

THE ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF NEW- CASTLE TO THE COMPANY OF MASONS.

THERE was an indictment at Newcastle-upon-Tyne against John Meggee, a mason, for perjury committed on 17 Nov. 2 Jac. II., by deposing before Nicholas Cole, Esq., the Mayor. The deposition complained of is illustrative of the power of the Mayor and Aldermen over the Trade Companies. It was—

“That there being an order from the Right Worshipfull the Mayor and six Aldermen of this town to the Stewards and Company of Masons, that John Simpson, late servant to John Godfrey, mason, should be permitted to serve the remainder of his terme with Margarett Godfrey, widow of the said John, and that any of the Company might be admitted to work with him, which order was signed by Mr. Mayor and the Aldermen, and was presented to the Stewards and Company at their meeting last Saturday; but the said Stewards, and also J. H., &c., brothers of the Company, did obstinately refuse to obey the said order, and made an order in the Company to thwart and contradict that signed by Mr. Mayor and the Aldermen, and did discharge the brethern of the Company from working with the said apprentice.”¹

The Stewards and brethren absolutely denied the opposition alleged.

¹ From a copy of the indictment in Mr. Trueman's possession.