

XI.—GATESHEAD CHARTERS AND COMPANIES FROM THE TWELFTH TO THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES AND LATER.

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INTRODUCTION.

The purpose of this paper is to bring together various scattered references to Charters issued from the twelfth to the seventeenth centuries to the Burgesses of Gateshead and to various Companies of Gateshead of which the latter in some instances survived to the nineteenth century. In Part I, the situation of those originals and their enrolments (or of early copies) which have survived will be listed together with the whereabouts of facsimiles and published texts. In Part II, fresh material will be discussed, which has recently come to light, relating to the composite Gateshead Company of Drapers, Tailors, Mercers, Hardwaremen, Coopers and Chandlers. In Part III, the Charter issued in 1671 to the composite Company of Freemasons, Carvers, etc., will be considered.

PART I: GATESHEAD CHARTERS AND COMPANIES.

The following is a list of Charters granted to Gateshead by the Bishops of Durham, together with one issued by Cromwell, as they have so far been traced:¹

<i>Charter</i>	<i>Bishop</i>	<i>Date</i>
1 Forest and Borough	du Puiset	c. 1153-1195
1a " "	de Poitou	c. 1197-1208
2 Grant of Market and Fair		Early 14th century?

<i>Charter</i>	<i>Bishop</i>	<i>Date</i>
3 Grant of Pavage	Langley	23 Sept. 1423 (P.R.O. Durham 3/38 mem. 10, No. 44)
4 Glovers	Tunstall	?1557
5 Barkers and Tanners	Tunstall	20 June 1559 ²
6 Weavers	Barnes	13 January 1584
7 Dyers, Fullers, Blacksmiths, Locksmiths, Cutlers, Joiners and Carpenters	Matthew	21 August 1595 ³
8 Do New Charter	Cosin	20 July 1671 (P.R.O. Durham 3/117 mems. 17-19, No. 29)
9 Drapers, Tailors, Mercers, Hardwaremen, Coopers and Chandlers	Matthew	19 January, 1595 (P.R.O. Durham 3/92 mems. 7-8 No. 27)
10 Do New Charter	Cromwell	7 June 1658
11 Do New Charter	Cosin	16 Sept. 1661 ⁴ (P.R.O. Durham 3/116 mems. 29-30, No. 13)
12 Cordwainers	Matthew	1595 ⁵ (P.R.O. Durham 3/92 mems. 16-18, No. 62)
13 Freemasons, Carvers, Stone Cutters, Sculptors, Brick-makers, Tilers, Bricklayers, Glaziers, Painters, Stainers, Founders, Nailors, Pewterers Founders, and Plumbers, Millwrights, Saddlers, Bridlers, Trunkmakers & Distillers	Cosin	24 April 1671 ⁶ (P.R.O. Durham, 3/117 mems. 23d-25d, No. 25)
14 Grocers, Apothecaries and Pipe-makers	Crewe	28 September 1675 (P.R.O. Durham 3/118 mems. 1d-3d, No. 1)

It is to be remarked that "P.R.O. Durham" followed by a number in the above list represents the enrolment of the Charter concerned in the Chancery Rolls of the Palatinate at the Public Record Office, London. Photostats of these enrolments have been deposited in the archives of Gateshead Public Library, while the originals of Nos. 10 and 13 are on view in the Shipley Art Gallery. These, with other material, now render the full text of all the documents in the form of the original Charter or of their enrolments readily available to the local student, except numbers 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The texts of these last do not appear to have survived.

The opportunity has also been taken of correcting some minor inaccuracies by earlier writers, principally as to dates. Such corrections are recorded in the text or footnotes.

The fact that none of these Episcopal Charters except the first, which was confirmed by the Pope, received any higher authority than that of the Bishop himself, is typical of Episcopal Charters granted in Durham, and illustrates the exceptional powers resting in its Bishopric.⁷

The officer usually appointed by the Bishop of Durham to govern each borough of the County was the Bailiff.⁸ So far as Gateshead is concerned, Mackenzie, writing in 1827, records that Bailiffs were known to have been appointed as far back as 1316, but none had been appointed after 1681.^{8a} He stated that the names of several persons who filled this office occur as witnesses to documents in the vestry of St. Mary's Church, Gateshead, from 1316 to 1620.⁹

Stewards were first appointed in 1695, and in Mackenzie's time were elected annually by the Borough Holders¹⁰ and Freemen.¹¹

According to *The Victoria County History*:

"Two Stewards elected by the Borough Holders and Freemen managed the borough property subject to half-yearly meetings of their electors, while the Manor Court, the Justices of the Peace, and above all, the curious select vestry known as the 'Four and Twenty'¹² provided such government of the town as there was. In 1835 the Borough Holders of Gateshead were content to

explain their title as a question of tenure and denied that there ever was a borough corporate at Gateshead."¹³

So far as the Companies are concerned, with the exception of the Joiners Company and the Chandlers with a total membership of five, none had survived when the Municipal Commissioners of 1833 reported to Parliament on the incorporation of Gateshead.^{13a} This event took place under the Municipal Corporation's Act of 1835 and it was then for the first time that Gateshead had a Mayor and Town Council.¹⁴ At the time of the incorporation, the Freedom of the Borough then belonged to all full members of these Companies. Some of the government of the town had been in the hands of Commissioners appointed under a Local Act obtained in 1814. Under this Act, the Commissioners were appointed for the "Cleansing, Lighting, Watching and otherwise Improving certain streets and other Places in the Parish of Gateshead".^{14a}

A noticeable characteristic of some of these Companies is their composite nature, a peculiarity shared with some of the Companies in other boroughs of the County and found also elsewhere.¹⁵ This may have been due to insufficient population to enable separate Companies to be chartered. The population of Gateshead was claimed to be over 3,000 in 1575,¹⁶ while in 1801 it was 8,597. At the census of 1831, prior to its incorporation, it was over 15,000, while at the latest census, that of 1951, it is over 115,000. In the case of Gateshead, another factor favouring the preservation of composite Companies was doubtless the powerful trade rivalry of Newcastle.¹⁷ Such Companies gave a monopoly, since under penalties of fines, no one outside the Company could practise a similar trade without the Company's permission.

Charter number 1, the first recorded in connection with Gateshead, was that issued by Bishop du Puiset¹⁸ in the latter half of the twelfth century. It is chiefly composed of rules relating to the taking of wood and undergrowth in the

forest and exemptions from the jurisdiction of the bishop's foresters, and also states that boundaries have been fixed between forest and the borough (*burgo*). Each burgess was to have the same liberty for his burgage as the burgesses of Newcastle, and it is known that this meant that a burgess might give or sell his land freely, provided there was no suit against it.^{18a} As Miss Dodds has pointed out:¹⁹

"The usual clauses relating to exemption from trial by battle, enfranchisement of a villein by residence, or assizes of bread and beer are absent. The chief official of the borough is never named. In short this charter is scarcely a borough charter, as it grants the least possible amount of the privileges which go to make a borough. It shows a forest vill which occupies such a favourable position geographically that it is slowly establishing its claims to borough privileges in spite of very adverse circumstances."

The original does not survive, but a fourteenth century copy is in Durham Cathedral Library and a photostat facsimile is in Gateshead Public Library. A printed transcription and translation in a rare pamphlet by Wm. Douglas, of 1853, is also in this library.^{19a} The Latin text is also published in Greenwell's edition of the *Boldon Buke*, published by the Surtees Society.²⁰

It may be remarked here that the term "borough" did not attain legal definition until 1833. In previous centuries it was used with very wide connotations, boroughs differing greatly as to their powers and customs of government. According to Cam, however, the *sine qua non* of a borough was that the burgesses were free to sell their land, so that Gateshead can rightly claim to be a borough as far back as the time of du Puiset.^{20a}

Another early specific reference to Gateshead as a borough appears to be in 1575 among various documents arising out of one of the several attempts made by Newcastle to annex Gateshead. The documents include a letter from Sir William Fleetwood, Recorder of London, and Escheator of the See of Durham, then vacant owing to the death of

Bishop Pilkington. It is addressed to Lord Burghley as Lord Treasurer of England, and defended the claims of Gateshead to remain independent. Dated 12th March, 1575, it mentions that "the towne of Gatessyde is a corporate towne, an auncient borowgh, the keye of the countie pallantyne . . ." ^{20b}

The ambiguous term "corporate towne" should not be interpreted in the modern sense that Gateshead was administered by a Corporation, a development which, as we have seen, did not take place until 1835. Another letter to Burghley on the same subject, but from the Burgesses of Gateshead, states that in the "borrowghe of Gateshead", "there are to the number of fower hundred householders and dyvers artificers usinge freelye their artes and misteries and other lawdable customes of theyr said towne" ^{20c}

Number 1a, the Charter granted by Philip de Poitou, is closely similar to that of du Puiset. It was produced before the 1833 Commission of Inquiry into the Municipal Corporations, ²¹ but as the seal was missing, ^{21a} it too may have been an old copy as in the case of the du Puiset Charter. It cannot now be traced, but the Latin text has been preserved by William Douglas in the rare pamphlet of 1853 already cited. ^{21b} The writer is indebted to Dr. Conway Davies for the following translation of the de Poitou document: ^{21c}

THE GATESHEAD CHARTER FROM PHILIP DE POITOU,
c. 1197-1208.

Philip, by the grace of God, Bishop of Durham, to all men of the whole of his Bishopric, English and Norman, greeting. Know that we have granted and in this present charter confirmed to our burgesses of Gateshead, full liberty of forestage, rendering in the half year, namely from Whitsun to the Feast of St. Martin, for one wagon which shall go to the wood two pence, and for one horse, two pence, and for a man carrying, one penny for all things which are necessary to them for their own use, saving those things which are forbidden. It shall not be allowed to any forester within the bounds which are decreed between our forest and the borough to interfere with any burgess or with anyone dwelling in the borough

or with any cart or cattle of his for the purpose of hindering him whether he has wood or timber or other thing. And if any suit is begun between a forester and a burgess it shall be determined in the said borough (*burgo*) if it can be, or otherwise it is to be determined in our presence. The cattle of no burgess shall be taken without the borough but the burgess shall replevy them there if he wished to replevy them. It shall be allowed to the said burgesses to have herbage, and rushes, and briar to their own use, wheresoever they were accustomed to do so, provided they sell none thereof. And if a burgess digs turves for his own fuel and does not have his own cart and perchance brings in several carts to convey the fuel he shall be quit of giving two pence for all the carts from the forestage and it shall be allowed for each burgess to give of his wood to whomsoever he wishes, dwelling on this side of the Tyne, without the least question, but he shall not sell to anyone without licence of the forester. The forester shall not interfere with any goods which shall come within the said bounds. And each burgess of Gateshead shall have for his burgage the same liberty as a burgess of Newcastle has for his burgage. And wheresoever a burgess of Gateshead or his chattels shall come within our land, he shall have the peace of God and St. Cuthbert, that no-one shall do them any injury or exact any exactions from them. We grant also to the same burgesses that they shall have common of pasture and covert to their houses and all commodities that they can have of Saltwell Meadow, as they are accustomed, as is reasonably contained in the charter of our predecessor of blessed memory Hugh.

It will be seen that here too, as in the du Puiset document, Gateshead is called a borough (*burgo*).

SOME OTHER GATESHEAD CHARTERS.

Regarding number 2, there was probably a Charter granted for the Market and Fair at Gateshead as early as the fourteenth century, since a number of such Charters were granted elsewhere in Durham in that century, whilst there is evidence relating to the existence of the Market and Fair in Gateshead in a suit brought in 1578 by the Mayor and Burgesses of Newcastle. In this there is reference to a market, which had been held twice a week in Gateshead, for raw produce such as corn, beans, peas, cattle, bread, salt, oatmeal, etc. It had been suppressed by the Corporation of Newcastle when it annexed Gateshead under Edward VI in

1553. It was not revived when Gateshead regained its freedom, under Mary I, a year later. The fair, however, which was held yearly at Lammas (August 1st), was not suppressed, and continued until 1853.²²

Number 3, the 1423 Grant of Pavage granted by Bishop Langley to the Parson (Rector) of Gateshead, and other principal inhabitants of the Borough, gave him the right to levy tolls on goods brought into the Borough, the proceeds to be devoted to the repair of walls and streets of the town. This Charter appears to be lost, but its enrolment survives and it is summarized by Welford, who cites *1, 2 Henry VI*, 1423.²³ It has been wrongly referred to by some previous writers as a Charter of Murage.

Regarding number 4, John Sykes, *Local Record*, Newcastle, 1824, under date of 1557 states that the Glovers were incorporated by Tunstall. This is supported by Richardson's *Borderers Table-Book*, 1846, who however wrongly cites Surtees as his authority. Neither this Charter nor its enrolment have been traced. That the company was still in existence in 1634 is shown by the following letter from Bishop Morton requesting the Glovers to make Gilbert Thomson of Hexham a freeman,^{23a} while their dealings with the Glovers of Newcastle from 1643 to 1656 are also on record.^{23b}

"Whereas Gilb^t. Thomson of Hexam in the county of Northumberland—haith compounded with mee for his ffreedoine of the Company or Corporacon of Glovers within the Borough or towne of Gateside. These are therefore to certify yow that I am content (upon his agreem^t with said Corporacon) that he be made free of, and admitted into that Company:

Given at my Castle of Aukland under my hand the eight day of May, 1634,

A^o Reg. Caroli etc. decimo

Tho Duresme.

To the Wardens and all other the freemen of the Company of Glovers in Gateside."

Of the remaining Charters numbers 5-14 inclusive, all except numbers 9 and 14 were briefly referred to by the

Municipal Commissioners of 1833, together with numbers 1 and 1a. It was then stated that number 5, issued to the Barkers and Tanners; number 7, issued to the Dyers etc.; and numbers 10 and 11, Charters issued to the Drapers by Cromwell and Cosin, were extant, but only the Dyers and Drapers had survived by 1833.^{23c} Writing with a little fuller knowledge in 1890, Boyle listed all the Charters numbered 5-14 inclusive,^{23d} stating that he had seen numbers 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 among the records of the Borough Holders of Gateshead, that number 13 was in the possession of Gateshead Corporation, and that he had not seen the remainder. With the exception of this latter document and Cromwell's Charter to the Drapers, which is also in the possession of Gateshead Corporation, none of these documents can now be traced, though as already remarked the texts of some survive in the form of enrolments, as set out in the list above.

According to the Commissioners of 1833, number 5, the Charter issued by Tunstall in 1559 to the Barkers and Tanners: "re-incorporated and confirmed the Company of Barkers and Tanners of Gateshead,"²⁴ approving of and reciting the laws and ordinances by which they had been previously governed, containing, amongst others, an authority to elect wardens annually, impose fines, &c."

Regarding number 6, issued by Barnes, this "confirmed the rules of the Company of Weavers. . . . By the laws of the latter Company, the Weavers were empowered to elect annually one alderman and two wardens; the title 'alderman' being understood to apply to the head officer, without reference to any corporate body".^{24a} The Commissioners dated this Charter 13th January, 1583; Boyle dated it 13th January 1584,^{24b} the difference doubtless arising according to whether the older convention was followed of beginning the year on April 1st, or the modern one of January 1st. The Weavers Company was still in existence in 1691, though it had then fallen into decay.²⁵

Again according to the Commissioners of 1833, number

7, the Charter of 1595 issued by Matthew to the Dyers &c. "confirmed the ancient usages and customs of the crafts or trades of dyers, fullers, blacksmiths, locksmiths, cutlers, joiners and carpenters of the borough of Gateshead, and incorporated them into one company".^{25a}

In 1726, the Dyers and Fullers leased a meeting place from the Church Wardens for 21 years.²⁶ On 9th December, 1814, nine Dyers and Fullers were allowed claims on the Borough lands.²⁷ This Company was one of the two surviving in 1833.^{27a}

Of the Cordwainers, or Shoe-makers, whose Charter, number 12, only survives as an enrolment, nothing further seems to be recorded, though individual Cordwainers are known.

Number 14, the last to be issued to a Gateshead Company, the Grocers, Apothecaries and Pipemakers, by Crewe in 1675, does not appear to have survived other than as an enrolment. The date of this Charter is as stated and not 1676 as given by previous writers. The Charter was withdrawn by a decree of the Durham Chancery three years later,²⁸ but the Grocers evidently refused to surrender it, as it was still in their possession when a suit was brought against them by the Drapers Company in 1683.^{28a}

PART II: THE DRAPERS, TAYLORS, MERCERS, HARDWAREMEN, COOPERS AND CHANDLERS COMPANY OF GATESHEAD.

It will be seen that this Company, hereafter referred to for convenience as the Drapers Company, received its first Charter, number 9 on the list, from Bishop Matthew in 1595. The Charter, however, does not appear to have survived, though the enrolment exists.

For the next fifty years or so until the time of Cromwell in the middle of the seventeenth century, the history of the Drapers Company is somewhat obscure. A manuscript

book in Gateshead Public Library which appears to be made up of three separate volumes bound in one, was printed and edited by Edwin Dodds in 1907.^{28b} This gave the Constitutions and Bye-laws in force in 1658, accounts from 1655-1830, names of members from 1659-1825, stewards and other officials from 1658-1850, together with various orders and minutes, and the "entrays of prentasses" and "enrowlements" from 1645-1819.

In the following pages the text is given of the Cromwell Charter to the Drapers Company and the oaths and regulations appertaining to the early eighteenth century, which differ considerably in some respects from the Bye-laws of 1658, together with various names of members. As photo-stats of all the Charters granted to this Company are now available in Gateshead Public Library, a full picture is available of the Company's affairs, especially of the last 200 years during its existence of some 260 years.

OLIVER CROMWELL'S CHARTER OF 1658.

Another Charter, number 10, was granted to the Drapers Company by Oliver Cromwell on 7th June, 1658, only three months before his death. Recently it has been generously presented by the Borough Holders of Gateshead to Gateshead Corporation.

The Charter is on two sheets of vellum, of which the first is 30 inches wide and $27\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, while the second is of the same width and is 22 inches high. It is fastened at the lower edge to the first sheet of vellum; the latter being turned over the second, to form a small margin, threaded with cord, to which is attached the seal in the usual manner.

In the top left hand corner of the first sheet there is a portrait of Cromwell, reproduced on plate XVIII. Such portraits are rare on Cromwellian Charters, the customary space on Royal Charters which were devoted to a picture of the monarch being frequently left blank in Cromwell's time. The portrait is drawn in graphite, and there has been

some slight accentuation of the eyes and the edge of the ermine with a small amount of ink now faded to a pale brownish-yellowish wash. The top margin of the Charter bears a floriated design four inches wide, in the same technique of graphite, with slight accentuations in faded ink. Under this is the heading of the Charter in large Gothic letters, in ink with dark brown embellishments, the remainder of the margins being left unadorned.

The portrait seems to be the last of Cromwell prior to his death mask. It is of additional interest that it shows him in ermine. No other example of Cromwell wearing ermine during his lifetime is to be found in the extensive records of the National Portrait Gallery. While there were effigies showing him robed as a monarch, and bearing the crown, sceptre and orb, these were not produced until after his death.

It was on May 8th, 1657, that Cromwell finally decided not to accept the crown, though pressed to do so by his advisers. On June 21st, he formally agreed to continue as Lord Protector under a new constitution, and during a ceremony at which there was a crown, sceptre, Bible and seal on the table before him. Nevertheless, only one year later, in 1658, the year of his death, his difficulties were such that intimates believed that he had again changed his mind about becoming King, although specific evidence on this is not available. The presence of ermine in a portrait from an official document of this period seems to strengthen the view that Cromwell actually had such a change in mind.²⁹

The seal, in dark grey wax with an olive green tint, was originally circular, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; it was the Great Seal of England, as used by Oliver Cromwell, Protector from 1657-1658, and in 1659. Unfortunately, only a sector, equal to about a quarter of the original, has been preserved, so that the illustration, as now to be described, is derived from another source (plates XIX and XIXa).



OLIVER (CROMWELL), PROTECTOR, DIED 3 SEPT. 1558. FROM THE CHARTER OF THE DRAPERS COMPANY OF GATESHEAD DATED 7 JUNE 1658.



OBVERSE OF GREAT SEAL OF OLIVER (CROMWELL), PROTECTOR, TO CHARTER OF 7 JUNE 1658,
GRANTED TO THE DRAPERS COMPANY OF GATESHEAD 7 JUNE 1658.



REVERSE OF GREAT SEAL OF OLIVER (CROMWELL), PROTECTOR, ATTACHED TO CHARTER OF
THE DRAPERS COMPANY OF GATESHEAD DATED 7 JUNE 1658.

NOTE ON THE GREAT SEAL OF OLIVER CROMWELL.

BY C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

Obverse Armorial, a shield of arms—I and IV *Cross of St. George*—England, II *Saltire of St. Andrew*—Scotland, III *Harp*—Ireland, Crest: Above a full faced mantled helmet, *the crowned lion crest of England* standing upon a royal crown. Supporters—*dexter a crowned lion rampant. Sinister a dragon.* On a scroll below PAX QUAERITUR BELLO. (Plate XIX.)

Legend MAGNUM SIGILLUM REIPUB: ANGLIAE SCOTIAE ET HIBERNIAE & CTE.

Reverse The Protector, on horseback pacing to the dexter, in armour with sash over his right shoulder, his head bare with long hair, his right hand grasps a baton resting on the horse, his sheathed sword hangs at his left side, a broad linen collar lies over the armour, around his neck. Under the horse is a view, over the Thames, of London. Above the hind quarters of the horse is a cartouche bearing the armorials as on the obverse, with in pretence, a shield bearing *sable a lion rampant argent*, being the arms of Cromwell. (Plate XIXa.)

Legend OLIVARIVS · DEI · GR · REIP · ANGLIE · SCOTIAE · ET · HIBERNIAE · & C · PROTECTOR.

TEXT OF CROMWELL'S CHARTER OF 1658.

The following is the text of the Charter. It is on similar lines to Company Charters issued by the Bishops, except that under an Act of 1654, it provides for soldiers to practise the various occupations without having served an apprenticeship.

OLIVER By the Grace of God Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland & Ireland and the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting Know Yee that wee for the common profit quiet State and good Rule and Government as well of Our whole Towne and Borough of Gateside in Our County of Durham as of all and singular persons as well now as hereafter exercising professing and practising the severall Trades, Arts Misteries Crafts faculties and Occupacons of Drapers, Taylors, Mercers Hardware men, Cowpers and Chaundlers within Our said Towne and Borough according to such laudable Customes and useages as for the time whereof the

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memory of Man is not to the contrary have beene used and enjoyed within the said Towne and Borough of Our especiall grace certaine knowledge and meere mocon by and with the advice of Our Privy Councill Have Willed, Ordained Declared granted and confirmed And by theis presents for Us and Our Successors doe will ordaine declare grant and confirme That the severall persons now Exerciseing and occupying the severall Trades Arts Misteries Crafts Faculties and Occupacons of Drapers Taylors Mercers Hardware men Cowpers and Chaundlers within Our said Towne and Borough of Gateside shall bee forever hereafter in Deed and Name One Body politicke and Corporate and one Community and Fellowship by the name of the Wardens and Commonalty of the Towne and Burrough of Gateside in the County of Durham and by that Name shall have perpetuall succession And that the said Commonalty and Fellowship every yeare for ever hereafter shall and may choose elect and make Three of the most fitt able and discreete persons of the said Fellowship expert in the aforesaid Arts, Occupacons, Trades Sciences or Misteries or some of them And the same or some of them within the Towne and Borough aforesaid by the space of Three whole yeares att the least next before such eleccion have vsed exercised practised and Traded and in the said Towne by the like space and Tearme have continually beene inhabiting and abiding to be Wardens of the Commounalty and Fellowship aforesaid and as well to take upon them the Survey knowledge and government for that yeare of the Fellowship and Community aforesaid and of all persons of the Towne and Borough aforesaid there vseing the said severall Arts Misteries Trades or Occupacions or any of them and alsoe of all other persons of whatsoever Forreigners Occupying Exerciseing Tradeing or using any of the said severall Occupacions within the Towne and Borough aforesaid And alsoe to have the punishment of all and every the persons aforesaid for their Offences against such Orders Ordinances Constitutions and By-lawes as by the said Wardens for the time being by and with the Assent and consent of the greater part of the said Commonalty and Fellowship shall be made and sett downe in Writeing And Wee doe hereby for Us and Our Successors Nominate Constitute and appoint George Airey, John Atkinson and John Gose-ton now Exerciseing and Occupying the severall Trades Ministeries and Sciences aforesaid within Our said Towne and Borough of Gateside to be the first and present Wardens of the said Commonalty and Fellowship who shall continue in the said place of Wardens untill the second day of February next ensueing the date of these presents and from thenceforth untill others shall be in due manner Elected and chosen into their places, And further Wee will and by theis presents for Us and Our Successors Do Grant that the

said Warden and Communality or Fellowship shall and may have a Common Seale for their Affaires and Buisnesses which shall be called the Seale of the Wardens and Commonalty or Fellowship of Drapers, Taylors Mercers Hardwaremen Cowpers and Chaundlers within the Borough of Gateside and that they shall and may have power to breake change alter and new make the said Common Seale from time to time att their pleasure as to them shall seeme expedient And further Know yee that Wee for the common good and benefitt of Our said Towne and Borough of Gateside and especially of those who now doe Exercise the said severall Occupacions of Drapers Taylers Mercers Hardwaremen Cowpers and Chaundlers with in the said Towne and Borough and of those that hereafter shall use Occupy and Exercise the said Crafts Occupacions or Sciences or any of them within the said Towne and Borough Have Willed Ordained and Declared And by their presents for Us and Our successors doe will, Ordaine and Declare That all and every the said Drapers, Taylers Mercers Hardwaremen Cowpers and Chaundlers who shall hereafter be members of the Community and Fellowship aforesaid within the said Borough of Gateside shall upon the second day of February yearly forever if it be not the Lord's day and in case it be the Lord's day Then on the next Monday after assemble themselves together in some convenient place within the said Towne of Gateside and there shall by the greater number of their voices then present Elect and choose three of the said Fellowship to be their Wardens To continue for one whole yeare next following their said Elecion and from thenceforth untill a new Eleccion shall be made of others in their places Which Eleccion and Assembly shall be yearly made and held on the day aforesaid att such place within the said Borough as by the Wardens of the said Community for the time being or Two of them shall be agreed upon and notified unto the said Community And further Wee will That noe person or persons whatsoever except Souldiers according to an Ordinance of Us and our Councill of the second day of September in the yeare of Our Lord One thousand six hundred Fifty four shall att any time hereafter sett up and exercise any of the aforesaid Trades Sciences or Occupacions within the said Towne and Borough of Gateside that hath not or have not served seaven yeares as Apprentice or Apprentices in the said Occupacions or some or one of them according to the Lawes in that behalfe made And alsoe that no stranger or Forreigner that hath bene and served as an Apprentice at any of the said occupacions without the said Burrough shall att any time hereafter sett upp the same and exercise any of the said Trades, Arts or Misteries within the said Borough except hee or they have alsoe served as Apprentice or Apprentices within the same Burrough by the space of Seaven yeares Or shall

be admitted soe to doe by the Wardens of the said Community for the time being under their common Seale And Wee doe hereby for Us and Our successors further Will and Grant That noe person or persons whatsoever whether Native or Stranger inhabiting within the said Borough of Gateside and Exercising any of the said Arts Trades or Misteries aforesaid shall take any Apprentice or Apprentices in any of the said Trades or Occupacions for any less time than Seaven yeares And that noe person or persons of the Community aforesaid within the said Borough shall at any time hereafter unlawfully intice seduce receive retaine or keepe from any of the said Community for the time being any of His Servants or Apprentices att any time during the time of this Service or Apprenticeshipp And likewise that noe person or persons of or belonging to the said Community shall absent himselfe or themselves from the Meetings or Assemblies for the publique good of the said Towne from time to time appointed without iust good cause nor shall use any reproachfull words against any of the said Community att any of their Assemblies And further Wee doe by this presents for Us and Our successors Grant unto the said Wardens and Commonalty and their successors power and Authority by vertue of this presents to make Ordaine and Constitute such Orders Ordinances Constitucions and By-Lawes concerning the said Trades Misteries and Occupacions and for the good Rule and government of the said severall Tradesmen and Resiants within the said Towne and their Apprentices and Journymen As by the said Wardens and Commonalty or the greater part of them for the time being shall be thought necessary and expedient for the common good of the said Community Which said Orders Ordinances Constitucions and By-Lawes soe from time to time to be made Wee will shall be Observed and kept by all such who now doe or hereafter shall happen to Exercise or Trade in any of the aforesaid Occupacions or Sciences within the said Borough or Towne upon the paines and penalties in them to be contained soe as such Orders Ordinances Constitucions By-Lawes and penalties be not repugnant nor contrary to the Laws of England And Wee doe by these presents for Us and Our successors further Grant unto the said Wardens and Commonalty and their Successors or the greater part of them for the time being power and authority to impose and inflict such reasonable Fines and Amerciaments upon the breakers and contemners of such Orders Ordinances Constitucions and By-Lawes as to them shall seeme reasonable and requisite Soe as the same Fynes and Amerciaments doe not exceede the sum of Five pounds and the same Fynes and Amerciaments to leavy raise recover and receive by all lawfull waies and meanes whatsoever and in case any such Offender or Offenders shall Obstinate or willfully refuse to pay the said Fines and Amer-

ciaments soe sett and imposed as aforesaid Then and in such case Wee doe by theis presents for Us and Our Successors grant unto the said Wardens and Communalty and theire Successors or the greater part of them for the time being in Common Councell assembled power and authority to disfranchise such Offender or Offenders and every or any of them soe refusing as aforesaid Which said Fines and Amerciaments soe from time to time so be sett and imposed shall be levied received and kept by the wardens of the said community for the time being to and for the use of the said community and shall be from time to time paid and disbursed by the said Wardens in such manner as shall be appointed and agreed on by the said community or the greater part of them for the time being Which said Wardens att the time of theire Leaving theire said places shall render a iust and true Accompt of all such Fynes and Amerciaments unto the said Community and shall pay and deliver the Surplusage thereof if any such bee to theire next Successors Wardens of the said Community And lastly Wee doe hereby Will and Grant that the said Community or Fellowship shall have these Our Letters patents under our Great Seale of England in due manner made and Sealed without Fine or Fee Great or small to be therefore paid to Us in the Hanaper of Our Chauncery or elsewhere to Our use Although expresse mencion of the true yearly value or certainty of the premises or of any of them Or of any other guifts or grants heretofore made to the said Wardens and Commonalty of the Arts Misteries and Sciences aforesaid in theis presents is not made Or any Statute Act Ordinance Provision Custome or Restraint heretofore had made sett forth Enacted Ordained or Provided or any other matter cause or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding

In witness whereof Wee have caused theis Our letters to be made patents

Witnessed Our selfe at Westminster the seaventh day of June in the yeare of Our Lord One thousand Six hundred and fifty and eight By Writt of Privy Seale

(Beale & Wolseley)

THE DRAPERS COMPANY CHARTER OF 1661.

Oliver Cromwell's Charter was, of course, worthless as soon as he died. Upon the Restoration, the Charter was evidently replaced a year later by number 10 on the list, granted by Bishop Cosin in the first year of his episcopacy, 16th September, 1661, and re-incorporating the Company at their own request. Though this does not survive, the enrol-

ment has been traced, together with an early eighteenth century manuscript copy of the Charter in "Book A", of the Drapers Company, as described below, which is in the possession of Gateshead Corporation.

The terms of the Charter differ somewhat from that awarded by Cromwell. It provides that a Clerke is to be appointed at the yearly meeting in addition to the three Wardens, and procedure is laid down for electing a successor if a Warden dies in office. The use of a seal is sanctioned but nothing is said about the power to alter it. There is now no mention of soldiers, whether round-heads or the other variety.

Strangers who have served their time elsewhere in any of the occupations governed by the Company can trade in the Borough on payment of ten pounds to the Company and ten pounds to the Bishop. Specific fines are laid down for such offences as trading in the town without permission, and for enticing apprentices from another member. Instead of the whole of the fines going to the Company, half is now to be paid to "the hand of the Bishopp aforesaid or to the hands of his Receiver in ye Exchequer at Durham".

The first three Wardens are to be Percival Potts, William Bell and James Burrell. In addition, the following names are listed as members of the Company, including the three appointed Wardens in the Cromwell Charter: "Percivall Potts, William Bell, James Burrell Aurther Crispe, Thomas Potts Laurence Jeffrey, Laurence fforster, Thomas Spright, John Carlisle, Thomas Stephen, Isaack Hunter, Edward Knowles, Ralph Selby, George Ayrey, John Clifton, Edmond Blyth Richard Ewbank William Watt, John Butcher Marmaduke Burdon Timothy Tizack Robert Anderson John Gayle, Rowland Willings Edward Potts John Atkinson Abraham Smith John Gesten William Hilton Drapers Robert Parkin John Garstell Henry White William Hilton Chanlers Christopher Smith, William Webster John Bedford George Bewick James Hastings John ffreer Robert Sutton Thomas Turner James Garstell, William Burton Richard Knowles

Ralph Emmerson Matthew Atkinson Thomas Hauxley
Phillipp Forster and Robert White."

It is further set out that:

"a Chist shall be provided at ye Common charges of the said Society which shall ever be in the Custody of the Eldest or first of the said three Wardens wherein shall bee safely kept the Charter of the said Corporation Seale and Book of Orders and all such Stock of money and other things as shall belong to the common use of the said Wardens and Commonalty And of the same Chist shall be two keys whereof the one shall always be in the keeping of the Second and the other in the keeping of the third of the said Wardens for the time being, who shall deliver the same over to their Successors at the years end by and in the view and presence of the said Society or the most part of them."

"BOOK A" OF THE DRAPERS COMPANY.

"Book A", conveniently so called, belonged to the Drapers Company and is now in the possession of Gateshead Corporation. The book, size $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches, is bound in embossed leather, and marked on the front cover with a letter A, under which is the word "Order". The first few pages are blank, then follows a memorandum, dated 7th September, 1715, signed by William Welsh, witnessing the book before the Chancellor of Durham. See accompanying transcription. Following some further blank pages, there are twelve pages (mostly on one side of the sheets only) in a different handwriting, containing the Oath and Regulations of the "Society of Drapers, Taylors, Mercers, Hard-waremen, Coopers and Chandlers in the County Borough of Gateshead", of which the third page has been left blank.

On the eleventh page of this part of "Book A", signatures are appended including that of a certain Jonathan Bell. This signature is also referred to in the above memorandum, dated 7th September, 1715.³⁰ It follows that this latter part, dealing with the Oath and Regulations, must have been written prior to the Attestation of 7th September, 1715. It is, however, not much earlier, as the writing is early eighteenth century in style. It will be seen that there are

now Stewards as well as Wardens. On this same (eleventh) page of "Book A" is a seal in red wax. Other examples of the same seal are found in the other manuscript book belonging to the Drapers Company, already mentioned, which has been printed and edited by Edwin Dodds.

The reverse of the twelfth and last page of this part of "Book A" is in yet another handwriting and dated 9th December, 1814. It is the latest record in the book,^{30a} though, as we have seen, there are other records to as late as 1850.

NOTE ON THE GATESHEAD DRAPERS COMPANY SEAL.

BY C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

The seal of red wax in "Book A" is about one and one eighth inch in diameter. It bears the arms of the Company of Taylors of London granted to that Company on 23rd October, 1480, by Thomas Holme, Clarenceux King of Arms. It is blazoned *argent a royal tent garnished or between two parliament robes gules lined ermine on a chief azure a lion passant guardant or*. The rather odd and unusual legend around the border, in a rough type of Roman capitals reads:—

"THE YEARE OF HER RAINGE. THE YEARE OF
OUR LORDE"

In smaller capitals around the shield reading from left to right

"1595 OF/ OUR QUEEN XXXVII" (Plate XX, fig. 1.)

The seal therefore was made in the year that this composite Gateshead company received its charter from Bishop Tobias Matthew. It was possibly adopted as being the armorials of the most important member in the composite company.

THE "BOOK A" COPY OF COSIN'S CHARTER, 1661.

The back portion of "Book A" is separated from the front by a large number of blank sheets. It is paged separately and is in yet another hand. This portion is a copy of number 10, the Charter issued by Bishop Cosin to the Company of Drapers, and is dated in the last paragraph, 16th September, 1661. It is not reproduced here. Some brief marginal notes in a later hand, subdividing the text under headings, are also excluded.



1.



2.



3.

1. SEAL OF DRAPERS COMPANY OF GATESHEAD.
2. OBVERSE OF CHANCERY SEAL OF BISHOP COSIN.
3. REVERSE OF CHANCERY SEAL OF BISHOP COSIN.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE DRAPERS COMPANY BOOK A.

7th Sept. 1715

In the Chancery of Durham between Geo. Barnes Esq. Attorney General of the Lord Bishop of Durham informant on the relation of Geo. Bulman and others relators and Jonathon Bell defendant.

MEMORANDUM.

That this book covered with leather and worked with the letter A and the named Jonathon Bell sett or subscribed in the eleventh leaf or page in this book was shown unto Thomas Maddison and Thomas Southern witnesses sworn and examined on the informant and relators parts at the time of their said examinations before me

William Welsh
Examiner

The Oath that is Administered to the Society of Drapers, Taylors, Mercers, Hardwaremen, Coopers, and Chandlers in the Borrough of Gateshead, in the County of Durham.

You shall well and Truly, Justly and ffaithfully keep, All Lawfull Articles, Clauses, and Sentences mentioned in Our Grant, or Ordinary. And all Articles, Rules, & Orders mentioned in our Bookes. and alsoe all other Orders that are or shalbe made att any time or times hereafter ffor the good of this ffellowshipp. And the Secrets of the said company or ffellowshipp you Shall Truly keep, and not disclose or make open to any Person, or Persons, but in the Presence of the Said ffellowshipp, and at such convenient times when the said ffellowshipp shall have Occasion to Use you. Soe help You God.

The Oath of the Wardens, and Stewardes of the Company, of Drapers, Taylors, Mercers, Hardwaremen, Coopers, and Chandlers. You shall well, and Truly execute, and discharge, the Office, and Place of Wardens, and Stewardes, for the next Ensueing Year, to the Utmost of your Skill, and ability, According as your Orders, and by Lawes shall direct you. Soe help You God.

The particular Contents of the Orders

- 1 The first meeting to be Upon the Second of ffebry Yearly, The Other meetings quarterly at the Discretion of Ye Wardens, The by Lawes to be Read, Every Brother demeaning himself civilly Upon the Penalty of 5s. The youngest Brothers door keeper.
- 2 The Purchaser to pay £20, & to take noe Apprentice untill Seaven Yers be Expired, his Children noe priviledge but by Servitude. Also Noe Master shall take an Apprentice Untill 3 yeares be Expired of his former Apprentice time Upon the penalty of £5.

- None free by patrimony but his first borne Son. Alsoe Every Other Son Serving his ffather to pay £5:2s. Other Apprentices to pay £2:4s:6d and Serve not less than 7 yers if his or there Mast dies to Choose his or there Mes if she ffollowes the Trade yt next meeting, if ye Mes does not he or they, shall make Choyse of A Mastre or Mastres in not soe doing he shall forfitt his time before served. Every Master Employing journey-men Shall pay 4d Each.
- 3 Burialls, none to carry but ye Brethren On ye Penalty of 40s.
 - 4 Stewards how quallified.
 - 5 Noe Apprentice to marry or *begett Children* on ye Penalty of £5 each
 - 6 Noe Steward Shall make any clandestine ffree On ye Penalty of £5 each. Alsoe divulgeing ye Companyes Secrets £5 &c: nor shall Sue Under 40s without leave ye Steward Upon default to pay 20s A Brother 10s.
 - 7 None to take Apprentice to be turned over. Every Brother not abideing wthin ye Borrough to pay 5s yearely and none to have any benefitt but his first borne son.
 - 8 None to Exercise his Trade Untill he be Admitted On ye Penalty of £2 p menssem
 - 9 None Shall joyne but wth a free Brother on ye Penalty of £2 p menssem
 - 10 None to be bound but by the Clerke On ye Penalty of 15s.
 - 11 Noe Brother shall trade in but wt he served to On ye Penalty of £2 p Menssem
 - 12 None to be warned but such as pay those ffynes
 - 13 Every Brother Shall Subscribe to the by Lawes.

ORDERS, Ordinances, Constitutions, and by Lawes, Unanimously agreed unto by the Cominallity ffellowshipp and Company, of Drapers, Taylors, Mercers, Hardwaremen, Coopers, and Chandlers within the Borrough, and Towne of Gateshead, in the County of Durham.

1 Imprimis Its Ordered by the Wardens and ffellowshipp that an Assembly of the compny and ffraternity be holden once in three Months, The first being On the Second of february, and soe to continue quarterly at the Discretion of the Wardens for the time being, and then the Said by Lawes to be Openly Read before the whole Company, to the Intent that Every member may the better Understand the Constitutions of the Said ffellowshipp, Alsoe that every Brother Shall demeane himselfe civilly in the time of the Assembly, and Shall in his particular Order then, and there, Sitt downe, and Use not wordes as he pleases, without leave or license from ye Wardens, Its alsoe Ordered that the Youngest Brother

Shalbe door keeper in the time of the Assembly, and that noe member Shall depart from any meeting of the Said Company without leave of the Wardens, Every Brother Soe Offending Shall Upon the Beat of a Mell^{30b} appointed for that purpose, Shall pay to the Wardens the Sume of ffive Shillings for Every Such Offence, or Offences, for the Use of the Company.

Secondly Its Ordered that Every person who shall Purchase his freedom of this f fellowship, and fraternity, Shall pay for his Admittance the Sume of Twenty Poundes to the wardens then in being. Alsoe that Noe Person Purchaseing his freedom, shall take an Apprentice Untill the Expiration of Seaven Yeares after his Admittance, nor any of his or there Children Shall have any Privilege of the Said company, Except Onely by Servitude, Noe Brother of the Said f fellowship Shall have liberty to take any person, or persons, to An Apprentice Save Onely One and noe more Untill three full Yeares of his former Apprentice time be Expired. Every Brother Soe Offending Shall pay the full Sume of ffive Poundes, to the wardens for the Use of the Company. *Its Agreed Upon that Every freemans ffirst borne Son Lawfully begotten comeing in by Patrimony And Every Other Son serveing his ffather by Indenture Shall pay for there Admittance One Pound to the Company and Two Shillings to the Poor. butt all Others Apprenticed by Servitude Shall pay for there Admittance Two Poundes Two Shillings & Six pence to the wardens for the Use of the Company, & Two shillings to the Poor, Alsoe Noe Apprentice Shall be bound to serve for less time than Seaven Yeares, and after the Expiration of his or there Servitude he or they Shall present themselves before the Said f fellowship, as alsoe his Master if liveing, acknowledgeing his service According to the date of his Enrowlemt, and if at any times a Maste (sic) of an Apprentice Or Apprentices Shall die before the Expiration of his or there times of Apprenticeshipp Such Appren-tice, or Apprentices, Shall at the next meeting come unto the wardens & f fellowship, and there make Choice of the Widdow of the decesed, provided She continue the Trade, and be Capable to Instruct, or cause to be instructed according to the true Intent of ye Indenture. But if the widdow neither continue the Trade nor capable to Instruct him or them if the deceased Brother have no Widdow Surviving then such Apprentice, or Apprentices Shall make Choice of A Master, or Masters of the Same Trade, and Whom-soever Shall refuse Soe to doe Shall fforfitt the benefitt of his yeares before Served. And that Every Brother Employeing Journey men Shall pay to the Searcher^{30c} ffour pence ffor Each man Soe Employed Eight dayes after demand.*

Thirdly. Its Ordered that Every member of this Society being Lawfully warned Either in person or by his household Shall come

to the Buriall of Brother or Wife and to Stay or abide the Space of One hour and noe Longer, Every Brother Absenting himselfe Shall pay to the Use of the Company Six pence and if Short three pence. Also Its Ordered that the Dead Brother or Sister Dyeing within the Parish of Gateshead Shalbe Carryed to his or her Buriall place by the members of the Said ffellowshipp and by noe other Person or Persons Upon the penalty of flourty Shillings to be paid to the wardens for the Use of the company. and alsoe the ffreindes of the deceased Shall give Notecite to the wardens that they may Order the Searcher to warne the Company the night before Buriall, Every Searcher Neglecting herein Shall forfeit to the use of the Company Tenn Shillings.

fourthly, Its Agreed upon that noe Brother Shalbe Admitted a Steward or Warden of this ffellowshipp, Unless he hath been three whole yeares Admitted a Brother, Inhabiteing or Abideing that time in the Borrough Aforesaid, before Such Election, and to be Sworne Upon the holy Evangelists duely to Execute their Office According to Our Charter and Constitutions of Our by Lawes, and to pass there Accounts at the Appoyntment and Discretion of the Major part of the Company.

ffivethly Its Ordered by the Company that if any Person, or Persons being An Apprentice to any free Brother, Shall at any time within the Space of his or there Apprenticeship begett a Child, or Children with any woman, the said Apprentice Shall pay to the wardens for the ffirst Offence ffive Poundes, to the Use of the Company, and the party Soe Offending for the Second Shalbe Discomuned. Alsoe Its Agreed Upon that if any apprentice shall Marry, Or take to wife any woman, before the Expiration of his Servitude, Shall pay to the wardens the Sume of ffive Poundes to the Use of the Company.

Sixthly, Its Ordered that noe Steward or warden now or hereafter, Successively Shall or may have Power directly, or Indirectly, Alone without the Consent of the ffellowshipp in comon Assembly to make any Person, or Persons free of all, or any one of the Priviledges in Our Charter. nor to Act or Doe any thing of themselves Repugnant to our by Lawes, but with the Consent of the ffellowshipp in Comon Assembly. Its further Ordered that if any Steward or Warden presume to Violate the Aforesaid Order & Endeavor to make it Void, he for the Same Offence being duely proved Shall pay to the Said ffellowshipp the Sum of ffive Poundes, or to be discomuned, Also if any member of the Said ffellowshipp Shall at any time or times Secretly, or Openly Divulge, or Spread abroad any of the Companys Secrets; whom Soever Shall Offend herein being duely proved Shall for his or there Offence or Offences, pay to the wardens and ffellowshipp the Sume of ffive Poundes or

to be discomuned. Alsoe noe Brother Shall Sue or goe to Law with any Brother of this ffellowshipp, before leave or Licence in Comon Assembly of the Wardens. provided the Plant (*sic*), Debt, or Action doe not Exceed fforty Shillings. and to be Upon noe Specialty. Every Warden Soe Offending Shall pay Twenty Shillings, and Every Brother Soe Offending Shall pay Tenn Shillings for the Use of the Company.

Seaventhly, Its Ordered, It Shall not be Lawfull, to take any Person or Persons to Apprentice to be turned Over to any other Person or Persons whatsoever, Under any habitt, colour, or pretence but to be Employed properly in his said Masters Service. Alsoe Every ffree Brother Inhabiteing without the Borrough of Gateshead, Is hereby tollerated to Enjoy his Owne ffreedom and his first borne son Lawfully begotten, paying his or there ffines, But his or there Apprentices, prohibited from haveing any title Right Interest or ffreedom by Vertue of his or there Said Mastes Service. Alsoe Agreed Upon that Every Brother Inhabiteing without ye Borrough Shall pay for his absence the sume of ffive shillings to the wardens for the Use of the Company Upon the Second of ffebry Yearely.

Eightly Noe Person or Persons Exerciseing within the Borough aforesaid, any of the Trades, Mysteries, or Occupations, of Drapers, Taylors, Mercers, Hardwaremen, Coopers, and Chandlers, without leave or licence of the Said ffellowshipp, contrary to the Authority of Our Charter, Every Person, or Persons Soe Exerciseing any of the aforesaid Trades, Mysteries or occupations, before they be Admitted according to the contents of our Charter, Shall for Every Months Soe Tradeing Pay to the Wardens for the Use of the Company the Sume of Two Poundes p mensem, and to be proceeded against According to due cource of Law.

Ninethly Its Agreed that it shall not be Lawfull for any Brother of the Said ffellowshipp, to joyne in comon Stock, or to Trade joyntly, within the Borrough aforesaid, with any Person, or Persons, that is not a ffree Brother of the Said ffellowshipp above Said, That if any Brother of the said Society Shall Obstinatey to this by Law joyne in comon Stock in Trade, with any Person, or Persons whatsoever not a ffree Brother, of the Said Society, then the Brother Soe offending Shall pay to the Stewards or Wardens for the time being the Sume of ffortyShings p Mensem ffor the Companyes Use.

Tenth Its Ordered that noe Brother of the Said ffellowshipp, Shall take an Apprentice but what is bound by the Clerke of the Said Company, and to be Enrowled the next meeting after the date of his Indenture, and to pay for his Indenture the Sume of Three shillings and ffour pence not Including the Stampes, ffor Every Enrowlement Eight pence, and for Every Admittance One Shilling. and the Clerke

of the Said fellowship to be Choyson yearly On the Second day of february, and to be a member of the Said Company, Every Brother Offending herein Shall for Every Such Offence pay to the Wardens, the Sume of fiveteen Shillings, (Viz) Tenn Shillings to the Use of the Company, and fve shillings to the Clerke for the time being.

Eleventh Its Ordered that it shall not be Lawfull for any member of this fellowship, to Exercise any of the Six Mysteries, Arts, or Trades, but Such as he or they did justly Serve to by Indenture, and such as at that time of his Apprenticeship his or there Master did Trade in, to the Intent that One Brother may not Invade Anothers Priviledge, Every Brother Offending herein Shall pay to the wardens the Sume of Two Poundes p Mensem for the Use of ye Company.

Twelveth Its Agreed that noe Member of this fellowship Shall have any Vote, Benefitt in anything of this Society Unless Every Such Member Shall pay Upon Candlemas day Yearely Such fynes and Arrears, as can be made Appear to be due Upon default by him made, and whomsoever Upon that day Shalbe Absent without a Lawfull Excuse Or Sickness, Shalbe Liable to make payment the next meeting when present in publick Assembly, and whomsoever contemptuously Refuseth Shall pay Tenn Shillings yearly Upon Candlemass day for Every Such Offence. Alsoe that the Wardens shall give a list to the Searchers who Shall Onely warne Such Members whose names are therein Specified, and Such person or Persons as are in Arreares of fynes not to be warned by the Searcher, till payment be made by an Offendor, or Offendors with Submission, Every Searcher Offending herein Shall pay fve Shillings for Such Offence to the Use of the Company.

Thirteenth Its Ordered that Every Brother of this Company who is now, hereafter free of any of the Arts, Mysteryes, or Trades of this Corporation, Cominallity and fellowship shall Subscribe to the Orders, Constitutions and by Lawes, made and Agreed Upon, for the good and comon benefitt of the Said Cominallity, or fellowship. And Alsoe Shall Sweare Upon the Holy Evangelists well, and Truly to maintaine, Stand to Obey, Defend, Performe, and keep all, and Every the Constitutions, and by Lawes, mentioned in Our Corporation Charter. And all other Orders and Constitutions made or to be made for the good of the Said Company Cominallity and fellowship, in Testimony hereof we Sett Our hands and Comon Seal.

(SEAL)

(The following signatures are appended in three columns:)

James Hastings, Tho. Hauxley, John Hunter, John Lister, Mich. Taylor, Edward flawcett, Matt. White, Jos. Spencer, Edmond Sutton,

Ambrose Hauxley, Thomas Hutchinson, Henry [his mark] H. P. Pinkney, Robert Sutton, Wm. Colesworth, Thos. Stephen, Tho. Gawthropp, Jonath. Col (?Bole), Geo. White, Geo. Greanwell, Robert Leighton, William ffenwick, John Greenwell, Geo. Palmer, Edward Mawson, Jas. Butcher, Cuth. (?) Carr, Wm. Marley, Thos. Maddison, Wm. Lewthwaite, Geo. Bulman, Wm. Burton, Charles Jopling, Charles Jordan, John Burgher, Hauxley Stephen, Antho. Caygill, Thomas Gray, Robert Taylor, Tho. Walton, John Applebie, Robert Lister, Wm. Hedden, John ffreer (?), Joseph Story, Peter Marley, Tho. Harrison, Edward ffawcett Junr., Edward Mawson, Wm. X [his mark] Mooler, Phill. Thompson, Thomas Coulson, James Hauxley, Robt. Jurdison, Richard Mann, Math. Crawford, Thos. Watson, Edward Higgin, John Harris, Tho. Loutheran, John Willson, William freer, William Douglass, Thomas Softley, Thos. Anderson, Nicholas Willson, Thos. Ayre, John Walton, Robert Caygill, Miles Birkett.

(The following signatures are written along the inner side margin of the page:)

Wm. Dove, Cuth. Jackson, George Surtees, Ralph Lister, Geo. Jameson, Tho. Jackson, Thos. Hutchinson, Benj. Ord, Joseph Walton, Thos. Gainsby, Tho. Potts, Martin Pattinson, Hen. Wilkinson, Martin Huntley, F. (?) Silvertop, William Lowes, W. (?) Hay, Joseph Lambert, Wm. I. Woodward.

(The following signatures are continued over leaf, but as there is room on this last page for further signatures, the crowding of some signatures in the margin of the previous page suggests that they may not have all been appended at the same period. An asterisk before a name indicates that a line in ink has been drawn through it, possibly to indicate death or resignation.)

*William Bradley, *Henry Patterson, *Thos. Leadbitter, Jn. Smith, Roger Thompson, Jos. Dunn, James Gibson, *Thompson Catcheside, *Ralph Hopper, Geo. Weatherby, Thos. Close, Mich. Almory, Thos. Henderson, Miles Birkett, *Geo. Humble, Jo. Marley, Robert Carr, Wm. Hilton, Mich. Akinhead, *Thos. Burrell, Joseph Harrison, *Charles Pendleton, *William Allen, John Wood, *Benj. Ord, *Thos. Huntley, George florster, Jn. Greene, *Jn. Dobson, Jn. Henderson, *Geo. Trotter, *Jn. Carr, John Carr, *Nicholas Weatherby, *Ralph Lister, Robert Hobson, *Mattw. Weatherby, *George Preenel, Mich. Dobson, *Jn. William Trotter, *Mich. Greene, John Wm. Trotter, Benjamin Wood, James Scott, Nicholas Hobson, John Greene, John Dobson.

Its agreed that noe member of this Society or fellowship Shall Vend or Worke On Sundays Excepting cases of Necessity if Other-

wise proved Shall pay Tenn Shillings without Abatement and to be Distributed to the Poor of the Said fellowship or Society as the Wardens Shall thinke convenient.

In a different handwriting to all the foregoing there now follows :

9th December 1814

At a Meeting at Stephen Horners (? Harkers) in Gateshead this Day before W. John Bell the Commissione appeared under the Act of Parliament for dividing the Borough Lands the Following freemen belonging the Drapers & Company were allowed Claims upon the said Lands Viz.

John Greene, Robt. Hobson, Benj. Wood, John Wm. Trotter, Mich. Hobson, James Scott.

John Stobart Sol. for
the said Freeman.

PART III: FREEMASONS, ETC. CHARTER OF 1671.

Charter number 13, issued to Freemasons etc., by Bishop Cosin on 24th April 1671,^{30d} has long been in the possession of Gateshead Corporation. The Company, not necessarily with precisely the same components, must be earlier, as a letter from the bishop refers to a request from his agent to seal a Charter of this very date, to replace another one, for "the new (unspecified) corporation in Gateshead".^{30e} If an old letter is genuine, "the trunkmaker" (there was only one!) and the saddlers and bridlers, if not others, were newcomers to the Company.³¹ The Company was still in existence in 1692, since a petition was then drawn up against it by a number of plasterers, carpenters, wallers, glaziers, slaters, bricklayers and millwrights of Gateshead, on the complaint that it had been formed by confederates, and a suit was also brought against it by the widow of a glazier.^{31a} It may have survived as late as 1810, when sixteen freemen, of whom there were ten bricklayers (and six drapers) were allowed as claimants on Gateshead Fell.³²

A wooden carving, somewhat worn, of the glaziers arms, supported by two boys, which has been illustrated by Boyle,³³ and by Frank Young,^{33a} is now in Saltwell Park Museum.

It was at one time in the face of a seventeenth century building which stood in the steep part of Bottle Bank, Gateshead, and which was among those demolished to make room for the Tyne Bridge, 1924.³⁴ For these arms the supporters should be cherubs, but the wings have been omitted. The rods held by the supporters seem to be surmounted by torches.

The Charter is on parchment in two sheets, size $24\frac{3}{4}'' \times 32\frac{3}{4}''$ and $19'' \times 32\frac{3}{4}''$ attached to each other at the lower edge by the ribbons of the seal. The first sheet is emblazoned in colours along the borders (plates XXI-XXIII), to a depth of four inches with the arms of the component bodies, but not all of these have been completed. The Chancery seal of the Bishop in brown wax on plaited ribbons is attached to the Charter, but is in damaged condition. About two thirds is missing so the illustration is taken from another source (plate XX, figs. 2 and 3).

NOTE ON THE ARMORIALS AND SEAL OF COSIN'S CHARTER TO
FREEMASONS ETC.

BY C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

(1) *The Charter* (plate XXI shews top half).

Along the top, on the left side within a carved border: DURSME 1671. In the centre, between floral decorations of Jacobean style, are the Royal arms of the House of Stuart (1603-1707) on a circular shield, surrounded by the Garter with its motto, I and IV France and England quarterly II Scotland, III Ireland. Supporters the Lion and Unicorn, mantling *gules* and *ermine*. Crest, upon a full faced helmet standing upon the Royal crown, the crowned lion crest of England (plate XXI).

On the right side a shield of arms within a decorated border—*Azure a cross patonce between four lions rampant or*—The Church of Durham.

This shield with the cross *patonce* bears the arms attributed to St. Cuthbert since the fourteenth century, and is that used, from about the same time, by the Cathedral Church of Durham. The charter is sealed by the bishop's Chancery Seal, therefore the cross should have been a *plain* one—the arms attributed to St. Oswald the King from the same date and since used for the See of Durham. The early use of these two shields of arms is known only from the

bishops' and priors' seals upon which no colours are shewn. Since the Herald's Visitation of A.D. 1530 the blazon has been azure with the crosses gold and the lions silver.³⁵

The margins at each side of the Charter are decorated with ten shields of arms (two have been left blank) bearing the arms of eight of the Incorporated Companies of Gateshead fully coloured in heraldic tinctures. The armorials are those granted by the College of Heralds to the London companies, which were later adopted by those of provincial towns. Each of the shields (plates XXII, XXIII) is surrounded by mantling, usually *gules and argent*. This falls from a helmet facing the dexter and garnished gold above which is the crest. The motto of each is upon a scroll beneath the shield.

The tinctures upon some of the shields and their charges have, with the passing of time, become blurred and illegible, indeed on some it has quite gone so that the blason which follows has been made complete from other examples.

The shields of arms, beginning at the top of the left margin:

1. MASONS: *Sable on a chevron engrailed argent between three castles or, a pair of open compasses sable. Crest a Tower or. Motto—In the Lord is all our Trust. (Plate XXII, 1.)*
2. BRICKLAYERS: *Azure a chevron or between in chief a fleur de lys argent between two brick-axes or, in base a bundle of laths or. Crest—A dexter arm vested or and azure embowed, grasping a brick-axe or. Motto—same as No. 1. (Plate XXII, 2.)*
3. GLAZIERS: *Argent two grazing-irons in saltire between four closing-nails sable on a chief gules a lion passant guardant or. Crest—An eagle's head wings expanded or. Supporters—Two winged cherubs standing proper each holding a rod. Motto—Lucem . Tuam . da . nobis . O . Deum. (Plate XXII, 3.)*
4. PLUMBERS: *Or on a chevron sable between in chief a cross-staff sable between two (plummets) azure and in base a reversed level sable, two soldering-irons in saltire between a cutting knife on the dexter and a shave-hook on the sinister all argent. Crest—A triple fountain or with water proper on the top an angel vested argent winged and crowned or holding in his dexter hand (a sword) and in the sinister a pair of scales all or. Motto—In God is all our Hope. (Plate XXII, 4.)*
5. MARBLERS: *Gules a chevron argent between two chipping axes in chief argent and in base a (molet) or. Crest—An arm embowed vested azure, holding in the hand proper a graving chisel proper. Motto—Grind Well. (Plate XXIII, 1.)*
6. SADDLERS: *(Azure) a chevron between three saddles or. Crest—A horse passant argent, crined, bridled and saddled or. Supporters two horses rampant argent bridled sable. (Plate XXIII, 2.)*

UPPER HALF OF THE FREEMASONS' OF GATESHEAD CHARTER OF 1671 ($\times \frac{1}{4}$).



1. Masons.



2. Bricklayers.



3. Glaziers.



4. Plumbers.

ARMORIALS ON THE FREEMASONS' CHARTER OF 1671.



1. Marblers.



2. Saddlers.



3. Painter-Stainers.



4. Pewterers.

7. PAINTER-STAINERS: (*Azure*) a chevron between three phoenixs heads raised or. Crest—A phoenix head in flames proper. Supporters Two leopards or spotted sable crowned, chained and collared or. Motto—*Amor (et) obedientia*. (Plate XXIII, 3.)
8. PEWTERERS: (*Azure*) on a chevron or between three antique limbecks (*argent*) three roses gules. Crest—Two arms embowed vested *argent* holding in both hands a dish *argent*. Supporters. Two seahorses or tails proper. Motto—*In God is all our Trust*. (Plate XXIII, 4.)

There are, in addition to those companies whose arms are emblazoned, nine others named in the Charter. Of these nine, three only used armorials, namely Tylers (with Bricklayers), Founders, and Distillers. The remaining six had no arms. They are—Carvers, Stone-Cutters, Brick Makers, Nailers, Mill Wrights and Trunk Makers.

(2) *Chancery Seal of John Cosin, Bishop of Durham 1660-72*
(plate XX, figs. 2 and 3).

Round $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, brown wax.

Obverse: A demi-figure of the bishop, in a doctor's cap and gown, beneath an arch in a classical arcade. He holds a book resting on a ledge in front, on the soffit of the arch IN · DOCTRINA · SANA; on the architrave of the colonnade IN · FIDE · NON · FICI. Above the central arch is the bishop's jewelled mitre with its ribbons. Beneath the bishop's figure is a shield of the arms of the See of Durham (*azure a cross or between four lions rampant argent*). On the dexter side of this shield is a cartouche bearing the arms of Peterhouse, Cambridge (*or three pales gules a border gules charged with eight coronets or*); on the sinister side is a like cartouche with the arms of Cosin (*azure a fret or*). Beneath the central shield of the See is a shield of the See of Peterborough (*gules two keys in saltire between four crosses crosslet fitchy or*). On a scroll beneath this shield—CRUX · CHRISTI · ROBUR · FIDEI. The surrounding legend reads SIGILLUM · DOMINI · IOHANNIS · DUNELMENSIS · EPISCOPI · ANNO · DOMINI · 1660. (Plate XX, fig. 2.)

Reverse: Equestrian, the bishop in armour of the period, with plumed helm galloping to the dexter, sword brandished in right hand. (Plate XX, fig. 3.)

Legend—PROPTEREA · ACCIPITE · ARMATURAM · DEI · ET · GALEAM · SALUTIS · ASSUMITE · ET · GLADIUM · SPIRITUS.

This is the first use of these verses from the Vulgate (Ephes., VI, verses 13 and 17) by the bishops of Durham. It was used by all succeeding bishops until the end of the Palatinate in 1836.

TEXT OF CHARTER TO FREE MASONS ETC. 1671.

John by the Grace of God Bishop of Durham To all to Whome these Presents shall come Greeting Know yee that wee partly the examples of divers Well instituted Citties Boroughs & Townes as well within the County Pallatine of Durham as alsoe throughout the whole Realme of England following and partly assenting & consenting to the Suite and Humble request of Ralph Cole barronet George Davenport Clarke Miles Stapylton Esquire George Kirkby the younger Henry Frisoll Gentlemen Robert Trollap Iaac Hensell Matthew Arckley Henry Trollap James Clarke Charles Middleton William Saunders John Mathers Luke Lupton Brian Stobs George Lupton William Arckley Thomas Bell John Smith John Clarke the elder John Clarke the younger John Moore John Teasdale John Rawling Michael Walton John Shawe Willyam Fowthrop John Hunter Willyam Wharram William Etherington honest persons now exercising and occupieing the severall trades artes misteries crafts faculties and occupations of Free Masons Carvers Stone Cutters Sculptures Brickmakers Tilers Bricklayers Glayers Peinter stainers Founders Neilers Powderers Founders Plumbers Millwrights Sadlers & Bridlers Trunck Makers and distillers of all sorts of strong waters or other liquors within our Towne & Borough of Gateside in the County Pallatine of Durham inclined to the honour and glory of Almighty God and for the common profit quiet state and regiment as well of our whole Borough & Towne of Gateside aforesaid as of all and singular persons as well now as hereafter the arts misteries or occupations aforesaid there exerciseing professing & practiceing as alsoe according to the laudable custom & usage Tyme wereof the memorie of man is not to the contrarie within the Towne and Borough of Gateside aforesaid heretofore used and received a certain Community of fellowship of the aforesaid honest men who the severall trades arts misteries and sciences and occupations of Free Masons Carvers Stone Cutters Sculpters Brick makers Tilers Brick layers Glayers Peinter Stainers Founders Neilers Powderers Founders Plumbers and Millwrights Sadlers and Bridlers Trunck makers & distillers of all sorts of strong waters and other liquors aforesaid or any of them within the Borough and Town of Gateside aforesaid now doe or hereafter shall exercise trade or occupie will have instituted and begunn And therefore wee doe alsoe by these presents grant unto the aforesaid Sir Ralph Cole George Davenport Miles Stapylton Georg Kirkby Robert Trollap Henry Frisoll Michael Walton Isaac Hensell Matthew Arckley Henry Trollap James Clarke Charles Middleton William Saunders John Mathers Luke Lupton Brian Stobs George Lupton William Arckley Thomas Bell John

Smith John Clarke the elder John Clarke the younger John Moore John Teasdale John Rawling John Shaw Willyam Fowthrop John Hunter Willyam Wharram William Etherington for us and our successors as much as in us is that they and all the occupiers of the said trades arts misteries sciences and faculties and every or any of them within the Lordshipp Borough and Towne of Gateside aforesaid shall be in deed and name one Comunity Fellowship body politique & incorporate perpetuall And that they by the name of Comunity Fellowship & company of the arts misteries & occupations of Free Masons Carvers Stone Cutters Sculptures Brick makers Tilers Brick layers Glasers Peinter stainers Founders Nailers Peuterers Founders Plumbers Millwrights Sadlers & Bridlers trunck makers and distillers of all sorts of strong waters and other liquors within the said Borough & Town of Gateside may be & by virtue of these presents be really actually & fully incorporated created made & erected one body corporate & politique to all intents and purposes & have perpetual succession & be called & known by the name of the Comunity Fellowship and Company of Free Masons Carvers Stone cutters Sculptures Brick makers Tilers Bricklayers Glaysers Peinter stainers Founders Neilers Peuterers Founders Plumbers Millwrights Sadlers and Bridlers Trunck makers & distillers of all sorts of strong waters & other liquors within the Towne and Borough of Gateside in the County Pallatine of Durham And that by the name of the Comunalty Fellowship & company of the arts misteries & occupations of Free Masons Carvers Stone Cutters Sculpturs Brick makers tilers Brick layers Glaysiers Peinterstainers founders Neilers Pewderers founders Plumbers Millwrights Sadlers & Bridlers Trunck makers & distillers of all sorts of strong waters & other liquors within the Borough and Towne of Gateside within the County Pallatine of Durham they may sue and be sued in any Court or Courts within the Realm of England. And that the said Comunalty or Fellowship every yeare for ever shall & may choose & make of the said Comunalty four provident & expert men who the said arts occupations trades sciences or misteries aforesaid or some of them doe well know & the same or some of them within the lordshippe towne & Borough of Gateside aforesaid by the space of thre continuall years at the least next before such election have used exercised practised & traded & in the said Towne by the like space & tearme have continuallie been inhabiting & abidinge to be wardens of the Comunalty & Fellowshippe aforesaid as well to take upon them the survey knowledge & Government for that yeare of the fellowshippe or comunaltie aforesaid & of all persons of the lordshippe towne & Borough aforesaid there using the said several arts misteries trades or occupations or any of them & alsoe of all other persons whatsoever forreigners occupieing exercisinge tradinge

or using any of the said severall occupations within the lordshippe Towne & Borough aforesaid and alsoe to have the punishment of all & everie the said persons for their offences in forme hereafter by the said wardens for the time being by and with the assent & consent of the greater parte of the said Comunalty & Fellowshippe to be set downe & described by us & our successors for the time being to be approved ratified & confirmed And that the said Wardens comunalty or fellowshippe shall & maie have a perpetuall succession & comon seale for their affaires called the seale of the Warden & Comunalty or Fellowshippe of Free Masons Carvers Stone cutters Sculpturs Brick layers Tilers Brick makers Glaysiers Peinter steiners founders Neilers Pewterers founders Plumbers Millwrights Sadlers & bridlers trunck makers & distillers of all sorts of strong waters & other liquors within the Borough of Gateside for ever to serve. And that the ? aforesaid wardens & Comunalty & their successors may lawfullie make honest & lawfull assemblies orders ordinances & constitutions for the government oversight & Corection of the said comunaltie of fellowshippe and of all persons tradeinge practiseinge using or occupieing the arts trades sciences or occupations aforesaid or any of them within the lordshippe Borough & Towne aforesaid so that the said ordinances & constitutions may not anyway be repugnant & contrarie to his maiesties royall prerogative or to the laws of this realm by us and our successors to the lawes statutes & ordinances of this Realm agreeable & there unto in noe poynte contrary or contradictory or repugnant by us and our Successors for the time being first to be perused allowed ratified & approved to be put in execution with the said Borough or Towne lawfully & without the hinderance of us & our said Successors the Justices Sheriffe Escheator & Chancellor of the County Pallatine of Durham or any other our Bailiffes whatsoever And that Robert Trollap Isaac Hensell Luke Lupton & Charles Midleton be by the authoritie force & vertue of these our Letters Pattentts the first fouer Wardens of the corporation or companie of free Masons Carvers Stone cutters Sculptures Brick makers tilers Brick layers Glaisiers Peinter steiners Founders Neilers Peuterers founders Plumbers Mill wrights Sadlers & bridlers trunck makers & distillers of all sorts of strong waters or other liquors within the Borough & Towne of Gateside aforesaid And that they may remaine in the said office from the day of the date of these presents for and untill the twenty fourth day of June comonly called Mid Sumer-day which shall be in the yeare of our lord God one thousand six hundred seventy and two & so to continue untill other fouer of the companie aforesaid be chosen & sworne unto the said office of wardens And furthermore that whensoever it shall happen any of the said wardens for the time being to die or be removed from their place which

shall be removeable at the discretion of the greater parte of the said companie of Freemasons Carvers stone cutters Sculptures Brick-makers tilers Bricklayers Glasiers Peinters stainers founders Neilers Pewterers founders Plumbers Mill wrights Sadlers & bridlers trunck makers and distillers of all sorts of stronge waters or other liquors within the Borough & Town of Gateside aforesaid that then and soe often it shall and may be lawfull for the residue of the said companie or the greater parte of them within the space of one month after such avoidance one other or more of the Corporation aforesaid into the place or places of him or them soe dying or being removed to choose nominate & appoint & this soe oftene to do as the Cause shall require or as the greater part of the said company shall think fitt or convenient (one of which said Wardens must alwayes bee a Free mason) Know yee alsoe that wee have seen certaine orders ordinances & constitutions alreadie agreed upon & set downe by the aforesaid honest men who now doe exercise the said severall occupations of Freemasons Carvers stone cutters Sculptures Brick makers tilers Brick layers Glaysiers Peinter steiners founders Neilers Peuterers founders Plumbers Mill wrights Saddlers and bridlers trunck makers and Distillers of all sorts of strong waters and other liquors within the Borough & Towne of Gateside aforesaid for the good order & government of all those that now use exercise & occupie the said several Trades arts misteries Crafts faculties sciences & occupations within the Borough & Towne of Gateside aforesaid for themselves and all others that hereafter shall use exercise & occupie the said trades arts misteries & sciences crafts Faculties & occupations or any of them within the Borough & Towne of Gateside aforesaid the tenure whereof doth follow (that is to say it is thought good ordered and set downe for the comon benefitt of his maiesties subiects & especiallie of those resiant within the Towne & Borough of Gateside in the County of Durham aforesaid by all the now occupiers of the severall trades arts misteries crafts faculties sciences & occupations of Free masons Carvers stone cutters Sculptures Brick makers tilers Brick layers Glasiers Peinters steiners founders Neilers Pewterers founders Plumbers Mill wrights Saddlers & bridlers trunck makers and distillers of all sorts of strong waters & other liquors within the Towne & Borough of Gateside aforesaid for themselves & all others that hereafter shall use occupie & exercise the said severall trades arts misteries crafts faculties sciences & occupations or any of them within the said Borough & Towne of Gateside in manner & forme following first that all & every the said Free masons Carvers stone cutters Sculpture Brick-makers Tilers brick layers Glaisiers Peinter steiners founders Neilers Peuterers Plumbers founders Sadlers bridlers mill wrights Truncke makers & distillers of all sorts of strong waters & other liquors who

by the grace of God shall hereafter be members of the Communalitie fellowshipp & company of the arts misteries sciences trades & occupations aforesaid within the borough & towne of Gateside shall upon the fouer and twentieth day of June comonly called the feast of St. John Baptist yearly for ever assemble themselves together in some convenient place within the Towne of Gateside aforesaid before nine of the clock in the forenoon of the same day and there shall by the greater number of theire voices elect and chuse fouer of the said fellowshippe to be theire wardens & one other fitt person to be Clerke of the said Comunitie to continue for one whole yeare next following & shall upon the same day make freemen and brethren & shall upon the said fouer & twentieth day of June and at three other feasts or times in the yeare that is to sai the feast of st. Michael the Archangel st. John day in Christmas & the five & twentieth day of March commonly called the annunciation of our blessed lady st. Mary the Virgin yearely for ever assemble themselves together in some convenient place within ye said Towne of Gateside before nine of the clock in the forenoon of the same daies & there shall alsoe consult agree upon & set down such orders acts & constitutions concerning their occupations as by them or the said fellowshipp or the greater part of them shall be thought necessarie & expedient for the common wealth of the said Comunaltie & convenient to be set down & agreed upon And that all & everie the persons that now doe or hereafter shall fortune to exercise & trade any of the aforesaid occupations or sciences within the said Borough & towne of Gateside shall for ever be tyed to observe fulfill & obey such orders as by the said wardens & companie in form aforesaid shall be then & there set down & afterwards allowed upon by the lord Bishopp of Durham for the time being & his successors & that the said election & assemblies shall yearely be made at the same days & time at such places within the said Borough as by the wardens for the time being or one of them shall be agreed upon & ratified Unto the said company. Item it is further thought good agreed upon & sett downe that whosoever shall att any time hereafter set up & occupie any the said trades sciences or occupations within the said borough & lordshippe of Gateside aforesaid that have not served seaven yeares as an Apprentice in the same occupation according to the lawes shall forfeit for every month that he shall soe occupie the summe of forty shillings the one moyetie thereof to the Bishopp of Durham for the time being and his successors and the other to said wardens for the time being informeing of the same to the use of the said Comunaltie Item it is agreed upon & sett down that if any Subiect or allien denizen or other that hath been served as an apprentice att any of the said occupations without the said borough shall at any time hereafter set upp the same & occupy any the said

occupations within the said Borough & lordshipp before he shall pay to the said wardens & Comunaltie to the use aforesaid the summe of ten pounds & to the Bishopp of Durham for the time being the like summe of tenn pounds for an agreement & shall have a certificate from the Bishopp for the time being or from his officer for that purpose assigned testifieing his allowance of such persons as aforesaid & thereupon shall be admitted by the said wardens for the time being under their comon seale that then such offenders shall for everie month that he shall so occupie forfeit five pounds the one moietie to the said wardens & Comunaltie for the time being & the other moietie to the said Bishopp of Durham for the time being & his Successors as a pain or forfeiture to be levied by distresse by the said wardens or some of them within one month next after to be by them paid over to the hands of the Bishopp aforesaid or to the hands of his Receiver in the Exchequer in Durham Item if any within the Borough shall take an apprentice in any of the said occupations for any less time than seven yeares he shall according to the ståtute thereof forfeit for everie offence the summe of five pounds the one moyetie to the said Bishopp of Durham for the time being & his successors & the other moyetie to the said wardens (informinge for the same) to the use of the said fellowship for the time being to be recovered by bill plaint or suite in some of the Courts at Durham or in any other Court or Courts whatsoever within the Realm of England. Item that if any borne Denizen or not denizen or any other foreigner not known or brought upp within the said Borough as an apprentice shall at any time hereafter sett up or occupie any of the said trades or occupations before mentioned within the said Borough or lordshippe of Gateside befor the Bishopp of Durham for the time being or his successors have examined and be made acquainted with the quality state religion & honestie of such allien stranger foreigner & of his cause of comeing there & have allowed of such persons & beneficiall fitt and unlawfully hurtfully to the common weal of the said Borough & artificers or otherwise that then every such offender shall for every month that he shall soett upp & occupie any of the said occupations within the Towne & lordshippe of Gateside aforesaid forfeit & pay the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings & fouerpence to be levied by the said wardens or any of them for the time being by way of distresse in such manner and order as heretofore have bin used within the said Borough as a paine or forfeiture for every such offence the one moietie thereof to the Bishopp of Durham for the time being & his successors & the other moietie to the said wardens for the time being for the use of the said societie fellowshippe & comunaltie. Item it is agreed upon and sett downe that if any of the said comunallty or any of the said occupations within the said

Borough & County shall unlawfully intice seduce receive retein or keepe from any of the said Comunaltie for the time being any of his servants or apprentices at any time dureing the tyme of his service or apprenticeshippe that then every such offender shall according to the statute therein forfeit the summe of five pounds the one moietie to the said Bishopp of Durham for the time being & his successors & the other moietie to the said wardens for the time being that for the same will inform to the use of the said Societie to be likewise recovered by bill plaint action information or indictment in any of the Courts at Durham or in any other Court or Courts within the Realm of England. Item it is likewise agreed upon and sett downe that if any of the said societie or any other of the said occupations shall att any time hereafter of a malicious or covetous minde by any extraordinary indirect dishonest or unlawful practise or meanes withdrawe or seeke to gett from any of the said societie any his Customers or accustomed woorke which any of the said comunaltie is before customed with & is willing & able to woorke & discharge himself and if any of the said Comunaltie shall att any time by brawling or quarrelling or other slanderous reproachful or contentencious words or deeds abuse any of the said Comunaltie fellowship or Company at any the said times of the said assemblies or if any of the said society do at any time absent himself & come not to the said assemblies not haveing any reasonable excuse thereof to bee allowed of the greater number of the said societie that then shall be present or if any of the said societie for the time being shall att any time hereafter shew himself wilful disobedient & untoward in the execution of or in any of the said orders herein expressed by & in the Judgement of the greater number of the sade Comunaltie that then such fines shall be by the said Wardens imposed or assessed and levied upon every such offender as by the greater parte of the said societie shall be thought sufficient haveing regarde to the quallitie of the offence and if such wilfull persons will not willingly obey & undergoe such order fine & punishment but still shall persiste in his disobedience obstinacie and wilfullnesse that then such obstinate & disorderly persons shall be put of & discontinued & not be any longer of the said comunaltie untill it shall be thought otherwise by the wardens & more part of the said Comunaltie upon his amendmente and reformation the said fines to be levied by the said wardens as hath bin accustomed in such like cases within the said Borough. Item it is finally ordered and set down that the said wardens for the time being shall dureing the time and year of their wardenship levy receive and keepe all the said fines and forfeitures before mentioned and these that shall be due to the said Bishopp of Durham & his Successors shall pay over within one month next after they shall be levied in manner and

form aforesaid and the rest which shall be due to the said societie to pay & disburse from time to time as shall be appointed by the more part of the said societie & the residue that shall remaine att the yeares end to pay & make account to theire next Successors wardens of the said Comunaltie & that the said Clerke for the time being shall from time to time enter & register all the said acompts doings and proceedings of the said Comunaltie in a book & deliver the same to his next successors wardens & Clerke of the said comunaltie and further a chist shall be provided att the common charges of the said societie which shall be ever in the custody of the eldest or the first of the said fouer wardens wherein shall be safelie kept the Charter of the said Corporation seale & book of orders & all such stocke of money & other things as shall belong to the common use of the said wardens & Comunaltie & of the same chist shall be fouer keys whereof one shall allwaies bee in the keepeing of the eldest warden & the other three in the keeping of the other wardens for the time being who shall deliver the same over to their successors wardens of the said Comunaltie at the yeares end by and in the View & Presence of the said societie or the most part of them all and everie which orders by the aforesaid honest men sett downe and agreed upon to be observed fulfilled and kept by them & every their Successors who hereafter shall exercise occupie or trade the said severall occupations arts sciences or misteries or any of them within the said Borough & towne of Gateside in manner and forme as before is recited Wee by these presents for us & our Successors soe much as in us is do ratifie allow & approve to be performed observed & kept by all and every the persons which now are or hereafter shall fortune to be free of the said Community so far forth as the same orders are agreeable and not contrary to the lawes statutes & ordinances of the Realm of England & untill wee or our Successors shall otherwise ordeine in the premises the Right and honour of our Church of Durham & the right of all other person or persons whatsoever always saved and reserved In Witnes wee have made these our letters Pattents Given att Durham by the hands of Sir Francis Goodricke Knight Chancellor of the County Pallatine of Durham & Sadberdge the twenty-fourth day of Aprill in the three & twentieth year of the Reigne of our soveraigne lord Charles the second by the grace of God king of England Scotland France & Ireland defender of the faith etc And of our Consecration the Eleventh Annoque Domini 1671.

Signed & Sealed

Jo: Dursme

The writer is much indebted to Dr. J. Conway Davies for kindly tracing enrolments and for making photostat

facsimiles available, together with much other valuable information, and for checking the transcriptions and their many peculiarities of spelling. Thanks are also due to Mr. C. D. Jackson, Town Clerk of Gateshead, for permission to reproduce the texts of the Oliver Cromwell Charter to the Drapers Company and the Cromwell portrait, together with the contents of "Book A", and the Cosin's Charter to Freemasons, etc. of 1671.

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FOOTNOTES

¹ The best accounts are in Miss M. Hope Dodd's invaluable paper, "The Bishop's Boroughs", *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd series, XII, pp. 81-185 (1915), and J. R. Boyle's *Vestiges of Old Newcastle and Gateshead*, 1890, pp. 226-227n. Other accounts are *Victoria County History of Durham*, II, p. 256; W. H. D. Longstaffe, *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1862, XIII, p. 164 et seq.; *Reports from Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in England and Wales*, vol. 25, 1835 (Gateshead), pp. 1525, 1526 (in British Museum; photostat in Gateshead Public Library); R. Surtees, *Hist. Durham*, 1820, II, pp. 112-113n. A very full account of the comparable Durham City Companies is C. E. Whiting, "Durham Trade Gilds", in *Trans. Architectural and Archaeological Soc. of Durham*, vol. IX (1939), pp. 143-416.

² Surtees, II, p. 112n., wrongly makes this two years earlier, citing *Rot. Tunstall*, 20 June, 1 Eliz. 1557. 1557 is also cited by Longstaffe and *Vic. Co. Hist.*, II, 256, but without references. In any event 1 Eliz. could not be earlier than 1558! Both Boyle, p. 227n., and the Municipal Commissioners, p. 1525, had seen the Charter and agree on 20th June 1559.

³ Surtees, II, p. 112n., dates this 1594, citing *Rot. Tobie Matthew*, 21 Aug., 37 Eliz., but 37 Eliz. must be 1595/6. *Vic. Co. Hist.*, II, 256, dates this Charter 1602 without references. Both Boyle, p. 227n., and the Municipal Commissioners, p. 1525, had seen the Charter and agree on 21 Aug. 1595.

⁴ Surtees merely quotes *Rot. Cosin*, 1661, omitting the earlier Charters of this Company.

⁵ Surtees, Municipal Commissioners, and Boyle, date this Charter 1602, but

it is entered in the Chancery Rolls for 1595: *Rot. I Matthew, m7, ann. I.* cf. M. H. Dodds, p. 156. In agreement with this, the text of the enrolment yields 38 Elizabeth, but the month and the day are left blank. The Commissioners put it down to Tunstall, an additional error as he died 1559.

⁶ Surtees quotes: *Charter 24 April, 20 Car. II*, but this should be 10 Car. II.

⁷ M. H. Dodds, pp. 81, 90, 91.

⁸ M. H. Dodds, pp. 101, 122, 123.

^{9a} *Reports from the Commissioners*, 1835, p. 1525 (Gateshead), also states that bailiffs had not been appointed after 1681. See also Surtees, II, p. 109n.

⁹ E. Mackenzie, *Newcastle Upon Tyne including the Borough of Gateshead*, 1827, II, pp. 747-748.

¹⁰ On the Borough Holders cf. M. H. Dodds, pp. 129, 130, 171, 172, 179.

¹¹ Mackenzie, p. 747.

¹² On the "Four and Twenty" cf. M. H. Dodds, pp. 161-166.

¹³ *Vic. Co. Hist.* II, p. 253.

^{13a} cf. *Reports from Commissioners*, Vol. 25, 1835 (Gateshead), pp. 1523-1528, for an outline of Local Acts to that date.

¹⁴ 5, 6 William IV, c. 76. See also "Investigation by His Majesty's Commissioners into the state of the Borough of Gateshead, 8, 9, Nov. 1833" in *Gateshead Tracts*, I, Gateshead Public Library; *Vic. Co. Hist.* II, p. 257.

^{14a} 54 Geo. III. Sess. 1813-14. The Commissioners, who were people of substance in the town, were empowered to levy a rate, but only on those whose property benefited. They could also buy property to improve streets. The chief executive officers were the Clerk, Treasurer and Surveyor. The Chairman of the Commissioners was elected at each meeting.

¹⁵ For Durham see M. H. Dodds, pp. 140-142, 147, and C. E. Whiting, *loc. cit.* An example from Ripon is the Drapers, Dyers, Apothecaries & Barber Chirurgeons, chartered 1668, *Ripon Millenary Record*, 1886.

¹⁶ Boyle, p. 221; *Arch. Ael.*, 2nd series, II, p. 223.

¹⁷ M. H. Dodds, pp. 155-156.

¹⁸ His name has been wrongly identified with that of the Pudsey family by writers from the nineteenth century. For a full account of this bishop see G. V. Scammell, *Hugh du Puiset*, 1956.

^{18a} cf. Charles Johnson in *Arch. Ael.*, 4th series, I (1925), pp. 150 sq.; Wm. Stubbs, *Select Charters of English Constitutional History*, 1905, pp. 111, 112.

¹⁹ M. H. Dodds, p. 92.

^{19a} *Early Palatine Charters to the Burgesses of Gateshead*. Printed at the Observer Steam Press by William Douglass, 1853. Bound up in *Gateshead Tracts*, I, Gateshead Public Library. See *Arch. Ael.*, 2nd series II, p. 232.

²⁰ cf. Durham Prior's Register, I, part ii, ff. 47r. and 47v.; Surtees Soc. publs. XXV, appendix I.

^{20a} Helen M. Cam, Art "Borough", *Enc. Brit.*, 1947.

^{20b} Longstaffe in *Arch. Ael.*, 2nd series, II, pp. 219-223.

^{20c} Longstaffe, *loc. cit.*

²¹ *Reports from Commissioners*, *loc. cit.*

^{21a} "Investigations by His Majesty's Commissioners, etc." in *Gateshead Tracts*, I, above. Douglas, *loc. cit.*, states that the de Poitou Charter was "preserved with many others" in the vestry of St. Mary's Church, Gateshead. But these "many others" were presumably merely manorial Charters etc., still preserved there by the "Four and Twenty". Otherwise they would have been included in the Commission's list discussed further on. It will be found that all the documents in that list, except that of de Poitou, can be traced to other owners.

^{21b} *Early Palatine Charters to the Burgesses of Gateshead*, *loc. cit.*

^{21c} Dr. Davies has expanded the translation from the imperfect Latin of the transcription. Bourne's translation, *History of Newcastle*, p. 171, is unreliable.

²² M. H. Dodds, pp. 110, 154; R. Welford, *Newcastle and Gateshead 1884-7*, II, 504-505; *Arch. Ael.*, 2nd series, II, p. 226.

²³ Welford, I, p. 271.

^{23a} From the collection of the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle upon Tyne, cf. *Proceedings*, 3rd ser., X, pp. 184n., 185n.

^{23b} *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd series, XVIII, pp. 131, 145-155, 172 sq. This includes a very full account of the Newcastle Glovers.

^{23c} *Reports from Commissioners*, p. 1526. The Dyers, etc., are here called Joiners, and the Drapers, etc., Chandlers.

^{23d} Boyle, p. 227n.

²⁴ For the Durham City Tanners, cf. C. E. Whiting, *Book of the Tanners Company*, Durham, 1612-1655, Surtees Soc. Publs. 160 (1952).

^{24a} *Reports from Commissioners*, p. 1525.

^{24b} Boyle, p. 227n.

²⁵ M. H. Dodds, p. 156.

^{25a} *Reports from Commissioners*, p. 1526. There was a Dyer in Gateshead as early as 1223/4, if not in the time of du Puiset; *Early Deeds of Newcastle on Tyne*, ed. A. M. Oliver, Surtees Soc. Publs. 137 (1914), p. 112.

²⁶ *Vic. Co. Hist.*, II, 257.

²⁷ Surtees, II, 112n.

^{27a} *Reports from Commissioners*, p. 1526.

²⁸ M. H. Dodds, p. 158.

^{28a} E. Dodds, *Records of the Gateshead Company of Drapers*, p. 29. (See next footnote.)

^{28b} *Records of the Gateshead Company of Drapers, Tailors, Mercers, Hard-waremen, Coopers and Chandlers*, Edwin Dodds, 1907, in Gateshead Public Library.

²⁹ Maurice Ashley, *The Greatness of Oliver Cromwell*, 1957, pp. 336, 337, 341, 356.

³⁰ It will be noted that the name George Bulman also appears in the Attestation as well as in the list of signatures.

^{30a} In 1810, sixteen freemen were allowed as claimants on the Fell, viz. six drapers and ten bricklayers. Surtees, II, p. 112n.

^{30b} Mell. This obsolescent North Country form of mall or Chairman's hammer is still found in Scotland and dialect. Cf. Murray's *New English Dictionary*. Gavel, apparently of American origin, is not found in Britain until the nineteenth century.

^{30c} Searcher. An official appointed by a guild or company to resist the violation of its customs and laws, and to prevent the production of work below a certain standard of excellence. *Obs.* Murray's *New English Dictionary*.

^{30d} For the composite Mason's Company of Durham cf. C. E. Whiting, pp. 278, 289.

^{30e} *Bishop Cosin's Correspondence*, II, p. 277, ed. by Rev. Geo. Ornsby, Surtees Soc. Publs. 55. See also *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 4th series, VIII, pp. 251, 252, cited from R. Lillie in *Gateshead Library Record*.

³¹ M. H. Dodds, p. 158; Boyle, pp. 226-227n.; Surtees, II, pp. 112-113n.

^{31a} M. H. Dodds, p. 158.

³² Surtees, II, p. 112n.

³³ Boyle, pp. 225, 226.

^{33a} *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 4th series, VIII, p. 250.

³⁴ A photograph of these arms in position on the building will be found in John Oxberry's *Album of Photographs* in Gateshead Central Library, and another is on view in Saltwell Park Museum.

³⁵ See "Seals of Durham", *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd series, vols. XIV, XV, and notes to seals nos. 3152 and 3441, and also Surtees Soc. Publs., vol. 41 for 1862.