

XV.—ON A MINUTE-BOOK AND PAPERS FORMERLY
BELONGING TO THE MERCERS' COMPANY
OF THE CITY OF DURHAM.

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I.

Among his notices of the various craft-gilds or companies of the city of Durham, Surtees has given a short account of the foundation and constitution of the company of mercers, grocers, haberdashers, ironmongers and salters, to which a charter was granted by bishop Pilkington on 6 Oct., 1561.¹ The company, including a wide variety of trades, was probably formed by the amalgamation of several associations hitherto independent of each other, which in process of time had found their numbers and finances dwindle. A similar coalition had taken effect between the goldsmiths, plumbers, pewterers, potters, glasiers and painters of Durham in 1532; and at Gateshead and in many other towns throughout the country, we may notice the progress of a movement towards the union of crafts, often of a very diverse nature, whose members were not numerous enough to maintain a separate existence. At the same time, it is also probable that some of the trades thus combined had never been sufficiently important, at any rate in the smaller towns, to have associations of their own; and that the miscellaneous description of these united companies was intended to bring individual craftsmen who hitherto had belonged to no gild under the dominion of the gild system.²

¹ Surtees, *Hist. Durham* iv (ii), 22, 23.

² For a discussion of this subject see Ashley, *Economic History* i (ii), 161-165.

The popular tradition that medieval craft-gilds were destroyed by the proceedings which followed the Chantries act of 1547 is so widely spread that it is necessary to emphasize the fact that that measure affected only such of their endowments as were devoted to specifically religious purposes. The Durham mercers of 1561, considered as a society of craftsmen and traders exercising control over the conduct of their trades, differed in no respect from any earlier gild. The word 'company,' which is sometimes interpreted as connoting a distinction from 'gild,' had been in use before the Reformation; and, while 'gild' had been adopted freely by associations of a purely religious character, unconnected with any special craft, the craft-gilds had long described themselves by a number of synonyms which laid stress upon the industrial side of their activity. All these words find a place in the records of the Durham mercers throughout their existence: they formed an art, a science, a trade, a mystery, an occupation, a company. If the term 'gild' is practically dropped, they are still a 'fraternity.' These were all time-honoured terms, for which precedents may have been found long before. Again, if, in 1561, a company was no longer able to devote part of its revenues to the maintenance of masses and lights before altars, the religious aspect of its duties, which had played a prominent part in the origin of craft-gilds, was not wholly forgotten. The Durham mercers were specially connected with the parish church of St. Nicholas, where they attended their annual sermon on their head-day in November, and maintained their pews, which, as the yearly accounts show, were carefully kept in repair. As their control over trade declined under the pressure of new economic forces, the aspect of their work as a friendly society, which is closely allied with the religious principle of the gild, became more prominent; and it may be said of this, as of other companies, that the duty of mutual assistance in which, under the auspices

of the medieval church, the gilds began, became in its later days the chief reason for its existence.

The mercers, from the beginning, took an important place among the Durham crafts, and among the wardens and other members of the company are to be found many of the mayors and aldermen of the city. At first, membership was apparently confined to actual practitioners of the trades and crafts included, who had served their apprenticeship to a brother of the craft, and had thus qualified for freedom. The normal term of apprenticeship, which began at the age of sixteen, was seven years, after which the apprentice worked for a year as a 'hireman'; but the final year was occasionally remitted. The famous statute of 5 Elizabeth, which was enacted within two years of the grant of the company's charter, regulated the admission of apprentices, and prescribed that no apprentice should be taken whose father or mother had not a freehold of at least forty shillings a year, a minimum which at a later date was raised to three pounds. The apprentice who had served his time was admitted to the freedom of the craft on the payment of two shillings; but a son of a freeman paid only sixteenpence. With the fall in the value of money, admission fees were raised, and, in the later part of the seventeenth century, the normal fee was twelve shillings.

In the seventeenth century, however, the distinctive character of the craft was beginning to disappear. The admission of outsiders to membership became general, and the noblemen and gentlemen of the neighbourhood joined the company in considerable force. Their fees, at first two pounds, and afterwards three guineas per head, were a valuable addition to the finances of the association. The accounts show that generally the outgoing warden was able to hand on a respectable balance to his successor, although now and then the company was out of pocket, owing to unsuccessful litigation. The proceedings at meetings seem to have

been of a peaceful and dignified character, as may be inferred by the small part played in the accounts by those fines for the infraction of rules which were an important asset to many small companies. The receipts, though never very large, were swelled by admission fees and charges for the use of the company's pall at funerals; while the disbursements were inconsiderable. After the middle of the eighteenth century, although admissions were frequent, there are signs of a gradual decline, and it is evident, from the call-sheets of the early part of the nineteenth century, that even the head-meetings were sparsely attended, while the attendance at the quarterly meetings was so small that there must have been great difficulty in forming a quorum.

The papers, late in the possession of General Surtees, and formerly belonging to the company, are of a miscellaneous kind, and may be classified as follows: (1) A fragment of a minute-book, covering the period from November, 1590, to November, 1604. The leaves are numbered from 41 to 60. It is probable that this was the first minute-book of the company. (2) A large number of yearly balance-sheets. The earliest is for the year 1631-2. Then follow those for 1654-5 and 1662-1667. The series continues, with occasional breaks of a year or two, to 1749-50. (3) A series of admission certificates, extending over the period 1702-1762. Among them are several without a date; but these are for the most part in the handwriting of Samuel Clarke, a penman of great accomplishment, who was clerk to the company in 1702, and appears to have retired in 1726. The dates of some of these can be recovered by the entrance of admission fees in the account-sheets. (4) Certificates of justices of the peace, testifying to the sufficient freehold of parents of apprentices. (5) Bonds between the company and traders who have presumed to set up shop without obtaining the company's freedom. (6) A few receipts of the tax upon the company's plate and certificates of government

stock. (7) Two call-sheets for the years 1822-1825 and 1834-1835. (8) Miscellaneous letters and accounts, chiefly of the end of the sixteenth century.

To print all this material in full would be profitless. Much of it is trivial, and has lost its significance to-day ; and there is little which needs more than an adequate summary. In dealing with it, therefore, points of interest which emerge from the minute-book, accounts, and miscellaneous papers of the company, and have a definite bearing upon its history and customs, will be taken in chronological order ; and a series of appendices will contain lists of wardens and of members admitted, so far as they can be recovered from the papers, with summaries of the apprentice documents and of the bonds mentioned above.

II.

The minute-book begins with the re-election of Nicholas Browne as alderman or 'gardner' of the company on 27 Nov., 1590. He presented his account for the previous year at a meeting a week later. Against receipts of 4*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* he set expenses amounting to 33*s.* 3*d.* incurred by five members of the company 'for charges in the lawe for disobedyence of our Corporacione.' Neither minutes nor accounts at this date were kept very systematically. Apparently the company was small, and its activity was largely occupied in prosecuting traders outside its ranks. Thus in 1591 occurs the note :

These ar found false with for sellinge wares beinge not free. Thomas Cooke, Cutbert Dobson, Crosses wife, William nixsons, etc.

Two members, Thomas Pearson and William Wallas, were fined in Feb., 1591-2 for absence from meetings : each was amerced at two shillings, divided equally between the bishop and the 'occupation.' The admissions of brethren and enrollments of apprentices, which form the most important part of the minutes

are recorded at the end of this article. Apart from these, the items of interest are somewhat scanty ; but the following entry may be noted.

1593. 7 Dec. Imp : paid forth for wyne at our dinner xxxiijs. .xd.
 Item giuen to the waits for ther Coats .. ijs.
 Item paid for mr. Dobson and his wifes dynner xviiij*d*.
 Some is xxxvijs. iiiij*d*.

The case of Thomas Cooke, who had been among the traders noted as outside the company in 1591, led to a protracted dispute, the incidents in which may be understood from the series of documents which follows. It is probable that Cooke had been the subject of the litigation already noted in 1589-90. Owing to an irregularity in his admission as an apprentice, Cooke, at the end of his time, was rejected by the company, and was sued by some of the members before bishop Hutton. The subsequent proceedings appear from the following petition, on a separate sheet, endorsed 'The pitition of Thomas Cooke.' There is no date ; but it is clear that the original suit must have been brought in the bishop's court after July, 1589, when Hutton was consecrated bishop, and that the admission of Cooke to the freedom of the city in the borough court took place before the end of Edward Hudspeth's last term as alderman in the same year.

To the Right Honourable and Reuerende father in God Mathiewe Bishoppe of Durham.

Moste humblie sheweth vnto your honoure your poore suppliante Thomas Cook that whereas about foure yeares since one Nicholas Browne of the Citie of Durham mercer to whome your Suppliante had served by the space of vij yeares as an apprentice, was called before your Honoure at the suite of one William Wrighte mercer and others, onely for that the said Nicholas had taken your Suppliante apprentice, his father not having xls. freehoulde ; At what tyme your Honoure hearing the matter, vpon godly consideration, it pleased your [*sic*] to delyver your mynde to Mr. Hudspethe then Alderman of the said Citie being presente to Anthony Hall with others, that your Suppliante shoulde be admitted to his fran-

chise to sett vppe and occupie as a free man in the said Citie, Wherevpon the said Mr. Hudspethe sitting in the boroughe Courte some dayes after as your Honoure had commaunded admitted so farre as to him apperteined your Suppliante, and receaued the mooney due to your Honoure at the freeing of an Apprentice, and enroled a note of the same as custome is in sutche cases to the nexte Alderman. So it is, Righte Honourable that your Suppliante sundrie tymes since requiring to be admitted in the company of mercers and tendring to doo as further is required in that behalfe is nowe resisted, and his further admittance denied by certaine of the yongeste mercers, whose names your Suppliante is redy to shewe vnto your Honoure, without any iuste cause alleged saue onely as before that his father was not possessed of xls. freehoulde notwithstanding sundrie others whose parentes were of no better condition. serving apprentices in that towne haue bene lately admitted and freed into that company; May it therefore please your Honoure in the way of pitie, for as mutche as this tendethe to the vtter vndooing of your Suppliante, onlesse your Honoures godly helpe be affourded vnto him to graunte him your Honoures letter to the Alderman of that Occupation and the Companie of Mercers for his further admittance according to your Honoures former direction, who in sutche case as chiefe lorde of the franchise may directe, or els to call the parties to be nominated before your Honoure to shewe cause of their sutche denyal if they haue any, And your Suppliante shall alwayes in bounden duety pray for your Honours long and prosperouse estate

your Honoures humble Suppliante

Thomas Cooke

At the foot of the petition are written these words, in the bishop's own hand.

Mr. Alderman I pray you see that this poore man hath right. Matth. Dunelm.

An entry in the minute-book clearly refers to this request from the bishop, and shows that the petition was drawn up and presented in July, 1594. It will be seen that, in spite of the bishop's express wish, the majority was obdurate, and that only three, including Cooke's old master, Nicholas Browne, voted for his admission to the freedom of the company.

1594. 12 July. Md. that this meting was especiallie for Thomas Cook his agrement by the directione of a letter frome my lord of Durhame this twelft day of Julie, Anno Regni Elizabethe Regine, etc. nunc, Tricesimo sexto.

These ar the names of all the brethrene of the Companye of mercers of this Cittie of Durhame which was present at this meting as followethe.

William Litlephar [cancelled]	Thomas Swenye, confitetur
Matthew Horner, negat	Thomas Anderson, negat
John Gaskyne, confitetur.	

Richard Billingham, vt exten : quia non secundum statutum.

Robert Surtice, vt extenmus (*sic*) quia non secundum statutum fecit.

John Farbeck, negat	Robert [cancelled]
Thomas Pearson, negat	John Pattinson, negat
Nicholas Browne, confitetur	Richard Wright, negat
John Litlephar	Heugh Wright, negat
John Heighington, negat	Georg Farbeck, negat
William Wall, negat	Robert Hurst, negat
William Harper, negat	Christofer Surteis, negat

This is followed by the minute of a decision which brought the matter one step further.

1594. 7 Sept. Memorandum that it is condiscended and agreed upon the day and yeare aboue written by John Pattinson, Alderman alias warden of the Companie of mercers of the Cittie of Durhame, and by the consents and assents of the most part of the brethrene of the traid of mercers within the fore said Cittie of Durhame whose names ar heare vnderwritten That wheareas on Thomas Cook haith opened and sett up shop and traid of mercerie within the foresaid Cittie of Durham without seruing, as an apprentice of the same Traid, by the space of seven yeares ; according to the statutes of this realme in that caise provided, And without any agrement or Consent of the foresaid Company or mercers or the Bushop of Durham ; But in Contempt of the whole and most part of the foresaid Company of mercers And Contrarie to all orders, maid by the said Company withoute memorie of man haith donne the same, For Redress wherof [in] dew course of law the said alderman alias warden and others of the saide Company whose names are heare vnder written shall cause the said Thomas Cook to sew them the foresaid company or els the foresaid Alderman

and Company to sew the foresaide Thomas Cook And what is donne in the premisses we whose names ar heare vnder written do promisse by these presents to defend and to dispend what soeuer shall be requisite and nedefull to be bestowed at any time hereafter in any matter concerning our Company aforesaide.

John Pattinson, warden

Thomas Anderson

John Garbeck

Thomas Pearson

John Litlephar

John Heighington

William Harper

Hughe Wrighte

Richard Wright

George Farbecke

Christopher Surtes

On the day when this order was passed, the company sent one of its members and another man to seize goods in Cooke's shop. The details are told in Cooke's petition to the Crown, which is preserved among the miscellaneous papers.

To the queene our soueraign lady and her honorable Counsell in the northe

Compleyninge shewithe vnto youre highnes and said Counsell youre dailie orator Thomas Cooke of youre maiestyes Cyttye of Durham marcer That whereas youre orator vseinge the trade of a marcer within the said Citty of Durham was the seaventhe daie of September instante and in this presente xxxvjth yeare of youre maiestyes reigne lawfullye possessed as of his owne proper goodis and Chattells of and vpon three yardes of watchett taffetye called ellrode taffata beinge of the value or pryce of ffortye eighte shillingis of and vpon one peece of blacke vellvet conteyninge one yearde and three nayles of the value or price of xxxiijs. fower pence of and vpon one peece of blacke or sadd colored fustyan called millyan fustyan conteyninge fyfeyne yeaordes or theearaboutes of the value or pryce of three poundis of and vpon one peece of yallowe fustyan called holmes ffustyan conteyninge ffower-teyne yardis of the value or pryce of xxviijs. and alsoe of and vpon one peece of purple cullored buskyn conteyninge ffower-teyne yeaordes beinge of the value or price of xxxs. remayninge and beinge in youre orators shoppe within the said Citty of Durham as lawfully they might be and youre said orator beinge thereof so possessed then and thear one Thomas Anderson and Robert Hudspethe of the said Citty of Durham fynding the said goodis and merchandizes there did without

anie iuste cause cullour or bylle of righte at all by the specyall comaund-
 mente and procuremente of one John Farbecke Alderman of the said
 Cittye and of one John Pattison beinge stewarde or warden of the
 compannye of mercers within the said Cittye or of thone of theym
 wrongfullye enter into youre orators said shoppe and then and theare
 dyd wrongfullye take distroye and carrye awaye withe theyme the
 seuerall parcells of wayers and marchandizes before mencyoned and
 the same euer since they or some of theyme haue and yet still doe
 wrongfullye kepe deteine and withhoulde from youre saide oratoris,
 and albeyt youre saide oratours haue often and manye tymes com-
 aunded deliuerie of the saide seuerall parcells of waires or marchaun-
 dizes at the hands of the said John Farbecke John Pattysonne and of
 the said Thomas Anderson and Roger (*sic*) Hudspethe yet the same to
 deliuer vnto youre said orator they haue att all tymes hetherto they
 haue denyed and refused and yet still doe denye and refuse whiche ys
 not onelie Contrarye gaigis and pledges but also againste all righte
 equitye and good consyence and to the losse and damage of your said
 orator of twentye poundes maye yt therefore please your maiestye and
 said Counsell the premisses considered to comaund the said defen-
 dants and every of them to appeare and answere to the premisses the
 first daye of the next sytting after . . . next cominge and in the meane
 tyme to deliver the said seuerall parcells of waires before mencyoned
 vnto youre said oratours or ells to appeare vpon sighte and shewe
 cause to the contrarye yf they canne And thus, etc.

per Tailboys.

Richard Brathwaite

The suit came before the Council of the North shortly after Christmas, 1594, Cooke's pledges being Nicholas Browne and John Denton. On the last leaf of the petition is written a note, apparently by Cooke's attorney, on the nature of the action and of the recovery due to the plaintiff, if his case held good. This note is very hastily scribbled in a nearly illegible hand, though the ink is still strong and black, and the present writer has failed to read several of the words. The text, however, is not essential to the main story of the suit. Naturally, this litigation, in which Cooke seems to have held his own and recovered damages, brought the company into some expense. On the next head-meeting day, 15

Nov., 1595, bills were presented by eleven members of their expenses in connexion with the suit, amounting to £11 8s. 6d. Of these eleven nine were among the eleven who had put their names to the order of 7 Sept., 1594; Robert Surtees and William Wall taking the place of John Littlephar and William Harper. The warden and stewards for the previous year were continued in office to clear up the business. If Cooke, however, had maintained his claim against the company, there was a general determination to deny the validity of his apprenticeship and to compel him to enter as a 'foreigner' for a higher fee. He was equally determined not to do so, and an attempt in 1597-8 ended in a deadlock.

1597-8, 13 Jan. Md. that the day and yeare abovesaid the most part of the Company of mercers did Call Thomas Cook before theme in Saint Nicolas Church in Durham vpon fryday being the 13 of Jenuarie 1597, and did demand of hime thene whether he wold come into their Companye, as a forrener and pay his agrement as a forrenour, or no. At which said tyme and place, the said Thomas Cook did then deny to pay as a forrenour, wherevpon he went his way.

Eventually Cooke gave in, and was admitted on 29 August, 1598, paying the high fee of four pounds, which was commuted for £2 13s. 4d. His admission was witnessed by Thomas Pearson, the steward, and ten other members, viz. John Heighington, Hugh Wright, Jo. Wall, Robert Surtice, Jo. Pattinson, George Farbeck, John Littlephar, John Coming, Christopher Coming, and Richard Browne. Cooke was among the eighteen members present at the next head-meeting, and was chosen as one of the stewards for the coming year.

At a meeting on 19 Jan., 1598-9, at which Thomas Cookson was fined sixpence 'for departing from the assembly of the company without licence,' an order was taken 'that no prentice be free of this trade if he doe committ fornicacion or adulterye in the tyme of his prentishipp, and his master to be fined xxxixs. if he kepe him by the space of xx dayes.' A second order appointed 'that



noe apprentice shalbe taken without the presence and consent of the company or the most parte of them, vpon paine of xxxixs.

On 2 March in the same year, fifteen members being present, occur two notices relating to the forty shillings freehold of the parent of an apprentice, which had been the debatable question in the case of Thomas Cooke.

1598-9, 2 March. Md. Robert Surtez hath broughte a Certificate that Thomas Conyngham, father vnto Christofer Conyngham who is an apprentence vnto the said Robert maye dispende by free hand aboue xls. a yere and therefore his said apprentence is allowed him and his Indentures accordingly enrolled, which said Indentures beareth date xth Febr. in the xxxixth of her ma^{ties} Raigne.

Md. this same tyme and meeting it is ordered and set downe that vnlesse Christofer Commung doe bring vnto the Company within these xx^{tie} dayes next a Certificate vnder 3 Justices hands and seales that William Comyns father whome the said Christofer is to take to be his apprentize maye or must dispend in free hand xls. a year, according to the statute in that case provided he shall discharge him and kepe him noe longer.

The remaining minutes in the book contain several lists of names of members present at various meetings. These names will be found among the lists at the end of this paper. Other minutes of interest are given here in order.

1599, 20 Nov. Md. that it is agreed vpon by the Consent of the Company that Tho. Pearson shall bring in and deliuer vnto his brethrene and warden of this Company the banner Cloth which the said Tho. Pearson haith vpon paine of 3s. paid to my Lord, and 3s. 4d. to the Companye.

1599, 28 Nov. Memorandum that Christofer Coming haith brought in at this meeting before all the Companye and brethren of the mercers a Certificate vnder the hands of Antonye Huton and John Fetherstonhaugh two of her maiesties Justices of peace that Nicolas Comingg of Helmendon raw within the Countie of Durham yeoman decesed, dyed possessed of so much land as yearly cometh to fortie shillings, the which Certificate remaneth in the keping of the officer of this trayd.

Md. that Thomas Cook brought in a certificat vnder the hands of Clement Colmour and Georg Lightfoot Justices of peace, that John

King of the Citty of Durham publique Notaryes is in possession of soe much land as cometh to forty shillings and more yearlye.

1600. 6 May. Md. that Edward Talor sonne of Nicolas Talor of the Citty of Durham mercer decesed, haith the day and yeare abouesaid paid to the Company of mercers for a contempt by hime maid for opening of his shop and selling soome wares before he was agreed to my lord of Durham and the Company to say : xxs. to my lord, and xxs. to the occupation.

Of which said soome there is onlie paid, xij*d*. to my lord and xij*d*. to the occupation.

1600, 20 June. The company of mercers doe amercie Robart Raw of Framwelgaite Skynner for selling and retaling of grossery within his owen house contrarie to the staitute and the ordinances and Conditions of our corporatione, therefore he is amerced xxs. to my Lord of Durham, and xxs. to the Companye. [non procedit.]

Impr. it is agreed the day and yeare abouesaid by the Company of mercers within the Citty of Durham, That Robert Raw of Framwelgate Skynner, shalbe arested into the Borrough Court for selling grossery Contrary to the statute, and the ordinances of our Corporation.

1600. 28 Nov. Memorandum that Richard Wright did request the fauours of all the company of mercers which ar heare vnder written this 28 day of November Anno Regni Elizabethhe Regine Quadragesimo tercio, that he may taik Vmphray Lax to be his apprentice, and all these whose names ar heare vnderwritten haue gyven there consents, that the said Richard Wright may taik the said Vmphray Lax to serv hime as ane apprentice.

Jo: Anderson, Jo: Wall, Thomas Pearson, John Heighington, Heugh Wright, Georg Farbeck, Christofer Surtice, Jo: Litlephar, Roland Swynborne, Christopher Coming, Thomas Cookson, Edward Talour, Henry Wall, Georg Cragg.

Md. that all these aboue written did consent and agre that Richard Wright shall take Vmphray Lax aforesaid as his apprentice.

Md. that none did refuse to giue there fauours that Richard Wright should not taik Vmphray Lax apprentice saving William Wall, Robert Surtice, Thomas Cook.

1601, 20 Nov. Md. that it is agreed vpon by all the company of mercers abouesaid, That Barnabie Robson shalbe frome henceforth admitted to be a brother of the traide of mercers, paying the fyne dew and accus-

tomed, for an out man and that he shall be with the company at the next meting holden in this place, to enter in bond, for his said fyne at such daies as the said Company shall appointe, viz. paing xiijs. iiij*d.* in hand, and xiijs. iiij*d.* every yeare vntill the some of iiij*l.* be paide.

A memorandum upon the last leaf but one of the minute-book is the occasion of the only document which remains for the period between 1601 and 1632. The date is apparently 14 Nov., 1601; but it appears from the sequel that the apprentice admitted to service on this occasion, when his indentures are said to date from 1598, had probably been taken by his master in 1600, and was eligible for freedom in August, 1607.

Md. that Nycholas Whitfeld sonne of Thomas Whitfeld of Framwelgait yeoman ys admitted aprentice the day and yeare before written by the consent of all the company of mercers of the Cittie of Durham, to be aprentice to Thomas Cookson of the same Citty mercer and with hime to dwell and serve frome the eleventh day of Maye in the forteth yeare of her maties reigne that now ys duringe all the whole terme of Seven yeares next followinge.

This minute was the occasion of the following statement.

An aunswere to Nicholas Whitefelds request touching his fredome.

It is this viij^{te} day of August 1607 Anno Regni regis Jacobi Anglie etc. quinto granted and agreed by the Company of the trade of mercers within the Cittie of Durham that Nicholas Whitefeld shalbe free of that trade payeing such rightes and duties as haue bene accustomed. But for soe much as it doth appeare by our booke wherein the effecte of apprentices Indentures and there admittances are registred that the said Nicholas Whitefeld was admitted to be an apprentice to Thomas Cookson the xiiij^{te} day of November 1601 and to serve for 7 yeres which by that Compotacion is not yet ended :

And for that also the said Nicholas Whitefelds Indentures are wrongefully and amisse sett downe in the saide booke as the said Nicholas alledged, and aswell that mistakeinge as the said date of his admittance are reputed and thought to be the mistakeinge of the Clerk that wrote the same Therfor it is agreed that all these mistakeings shalbe reformed according to trueth. But for that there were present at the registringe and recordeinge of his saide admittance and Inden-

ture xviij of the said trade, whereof the said Nicholas his master was one Therfor it is thought good that the same mistakeinge may be reformed by and with the privitie of those or the most of them that were soe present at the recordering of the same as aforesaide which shalbe done when Convenyently they may be gott together to meete for att this last meeteing there was not aboue 6 or 7 besides the warden and searchers.

The names of such as were present att this meeteinge and order makeinge. Robert Surties, Maior. Hughe Wright, warden of the sayd trade. John Heighington, searcher. Edwarde Taler, searcher. Rowland Swinborne, William Harper, George Walton.

From this point our information is to be drawn from the yearly accounts and from a few miscellaneous documents. It cannot be said that the accounts at any time are of thrilling interest. In 1631-2, when the series begins, they were kept in some detail; and during this period the company, like most others at the time, was engaged in frequent litigation on behalf of its prerogatives. Later on, however, they are more brief, and eventually take the form of a normal balance-sheet. The three accounts of earliest date are here given in full.

1. 1631[-2], 20 March

Paid to mr. John Richardson for Counsell for the Compiny, 10s.

More paid to mr. Edward Wright for Counsell for the Compiny, 10s.

Paid to Richard Surties sargen for tow excursions one aganst John Vrwenne Another aganst [blank] Michhell, 1s. 4d.

Paid to mr. Edward Wright for parvsing the old fratarnyti¹ and the Corperasion for Counsell, 5s.

Paid to Richard Surties sargen for Meting in the toul Bouth for the compiny of Mercers, 1s. 6d.

Paid to Hugh Arkle for Carriing of a Letter to York and Bringing Another home, 1s.

More paid to Hugh Arkle for Bringing of a commision and the Coppi of taylers bell from York, 1s.

Paid to mr. Richard Mathew for being a Attorney for the compiny at medsummer seshons, 3s. 4d.

¹ The 'old fraternity' is equivalent to the ordinances and regulations of the company.

Paid to mr George Martin for thre siuerell Inditments aganst the peadellars vpon the statud for false wights and skales which was takin from them the 20th of March Anno 1631, 10s.

Paid to mr Richard Wright for Counsell for parvsing thes Inditments, 5s.

Paid to mr John Oxlye Attorney at York for the compiny of Mercers for a commision and a Coppie of taylers bell and his Attorney fease, 7s. 6d.

2. 1632, 6 August.

Paid to mr John Richardson for Answering of a petision which wase delivered to Judg Varnum by coltman and Atherra smith and haymand aganst the Mercers of the Cittie of Durham, 10s.

Paid to mr Edward Wright for Counsell for answerin the petision of Coltman and Atherra smith geaven to the Judg Aganst the compiny of Mercers the 7th of August Anno 1632, 5s.

Paid to mr George Machat for drawen the Answer for John Bayles John Jeferson and Anthony Smith the Answer of the bell of complant of John tayler for the vse of the Compiny the 10th of August Anno 1632, 3s. 4d.

Paid to mr Edward Wright for his Counsell for parvsinge the Answare of John Bayles John Jeferson And Anthony Smith for the bell of complant of John tayler of Gatsyde, 10s.

Paid to mr Richard Slinger for ingrosing the answar of the belle of complant aganst defendens and writing of a bond and sealling vp of the commision with the Answar taken vpon oath before the commisinors the 12th of August Anno 1632, 3s. 4d.

Paid for sitting the commision and taken our oath, 2s.

Paid for mr Raine for Carriing the commision for beare and tobakca, 1s.

Paid for swering the commision, 4d.

Paid to mr Richard Mathew for his Attorney fease at Michellmus tearme, 3s. 4d.

Paid to mr George Martin for 3 Inditments 1 aganst John tayler another aganst his man Atherre Hopp the other is aganst othir peadellers, 10s.

An one Inditment aganst Andrew Busard, 1s.

Paid to mr Edward Wright for his Counsell for parvsing these Inditments, 5s.

Paid to mr Richard Mathew for the trauey of the Inditments which John Tayler prefard aganst John Bayles John Jeferson Anthony Smith for taking the Roten Currants and for his feases, 14s.

3. [Resting to John Bailes vpon his last accompt for the Laste Yeare, 1632, iij*li*. xiijs. iiij*d*.]

A note of Dispursments for John Bailes since the 26th of November as followeth :

Paid at the Merchants feast for Mr. John Pattison diner, 1s. 3*d*.

Paid for wine for the Company, 3s.

Paid to the waites for musikes at the mercer feast, 6s. 8*d*.

At Christmas sescions paid to Mr Mathew for his fees on aganst John Taylor nother aganst Ather Hope, 6s. 8*d*.

Paid to Mr Martine for the Coppy of thes 2 Inditements and for Andrew Bussard, 11s.

Paid to Mr Pleasant for counsell, 5s.

Paid to Mr Sherife for lifarie, 6s. 8*d*.

To Ather Hopes Inditement for the rotten currands.

Paid to Mr Pleasant for the next day of the Sessions for the Currans, because that Mr Martine had given a false Coppie not to the Record, 15s.

Paid to the baly for the Jury, 2s.

Paid to Mr Mathew which he paid to Mr Martine for redinge the Records in the Court, 5s. 4*d*.

Paid to William Car for Carringe the rotten Currans to the Sessions, 6*d*.

Paid to Mr Pattison and Mr Swinburne and William Car, for attending to the sessions for witness, bestowing drink on them at William Kings, 2s.

Paid to Mr Pleasant for his advice for what Course we should take for mending of a pley aganst Ather Hope, 5s.

Paid to Mr Mathew for writinge the Coppe of the old freternity and takinge instruction out of the ould freternity, 3s. 4*d*.

Paid to Mr Pleasant for Instructing to send to London for drawinge a pley by Councill, 5s.

Paid to Mr Trowlope for gettinge the pley drawne at London, 3*li*.

Paid to John Bailes and John Jefferson for a quart of wine when Mr Trowlope wento London at Candlemas tirme, 1s.

Paid to Mr Gilpin for Ingrossing the ordinance of orders, 5s.

Paid to Hugh Aclim for bringinge Letters from York

Paid to Mr Oxley, attorney at Yorke for 3 seuerall sittings, 6s. . . .

There is more due to Mr Oxley for a Comission aganst Taylor

Paid at Ester Sessions to Mr Mathew for atturnes fees and for 5 seuerall Causes

Paid to Mr Pleasant for Councell at Ester Sessions for 5 seuerall Causes, *1li. 5s.*

Paid to Mr Shafto of Newenfeld for 5 seuerall Causes, *1li.*

Paid to Mr John Hethman for a Coppy of a decre out of his Masters office, *3s. 4d.*

Paid to Robert Hurse for Cominge from Wolsingam to be a witnesse for the Company, *2s. 6d.*

Paid to William Car for Carringe the rotten Curras to the Sessions, *1s.*

The Company oweth to Mr Martine at Ester Sessions, *1li. 12s. 4d.*

Item paid to Anthony Williamson for bringing a Letter from Yorke and a Commision, *6d.*

Paid to Hugh Ackley for bringinge a Lettre from Yorke, *4d.*

It comes to *15li. 12s. 6d.*

The dearth of records during the first thirty years of the seventeenth century prevents us from ascertaining the date at which Cuthbert Hutchinson, whose name occurs in the following document, entered the company. A list of assessments paid in connexion with the legal proceedings mentioned in the above accounts shows that he was a member in 1632-3. He became mayor of the borough in 1646. The date of this charge against his apprentice is earlier than 1634, when Story had been admitted to the company.

Forasmuche as Robert Story late apprentice to Cuthbert Hutchinson mercer haith bought diverse peeces of mercery and habberdashe wares during the time of his said apprenticeship and before he hadd served 7 yeares to the said mercers crafte as by his Indentures he was bound to serve, which wares was boughte without the privitie or Consente of his said maister and haith in very vndecent and Comptemptuous manner behauedd himselfe vnto diuerse of the said Companie by evill speaches and allso by requiring the wardens of the said Companie to warn a meeting befor his Indentures wear expired ; Butt allso Contrarie to all good orders heretofore mayd and observed by the said Companie ; before hee the said Story was presented by his maister vnto the said Company, or by them admitted a free man of the said Crafte and his duties for the

same, or taken the oathe of a freeman before the maior or officer of the said Cittie as hee the said Story ought to haue donne, and as all and euerie freeman of the said Crafte formerly have donne ; in Comtempt of the said Companie and the orders by them mayde haith opened shopp and . . . solde diuerse peeces of mercerie haberdashe . . . grocery . . . wares within the said Cittie bef[ore] hee w[as] admitted a freeman

The rest is too torn to be legible, and, as there are only two lines more, the document was apparently left unfinished. On the back, in two different hands, is a list of mercer's wares and groceries, which is probably an inventory of the goods found in Story's shop. The mercery includes says, hollands, canvas, calico, cambrics, lawns, and linsey woolseys; while the items of grocery are dates, ginger, pepper case, pepper stone, indigo, rice, brown and white candy, cinnamon, worm-seed, nutmegs, cloves, sugar hard and 'sugar powther,' currants, rosin, and 'preunes.'

On 12 May, 1652, a subscription was raised to redeem the company's plate, which apparently had been pledged to meet expenses. Nine members contributed five shillings, and two half a guinea each. It was on 19 November of this year, according to Surtees' *History of Durham*, that new rules were made for the use of the company. The next document, in point of date, is the account of 1654-5, which is mainly concerned with litigation and the expenses caused by disputes with unlicensed traders.

[1654-5] Receiued of mr John Peacocke and mr Oswalde Cominge, 2*li.* 3*s.*

Receiued of mr John Areson, 5*s.* 3*d.*

Rec. for Hopps taken from one of Chester, 5*s.*

Rec. of ould Kenneday in part of his Exicution, 5*s.*

Rec. of James Watt in part of his Exicution, 3*s.*

Rec. of James Watt in full of his Exicution, 11*s.* 6*d.*

Receiued 3*li.* 12*s.* 9*d.*

Disbursments

Dec. 20 : 54. Disburst to Geo. Walton to buy goods of Mrs. Sidgworth, 1*s.*

Dec : 23. More to by goods of Kenneday and Watt, 1*s.*

More paid to the sargents, 2*s.* 6*d.*

Dec : 30. Giuen to Walkers wife of Gilligate to buy goods of Mrs Sharpp, 1s.

More given her for her pains, 6*d*.

Jan : 6 : 54 Given Thomas Forser for somining ould Kenneday and James to the towen Court, 1s. 2*d*.

March the 30 : 55. Given to Geo. Walton for goods he bought of Watt Gibb. 1s. 11*d*.

Given by mr Coming to Geo. Walton and Walkers wife to by goods of mrs Sidgswicke and Mrs. Sharpe, 2s.

Aprill the 30 : Given for the tryell of 2 sutes in the towen Court against ould Kenneday and Watt, 3s. 10*d*.

Spent of the witnesses, 1s.

More given to the witnesses in monie, 1s.

Paid Tho. Forcer for taken the Hopps from a woman for his paines, 1s. 6*d*.

Aprill 26. Paid to mr Mickleton for his fease and draing the Execution against Walter Gibb, 6s. 10*d*.

Giuen mr Turner at the same time, 10s.

Aprill 28. Giuen Tho. Forcer for 2 Executions against Kenneday and Watt, 2s.

Spent at the sessions of the informer, 6*d*.

Paid to Will. Brackett, 6*d*.

Paid to Geo. Walton for his exspences, 6*d*.

Paid to mr Maskell for his yeares paye, 1*li*.

Paid Geo. Walton for his pay, 10s.

Giuen by Mr Coming to Will Brockett for aresting Watt Gibb, 2s.

Disburst 3*li*. 11s. 3*d*.

In my hand due to the Compney, 1s. 6*d*.

On 22 Nov., 1655, occur an order and memorandum of some interest :

Whereas it is thought convenient for the laudable accomodating of the freemen and Sisters of the Societie Company and Guild of Mercers Grocers &c. within the Citty of Durham, in their Christian buriall, that a Buriall Cloth of sable colour bee forthwith in convenient tyme provided for the Use of the said Society and their children, together with Scutcheons conteyning the Armes of the said Society, It is heerebie now Ordered by this Society that five shillings shall be forthwith paid vpon

demand to the present Alderman of this Society by all and every the Traders and others free of the said Society for the providing of the same Accordingly and that the present Alderman doe see the same forthwith put in execucion

Anthony Bayles Maior

John Avison

John Walton

Robert Story

Anthony Daile

Henry Rowell

Mathew Bayles

Step : Thompson

Thomas Cookson

Jo : Peacocke

Will. Wilkinson

Oswould Comyn

Md. It is also Ordered that there shall bee a Dinner provided by the Alderman of the said Society according to a former Order provided for that purpose and that the said Alderman doe giue notice to the said Society of the tyme and place of the said Meeting and the same to bee before the feast of Christmas.

The burial cloth proved a source of profit to the company. The charge for its use at funerals was at first a pound. In 1698-9 it brought in eleven pounds, against which a shilling was paid for mending it. Mr. Sidgwick and his wife, who were both buried in that year, seem to have left nothing towards its hire ; and, in the following year 1s. 4d. was expended in searching for his will and the date of his burial. The will was apparently found, and a sum of ten pounds was paid in by one Mr. Ettrick on 21 Nov., 1699, when the company expended ten shillings in treating him. There were ten funerals in 1699-1700, and on 14 Nov. Mrs. Chilton was paid five shillings for washing the pall. In 1700-1 there were twelve funerals, including one on 14 Aug., 1701, described as that of ' the Scotch Lord.' Eight funerals occur in 1701-2 : of these one was in Yorkshire, when two pounds were received for the use of the pall. In 1704 there are sixteen receipts, which brought in eighteen pounds, as thirty shillings were charged for the respective funerals of Dr. Grey and ' Barron Coule,' and two pounds for that of lady Coule. In 1711-2 the charge for the pall was reduced to ten shillings. Five shillings were again paid ' for washing and

dressing the Silke on the pall' on 19 April, 1712; and in 1715 £1 16s. were spent in buying eight yards of 'white allomode' for the pall at four shillings a yard, the extra four shillings being the cost of sewing it on. From the account for 1716, it appears that the burial cloth was hired out to members of the company at a reduced charge, if they wanted it more than once a year: thus fifteen shillings were received for two hirings, thirty shillings for four, and forty-five shillings for six. The charge for a single use was further lowered to five shillings in 1728, and at this it remained. Meanwhile, in Jan., 1724-5, the escutcheon of the company was repaired: two and a half yards of baize were bought for 3s. 4d. and 2s. 6d. were given to George Marlow for cleaning the escutcheon and blackening the frame.

The accounts for the later part of the seventeenth century contain much of the usual evidence for law-suits. In 1663-4 subpoenas were served on witnesses at Sedgefield, Sunderland and Chester-le-Street. In 1665-6, when there was much dealing at Newcastle with one Winshopp, apparently a mercer of that town who overcharged for his goods, members or messengers of the company went at its expense to Hexham, Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, Auckland, Wolsingham, Chester-le-Street and Lambton, either to buy wares or get warrants served. Three horses were hired to bring witnesses to the assizes from Newcastle at 7s. 6d., and 5s. 6d. were spent in horses 'to set them back againe.' The disbursements of this year were heavy, and there was a deficit of £3 8s. 5d. In 1666 there was a suit against one Cartar of Sunderland.

The fee of ten shillings for the annual sermon is noted in 1669, and occurs at intervals, as in 1693-4. The company's pew in St. Nicholas' was frequently repaired: in 1698-9 there is a payment of £1 14s. 10d. for this purpose, and a new door was made for 6s. 1d. in 1709-10. In 1713 fourteen shillings were paid for repairing the

pew and finding cloth for it. The pews for the company and the apprentices were mended in Aug., 1725, for 3s. 7½d., and on 5 Nov., 1743 occurs the payment of a shilling to John Thompson 'for sitting in the Apprentices Pew.' On the head-meeting day the sexton of the church rang the bell at eight o'clock at the cost of the company, for which he received 2s. 6d.

Something of the old pageantry associated with the medieval craft-gilds was maintained on special occasions. Entries relating to the carrying of the banner on head-meeting and other days are frequent. The head-meeting day in 1699 appears to have been celebrated with some state: the bishop, lord Crewe, was present, and the banner was borne before him, while parson Sanderson and the churchwardens had a present of five pounds. In 1702 the banner screw was mended in time for the proclamation of queen Anne, at which and on the coronation day the banner-bearer, John Martin, had a special fee of 2s. 6d. instead of his usual shilling. This sum, however, was not paid again, and, when George I and George II were proclaimed and crowned, there was no more than a shilling for the banner-bearer. In 1709-10 the banner was painted at a cost of ten pounds, and a new socket cost 4s. 6d. It was again carried before lord Crewe this year, and once more in 1712, and before bishop Talbot in July, 1730, three months before his death. Other occasions for its use were the proclamation of peace on 19 May, 1713, and 1723-4, when the chancellor of the bishopric was made free of the company. His admission is not recorded; but we know that in 1693-4 one of his predecessors, chancellor Dormer, was made a freeman, by the entry in the year's account; 'Received of Chansellor Dormer five ginis won of them is bad, £5 10s.'

It will be seen from the lists that, in the later part of the eighteenth century, the credit of the company was maintained by the eminently respectable persons to whom it granted its freedom.



Occasionally, in the later accounts, there comes an entry which recalls the trading activity and control of industry which was its *raison d'être*. Thus, on 8 March, 1742-3, Fardinando Aisley was fined 10s. 6d. for opening shop before being made free. In the main, however, the social aspect of the Society is that which is most noticeable. The entries for dinners and wine are modest, and one on 5 Nov., 1716, 'Paid Mrs. Anna Paxton for a dozen of Clarett, £1 10s.', marks a purchase by no means excessive, in view of the approaching yearly meeting. The admission of Mr. George Bowes to the craft brought it an annual present of venison for the head-meeting for some years: his servant usually received a present of 2s. 6d., but on 17 Nov., 1741 he had five shillings.

These are chronicles of small beer, and there is little else to be extracted from the accounts. The friendly side of the company's work, however, must not be overlooked. A few receipts, couched in grateful terms, for charity afforded to the indigent, remain, and the request in the following letter is probably typical of many such appeals received during the same period.

Sir, The Poor station of Life I am now Reduced to, obliges me to Request the Favour of you to Recomend me as an Object of Charity to your Honourable Company of Merchants at this their meeting and what they shall think fit to bestow on me shall ever be gratefully acknowledged by your most obliged humble Servant

January 11th 1747/8

Dorothy Thornton

[Endorsed] To Mr John Highington, Alderman of the Merchants

Of a somewhat different type is this ingeniously involved excuse for non-payment of rent, directed to the company's clerk.

Kind Sir :

I received your obliging letter : and I would have answered it by the Bearer but the days are so short that the Corrant Man cannot Make any Stay for any thing : I must confess to you Sir that I had quite forgot the note : ore thay shoueld not have wanted it so loing : I am almost assshamed of My greet neglect : so I hope you will be so good as to pay my Compliments to the Marchants Company : and Make my

apologiꝝ for thay May justly tax Me with ingratiude: and I am glad that you have put me in Mind of it: you may depend upon it that I will send you the six pounds as soon as I receive my Marttinmas rents with my grateful thanks to you and them. In the intrem I am Sir your Most obliged Humble Servant

Mattilda Swainston

Startforth Oct. the 19, 1750

[Endorsed] for Mr Cuthbert Smith In Clapeth, Durham

The last paper of importance is the following minute, placed at the head of a subscription list, to which sixteen members contributed a guinea each.

1759, 2 March. At a Meeting of the Mercers Company held this Day at the Town Hall within the City of Durham, it is agreed that a second subscription of the said Company shall be Opened in Order to Defray the Expenses of Obtaining an Act of Parliament for making the River Wear Navigable from and with Biddick Ford to the City of Durham, And that the Subscription money shall be paid into the hands of Mr Robert Waugh the Present Alderman of the Said Company for the Purposes aforesaid.

It has been said already that after this date the records which remain are inconsiderable in volume and matter alike. The information to be obtained from those which have been discussed here is perhaps somewhat slight and fragmentary; but every detail which serves to illustrate the history of the trading corporations which played so large a part in the early phases of English industrial history has its value.

APPENDIX I.

WARDENS OF THE MERCERS' COMPANY.

This and the list which follows in appendix II are necessarily incomplete. The names of the stewards are given in the minute-book, but do not appear in the accounts. The year given is that of the warden's entry upon office: thus Nicholas Browne was elected on 27 Nov. 1590, and retired a year later.

1590	Nicholas Browne	Stewards	John Farbecke, John Heighington
1591	John Farbeck	„	John Pattinson, William Winter

1592	John Heighington	„	Thomas Anderson, Richard Wright
1593	John Pattinson	„	William Harper, George Farbeck
1594	Thomas Pearson	„	Heugh Wright, John Heighington
1597	Thomas Pearson		
1598	Richard Wright	<i>Stewards</i>	Thomas Cooke, Thomas Cookson
1599	William Wall	„	Christofer Surteis, Henry Wall
1600	George Farbeck	„	Roland Swynborne, George Crag
1601	Robert Surtice	„	Thomas Cookson, Edward Taylor
1606	Hugh Wright	„	(<i>Searchers</i>) John Heighington,
			Edward Taler
1632	John Bailes	„	John Jefferson, Anthony Smith
1663	——— Hodshon	1693	William Hodgson
1664	Anthony Daile, sen.	1694	Ralph Paxton
1665	William Wilkinson	1695	George Lambton
1666	Nicholas Richardson	1696	John Hall
1668	Oswald Comin	1697	Clement Ladler
1669	John Stokell	1698	Ralph Bainbridge
1670	George Hodshon	1699	Thomas Tweddell
1671	Cuthbert Hutchinson	1700	Richard Reed
1672	George Comyn	1701	Francis Corneforth
1673	William Roper	1702	Francis Corneforth
1674	William Greeveson	1705	Michael Brabin
1676	Wheatly Dobson ¹	1707	Robert Dodshon
1677	John Kirkby	1708	George Paxton
1678	John Kirkby	1709	Giles Raine
1679	John Kirkby	1710	Ralph Paxton
1680	John Gordon	1711	Henry Forster
1681	John Gordon	1712	Christopher Thornton
1683	John Gordon	1713	John Greenwell
1684	Robert Bell	1714	Anthony Smith
1687	William Greeveson	1715	William Richardson
1688	William Paxton	1716	? Ralph Nelson
1689	Edward Eden	1717	Robert Smith
1690	John Walker	1718	——— Smith
1691	Richard Mascall	1719	John Hodshon
1692	Simon Ingleby	1720	Thomas Westgarth

¹ *Stewards* William Paxton, Richard Mascall,

1721	George Dale ²	1739	George Reay
1722	William Burtleson	1740	Hilton Shaw
1723	William Garry	1741	Humphrey Doubleday
1724	John Brabant	1742	John Brabant
1725	[? Cuthbert] or Ralph Bain- bridge	1743	William Stout
1726	George Dickinson	1744	Francis Peacock
1727	John Lambe	1745	Mark Johnson
1728	Thomas Dunn	1746	William Paxton
1729	Thomas Hopper	1747	John Heighington
1730	Joseph Haswell	1748	Ferdinando Aisley
1731	Joseph Haswell	1749	William Dodshon
1733	Moses Stout	1753	Thomas Dunn
1734	—— Foster	1754	Thomas Forster
1735	John Burnopp	1755	Cuthbert Smith
1736	Thomas Bainbridge	1757	Thomas Potts
1737	[? John] Dodshon	1758	Robert Waugh
1738	Robert Shadforth	1759	John Gelson
		1761	William Kirton

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF MEMBERS, WITH DATES OF ADMISSION.

This list is compiled from four sources, viz. : (a) the admission certificates, (b) entries of receipt of admission fees in the accounts, (c) various lists of members in the minute-book and appended to documents, (d) the short list given in Surtees' *History of Durham*. Members whose admission is not recorded are entered under the year in which their names are first found, and such names are printed in italics. Names derived from Surtees' list are marked [S.]

1590	<i>Nicholas Browne</i>	<i>William Wall</i>
	<i>John Farbecke</i>	<i>William Winter</i>
	<i>John Heighington</i>	<i>Edward Wright</i>
	<i>Thomas Anderson</i>	<i>William Wright</i>
	<i>Thomas Pearson</i>	
1591	<i>John Pattinson</i>	
1591-2	<i>William Wallas</i>	
	10 March. Richard Wright, s. of William, of Durham, mercer.	
1592	12 July. Heughe Wright, s. of William, of Durham, mercer, deceased.	

² *Stewards* William Hutchinson, John Jackson.

- 1592 2 Dec. Christopher Sweny
 2 Dec. or 27 Nov. George Farbeck, s. of John, of Durham,
 skinner, deceased, apprentice to John Farbeck, of Durham,
 mercer.
- 1593 *William Harper*
- 1593 7 Dec. Robert Hurst
- 1594 8 May. Christopher Surtice, s. of Christopher, of Durham, mercer,
 deceased
- 1594 *Richard Billingham* *John Littlephar*
John Gaskyne *Robert Surtice*
Matthew Horner *Thomas Swenye*
- 1597-8 13 Jan. Christofer Coming, s. of George, late of Durham, mercer.
 John Coming, s. of George.
 Richard Browen [Browne] s. of Nicholas, late of Durham,
 mercer, deceased.
- 1598 29 Aug. Thomas Cooke, on payment of £4, of which 26s. 8d. were
 remitted.
 Thomas Cookson, late appr. to John Pattinson, on pay-
 ment of fine of 40s. of which 30s. were omitted.
 Roland Swynborne, late appr. to John Heighington
- 1598 *John Wall*
- 1599 *John Anderson*
- 1599 27 July. Henry Wall, s. of John, of Durham, mercer.
- 1600 6 May. Edward Talor, s. of Nicolas, of Durham, mercer, deceased.
 20 June. George Crag, late servant and appr. to John Farbeck,
 deceased.
- 1601 14 Nov. George Walton, s. of George, of Durham, draper, deceased.
- 1607 25 Oct. John Bayles [released from apprenticeship by George
 Cragg, and his hire year remitted.]
- 1632 *John Jefferson* *Anthony Smith*
Nicholas Whitfeild [died this year or earlier] probably
 admitted 1605 or 1606.
- 1632-3 *Ralph Allenson* *Cuthbert Hutchinson*
William Baker *Robert Jopling*
Elizabeth Cooke *William King*
Thomas Cooke [? jun.] *Thomas Pearson, jun.*
Christopher Cookson *Thomas Swinburne*
George Cummyyn *Thomas Tonstall*

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1632-3 | <i>John Heighington</i> [? jun.] | <i>Elizabeth Whitteild</i> |
| | <i>John Hilyeard</i> | <i>William Wright</i> |
| 1634-5 | <i>John Avison</i> | <i>Thomas Goodheire</i> |
| | <i>Anthony Bailes</i> | <i>Hugh Johnson</i> |
| | <i>S. Cook</i> | <i>Robert Storie</i> |
| 1652 | <i>Robert Chilton</i> | <i>Henry Rowell</i> |
| | <i>Thomas Cookson</i> | <i>George Stokell</i> |
| | <i>Anthony Daile</i> | <i>Stephen Thompson</i> |
| | <i>Pexall Forster</i> | <i>John Walton</i> |
| 1663 | 21 Dec. <i>William Blakiston, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Samuel Davison, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>John Heath, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Richard Nevile, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>John Tempest, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Mr Marmaduke Allanson [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>John Jeffreyson [S.]</i> | |
| 1666 | <i>Mathew Bayles</i> | <i>George Cumyng</i> |
| | <i>Robert Bayles</i> | <i>Thomas Jefferson</i> |
| 1667 | <i>Mr Midelton</i> | <i>Anthony Jefferson</i> |
| | <i>John Hutchinson</i> | <i>Nicholas Richardson</i> |
| 1670-1 | <i>John Richardson</i> | |
| 1672-3 | 16 March. Rt. hon. Henry, earl of Ogle, gentleman of his majesty's
bedchamber [S.] | |
| | <i>Sir William Forster, kt. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Sir Gilbert Gerard, kt. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Thomas Carnaby, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Cuthbert Carr, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Robert Delaval, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>John Morland, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>William Tempest, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>William Bellasis, esq.</i> | |
| | 8 April. <i>Richard Neile, esq. [S.]</i> | |
| | <i>Robert Weimes</i> | |
| 1673 | <i>William Roper</i> | |
| 1674 | <i>William Greeveson</i> | |
| 1674-5 | 8 Jan. <i>Mr Bowser</i> | |
| 1675 | 11 May <i>Alderman Backwell</i> | |
| | 2 July. <i>Atria Joblin</i> | 1 Oct. <i>Martin Nicholson</i> |

- 1675 4 Aug. Ralph Newham
- 1676 16 Oct. Nathaniel [Crewe], bishop of Durham [S.]
 John Acourt, esq. [S.]
 Edward Arden, esq. [S.]
 John Parkehurst, esq. [S.]
 Mr Edward Billingsby [S.]
 Mr Robert Delaval [S.]
 Mr William Hartwell [S.]
 Mr James Thompson [S.]
- 1676-7 *Wheatly Dobson* *Richard Mascal*
 William Paxton John Hubocke
- 1677 5 Oct. Capt. John Bagshaw [S.]
 Mr George Cox [S.]
 Mr James Frye [S.]
 Mr Benjamin Hilton [S.]
 Mr Samuel Over [S.]
 Mr Henry Parker [S.]
 Mr Henry Roydhouse [S.]
- 1680 *John Kirkby* *John Gordon*
- 1682 *Robert Bell* *Edward Kirkby*
 John Dunn *William Wilkinson*
 Edward Eden
- 1683 24 Aug. Hon. Charles Montagu [S.]
- 1686 8 July. Dr. Montagu [S. Probably John Montague, prebendary of
 the fourth stall in Durham cathedral 1683, and dean
 of Durham 1700-1728.]
 Hon. James Montagu [S.]
 Rowland Tempest, esq. [S.]
- 28 Aug. Richard, viscount Preston [S.]
 [Very] rev. William Graham, dean of Carlisle [S. After-
 wards dean of Wells; preb. of the first stall in Durham
 cathedral 1684-1712.]
 Sir Robert Fenwick, kt. [S.]
 Sir Edward Smith [S.]
 — Howard, of Elvet, esq. [S.]
- 14 Oct. Right hon. Bernard Grenvill [S.]
 Right hon. George Granvill [S.]

- 1688 12 May. Charles Hodgshon Thomas Tweddell
Simon Ingleby
3 Oct. Richard, lord Lumley, viscount [Lumley of] Waterford
[S. Created earl of Scarbrough 1690.]
- 1689-90 Francis Cornforth Richard Reed
Ralph Paxton John Westgarth
- 1690-1 John Hall George Tweddle
Clement Laddler John Wilkinson
- 1691-2 Sir Ralph Carr, kt. [S. gives 9 April, 1694.]
Richard Forster George Lambton
William Forster
- 1693 *William Hodgson*
- 1693-4 Ralph Bainbridge [? Thomas] Pearson
- 1694 9 April. Robert Dormer, esq., temporal chancellor.
- 1695-6 John Martin Francis Peacock
- 1696-7 Robert Downes Anthony Massam
Mark Hodgshon Matthew Ridley
- 1698-9 George Brough
- 1699-1700 [? Henry Forster
——— Mascall
- 1700 John, s. of George Morland, of Windleston, esq.
21 Nov. John, s. of William Tempest, of Old Durham, esq.,
deceased.
- 1701 2 Sept. Lancelot Lowder
- 1702 25 Mar. Robert Dodgshon
8 July. Richard, eldest son of William Bellasis, esq., deceased.
30 Oct. George Paxton, s. of George, of Sunderland by Sea, appr.
to Martin Nicholson.
- 1703 14 May. Michael Brabin, s. of Thomas, of Westmorland, gent.,
appr. to William Forster.
- 1704 18 May. George Crosby, s. of John, of Elvet, gent., appr. to George
Lambton.
- 1705 16 Nov. William Hodgson, s. of William.
Giles Raine, s. of John, of Cassop.
- 1707 25 Mar. William Weardale.
18 Nov. George Bowes, esq., solicitor general of the county palatine
and recorder of the city of Durham.
21 Nov. Henry Liddel, esq., son of sir Henry, bart.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

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- 1707-8 2 Jan. George Dickon
 13 Feb. Robert Bell, eldest s. of Robert
 26 Feb. William Pearson
 1708 [? John] Roper
 ——— Richardson
 1709 10 May. John Greenwell, appr. to Henry Forster
 Christopher Thornton, appr. to Francis Cornforth
 1709-10 2 Feb. Thomas Reed, s. of Thomas, of Framwellgate, tanner,
 appr. to Richard Reed.
 3 Feb. Anthony Smith.
 1710 Thomas Gelson, s. of Jane, widow, appr. to Robert Dodgshon.
 6 Sept. Richard Bowser, gent.
 1711 25 Mar. Robert Smith
 1713 1 April John Hodgson
 Nicholas Hodgson
 Oliver Paxton
 16 Nov. Ralph Nelson
 Before 1714 Hon. Henry Bellasis, kt., lieut.-gen. of her majesty's forces.
 1714 15 Nov. Thomas Westgarth
 1714-5 10 Jan. John Hutchinson, esq., mayor of Durham, s. of John
 Nicholas Paxton, s. of William.
 Capt. Fitzherbert Tempest, s. of William
 Francis Tempest, s. of William
 Sudbury Tempest, s. of William
 1715 12 May. George Daile, appr. to George Paxton.
 William Richardson
 19 Dec. William Buletson
 1715-6 4 Jan. William Garry.
 1716? 5 Oct. John Lamb.
 1716-7 12 Feb. John Brabant, appr. to Giles Raine.
 1717 30 Sept. Hon. James Montagu, esq., s. of hon. Charles.
 Cuthbert Bainbridge, s. of Cuthbert, appr. to Henry
 Forster.
 1718 11 Aug. Daniel Richardson, appr. to alderman Brabin
 1718-9 23 Jan. George Dickeson, s. of George, appr. to John Greenwell.
 1720 4 July. Thomas Wilkinson, appr. to Ralph Paxton.
 19 Sept. Charles Carr, appr. to Robert Smith, mayor of Durham.

- 1721 26 June. William Hutchinson, appr. to John Westgarth.
John Jackson.
- 15 Dec. John Moreland, gent.
 Richard Wilkinson, gent.
 Rev. William Forster.
 Thomas Dunn.
- 29 Dec. Right rev. William Talbot, bishop of Durham.
 Charles Talbot, esq., s. of right rev. William.
- 1721-2 20 Feb. Christopher Avison.
 Ralph Trotter, gent.
 George Tweddle, gent.
- 6 Mar. John Middleton.
- 1723 23 April. Henry Stevenson.
 29 April. Thomas Harrison.
 5 May. Robert Hopper.
 18 Nov. Nicholas Roper.
- 1724 13 April. Ralph Bainbridge, s. of Ralph, alderman of the company.
 17 Sept. George Tayler, appr. to George Dale.
- 1725 Joseph Haswell.
- 1725-6 7 Feb. Richard Herdman.
- Before 1726 Robert Dobson John Sedgwick, J.P.
 William Roper
- 1726-7 31 Jan. Moses Stoute.
- 1727 18 April. Edward Applebye.
 16 May. Cuthbert Rudd.
 31 July. William Forster.
 Nicholas Shuttleworth.
- 30 Oct. George Bowes, esq.
- 1728 27 May. Robert Smith.
 4 Nov. William Hutchinson.
- 1729 12 May. Thomas Reed.
 23 May. John Burnopp.
- 1729-30 12 Jan. Richard Taylor.
- 1730 1 May. Thomas Bainbridge.
 21 Aug. John Dodshon.
- 1731 4 Aug. John Heighington.
 11 Nov. Robert Shadforth.
- 1733 26 Mar. Martin Paxton, s. of George.

- 1733 9 May. Roger Thornton.
 1733-4 16 Jan. Anthony Wilkinson.
 William Wilkinson.
 1734-5 7 Feb. George Reay.
 1735 17 Nov. William Watson.
 1735-6 9 Feb. John Pickering.
 1736 15 Nov. Hilton Shaw.
 1737-8 2 Jan. Humphrey Doubleday.
 9 Jan. Ferdinando Aisley.
 1739 26 Nov. John Brabant.
 1739-40 14 Jan. Jonathan Bainbridge.
 15 Jan. William Stout.
 1740 7 May. Charles Milner.
 1740-1 2 Feb. Francis Peacock.
 1741 20 April. Mark Johnson.
 1742 21 April. John Tempest, esq.
 John Richardson.
 1742-3 2 Feb. Abraham Wilkinson.
 15 Mar. Ralph Paxton.
 William Paxton.
 1743 11 April. Fardinando Aisley.
 21 Sept. William Dodshon.
 1745-6 3 Mar. Bend. Rain.
 1747 25 May. John Archer.
 17 June. Rev. Robert Lamb.
 John Lamb.
 William Lamb.
 18 June. Thomas Dunn, gent.
 Cuthbert Smith, gent.
 John Smith, gent.
 Robert Smith, gent.
 20 June. Pexall Forster, gent.
 Christopher Wilson.
 13 Nov. Matthew Ridley, s. of Matthew.
 1748 1 June. Richard Alderson.
 1751 3 Dec. Thomas Foster.
 1752 2 Oct. John Rawling.
 1753 27 April. Ralph Bishobridge.

- 1753 12 Nov. Joshua Appleby.
William Appleby.
- 1754 10 June. John Hopper.
- 1755 17 Oct. Thomas Potts.
7 Nov. Robert Waugh.
- 1757 29 June. Gilbert Wilkinson, s. of Anthony.
Thomas Wilkinson, s. of Anthony.
- 1759 13 July. Hon. and right rev. Richard [Trevor], bishop of Durham,
Right hon. Richard, earl of Scarbrough.
Hon. James Lumley, esq.
William Aysleby.
John Gelson [probably admitted 1755.]
Thomas Hopper
- 1760 4 June. Christopher Hopper.
Benjamin Dunn.
William Weston.
17 Nov. George Appleby.
- About 1760 Exton Sayer, esq.
- 1761 12 Jan. Ralph Nelson.
2 Mar. Richard Taylor, s. of Richard.
21 Mar. Rev. William Forster, s. of rev. William.
Richard Shuttleworth, s. of Nicholas, esq.
30 Mar. John Greenwell, s. of John.
Anthony Hopper, s. of Thomas.
31 Mar. William Bainbridge, s. of Cuthbert.
Henry Brice.
Edward Dale, s. of George.
George Dickinson, s. of George.
George Goundry.
Thomas Hutchinson.
Thomas Taylor, s. of Richard.
Thomas Westgarth, s. of Thomas.
- 20 July. Rev. Humphrey Shuttleworth, s. of Richard, esq.
- 12 Nov. Lancelot Hutchinson, s. of William.
- 16 Nov. Cuthbert Ridley, s. of Matthew.
- 25 Nov. George Wardell.
William Kirton.
- 26 Nov. William Archer.

- 1761 27 Nov. Hendry Hopper, s. of Thomas.
Richard Piggott.
- 2 Nov. Thomas Bainbridge, s. of Thomas.
- 9 Dec. Anthony Bowser, s. of Richard, esq.
- 12 Dec. John Tweddell, s. of George, deceased.
- 1762 15 June. William Brown.
- 1765 14 June. Michael Smith, D.D.
Ralph Smith, gent.
- 1822 *Alderman Hopper* [died 1823].
Alderman Austin [died 1822].
Alderman Chipchase [died 1834].
Alderman [?] *Robert* *Chipchase, jun.*
Alderman Dixon [?] *John Dixon*, died 1835.]
Alderman Hutchinson
Alderman Kirton.
Alderman Waugh.
Alderman Wilkinson.
George Alexander Appleby [died 1835.]
John Dunn.
Thomas Hopper.
John Hutchinson, jun.
William James.
Richard Shields.
William Shields, jun.
John Wilkinson.
John Wolfe.
- 1834 *John Anthony Brignal.* *Henry Telford.*
Capt. John Chipchase. *John Ward.*
Ralph Dixon *John Weelands.*
Charles Hall. *Gen. William Wilkinson.*
Alan William Hutchinson *Anthony Wilkinson.*
Michael Lidster *George Wilkinson.*
William Sanderson. *Thomas Wilkinson, esq.*
James Shaw.

APPENDIX III.

APPRENTICES' CERTIFICATES.

The documents relating to apprentices which remain consist chiefly of

certificates, signed by justices of the peace, to the effect that the apprentice's father or mother was possessed of the statutory minimum of freehold property. They are scattered in point of date, and seem at no period to have been very carefully preserved.

1594, 8 May. George Crag, s. of Thomas, of the Langdew, co. Durham, apprenticed to John Farbeck for seven years from 17 July, 1593. Admitted freeman 1600, 20 June.

1594, 10 July. George Walton, s. of Georg, of Durham, draper, deceased, apprenticed to Richard Wright for eight years from 18 Oct., 1593, and for a ninth year as 'hyerman' at 20s. Admitted freeman 1601, 14 Nov.

1594, 6 Dec. William Comming, s. of John, of Reedmershall, yeoman, apprenticed to George Farbeck for seven years from 11 Nov., 1594, and for an eighth year as 'hyerman.' Certified by Thomas Caluerley, esq., and John Heathe of Kepier, esq.

1598-9, 2 March. Christofer Conyngham, s. of Thomas, apprentice to Robert Surtez by indenture 10 Feb., 1596-7.

1599, 28 Nov. William King, s. of John, of Durham, notary public, apprenticed to Thomas Cook for seven years from 18 Nov., 1599.

1599, 28 Nov. William Coming, s. of Nicolas, of Helmendenraw, deceased, apprenticed to Christofer Coming for seven years from 1 Aug., 1597.

1600, 6 May. John Hudspeth, s. of Edward, of Durham, tanner, deceased, apprenticed to Christofer Surtice for seven years from 24 June, 1599.

1600, 28 Nov. Christofer Fenny, s. of Christofer, of Plasworth, co. Durham, yeoman, apprenticed to Robert Surtice for eight years from 11 May, 1600.

1601, 14 Nov. John Bayles, s. of Anthony, of Durham, gent., deceased, apprenticed to George Crag from 1 Oct., 1600.

1601, 14 Nov. Cuthbert Bell, s. of Roland, of Burmyell, apprenticed to Roland Swynborne for seven years from 25 Dec., 1600.

1601 [14 Nov.] Nycholas Whitfeld, s. of Thomas, of Framwelgait, yeoman, apprenticed to Thomas Cookson for seven years from 11 May, 1598.

1632, 10 Sept. George Readshaw, s. of Christopher, of Acton, co. Northumb., app. to Nicholas Whitfeild, deceased. Signed by John Fenwick and Cuthbert Heron.

- 1738, 26 June. Christopher Wilson, s. of Richard, of Sheraton, yeoman, apprenticed to George Gray. Certificate signed by John Hedworth, Anthony Wilkinson, and John Gray. Certificate of baptism of Christopher, s. of Richard and Margaret Wilson of Nesbat hall, 2 May, 1722, signed by Isaac Johnson, curate of Hart.
- 1743, 5 Dec. Thomas Forster, s. of Robert, of Hawthorn, co. Durham, gent., apprenticed to William Dodshon. Certificate signed by Thomas Davison, G. Vane, and John Gray. Certificate of birth, 27 August, 1727. Admitted freeman, 1751, 3 Dec.
- 1744, 22 June. Joseph King, s. of Joseph, of Hare-hill, co. Durham, gent., apprenticed to William Paxton. Certificate signed by Ralph Carr, John Gray, and Anthony Wilkinson. Certificate of birth, 20 Feb., 1726-7.
- 1745, 18 Nov. — Forster, son of William, merchant. Third call.
- 1746, 17 Nov. George Wardell, s. of Jane, of Durham, widow, apprenticed to John Burnop. Certificate signed by G. Bowes, Anthony Wilkinson, and John Gray. Admitted 1761, 25 Nov.
- 1747, 27 July. Richard Pigott, s. of the rev. Robert, of Durham, clerk, apprenticed to Thomas Dunn. Certificate signed by Thomas Davison, Thomas Davison, jr., and J. Gray. Admitted freeman 1761, 27 Nov.
- 1747, 9 Sept. Thomas Potts, s. of Thomas, of Durham, glazier, apprenticed to John Dodshon. Certificate signed by G. Bowes, Anthony Wilkinson, and John Gray. Admitted freeman, 1755, 17 Oct.
- 1747, 26 Oct. Robert Waugh, s. of Martha, of Durham, widow, apprenticed to William Dodshon. Certificate signed by Anthony Wilkinson, Robert Wharton, and John Gray. Certificate of baptism, 11 July, 1731. Admitted 1755, 7 Nov.
- 1747, 26 Nov. John Gelson, s. of Rebecca, of Durham, widow, apprenticed to George Reay. Certificate signed by Robert Wharton, Anthony Wilkinson, and J. Gray.
- 1747-8, 22 Jan. William Archer, s. of William, of Durham, gent., apprenticed to John Archer. Certificate signed by G. Bowes, Robert Wharton, and John Gray. Admitted 1761, 26 Nov.
- 1750-1, 10 Jan. George Goundry, s. of Joshua, of Little Stainton, apprenticed to Richard Hirdman. Certificate signed by

- Robert Wharton, G. Bowes, and Anthony Wilkinson. Certificate of baptism signed by Samuel Huson, vicar of Bishopston, 15 July, 1733. Admitted 1761, 31 March.
- 1753, 7 May. Richard Shuttleworth, s. of Nicholas, merchant. Third call. Admitted 1761, 21 March.
- 1755, 8 Nov. Thomas Chipchase, s. of Mary, of St. Oswald's parish, widow, apprenticed to Thomas Dunn. Certificate signed by George Baker, Anthony Wilkinson, and Richard Wharton. Certificate of birth of Thomas, s. of Robert Chipchase, 13 Nov., 1739, signed by William Forster, vicar of St. Oswald's.
- 1758, 23 June. James Winter, s. of Ann, of New Elvet, widow, apprenticed to John Dodshon. Certificate signed by Richard Wharton, Anthony Wilkinson, and J. Westgarth. Certificate of birth of James, s. of Thomas and Ann Winter, 10 June, 1742.
- 1759, 23 June. John Hall, s. of Hugh, of Allergate, gent., apprenticed to Thomas Potts. Signatures gone. Certificate of birth of John, s. of Hugh and Elizabeth Hall, 1 June, 1743.
- 1764, 9 Nov. Ralph Lambert, s. of Ralph, the younger, of Durham, miller, apprenticed to Thomas Foster. Certificate signed by Samuel Dickens, Henry Vane, and R. Shafto.
- 1764, 29 Sept. John Smith, s. of Mary, of Hutton Henry, widow, apprenticed to William Appleby. Certificate signed by Mark Milbanke, R. Carr, and Matthew Carr.
- 1786, 22 Jan. Certificates of baptism of Nathan, s. of Richard Taylor, of Manfield, co. York, 22 July, 1754; Braban, s. of the same 8, May, 1763; and Lawson Henry, s. of the same, 6 Feb., 1765.

APPENDIX IV.

BONDS BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND VARIOUS UNQUALIFIED TRADESMEN.

- 1664-5, 10 Jan. Edward Stoddart of Witton Gilbert to Anthony Dale. £20. Witnesses: George Page, John Richardson.
- 1664-5, 31 Jan. Thomas Harper of Tuddoe to Anthony Dale. £20. Witnesses: John Richardson, William Greeueson.
- 1672, 17 July. Nicholas Brignell of Shinckley, yeoman, and James Brignell of Whithall Mill, yeoman, to Cuthbert Hutchinson. £20. Witnesses: John Hutchinson, Anthony Dale, jr., Thomas Gastell.

- 1672, 7 Oct. Mary Swinfeild of Shinckliffe, widow, and John Foreman of the same, yeoman, to Cuthbert Hutchinson. £30. Witnesses : John Simpson, William Paxton.
- 1674, 26 March. George Eales of Seaham, yeoman, to William Roper. £20. Witness : Robert Forster.
- 1674, 26 March. Thomas Haine of Cassup, yeoman, to William Roper. £20. Witnesses : Robert Forster, William Greeueson.
1684. ——— John Heighington, of Durham, shoemaker, to John Gordon and William Greiusion. £50. Incomplete.

APPENDIX V.

THE DURHAM GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY..

[Read on the 27th September, 1922].

The ordinary of the company of goldsmiths, plumbers, pewterers, potters, glaziers and painters of the city of Durham, confirmed by bishop Tunstall 22nd May, 1532, was acquired by Mr. Parker Brewis, F.S.A., from the collection of MSS. belonging to the late Dr. Greenwell. It is a large sheet of parchment, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long by 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad, to which is appended what has been an excellent impression of Tunstall's great seal. Unfortunately a large fragment of this has been broken off, and only some two-thirds are left. A description of the full seal, from an example at Durham, will be found in Mr. Charles Blair's catalogue of *Durham Seals* in *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd ser. vol. XIV, pp. 474, 475; and it is illustrated in plate 56 of the reproductions of seals in that work.

The signatures mentioned in the text of the document are those which were appended to the private copy of this ordinary in the possession of the craft, and were not appended, of course, to the episcopal confirmation engrossed in the bishop's chancery.

IN THE WORSHIP OF GOD AND the sustentacion of the procession and the play on Corpus Christi day in the Citie and suburbs of Durham after the olde and laudable custome and for the Weale profett and right of all the kinges common people. It is ordenyd assented and agreed by all them

that occupyes the Goldsmythcrafte plumbercrafte pewterer crafte pottercrafte glasiercrafte and payntercrafte or any other science that belongeth to them in the said Citie and suburbs of Durham at this day for them and all thoes of the same craftes that shall comme after them in the same Citie and suburbs for to dwell hereafter that they gedder togedder ones in the yereyere. And by their common assent chese two of the mooste conynge and discrete men of the said craftes to be their Wardens and serchers for that yere. And from yere to yere yerey to chese two Wardens and Serchers for the Weale of the said craftes and prouffett of the kinges common people. And also that almaner of Goldsmytes plumberes peawterers potters Glasiers and paynters and all other belonging to the said craftes nowe dwellinge in the said Citie and suburbes of Durham or in tyme to comme repayinge to dwell shall amyably yerey at the feest of corpus christi goo together in procession with their baner and lightes. And to play or cause to be plaid the play that of old custume hath belonged to their said craftes at their owne costes and charges after the ordynance of the Wardeyns and serchers yerey by their common assent chosen. And that euery man of the said craftes be at the said procession yerey when his ower is assigned to hym by the said Wardens and serchers for the tyme beyng. And at all other metinges that shall be prouffett and honesty to the said crafte when he is by the said Wardens or serchers or by the one of them or some other in their names lafully warned vpon payn of forfayttinge to the bisshop of Durham for the tyme beinge for euery default vjd. to be rayسد by his baillye or sergeauntes of the said Citie for the tyme beinge and to the light of the said crafte vjd. to be rayسد by the said Wardens and serchers for the tyme beinge. Except that he haue a resonable excuse to be excused by the said Wardens. AND ALSO it is ordened that euery man of the said craftes do and fulfill of his partie all and euery thinge that is or shall be ordened and made by the said Wardens and serchers and by the common assent of all the bretherne of the said occupacions for the Weale and honestie of the said craftes and the prouffet of the kinges common people vpon payne of vjs. viijd. to the bisshop of Durham for euery default to be rayسد by his said baillye or sergeauntes and to the lightes of the said craftes vjs. viijd. to be rayسد by the Wardens and serchers of the same craftes for the tyme beinge. AND ALSO yt is ordened and agreed by the common assent of the said craftes that noman of the same nowe beinge and dwellinge or in tyme to come that shall happen to dwell in the said Citie and suburbes of Durham

take to printice nor vpon worke within his house or withoute no Scottesman borne vpon payn of xxs. to the bisshop of Durham to be rayسد as is abouesaid and xxs. to the light of the said crafte to be rayسد in forme aforsaid. ALSO it is ordened and agreed that no man of the said craftes from this tyme forward set vp vse nor occupye at his owne hande the said craftes nor non to them belonginge within the said Citie nor suburbes of Durham or that it be seene by the Wardens and serchers for the tyme beinge that his conynge be able to wirke for the prouffett of the kinges common people and the honestie of the said craftes. And that he haue trulye contented and paid to the bisshop of Durham or to his baillye for the tyme beinge iijs. iiijd. to thuse of the said bisshop for his agreement. And iijs. iiijd. to the Wardens and serchers of the said crafte for the tyme beinge onlye to the vse and prouffett of the light of the said craftes for his said agreement yf he haue seruyd his apprentishipp at any of the said craftes within the said Citie or suburbes of Durham vpon payne of forfaytinge to the bisshop of Durham vjs. viijd. And to the light of the said craftes vjs. viijd. to be rayسد as is beforsaid. AND IF he haue not serued his said apprentishipp within the said Citie nor suburbes then vnto suche tyme as he haue trulye contented and paid vnto the said bisshop of Durham or to his said baillye to the vse of the said bisshop xs. for his agreement and to the said Wardens and serchers to the vse and prouffett of the said crafte xs. for his said agreement vpon payne of forfaytinge to the said bisshop of Durham for the tyme beinge xxs. and to the light of the said craftes xxs. to be rayسد as ys abouesaid. ALSO that noman of the said craftes take noe prentes within the said Citie nor suburbes to be bounde to the said craftes or to any of them vnder the terme of vij yeres apprentice and the eight yere hireman or elles eight yeres prentice only vpon payne of iijs. iiijd. to the bisshop of Durham and iijs. iiijd. to the said craftes. AND ALSO it is ordened and agreed that there shall noman of the said craftes within the said Citie nor suburbes take no Jorname to wirke iornay worke to the tyme that he so willinge to hier a iornayman be fully agreed with the Wardens of the said craftes for their tyme beinge and haue paid his dewtie to the bisshop of Durham for his tyme beinge vpon payne of iijs. iiijd. to the said bisshop and iijs. iiijd. to the light of the said crafte to be rayسد as is beforsaid. Excepte he haue licence of the said Wardens and serchers for the tyme beinge. AND ALSO that noman of the said craftes within the said Citie and suburbes goo into the same Citie or suburbes or to any other place for to desire an other mans

customers or werke from hym whiche he at any tyme hadde in common-
 ynge or in condicion onto suche tyme as he that had the said worke first
 in condicion haue said naye wirkinge theruppon vpon payne of for-
 faytinge to the said bisshop of Durham iij. iiijd. and to the light of the
 said crafte iij. iiijd. to be raysted in forme aforesaid. AND IF any default
 be made by any of the said bretherne of the said craftes yt to be amended
 by the sight and order of the said Wardens and serchers of the same for
 the tyme beinge. ALSO that no brother of the said craftes within the
 said Citie nor suburbs shall not tyesse procure exhorte nor hier the pren-
 tice nor seruaunt pertenying or belonginge to any other brother of the
 said crafte nor sett hym vpon worke withoute licence of hym the whiche
 that seruaunt or printice laste serued or elles that the said seruaunt or
 prentise haue fully serued and fulfilled his due terme of seruise to his
 former maister and be free his owne man and at his libertie vpon (*sic*) of
 vjs. viijd. to the said bisshop and of vjs. viijd. to the light of the said
 crafte to be raysted as is abouesaid. AND ALSO if any man of the said
 craftes within the said Citie and suburbs of Durham disobey and will not
 paye his forfaitis and duties aboue specified or will not be sworne to this
 ordynaunce and to all other that shall be made and ordered by the
 common assent of the said craftes for the weall and honestie of the same
 and the prouffett of the kinges common people before the Steward of the
 borowe courte for the tyme beinge as we all be nowe whose names do the
 hereafter ensewe that then and so ofte the said Wardens and serchers of the
 said craftes for the tyme beinge shall compleyn them acordinge as they
 haue cause to maister Chaunceller of the Bisshopriche of Durham for the
 tyme beinge. And therupon the said maister Chaunceller for to compell
 them and euery of them that so dothe trespase by Imprisonament or
 other ways as he dothe se cause vnto suche tyme as he or they do agree
 with the said craftes and doo all and euery thinge therunto belonginge
 that of right owith to be doone acordinge to the effecte of these oure
 present ordynaunces. AND IF the said maister Chaunceller woll not
 regarde temperally to punyssh as is aboue rehersed all those that dothe
 offende in the premisses or in any of them that then the said Wardens
 and serchers for their tyme beinge shall sewe the lawe agaynste the said
 transgressors befor any Juge temperall And for the offenses made require
 to haue them punysshed acordingly after the discrecion of the Juge in that
 behalf. ET NOS CUTHBERTUS Dunelmensis Episcopus omnes et singulos
 supradictos articulos confirmamus approbamus et ratificamus pro nobis

et successoribus nostris donec nobis aut successoribus nostris aliter visum fuerit. IN CUIUS rei testimonium Sigillum nostrum presentibus apponi fecimus TESTE Roberto Hyndmer Clerico Cancellario nostro DATA apud Awkeland vicesimo secundo die mensis Maij Anno transactionis nostri (*sic*) tercio.



BLACKABURN LOUGH, NORTHUMBERLAND.
(See p. 147).