

The Derby Company of Mercers.

BY H. ARNOLD-BEMROSE, M.A., F.G.S.



THE Magna Carta enacted that any merchants might buy and sell in England free from all unjust imposts, but some six centuries passed before all restrictions in trading were removed throughout the kingdom. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Magna Carta, liberties were given and confirmed to certain towns, amongst which was the right to a Gild Merchant. This was the exclusive right of trading in the borough. Derby had a Gild Merchant previous to the time of King John, for the Gild was confirmed by him, and afterwards by Henry III. and Edward III.

In 1330, the Burgesses of Derby were summoned to answer to the king by what warrant they claimed certain liberties, amongst which was the right to the Gild Merchant. According to the enquiry then made, certain individuals were jointly united, and asserted that they were of the Gild Merchant, and did not permit others to be of the same Gild unless they satisfied them beforehand [*i.e.*, paid a satisfactory fine]. No one could come into the town and sell his wares to anyone except to a member of the said society, and this at the pleasure of the buyer. Foreign merchants could only vend their merchandise wholesale, and then only to one of the brethren. The profit arising therefrom did not accrue to the advantage of the community of the town, but only to that of the members of the society, and these usages redounded to the injury, oppression, and pauperisation of the people. By reason of the Gild Merchant no foreign merchant could buy wholesale, wine, wool, woolfells, leather, or lead, from any foreigner, except from members of the same Gild. The

custom prevailed amongst them, that if anyone brought neat's leather, wool or woolfells into Derby to sell, and one of the Gild placed his foot on the thing to be bought, no one but a member of the Society would dare to buy it, nor would the merchant dare to sell it save to a member, nor for a higher price than that which the member of the Society offered.* The burgesses paid a fine of forty marks, and Edward III. restored to them the various liberties which he had questioned; among them that of a Gild Merchant, which was not to be used for the oppression of the people.

According to Dr. Gross, the Gild Merchant consisted of merchants and of artisans. About a century and a half after the first mention of a Gild Merchant, craft gilds came into existence. Each society consisted of workers in one branch of trade; and as labour became more subdivided, the number of these craft gilds increased. As the master craftsmen became more influential, the regulation of trade passed more and more into their hands, and eventually the Gild Merchant was replaced by the aggregate of craft societies. This change can be traced in various records; and in town charters the expression Gild Merchant disappeared, and that of freeman or burgess was substituted. In Derby, for example, the Charter of John (similar to that given to Nottingham) confirmed to Derby a Gild Merchant, whilst in the Charter of James it was ordered that no stranger should trade except at markets and fairs; and according to our present charter, granted by Charles II. in 1680 (five years after the formation of the Derby Company of Mercers), no person except a burgess or freeman of the borough was to exercise any occupation or mystery, or use any shop for the sale of merchandise in the borough, unless at the marts and markets.

The next step was the organization of the craft gilds into a single society: as Dr. Gross says, "the parts into which the old Gild Merchant had resolved itself were again fused into one body, which occupied a place in the civic polity, similar in many respects to that of the ancient Gild Merchant."

* Rot. Chart. 138. "Placita de quo warranto, 158-160." An English translation is given by Dr. Gross in his "Gild Merchant," Vol. I., pp. 40, 41. The above is an abstract.

He gives amongst others the following examples:—"In 1616 the Mercers' Company of Faversham was established by the Corporation. No person not free of the Company was to trade in the Town. Fellowship was not to interfere with the government of the Town, but only to deal with trade. This was confirmed by the justices of assize for Kent. Fifty-two trades were included in the Company.

"At Wallingford, all trades within the Borough were to consist of one body, to be called the Company of Drapers.

"In some places where the crafts were not numerous, the Company of Mercers included both general dealers and such as traded only in one kind of ware. In larger towns, as in London, production was so extensive, and subdivision of occupation so great, that there was no Company of Merchants at all, but Grocers, Mercers, Drapers, etc., had their separate associations . . . These Companies were not very numerous, and their organisation differed very much in different places."

This introduction, for which I am mainly indebted to Dr. Gross' book, and from which I have largely quoted in the preceding pages, will enable us to understand the exact position of the Derby Company of Mercers.

Derby is poor in municipal records, owing to the fire which burnt down the Town Hall in the early part of this century.

I believe the only records relating to the Mercers' Company are those in the possession of my father, Mr. H. H. Bemrose, which he has lent me for the purpose of writing this paper. They were given to him more than thirty years ago by the late Mr. John Sandars (Mayor 1839-40), together with several other papers of interest relating to Derbyshire. Mr. Sandars had kept them in a desk in the Moot hall, used by him as a warehouse.

The minute book was lent for a short time to the late Mr. Ll. Jewitt, who gave a few extracts from it in his articles on "Derbyshire Tokens," and on "Public-house Signs in Derby."* Beyond these, and a mention of the existence of the Charter and Company in Appendix I. to the Derby Corporation Act, 1877,

* See "The Reliquary."

written by my father, there is no mention of this Mercers' Company. The object of this paper is to place on record the grant, by-laws, etc., of the Company, and to give a slight sketch of the work done by it, such as can be gathered from the few documents, etc., extant.

They consist of—

- (a) The original grant from the Corporation.
- (b) The minute-book or records.
- (c) An agreement between the Company and John Booth.
- (d) Several certificates of membership, or rather of brethren-ship. And
- (e) A roll of the officers in 1720.

The minute book consisted of 372 pages, numbered by hand, a title page, and two blank pages at the beginning, and one at the end; altogether 376 pages. The size of the book is $18\frac{3}{4}$ by 7 inches. It is full bound in parchment, and fastened with two pairs of coarse tape ties. On each page is a margin of $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches made by a red line ruled from top to bottom. On each sheet $18\frac{3}{4}$ by 14 inches (two pages) are two watermarks, one a bird with fruit placed in a circle of two inches in diameter, with a simple internal border; and the other a simple design, probably a monogram, on another part of the sheet.

Although on the title page it is stated that there are 272 pages in the book, there have been just one hundred more. The mistake has been made at page 311, which has been wrongly numbered 211, and the error is continued throughout the book.

The first thirteen pages contain a copy of the grant, of the warden's bond, of the members' bond, of the two obligations and subscriptions of members. Pages 14 to 49 are blank. The minutes occupy pages 50 to 133, with the exception of pp. 118 to 121, which are missing, and which were torn out with pages 134 to 137. The alphabetical list of apprentices occupies pages 321 to 352, and the rest are blank. Pages 236 to 278 have been cut out with a sharp instrument, and those from 279 to 234 have been used for pressing leaves, and, as a result, parts of them have become rotten.

This Booke

Contains the Graunt to the
Company of Mercers. from
The Right Worpp: full the Major
Aldermen Breethren and
Comon Councill of Derby.

Given under there Comon Seale
the seaventh day of January 1674.

George Blakwell Esqr Major S^r

Symon Degg Kn^t Recorder &

Thomas Gery Gent Towne Clarke of
this Auntient Burrough

W^{ch} Graunt Statutes Ordinances

& By Laws Were confirmed by

S^r Hugh Windam Kn^t S^r Edward

Thurland Kn^t Two of his Majesties

Iudges of Assize in there Circuit

at Derby 28th July Ann: Regn:

Caroli 2^o Reg Angl: &c 27^o

Anno Dom: 1675.

A Register

Of all the p^rsent members & ffreemen

of the Mercers Company

and there

Obligacons & Subscriptions,

under there severall Hands And

Seales to w^{ch} Register shall

be Added such as hereafter shall

become Freemen of the Company.

A Register

Of all Apprentices

Space

for By Laws.

& Roome

To Record

Generous Benefactors

Pages

GRANT TO THE COMPANY OF MERCERS.

[The original grant to the Mercers' Company is written on two skins of parchment 31 by 25½ inches and 21½ by 25½ inches respectively. The memorandum concerning the sealing and confirmation of the by-laws is on the back of the first skin. The grant has been copied into the minute book, and the spelling of some of the words been altered. Below, I have followed the spelling and wording of the grant, but arranged it in paragraphs, and inserted marginal notes for easier reference.]

To all Christian people to whom this p'sent writeings shall come. Wee the Maior & Burgesses of the Burrough of Derby in the County of Derby send greetinge.

The Mayor & Burgesses have power to make Bylaws.

Whereas by severall Letters Pattents, Granted by severall of his Ma^{ties} Progenitors Ancestors & Predecessors Kings & Queenes of this his Highness Realme of England, and confirmed by his most sacred & most excellent Majest^e King Charles the Second, now King of England, Scotland, ffrance, and Ireland, Defender of the ffaith &c. by his Letters Pattents under the great Seale of England, Wee the Major & Burgesses of the Burrough of Derby aforesaid, are authorized & enabled to make Orders & By Laws for the good & wholesome governm^t of the said Burrough of Derby; & findeing by experience that the erectinge of Companies & Societies for the Inspection & regulating of trade & commerce in the said Burrough, and avoydinge fraudes and deceipts in the way of trade, which are scandalous to tradsmen, and tend much to the impoverishinge and damage of honest & just dealers, Wee have therefore thought ffit, accordinge to the laudable practice & precedents of the City of london, and divers other Citties Burroughes and Corporations within this Realme, approved & allowed to ordayne, erect, constitute, make, and create the Mercers, Apothecaries, Grocers, Ironmongers, Uphousters, and Milliners of this Burrough, into a Company, Society, ffraternity, or Brotherhood, to be governed, Inspected,

They determine to constitute the Mercers' Company.

& Regulated by a Steward, two Wardens, and tenn Brothers, by the name of the Company, Society, ffraternity, or Brotherhood of Mercers.

And wee doe by theis presents, as much as in us is, make, erecte, constitute, ordaine, and create the said Mercers, Apothecarys, Grocers, Ironmongers, Uphoulsters, & Milliners into one Company, Societie, ffraternitie & Brotherhood, in all tymes to come, to be governed, regulated & ordered by a Steward, two Wardens and tenn Brothers of the same trades.

And wee doe further by these presents, make, constitute, & appoynte John Taylor mercer, to be present Steward of the said Company, Societie, fraternitie, & Brotherhood untill Tuesday in Easter weeke next but one ensueing after the date of theis presents.

And that the said present Steward & his successors shall have precedency in all meetings and assemblies of the said Company, Societie, fraternity, & Brotherhood; and have power & Authority to summon & assemble together the said Wardens and Brothers, at such tymes & place as hee shall thinke meet & convenient, to consult & advise together, concerninge the good orderinge & advancement of the said trade of Mercers, Apothecarys, Grosers, Ironmongers, Uphoulsters, & Milliners within the said corporation. **And** for the preserveinge the Rights of the said severall tradesmen & theire trades; and to propound in all such assemblies & meetings, all such matters & things, as by the said steward for the tyme beinge & his successors, shall be thought needfull, fitt, & convenient. And at his & theire wills & pleasures to dissolve & dismiss such meetings & assemblies.

And that it shall be lawfull for the said present steward & his successors to appoynte one Register, for the enteringe & recordinge of all orders, By Lawes, & decrees made in such assemblies & meetings.

And appoynte one Beadle for the summoninge of such meetings & assemblies, & attendinge upon such meetings & assemblies, whilst they shall continue in councell; which said

They constitute the Mercers, Apothecaries, Grocers, Ironmongers, Upholsterers, and Milliners into one Company to be governed by a Steward, two Wardens, and ten Brothers.

The Present Steward appointed.

The Steward to have precedence at meetings. Power to

(1) Summon meetings and to decide upon the business to be transacted.

(2) To dissolve meetings.

(3) To appoint a Register for recording orders, &c.

(4) To appoint a Beadle for summoning meetings &c.

officers & ministers shall have such fees salaries & allowances, as the said steward wardens & brothers, or the major parte of them, shall think ffit & allowe.

The Present Wardens appointed.

And wee the said Maior and Burgesses aforesaid, for the ends aforesaid, doe further, ordayne, make, constitute, & appoynt, Francis Marshall upholster & George Fletcher Apothecary, to bee the present Wardens of the said Company, Society, fraternity, & Brotherhood, to continue in the said office or place untill the said Tuesday in Easter weeke next but one ensueinge after the date hereof; whose office & duty shall be, to be Attendant on & Assistant to the said steward, & receive, keep, and dispose of all sums of money, collected, raised, & obtayned by the said Company, Society, fraternity, & Brotherhood, for the benefitt of the same, in such manner as shall be ordered by the steward wardens & brothers of the said Company, Societie, fraternity, & Brotherhood, for the time beinge, or the maior parte of them, whereof the Steward to bee one.

The Wardens to assist the Steward, receive and spend the money of the Company.

The Wardens to enter into bonds, and pay ba'ance to their successors in one month after removal from office.

And the said wardens shall at their enteringe into the said office, enter into severall bonds, of such penalties as the Steward of the said Company, Society, fraternity, & Brotherhood for the time beinge shall think meet, for the giveinge a true accompt of all the moneys by them received, for the use & benefitt of the said Company, Society, fraternity, & Brotherhood of their severall disbursments.

And that they shall paie over what shall remayne in their hands upon the foot of their said accompte, to their successors within one Moneth after they shall be removed from their said places offices & employments.

The present brethren appointed, and to continue for life unless removed.

And wee doe further Ordaine, constitute, & appoynt William Parker, Mercer; William Hanford, Mercer; John Dunnidge, Groser; Nathaniell Doughty, Mercer; Thomas Gery, Apothecary; Samuel Fletcher, Mercer; Samuel Cheshire, Mercer Richard Piggin, Mercer; Henry Holmes, Apothecary; and Thomas Widdowson, Ironmonger; to be the present brethren of the said Company, Societie, fraternity, & Brotherhood, to continue

in the said place, duringe life, unless any of them for reasonable cause to be allowed, shall be removed by the said Steward & Wardens & Brothers, or the major part of them.

And wee further to the end aforesaid, doe ordayne, constitute, & appoynt by these presents, that the said Steward, Wardens, & Brothers, for the tyme being, shall for ever upon the Tuesday in Easter week, yearly assemble together, at such place other then the Guildhall of the said Burrough of Derby, which for the purpose may be used by the said company, upon special license to be obtayned from the Maior of the said Burrough for the tyme beinge, & at such tyme as the Steward of the said company, for the time beinge, shall appoynt, for the chuseing of new stewards & wardens yearely, for the yeare ensuinge, which shall continue in the said places untill the Tuesday in Easter week then next ensueing.

The Steward Wardens and Brothers to meet every Tuesday in Easter week, to choose new Steward and Wardens for the year.

And in Case of death, or removall of the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, or any of them; it shall be lawfull for soe many of the said Steward, Wardens, & Brothers as shall bee survivinge, or not removed, or the major part of them, to meet at any convenient tyme & place, to be assigned by the Steward of the said Company, Society, ffraternity, & Brotherhood, if such steward then bee; but if in case the Office or place of Steward be vacant by death or otherwise, then the tyme and place to be assigned by the Major part of the Wardens, & Brothers then living, for the election of a new Steward, Warden or Wardens, Brother or Brothers, & these to elect the same to continue in the said office, untill the Tuesday in Easter week next after such election.

In case of death or removal the surviving officers to meet & choose a new Steward, Warden, or Brother.

And to the end that some good use, & effect may proceed from this, our Reducinge of the said trades into one Company, Society, ffraternity, & Brotherhood, Wee doe by these presents order, decree, & give the said Stewards, Wardens, and Brethren Liberty, Licence, & Authority, as much as in us is, to make orders, & By lawes, for the good Government & Regulation of the said trades & tradesmen aforesaid, hereby reduced into one Company, Society, ffraternity, & Brotherhood, soe as the

The Stewards, Wardens, and Brothers have power to make Orders and By-laws, which are not contrary to the laws of the kingdom or the rights of the Borough.

same be not repugnant or contrary to the Lawes of this Kingdome, nor any of the Customes, Priveledges, & Rights of the said Burrough of Derby.

The various Tradesmen are to obey these Bylaws.

And we further will comand & ordayne, that all the Mercers, Apothecaryes, Grocers, Ironmongers, Uphousters, & Milliners, which shall exercise any of the said trades, within this said Burrough of Derby, be obedient to, & observe such orders, & By lawes, as the said Steward, Wardens, & Brothers of the said Company, Society, fraternity, & Brotherhood, shall from tyme to tyme, make, order, constitute, & appoynt as aforesaid.

Names of apprentices to be entered in the Registry of the Company within one month.

And it is further (to the end aforesaid) ordered, & decreed by us, that if any person or persons, that shall use any of the said trades of Mercers, Apothecaryes, Grocers, Ironmongers, Uphousters, or Milliners, within the said Burrough, shall take or receive any person or persons, to be his Apprentice, in such trades, that then there shall be an entry made in the Registry of the said company within one Moneth after the takinge of such Apprentice, and that his Seaven yeares service as an Apprentice shall Comence & be taken notice of, only from the tyme of such entry ; for which Entry the said Register shall not take above twelve pence. And that all such Apprentices, shall be enroled in a booke, to be kept by the Towne Clarke or Comon Clarke of the said Burrough of Derby, for that purpose.

Their seven years' service to commence at time of entry.

Registrar not to charge more than twelve pence.

All apprentices to be enrolled by the Town Clerk.

No person to take any apprentice at large.

And to the end that noe person or persons, using any of the said trades within the saide Burrough, may for the tyme to come, use any fraud in the takeing of such Apprentices, to the preiudice of this Corporation & Burrough ; Be it further ordered & ordayned that noe person shall take any Apprentice at Large, but only such as shall be actually employed in such trades by the Maister of such Apprentice, uppon the proper Stock of such Maister, during all the tyme of his Apprentishipp, uppon paine that such Maister that shall doe, shall be disinfranchised by the said Major & Burgesses of the said Burrough of Derby, and such Apprentice incapable of being a ffreeman of the said Burrough.

If he does he shall be disfranchised, and the apprentice be incapable of becoming a Freeman of the Borough.

And that there may be noe fraud or deceit used in any of the said trades, to the dishonor of this Burrough, be it further ordered & decreed that the said Wardens may as often as they shall see occasion, enter into the Shoppes & Warehouses of any person or persons using any of the said Trades of Mercers, Apothecaries, Grocers, Ironmongers, Upholsters, & Milliners, to Attest, Assay, & try their Weights & Measures and their goods, Wares, & Merchandizes, whether the same be good, merchantable, & vendible, & upon default found in any of the premises, the offender or offenders for any offence Committed therein, shall paie to the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren of the said Societie, the sume of three shillings & foure pence. And the said Major & Burgesses shall be informed Concerning the offence aforesaid, that they may proceed to punish the offenders according to Lawe.

The Wardens may enter into shops, to test weights and measures and goods.

If faulty, the offenders to pay 3s. 4d., and be reported to the Corporation for punishment.

And it is further for the intents aforesaid, & for the preserveing the Rights & liberties of the said Burrough, & of the aforesaid tradesmen, ordered & decreed, that upon necessary occasion it shall & may be lawfull to & for the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, or the Major part of them, in their assemblies & meetings to be summoned in forme aforesaid, to make equall & indifferent taxations & assessments, upon every member of the said Company, Society, ffraternity, & Brotherhood, according to the stocke & trade hee & they drive & have, within the said Burrough, for & towards prosecuteing or defending of any suite or suites, for the Maynetayeneing of the liberties, ffreedomes, & customes of the aforesaid Burrough, & of their said respective trades, and that in Case of Refusall to be payd, they shall & may Levye the same by distress.

The Steward, Warden, and Brethren may tax every member according to his stock and trade, for Expenses of suits for maintaining the liberty of the Borough and the respective trades, and may levy by distress if the tax be not paid.

And it is further ordered & decreed, that upon the death or other Removeall of the Steward, Warden, or Wardens of the said Company, Society, ffraternity, & Brotherhood, the succeeding Steward & Wardens shall, Annually or otherwise, be chosen out of the tenn Brethren, & as often as the Brethren of the said Company, Society, ffraternity, & Brotherhood

The Steward and Warden to be chosen from amongst the ten brethren.

New Brethren to be chosen from amongst the most discreet, honest, and able persons of the said trades.

shall dye or be removed, that the said Steward, Wardens, & Brothers, or the Major parte of them surviveing, shall chuse one or more Brother or Brothers, as the case shall require, for the filling upp the said Number & Company, of the Discreetest, Honestest, & Ablest persons of the said trades of Mercers, Apothecaryes, Grocers, Ironmongers, Uphoulsters, & Milliners within the said Burrough, to continue as aforesaid for life.

All members to give security for obedience to the Stewards, Wardens, and Brethren and to all By laws and orders made by them.

And it is further ordered & decreed, that all the Members of the said Company shall give securitie, to the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, to be obaydient to the Steward, Wardens, & Brethren for the tyme being, in their severall places & offices, and to performe, observe, & keep all By lawes & orders, made by the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, or the Maior part of them, in forme aforesaid.

For refusing office or neglecting duty a fine of £5.

And if the Steward, Wardens, & Brothers, or any of them, to be elected, shall refuse to take upon him his said office or place of Stewardshipp, Wardenshipp, or Brotherhood, or shall after that hee hath taken upon him the said place, be willfully negligent & remiss in the due execution of his said office, and be thereof judged by the Major parte of the said Company, uppon due examination thereof, hee shall forfeit to the use of the said Company, for every such refuseall, or willfull neglect, & remissness, ffive pounds.

Every member to attend on the day of the Annual Election in his Gown or Cloak and pay two shillings to the Wardens under a penalty of ten shillings.

And that every one of the said Company, which hath not leave of the Steward of the said Company, to be absent, shall yearly uppon the said day of Election, Attend in their Gownes or Cloakes uppon the Steward, Wardens, & Brethren of the said Company, untill the said Election be fully ended; & shall alsoe uppon that day, truly pay unto the Wardens of the said Company, two shillings a peece, towards making up a publique Stock for the use of the said Company, to be employed at the discretion of the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren of the said Company, Society, ffraternity, & Brotherhood, for the tyme being, uppon paine of every one that shall faile or offend therein in any part of this order, to forfeite to the use of the said Company, for every tyme that hee soe faileth or offendeth, tenn shillings.

And it is further Ordered & Decreed, that every one of the said Company shall Conceale & keepe the Councells of the said Company, which are to be concealed & kept, & not to Disclose the same to any other not beinge of the same Company. And that every one of the said Company, shall, uppon reasonable warneinge given unto him, appeare before the Steward of the same Company, for the tyme being, at such place within the said Burrough, where the said Steward shall appoynt, for about any business of the said Company or for or about any person or persons of the said Company.

Every member to conceal the counsels of the Company, and when warned, to appear before the Steward under a penalty of twelve pence.

And alsoe that every person of the said Company, shall duely & respectively Carry & behave himselfe, as well towards the Maior, Aldermen, & Justices of the Corporation of Derby, as towards the said Steward, Wardens, & Brothers of the said Company, for the tyme beinge, without givinge them, or any of them, evill or unseemely words or behaviour, uppon payne, that every one that shall doe anything Contrary to this Ordinance & Order, or any parte thereof, shall for every such offence or neglect, forfeit to the use of the said Company, Six shillings Eight pence, and for not comeinge uppon warneinge Twelve pence.

To behave as well towards the Mayor, Aldermen, and Justices, as towards the Steward, Wardens, and Brothers, under a penalty of six shillings and eightpence.

And it is further Ordered & Decreed, that noe person that shall hereafter serve his Apprentishipp Seaven yeares to any of the aforesaid Trades in the said Burrough, shall be a freeman of the said Company, or admitted to keepe open shopp, or use his Trade in the said Burrough, before hee shall have first beene approved by the Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, or the Major parte of the said Company, for his Due Service & Apprentishipp; and upon their approbation, shall enter into a Bond of Tenn pounds, faithfully & truly to performe & keepe all & every of these Ordinances & Orders, And shall have subscribed his name for the performance of these Ordinances, And shall be presented to the said Major & Burgesses of the said Burrough of Derby, to bee sworne a Burgess of their Corporation.

No apprentice who has served his seven years to be a freeman of the Company or allowed to keep a shop or trade in the Borough before he has been approved by the Steward, Wardens & Brethren: If approved he shall enter into a bond of ten pounds, and subscribe his name for the performance of the orders, and be presented to the Corporation to be sworn a Burgess.

No person who has not served a due apprenticeship in one of the said trades to one of the Company in the Borough, to be made a Freeman of the Company without the consent of the officers and of the major part of the other Free-men of the Company, nor to keep a shop nor use any of the said trades, under a penalty of five pounds for every month he offends.

The Steward Wardens and Brethren have power of distrain against offenders and to sue them for debt in a Court of Record.

Master to bind apprentice and seal his indentures within six weeks, or forfeit six shillings and eightpence for each month he offends.

And it is further Ordered & Decreed, that noe person or persons not havinge served an Apprentishipp in some of these Trades aforesaid, Duely & truely to some one of the said Company in the said Burrough, by the space of Seaven yeares at the least, shall be made a ffreeman of the said Company, without the Consent of the Steward, Wardens, & Brethren of the said Company, for the tyme being, And of the major part of the other ffreemen of the said Company, nor shall keepe open shopp, nor use any of the said trades appertayneinge to the said Company, within the said Burrough, upon payne that every such person that shall doe Contrary to this Ordinance & Order, or any parte thereof, shall fforfeit, for every Moneth that hee shall soe offend, to the use of the said Company, ffive pounds.

And it is further Ordered & Decreed, that it shall be Lawfull to & for the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren of the said Company, for the tyme beinge, or any two of them, to enter, from tyme to tyme, into any house or houses, shopp or shoppes of any offender or offenders contrary to any of the Order or Orders, Ordinance or Ordinances herein specified, And there to the use of the said Company, to take & Carry away any goods or chattells of every such offender or offenders, by way of distress, And the same to Detayne & Keepe, to the use of the said Company, untill the fforfeiture or fforfeitures for which they or any of them shall be soe taken & distrayned, shall be truely paied to the Steward, Wardens, or Brethren of the said Company, for the tyme beinge, to the use of the said Company, or to sue or Implead any of the said offenders, in the Court of Record within the aforesaid Burrough, upon an Accon or severall Accons of debt, as the Case shall require, for any of the said fforfeitures herein contayned, at their discretion, or in any other Court of Record.

And it is further Ordered & Decreed, that what person soever of the said Company shall take a servant to be an Apprentice, shall Cause his said servant to be bound, And his Indentures to be Sealed within one Moneth or Six Weekes at the ffarthest after his Comeinge unto him, or else hee shall forfeit & paie

to the use of the said Company, for every Moneth that hee soe keepeth him longer unbound Contrary to this Ordinance, Six Shillings & Eight pence.

And it is further ordered & decreed that if the Maister of any Apprentice of the aforesaid Company, happen to dye before his Apprentice hath served out his yeares for which hee is or shall be bound an Apprentice, then the said Apprentice or Apprentices shall be put over at the discretion of the Steward & Wardens of the said Company. And if it happen the Steward to be dead, then at the discretion of the Wardens, to serve out the rest of the said Tearme of his Indentures, with some other ffreeman of the said Company, And not to be suffered to sett upp or use any of the said trades belonginge to the aforesaid Company, untill hee or they have fully served out the whole tearme of his Indentures, or else shall Agree & Submitt himself to abide such order, And to paie such ffine, as shall be appoynted & determined, by the Steward, Wardens, & Brethren of the said Company, or the major parte of them, and by the said Maier & Burgesses of the said Burrough of Derby.

And that the Executors or Administrators of such Maister as shall soe dye, shall paie to such person or persons to whom such App'ntice or Apprentices shall be soe put over, soe much of such s^ume or s^umes of money which such Maister that soe dyeth hath received, or is to receive, with such Apprentice, as the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, or the Major parte of them, shall appoynt; And if such Executors or Administrators shall not within ffoureteen days after such appoyntment made & notice given thereof unto them, paie such s^ume or s^umes of money as shall be soe Appoynted, that then such Executors or Administrators shall loose double the value of such s^umes soe appoynted.

And it is further Ordered & Decreed, that noe person or persons of this Company, Society, ffraternity, or Brotherhood, or thire successors, shall or doe at any tyme or tymes hereafter, sell or put to sale, any sort of fflannelle, (those already

If a master dies before an apprentice has served his time, the apprentice shall be put over to some other Freeman of the Company at the discretion of the Steward and Wardens, and must not use any of the said trades before serving out his term, unless he pays a fine to be determined by the Officers of the Company and by the Corporation.

Executors of the deceased master to pay to the new master such portion of moneys received from such apprentice as the then officers may appoint, within fourteen days of such appointment, under a penalty of twice the amount appointed.

No member or his successors to sell flannel under penalty of a fine of sixpence for every yard sold.

in their or any of their hands excepted) upon Payne, to forfeit for every yard sold or putt to sale by him or them, the sum of Six pence, to the use of the said Company, Society, fraternity, & Brotherhood.

The Wardens to hand their accounts to their successors within a month of the termination of office, or to forfeit ten shillings for each month's offence, and be disfranchised, unless they show cause to the contrary to the Mayor and Common Council.

Item that the said Wardens shall within one Moneth next after their yeare ended, make & yeild upp unto the succeeding Wardens elected, a just and true accompt of all such sumes of money & forfeitures as they have any wayes had or received, duringe their tyme of beinge Wardens, upon payne to forfeit for every Moneth afterwards neglecting, Tenn shillings to the present Wardens, for the use of the said Company or Society, & besides disfranchised, if they shew not good cause to the Major & Comon Councill of the said Burrough of Derby, at the next ensueinge Comon Hall, to the contrary.

The Company indemnifies the Corporation against actions which may be taken against it by reason of doing anything in pursuance of this grant.

Item it is further fully & mutually Condescended to & Agreed by all of the aforesaid Society or Company, that if any Suite or Suites, shall at any tyme or tymes hereafter be comenced & sued or prosecuted, against the said Major & Burgesses of this Burrough, for the tyme being, or their Successors, or against their or any of their officer or officers belonginge to the said Maior or his successors, or against any of the said Society or Company, or any of their officers or ministers, for or by reason of any Acte or thing herein contayned, or for the execution of anything herein contayned, or for Acteing or Doeing anything, in pursuance or execution thereof, that then they of the said Society or Company & their Successors, shall & will, from tyme to tyme & at all tymes hereafter, save keep Harmless & Indempnified, the said Maior & Burgesses & their Successors, And all & every their officers & ministers belonging to the said Maior, their heirs, executors, & their & every of their Goods & Cattels & Chattells whatsoever.

And to the end that these orders By lawes & Establishments may be at all tymes hereafter firme & stable, Wee have to this present writeinge put the Common Seale of our Corporation, upon this present Seaventh day of January, in the six & twentieth yeare of the Raigne of our most gracious Sovereigne lord, Charles the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland, King Defender of the faith &c. Anno Dom. 1674.

The Common Seal of the Corporation is affixed on Jan. 7, 1674, the twenty-sixth year of the reign of King Charles II.

Sealed* at a Comon Hall, houlden for the said Burrough the seaventh day of January 1674.

Signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

Geo Blackwall Maior.

Tho Gery Com. Cler.

Memorand That Wee S^r Hugh Wyndham Kn^t, one of his Ma^{ties} Justices of the Co^{rt} of Comon pleas, and S^r Edward Thurland Kn^t, one of the Barons of his Ma^{ties} Co^{rt} of Excheq^e, Judges of Assize for the Midland Circuit, haveinge first perused & examined the By lawes within written, doe hereby allow, approve, & confirme the same; Witness o^r hands this xxviith day of July Anno Dni 1675.

Grant is confirmed and signed by Sir Hugh Wyndham and Sir Edward Thurland.

Hugh Wyndham

Edw Thurland

[“Such signatures were made necessary by two Acts passed in the times of Henry VI. and Henry VII. (15 H. VI. c. 6; 19 H. VII. c. 7).” For example, the Bye-laws of the Gild of the Joiners and Carpenters, Worcester, were confirmed “by Sir James Montagu, lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Jefferey Gilbert Esq^r, a Baron of s^d Court, Justices of the Oxford Circuit.” Toulmin Smith’s “English Gilds,” p. 210. London, 1870.]

FURTHER ORDERS FROM THE MINUTE BOOK.†

Aug. 14, 1675. Wee the Stewards, Wardens, & Brethren of the Company of Mercers, within the Burough of Derby in the

* The seal has been cut off.

† In the minute book the bonds and obligations immediately follow the copy of the Grant. These orders have been extracted *verbatim* from the minute book and placed here, so that all the by-laws may be together.

County of Derby, have devised, made, & agreed upon, divers Acts & Ordinances w^h hereafter follow.

No person to open his shop or sell wares on the Sabbath Day, under a penalty of forfeiting 3s. 4d.

First. That noe person open his shop or sell any wares upon the Sabbath day, upon paine of forfeiting three shillings fourpence, to the p^sent Wardens, for the use of the said Company, unless in Case of necessitie, of w^h the p^sent Steward And wardens to be Judges.

The Steward to call a meeting once in every month, and appoint the Beadle to give notice to members on the day before such meeting.

It is ordered & agreed upon, by the aforesaid Company of Mercers, that the Steward for the time being, shall hereafter sumon A Meeting of the Societie & fraternitie, once every month, to Consult, advise together, and doe what may be thought fitt to be done for the benefitt of the said Company, and that the Steward doe Appoint the Beadle of the said Company to give notice to the severall members, the day before such intended meeting.

Each member to attend, or forfeit twelve pence.

It is alsoe ordered, concluded, & agreed y^t each of the respective Members of the said Company of Mercers doe come & be at the time & place Appointed, or otherwise forfeit the s^ume of twelve pence, to be paid to the present Wardens, for the use of the said Company, for every such default, unless reasonable Cause be shown to the contrary.

If an apprentice departs from his master without licence before the end of his term, he shall pay a fine as if he were a stranger, before he can keep a shop as a Freeman.

It is ordered that if any Apprentice shall depart from his master, without his Licence, before the end of the Terme of his Apprentiship, that then the same Apprentice upon his Comeing againe, shall make his fine to the said Company as A stranger, before such time as hee shall be admitted to keep shop as A freeman in the Borough aforesaid.

Actions to be entered against any foreigner who infringes the liberties of any of the said trades, the charge to be defrayed by the Company.

It is ordered, that if any forainer be knowne to infringe the liberties of any of the said Trades united in the Company of Mercers, that an action be entered in the name of such person or persons being of the said Trades as the Steward & Wardens or any two of them shall appoint, and that the charge shall be defrayed by the Wardens out of the Joint Stock of the said Company.

Everyone present to sign these orders.

It is ordered that every of the Company p^sent signe the aforesaid orders.

Aug. 23. 1675. Ordered, that the p^rsent Steward take care for & Buy stuff & other materialls for ten Gownes for the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, to be Made & worn by the Steward, Wardens, & Brethren of the said Company, at the Election of every new Steward & Wardens, And other solemnities beseemeing the said Company to Attend the mayor of this Burrough.

The Steward to buy materials for ten gowns to be worn by the Steward, Wardens, and Brethren at elections and other solemnities, and when attending the Mayor.

Dec 21. 1675. It is alsoe ordered, that the severall members of the Company of Mercers, doe receive and take each of them one of the Gownes alredy provided, And pay the value thereof to the present Steward, which the said Steward hath laid forth for them. And that soe many Gownes as are wanting, be forthwith provided by such of the Company as are not already furnisht.

Each member to take a gown, and pay the value to the Steward. Gowns that are wanting are to be provided.

Feb. 3. 1676. Order & decree that the Wardens for the time being, shall from time to time and all times, take & keep in their Custodie all such fine & fines, as shall be ordered to be taken (for the default of every offender) & for the onely & sole use of the said Company of Mercers. And not to restore any such distress, untill such offender or offenders shall pay their fine or fines.

The Wardens to have custody of all fines.

And the said Steward And Brethren, doe hereby resolve And engage to save, keep harmless and Indemnified, all such Wardens for their p^rformance of all such Acts injoynd as they are in duty Bound.

The Steward and Brethren indemnify the Wardens.

Jan 29, 1680. Resolve, that for the future, noe person or persons whatsoever of any of the severall Trades now united into the said company of mercers, w^{ch} are not at this p^rsent agreed withall, shall at any time hereafter be admitted to any composition, except such as are p^rsent traders in this Burrow. And the wardens of the said Company, for the time being, shall give notice of this order that not any, such persons as shall come & infringe the libertyes of the said Company, shall be unwarned of the danger of the penalty the Law provides.

No person not an "Agreed Member" to be admitted to composition unless a present trader in the Borough, the wardens to give notice of this order.

Oct 18. 1683. Order, that all Apprentices be brought in to be Registerd, & y^t all y^t have served their Apprentishipp, be summoned to come & signe Covenants wth y^e Company.

All apprentices to come and be registered, and those who have served their time to come and sign covenants.

The Charter (Grant) to be read at least once every year (Easter Tuesday).

April 8. 1735. Ordered, that the Charter belonging to the s^d Comp^y, be read in the Company every Easter Tuesday or oftener if required.

Wardens enter into a bond of £100.

A COPPY OF THE WARDENS BOND TO THE STEWARD.

Gnoverint universi p^r p^rsentes me A. B unum guardianor de Societat Mercer in Burg Derb teneri et firmiter obligari C. D Seneschal de Societat p^rd p^r tempore existent in centum libris bone et legal monite Angl soluend eidem C. D executorib^{us} vel administr suis p^r usu Societat p^rd ad quam quidem solictone bene et firmiter faciend obligo me Hered Execut et Administr meos firmiter p^r p^rsentes sigillo meo sigillat dat
die Anno Reg Dom nostr Car^o secund nunc Regis Angl &c Anno Dom.

Conditions of the obligation of Warden; to assist the Steward, receive, keep, and pay money as ordered, to give a true account of moneys received and paid, and hand the balance to his successors within a month of removal from office.

The condicon of this obligacon is such, that if the above bounden A. B., as one of the wardens to the said company of mercers, shall duely be attendant on & assistant to the above named C. D., as Steward to the Company aforesaid, in the receiveing, keepeing, & disposeing of all sums of mony to be collected, raised, & obtained, by the said Company of mercers, for the benefitt of the same Company, as hee shall be ordered, fro time to time, by the said company, or the major part of them, And shall also, well & truely, give a trew accompt of all monys, by him received for the use & benefitt of the said company as aforesaid, & of his sev^rall disbursments, as alsoe shall truely pay over what sume of mony shall remaine in his hands upon the foot of his said accompt, to the next succeeding Wardens of the said Company, within one month after he shall be removed from the said place, office, & Employment, that then this present obligation to be void, &c.

A PRECEDENT FOR A BOND, WHICH ALL ARE TO GIVE THAT
HEREAFTER SHALL BE MADE FREE OF THE MERCERS
COMPANY.

Freemen to enter into a bond of £100.

Gnoverint universi p^r p^rsentes me A B de Derb in Comitatu Derb teneri et firmiter obligari C. D Seneschal de Societat Mercer in Burg Derb p^rd E. F. & G. H. Gardian de

Societat p̄d p̄r tempori existent in decem libris bone et legal̄
 monite Angl̄ soluend, ydem C D, E F et G H vel alicui
 eorum Executorib vel Administr suis ad quam quidem
 solictōnem bene et fidelit̄ faciend̄ obligo me Hered̄ Executor
 et Administr meos firmit̄ p̄ p̄sentes sigillo meo sigillat dat
 die Ann. Regn Dom nostr Carol̄ sec^{ds}
 Dei gra Gra nunc Regis Anno Dom.

The condicōn of this p̄sent obligacōn is such, that if the
 above bounden A. B., shall from time to time & at all times
 hereafter, faithfully & truly p̄forme & keep all & every of the
 ordinances, orders, & By lawes made & to be made by the
 Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, of the Company of Mercers, &
 also well & truly doe & observe all & every act, thing, or
 duty, w^{ch} hee ought to doe, & observe according to the pur-
 port & effect of the Charter or Graunt, by which the said
 company or society was constituted, that then this p̄sent
 obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force strength
 & vertue.

Conditions of
 Freeman's Bond;
 to keep by-laws,
 etc., and do ac-
 cording to the
 Charter.

THE OBLIGACON AND SUBSCRIPTION OF ALL THE P̄SENT
 MEMBERS OF THE MERCERS COMPANY.

Know all men by these presents, that wee John Stone,
 Ironmonger; William ffances, Apothecary; Thomas Bott,
 Mercer; Thomas Ward, Mercer; Robert Bourne, Ironmonger;
 David Cooper, Ironmonger; Joseph Bloodworth,* Ironmonger;
 Hugh Bourne, Ironmonger; Daniell Wagstaffe, Ironmonger;
 John Hodgkinson, Apothecary; Gilbert Ward, Milliner;
 Abraham Crompton, Mercer; Robert Adams, Grocer; Thomas
 Byron,† Apothecary; Philip Biss, Ironmonger; Richard
 ffinney, Mercer; William Henworth, Salter; Thomas Noton,
 Chandler; who have hereunto sett our hands & seales, doe
 hereby, severally oblige ourselves unto the p̄sent Steward,
 Wardens, & Brethren, of the Company of Mercers in the
 Borough of Derby, for the time being, in the severall &
 respective sums of tenn pounds apeice of currant Lawfull

The present
 members of the
 Mercers' Com-
 pany oblige
 themselves to the
 officers in a sum
 of £10 each, to
 obey the officers,
 observe the by-
 laws, do accord-
 ing to the Char-
 ter or Grant.

* Mayor 1702. † Mayor 1707.

English mony, to be paid unto the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, for the use of the said Company, upon our respective defaults of being obedient to the said Steward, Wardens, & Brethren, for the time being, in their severall places & offices, & upon our respective defects in performeing & keeping, & observeing, all & any of the By laws & orders, made or to be made, by the said Steward Wardens & Brethren, for the time being, or the major part of them, & in not doeing & p^rforming all & every other act, thing, or duty, w^{ch} wee ought to do or performe, according to the purport & effect of the Charter or Graunt, by which wee were made A Company.

The present Steward and Brethren oblige themselves in the sum of £10 each to the Wardens to keep the by-laws, etc.

And further know yee, that wee the p^rsent Steward & Brethren of the said Company of Mercers, doe hereby severally oblige ourselves, in the like penall s^ume of tenn pounds apiece, to be paid to the Wardens of the said Company of Mercers, for the use of the said Company, upon our respective defaults in not p^rforming, observeing, & keep^eing, all or any, of the By laws & orders, made for the benefit of the said Company.

Witness our severall hands & seales as aforesaid, the fourteenth day of August Anno Dom. 1675.

Jno Taylor, Steward	○ *	John Stone	○
William Parker	○	W ^m ffranceys	○
John Dunnidge	○	Tho Bott	○
Thomas Gery	○	Robert Adams	○
Nath Doughtye	○	John Hodgkinson	○
Samuell fletcher	○	Thomas Ward	○
Samuell Cheshire	○	David Couper	○
Richard Piggin	○	Richard ffynney	○
Hen Holmes	○	Abraham Crompton	○
Tho Widdowson	○	Phillip Biss	○
William Henworth	○	Thomas Noton	○
George fletcher	○	Gilbert Ward	○
Ffran Marshall	○	Daniell Wagstaffe	○
		Robert Bourne	○
		Hugh Bourne	○

Witness. Tho Bourne Hen Corden.

* "O" indicates a seal.

Know all men by these p'sents, that wee, Joseph Sadler, Ironmonger; Leonard Sadd,* Apoth; Abell Litchford, Apothecary; William Litchford, Mercer; Richard Ward, Chandler; Joseph Williams, Chandler; John Strong, Ironmonger; Thomas Strong, Ironmonger; Jane Carter, widdow, Mercer; Mary Parker, Mercer; Edward West, Tobacconist; Mr. W^m. Willott; Thomas Brookes, ffeltmaker; John Bourne, Cordwiner; Anne Bloodworth, Grocer; John Radcliffe, Upholster.

Other members of the Company oblige themselves to the officers as in the previous obligation.

[Here a space of about an inch has been left for other names, and the obligation continues in the words of the previous one, from "who have hereunto sett our hands, &c.," to "by which we were made a company," and then ends as follows]:—

Witness our severall hands & seales as aforesaid, the fourteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred & seventy five.

Joseph Sadler	† O
Jane Carter	O
Richard Ward	O
Edward West	O
William Willott	O
Thomas Brookes	O
Anne Bloodworth	O
John Bourne	O
John Radclyffe	O
Francis Cockayne	O
Richard Hodgkinson	O
Joseph Parker	O

Witness, Hen: Corden.

* Mayor 1787.

† "O" indicates a seal.

The Company was entirely distinct from the Corporation. Its powers were given to it by that body, and there is no trace of any interference in its affairs. Though some of its members belonged to the Common Council, and about sixteen held the office of mayor, it took no part in municipal matters, but was formed solely for the inspection and regulation of certain trades in the Borough. Its members were to behave properly towards the mayor, aldermen, and justices of the Borough, and make no by-laws contrary to the laws of the kingdom or the rights of the borough.

The fines and compositions were for the sole use of the Company, and on one occasion the Corporation borrowed money from the Society. There were only four cases in which the Corporation had anything to do with the business of the Company :—

1st. If an apprentice, whose master died, traded before his time was served, he had to pay a fine, determined by the officers of the Company and the mayor and burgesses.

2nd. If the wardens did not duly present their accounts, the mayor and Common Council had the power of disfranchising them.

3rd. If a master took an "apprentice at large," he was to be disfranchised by the mayor and burgesses.

4th. If goods or measures were found to be faulty, the offender was to be reported to the mayor and burgesses for punishment, as well as to pay a fine to the Company.

Membership or freedom of the Company was distinct from freedom of the Borough ; but in the case of apprentices the former was a qualification for the latter, because when they were made free of the Company, they could take their burgess oath.

According to a letter of Mr. John Houghton, F.R.S., written in 1693, there were then in Derby 694 houses or families, or reckoning six people to a house, over 4,000 inhabitants. There were also 76 malthouses, and 120 alehouses. He says there was no wholesale tradesman in Derby, and he gives a list of forty-two trades, in addition to the alehouses. Of these, there were seven apothecaries, seven ironmongers, thirteen mercers, and two

upholsterers. Starting from the original members of the Mercers' Company in 1675, and making allowances for those who died and joined up to 1693, it will be found, if Mr. Houghton's numbers are correct, that all the mercers, apothecaries, ironmongers, and upholsterers in the town belonged to the Company eight years after its formation. It is strange he does not mention either grocers or milliners, the two other trades which were united into the Company.

In 1676, there were fifty people in the Mercers' Company. Their trades were as follows:—

Mercers	...	...	...	...	16
Apothecaries	...	...	...	...	8
Grocers (one grocer and mercer)	...	...	...	...	4
Ironmongers	...	...	..	...	12
Upholsterers	...	...	...	...	2
Milliners	...	...	...	...	1
Salters	...	...	...	...	1
Chandlers	...	...	...	...	3
Tobacconist	...	...	...	...	1
Feltmaker	...	...	...	...	1
Unknown	...	...	...	...	1

50

There were many trades in the town which were not united in the Company of Mercers. Of these the bakers, butchers, clothworkers, cordwainers, masons, plasterers, and tailors, together, were about three times as numerous as the members of the Mercers' Company. We have not, as far as I know, any means of telling whether they had their craft societies. Probably they had. In 1773, the framework-knitters of Derby (which trade is not mentioned by Mr. Houghton) decided to establish a Court of Assistants in connection with the London Company.*

There are no rules about feasting, as in many of the older Gilds; the only reference to the subject is in the minutes of August 11, 1726, when it was "agreed, that the Steward of the

* See "Reliquary," Vol. X., p. 85.

Company shall, in his year, give a treat of a piece of beef as formerly." Neither is there any mention of religion, except what may be implied in the statement, that they were to attend in their gowns at solemnities.

Although the Wardens could enter into shops to test weights and measures, and also goods, we have no record of their having carried out these powers. The greater part of their effort seems to have been directed in taking care that no damage was done to the various trades, by people opening a shop without having served an apprenticeship in the Borough, or being free of, or having the license of the Company.

Their powers for this purpose were fully exercised, as numerous orders in the minute book of the Company show.

On Feb. 3, 1676, Thomas Brookes, feltmaker, on payment of eight pounds, was "admitted a Member & Freeman of the said Company."

On April 6, 1676, the Company "received satisfacon from Anne Bloodworth widdow, & doe allow her, ye said Anne, to keep A shop & sell Grocery Wares, without any molestacon or disturbance from ye said Company, shee, ye Ann, paying two shillings every Easter Tuesday, towards makeing A stock for ye said Compay, & such assess'ts as shee ought, for such freedome, & not to take any apprentice* to ye Damage of ye s^d Company, & for default of not observeing this order this Contract to be void."

On Jan. 29, 1680, was "accepted A Composition from Elisabeth Alsop, for the sum of five pounds, that shee shall not be disturbed by any of the said Company, for exercising The Milliners Trade, she not Taking any Aprentices to make them or any Aprentice to make him or them free of this Burrow, or of the said Company."

On Jan. 29, 1680, it was agreed, "that Mrs Anne Wathall shall pay to the said Company Twenty nobles for her Composition;" and on Feb. 12, Mrs. Dorothy Wathall paid the sum

* In the company of weavers at Alnwick, founded in 1619; "Agreed brothers" were not allowed to take apprentices.—Tate's "History of Alnwick."

of six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence, for liberty to follow the milliner's trade.

On April 10, 1694, Mrs. Sarah Bembrige, milliner, paid five pounds, for "ffree liberty to go & follow the milliners trade," but she was not to "take any apprentice to make them free of this Borrough."

On Nov. 4, 1675, John Bourne, Cordwainer, and his wife have liberty to follow the trade of selling mercery and grocery wares, on paying five pounds to the Company, and two shillings every Easter Tuesday. They were not to take any apprentice to the damage of the Company.

On Jan. 27, 1676, it was "ordered, that what Course in Law Councill shall advise, be forthwith taken Against John Booth for infringeing the liberties of our Company;" and on Jan. 18, 1677, it was ordered, "that Mr Jno Dunidge, Warden of the Company of Mercers, doe give informaçon ye next Sessions* held for the Borough, against Jno Booth, for his Tradeing in this Towne Contrary to law;" and in November, 1678, an information was "to be esibitated against John Booth, and likewise another information be esibitated against Mrs Mary Yates, att ye next Sessions holden for this Borrow, w^{ch} is uppon Tuesday the 12th of this instant November, for sellinge of divers merchandising goods, which they are not free to sell." The case went against Mr. Booth, and he repaid the costs £2 12s. 9d. to the Company. The Wardens then demanded the moneys due from him, and in January, 1680, he paid them ten pounds, and in 1683 was bound to the Company in £20 not to "take any Apprentice to ye damage of ye Mercers or Milliners in this Borrough." This John Booth is described as a "Taylor."

Proceedings were also taken against a John Booth, Mercer, thirty years later. On February 23rd, 1710, it was "ordered that John Booth be forthwith prossicuted at Law, for infringing

* The Company of Merchants at Alnwick took proceedings in the Quarter Sessions and County Sessions against various people, for "exercising the mystery and calling of a merchant within the Borough, not being freemen or having served an apprenticeship for seven years."—Tate's "History of Alnwick."

the liberties of the said Corporation,* & incroaching upon the Several trades, now united into the s^d Company of Mercers, or some of them, as counsell shall advise." There is in the minutes no further reference to him, but fortunately amongst the few papers left relating to the Company, there is an Indenture made between the Steward and Wardens, representing the Company of Mercers, and John Booth and John Gould of Derby, Mercers. John Booth had been using the trade of a mercer, not being a free burgess of the Borough, and had been "bearinge out and covering under him ye said John Gould (a forreigner), in order to make him a burgesse of the said borough, contrary to his burgesse oath." All prosecutions against John Booth by the Company were to cease, and the Company was to pay all costs expended by them. Mr. Booth was to cease all actions against the Company, and all prosecutions against the mayor and burgresses upon a writ of mandamus, and pay all costs of the same. He was to enter into a bond to Samuel Heathcote of Derby, gent., in the sum of £36, and to pay £18 for the use of the Company. He undertook to quit possession of the shop at the upper end of the Rotten Row, on or before September 29th, and to "remove their effects & goods therein, to some part of ye house or buildings of ye said Jno Booth, situate above on ye North, or North West, side of All Saints Church, in Derby aforesaid." They were not to carry on the trade of a mercer, on the "South, South East, or South West, parts of All Saints Church aforesaid, or nearer to the market place in Derby, aforesaid, than y^e said Church." Should the Corporation of the Borough "think fitt to admitt y^e said Jno. Gould to be a Burgesse or Freeman of y^e said Borough," or "to restore y^e said Jno. Booth to his former freedom of a Burgess of y^e said Borough, from which he was lately disfranchised," then the Company of Mercers shall not "oppose, but, as much as in them lies, promote y^e same." The deed was signed, sealed

* The Corporation of Derby which is referred to in the same minutes a few lines above.

and delivered by John Booth and John Gould, in the presence of Sam. Heathcote and Sam. Heathcote, jun.

Another interesting case is that of Mrs. Dorothy Gretton, who paid a larger composition than anyone else to the Company, and also one to the Corporation. She was allowed to make her apprentice free. On August 15th, 1709, it was "agreed y^t Mrs. Gretton have leave to trade untill A lady next* & no longer, & that security be given in y^t time, such as may be of full satisfaction to the Mercers Company, & it is further agreed, that the persons undermentioned do go to acquaint Mrs. Gretton † with this intent, to morrow morning, & give them till Michaelmas next to consider, & then yt they give theire answer, if not approvd of, then to be proceeded against speedily. Mr. Alderman Cokayne, Mr. Hodgkinson, Mr. Charles Tompson, Mr. Joseph Parker, Mr. Jno Bennett." The answer does not seem to have been satisfactory, and proceedings were taken against Mrs. Gretton.

The minutes of a meeting "held at y^e house of Mr Andrew Jones y^e 8th day of May Anno Dni 1711," are in the same handwriting as that of the agreement with John Booth above mentioned. They are in legal characters which are much better than those in which the minutes are generally written. They recite that "prosecutions have been had in y^e Sessions of y^e peace, held for y^e said Borough, against y^e said Dorothy Gretton" . . . "for useing and exerciseing y^e trade of a milliner within y^e Borough of Derby, not being a freewoman of y^e said Borough, nor in time of ffaires & Markets." The various matters were by consent of Mrs. Gretton and the Company, "referred to y^e award, umpirage, finall end, and determination of Thomas Gery of Derby aforesaid gentl." The award was, that she should pay to the Company £30, and that the "sume of ten pounds, w^h is ordered by y^e Mayor & Burgesses at a Comon Councill held for y^e said Borough to be remitted to this fraternity, shall be likewise paid to y^e said Timothy Cartwright," for the use of the Company.

* A clerical error for Lady-Day.

† "Them" was crossed out and "Mrs. Gretton" inserted in the margin.

She was admitted into the Company, and "is and shall be accounted a member of y^e said Company, with full & free liberty to exercise & follow y^e trade of a milliner within y^e said Borough, without any molestacon or disturbance whatsoever from this Company." Her sister Mary Gretton, who was apprenticed to her as a milliner, and who had "about two yeares of her time to serve," was to be admitted to the Company as soon as she had served her apprenticeship, or as soon as Dorothy Gretton should die, or leave the trade of a milliner, "with full freedome and liberty to follow and exercise y^e said trade of a Milliner, as fully, in all respects, as y^e said Dorothy Gretton may, can, might, or could have done if liveing."

A foreigner could not, without the license of the Company, carry on one of the said trades, even if he married a freewoman engaged in the same trade.* On November 15th, 1700, it was ordered, "that in consideration of the sume of ffive pounds, then paid & rec^d of Mr John Oates of Rypley, marrying the widdow of Mr Tho Parker, Grocer, in Derby late deceased, we do hereby oblige ourselves, that the said Mr John Oates & Elisabeth his intended wife shall & may occupye the said trade of Grocer in Derby, w^{ch} she now useth, during the Terme of their naturall lives, without any Let or Mollestation whatsoever."

Various other people were to be proceeded against, but we are not told the results of the prosecutions. Sometimes a deputation was sent to the offender, as in the case of Mr. Sore and Mr. Wilson. On April 12th, 1726, it was "ordered, that the Steward & Wardens, or two of them, do speak to Thomas Sore & Chambers Willson to enquire into their write to the Trade

* Similar customs were in force in other towns. For example, in 1614, the Company of Mercers and Ironmongers of Chester ordered T. Addersey (who had married the niece of an ironmonger), to shut up his shop. He refused; "soe daie by daie, two others [of their company] walked all daie before the said shop, & did forbid & inhibit all that came to the said shopp, for buyinge any wares there, & stopped such as came to buy wares there."—Gross. "Gild Merchant," p. 36 note.

And, in 1641, a Mr. Johnson joined the Merchants' Company at Alnwick, and was allowed to trade during his life, and his wife after him during her widowhood. She married again, and they made her husband enter into a bond of £40 not to trade in Alnwick.—Tate's "History of Alnwick."

they now exercis, & report their answer to the Company at the next meeting." Having made their report on August the 11th, 1726, it was ordered, that the same deputation "do attend on Thomas Soar, & Demand of him Tenn pounds for the use of the s^d Comp^y as not having any right to the trade of a Grocer he now exercises, to receive his answer in tenn days."

On April 8th, 1729, it was "ordered that Mr. Steward & the Wardens shall treat with Mr. Wharton, on Termes for vindicateing the write of the s^d Company;" and at the next meeting on April 15th, it was "agreed, that y^e preasent Steward & y^e Wardens shall have power to proceed against & prosecute Joseph Wharton, as haveing no right to follow or exercise any Branch off trade, that shall be any way detrimentall to y^e said Company, in y^e Burrough of Derby." The four next pages, 118 to 121, have been torn out of the book, and in the next entry, on page 122, we find that on March 31st, 1730, Mr. Joseph Wharton was elected one of the Wardens of the Company. Evidently he must have come to terms with the Company, and paid his composition, during the year of which we have no record. There is a certificate of membership extant, shewing that he was admitted a member on November 20th, 1729, on the same day as Mr. Grayson, against whom indictments were ordered to be made on June 18th, 1724.

In the case of Mr. William Balme, no quarter was shewn, and it was decided after several previous orders to prosecute him, and that "the s^d William Balme shall not be admitted, on any Termes From the said Company, to exercise any trade in this Corporation."

Although the powers of the Company were restricted to Derby, its officers seem to have exercised jurisdiction beyond the limits of the Borough. On December 6th, 1683, it was ordered, that the Wardens "doe cause goods to be bought of these severall psons, viz; W^m Browne, of Etwall; John Roberts, of Derby; Barbara Heathcoate; Elias Grice; W^m. Cocker; Geo. Hardy, of Belper; in order y^t legall informacons be given against them, for exercising trades for w^{ch} the have noe Right."

The last record of any decision to prosecute is on October

30th, 1732, when the Company empowered any member to proceed against Hawkers and Pedlers. It was "ordered that whereas severall persons (as Hawkers & Pedlers) & others, have of late, & do Frequently, expose Goods to sail, to the prejudice of the s^d Comp^y; who ever of the said Comp^y shall be at any expence in prosecuting any such person or persons so offending, shall be indemnified by the said Company."*

The ordinary sources of income were the annual subscription of two shillings paid by each member, and fines for not coming to the annual meeting or when summoned to appear. These amounted to a very small sum, as there were not many members in the Company. The ordinary expenses were often less than a sovereign. The greater part of the income was from fines and compositions from traders who joined the Society; and the main part of the expense was in prosecutions. These expenses were sometimes recovered from the offender.

The officers had the power of making a levy on the members, and although there is no actual mention of this power having been exercised, the minute book contains some orders on the subject; but the amounts of assessment and the date of the meeting have not been filled in, nor have the orders been signed by the officers.

The Wardens rendered their accounts somewhat irregularly, and there is nothing to show that the fine of ten shillings and penalty of disfranchisement were ever imposed on them for not presenting their accounts within one month of their completion of office. Sometimes they were allowed to run several years into arrear. There is no copy of a balance-sheet on the minutes. The sum which one set of wardens handed over to their successors is generally stated, sometimes the total amounts they received and expended are given without any details. It was said of Mr. Francis, who gave in his account on April 18th, 1693, "it doth appear that he hath paid all the money out of his hands, & by order of the Company, & is hereby discharged."

* The Company of Merchants at Alnwick, founded in 1582, frequently prosecuted pedlers, and in the year 1670 spent £83 16s. 8d. for that purpose. Tate's "History of Alnwick."

When there was a large balance in hand, it was lent to an officer of the Company [probably for use in his business], and he gave a bond for the amount. In July, 1677, £32 was "put into the hands of Mr John Taylor [mercero] & George fletcher [apothecary], equally betwixt them at six pounds p^r Cent. interest p. annum." This is the only mention of interest at six per cent., and it is uncertain from the minutes whether they paid it; for in February, 1684, *i.e.*, five and a half years after, "Mr John Taylor & Mr George fletcher had their bonds delivered in to them," and repaid the thirty-two pounds, together with four pounds interest. They may have spent some of the remainder on behalf of the Company. The £36 was then put into the hands of Mr. George Fletcher at five per cent., "for w^{ch} said sum" he gave "his bond y^e day & yeare above said, to Mr Samuell Wills minister of All Saints in Derby,* who is intrusted for y^e use of y^e said Company." In April, 1688, Mr. Fletcher paid one year's interest, and on March 19th, 1689, was received by Mr. Franceys, Steward of the Company, from "Mr Daniell Wetton & Mr Bull, two of the trustees for Mr George fletcher, the some of nineteene pounds sixteene shillings, being one moitye of a bond for £36 with interest, due from Mr Geo fletcher to y^e Company of Mercers." There is no record of the remainder having been received. On April 18th, 1693, Mr. Richard Hodgkinson was elected a brother in "roome of Mr George fletcher, now removed into Ireland." Amongst the county records appears a letter from this Mr. Fletcher,† applying for the post of Master of the House of Correction, situate in Walker Lane, Derby. He says, "The humble petition of Geo: fletcher late of Derby apothecary & Licentiate in Phisick Sheweth Providence this Juncture of time hath brought him the said Geo: Fletcher from Ireland, Aged & in meane State Tho healthy Active, Wellknowne times past to many for his public works to his Cost etc." . . .

"I doe not doubt but to have had his Grace the Duke of

* Mr. Wills was incumbent of All Saints' from 1671 to his death in 1685.

† A copy of this letter is given by Dr. Cox in "Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals," 1890, Vol. II., p. 30.

Devonshire's recommendation to this Employ had I had an opportunity upon y^e account of that Service his Grace was pleased to put upon mee in the late revolution." It is not known whether Mr. Fletcher or the other applicant obtained the post. Mr. Fletcher was churchwarden of All Saints' in 1655-6, and one of the Wardens of the Company the first year, and Steward the second year.

In October, 1682, the sum of twenty-nine pounds was "put into the hands of" Mr. Nathaniel Doughtye, grocer. He was churchwarden of All Saints' in 1668-9. On November 1st, 1683, it was "ordered that Mr Nathaniel Doughty, one of y^e Wardens of y^e said Company (being he is removed to dwell in the Country,) the said Company doe elect Mr Abraham Crompton, Warden, in Mr Doughtyes Stead." He paid only one year's interest on April 11th, 1688. In February, 1689, he, together with Mr. Fletcher, was ordered to pay the money, or "give such securitie as the Company shall approve of." On September 20th 1689, Mr. Franceys, Steward, "received then of Mr W^m Brookhouse, by order of Mr Nath^l Doughty, the some of twenty two pounds: also received at y^e same time from Mr W^m Brookhouse, by the order above, one Brothers Gowne vallued to the Company by Mr Doughty at seven pounds: I say, received the above s^d money & gowne p^r me W^m franceys Steward." This entry is interesting, because it shows that a second-hand gown was worth seven pounds, a considerable sum in those days.* It would probably be sold to a new Brother.

The next loan was to the Derby Corporation. The money received from Messrs. Fletcher & Doughty amounted to £41 16s. At a meeting of the Mercers' Company on March 1st, 1692, it was "ordered that Mr. William franceys, Apothecary, doe pay to the Major & Burgesses of Derby or their order, the sum of forty pounds which hee hath now in his hands, being the moneys of the said Company, for the carrying on the waterworks for the said Towne, accordinge to agreement between the said Major & Burgesses & Mr. George Sorrocold, for which said sum of forty

* The rent of the Angel Inn, with stabling for sixty horses was £10 per annum.—"Chronicles of All Saints'," by Dr. Cox and St. John Hope.

pounds the said Major & Burgesses are to give securitie to Hugh Bateman, Gent. in Trust for the said Company, to be lent for three years without interest." These works were situate at the bottom of St. Michael's lane. "The water engine was invented by a Mr. Sorocold with a great deal of art. It at the same time, with one wheel, throws up water to a cistern joining St. Michael's Church, which from thence is conducted by two pipes, and supplies all parts of the town at a cheap rate, and turns a malt mill and bores elm trees for pipes, all at the same time and all managed by one man."*

The history of this loan is interesting, because it shews that the Company, which received its grant from the Corporation, was in a position to lend the money to the Town, and the Mayor & Burgesses, probably for pecuniary reasons, were unable to repay it at the time agreed upon. Various demands for the money were made during a period of about twenty years, in which time no less than nine members of the Company held the office of Mayor. On Nov. 28th, 1695, seven months after the repayment had become due, it was ordered "that Mr. Abraham Crompton & Mr. Jos. Parker present wardens of the Company, that they shall waite upon Mr. Noton Mayor to demand the fforty pounds, lent the Corporation by the said Company which was lately due." On April 6th, 1697, it was ordered "that Mr. Gilbert Cheshire Steward, & Thos. Bott & Dan. Watton psent wardens, do attend Mr Major, to acquaint him that the said Company does expect 5 p^r cent for the forty pounds, that was due from the Corporation since the bond became due." After waiting three years, on April 2nd, 1700, it was "ordered that Mr. Hugh Bateman be desired to waite uppon the next Common Hall, to demand the money due uppon a bond, taken in his name, from the Major and Burgesses of this Burrowe, in trust for the Mercers Company, w^{ch} hath been due to the said Company severall years."

This visit to the Council, when sitting, had some effect, for on Oct. 26th the same year the Company "Rec^d then of y^e

* Woolley's MSS., quoted by Simpson in "History of Derby," 1826, p. 532.

Major & Burgesses of ye Burrow of Derby, Twenty pounds in part of a bond of forty pounds, due from y^e Corporation to y^e Mercers Company." This sum was placed in the hands of three of the members of the Company in unequal portions. On Oct. 1st, 1702, it was "ordered that Mr. Hugh Bateman doe demand the money, that belongs to the Company, out of the hands of the Corporation, to be paid in three months." No notice was taken of this demand, and no interest seems to have been paid, for at a meeting on April 8th, 1706, it was "ordered then, that Mr. Hugh Bateman shall waite upon Mr. Mayor &c. at the next Common Hall, to demand the money that is due to the Mercers Company, both the princeple and interest, and Mr. Crompton* to goe alonge with him." On Sept. 16th, 1707, it was "ordered that Mr. Thomas Bott, & Ald. ffrancis Cokayne at the next Common Hall, do sue the Major to pay in the principle and interest, that is due upon Bond to the said Company, & report their answer the next meeting."

On July 21st, 1709, it was "agreed that a speedy method be taken to get in the moneys due to them from the Corporation."

The last resolution on the subject was passed at a meeting of the Mercers' Company on the 23rd of February, 1710, when it was "order'd that the money due to this Company from the Corporation of Derby be forthwith called in and be paid into the hands of Mr. Abraham Crompton." A fine of ten pounds was due from Mrs. Dorothy Gretton to the Corporation, as well as one of thirty pounds to the Mercers' Company, and at a Common Council it was ordered that the ten pounds should be remitted to the Company. This was in May, 1711. Thus was left a balance of ten pounds owing by the Corporation, and there is no further mention of the transaction in the records of the Mercers' Company.

In the year 1729, the rate of interest was lowered to four per cent. by the Company; they lent £22 to Mr. Richardson at that rate on his note of hand, and at a meeting on April 27th, 1731, i

* One of the wardens.

was "agreed that who ever shall have the Companys mony shall give four p^r cent p^r ann^o & give double security for the same." £53 was lent to Mr. Joseph Pike, of which sum he owed £18 7s. in April, 1735. This is the last mention of any accounts in the records of the Company, which end in the year 1740. The Company seems never to have been very rich, nor to have had any donations from "Generous Benefactors," though pages were provided for entering them in the records. The largest income was probably during the first year of the Company, it amounted to over sixty-nine pounds. The wardens do not seem to have had more than about seventy pounds in hand at any one time. Their object was not to amass funds, but to obtain enough money to carry on prosecutions, in order to protect the interests of the various trades united into the Company. They were not altogether successful in their loans to members, as the case of Mr. Fletcher shews.

Nathaniel Prime, Mercer, owed them ten pounds in 1714, and on July 28th, 1714, it was "ordered that whereas Mr Nathaniell Prime is indebted to the said Company the summ of tenn pounds, y^t the Steward & Wardens do receive of him, the s^d M^r Prime, three pounds six shillings & eight pence, & he to be discharg^d." In 1693-4 he was Churchwarden of All Saints', and the third Bell at that church has his name upon it. He was elected a Brother of the Company in 1699, was twice Steward, and twice Warden, the last time being in 1720; so that his inability to pay his debt to the Company did not preclude him from office afterwards.

Very few fines seem to have been levied for non-attendance at meetings. On February 3rd, 1676, John Dunnidge, Thos. Widdowson, and Rich^d Piggin, Brethren of the Company, were amerced and fined twelve pence for not being at the meeting. The remaining ten officers were present, and signed their names.

On March 28th, 1676, being Tuesday in Easter Week, the day for the Election of Steward, there were present, the Steward, one Warden, and seven Brothers who signed the book, making nine out of the thirteen officers who would have signed it if

they had been there. The other Warden, Francis Marshall, another Brother, R. Piggin, and John Stone who signed the first obligation (p. 134) and Richard Ward and Edward Waste, Tobacconist, who signed the second obligation, were fined ten shillings, in accordance with the by-law for not being present on this occasion. Henry Holmes and John Dunnidge, the two remaining Brethren, probably had leave of the Steward to be absent. After taking the above sixteen members into account, there remain twenty-four who signed either one or the other of the obligations and who were not fined. Since all members were to attend in their Gowns and Cloaks, we must either suppose the remaining ones were present, or had leave to be absent. There is no list recorded in the minutes of all the members present at any meeting, and the minutes were signed only by the officers who were at that meeting. It seems that those unable to come to the Annual Meeting were not fined, provided they sent the moneys due from them to the Company. On April 17th, 1677, were fined ten shillings "for those that attend not personally (or send not their moneys)" R. Piggin, the only officer who was absent, John Stone, Joseph Sadler, Ed. Waste, Wm. Henworth, John Bourne, Thomas Brookes, and Anne Bloodworth. The above are the only fines recorded for non-attendance.

The minute book, roll of officers, and certificates of membership were examined by inspectors, who may have been in some way connected with the Inland Revenue. They were not members of the Society, and their names are not those of Derbyshire people; they were probably not appointed by the Society, as there is no mention of them in either by-laws or minutes; they did not inspect the books until nearly forty years after the founding of the Company, and they made certain notes about the duty on stamps in connection with the admission of members. The following note has been made by one of them after the minutes of July 28th, 1714. "The duty on stamps comenced from the 28th of June 1694, which charged the admission of any person into any Corporaton or Company, with the sume of one shilling. By another Act all such admissions

now from the first of August 1698 charged with an additional duty of 1^s." And on June 16th, 1719, it was "agreed that wee will enter the members of this Company upon stamped paper as the Law directs."

There is a sheet of parchment about 29 × 12 inches with thirteen names written on it, saying that each one was "admitted a member of the Mercers Company." The dates run from 1683 to 1720, and correspond with those in the minutes on which the respective people were elected brothers of the Company. From an analysis of the signatures to the minutes for several years preceding 1720, it appears that this is a list of names of the thirteen officers of the Company in 1720. It is signed "*ad huc suprad* R. Baynes." For each name two one-shilling stamps are attached. This parchment roll may be the result of the minute of June 16th, 1719. We have seen that brothers were called members on this parchment, and on and after April 7th, 1724, the word "member" is always used in the minutes instead of the old and correct word "brother."

After the minutes of May 14th, 1730, the inspector wrote: "Supvis Wm. Longman;" immediately under is the following entry, which for some time the writer of this paper could not understand—

"Fra Walker Jun	}	on	no stamp	
pauill Nightingale				
Joseph Wharton	}	on	3 . 6	} only"
James Grayson					on do. 6

The whole has been crossed through with the pen, and underneath written, "All made good by Wm. Longman, exc: Nightingale." All this is in Mr. Longman's hand-writing. Some papers received afterwards explained the entry. They were eleven certificates of membership of the Company (for nine members, two of them being duplicates with the difference explained below). They are very likely some of the stamped papers referred to in the minute of June 16th, 1719.

Two of them were for Mr. Joseph Wharton, saying that he was admitted free of the Mercers' Company. The one is on paper,

costing eightpence per quire, and embossed with three sixpenny stamps, and not signed by the inspector. The other is on paper at ninepence per hundred, and embossed with two one-shilling stamps, and signed by Wm. Longman.

Two were for Mr. James Grayson, the one on paper embossed with two sixpenny stamps and not signed, the other on paper embossed with two one-shilling stamps and signed Wm. Longman. All four are dated November 20th, 1729. It is evident that the certificates were insufficiently stamped, and that Mr. Longman refused to sign them. Fresh ones were written out on properly stamped paper, and then signed by Mr. Longman, who at the same time crossed out the note he had made, and signed his name again. Paul Nightingale's he did not make good. His certificate is supervised by Jno. Calthorpe.

The following signatures occur after the minutes of the dates named:—

Ap. 23, 1717. "Supvd ad huc p^r Jo : Ryfiby."

Ap. 11, 1721. "Ad huc supvid p^r R^d Baynes."

Ap. 12, 1726. "Supvd p^r R^d Baynes."

Ap. 23, 1728. "Supvid ad huc p^r William Holly."

May 14, 1730. "Supvis W^m Longman."

Ap. 4, 1738. "Inspect^d by John Calthorpe."

Aug. 13, 1740. "Inspected by B. Bromhead."

The following signatures are dated:—

"May 13, 1734. Supvisd thus far by me W^m Holly."

"Inspected May 27, 1736, W^m Longman."

According to the Grant, the Steward could choose the time and place of meeting. The annual meeting for the election of officers was to be held "at such place other than the Guildhall of the said Borough of Derby, which for that purpose may be used by the said Company, upon special licence to be obtayned from the Maior." There must be some error here, there is no doubt it means that they could meet in the Guildhall on Tuesday in Easter week by special leave from the Mayor.

For the first ten years the annual meetings were held at the Town Hall, or "Townes" Hall, and once at the County Hall.

Then they were held at the house of the Steward for the time being. All meetings after 1691, and ordinary meetings before that year, were held either at houses which may have been inns (the householder's name only being given), or at inns. The Angel and the George were the most frequently used. Others were the Bell, the Dolphin, the Talbut, the Royal Oak, and the Crane.

The Records end abruptly in 1740, and there is nothing to indicate the reason. Four pages are missing, and we cannot tell whether they contained any records or not. The same Steward and Wardens served for the last four years, and two new brethren were elected during the last year. The Company probably died out, as many others did in England, in the eighteenth century.

The powers of such companies were taken away by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, which provided that "every person in any Borough may keep any shop for the sale of all lawful wares and merchandises by wholesale or retail, and use every lawful trade, occupation, mystery, and handicraft for hire, gain, sale, or otherwise within any Borough."

The following lists of officers are extracted from the minutes. The apprentices I have arranged according to the dates on which they were bound, instead of alphabetically as they occur in the book.

LIST OF STEWARDS.

1675 John Taylor, Mercer.	1684 Samuel Cheshire [Mayor 1690].
1676 George Fletcher, Apothecary.	1685 Henry Holmes [Mayor 1694].
1677 Francis Marshall.	1686 Thos. Widdoson.
1678 John Dunnidge, Grocer [Mayor 1660, 1684].	1687 Thos. Bott [Mayor 1705].
1679 John Taylor.	1688 Thos. Ward.
1680 William Parker.	1689 William Ffrancis (Apoth.) [Mayor 1697, 1699, & 1700].
1681 Nathaniel Doughtye.	
1682 Thos. Gery, Apothecary.	
1683 Samuel Fletcher [Mayor 1691].	

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1690 Abraham Crompton
(Mercer) | 1714 John Brentnall. |
| 1691 Francis Cokayne* (M)†
[Mayor 1703, 1711,
1721, 1733]. | 1715 Robert Bakewell [Mayor
1739, 1751, 1759]. |
| 1692 Joseph Parker (M). | 1716 Thomas Bingham. |
| 1693 Sam. Fletcher. | 1717 Richard Hodgkinson
the younger. |
| 1694 John Taylor. | 1718 Joshua Smith [Mayor
1740]. |
| 1695 Rich. Hodgkinson. | 1719 Alderman Cokayne. |
| 1696 { Isaack Meynell (M).
Sam. Cheshire, in place
of Meynell dec ^d . | 1720 Robert Shore. |
| | 1721 John Bourn. |
| 1697 Gilbert Cheshire (M). | 1722 Daniell Bott. |
| 1698 Dan Watton (Ap.). | 1723 Philip Gell. |
| 1699 Thos. Bott (M). | 1724 John Brentnall. |
| 1700 Nath Prime (M). | 1725 John Bingham [Mayor
1757]. |
| 1701 Thos. Bingham. | 1726 Mark Dawson. |
| 1702 Rich. Ward (M) [Mayor
1710, 1719]. | 1727 Joseph Pike. |
| 1703 Abra. Crompton. | 1728 Humphry Booth [Mayor
1746]. |
| 1704 Francis Cokayne, Mayor. | 1729 Samuel Richardson. |
| 1705 Thos. Bennet. | 1730 James Grayson. |
| 1706 Francis Ward. | 1731 Paul Nightingale. |
| 1707 Chas. Thompson (Iron.) | 1732 Do. do. |
| 1708 Joseph Parker. | 1733 Joseph Wharton. |
| 1709 Rich ^d Hodgkinson. | 1734 Paul Nightingale. |
| 1710 Nathaniel Prime. | 1735 Thomas Bennet. |
| 1711 Timothy Cartwright. | 1736 Richard Ward. |
| 1712 Daniel Watton. | 1737 Thomas Noton. |
| 1713 Thomas Fisher (Alder-
man) [Mayor 1709,
1714]. | 1738 Do. do. |
| | 1739 Do. do. |
| | 1740 Do. do. |

His eldest son, Francis Cockayne, was Lord Mayor of London in 1751.

† (M) means Mercer.

LIST OF WARDENS.

1675 Francis Marshall, Upholsterer.	Geo. Fletcher, Apothecary.
1676 John Dunnidge, Mercer.	W ^m Parker, Mercer.
1677 Nathaniell Doughtye.	Thos. Gery, Apothecary.
1678 Samuel Fletcher.	Sam ^l Cheshire.
1679 Henry Holmes.	Thos. Widdison.
1680 Thos. Bott, Mercer.	Thos. Ward, Mercer.
1681 John Taylor, Mercer.	Francis Marshall, Upholsterer.
	Geo. Fletcher (Marshall dec ^d).
1682 John Dunnidge.	William Francis.
1683 W ^m Parker.	Nathaniel Doughtye.
	Abraham Crompton.
1684 Abraham Crompton.	Francis Cockayne.
1685 Samuel Cheshire.	Samuel Fletcher.
1686 Henry Holmes.	Joseph Parker.
1687 Thos. Widdoson.	Thomas Ward.
1688 Thos. Bott.	William Francis.
1689 John Taylor.	George Ffletcher.
1690 W ^m Parker (M).	Sam ^l Fletcher.
1691 Sam ^l Cheshire [Mayor].	Hen. Holmes.
1692 Thomas Widdoson.	Thomas Bott.
1693 Thos. Ward.	Rich. Hodgkinson.
1694 Fran. Cokayne.	Isaack Meynell.
1695 Abra. Crompton (M).	Jos. Parker (M).
1696 Rich. Hodgkinson (I).	Gil. Cheshire (M).
1697 Daniel Watton (Apoth.)	Thomas Bott (M).
1698 Fran. Cokayne (M).	Joseph Parker (M).
1699 Abra. Crompton (M).	Dan Watton (Apoth.)
1700 Tho. Ward.	Tho. Bingham.
1701 Thos. Bott.	Fran. Cokayne.
1702 Gilbert Cheshire.	Nath. Prime.
1703 Jno. Taylor.	Rich. Ward.
1704 Thos. Bennet.	Chas. Thompson.

1705	Jos. Parker.	Ffrancis Ward.
1706	Abra. Crompton.	Dan. Watton.
1707	Thos. Bott.	Fran. Cokayne.
1708	Gilbert Cheshire.	Rich. Hodgkinson
1709	Charles Thompson.	John Bennet.
1710	Timothy Cartwright.	Thos. Bennett.
1711	Joseph Parker.	Thos. Bingham.
1712	Richard Ward.	Thos. Bennett.
1713	Daniell Watton.	John Brentnall.
1714	Thomas Fisher.	Robert Bakewell.
1715	Richard Hodgkinson.	John Bennet.
1716	Charles Tompson.	Rob ^t Bakewell.
1717	Abraham Crompton.	Ald ^m Cokayne.
1718	Richard Hodgkinson, Jur.	Robert Bakewell (M).
1719	Joshua Smith.	Thomas Bennet.
1720	Nath. Prime.	John Bourn.
1721	John Brentnall.	Daniel Bott.
1722	Thomas Bingham.	Robert Bakewell.
1723	Daniel Bott.	Richard Hodgkinson, Senr.
1724	John Bingham.	Robert Shore.
1725	Philip Gell.	Mark Dawson.
1726	Thomas Bennet.	Joseph Pike.
1727	Robert Shore	John Bown.
1728	John Bingham.	Samuel Richardson.
1729	Robert Shore.	John Bourn.
1730	Mark Dawson.	Joseph Wharton.
1731	Samuel Richardson.	Joseph Pike.
1732	Do.	Do.
1733	Humphry Booth.	John Cooke.
1734	Thomas Bennett.	Mark Dawson.
1735	Samuel Richardson.	Thomas Noton.
1736	Joseph Pike.	John Steer.
1737	Robert Shore.	Joseph Pike.
1738	Do.	Do.
1739	Do.	Do.
1740	Do.	Do.

LIST OF BRETHREN.

In Place of

Jan. 7	1674	William Parker, Mercer	
Do.	do.	William Handford, Mercer (did not serve)	
Do.	do.	John Dunnidge, Grocer	
Do.	do.	Nathaniel Doughtye, Mercer	
Do.	do.	Thomas Gery, Apothecary	
Do.	do.	Samuel Fletcher, Mercer	
Do.	do.	Samuel Cheshire, do.	
Do.	do.	Richard Piggin, do.	
Do.	do.	Henry Holmes, Apothecary	
Do.	do.	Thomas Widdoson, Iron- monger	
Dec. 21	1675	Robert Adams	
Jan. 27	1676	Thomas Bott, Mercer	R. Adams
April 2	1678	Thomas Ward, Mercer	
Aug. 8	1681	William Franceys	F. Marshall, dec ^d .
May 17	1683	Abraham Crompton	Thos. Gery, dec ^d .
Nov. 1	1683	Francis Cockayne	
Ap. 6	1686	Joseph Parker	Jno. Dunnidge, dec ^d .
Ap. 18	1693	Richard Hodgkinson, (Ironmonger)	Geo. Fletcher, to Ire- land
Ap. 10	1694	Isaak Meynell (M.)	
Nov. 28	1695	Gilbert Cheshire (M.)	Saml. Fletcher, dec ^d .
June 11	1696	Daniel Watton, (Apoth.)	Isaak Meynell, dec ^d .
June 7	1699	Nathaniel Prime (Mer.)	Hen. Holmes, dec ^d .
Dec. 20	„	Thomas Bingham (M.)	William Parker, dec ^d .
Nov. 10	1701	Richard Ward (M.)	Thos. Ward, dec ^d .
Sept. 9	1703	Thos. Bennet (Iron.)	Sam. Cheshire, dec ^d .
Oct. 28	1703	Chas. Thompson (Iron.)	Ald. Wm. Franceys, dec ^d .
Nov. 4	1704	Francis Ward, (M.)	Jno. Taylor, dec ^d .
Jan. 24	1709	John Bennet (M.)	Ffrancis Ward, dec ^d .
July 21	1709	Timothy Cartwright	Thomas Bott, resigned

		In Place of	
Ap. 7	1713	Thomas Fisher, Alderman (Apoth.)	Gilbert Cheshire, resigned
Do.	do.	John Brentnall (M.)	Richard Ward, resigned
July 18	1713	Robert Bakewell	Timothy Cartwright, resigned
Nov. 8	1716	Richard Hodgkinson, jur. (Iron.)	
March 19	1718	Joshua Smith (Apoth.)	Charles Thompson, dec ^d .
June 16	1719	Robert Shore (Upholsterer)	Joshua Smith, declined
Feb. 17	1720	John Bourn	
Ap. 11	1721	Daniell Bott	
Ap. 16	1723	Philip Gell	
Ap. 7	1724	John Bingham	
Mch. 30	1725	Mark Dawson	Mr. Abraham Crompton, dec ^d .
Ap. 12	1726	Joseph Pyke	John Brentnall, dec ^d .
Ap. 4	1727	Humphry Booth	
Ap. 23	1728	Samuel Richardson	John Bennet, resigned
Nov. 20	1729	James Grayson Joseph Wharton	Not in minute book (pp. torn out), but entered on stamped paper.
Ap. 20	1731	Paul Nightingale		John Bourn, non-resident
Mch. 27	1733	John Cooke	Thos. Bingham, resign ^d .
Ap. 8	1735	Richard Ward	Joseph Wharton, non-resident
Do.	do.	Thomas Noton	John Cook, non-appearance when summoned
Ap. 27	1736	John Steer	Robert Bakewell, resigned
Aug. 13	1740	Mark Dawson, jur. Benjamin Bingham	His father, resigned John Steer, dec ^d .

LIST OF REGISTERS.

Aug. 14	1675	Robert Adams, Grocer and Freeman of Co ^y .
Dec. 21	do.	William Francis, Apothe- cary
Aug. 8	1681	Abraham Crompton
May 17	1683	Francis Cockayne

LIST OF BEADLES.

Aug. 14	1675	Henry Corden
Ap. 6	1686	Joseph Sadler
Ap. 8	1735	John Jackson

LIST OF APPRENTICES.

BOUND.	NAME.	PARENT.	PLACE.	MASTER.	TRADE.
8th April, 1669	John Ratcliffe	Hugh	Mugington	Francis Marshall...	U.
29th Sept., 1670	John Heathcote	Gilbert	Chesterfield	John Taylor	M.
24th June, 1671	Thos. Harryman	Thomas	Derby	H. Holmes	A.
9th Feb., 1673	Joseph Parker	Mary (Widow)	Church Broughton	Sam. Cheshire	M.
23rd March, 1673	Thos. Brookes	Thomas	Derby	T. Brookes	Felt Maker
1st Jan., 1674	Chas. Taylor	John	Derby	J. Taylor	M.
1st May, 1674	Sam. Fowler	Joseph	Derby	S. Cheshire	M.
15th May, 1674	Phil. Woven	Henry	Loscoe	W. Parker	M.
24th June, 1674	Thos. Hopkin	Thos.	Littleover	Thomas Ward	M.
24th June, 1674	Samuel Hill	Thos.	Mathfield, Staff.	Sam. Fletcher	M.
24th June, 1674	Thos. Marshall	Symon	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Geo. Fletcher	A.
24th June, 1674	Dan. Watton.	Thos.	Muirleys	Geo. Fletcher	A.
25th March, 1676	Rich. Wooding	Stephen		N. Doughtye	G.
25th March, 1690	Daniel Bott	Thos., Mercer	Derby	Dan. Watton	A.
25th July, 1690	Peter Oldershaw	John	Late of Kegworth...	Tom. Cockayne	M.
25th March, 1693	Ed. Newton	Mr. Newton, Gent.	Mickleover	Dan. Watton	A.
24th June, 1693	Jno. Bott	Thos.	Derby	Thos. Bott	M.