

## THE FIRST MANTUA MAKERS IN DURHAM.

IN 1705 the company of Drapers and Tailors of the city of Durham had the following "grievances to be redressed."

To put off the Mantu-makers.

To put of the Skinners from making leather britches.

To put off Broakers from selling old cloaths, (except they be freemen or freemen's widows,)<sup>1</sup>

With reference to the first object, there was an attempt made in the following year to put the mantua-makers off. The evidence as to the introduction of "Mantoes" is curious, and the case is interesting in topography; the jurisdiction of Castle Chair, a narrow lane formerly the high road from Framwellgate to Witton Gilbert, having come in question. The Society is indebted to Mr. Trueman for the communication of the Brief for the Relator in the palatine Court of Chancery.

It will be observed that the form of the word is Mantoe. Bailey gives it as "MANTUA, MANTOE, *Manteau*, probably so called from Mantua, a dukedom in Italy—a loose gown worn by women, an upper garment." Johnson has "Mantua [pronounced] mant-ta.—perhaps corrupted from *Manteau*, Fr. A lady's gown. 'Not Cynthia, when her mantua's pinned awry, E'er felt such rage,' &c.—*Pope*. 'How naturally do you apply your hands to each other's lappets, ruffles, and mantuas.'—*Swift*." Halliwell calls "Manto, a gown, properly a garment made of *manto*, a kind of stuff." Cotgrave's *manteau*, a cloak, synonymous with *mantel*, is no doubt the garment,—a loose upper dress encompassing the wearer like the mantle or enclosure of a castle, instead of the close habits previously in use.

As time rolled on, the expression Mantua-maker changed, or rather enlarged, its meaning. A few years ago a Mantua-maker was the name of an artizan who had no shop, but went out and made various dresses at the wearers' houses; whereas the keeper of a shop was Johnson's

<sup>1</sup> Surtees, iv. ii., 22.

“Milliner, (I believe from Milaner, an inhabitant of Milan, as a Lombard is a banker) one who sells ribands and dresses for women. ‘He was perfumed like a milliner.’—*Shakspeare, Hen. IV.*” In the march of affectation, our “dressmakers” scout their old appellation, but the milliners are much in statu quo.

IN THE CHANCERY OF DURHAM. Sitting, 27 March, 1706. HENRY LAMBTON, Esq., Attorney General to the Rt. Honble. Nathaniel Lord Crew, Lord Bpp. of Durham, of the relation of Anthony Hall, Esqr., [and] John Brice, Wardens, [and] Martin Wilkinson, Henry Anderson, Bryan Foster, and Richard Johnson, Searchers of the art, craft, and mystery of Drapers and Taylors within the City of Durham and Burrow of Framwelgate and the suburbs thereof, *Relators*; against CHRISTOPHER WARD, THOMAS NICHOLSON, NICHOLAS JOHNSON, and ELIZABETH BROWNE, *Defendants*.

INFORMACION. (1.) Within the said city, burrow, and suburbs, there hath been beyond the memory of man, an antient corporacion, company, and fraternity of Drapers and Taylors. (2.) The corporacion used severall antient franchises and privileges, as well by severall grants from the Bishoppes as by antient usage, custome, and prescription, time out of mind: that no forreigner, not being free of the company, should exercise the trades within the city, burrow, or suburbs (3.) The members have, time out of mind, yearly, within ten days of Corpus Christi day, mett and chosen six of the most discreet men of their crafts to be their Wardens and Searchers, who, by the consent of the rest of the members, have made bylaws to exclude forreigners from exercising the trades within the city, &c. under reasonable penalties. (4.) Severall antient By Laws made by the company were confirmed by Cuthbert [Tunstall] late Bpp. of Durham, where it was ordeined that no man which hath not served his apprenticeship or been a freeman’s son of the said trades within the city, &c., should sett up to worke or occupy the crafts untill he should be admitted for an able workeman, and thought to be able to work at his owne hand by the Wardens and Searchers, and untill he should pay to the Bishopp 20s., and to the Wardens and Searchers 3*l.* 6s. 8*d.*, upon paine of forfeiture to the Bpp. 5*l.*, and the Wardens and Searchers 5*l.* (5.) The By Laws have been constantly observed, or if any forreigner did at any time exercise the trades contrary to the same, the Wardens and Searchers have either compelled them to pay the forfeitures or submitt themselves to the Wardens by entering into bonds not to exercise the trades. (6.) The By Laws have been established by decrees of this court. (7.) Defendants, foreigners, combine to infringe the libertys of the cityzens. (8.) Ward, about eight months agoe, came to reside at Castle Chaire in the Burrow of Framwelgate, where he hath publickly sold Broad Cloaths and other cloaths. (9.) The other Defendants for twelve months by past publickly have exercised the trades of a taylor, and not onely threaten to continue but will introduce others into the city, &c., and set up several other trades and draw away the greatest part of the

trade, whereby hundreds of poor families are maintained, pretending they are not subject to the By Lawes, though they have had frequent notice thereof, and have been desired to desist.

Prayer. That the defendants may set forth, &c. That they may be restrained, &c. Prays subpoena, &c.

ANSWER. [Know not the facts in (1) to (6) of the Informacion.] Are natives and naturall subjects of this kingdome, and noe aliens or foreigners. Ward, about 9 months agoe, did come to and reside at an outhouse adjoining to Castle Chaire, leading from the towne of Durham to the towne of Witton Gilbert, where he hath used the trade of a woollen draper, and there sold broad cloaths, as he hopes was lawfull, he having served as an apprentice to a freeman of the trade for 7 yeares at Darlington before he came. Denyes that the outhouse is within the city of Durham suburbs or burrow of Framwelgate, or that he hath used the trade at Castle Chaire, which he believes is a lane which is a common highway leading from Durham to Witton Gilbert. Hath been informed that the outhouse stands in the country apart from the city, &c., and that divers persons, which were noe freemen of the city and burrow, have used trades, and particularly that of a taylor, at the outhouse, as being without the limitts of the city, &c., without restraint. The other three defendants deny that they have exercised the trades of a taylor, or threaten soe to doe, or to introduce forreigners or sett up other trades. All say they are not free of the Drapers' and Taylors' Company within the city and burrow: Ward and Brown, that neither of them are free of any trade within the city: Nicholson, that he is free of the Joyners and Carpenters within the city: Johnson, that he is son of a freeman of the Company of Weavers, but not admitted. All deny notice of the By Laws, and deny combinacion.

RELATORS' PROOFES. (1.) See the charter, anno 19 translacionis Cuthberti Epi. Dunelm., which was in the yeare of our Lord 1549, wherein the By Laws of the Drapers and Taylors are confirmed, and particularly, &c. (2.) To prove above 30 yeares since John Moor lived at Castle Chair. The same was reputed part of the suburbs of the city and burrow. Moor was a taylor, and wrought there, but noe freeman. Was disturbed by the Company. Gave a bond to the trade not to worke there any more. Castle Chair, time beyond all memory, hath been part of the suburbs. The inhabitants of Castle Chaire, and the lands and grounds thereto belonging, have paid all taxes and sesses with the burrow of Framwelgate, as part thereof. The lands adjoining and thereto belonging are all intercommon, and at the usuall time of the yeare are all laid open and eaten by the cattle of the freemen of the city and burrow, among other the intercommons belonging to the city and burrow and the suburbs. Ward lives at Castle Chair. *Tho. Wills, Isaac Rutter, Tho. Johnson, Mr. Rob. Parkinson, Wm. Sharpe, Tho. Thirkeld.* (3.) About 50 yeares since, one Maurice was disturbed for exercising the trade of a taylor (not being a freeman) at Dryburne, some distance from the burrow of Framwelgate, but part of the same constabulary. *Mary Maurice*, not very material. (4.) The Drapers and Taylors yearly, on Corpus Christi day, choose 2 wardens and 4 searchers. Relators

were duely chosen and elected on Corpus Christi day, being the 7th of June last. *Mr. Jo. Airson, Mr. Tho. Forster.* (5.) Two bonds, one from Moor, and another from one Smith, not to exercise the trades. *Mr. Rob. Parkinson.* (6.) Ward's selling. *Mr. Chr. Burrell.* (7.) Nicholas Johnson's wife's making of manto's and pettycoates, and taking money for the same. *Adelin French, Nic. Sparke, Eliz. Welsh.* (8.) Brown's making of manto's and pettycoates, and taking money for the same, and employing journeywomen. *Eliz. Lee, Mrs. Ann Middleton, Mrs. Ann Machon, Mrs. Eliz. Baker.* (9.) The like against Thomas Nicholson's wife. *Nich. Sparke, Magdalin Snaudon, Eliz. Welsh.* (10.) See severall bonds by forreigners not to exercise the trade of a draper or taylor within the city or suburbs or libertyes of the same, except it be with a freeman of the society, from 1614 till 1679.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE RELATORS' PROOFS TOUCHING CASTLE CHAIR.—*Thomas Wills* speaks for 75 years. The Castle Chair was reputed, reported, and taken to be part of the suburbs of the city and burrow. Has lived in the burrow for 80 years, and served in all offices. *Isaac Rutter*, for 20 years. Has lived there all that time, and served in all offices. Believes, for time beyond all memory, the burrow of Framwelgate, whereof Castle Chair is part, hath been reputed part of the suburbs of the city. *Thomas Johnson*, for 65 years. Castle Chair always paid their taxes with the burrow of Framwelgate, and it was alwaies reputed part of the suburbs of the city. *Robert Parkinson*, aged 50. All the time of his remembrance Castle Chair hath been deemed part of the suburbs of the city. *Wm. Sharpe*, for 55 years. Castle Chair is part of the burrow of Framwelgate. *Tho. Thirkeld*, for 40 years and upwards. Castle Chair hath been esteemed as part of the burrow of Framwelgate, or part of the suburbs of the city. Remembers when there was noe houses at Castle Chair, he lived there,<sup>2</sup> and wrought of the taylors' trade, but was forced to remove by reason the freemen of the city would not lett him worke there.

DEFENDANTS' PROOFS. (1.) Ward was bound an apprentice by indentures to Robert Ward of Darlington, and served him 7 yeares. *Wm. Bell.* (2.) Mantoes is a forreigne invencion, and brought from beyond sea, and not used in England till about the year 167—. This deponent Wood lived with one Hope, Clerke of the Spicery to King Charles the Second. Remembers the Dutchess of Mazarene, who came from beyond sea that yeare, and brought the garb of Mantoes with her. Her mistress had her first Mantoe made by a Frenchman. Believes they are usually made both by taylors and women, but the women exceed the taylors. The taylors doe usually exercise the said trade, and instruct their apprentices therein. *Isabel Wood*, mother of the defendant Browne. (3.) The taylors, or the major part of them, doe not understand the art of Mantoe-making soe well as women. Had one or two spoiled by a man taylor in Durham, who was a man employed in that worke. Was forced to apply to defendant Browne, but the same was soe spoiled that she could not help them. Believes that the women tay-

<sup>1</sup> In Framwelgate, or in a hut in Castle Chair :

lors are greatest artists at women's work then men taylors. *Mary Mitford*. *Margt. Hall* much to the same purpose. (4.) Cannot set out the bounds of the burrow of Framwelgate, nor ever could be informed how far they extend. Has served as a juryman at the Mayor's court for the city and burrow, and enquired, with his fellows, after such nuisances as were in and about the same, but never made any enquiry about Castle Chair, where Ward now or lately lived, which induced him to beleive the Castle Chair to be no part of the said burrow. Does not remember or beleives the same paid any suit or service to the Mayor's court. *Tho. Johnson*. (In his deposicion on the other side, says Castle Chair was always reputed part of the suburbs of the city of Durham.) *Tho. Wills* speaks to the same purpose, but says that he always lookt upon Castle Chair to be part of the said burrow. (5.) Castle Chair is a lane leading from Framwelgate to Witton Gilbert. The houses are inclosed with the lands adjoining upon Castle Chair, and no part of the lane or street. The houses are 12 score yards from Framwelgate. The houses inhabited by Ward, belonging to Mr. Mascall, in the chappelry of St. Margaret's, and the house lately farmed by the defendant of Mrs. Bell, are outhouses and stands within the enclosed grounds of Mascall and Bell, and no part of the lane or street of Castle Chair that he knows of. *Idm. Test.*, *Tho. Wills*, *Cuth. Hutchinson*. (6.) Knows the boundary of Framwelgate constabulary. Hath collected sesses of the out hamletts of Newton, Dryburne, and severall other places, and from the houses adjoining upon Castle Chair, but whether they be within the said burrow he cannot say. *Idm. Test.*, *Tho. Wills*. (7.) The houses about Castle Chair have been inhabited during his time with taylors, one dyer, smiths, weavers, and other trades, without any interruption that he heard of, though none of them freemen. *Idm. Test.*, *Tho. Wills*, excepting John Moor, which agrees with his deposicion on the relators' part. (8.) Knows not that any of the inhabitants of the houses belonging to Mr. Mascall and Mr. Bell, and other outhouses and hamletts within the constabulary of Framwelgate, did ever appeare were summoned otherwise than by proclamation, to appeare at the Mayor's Court or were amerced for not appearing. Knows not that any of the said houses were admitted or obliged to be admitted at the Mayor's Court. The Burrowholders of Framwelgate are. *Wm. Middleton* (speaks onely for 8 years), *Cuthbert Hutchinson*. (Neither does Gillygate, Elvett, or the Bayleys appeare to the Mayor's Court, though all within the suburbs of the said city.) (9.) Knows Framwelgate Castle Chair, but not the limits of the burrow, nor whether Castle Chair be part, but looks upon it to be part of the burrow, for they have paid their sesses together, and serveing in offices. Moor, who lived at Castle Chair when deponent was Mayor about 26 yeares agoe, served as one of his constables for that yeare, *Cuth. Hutchinson*, alderman. (10.) Castle Chair has been inhabited with tradesmen not free of the city or burrow, but lookt upon them to stay there some small time purely by the neglect of the severall officers, not that they had any priviledge to exercise their trades there. *Idm.*

DECREES IN THIS COURT RELATIVE TO TRADES.<sup>3</sup> Note Liber G. fo. 106. 16 Dec., 1611. *The Wardens of the Fellowship of Haberdashers, Mercers, and Grocers of the City of Durham*, against *Fisher*. For exercising the trade of a grocer in Elvett, not being admitted a freeman, though he had served his time and was the son of a freeman. Decreed he shall not use the trade after Shrovetide, except he compound with the Wardens and be by them admitted a freeman.

Liber L. fo. 391. *The Attorney Generall*, of the relation of *John Hall and others, Drapers and Taylors*, against *John White*. For exercising the trade of a taylor in Hall Garth in Elvett, the relators averring Hall Garth in parcell of the street called Elvet, which is part of the suburbs of the city. Some contrariety of proofes. Issue at law directed, whether or noe the precinct of the freedome of the corporation of Drapers and Taylors of the city do extend unto Hall Garth. In the mean time the defendant to be restrained from exercising, [&c.] but never tried.

Liber H. fo. 519. *The Wardens and Searchers of the said Company agt. Blunt*. For exercising the trade of a taylor within the city, not having served as an apprentice. Answered that he was the son of a freeman of the city (but does not say of what trade): that he wrought as a journey man with divers freemen of the trade; that in that time he made two doublets and two pair of breeches, not intending to have offended the Company and was sorry for the same, and afterwards bound himselfe an apprentice to the same trade and served 7 years, and prayed the court would pardon his ignorance of the orders of the trade. The Court considering that defendant took noe money for his work, and had served 7 yeares to a freeman, yet though the offence was ignorantly done, it was against the orders of the company, Decreed to pay 20s. and his indenture to be inrolled by the Company.

<sup>3</sup> *In dorso*. Carter, 114, Mayor and Commonalty contra Goodwin. 4 Mod. 373. Hobs qui tam contra Young.