



## The City Gilds or Companies of Chester, with special reference to that of the Barber- Surgeons'

BY FRANK SIMPSON

(Read 21st March, 1911)

**I**N very early times, long before there was a Mayor of Chester, or the City had obtained a Royal Charter, trade was carried on by a *Gilda Mercatoria*.

From the gild-merchants, who owned property and became rich and tyrannical, developed the first corporate body; at a later period, the craft-gilds, which associated themselves according to separate occupations, or crafts, and each of which in course of time became powerful, were able to assert their own independence, monopoly, and wealth. It is to the later stages of the history of these craft-gilds, or companies, and to their ultimate decline and extinction that I wish to draw your attention, and particularly to that of the Barber-Surgeons' Company.

Evidence as to the antiquity of our City's Gilds is given in the Chester Palatinate Recognizance Rolls, as follows:

"21 June, 1463. The Mayor and Sheriffs of the City are ordered to enforce the ordinance which had prevailed *time out of mind* in the City, that no one but such as had joined the

craft of Bakers of the City, and deposited their mark in wax that their bread might be known, should make or sell bread in the City ; and that bread baked out of the City should not be sold in the City excepting on market days, and that all bakers of the City should grind their corn at the Mills of Dee."

No country butcher was allowed to sell meat in the City before the year 1577, and it was a year later before the country baker was accorded the same privilege.

The number of these trade-companies has varied at different periods. There were, at one time,<sup>1</sup> 26 companies, at a later period 25, and during the last century 23 ; the Fishmongers', and the Dyers', having become extinct.

Some of the companies were chartered by Royal authority, while others were constituted by the Mayor and Corporation. Of the former class were the Cordwainers', the Bakers', and the Brewers'; of the latter, the Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers', and the Innkeepers'.

The records of the City Companies are so voluminous, and contain so much local history, much of which has never been brought to light, that it is impossible to attempt to give more than the briefest outline in the space at my disposal. Upon this occasion I am going to confine myself principally to *one* of the City Companies, that of the Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers, and their minute books, kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. R. Roberts, the sole surviving member of the Company.

<sup>1</sup> *Harleian MS.*, 2150, 1376.



The extracts I have made from these books occupy some 300 pages of foolscap, and include a complete list of the Aldermen and Stewards (with the exception of a break, 1804-13, during which time no particulars are entered in the Company's books), from 1606 A.D. down to the present time.

This Company ranks third on the list of the 23 City Companies, and bears the title of Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers. In this 20th century the title sounds rather peculiar, and many people wonder why barbers—as we know them to-day—are joined with surgeons. And again, why with wax and tallow chandlers? To understand this we have to go back to early days, when we find that in Rome of old, as in England within a not very remote period, the art of the barber was associated with the yet nobler one of medicine, exercising as he did most of the functions of surgeons and physicians, including the extraction of teeth. But whereas during the Roman wars the barber-surgeon enjoyed a flourishing trade as the medical friend of the wounded soldiery, he was compelled, after the wars were over and his practice fell off, to take to the cutting and trimming of hair; the long pole and basin, decked to guide the wounded to his door, were supplanted by a pole of more peaceful attributes, somewhat similar to that which we see to-day outside some of the barbers' shops. If people wanted anything cut off, it was their hair, not their limbs.

We are told that the art of the barber-surgeons was so highly estimated by the ancients that the first man who cultivated it in Rome had a statue erected to his memory.

The London Barber-Surgeons' is a very ancient company. During the 13th century it had mainly a religious character; but during the early part of the following century it took more the nature of a trade gild. This company obtained a Charter of Incorporation, 24th February, 1 Edward IV. [1462]; and in 1493 an alliance was entered into between the Barbers' Company and the Surgeons' Gild.

The Act of 32 Henry VIII. [1540], while more firmly uniting the barbers and surgeons as one incorporation, strictly defined their actual practice. "No one who used barbery or shaving should do anything belonging to surgery but the drawing of teeth"; and those who practised surgery "should not occupy the craft of barbery or shaving."

The dead bodies of four condemned criminals were granted to the Society yearly for dissection.

In the court-room of the Barbers' Company still hangs that famous picture by Hans Holbein, of Henry VIII. presenting the charter to the combined companies.

This company also possesses some very fine plate, including a large silver-gilt grace-cup with cover, presented by Henry VIII. in commemoration of the union of the two companies. The Barbers' Company is the only one of the London companies which still possess among their records a copy of the return sent in by their gild in response to the writ of 12 Richard II. [1388]. The union of the two societies continued until 1745, when they were constituted two distinct companies by Act of Parliament, 18 George II. cap. 17 [1745].

The legislature, from time to time, has not thought the subject of barber and barber-surgeons' poles too insignificant for notice. Previous to the Surgeons' Incorporation Bill, 1540, there was a statute in force compelling barbers and surgeons to display sign-poles without their doors. The barbers were commanded to have theirs blue, with a white stripe, and no other appendage; the surgeons were desired to paint theirs in the same manner, but to stick upon them a gallipot, the rim of which was to be red, to denote the particular nature of their avocation. But milder legislation supplanted the white-striped pole of the barber, and the surgeon, now free to choose for himself, discarded the little gallipot.

It is not correct to suppose that the members of the various companies all follow the craft by which title their company is known; formerly they did so, or they could not have protected their trade or profession so perfectly as they appear to have done. To become a member of any one of these gilds, or companies, it was necessary to have first served an apprenticeship of at least seven years to a freeman of the city. In the majority of cases it is to-day, by heritage, in the male line. Therefore, it is not surprising that a number of the Chester companies, including that of the Barbers, the Saddlers, the Glovers, the Skinners and Feltnakers, the Tanners, the Grocers and Ironmongers, and the Weavers, have not a single member whose occupation is that of the trades mentioned.

It is the same elsewhere; the London Tailors' Company in 1710 had, out of a livery of 485, 300 members who were not tailors. *Dr. Watson*, in his history of the Merchant Tailors' School, London, states that in

1822, out of 300 on the livery of Merchant Taylors, which is open to men of all professions, not ten were to be found amongst them who were tailors by trade.

### THE REGISTERS

The Chester Barbers' Company has four registers, or minute books, all of folio size, but varying in actual inches, and one receipt book. Of the former, the first volume commences in 1606, is  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 9 inches, and bound in vellum. This is by far the most interesting book of the four, containing as it does full particulars of income and expenses from all sources in detail, and the enrolment of apprenticeship deeds, &c.

On the first page is inscribed:—

"The Register Booke of the Society and Company of barbur Surgeons waxe and Tallow Chaunlors [chandlers] of the Citty of Chester w[hi]ch booke was bought in the yeare of our lorde god 1606. Then Alder[men] of the same companye Nicholas Hallowed and John Ley. Willm Handcocke and Richard Shone Stewardes of the same also then Maior of this Citty John Lyttler drap[er] Thomas Harvye and Robert Bleese Sheriffes 1606."

The first memorandum entered in this volume reads as follows:—

"Memorandum: Uppon the visitacion day of Blessed Marye the Virgine being the Seaconde daye of July 1606 and in the fourth yeare of the reigne of our most dread Sovereigne lorde James by the grace of god kinge of greate britayne France and Ireland defender of the faythe etc. And being the Election daye for the choyce of new officers of the company and society of Barburs Surgeons wax and Tallow chaundlers of the Citie of Chester. Nicholas Halwoode and John Ley Aldermen of the same company Richard Thomas and William Hancocke; Stewards of the same com-

pany beinge Elected in the tyme of the Mayoraltie of John Lyttler mayor of the Citie. Robert Bleese and Thomas Harvye Sheriffes of the same Citie."

This volume continues until 1698, when volume II. commences. The latter measures 15 inches by 9½ inches, is bound in full calf, and has the remains of two brass clasps attached. On the first page it states:—

"This Register Book of the Society and Company of Barber Chirurgicals Wax and Tallow Chaundlers of the City of Chester was bought in ye year of our Lord God 1698.

"Hugh Starkey, Chirurgn., being elected Alderman of the said Company in the year of our Lord 1688 in which year he was Maior of the City. William Mercer, Tallow Chaundler, elected Alderman of ye sd company April ye 16th 1685. Thomas Cottingham, and Joseph Hatton, Stewards 1698."

The stewards' names are followed by forty-one names of the brethren, the page concluding with the statement that "All which Company above named are now living in the year of our Lord God 1698."

This book contains copies of the Company's Charters, and various agreements with the municipal authorities. It also contains many interesting items, and continues in use until the year 1778, when the third volume commences. This is much smaller in size, being 13 inches by 8½ inches, bound full calf; and bears a red leather label on the cover, on which is inscribed:—

JOHN DICAS	}	Aldermen
RICHD. MOULSON		
GEO. BROWN	}	Stewards
JOHN NEVITT		

The first twenty-seven pages are taken up with the various rules, or orders, of the company. Then follow the various meetings from 1750 to July 30th, 1819,

**This Register Book**  
of the Society and Company of  
Barber Chirurgeions Wax and  
Tallow Chaundlors of the City  
of Chester was bought in y<sup>e</sup> year  
of our Lord God 1698

Hugh Starkey being elected Alderman of the said  
Company in the year of our Lord 1688 in which year he was  
Mayor of the said City

William Mente <sup>Chaundlor</sup> elected Alderman of y<sup>e</sup> Company <sup>Sept<sup>r</sup> 1685</sup>

Thomas Mingham <sup>Stewards 1698</sup>

Joseph Hutton

Michael Bromley

Thomas Jones

John Roberts

William Mloraham

George Cause

William Brane

Benjamin Hall

John Bingley

Thomas Moulton

Thomas Holland

Richard Stone

Samuel Donald

John Mlerson

Samuel Taylor

Charles Whormingham

Roger Mloraham

John Catherall

Ralph Davenport

Richard Ords

Robert Tensley

Theophilus Wilkinson

Henry Gill

George Johnson

John Jones

Richard Gamon

Giles Pecca

William Smith

John Chadwick

Henry Coulson

Benjamin Dod

Henry Gannians

John Handley

Edward Girdock

Thomas Girdock

Owen Meredith

Ralph Smith

Moses Bingley

Thomas Taylor

Joseph Beknet

Thomas Kemp

John Sparrow

All which Company above named are now  
living in the year of our Lord God 1698



finishing on page 65. Commencing at the back part of the book, page 1 begins with the accounts of disbursements from July 13th, 1778, and continues until January 24th, 1842 (page 162).

Volume IV., which is now in use, measures 13 inches by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, is half bound in calf, and bears on the back two red leather labels surrounded by gold tooling. On the uppermost one is inscribed :—

“ JOSEPH TRAPE	}	Aldermen
SAMUEL WADE		
ROBERT JONES	}	Stewards
MATTHIAS GARNER		
1843 ”		

And on the lower label :—

“ This Book is the Gift of  
Brother William Wade.”

On the inside of the cover is an engraved portrait of—

“ Owen Jones, of Chester, Butcher. Died, and was buried at Northop, 6 April, 1659.”

The first twenty-seven pages contain the rules of the company. The information this book contains is very meagre. No accounts of income or disbursements are given. Meetings were held, but in a few instances only do we learn what took place at them.

All the books are composed of hand-made paper.

### THE CHARTERS

The original charters of this Company are lost, but copies of the same are entered in volume II. of the Company's Books. The first Charter reads :—

“ A True Coppie of the Charter of Barbers and Chaundlers within ye Liberties and Franchises of the City of Chester.”



“ To all men to whom this present writing shall come see or heare Henry Gee Mayor of the City of Chester The Aldermen Sheriffes and Common Counciell of ye said City Greeting in our Lord God Everlasting. Know ye us the said Mayor Aldermen Sheriffes and Common Counsell to have seen beholden and perfectly perused writains Articles and Oath of old tymes laudable and for ye Common wealth of this said City of the Occupations of Barbers & Chaundlers within the said City used and approved the tenor whereof ensueth in these words.

“ Imprimis that every brother of the said Occupation shall pay every month to their Stewards 1d. and every journeyman Ob. [Obolus]  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to be kept to the use of the said Occupation and for the Commonwealth of the said City as long as they shall be able to pay the same.

“ 2. Also that no brother shall take prentice any servant being in service or covenant with any other his brethren except the said servant be released of all covenants between him and such brother with whom he shall be in covenant or forvite [forfeit] upon pains of forfeiting for every default 40s.

“ 3. Also that no brother shall take any servant to teach him the said occupation or hier otherwise but only such as shall be Apprentice bounden by Indenture for seaven years fully to be served or also the same servant not to be admitted to the said Occupation but as a forriner upon pains of forfeiting for every default 40s.

“ 4. Also that no brother ne[ither] noe man for him, ne[ither] by his assent shall move labor ne[ither] entise any man being accustomed to be shaven with any other brother from the same unles it be & come of his mere mind And that then such brother as shall take any such Customer to be shaven shall such of his brethren with whom he was accustomed to be shaven fully gratify of the money being behind for his shaving afore the time he shall take him a customer, and if any do the contrary to forfitt for every default 6s. 8d.

“ 5. Also that no brother from henceforth shall make any Torches but only of lawfull stuffe of weeke [wick] and torch

mettell & of wax coapeing to ye same as shall be admitted by the Stewards & Searchers of the said Occupacon and to make them of length 3 yards fully beside the snuffe and to sell them as they may live upon reasonable. And that ye Searchers shall see and looke upon ye weeke [wick] afore it be drenched and also ye same to be sufficient upon pains of forfeiture for every torch otherwise made 12d.

“6. Also that every brother shall be ready and shall come resort and comme with the Aldermen Stewards and brethren of the said Occupation from tyme to tyme and at all tymes upon sufficient warning to him and his geven at ye place by the Stewards appointed and there to conclude and agree for the good order rule and Comonwealth of the said City and of ye same Occupation And not to be absent unles he be licensed or otherwise have cause to the contrary upon payn of forfeiture for every default 12d.

“7. Also that every brother shall keep secret all Communications and Counsells lawfully to be kept secret and not to disclose the same which he had at any their meetings together upon payne of forfeiture for every default 6s. 8d.

“8. Also that every brother shall have his free election for the chusing of Aldermen Stewards and Searchers of the said Occupation at the day of old tyme used And that the said Aldermn Stewards and Searchers at & by the most election shall be chosen and sworne without any sinister means or delay upon paine of forfeiture for every default 6s. 8d.

“Also that every brother shall be ordered amongst themselves by the Aldermen and Stewards for all causes of ye said Occupacon And if they cannot agree then to complain to the Mayor of the said City for ye tyme being and to be ordered by him therein without any sute upon paine of forfeiture for every default 6s. 8d.

“The Oath of ye Brethren of ye said Occupations.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A marginal note states: “This Oath to be taken when a brother is admitted and no other.”

"I shall be true to the King of England and his heires & to the Mayor of the City of Chester and to the Liberties thereof and also to the Occupations of Barbers Waxe and Tallow Chaundlers within the said City and truly and duely maintaine the same with all my might and power and all good and lawfull Ordinances made and hereafter to be made shall keep execute and fulfill to the best of my power. And all other things lawfull and for the good order rule and Commonwealth of the said City and of the said Occupations shall doe and obey at all tymes So help me God."

"Which sothly Articles and Oth we the said Mayor Aldermen Sheriffes and Comon Counsell as such as in us is to be done at the instance of William Fromway and Thomas Deane Aldermen Edward Halwood and Henry Nicholas Stewards of the said occupations for and in the name of the said Occupacons do rattify and confirme for the Comonwealth of this said City and to the supportation of the said Occupations Saving to the King's grace all statutes and other provisions to the con[t]rary And also that the same Occupations shall make none other Articles or others contrary to the King's Law or against the Comonwealth of the said City And that the same ordinances so to be made from tyme to tyme shall be brought to the Mayor for the tyme being to be rattified by him and his brethren if they shall think the same convenient, or else the same not to be put in execution. In Witness whereof we ye said Mayor Aldermen Sheriffes & Comon Counsell the Seale of office of Mayroly of the said City to these presents have caused to be putt Geuen [given] ye eight day of Aprill in the one & thirtieth yeare of our Sovereigne Lord King Henry the eight [A.D. 1540] by the grace of God King of England and of France Defender of the faith Lord of Ireland in earth the supreme head of the Church of England."

Ten years later another charter was granted to the Company. It appears to be more closely connected with the Tallow Chandlers:—

"A true Coppie of ye later Charter made to the Company of Barbers Wax Chaundlers and Tallow Chaundlers of the said City.

"At Chester the first day of December in the year of the reigne of our most dread Sovereigne Lord Edward the Sixt by ye grace of God King of England France and Ireland Defender of the faith and in earth of the Church of England and also of Ireland supream head the fourte [fourth] then being Mayor of the Citty of Chester Edmund Goe and Sherriffes Raph Goodman ye youngr. and Peter Streete [1550]

"Forasmuch as it is concluded upon the behalfe of ye Occupacon of Barbers Wax Chandlers and Tallow Chaundlers for good Order tranquility and the Commonwealth of the said Occupations and not only for themselves that now be, but also that the sd [said] Conclusion and Orders is and shall be to know a due Order from henceforth to be kept among the said Occupations and ministers of the same and also for their successors that hereafter shall use and exercise the said Crafts and Misteries for ever. The said Occupations beine agreed that they & their successors shall observe and keep these Orders and provisions following.

"That no brother that is a barber or wax chaundler his Jornimen or Jorniman nor his prentice from henceforth shall make or cause to be made any tallow Candles to sell within the said City nor the Circute and liberties of the same unles he doe compound and agree with the brethren of tallow Chaundlers.

"2. And that no tallow chaundlers theire Jornimen or prentices nor the Jornimen nor prentices of any of them shall from henceforth make nor cause to be made or use anything belonging to the said barbers and wax chaundlers within the said City nor the Circute and liberties of the same unless he do compound and agree with the brethren and barbers & wax chandler.

"3. Also it is agreed condessed and concluded among the said Occupations to have one Alderman and one Steward to be chosen of the Barbers and Wax chaundlers by the whole Consent and Assent of the brethren of Barbers Wax chaundlers and tallow chaundlers another Alderman & Steward to be chosen of the tallow chaundlers by the whole

Consent and Assent of the tallow chaundlers Barbers and Wax chaundlers And Aldermen to bear the name of Aldermen during their lives unles any urgent or great misdemeanor of them or either of them be to the contrary And upon such misdemeanor duely proved then to remove and expell such Aldermen soe offending and to elect new at the discretion of the said Occupacons And the new Stewrds to be chosen the day usuall and accustomed yearly.

"4. Also that the said Stewards shall goe as oft tymes as shall be thought necessary by the said Occupations or by Mr. Mayor and his bretheren to every brothers house w[hi]ch selleth any tallow candles to view and see that their be good and lawfull stuff both of weeke and tallow put in the said candles put to sale or to be put to sale.

"5. And also every brother to beare and sustaine together as one whole Occupation All manner of charges and Customes belonging to the Kings Maty. the Mayor and his brethren of the said City & to their successors as the said Occupations have done and used Customably to doe afore this tyme and yt tyme out of mind.

"And to the intent yt the City may be dayly served ye better as is agreed between the said Master Mayor & his brethren and to the said Barbers Wax chaundlers and Tallow chaundlers it is agreed and granted unto the said Occupations by the whole consents of the sd Mr. Mayor & his bretheren that from henceforth there shall no manner of persons or person Exercise use nor sell any Tallow Candles within the said Citty nor circute of the same and the liberties thereof unless he or they which shall so use exercise make or sell any Candles be admitted to ye Franchise And also after his Admittance have compounded & agreed with the sd Occupacons on paine to forfeit to the said Occupations their stuff made and put to sale In Witness whereof to all and singular the premises the said Mr. Mayor hath put to his seale of the said Citty the day and yeare aforesaid.

"A true Copie of both Charters exactly examined p[er] me

"John Wright

"Cleark to the said Occupations."

In the disbursements for the year 1696 it states:—

“For sertching the con[t]ents above what  
the Charge will be for procuring anew Charter  
for the Company oo 10 oo”

It is therefore only reasonable to suppose that one, or both, of the original charters had been lost prior to this date.

The loyalty of the Company is shewn by the following oath, which had to be taken by the Aldermen, Stewards, and Brethren of the company:—

“I shall be obedient and true to the King of<sup>2</sup> England his heyres and successors and to the Maior of the City of Chester, and also to the Socyete and Companye of Barbur-Chyrurgeons Wax and Tallow Chaundlers within the said City; and truly and duly mantaine the same with all my might and power and All good and lawful order hereby made, or hereafter to be made by the said Society and Company of Barbur-Chyrurgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers or the greater number of them shall well and truly keep perform and obey at all tymes hereafter So help me God and by the Holy contents of this book.”

The Aldermen of the Company, when taking the Oath, promise to give both advice and help, assistance and countenance to any brother so requiring it. The Stewards also, upon taking office, take a special Oath to do all in their power for the welfare of the Company, and their brothers in general.

“The Oath of the Aldermen of Society and Company of Barbur Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chaundlors within the Cittie of Chester.”

“I shall be true unto the Society and Company of Barbars Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chaundlors within the Cittye of Chester and their Counsell keepe, and the good govern-

<sup>2</sup> In Vol. II. (1698), page 4, it states “of Great Brittain,” and the oath finishes at the word God.

ment of the same companye well and faythfully mayntayne with all my might and power and do my dilligense and endeavour to see the good orders and decrees made and to be made by the Aldermen, Stewardes and companye of barburs surgeons waxe and tallow chaundlers within the saide Cittie or by the more parte of them well and truly performed mayntayned and kepte and assist and further to the uttermost of my power the stewardes of the said companye within the sayde Cittie in the due execution of their office or in any other matters or causes which they shall take in hand attempt or prosecute for the comon wealth or benefit of the said company and therein yield them both advice help Assistance and countenance from tyme to tyme and at all tymes as the same shall require, and shall not receive any brother unto ye saide company without the consent and admittance of the saide companye or the greater part of thereof then prsent And shall and will doe and performe all other things needfull and requisite for ye benefit and behalfe of ye good government thereof soe long as I shall be Alderman of the same company Soe help me God, and by the holy contents of this booke.”<sup>3</sup>

“The Oath of the Stewardes of the Socitie and Company of Barburs Surgeons Waxe and Tallow Chaundlers within the Citie of Chester.”

“I shall be true unto the Societie and companye of Barburs Surgeons waxe and tallow chaundlers within the Citie of Chester and their counsell keep, and the good government of the same company well and faythfully mayntaine with all my might and power, and doe my dilligence and endeavour to cause the Orders and Decrees made and to be made by the Aldermen Stewardes and company of Barburs Surgeons waxe and tallow chaundlers within the saide Citie or the greater part of them for the proffytt and benefit of the saide companye well and truly performed maynteyned and kepte from tyme to tyme and at all tymes as the cause shall require and shall and will yeilde and give upp a full and true ac-

<sup>3</sup> In Vol. II. (1698), the portion referring to the book is omitted in the oath.

compte of all and singular such sume and sumes of money as I shall receive or disburse for or on the behalfe of the saide companye for the tyme beinge And to such others of the same companye and at such tyme and place as the sayde companye or the more parte of them shall lymitt and appoynt And shall in all thinges else duellie and truely execute the office of Stewarde of the saide company soe long as I shall remayne Steward thereof And shall and will during the same tyme doe and performe all other things needfull and requisite for the benefitt and behalf of the same companye and the good government thereof. Soe help me God and by Jesus Christ<sup>4</sup> 1606."

"The Oath of everie brother which shalbe admitted into the Societie and Companye of Barbars Surgeons Waxe and Tallow Chaundlers within the Citie of Chester."

"ffor as much as it hath appeared unto us here present that your humble request unto us made is that we woulde accepte you into our Companye and that wee woulde admitt and take you into the same companye as a member of the same. You shall therefore sweare by Almighty God that you shall be faithfull and true to the same companye, and shal be obedient and dutyfull to the Elders of this our Company and you shall concale keepe secrett and not disclose such council as at any tyme hereafter shall be used and spoken of by or among the said companye at any time of our Assemblies or Meetinge beinge lawfull and honest and appertaininge to the profit of the said companye or the redress or reformation of any disorders or abuses commytted against the said companye, or against the benefytt or good government theireof, And in case your behavvour touching the saide companye or any member thereof shall be disorderly, so as the same companye or the greater number theirow shall think you eyther fyneable or punishable for the same. Then you shall stande to abyde and obeye such order and decree as shall be sett downe in that behalfe and shall in due tyme truelie paye all and singular such fynes as shalbe Assessed against you for or by reason of any such disorder or abuse. And you shall also

<sup>4</sup> "And by Jesus Christ" is omitted from the Oath in 1698.



beare and paye scott<sup>5</sup> and lott<sup>5</sup> accordinge to your behavinge. And all orders and decrees made, and to be made by the Aldermen, and Stewardes, and Companye of this Society of Barbers Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chaundlers within the said Cittie of Chester, or the greater parte of them. You shall from tyme to tyme, and at all tymes well and faythfully observe, mayntaine and keep to the uttermost of your power, and you shall come to all meetings and assemblies to be made by the saide Companye, or the greater parte of them, upon due warning thereof unto you given by the Stewarde of the saide Companye for the tyme being or either of them Unless you have reasonable and just cause through sickness or otherwise to the contrarie which you shall make known, and give notice of unto the Aldermen and Stewardes of the same companye for the tyme beinge or to some of them. And you shall at every such Assemblie or Meetinge give and yield your best advise and counsell for and touchinge the good government and commonwealth of the said companye within the saide Citie, so often as you shalbe thereunto required. And all things concerninge the good rule and civill government of the same companye you shall well and truly p[er]forme to the uttermost of your power. Soe help me God and by Jesus Christ 1606."

#### WARNING THE MEETINGS

The first rule, or order, of this Company was that every brother should attend the meetings, and not absent himself without a lawful excuse, viz. :—

##### [RULE 1]

"That every brother of the said company & Society of Barbers Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chaundlers within the City of Chester, shall upon due warning given unto him or in his absence to any of his folkes or household people by the Steward or Stewards of the said Company or by any other appoynted by them for the warning of any assembly

<sup>5</sup> *Scot* meaning the tax or fine ; and *lot* the amount personally allotted, according to their ability as well as to their misbehaving.

or meeting of ye same company, shall not at any time absent himself from any of their meetings without a lawfull cause where of he shall make either the Aldermen or Stewards or some of ym [them] acquainted with, or else for every time being absent to pay unto the Stewards for ye use of the same company in the name of a fyne in currant English money.....2s. 6d. provided always that the same hour appointed for meetings and warning given by the stewards or by either of them be kept and observed in payn of forfeiting unto the said company 3s. 4d."

Rule 16 is an order for the stewards as to how they should "warn," or give notice of the meetings to the members of the company:—

"It is further ordered and agreed upon by the whole consent of the same Society and company, that if it shall so happ[e]n at any time hereafter when any such occasions shall fall out for the warning of any meeting or Assembly of the same company by the Stewards to be done by the appointment of the Aldermen for the time being or by one of them that if it so shall happen by negligence or forgetfulness of the said Stewards or by either of them, do not warne every brother of the said company, to such meetings or assemblies, or at the least to leave word at their shops or dwelling houses, with some of their people. To certify unto them the day time & hour of such meeting, Every Steward so offending through his negligence or forgetfulness to pay unto the company for every such fault in money 12d."

"At the Annual Meeting of the Surgeon Barbers Wax and Tallow Chandlers held at the House of Brother Jones, Gas Tavern, Cuppin Street, July 23rd 1851, it was resolved 'That after this date all brothers neglecting to attend the Annual or other Meetings after being duly warned for such neglect shall pay the sum of Two shillings & sixpence.'"

Rule 3 is an order that every brother shall behave himself orderly and decently in the meeting house one towards another:

"It is further ordered with the whole consent of all ye said brethren that no brother shall disorderly behave himself amongst his said brethren in their meeting house, nor disturb, nor interrupt any of the brethren in telling his tale or matter before the Aldermen & Stewards and his said brethren, nor to call any of his said brethren worse than is or their proper names, neither in the Meeting house nor without, but every brother to behave himself one towards another lovingly gently and honestly, and in ye fear of God in payn of forfeiting for every such offence to the sayd Society and company the sum of 3s. 6d."

At a meeting held August 14th, 1607, it was decided that every brother should wear his cloak or gown when present at the meetings, viz. :—

[RULE 2]

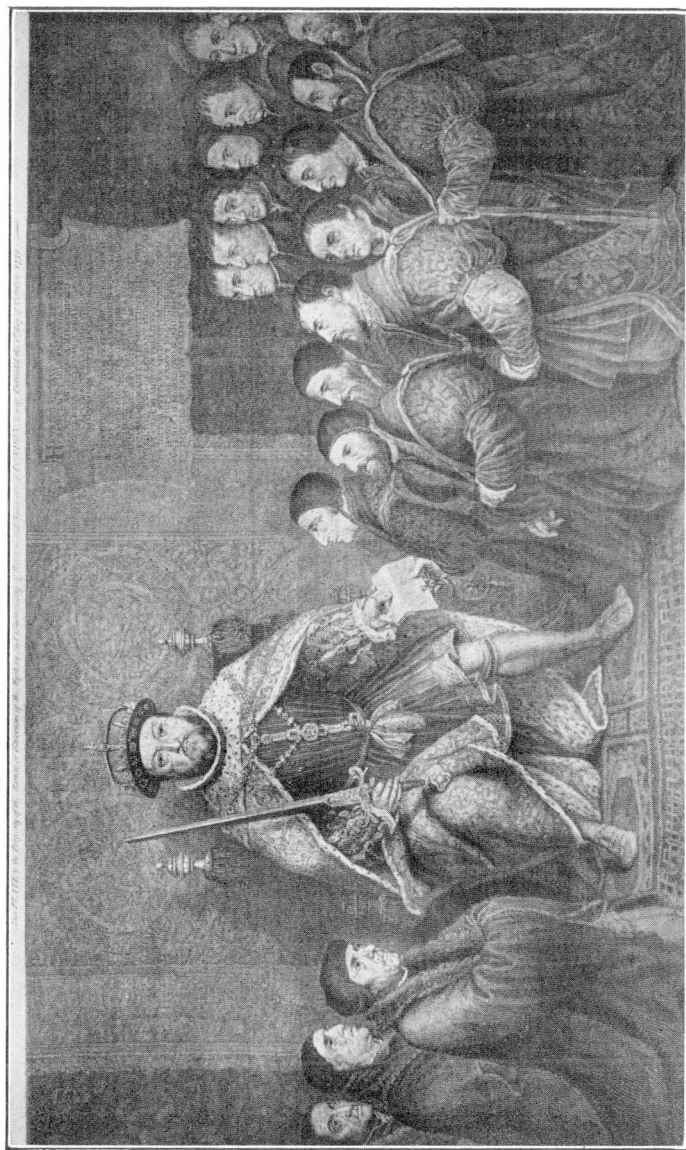
"That none of the brethren of the said company shall not come to any of our meetings or assemblies without a gown except on Election Day Specially a married man, neither any brother yt [that] is of two years standing upon payn a forfeiting for every such offence to the use of the same company 6d."

"It was agreed upon the fourteenth of August 1607 that every brother should wear his gown or Cloak whether [he] would except it be upon an Election Day or a Choyce day for a brother coming into the Company then every brother to wear his gown."

November 10th, 1720. It was ordered that for the future the fine should be increased to one shilling.

The introduction of these liveries, or uniforms, became a distinguishing feature during the reign of Edward the First. The livery then consisted of a coat trimmed with fur, and a surcoat with a white girdle.

In the court-room of the Barber Surgeons' Hall, London, hangs a picture which depicts the clothing



Henry VIII. Granting a Charter to the London Barber-Surgeons' Company

From a copper-plate engraving of the celebrated painting by Hans Holbein : reproduced by permission of the London Barber-Surgeons' Company, and Sidney Young, Esq.

*Frank Simpson, Photo.*



worn at the granting of that Company's Charter by Henry VIII. in 1541, painted by Hans Holbein.

At that time a long gown took the place of the former coat and surcoat, the girdle was discarded, and what appears to be a skull-cap with tubular appendage was worn.

In the early part of the 17th century the long gown with fur trimmings was still worn around the neck, and hanging behind the shoulder is what has been described in the various city companies' books as "a tippet"; and, in addition, a hat, or cap, similar to that now generally worn by city aldermen.

The various companies adopted different coloured clothing; even these varied from time to time until the late 16th century, when black divided in equal halves with some other colour—generally scarlet or green—became general.

The Grocers and Ironmongers' Company still have in their possession several "tippets" formerly worn by its members. Some are, in colour, black and green; others scarlet and green. The latter were, at my suggestion, reproduced, with gowns to match, and worn by members of the Chester Gilds who took part in episode VII., "The Midsummer Revels," in the recent Chester Pageant. The Company named have also some of the fur (about two inches wide) which formerly decorated the gowns. Some of the ancient clothing worn by members of the Bakers' Company is still in that Company's possession.

The company endeavoured to settle all differences between the various members, and that no brother

should sue another until the aldermen, stewards, and brethren of the company were informed of the complaint.

## [RULE 4]

“It is further ordered and agreed upon by the whole consent of the said Company, that no brother of the same shall commence any action or suit in Law, against any of their sayd brothers of the company, for any matter, either of debt or account whatsoever before he have made the Aldermen of the said company acquainted therewith, so that the same controversy may be taken up and ended by friends of the same company, if it be, upon payn of every such offence to forfeit unto ye sum 3s. 4d. provided always if they may not so end the same controversy yn [then] the same brother to be at his liberty to seek his right.”

## [RULE 6]

“It is further agreed upon by the said company that there shall not any brother of the same depart and go away from their place of Meeting, upon any their business except he first get leave of the Aldermen for the tyme being or of either of them, and at the breaking up of every such meetings every brother to goe in order according to his office and place in payne of every such offence to pay to the company—3s. 4d.”

## [RULE 9]

“It is ordered with the consent of all the said Company that if any Journeyman do come into this City to look for any work of any of ye said brethren he or they that shall get any such on work before the Aldermen and Stewards be made acquainted therewith to have their good wills and with what brother soever they are placed with that brother shall pass his honest word for his good behavior towards the Aldermen and Stewards and to the rest of ye Company and that he shall do his duty to them as becometh a man of his place, and further it is ordered, that no brother of the said Company shall seek by any means to entice or cause to be enticed any such Journeyman or Journeymen from any other brother with

whom he is placed in payn to every one that so offendeth to pay unto ye said company in the name of a fyne in money the sum of 3s. 4d."

No man was allowed to monopolize trade by having two shops or two shows within the liberties of the City.

[RULE 10]

"It is further ordered and agreed upon by ye consent of all the said society & Company of Barb[e]rs Surgeons Wax & tallow chaundlers within this Citty, yt [that] not any brother of ye said companys shall have two shops or two showes within the liberties of their City upon payne of every one so offending to pay unto ye Stewards for ye said company in the name of a fyne in money 13s. 4d."

No brother of the company was allowed to say worse of a fellow brother's work than he would of his own. This order was passed September 2nd, 1726.

[RULE 11]

"It is ordered that no brother of the said Society and Company shall dispraise any work done by any of his said brethren of his occupation either of Barbers Surgeons Wax or tallow chaundlers within this City yt [that] is wrought by any of the said brethren nor to Report or say it is worse than if it were his own nor to dispraise ye work of what price soev[e]r it be but to say ye best by it yt [that] he can upon pain to forfeit for every time he offends the said company in money the sum of 2s. 6d."

[RULE 12]

"It is ordered & agreed upon that no brother of ye said Society & Company shall at any time Show or dispose any maner of matter article or clause, that is said spoken of or done amongst the said company in any of our meetings or assemblies or any order or orders yt [that] heretofore hath been made, or heretofore shall be made for the profit and good of our company to any person or persons either for love or favour, either secretly or openly, if it may be known he or



they so offending shall pay for every such offence to the Stewards of the Same for the said company's use ye sum of 6s. 8d."

[RULE 15]

"It is further concluded and fully agreed upon with the whole consent of the same Society and company that every brother and sister of the same company shall pay every quarter of the year beginning upon the Visitation day of Blessed Mary ye Virgin being our election day and the second day of July in money 3d. which shall be in the name of a Quarterich, which shall be paid unto the Stewards for the time being, for the said Company's use towards the better help and supplying of such charges as shall arise unto the said company and so from time to time to continue In pain to every one that doth refuse hereafter to pay the said Quarter money to the Stewards for the Company's use the sume of 12d."

The brethren always accompanied a departed brother, his wife, children, or any of his family, or servants, to their last resting-place.

[RULE 17]

"It is further ordered and agreed upon by the saime Society and company That when it shall please God at any time hereafter to call unto his mercy out of this wretched world any of the said brethren or their wives, children, or any of their family or servants, that by lawful warning given to every brother by the Stewards or by either of them, they and every of them soe warned, at any hour appointed to attend the Aldermen to accompany the dead corps to their parish church or to any other place for the buriall which is a deed of love and charity amongst Christian brethren and to do in such cause, as other companys do in this City of Chester. In payne to every brother that is about at such time without good cause, being first made known to the Aldermen or to one of ym [them] for every time soe offending to pay to ye Stewards for the companys use the sum of 12d."

July 3rd, 1704. The above Order was altered by omitting "the children, or any of their family or servants."

It is pleasing to note the fact that I could not find a single entry in the Company's books showing that it had been necessary to enforce this fine.

### THE MIRACLE PLAYS AND MIDSUMMER SHOW

For centuries the City Gilds, or Companies, took part on every public occasion. At times of ceremony or festival they formed in procession, robed in their gowns, and carried representative banners and other emblems.

They staged the Miracle Plays, and were chiefly responsible for the Midsummer Revels.

The Miracle, or Whitsun Plays, twenty-five in number, were first acted about 1328. They took place on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Whitsun Week; hence their title.

They began at the Abbey Gateway, where they were performed before the Abbot, and proceeded to the High Cross, where they were acted before the Mayor and Common Council, from there wending their way through the principal streets.

These plays were performed on a kind of double-decker platform on wheels, the lower part acting as a dressing room, and the upper part as the stage. Nine pageants were played on the first day, nine on the second day, and seven on the third day. The day's programme was so arranged that the plays continued,

in turn, in each of the streets continuously. The Barber-Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers, had their pageant on the first day, and performed in "Abraham & Isaac," or the "Slaughter of the Innocents."

Many of the companies had their own stage, for which, when not in use, various charges are entered for the cost of storage. In some cases the companies arranged, when not acting on the same day, to hire their stage, or carriage, to one of the other companies engaged. We are informed that the last time these plays were acted was in 1574 A.D.

The Midsummer Show, or Revels, were in old time held on Midsummer Day; but after the Restoration of Charles II. they were held on the 29th of May.

This show, according to *Webb*, in "King's Vale Royal," was instituted in 1498.

Among the *Harleian MS.* is an agreement between Sir Lawrence Smith, Mayor of Chester, in 1540, and two artists "for the annual painting of the City's four giants, one unicorn, one dromedary, one luce [which is a fish], one camel, one asse, one dragon, six hobby-horses, and sixteen naked boys." In 1599, Henry Hardware, the Mayor, caused "the gyants in the Midsummer Shows to be broken and not to go, the devil in his feathers he put away, and the cuppes and cannes, and the dragon, and the naked boys."

The Revels, during his mayoralty, were deprived of a great deal of their pageantry. But, in 1601, John Ratcliffe, being then Mayor, "set out the giants, and Midsummer Show as of old it was wont to be kept."

In the books of the Barber-Surgeons' Company we find, page 14, vol. II. :—

## [RULE 18]

“It is further ordered and agreed upon by the said company that upon every Midsomer even at the Watch at the companys charge the Stewards for the time being are to provide against that time & times one to ride Abraham and a young stripling or boy to ride Isaac and they to be set forth according to the ancient custom as hath been before times used in the company and the said Stewards for the time being to do their best in the setting forth of the said Show for the better credit of the said Society and company in payn of 6s. 8d.”

## [RULE 19]

“Item more. It is further agreed upon yt [that] every brother of ye said company Shall upon every Midsomer even against the watch attend upon the Aldermen and Stewards for ye time being, and every one of the said company to have his man either in armour or otherwise according to ancient custom as other companies use and so to repair with their Show to the Barrs, where it is to be set out in payn to every one that doth not p[er]form this Order to pay unto the said company in the name of a fine 2s.”

The Revels were again suspended during the Puritan rule, but were revived at the Restoration of Charles II., when we are told “that all things are to be made new, by reason the old modell was all broken.”

The coronation of the King, Charles II., took place on the 23rd of April, 1661, at Westminster Abbey. Pageantry took place in all parts of the country. The ever loyal citizens of Chester were so delighted at again having a King, new properties were purchased for their show.

In the company's accounts for this year it states :—

“ 1661-2 Chardges for Midsummer Show.

For Storkings for the boy that Rid for the Company	00	03	00
For flowers for him	00	02	00
For 4 pr of Gloves for Aldermen & Stewards	00	08	00
For a pair of Gloves for the man that carried the banner	00	00	06
For Ribbons for the horse	00	02	06
Given to the man that led the horse	00	02	06
Spent at the house at the Bars waiting on Mr. Maior	00	02	06
Given to the Cryer at the bars	00	00	06
Given at the Glovers stone to the Castle prisoners	00	00	06
Given at the Northgate to the Cittie prisoners	00	00	06
Spent in Nicholas St	00	00	06
Given to the man that hould the boy on horse	00	00	06
For a quart of wine at dressing the boy	00	00	08
Given to the musik	00	04	06
For drink at the banquet	00	06	08 ”

The items for the show in 1664 are somewhat similar, except that they include for the first time :—

“ Paid for gunpowder	00	00	04
Given to the Morris Dancers	00	00	06
Spent in the Castle lane	00	00	04
For Beere & tobacco	00	08	00 ”

Probably the sixpence given to the Morris-dancers was for refreshment, because in the City accounts it states :—

“ For 6 Morris dancers with a pipe and tabret 01 00 00 ”

In the Midsummer Show accounts for 1665, is included :—

“ Spent at Mr Mottersheds 0 5 6 ”

In 1670, it was ordered that the Show held at Midsummer should be observed on Whit-Tuesday, being more convenient, and all those failing in attendance, without reasonable excuse to be allowed by the Mayor, should pay five shillings; and the Company failing to put forth "their boy and horse, to pay five pounds to the City."

The observance of this ancient custom continued until the year 1678, when it was finally abolished by an order of the Corporation.

There are various orders and regulations as to the buying of tallow.

"It is concluded and fully agreed upon, by the consent of the company that no brother of the company of the Tallow chaundlers shall buy any bargain of Tallow over and above the sum of ten pounds, but the overplus above the said sum to be bought for the use of the said company either within the franchises and liberties of the said City of Chester or without, without any fraud or guile: and whatsoever brother soever buyeth the said bargain to be allowed for his or their charges and what brother soever he be that offendeth and doth not observe this order shall pay for every offence made in this case being proved against him or them in ye name of a fyne to the Stewards of the s[ai]d company for the said Companys use in currant English money ye sum of 40s. This Order was made & confirmed by the said company as may appear by their hands, the 17th Day of November 1607 for ye benefit and good of the said company of the weaker sort of the brothers w[hi]ch were not able to disburse any great sums of money."

"Memorandu[m]. It is further concluded & agreed upon at yt [that] present meeting day and time that what brother he be of the said company of Tallow chaundlers that doth refuse such p[ar]t of Tallow being bought for the companys use as is allotted unto him shall pay unto the company in the name of a fyne in money in every hundredweight ye sum of 12d.

And what brother he be yt [that] doth refuse such p[ar]t as falleth unto him ; shall not hereafter have any part of any bargain that is bought for the said companys use.

Signum	NICHOLAS HALLWOOD	WILLIAM MARCER
	RICHARD SHONE	WILLIAM POOLE
	ROBERT ROBARTES	WILLIAM HANDCOCK
	ROBERT THORNLEY	JOHN RIDER
	THOMAS MARCER	RICHARD HYND
	JOHN FROMWAYE "	

The foregoing rules, or orders, evidently were to some extent evaded, for, seven years later (1613), another order was passed, viz. :—

" It is ordered by the whole consent of this company upon the second day of July 1613 at a meeting being our Election Day, That all the slaughtered Tallow that comes to the Hall by the Butchers and also all the Tallow that comes by Marchants from behynd the seas to this City, shall be bought by the Stewards or Aldermen in the Company's absence for the use of the Tallow chaundlers, and every brother that will have a whole share of the Hall Tallow or City Tallow must send every friday at night or else on Saturday morning, Afore eight of the clock Ten shillings, to the Stewards for to buy the Hall Tallow, and on every monday following, then every brother to meet at the Comon hall, at eight of ye clock in the morning, with his man to take his share of all ye Tallow that hath been bought the week before. As well the Countrey Tallow as ye City's sold by Butchers upon forfeiture of 2s. and loss of his Tallow yt [that] day unless it happen that a Country Man sell a Beeffe tallow being killed for his own house, shall be lawfull to be bought by any brother that will have his whole share in Sommer shall have the whole in winter. And if he be not able to take the whole in Sommer let him take halfe share or quarter, and so hold through without any fraud or Collor, or turning his part over to any other upon forfeiting upon every default that can be proved 13s. 4d. And if any brother buy in the Hall or Citty of butcher or Merchant without license of the Com-

pany or Aldermen of the Tallow chaundlers, then that brother shall be fyned and pay for his default the sum of 20s.

"Which Order is to stand firm and sure ever hereafter, as may appeare by all our hands hereunto sett the day and year above written.

RICHARD SHONE	RANDLE WHITBIE
WILLIAM MARCER	THO: ROBINSONNE
WILLIAM POOLE	The mark of EZABELL
THOMAS MERCER	CASE Widow
RICHARD HIND	Signu JOHN LOOKER"

In many cases butchers were arrested, and fined, for not bringing their tallow to the proper market; for instance:—

" 1708	September 2nd. Payd at Peter Taylors with ye Ald[er]m[en] & Brothers for arresting a Butcher for not bringing his Tallow	00 03 00
1710	July Spent in going about to suppress Butchers & others	00 03 00
1711	October 13. Spent in Takeing up severall Butchers for not bringing their tallow	00 03 00"

"July the 2nd 1640

Memorandu[m] that the day and year above written All our Orders in this booke were openly read in ye meeting house to all the brethren and the same also confirmed by generall consent for the decent and peaceable government of the said Societies of Barbers wax and Tallow Chaundlers as wittness our hands here under subscribed by our owne selves in the presents of the Aldermen Stewards and the rest of the Company the day and year above written."

The above memorandum is signed by sixteen of the brethren.

"It is further ordered concluded and fully agreed upon w[i]th the whole consent of all the said brothers that if it do



at any time hereafter happen that any of the said brothers do not observe perform and keep all these orders in this book written and made, and all good & profitable orders hereafter to be made by the Aldermen, Stewards, and by the greater part of the said company But carefully, obstinately and wilfully break them or any of them for which offence and breach of order the same brother being fyned by the Aldermen and Stewards, & by the rest of ye company or by the greater part of them, or doth obstinately refuse to pay such fyne and fynes, as are afflicted & layd upon him or them that so hath offended by vertue of the same orders, or that doth resist the Steward or Stewards or either of them, to take stress on their goods, being warned by the Aldermen to do ye saime and to bring the Same Stresses away with them till such fyne or fynes be payed for the use of the same Company, that then the party so offending shall pay unto the Stewards for the time being in the name of a fyne in money the sum of 3s. 4d."

The Company was very strict in the observance of Sunday.

"It is ordered and concluded & fully agreed upon by ye said Society & Company this second day of July Ano Dom: 1680 yt [that] no member of ye said Company Shall trim any person nor suffer their servant or servants Apprentice or Apprentices or powder any wigg or wiggs on ye Lords day comonly called Sunday and yt [that] he she or they so offending being proved by one or more witnesses shall pay unto the Stewards of the said company for ye time being in the nature of a fine for ye said companys use of lawfull money of England the sum of twenty shillings.

Witness our hands

ROBERT MORREY	}	Ald:
RAPH BINGLEY		
JOHN BINGLEY	}	Stewards"
JONATHON WHITBY		

and 31 names of the brethren.

In the margin it states:—

“This Order against trimming on Sundays was rattified and Confirmed by Mr. Hugh Starkey, Mr. William Mercier, Aldermen Richard Ords, Joseph Hatton, Stewards. and the most of the said Company July ye 2nd 1699.”

December 2nd, 1736. The fine was reduced to ten shillings; otherwise, the previous order (of 1699) was

“Ratified & Confirmed by Alderman Bolland & Alderman Johnson and the Rest of the Members of the said Company

CHARLES MOULSON Steward.”

In the Company's accounts we find :

“ 1656	Spent at Edward Ffranceys at the calling of the barbers before the Mayor for the keeping of the Sabbath	o   2   o
1707	July 18. Spent in ordering not to trim on Sundays	oo   oi   o6
	29th Spent in suppressing ye barbers of Glouerstone for trimming on Sun- days	oo   o3   o6 ”

### THE PHOENIX TOWER

In 1613, at the Common Hall of Pleas of the City, an agreement was made between the Barbers' Company and that of the Painters' Stationers' &c., on the one part, and the Mayor and Corporation of the other part, whereby the two companies were to have the joint use, as a meeting house, of the tower on the Walls, now known as King Charles' Tower. The agreement reads as follows:—

“Civitas Cestr. At an Assembly holden in the Common Hall of Pleas Within the Citty of Chester upon Friday the

30th day of July 1613<sup>6</sup> Annoqe Regis Dni nri Jacobi Dei gra Regis nunc Angl Ffrancie et hiber undecimo et Scocie Quadragesimo septimo coram Roberto Whitby Majore Civitat Cestr.

“ At the same assembly the Aldermen and Stewards of the sevral Societys of Barber Chirurgions Tallow chandlers and Wax chandlers, And of the Painters Glasiors Embroiderers and Stationers within the said City for themselves and their sev'all fraternities did exhibit their petition unto ye same Assembly shewing that the petitioners and their Predecessors had for many years past been tenants at will unto the said City of certaine Tower stone or meeting house situate upon the walls of the said City between ye Caleyard and the Northgate of the same City at and for the yearly rent of two shillings And that the said tower being uncovered w[i]th lead and the rain descending upon & into the same would be a meane for the ruinating thereof if speedy course were not taken for the preventing thereof, and did thereupon humbly pray to have the said tower and meeting house in fee farm at the said yearly Rent of two shillings in regard they would upon their own charges either cover the s[ai]d tower with lead or else build up the same higher with stone & timber in such sort as the same should bee an Ornament to that part of the City & for ever keep the same in good and substantiall reparacone upon full and deliberate consideracon whereof it is by the free & whole consent of this Assembly ordered and agreed that the said petitioners and their Successors the Aldermen Stewards and Companyes of the said sev[er]al fraternities shall have the use and Possession of the said meeting house and tower doeing & performing as by their s[ai]d petition they have offered at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Citizens for the time being. And the general opinion and consent of the same Assembly then was that they should not be hurt of the same or dispos[ess]ed thereof soe long as they shall pay the said rent and performe and maintaine the reparacons of the said meeting house &

<sup>6</sup> The translation being: And in the eleventh year of the reign of our lord James, by the grace of God, King of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the forty-seventh, before Robert Whitby, Mayor of the City of Chester.





tower according to their said petition provided alwayes that ye petitioners shall not disposses the Butchers or any other tenants of the lower part of the tower paying their usuall and accustomed rent." 7

Although the agreement was made on the 30th July, 1613, the work of restoration was in progress during the previous year. In vol. I. of the Company's books, a copy of which is entered in vol. II., it states :—

"The whole charges paid by the Company of Barbars Surjions Wax and Tallow chandlers, Painters Glaseors Imbroderers and Stacioners of the Cittye of Chester for the repayringe and buildinge the tower, beinge our meetinge house, now called the Goulden Phoenix, and also repayreinge a parte of the walls adjoyninge to the saide Tower. The worke was begunne in Anno Dni 1612 upon the peculier Charges of them whose names are under written who were then brethren of the said Societyes And what every one payde towardses the same, viz. :

[The Painters', Stationers', &c., Company]

Aldermen	Mr. Randall Holme	4	13	4
	. William Poole	3	10	0
Stewards	. William Handcocke	1	18	0
	. Thomas Dewesburys	1	3	4
	. William Holme	. 18	8	
	John Walker	1	10	0
	Thomas Gillam	. 2	6	
	Jasper Gillam	. 15	0	
	Thomas Pricket	. 15	0	
	Nicholas Jarves	1	10	0
	Thomas Wayet	1	10	0
	Moses Dalby	1	3	0
	Thomas Shevington	. 7	6	
	Thomas Dalby	. 16	8	
	Thomas Humphreyes	1	4	6
	Peter Ince	. 6	8	

7 A note states, "In the black book, fol. 324."

## [The Barber-Surgeons', &amp;c., Company]

Aldermen	Nicholas Halwood	1	15	0
	Richard Shone	3	10	0
Stewards	Randall Whitby	1	10	0
	Thomas Robinson	1	8	0
	William Mercer	1	19	0
	Edward Bromley	1	5	0
	Robert Roberts	1	5	0
	Robert Thornley	1	19	0
	John Ryder	.	6	0
	Thomas Mercer	1	10	0
	Richard Hyne	1	10	0
	John Framwaye	1	8	0
	John Burton	.	13	0
	John Looker	.	11	0
	Widdow Mercer	.	6	0
	Widdow Case	2	7	4
	The Companye of the Butchers for their admittance to the Lower house and for repayre- ing there	1	0	0
	The Company of Fletchers and Cowpers for their admi- tance to the Lower house and for Reparacion there	1	0	0
	For Tymber that was lefte, for a Rope, and for the Window staves that were taken downe when the iron Rodes now put upp	.	13	4
	Some Totalis aboue	48	0	4

The total, according to the figures entered, should be £47 19s. 10d.

During the Siege of the City by the Parliamentarians, 1645-6, the tower received great damage, so much so that it had, eventually, to be rebuilt (1658). Although the tower was not habitable, this Company, in 1649,

paid the City treasurer half-a-year's rent, and three years later appear to have been clearing the wreckage, for we find the following statement :—

“1651. Paid for our part the halfe of the  
Chardges against the Painters for clensing the  
lower house, for a new doore, lock keys and  
hindges

oo 16 10

Item to a labourer for pileinge the stones  
taken out of the lower house

oo 01 04 ”

Considerable repairs were done to the tower during this year.

November 4th of the same year, 1651, the Barbers' Company granted the use of the lower room to the Joyners' Company, so that the latter might hold their meetings there.

“A grant made to the Aldermen Steward and Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners of the Cittie of Chester of the lower Roome of the Tower on the walls called the Golden Pheonix or Pheonix Tower from the Aldermen Stewards and Company of Barbers Chyrurgions waxe and Tallow Chaundlers of the said Cittie as followeth.

“ Quarto Die Novembris 1651

“Memorandum it is Covenanted and agreed Between Mr. Robert Morrey Barber Chyrurgion, Mr Robert Shone Tallow Chaundler Aldermen of the Company of Barbers Chyrurgions wax and Tallow Chaundlers, Richard Trafford Tallow Chaundler and Henry Meade Barber Chyrurgion and Wax Chaundler now Stewards of the Company of Barbers Chyrurgions Wax and Tallow Chaundlers of the Cittie of Chester on the one p[ar]tie and Thomas Hoole Joyner Thomas Bennett Turner Thomas Bolland Joyner and Thomas Williamson Joyner now Aldermen and Stewards of the Socyetye or Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners of the said Cittie on the other p[ar]ty.



“Witnesseth wheras the said Company of Barbers Chyrurgions wax and Tallow Chaundlers and the Company of Paynters Glasiers Imbrotherers and Stationers are lawfully possessed and seased of and in one Tower Situate uppon the north East side of the walls of the said Cittie p[ar]t thereof by them the said Company of Barber Chyrurgions wax and tallow Chaundlers together with the Assistance of the fore named Company of Paynters Glasiers Imbrothers and Stationers built and repayed uppon the p[ar]ticular chardges and Costs of the sevrall bretheren of the saide sevrall Companies in Anno Domi one thousand six hundred and twelve formerly called Newton Tower long before converted into a meeting house for the use of the said Companies and called by the name of the golden Phœnix w[hi]ch name was at the new building thereof given unto it by Mr. Thomas Whitby and Mr. Peter Drinkwater then Sherriffes of this Cittie in Anno Dom one thousand six hundred and thirteen and also of one lower Roome to the same belonging now in the holding of the said Company's of barbers chirurgions Wax and Tallow Chaundlers Painters Glasiers Imbrotherers & Stationers.

“Now know ye whereas the Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners have beene formerly under tenants to the s[ai]d lower Roome for to meet there by paying an annuall Rent and have Requested us the said Aldermen and Stewards of the said Company of Barbers Chyrurgions Wax and Tallow Chaundlers with the Consent of the whole Company to remayne and be tenants to the said lower house or Roome.

“We the said Aldermen and Stewards of Barber Chyrurgions wax and Tallow Chaundlers by and with the full Consent of the said Company have for o[u]r selves and for and in the name of the whole Company of Barbers Chyrurgions wax and Tallow Chaundlers satisfieing their Desires and for the considerations hereafter mencioned have Demised sett & lett unto the said Thomas Hoole Thomas Bennett Thomas Bolland and Thomas Williamson Aldermen and Stewards for this pr[e]sent yeare of the Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners all the said lower Roome Situate liinge and beinge under the said golden phœnix or phœnix Tower wherein heretofore the saide Company of Joyners Carvers and

Turners usually did meet. To have and to hold the said lower Roome to them the said Thomas Hoole Thomas Bennett Thomas Williamson, now Aldermen and Stewards of the afforesaid Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners and their successors to and for the use of their Company at all and every tyme and tymes to Assemble and meete in as oft as they the said Aldermen Stewards or Company of Joyners Carvers & Turners and their successors shall have just and lawfull occasion Uppon their Companys business to Assemble and meete therein without lett molestation or hindrance of us the said Aldermen Stewards or Company of Barbers Chyrurgeons wax and Tallow Chaundlers or our successors or any of them for by and Duringe and for so long tyme and terme as we or our successors are stand or shalbe sesead or interested in the said meeting house. In Consideration of the pr[e]mises afforesaid we the said Thomas Hoole Thomas Bennett Thomas Bolland and Thomas Williamson Aldermen & Stewards of the afforesaid Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners with the Assent and full consent of the rest of our bretheren and for and in their names Doe hereby Covenant graunt promis conclude and agree to erect build sett up and furnish all about the said lower Roome (so hereby remised) sufficient and Convenient waynescott and Settles of good tymber as well for the Aldermen and Stewards as likewise for the said Company in as full and Ample manner as heretofore hath beene therein together w[i]th a convenient table for the same and the same so furnished to keepe and mayntayne in good repayre so long as they or their successors shall remayne tennants to the same.

“Also we the said Aldermen and Stewards of the said Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners w[i]th and by the like Assent and Consent of the Company Doe likewise Covenant and Agree to yeild and pay or cause to be yelded and payed yearly to the said Aldermen and Stewards of the said Company of Barbers Chyrurgions wax & Tallow Chaundlers or their Successors for ever Aldermen or Stewards of the said Company or some of them to and for the use of the said Company the some of one shillinge of Currant English money at or Uppon the twenty fifth day

of December at one full and entire payment without fraude or Coven in full discharge of all other Rents Duties or Demands whatsoever unto o[u]r said Company of Barbers Chyrurgions wax and tallow Chaundlers either Due or by Right belonginge the first payment or Rent Chardge of one shillinge to begin and be payd at or Uppon the twenty fifth Day of December w[hi]ch shalbe in the yere of o[u]r lord god according to the Computation of the Church of England 1652 and so to continue yearly successively for ever.

“Provided always that if the said Rent of one shillinge be unpaid by the space of a twelmonth and a day this said writinge to be voyd and of non effect and it shalbe lawfull for the Aldermen or Stewards of the said Company of Barbers Chyrurgions wax and tallow Chaundlers for and in the name of theire Company into the said lower Roome or Meeting house hereby demised to re entor and againe possesse and enjoy any thing herein Contayned to the Contrary notwithstandinge.

“Also allwayes provided that it be further Artickled Covenanted and agreed uppon hereby these p[re]sents that if it shall happen that any other Company or Companies that are tenants or usually meete or have formerly mett or bene tennants formerly to the said lower house who also may as well as the said Companie of Joyners Carvers and Turners a newe become by their petition or future agreements againe to be tenants to the Companie of the said Barbers Chyrurgions wax and tallow Chaundlers to the said lower Roome or meeting house or Any other Companies that shall ever at any time hereafter become by fine Rent or agreement lawfull tennants to us the said Companie of Barbur Chyrurgions wax and Tallow chaundlers and o[u]r successors Aldermen and Stewards of the same for ever be att any meetinge in the said lower house at or before the houer of meeting Appointed by the said Aldermen Stewards and Companie of Joyners Carvers & Turners That then the Aldermen Stewards and Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners shall not Disturbe molest or interrupt any such Company so there before them mett but either quietly staye the end of such meetinge or meetinges

or at theire pleasure alter theire said hower of meetinge for the better Conserveing of the peace and the longer continuance of brotherly Unity and agreement the avoyding quarells and breach of Covenants.

“ And also that the Company of Barber Chyrurgions wax and Tallow Chaundlers their Aldermen Stewards and Company shall if the sayd Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners be at the said meeting house mett either at or before the hower Appoynted by the Aldermen and Stewards of the Barbers Chyrurgions wax and tallow Chaundlers staye untill such meetings of the said Joyners Carvers and Turners shalbe Rissen and ended and so likewise in the like case for all the Tenants and sevrall Companies lawfully haveinge power or interest in the same or the like interrest by Right of tennant Right from us and every of us and our successors.

“ In Wittness whereof the afforesaid p[ar]ties to these pr[e]sents the Daye and yeare afore written have caused this Agreement to be entred on Record in either of theire said Companies books and to be subscribed interchangably by the hands of the Aldermen and Stewards of the Barbers Chyrurgions wax and Tallow Chaundlers in the book of the Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners And the Aldermen and Stewards of the said Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners to subscribe theire names to the like agreement for them and theire successors in the Company booke of the said Barbers Chyrurgions wax and tallow Chaundlers and each to be witness to the others agreement as a testimoniall to future tymes as Witness o[u]r hands the daye and yeare first before mentioned.”

“ This Agreement was Ratified and Confirmed by the setting to of the hands of the Aldermen and Stewards of the Company of Joyners Carvers and Turners into this booke of the Barbers Chyrurgions wax and Tallow Chaundlers in the presents of us under written.”

Although it states “in the presents of us under written” no signatures are entered.

In 1653, we find entered in the receipts:—

“ Received in Rent from the Joyners Carvers and Turners Stewards for the Golden Phoenix for this yeare	00 01 00
Received from the Butchers in rent this yeare	
Received of the Bakers in this yeare	
Received of the Coopers in this year ”	

To the last three items no sum of money is entered. Probably, at that date, the three Companies named had not paid their rent.

Three years later (1656) we find :—

“ Received of the Stewards of the Clothworkers for this years rent for our part of the Meeting house	00 01 08 ”
--	------------

In 1657 we find the Weavers' Company mentioned for the first time, and that the members of this Company are holding their meetings at the Phoenix Tower.

“ 1657, Received of the Weavors Stewards for this whole years rent	00 03 04 ”
---	------------

Through damage done to the tower during the siege, it had to be practically rebuilt. The work was in course of progress during the years 1658-9. The Barber-Surgeons' Books do not go so fully into details as that of the Painters, Stationers', &c.; this is accounted for, as Randle Holme, who was Alderman of the latter Company, had charge of the accounts and entered them fully in that Company's books, where we find :—

“ A.D. 1658.

“ More disbursments by me Randle Holme for & towards the re-building of the Phoenix tower being ruinated in the late Warrs which so happened betweene the Kings Majestie & the house of Parliament w[i]th such Disbursement was laid out by

me both in the time of my being Steward & afterwards; being in truste by both company's viz :—the Company of Painter Glasiers, Imbrautherers & Stationers, & the Company of Barber Surgeons Wax & Tallow Chandlers upon whose equall cost & charge the worke was performed and finished Ano 1658 et 1659."

Among the items stated are the following :—

"Ffor the raising of the tower two feet higher  
then it was before

payd for a thousand & a halfe of Brick	0	13	6
payed for sevall <sup>s</sup> crest stones & working of them for the top of the battlements	0	7	0
Pay'd sune to all of the whole work about the rooffe	20	7	6
The sune totall of the whole work was between the two companies "	24	18	0

Some irregularity having taken place as to the payment of rent to the Barbers', &c., and the Painters', &c., by the other Companies using the tower as a meeting house, the following agreement was drawn up and signed :—

"July 27, 1680.

"It is agreed upon the day & year above s[ai]d Between the company of Barber Chirurgions Wax and Tallow chandlers and the Company of Painters Glasiers Embroiderers & Stationers within the City of Chester that for the future the Stewards of the company of Barber Chirurgion wax & tallow chandlers is to receive the severall rents of the severall Tenants of the lower tower one yeare. And the Stewards of the Company of Painters Glasiers Embroiderers and Stationers to receive the said rents of the said tenants another yeare and the aforesaid companys to bee at equall charge of repaires of

<sup>s</sup> The crest stones named are probably those bearing the arms of the various Companies which were placed over the south door, and, we are told, removed by Mr. John Broster when he was Treasurer of the City, and their place filled by the tablet still to be seen there.

the higher tower to pay the City rent of the said tower the said years to the treasurer being two shillings.

"In witness whereof wee have hereunto put our hands this day and year above written,

RICHARD TAYLOR	}	Alderman
RANDLE HOLME		
MATTHEW ELLIS	}	Stewards
JOHN DUNBABIN		
ROBERT MORRIS	}	do. "
SAMEL. KIRKES		

In the disbursements for 1689 we find :—

"Feb 17th 1689 Paid for putting the stone over  
the door & for plugden & pointing 0 3 6"

and on January 10th, 1692[3]:—

"Paid Mr. Holmes for ye Stone which stands  
over ye Phoenix Doore 00 18 00  
Paid Edward Nixon towards ye putting it up 00 06 01"

In 1698, the following Companies paid rent for the use of the lower room :—

" The Joiners	2 0
The Clothworkers	2 0
The Bakers	2 0
The Butchers	1 6
The Coopers	. 6"

1699-1700. The tower was re-slatted :—

"Sept 8 Paid for slateing the Meeting house  
ower part [the proportion of the Barber-  
Surgeons' Company] 0 13 0"

April 28th, 1717. Mr. Bassano<sup>9</sup> was paid 6s. for painting the Phoenix, and on June 26th Brother Crain,

<sup>9</sup> Francis Bassano succeeded to the business of Randle Holme IV., (who died 30th August, 1707) as a herald painter. He was admitted to the freedom of the City in 1711; and painted the new colours for the Feltmakers and Skinners' Company in 1724. He was deputy herald of arms for Chester, and Sheriff of the City in 1734. Bassano died in 1747. His Will bears the date 17th March, 1745, and it was proved

for painting the Phoenix, was paid £1 rs. 11d. The former item evidently alludes to the figure of the Phoenix, and the latter to that part of the tower which it was necessary to paint.

March 1st, 1732. A new door for the lower room was purchased and fitted up for the sum of 13s. 6d.; and for mending the upper door 6d. was paid.

About 1739 the Masons' Company held their meetings in the lower room of the tower. In the Barber-Surgeons' books we find :—

"July 30th, 1740. Received from the Masons  
the sum of two shillings for the Lower  
Meeting house 0 2 0"

and on

"Sept. 20th. William Sellers for repairing the  
Battlement of the Meeting house Stairs . I 4 "

April 19th, 1770. An entry states:—

“ Paid for warning the Company upon agreeing  
with the Corporation on Delivering the  
Meeting House up O I O ”

There is no mention in the Barbers', &c., Company's books of the meeting house being actually given up by the Companies, and the meetings continued to be held there up to and including the year 1773, after which time the Phoenix Tower is not mentioned in the books of the Barbers' Company.

All the Company's meetings appear, from its books, to have been held at the Golden Phoenix (now more

16th September, 1747. He left various legacies. To his nephew, Richard Bassano, and his two neices, Jane Bassano and Hannah Stephenson, he left one guinea each, and the residue of his estate to his god-son, Edward, and the brother, Ambrose Orme, sons of Charles Orme, painter, late of Chester.



generally known as King Charles' Tower) until the year 1651. The annual meetings continued to be held there, but on various occasions the members appear to have adjourned the meeting, and continued it, often on the same evening, at one or other of the City Inns. This probably arose from the fact that they could not hold their annual dinner in the Tower for want of sufficient accommodation.

In the minute or account books we find the first meeting, other than those at the Tower, was that which met at the Talbot, Newgate Street,<sup>10</sup> in 1651. No mention is made as to where they met during the siege of the City, although we know that the Company of Painters, Glaziers, &c., met during that period (and prior to the Tower being re-built) at Randle Holme's house in Watergate Street.

Many of the inns at which these meetings took place have been pulled down, and the names by which they were known forgotten, such as the one already named : The Wolf's Head, Northgate Street, 1682 ; The Plume of Feathers, Bridge Street, 1713 ; The Eagle and Child, Northgate Street, 1725 ; The Sign of St. George, 1729 ; The Lower White Bear, 1793 ; The Holy Land, 1762 ; The Black Bear, Foregate Street, 1775 ; The Holywell Packet, 1776 ; The Black Dog, Bridge Street, 1778 ; The Boot, Northgate Street, 1784 ; The Sign of the Swan with two Necks, Lower Bridge Street, 1789 ; The Elephant and Castle, near the Eastgate, 1791 ; The Crown and Mitre, Hunter Street, 1798 ; The Union Arms, Bridge Street Row, 1813 ; The Golden Phoenix, Bridge Street, 1814 ; and The Duke of Wellington, Goss Street, 1865.

<sup>10</sup> This Inn was taken down when the Grosvenor Hotel was built.

## OWEN JONES AND HIS BEQUEST

Owen Jones, the greatest benefactor the City Gilds have ever had, bequeathed a small estate at Minera to the poor of the various Companies of the City of Chester.

In his Will, dated February 14th, 1658, the part relating to the City Companies is as follows:—

“I do likewise give and bequeath to the poor of every Company of the City of Chester from year to year orderley as they ware wont to be ranked at Midsommer Shew in that City. The Tannars being first and so forwards for all the rest of their Companies in their Order Until all their Turns have enjoyed the benefit intended and then to begin again as so to proceed orderly from Year to Year for ever.

“The profits and Rent of all the lands purchased or Mortgaged by me in Cheshire Denbighshire (to Wit) the full whole and yearly profitts of my land in Minera in the Parish of Wrexham in the County of Denbigh and my Mortgage from Sir Thomas Powell living at this Present & from Mrs. Margaret Powell her son Sir Thomas Powell Grand Child to Sir Thomas first herein mentioned With the lands Mortgaged from Sir Thos Powell the Grandfather are called Bostocks Pastures and the Little digg Lake & the Parcell Mortgaged from Mrs. Margaret Powell and her son Sir Thomas now living is commonly called the little Gilsach all lying & situated in the Parish of Gresford in Denbighshire as likewise the benefits & profits of the Lands mortgaged by me from John Bigmaiden of Eaton Green in the Parish of Eccleston within the Township of Cheavley joining upon the River Dee in Chester to be Employed for the use of the Poor of the Companys of the City of Chester aforesaid from year to year for ever. Excepting five pounds yearly out of the Profits of the said Lands Which I devise give and bequeath unto the Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of Chester for the Time being for their care in seeing of this Part of my Will Well & truly performed that is to say 40s to the Mayor for the time being to buy him a Ring & 30s to each of the two Sheriffs for the time being hoping that they will use all care and Circumspection

that no Increepers or Comers in by chance shall have no right priviledges to the Freedom and Franchises of this City shall have any Benefit at all from this my Gift and my will is that if any of the Lands lying in Cheshire or Denbighshire shall be lawfully dismortgaged that the said Mayor & Sheriffs of the said City of Chester shall immediately after payment of the Moneys laid out by me on those lands buy & Purchase Lands Therewith as may be most for the Benefit & profit of the Companys of the City of Chester aforesaid for ever."

In 1743, the income from this estate was only £16 7s. 4d., which, at a later period, increased to £40; but, owing to the discovery of lead under the estate, it was let on lease to a company.

"Att a Meeting held at the Phoenix, Wee the Aldermen Stewards and Company of Barber Surgeons Wax and Tal-low Chandlors whose Names are hereunder Written do this third day of June 1757 Consent and Agree that the Aldermen and Stewards of our Said Company shall and may as such and on the behalf of our said Company sign Seal and Execute with their own respective names and Seals an Indenture of lease for the term of thirty-one years of Lands in Minera in the County of Denbigh given to the Use of the Several Companys of this City by the Will of Owen Jones deceased with their Appurtenances Unto Thomas Slaughter Esq Doctor Philip Forniough and Mr. Richard Richardson, with liberty to sink for and get Lead Ore and other minerals therein in such Manner under such Yearly Rent and Covenants as is and are Particularly Mentioned in the said Intended Lease lately read and produced to you and which is intended to bear date and commence from the seventh day of this Instant June. And we do hereby likewise authorise the comon Seal of our said Company to be affixed to a parchment Writing bearing Equal date herewith thereby testifying Consent of our said Company to the said Lease.

WM. DICAS	}	Aldermen
RICHD. MOULSON		
THOS. GOLBORNE	}	Stewards "
CHA. DAVIES		

And the names of twenty brethren who were present at the meeting.

“At a Meeting legally called of us the Company of Surgeons Barbers Wax & Tallow Chandlers within the City of Chester this 25th Day of July 1782:—

“It is Ordered that the Aldermen and Stewards of this Company do by Writing under their Hands and by affixing the Seal of this Company thereto join and concur with the Aldermen Stewards Masters & Wardens of the several Other Company's within this City in giving full Authority and Power on the Part of our Company and conjointly with the said other Companies to Mr. Thos. Brock the Town Clerk of this City to Deliver to the new Mayor and Sheriffs of the said City, on their Receipts for the same in Trust for the said several Companies the several Mortgages and Securities (with the Deeds and Writings attending the same) which have been taken to and in the Names of the late successive Mayors and Sheriffs of the said City, in Trust for the said several Companies for securing several Principal sums of Money amounting together to the Principal Sum of £10,260 6s. Which hath arose from the Farm of the Mines in the Land heretofore of Owen Jones deceased.

JOHN BUCKLEY	}	Aldm.
CHAS. DICAS		
SAM WITTER	}	Stewards”
CHAS. HASWELL		

Out of the interest received from this bequest the Barbers' Company, January 7th, 1792, after paying expenses, distributed £391 6s. among its then twenty-six members.

“In consequence of a circular letter being delivered to the Aldermen & Stewards of each Company, bearing date December 29th, 1819, requiring their approval of a proposal made to the Worshipful the Mayor & Sheriffs of this City, for the time being, by the late Mr. Owen Jones, for the use of the

poor decayed Brothers, belonging to each Company, a meeting of the Chirurgeons Barbers Wax & Tallow Chandlers, was held this day January 4th 1820, at the little Golden Lion Foregate St. where it was ordered that a Copy of the circular letter should be inserted in this book as under:—

“To the worshipfull the Aldermen and Stewards of the company of Barbers Chirurgeons and Tallow Chandlers in the City of Chester.

“Gentlemen

“In consequence of the Lease to the late John Wilkinson Esqr. of the Mines and lands at Minera, devis'd by the late Mr. Owen Jones, to the Mayor and Sheriffs of this City, expiring in Febry. next. They have received from Messrs. Kyrkes and Burton (of Minera) an application for the grant of a lease of the same on the following conditions.

“The tenants to pay for the land £40 per annum, to pay 30s. p[er] ton for lead Ore. 20s. per ton for Calamine, and 10s. per ton for Black Jack.

“For the term of 21 years from February next.

“To erect a Steam Engine on the lands of sufficient power to go below the present workings and to make an entire new work.

“To work the same effectually, and to erect at their own expense the stone fences, on such parts of the lands as are directed by the Commissioners for inclosing the Minera waste lands.

“As uppon a moderate calculation the Lessees in th[e] out set must embark a sum not less than from 4 to 5000 £ in erecting Machinery sinking shafts &c. and it is ascertained this Royalty is considerably more than that paid for lands nearly adjoining, and under the same circumstances.

“The Trustees are disposed to except [accept] the terms offered, if they have the approval of the respective Companies.

" I am therefore to request you will lay the proposals before the Members of your company, and inform one the result as early as your convenience will permit.

" I am Gentlemen

" Your most obedient

" JNO. FINCHETT

" Town Clerk

" Chester

" Decr. 29th, 1819

" A true Copy in the presents of

THOMAS DENSON	}	Aldermen
THOMAS HORNER		
JOSEPH TRAPE	}	Stewards"
WILLIAM MARTIN		

" A Copy of the Companies result which was ordered to be inserted in this Book—

" Most Worthy Sir

In reply to yours dated Decr 29th 1819, we call'd a Meeting of our Brothers who did unanimous agree and acquiesce with the proposals made by Mesrs. Kyrkes and Burton to his Worshipful the Mayor and Sheriffs of this City, for a grant of a Lease of the mines under lands devis'd by the late Mr Owen Jones to the Worshipful the Mayor and Sheriffs of this City. We most humbly crave that a Lease be granted under the conditions they have propos'd. We also strongly recommend to the Trustees that the lessees be strickly bound in covenants to get the mines to work as soon as possible and to keep the mines in regular and constant work. We recommend also that a superintendant be appointed to see that the propos'd sum be expended upon the lands in the most convenient and advantageous place for the benefit of the poor decay'd Brothers belonging to each Company. Also that the superintendent shall make out a weekly or monthly report of the conditions of the works and send into the

trustees hands a weekly Account of the Tonage the Mines produce.

We Remain your faithful obedient humble Servants

THOMAS DENSON	}	Aldermen
THOMAS HORNER		
JOSEPH TRAPE	}	Stewards
WILLIAM MARTIN		

dated January 7th 1820 "

" At a Meeting of the Company of Barber Surgeons Wax & Tallow Chandlers held at the Little Golden Lion, Foregate Street. The Brothers of the said Company being ordered to attend the Mayor & Sheriffs in order to receive the Legacy of the late Mr Owen Jones, this day August 1st 1820.

THOMAS DENSON	}	Aldermen
THOMAS HORNER		
WILLIAM MARTIN	}	Stewards "
WILLIAM HANKEY		

" July 30th 1819

Only three Brothers Received their allotted share of the Legacy of the late Owen Jones's Legacy viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Thomas Denson	40	0	0
Josiah Garner	30	0	0
Henry Evans	40	0	0

August 1st

Remainder of our Brothers received as under

Samuel Wade	25	0	0
Thomas Horner	40	0	0
William Martin	30	0	0
Joseph Trape	40	0	0
William Hankey	40	0	0
David Roberts	30	0	0
Joseph Butler	25	0	0
John Price	25	0	0

Richd Williams	25	0	0
Thomas Parry	40	0	0
Edward Parry	25	0	0

This sum our Company Received in the years 1819 & 1820 as above described."

In 1864, under the orders of the Commissioners, some outlying land at Bwlch Gwyn and some small lots on the side of the mountain were sold. The proceeds of the sale, combined with the Royalties, realized £22,092 5s. 11d., of which £10,092 5s. 11d. was invested in Consols, £10,000 loaned to the Corporation, and £2,000 paid for a freehold shop at the Eastgate, now taken down, and rebuilt as the Grosvenor Club, on the front of which is a bust representing "Owen Jones."

Land which formerly realized 5/- an acre now sold for £60 to £70 an acre.

Although the estate now had a diminished area, it was so improved that it still, in 1875, brought in a rental of £116 3s. 5d.

In 1870, the royalties from the various materials brought in no less a sum than £1,840 7s. 6d.

The estate had become, through unforeseen circumstances, so valuable, that it was considered impossible to continue dividing the money, originally only £16 7s. 4d., between so few (in several cases only one, or two) beneficiaries; therefore the Trustees, upon the advice of the Charity Commissioners, and after submitting the case to the Companies, decided to form a new scheme, limiting the amount to be distributed



in grants each year to £400, this being a far greater sum than could possibly have been thought of at the time the benefactor made his bequest.

The scheme now was to benefit not only the generation of the time, but their successors for all time. A sum of £2,000 was devoted to the education of sons of those brethren who were eligible to receive the benefits under the Will of Owen Jones. And I believe many a man, in years to come, will be thankful for the education he received as a boy, fitting him to fight the battles of life, which without education must, at the present time, be very hard to enable one to achieve success.

As previously stated, Owen Jones bequeathed unto the Mayor and Sheriffs of the City, for the time being, for their care in seeing that his Will was well and truly performed, an acknowledgment in the shape of gold rings.

In the disbursements for 1743 it is stated:—

“ By paid the Mayor & Sheriffs for their	
Rings	5   0   0 ”

In March 1849, Mr. Trevor, who at that time was Sheriff of Chester, applied for the ring, to which he considered himself entitled under the terms of the Will. Upon the Trustees referring the matter to the Commissioners, the reply they received was—

“ That the Mayor and Sheriffs of Chester, having ceased to be the Trustees of the Charity, are no longer entitled to the annuity of £5 which appears to have been given to them by the founder as a remuneration for their services in trust.

Signed     HENRY M. VANE  
Secretary.”

I am informed that a Chester lady has in her possession one of the Sheriffs' rings.

The Members of this Company were prompt to suppress any outsiders following their trade in the City:—

“ 1658	October 6	Spent about putting down a forren barber in Handbridge at John Ffletchers fathers	00	01	00
1664.	October 17th	Given & Spent about a barber that trimmed at St Martins church	00	00	06
1693.	June 7.	Spent in my house when sume of the Company was thear Con- cerning the Indictments against foraingers	00	01	02
		Spent next morning in bringing the witnesses together	00	02	10
		Paid the Clerk of the officer for these Indictments	00	07	06
		Paid the King's Attorney for signing the said Indictments	00	13	04
1707.	Sept 8.	Spent at Widow Throps to suppress ye High Sherrifs Barber	00	02	07
1709	July 15	Paid upon ye account of Suppressing Mr. Doe ye Frenchman	00	04	08 ”

“ November 14th 1751. At a Meeting duly warned of the Aldermen Stewards and Company of Barbers Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chandlers in the City of Chester. It was then agreed by the Majority of the Company to prosecute John Cross Junr for following the trade of a Barber without being regularly admitted as a brother.”

This order is signed by twenty-four members.

“ November 5th 1759. It was then at a meeting held at the Phœnix agreed and Ordered by the Majority of the Company of Barbers Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chandlers that An Action be Immediately Enter[e]d Against Edward Jones and also John Johnson for Exercising their Trade Not being free of Our Said Company.”

The Recorder appears to have given such satisfaction to the Company, that it no doubt accounts for the following item :—

“ 1664. Aug 5 Paid for a sugar loafe to be  
sent the Recorders wife 00 04 08 ”

Although the Company was so particular in suppressing outsiders, it was equally so in protecting the public as to the weight and quality of the candles, for we find many such cases as the following :—

“ 1651	Received of Thomas Molthman for his fine of wanting weight in his candles	0 2 6
	Received of William Bennett for the like want of weight in his candles but fined favourably because it was his first fault	0 0 3
1689	May 8 Pd. for goeing about to weigh candles	0 0 6
1711	May 29 Spent in going about to weigh candles	0 2 6 ”

#### CIVIC CONNECTION

The City Gilds took part in all civic functions and festivals. They always accompanied the Mayor to church; any of the brethren omitting to do so were liable to be fined.

“ An Order for waiting upon the Maior January 21, 1736.”

“ By Act of Parliament the Companies are obliged to wait on the Maior to Church and whereas it hath long been a Custom when the Companys meet, to have a breakfast and Drink now no sum having as yet been fixed by Orders and some Disputes haveing arisen for want of a sum being settled we fully Order and agree by Signing this Order that for the future the sum shall be fixed by the Aldermen according to their Discretion and the number of Brethren that Appear not

Exceeding One Pound in Drink and Ten shillings for meat and that every Brother shall immediately upon notice from the Aldermen attend him to goe with Mayor to church without a sufficient excuse sent to the Aldermen by some of the Brothers upon the penalty of One Shilling to be levied on the goods of such Brother as shall so offend."

Although this order was made in 1736, there are numbers of entries in the Company's books which prove that, for a century or two, the freemen had attended the Mayor on various occasions, for instance:—

" 1660 Attending on the Mayor to Church	
on the thanksgiving Day for the	
King peaceable receiving June 28	
1660	00 05 00"

The Company appear to have been very favourably disposed towards the Mayor and Sheriff, for there are many entries in the Society's accounts such as the following:—

" 1701 Paid for a piece of Plate given by the	
Company to the Mayor	11 0 0
1718, June 23rd, Paid to Mr Richardson <sup>11</sup>	
for ye Sheriff Plate	11 1 0"

Again, in 1725, 1736, and 1742, plate is given to the Mayor or Sheriff, at a cost varying from £10 to £12.

The Companies also attended at the swearing in of the Mayor; for instance:—

" 1702 October 9. Spent in attending my	
Lord Darbeys <sup>12</sup> comeing to be sworne	
Mayor	0 12 0"

<sup>11</sup> Mr. Richardson occupied the premises now in the occupation of Messrs. Butt & Co., Silversmiths.

<sup>12</sup> William, Earl of Derby, died during his year of office, and was succeeded by Michael Johnson.

The freemen were staunch loyalists, as was proved during the siege of Chester, when many a one fell whilst defending the City in the King's Cause.

The Barbers', &c., Company celebrated the Coronation of Charles II. with great pageantry.

“ 1660 Spent at Mr Morreys on the Coronation

Day	00	01	06
Paid for the Musick at Mr Morreys	00	01	06
Item for a banquet	00	06	08
Paid to the Cryer at the bars	00	00	06
Item for beere at the bars	00	00	02
Spent in the Forrest streete	00	00	06
Item in the Watergate streete	00	00	06
Item in the Nicholas streete	00	00	04
Without the Northgate at the Maypole	00	00	04
Paid to the Musik & for Ribbaning	00	01	00
Paid at Richard Ffranciss's at bringing the			
Child hoame	00	00	02
Item at dressing of the Child in Wine	00	01	10
Paid to the fiddlers	00	05	00
Paid in hyring the Musik	00	00	06
Paid to Bolland for the staff	00	00	03
Paid at Richard Ffrancis house	00	01	00
. For Gloves	00	04	00
. For a pottle of wine at the banquet	00	02	00 ”

July 14th, 1760. The Gilds paraded the City and proclaimed “ K. George the III. reigned ”; this, with hire of horses, cost the Company 19s. 6d.

The City Waits are mentioned for the first time in 1693 :—

“ 1693	July 3rd given to the City Ways	0	6	0
1697	Paid the Waits	0	10	0
1746	Paid to the Waits	0	10	0 ”

This is the last time the City Waits are mentioned.

The Company, as no doubt did the other Companies, regularly paraded the boundaries of the City, for instance :—

“ Sept 23, 1701. Spent when we did attend  
in riding ye boundreys of the City      o   5   o  
Sept 2, 1708. Spent with severall Brothers  
in Rideing the Bounds      oo   13   o6 ”

“ July 15th 1765. At a Meeting duly warned of the Aldermen Stewards and Company of Barbers Surgeons, Wax & Tallow Chandlers in the City of Chester held at the Golden Phoenix this Day, It was then Ordered and agreed to by the majority of the Company then present. That the ten shillings formerly Allowed for the 29th of May, and the same Allowed for the 5th of November, and the same w[hi]ch was Allowed for the Ld. Lieutenant and what has formerly been allowed for Riding the Boundary's of the City, and the Ten shillings Bringing home the Steward, And the Ten Shillings formerly paid for the Clerks Salary; be for the Future all Discontinued As it is Agreed that the Acting Steward shall do all the Business which the Clerk formerly did.

WM. DICAS	}	Aldermen
CHAS. MOULSON		
RICHD. BARRON	}	Stewards”
JOHN BENNION		

Also signed by thirteen of the brethren.

The Company regularly subscribed to the cost of ringing the curfew bell :—

“ 1652 Paid to the Ringers of the Bom Bell      o   3   4 ”

A similar entry appears each year until 1669, when it is called the “Boe Bell”; in 1729, it is, for the first time, called the “Nine-o'clock Bell.” In 1739, it is called the “Great Bell,” and the following year the “Ben Bell.” And so these entries continue year after year until July 13th, 1762 :—

“ It was then at a Meeting held at the Phoenix Agreed and Ordered by a Majority of the Company that there be not anything p[ai]d for the future toward the Nine o clock Bell.”

The Company each year subscribed towards the Races.

" 1661.	Paid towards the Horse Rate	„	5	0
1665	April 24. Given towards St. Georges plate	„	3	4
1675	Given towards St Georges plate	.	7	6
1698	Paid P. Order towards the New plate [City Race Plate]	1	0	0
1700	Feb 22 Paid Mr Adams towards ye Hunters plate	1	0	0
„	„ Paid towards St Georges plate	.	5	0 "

The subscription towards the Hunters' Plate ceased in 1704, but the subscription to St. George's Plate continued. The following order was made February 25th, 1713:—

" Whereas the Rt. Worshipfull the Mayor and the Aldermen and Com[m]on Council of this City in Com[m]on Council Assembled on Friday the nineteenth day of February in the Year of our Lord 1713, were pleased to Order that it should be Recommended by the Mayor and Justices of the Peace of this City to the severall Incorporated Companys in this City that they will oblige themselves under their Com[m]on Seal to Contribute such yearly Sums towards a piece of plate to be run for on the Roodee on St Georges Day Yearly for Ever (unless the same happen to be Saturday or Sunday and then on Monday following) as Mr. Mayor and the said Justices of the Peace or any five of them whereof the Mayor to be One shall think reasonable not being less than they have usually Contributed for the greatest part of Twenty years last past and that upon their doing so then the Mayor and Citizens of the said City would oblige themselves by their Com[m]on Seal to pay Ten pounds Annu[ally] out of the Treasury of the said City towards the said Plate Yearly for ever. Now upon Consideracon there of It is hereby Ordered by the said Aldermen Stewards and Company of Barber Chirurgions Wax and Tallow Chandlers in the said City that they and their Successors in Consideration of the P[re]misses shall and will pay and allow to the Treasurers of the said City for the time being

the Sum of Twenty shillings Yearly and every year for Ever the same to be paid in the Inner Pentice of the said City on the first Saturday in the moneth of April Yearly and every year for Ever and to be applyed towards a piece of Plate to be run for on the Roodie or St George's Day Yearly for Ever according to ancient Custom unless it be on Saturday or Sunday and then to be run for on the Monday following. And it is further Ordered that the Aldermen and Stewards of the said Company shall put the Com[m]on Seal of the said Company or such Seal as they shall think fit to be used as the Com[m]on Seal of the said Company to such Instrum[en]t as shall be reasonably divided to which the Mayor and Citizens of the said City shall be partys for obligeing the said Aldermen Stewards and Company and their successors for Ever to Contribute the said Yearly Sume of Twenty Shillings towards the said Plate to be run for on the Roodie Yearly for ever as afores[ai]d the Mayor and Citizens of the said City Contributing the said yearly sum of Ten pounds thereunto as aforesaid."

The subscription from the Gilds continued until July 13th, 1762, when it was decided "that not more than ten shillings be paid toward the City Plate for the future."

The Gilds still retained their interest in the race, for in Volume III., page 36, of the Company's books it is stated:—

"A List of the Companies of Chester with an Account of what each pay to St George's Plate, 1794."

And in the margin:—

"When each received Owens money in Rotation"

1788	1st Tanners	0	13	4
1789	2nd Drapers & Hosiers	0	10	0
1790	3rd Brewers	0	13	4
1791	4th Barbers' & Chandlers	1	0	0
1792	5th Bricklayers & Linen Drapers	0	16	8



1793	6th	Wrights & Slaters	0	10	0
1794	7th	Joiners Carvers & Turners	0	6	8
1795	8th	Painters Glaziers Embroiderers & Stationers	0	10	0
1796	9th	Goldsmiths & Clockmakers	0	15	0
1797	10th	Smiths Cutlers Pewterers & Plumbers	0	10	0
1798	11th	Butchers	0	10	0
1799	12th	Glovers	0	10	0
1800	13th	Cordwainers	0	13	0
1801	14th	Bakers	0	10	0
1802	15th	Fletchers Bowyers Coopers & Stringers	0	5	0
1803	16th	Mercers Grocers Ironmongers & Apothecarys	1	10	0
1804	17th	Vintners Innholders Cook & Victualars	2	3	0
1805	18th	Feltmakers & Skinners	0	10	0
1806	19th	Sadlers & Curriers	0	10	0
1807	20th	Taylors	0	10	0
1808	21st	Fishmongers	0	5	0
1809	22nd	Masons	0	2	6
1810	23rd	Dyers	0	2	0
1811	24th	Weavers	0	10	0
			14	15	10

[This should be £14 15s. 6d.]

" Mr. Mayor	.	13	4	
Sheriffs	.	13	4	
Leavelookers	.	6	8	
Treasury		10	0	0
				11 13 4
				26 9 2"

[£26 8s. 10d.]

### THE CHESTER AND NANTWICH CANAL

An Act for the making of this Canal passed the House of Lords, Wednesday, March 16th, 1772. The following morning, when the news was received in Chester, the bells in all the Churches of the City were rung, and in the evening the City was illuminated.

So infatuated were the people with the idea, that many sold whatever they could so as to secure shares in the undertaking, which it was supposed was going to bring a fortune to every subscriber.

The City Gilds-men evidently thought well of the project, for on April 28th of that year, at a meeting of the Aldermen, Stewards, and Company of Barbers, Surgeons, &c., it was decided that the Mayor and Sheriffs of the City, as trustees of Owen Jones' bequest, should subscribe the sum of £2,000 towards the undertaking.

"April 28, 1772. At a Meeting of the Aldermen Stewards and Company of Barbers Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chandlers held this Day after due notice. It is ordered that the Aldermen and Stewards do in behalf of our Company Authorize and Desire under their Hands & the Seal of this Company the Mayor and Sheriffs of this City and their Successors (as Trustees of the Money Received and to be received, from the Rents and Profits of the Lands and Mines heretofore of Owen Jones, and settled for the Benefit of the several incorporated Companies in this City) To subscribe the Sum of Two Thousand Pounds as part of the Trust Money in and towards the Capital Stock for making a Navigable Canal, from this City to Middlewich and Nantwich by Virtue of an Act of Parliament lately obtained. And that the said Mayor and Sheriffs, and their Successors, as such Trustees Do pay the said Sum of two thousand pounds in such Manner and in such Proportions as shall be necessary according to the Directions of the said Act, to remain as so much stock at Interest In Trust for the said several Companies in their usual Rotation and succession.

Aldm.	{ JOHN BUCKLEY
	{ CHAS. MOULSON
Stewards	{ THOS. KELLEY
	{ THOS. BENNION "

And fifteen other signatures of the brethren.

May 4th, 1772. A grand procession, including the Mayor, Aldermen, and common council of this City, with the regalia and the Militia band, preceded by the engineers of the Canal, the workmen, the subscribers to the undertaking, and the Companies or Gilds of the City (with their colours), marched from the Pentice through the Watergate to a field in the Quarry near the Water Tower, and there the Mayor cut the first sod. Although £80,000 was expended on this undertaking, the shares so depreciated that they were sold, at one time, for less than one per cent. of their original value. So many calls were made on the subscribers that the Companies declined to meet the frequent demands upon their shares, and the £2,000 was therefore lost to them.

#### THE COMPANIES' BANNERS OR COLOURS

The Colours of the various Gilds were prominent on all festive occasions. There are, at the present time, only nine of these in existence. As there were originally twenty-six Gilds, and the account books of the various Companies show that some of these Societies had purchased, from time to time, as many as six banners during the last four hundred years, there must have been upwards of one hundred Colours in use. What an unique set might have been collected from this number had they been protected in a similar manner to those now to be seen in the Grosvenor Museum!

The only complete Colours now remaining are:—Two belonging to the Goldsmiths' Company, one of which is in a very bad state of preservation; two of the Merchant Taylors' Company, at present in fairly good condition, though likely, unless framed between

glass, very soon to fall to pieces; the Feltmakers and Skinners'; the Merchant Drapers and Hosiers'; the Glaziers, Embroiderers and Stationers'; the Weavers'; the Smiths, Cutlers and Plumbers'. These last five are in the Grosvenor Museum, where they have each been placed between two sheets of glass, strongly framed with iron corner straps, and hung up in the Archæological room. The thanks of every Freeman and Gildsman are due to the Grosvenor Museum Management Committee and the Archæological Society (who have their headquarters in this building) for the careful way in which they have, at considerable cost, protected these old historical relics, so that future generations may see some of the old emblems which were formerly borne by the City Fathers—the Freemen of this ancient City of Chester—upon all public occasions.

There are, in various parts of the City, some small relics of a few other Gild Colours, such as the fringe of the Joiners' Company, and a piece of the Painters' and the Barbers'. Of the latter I shall have more to say later on.

It has often been said that these Colours were painted by Randle Holme the Third, but this is not so in the case of any banner now in existence, the oldest of which is the Skinners and Feltmakers', bearing as it does the date 1724, whilst Randle Holme III. died 12th of March, 1699. This Colour was painted by Francis Bassano.

The oldest of the Goldsmiths' Colours bears the name of George Walker, who was Assay Master in 1808, and continued so until 1814. The other Colour of this Com-



for beeriage to the banner -/4d." Mr. Taylor was paid 2s. 2d. for putting on the fringe.

This banner appears to have received some damage at the Midsummer Show, for John Wright is paid 6s. 8d. for "re-dressing the banner."

In 1664 a new banner was purchased:—

" Nov ye 4th paid Mr Skellorn for Tassels for ye Colours	0	7	0
Feb: 22 Paid Mr Holmes [III.] for the new flag	4	0	0"

In June 1716, a new box for the Colours was purchased at a cost of 5s. 6d.; and in 1727 the banners underwent considerable repairs, for we find:—

" Spent on the colours	0	0	8
Ripping off the old fringe & sewing	0	1	6
A new powle for ye colours	0	6	0
Fringe, String, and tassels	1	0	0
Cloth for the colour pole	0	0	8
Paid for painting the colour staff & crest	0	5	0"

In 1729 it was again decided to have new Colours, for we find:—

" May 29th Paid for a new box, Rowler, lock & hinges	0	9	10
July 1 paid for silk for the new colours	1	1	0"

There is no account of their being painted, but, on April 30th, 1734, 1s. was paid for repairing them.

July 30th, 1819. A meeting was held for the purpose of distributing Owen Jones' legacy; this, and a meeting on August 1st, was taken advantage of, and a collection

made to defray the expenses of New Colours, which were purchased from Mr. Robert Morris at a cost of £11 4s.

The entry reads as follows:—

“ At a Meeting the same day [August 1st] for the purpose to make a Collection to defray the expences of new Colours being held at the same place [the Little Golden Lion, Foregate Street].

“ Colours charged	£11	4	0
THOMAS DENSON	}	Aldermen	
THOMAS HORNER			
JOSEPH TRAPE	}	Stewards ”	
WILLIAM MARTIN			

It was agreed that each brother should pay the sum of £1, which was, by the majority of members, done.

The receipt for the payment of the Colours, dated August 5th, 1820, bears a four-penny stamp, impressed, and is attached to page 108, Volume III. The following November a new box for the Colours was purchased at a cost of 5s.

The Inventory of 1821 does not contain the three old Colours as formerly, but states that one old box for old Colours was sold to Alderman Horner, who died October 14th, 1823, much respected by his surviving brothers.

The Inventory of July 13th, 1826, contains “One Box with two Colours and roller within.” That is the last mention of Colours in the Company’s books.

Whilst speaking about the Barbers’ Company with Mr. John Sconce, who is a member of the Painters, Glaziers, Embroiderers, and Stationers’ Company, he

informed me that he had in his charge a box containing a Colour belonging to the Barbers' Company. It had not been opened for years. He very kindly lent it me for inspection. Having been rolled up many years, it would scarcely bear unfolding. On examining it, I came to the conclusion that it was the Painters' banner. The Arms, on a shield, were:—

*Azure* divided quarterly, 1 and 4 charged with three plain shields *argent*. 2 and 3, a chevron between three Phoenix heads erased *Or* tongued *gules*.

Supporters, two leopards *argent*, spotted *gules* and *azure* collared with a leash, and ducally crowned *Or*.

Crest. On a wreath, or torse, *argent* and *gules* a Phoenix close *Or*, rising out of fire.

Below the Arms, in a scroll, is the Latin motto:—

“Amor et Obedientia.”

It also bears the names of the Aldermen, the Stewards, and the date:—

“ THOS. HORNER	} Aldm
THOS. DENSON	
	1819.
JOSEPH TRAPE	} Stewards”
WILLM. MARTIN	

The Arms described are certainly those of the Painters' Company, and prove what has not of later years been known, viz., that the Painters had, at one time, a banner of their own. This view is certainly strengthened by the banner exhibited in the Grosvenor Museum, described as that of the Painters, Glaziers, Embroiderers, and Stationers' Company. It bears the Arms of the three latter Companies, but not



those of the Painters'. The motto is also that of the Painters', but the names and date given are those of the Barbers' Company.

The design and colouring of the above Arms are the same on both sides of the Colour.

At the other end of the banner were some odd pieces sewn on, including part of a spotted animal, head uncrowned, and a different style of collar from that of the Painters'. The animal was also spotted in three colours; the Painters' only in two. On one piece was the word "DEI," and on the other "DE," both part of a motto much larger in size than that of the Painters'. Lifting up a loose piece I found, below it, part of an animal representing a griffin, or an opinicus, but too small to decide which. This was the Crest of the Barbers' Company. These pieces, evidently, had at one time belonged to some other banner.

In the box which contained the banner were also some scraps of a Colour, and some fringe, the latter similar to that surrounding the banner described — Painters'. On one of these pieces was a rose, crowned, and two fleams; on another piece, a chevron between three fleams; and on a third piece, which was attached to the fringe, part of an animal spotted in three colours.

After considerable time and consideration, I found that these odd pieces, and those sewn on to the banner had, at one time, formed part of a separate banner, unquestionably that of the Barbers' Company, and that these remnants represented all that now remains of that Company's banner. The only conclusion one can come to is, that the supporters of the Arms being so





The Arms and Crest of the Barber-Surgeons' Company, Chester

*H. Davies, A.R.I.B.A., del.*

*Copyright*

much alike in shape and colouring, somebody — no doubt with good intention — had repaired the Painters' banner with that of the Barbers'.

The Arms of the Barbers', &c., Company are:—

Quarterly 1 and 4 *Sable* a chevron between three fleams<sup>13</sup> *argent*.

2 and 3 *argent* a rose *gules* surmounted by an Imperial Crown *Or*. Over all the Cross of St. George *gules* charged with a lion of England.

Crest. According to Randle Holme III. was a Griffin passant *Or* in his mouth an Adder torqued V.

The Barber-Surgeons' Company, London, and that of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, call it an Opinicus<sup>14</sup> *Or*. Both are fictitious animals.

Supporters: Two Lynxes *argent* spotted *gules*, *sable*, and *azure* both ducally gorged with leash *Or*.

The Latin motto is:—

“De præscientia Dei.”

The motto was granted September 22nd, 1492.

The banner measures 4 feet 10 inches in length, and 4 feet 6 inches in breadth; and, unlike the earlier banners, is the same width at both ends. It is of white silk, surrounded on three sides with fringe  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in depth — gold, blue, and white, alternately, each colour being  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch wide.

<sup>13</sup> A fleam is a surgical instrument for lancing the gums.

<sup>14</sup> An Opinicus is a fictitious beast compounded of the fore parts of a dragon, the under parts of a lion, and the tail of a camel. “Glossary of Heraldry,” Parker.

## THE COMPANY'S SEAL

Each of the City Gilds had a seal, but in the majority of cases, including that of the Barbers' Company, it is lost.

In the account books we find:—"1713-14 Paid for the Company's Seal o 7 6"; but in the "Inventory of sundrys delivered to Bro[ther] Vause by Charles Dicas, July 13th, 1757," which is the first inventory of this Company entered in the books, no mention is made of a seal.

28th April, 1772. In connection with an agreement between the Mayor and Sheriffs of Chester and the Company:—

"It is ordered that the Aldermen and Stewards do in behalf of our Company Authorize and Desire under their Hands and the Seal of this Company," &c., &c.

A similar agreement is signed 25th day of July, 1782, and the seal is again used.

March 16th, 1799. The Company paid one pound for Armorial Bearings.

It appears almost certain that the seal was lost some time between 1782 and 1833, for on September 17th of the latter year a meeting was held at the King's Arms, Eastgate, for various business, "and for the purpose of consulting of having a seal for the Comp[an]y."

I can find no account of a seal being purchased, and the Company is without one at the present time.

## APPRENTICES AND THEIR INDENTURES

The Company did everything in its power to ensure that apprentices should have every facility to enable them to become competent workmen, and various orders, or rules, were made relating to them.

“Rule 20. An order that no brother of the Company of Tallow chandlers of this City shall take any Apprentice till he have been brother of the same for the space of two years at the least except he compound & agree with the said Company of Tallow Chandlers viz :—

“It is fully agreed and Concluded upon this present day being the 16 January 1606 at a meeting holden by the said Society and company of Barber Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chaundlers of this said city. That not any brother of the said company of Tallow chaundlers shall be a[d]mitted to take any apprentice to the said trade or occupation except he have been first master of the said trade for the space of two years at the least and yn [then] after the said term of the said two years it shall be lawfull for the said Master to take any apprentice and not before, except the said brother do agree & compound with every of the said brothers of the said occupation of Tallow chaundlers and every of them in payn of every brother of the same trade that offendeth contrary to this order to pay unto the said company in the name of a fyne in Currant English money the sum of 40s.”

“At an Assembly holden in the City of Chester in the Comon Hall of Pleas there upon Friday the Ffirst Day of February in the third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God King of Great Britain &c. Annoq. Dni 1716. By the Right Worshipfull Henry Bennett Esquire Mayor of the said City of Chester Roger Comberbach Esqr Recorder the Aldermen and Common Councill of the same City.

“At which Assembly Whereas by an Order of the Mayor Aldermen and Comon Councill of this City on Wednesday the Eighth day of October in the year of our Lord 1690. It

was unanimously agreed and resolved That all Indentures within this City should be entered recorded and inrolled in the Pentice Office of this City within such time and in such manner as in the Same Order is expressed And Whereas It appears to this house that the said Order hath not been observed and kept as it ought to be for want of a Penalty on the Master for his neglect thereof, Now it is ordered by this house that every Freeman of this City who shall at any time hereafter take any Apprentice by Indenture Shall Inroll or cause to be Inrolled One part of Such Indenture or Apprentiship in the Said Pentice Office within Six Months next after the Date of Such Indenture respectively upon pain of Six Shillings Eight pence fine And that the Aldermen and Stewards of every Company have Notice thereof All which fines and forfeiture shall be Sued for and recovered for the use of the Mayor and Citizens of the said City by action of debt in the name of the Treasurers of this City for the time being in the Portmote Court of the said City or any other of his Ma[jes]tys Courts of Record with Costs of Suite.

LLOYD & COMBERBACH."

[RULE 14]

"It is further ordered and agreed upon by the same Society and Company yt [that] at any time hereafter when any of the said brothers shall take any apprentice being bound by Indentures the which Indentures ye Clerk of our company is to make and the said Master shall bring the same Indentures unto the Aldermen of ye same company, within three month next after the said Apprentice is so bounden and the name and date of the same Indenture to be by ye Clerk of our company inrolled in this our book of orders, and to pay unto him for every Indenture so enrolled and entered in the book 4d. he or they that doth not fulfill this order shall pay for every time so offending the sum of 4s. 4d. the one half to the company and the other half to the Clerk. Provided always that our Clerk shall not have any of his due abated."

A marginal note states :—

[It] “is also agreed if any brother shall employ any other person than our clerk to make an Indenture for so binding of an apprentice shall pay the Clerk his usual fee.”

A great number of these enrolments of indentures are entered in Volumes I. and II. of the Company's books. Some of these entries are very interesting. In many cases the apprentice was bound for twelve years; to-day, in the majority of cases, they only serve four, or five years.

In Volume I. these enrolments appear to be complete from A.D. 1608, to October 18th, 1698; there are 278 entries, occupying 53 pages. The first entry, dated May 6th, 1608, is that of “Richard Rimmer, son of Richard Rimmer, of Halsall, in the countie of Lancaster, Yeoman, Deceased, for the term of seven years to Nicholas Hallwood Barber and Wax Chaundler.”

Prior to this date there appear to have been about twelve pages torn out of this book. Twenty-eight of these entries are crossed through, and marginal notes state :—“Passed away before his time expired”; “Ran away before his time expired”; “Run away from his Govnir”; “Released by reason of an infirmity.” Another note states :—“1624, This Edward Richardson is not to be admitted free by his service Donn or to be Donne”; but no reason is given for this decision.

Volume II. contains the enrolment of apprentices from September 29th, 1692, to April 27th, 1763, numbering 195 entries. In Volumes III. and IV. there are no entries of the enrolment of apprentices.



The following are a few of the entries made:—

“ Richard Shone Tallow Chaundler hath taken to his Apprentice John Axon sonne of John Axon of Nantwich for twelve years beginning the 10th of May 1610 as may appear now at lardge by one pair of Indentures of the same date for enrollment paid iiijd

“ Robert Morrey hath taken to his apprentice Roger Cumberbatch sonne of Richard Cumberbatch of Nantwich in the County of Chester Yeoman to return of seaven years beginning from the feast day of St James the Appostle one thousand six hundred and sixty five as appears by two indentures of Apprentiship beareing date the iiijth day of July 1665.”

“ 1629 John Wright barber Surgeon hath taken to his Apprentize John Siddall the sonne of John Siddall of hawarden the xxvth Day of March 1629 for the space of Seaven years next ensueinge.” iiijd

“ 1645 John Wright, Barber Chyrurgion hath taken to his Apprentize John Wright his nephew Sonne of Thomas Wright of Whitchurch in the County of Salop Barber for the terme of 12 years beginning the first of January 1645 as by his Indenture bereing Date here with appeareth enrolment paid.” iiijd

“ Edward Poynton

John Wright Barber Chirurgion and Wax Chaundler late taken to his apprentice Edward Poynton of ye Cittie of Chester Yeoman for the term of eight years beginninge ye twenty fifth day of March 1636 as appeareth by his Indentures bearinge Date the XVII of January 1635 enrowlment paide.” iiijd

March 25th, 1682. “ Benjamin Poynton

“ James Gilbert hath taken to his Apprentice Benjamin Poynton son of William Poynton late of Aldford in the County of Chester Yeom[an] Deed [deceased] for the term of severn years to begin the five and twentieth day of March 1682 and paid for his Inrolmt.” iiijd

"Joseph Pointon son of Randle Pointon late of the City of Chester Baker hath put himself apprentice to Samel. Jones of ye City of Chester Barber & perruwig maker for the term of seven years pd for Enrolment." 4d

August 15th, 1723.

[RULE 13]

"It is ordered and fully agreed upon with the whole consent of the Said Society and Company that there shall not any Brother of the Surgeons Barbers Wax and tallow chaundlers within this City have but one Apprentice till such time as the same Apprentice have served out all his years except one year of his Apprentish And then it shall be lawfull for the said Master to take another apprentice what brother So ever he be that doth contrary to this Order shall forfeit for every offence made in this Cause the sum of 40s.

THO : HOLLAND	} Aldm.
GEO : JOHNSON	
WM. FFROST	} Stewards"
THOS WILKINSON	

This order also bears the signatures of 32 brethren.

July 2nd, 1725.

"It is Ordered & Agreed upon by the Consent of [the] whole Company of Barbers Surgeon Wax and Tallow Chandlers within this Citty as follows."

"That no Brother of the S[ai]d Society shall take 2 Apprentices till the first hath served 4 years of his time then it shall be lawfull for him to take another Apprentice whosoever acteth Contrary to this Order Shall Pay to the s[ai]d Companys use into the hands of the Stewards for the time being five Pounds & iff he take a third he shall pay into the hands aforesd Ten Pound."

May 29th, 1745. It was agreed :—

"by a Majority of the Said Company, that no brother shall keep any Boy that comes alikeing to him in Order to be an

Apprentice longer than a month before he or they become bound by Indentures to the said Brother neither shall the said Brother teach or cause to be taught the said boy or boys to shave in the time limited he or they that shall so offend shall pay to the Stewards of the said Company's Use the sum of forty shillings."

#### ADMISSION TO THE COMPANY

Following the enrolment of apprenticeship indentures, in Volumes I. and II. is a list of early members.

In Volume I. are the names of 155 persons admitted to the Company from A.D. 1580 to 1698. These entries occupy 21 pages. Volume II. contains a similar list of 169 members, the first of which is dated February 8th, 1791. In Volumes III. and IV. there are no entries of the enrolment of apprenticeship indentures or admissions to the Society.

" 1663.

A true and perfect Collection of all the names of the Brothers of the Companie of Barbers Chirurgeons Wax and Tallow Chaundlers in order placed as the[y] Came free of the Company Synce the year of our lord god 1580 together w[i]th theire and every of theire sevrall fines paid to the Companie of theire Admittance to the freedome of this ffraternity as followeth."

" 1580 John Shyne [Shone] Tallow chaundler came into the Company and paid for his fine of admittance the sum of

xxs.

" January 9th 1587 John Looker Tallowchaundler was admitted a brother of the company of Barbers Chirurgions Wax and Tallow Chaundlers the 9th day of January 1587 and paid for his admittance

xls.

" July 16. 1587 William Mercer free. The said William Mercer was admitted a free brother of the Companie the 16 of July Mr. William Wall Mayor 1587 and paid for his Admittance.

xls



for his Admittance a brother less or more than four pounds that is to say fifty shillings for his Admittance and thirty shillings for his Dinner or make his Dinner when he pleaseth within a year of the Aldermens and Stuards and Companys Appointm[en]t at a day by them appointed by the said Company.

“ As Wittnesse our hands the day and year above said

ROBERT MORREY	}	Aldermen
ROBERT SHONE		
RAPH BINGLEY	}	Stuards”
OWEN SHONE		

And 17 other signatures.

[RULE 5]

“ It is further agreed upon, that no man shall come in as a brother into ye said Society & Company notwithstanding his service done according to his Indentures before he have payd his fine to ye Stewards of the said company, with the consent of the Aldermen & the rest of the same, to the use of the sd Company. Also if it should happen yt [that] any man intreat to be of our company, and have not served for the same either in part or in all according to the use of our City. That he shall in no wise be admitted thereunto till such time as he with sureties have entered into bond to gratify and pay unto the said company such sums of money as shall be thought fitt by the said company for one of his quality in that case.”

[RULE 7]

“ It is further ordered & agreed upon with ye whole consent of ye Alderm[en] Stewards & ye rest of the said company and Society, that what brother shall come into any the said occupations, he shall make his Dinner unto the said company within the said year, at a certain day unto him given by the Aldermen and Stewards upon reasonable warning according unto old use and custome whith which hath been heretofore used in ye said Society and Company in payne of forfeiting unto the sd company the sum of xs. and afterwards to make his Dinner at ye Aldermens appointment and for non-perform-

ance soe oft as he shall soe offend to pay for every fault the aforesaid fyne of xs to ye Stewards till he have made his Dinner."

"February 10th, 1725 It was then at a Meeting held at the Phoenix Agreed and Ordered by the Majority of the Company of Barbers, Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers. That every brother admitted after the Date afore sd Should pay for his admittance the sum of fifteen pounds, and Two Shillings and sixpence for the stamp to the Clerk Brothers Sons Only excepted which are to pay the Usual Sum of four pounds and Two Shillings and Sixpence for the stamp."

"1741. May 29 Whereas the former Orders relating to brothers Sons was not so fully explained as should be.

Item. it is Unanimously agreed that no brothers son shall be admitted a brother of the said Society and Company before he pay the usual fine of Fifteen pounds except his Father was a brother of the Said Company before such son was born, and then the being so born shall be received a brother paying the Fine of four pounds and Two Shillings and six pence for the stamp."

November 14th, 1759, this rule was again altered.

"It was then at a meeting held att the Phoenix agreed and Ordered by the Majority of the Company of Barber Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chandlers that Every Brother admitted after the Date hereof shall pay for his fine or admittance the sum of Five pounds and Two shillings and sixpence for stamps to ye Clerk. Brothers sons only Excepted which are to pay the usual Fine of Four pounds, and Two Shillings and Sixpence for Stamps.

WM. DICAS	}	Aldermen
RICHD. MOULSON		
PROBY VAUGHAN		Steward"

It is also signed by 19 brethren.

"January 29th 1766

"At a Meeting duly warned of the Aldermen Stewards and Company of Barbers Surgeons Wax and Tallow Chandlers in the City of Chester held this 29th day of Jan[uar]y 1766. It

was then Ordered and agreed by the Major part of the Company then and there present. That for the Future Every one applying to become a Member of the S[ai]d Company whether by Birthright or Servitude, Shall pay the sum of Ten pounds of Lawfull British Money. And that every late Brother who has voluntarily left or diserted the Same Company and have Consequently been Expungd. Shall not upon Any Account Whatsoever be readmitted."

Six years later we again find the fees for admission to the Company altered, for it was decided:—

"At a Meeting held at the Crown in Eastgate Street, at the house of Thomas Gresty, it is unanimously agreed, That we do authorize & empower Mr. John Buckley & Mr. Chas Moulson Aldermen & Thos Keley & Tho. Bennion Stewards to have an order inserted in the Company's Book, that the Fine levied upon such Persons coming into the Company is fixed at Four Pounds exclusive of the Stamps, & it is likewise agreed that any Person occupying the Trade of Barber & Tallow chandlers do not upon application of the Stewards come unto the Company shall be proceeded against according to law, whereunto we have set our hands this 27th Day of April 1772.

JOHN BUCKLEY	}	Aldermen
CHAS. MOULSON		
THOS. KELLEY	}	Stewards "
THOMAS BENNION		

And 17 of the brethren.

This rule only remained in force one year longer than the previous one, when the Company, at a meeting held July 13th, 1779, passed a similar resolution to that of January 29th, 1766.

"At a Meeting of the Company of Surgeons Barbers Wax & Tallow Chaundlers it was unanimously agreed, that every Person coming into the said Company should pay the sum of Ten pounds for their admission & that no Person shall be

made free of the said Company for any thing less than the said sum from this date by order of the Members then present. Chester July 13th 1779.

Aldermen	{	JOHN BUCKLEY
	{	CHAS DICAS
Stewards	{	JOSEPH LEECH
	{	FRANS. GIBSON "

And the signatures of eight of the brethren.

In Volume IV. we find the following entry :—

"The 25th September 1843. Names of the Brothers now living belonging to the Society and Company of Barbers, Surgeons, Wax and Tallow Chandlers.

Henry Evans	26th July	1813	Dead
Samuel Wade	20th Decr	1813	Died Feb 1852
Joseph Trape	3rd June	1817	dead
Wm. Hankey	3rd June	1817	dead
Thomas Parry	30th June	1820	dead
Edward Parry	3rd July	1820	dead
William Wade	19th Novr.	1832	dead
Joseph Bennett	25th Sepr.	1838	dead
William Ruffell	28th June	1839	dead
Matthias Garner	1st July	1839	
Richard Roberts	1st July	1839	died Jan. 4 1883
Robert Jones	1st July	1839	Dead
Lawrence Lawrenson	2nd July	1839	Arrears due
John W. Wade	28 Jany.	1852	Dead
			January 1st, 1852 "

But nine years later we find that only two of the above brethren were still living.

"July 23rd, 1851. "It was Resolved That after this date any person having a claim to the Surgeon Barbers Wax and Tallow Chandlers Company and neglects to enter on his application for admission, pay in addition to the usual charge, the sum of Two shillings and Sixpence for each year to the time of his admission."



The charges for admission to the Company had, at various times, varied from £4 to £15; but on November 6th, 1809, "James Roberts, son of Richard Roberts, was admitted into the Company upon paying Three shillings and fourpence for his admission, and one pound for the stamp." This appears to have been the charge from that time down to the present (1911).

On the 26th November, 1849, and at various periods from that date down to 1890, the Company's book is signed by the Surveyor of Taxes, and from the latter date annually down to the present time.

In 1880, the membership of the Company had dwindled down to nine men. Ten years later it numbered four members; and by July 1901 there remained one member only, by name Frank Parry.

"September 13th, 1902. At a Meeting held at Frank Parry's house, 29, Talbot Street, Richard Roberts, son of Thomas Roberts, was admitted, he having claimed through his grandfather, Richard Roberts, who was admitted a Brother of the said Company, July 1st, 1839."

That was the last meeting held by the Company.

Frank Parry died 4th October, 1905; and since that date the sole surviving member of this Company is Richard Roberts.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS

1609	Paid the tresurer for oer p[ar]t of rent for the Golden Phoenix	00 01 00
1651	Paid for our part the halfe of the Chardges against the Painters for clensing the lower house for a new doore, lock keys and hindges	00 16 10

	Paid the Painters the half of the rent of the Golden Phœnix	00	01	00
	Paid for Sack beere and Tobacco at the Talbott on St. Lukes day [Oct. 18th] at Richard Walkers dinner to the Company	00	19	05
1656	Received of the Stewards of the Clothworkers for this years rent for our part of the Meeting house	00	01	08
1657	Received of the Clothworkers Stewards this whole years rent	00	03	04
1658	Spent at our Brother Batteleys for a welcome home after his retarne from the warrs	00	08	00
	November the 5th Spent at Ald[er]man Shones being the powder plot day	00	05	00
1660	Attending on the Mayor to Church on the thanksgiving Day for the King [Charles II] peaceable receiving June 28 1660			
1662-3	July 17 Spent at Alderman Shones to waite on the Duke of Orman and for the man that carried the banner	00	00	10
	August 12 Spent on the lawyers at Gloverstone	00	00	06
1687	August 24 Pd att Samuel Coulson's when the Kinge [James II.] came to Chester	00	06	06
	August 30th Paid at Brother Chalinors when the Kinge went out	00	01	06
	January 29 Spent at the Day of Thanksgivinge	00	01	06
1689	Feb 17, Spent at Bro. Coulsons att Proclaiming the Kinge & Queen [William and Mary]	00	06	06
	April 11th Spent at Alde[rman] Marcers on the Coronation Day	00	05	06
1692	July 10th Spent in waiting for my Lord Sidneys comeing to towne	00	03	11
1693	July 3rd Paide for a coffin for Raphe Edge	00	09	00
1696	Pd. for the Coppy of Owens Jones his will	00	02	00

1697	Paid Brother Vause for puting the Stewards names which was Peter Dunbabin & .. Croxom which was Writt upon the Wall of the Meeting house and belonged to the Painters Company	00	01	00
	Paid Mr Cumberbatch for advice	00	10	00
1698	Paid Mr Hodgson p[er] order for a booke <sup>15</sup> for the Company	00	16	00
	Paid Mr. Britten p[er] order for Writeing all the orders in this booke	00	10	00
1699	May 29 Spent at Mr Preuarias house the same day the Exchange was proclaimed	00	07	06
1702	October 9 Spent in attending my Lord Darbeys comeing to be sworne Mayor	0	12	0
1703	April 21 Spent in waiting on the Duke of Orman Lord Leftent Ireland	0	16	0
1706	March 8. Spent at brother hollands upon ye Queens Proclamation day	00	09	00
1707	September 8th. Spent on the Thanks-giving day for the Union	01	01	00
1712	Given to a souldier a perriwigg maker by order of Aldm. Holland	00	02	00
1713	Spent when the Duke came in	01	07	06
1716	Sept. 22 Paid for a coffin & a crape suit & drink at the funeral of Bro. Hiccock	01	02	10
1721	August 16th. Spent at Brother Whittles when the Duke of Grafton came	0	17	4
1737	September 2nd. Spent when the Duke of Devonshire came	1	02	0
1743	To the interest of £250 [received] from the Treasurers out of the Toll of the Bridge gate outwards	12	0	0
	The Interest of £250 from S[i]r Thomas Stanley is lost			
1744	April 7th. Spent in Declaring War against the french King, to be no presiden [precedent]	1	12	4
1748	November 26th. For 4 horses when Peace was Proclaimed	0	6	0

<sup>15</sup> This would be Volume II.

1756	May 22nd.	Warning the Company to attend the Mayor to Declare War	o	1	o
		Spent att the Declaring of War at my house	1	o	o
1760	July 14	To Expences at Proclaiming K[ing] George the 3rd.	o	19	6
1762	Jan. 12th	To Warning the Company to attend the Mayor to Declare War.	o	1	o
1763	March.	To Warning the Company and Carr[yin]g the colours on Proclam[a]-tion of Peace	o	12	o
	May 6th	To Warning the Company and carr[yin]g of the Colours on the Thanksgiving Day	o	2	o
	July 1st	Spent on Attending the In-pector of Stamps	o	1	o
1814	August 15th.	Paid for carrying Colours attending Lords Combermere & Hill	o	3	o

A grand banquet was this day given by the citizens to Lords Combermere and Hill, who were at the same time made honorary freemen of the City.

### ELECTION DAY

The election of Aldermen and Stewards originally took place on July 2nd.

In the minutes of the annual meeting, held July 2nd, 1646, it is stated :—

“ Memorandum that the second day of July being our election and Count day for the Companie of Barbers Chirurgicals Wax and Tallow Chandlers within the Cittie of Chester Mr Robert Thornely Barber Chirurgion and Robert Shone Tallow Chandler were elected Aldermen and John Looker Tallow Chandler and John Throp Barber were chosen to be Stewardest and Searchers for one whole year from this second day of July 1646 until July 1647. Mr. Charles Walley p[as]t Mayor the Cittie this yeare being yelded uppon Conditions to the Parle-mont and Mr William Edwards made Mayor the next Michall-mas after and Mr John Ratcliffe made Recorder and both made

Burgesses for the P'lamont [Parliament] Mr John Win [Wynn] Ironmonger and Mr. Richard Sproston Drap[er]s Sheriffs 1646."

This Mr. William Edwards acted many parts in life. He was one of the two City Sheriffs in 1627; and in 1636 was Mayor of the City. He was a parishioner of St. Peter's in Chester.

In an inventory of the goods belonging to that Church in 1650, is, "One gold plate weighing 6 ounces the which was gift of William Edwards"; but no mention is made as to when he gave it.

This gentleman, during the siege of Chester, figured as a captain in Cromwell's Army, and it was he who seized the sword and mace from the City for the Commonwealth. He was also, as the careful entry made by the clerk, John Wright, in the Barbers' Company's books states, "appointed by the Protector" to be the first Mayor of the City after its capitulation to the Parliamentary forces.

In 1647-8, the plague, which had been prevalent in the City at various times, again broke out with renewed violence; no doubt the result of the siege of the City. Between the 22nd of June and the 20th of April following, 2,099 persons died of this dreaded disease. The City became so deserted that grass grew in the streets at the High Cross. Little wonder that John Wright, clerk to the Barbers' Company, when entering the accounts and the Company's membership for this year, noted the havoc the disease had made with human life, for, following the names of the officers appointed for the ensuing year, he states:—

"being then the tyme of the Lords Dreadful visitation of this Cittie of Chester from w[hi]ch praysed be the God of

Heaven who hath in Mercy stayed his Judgement and *p[er]-mitted a remnant to survive* to give him praise this Daie. Mr Robert Wright Drap[er] and Mr Richard Minshull Ironmonger Sheriffs."

In entering his accounts for the year 1666, John Wright states that he had been clerk to the Company for forty years. The following year, 1667, we miss his well known signature, and a year later, 1668, we find, fourth line from the bottom of the page, that:—  
"Widdow Wright paid her four quarterages";  
or four quarterly payments.

This man, for the forty years he had been clerk to the Company, entered minute particulars in the Company's books. I can almost picture in my mind the man from his writings: a God-fearing man, a good citizen, and a worthy Freeman of Chester.

At the annual meeting held July 2nd, 1756, it was decided "That for the future the Election Day should be held on July 13th," which was accordingly done until 1825, when, at a meeting held July 13th of that year, "It was decided that in future the said Company's Election Day Meeting should be held on the 23rd July in every year, or uppon the next day proceeding if the Saturday or Sunday should happen on the 23rd as the Chester Fair very much interferes with our trade."

At a meeting held Monday, July 25th, 1842:—

"It was unanimously agreed that this Company meet only once a year, and that on the 23rd July to be held yearly except that day happen on Sunday, if so then on the following day."

At a meeting held 23rd July, 1860:—

"It was unanimously agreed that in future the Annual [Meeting] of the Company be held on the first Monday in June instead of the 23rd of July."

This date was adhered to until the meetings ceased to be held.

The annual dinner took place on these Election days. An interesting account is entered for 1822. This should have taken place on Monday, July 15th, but as a footnote explains:—

“The above Meeting was held on Monday July 22nd, 1822, by a[d]journment there being a Club dinner at the above house [the name of the house is not given] on Monday July 15th 1822 which rendered our Company's meeting not convenient.”

“Proof of Expenditure

Brother Hankeys Bill for disbursements	. 18 3
Mr. Woodfines bill for getting Dinner and Drink	1 5 6
	<u>£2 3 9</u> ”

Details are then given:—

“Getting Dinners	5 0
Daughter for Wait[in]g	1
Drink	19 6
	<u>1 5 6</u>
“What Mr Hankey Purchased	
To 4 y[ar]ds of Ribbon at 2d p. yd to tye the Colours	8
To a Leg of Mutton 8lb at 5d and [a] Leg [of] Veal 10½lbs at 4½	7 3
Carrots & Turnips	. 1 6
Peas	. 1 8
Cucumbers & Onions	. . 3
Butter half a dish	. . 10
Cheese 1lb at 6½	. . 6½
Bread	. . 6
Capers	. . 4
Potatoes	. . 2½
Bacon 1lb at 6d	6
	<u>£. 18 3</u>

This Bill settled

THOMAS DENSON	} Alderman ”
THOS HORNER	

Although the total of Mr. Hankey's account is down as 18s. 3d., it only appears to total 14s. 3d.

Musicians were always engaged to play at these dinners, the amounts paid varying from 1s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. Even the music varied, for we find:—

1692	July 2nd	Paid ye Citty Musick <sup>16</sup>	00	06	00
1742	July 2nd	Gave the man that mimicked the birds	00	04	00
1748	July 6	Paid the man for Whistling	00	02	06

The Company, for some generations past, has been composed of male members only. It has not always been so; women, formerly, also participated in the benefits of the Society, as is shown by the following entries:—

[RULE 15, passed prior to 1640]

“ That every brother and sister of the same company shall pay every quarter of the year ”

1658	Divided amongst Brothers and Sisters	4	01	0
1668	Widow Wright paid her four Quarter- ages			
1693	Received of 44 Brothers & 10 Sisters	2	14	0
1699	Paid to 49 Brothers & Sisters	2	18	0

The following names of the Aldermen and the Stewards are of those chosen on the election day to fill the office for the ensuing year:—

	<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1606	Nicholas Halwoode	William Handcocke
	John Ley	Richard Shone
1607	Nicholas Halwoode	William Poole
	John Ley	Roberte Robertes
1608	William Mercer	Robert Thorneley
	Nicholas Halwoode	Richard Hynde
1609	William Mercer	William Handcoke
	Nicholas Halwoode	Edward Bromley

<sup>16</sup> A similar entry had appeared for several years.



*Aldermen**Stewards*

1610	Nicholas Halwoode William Mercer	Robert Roberts John Framwaye
1611	Nicholas Halwoode William Mercer	Roberte Robertes John Framwaye
1612	Nicholas Halwoode Richard Shone	Roberte Robertes Thomas Robinson
1613	Nicolas Halwoode Richard Shone	Thomas Robinson Randall Whitbye
1614	Nicolas Halwoode Richard Shone	Robert Thornley Richard Hynde
1615	Nicholas Halwoode Richard Shone	Roberte Thornley Thomas Mercer
1616	Nicholas Halwoode Richard Shone	John Ryder Edward Wrighte
1617	Nicholas Hallwood Richard Shone	Robert Thornley Randall Whitbie
1618	Nicholas Hallwood Richard Shone	Thomas Mercer Thomas Robinson
1619	Nicholas Hallwood Richard Shone	Thomas Mercer Thomas Robinson
1620	Nicholas Hallwood Richard Shone	John Looker John Taylor
1621	Nicholas Hallwood Richard Shone	John Looker Christopher Hallwood
1622	Nicholas Hallwood <sup>17</sup> Richard Shone	John Looker Christopher Hallwood
1623	Richard Shone William Poole	John Sires John Adamson
1624	Richard Shone William Poole	Thomas Mercer Thomas Robinson
1625	William Poole Thomas Mercer	Thomas Robinson Raphe Edge
1626	William Poole Richard Shone	John Taylor Raphe Edge
1627	Richard Shone William Poole	William Jones John Wright
1628 <sup>18</sup>	Richard Shone William Poole	John Adamson John Wright
1629	Richard Shone Robert Thornley	Christopher Hallwood Richard Trafforde

<sup>17</sup> Mr. Nicholas Hallwood died and Mr. William Poole was chosen Alderman in his stead.

<sup>18</sup> Mr William Edwards was Mayor of the City this year.

*Aldermen*

1630	Richard Shone Robert Thornley
1631	Richard Shone Robert Thornley
1632	Richard Shone Robert Thorneley
1633	Richard Shone Robert Thornley
1634	Richard Shone Robert Thorneley
1635	Richard Shone Robert Thornley
1636	Richard Shone Robert Thornley
1637	Robert Thornley Raphe Edge
1638	Robert Thornley Raphe Edge
1639	Robert Thorneley Raph Edge
1640	Robert Thorneley Raphe Edge
1641	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1642	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1643	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1644	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1645	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1646	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1647	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1648	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone
1649	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone

*Stewards*

Richard Trafforde
John Boydell
Robert Shone
Richard Tilstone
Christopher Hallwood
Robert Shone
Alexander Hyne
William Taylor
Alexander Hyne
William Taylor
Thomas Blessinge
Edward Mercer
Edward Mercer
Thomas Blessinge
Edward Mercer
Thomas Blessinge
Robert Shone
John Siddall
John Wright
Robert Shone
John Wright
Robert Shone
Robert Looker
Robert Shone
Raphe Edge
George Skellington
Raphe Edge
Robert Morrey
John Looker Junr
Robert Murrey
John Looker Junr
John Throp
John Looker Junr
John Thropp
Edward Mercer
Randle Walker
Edward Mercer
Randle Walker
Edward Mercer
Randle Walker <sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Randle Walker died 25th December, and Joshua Taylor was elected in his place March 28th, 1650.

	<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1650	Robert Thorneley Robert Shone	Joshua Taylor David Ffrances
1651	Robert Thorneley <sup>20</sup> Robert Shone	Richard Trafford Henry Meade
1652	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Richard Croughton Thomas Welshman
1653	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Richard Croughton Thomas Welshman
1654	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Edw : Mercer Tho : Blessinge
1655	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Bennet Richard Ffrances
1656	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Bennet Richard Ffrances
1657	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Poole Raph Bingley
1658	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Poole Raph Bingley
1659	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Poole Raphe Bingley
1660	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Tho : Welshman Thos : Davenport
1661	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Thomas Davenport Michael Brombley
1662	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Michael Brombley Thomas Davenport
1663	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	John Gibbons Thomas Dutton
1664	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	John Gibbons Thomas Dutton
1665	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Richard Ordes Thomas Jones
1666	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Hugh Starkey Richard King
1667	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Hugh Starkey Richard King
1668	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Hugh Starkey Richard King
1669	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Raphe Bingley Thomas Coulson

<sup>20</sup> Mr. Robert Thorneley, who had been Alderman of this Company from 1628, died during his year of office, and Mr. Robert Morrey was appointed in his stead.

	<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1670	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Raphe Bingley Owen Shone
1671	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	Owen Shone William Wilbram
1672	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	John Luvite William Wilbram
1673	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Mercer Edward Burrowes
1674	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Mercer Edward Burrowes
1675	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Martin John Johnson
1676 <sup>21</sup>	Robert Shone Robert Morrey	William Martin John Johnson
1677	Robert Morrey [Raphe?] Bingley	Thomas Doulton John Roberts
1678	Robert Morrey Raphe Bingley	Thomas Doulton John Roberts
1679	Robert Morrey Raphe Bingley	John Bingley Jonathon Whitby
1680	Robert Morrey Raphe Bingley	John Bingley Jonathon Whitby
1681	Robert Morrey Raphe Bingley	Benjamin Hall Thomas Holland
1682	Robert Morrey Raphe Bingley	Benjamin Hall Thomas Holland
1683	Robert Morrey Raphe Bingley	Thomas Moulson Richard Shone
1684	[No names recorded]	
1685	——— William Mercer	Richard Eaton James Gilbert
1686	——— William Mercer	Richard Eaton James Gilbert
1687	——— William Mercer	Samuell Dannatt Mathen Twemlow
1688 <sup>22</sup>	Hugh Starkey Will Mercer	Samuell Dannatt Mathen Twemlow
1689	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	John Dannatt John Wilkinson

<sup>21</sup> Robert Shone was Sheriff of Chester in 1676.

<sup>22</sup> Hugh Starkey was this year Mayor of Chester.

	<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1690	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Charles Warmingham Roger Wilbraham
1691	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Charles Warmingham Roger Wilbraham
1692	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Randle Dannatt George Jonson
1693	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Randle Dannatt George Jonson
1694	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	John Catherall William Smith
1695	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	John Cathrall Richard Gaman
1696	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Samuel Taylor Richard Gaman
1697	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Thomas Cottingham Owin Meredith
1698	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Thomas Cottingham Joseph Hatton
1699	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Thomas Cottingham Joseph Hatton
1700	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Richard Ords Joseph Hatton
1701	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Richard Ords Thomas Kemp
1702	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	John Bingley Henry Gill
1703	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	John Bingley Henry Gill
1704	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	John Chadwick Richard Witter
1705	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	John Chadwick Richard Witter
1706	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	George Johnson John Simmons
1707	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	George Johnson John Simmons
1708	Hugh Starkey William Mercer	Henry Coulson Samuell Meadows
1709	Hugh Starkey George Johnson	Edward Hiccocke Thomas Kemp
1710	Hugh Starkey George Johnson	Edward Hiccocke Thomas Kemp
1711	Thomas Holland George Johnson	Hugh Wooley John Dewsbury

*Aldermen*

1712	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1713	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1714	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1715	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1716	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1717	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1718	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1719	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1720	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1721	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1722	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1723	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1724	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1725	Thomas Holland
	George Johnson
1726	Thomas Bolland
	George Johnson
1727	Thomas Bolland
	George Johnson
1728	Henry Frodsham
	George Johnson
1729	Henry Frodsham
	George Johnson
1730	Henry Frodsham
	George Johnson
1731	Henry Ffrodsham
	George Johnson
1732	Henry Ffrodsham
	George Johnson
1733	Henry Ffrodsham
	George Johnson

*Stewards*

Hugh Wooley
John Dewsbury
Thomas Taylor
Charles Bingley
Thomas Taylor
Charles Bingley
Hugh Smith
John Wilbraham
Hugh Smith
John Wilbraham
Ambrose Whaywell
John Nevitt
Ambrose Whaywell
John Nevitt
Ffrancis Crane
Roger Wilbraham
Joseph Whittle
Richard Moulson
Joseph Whittle
Richard Moulson
Joseph Whittle
Richard Moulson
John Dicas
Randle Dicas
William Frost
Thomas Wilkinson
William Frost
Thomas Wilkinson
Thomas Winnington
Edward Wrench
Thomas Winnington
Edward Wrench
Ed : Lea
John Page
John Brandrit
John Page
John Brandrit
John Page
John Cross
Joseph Cook
John Cross
Joseph Cook
Isaac Powell
Randle Dicas

*Aldermen**Stewards*

1734	Henry Ffrodsham George Johnson	Isaac Powell Randle Dicas
1735	Henry Ffrodsham George Johnson	Charles Gerard Charles Moulson
1736	Henry Ffrodsham George Johnson	Charles Gerard Charles Moulson
1737	Henry Ffrodsham George Johnson	John Williams Edward Walton
1738	Henry Ffrodsham Richard Moulson	John Williams Edward Walton
1739	Henry Ffrodsham Richard Moulson	John Buckley Thomas Midless
1740	Henry Ffrodsham Richard Moulson	John Buckley Thomas Nevett
1741	John Dicas Richard Moulson	John Buckley Thomas Nevett
1742	John Dicas Richard Moulson	Charles Adshead Henry Aspinall
1743	John Dicas Richard Moulson	Charles Adshead Henry Aspinall
1744	John Dicas Richard Moulson	Charles Buckley Charles Dicas
1745	John Dicas Richard Moulson	Charles Buckley Charles Dicas
1746	John Dicas Richard Moulson	George Brown John Nevitt
1747	Henry Coulson Richard Moulson	George Brown Benjamin Powell
1748	Henry Coulson Richard Moulson	Benjamin Powell John Bennion
1749	Henry Coulson Richard Moulson	Benjamin Powell John Bennion
1750	Henry Coulson Richard Moulson	William Bennett Charles Moulson
1751	Henry Coulson Richard Moulson	William Bennett Charles Moulson
1752	Henry Coulson Richard Moulson	Thomas Wilbraham John Martin
1753	Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Thomas Wilbraham John Martin
1754	Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	John Hiccock Henry Aspinall
1755	Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	John Hiccock Henry Aspinall

<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1756 Wm. Dicas Richd. Moulson	Thomas Golborne Charles Dicas
1757 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Thomas Golborne Charles Dicas
1758 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Mr. Probyn Vause Wm. Calkin
1759 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Thos. Spence Joseph Brown
1760 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Thos. Spence Joseph Brown
1761 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Thos. Spence Joseph Brown
1762 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Thomas Jones John Leach
1763 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Richard Barrow John Bennion
1764 Wm. Dicas Richard Moulson	Richard Barrow John Bennion
1765 Wm. Dicas Chas. Moulson	Richard Barrow John Bennion
1766 Wm. Dicas Chas. Moulson	John Wright John Martin
1767 Wm. Dicas Chas. Moulson	John Wright John Martin
1768 Wm. Dicas Chas. Moulson	Robt. Scasebrick John Minshull
1769 Wm. Dicas Chas. Moulson	Robt. Scasebrick John Minshull
1770 Willm. Dicas Chas. Moulson	Thomas Plumbley George Hodson
1771 John Buckley Chas. Moulson	Thos. Kelley Thomas Bennion
1772 John Buckley Chas. Moulson	Thomas Kelley Thomas Bennion
1773 John Buckley Chas. Moulson	Jas. Jordan Francis Gibson
1774 John Buckley Chas. Moulson	James Jordan Francis Gibson
1775 John Buckley Chas. Moulson	Thos. Lumber Joseph Brown
1776 John Buckley Chas. Moulson	Thos. Lumber John Minshull
1777 John Buckley Chas. Moulson	Charles Haswell Thos. Bennion



	<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1778	John Buckley Charles Moulson <sup>23</sup>	Chas. Haswell Thos. Bennion
1779	John Buckley Chas. Dicas	Chas Haswell Thomas Bennion
1780	John Buckley Chas. Dicas	Joseph Leach Iram Gibson
1781	John Buckley Chas. Dicas	James Kent Saml. Witter
1782	John Buckley Chas. Dicas	James Kent Saml Witter
1783	John Buckley Chas Dicas	Thomas Jones John Minshull
1784	John Buckley Chas Dicas	Thomas Jones John Minshull
1785	John Buckley Chas. Dicas	John Roberts Thos. Bennion
1786	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	John Roberts Thos Bennion
1787	Chas Dicas James Jordan	Geo Buckley John Minshull
1788	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	Geo. Buckley John Minshull
1789	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	Thos. Dicas Tho. Bennion
1790	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	Thos. Dicas Thos. Bennion
1791	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	Thos. Dicas Thos. Bennion
1792	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	George Hodson John Buckley
1793	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	George Hodson John Buckley
1794	Chas. Dicas James Jordan	John Brown John Martin
1795	James Jordan Thos. Bennion	John Ruffell Geo. Hodson
1796	James Jordan John Bennion	John Ruffell Geo. Hodson
1797	James Jordan John Bennion	John Ruffell Geo. Hodson

<sup>23</sup> Charles Moulson died, and Thomas Bennion took his place for that year.

<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1798 James Jordan Thos. Bennion	John Nicholas Geo. Hodson
1799 James Jordan Thos. Bennion	John Nichols Geo. Hodson
1800 James Jordan Thos. Bennion	Thos. Lumber James Bennion
1801 James Jordan Thos. Bennion	Chas. Haswell John Minshull
1802 Jas. Jordan Thos. Bennion	Charles Haswell
1803 <sup>24</sup> James Jordan Tho. Bennion	Charles Haswell
1813 <sup>25</sup> James Jordan	John Roberts
1814 James Jordan	Richard Roberts
1815 James Jordan	Richard Roberts
1816 James Jordan	Richard Roberts
1817 <sup>26</sup> James Jordan	Henry Evans
1818 Thomas Horner Thomas Denson	Samuel Wade Josh. Trape
1819 Thomas Horner Thomas Denson	Joseph Trape William Martin
1820 Thomas Horner Thomas Denson	William Martin William Hankey
1821 Thomas Denson Thomas Horner	William Hankey Joseph Butler
1822 Thomas Denson Thomas Horner	William Hankey Joseph Butler
1823 Thomas Denson Thomas Horner	Joseph Butler David Roberts
1824 Thomas Denson Joseph Trape	David Roberts Josiah Garner
1825 Thomas Denson Joseph Trape	Richd. Williams Saml. Wade
1826 Thomas Denson Joseph Trape	Richard Williams Saml. Wade
1827 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Saml. Wade Henry Evans

<sup>24</sup> From 1804 to 1813 no entries are made in the Company's books.

<sup>25</sup> During the five years 1813-1817, the names of only one Alderman and one Steward are given, instead of two as formerly.

<sup>26</sup> In 1817 James Jordan died, and was succeeded, for that year, by John Nicholas.

<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1828 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Henry Evans Saml. Wade
1829 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Henry Evans Saml. Wade
1830 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Henry Evans Saml. Wade
1831 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Saml. Wade David Roberts
1832 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Saml. Wade Willm. Hankey
1833 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Richard Williams Wm. Wade
1834 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Richard Williams Willm. Wade
1835 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	William Wade Henry Evans
1836 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	William Wade Henry Evans
1837 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	William Wade Henry Evans
1838 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Willm. Hankey Richd. Williams
1839 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Richd. Williams William Wade
1840 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Richd. Williams William Wade
1841 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	William Ruffell Mathias Garner
1842 Joseph Trape Josiah Garner	Saml. Wade Robt. Jones
1843 Joseph Trape Saml. Wade	Mathias Garner Robert Jones
1844 Joseph Trape Saml. Wade	Robert Jones Richd. Roberts
1845 Joseph Trape Saml. Wade	Robert Jones Richd. Roberts
1846 Joseph Trape Saml. Wade	Robert Jones Richard Roberts
1847 William Wade Saml. Wade	Robert Jones Richd. Roberts
1848 Saml. Wade William Ruffell	Robert Jones Richd. Roberts
1849 Samuel Wade William Ruffell	Robert Jones Richd. Roberts

<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1850 Samuel Wade William Ruffell	Robert Jones Richd. Roberts
1851 Samuel Wade William Ruffell	Robert Jones Lawrence Lorrenson
1852 William Ruffell Mathias Garner	Robert Jones Richard Roberts
1853 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	Robert Jones Richard Roberts
1854 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	Robert Jones Richard Lumber
1855 Willm. Ruffell Matthias Garner	Robert Jones <sup>27</sup> Richard Roberts
1856 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	Richard Roberts George Cotton
1857 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	Richard Roberts George Cotton
1858 William Ruffell Mathias Garner	Richard Roberts William Ruffell Junr
1859 William Ruffell Mathias Garner	William Ruffell Junr Joseph Bennett
1860 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	William Ruffell Junr Richard Lumbers
1861 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	Richard Lumbers Richard Roberts
1862 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	Richard Lumbers Richard Roberts
1863 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	Richard Roberts William Ruffell Junr
1864 William Ruffell Matthias Garner	William Ruffell Junr Richard Lumbers
1865 Matthias Garner Richard Roberts <sup>28</sup>	Richard Lumbers Thomas Roberts
1866 Matthias Garner Richd. Roberts	Richd. Lumbers Thomas Roberts
1867 Matthias Garner Richd Roberts	Thomas Roberts Robt. Ruffell
1868 Matthias Garner Richd. Roberts	Thomas Roberts John Wade
1869 Matthias Garner Richd. Roberts	John Wade Willm. Ruffell

<sup>27</sup> Robert Jones died, and George Cotton was elected in his place, May 10th, 1855.

<sup>28</sup> Richard Roberts elected in the place of William Ruffell, deceased.

	<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1870	Matthias Garner Richd Roberts	Willm Ruffell Thomas Roberts
1871	Richd. Roberts Thomas Roberts	Robert Ruffell Richard John Roberts
1872	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Robert Ruffell William Ruffell
1873	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	William Ruffell Thomas Roberts
1874	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Thomas Roberts Robert Ruffell
1875	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Robert Ruffell Frank Parry
1876	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Frank Parry Thomas Roberts
1877	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Thomas Roberts William Ruffell
1878	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	William Ruffell Robert Ruffell
1879	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Robert Ruffell Frank Parry
1880	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Frank Parry Thomas Roberts
1881	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	Thomas Roberts Robert Ruffell
1882	Matthias Garner Richard Roberts	William Ruffell Frank Parry
1883	Matthias Garner William Ruffell <sup>29</sup>	Thomas Roberts Frank Parry
1884	Matthias Garner William Ruffell	Thomas Roberts Frank Parry
1885	Matthias Garner William Ruffell	Thomas Roberts Frank Parry
1886	Matthias Garner William Ruffell	Thomas Roberts Frank Parry
1887	Matthias Garner William Ruffell	Thomas Roberts Frank Parry
1888	Matthias Garner William Ruffell	Thomas Roberts Frank Parry
1889	Matthias Garner William Ruffell	Thomas Roberts <sup>30</sup> Frank Parry

<sup>29</sup> William Ruffell elected Alderman in the place of the late Richard Roberts, 4th June, 1883.

<sup>30</sup> Brother Thomas Roberts was elected Alderman, 3rd June, 1889, in the place of the late William Ruffell.

<i>Aldermen</i>	<i>Stewards</i>
1890 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry James Roberts
1891 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry James Roberts
1892 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry James Roberts
1893 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry James Roberts
1894 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry William Ruffell
1895 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry William Ruffell
1896 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry William Ruffell
1897 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry William Ruffell
1898 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry William Ruffell
1899 Matthias Garner Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry William Ruffell
1900 Thomas Roberts	Frank Parry William Ruffell
1901 ———	Frank Parry
1902 Frank Parry	Richard Roberts
1903 Frank Parry	Richard Roberts
1904 Frank Parry	Richard Roberts
1905 Frank Parry	Richard Roberts
1906 Frank Parry	Richard Roberts
1907 Frank Parry <sup>31</sup>	Richard Roberts
1908 ———	Richard Roberts
1909 ———	Richard Roberts
1910 ———	Richard Roberts
1911 ———	Richard Roberts

Richard Roberts is the sole surviving member of the Company.

<sup>31</sup> Frank Parry died 4th October, 1907.

## DECLINE OF THE GILDS

The Trade Gilds were first organized to protect the various trades. All the members of a Company belonged to the same trade. In course of time, persons not of that trade, but who were entitled to join by heritage, became members; with so mixed a body the special trades were no longer protected, hence the commencement of the decline of the City Gilds.

There can be no doubt that, at one time, these Gilds did a vast amount of good. They not only protected their individual trade, but assisted the chief magistrate in keeping the peace of the City—settling among themselves all differences they possibly could. They endeavoured to promote good fellowship between all the members; protected not only the master, but the workmen and apprentices, and did all in their power to enable the latter to become good craftsmen. The men and the masters were in general so joined together in sentiment and good fellow-feeling that they did not, if they could help it, wish to be separated one from the other. There was as great a contrast between the Trade Gilds and the earlier Societies of Gilds as between the former and their successors, the Trades Unions.

If one man had more capital than his brother tradesman, the latter was not taken advantage of; strikes were never heard of; and what peaceful picketing took place was done for the mutual benefit of employer and employed. There is much in the City Gilds' history that might be copied to-day by their successors (the Trades Unions) to the advantage of all alike.

There was a close connection between the civic authorities and the Gilds-men which did much towards the general welfare and peace of the City.

The writer was pleased to see representatives of the City Companies, after a lapse of many years, again accompanying the Mayor to service at the Cathedral, as they did last year, 1910; and he ventures to hope that this is only the beginning of a revival of the interest formerly taken by the Freemen of Chester in the good government of the City. If the old duties of the Freemen have become obsolete, there are still other duties to perform—that of guarding the honour of the old City. As a Freeman, he would say “Let us all remember the oath we took when taking up our freedom, and the City’s motto—

**‘Antiqui colant Antiquum Dierum’;**

which may be freely translated:

*Let the sons of an ancient people  
Remember the history of ancient days.”*

