

THE MUNIMENTS OF THE VINTNERS' COMPANY.

BY JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

AT the request of the Council of the London and Middlesex Society, I have undertaken to inspect the Charters and other Muniments of the Company of Vintners, and I now proceed to give such account of a portion of them as the time I have had to devote to the task enables me to do.

I am happy to say that they appear to have been preserved from the earliest days of the Company in an unusually complete series, though some have partially suffered from damp and other causes of decay. I shall first notice in order of time the

ROYAL CHARTERS.

I. EDWARD III. Letters Patent, in French, dated at Westminster 15th July, 38th Edw. III. (1364). The great seal in green wax is attached.

The object of this charter was to regulate the trade for wine with Gascony. After stating that by a recent act of parliament the merchants of England had been limited to traffic in one line of trade only, that in Gascoigne there was no other trade but for wine only, and that Englishmen could not purchase wines on favourable terms for want of facilities for vending other wares, it ordains that the trade of wines should be confined to such only, —to wit, in London those only who were free of the craft of Vintry (*mestiere de vinetrie*), and in other cities, boroughs, and towns those that were skilful and cunning of the same craft; to whom it should be permitted to purchase wines there and bring them to England, and to sell their own wines wholesale or retail to lords and others as they should see most for their profit, at a reasonable price and gain. And also that the merchants of Gascoigne, and other strangers and foreigners which should bring wines into England, should sell only in gross by tonnells and pipes, and not by retail nor in small parcels, to the lords and to other people of the commons for their store and consumption in their own houses, and to the said merchants vinters (*sic*) who

would buy them. No wine when once brought into England was to be carried out again without the King's special leave. The said merchants of the craft of the merchandise of wines were to elect every year four persons of the most sufficient, most loyal, and most cunning of the said craft, not keeping a tavern, and present them to the mayor of the city of London, or the mayors of the other cities, boroughs, and towns where such craft was used, or to the bailiff or president where there was no mayor, which four men should then be sworn to survey that all kinds of wines were sold in taverns at a reasonable price for such a wine and of such quality as they were known and named. And that the taverners should be ruled by the said four persons, who should have power to correct and amend any defaults found, and to award due punishment.

Further, in order that less money should pass out of the kingdom, the merchant vinters of England were empowered to buy cloths, and the merchants of Gascoigne bringing wines into England to buy the dry fish of the counties of Cornwall and Devon, herrings, and cloths throughout England, and carry them to Gascoigne and elsewhere for their profit, and of the monies thence arising to buy wines there and bring them into England; provided they did not sell cloths, fish, or herrings in England. Nor shall the Gascon or other foreigners sell wines in England by retail, nor by less parcels in wholesale than tonnels and pipes. All wines coming to London were to be discharged and landed above the bridge, towards the west, and towards the Vintry, so that the King's butler, his guager, and searchers might have view and knowledge of the places where they should be warehoused (*herbergéz*), and take the customs and prises,* and do that which to their offices belongs. No merchant nor other denizen or foreigner of any condition was to sell or buy wines, cloths, fish, or herring in other manner under pain of imprisonment and forfeiture of the goods.

II. HENRY VI. Letters patent in Latin confirming by Inspecimus the charter of Edward the Third. Dated at Westminster

* The *prises* were tolls in kind taken like that for the Lieutenant of the Tower, mentioned in p. 339.

8th Nov. 6th Hen. VI. (1427). The great seal in green wax is attached.

III. SECOND CHARTER OF HENRY VI. dated at Kenilworth 23rd Aug. 16 Hen. VI. (1437).

This was the Charter by which the Vintners were first incorporated, to be a Company, have a common seal, and enabled to purchase lands, tenements, and rents within the city of London and suburbs to the value of 20*l*.

The document consists of fourteen long lines only. The initial **H** is prettily drawn in pen and ink, and upon it is the motto *Sit soli deo honor ī euū (i. e. in evum)*.

The great seal is beautifully perfect. Attached is also a writ from the privy council dictating the terms of the charter.

IV. HENRY VII. 30th Sept. 1 Hen. VII. (1485).

This is merely a confirmation by *Inspeximus* of the preceding charter of 15th Hen. VI.

On the initial **H** is inscribed *SIT SOLI DEO HONOR*.

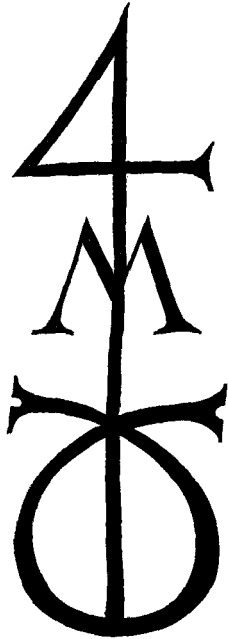
The great seal is in green wax, much broken.

V. MARY, 22nd May 1554. This charter, which is in English, is one merely of a temporary character. An act of parliament had been passed in 7th Edw. VI. prohibiting persons to keep a tavern and sell wine by retail, except such as should be duly approved and assigned according to the tenor of such act. On the petition of the Vintners, the licence of the taverns was extended from 30th Sept. 1553 to 30th June, 1555. The great seal in yellow wax is perfect, representing Mary alone: under her effigy on both sides is the motto *TEMPORIS FILIA VERITAS*.

VI. PHILIP AND MARY, in their 5th and 6th year, 30th July 1558. This recites the *Inspeximus* of Henry VII. confirming the charter of Henry VI. It is granted to John Shelley, Alexander Carlelle, Thomas Derlove, and Richard Smythe, now masters or wardens of the Company. Henceforward there is to be only one master (who has previously been warden), and three wardens.

The Company is permitted to purchase lands to the value of 40*l*. a year (so that the same be not held *in capite*, or by knight's

service), as well of Stephen Mason of Weveringstrete, in the county of Kent, citizen and vintner, as of any other persons. Mason, whose name is written in illuminated characters, was no doubt the scoffee or trustee of the estates which the Company already possessed.



This charter is beautifully illuminated. A drawing of St. Martin dividing his coat to the beggar is placed before the initial P, in which the King and Queen are represented seated, the former carrying in his right hand a sword, the latter a sceptre, and both with orbs in their left hands. Above their heads, VIVANT REX ET REGINA. His motto, NEC SPE NEC METU; and hers, VERITAS TEMPORIS FILIA, are on either side.

In the upper margin appear their arms, impaled, within the garter: a lion and a dragon sejant, each holding a blue banner charged with a fleur de lis; badges of the rose, fleur de lis, and pomegranate; and in the margin are strawberries, roses, and other flowers. Also the arms of the City and of the Company; a scull with the motto NOSCE TE IPSVM; and the merchant's mark of Stephen Mason, of which a fac-simile is now engraved.

The impression of the great seal was remarkably sharp, but only a portion of it now remains.

VII. FIRST CHARTER OF ELIZABETH. In the first year of her reign (Nov. 6) Elizabeth confirms by Inspecimus the charter of Philip and Mary. In the initial is a drawing in pen and ink of the Queen seated, very young in appearance; in the hand the royal arms; and the lion and dragon bearing standards. It was passed for a fine of "liij^s viij^d" paid into the Exchequer, as attested by the signature of Sir Nicholas Bacon, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

Ex ^r per nos	Ricardum Rede,	} Clericos.
	Joannē Vaughan,	

VIII. SECOND CHARTER OF ELIZABETH. Dated at St. Alban's 17th May, 9th Eliz. (1568).

This was a new charter. It did not increase the power of the Company to hold lands beyond 40*l.* per annum limited in the Charter of Philip and Mary; but, after confirming all privileges granted by any former charter, it added that, for the better support of the Freemen, and for the better maintaining of the Mariners of the Kingdom according to the intent of an act passed in the 5th year of the Queen's reign, every Freeman of the said mystery of Vintners, mentioning by name Thomas Leighe of Bedford, Peter Lilly of Canterbury, William Rolfe of Kingston-upon-Hull, William Southe of Louthe, John Briskyn of Battersey (in Surrey), William Close of St. Alban's, William Marston of Barnett, Christopher Pilbarowe of Romford, Arkenwolde Gittens of Uxbridge, John Ballage of Aylesbury, Benedict Billinge of Berwick, Mary Gosnell of Abingdon, and Thomas Hardware of Yarmouth; and all Freemen of the mystery of Vintners in London, and the suburbs thereof within three miles; and in all cities and port-towns and thorough-towns where the Queen's couriers commonly called Posts were placed between Dover and London, and London and Berwick, should have licence to keep a Wine Tavern notwithstanding the act of 7 Edw. VI. or any other act to the contrary, provided they did not exceed the number limited in the said act of Edw. VI. Provided also that the Queen might by letters patent prohibit or withdraw their licenses.

IX. There was another charter granted by Elizabeth, dated at Windsor 12 Oct. in her 19th year (1578), of which the original is not preserved; but a translation is in its place in the great book of Charters. It had the peculiarity of extending the privileges of Freemen (either acquired by birth or by seven years' apprenticeship) to their Widows—which privilege is still considered to exist by prescription.

X. THE FIRST CHARTER OF JAMES I. This charter, which is dated on the 1st March, 1 James I. (1603-4) is such a confirmation as had become usual at the commencement of a new reign: but it is remarkable that it confirmed the charter of the 9th Eliz., disregarding that of the 19th. It was passed for a fine

of 8*l.* paid into the Hanaper of the Exchequer, and has at its foot this memorandum in the autograph of the Lord Chancellor:—

Taxatur finis ad viij^{li}.

T. Ellesmere, Canc.

Ex ^r per nos Thomā Legge	}	<i>Clicos.</i>
&		
Joh'em Tyndell		

XI. THE SECOND CHARTER OF JAMES I. On the 2nd Feb. 9 James I. (1611-12) the Vintners' Company received an entirely new charter.

As this is the Charter by which the Company is now governed, I append the following particulars of its most important contents. By this charter, the freemen of the mystery of the Vintners of London and the suburbs of the same are incorporated into one perpetual Company, by the name of the Master, Wardens, and Freemen and commonalty of the Mystery of Vintners of the City of London, with perpetual name and succession, and by that name *to plead and be impleaded in all the courts*, have a common seal, and make orders for the good ruling of the said Company; inflict punishments and penalties on all delinquents, and have and levy such fines and ameracements to their use, so that the same be reasonable and not contrary to law or the customs of the city of London. The Company are further impowered to have a Hall, and hold courts therein, to be composed of thirteen persons, of whom the Master or his deputy and one Warden shall be two. They are yearly to choose one Master and three Wardens. To possess lands not exceeding 200*l.* a year, and not held of the Crown *in capite* or by knight's service. The charter further gives license to all Freemen of the Company dwelling in the city of London, and in its suburbs within three miles of its walls and gates, and also in all Post towns, and in all Thorough-fare towns where the King's couriers called Posts were set up, between Dover and London, and between London and Berwick, that they should keep wine-taverns to sell wine by retail and wholesale, provided this did not exceed the number of taverns limited by the act of 7 Edw. VI. The Company were to have the overseeing and correcting of all wines, and of men "oylageing" or

filling up wines, selling wines, or keeping taverns within London and three miles thereof.

XII. THE THIRD CHARTER OF JAMES I. This charter, which is dated on the 25th Aug. 17 James I. (1619), was granted in order to confirm the title of the Company to their estates: all of which it enumerates and describes. On part of their own ground in the Vintry was the hall of the Company of Plumbers, as is also mentioned by Stowe.

XIII. FIRST CHARTER OF JAMES II. This is dated in the 1st year of his reign, 4th April 1685. A portion of the great seal remains attached, and there is an engraved portrait of the King in the initial letter. It bears the autograph of the Lord Keeper, *Guilford, C. S.*

Pro fine in Hanaperio vj^{li}. xij^s. iiij^d.

XIV. SECOND CHARTER OF JAMES II. Dated 22 Nov. 4 James II. The great seal is attached, and there is a portrait of the King in the initial letter.

In the former of these charters the King assumed that arbitrary power of nominating and dismissing the officers and members of the Company at his pleasure, which he endeavoured to impose upon all corporations. In the latter he restored the Company to all its former privileges. Both charters were cancelled by the act of parliament 2 Will. and Mary, cap. 8, entitled An act for reversing a judgment in Quo Warranto against the City of London, and for restoring the City of London to its ancient rights and privileges.

The former Charter of the 9th James I. then again became the governing charter of the Company, and so it has ever since continued.

BYE-LAWS.

By an Act of Parliament of 19 Hen. VII. it was made law that no Masters or Wardens of Guilds should make any orders unless the same were first approved by the Chancellor, Treasurer, and two Chief Justices, on pain of 40*l*. The Vintners shortly after proceeded to revise their code of Bye-laws, and submitted them

to the great officers above mentioned, from whom they received the ratification now described.

I. 23 Hen. VII. 4 Dec. 1507. These Bye-laws are engrossed upon four large skins of vellum. The first has an illuminated initial of Saint Martin dividing his cloak with the beggar, and is further decorated with the royal arms, supported by a lion and dragon, two shields of the city, three portcullises, and several roses, and two rebuses of vines growing out of tuns. At the end are these signatures, wholly in the autographs of Archbishop Warham, then Chancellor; the Earl of Surrey,* then Treasurer; and the two Chief Justices. The clerical errors made by the two former are as here shown:

Witfm^o Cantuar^e Angle Cancellarij^o.

T. Surrey, Theserarius Anglie.

Joñes ffyneux Miles capitā Just^o de banco dñi Regē.

Robtus Rede Miles capit^{is} Justic^o dñi Regē de Cōi Banco.

There are cords for three seals, but none seem to have been attached.

II. 36 Eliz. 3 June 1594. Other Bye-laws bear this date. They are engrossed on large skins of vellum. The Queen is drawn in the initial T: and other decorations are—the royal arms supported by lion and dragon, the City arms, and those of the Company, with grapes and flowers. The document is certified by the signatures and seals of Lord Keeper Puckering, Lord Treasurer Burghley, and the two Chief Justices Sir John Popham and Sir Edmund Anderson. The Lord Keeper signs *Jo. Puckering*, and his seal of arms is quarterly of six with a crest. The Lord Treasurer signs *W. Burghley*; his seal is quarterly of six, within a garter. The Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench signs *J. Popham*, with a seal of arms, quarterly. The Chief Justice of the Common Pleas signs *Ed. Anderson*; with a seal of arms, quarterly, and a crest.

* Thomas Howard, created Earl of Surrey in his father's lifetime, 1483, attainted 1485, restored to the earldom of Surrey 1489, and to his father's rank as Duke of Norfolk 1514.

Other bye-laws were confirmed by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, 22nd March 1607, in pursuance of the Charter of 19 Eliz.

Bye-laws are still sanctioned by the Lord Chancellor and two Chief Justices. The last instance in the Vintners' Company is dated 12th March 1829, and bears the signatures of Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Tenterden, and Chief Justice Tindal.

PARDON.

Another document, under the great seal, preserved with the Company's charters, is a special pardon dated 11th July, 16 Car. II. and granted to Thomas Cox, Edmund Waters, and 150 other Vintners in and about London, whose names are set forth, remitting such penalties as they might have incurred from infraction of the statutes regarding the vending of wines. There is a good engraved portrait of the King in the initial letter: and the impression of the great seal is perfect in red wax.

ANCIENT DEEDS.

Several parcels of ancient deeds regarding the estates of the Company are also preserved, having many interesting seals attached to them. I have had time only to examine the parcel which relates to the property upon which the Hall itself stands; of which I beg to present the following account.

But first let us review the description which old Stowe has left us of the locality. Taking the lanes that ran up from the river side, westward from the boundary of the ward of Dowgate, he thus rehearses their names:—

Now on the Thames side, west from Grantham lane, have ye *Harber lane*, or *Brikles lane*, so called of John Brikles sometimes owner thereof.

Then is *Simpson's lane*, of one Simpson; or *Emperour's head lane*, of such a signe.

Then the *Three Cranes lane*, so called, not only of a signe of Three Cranes at a tavern doore, but rather of three strong cranes of timber, placed on the Vintrie wharf by the Thames side, to crane up wines there. This lane was of old time, to wit the 9. of Richard the Second, called the *Painted tavern lane*, of the tavern being painted.

Then, next over against Saint Martin's church, is a large house builded of stone and timber, with vaults for the stowage of wines, and

is called *the Vintrie*.* There dwelled John Gisors, vintner, † Maior of London [1311 and 1314], and Constable of the Tower; and then was [it afterwards the residence of] Henry Picard, vintner, Maior [1356]. In this house Henry Picard feasted foure Kings in one day [in 1363].

Then next is *Vannar's lane*, so called of one Vannar ‡ that was owner thereof. It is now called *Church lane*, of the comming up from the wharf to St. Martin's church.

Next is *Broad lane*, for that the same is broader for the passage of carts from the Vintrie Wharfe than be the other lanes. At the north-west corner of this lane is the Parish Clerks Hall, lately by them purchased, since they lost their old hall in Bishopsgate street.

Next is *Spittle lane*, of old time so called §; since *Stodies lane*, of the owner thereof named Stodie. Sir John Stodie, vintner, maior in the yeare 1357, gave it with all the quadrant wherein Vintners' Hall now standeth, with the tenements round about, to the Vintners: the Vintners builded for themselves a faire Hall, and also thirteen Almes-houses there, for 13 poore people, which are kept of charity, rent free.

How far the estate upon which Vintners' Hall was erected was the gift of Sir John Stody, as thus stated by Stowe, is not established by his will (hercafter quoted by Mr. Milbourn), nor does it appear from the deeds I now proceed to describe. It will be seen that the estate certainly passed through his hands and those of his heirs; but it is not improbable that Stody merely acted as trustee for his fraternity, before they were empowered to hold lands as a corporate body.

1. Edmund de Sutton, son of Hamo de Sutton of Suffolk, grants to John de Stodeye citizen and vintner of London all his tenements, with houses, cellars, solars, rents, quay, and appurtenances in the parishes of St. Martin in the Vintry and St. James of Garlekhithe, which he lately recovered from Walter Turk by writ of novel disseisin, situated between two lanes, having towards the east the tenements of the abbess of the blessed Mary of the order of St. Clare in Aldgate and that late of John Hardell, and towards the west that of John Cressyngham, from the high street north to the Thames south. Dated at London, 12 April

* This paragraph shows that the ancient "Vintry" was at some distance from the spot where Vintners' Hall was afterwards erected.

† Gisors is not generally classed as a Vintner, but as a Pepperer.

‡ Henry Vannar (living in 1394), hereafter mentioned.

§ It may be suspected that Spittle lane was the modern rather than the old name, and that it referred to the almshouses built there, to which the term *hospital* or *spital* would be applied.

26 Edw. III. (1352), Andrew Aubrey being then mayor, John Wrothe and Gilbert Steyndrop sheriffs, and Walter Turke alderman of the ward. Witnesses, Henry Pycard, John of Rothyng, Henry atte Strete, Henry Vanner, Henry Palmer, John of Wendover, John Chaucer, Thomas of York, and others. (Enrolled in Court of Hustings.)

Seal, a chevron, and on a chief three mullets pierced. Legend, s. EDMVNDI DE SVTTON.

2. Henry Vannere citizen of London, and Margery his wife, grant to Adam Bamme, John Frenyngham of Kent, William Clovyle, John Doget, John Cornewaleys, Thomas Colred, and Robert Whybet clerk, all their lands and tenements in the parishes of St. Martin and St. James of Garlekhithe in the ward of Vintry, lying between Stodyeslane to the east, and Cressyngham lane to the west; the high street to the north, and the tenements and wharf of Baldwyn Berford knt. and Idonea his wife toward the south. Also land and tenements in the parish of the blessed Mary Magdalen near Oldfisshe strette, between Peteris lane towards the west, and the tenement of the prioress and nuns of St. Elena towards the east, and the high street towards the north. Also the tenements in the parishes of the blessed Mary Matfelon without Aldgate and Stebenheth, late those of John Stodeye father of Margery. Witnesses, Richard Litlyngton, John Tilney, Thomas Say, William Durant, John Tryge, Robert Aston, John Gosburn, (*blank*) Messynger, and many others. Dated at London, 18 July, 18 Ric. II. (1394).

Two very small seals, probably from finger-rings:—1. A dragon within a quatrefoil. 2. An animal, with some letters.

3. The feoffees named in No. 2 convey the property in the Vintry in moieties to the other coheirs of John Stodeye, viz. one moiety to his daughter Margaret who was wife of Sir John Philipot, knt. and the other moiety to Thomasia wife of John Hadlee, Margaret wife of John Seint Jermyn, and Idonia wife of Thomas Grey, daughters and heirs of Joane who was wife of Thomas Goodlake, another of the daughters and heirs of the aforesaid John Stodeye. John Heende being mayor, William de Lowthe and Stephen Spelman sheriffs, William Venour then alderman of that ward. Witnesses, Robert Chichely, John Nicholl, Robert Sherwyne, John Bysshop, William Leuegood, Thomas Clyfton, Henry Michel, John Newmarket, &c. Dated at London, 14 Dec. 6 Hen. IV. (1404).

Both parts of this indenture are preserved. Each bore the seals of the five feoffees: but on both documents the seals of Cornewaleis and Whybet are alone preserved. The former is a curious device, from a finger-ring,

apparently a bell and a broken clapper, with the English inscription *how not*. Whybet's is a crowned R.

4. John Seint Jermayn citizen and grocer of London, and Margaret his wife, daughter and one of the heirs of Joan wife of Thomas Goodlake, after reciting No. 3, grant to Sir John Gardener rector of the church of St. Martin Oterwyche London, John Corneweleys, Thomas Colred, William Traynell, and Robert Ugate, all their tenement, in length from the stone gavell (*gabellum*) annexed to the tenement and wharf late belonging to William Neyor parson of the church of Haddenham and his fellows, on the south, and the high street called the Vyntrie on the north, and in breadth from Stodeyes lane on the east, to Cressingham lane to the west. John Wodecoker being then mayor, William Crowmere and Henry Barton sheriffs, William Venour alderman of the ward. Witnesses, Robert Chichele, John Nichol, John Bisshop, William Leuegood, Thomas Clyfton, Henry Michel, Simon Bodham, John Newmarket, &c. Dated at London, 29 May, 7 Hen. IV. (1406).

Seals: 1. small square, from a ring, a shield of arms, apparently Ermine, a saltire engrailed. 2. broken.

5. To the same purport as the last, on the part of Margaret late wife of Sir John Philipot. The witnesses are some of those last named. Dated 26 March, 7 Hen. IV. (1406).

To this is attached a fine impression of the seal of Lady Philipot. A shield within tracery, a bend ermine, impaling, Ermine, a saltire engrailed. *Sigill' margareta filipot.*

6. Indenture between Thomas Gray and Idonia his wife, and John Micol citizen and vintner, leasing their third part of the estate. Dated at London, 1 June, 7 Hen. IV. (1406).

Seals: 1. A merchant's mark formed of the initials T and G.

2. Hexagonal, from a ring, apparently the cypher of J and M, with a legend, *SIGILLVM SECRETVM.*

6 b. Indenture of lease. The five feoffees, John Gardyner, &c. lease from Michaelmas ensuing for ten years at a rent of fifty shillings, to be paid at the four principal feasts in equal portions, keeping the same in good and sufficient repair. Dated at London, 1 June, 7 Hen. IV. (1406).

6 b repeated. Being another indenture of lease of the same date from John Gardyner and his co-feoffees of their part of the estate to the same John Micol for the same term at the rent of ten pounds.


The five seals all remain, all from rings, or of that size. 1. A shield of arms. Fretty, on a canton a fleur-de-lis, s. *JOHIS STRAVGE.* (Straunge.) 2. The letter M. 3. A dog under a tree. 4. A leopard's head, in a square border. 5. R and M interlaced.

7. An indenture in French whereby Lady Philipot sells to John Micoll all her moiety in the estate that descended to her after the death of John Birlyngham and Thomas Birlyngham, and in which Sir John Gardener, &c. were enfeoffed. For this Micoll agrees to pay her the sum of 220 marks sterling, and one pipe of wine of the price of ten marks, as part of which he had already paid 120 marks and a pipe of wine of the value of five marks; arrangements are made for payment of the remainder. After a recital that Lady Philipot had bought of John Seint Germain and Margaret his wife all their property herein for the sum of 40 pounds sterling, assurance is made accordingly. Dated at London, 1 Dec. 7 Hen. IV. (1405).

Very small round seal, from a ring, the sun in splendour.

The indenture is indorsed with memoranda of five sundry payments : 1. of 40 l. 19th March ; 2. five marks, the 24th June ; 3. vj li. viij s. iiij d. the 16th July, anno 8 ; 4. the like on the 8th Oct. anno 9 ; and 5. xiiij li. vj s. viij d. the 23d Dec. anno 9, in full payment. They were all paid by John Micoll into the hands of Robert Uppgate, the esquire of Lady Philipot.

8. John Hadle, citizen and grocer, and Thomasia his wife, daughter and one of the heirs of Joan wife of Thomas Goodlake, one the daughters and heirs of John Stody, recite 1. Vanner's enfeoffment (No. 2) ; 2. the feoffees' release to Lady Philipot (not preserved), which was dated 14 Dec. 6 Hen. IV. ; 3. their release to Thomasia, Margaret, and Idonia (No. 3) ; 4. the grant of John Seint Jermeyn and Margaret (No. 4.) ; 5. a charter of their own (John Hadle and Thomasia,) enrolled in the hustings court on Monday next after the feast of St. John *ante portam Latinam*, 9 Hen. IV. granting to John Micol, Richard Merivale, William Burdon, and William Benett, a third part of the moiety. They give by their present charter to Robert Malton, Henry Jolypace, William Burdon, John Chamberleyn clerks, William Haysarm esquire, Robert Louthe, and William Grove, all the third part reserved and by the death of the aforesaid Idonia lately accruing by virtue of the conjoint feoffment of John Frenyngham, &c. William Staundon being mayor, Henry Halton and Henry Pountfreit sheriffs, Robert Chichele alderman of the ward. Witnesses, Simon Bodham, Lewis John, John Bisshop, Edmund Grymmestone, Robert Luton, Thomas Lincoln, Richard Hille, &c. Dated London, 9 June 9 Hen. IV. (1408).

Seals. 1.  2. from a ring in a hexagon border an eagle's head erased, with a motto, font m.

9. The same parties release to Robert Malton, &c. Same witnesses as the last. Dated 15 June 9 Hen. IV. (1408). With the same seals.

10. John Micol, Richard Merivale, and William Beneit release to Robert Malton, &c. all their title. Witnesses nearly as the last, with John Wydmere. Dated 26 June 9 Hen. IV. (1408).

Three seals: 1. broken away; 2. a crowned K and in the margin *Schild*. 3. a merchant's mark $\text{w} \text{z} \text{b}$.

11. General release of all claims from Lady Philipot to John Micoll, 27 Oct. 9 Hen. IV. On a long narrow slip of parchment. Sealed with signet of the sun as before.

12. John Gardener and his co-foffees to Robert Malton, &c. Witnessed by Micol, Luton, Bodham, Grymmeston, and Bishop before mentioned. Dated 1 Nov. 9 Hen. IV. (1407).

All the five seals remain, three of them as to the second No. 6 *b*. The second, instead of the M., is the same Cornwaleys seal as to No. 3, and the fourth is a cypher ($\text{K} \text{H}$) crowned, with a small heart between the letters.

13. Lady Philipot quitclaims to Robert Malton, &c. Witnesses as before. Dated 11 Nov. 9 Hen. IV. (1407). Seal of arms as No. 5.

14. William Haysarm esquire quitclaims to Malton, &c. Nicholas Wotton being mayor, William Cambrigge and Alan Everard sheriffs, Robert Chichele alderman of the ward. Witnesses, Edward Grymston, Richard Merivale, Thomas Walsyngham, Thomas Gwyn, William Reynolds, &c. Dated at London, 15 Feb. 3 Hen. V. (1416).

Seal (round, from a ring) a lion sejant guardant.

15. William Grove releases to Robert Malton, &c. Dated 22 July 2 Hen. VI. (1424). Seal thc within a corded border.

16. Indenture of Robert Malton, Henry Jolypace, and William Burdon, clerks, demising the estate to Joan widow of John Micoll, for her life, and after her death to Alexander Sprot, John Killyk, and John Grove, the executors of the will of John Micoll. William Crowemer then being mayor, Thomas Wandesford and Nicholas Jones the sheriffs. Witnesses, Thomas Walsyngham, William Reynolds, Thomas Ewyn, William Hampstede, Richard Rowe, &c. Dated at London, 5 Aug. 2 Hen. VI. (1424).

Seals: 1. broken; 2. the rood between Mary and John, with a legend. 3. a rude W.

17. William Abraham and Thomas Acton citizens and vintners, con-

stituting Laurence Wilkynson and John Blakbourne citizens and vintners their attornies to deliver to John Daunt chaplain, John Beeston chaplain, and John Stodeley citizen of London, full seizin, &c. of all the lands, &c. of which they together with Guy Shuldham and William de Lunes citizen and vintner now deceased, lately had of the grant of John Killyk citizen and vintner, executor of the will of John Micoll. Dated 26 Jan. 36 Hen. VI. (1458). Two seals, defaced.

18. Daunt, Beeston, and Stodeley appoint Thomas Graunt and John Colte their attornies to deliver to William Stafford, Robert Mildenhale, John Boway, Thomas Waryn, William Nele, Andrew Body, and John Gegge, citizens of London, full seizin. 13 March, 36 Hen. VI. (1458).

Seals: 1. a leaf; 2. a leaf; 3. a hawk on a bird.

The estate appears to have finally vested in the Company in accordance with the will of Guy Shuldham, dated 7 Nov. 1446;§ and it is to that member that posterity has accorded the credit of the foundation of the thirteen Almshouses mentioned by Stowe, and which were removed, after the Fire of 1666, to the Mile-End Road; where they still remain, with a Chapel, having been rebuilt at the commencement of the present century, after receiving a large accession to their support from the will of Benjamin Kenton, esq. who died in 1802.

There is a copy of Guy Shuldham's will * in the volume of the Company's archives containing the wills of benefactors, &c. It appears from that document that he (together with William Lunes) had acquired the estate from John Killecke, citizen and vintner, one of the executors of the will of John Micoll (mentioned in the deed No. 16), and its boundaries are specified as in No. 4 of the foregoing deeds. The buildings are described as consisting of "the great Hall, with the Kitchen and howse for coles to be put in, and a Pantre, and a Buttre, and a void place of land called the Yard, with well in the same, and all the apparell to the same well belonginge, and also a Parlor above, leaded, and a howse called the Counting howse to the said parlor annexed, and two chambers above the said howse called the comptinge howse."

On the whole, it seems very uncertain how far the property was

* Extracts from Shuldham's will are given in Herbert's *City Companies*, ii. 636; and in *The Endowed Charities of London*, 1829, p. 449.

originally acquired from the bounty of Sir John Stody, or how far increased by the generosity of Guy Shuldham. Probably, however, the latter may properly be regarded as the founder of the Almshouses. These questions might be elucidated by further researches, but I must for the present leave them undecided.



THE COMPANY'S SEAL.

The above Seal of the Company of Vintners is of excellent workmanship, and was probably made upon their receiving their first charter of incorporation in 1437, when they were empowered "to have a common seal," as already noticed in p. 434. It represents Saint Martin sharing his cloak with the Beggar (as related hereafter in p. 487), and is surrounded with this legend—

Sigillum comune mistere vinetariorum civitatis London.

From an impression dependent to the Bye-Laws of 1507 it appears that there was a counter-seal of somewhat less diameter, but evidently of the same age and workmanship. It bore the same legend; but its device was simply a tun.

This counter-seal is not now used, and is either lost or mislaid.