

XVI.—THE PLATE AND INSIGNIA OF THE CORPORATION  
OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

BY THE REV. J. R. BOYLE.

[Read on the 26th January, 1887.]

THE insignia of the Corporation of Newcastle consist of a great mace, five serjeant's maces, two swords, the mayor's chain, and a cap of maintenance. The two latter are modern, and require no special mention.

The great mace is of silver gilt, is 4 feet 11 inches in length, and is formed of eleven pieces. These are all fixed upon an oak shaft. None of these pieces bears any assay or date mark, but the maker's stamp—the letters F. G. within a shield—occurs once, sometimes twice, on every piece. This is the mark of Francis Garthorne, a silversmith of Smithin's Lane, London, by whom the great mace was made. The knob at the foot bears the following inscription:—

MADE FOR THE CORPORATION OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE ANNO REGNI  
JACOBI SECUNDI TERTIO ANNOQUE DOMINI 1687 NICHOLAS COLE. ESQ: MAYOR  
THOMAS PACE. ESQ: SHERIFF

On opposite sides of the same knob are the arms of Newcastle, and those of COLE which are: *Argent, a fesse engrailed sable; between three scorpions, reversed, of the second.*

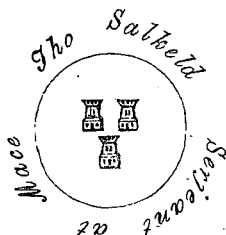
The shaft is divided by three knobs, and is engraved with a spiral pattern of roses and thistles. The bowl is divided into four compartments, separated from each other by demi-figures and foliage. The first compartment contains a rose, the second a thistle, the third a *fleur-de-lis*, and the fourth a harp. Each of these national emblems is surmounted by an eight arched crown, and flanked by the letters *J. R.* (Jacobus Rex.) On the bowl rests an open arched crown, surmounted by orb and cross. On the plate beneath this cross the Royal arms are engraved: quarterly; first and fourth, France and England quarterly; second, Scotland; third, Ireland; with the motto "Honi soit qui mal y pense" upon the garter, and "Dieu et mon

droit" beneath, and above all the initials I. R. The great mace of Newcastle is, I believe, the largest post-Restoration and pre-Revolution mace in the kingdom. Indeed, the only larger mace of which I know anything is that of Winchester, which belongs to the reign of George I., and which is 5 feet 3 inches in length.

The five serjeant's maces are of one pattern and date. They differ slightly in length, the shortest measuring 16 and longest 17 inches. None of them bears any assay, date, or maker's mark; but the character of the workmanship leaves no doubt in my mind that they are of about, if not of, the same date as the great mace. The bowl of each is divided into four compartments, which bear the same national devices as the great mace. Like it, they are surmounted by open arched crowns, beneath which a plate bears the same Royal arms, with garter and motto, but without initials. At various times the initials, and in two instances the names, of some of the gentlemen who carried them have been engraved on the bottom of their knobs. The inscriptions are as follows:—

- |                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. R D<br>G R                       | 2. W T<br>T P |
| 3. J. Stodart<br>23 May 1795<br>R S | 4. J J        |

5.



Richard II. by letters patent, dated 25th January, 1491, granted to the mayors of Newcastle the privilege of having a sword carried before them. The grant reads as follows (translation): "Richard by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland to all to whom the present letters shall come, Greeting. Be it known that

we considering the honour of the town of New Castle upon Tyne of our special grace grant to our beloved William Bishopdale now mayor of the same town as long as he shall be mayor, and to all others who in time to come shall be mayors of the aforesaid town, that they may have one sword carried before them. The which sword we truly grant for the aforesaid reason. Witnessed by myself at Westminster the 25th day of January, in the 14th year of our reign."

Both swords have mountings of silver gilt. The older one, which is 2 feet 2½ inches in length, bears the Royal arms and the arms of Newcastle on the mountings of its sheath. The hilt is very beautifully chased. The silver bears neither assay, date, nor maker's mark, but is probably of about the same period as the great mace. The newer sword measures 4 feet 8 inches in length, and bears the arms of Newcastle on its hilt. On one of the mountings of the sheath there is an almost obliterated inscription, giving the maker's name as follows :—

J. BLAND  
S. Smith.

This sword was, doubtless, made by James Bland, who carried on a business in Bunhill Row, London, and who became a member of the London Goldsmiths' Company on the 16th September, 1791.

The plate now owned by the Corporation consists of a dish, an ewer, a salver, a loving cup, the mayor's snuff-box, the sheriff's snuff-box, and a snuff-box presented by Lord Edward Collingwood.

The dish and ewer were presented to the Corporation in 1681. The dish bears the following inscription :—

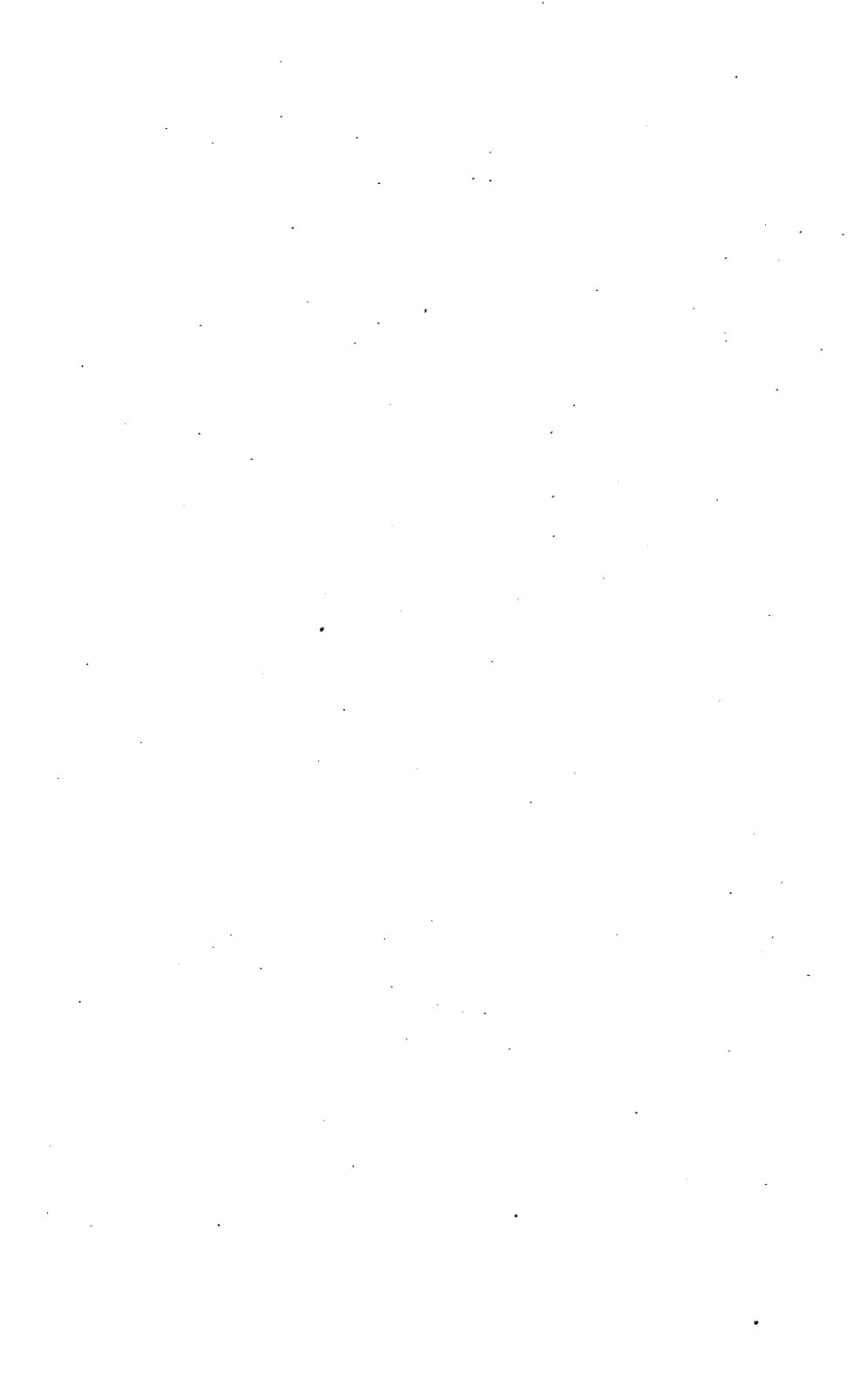
*This Basin & Ewer was by Sr. Gilbert Gerrard Bart. & his Two Sons Gilbert & Samuel Gerrard's Esquires Grandchildren to the Revd. Father in God Dr. John Cosin's late Bishop of Durham, presented to y<sup>e</sup> Right worshipful Sr. Nathanael Johnson, & the court of Aldermen of y<sup>e</sup> ancient towne of Newcastle, and is designed for the use of the Major that anually Governs accordingly to bee deliver'd by the present Major to y<sup>e</sup> court of Aldermen & by them to the next Major that shall bee chosen & soe succesively for ever*  
June 8. 1681.

This dish bears four silver marks :—(1) The maker's mark, obliterated; (2) Leopard's head crowned; (3) Lion passant; (4) London date



SILVER-GILT LOVING CUP,

*The property of the Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*



letter (h) for the year 1679-80. It bears upon the edge three coats of arms, all without supporters, crests, or legends. The coats are those of:—

- 1.—Newcastle.
- 2.—GERRARD: *Quarterly: first and fourth, argent, a saltire gules; second and third, argent, a lion rampant ermine crowned or.*
- 3.—JOHNSON: *Per pale sable and azure, a saltire argent charged with five cocks of the first, between three towers flaming, and two spears saltireways in base or.*

The dish is 1 foot 10 inches in diameter, and is of extremely plain design.

The ewer, which is equally plain, bears the following inscription:—

*This Ewer with a Basin was presented by Sr. Gilbert Gerrard Bart & his two Sons Gilbert & Samuel Gerrard's Esquires to the use of the Annual Major of the ancient Towne of Newcastle for ever*

*June 8. 1681.*

This piece also bears four silver marks. (1) The maker's mark (RC), for Robert Cooper, a silversmith in the Strand; (2) Lion passant; (3) Leopard's head crowned; (4) London date letter (h) for 1679-80. Beneath its inscription the ewer bears the same arms as the dish.

In order of date the next piece is the large silver gilt loving-cup. It bears three silver marks—(1) Lion passant; (2) Leopard's head crowned; (3) London date letter (Q) for the year 1731-2. On its sides it bears the arms of Newcastle twice, with supporters, crest, and motto, but with two curious blunders in the latter—

FORTITER DETENDIT TRIUMPHAN.

The handles are formed of two charmingly wrought nude female figures, and the cover is surmounted by a figure of an intoxicated infant Bacchus, from whose hand a tankard, a drinking cup, and several broken wine bottles and glasses, have fallen. No Corporation in the kingdom possesses a more elegant piece of plate than this. Its exquisite design and workmanship leave no doubt in my mind that it is one of the productions of the famed silversmith—Paul Lamerie. This is the cup in which, Brand says, "it was usual to present mulled wine to the new mayor, at his first entrance into the mansion house." He adds that the cup is said to have been given to the Corporation for this purpose.

The last piece of plate I propose to notice is the large salver,

measuring 1 foot  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 1 foot  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, with edges of fret work. It bears three silver marks—(1) London date letter (**D**) for 1759-60; (2) Lion passant; (3) Leopard's head crowned. It bears the following inscription:—

*The first Royal Purse  
of One Hundred Guineas  
run for at  
Newcastle upon Tyne,  
was won 25 June 1753;  
by a Bay Horse, called CATO,  
belonging to George Bowes, Esq. who  
generously presented it to ye Corporation  
to purchase a Piece of Plate in remembrance of  
HIS MAJESTY'S  
Grace & Favor.*

I take it that Mr. Bowes gave the purse of gold, and not the horse. The gift resulted in the purchase of the salver and an epergne. The latter was sold in 1837. It is singular that, although Mr. Bowes gave the hundred guineas in 1753, the salver was not made till 1759. Besides the inscription, the salver bears three coats of arms:—

- 1.—The Royal arms, with supporters, crest, garter, and mottoes.
- 2.—The arms of Newcastle, with supporters, crest, and motto.
- 3.—The arms of BOWES. *Ermine, three bows strung in pale gules*, quartering the ensigns of Trayne, De la Hay, Dawden, Conyers of Boulby, Fitz Hugh, Grey, Conyers of South Cowton, and Aske. MOTTO: Sans variance et mon droit.