



"THE LEIGH CUP."

and lined with yellow flannel; and in the same case is a second copy of the Statutes, written on quarto post paper, and stitched in a piece of an old vellum inventory. This copy was made apparently early in the seventeenth century. On its last leaf is preserved the following inscription * formerly in the vestibule of the School:

In the vestibule the table on the wall hath
this covered w^t lyme.

Hoc vestibulo pueri catechizent^r fide
moribusq, Christianis neq, non primus gra-
matices rudimentis † instituunt^r † priusquam
ad proximam hujus scholæ classem ad-
mittantur † limæ tres sunt.

After this follows a list of the Highmasters and Submasters down to the year 1637, and on the last fly-leaf are the names of four subsequent High Masters to the year 1697.

PLATE OF THE MERCERS' COMPANY.

BY GEORGE RUSSELL FRENCH, ESQ.

The MERCERS' COMPANY possess some interesting articles of plate, of which the "LEIGH CUP" is a good specimen of elaborate workmanship. † It is a grace-cup with cover, 16 inches high, and 6½ inches in diameter, silver-gilt. The foot is supported on three wine flasks, and is surrounded by a band of finely-pierced Gothic tracery, surmounted by a cresting of trefoils; the same enrichment is continued round the lower part of the cover. The body of the cup and cover has a complete network of lozenge panels in raised corded patterns, within which are maiden busts and flagons, with roses at the points of intersection. The busts resemble nuns hooded, wearing crosses on their breasts. On the top of the cover is an hexagonal boss with buttresses, on the dome of which is seated a maid with a unicorn reposing in her lap; the word *Desyr* is written on the animal's side, illustrating the legend that a unicorn could only be captured by a pure virgin. On the six panels of the boss are coats of arms in enamel:—1. The City arms: 2.

* This will be found also in Knight's Colet, p. 435.

† See p. 577 of the Catalogue of Works of Art and Antiquities exhibited at Ironmongers' Hall, edited by G. R. French, Esq. to whom we are indebted for the loan of the illustration.

Gules, on a cross engrailed between four unicorn's heads erased argent five bezants, for Sir Thomas Leigh: 3. The arms of the Merchant Adventurers: 4. The arms of the Merchants of the Staple: 5. Argent the cross of St. George gules: 6. The arms of the Mercers' Company, Gules, a demi-*virgin*, hair dishevelled, crowned, issuing out of clouds and within an orle of the same. On two bands around the cover and body of the cup the following couplet is inscribed, in small gold capitals, on blue enamel:—

TO ELECT THE MASTER OF THE MERCERIE HITHER AM I SENT,
AND BY SIR THOMAS LEIGH FOR THE SAME INTENT.

On the inside of the cover is engraved a double-rose with a large seeded centre. The plate-mark is a small black-letter *b* answering to 1499-1500. Sir Thomas Leigh, descended from a family seated at High Leigh, co. Chester, before the *Conquest*, was Lord Mayor in 1558. His lineal descendant, the late Chandos Leigh, was created Lord Leigh, of Stoneleigh, co. Warwick, in 1839, a revived title, which had become extinct in the family in 1786.

A SILVER-GILT CARRIAGE, on four wheels, intended to hold spices or condiments; which moves along the table by means of internal mechanism. At each end over the wheels is a raised platform or stage ornamented with scrolls and circular medallions enamelled with the arms of the City and the Mercers' Company; and in one is a hare seated, with a leaf in its mouth. These stages have flat covers, surmounted by female figures, on enamelled pedestals, of birds and flowers. Between the two stages is a sunk medallion of Judith and Holofernes. In front of the car stands the "Master of the Mercerie," in furred robe and low broad-brimmed hat; and on the first stage is an eagle before a pedestal. This piece of plate is elaborately chased and engraved over its entire surface.

A SILVER-GILT WINE-BARREL (which is sometimes placed on the above-described carriage), resting on a foliated knob upon a lozenge pedestal, with large oval foot, on which are four bosses of blue and green enamel on silver. On the top of the barrel is a raised funnel of silver designs on blue enamel; and above is a square ornament with four projecting dolphins, on which are four female busts and dolphin-head gargoyles; at the summit is an eagle on a globe. This barrel and the carriage may each be ascribed to the time of the sixteenth century.

A round SALT, silver-gilt, 6½ inches high, 7½ inches diameter; the

gift of Mr. John Dethick, with his arms, and those of the Company; the plate mark is the letter A, which answers to the year 1638. A SALT, similar in pattern to the above, the gift of Mr. Alexander Wright, 1666.

On the Salt presented by John Dethick is a coat belonging to the family of the name, of whom were some famous heralds. Gwillim in his quaint fashion thus gives the coat—"He beareth, Argent, a fesse barry or and argent, between three water bowgets sable, by the name of *Dethick*, of which family is *Sir John Dethick*, Knight, late Lord Mayor, as also those two ingenious gentlemen, *Thomas Dethick*, who hath long resided at *Ligorne*, and *Henry Dethick* of *Paylers* near London, sons of *Henry Dethick*, son of *Sir William Dethick*, Knight, son of *Sir Gilbert Dethick*, both principall Kings of Armes, by the title of Garter."

TWO SILVER SALTS; each is octagonal in plan, of hour-glass shape in centre, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. Engraved with the arms of the Company, and inscribed,—"*Ex dono Henrici Sumner, Ar.*" On the top are four volute guards, intended to sustain a napkin to keep the salt clean. The plate mark is a Gothic small text **b** for the year 1679.

The position which the "Saler," or Salt, formerly occupied at the tables of the great, has been explained in the Catalogue of Antiquities exhibited at Ironmongers' Hall.

A plain round SILVER TANKARD, 18 inches high and 6 inches in diameter, on large round foot, 11 inches diameter. The front is engraved with the arms of the Company and with two other shields of arms, emblematical of the donors, with this inscription; "*The Gift of y^e Corporation of y^e Mines Royall y^e Minerall and Battery works Anno Domini 1718.*" Plate marks, figures of Britannia, lion's head erased, and the Roman capital C, for the year 1718.

THREE BEAKERS, silver-gilt, tapering; 8 inches high, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at top, and 3 inches at bottom, with the Company's arms and crest on each. Their Books describe them as the "Gift of Mr. John Bancks."

TWO SILVER MONTEITHS, with lion handles, scalloped edges; the centres fluted, standing on gadrooned feet. On one side of each bowl the Company's arms, on the other a coat, three rams . . . height 9 inches, diameter 13 inches, weight, 72 oz. and 71 oz. 15 dwts. In the Company's Records they are described as "the gift of William Sydenham," who was probably of the distinguished family of that name, extinct baronets, whose arms were, Argent, three rams sable. The mon-

teiths are inscribed underneath, "*Sir Edm^d Harrison, Kn^t. Mas^r. 1700.*"

A circular SILVER SALVER, 15 inches diameter, with gadrooned edges, on foot ornamented in like manner. In the centre are the arms of the Company; and on a ribbon is inscribed—"The Gift of the English East India Company. Sir Edm^d Harrison, Kn^t. Mast^r. 1700.

Two large LOVING CUPS, silver-gilt, each 15 inches high, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter at brim, on baluster stem, centre of bowl frosted. On each cup is a shield with the figure of Britannia seated, surrounded by heaps of guineas, which was the stamp on Abraham Newland's Bank Notes. On the foot is inscribed—"The Gift of y^e Governor and Company of the Bank of England to the Worshipfull Company of Mercers. A third cup to match was made by order of the Mercers' Company.

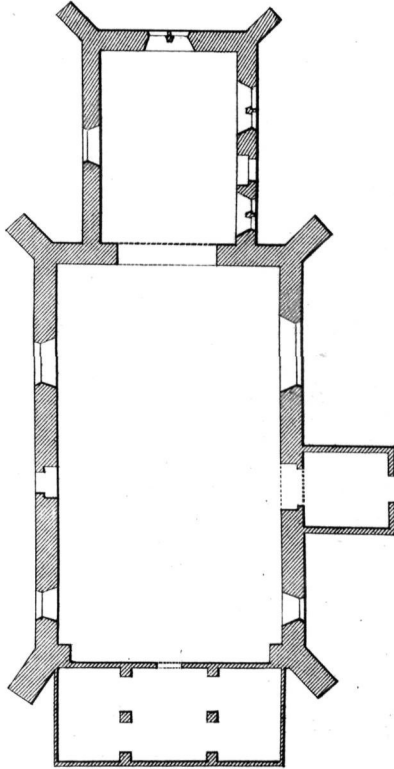
A LOVING CUP, silver, 12 inches high, centre frosted, baluster stem; weight, 27 oz. 15 dwts., inscribed—"The Gift of William Hurt." There are two coats of arms, one of the Company, and another, Sable, a fesse between three cinquefoils or, which Glover ascribes to Hurt of co. Staff and Derby.

A SILVER PLATEAU, oblong, 18 inches wide, 2 feet 7 inches long, standing on four feet; all round is a pierced border of scroll-work. An Epergne stands on it in form of an open temple, of which the dome rests on six slender shafts; on the apex is a figure of Commerce, surrounded by her attributes. The Epergne rests on six legs, which are designed to hold lights or flowers, connected by festoons; and there are small epergnes at the four angles; entire height, 26 inches. This very handsome ornament for the table is inscribed:—"To the Worshipful Master Warden, the Wardens, and Commonalty of the Company of Mercers, London, from the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for the issue of Exchequer Bills for the Assistance of Commercial Credit, as a testimony of the sense the Commissioners entertain of the liberality and readiness with which the use of Mercers' Hall was granted for the purposes of carrying on the business of the Commissioners. July 2, 1794."

7 Feb. 1871.

G. R. F.

Great Greenford Church



Scale, 20 feet to 1 Inch.



J. Emslie & Sons, lith., London.

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