

THE CORDWAINERS AND CORVESORS OF OXFORD.

THE Cordwainers, and Corvesors or Corsyers,¹ of Oxford, (corduanarii et corvesarii² Oxon'), are a Guild of very high antiquity, and it is extremely probable may have existed as such in Saxon times. For whereas, Mr. Herbert, in his history of the "Twelve great Livery Companies of London,"³ states the earliest charter in the possession of any of them to be one of Edward I., granted to the Fishmongers' Company, in the seventeenth year of his reign;⁴ and the next in priority of date to be three made in the first year of Edward III. to the Goldsmiths, Skinners, and Merchant Taylors, respectively; these, on the other hand, still have in their archives, and in good preservation, a charter of Inspeximus of the 45th of Henry III., reciting a previous one, without date, made by his grandfather, Henry II., to the Corvesors of Oxford, in which that prince gives and confirms to them all the liberties and customs, and a guild, as they had it in the time of his own grandfather, Henry I.⁵ The Inspeximus of Henry III. is conceived in the following terms:—

1. Henricus Dei gra' Rex Angl' Dñs Hibñ et Dux Aquittann' Archiepis', Epis', Abbatib's, Priorib's, Comitib's, Baronib's, Justiciar', Vicecomitib's, p'positis ministris et omnib's ballivis et fidelibus suis salutem. Inspeximus cartam quam Dñs H. Rex avus noster fecit corvesariis et corduanariis Oxon' in hec verba.

2. Henricus Dei gra' Rex Angl' et Dux Normann' et Aquittann' et Comes Andeg' Archiepis', Epis', Abbatib's, Comitib's, Baronib's, Justiciar', Vicecomitib's et omnib's ministris et fidelibus suis Francis et Anglis tocius Angl' salutem. Sciatis me concessisse et presenti carta confirmasse corve-

¹ This word is used 5 Edward VI., B. 15.

² Corvesarii are defined by Ducange to be sutores veterinarii, qui corio veteri utuntur. With all deference to so high an authority, this may hardly be esteemed a satisfactory etymology; not only because it derives the term from the Latin, which cannot well be supposed its root, but also because it would make the Corvesarii mere cobblers, whereas the Charter of Henry II., and the following Inspeximus of Henry III., put them as first and principal and before the Corduanarii. The word is by no means of common occurrence, and becomes, in consequence, difficult to be traced. But the conjecture advanced by Skinner (who spells it Corviser) that it was intended to express the *cuir faiscurs*, refers us to a probable origin, the Norman-French, and agrees with all that

is found respecting it in the history of this Company.

A kind friend, well versed in these inquiries, suggests that Palsgrave, in his *Lesclaircissement de la Langue Francoyse*, gives *Cordovanier* as the French equivalent both to corvyser and cordwayner. This would make them occupy, as tradesmen, a station analogous to that of many tailors in the present day, who both provide the cloth and make it up. Roquefort renders *courvoissier* or *courvoisier* by *cordonnier*, *tannier*, which confirms Skinner's idea of its derivation.

³ 2 vols., 8vo, London, 1837.

⁴ Vol. i., p. 224.

⁵ This Charter also was in the possession of the Company till about forty years ago, at which time it was lent, and has never since been restored.

sariis de Oxon' omnes libertates et consuetudines quas habuerunt tempore Regis Henr' avi mei, et quod habeant Gildam suam sicut tunc habuerunt. Ita quod nullus faciat officium eorum in Villa de Oxon' nisi sit de Gilda illa. Concedo eciam quod Corduanarii qui postea venerunt in villam de Oxon' sint de hac ipsa Gilda et habeant easdem libertates et consuetudines quas Corvesarii habent et habere debent. Pro hac autem concessione et confirmacione Corvesarii et Corduanarii debent michi reddere singulis anuis unam unciam auri. Testib's Galfrido et Rogero Capellanis Regis et Ricardo Britone Rado fil' Steph'i Camerar' et Ric'o Ruffo apud Wudestok. Nos autem predictam concessionem ratam et gratam habentes ipsam Corvesariis et Corduanariis predicte ville confirmamus. Volentes et concedentes pro nobis et heredib's nostris quod ipsi in perpetuum utantur et gaudeant libertatib's et consuetudinib's predictis, sicut predicta carta rationabilit' testatur. Reddendo per annum ad scaccarium nostrum Sancti Michaelis pro hac confirmacione nostra quinque solidos ultra unam unciam auri quam prius reddere consueverunt ad scaccarium predictum. Hiis testib's Galfrido Gacelin. Will'o Le Latymer. Imberto Pugeys. Rob'to de Thwengh. Imberto de Muntferaunt. Hugone de Dyne. Will'o de Trubelvill' et aliis. Dat' per manum nostram apud Wudestok decimo octavo die Decembr' anno regni nostri Quadragesimo quinto.

(Seal in green wax, much broken, appended.)

This was confirmed by an Insepimus of 12th Edward II., which, after reciting the whole, as it has been transcribed, continued in the following words :—

3. Nos autem concessiones et confirmacionem predictas ratas habentes et gratas eas pro nobis et heredib's nostris quantum in nobis est predictis Corduanariis et Corvesariis et eorum successorib's Corduanariis et Corvesariis predicte ville Oxon' concedimus et confirmamus sicut carta predicta rationabiliter testatur. Præterea volentes eisdem Corduanariis et Corvesariis gratiam in hac parte facere uberiorem concedimus eis pro nobis et heredib's nostris et hac carta nostra confirmamus quod nullus faciat eorum officium in suburbiis predicte ville Oxon' nisi sit de Gilda supradicta et quod nullus scindat in eadem villa Oxon' aut suburbiis ejusdem corduanum aut corium tannatum conreatum nec novum opus ad officium predictum pertinens in eisdem villa et suburbiis vendat nisi sit de illa Gilda sub forisfactura manuoperis illius ad opus nostrum de qua forisfactura annuatim ad scaccarium nostrum sancti Michaelis per manus ballivorum nostrorum dicte ville volumus responderi. Pro quib's quidem concessione et confirmacione dicti Corduanarii et Corvesarii et successores sui predicti reddent nobis et heredib's nostris singulis annis ad scaccarium nostrum sancti Michaelis ultra predictam unciam et dictos quinque solidos duos solidos de incremento imperpetuum. Hiis testib's venerabilib's patrib's W. Archiep'o Ebor', Angl' Primate, J. Elien' Ep'o. Cancellario n'ro et J. Norwicen' Ep'o. Joh'e de Britannia Comite Richemund. Adomaro de Valencia Comite Pembroch. Humfrido de Bohun Comite Hereford' et Essex. Hugone le Despenser Juniore. Barth'o de Badelesmere Senescallo hospicii nostri et aliis. Dat' per manum nostram apud Ebor' tercio die Junii anno regni nostri duodecimo.

(Seal in green wax, much broken, appended.)

The preceding clause has been given at length, because it presents to the reader the only addition which the charter of Henry III. ever appears to have received. For the repeated renewals of their charter by Inspeximus, now in the possession of the Company, a list and the dates of which are given below, run in all cases, *mutatis mutandis*, and with some slight verbal differences, in the same form, granting no further powers or privileges; and the fee-farm rent due to the Crown remains the same from the earliest of their existing records downwards, viz., twenty-two shillings, of which fifteen shillings may be supposed to be the composition at which the uncia auri had been assessed, five shillings were reserved by the charter of Henry III., and the remaining two shillings by that of Edward II., as has been already seen.⁶

Royal charters of Inspeximus, in addition to the two already mentioned:—

4. 20 Edward III., and seventh year of his reign over France, May 18, at Westminster. This has been either lost or mislaid; its existence is shewn by the recitals in subsequent ones.

5. 4 Richard II., February 14, at Westminster. The seal in green wax, part of it broken off. See Sandford, p. 190.

6. 1 Henry IV., February 25, at Westminster. Seal of dark green wax, broken across.

7. 6 Henry VI., January 30, at Westminster. Seal in green wax, and broken.

8. 1 Henry VIII., March 24, at Westminster. Seal in green wax, crushed.

9. 1 Edward VI., June 27, at Westminster. Seal in brown wax, broken. See Sandford, p. 458.

10. 13 Elizabeth, February 8, at Westminster. Of the seal, which was in brown wax, very little is left. The writing is of great beauty.⁷

⁶ This rent was paid to the bailiffs of Oxford. See accounts of meetings of 3 & 4 Edward VI., 2 & 3 and 5 & 6 Philip and Mary, &c.; and by the ordinances of 2 Elizabeth, was to be collected from the members upon their annual day of meeting, under penalty of three shillings and four pence for not bringing it.

⁷ It may not be uninteresting to give the costs of this renewal of the Charter and Writ Executory, as we find them stated in what is apparently an official mem. pasted into book B., p. 186. See also some memoranda, p. 30.

Thordinary chardges for the passinge of the confirmacon & Charter wth the Executory upon the same for the Cordwayners of Oxford. Anno Dñe nre Eliz. R xiiij^{mo} 1570.

Inprimis the velome skynne	
and great words drawonge	vj ^s viij ^d
To Writinge	xxxvj ^s viij ^d
The exacion by the Doctors	iiij ^s
The fyne	xl ^s
The great seale	xx ^s iiij ^d
The grene waxe, lace, sealer	
and chafe waxe	iiij ^s iiij ^d
Thenrolem ^t	xx ^s
The writinge of theexecutory	x ^s
Thenrolem ^t therof	iiij ^s iiij ^d
The great seale for the same	xx ^s iiij ^d
Thexanacon and sealer	xij ^d
The docquet	xij ^d
The great longe boxe for the	
same	iiij ^s viij ^d
Sm ^t to ^h s	viiij ^d iiij ^d
Rec ^d by Willm Ballard	Mr. Johnes
clerke.	

11. 4 James I. (of Scotland, 39), May 26, at Westminster. The seal is in brown wax, six inches in diameter, quite perfect, and a beautiful specimen.⁸ These three last charters are kept together in a long box.

In pursuance of the provision of the charter of Edward II., a "Writ Executorie," addressed to the mayor and bailiffs of the city (then town) of Oxford, was added to the *Inspeximus*. Of these the company possess four, viz :—

1. 35 Henry (VI.), May 25, at Westminster. Seal in yellow wax, broken. See Sandford, p. 244.

2. 4 Edward IV., August 26, at Woodstock. Seal in plain wax, injured: differs in some respects from that given in Sandford, p. 375.

3. 13 Elizabeth, February 8, at Westminster.⁹ Seal in brown wax, broken.

4. 4 James I. (of Scotland, 39), May 26, at Westminster, indorsed "An Executory for the Company of Cordwayners and Corvesors in the City of Oxford." Seal in brown wax, broken.

The form of the first of these, which is, with a few verbal differences, the same as that of the rest, is as follows :—

Henricus Dei gra' Rex Angl' et Francie et Dominus Hib'nie Majori et Ballivis ville sue Oxon' qui nunc sunt vel qui pro tempore fuerint salutem. Cum inter ceteras libertates Corvesariis et Corduanariis ville nostre predictae per cartas progenitorum nostrorum quondam Regum Anglie quas confirmavimus pro certa firma eisdem progenitoribus nostris et heredibus suis annuatim reddend' concessas concessum sit eisdem quod nullus fac' eorum officium in suburbiis predictae ville Oxon' nisi sit de gilda sua eis per dictos progenitores nostros concessa et per nos confirmat' et quod nullus cindat in eadem villa Oxon' aut suburbiis ejusdem corduanum aut corium tannatum creatum aut novum opus ad officium predictum pertinens in eisdem suburbiis vendat nisi sit de illa gilda sat forisfactura manuoperis illius ad opus nostrum de qua forisfactura annuatim ad scaccarium nostrum sancti Michaelis per manus ballivorum dicte ville volumus responderi prout in cartis et confirmacione predictis plenius continetur. Nos volentes de forisfacturis hujusmodi in villa et suburbiis predictis juxta tenorem cartarum et confirmacionis predictarum responderi vobis mandamus firmiter injungentes quod eisdem Corvesariis et Corduanariis dicte ville Oxon' sitis in auxilium ad omnes hujusmodi forisfacturas in villa predicta ad opus nostrum levand' et nobis inde respondend' juxta tenorem cartarum et confirmacionis predictarum. Et hoc sicut nob' inde respondere volueritis nullatenus omittatis. Teste meipso apud Westm' xxv die Maii anno regni nostri tricesimo quinto.

(Seal in yellow wax, broken. See Sandford, p. 244.)

⁸ M^d that this yeare the company procured their Charter to be confirmed by the king's ma^{tie} w^{ch} cost for the ordinarie chard^{ges} . . . xii^{li} viij^d
Besid^{es} the chard^{ges} in travelling about the same and for gifts geven in respect
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thereof, vz. . . . xij^{li}

In toto . . . xxiiij^{li} viij^d
—*Proceedings at Annual Meeting in A.D.*
1606, B. 113.

⁹ Transcribed C. 31, with a translation, p. 25. It is mentioned in the ordinances of 19 Eliz.

The Charter of Incorporation being drawn up in the most general terms, it became necessary for the Company¹ to make by-laws or private regulations; in doing which from time to time, they availed themselves of the provisions of the statute 19 Henry VII., c. 7, by which they were enabled, under certain forms, (that adopted by them being usually the allowance of their rules by the judges of assize on their circuit), to make and enforce any ordinances for their own government and advantage, which were not inconsistent with the general provisions of the law. Such a proceeding seems to have been proposed in five, and actually carried into effect in four, instances. And as a proof that the allowance of their rules was considered to be a matter of validity and weight, we find it formally recited in the second of these instruments (that of the 19 Eliz.), that on November 3rd, in the seventeenth year of the same reign, William Tylcote, then mayor of Oxford, with the bailiffs, burgesses, and common council of the same, had ordered Mr. Aldeworth, the master, since deceased, and four of the Company, to be committed to the prison of Bocardo, where they had remained for a fortnight, in order to compel them to bring in their books of ordinances, and make Wm. Thomson, a foreigner, free of the Guild;² whereupon the justices signing, order that the said mayor, bailiffs, &c., should pay into the Exchequer such fine, *nomine pænæ*, as they should think good to be assessed for this disturbance and interruption.³

The dates of the ordinances or by-laws are as follows :—

1. 2 Eliz., July 18. On vellum, and in two pieces.⁴

¹ The collective body are styled the fellowship, occupation, or craft. 1, 4, 5, Edw. VI., pp. 13—15; 1 Mary, p. 17, B., &c.

² The phrase "Books of Ordinances" probably included the Charter also. The refusal does not seem to have been to admit Mr. Thomson at all, but at a less sum than 10*l*. In B. 75 is noted the admission of Wm. Tomson upon Nov. 10, 1575, paying a fine of 3*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*., which is probably the same person. See also the letter in C. 34. In an order of Dec. 29, 1789, the word "foreigner" is defined to mean "every person carrying on trade in the city of Oxford who hath not served a legal apprenticeship to a freeman of it."

³ See the Ordinances, also Sir Edward Saunders's letter B., pp. 77—80. On the other hand, the University Registers

afford proof that the cordwainers themselves could sometimes transgress. "Anno 1500, 7^o Octobris. Eodem die stricte mandavimus Ric. Pyttis Johanni Tacley et Ric laughton Shomakers et aliis per ipsos omnibus de societate illius artificii in Oxon' de gilda cordenwariorum quatenus nullus eorum vexet seu vexari faciat nomine proprio aut nomine dict' societatis quandam Thomam Baker Shomaker servientem uxoris Ed^{di} Symsonis quousque ostenderint nobis privilegia quibus possunt licite inhibere et impedire et coercere quod dict' Thomas non debet occupare seu exercere dict' artificium in hac villâ Oxon, et hoc sub pœna excommunicationis majoris precepimus." Regist. 2, fo. 84, in Archh. Univ. Oxon. The penalty is unusual and severe.

⁴ Transcribed, C. 1.

2. 19 Eliz., 1577, July. On vellum, and in two pieces, recites preceding ordinances, which it confirms, with additions. See also what is noticed above.

3. 2 [] (second figure erased) Eliz. One skin. These rules were never formally allowed.

4. 9 Charles, July 24. New ordinances, in which the former ones are not recited. On one skin of parchment, and almost illegible, from the ink having peeled off.*

5. 20 Charles II. (1668), June 29. New ordinances, on two skins of parchment.*

Of these two latter, the first (viz., those of 9th Charles) give the general regulations of the Company, while the last relate more to apprentices and the course of trade, &c. These have been transcribed under the date of 1668, 20 Charles II., June 29, on a roll, consisting of six pieces of parchment, of which they occupy four, the fifth commencing with the following words :—

Wee, the Master Warden & fraternity of the Guild and fellowship of Cordwayn^{rs}, Incorporated within the City of Oxford, Doe hereby consent to all these ord^{es} and By-laws (conteyned in the ffour foregoing skins of Parchm^t) and submitt to the Same und^r the Pains & Penaltys exp^{sd} in the said Bylaws & Ord^{es}.

HENRY WILLETT, Mr.

EDWARD MACE, Warden.

Then follow about 281 signatures, of which the last are,

Geo : Fred : Stratton,
John Evans,
Benjamin Beule.

This is kept in a cylindrical wooden case, and seems to have been used merely for obtaining the signatures of new members, as a simple way of confirming the powers of the act of the 19th of Henry VII.⁷

Lastly, the records of the Company are contained in eight books of different sizes, six of which, for the sake of more convenient reference, are here described by the letters of the

* In book B., p. 200, is a transcript of an order, dated 17 Chas. I., Feb. 28, die lune, by Sir Edw^d Hendon K^t, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and Judge of Assize at Oxon, made respecting publication of rules and authority for payments, on complaint to him by many of the Company. And in book D. is a resolution, dated April 20, 1666, to renew their Ordinances, and pay the expense out of their stock.

⁶ See orders of 1672 (24 Chas. II.), April, 25; and 1675 (25 Chas. II.), Nov. 14, in book D. There are, of course, many occasional orders to be found in the books of the Company.

⁷ It may be as well to observe here, that, for the sake of perspicuity, the regulations formally confirmed by the Justices of Assize, are in these pages termed *Ordinances*; and the occasional rules made by the majority of the Society, *Orders*.

alphabet. They present under different forms an account of its affairs and proceedings from the first year of the reign of Richard III. down to the present time ; that is, for upwards of three centuries and a half. The minutes of the general annual meetings, with the election of officers, settlement of accounts, and admission of new members made at them, form, as may be imagined, a prominent subject ; while, in other parts, appear transcripts of a few of their documents, orders, lists of members by name, notices of fines and amer-ciements, and particulars of some of their dinners. The minutes of their earliest meetings, called "Curie" or Courts, are kept in Latin up to the 23rd year of Henry VII.,⁸ and correspond in form with the records of a manor court, while the absentees are amerced in the same manner.

Book A. In parchment cover, 9 inches by 6 ; 92 pages.

Minutes of Courts, &c., from 1 Richard III. to 27 Henry VIII.

B. 4to, bound in wooden boards,⁹ 11 inches by 8 ; 202 pages, ditto, ditto, from 13 Henry VIII. to 1649, (24 Charles I.)

C. Small 4to, bound in old written vellum, with flap and ties, 8 inches by 6 ; 180 pages. Miscellanea, from 1625 to 1643.

D. A small folio, bound with parchment, 12 inches by 8 ; no paging. Minutes of Courts, Lists of Members, Admissions, &c., from 1614 to 1711.

E. A small folio, bound in parchment, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches by 9 ; no paging. Proceedings and Accounts, from 1646 to 1758.

F. A small folio, bound as the last, 13 inches by 8 ; no paging. Minutes of Court, Orders, and Lists of Members by name, from 1710 to 1789, and some transactions of the following year ; which are continued to the present time in a book, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 10, bound in leather, and about the same thickness as Book D.

The accounts are continued from Book E to the present time in a volume of rather smaller dimensions.

⁸ Book A., p. 61. The form is—

Curia Cordiwanorum et Corvesariorum
tenta Oxo^o die lune proximo post festum
sci luce evangeliste et an^o regni Regis, &c.

Ad hanc curiam venerunt sectatores
curie, videlicet, &c. &c.

And at the conclusion of the minutes of
many Courts, are the words—

Et sic (or, sunt) omnia pacifica.

⁹ This is bound in old stamped leather,
and supposed to be the volume mentioned
in Book E. in the accounts, anno 1676,
viz. :

It' p^d for byndeing y^e old booke

& a new cover 1s. 6d.

With the exception of some few unimportant deeds, the above are all the sources of information that remain from which anything can be learnt as to the internal history and affairs of the Company. Their charter went no further than to incorporate them as the corvesors and cordwainers of Oxford,¹ and give the exclusive privilege of exercising their trade or mystery within the limits of the town and the suburbs thereof; while the "Writ Executorie" called in the aid of power to assist in enforcing the forfeitures of prohibited work. Whatever other corporate rights they possessed came to them only as incidents arising from their charter, and not by virtue of direct grant; so that even the particulars of the constitution of their body are to be sought for in the ordinances which they were enabled to make for themselves as before mentioned. And from these it appears that, besides the commonalty of the society, which practically included sisters also,² the governing part of it was to consist of 1. A Master; 2. A Warden; and 3. Two Searchers of Leather, all of whom were to be elected by the members generally on their annual day of meeting, which was the Monday following the feast of St. Luke (October 18th) in each year. To these officers are to be added, since they are mentioned in all existing records, though not prescribed by the ordinances, 4. Two Keepers of the Keys; 5. Two Keepers of our Lady's Light; 6. A Beadle, an officer first appointed in 1632,³ "in order to assist the Warden in summoning Members;" and 7. and lastly, a Steward.

With respect to the duties of these officers:—

1. The Master, "Guardianus sive Custos,"⁴ is directed to be sworn to bear true allegiance to the Quene and her successours, "to se unto & governe faithefully the said Crafte or Guyld, & omytte nothyng that shalbe for its commoditie, neither do, or as moche as in hym lyeth, suffer to be donne, anye

¹ The following order is curious, inasmuch as it seems to refer to the *cobblestones*, from which the cobblers have been sometimes thought to derive their appellation:—"It' hyt ys agrede y^t no man of y^e craft shall heng forthie no yello leynd schos on ther raks or gaus or on ther formost pols nor *stanyis byfor ther wyndos* but he y^t takyth the them to be forfett to y^e craft & he y^t takyth hett to have ij^d for hys labor made & consented to y^e Sottorday afore saynt marten's day to y^e fest of Saynt

myhell y^e arkeangell. In y^e xxviii yere of y^e Ravn of kyng Henry y^e viijth." B. 3.

² A. 91, B. 36, 59, D. sub annis 1616, 1632, &c.

³ He was to be allowed 10s. a year and fees upon admissions, in such manner as the Warden had. D. sub anno. A beadle's staff first appears in the list of property for 1683, E. sub anno.

⁴ See all the early courts in Book A. to 12 Henry vii., &c.

thynges that maye damage or hurte the said Guylde, its liberties, or anye thynges containyd within its charture. And to geve dewe and true Accompte of all suche money as shalbe Levied for the said Guilde's use, or come to their handes by meanes of their office, or by reasone of anye penalties, amerce-mentes, arrerages, fynes, or otherwise."⁵ And in order to assist him in effecting these objects, the Warden or Steward was to be constantly at his call; and their first duty was jointly to take the accounts of the preceding year, and receive the money-box or coffer, with the sum found to be in hand.

2. The Warden or Steward,⁶ called in the minutes of earlier courts, "Senescallus," was to take his "corporall oath that he would be readie at all tymes to warne the persones of the said Guilde to come together whensoever the Maister should will and admonishe hym to do the same; and to be readie at all tymes to come to the said M^r. at his lawfull warninge to helpe hym in all honest matters and Comodities of the said Guilde; and to ayde, helpe, and assiste hym in defence of all such liberties and Comodities as have byne graunted to the said Guilde by the kynges of this Realme and their progenitours."⁷ From the circumstance of the Warden being so much the Master's agent, he is represented in the minutes of the proceedings of some years to be nominated by him;⁸ an error which might have arisen from the Company being kindly disposed to elect whomsoever their Master wished to have as his assistant. In some cases, the power of the two was independent, but to be exercised jointly, as in that of removing members, upon just cause, from the Guild.

3. The two Searchers of Leather, *scrutatores corii*, or "sherchys of ledyr,"⁹ were to make "true and dewe searche of the workes and matters of the said occupation everie terme of the yeare; and if they found any thinge forfeited, to geve dewe and trew accompt of the same to the bayliffes of the towne of Oxforde, towards the paymente of the Quene's fee farme of the towne of Oxforde."¹ The current of legislation has set so

⁵ Ordin. 2 Eliz.

⁶ See Minutes of Courts, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Edw. VI., the latter especially; 1 Mary, and 3 Eliz., Book B. The steward of later days was a different officer, being the legal adviser, and what would be now called the Clerk of a Company. In the minutes of the court holden 14 Henry VIII., the

master is termed warden, and the latter steward. B. 57.

⁷ Ordin., 2 Eliz.

⁸ Book B. ad init. See Minutes of Courts of 23, 24, 29 Henry VIII., and 2 & 3 Ed. VI, 20 Eliz., &c.

⁹ B. 58.

¹ Ordin., 2 Eliz.

strongly of late years against all guilds and corporations, as being mere monopolies, that it may not be unnecessary to draw the reader's attention to the services which these officers rendered to the public, as well as to their own society. For, if, on behalf of the latter, they seized all prohibited and foreign goods, and prevented unlicensed persons from trading; they, at the same time, protected the former from imposition through indifferent work and bad leather. The duties of the garbeller of spices in the Grocers' Company of London seem to have been attended with corresponding beneficial results.²

4. The Key-keepers, or "custodes clavium ciste," were two officers, who, although not acknowledged in the ordinances, appear always to have been annually elected with the rest.³ Their duties are found described in the Minutes of the Court of 4 Eliz.,⁴ "that they were to keep the boxeye, keyes, and boxyes and coffers, wth other wrytyngs, charters, and ordynances;" and they are called in those of 1575 and 1576, 17 & 18 Eliz.,⁵ keepers of the coffers, charters, orders, and other things, &c. Such officers appear even in the *Gilda Theutonicorum*;⁶ and therefore it is probable these have existed very long in the Company. In 1613, 11 James I., and ever afterwards, their number was increased from two to four,⁷ the reason of which does not clearly appear, unless it was part of a measure of finance, which the Company were pursuing by suspending their dinners from that year. That the office was not considered as at all a sinecure, may be gathered from an entry under the year 1684, when Mr. Daniel Faulkner, one of the number, was fined five shillings for not being ready with his key, whereby the election of the Company was delayed; but, upon his acknowledgment, and desiring to be excused of his offence, the money, which had been paid, was returned to him again.⁸

5. As all these Companies were, in some degree, of a religious nature, and those which were rich enough had priests appointed to pray with them when living, and for them when dead; so did these, out of their poverty, raise a small contribution to maintain a light burning before the image of the Virgin, upon her festival, and perhaps at other seasons, that, being thus reminded of their devotion, she

² Herbert, i., 309.

⁴ B. 24.

⁷ B. 120.

³ See from the Court of 1 Richard III. downwards.

⁵ B. 75, 82.

⁸ D.

⁶ Herbert, i., 14.

might protect and befriend them. The origin of this observance cannot now, of course, be traced ; but it corresponds so exactly with something of the same nature, of the date of 6 Henry IV., found in the ordinances of the Drapers' Company in London, that it will be only necessary to quote the direction for the latter to enable the reader to judge what the former must have been ; with this difference only, that it was probably a single light.

For the manteyninge of oure lyght : Also ordeyned hyt ys that there schull be v. tapers of wax, of resonable wheight, sette in a candelstyeke of laton, as ordeyned of olde tyme at Wol-chyrche, in the worchipp of th' assumpeyon of oure Lady, and they to brenne at due tymes, as the custome ys ; the which lyght schull be well and honestly ordeyned and mainteyned.⁹

From some entries made in the books,¹ it occurs incidentally, that the cordwainers kept their light with the Carmelites at the Whitefriars ; and this must have been in their beautiful Lady Chapel on the south side of St. Mary Magdalen Church,² restored with much taste and skill, under the able superintendence of Mr. Grimsley, in 1839 ; and if the Company occupied at that time, as they actually did at a later period, any house near Bocardo for the purpose of their meetings, the vicinity of this chapel might have been the principal cause of their selecting it, as the place wherein to make their offering.

The two persons appointed to attend to this Light were called "Keepers of our Lady's light," and sometimes "Ower lades men ;" in Latin, "Custodes luminis beate (or sancte) Marie," and were duly sworn. An instance, however, occurs, of one of their members being amerced for neglect ; as at a Court holden on the Monday after St. Luke's day, in the first year of Richard III. is the following entry :—"Edwardus Symson Senescallus present' quod Ricardus Pyttis custos luminis beate Marie fecit def' die oblacionis, ideo in misericordia j. lib' cere,"³ for which he was again presented in the following year.⁴ And in the fifth year of Henry VII., the

⁹ Quoted in Herbert, i. 447. The whole account of the observances of this Company is well worth consulting. They are said to have had priests and altars at St. Michael's, Cornhill, St. Thomas of Acon (where they possessed a chapel), the Austinfriars, and St. Bartholomew's Priory.

¹ A. 20, 23, 80.

² See Dr. Ingram's "Memorials of Oxford," vol. iii., who notices that there had been a distinct entrance to the chapel by steps from the churchyard.

³ A. 4. The price of a pound of wax at the time is stated, in p. 23, to have been 7*d.* ; and the same thing may be inferred from the memorandum in p. 1.

⁴ P. 6.

warden suffers for neglecting to give due admonition :—" Ad hanc Cur' pres' sect' predict' quod Johannes Tackely nuper Sen' artificii negligent' se habuit in premuniendo Willelmum Saventr' ad essendum apud fratres carmel in festo assumpce' beate Marie ideo incurrit penam j. li' cere ;"⁵ which presentment is repeated in the next year, with the addition, that he had forfeited sevenpence for the value of the pound of wax.⁶

The only general rule which has been found for the management of the offering, is one of the fourth year of Henry VII. :—

Ordinat' q'd custodes luminis s'ce Marie de cetero faciant predictum lumen fere paratum annuatim erga festum assumpcionis beate Marie virginis sub pe^a cujuslibet custodis pro tempore exist' unius libre cere foris (foris faciente ?) artificio.⁷

Being a voluntary act of piety, the payments towards it vary both as to time and amount ; they were first made weekly, on Sundays,⁸ then for one year only, quarterly,⁹ and afterwards once every fortnight ;¹ the last agreement being to collect every week or fortnight, as convenient.² One of these made in the eighth year of Henry VII. may suffice as a specimen of the rest :—

Also it ys agreyt y^t the Mayster John Symond, Wyll^am camden, John bromlay, Rob' holbeke, John falofelde, Ryc' barlaw, Ryc' barlaw, & Edward Jenkyns, have grantyt to pay wekely to ower lade lyght

Mr Symond	ij d
Mr Camden	j d
Mr bromlay	gedyr & a pese of tymbyr [will gather or collect, and give a piece of timber].
Rob' holbeke	j d
John falofelde	ob
Ryc' barlaw	ob
Edward Jenkyns	xij d ¹

⁵ P. 20.

⁶ P. 23.

⁷ Order passed at a court holden on Monday after St. Luke's-day, 4 Hen. VII., A. 18.

⁸ 21 Hen. VII., A. 55 ; and see 7 Hen. VIII., p. 74 ; and 8 Hen. VIII., p. 77 ; 11 Hen. VIII., p. 80 and p. 89, which has no date ; also 16 Hen. VIII., B. 56, which probably has reference to the light.

⁹ 11 Hen. VIII., A. 80.

¹ A., p. 2. There is no date to this ; but by comparing it with B., pp. 58, 59, it will appear to be of either the 15 or 16 of Hen. VIII., in which years Edw. Jenkins was master.

² A. 89, without date ; but upon reference to VOL. VI.

ence to B. 70, 71, it will be found to be of 24 or 25 Hen. VIII., Mr. Bartram not having been master before, and the writing corresponding. They agree to collect 1*d.* a week.

³ A. 77. The contributions are usually very small, 2*d.*, 1*d.*, or a $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* ; Mr. Symond, who is always liberal, once giving 6*d.* ; so that to explain Mr. Jenkins's bounty, who, on two subsequent occasions, gave only a $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* and a 1*d.*, we must either suppose that he was moved by an extraordinary impulse of piety at the moment, or intended atonement for some crying sin he had committed ; it may be, a grievous overcharge upon some customer.

The amount, it will be observed, is but seventeenpence a-week, while in 21 Hen. VII., it was sixpence;⁴ in 7 Hen. VIII., fifteenpence;⁵ in the 10th, eightpence;⁶ the 15th or 16th, fourteenpence;⁷ the 16th, tenpence halfpenny;⁸ and the 24th or 25th, sevenpence.⁹ The money, when collected, was kept in a box or coffer, of which the master was to keep the key;¹ and on one occasion, a balance of seventeen shillings had accumulated.² Of the expenditure, the following is the only account which remains.³ It has no date, unless a mem. above, which seems to be "*Anno Regis Henrici quarti*," refers to it:—

Allocatus for vj. lb. di. of wax at vj. o(one) lb.	iijs. vjd. ob
It' for makyng of the hele stocke	xd.
Itm for makyng of fflowris	vd.
Itm the skoryng (scouring) of kandilsticks	jd.
Itm for makyng of the aamys (amice)	vjd.
Itm to 1 friar to Intend the lyght	ijd.

The last entry to be found of the appointment of the *Custodes luminis*, &c., is in the 29th year of Henry VIII.;⁴ and it is probable there were no more, as the statute 37 Henry VIII., chap. 4, entitled, "An Acte for dissolution of colleges, chauntries, and free chapelles at the King's Majestic's pleasure," gave the whole of these and their estates to the Crown; while another, passed in the first year of his successor, Edward VI. (chap. 14), swept away all that still remained, and included in its purview "all payments by corporations, misteryes, or craftes, for priests, obits, and lamps," which were thenceforth to be paid to the King.⁵ The effect of these enactments upon a voluntary contribution, like that of which we have been speaking, was, of course, simply to put an end to it. Still, it is gratifying to observe that the religious feeling did not cease; for in the few details of accounts which are left, we find, besides sums given in charity to poor and decayed members of the craft, small annual payments to the prisoners at Bocardo,⁶ which may have been intended to supply the place of the superstitious practice. There is also an order passed at the annual meeting in 1585, to the effect that "all mene of oure company shall atend upon the M^r the Toosdaye after Saynte

⁴ A. 55.⁷ A. 2; B. 58, 59.¹ A. 2.⁵ Herbert, i., 113.⁵ A. 74.⁸ B. 56.² A. 63, 24 Hen. VII.⁶ About 2s. or 2s. 6d. per ann.⁶ A. 80.⁹ A. 89; B. 70, 71.³ A. 1.⁴ B. 5.

Luck's Day, and bryng hym to chirche;"⁷ and another, dated October 7, 1687, at the beginning of the reign of James II., that there should be "10s. allowed out of the company's stock for a sermon, and 2s. 6d. for the clerke,"⁸ which was afterwards increased, in 1722, to 1l. for the minister, and 2s. 6d. for the clerk.⁹

J. WILSON.



SEAL OF THE CORDWAINERS OF OXFORD.

(To be continued.)

DESCRIPTION OF A CURIOUS LEADEN FONT IN THE CHURCH OF BROOKLAND, KENT.

COMMUNICATED BY MR. ALEXANDER NESBITT.¹

IN the church of Brookland, a parish in Romney Marsh, in the county of Kent, on the road from Rye to Romney, a very interesting leaden font, of the Norman period, is preserved, of which no account or representation appears to have been published.

⁷ B. 91.

⁸ D. sub anno.

⁹ E. sub anno. See also an order made on St. Luke's-day, 3 Eliz., B. 137:—"M^d that no man shall gyve to his servaunts everye frydaye more then butter or chese, for lack of the on, the other; and all other Imbrye (Ember days) for duple ffastss commandyd by the church they shall have whyght bredde & no kinde of other mete." And in the next page, "Itm hit ys agreyd that no Jurny man shall worke uppon Saturday at nyght by candle lyght or uppon Sunday in the mornynge openlye in the shoppe; uppon payne to forfeit every suche tyme as he offendithe—xij^d

to the use of the occupacyon. And this article to be putt in executyon fourthwth ymmedyaty after this agrement," p. 188.

¹ The society is indebted to the kind liberality of Mr. Nesbitt, who obtained casts in plaster, at his expense, from the curious subjects in relief on this font. These casts, ten in number, were exhibited at the monthly meeting on March 2nd, and have been kindly presented by Mr. Nesbitt to the museum of the Institute. The font had been mentioned in Mr. Parker's valuable "Glossary of Gothic Architecture," but no representations of its curious details are there cited.—Ed.

warriors are pointed caps, with ear-pieces, but without tufts on the top. Two warriors, having long tunics and caps, with tufts, are sitting on their horses [sideways], in the same manner as ladies in Europe in modern times."

The rest of the frescoes are described with equal minuteness, and are no less curious and interesting. The author has introduced into his work, chapters "On Ancient Pagan Catacombs in General," "On Roman Christian Catacombs," "On the Paintings of the Ancients," and "On the Various Representations upon Ancient Tombs and Monuments," &c. But these are all subordinate to the description of the frescoes.

These researches must be regarded as of high interest, in connection with the discoveries made in recent years in various parts of Western Europe, illustrative of the sepulchral usages and decorations of former times. We regret to be unable to lay before our readers a specimen of the curious illustrations which accompany M. Ashik's valuable publication. The English archaeologist will not fail to recognise the curious coincidence in the fact of the deposit in these *kurgans* being commonly on the north-east side of the tumulus, which is in accordance with the observation frequently made in the examination of barrows in our own country.

J. WINTER JONES.

THE CORDWAINERS AND CORVESORS OF OXFORD.

(Concluded from page 159.)

It has been already observed that the annual meeting was holden upon the Monday after St. Luke's day,¹ but sometimes it took place on the festival itself, and from the 22d Hen. VIII. to the 25th Eliz. (1583), either upon that or upon the Sunday. With respect to the place of assembling, it was prescribed by the Ord. 2 Eliz. to be at the Master's house, but we may suppose, in the absence of better information, that when the company became more numerous, it was somewhere in the vicinity of the White Friars; and certainly it was so after the 37th Eliz. (1595), when, in the Master-ship of Mr. Thos. Bland, they commenced building a common hall, called Shoemakers' Hall,² upon leasehold ground at Bocardo.³ For this, however, they had scarcely funds

¹ See Ordinances, 2 Eliz.

² B. 103, 116.

³ B. 109.

sufficient to raise the necessary supplies ;⁴ the only assistance they are recorded to have received in the work being the gift of a tree valued at xs. from Mr. Richard Knight of Headington, xxs. towards glazing the windows from Mr. Cossam, Alderman, "sometymes Mayor," and who had been five times Master, and xs. for the same purpose from Mr. Thos. Bird, Clerk of the Company.⁵ It has been conjectured, and with apparent probability, that this Hall was the inn now called the Three Goats (a short mode of describing the shoemakers' arms), and which is the property of the city of Oxford.⁶ How long they continued to occupy their new building is not known ; but in the years 1617-18-19,⁷ we find them letting a tenement and garden, with the appurtenances, in the parish of St. Michael, which must have been the same property, as not the slightest hint occurs that they were possessed of any other. In 1631, Mr. Arnold is credited with 10*l.* for the rent of his house "nere Bocardo ;"⁸ and as, in 1634, mention is made of a house then sold for 140*l.*,⁹ it seems most probable it was "the Hall."

The business of the annual meetings, when assembled, was to collect and pay over the fee-farm rent, elect new officers, make presentments and admissions, with such orders as were necessary, and, lastly, to settle their accounts.¹ When these matters were all disposed of, the new master was to give them a dinner, under penalty of 6*s.* 8*d.*,² the latter being an act of duty not always performed, as the individual might prefer paying the penalty when the Company became very numerous ;³ and the funds necessary for celebrating the festivity could only be raised by a tax upon themselves. For, as they had no endowment,⁴ and no

¹ B. 109. The fine, writings, and fees cost 23*l.* 7*s.* 0*d.*, and being short of money they were obliged to permit Mr. Cossam, the master, to retain the lease as a security for a sum he had lent them. This was repaid in 1602. B. 116, 109.

⁵ B. 177.

⁶ See the concluding note.

⁷ D. sub annis.

⁸ B. 146.

⁹ D. sub anno.

¹ In 1588 the accounts began to be taken on the following day. B. 95.

² Ordin. 2 Eliz.

³ The list from 1660 to 1709 varies from 80 to nearly 100 names. D. They are now (1848) only 10 ordinary, 16 honorary members, and the steward.

⁴ And only two permanent benefactions: the first, of vi^s viij^d a year, was left by the will of Mr. Alderman W. Payne, twice mayor and six times master, who died, it is supposed, about 1619 or 1620. B. 178, also B. 38, for his wife's legacy, and compare pp. 83, 178. The second, of 5*l.*, was given by Mr. Timothy Carter, on his being appointed steward in the place of Mr. Bird, October 22, 1627; and was to be lent gratis on good security, to two freemen of the company, 50*s.* each, for two years, one of the first nominees to hold the loan for one year only, so that an appointment should take place every year afterwards. D. 2. The benefaction was applied in 1701, when the accounts which have been inspected end. E. sub anno.

license to purchase or hold lands in mortmain, their income depended entirely upon what they raised by weekly payments,⁵ by the cobblers' "quarterages," as they were called, by fees and fines upon admissions, penalties and amerciaments, and occasional gifts, which were very rare and small; so that there was really nothing to expend. Their ordinances enabled them to demand a breakfast from new members,⁶ which was sometimes given and sometimes compounded for;⁷ but at an early period, the Company, being very few in number, seem to have looked for something more from those who could afford it, and, besides the admission fine, to have suggested what was called "les proffers,"⁸ and also a repast; in fact, a dinner. What the first of these was is not clearly explained; but it may have been some small contribution to be *offered* to the general fund; but the degree of pertinacity with which both of them, the dinner especially, is represented in the Company's records as a free and voluntary act of liberality, is truly amusing. For instance, on the 3d Sept., 3d Eliz., Edward Kyrkeman was admitted, and paid, in ready money, xls.: the minute then goes on to say, "Also he made the occupacyon a dynner at his admyttinge of hys fre and franke good will which came of hymself, which cost hym xxij s."⁹ Again, on the 30th day of November, in the same year, Thos. Andrewe was admitted, and paid, "in redye money, to the use of the sayd Guyld, xls. And his dynner, which he made of his propre and ffre will withoutought any provocacyon of any of the sayd occupatyon or any other man's compulsyon, come to xvs.; and to bothe these said sommes and the contents heryn conteyned he hathe putte his hand the day and yere above wrytten."¹ And so in other cases. We have the particulars

⁵ "Thys gedyrring was begoon in the tyme of John bromlay warden of the crafte of cordwainers of Oxford. In the xxj yere of the rene of kyng hary the vij that hevery-mann a j d a weke to the box y^t ys to saye that tyme beyng warden John bromlay odyr ways callyt John pouses Rychard pyttys John symon Wyll^m camden Robard holbeke John henenam & thay getortt by theym selfe-v^l v^s 1^d ob & then com in Ryc barlaw in the xxiiij yere of the rene of kyng hay the vijth & he payde in that yere iiij^s iiij^d and so the full sm^a trays to v^l ix s o^d ob." A 65. and see 54; also minutes of courts of 24 Hen. VII. A. 63. and 1 Hen. VIII. p. 64.

⁶ Ordin. 2 Eliz.

⁷ In 2 Rich. III. John Seman compounds for 13^s 4^d. A 5. and on the 10th January following, John Tackley & Wm Bracier for xx^s each. A 7. See also B. 25, and D. in 1640. In 1641 the members newly admitted, give money or plate, but neither breakfast or dinner, D.

⁸ See 1st year of Rich. III. A. 4. In p. 86. W Saytt makes his prayr and Ryc bartram hys profyr. A 35, W^m Camden compounds pro convivio; but he seems to have been rather a slippery subject.

⁹ B. 23.

¹ B. 24. See also 23, 35, &c., and A. 21, 35, and 86.

of one of these dinners, which, although curious in itself, is still more curious when considered as an illustration of the voluntary system; for at the very time the individual giving it was feasting the craft "of his own free will, without any provocacyon of any man whatsoever," pecuniary difficulties compelled him to offer a surety to the Guild, to secure to them the payment of ten shillings at the next Michaelmas twelvemonth.

M^d that Wyllyam sayll had made hys prayr the xvj day of aguste the xiiij yeer of the Rene of kyng henre the viij & he hase brogge in liij^s iiiij^d of Rede monay & John coper ys surte (*i.e.*, surety) to paye to the sayd crafte at syent mychell tyde com̄ a twelmond next afte^r the date of thys wrytyng—x^s further to be thay for sowrun; (to be therefore sworn).²

The above is the memorandum of Mr. Sayll's admission, the following is that of his dinner, the particulars of which are recorded in a vacant part of page 21, Book A.

Itm for y ^c profer off W. Sayll	
It in brede	ix ^d
It In ayll	ij ^s
It In pyggys	ij ^s iiiij ^d
It In gys (geese)	ii ^s
It kapons	iiiij ^s ij ^d
It In leggys of moton	x ^d
It In marybons	ij ^d
It In flowere	vij ^d
It In kreme	ij ^d
It In melke	vij ^d
Itm In suatt	ij ^d ob
It In wette (wheat)	iiiij ^d
It all maner of px spyes (picked spices?)	ij ^s
It collys	vij ^d
It cokys waggys (wages)	xij ^d
It for turnyng of y ^c broche (spit)	ij ^d
It for lame ³	xx ^d
It for eggys and boter	vij ^d

These, however, were but occasional festivals. The annual dinner must have always been a matter of some little difficulty on account of the expense; for there is an order of Oct. 25th, 1585 (27 Eliz.), that the master should, upon his first election, pay xxs., and the second time vis. viiij^d.⁴ while

² A. 86.

³ This word is blotted, and the reading given is doubtful. If correct, Mr. Sayll

may have been entertaining his guests with lammas lamb.

⁴ B. 91.

on a previous occasion, in the 3rd year of Eliz., they had generously voted the master five shillings towards his dinner.⁵ In whatever way the expenses of them were paid, these entertainments must have continued ; since there is an order of Sept. 17, 1613 (11 Jas. I.), for suspending them during four years ; which, in 1616, was continued for seven, and in 1623 for six years more.⁶ In 1631, we find them revive ; and the Company rich enough, by their prudent management, to give 120*l.* for the purchase of a small property at Kennington, Berks ; which, however, they parted with two years after.⁷ Subsequently to this period, we have the particulars of many dinners ; and in the accounts of two years, which are given below, one of these will afford a tolerable idea of the nature of the entertainment. In later years, the practice was to allow the master a certain sum, leaving him still the nominal giver of the feast ; which, it may be supposed, was not only for the purpose of lessening a cost which became too great for individuals to bear, when the members of the society were rapidly increasing, but also for that of checking the extravagant expenditure into which such celebrations are often apt to run.⁸

Anno Dni 1631.⁹

Civitas } SS. The Accompts of Mr. John Bannister late Master of the
Oxon. } Incorporacon of Cordwayn's infranchised wthin the said
Citty & Suburbes thereof and William Cowdry late Warden of the same incorporacon Made & taken before the nowe Master & wardens and by the rest of the said Incorporacon the Eleaventh day of November in the Seaventh yeare of the raigne of o^r sov'aigne Lord Charles by the grace of God King of England Scotland ffrance & Ireland defendo^r of the fayth &c.

⁵ B 23. They gave the same sum in 1665. E.

⁶ See D. sub annis.

⁷ It was conveyed in trust for them to Mr. T. Carter, the steward, and John Bannister, a member, and was sold again for 136*l.* D. 1634. The conveyance to the trustees is dated April 4, 7 Charles I.

⁸ In 1696, 6*l.* were ordered to be allowed to the master towards the dinner for seven years : which was continued in 1700 for fourteen more, and this in turn suspended in 1702, for seven years, in consideration of anticipated law charges in defending their privileges against foreigners. D. From 1709 to 1713, 6*l.* are

charged ; from 1714 to 1738, 8*l.* ; in 1739, 6*l.* ; in 1740, 8*l.* ; and afterwards there is either no dinner, or an inconsiderable allowance made for it. E. Some further notices will be found in F. in the years 1714, 1717, 1721, 1736, 1739, after which time no master is to be allowed more than six pounds. In 1741, it is suspended for five years. In 1746, 40 shillings are allowed ; in 1748, 2*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.* to the Warden ; in 1751, two pounds to the Master. Of these entries, the most extraordinary is that of 1721, by which, after granting 8*l.* towards the dinner, two persons "are desired to see it Leyd out."

⁹ B. p. 146.

RECEIPTES.

Imprimis received in the Boxe	£84	0	0
Item of Mr. Arnold for the Rent of his house nere Bocardo	10	0	0
Item of John Swadlinge for a half yeares rent for certen Aytes, Hawes, & waters lying in the pish of Kenning- ton in the County of Berks lately purchased of the said John & ffelix Swadlinge his brother & since leased to the said John	4	0	0
Item of Richard Crawford the some of three pounds due to the said Incorporacon by Bond	3	0	0
Item of Thomas Banckes for his admission into the Incor- poracon	7	0	0
Item of Robert White for the like	6	10	0
Item of John Carter for the like	6	10	0
Item of Thomas Clarke for the like besides his dinner	3	10	0
Item of George Maior for his allowance by the whole Incor- poracon to Cobble	0	10	0
Item of thapprentices enrolled	0	11	0
Item of the Company of Coblers	0	6	8
Item due to the said Company by the said John Banister as Master of the said Incorporacon	0	6	8
Item of William Ewen towards the payment of a debt by bond due to the said Incorporacon	0	10	0
Item of Richard West towards the payment of a debt due by him	0	10	0
Item of Mr. Thomas Penne according to the last will of Mr. Alderman Payne	0	6	8
Summa Recepconum	127	13	6

PAYMENTES.

Imprimis to the Prisoners of Bocardo	0	2	6
Item paid to the said John & ffelix Swadling for the purchase of the formenconed Aytes & waters	100	0	0
Item to Mr. Croke for his hand to thacknowledgmt of a Deed about that purchase	0	4	0
Item for writing the Deeds & enrollinge them at London	2	6	8
Item to the Boatenen to see the ground purchased	0	2	6
Item for a Boxe to keepe the writeinges	0	0	8
Item for Drinkeinge at 7 sev'rall times	2	1	9
Item paid to the widdowe Palmer	3	0	0
Item given to her husband's Buriall	0	10	0
Item given at a meeting by the Consent of the Company towards the buriall of Robert Williams	0	10	0
Item given at the Dynner at old Mr. Clarkes for Wyne & Musicke	0	15	0
Item for the exchange of light gold	0	5	0

Item given Peter Kirwood upon tharrest	£0	2	0
Item paid Christ Church Rent	1	11	0
Item to the Chamblins of the said Cittie	0	1	0
Item for the Dynner	5	3	7
Item to the Musicons at the Dynner	0	6	8

Summa soluconum . . 119 2 4

Soe there Remaynes . . 8 11 2

Wch is now paid by the said Accomptants to the newe Master and Warden.

Out of wch

There is now paid & deliv'ed to Mr. Steward for his fee for the whole yeare 1 10 0

And out of the Remaynder there is given as followeth:

Imprimis to Benjamin Whiteing	0	5	0
Item to Goodwife Meeson	0	5	0
Item to widdowe Hartley	0	5	0
Item to widdow Palmer	0	5	0
Item to Roles	0	2	6
Item to the Prison's of Bocardo	0	2	6
Item to Nicholas Plott Henry Weekes & Richard West 5 ^s apeece in toto	0	15	0
Item xx ^s of W ^m Ewen's debt forgiven him if he pay the Residue			
Item then spent	0	1	2

And the Residue of the said Eight pounds Eleaven Shillings & two-pence being fyve pounds is now putt in the comon Boxe of the said Company in the chardge of the said new Master. And alsoe the said late Master & warden have now Deliv'ed to the said now Master & Warden two Silvr Bowles and Thirtie silver Spoones being the goods of the said Company Togeather wth one Bond of Jeromy Johnson Another Bond of Richard Crawford & Mr. Phillippe dodwell one other Bond of William Ewen & one other Bond of Nicholas Plottes and the Chest wth all the Charters Deeds Leases evidences Bookes & wrighteinges belonging to the said Company in such mann^r as hath beene accustomed, And soe the said Accomptants from thes their Accompts are dischargd in the p'sence of the sayd Company.

“Memorandū that on Monday next after the ffeast of St. Luke the Evangelist being the 23^h of October in the Twentieth yeare of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles by the Grace of God King of England, &c. Anno: dñi 1644,¹

John Hudson is elected Maister of Thincorporacon of Cordwayner infranchised within the Citty of Oxon & Suburbes of the same for the yeare ensuing & is sworne.

¹ B. 191.

Richard Selwood is elected Warden of the said Incorporacon for the yeare ensuing and is sworne.

Richard Hore	}	are elected key keepers
William Arnold		for Thincorporacon
Richard Phillipps		aforesaid for the yeare
Richard ffrogley		ensueing & are sworne
Stephen Prince	}	are chosen searchers for the
Michael Cripps		yeare ensueing & are sworne

Robert Tipping is chosen by most voyces to have 50^s of Mr. Carter's money for one whole yeare.²

The accompts of Thomas Hore maister of the Companye of Cordwayners infranchised within the Citty of Oxon and Suburbs thereof, and of William fferryman Warden of the said Incorporacon taken the 21th day of October Anno dñi 1644 Annoq RR's Caroli nunc Angl &c Vicesimo

RECEIPTS.

Inprimis received at the accompts	£00 03 04
Item of Widdowe Carter for her admittance to use the Trade of a Cordwayner	00 03 04
Item of John Dorman for his Quarteridge the yeare past	00 01 04
Item of Anthonye Haell for his admittance into y ^e Company	00 03 04
Item for his Breckfast	01 00 00
Item of Marke Wakefield for his Admittance & ffor his Breckfast	01 03 04
Item of Humfray Hanns for his Admittance	05 00 00
Item of John Carter for his Admittance	00 03 04
Item for his Breckfast	01 00 00
Item of Simon Baker for his Admittance	00 03 04
Item for his Brekefast	00 10 00
Item of Thomas George for his admittance	00 03 04
Item for his Breckfast	01 00 00
Item of John Jackman Cobler for giving him leave to take his Kinsman an Apprentize	00 05 00
Item of William Cowderye for A fine	00 00 06
Item of John Teagle for A fine	00 00 08
Item of Edward Brookes for A fine	00 00 08
Item of Thomas Ledbrooke for A fine	00 00 08
Item of John Blake for a ffyne	00 00 08
Item of Stephen Gurden for A ffyne	00 00 06
Item of Thomas Bartlett for A ffyne	00 00 06
Item of Stephen West for A ffyne	00 00 06
Item of Lawrence Reynolds for A ffyne	00 00 06
Item for the Inrolling of 14 Apprentizes	01 15 00
Item over & above o ^r ffee ffarme	00 09 00
Item of Anthonye Goulde for a Warden's place	01 10 00
Item of James Launt for a Warden's place	01 10 00

² See p. 267., note 4.

Item of Thomas Ledbrooke for a Warden's place	£01 10 10
Item for my second tyme being Master	00 06 08
Item of the Coblers for the Quarteridge	00 03 04

Sum Recepcionum	34 04 04
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PAYMENTS.

Inprimis to Mr. Steward	01 10 00
Item to his man	00 05 00
Item to the prisoners at Bocardoe	00 02 10
Item to the Masters men	00 01 00
Item spent in Wine	00 06 00
Item given to Goodman Barton	00 02 00
Item given to Goodman Brookes	00 02 00
Item for the arresting of Anthōnye Haell & of Marke Wakefeild	00 02 06
Item to Mr. Painton & Mr. Goode for ffees & for draweing the Co ^t	00 06 06
Item to the Smith for A new Key & mending the Chest	00 01 06
Item given him to drinke	00 00 04
Item spent at the coming into the Company of Humfrey Hanns	00 05 06
Item, spent at the coming into the Company of John Carter	00 04 04
Item for A Warr ^t to bring John Worley A Journeyman before Mr. Mayo ^r for keeping shopp	00 00 06
Item to the Constable	00 00 04
Item spent at the coming into the Company of Symon Baker and Thomas George	00 05 06
Item spent at A meeting of the Companye the 20 th of September	00 07 00
Item given for the carrying y ^e Companies Chest	00 01 00

UPPON A DYNNER FOR THE WHOLE COMPANY.

Inpris for 2 Crapps of Beefe ³ & A surloyne halfe A sheepe 2 leggs & A loyne of Mutton	02 02 06
Item 2 Crapps of Beefe & 4 leggs of mutton	01 04 00
Item 3 leggs of mutton	00 06 06
Item 4 marrow bones A Neats Tongue & Uderne	00 03 06
Item 5 piggs	00 12 00
Item 4 couple of Chicken	00 03 04
Item 6 Couple of Rabetts	00 09 00
Item 20 pounds of butter	00 08 04
Item spent the same tyme	00 02 00
Item for bread & fflower	00 12 00
Item for 3 Kilderkins ⁴ of Beere	00 18 00
Item given the Brewers & spent on them	00 01 04

³ The Crop of Beef, a term still used in Oxford market, is a portion of the beast comprising the ribs and part of the neck.

⁴ i.e., 54 gallons. By turning to the list of the Company for this year, Book D,

we find it consisted of about 56 individuals; so that even if all were present, the allowance of liquor was on no limited scale.

Item for one pound of sugar 3 q ^t ers of A pound of pepper & 2 q ^t s of Vinegar	£00 04 2 ^o ^b
Item for large mace Cloves Currants Capers & 2 lemons	00 03 4
Item for Eggs	00 01 8
Item for Turnepps & Carretts	00 00 6
Item for Colly fflowers	00 00 4
Item for Wine ⁵	00 07 3
Item for the musicons	00 06 00
Item to the Cooke & his Boy	00 10 00
Item to a man to kill the piggs and Chicken and scalding them	00 02 00
Item for 2 Turnespitts	00 02 00
Item for A Woman to wash the pewter and make all things cleane	00 01 00
Item for bakeing 5 pasties	00 02 00
Item for A pound of Rozen ⁶	00 00 06
Item to Goodman Hart for keepeing y ^c dore	00 01 00
Item to the Carpenter for setting upp A Table	00 00 06
Item for 3 sacks of Cole and for Woode	00 08 06
Item for A bushell of small Cole	00 00 04
Item for pepper and for milke	00 00 04
Item spent on the Cooke and his Company on Soneday night when he made the pasties	00 01 06
Item for washeing the Linnen	00 01 06
Item for A Wine glasse	00 00 06
Item for halfe A pound of Butter	00 00 06
Sum	09 17 09

	li.	s.	d.
Suma oium Recepconum	34	14	4
Suma oium Soluc ⁷	14	12	11

See that it appeareth the said old Master and Warden have received more then they have disbursed the some of 19*li.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

Which some of 19*li.* 11*s.* 5*d.* the said old Master and Warden have pd to the new Mr and Warden viz^t to Mr. John Hudson and Richard Selwood in the p'sence of the Companye.

But it is to be remembered that the said New Master and Warden have paid out of the sd money these somes followeing, viz^t.

To Mr. Steward	01 10 00
To his man	00 05 00
To the Prisoners at Bocardo	00 02 06
To Thomas Brookes	00 02 06
To the Masters men	00 01 00
To John Smith	00 01 10
To William Pullen	00 05 00
To Thomas Taylo ^r	00 10 00

⁵ This is the first occasion on which we find wine introduced at dinner, the usual beverage being ale or beer. In the accounts of the next year, 5 quarts of sack are charged on a similar occasion; the price was 7*s.* 6*d.*

⁶ The purpose for which this was employed appears from an entry in the accounts for the year 1661. "Item for Rosine to scald the piggs, 3*d.*" It was useful in removing the bristles.

To Robert Tipping	£00 10 00
To Mr. Barton	00 5 0
	<hr/>
	03 12 10

So that there remaynes due to the Companye 15*li.* 18*s.* 00*d.*

Besides these, there are occasional entries which are interesting, as indicating a change in the habits of the times, and one or two, as referring to historical matters. Thus in 1651⁷ a charge is made for Greene Sauce and Sossages, 2*s.* 6*d.* For the use of Mr. Silusters house (for the dinner, of course), 4*s.* In

1654. Itm paid seaven tarts	00 09 04
Itm — a fressh Salmon	00 04 10
Item paid more unto the Cooke for salt and vinegar to boyle the Samon and other things	00 02 06
Item paid for Cowcumbers and Barberyes	06
1658. Item paid for seaven geese	01 01 10
three partriggess	00 03 00
one douzen of larks	00 00 08
1661. Item for sinemon	00 00 02
for carrying the meate to y ^e hall	00 00 06
In 1663. Item paid for fower henns	00 04 00
Item paid for Three Couple of Cockerills	00 04 03
for one Barrill of Strongbeare	00 12 06
for Colliflowers	00 01 06
1665. Paid to a Linke Boy for the use of the Company	00 00 04
1667. Item paid for Grapes	00 00 03
1668. Item paid for a Turkey	00 02 04
1673. Item paid Sider	00 01 04
1678. Item p ^d to y ^e Mr of y ^e Company of Cookes for y ^e use of y ^e pewter	00 03 00
1683. Item p ^d for Candells Pipes and Potts	00 00 08
Item paid Mr. Brooman for a journey to London and for a bottle of Canary	01 02 00
1685. Item paid for Capers and Samphier	00 02 00
1687. Item p ^d for Pepper Vinnegar Mustard Anchovies and Shugger	00 02 00
Other disbursem ^{ts} for meeting the King when he came to Oxford on the third of September, 1687	
Impris paid the Streemer (Streamer)	02 05 08
Item p ^d for the Drummers	00 04 00
Item spent in going to Elsfield	00 01 00
Item p ^d for two Clubbs	00 02 06
Item spent when we shewed our Charters to Mr. Wright to end the dispute about seniority	00 00 08 ^s
	&c. &c.

⁷ Book E.

⁸ The whole expenses, 5*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* This was the last year of James 2nd's reign; and the purpose of the King's visit to

Oxford was to compel the election of Dr. Parker as President of Magdalen College.

1691. Spent on the Parson before Church	£00 00 06
1698. 8 Wm. and Mary	
Item paid for a Barrel of Beer at the King's coming to Oxford	00 16 02 ^a
1699. Item for a Barr: of Beer at y ^e meeting y ^e Earl of Abingdon	01 07 06 ¹
1702. Item paid at Meeting the Queene for Bread Cheese Tobacco Pipes Musick and 2 Lincks	02 08 04 ²
1734. At the time the Prince of Orange was in Town	03 06 02
Use of the Town Hall twice	00 02 00

The Cordwainers were occasionally possessed of a little property in plate,³ which was from time to time disposed of as either the necessities, or the unsettled nature of the body, directed. Thus, in the accounts of 36 Hen. VIII., "iiij spones of sylver to the valew of iiij crownes,"⁴ are mentioned as belonging to them; which item being crossed out in the following year, it is to be presumed they were sold. In 1631, 7 Chas. I., they have "two silver bowles and thirtie spoones;" and, as only three spoons and the bowls are left in 1633, the intervening year giving no account of plate, the twenty-seven missing spoons may have gone towards the purchase of their premises at Kennington.⁵ In 1634, to use the language of a benefit club, they "broke up the box," selling their property at Kennington, their house, and what plate they could spare (the latter for 22*l.*), and dividing 260*l.* 4*d.*, the clear produce, amongst themselves, at the rate of 6*l.* 10*s.* for each master, 5*l.* to each warden, and 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* a piece to the commonalty.⁶ Still, in 1636, plate sold to Mr. Berry for 7*l.* is credited to the Company.⁷ And, lastly,

^a The whole expenses 2*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*

¹ There is an order of March 24, 1690, to admit the Earl of Abingdon, then High Steward of the City of Oxford, to the freedom of the Company, and a Master's place, voted him. Register D. sub anno.

² "During the recess of Parliament, the Queen (Anne), alarmed at the effects of an asthma, which had, in the course of 1702, endangered the life of the prince, her husband, resolved to make a western progress, from Windsor to Bath, for the recovery of his health. Her Majesty took Oxford in her way; and though she rested there but for one night, was received with the most fervent loyalty. The example of William III., who refused to eat the banquet prepared for him at Oxford, on some suspicion of poison, in the year 1698, (these accounts would give 1696,) was not

followed by his successor, who did more than ample justice to the hospitality of the University, took most graciously the accustomed gift of Woodstock gloves, and a Bible, promising at the same time a future visit."—Boyce's *Annals*, 1702, quoted in Strickland's *Lives*, vol. xii., pp. 75, 76.

For what passed on a second visit of Queen Anne and her husband to Oxford in the autumn of 1708, see Strickland's *Lives*, vol. xii., p. 227, and the authority there quoted. They slept there only one night, and Prince George, who was then going to Bath for his health, died at Kennington, October 28, in the same year.

³ Arising chiefly from silver spoons of the estimated value of x^s. (B. 38), given on admission. Some left by will, *ibid.*

⁴ B. 11.

⁵ B. 148, 151.

⁶ D. 1634.

⁷ B. 156.

in 1697 is a sale of old silver to the amount of 14*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, which apparently is carried to the general fund.⁸

In the course of the accounts, frequent mention is found to be made of the common stock or money being deposited "in pyxide, in cista,⁹ in the cofer or cofyr, or in the money-box," as was often the case before banks came into use. This money-box has been carefully preserved until the present time, and is represented in the annexed woodcut. It is of



wood, apparently elm, and is secured by five hoops of iron passing round it, and two locks; attached to a straight rib passing up the back, and about half way up, is a chain of four links with an end, altogether $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The lid at the top has a depression from the edge towards the centre, in the fashion of a mill-hopper, 3 inches deep,

with a slit at the bottom, through which the money was to fall. This is guarded inside by strips of linen with pieces of sheet lead twisted on their lower ends, in such a manner that they fall over and stop the aperture, in case the box should be reversed or shaken, so that no money can fall out. The external dimensions are, total height, 9 inches (i. e. the lid $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the lower part $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches); diameter at the top, $6\frac{1}{2}$, at the bottom, 7 inches. Internally, the lower part measures in height $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and in diameter, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

It is possible that a change which has been observed to occur in the wording of the accounts may mark the period when this money-box ceased to be applied to its proper use. Before 1586, and in that year, the transferral of the clear balance of the Company's money to the incoming officers is expressed in some such terms as these—"that it was delivered into the hands of the new Master and Warden in money to be kepte in the boxe to the use of the said Company, as

⁸ E. sub anno.

⁹ A. B., 31.

heretofore it hath been accustomed." But, after that year, commencing with 1587,¹ (and the handwriting, it is to be observed, continues the same, arguing that it was not the fancy of a different steward), the form is changed, and runs to this effect—"that the late officers have delivered over the somme of—of lawful Englishe money, to be kepte to the use of the said Companye and Incorporacyon as hearetofore it hath bene accustomed." But after all, this phrase may have no particular meaning either way, and be a mere *façon de parler*.

The Company have a silver awl, which is quite modern ; and their corporate seal, an engraving of which has been given in page 159, is of no antiquity, having been made in 1680, at a cost of xlvij^s, while for the old one was received "in chainge" vij^s.² All inquiries for an impression of this have been unsuccessful. The present seal is of silver, oval, measuring 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; and the arms engraven on it are, Argent, a chevron sable, between three goats' heads erased. Crest, a goat's head erased.³ From the arms of Companies given in Stowe's London, it appears that the goats' heads were borne by the craft generally, and not in Oxford alone ; and this heraldic charge may have been allusive to the material from which the *cordovan* was originally prepared.

The writer cannot conclude these notices, without expressing his sincere acknowledgments to John Crews Dudley, Esq., the present Steward of the Company, by whose politeness and liberality he has been enabled to draw them up.

J. WILSON.

¹ B. 94.

² E. sub ann.

³ The following extract from an unpublished letter of Aubrey to A. Wood, dated London, Vigil St. Peter & Paul, 1681, may be interesting on this subject. He says, "In my last I gave you some memoirs of Cardinal Moreton : and that the tradit'ion of y^e country people in Dorset when I was a schoolboy at Blandford there was, that he was a shoemaker's son of Bere in Com' predict, but Sir W^m. Dugdale (who desires to be remembered to you, and begins to recover) says by no means, I must not putt in writing *Hear-*

says. His coat is thus, w^{ch} some thing resembles the Shoemakers armes, who give 3 goates heades, as you may see in the sign without Bocardo. This coate of Moreton is in a West Chamber of the Katherine Wheele Inne at great Wiccomb in Bucks, wth (as I remember) the Cardinal's cappe." The arms, drawn with a pen, are, Quarterly 1 & 4, a single goat's head, erased.

The original letter is in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford ; from which a copy has been communicated by Mr. W. Kirtland, Deputy Keeper.

In the "Collectanea" of the late Mr. Thomas Warton, from the Pipe Rolls, is the following note, p. 95 : "Corvesarii de Oxinford r. c. de xv sol. pro j uncia auri pro gilda sua. Et in castamento numerandi et ponderandi. Thesaurum apud Winton, apud Natale. 33 Hen: 2."

N.B.—In the first part of this memoir, at page 158 of the former Journal, the following corrections should be made: In 12th line from top, for "o (one)," read "ob." 13th line, for "hele," read "hole." Last line, for "Toosdaye," read "Soundeye."