



The Vintry Wharf before the Fire of 1666.

## SOME ACCOUNT OF THE WARD OF VINTRY AND THE VINTNERS' COMPANY.

BY WILLIAM HENRY OVERALL, F.S.A., LIBRARIAN TO THE  
CORPORATION OF LONDON.

[Read at VINTNERS' HALL, 27th April, 1868.]

IN the following paper I have striven to collect such materials as may prove of interest and value to the historical student, rather than attempted any exhaustive account of a subject, which, thoroughly investigated, would comprise a consideration of the extent to which the Vine was cultivated in England, the importation and trade in foreign wines, the history of the Ward of Vintry, as well as that of the Vintners' Company.

The Ward itself, from its antiquity, abounds in interest, so called, says Stowe,\* “of Vintners and of the Vintrie, a part of the banke of the river of Thames, where the merchants of Burdeaux

\* “This ward beginneth in the east, at the west end of Downgate ward, as the watercourse of Walbrooke parteth them, to wit at Granthams lane on the Thames side, and at Elbow land on the lande side: it runneth along in Thames Streete west, some three houses beyond the Old Swan, a brewhouse on the Thames side, and on the land side some three houses west beyond S. James at Garlickehithe.”

craned their wine out of lighters and other vessels, and there landed them;" but there is no doubt, that, prior to the days of the Bordeaux merchants, the locality was connected with the disembarkation of wine, for it is more than probable that both the vine and the trade of the vintner were introduced by the Romans into Britain. In the writings of Cæsar and Pliny we have various particulars as to the native products of this country, and the trade of its inhabitants, but no reference is made by either author to the vine as among its cultivated plants. At what period it was first introduced is uncertain, but possibly about the time of the rescinding by Probus of the edict of Domitian.\* Of the former it is related:—

"Multa etiam in communi rerum usu novavit, &c. Ad summam quondam ubertatem vini, frumenti vero inopiam, existimans nimio vinearum studio negligi arva, edixit, ne quis in Italia novellaret, utque in provinciis vineta succederentur, relictâ, ubi plurimum, dimidiâ parte: nec exequi rem perseveravit."

restricting the growth of vines throughout his empire. Domitian himself lived to see the uselessness of his enactment, and, according to Suetonius, he, from suspicious fears, withdrew the edict ordering the destruction of the vines.

"Pater quoque super cœnam quondam fungis abstinenter palam irriserat, ut ignarum sortis suæ, quod non ferrum potius timeret. Quare pavidus semper atque anxius, minimis etiam suspicionibus præter modum commovebatur; ut edicti, de excidendis vineis propositi, gratiam facere non aliâ magis re compulsus credatur quam quod sparsi libelli cum his versibus erant:

Κῆν με φάγῃς ἐπὶ ρίζαν, ὅμως ἐπὶ χαρποφορῶσα  
 Ὅσσον ἐπισπασαὶ Κελσάρη θυμινῶν."†

The Emperor Probus, in the 3rd century, according to Vopiscus, thus encourages the planting of vineyards: "Gallis omnibus, et Hispanis, ac Britannis hinc permisit ut vites haberent vinumque conficerent."‡ Britain is here associated with Gaul and Spain. Its climate, compared with these other places, would be against successful cultivation; but the Romans were a people not deterred

\* C. Suetonii Domitianus, c. 7.

† C. Suetonii Domitianus, c. 14.

‡ Vopiscus, Probus, c. 18.

by obstacles, and they, with their government and laws, habits and customs of domestic life, would also introduce the vine to England, in common with the apple, pear, and other of our household fruits. The peach, now plentiful enough, was once deemed too tender for even Italian skies. The apricot became diffused over the western world by Roman influence and the cherry,\* also, unknown in Italy previous to the victories of Lucullus, was in the days of Pliny† successfully grown in Britain.

Beyond such presumptive evidence but little is known, for from the Roman occupation to the first written document concerning the vine in England there is a wide interval. Bede, writing in the eighth century, mentions its cultivation:‡

“Opima frugibus atque arboribus insula, et alendis apta pecoribus ac jumentis; vineas etiam quibusdam in locis germinans; sed at avium ferax terrâ marique generis diversi.”

At the time of the Norman Conquest vineyards are known to have existed in the South of England; and Domesday§ furnishes, says Sir Henry Ellis, no less than thirty-eight entries of vineyards in the several counties, which were usually measured by the *arpents*, or *arpenna*. At Bistesham in Berkshire, on the land of Henry de Ferrieres, “xii arpendi vineæ” are entered. At Wilcote in Wiltshire, “Æcclesia nova et domus optima et vinea bona.” At Holeburne in Middlesex, it is said, “Will’s Camerarius reddit vicecomiti regis per annum vi solidos pro terra ubi sedet vinea sua.” In the village of Westminster, at Chenetone, and in the hundred of Ossulston in Middlesex, “Bainiard holds land,

\* From information furnished at one of the meetings of the Society of Antiquaries by Octavius Morgan, V.P. &c. and James Thompson, F.S.A. we learn that near Leicester a *Roman Villa* existed at a spot known as the *Cherry Orchard*, and that in grubbing up one of the fruit trees tessellated pavements were discovered in 1782. Mr. Thompson conjectures that the site has been continuously occupied by a succession of villas or suburban residences since the Roman settlement, and consequently the cherry may have grown there throughout the whole of the intervening period. See Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond. vol. iv. No. 4.

† Pliny, book xv. c. 30.

‡ Bedæ *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*, liber 1.

§ Sir Henry Ellis’s *Introduction to Domesday*, vol. i.

&c. in Drayton, and four arpents of vineyards newly planted.”\* And at Ware in Hertfordshire, vineyards recently planted occur, &c. It has been considered by some writers on the subject,† that the word *vineæ* in old records signifies orchards, but Sir Henry Ellis quotes a passage from William of Malmesbury, affording a decisive proof, if any were wanting, of the difference between the vineyard and the orchard being at any rate well known in Norman times. The Chronicler is describing Gloucestershire: ‡

“Terra omnis frugum opima, fructuum ferox hic et solâ naturâ gratiâ, illic culturâ solertiâ, ut quamvis tædiosum per socordiam, provocet ad laboris illecebram, ubi centuplicato fœnore responsura sit copia. Cernas tramites publicos *vestitos pomiferis arboribus* non insitivâ manus industriâ sed ipsius solius humi naturâ.” . . . . . “Regio plusquam aliâ Anglicæ provinciæ *vinearum frequentia densior, proventu uberior, sapore jucundior. Vina enim ipsa bibentium ora tristi non torquent acedine quippe parum debeat Gallicis dulcedine.*” . . . . . “Nulla ibi vel exigua terræ portio vacat: hic in POMIFERAS ARBORES terra se subigit; *hic prætexitur ager VINEIS, quæ vel per terram repunt vel per bajulos palos in celsum surgunt.*”

In addition to this, Mr. Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A. in a valuable paper on the Archæology of Horticulture, gives an instance existing among the accounts of the Abbey of St. Augustine at Canterbury, the writing of which is said to be as old as the reign of Edward III., in which occur the following entries with respect to vineyards:—

## EXPENSE IN VINEIS §

Iidem computant de stipendio vineatoris de Norhome,	
per annum . . . . .	lij s.
<i>Et solut' fodientibus in eisdem, per totum annum, xliij s. j d.</i>	
<i>Et in scalet' emptis pro eisdem, cum cariagio, xxxiij s. xj d.</i>	
<i>Et in vanges, howes, et aliis utensilibus pro eisdem, v s. ij d.</i>	
<i>Et in stipendio et vadiis vineatoris de Chist', per annum, lij s.</i>	
<i>Et solut' fodientibus in eisdem, cum xv carectatis</i>	
<i>de scalet' emptis pro eisdem</i>	- - - xix s. vj d.
	Summa x li. v s. viij d.

\* Domesday Book, vol. i. p. 128.

† Archæologia, vols. i. and iii.

‡ De Gestis Pontificum, liber iv. 7.

§ Collectanea Antiqua, vol. vi. p. 78.

And Mr. Smith shows that the entries must refer to vines, as the word *scalettis* signifies little ladders or trellises, and not mere stakes as for non-climbing plants.

The counties of Worcester, Lincoln, Hereford, and Sussex can still point to the ancient sites of the vineyards.

In 1289, Thomas de Cantilupe,\* Bishop of Hereford, planted or renewed the vineyard which Bishop Swinfield then had at Ledbury, and it yielded seven pipes of white wine and nearly one of verjuice, in the autumn valued at £8; and Bishop Skip in 1539 had also a vineyard in the same parish.

In 1314 "Hugh Bishop of Lincoln fined to the Crown in 50 marks, that in what part soever of the year the said Bishop or any of his successors should die, he and his successors, notwithstanding any usage to the contrary, might have all their moveable goods, and all the product as well of their land sowed before their death as also of their vineyards and wine-presses."†

Extensive vineyards were the property of the Abbot and Monks at Battle in Sussex,‡ and in 1565 the receipt of moneys from the wyncyarde of the rectory of Hawkhurst occurs as an item. Almost every large convent at this period possessed vineyards. The Bishop of Rochester's at Rochester was very extensive, and produced, Somner states, great quantities of grapes, of which were made excellent wines; and the Benedictine Monks of the Priory of St. Andrew, in the same city, had also within their inclosure a large plantation of vines, which is called to this day "*The Vinesfield*."

The country around Arundel was formerly covered with vineyards from which wine was made, and it is said that in 1763 there were sixty pipes of excellent wine resembling Burgundy in the cellar of the castle, the produce of one vinery attached to it.

In records relating to London itself various entries are to be

\* The Roll of the Household Expenses of Richard de Swinfield, published by the Camden Society.

† Madox's History of the Exchequer, p. 289.

‡ Sussex Archæological Collections, vol. xvii.

found concerning vineyards. In the will\* of John de Kyrkeby,† Bishop of Ely, enrolled 1290, we find mention of the houses in Holborn, in the suburbs of London, with the vineyards, gardens, &c. “*Omnes domos suas de Holeburne, in suburbis London., cum vineis, gardiniis,*” &c. This will was challenged by Sir William de Kirkeby, the heir-at-law, on the ground that the vineyards were without the liberties of the city. In the will of William de Luda,‡ his successor, who died in 1298, are mentioned the same houses in Holborn, with their vineyards and crofts,§ “*Domus meas de Holeburne, in suburbis London., sine vineis et croftis,*” which are not within the liberty of the city, but are of the county.

Vineyards and wine-wharfs both occur in connection with the parish of St. Martin's Vintry.

In 1330, Adam de Sarum || left several tenements, a brewhouse, &c., in St. Mary Bothaw, and at the wine wharf, St. Martin's Vintry,—“*super le Wyn wharf, in parochia Sancti Martini de Vinetra, London.*” ¶

In the will of Robert de Barsham, enrolled in the Hustings Court 1332, many bequests are made of property situated in different parishes, among which are mentioned gardens, cellars, wharfs, &c. but in the parish of St. Martin in the Vintry special notice is taken of vineyards which he left to his son. “*Ac domibus, vineis, redditibus, in parochia Sancti Martini Vinetra, London.*”

Other instances might be quoted, but whatever opinion we arrive at as to localities, and the extent and nature of the cultivation of the vine in this country or city, it is certain that the trade of the vintner must have been extensive both in Roman and later times. Especially would this be the case in the great commercial city of Londinium. The Romans, accustomed to the luxury of wine

\* Hustings Roll, No. 19.

† Kyrkeby had held the office of Treasurer to the King, and was Dean of the Collegiate Church of St. Martin's-le-Grand; in the former capacity he summoned before him in 1285 Gregory de Rokesley, Mayor of London, to render an account how the peace of the city had been kept, but he refused to go, and the King suspended the office of Mayor for 12 years, and appointed a Custos.

‡ He was also Archdeacon of Durham, Treasurer of the King's household, Keeper of his wardrobe, and was raised to the Bishopric of Ely in 1290.

§ Hustings Roll, No. 27. || Hustings Roll, No. 58. ¶ Hustings Roll, No. 60.

abroad, could not have dispensed with it here, and would doubtless soon initiate the provincials in its use. Its importation from Spain and Gaul must have been on a large scale, and the tenacity with which any particular craft or custom will linger in certain localities is proverbial. It is possible therefore that the two hithe or havens now called Garlick and Queen Hithe may be near, or occupy the site of, the ancient landing places, for the locality abounds in Roman remains. Fragments of pavements, foundation tiles, and other relics of extensive buildings have been observed opposite Vintners' Hall, and in its neighbourhood, all testifying to the importance of the site in the area once covered by Roman London. It is this place, and this place only, that is mentioned in the early manuscripts as the spot where wine ships were permitted to land their cargoes. According to Madox, some regulations were made by Ethelred II. about the year A.D. 1000 for the protection of foreign traders who visited this country, and in 1237 a convention was entered into between the citizens of London and the merchants of Amiens and Picardy for the better carrying on of this trade. These regulations were renewed in the early days of the Plantagenets, if not at a more remote period. A wine fleet, \* with the produce of the banks of the Moselle, was in the habit of visiting this country every year,† which, according to the regulations of the Port of London, "had to be moored off the Queenhithe or Garlickhithe, where they had to remain two ebbs and a flood tide, during which period they were not permitted to sell any part of their cargo, it being the duty of one of the Sheriffs and the King's Chamberlain to board each vessel in the meantime, and to select for the royal use such articles as they might think proper, the price thereof being duly assessed by lawful merchants of London; they were then allowed to lie alongside the wharfs and to dispose of the tuns of wines, under certain regulations, to such merchants as presented themselves as customers." Richard Refham and John Gysor were appointed by the King as assessors of wines. They were the princely mer-

\* Liber Custumarum, fol. 61, 63.

† The first vineyards on the Moselle and the Rhine were planted by the Emperor Probus, A.D. 281.

chants of that day, and afterwards served the office of Lord Mayor in 1310 and 1311.

In 1380 the following custom is recorded:

"Item, the said Constable (of the Tower of London) shall have for every galley that cometh two roundletts of wyne, &c."

"Item. For every shippe that cometh with wynes two bottels, either of them conteyning a gallon, one before th'other after the maste."

This custom is thus explained by Taylor the Water Poet. In his *Farewell to the Tower Bottles*, he says, "There was a guift given to the Tower, or to the Lieutenants thereof, for ever, of two blacke leather bottles or bombards of wine, from every ship that brought wine into the river of Thames."\*

From 1272 to 1300 this ward was called the ward of Henry de Coventry. And we find that in 1276,† September 14, "being on the Sunday next before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Chamberlain and Sheriffs were given to understand that one Adam Schot, a servant of Ponce de More, was lying dead in the house of the said Ponce in the ward of *Henry de Coventre*, in the parish of St. James Garlecheythe; on hearing which they went there, and calling together the men of the ward, diligent inquisition was made how this happened, when it appeared, that, trying to climb a pear-tree in the garden of one Lawrence, in the parish of St. Michael Paternosterchirche, the branch upon which he was standing broke, and he fell to the ground."

The Wards in the city were formerly called after the name of their Aldermen, as the following extract shows:‡

"Aldermannus quoque modernis a nomine Wardæ cui præsidet dicitur, ut Aldermannus Chepe, Aldermannus Pontis, Aldermannus Quenehithe. Antiquitus tamen, e converso, warda vocabatur a nomine sui Aldermanni, et warda de Candelwyke Strete dicebatur Warda Thomæ de Basyug, &c. Sic etiam warda Vinetriæ dicta fuit Warda Henrici de Covyntre."

\* See further in Mr. J. G. Nichols's paper on the Lieutenants of the Tower of London, vol. i. of these Proceedings.

† Letter Book B. fol. 3.

‡ Liber Albus, fol. 8 b. Letter Book E.



In 1320, John Gysores \* being Alderman, the Ward of Vintry was assessed at the then large sum of 94*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, which shows its wealth and importance at that time.

In 1369, a collection of fifteenths was granted by the City for assisting Edward the Third in his French wars, and this ward was assessed at 180*l.* Thomas Cornwaleys, Gilbert Benet, Thomas Lincoln, and John Norfolk, being appointed collectors.

In 1272 the following upright men of this Ward were returned as representatives to the Municipal Council of the City to advise with the Mayor touching the affairs of the City in "*Warda Vinetriae* :† Johannes de Gisors, Ald., et Henricus de Hersted et Johannes dictus Clementis," and

In 1347,‡ "*Vinetrie*, Henry Fannere, John Cressingham, Walter Benet, Henry Palmere, and Thomas Sharnebroke."

The VINTNERS' COMPANY, like other commercial fraternities, had its origin in that old Saxon law which exacted sureties from every freeman above the age of 14 years for his good behaviour, and which gave rise to associations called "Guilds," from the payment of money into one common fund for meeting any claims which might be made against their brethren of the craft. They were subsequently divided into two kinds, ecclesiastical and political, the former devoted to religion and charity, the latter to the protection of trade. The most ancient of these guilds in London of which we have any record is the Knights' Guild, recognised by King Edgar for services rendered in the wars. This privilege was confirmed by Edward the Confessor.

The Vintners were called the Merchants Wine-Tonners of Gascoyne, and were divided into two classes, the *Vinetarii* and

\* In 1350, 24 Edw. III. John Gysors left, besides quit-rents, lands, gardens, and keys (wine quays), in the parish of St. Martin Vintry, a tenement and premises called Gysors Halle, in the parish of St. Mildred the Virgin in Bread Street (Gerrard's Hall), the crypt of which was built for stowing his wines.—Will enrolled in the Hustings Court, No. 78.

† Liber A. fol. 116.

‡ Liber F. fol. 136.

the Tabernarii. The former were importers of wine and resided in stately stone houses adjoining the wine-wharves, such as Picard's mansion in the Three Cranes Lane, Stodeye's in Broad Lane, and Gysors' both at the Vintry and Gysors' Hall. The latter, or Tabernarii, were the tavern, inn, or cook-house keepers.

The Company of the Vintners exercised important powers over both the importation and sale of wines, as well as the licensing of taverns ; together with other rights and privileges, upon which considerable light is thrown by the ensuing extracts from the Records of the Corporation of the City of London, the State Papers, and the archives of the Company.

1256. Henry de Ba, the Justiciar, came to the Guildhall in this year, bringing a writ from Henry III. to the Mayor and Sheriffs, directing them to summon before him all the vintners of the City, the Justiciar wishing to amerce all of them for a breach of the assize of wine, but the citizens claimed to be amerced only at the Common Pleas of the Crown, and not before a Justiciar at the Tower, &c.\*

"The Bordeaux merchants in the 28 Edw. I. 1299, complained that they could not sell their wines paying poundage, neither hire houses or sellers to lay them in, and it was redressed by virtue of the King's writ directed to the Mayor and Sheriffes of London dated at Carlaveroke or Carlile, since the which time many fair and large houses with vaults and sellers for stowage of wines and lodging of the Bordeaux merchants have been builded in place where before time were cookes' houses : For Fitzstephen, in the raigne of Henry the second, writeth that upon the river side betweene the wine in shippes and the wine to be sold in tavernes was a common cookerie or cookes' row, and as in another place I have set downe; whereby it appeareth that in those daies, (and till of late time) every man lived by his professed trade, not any one interrupting another. The cookes dressed meate, and sold no wine, and the taverner sold wine, and dressed no meat for sale." (Stowe.)

1257. An edict was published in the City, on August the 5th, prohibiting any one of the King's household to take any

\* Liber de Antiquis Legibus, fol. 70 b.

provisions from the citizens against their will, saving however unto his lordship the King his rightful prisage of wine, that is to say, from every ship that owes full custom two tuns of wine, at the fixed price of 40s.\*

In 1282, Edward the First gave Botulph Wharf to Henry de Kingston, and confirmed it to him for the use of the Company, he paying a silver penny yearly to the King at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

In 1311 Edward II. issued a writ regulating the sale of wines within the City:† it runs as follows:—

“Edward, by the grace of God, King of England, &c. to the Mayor and Sheriffs of London greeting: For the amendment of the dearness of wines, which of late has been in the City of London, and now is, more than ever it used to be, for the honour of ourselves, and for the profit of our people, be it ordained by ourselves and by our Council, that no person whatsoever, freeman or stranger, saving our customers ‡ of wines, nor any other person, butler of a great lord, or any other, save only our own butler, shall go to meet wines coming towards the City by land or by water, to offer to buy the same; but only after they have been unladen and stowed in a cellar of the City. The tuns to be marked, and the wines to remain quiet for three days. It may then be sold. The Mayor and Aldermen shall cause eight or twelve good and lawful men to be chosen, who are most skilled in wines, to assay all wines. A gallon of the best wine to be sold at 5*d.*, the next best at 4*d.*, and the rest at 3*d.*

Witnessed by JOHN DE SANDALE, our Treasurer, at Westminster, Jan. 5, in the 4th year of our reign”

In 1320-1, the Vintners of London refusing to permit their customers to see the wine drawn from the casks, were all fined 20 marks, and compelled to send their measures to be sealed by the Aldermen:§

“Die Veneris proximo post festum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli, anno xiiii<sup>to</sup>, omnes vinetarii Londoniarum amerciati fuerunt ad xx marcas, eo quod non permittebant homines videre trahi vinum eorum sic venditum. Et proclamatum fuit, quod nemo ex vinetariis perturbet

\* Liber de Antiquis Legibus, fol. 76*b.*

† Receivers of the Customs.

‡ Letter Book D. fol. cxvii*b.*

§ Liber Custumarum, fol. 261*a.*

hominem aliquem videre, et ire ad caput tonelli; et quod potellus, quarta, et lagena sint sigillatæ sigillis Aldermannorum.”

In 16 Edw. III. Aug. 1, 1342:\*

“At a congregation of the Mayor, Aldermen, and an immense number of the Commonalty, on Monday the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, Simon Fraunceys, Mayor, It was ordered and agreed, that no taverner should mix putrid and corrupt wine with pure and good wines, &c. The vintners present consented to the same. Thomas Gisors, Nicholas Ponge, John Hablond, John Blaunche, John Fynche, John Chaucer, Henry Fannere, John de Stodeye, and several others.”

This entry from the Account Book of the Company confirms the power exercised by them 1507-10 :†—

First payd to Mr. Broke the Mayers Sergeaunt when they  
sawe the Malmeseyes that wer medled at Harsnapes

Key . . . . . iiij d.

Item, payd for drinke to the Company the same tyme iiij d.

Item, payd to a Cowper to fetch a key to see the Caprikes. j d.

Item, payd for brekefast at Mr. Kirkebyes hows the same  
tyme the Company dranke of the Caprik . . . ij s. ij d.

25 Edw. III. (1351).‡ On Monday next before the feast of Saint Martin, a certain bill was sent by Andrew Aubrey, the mayor, as appears below in these words:

“By the Mayor,

“ To JOHN DE STODYE, and }  
To HENRY VANNERE. } Vintners.

“Assemble the good people of the said mystery, and cause them to elect by common assent four good people of the said mystery, the wisest and most sufficient, to treat with the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs, upon some heavy business touching the state of the said City: and this you omit not on the faith which you owe to our lord the King, and have the names and persons of those so elected at the Guildhall on Thursday the eve of Saint Martin.”

“Names of persons selected from the said mystery by the aforesaid

\* Letter Book F. fol. lxiii.

† Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143 fol. 1 b.

‡ Letter Book F. ccvi.

men to come to the Guildhall of London for businesses touching the City, when they shall be forewarned on the part of the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Aldermen.

~~John de Stodeye~~      John Osekyn.      John de Rothyng.  
(because an alderman.)      John de Wendoure."

On the 15th July, 1364, Edward III. granted a charter to the Vintners, giving them power over the importation of wine; it is dated from Westminster, and by it four sufficient persons being the Wardens are to be presented to the Mayor, and by him to be sworn to see as to the selling of wines and taverns; leave was also accorded to the fraternity to export cloth, fish, and herrings, in exchange for wines; and that all wines coming to London should be landed above London Bridge, westwards, towards the Vintry.

On Monday\* after the Feast of All Saints, in 1370, the following men were presented to the Mayor and Aldermen to perform their duties faithfully, Walter Doget, William More, Nicholas Blake, and William Stokesly.

38 Edw. III. Nov. 11, 1364.† Pleas holden before Adam de Bury, Mayor, and the Aldermen, on Tuesday the morrow of St. Martin (Nov. 11), 38 Edw. III. "John Rightways and John Penrose, taverners, were charged with trespass in the tavern of Walter Doget in *Estchepe*, on the eve of St. Martin, and there selling unsound and unwholesome wines, to the deceit of the common people, the contempt of the King, to the shameful disgrace of the officers of the City, and to the grievous damage of the commonalty. John Ryghtways was discharged, and John Penrose found guilty; he was to be imprisoned a year and a day, to drink a draught of the bad wine, and the rest to be poured over his head; and to forswear the calling of a vintner in the City of London for ever."

On Thursday the Feast of St. Valentine, Feb. 14, 1370,‡ the good men of the trade of Vintners came before John de Chychestre, Mayor, and the Aldermen, and delivered to them certain articles, among them by common consent ordained, and

\* Letter Book G, fol. 257 b.

† Letter Book G, fol. cxli.

‡ Letter Book G, fol. 243.

requested the Mayor and Aldermen would order the same in future to be observed inviolably, for the good governance of the trade.

1. Search to be made for corrupt wines.
2. That no white wine of *Gascoigne*, of *La Rochelle*, of *Spain*, or any other country, shall be laid in taverns where Rhenish wine is for sale.
3. That the cellar door in taverns, where wines are laid down for sale, shall be kept open for one person of a company to see the wine drawn.
4. That upon the coming of the first fleet in time of Vintage, after the arrival of the first three or four ships from *Gascoyne*, inquisition shall be made, and the price fixed.

In 1416 the four Masters of the Vintners were enjoined\* to assemble the citizens of their Company, and make known to them, that they shall not sell white or red wine at a dearer price than eight pence per gallon, or any sweet wines dearer than twelve pence, on pain of forfeiture of their vessels and imprisonment.

Red *Gascoigny* wine not to be sold at a higher price than eight-pence a gallon.

Vessels with sweet wine † coming from *Calais* to be examined before being sold. 16 Jan. 7 Hen. VI. 1428.

Nov. 8, 1427. The charter of King Edward III. was confirmed by Henry VI., and another granted by him dated from *Kenilworth Castle*, 23 Aug. 1437.

18 June, 15 Hen. VI. 1437. The Wardens of the Vintners' Company sworn to make due scrutiny of Vintners. ‡ John Lucok acknowledging that he had forbidden the Wardens of the Company to enter into his shop to make scrutiny on pain of losing their heads, § was ordered to show cause why he should not be punished for this grave offence.

Sept. 17, 1447. A coat of arms was granted to the Company by *Clarencieux King of Arms*, "Sable, a chevron between three tuns argent." This was confirmed by *Thomas Benolt*, *Claren-*

\* Jor. 1, fol. 1.

† Jor. 2, fol. 137 b.

‡ Jor. 3, fol. 203b.

§ Jor. 3, fol. 205.

cieux, Oct. 22, 1530, and again at the Visitation of London by Sir Henry St. George, Knt. Richmond Herald, 1634, Richard Davis then being Master.

A petition was presented by the Vintners' Company,\* to the Mayor and Aldermen of London, in 1445, against Peter Pope of the *Wine Drawers' Company*, for refusing to permit them to carry on their labour and rights as allowed them by their charter.

The Mayor and Aldermen,† in order to prevent the recurrence of these complaints, presented a petition to the Lord Treasurer against the charter granted by the King to the Wine Drawers.

The Mayor, Recorder, and Council‡ waited upon the Lord Treasurer, and entreated him to intercede with His Majesty to revoke the letters patent granted to the Company of Wine Drawers contrary to the liberties of the City.

The Winedrawers§ shall take no more than two pence for drawing one tun from the boat on to the quay, and from thence unto the cellar upon the quay; and from the boat unto a cellar in any lane upon the Thames, two-pence half-penny; and from the boat unto a cellar in the street of Thames Strete, in the parish of St. Martin, &c.

In the account for 1513-16 occurs, *Item*, p<sup>d</sup> to the Mayors Sergeant the same day that the Mayer was at the Stulyard to warn them to sell no Reynnyssh wyne aboute x d. the Galone . . . . .

*Item*, p<sup>d</sup> to the Mayor's Officer Edmay that went w<sup>t</sup> us to speke w<sup>th</sup> the Aldermen to stop the p<sup>r</sup>clamacion wherby we shuld haue sold wyne for viij d. the Galon in Mr. Broun's tyme, iiij s. iiij d.]]

At a court of aldermen, Rogerus Martyn, Maior,¶ Thursday, Nov. 6th, 1567, 9 Eliz.

"Item this daie the Vinteners brought into the Courte here the Quenes Highness L<sup>r</sup>es patente to them latelie graunted, the contentes and effect wherof were brieflie reported unto the Courte by Mr.

\* Jor. 3, fol. 106 b.

† Jor. 3, fol. 114 b.

‡ Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143, fol. 32, 33.

† Jor. 3, fol. 109 b.

§ Liber C. fol. 69.

¶ Letter Book V. fol. 137 b.

. . . . who had read over and considered the same l'res patente as he said, the hole contentes of the which l'res the Court did assent and agree, that the same Vynteners shall from tyme to tyme put in due execution, so alwayes that they by color of the same l'res do not at any tyme hereafter attempt or do or cause to be done any act or acts thinge or thinges contrary to the lawes ancient customes or liberties of the said Citie, and it was agreed and ordered by the Court at the humble sute and request of the said Vinteners that all suche wyne as xij of the saidd [wise] and discrete citizens, of their said companie or more, beeinge hereyere sworn accordinge to the aunyent laudable custome of this cittie for true searche to be made of all the wyne solded within the same citie, or the liberties therof to be solde, except Rumneys and Malmesseys, and presentment of the same to be trulie made unto this courte, shall present be defective, and not meete to be dronken, shall ymediatlie be conveyed and brought hither into the Guildhall, and here without delay be vewed and searched by the wardens of the Tallow Chaundlers upon their othes, accordinge also to the aunyent custome of the said citie, whether the same be defective wyne, or any parcell of them will serve to make vyneger or sauce or not, and those that will not serve to any suche good vse to be poured out into the canell in Cheapeside, according also to the said aunyent lawes and custome in that behalf.

At a court holden before Aylmer Maior, on the last day of February, 1520:

“ Item at the same time the wardens\* of Vynteners exhibited a bill purporting that divers persons of the citie who exercise and occupye the crafte of vynteners by retayllyng, should not occupie the same, but yf they are sworn of the Company.”

Stowe thus describes the *Hall*:

“ Next is Spittle Lane † of old time so called, since Stodies lane of the owner thereof named Stodie. Sir John Stodie, vintner, Mayor, in the yeare 1357, gave it, with all the quadrant wherein *Vintners' Hall* now standeth, with the tenements round about, unto the Vintners. The Vintners builded for themselves a faire hall there, and also 13 almshouses for 13 poore people.”

\* Repository, 5 fol. 135.

† Stowe, fol. 187.



On the 10th Jan. 1497, (13 Hen. VII.)\* several persons were "appoynted to viewe the Vynteners' Hall, and to asse the ffynce at their discrecion for the *mortizynge* of the said Hall."

This Company exercised the power of chastising refractory Members, for on the 12 October, 1609,† "It is ordered that a pair of stocks shall be provided and placed in the Common Hall of this Company, and that the offenders shall sit therein for one whole hower in the view and sight of the whole assembly."

This building was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, after which the Company held their meetings at the Bell Inn, in St. Nicholas Lane, but subsequently removed to the Fleece in Cornhill. A new Hall was erected (partially on the old foundations), by a subscription raised among the members of the Company. They had their first gathering in the present building on the 10 April, 1671. The Court Room was wainscoted at the charge of Samuel Comyn, Upper Warden, in 1676.

June 7, 1611.‡ Grant to the Company of Vintners by James I. of a new charter, enlarging their liberties and rights.

Feb. 2, 1612.§ Grant to the Company of Vintners of London of a charter of incorporation and licence to retail wines, with confirmation of former privileges (dated from Westminster).

The following entry of the good things provided for the Master's feast on Saint Martin's Day, Nov. 1508, shows that even then this Company was noted for its hospitality:

Money paid for Expences at Dyner on Seint Martyn's Day, in November, A<sup>o</sup> xxiiij. H. vij. for the Maister's, 1508. ||

Item for Brede	-	-	-	-	-	-	vj d.
Item for Ale and Byer	-	-	-	-	-	-	x d.
Item for Wyne	-	-	-	-	-	-	xvj d.
Item for butter	-	-	-	-	-	-	ij d.
Item for bacon, heryng	-	-	-	-	-	-	iiij d.
Item for Salt ffishe	-	-	-	-	-	-	v d.
Item for ix lb. of Stude Elez & iiij lb. of Pymper Ele							xxj d.

\* Repertory, 1, fol. 10 b.

† Minute Book of the Company.

‡ Domestic State Papers, 1611—1618, p. 40.

§ Ibid p. 117.

|| Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143, fol. 7 b.

Item for iij. Pykes, price	-	-	-	-	v s.
Item for a quartron of Lamprons	-	-	-	-	ix d.
Item for Erbez, Spyce and Sawce	-	-	-	-	iiij d.
Item for Quene apples	-	-	-	-	ij d.
Item for the Mynstreles	-	-	-	-	iiij d.
Item for wode and cole	-	-	-	-	vij d.
Item to the Coke for dressyng of the dynner	-	-	-	-	vij d.
Sm <sup>a</sup> xij s. iij d."					

The next account of the Master's feast, 2 years later, shows the increase in the value of money:

"Money paid for the Maester's dynner on Scint Martyne's daye in July, ij. H. viii., A°. 1510.\*

Item First payd for brede	-	-	-	-	ix d.
Item payd for Ale	-	-	-	-	ij s.
Item payd for Wyne	-	-	-	-	v s.
Item payd for bere	-	-	-	-	vij d.
Item payd for beeff, moton, vele, Marybones, and Sewet	-	-	-	-	ij s. vij d.
Item for iiij Conyes to stewe	-	-	-	-	vij d.
Item for vj Gese	-	-	-	-	iiij s. vj d.
Item payd for iiij Capones	-	-	-	-	v s. iiij d.
Item for a fresshe Salmon and ij Chynes	-	-	-	-	vij s.
Item for x Chekyns	-	-	-	-	xx d.
Item for ix Rabbettes, Renners to Roste	-	-	-	-	xxij d.
Item for flour for Venyson pyes and Custardes	-	-	-	-	vij d.
Item for ij Galones of Creme for Custardes	-	-	-	-	vij d.
Item for iiij li of Suger and other Spyces	-	-	-	-	v s. ix d.
Item for ij disshes of butter	-	-	-	-	iiij d.
Item for Erbez and Sawce	-	-	-	-	ij d.
Item for Wode and Cole	-	-	-	-	xv d.
Item for ij Garnyshe of vessell	-	-	-	-	xvj d.
Item payd to the Waytes	-	-	-	-	iiij d.
Item payd to the Syngers towards theyr dynner at John Austyn's howse	-	-	-	-	viii d.

\* Egerton MS. No. 1143, Brit. Mus. fol. 12 b, 13.

Item payd for the Coke's Wages and for turnyng the brochez - - - - -	iiij s.
Item payd to the Syngers for keypyng of Masse and evensong - - - - -	vjs. viij d.
Item payd for Wyne delivered into the Church for the Syngers - - - - -	vij d.

“ Money paid for the Obite.

“ Item payd for Bounes and Maunchetes - - -	xviij d.
Item payd for Ale - - - - -	ij s.
Item payd for Wyne - - - - -	ij s. iiij d.
Item payd for Chese - - - - -	xviij d.
Item for a Syff of Cheryes - - - - -	ij s. viij d.
Item for Strawberye3 - - - - -	xij d.
Item paid for Wyne the next day to the Hall -	vij d.
Item payd for the Preestes, Clerkes and Ryngers - - - - -	iiij s. viij d.
Item payd for Offryng money - - - - -	iiij d.
Sm <sup>a</sup> . iij li. ix s. xi d.	

“Expences incurred upon the occasion of the Swearing-in of the Mayor and Sheriffs, anno 23 Hen. VII. 1508:\*

Item payd for Hyryng of a barge for the ffeliship when the Shereffes wente to West- mynster to take theyr charges - - -	xv s.
Item for barge hyre when the Mayor tok his charge - - - - -	xv s.
The total amount paid for hire of barges during the 23 Hen. VII. and 1 and 2 year of Henry VIII. was - - - - -	v li. v s.

“(1510.) Expences and Rewardes when Mr. Monoux and Mr. Dogette toke theyr Charges at Westmynster.†

First geven to my Lord Chamberleyn's porter for goyng thurgh the place unto the barge -	vij d.”
(Then follow other rewards.)	

\* Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143, fol. 1.

† Ibid. fol. 13 b.

To assist distressed members was then as now, one of the privileges of this Company, and we find in these early accounts several items for that object : \*

“(1507-10.) Item lent unto Thomas White, wyne- drawer, by commaundement of the Maisters	xl s.
Item lent unto Waltier Thirlowe, by the com- maundement of the Maisters, upon an obliga- cion       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	xxvjs. viij d.
Item geven unto Walter Thirlowe, vyntener, by commaundement of the Maister when he was psoner in Ludgate       -       -       -	xij d.
Item geven and delivered to John Brown, vyntener, by commaundement of the Maister when he was seke       -       -       -       -       -	xij d.
Item delivered to a Surgeon to hele John Galan, vyntener, by the commaundement of the Maisters       -       -       -       -       -       -	v s.

In the accounts† of John Kirkeby, Robert Scrace, Henry Pedyll, and George Grylle, Master and Wardens, &c., chosen on the day of St. Martin the Bishop in the winter, the 11th Nov. 1510, 2 Hen. VIII. that is to wit, from the same day unto the day of St. Martin, the 11th Nov. 1513, 5 Hen. 8, “as by the space of thre yeres hoole, w<sup>t</sup> the sufferance of God and by the intercession of Seint Martyne:”

Item paid for a quayer of paper for this Booke -	iiij d.
Item paid for a Dynner geven unto M <sup>r</sup> Recorder and his wyfe, M <sup>r</sup> Towne Clerke, M. Owen, and other persones that they broughte w <sup>t</sup> theym, beside one Paycok and a Swan, xiiij s. x d. whereof is to me vij s v d, and to the place to have their Counseilles in certayn causes ‡       -       -       -       -       -       -       -	vij s vd.

\* Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143, fol. 1 and 1 b.

† Ibid. fol. 18 b.

‡ Ibid.

Item paid and spent the xiiij day of January,  
 A<sup>o</sup> iij H. viij uppon Mr Stubbes, Towne Clerk,  
 at the iij Tonnes, at the Yeldehall gate \* - ij d. ob.

The following entry of one of the curious customs in use at the ancient feasts, may be of some interest:—

LEVERYE TO SERVE AT YE PRINCIPALL FEASTS.

9th July, 1610. This daye after some relason made and debate had of an auncient custome used some tymes in this Companie, and still continued amongst other the Worshipfull Companies of this Cittye, That is, that the youngest of the Liverye at the chief feasts and solempnities at the Cōen Hall, have caryed the dyett to all the tables, and afterwards sett themselves according to their places; It is now thought meete ordeyned and agreed that this daye and for from tyme to tyme hereafter soe many of the youngest of the Liverye as shall suffice shall carrye the dyett at every election dinner to the Upper Table in the Hall, and to the Ladyes and Gentlwomen onely, and the rest of the service to be p'formed by the Waytors onely.

The following entries,† relating to the repair by the Company of the vestments of the church of their patron saint, St. Martin, also of a bequest towards the repair of the said church, are interesting:

Item payd to a vestment maker to amende the  
 ornamentes in Saint Martyn's Chapell, and  
 for stuff to the same - - - xiiij s iiij d.  
 Item payd for iij Awter Clothes, one of  
 bokeram, and ij of Diaper, and for the  
 halowing of theym - - - - - iiij s. vj d.  
 Item, receved the x day of December A<sup>o</sup> v. Hen.  
 viij. for the bequeste of Maister Yōgge towards  
 the reparacions of the Church of Seint Martyn  
 in the Vyntry ‡ . . . . . xx s.

\* Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143, fol. 19.

† Ibid. fol. 33.

‡ Ibid. fol. 15.

In the accounts of John Scrace, James Spencer, Richard Gyttons, and Richard Hilton, Masters and Wardens, from 11 Nov. 1513, 5 Hen. 8, to 11 Nov. 1516, for 3 years.

Item payd for makyng of the lighte afore Scint

Martyn, the iiijte day of June, A° 1514,

weying xxxij lb. iij q<sup>ar</sup>tns and of new wax

x lb iij q<sup>ar</sup>trons at j d. le lb. makyng \* - iij s x d.

The obit of John Micole, late Master of the Company, was kept on the 17 of April, 1507.

For the obite of Mr Mycoll kept the xvij daye of April, anno xxij H. vij.†

Item payd for brede - - - - - ix d.

Item for a kynderkyn of Ale - - - - - ij s.

Item for Wyne - - - - - iiij. s.

Item for cxij pepyns - - - - - xvij d.

Item to prestes and clarkes and for ryngyng - iiij s.

Item for the bede rolle - - - - - iiij d.

Item for offering money - - - - - iiij d.

Item for the Waxchaundler - - - - - xxij d.

Item in Almes - - - - - xij d.

Item to the iiij Wardeyns - - - - - xij iiij d.

Item to the bedeff - - - - - xx d.

Item to the parson of Seynt Martyns for the Hall vij s.

Summa - xxxvij s. xd.

Item, to Richard Gyttons, for white Coton for vj. gownes

to vj. pore men when King Henry vij<sup>te</sup> was

buried ‡ . . . . . xvijs. iiij d.

Item, paid for Maister Richemond's Masse § . . . . . xij d.

1560. The xij day of May was bered Mastores Palmer, the wyff of (blank) Palmer, vyntoner, dwellyng at the sant . . . hed, at Ludgatt, and he gayff in gownes and cottis a x . . . . . and at her berehyng was the cumpene of the Vyntoners in ther leverye, and Veron dyd pryche at her berehyng. ||

\* Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1143, fol. 33.

† Ibid. fol. 15.

‡ Ibid. fol. 2.

§ Ibid. fol. 2 b.

|| Machyn's Diary, fol. 234.

1561. The xvij day was Sant Luke's day, the same day of October was bered in Whytyntun colege, Master Alesandur Karlille, the Master of the Vyntners, the wyche he mared the dowther of Ser George Barnes, knight, (late) mare of the nobull Cete of London, and haburdassher, and he gayff a xx blake gownes, and he gayff (blank) mantyll (frieze) gowne(s) unto (blank) pore men; and ther wher the Clarkes of London syngyng, and (Master) Crolley dyd pryche, and then to the plase to denner, and a dolle, and a ij dozen kochyons of armes, and the leverye of the Vyntonars.\*

SWAN UPPING.—This Company has enjoyed the right of keeping a number of these regal birds upon the river Thames from the time of legal memory. The earliest entry I can find relating to this custom is in the accounts† of the Master and Wardens of the Company now in the British Museum, about the year 1509.

Money payd for expences for uppyng of Swanes.

Item payd in the grete froste to James the vnder

Swanherd for Uppying of the Maister's Swannes -      iiij s.

Item for bote hyr at the same tyme -      -      -      iiij d.

The next entry is from the first Court Book now in possession of the Company:

10 July, 1609. Swan Uppers for this yeare elected Mr. Edwards or Mr. Bate in his steed, Mr. Warden Bonham, Mr. Newman, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Whaplett, Mr. Kinaston, and Mr. Gale. The care of the birds *are* confided to them.‡

The Swanherd of the Company, with His or Her Majesty's Swanherd and the Swanherd of the Dyers' Company, assemble at Lambeth in August, and proceed up the river to mark the swans.

There were many restrictions imposed by the Craft upon its Members, some of which are curious:

Dec. 1, 5 Edw. IV. 1465.§ It was orderyd for sundrye good consyderacons movynge the court, that no manner of vynteners, or that retayllers of wynes to any vyttayllers or typllers within this citeye, or the lybertyes thereof, other then the inholders, shall soffer any

\* Machyn's Diary, fol. 269.

† Egerton MS. Brit. Mus. No. 1142, fol. 2.

‡ Company's MSS. p. 48.

§ Rep. 12, No. 2, fol. 420b.

manner of person or persons, other than their owen famylies, to eate or dryncke within any of their houses upon the Sabott day before xi of the clocke upon payne of imprisonment of their bodyes for every offence, there to remain untill suche tyme as they shalbe dyscharged thereof by the Lorde Mayer.

10 of December, 22 Hen. VII. 1508.\* Item that all such wyynes as be presented by the Vynteners faulty shalbe tayne out of the celers where they lye, and to be brought to such place as the Mayor shall thynk convenyent, that all such wyne as is not holshom [wholesome] may be put out in to the cannell, and the remainder to be delyvered to the chandelers for sauce.

25 October, 1 Henry VIII. 1509.† At the same Court commandment and instruction were given to the Wardens of the Vynteners, that they shall straitely charge all their Company, that none of theym selle Reynyssh wyynes above x pence the galon uppon peyne of imprisonment and ffyne making, after the discrecion of the Mayor and Aldermen.

26 Oct. 6th Henry VIII. 1514.‡ Wardens of the Vintners commanded to warn all persons selling wine by retail to see that their pots be scaled by a given day, after which the Chamberlain shall seize all pots unsealed.

Letters Patent § granted by King Henry VIII. Feb. 26, 1518, in the 9th year of his reign, to the Vintners' Company, to use the measures for the sale of wine according to the measures delivered in at Guildhall, and all vintners ordered to send in their measures to the Guildhall to be tried, assized, and marked.

1628, February 10. The Lord Mayor (Hugh Hammersley) and others of the City of London to the Council. According to an order of the Council,|| the writers certify, that, for freeing the City of the debts to which they stood engaged for the late and present King, it was enacted, by Common Council, on the 17th December last, that 60,000*l.* should be levied upon the several Companies, according to the proportions in which they are rated, towards their provisions of 10,000 quarters of corn; according to

\* Rep. 2, fol. 36b.

† Rep. 2, fol. 75.

‡ Rep. 2, fol. 198b.

§ Jor. 11, fol. 341.

|| State Papers, Domestic, 1627-8, p. 554.



which rate 3,120*l.* was to be provided by the Company of Vintners; but Philip Travis, Cordell Hamond, Ralph Moore, Nicholas Clegate, Alexander Child, and Michael Gardner, freemen of that Company, refused to furnish the sums rated upon them. Whereupon Hamond and Travis were committed to Newgate on January 9 last, and the rest of them since; and Hamond and Travis endeavour by Habeas Corpus to be enlarged.

1629, July 3, Order of Council.\* On complaint of the French merchants and the Company of Vintners of London, of the large quantities of French wines now remaining on their hands, it is thought fit that a proclamation be published to prohibit further importation until February next, and that no importation of wines be permitted in any other than English bottoms.

1629, July 13. Certificate of the warden of the Vintners' Company and others,† appointed by the same Company to view a house in Seacole lane, which Nicholas Banaster intends for a tavern, to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London. They find the same unfit to be tolerated, in regard to the situation thereof, being near certain alleys, in a back place, and having a bowling alley and pair of butts, where poor people will spend their thrift and cause brawls.

1630. Petition of Gregory Jenner, baymaker in Colchester, to the King.‡ Abuse is committed by vintners in selling sugar to be drunk with wine in the taverns, as in a paper annexed is expressed, with a remedy. Prays for sole right of applying the remedy for such term and at such rent as the King may think fit.

The paper above mentioned. The abuse is that vintners buy the sugar they sell to be drunk with wine vended in taverns at 18*d.* or 19*d.* the pound, which they make up into 18, 19, or 20 several papers, and selling each for 2*d.* a paper, make of each pound 3*s.* and upwards, whereby the King is hindered in his customs, in respect that less sugar is spent with wine than would usually be if sold at a reasonable rate. The remedy proposed is for the grocer to divide the pound into 16-ounce packets, for which he is to charge 2*s.* per lb., out of which he is to pay 3*d.* per lb. to the King, while the vintner, paying 2*s.*, is to sell his 16 packets at 2*d.* each.

1634-5, February 21. Notes by Sec. Windebank of proceedings this

\* State Papers, Domestic, 1629-31, p. 3.

† Ibid. p. 10.

‡ Ibid. p. 443 4.

day at the Committee for Trade, the King being present. Proposals were made by the Company of Vintners, that upon permission to dress meat, to sell tobacco, to buy wines freely, and that the number of licences should be diminished, they would pay the King 6,000*l.* presently, and hereafter would pay what should be thought fitting. It was resolved that the money should be taken, with some engagement on the part of the Company for such future payments as should be thought fitting.\*

1635, April 17. Petition† of the Master and Wardens of the Company of Vintners of the City of London to the Council. His Majesty having restored the Vintners' liberty to sell victual, from which they were restrained by a decree in the Star Chamber, whereupon 6,000*l.* is lately paid into the Exchequer, a great part whereof is not yet collected by Petitioners, by reason that sundry free vintners refuse to make payment of their rateable parts. Pray the Lords to cause the defaulters to make present payment.

Answer of the Council. The Lords think this Petition should be presented to the Commissioners of Trade, with the names of the persons complained of. Star Chamber, 17th April 1635.‡

1635, July. Petition of the Company of Vintners to the Council. It pleased the Lords (in respect 40*s.* parcel of the 3*l.* a tun imposed on wines last year, is taken off,) to order that the price of French wines should be abated from 7*d.* to 6*d.* the quart; the Vintners caused the retailers of wines to be summoned to their hall, and declared to them the order for the said price, and the Masters and Wardens having sold their own wines at 6*d.* the quart accordingly; but the taking off that 40*s.* a tun has brought no benefit to the retailers, who have paid as dear for their wines this year as in the year last past, so that if they sell the wines remaining on their hands at 6*d.* a quart, many retailers shall be utterly disabled to maintain their families and pay their debts. Beseech relief.§

1635, December 9. Petition of the Company of Vintners of London to the King. Pray liberty to dress and sell victuals and beer in their houses (with the exception of pheasants and partridges); also that they may sell tobacco; and also that "machanick cowpers" and other intruders may be restrained, and that no licence for retailing be granted within London or three miles thereof.||

\* State Papers, Domestic, 1634-5, p. 520-1.

† State Papers, Domestic, 1635, p. 30.

‡ Ibid.

§ Ibid. pp. 306-7.

|| Ibid. p. 515.

A curious tract was published in 1641, entitled “ A true Discovery of the Projectors of the Wine project, out of the Vintners’ own orders made at their Common Hall, whereby it clearly appears that this project was contrived at *Vintners’ Hall by the drawing vintners of London*, and for their only advantage, to suppress the Coopers, and monopolise the sole benefit of retailing wines throughout this kingdom. This was followed by the “ Reply to a most untrue relation made and set forth in Print, by certain Vintners in excuse of their wine project, 1641.” Another tract was entitled *The late discourse betwixt Master Abel and Master Richard Kilvert, interrupted at first by an ancient and angry Gentlewoman.*” These were published against the monopolising then very grievously felt in trade; and in this same year was issued a caricature of Alderman Abell, wine monopoliser.

1643, November 7. The Lords and Commons\* having been informed that the Vintners of the City of London and Westminster and ten miles compasse, as also throughout the country, have, notwithstanding the favourable provision made for them, by the severall ordinances of Excise, first of October, delayed to pay the half excise, thereby limited and appointed to be paid by the said vintners for such wines as were upon their hands, at or before the eleventh of September last,

It is hereby ordained by the said Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, That if any Vintner shall delay or neglect, without further warning, to bring in all such sums of money as shall be due for excise of wines upon their hands, at or before the eleventh of September last, into such office of excise, under which their habitation is comprehended, within ten dayes after publication hereof, within the respective places, That then every such vintner shall, after expiration of the said ten dayes, be lyable to pay whole excise for all such wines as the merchant and cooper by the said ordinance is enjoyned. And in default thereof, by delay, or not payment of the said whole excise, every such vintner shall be proceeded against without delay, by distresse, or otherwise, according to the ordinance of excise.

In 1645 an ordinance was passed by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament for freeing and discharging the vintners from any demand for, or concerning any delinquencie, concerning

\* Tract.

the imposition of 40s. per *tunne* on wines, or anything concerning the same.\*

In conclusion, I beg to record my thanks to Frederick Woodthorpe, Esq. the learned Town-Clerk, for the facilities so generously given for making the various extracts from the Corporation archives. To George Lomas, Esq., Clerk of the Vintners' Company, for permitting me to inspect the interesting and valuable records of the Company; to Thomas Milbourn, Esq. Hon. Secretary of the Society, for bringing to my notice the ancient and interesting Book of Accounts preserved in the British Museum, and for the several extracts from the same, and to J. E. Price, Esq. the Director of the Evening Meetings of the Society, to whom I am indebted for many valuable suggestions.

\* Tract.