

## THE RECORDS AND PLATE OF THE BOROUGH OF GUILDFORD.

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ALTHOUGH no notice of Guildford is to be found in the British or Roman annals, it was doubtless from its position known and occupied by both peoples. It became a royal residence at least as early as Alfred the Great, and had become at the time a borough by prescription, and the settled abode, exclusive of Stoke, of nearly 700 persons.

The first charter was granted to Guildford by Henry III, dated the 7th January, 1257, in which the King secures the burgesses (*probi homines*) from vexatious arrests for debt, in the enjoyment of hereditary property, and imposes a fine of £10 on anyone infringing these privileges.

The next charter is one from the same King, Henry III, dated the 7th September in the same year, 1257, by which the County assizes formerly held at Leatherhead are to be held at Guildford.

The third charter is dated the 21st January, 1341, by Edward III, and grants to the burgesses freedom from toll throughout the kingdom, and a fair yearly, to continue five days, beginning the day before Trinity Sunday; the date of this fair was altered from Trinity eve to Whitsun Monday by another charter of this King's, dated the 16th July, 1346.

On the 1st October, 1366, the same King, by another charter, enlarges the privileges of the burgesses by granting them the fee-farm of the town at an annual rent of £10, with all profits and emoluments lately enjoyed by John Brocas; the King reserving to himself the castle, gaol, and park; grants them also the privilege of a merchant guild, and empowers the steward, *i.e.*, mayor, and bailiff, to act as justices of the peace.

A charter of Richard II, under date of the 10th March, 1378, recites and confirms the before-mentioned charters of Henry III and Edward III.

None of the charters I have mentioned are to be found in the town chest, which is accounted for by a fact mentioned by Manning, that all the charters of the town were lost in the Wat Tyler insurrection, and that Letters Patent exemplifying and renewing them were granted to the town by Richard II on the 10th March, 1383; with this last exception, they are all duly set forth and recited in the important charter of Henry VII, of which more presently.

The earliest instrument I have been able to discover among the archives of the town is dated 14th June, 1377, in the 51st year of the reign of Edward III, and is not a charter but a Royal Patent, exemplifying an inquisition taken by the King's order in 1366 to ascertain the privileges enjoyed by John Brocas, who held the town in fee-farm from the Crown, in order that the said privileges might be transferred to the burgesses.

The next charter in point of date is that of Henry VII, of the 1st July, 1489, of which an early office copy is still preserved among the town records; in this, as I have before mentioned, all the earlier charters are recited, explained, and confirmed, save that of Richard II, in 1383, and in addition the town is incorporated under the style or name of the mayor and burgesses; the election of the mayor out of their own body is to take place annually on the Monday next after Michaelmas Day; a coroner for the borough is also to be elected annually on the same day as the mayor. All residents of the borough exempted from every kind of toll by land or water throughout England; all property within the borough becoming liable to forfeiture to vest in the Corporation. A court is granted to be held every three weeks before the mayor and two burgesses, with very large powers attached to it; also a Court of Pie Powder for the regulation of fairs, etc. Two annual fairs granted, one on the eve and day of St. Martin, and the other on the eve and day of St. George. And, lastly, the mayor

and burgesses not to be empannelled on any jury out of Guildford against their will.

Then comes in order a charter of Edward VI, dated 14th November, 1547, reciting Letters Patent of Henry VIII, which are merely a recital and confirmation of the Charter of Henry VII; the original of this is deposited with the town clerk.

The other charters in possession of the Corporation are briefly these :

- 1st. One of Queen Elizabeth, dated 1st March, 1580, simply confirming former charters.
- 2nd. One from James I, dated 30th August, 1603, regulating the number of justices, and appointing one man learned in the law to be a counsel to the mayor: hence our present office of recorder.
- 3rd. Office copy of charter from Charles I, dated 10th June, 1627, which, after speaking of the wealth and population of the town, for the better administration of justice for that purpose incorporates with the borough Stoke-above-Barrs and Stoke Lanes.
- 4th. The last charter granted to the town, that of 15th April, 1686, by that ill-advised and bigoted Stuart James II. This registers the surrender into the King's hands by the burgesses of all their privileges relative to the appointment of their own officers, and the humble supplication of the mayor, etc., that he would continue their incorporation as he should see fit. Nominates new officers under the names of mayor, high steward, recorder, alderman, town clerk, common council, and bailiffs. The King to have power of his mere will to remove any of the officers of the Corporation, and as a slight recompense for liberties surrendered and tyranny instituted, the mayor and aldermen were graciously allowed to wear scarlet gowns.

This disgraceful charter is in capital preservation, with an impression of the great seal quite intact.

Under this charter the King removed on the 24th March, 1687, Thomas Smith, mayor, two aldermen, and three members of the town council, and nominated others in their room, and on the 19th April, 1688, removed John Wight the recorder, Leonard Child the town clerk, two more of the aldermen, and three more of the town council, and putting in their places Sir Richard Heath to be recorder, and others to be aldermen and members of the town council; but in October of the same year, the King by proclamation restored to this Corporation, with others, their ancient charters, liberties, and franchises.

I have thus given you as complete an account of the charters relating to Guildford from 1257 to 1688, as time will permit.

With regard to the records of the town, other than charters, I cannot dwell at length. In going through them, I have found much valuable and interesting matter, but I cannot at this time use one hundredth part of the extracts I have taken.

The earliest books in the custody of the town clerk are four old books of account, beginning in the fifth year of Henry VIII, and extending through the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, and Philip and Mary; extracts from these are to be found in Russell's *History of Guildford*, and Manning and Bray's *Surrey*. The books are in a dilapidated condition.

In better preservation and of greater value, is a book in the handwriting of George Austen (sometime mayor, and an ancestor of an old and valued friend of this Society), commenced by him in 1596, containing copies of indentures and deeds, and other information relating to the Royal Grammar School, and what is perhaps more important, voluminous transcripts from what he calls "The Black Book," written in the times of Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, Henry VI, Edward IV, and Henry VII, "sometymes Kings of Englande." I need not say that the Black Book, in Austen's day "ragged torne and rente," has long since disappeared.

The books of the Guild Merchant of the town com-

mence in the 28th year of the reign of Elizabeth, and continue in regular order until the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act in 1835.

The Court Books are in regular succession from the 16th Elizabeth to 1838. Books of general accounts from 1619 to 1624, and from 1666 to 1835, and the Victuallers' Licence Book from 1735 to 1828.

These records throw much light upon the habits, customs, manners, and lives of the good burgesses of Guildford. No mention at all of things extraneous to their peaceable lives; no wars, battles, sieges; but memoranda of how they sometimes quarrelled amongst themselves, of the old time Protectionist spirit with which they kept outsiders from interfering with their trade, what fines they imposed upon recalcitrant burgesses, how the mayor and bailiffs were mulcted in heavy sums for Corporation feasts, what price they paid for labour, and much interesting matter relating to their every day lives.

I now come to the plate. The small mace of silver has the arms of England and France incorporate quarterly, and is the more ancient of the two; but the donor was unknown to Russell and to Manning and Bray, and I have been unable to solve the mystery, having looked in vain for any hall-, or other distinguishing mark.

The large mace was presented to the mayor and approved men of Guildford by the Right Hon. Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, but then High Steward, and the following memorandum relating thereto I take from the town records:—

"Memorand. that on the 24th December in the year of our Lord 1663 was presented to the Mayor and approved men of the Towne a large and Rich Mace from the Right Hono'ble Henry Howard of Norfolk our Greate and Noble High Steward by the hands of Sir Richard Onslow Knight one of the burgesses of this towne now serving in Parliament. Out of a Due sence whereof and in testimony of His Honour's greate Bounty and our gratitude we have caused it to be entered amongst our Records together with the letter of thanks returned to His Honour by the Mayor and approved men of this

Towne that the memory of soe munificent and noble a Benefactor may remain upon Record to all posterity."

"The Copye of the letter.

"Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>

"We should appear most unworthy the greate favour you have soe lately conferred upon this towne in bestowing upon us soe rich and noble a mark of honour if we should not laye ourselves at your feet in acknowledgement of so high a favoure. It is indeed Sr a present worthy of your gift and suitable to the greatness of your large Hart which we doo with all thankfulness acknowledge and shall endeavour to express it by rendering all due obedience to your commands and in all our dealings by approving ourselves

"Sir

"Your Honour's most obliged  
and most humble servants."

The following extract from the records relates to the very beautiful chain worn by our mayor:—

"Memorand. that on the third day of March in the six and Twentyneth year of the reigne of our most gracious Soveraigne king Charles the second King of England etc. :—

"1673 Arthur Onslow of West Clandon in the County of Surrey Esquire High Steward of this towne did then give to the Mayor and approved men of the sayd Towne and their successors a faire chayne of Gold, Double linked with a medal of massey Gold whereon his Majesties Armes are curiously engraven and on the reverse the Armes of the said Mr. Onslow. In token of our gratitude and memory whereof we have caused this entry among our

"Records.

"Optima beneficiorum eustus est ipsa memoria beneficiorum."

As a corporation we are not very rich in loving cups, centre pieces, and other adornments of the banqueting hall, but we have a few pieces of plate fitting to be seen, and very worthy of record; notably a bason and ewer bequeathed to the mayor and approved men of Guildford by John Parkhurst, a native of the town, who died Bishop of Norwich in 1574. This good and learned prelate was born in the parish of St. Mary, and not only gave to the town this very handsome specimen of old silver work, but was also a great benefactor to the Royal Grammar School during his lifetime, and bequeathed to the same school all his Latin books. I am sorry to say that, owing to what worthy George Austen in his manuscript calls the "cullerable shifts and practices" of the

good bishop's executors, only part of the books found their way into the library of the school.

The next piece of plate in regard to age is a silver stoup given by Thomas Baker, in 1584. This seems to have been a favourite tankard with the borough magnates, for by an inscription still remaining it had to be "new made" in 1602.

Thomas Baker the donor was mayor in 1565, 1575, and again in 1580.

The last gift of anything in the shape of drinking vessels made to the Corporation was a silver stoup and two silver cups by John Austen, in 1620.

In this connection I must not forget to mention the mayor's staff of ebony with a silver top with this inscription, which is still discernible—"Fayre God, Doe Justice, Love Thy Brother." This was a gift from Queen Elizabeth.

Of our Town Hall I can say but little, either for its beauty or its antiquity, though a portion of it doubtless dates back to the reign of Elizabeth, but the front of the building, with the council chamber above, was erected by subscription in 1683. In the window at the north end are the arms of the town and of Queen Elizabeth, and a piece of painted glass presented by George, Lord Onslow.

The portraits in the Hall are those of James I, Charles II, and James II, the two latter said by Russell and by Manning and Bray to be originals by Lely; for which information we are very much indebted to those historians, since the paintings are so obscured by dirt and bad varnish we should not have been able to have discerned the fact for ourselves.

The other portraits are those of William III and his Queen Mary, a half-length of the Hon. Arthur Onslow, Recorder of the Borough from 1722 to 1768, and Speaker of the House of Commons, and that of Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Onslow by John Russell, R.A., a native of this town. Sir Richard is receiving the sword of the Dutch Vice-Admiral at the battle of Camperdown.

The gallant Admiral looks so kindly and gentle that

we can scarcely recognise him as the fire-eating commander of the "Monarch" who fought the van of the Dutch fleet until he had disabled and captured nearly all their vessels, while the masts of his own good ship had gone by the board, and 136 of her gallant crew were lying dead and wounded upon her decks.

The following extracts selected from the original Corporation Minute Books of the Borough will fittingly supplement the above paper, and I hope will not prove altogether uninteresting to the Members of our Society. In our selections we have tried to avoid duplicating such information as is to be found in Symes, Russell, Manning and Bray, and other more or less accessible sources. Our good forefathers were strong Protectionists, and many orders and resolutions appear on the records preventing the intrusion of foreigners into the borough. The first in point of date is the following:

"20th Henry VIII.

"Noe foreign occupier, of what craft or occupation soever they shall be, shall occupy unto this market by fine or otherwise, from this daye forward. Vegetables only excepted."

"24th Henry VIII.

"No artifice to work in the towne, except paying scot and lot or by fyne."

In the reign of Elizabeth a resolution was passed by the Corporation, prohibiting foreign butchers from selling flesh in the town; and various orders and proclamations were made and issued during the succeeding reigns. But notwithstanding these strict edicts foreigners were attracted by the trade and situation of Guildford, and, sometimes by fine and sometimes without, took up their residence in, and carried on their respective trades in the town. The following "Constitution for Quarterage to be payed by Freemen for prosecuting forreyners" was made in the reign of James II. :

"Whereas diverse persons from tyme to tyme intrude themselves into the sayd towne of Guildford, being noe Freemen of the sayd towne, and have and dayly do use trades within the same towne to the great damage of the Freemen of the sayd towne contrary to the constitution and orders formerly made in the said towne for the prevention thereof.

And whereas such persons are eneouraged soe to do for that they finde themselves yf any legall course be taken with them, noe particular person is willing to undergo the sole charge of the prosecutio[n] of such suyte. It is therefore thought fit and soe ordered att this Court Leet, by the Mayor and approved men of the sayd towne, upon the humble desire of the Commonalty and Burgesses present, That all the Freemen of the said towne now being or at any tyme hereafter to be inhabitants within the sayd towne, and every of them doe and shall forever hereafter pay to the Hall wardens of the sayd towne for the tyme being, or to such other persons as shalbe appointed by the Mayor of the sayd towne for the tyme being, and two of the Justices of the sayd towne, for and towards discharge of the prosecution of such, or other necessary suytes for the publique good of the sayd towne, quarterage after the rates following, viz.: That every person who is or hath beene or who hereafter shall be a Magistrate of the sayd towne, sixpence every quarter; every person who hath beene, now is, or hereafter shall be Bayliffe of the sayd towne, fourpence for every quarter; every person who is, hath beene, or hereafter shall be Constable in the sayd towne, threepence for every quarter; and every other person that is or shall be a Freeman of the sayd towne, and now is or hereafter shall be under the degree of a constable of the sayd towne, one penny for every quarter, the same to be collected quarterly at the four usual feasts in the yeare (that is to say) at the feast of Annunciation of St. Mary the Blessed Virgin, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, St. Michael the Archangel, and St. Thomas the Apostle. And it is further ordered that the sayd persons soe to be appointed for collecting the sayd moneys shall and lawfully may by warrant, under the hands and seals of the Mayor of the said towne for the time being and one other Justice of the Peace for the sayd towne, distrayne the goods of the refusers to pay the sayd quarterage according to the rates and proportions aforesayd, and to sell the same goods, rendering to the said refusers the overplus if any shalbe. And lastly, it is ordered that the said moneys soe to be collected shalbe kept by the Hall wardens of the sayd towne for the tyme being as a publique stock for mayntayning the rights and privileges of the freemen of the sayd towne against the intrusion of forreyners, and other publique inconveniences that may att any tyme hereafter happen to the freemen of the sayd towne."

This proclamation seems to have had the effect intended, and from that time to a comparatively late period foreign tradesmen and artificers were rigidly kept out of the borough.

The last recorded instance of the truly Conservative and Protectionist spirit of our old Corporation is to be found under date of February 12th, 1839, when it petitioned both Houses of Parliament against the repeal of the Corn Laws.

In these records are to be found many notes and

resolutions, and much valuable information respecting the Grammar School; indeed, had not worthy Mr. George Austen copied the old "Black Book" belonging to the Corporation, and had not his transcript, made in the reign of Elizabeth, been still among the municipal archives of our borough, we should have known little of the early history of the school. Its founders and its early benefactors are all duly mentioned and their doings recorded by Mr. Austen, and Mr. Russell reproduced the good Mayor's manuscript in his *History of Guildford* first published more than a century ago, so that from the year 1509 (when Robert Beckingham first endowed it) to Austen's day, we are fairly conversant with its history. Intended originally for the higher education of the poor, from various causes the original intention of its founder was departed from. Various notices and minutes respecting the school and its government are to be found scattered through the many pages which go to make up the town records. We cannot, of course, transcribe for our readers one tithe of the information to be found, but the following may interest them:

"13th day of February, 1765.

"At this Guild Merchant the state of the Free Grammar School of this towne, called the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth, being taken into consideration. It appears that there is not one scholar taught in the said school, nor has been for nearly a twelvemonth past, so that the places of master and usher are reduced to sinecures; and the Reverend John Pearsall, Clerk, the master of the said school, and David Morgan, the usher there, have been paid there salarys to the fifth day of July last, although no duty has been done by them, or either of them, for near a twelvemonth last past. And it is the opinion of the Mayor and approved men at this Guild that it is owing to the intolerable negligence and misbehaviour of the said Mr. Pearsall, the master. Resolved, and it is ordered that the payment of the salary to the said master be suspended till further orders."

Mr. Pearsall was suspended accordingly, but failing to be paid his salary, he commenced legal proceedings against the Corporation for the recovery thereof, and, much to the mortification of that body, was successful. Such was the low state of the school in 1765, but twelve years afterwards, as will be seen by the next extract, it was in a very highly satisfactory condition.

"24th November, 1777.

"John Martyr, Town Clerk.

"At this Guild Merchant the matter of the above summons was taken into consideration. And it is ordered that the Schoolwarden do forthwith pay to the Rev. Mr. Cole, the present master of the Free Grammar School the sum of one hundred pounds, in consideration of, and as a compensation for, his diligence, care, and industry in raising the same to its present flourishing state and condition, there being now educating there upwards of sixty scholars, and at his own expense hitherto for the space of eight years last past providing proper ushers and assistants, and that the sum of twenty pounds be paid him yearly in future for the same purpose during the pleasure of the Mayor and approved men, to commence from Michaelmas last, and to be paid in the same manner as his salary as master is to be paid."

All honour to the good and indefatigable Mr. Cole!

In the paper read by us at the meeting of the Surrey Archaeological Society, we reproduced from these records some very interesting extracts relating to the gift of the large silver mace, by the Duke of Norfolk, in 1663, and the Mayor's chain, by Arthur Onslow, Esq., High Steward, in 1693. Bishop Parkhurst, George Austen, and John Austen were also mentioned as donors of the Corporation plate. Supplementary to the facts referred to at the Society's meeting, we give below extracts with regard to some other gifts to the town.

"3rd October, 1763.

"Ordered that the thanks of the Mayor and approved men be presented to George Onslow, Esq., Member of Parliament for the County of Surrey, for his present of a fine sett of Common Prayer Books for their use, and also to Mrs. Henrietta Onslow, his lady, for her present of a very fine sett for the use of the Mayor and the Magistrates' wives in Holy Trinity Church, in this towne.

"Ordered that the Town Clerk doe make their compliments to Mr. Onslow and his lady with this message.

"The Town Clerk reported that he had waited on Mr. Onslow, with their message to him and his lady, and that he was pleased to return the following answer in writing, viz.:—

"'Mr. Onslow is extremely happy in the Corporation so kindly accepting of the books he presented them with, which he meant as a small testimony of his love to them and of his gratitude for the many favours conferred by them on his family and himself. Mrs. Onslow, too, thinks herself much obliged by their acknowledgment of those she took the liberty of ordering for the use of the magistrates' wives.'"

These prayer books are still to be found in Holy Trinity, and are used by the Corporation when they attend that church.

“COPPER PLATES PRESENTED TO THE TOWN.

“GUILDFORD to witt, a Guild Mercht there holden Monday, the eighth day of September, in the sixth year of the reign of King George the Third over Great Britain and so forth, and in the year of our Lord 1766.

“At the Guild the Right Hon. Arthur Onslow, Esq., Recorder of this towne, hath sent as a present to this towne Mr. Harrisses copper plates of the prospect of the town, and a print from the same on vellum, and also another copper plate, being the plan or iehnography of the town, and a print taken from the same on vellum, all to be lodged among the records of the said town.

“Ordered that the thanks of the Corporation be returned to the Recorder for his kind present, and that the Town Clerk do attend him with the same, and that he do at the same time acquaint him that they have deposited the said plates and prints in a chest in the Guildhall.”

The copper-plates and the impressions therefrom on vellum are not to be found in the Town chest. Is it possible that the following entry, made just about the time of the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, has reference to them? and, if so, should not some steps be taken to discover their present whereabouts and to restore them?

“25th September, 1835. John Chennell, then bayliff, gave two guineas for the copper-plates.”

Owing to the investigations of the writer, the copper plates have been recovered and restored to the Town chest.

The following “agreement for raising money towards payment of debts,” as it is called in the records, would seem to show that that “eternal want of pence” which vexes corporations as well as public men, was felt by the approved men of Guildford more than two hundred years ago:

“March 3rd, 1673.

“Whereas this towne is greatly indebted by reason of the late purchasing and building the Shambles, within the sayd towne, and also in defending a writt of Ad quod dampnum brought by the towne of Godalming, which, if it had taken effect, would have beeene very prejudiciale to this towne and the trade thereof, and several other

neecessary and unavoydable charges and expenses for the publique advantage of the sayd towne, and preservation of the rights and liberties thereof. It is therefore unanimously agreed and concluded by the present Mayor and magistrates of this towne, and accordingly ordered that, for the speedy payment of the sayd debts, the Mayor of the sayd towne for the time being shall pay unto the use of the Guildhall of the said towne yearly one full moyety of such profitts as shall arise and grow due to each respective Mayor by reason of the toll of this towne in manner following, viz. : ‘That every Mayor successively for the time to come shall, within one month after expiration of his office of mayoralty, give to the sneceeding Mayor and magistrates of this towne a true and just account in writing of what quantytes of all sorts of corn and grayne he hath received by reason and virtne of the toll during his yeare, and how much he hath sold of the same, and what profit he hath made by such sale (as neare as it may be done). And that when the necessary ehariges for collecteing the same, as also the sallaryes payable to the servants, is deducted out of the whole sume, then the one moyety of the surplusage of the full profitts of the sayd toll (after such deduction made as aforesayd) shall by each respetive Mayor be payd into the hands of the new-elected Mayor, together with the magistrates, at such their meeting, and by them be ordered to be disposed of towards the diselcharge of the aforesayd debts as they shall see cause. And this order to contynue in force till such time as the Mayor and magistrates of this towne for the tyme being shall unanimously agree to null and abrogate the same.’”

The neighbouring town of Godalming, even at that time, seems to have been somewhat pugnacious, and quite capable of looking after and defending its rights.

The next extract is interesting as showing the form and manner of summoning the Corporation to meet, and their mode of procedure in the latter part of the last century :

“ 17th October, 1791.

“ Guildeford Town, in the County of Surrey.

“ To the Serjeants-at-Mace, in and for the said town.

“ By order of the Mayor.

“ These are to will and require you to give notice to the Magistrates and Bailiffs of this Corporation that a Guild Merehant or Common Hall will be held for the said town on Monday, the 17th day of Oetoer, at four o’cloek in the afternoon, at the Conneil Chamber in the Guildhall of the said town, to consider of ways and means of raising money to diselcharge the debts due from the Corporation which have been incurred by building and otherwise. Given under my hand the fourteenth day of Oetoer, 1791.

“ THOMAS SIBTHORPE, Town Clerk.

"The said summons having been read, and the matter thereof having been fully considered, and it appearing that the debts now due from the Corporation do exceed one hundred pounds,

"It was resolved—

"That the sum of one hundred pounds be borrowed on a bond to be exequed from the Mayor and approved men to the person who shall lend the same, and to be sealed with the common seal of the Corporation for repayment thereof, with interest at four pounds ten shillings per centum per annum, and that when the same shall be advanced it be paid to the Hall Warden, to be by him applied towards discharging the debts now due from the Corporation."

We have moved ; fancy a loan of £100 being sufficient to discharge the whole debt of the Corporation, even in 1791 !

In view of the recent application of the proprietors of the River Wey Navigation, for an abatement of tolls, the following extract is of more than passing interest :

"6th March, 1748.

"An offer of the proprietors of the Wye to pay £45 a year, in lieu of one penny a load, ordered to be refused, but £50 will be taken."

It is noteworthy that, in all the early records, our river is always spelt Wye.

The next minute is valuable as showing the difference between our observance of the Sunday and that of our ancestors :

"3rd October, 1796.

"Ordered that in future the Mayor and Corporation, instead of meeting on the Sunday next after Michellmas yearly, at two of the clock in the afternoon, to put in nomination proper persons to serve the offices of Mayor and Bailiff for the ensuing year, to meet for that purpose immediately after Divine Service in the afternoon."

The following entry makes apparent the fact that our grandfathers were as ready as ourselves to do justice to our naval and military heroes.

"27th November, 1797.

"Resolved unanimously—

"That the Freedom of this Corporation be presented to Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Ouslow, as a mark of the high sense they entertain, with the rest of the kingdom, of his gallant conduct, and the considerable share he had in the glorious victory obtained by Admiral Lord Duncan and himself, with the ships under their command, over the Dutch Fleet, on the eleventh day of October last. And that the Right Honourable Lord Ouslow and Cranley, the High Steward, be desired to present the same."

Doubtless the High Steward duly presented the parchment (let us hope it was illuminated) to the local hero of Camperdown. His portrait, by Mr. Russell, R.A., another local celebrity, still graces our Town Hall.

Next we give an extract, dated the 23rd of February, 1792, relating to a piece of waste in what is now known as Castle Street :

“ These are to will and require you to give notice to the Magistrates and Bailiffs of this Corporation, that a Guild Merchant or Common Hall will be held for the said town on Monday, the 27th day of February instant (1792) at Four o'clock in the afternoon, at the Council Chamber, in the Guildhall of the said town, to take into consideration the propriety of granting to Mr. Joseph Pickstone a lease of a piece of ground part of the waste on the north side of Mr. Jenning's garden, in the upper back-side, not exceeding seventy feet from east to west, and twenty-four feet from north to south ; and if it shall be deemed proper to grant such lease, then to consider and determine on what terms the same shall be granted. Given under my hand the 23rd day of February, 1792.

“ THOS. SIBTHORPE,  
“ Town Clerk.

“ The said summons having been read, and the question whether a lease of the said piece of ground should be granted to the said Joseph Pickstone having been put,

“ It was resolved in the affirmative.

“ The said Joseph Pickstone then proposed to pay to the Mayor and approved men the sum of twenty-five pounds as a consideration of their granting him a lease of the said piece of ground for the term of ninety-nine years, at the annual rent of one shilling. And the question ‘ whether the said proposal should be accepted ’ having been put,

“ It was resolved in the affirmative.”

This lease to Mr. Pickstone, a well-known solicitor, practising in Guildford in the latter part of the last century, is about expiring, and we reproduce it here, among other reasons, because we believe the worthy lawyer (contrary to the opinion generally entertained of his cloth) gave a full consideration for the little piece of ground in South Town Ditch.

The following resolution of the Mayor and approved men is interesting, as showing the initiatory steps which led to the building of the present Green Market, and as giving some idea of the value of property at the period.

"9th July, 1787.

"The Committee appointed on Monday last produced a report in the following words, viz. :

"Guildford to Wit.

"To the Mayor, Magistrates, and Bailiffs of the said town, in Common Hall, assembled.

"We, the Mayor and four senior Magistrates, now resident in the said town, and four senior bailiffs, the committee to whom it was referred 'To enquire whether any and what convenient place can be found for erecting a new court, and other conveniences for the said court, together with a proper market house and stand, for the aecomodation of persons resorting to this town for the sale of poultry, butter, and other provisions,' do report, that in pursuance of such reference, we met and resolved that the house, stable, and other buildings, lately the Red Lion Inn, is the most proper place in the said town of Guildford, whereon to erect a new court, and other conveniences for the said court, together with a proper market house and stand, for the aecomodation of persons resorting to this town for the sale of poultry, butter, and other provisions; and thereupon we inquired of Mr. William Haydon, the owner of the said inn, at what priece he would dispose of his property, for the aecomodation of the town and the public. And the said William Haydon proposed that the priece for purchasing the Red Lion Inn, with the barns, stables, cock pit, and all the other buildings therunto belonging, together with the yard of the said inn, should be eight hundred pounds. That the price for purchasing the house adjoining the said inn, now in the occupation of Edward Searle, should be three hundred pounds. That the price for the purchasing the two gardens belonging to the said inn, should be three hundred pounds. But the said William Haydon expects that if in the prosecution of the plan for erecting the said market house, court, and other conveniences for the said court, any part of the premises should not be wanted, he, the said William Haydon, shall be intitled to retain such part of the said premises as shall not be wanted, at or according to the priece at which he has proposed to sell the same premises respectively, and we conceive the said proposals of the said William Haydon to be fair and reasonable. But as to any further estimate of the expence this committee is not informed. Dated this 7th day of July, 1787.

"A. BEAUCHAMP.

"JOHN FORD, Mayor.

"RICH'D. ELKINS.

"THOS. JACKMAN.

"W.M. HAYDON.

"EDWD. BRINKWELL.

"EDMD. ELKINS.

"JOHN RUSSELL.

"JAS. VINCENT."

The places for holding the various markets seem to have been changed from time to time, and various notices relating thereto are scattered through the records.

The extracts given below show that, nearly eighty years ago, the Tuesday's market was held on its present

site, and that it had been so held for some time preceding.

“ 8th December, 1804.

“ It is now resolved and ordered, assented, concluded and fully decreed by the said Mayor and approved men. That the ancient market for buying and selling of all manner of cattle, calves, sheep, and hogs, holden and kept within this town, upon Tuesday in every fortnight in the North-street, near the weighing engine, on the north side of the road opposite the Crown back gate to continue all day ; and that the Bailiff of the said town for the time being shall not take more than one penny per head for each beast, one penny per head for each calf, two pence per score for sheep, and so in proportion for a less quantity, and one penny per head for each horse bought or sold.

Soon after the passing of the above resolution, the battle of High Street *versus* North Street commenced, and High Street came off victorious, as witness the subjoined :

“ 29th March, 1805.

“ Resolved, ordered, assented, concluded, and fully decreed by the Mayor and approved men :

“ That the said market shall in future be held in the High-street of the said town on the south side thereof between the Oat Market House and the high road leading into Quarry-street at the Star corner. That the centre of the market house shall be at the division of the parishes of the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Virgin Mary, and that the pens shall extend the same distance into each of the said parishes.

The payment of tolls by the proprietors of the Wey Navigation appears to have exercised our civic dignitaries in the past as in the present. Under date of the 9th January, 1748, is the following entry :

“ At this Guild Merchant it is ordered that a Bill in Chancery be preferred against the proprietors of the River Wey, for the recovery of one penny by the load for all goods navigated thereon, due to this towne at Christmas Day last past, unless they propose to Mr. Mayor a certain annual sum in lieu thereof, to be approved of at the next Guild Merchant.”

The minutes of encroachments recorded below are of interest :

“ Guildford Town, in the } To the Sergeants at Macc in and for the county of Surrey. } said Town.

“ By order of Mr. Mayor,

“ These are to will and require you to give notice to the Magistrates and Bailiffs of this Corporation that a Guild Merchant or Common Hall will be held for the said Town, on the nineteenth day of July instant,

at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Council Chamber, in the Guildhall of the said Town, to take into consideration the Bailiff's Book. Given under my hand this fourteenth day of July, 1792.

“THOS. SIBTHORPE,  
“Town Clerk.

“The summons having been read,

“It was resolved—

“That this Common Hall will now take into consideration several encroachments which have been lately made on the waste.’

“Mr. Samuel Robinson, the owner and occupier of the house adjoining to the Town Hall westward, attending and acknowledging that he had erected a building on the wall of the Town Hall garden, four feet further northward than where the old building formerly stood, and stating that he had given permission to Nehemiah Wilkins to lay a pipe for water cross his garden into Wilkins's house ;

“Ordered—

“That he be charged one shilling a year for that encroachment during so long time as he shall permit the water-pipe to lay cross his garden. But if he shall prevent the water from coming into Wilkins's house that charge is to be increased by the direction of a Common Hall.’

“Mr. Wm. Shaw attending, acknowledged that the whole of the wall on the east side of the Town Hall garden is the property of the Corporation, and that part of his green-house stands on this wall. Some of the jury having viewed that green-house, reported that it stands about eight feet on that wall.

“Ordered—

“That he be charged one shilling per annum for that encroachment.”

The subjoined entry would seem to refer to one of the founders of Stoke Hospital :

“Guildeford to wit. A Guild Merchant there held on Monday, the third day of October, in the eighth year of the reign of King George the Third over Great Britain, 1768.

“Mr. Parsons being next in election, was called to serve the office, but refused to serve or submit to a fine, alledging that he was a Dissenter from the Church of England, and therefore thought himself not liable to serve, but the Company not believing that plea to be true he is fined fifty guineas, to be paid to the Hall Wardens for the use of the Hall.”

The following are notes of entries relating to a variety of subjects :

“16th July, 1807.

“Chimney in Council Chamber ordered to be contracted.

" 1st July, 1819.

" A committee report that the number of free scholars, in the Royal Grammar School, should be reduced to six ; the revenue of the school is stated in the same minute to be £87 : 12s."

In the same year the following order was made :

" That any person elected to the office of bayliff, by the mayor and approved men, and refusing to serve, to pay to the Common Hall £94 : 10s."

In this connection it is well to state that our good municipal forefathers would appear, by the records, to have kept a sharp eye upon their fellow-burgesses, and to have fined all those who refused their share of town responsibilities without fear or favour, especially when a good feed was to the fore, the subjoined entry to wit :

" 3rd Oct. 1737.

" Att this Guild came Thomas Lee, butcher, and submitted himself to the fynne of twenty-one pounds, to be discharged and excused from serving the office of bayliff of the town, but is not to be admitted into the body or fraternity of Mayor, Magistrates and Bayliffs before he gives the said company a feast or entertainment according to custom."

Under date October the 3rd, 1740, appears the following :

" At this Guild Anthony Allen, Esq., one of the Masters of the High and Honourable Court of Chancery, elected and admitted to Society of Bayliffs of the town for the fine of £40, to be paid to the Hall Wardens for the use of the town on New Year's Day next.

" At the same Guild Jno. Flutter, grocer, admitted for a fine of £30, and to give a treat to the Mayor and approved men within one month."

In 1742, the 4th of October, it is recorded that William Brimbrook Glasier is discharged from the office of bayliff, on payment of twenty-one pounds, but not to be readmitted without giving treat.

" 18th George II. January.—At this Leet, Edmund Elkins, the younger, submits to a fine of five pounds, to be excused from serving the office of constable ; William Haydon pays two pounds to be excused from serving the office of tything-man."

" 17th May, 1770.—Ordered that each of the four bayliffs do find wine at his entertainment in going out of office.

" The mayor to give two guineas out of his fifty, to the Common Hall.

" Mayor and bayliffs to find buckets in case of fire."