

## NOTES FROM AN OLD CITY ACCOUNT BOOK.<sup>1</sup>

By J. C. L. STAHLSCHMIDT.

To-day I have to bring under your notice a rather curious old book—the property of the Worshipful Company of Founders, of which ancient Corporation I have the honour to be a Past Master. But before describing the book itself, I should like to say a few words about the City Companies generally. We all know of their existence—some of us have doubtless partaken of their hospitality—few of us however, I think, are cognisant of the good they do; these, however, are points upon which I do not deem it necessary to enlarge. I only want to deal with one question, and that a purely archaeological one, and that is—How these Companies came to exist. Well, they developed, *Ex uno disce omnes*, and the development which I can show in the case of the Founders, no doubt obtained with most of the rest—certainly with all the older ones—those which we can trace back to pre-Reformation times.

I find then three distinct stages of development, and the first stage is the Religious Guild, Fraternity, or Brotherhood. These mediæval institutions are well known, and although their origin is somewhat obscure, their existence can be traced prior to the Norman conquest.

In the case of the Founders the Guild was dedicated to St. Clement. When it was first instituted it is impossible to say, but it was certainly a Guild for special religious and (probably) social purposes only—membership was doubtless voluntary—and the only means it had of enforcing its rules were purely spiritual or moral. It had no *legal* existence. That had to come in the next stage of its development.

Accordingly we find, in the year 1365, the “good men of the Mistery or Trade of Founders” petitioning the Mayor and Aldermen of the City for “Ordinances” or regulations for their trade, which said Ordinances were approved, and are still extant in the civic records. They are too long to give here, but they embrace such regulations for the trade as were then considered necessary, and Wardens were appointed to see to the observance of such regulations. What did the Founders’ Guild gain by this? They gained a legal status, and so the power of enforcing their rules. They could and did have up recalcitrant members before the Mayor and Aldermen and get them punished. But their status was only a quasi-legal one—they were unknown to the King’s Courts—they could not sue or be sued except in the city. They did not become a Corporation, *i.e.* they had no Common Seal, and they could not hold

<sup>1</sup> Read at the Monthly Meeting of the Institute, April 1st, 1886.

lands; that was to come in the third stage, to which I shall allude presently. But the old religious brotherhood still continued, incorporated, so to speak, in the new Craft Guild. It is true that it is not specifically mentioned in our annals until as late as 1515, in which year amended ordinances were granted, one of which relates to "St. Clement's Brotherhood," but in the year 1497, in an inventory of the goods of the craft, we find — "Item, a table for an altar with an ymage of St. Clement," and in 1513 "payd for makyng of Sen clements tabull for the brethered. ij<sup>s</sup>." So that it was certainly in existence earlier, and from other indirect evidence, too long to quote here, there is no doubt the Brotherhood had been continued from long before 1365. Of course it was suppressed at the Reformation. During this, the second stage of its existence (the "Craft Guild"), the association appears to have been called "the Craft of Founders," and I take it that that was its proper designation. As early as 1508, however, in the City books the title "Company" is given, and from that date onwards it is indifferently called the "Craft," the "Fellowship," or the "Company." In our own book, however, the last expression "Company" is not used until 1552, and thenceforward it is used regularly. In all these cases the expression, strictly speaking, is incorrect, as it was not a Corporation.

In the year 1614 the third and final stage was reached, and the craft was incorporated by Royal Charter by the name of the "Master Wardens and Cominaltie of the Misterie of ffounders of the Cittie of London." With license to hold lands not exceeding £40 per ann. To be able to plead and be impleaded, and to have for ever a Common Seal.

And this is the charter under which we still exist.

I have mentioned this matter because Mr. Loftie, in his very charming and able History of London, has fallen into what I cannot but call a strange delusion on the subject. And in this connection I should like just to note one or two mistakes which he has made. In vol. i, p. 198 (2nd ed.), he states that there can be no doubt that the word *Mistery* applied to these city bodies originates in "Master"—or as we now pronounce it "Mister"—not in mystery. Of course we all know it does not come from "Mystery," and so far he is right. But his affirmative proposition, positive as it is, is I am equally positive, incorrect. The city word *Mistery* comes from the French "*Mestier*," a trade. And I think I could, with very little difficulty, put my hand upon a MS. book of the fifteenth century (written mainly in Norman French) in which these bodies, Guilds, or Companies, are actually called "*Mestiers*."

Again at p. 221 he says—apropos of his opinion that the old Guilds and the comparatively modern Companies are not identifiable or identical—that an example of the confusion of Guilds and Companies is afforded by the History of the Skinners, as given in Strype's Stow, where we are told that Edward III addressed them as the "Guild, or Fraternity of the Skinners of London." And he adds that their then Charter really runs "To the King's beloved men of the City of London called Skinners." Well, that is perfectly correct. But they were only a Guild for all that. And the confirmatory Charter of 16 Ric. II clearly recognises the "Guild of Corpus Christi" as existing prior to the date of the said charter (Herbert ii, 376). And it was only in the 16th of Henry VII that they became a *Company* at all, with a Common Seal and power to hold lands and to plead and be impleaded. And curiously enough, they were incor-

porated by this Charter as "the Master and Wardens of the Guild, or Fraternity of the Body of Christ of the Skinners of London."

Then at p. 225, he says that there is no necessary connection between the old Guilds and the new Companies, and that the burden of proof lies upon those who assert their identity.

Now I unhesitatingly affirm their identity; and I have here a note of the charters of some of them, which to my mind, go a very long way to prove that the Companies were and are really developments of earlier Guilds.

**DRAPERS.**—First (Quasi) Charter 38 Edw. III.; Second and Incorporating Charter 17 Hen. VI. By this they are allowed to erect themselves into one Guild or Fraternity by the name of the Fraternity of the Blessed Mary the Virgin of the Drapers of London.

**MERCHANT TAYLORS.**—Incorporated 9 Hen. IV as "The Fraternity of Taylors and Linen Armourers of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist." There are earlier quasi-charters which all mention this same Fraternity.

**HABERDASHERS.**—"Ordinances" granted in 1372. In 1381 it is mentioned in the *Bishop of London's* Registers as the Fraternity of St. Katharine. Incorporated 26 Hen. VI by the style of "The Fraternity of St. Katharine the Virgin of the Haberdashers of the City of London."

**CLOTHWORKERS.**—First charter 20 Ed. IV, as the "Fraternity of the Assumption of the B.V.M. of Shermen of the City of London."

**ARMOURERS.**—Incorporated 1423 as "The Master and Wardens of the Fraternity or Guild of St. George of the men of the Mistery of Armourers of the City of London."

**PARISH CLERKS.**—Incorporated (?) 17 Hen. III, 1233, as "The Fraternity of St. Nicholas," and known as such until 1611 when it was re-incorporated or rather more probably fully chartered.

**PLASTERERS.**—Constituted a Fraternity by Letters Patent 16 Hen. VII. Confirmed by charter 19 Charles II by the appellation of "The Master and Wardens of the Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Plasterers of London."

These last three entries are from Maitland and may not be absolutely exact. But the others are, I think, clear and unmistakeable evidence in favour of my assertion.

Let me give another piece of evidence. There are actually at the present day some so called Companies, which are not Companies at all, *i.e.*, they have *never* been incorporated, but are still in the Craft Guild stage. They are called Companies by prescription; among them are the Fletchers and Woolmen, who take respectively the 39th and 42nd places in the city list of precedence, and are therefore most certainly not far from five centuries old; the Founders which dates from 1365 as a Craft Guild, being No. 33. There are also the Basket Makers, Longbow String Makers and Paviours, all of them I believe, pre-reformation Guilds.

One more proof, which, I think, clenches the nail, and establishes absolute identity of Craft Guild and Company. In 1530, the Founders, being then a Craft Guild, bought (as we shall see presently) the land for their hall and built the said hall thereupon. Eighty-four years after, when they really became a Company, no formal transfer of the property was made. The body only changed its status, not its identity.

Pardon me this little digression and now let me proceed to make a few remarks upon the book on the table.—

It is as you may see, a sturdy quarto volume, in its original binding, “not very handsome and not very young,” but worth very much of the scamped jerry work of modern binders. It has originally had a strap and buckle, the latter of which has disappeared. I am a little in doubt as to whether the binding is as early as 1497, the date of the first entry. The watermark on the paper of the earliest and rather larger half of the book is a foolscap, that on the remainder from 1552 onwards, and on the two leaves at the beginning is a gloved hand with a five pointed Star or “Mullet” above it. There is a strip of parchment inserted before the leaf commencing 1552 and the pages prior to this contain miscellaneous entries, such as are commonly found at the *ends* of similar books. I think then we may conclude that the binding is probably of the date 1552.

As to its written contents. It is mainly a book of receipts and expenditure, what we should call now-a-days a Cash Book; but interspersed here and there are other entries, more or less interesting. It commences for instance with an Inventory of the possessions of the Craft in the year 1497, as follows :

## I h c.

The Inuentarie of the goodes of the Crafte of ffounders of london at Cristmas in the yere of o<sup>r</sup> lord m<sup>i</sup> cccc lxxxx vij<sup>o</sup> 1497.

first a maser w <sup>t</sup> a boos of the gifte of a widowe called _____	weyng viij onz iij pt.
Itm a maser w <sup>t</sup> a boos of the gifte of John Badcok weyng ... ..	xv onz iij pt.
Itm a maser w <sup>t</sup> a boos and an hert of silu' ou' gilted of the gifte of Robt. Reynolds weyng ...	ix onz
Itm a maser w <sup>t</sup> a boos of the gifte of henry pendlowe weyng ... ..	vj onz di qrt.
Itm a maser w <sup>t</sup> a boos of the gifte of John Seykyn weyng ... ..	...iv onz di and di pt.
It a double cuppe w <sup>t</sup> an handill ou' gilted of the gifte of Johan the wife of Robt Reynolds aforeseid weyng ... ..	xviij onz.
Itm a standyng cuppe w <sup>t</sup> a cou'ng w <sup>t</sup> an hawke on the same gilt of the gifte of Richard Hawke weyng ... ..	xxxiiij onz.
Itm vj spones of siluer w <sup>t</sup> Round Knoppes of the gifte of John Belwyne weyng ... ..	vij onz pt di.
Itm viij spones of siluer of the gifte of Willm Chambleyn thelder weyng ... ..	vij onz iij pt.
These two Entries are crossed out in the book.	
Itm a nutte cou'ed harnessed w <sup>t</sup> silver gilt weig <sup>d</sup> of the gifte of John Blowbell ... ..	xxviij onz. scant.
Itm a grete maser harnessed w <sup>t</sup> siluer gilt of the gifte of John Betenden otherwise called Wayte weyng ... ..	xvj onz pt.
Itm a gret maser harnessed w <sup>t</sup> siluer gylt of the gifte of John Pynchebek wyyng ... ..	xj onz.
Itm a spoyn of y <sup>e</sup> gifte of John Peyrs weyng of Syllu' ... ..	xij greyns

- It a maser of y<sup>e</sup> gifte of some unkown wydow wayng  
 It a standyng goblet pcell gilte w<sup>t</sup> a cauer w<sup>t</sup> a gonner  
     on y<sup>e</sup> couer      ...      ...      ...  
 Itm a fyne table cloth diapre of the gifte of Alice  
     Clauer cont'      ...      ...      x yardys  
 Itm a towell diapre of the gifte of the same Alice  
     cont'      ...      ...      xxv yardys & a qtyr  
 Itm of redy money givin by the same Alice      ...      xls  
 Itm a table cloth diapre of the gifte of the wife of  
     John Belwyn aforenamed conteynyng      ...      off vj yardys & a hf  
 Itm a table cloth diapre of the gift of Thomas Sweting  
     cont'      ...      ...      off xj yardys & a half  
 Itm a table for an awter w<sup>t</sup> an ymage of Seint Clement  
     of the gifte of John Blowbelle ...  
 Itm ij bacyns and ij Ewers of laton of the gifte of the wife of John Agas.  
 M<sup>a</sup> Itm Herry Jurdan citezen and ffisshemong' of london biquethid in  
     his testament xij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> yerely to be distributid among poer house-  
     holders ffreemen and women w<sup>yn</sup> the crafte of ffounders of london  
     that is to say that the same xij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> shalbe bistowed in charcolis  
     yerely at such price as men may bie & so to be distributid the colis  
     as is abovesaid.

The following are clearly later additions being in other hands.

It a tabylcloth pleyn of y<sup>e</sup> charge of the craft so bowt be the handys  
 of Thomas Swetyng conteynyth—x yardys and a halfe.

It a tabylcloth of dyaper conteynyth vj yardys & alfe.

It a towell of pleyne cotynyth x yardys & a halfe.

It a tabylcloth of dyapyr old conty vij yardys.

It ij pleyne waychyng towells conteynyth xj yardys Both.

It a cofer payne old.

It the pevter wescells ij C & liij li weyte.

*sic* It aftyr iiij<sup>d</sup> the li *drawvyt* iiij<sup>li</sup> ix<sup>s</sup>.

*sic* Itm your standyng cop w<sup>t</sup> the hawk and standyng *Neyte* lythe w<sup>t</sup>  
 omfrey Walkar for the sín of xff

Itm a dos nackyns fore

ffor nape

Itm delyu'd to M<sup>r</sup> bregewater

Itm iiij dyap tabyll clorts

Itm ij dyap towells

Itm on pleyn tabyll clort

Itm ix napkynis

Of y<sup>e</sup> gyft of Thomas Sutton ij tabyll clothys dyep

Of y<sup>e</sup> gyft of Wyllm Knyght on tabyll cloth dyep

Of y<sup>e</sup> gyft of Jone Hamond a towell of dyeper

It a pane w<sup>t</sup> ij eryl ij andyerens & a sypte

It a potell pote

Of y<sup>e</sup> gyft of mys grysby wydow a basyn of pewter & a charger a wyne  
 quart pote & a towell of dyeper

*sic* It a grete *synygoke* of y<sup>e</sup> gyft of John bere

It a potell pot of gyft of Roberd frost a gret lamp tornyd thorow

Itm M<sup>c</sup> that we layd to pleche to m<sup>r</sup> Sotton a Noyt with a cofer glyte  
 weyng xxviij ownces and a q<sup>tr</sup> prys the ownce iijs viij<sup>d</sup> the sín ys iiij ll  
 vs and iiijd.

Itm layd to pleche to John Hamond & John Beyrs a Masar w<sup>t</sup> a Boyssse pryntyd and Graveyn weyng xv ounces pris the owncce ij s ij d sm ys xxxij s xd. payd.

Item layd to pleche to Thomas Rayllton & John Seytcoll a masar w<sup>t</sup> a holow boyss pryntyd w<sup>t</sup> a hewar weyng xvj ounces halfe pris the owncce ij s ij d y<sup>d</sup> sm xxxvs ixd.

Itm layd to pleche to m<sup>r</sup> Swetyng a Masar wyth a holow Boyss pryntyd w<sup>t</sup> a coke weyng xvj ounces saue halfe a pt pris the owncce ij s ij d sm xxxiij s.

Itm layd to pleche to thomas paxton a dobull cop w<sup>t</sup> a cofur weyng x ounces of Syllu' sm ys xxxvj s viij d.

Itm layd to pleche to m<sup>r</sup> Grybby a Masar w<sup>t</sup> a byss pryntyd w<sup>t</sup> a colombyn flowyr weyng viij ounces and a spoyn weyng a owncce & di qr sm xx s x d.

Itm layd to pleche to Edward Collyngwod a Masar w<sup>t</sup> a Boys weyng ix & a halfe pris ijs ijd sm xxs jd.

Itm layd to pleche to Wyllm Weeks a Masar weyng vj ounces & a q<sup>r</sup> pris the owncce ijs ijd sm xiijs viij d.

Itm layd to pleche to Jayms sewyn a Masar w<sup>t</sup> a harte in the boyss inamyll weyng ix ounces q<sup>tr</sup> pris the owncce ijs ijd sm xxs.

Here follows another Inventory, mainly a recapitulation, and of later date.

And then comes a yearly account, which as a specimen of the principal remaining contents of the book I now give.

This is thacomp<sup>t</sup>e of Robt Setcole Edmond Bird, John Parker otherwise callid John Sena Wardeyns of the Crafte of floundours of the Citee of london of theire Receipts and payments by them for the seid Crafte had made and done from the fest of Seint Clement the (\*) and martir in the xiiij<sup>th</sup> yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the vij<sup>th</sup> vnto the same fest in the xiiij<sup>th</sup> yere of the same Kyng that is by oon hoolle yere as foloweth that is to sey

ffirst the seid accomptant<sup>z</sup> accompten and charge themselves w<sup>t</sup> the money by them Receyued at theire entrie into theire office of John Sponer to the some of ...

... xvj li xvij<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

Receyued for fynes.

ffirst of maister Chambleyne<sup>1</sup> of london for a fyne

lost by Robt Wells for somannce<sup>2</sup> ...

ij<sup>d</sup>

Itm for a fyne lost by Robt lawen for the same ...

ij<sup>d</sup>

Itm for a fyne lost by Thomas Berys ...

ij<sup>d</sup>

Itm for a fyne lost by John Blowebold ...

ij<sup>d</sup>

Itm for a fyne lost by Henry Strader ...

j<sup>d</sup>

and of the same Herry Robt Chambleyn and John Botland ech of hem ijd. sm vjd that is iijd to the Chambre & ijd to vs which was delyu<sup>e</sup>d to the yoman ijd & to the Clerk jd.

Itm John piers p<sup>d</sup> for a fyne vjd for Revilyng a brother of the which vjd the Clerk had ijd & the yeoman iijjd.

\* Word (of course "pope") erased.

<sup>1</sup> The City Chamberlain.

<sup>2</sup> Summons.

Itm R <sup>c</sup> of m Chambleyn for a fyne lost by John Downehm for troubling of John Banys contrarie to our ordinac <sup>e</sup> ...	...	viiij <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by R. Bancrofte for werkyng by nyght & setting to werk a child vnbound & vnablid <sup>1</sup> ijs vjd. therof p <sup>d</sup> to the yoman for his labor in diu'se tymes somonyng viij <sup>d</sup> . so Rest	...	xxij <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by John Stone for eggyn of an other mannes app <sup>n</sup> tice fro his maist xxd therof delyu <sup>e</sup> d to the yoman for somonyng diu'se tymes vjd. so Rest	...	xiiij <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by Philip Richard and Robt lawen for Revilyng either of he that other	...	x <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by John Cokk <sup>e</sup> ...	...	ij <sup>d</sup>
Item for a fyne lost by Jamys Waren for revilyg Herry Stroder xd delyu <sup>e</sup> d to the yoman iiij <sup>d</sup> . Rest	...	vj <sup>d</sup>
Item for a fyne lost by Willm Birchwold for setting to werke a child vnabld & vnbound	...	x <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by John Banys for cityng his Wardeyn to the Spuall Court	...	xij <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by Robt Well <sup>e</sup> ...	...	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by Thomas Olifax	...	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by philip Richard	...	iiij <sup>d</sup>
Itm for a fyne lost by Robt Bancrofte for werkyng by nygh the same Robt p <sup>d</sup> to the Chambre iij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup> and to vs wardeyns for the tyme beyng xij <sup>d</sup> accordyng to our ordinnce therof made	...	
S <sup>m</sup> Receyued for fynes—viij <sup>s</sup> vjd		
Receyved of Brether admittid & taken into the lyu <sup>e</sup> y <sup>2</sup> this yere.		
ffirst of Richard Cole	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of Thomas p <sup>k</sup> enson	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of Robt Bancrofte	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of Willm florde	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of Willm Birchwold	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of John Walthm	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of Willm p <sup>t</sup> rich	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of Davy Milys	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Itm of John gony	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
S <sup>m</sup> iij li.		
R <sup>c</sup> of Brethern for qrtage <sup>3</sup> & the masse. <sup>4</sup>		
of Robt Setcole	xij <sup>d</sup>	
of Edmond Birde	xij <sup>d</sup>	
of Joh <sup>n</sup> p <sup>k</sup> er als sena	xij <sup>d</sup>	
of John Blewbell	xij <sup>d</sup>	for masse ij <sup>d</sup>
25 others, among them "maistres Hawke" at 12 <sup>d</sup> & 2 <sup>d</sup> evidently the "Livery."		

<sup>1</sup> Unabled=unapprenticed.

<sup>2</sup> Livery.

<sup>3</sup> Quarterage—the annual payment of each member—so called, because paid quarterly.

<sup>4</sup> The annual payment to Clement's Brotherhood. The Wardens apparently were exempt.

Davy Mylis viij<sup>d</sup> j<sup>d</sup>  
 and 48 others, some at 4<sup>d</sup> & 1<sup>d</sup>—but most 8<sup>d</sup> & 1<sup>d</sup>—these were the  
 freemen or “yeomanry,” one of them Richard ffouler pays nothing.  
 John Palmer again is noted as “forgevyn by the masteres.”

Sin of the masse money vij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

Sin of these quart'ag<sup>l</sup> lv<sup>s</sup>

ffor Abylyng and admission of App'ntice<sup>l</sup>

ffirst of Willm Awdry for his app'ntice Robt  
 Robottom

iijs<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

(9 similar entries)

Sin R<sup>l</sup> for these App'ntice<sup>l</sup> xxxiijs<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> 1

Itm R<sup>l</sup> of Robt pynchbek of almes money<sup>1</sup> } xl<sup>s</sup>

Restyng in his hands

Itm at dyn' for Sunday and Monday of the lyu'ey R<sup>l</sup> xlix<sup>s</sup>

Item for Monday of them out of the lyu'ey R<sup>l</sup> xvij<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>

Sin R<sup>l</sup> for the Dyn' of both daies.

ii j li v j s x d

Itm R<sup>l</sup> for the Barge hire at both tymes xix<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Sin to<sup>1</sup> Receyued (Blank)

Payments made by the seid Accomptaunts.

ffirst paide to the Steynour for ii j baners stuffe &  
 werkmanship

xxxiijs<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item for Cofyn & a rollyng pyn for the same Ban's

xx<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to Ric Magson for entryng of the Juells and )  
 goods belongyng to the Crafte into this Boke (

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to the same Ric for a writyng sealid by the  
 hoole Compeigny

xvj<sup>d</sup>

Itm paid to the same Richard for a bill delyu'ed to  
 the mair for goyng to ffayres

ij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> at Bruers halle for ij daies assemblyng

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> at Armourers halle likewise for ij daies

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to m<sup>r</sup> Pagenhin for mendyng and reformyng  
 an Article of our ordi<sup>n</sup>nces

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to Gilis Clerke in the maires Court for writyng  
 of the same Article into our Boke

iiij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to Willm Meriell Clerk for his wags by the yere

xvj<sup>s</sup>

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to hym toward his gowne

xiijs<sup>s</sup>

iiij<sup>d</sup>

Itm delyu'd to our brethern not dynyng w<sup>t</sup> the Shirefs

vj<sup>s</sup>

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm to our brethern not dynyng w<sup>t</sup> the maire likewise

vj<sup>s</sup>

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to Hugh yeoman of the Chambre for bryngyng  
 John Banys to the Compto<sup>r</sup> fro the Compto<sup>r</sup> to my  
 lord the maire & fro thens to Newgate & fro New-  
 gate to the gylldhalle

vj<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to Robt Horn yeoman of the Chambre for  
 bryngyng of Willm app'ntice w<sup>t</sup> the good wif  
 Sweting into Newgate and fro Newgate to Gylld-  
 halle

vij<sup>d</sup>

Itm p<sup>d</sup> to the Waxchaundeler for ij torchetts weiyng  
 ii j quarters di

vj<sup>d</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The old poor box or alms box is still in existence.



Itm for x square <sup>xx</sup> tapres made ageinst Seint laurence	
Day <sup>h</sup> weying <sup>iiij</sup> xj <sup>lb</sup> and for vj lb di of newe wax <sup>1</sup>	
put therto	<sup>iiij<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm wastid in tryng of the wax of the old tapres	
<sup>ij</sup> lb price	<sup>ij<sup>s</sup></sup>
Itm for ij torchetts ageinst our lady Day thassumption	
weying di lb	<sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm p <sup>d</sup> for the wyndyng shete for Edward Jurdans	
wife	<sup>viiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm p <sup>d</sup> to moder campion on mighelmas day toward	
hir house Rent	<sup>xij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm p <sup>d</sup> to Willm pirry wekely fro mydsom' day vnto	
seint Martyns day that is xxj weks eu'y weke j d	
s <sup>m</sup> xxjd & ij weks folowyng <sup>iiij</sup> d s <sup>m</sup>	<sup>ij<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>j<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm p <sup>d</sup> to Ric ffouler on Seint Martyns day & Sonday	
next after	<sup>viiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm p <sup>d</sup> for barge hire w <sup>t</sup> the Shirefs and the Maire	<sup>xvj<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm for Russhes & drynkyng money to the Barge men	
at both tymes	<sup>xvj<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm p <sup>d</sup> for our masse ij decons <sup>viiij<sup>d</sup></sup> to Robt Holme	
& his childer <sup>ij<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup> Itm to the ij pisshe clerks	
<sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup> Itm to the Sexteyn for attyndyng our light	
by the yere & for Ryngyng xij <sup>d</sup> s <sup>m</sup>	<sup>v<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm p <sup>d</sup> for our dyn' on both daies as appereth bfore	
in this boke pticularly	<sup>viiij<sup>h</sup></sup> <sup>viiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm to Ric Magson for wrytyng into this boke certeyn	
Articles of our ordinacs and our dyn' pticularly and	
also for writig & makyng this accompte	<sup>ij<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
This accompte was Receyued and allowed so that there	
rested cler in the box	<sup>xiiij<sup>li</sup></sup> <sup>vj<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>viiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Whereof was delyu'ed afore the Compeigny to Randolf	
Austyne <sup>ij</sup> li and to Thoms Halifax <sup>ij</sup> li s <sup>m</sup>	<sup>vj</sup> li
This is a fair specimen of a year's accounts. Later years are given,	
some in fuller detail, some quite shortly, only the total receipts and	
expenditure being noted. Some years are missing altogether, especially	
towards the middle of the century. I propose to go through the book	
and pick out here and there a few entries which are of interest.	
And first comes the following entry, giving a detailed account of the	
provision made for the annual feed in the 15-16th year of Henry VII.	
Paid for our souper.	
ffirst for breed	<sup>iiij<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>ij<sup>d</sup></sup>
Itm for ij bz meile & bulyng thereof	<sup>xx<sup>d</sup></sup>
” for ale barell & a Kynderkyn	<sup>vj<sup>s</sup></sup>
” for ij quarters of coles	<sup>viiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
” a quartern of ffagotes	<sup>x<sup>d</sup></sup>
” xxx shuldres of moton	<sup>vij<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>vj<sup>d</sup></sup>
” xxxij conyes	<sup>v<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>iiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
” x dos pegions	<sup>vij<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>vj<sup>d</sup></sup>
” for a buk	<sup>v<sup>s</sup></sup> <sup>viiij<sup>d</sup></sup>
” for C eggs	<sup>ix<sup>d</sup></sup>

<sup>1</sup> The religious observances at this time were held at St. Laurence Jewry.

„ v disshes of butt'	iiij <sup>s</sup>
„ vj galons of wyne	vij <sup>d</sup> ob
„ iij galons of creme	xij <sup>d</sup>
„ for spics pep jlb ij <sup>s</sup> ij vn <sup>s</sup> of cloues & mace ix <sup>d</sup>	
iij lb of sugre ix <sup>d</sup> , di vnc of saffron v <sup>d</sup> , ij lb of	
dats vj <sup>d</sup> , ij lb of Reisons of Co <sup>r</sup> , iij <sup>d</sup> . S <sup>m</sup>	iiij <sup>s</sup> ix <sup>d</sup>
„ p <sup>d</sup> to the butler	xi <sup>d</sup>
„ to the mynstrells	jx <sup>d</sup>
„ to the cook & labourers	v <sup>s</sup> jx <sup>d</sup>
„ to the waterberer	ii <sup>s</sup>
„ for oynons & herbes	ij <sup>d</sup>
„ salt vinegre mustard candell & tappes	vij <sup>d</sup>
„ for iij C of peres	xvj <sup>d</sup>
„ to the porter	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ for wassing of clothes	xx <sup>d</sup>
„ for hire of the halle	iijs iij <sup>d</sup>
S <sup>m</sup> p <sup>d</sup> for the Souper	iiijli iijs ix <sup>d</sup> ob.

In 1506-7 the Master and Wardens got into hot water, as appears from the following entry :—

M<sup>d</sup> the xxj<sup>te</sup> yere of the Reygne of Kyng Henr' the vij<sup>te</sup> than being wardens Randolfe Austen mast<sup>r</sup> Edmond Birde & Robrt Setcoll in the tyme of ther yer' own Thomas Basset presentid them In to the Cheker for takyn of hyme a fynne of iijs iij<sup>d</sup> for the whiche sūme thes persons be for named wer condempned on the Kyng In xl fl for the whiche sm<sup>a</sup> they solde the plate & w<sup>t</sup> the mony that they toke for the Juells & the mony that was In the boxe they went & payd it vn to the tresorer & so ther they wer clerly dischargid ayenst ouer Sou' ayng lord the Kyng.

And than mediatly suying nest in the xxij<sup>de</sup> yere of the Kyng Thomas olifax John Botland Thomas Swetyng John Barker Wyllm Knyzte & John Preston w<sup>t</sup> mony other thus seing the goods goon & loste by reson of the takynge of p'sumcion of the mynd of the forsaid Randolfe Austen the sayd fynne of iijs iij<sup>d</sup> w<sup>t</sup> owte onny consell of ony of the feleshepe of the crafte the forsaid men Thomas & John w<sup>t</sup> all Insuiyg toke consell and so causid hime to be callid be fore my lord chanceler In to the ster chamber & be p'sese of the lawe causid the sayd Randolfe w<sup>t</sup> the other too to make & bryng forthe all the goods plate Redy mony and other thyng that be longyd vn to the Crafte as good as eu' it was be fore the sute to the gertte coost & damage of all the suters befor named & to ther grett hyndranse they beryng the costs of all the hooll mat' vppon ther owne goods.

In the 22nd of Henry VII it was agreed to have the ordinances and rules altered. One of the craft, however, John Sandeford by name, seems to have objected, and a suit ensued which was tried at "Seynt Martyns grante"—the decision being in favour of the Wardens.

In 1510 occurs the following. M<sup>d</sup> that thes same Robert Wellys John Payne and Davy Mylys In ther tyme being Wards opon the Sonday next aft<sup>r</sup> the Concepcyon off ower lady In y<sup>e</sup> yere off o<sup>r</sup> lord god m<sup>l</sup> v<sup>c</sup>x and In the secund yere off the Reigne of K. H. viij<sup>th</sup> they gave new clothing blew and mayd a Dyn' and here aft' followith the pporeyn ther for

## The fyrst covrse

In ps brawne & mustard stokdoves in serap goose capon & fryans

## The second covrse

Creme off almonds Rost coney plouers small byrds & custard

Another "bell of fere" in 1519

Item to the fyrste corss schodyrs of moton and backe conys and pycke to  
y<sup>e</sup> second corss peyonys<sup>1</sup> rostyde and gret costerds w<sup>t</sup> peyers & wyn

A long account follows of the various Items purchased.

In 1521 Robt. Wells is fined ij<sup>d</sup> for "gowyn to Maydston feyer wn  
scherchyd." And a further ij<sup>d</sup> for "lackyng of prossessys and pollys."

This last rather enigmatical. Probably the Guilds had been summoned  
to attend some function at St. Paul's, and Mr. Robert Wells absented  
himself without due cause from the procession.

In 1525 a casual entry contains, I think, the earliest mention of a  
word whose first appearance is generally put at more than a century  
later.

Itm payd to the Bochsar for a greyt serlyn

xvj<sup>d</sup>

The Dinner this year (on August 26th) consisted of—

First course—Itm capon bullyd Rost gooss cony backe & greyt pycks

Second course—peyon gret costard & fryss samond

In 1528-9 occurs a curious entry—

Itm spent a pone the strange franchemen at the Halle & at the tauern  
the xxiiij day of february

iiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

This is comprehensible from the following entry a few pages further on

Here begynythe the names of franche men

bylleter leyn

Hownysdyche

long Sothwark

battell brege

barmosegat stret

sant Thoms ospytall

sant myn overys

tempull bar

Hewe Howyll

Peter balde

Peter Potter

Mathew tetw

Nyckles pagyn

Wyllm bollen

Symond porstell

John fynar

John Pykard

Deryk Richardson

John Bowyer

Antony florence

Newell Gillet

gyelem Lodwek

supplese Duproni

These are clearly outsiders (Frenchman or foreigner = non-Londoner)  
paying quarterage in return for certain privileges, but not members of the  
Craft. The second, Pierre Bawde, is a historic character. He was  
probably at this time working at the Owen's gun foundry in Houndsditch  
(the site of which is still marked by "Gun Yard"). Some 20 years  
later he migrated into Sussex, and there in connection with one Hogge  
or Hoggett cast the first *Iron* ordnance. There is a curious triple  
cannon by him at the Tower of London.

In or about 1530 they determined to provide a Hall for themselves,  
which hitherto they had not possessed, meetings being held at the Halls

<sup>1</sup> Pigeons.

of other Companies, at Austin Friars and at private houses, and so we find—

Thes be the namys of them y<sup>t</sup> wyll giue toward y<sup>e</sup> Hall

Mr Knyght	xx <sup>s</sup>
„ brygewater	xx <sup>s</sup>
„ grygby	xx <sup>s</sup>
„ grayn	xx <sup>s</sup>
„ paxton	xx <sup>s</sup>
„ lowrence	xx <sup>s</sup>
„ Setcoll	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
„ Rayllton	xij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ Hammond	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
„ fynche	xx <sup>s</sup>
„ goter	
„ colygwod	v <sup>s</sup>
„ Sewen	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ wyght	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
John Chambers	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Wyllm Adams	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
Wyllm beford	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
Roger Taylor	iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>

The ground for the site of the Hall, in Broad Court, Lothbury, now known as Founder's Court, was purchased from the Grocers' Company. It was part of some property left to them by Sir Henry Kekyll, Lord Mayor some twenty years before. The statement in one of the old chroniclers (Stow, I think,) that it had formed part of the garden or burial ground of the Austin Friars is quite erroneous. The purchase was apparently completed (subject to a quit rent of 20s. yearly) in 1534, when we find the following:—

It Rsuyd of m<sup>r</sup> grayn by the hands of m<sup>r</sup> paxton & m<sup>r</sup> berys v wrytyngs y<sup>t</sup> ys y<sup>e</sup> deds of y<sup>e</sup> howsse y<sup>t</sup> ys our hall w<sup>t</sup> all ther to belongyng y<sup>e</sup> vj day of february.

The following entries in 1540, refer, I take it to some City pageant or watch setting.

pd to ij men at mydesumer y <sup>t</sup> bare y <sup>e</sup> cressets & one y <sup>t</sup> bare y <sup>e</sup> lyghts	iiij <sup>s</sup>
It to ij men y <sup>t</sup> bare bowys	xviiij <sup>d</sup>
pd for creset lyghts y <sup>e</sup> stone ijd ob.	ij <sup>s</sup> xj <sup>d</sup>
It iij straw hats	iiij <sup>d</sup>

(There is a similar entry for 1538-9.)

Here we have traces (in 1538) of the dissolution of the monastic houses &c.

It p <sup>d</sup> for stons at bedleme <sup>1</sup>	ix <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>
p <sup>d</sup> for stons & charyeng from garlyke hythe	iiij <sup>s</sup>
p <sup>d</sup> for stonys from y <sup>e</sup> wardropp	iiij <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>
p <sup>d</sup> for stonys from y <sup>e</sup> tower hyll <sup>2</sup>	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>

Here we have an entry relating to a historical event—it is undated and the accounts about this period are much confused—but it, no doubt,

<sup>1</sup> The Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem.

<sup>2</sup> Probably from the Abbey of Grace.

belongs to 1540, and it is I think the only record that has yet come to light of any pageantry in connection with Queen Katharine Howard.

Thes be y<sup>e</sup> chargys of y<sup>e</sup> barge at y<sup>e</sup> tryoumffe of quene Kateryn.  
It for a grene ffysshe a goyle of salt sawmond & for a

haberdyne <sup>1</sup>	ij <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
It for brede		vij <sup>d</sup>
It for bere ale & fagot		vij <sup>d</sup> ob
It for buter		ij <sup>d</sup>
It for hyere of y <sup>e</sup> barge	xiiij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
It p <sup>d</sup> for Rowers & sterys man	x <sup>s</sup>	xx <sup>d</sup>
It p <sup>d</sup> for y <sup>e</sup> hyer of an ynsterment		j <sup>d</sup>
It p <sup>d</sup> for cord & pakthrede		j <sup>d</sup>
It for oysters		iiij <sup>d</sup>
It p <sup>d</sup> in drynkyng mony to y <sup>e</sup> Rowyers		iiij <sup>d</sup>
It p <sup>d</sup> to y <sup>e</sup> clarke for playeng of y <sup>e</sup> yensterment		iiij <sup>d</sup>

In 1541-2 there are long entries, totalling £4 9s. 6½d. for "chargys layde owte for y<sup>e</sup> sute of y<sup>e</sup> acte for metayll at y<sup>e</sup> plamente." Further similar payments in the following year and again in 1548-9 which see.

The hand-writing which has for about 12 years been execrable now changes. Adam Wood the new Clerk appointed in 1544 is evidently a skilled scribe.

In this year (1543-4) first occur entries of two men whom the craft had to provide, whether for the King's service or for the City trained bands, I am not sure.

These be the chargs of the ffyrst soygears p<sup>d</sup> be m<sup>r</sup> bere m<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> craft.

Itm for harnes for too men	xviijs	
„ for mendyng y <sup>e</sup> same harnes w <sup>t</sup> buccle lether and naylles therto belongyng		xij <sup>d</sup>
„ for fyve yards of ffushtyayne for dowbletts	iijs	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ for an ell of canvas		vj <sup>d</sup>
„ for iiij yards of lynyng	ij <sup>s</sup>	
„ for makyng of y <sup>e</sup> dowbletts	ij <sup>s</sup>	
„ for iiij yards of hoose cloth & ij yards lynyng	vij <sup>s</sup>	
„ for ij bylls	ij <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
„ for cloth and lynyng for too cootts	viijs	viiij <sup>d</sup>
„ for canvas & makyng of ther hoose	ij <sup>s</sup>	j <sup>d</sup>
„ for ij hatts		xvj <sup>d</sup>
„ for ij suerds & dagars	vjs	
„ for poynts		j <sup>d</sup>
„ for iiij quarters of yallow carssey for hose		xv <sup>d</sup>
„ for a yard D of yallow cloth for to gard y <sup>e</sup> cotts		xiiij <sup>d</sup>
„ for new translatyng ther garments	ij <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
„ paid to y <sup>e</sup> sogears toward ther costs	ij <sup>s</sup>	

These be the chargs of the last sogears paid be m<sup>r</sup> bere

Itm for harnes for ij men	xix <sup>s</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>
„ for one byll		x <sup>d</sup>
„ for ij dagars	ij <sup>s</sup>	
„ for makyng of ij cotts		xiiij <sup>d</sup>
„ for ij payre of bowtts	vjs	

<sup>1</sup> Qy. A salted Cod fish. "Aberdaan" in modern Dutch. V. Wardrobe Accounts, 28 Ed. I. Ed. J. Nichols, p. 118.

Payments of the said M<sup>r</sup> hawys (younger warden)

Itm paid to the fyrst soygears comandyd be proclamacon xiiij<sup>d</sup>

The chargs of y<sup>e</sup> last soygears p<sup>d</sup> be m<sup>r</sup> hawis

*sic* Itm paid for vij of ffryes iiij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

„ paid for ij swerds v<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>

„ paid for prest monye ij<sup>s</sup>

„ paid for ij sward gyrdles & poynts xj<sup>d</sup>

The Clerk winds up the year's account with the following:—

Nunc finem feci da michi q merui an<sup>o</sup> dni 1544

1544-5 Rsuid for playing in the Hall from Seynt

Nycholas day tyll after chrystmas xxj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

(This would be from the “Fraternity of St. Nicholas,” or Parish Clerks’ Company).

Payments again for “Sogears”

Itm paid vnto ou<sup>r</sup> sou’eigne lord y<sup>e</sup> King in

the name of benevolens xxiiij<sup>s</sup>

1548-9 p<sup>d</sup> for the chargs of the sute vnto the plyament

for the statute for carrying mettle overseye iiij<sup>li</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup>

This was an act prohibiting the exportation of bell metal of which there were large accumulations owing to the dissolution of the Monasteries & Chantries, and Royal and other robberies from parish churches.

1549-50 R<sup>q</sup> for torches solde to the company & old

peynted clothes sold to W<sup>m</sup> pendred xxj<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Significant of the final disappearance of the Brotherhood of St. Clement.

Payments in this year for the purchase of the

Quit rent on the Hall, and entries of plate

pledged to the sum of £16 15s. 6d., probably

to raise the purchase money.

1552-3 Itm paid for the chargs of o<sup>r</sup> frame at y<sup>e</sup>

coronaton of quene marye xxiiij<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup>

1553-4 Itm p<sup>d</sup> to ij Stravnge min to go agayenste m<sup>r</sup>

Wyat xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

(payments for their equipment)

This refers doubtless to Sir Thomas Wyatt’s rising against the Spanish Match.

1555-6 payde to the clarke for the masse kept for the

masters festivall daye and for all other

chargs therto belonging iiij<sup>s</sup> j<sup>d</sup>

1556-7 Reseuide at the offringe at the masse iiij<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>

payde vnto to the preste for syngynge masse xvj<sup>d</sup>

payde to the clark for his paynes iiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

payde to the chandler for waste of y<sup>e</sup> waxe viij<sup>d</sup>

payde for drynk for the clarks ix<sup>d</sup>

Symptoms of the reaction under Queen Mary.

1558-9 Many payments at the Queen’s entry into the

City, barge hire, setting up the stand, &c.

“carying the instruments and home ageyne”

“the syngynge men in the barge” “staves

for wyflers”

1559-60 Dinner payments in detail reappear—

payde for a surloyne of beffe v<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

- The mass payments of course disappear, in  
their stead we have  
paide vnto master verone for preaching v<sup>s</sup>
- 1560-1 payde ffor iij staves ffor wefflers when the  
quyne went a prograc and com throw the  
Citie iiij<sup>d</sup>
- 1562-3 payd ffor a torkey hene ij<sup>s</sup>
- 1564 Among the chargis of the masters dynner  
17 Sepr 1564
- Item Im<sup>p</sup>mis.
- mys payde to the precher v<sup>s</sup>
- N.B.—A similar sum is paid to the cook
- 1564-5 Itm payd to M<sup>r</sup> Champens & to M<sup>r</sup> Avele  
Aldermen the corne mony w<sup>h</sup> is v<sup>li</sup>
- Provision in case of famine. A certain stock of corn was compelled  
to be kept, and the City Guilds had each to contribute either  
corn or money. The granaries were on London Bridge.
- 1567-8 Itm payde to the lottery xl<sup>s</sup>
- Probably some compulsory benefaction to  
Royal necessities.
- 1568-9 Itm p<sup>d</sup> to Jeames marst of a winmle to stan  
in the chimney in parlare xij<sup>d</sup>
- This wants explaining. Q<sup>y</sup> a ventilator into the chimney.
- There is a curious mixture of Roman and Arabic numerals in  
the accounts for this year, *e.g.*
- Resevid in p<sup>m</sup>is for the gayns of the metle 4<sup>li</sup> xij<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>
- Evidently the Court had been speculating in  
bell metal.
- 1570-1 R<sup>c</sup> for the buryall cloth of m<sup>r</sup> peke xvj<sup>d</sup>
- „ for hyryng of the buryall cloth xij<sup>d</sup>

This was solemnly ordered to be burnt as superstitious in 1645. Some  
of the City Companies still possess their palls. The Fishmongers' is the  
most elaborate.

The book ends with the accounts for the year 1576, so that it embraces  
exactly 80 years' records. I may mention that I have by no means,  
in the above extracts, given all that are of interest. I could easily have  
expanded this paper to twice its length, but what I have given is I think  
very fairly representative of the whole, and to do more would have risked  
being tedious.