

The Kendrick Plate at Drapers Hall, London.

By ERNEST W. DORMER.

Among the treasures of the Drapers Company in their Hall in London is a small collection of silver plate purchased from a legacy left by John Kendrick of Reading in 1624. It is well known that John Kendrick left a munificent bequest to the Corporation of Reading, most of which they lost by default to Christ's Hospital in the first half of the 19th century. The bequest to the Drapers Company included the sum of £100 to be by the Wardens of the Company bestowed in plate "such as they shall think good, for the use of their Common Hall in London, at their meetings and dinners there." With the money and accrued interest the Company bought four silver "saltes," three dozen "spoones," two "Spout potts" and three "flatt cannes." In 1643, all the Company's plate was sold to pay their debts; but it was decided that "so soon as it shall please God the Company shall have any means of their own" the plate sold was to be made up again "of like kind, weight and goodness in a thankful remembrance of the several benefactors who left the same."

In 1658, the plate sold in 1643 was replaced and the following was bought for John Kendrick's gift:—"Three salts with knobs, 105 ounces; one salt with knobs, 51 ounces; one deep bason, 63 ounces; three flat cans, 66 ounces; three dozen silver spoons, 90½ ounces." In 1674, the four salts and the "bason" were melted down and a dozen plates were made instead, and later two tankards took the place of the "three decayed flatte cannes." In 1696, all this plate was disposed of for a loan to the King, but two years later the Company voted £100 to be spent upon plate to replace that melted down for the King; and in 1700 all the plate given by benefactors to the Company that was melted down and not yet remade was forthwith remade and the bene-

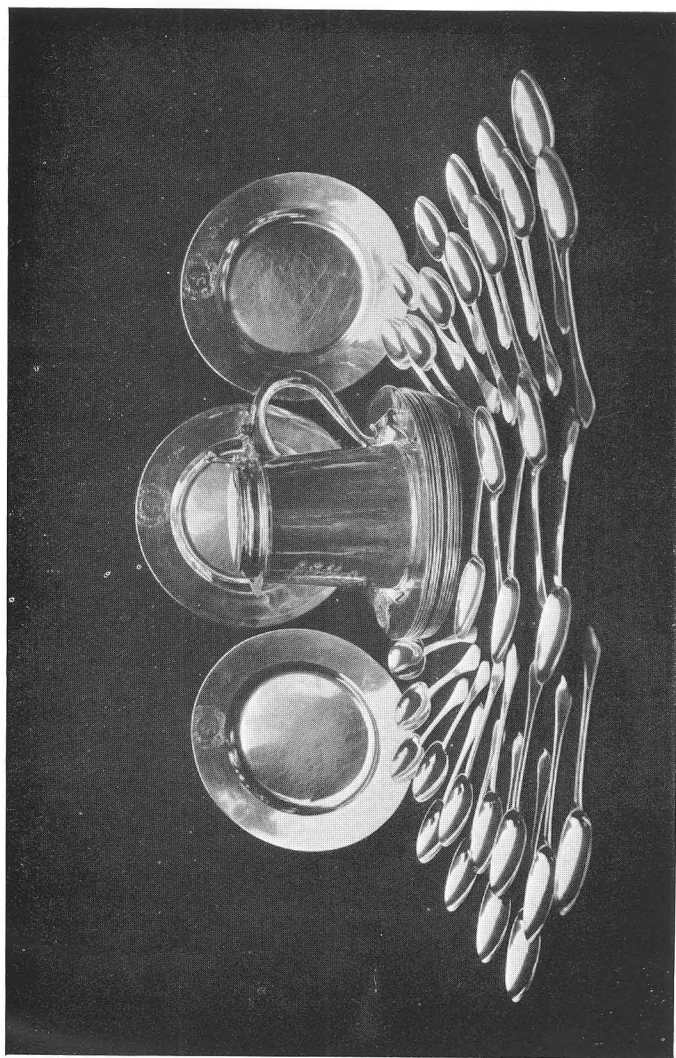
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John Kendrick
(1574-1624).

factors' names engraved thereon. At the present time the Company possess the following plate of the gift of John Kendrick:—
A James II. silver tankard and cover, hall-mark for 1685 ; twelve silver plates, hall-mark for 1700 ; thirty silver rat-tail spoons, hall-mark for 1699.

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