoris Pharmacopœus." Opposite is a really fine portrait head on panel of James I., wearing a black hat ornamented with jewels. His jewelled chain and lace collar are painted in masterly fashion, the face has been somewhat restored. A sketch, life size, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of John Hunter, is in excellent condition. The famous anatomist is represented with a yellowish brown coat, his left elbow resting on a table in an easy attitude. He has a rather thin grey beard and moustache. This portrait is of exceptional interest to students of Sir Joshua's method of oil painting.





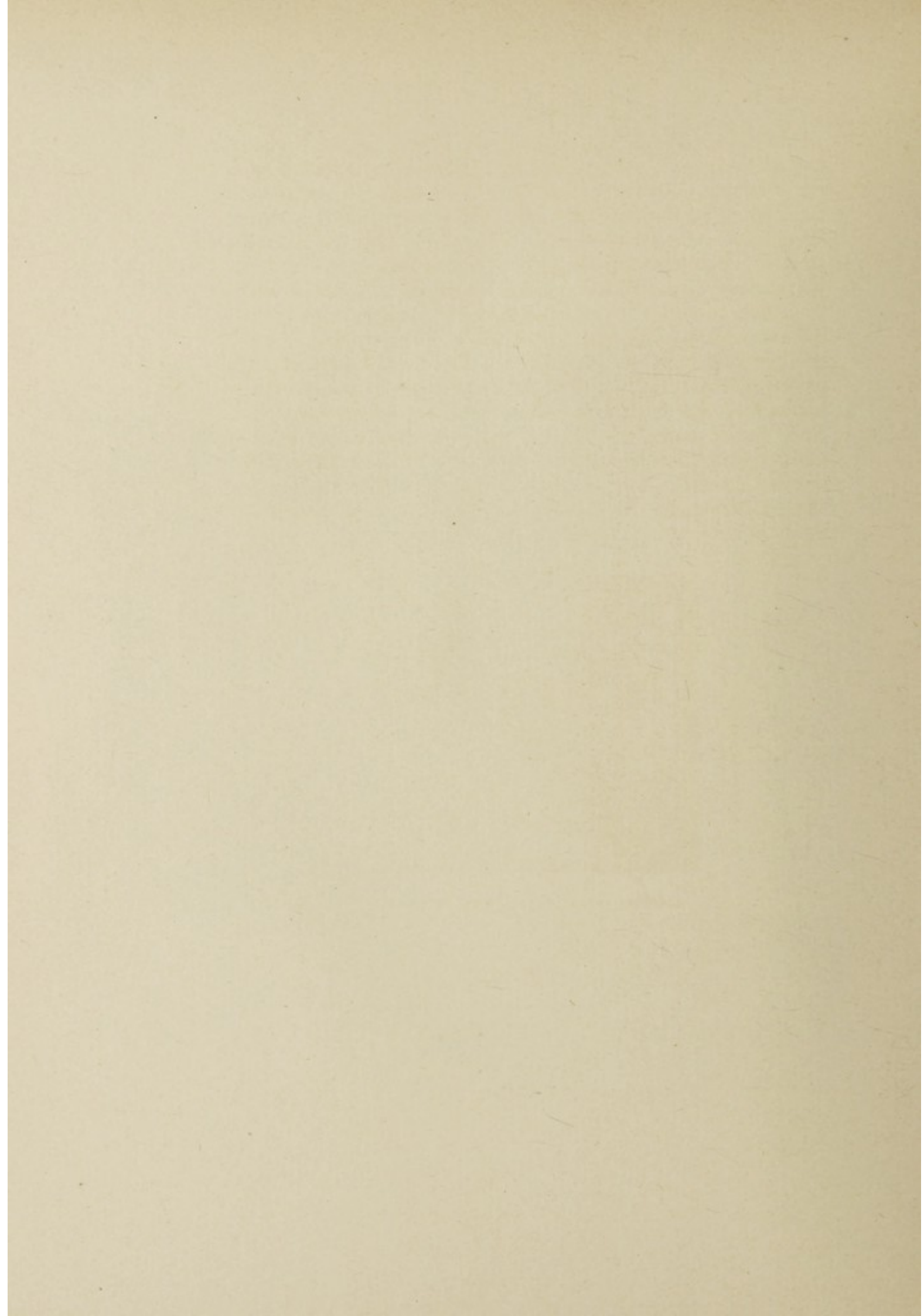
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Passing through the parlour one comes, at the back of the building, to a room added in 1892, where examinations for students now take place once a month. It overlooks the burial ground of the destroyed church of St. Anne, Blackfriars. The houses removed to build this room dated from immediately after the Fire. Close at hand is the factory, where large orders for drugs are executed under contract with the Government. To return to the older portion of the building; a narrow room near the staircase, on the north side of the courtyard, contains a number of quaint old books, chiefly on medicinal subjects. The staircase itself is massive and handsome. Some painted coats of arms in the windows date from the seventeenth century, and there are chairs of the Chippendale kind which make one long to break the eighth commandment. The ancient mortar which is figured in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for 1789, and mentioned in Pennant's "London," disappeared long ago.



APOTHECARIES' HALL. THE LIBRARY



## THE PARISH CLERKS' COMPANY

THE Guilds with which we have dealt until now, are often called Livery Companies, their chief members being Liverymen, who, if they take up the Freedom of the City of London, are also voters in the Parliamentary elections, and besides electing various civic officials propose each year two candidates for the office of Lord Mayor. All this is set forth in our introduction (page vii), and we had at first intended to confine ourselves to these more important Guilds. But on account of their picturesque surroundings we feel sure that kind readers will not object to our adding to the volume views of two or three halls belonging to companies which do not boast of liverymen, though each has a past full of interest to lovers of old London. No further apology is perhaps needed. We will, therefore, begin with the Parish Clerks' Company and its Hall—No. 24, Silver Street—the quiet little building, with a coat of arms above the entrance, which appears near the foreground of Mr. Way's lithograph.

The ancient Fellowship of Parish Clerks of London, Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, and fifteen out-parishes, was licensed as a guild as early as the year 1233, under the title of The Fraternity of St. Nicholas, who was the patron saint of scholars, and therefore by inference of clerks. We hardly like to mention the fact that he was also looked up to by thieves as their patron, it is said, not because he connived at their misdeeds, but because he once induced them to restore stolen property. Rowley, the dramatist, has



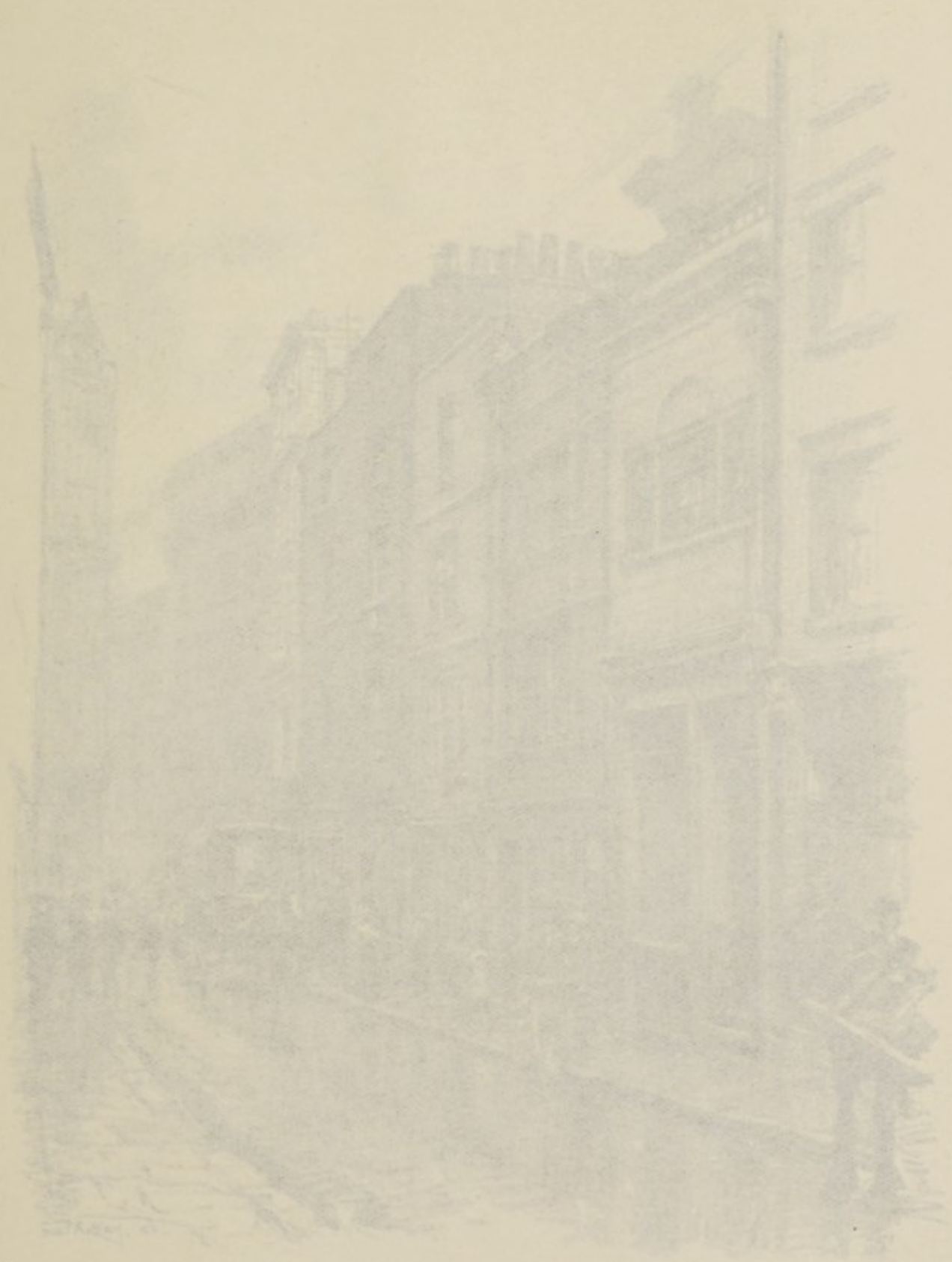
the expression "St. Nicholas's Clerks" as applied to highwaymen. A remarkable fact in the mediæval history of the parish clerks of London is that they performed each year a Scripture play by a holy well which came to be called after them, and has given its name to the populous district of Clerkenwell. Sometimes also they performed at Skinners' Well hard by, which was named after the Skinners, who were accustomed to play in like manner. Stow mentions a performance there by the parish clerks in 1390, taking them three days, at which the King and Queen were present, and another in 1409 lasting no less than eight days. There is in the possession of the present Company a remarkable manuscript, known as the Bede-Roll of the Fraternity of St. Nicholas, of the Parish Clerks of London. It is a long folio volume containing fifty leaves of vellum, with slips interspersed; the initial letters, titles, and principal names being illuminated. Amongst these names will be found Henry V. and Henry VI., John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk, Richard Neville Earl of Salisbury, Robert Neville Bishop of Norwich, Thomas Plantagenet Duke of Clarence, and the names of many other famous personages. Strype says that "formerly this Society of Parish Clerks used to attend great funerals, going before the hearse and singing, with their surplices hanging on their arms till they came to the church. Some certain days in the year they had their publick feaste, which they celebrated with singing and musick; and then received into their society such persons as delighted in singing or were studious of it. These their meetings and performances were in Guildhall College or Chappel."

In the twenty-fourth year of Henry VIII. the Company was dissolved and re-incorporated by patent; its first Charter was granted by James I. in 1611. Each parish clerk is herein directed "to bring to the Clerks' Hall weekly a note of all christenings and burials," this being required for the Bills of



Mortality, which the guild began keeping in the plague year of 1593, and issued weekly from 1603, when for a similar reason the mortality was still greater. In 1636 the Parish Clerks obtained permission to print the weekly bills at their Hall. The writer has in his possession a quaint volume with a very long title beginning, "New Remarks of London or a Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster, of Southwark and Part of Middlesex and Surrey, within the circumference of the Bills of Mortality." The date on it is 1732, and we are told that it was "collected by the Company of Parish Clerks." It contains useful information, but, to judge from the preface, was a private undertaking, at the most "reviewed, corrected, and approved by the Company."

The first Hall of the Parish Clerks was in Bishopsgate Street, on the east side near the City Wall. They had there also, besides other tenements, seven almshouses. They lost possession of this property in the reign of Edward VI., and established themselves in Broad Lane, Vintry Ward. Their second Hall being consumed in the Great Fire, the third and present Hall was shortly afterwards erected. It was approached originally from the west side of Wood Street, but after being damaged, about 1844, by a fire which destroyed several warehouses, the present entrance was made from Silver Street. Two rooms of moderate size are occupied by the Company on the first floor, the old-fashioned ante-room has a window with three lights, looking on to Silver Street, and contains a small organ with a nice case, purchased in the earlier part of the eighteenth century. In the windows of the adjoining Hall or Court-room there is some very curious painted glass. One piece contains a portrait of "John Clarke, Parish Clark of St. Bartholomew the Less, London, Master of this Co A<sup>o</sup> Dom 1675, ætatis suæ 45." He is represented with a dark skull cap, long hair, a moustache and a large falling band or collar. Another window has the date 1672.





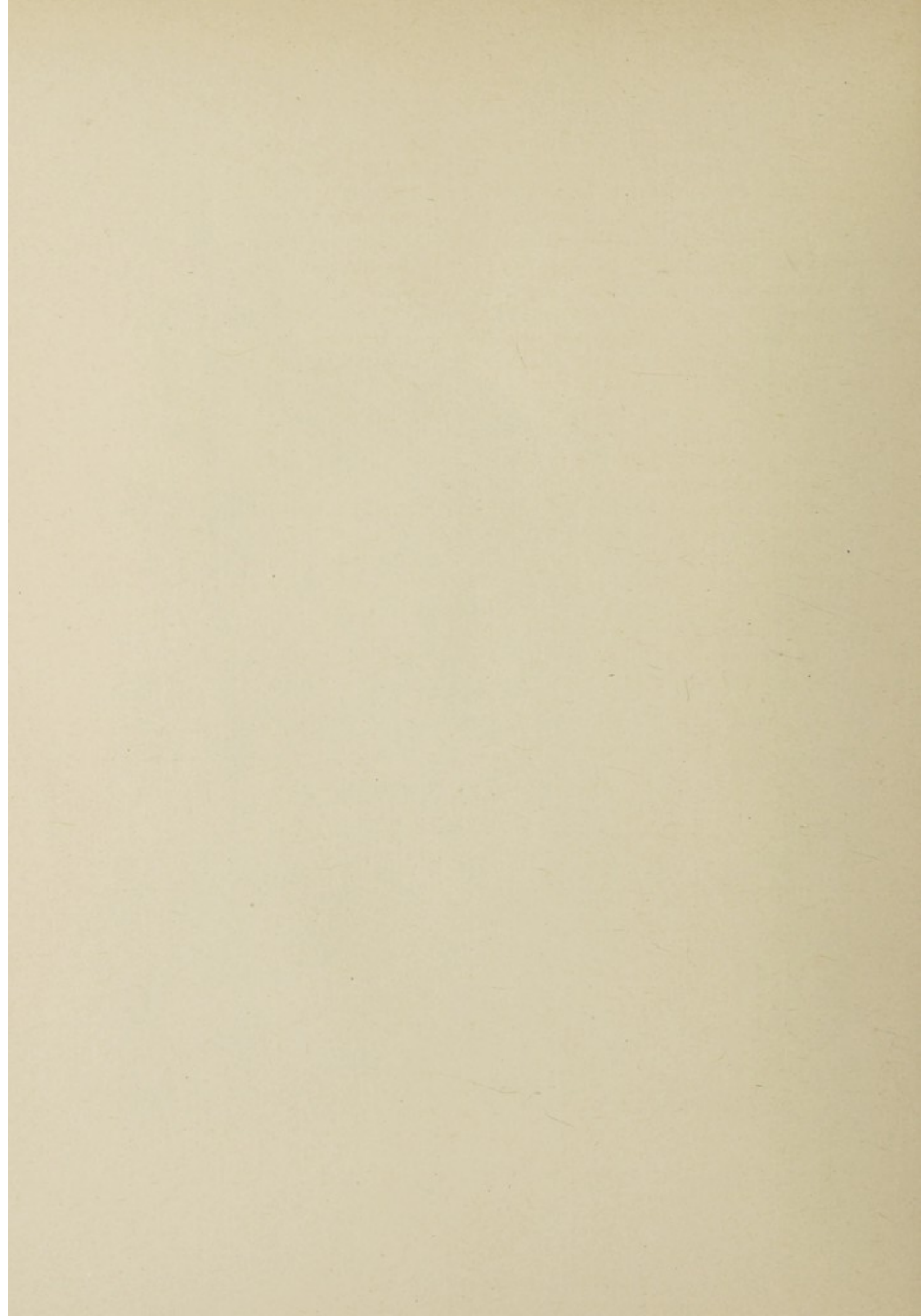
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Wm. K. B. 04. 02





There is a portrait of "William Roper, Esq., a worthy benefactor," dated 1709. The chair of the master and those used by the two wardens are remarkably good specimens of their kind. They were all at an exhibition of furniture held by the Science and Art Department at South Kensington in 1896. The Masters' chair was presented by Samuel Andrews, Master in 1716, that date being cut on the back, but it is considered to be as old as 1690. The top rail is carved with the arms of the Company, which, by the way, were granted in 1634. The crest, an open hand, bears a scroll inscribed with a chant for the 94th Psalm. A carved and pierced rail, joining the legs in front, has the crest in the centre at the top, with a scroll bearing a chant for the 10th Psalm. The front legs are carved, and expanded at the feet into knobs. Behind the back of the chair the lower part of a staff of office is fixed. The wood is walnut, a second chair being of the same material and of similar style and date. The third, of mahogany, is not older than about the year 1750. From the first floor a good old staircase leads up to the kitchen, which is above. The Company possesses almshouses at Denmark Hill, Camberwell. An account of this ancient Guild has been written by Mr. James Christie, and was printed for private circulation in 1893.



## THE WATERMEN'S COMPANY

MR. WAY has drawn a picturesque view in the street or lane called St. Mary-at-Hill, looking towards the fine steeple of the church of St. Margaret Pattens, and his lithograph has this advantage over the real scene, that one can enjoy it without being troubled by the "ancient and fish-like smell" which perennially pervades this region from the neighbouring market of Billingsgate. On the spectator's left two buildings are shown, each of modest size and without architectural pretension, but having, what modern buildings generally lack, an air of quiet harmony. The nearer of the two is Watermen's Hall, and we will now say a few words about the Company to which it belongs. From the time that London became a city, at least until the middle of the eighteenth century, the Thames, to which she owes her existence, was used by high and low not only for the transport of goods but as a means of communication. As early as the year 1280 the extent of jurisdiction of the Civic authorities over the river was marked in the lower reaches by the erection of a stone at Leigh, near Southend, and five years later a similar stone was placed on the bank at Colneditch, Staines, showing the limits of their jurisdiction above bridge. In 1293 the price for passengers from Gravesend to London appears to have been only a half-penny each. Prices had gone up when, in Lydgate's "London Lackpenny," a bargeman at Billingsgate rudely demanded two pence of the poor wayfarer. The fares of



London watermen, and others of their class, were first systematically regulated by a statute of Henry VIII., in the year 1514, and that monarch also established some almshouses for decayed watermen in Palace yard, Westminster. From existing printed documents we learn that in 1559-60 there was a regular tariff between London and Windsor and London and Gravesend, and the Company seems to have taken shape some time before. Many of the professional watermen who plied for hire on the Thames volunteered and did good service against the Spanish Armada. Stow, writing in 1598, says that there were then probably 2,000 wherries and other small boats, whereby at the least 3,000 men were maintained, and John Taylor the Water-poet, so called, has the boldness to assert that "the number of watermen and those that lived and were maintained by them, and by the only labour of the oar and scull, betwixt the bridge of Windsor and Gravesend could not be fewer than 40,000." This same John Taylor, himself a Thames waterman, has left much doggerel on the river and matters connected with it. He was as angry with those who used the road in preference to the river as old stage-coachmen may have been sixty years ago with travellers by rail. In a prose tract of 1623 he says: "I do not inveigh against any coaches that belong to persons of worth and quality, but only against the caterpillar swarm of hirelings. They have undone my trade whereof I am a member; and though I look for no reformation yet I expect the benefit of an old proverb, 'Give the losers leave to speak.'" In a pamphlet called "An Arrant Thief," he gives the approximate date of the introduction of those vehicles which so raised his ire:

"When Queen Elizabeth came to the crown  
A coach in England then was scarcely known;  
Then 'twas as rare to see one, as to spy  
A tradesman that had never told a lie."



Taylor wrote, as we have seen, in the early part of the seventeenth century. Long after that the Watermen flourished exceedingly, and although the time may soon arrive when, if our Capital is to hold its own, we may be compelled to make great changes in the government of the port of London, and such changes will doubtless affect the Watermen's Guild, it has always kept absolutely in touch with the craft, and it may at least point to a record of four centuries of honest work in the interests of the public and of the riverside population.

In the words of an article published in the "City Press" for January 14, 1903, "it binds apprentices, grants freedoms, and triennially renews licences of freemen, the number of whom exceeds 7,000. An equally important part of its duty is the measurement of all barges on the river, these craft numbering 10,000. It is also responsible for the measurement of all pleasure craft let out to the public below Teddington Lock, numbering between two and three thousand. The authority to measure these boats was obtained by the Company at great cost, in an Act passed in 1893, and it has proved a strong protection to the public, the number of lives lost through overcrowding since that date having been reduced to a minimum. Offenders against the rules of the river are brought before the Master and Wardens at what is called a Court of Complaints, which is held at Watermen's Hall on the last Thursday in every month. The offences for the most part consist of infringements of the bye-laws of the Company by working craft without the requisite number of licensed lightermen on board, working boats without a licence, carrying persons in excess of licence, and neglect of duty. At the weekly 'Rota' courts, masters of barges who wish to apply for a two years' licence for their apprentices, attend with the budding waterman and are duly examined as to his qualifications. The master has to pro-



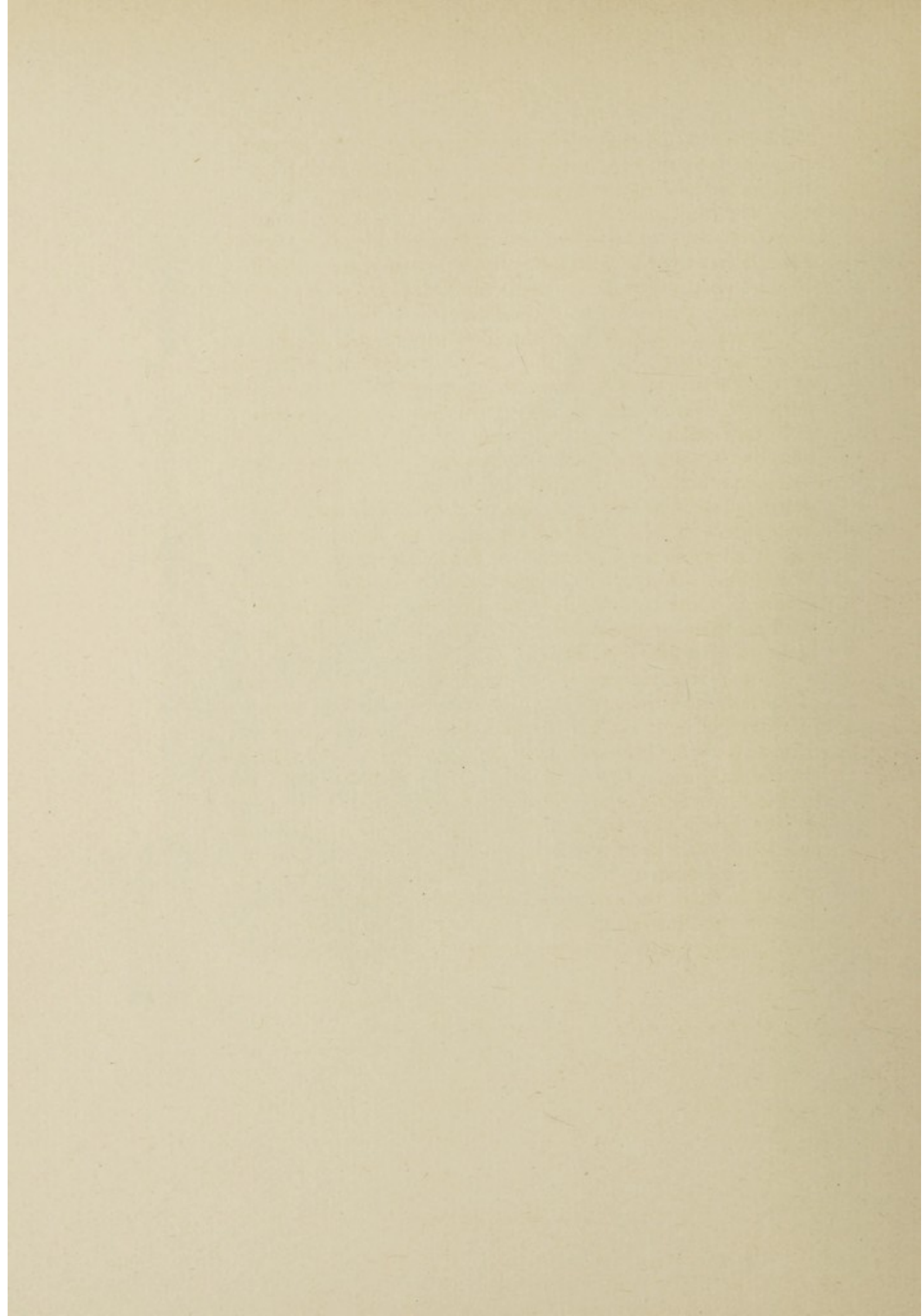


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In the words of an article published in the "City Press" for January 14, 1903, "It binds apprentices, grants freedoms, and annually renews licences of freemen, the number of whom exceeds 7,000. An equally important part of its duty is the measurement of all barges on the river, these boats numbering 10,000. It is also responsible for the measurement of all pleasure craft let out to the public below Tallow-son Lock, numbering between two and three thousand. The authority to measure these boats was obtained by the Company at great cost, in an Act passed in 1893, and it has proved a strong protection to the public, the number of lives lost through overcrowding since that date having been reduced to a minimum. Offenders against the rules of the river are brought before the Master and Wardens at what is called a Court of Complaints, which is held at Watermen's Hall on the last Thursday in every month. The offences for the most part consist of infringements of the bye-laws of the Company by working craft without the requisite number of licensed lightermen on board, working boats without a licence, carrying persons in excess of licence, and neglect of duty. At the weekly 'Rota' courts, masters of barges who wish to apply for a two years' licence for their apprentices, attend with the budding waterman and are duly examined as to his qualifications. The master has to pro-







duce a certificate, signed by himself and six other freemen, that the aspirant has served the whole period in craft, and that he is thoroughly competent. The binding of apprentices and the granting of freedoms, licences, and contract licences form part and parcel of a piece of machinery which has worked without interruption for several centuries." Much more information is given in this excellent article about the present efforts of the Watermen's Guild.

When Blackfriars and other city bridges were built, the Watermen received large sums as compensation for the loss of the Sunday ferries, maintained by them for charitable purposes. The dividends arising from such sources are now disbursed under the management of the Court in small pensions among poor and aged freemen and their widows. The construction of Vauxhall and Westminster Bridges also destroyed ferries belonging to what was known as "The Westminster Chest." Money paid as compensation for the loss of these ferries is devoted to the relief of Westminster Watermen. There are forty-seven almshouses at Penge founded by the contributions of members of the Company with the help of the public. There are also twelve almshouses at Ditchling in Sussex.

The Watermen established themselves in the earlier part of the seventeenth century on the site of the historic mansion of Cold Harbour, Upper Thames Street; indeed, to judge from a view by Hollar, they seem to have utilized part of the old building. Be this as it may, their Hall was destroyed in the Great Fire and rebuilt of brick shortly afterwards on the south-west angle of the same site. The structure appears to have been rebuilt again in 1719, and was sold and taken down about 1776 for the purposes of Calvert's Brewery. The Watermen then migrated to St. Mary-at-Hill. As appears in the illustration, their present Hall has a stone front, with pilasters and a pediment, the Watermen's arms and



crest decorating the ground storey. Here is an office where a vast amount of business is transacted, and by it Mr. L. S. White, the Clerk of the Company, has his private room, where hangs a curious old barometer, dated 1695. Here also are deposited Doggett's coat and badge, which are held for a year by the winner of the boat-race referred to on page 54, the competitors being young Watermen. The badge bears on it the white horse of Hanover, Mr. Doggett having been a strong Hanoverian. Here also are the keys of Portobello, an inscription telling one that they were presented to the Company by a Free Waterman who was a sailor on board one of His Majesty's ships in the expedition under the command of Admiral Vernon, which took that place in 1739. We are reminded of Strype's statement that in his time the Company could furnish on occasion 20,000 men for the fleet.

On the first floor in the pleasant Hall or Court-room, with the large window shown in our illustration, there is an interesting portrait of our old friend John Taylor, the Water-poet, at the age of 50, a bearded man with a reddish brown coat and falling collar. An inscription tells us that the Hall was built in 1780, that it was repaired in 1871, and that the Guild was incorporated in 1827.

## THE FELLOWSHIP PORTERS' COMPANY

THE plain brick building immediately north of Watermen's Hall has on a stone in front the following inscription : "This Hall was built Anno Domini MDCCLXXXVI. The Right Honourable Thomas Sainsbury Lord Mayor Alderman of this Ward and Governor of the Fellowship, John Kettermaster Deputy, William Banister Upper Ruler." Until within the last few years it was the home of the Fellowship Porters, who, however, towards the end of their existence as a Company, seem to have transacted their business at 22, Beer Lane. They were formed of two classes, tackle-porters and ticket-porters, having been united and constituted a brotherhood in the reign of James I., recognized as such by the Court of Common Council in 1646, and further regulated by that body in 1848. They were managed by a Governor, who was always the Alderman of the Ward of Billingsgate, and by a Court of Rulers. Their business was that of unshipping, landing, and housing various kinds of goods, and carrying corn, salt, coals, fish and fruit of all descriptions. Each ticket-porter used to wear, when at labour, a metal badge or ticket, inscribed with his name and number as registered. The writer possesses one of these badges ; it is of brass, and has on it the City Arms and the following inscription : "W<sup>m</sup> Giles, Fellowship Porter, 24 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1845. N<sup>o</sup> J G, 3." The badge is attached to a piece of leather containing a series of holes at regular intervals, through which cords are plaited. Belonging to it are two



oval and two round tickets or medals; the former have on them the words "Fellowship Fruit," the number 15, and engraved representations of a fruit tree, on the latter the number is omitted. By ancient custom a sermon was yearly preached to the Fellowship Porters on the Sunday after Midsummer at the church of St. Mary-at-Hill. That morning they assembled at their Hall and walked in procession to church, each carrying a nosegay. Whilst the Psalms were being read, from the Governor downwards they deposited alms in two basins set apart for the purpose. The money thus collected was given to aged and indigent Brethren. The Company, having apparently outlived its period of usefulness, was formally dissolved on June 24, 1894, the realized assets being, in part at least, divided among the surviving members. Fellowship Porters' Hall has been bought by the Watermens' Company, and is used for business purposes.

The task which we had set ourselves is now finished, and we will conclude by expressing our thanks collectively to the officials at the Guildhall, and to all those connected with the different Companies with whom we have come in contact, for their great kindness, which has made what was always a labour of love much less arduous than we had anticipated. It is for our readers to judge how far we have been successful.

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