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MEMBERS OF THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY WHO HAVE
BEEN ALDERMEN OF THE WARD OF ALDERSGATE.

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ALDERMAN OF THE WARD OF ALDERSGATE.

*(Read at a Meeting of the London and Middlesex Archæological
Society, in Goldsmiths' Hall, on the 27th June, 1883.)*

THE HALL of the Goldsmiths' Company is situated
in the Ward of Aldersgate, and appears, in early
times, to have formed a centre, in the immediate

neighbourhood of which the craftsmen of the Guild were established. Foster Lane is described by Maitland as a place well inhabited, chiefly by silversmiths and working goldsmiths; Gutheron's Lane, now called Gutter Lane, was the home of the goldbeaters, and inhabited also by engravers and others who work for silversmiths; Carey Lane was a place of some trade for silversmiths; Silver Street, Goldsmith Street, and St. Martin's-le-Grand, were inhabited by the gold-and silver-smiths and refiners. Over against Goldsmiths' Hall was a large house used for refining of silver. The King's Exchange for coin was situated in what is now Old Change. In the early part of the fourteenth century all persons who carried on the trade of goldsmith were compelled to have their shops in Cheapside. Goldsmiths' Row and the King's Exchange were the only places in the City of London where silver or plate, and vessels of gold or silver, were permitted to be sold.

Goldsmiths' Row, extending from Old Change to Bread Street, was erected in 1491 by Thomas Wood, Goldsmith, then Sheriff of London. Stow describes it as "the most beautiful frame of fair houses and shops that be within the walls of London or elsewhere in England. It containeth in number ten fair dwelling-houses and fourteen shops all in one frame, uniformly builded four stories high, beautified towards the street with the Goldsmiths' Arms and the likeness of woodmen (in memory of the founder's name) riding on monstrous beasts, all of which is

cast in lead, richly painted over and gilt." Sir Richard Martin kept his Mayoralty in one of the houses in the year 1594, when the said front was again newly painted and gilt.

In 1629 persons of mean trades are said to be in occupation of some of the shops in Cheapside, and the Lord Chief Justices were ordered to consider what laws and statutes there were to enforce the Goldsmiths to plant themselves for the use of their trade in Cheapside, Lombard Street, and parts adjacent. In May, 1617, the Lords in Council ordered that all shops in Cheapside, other than Goldsmiths, should be shut up; and in July following a further order in Council was issued directing that the Aldermen, or their Deputies, should be committed to prison if they did not forthwith cause the said shops to be closed.

From time to time prominent members of the trade and Guild living in the Ward of Aldersgate or its immediate neighbourhood became Aldermen of the Ward.

Reference is made in the City archives to William le Mazerer, or Mazeliner, who served the office of Sheriff in 1279, was chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward in 1284-5 (13 Edward I.), and held the position of Coroner of London in 1289.

"On the Feast of St. George * (23 April), in the 17th year of King Edward the First, A.D. 1289, Walter Bacun, who alleged that he was a Chaplain, † had fled

* Letter-Book A, fol. L. Riley's translation.

† A parish priest or curate.

to the church of St. Paul in London : on which day came there William le Mazeliner, Coroner of our Lord the King in London, together with John le Breton, then Warden* of the City of London, Baroncin, John de Banquelle, and other trustworthy persons. And the said Coroner in presence of the persons aforesaid demanded of Walter for what reason he so kept himself in the church ; whereupon he acknowledged that he was a thief, and had stolen sixteen silver dishes that belonged to Sir Baroncin ;† and upon acknowledgment so made the said dishes were delivered by the Coroner before-mentioned to William de Betoyne, then Sheriff of the said City, to be kept by him under seal of Sir Baroncin.

“And on the Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (25 April), the said dishes by command of our Lord the King were opened out in the Guildhall, and delivered by the said Sheriff to the Coroner before named : whereupon the said William le Mazeliner, the Coroner, delivered the aforesaid sixteen dishes to the said Baroncin in presence of the said Warden, John de Banquelle and other trustworthy persons there present.”

Notwithstanding his confession of guilt, no punishment was inflicted on the priest, but he would obtain benefit of clergy, or having escaped to sanctuary would be allowed to abjure the realm.

* Appointed by Edward I., in place of a Mayor for certain offences by the authorities committed.

† A wealthy merchant of Lucca.

Le Mazeliner was a member of the Goldsmiths' Company, but the books of the Company for this period have not been preserved, therefore no information can be obtained to show his position in the Guild.

HENRY DE SECHEFORD, Goldsmith, was chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward in 1319-20, the 13th of Edward II. On the 19th May, 1323, he was witness to a deed for the purchase of premises and land on which Goldsmiths' Hall now stands. It does not appear that he served the office of Prime Warden of this Guild, but he must have been a man of some position, for the records of the Corporation show that in 1328-9 he was admitted into the office of Chamberlain of the Guildhall, London, in the presence of Hamon de Chiggewelle, Lord Mayor, Nicholas de Farndone, Richard de Breteyne, Gregory de Norton, Anketin de Gisors, Reginald de Conduit, Henry de Combe Martin, Aldermen, and a great commonalty. He represented the City in Parliament at Westminster in 1326 and 1335.

His will is enrolled in the Court of Hustings, and from it we learn that he resided in the parish of St. Agnes; that he had three wives, Isolda, Matilda, and Alice, and two daughters—Agnes, who was a nun in the church of St. Helen's, and Matilda. He died in 1337, leaving, besides other property, "all his tenements and the brewhouse which he acquired from Lucy Kynkestede, in the parish of St. Michael le Querne and St. Lenard in St. Vedast Lane, for a term

of ten years after his decease, for providing chaplains to pray for the souls of his two wives Isolda and Matilda, as well as for discharging his debts. He also left one hundred marks as a marriage portion for his daughter Matilda.

THOMAS REYNHAM, Goldsmith, was chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward, 12 March, A.D. 1379-80 (3rd Richard II.) He* was one of three Goldsmiths from whom the City (45 Edward III. A.D. 1371) purchased "parcels" of plate for a present to be made to our Lord the Prince (of Wales)† on his return to London from the parts of Gascoigne.

A detailed account is given, and the mode of calculating the value is peculiar though simple: "3 dozen of esqueles,‡ weighing by goldsmith's weight 49*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, adding six shillings in the pound with the making, total 70*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* Also 30 salt-cellars, weight 15*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, which amounts, with the making, to 21*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* Also 6 chargers, weight 12*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* which amounts, with the making, to 17*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* Also 12 hanappes,§ weight 8*l.* 12*s.*, which amounts, with the making, to 12*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* Also one gallon pot, gilded, weight 8*l.* 15*s.*, amounting to 22*l.* 15*s.* Also one potel|| pot, gilded, weight 4*l.* 13*s.*, amounting to 12*l.* 18*s.* Also one other gallon pot, gilded, weight 6*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, amounting to 15*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* Total, 173*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*" The total value of the plate pre-

* Letter Book G, fol. cclxxi.

† Edward the Black Prince.

‡ Porringers, or deep plates.

§ Handled cups.

|| Pottle or two quarts.

sented on this occasion was 975*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The number of "each manner of vessel was, first, 6 pots gilded, one plate for spices, 3 basins gilded, 6 basins and 6 ewers of silver, 12 potel pots, 3 dozen of hanappes, 20 chargers, 10 dozen of esqueles, 5 dozen of salt-cellars, one gilded hanappe in form of an acorne, one pair of botels in ivory."

By his will, enrolled in the Court of Hustings, dated 11 May, 1388, he directs :

- (1) His body to be buried in St. Paul's church-yard, and leaves 27 marks for maintaining the fabric of the cathedral and for prayers for his soul.
- (2) He bequeaths to his sister Reyna tenements in Petiwales, in the parish of All Hallows Barking, for life.
- (3) To the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral his tenement in Guderoun Lane [Gutter Lane], parish of St. Peter, Westcheap.
- (4) Also for the fabric of the church of St. John Zakary, one great spice plate of silver-gilt, and for the high altar of the same 6*s.* 8*d.*
- (5) 20*s.* to each of the following orders of friars, viz., the Minors, Augustine, Preaching, and Carmelite.
- (6) 100*s.* to the Charterhouse.

ADAM BAMME, Goldsmith, chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward 5th Richard II. A.D. 1381-2 :

translated to Cheap Ward 1386. He served the office of Sheriff in 1382. Was Lord Mayor in 1390, and again in 1396. He was one of the representatives of the City in Parliament at Cambridge in 1388.

He was Junior Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1380, when by consent of the good folks of the Company and of the Commons a feast was made at the time of the Wardens taking office. "At which feast were present my most Honorable Lady Isabel, daughter of the King of England,* and her daughter, the Countess of Oxenford, the Lord de Latymer, the Grand Master of St. John of Clerkenwell, the Mayor of London, with his other good folks of the City."

In a great dearth (A.D. 1391) the price of wheat rose to sixteen shillings and eight pence per quarter. To prevent a famine in the City he procured corn from parts beyond the seas to be brought to London in such abundance as sufficed to serve the City and the county near adjoining. "By this good conduct the wants of the poor were effectually supplied, and the City was preserved in peace. To the furtherance of this good object he took 2,000 marks out of the orphans' fund in the Chamber of London, to which twenty-four of the Aldermen added twenty pounds each."

The following account shows that an offence against an Alderman in those days was punished with great severity."

"On Monday, the 3rd day of August, in the 12th

* Edward the Third.

year of Richard II. A.D. 1388, etc. Simon Ferry, porter of the Compter of *William Venour*, one of the Sheriffs, at the suit of *Adam Bamme*, an Alderman of London, was brought before Nicholas Extone, Mayor of the City aforesaid, and the Aldermen; and interrogated for that he had uttered to Adam Bamme aforesaid in a loud voice many shameful and opprobrious words, insomuch that many persons gathered round them, and in their presence in many ways insulted him, manifestly in contempt of our Lord the King, and of his officers in the same city, which Simon fully acknowledged the same, and confessed that he had badly, disgracefully, and opprobriously spoken in manner aforesaid, and he put himself under the favour of the Court as to the same.

“And after due counsel had been held thereupon between the said Mayor and Aldermen, because that the same Simon, by many disgraceful and bad words, in the King’s highway, in presence of many bystanders, had abused the said Aldermen, etc., it was adjudged that he should be discharged and removed from his office, and should not be admitted to hold any office with any Mayor or Sheriffs, from thenceforth in the City, and that he should be imprisoned for one year then next ensuing, unless he should meet with increased favour as to such imprisonment.*

“And forthwith, on the same day, the said Adam Bamme requested the Mayor and other Aldermen to remit to him the imprisonment aforesaid, at whose

* Letter-book H, fol. ccxxix. (Latin).

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request the same was accordingly remitted to him, he finding sufficient surety for his future good behaviour as towards the people of our Lord the King, and especially towards the same Adam and his people."

He died in the year of his last mayoralty (1397), and was buried in the church of St. George, Botolph Lane. On his death the King appointed Richard Whittington to fill the office for the remainder of the year.

His son, Richard Bamme, held the Manor of Gillingham, Kent, in 1432. He died in 1452, leaving issue by his wife Joan, daughter of John Martyn, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and was buried beside his father in St. George Botolph Lane.

HENRY BAMME, Goldsmith, served the office of Warden to the Company in 1380. He was chosen Alderman of Aldersgate in the 6th Richard II. 1382-3, and was re-elected annually to the 10th of Richard II. 1386-7. He was twice married: his first wife was Margaret, his second Alice. By his will enrolled in the Court of Hustings, dated 7th November, 1413, he directs his body to be buried in the church of St. Michael, Huggin Lane, where lay the body of his former wife Margaret: * he left

- (1) To his son John the reversion of a tenement in Old Change, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Old Fish Street, with remainder to Henry and Thomas his other sons;
- (2) To his son Henry the reversion of a tenement in West Cheape, parish of St. Vedast;

* Letter-book H, folio clxiii.

- (3) To his son Thomas the reversion of a tenement in Wood Street, parish of St. Michael, Huggin Lane. These reversions to take effect after the lapse of six years from the decease of his wife Alice, to whom he leaves the said tenements for life;
- (4) If his sons should all die without a legitimate heir, the above tenements in Wood Street to revert to the Rector and Churchwardens of St. Michael, Huggin Lane, for providing a chaplain to pray for his soul, &c.

SIR NICHOLAS TWYFORD, Goldsmith, descended from a family who had settled at an early period at Twyford in Buckinghamshire. Thomas de Twyford was presented to the Rectory of Twyford in 1207; subsequently he became Archdeacon of the county of Bucks. Sir Nicholas was appointed goldsmith to King Edward III. He resided in the parish of St. John Zackary. He had a family by his wife Margaret, who survived him. On the 24th of June, 1375, he was chosen Alderman of the Ward of Coleman Street. He served the office of Sheriff in 1377 and Lord Mayor in 1388, when he was translated to Aldersgate Ward. He was knighted by Edward III. with Sir William Walworth and others. It is recorded of him that in his Shrievalty he was arrested by the Lord Mayor in open court.

The account is as follows : * On Sunday the feasts

* Letter book H, fol. xcii.

of St. Perpetua and Felicitas, 7th March, 1378, in the first year of Richard II., before the hour of noon, a conflict arose in Westcheape between certain persons of the trade of pepperers, from a certain rancour that had existed between them, by reason of which conflict no small affray arose throughout the whole City, and that, too, while the Bishop of Carlisle (Thomas de Appleby) was preaching in St. Paul's Church Yard; * in which place, because of such conflict, and the wounded fleeing thither with very great outcry, no little tumult and alarm ensued. The Mayor, Nicholas Brembre, being informed thereof, went with other Aldermen to Westcheape to restore peace and to maintain it; and after he had so restored order he convened his Aldermen on this matter to meet after dinner on the same day at Guildhall.

Nicholas Twyford, one of the then Sheriffs, attended at the mandate of the Mayor, and there came with the said Sheriff one of his suite, *John Worsle*, who was publicly accused before the Mayor of being a principal mover of the strife, by reason whereof the Mayor personally arrested him and ordered him to be sent to the Compter of Andrew Pykeman, *the other Sheriff*. Upon which arrest being made, the said Nicholas the Sheriff went to the Serjeant at Arms who so had him in custody by precept of the Mayor, and said that he was to be taken to his own Compter in Mylk stret, alleging that he had been arrested by himself before he came

* At St. Paul's Cross, no doubt.

there, and that that Compter belonged both to himself and his fellow Sheriff. It was accordingly whispered * to the Mayor that the person who had been so arrested by him could not be taken to the place named by him, as the said Nicholas the Sheriff was opposed thereto. The same objection being repeated to the Mayor, in answer to his inquiry why the man was not taken to the other Sheriff's Compter, *the Mayor there bodily arrested him*, the said Nicholas.

A Common Council was summoned, the Mayor related the facts, and charged the Sheriff aforesaid that he had behaved rudely to him and indeed rebelliously in the Guildhall.

And because the said Nicholas the Sheriff could not deny this, but acknowledged it, and the same being confirmed on the testimony of ten Aldermen who had been present, it was pronounced by the Common Council with one accord that the said Nicholas should *vacate his office of Sheriff* until he should have deserved to meet with more favour. It was also decided that he should remain in the custody of the said Andrew, the other Sheriff; that his Compter should be taken into the hands of the Mayor, and all his goods and chattels sequestrated until he should have given sufficient security to keep the City indemnified, as towards our Lord the King, for the time that he should hold such office of sheriff.

It is stated in the sequel that he was speedily

* *Ventilatum.*

restored to the office of Sheriff, on giving surety for his good behaviour, and that in the Mayoralty of John de Northampton, 5th Richard II., his surety was cancelled and annulled by reason of his subsequent good conduct.

In his Mayoralty it was enacted that in future the Sheriffs should have no procession on horseback when going to Westminster to be presented :—

“On Wednesday the Feast of the Translation of St. Edward the King and Confessor (13 October), in the 13th year of Richard II. A.D. 1389, in presence of Nicholas Twyford, Knight, Mayor of London, John Hadle, Nicholas Extone, William Cheyne, Recorder, Hugh Fastolf, John Hende, Adam Bamme, John Loveye, John Walcote, John Shadworth, Henry Bamme, Thomas Austin, Adam de Saint Ives, William Wottone, John Fraunceys, William Sheryngham, Thomas Wilford and John Pynchone, Aldermen, and an immense number of the Commonalty, assembled in the Guildhall for the election of a Mayor, it was mooted, and for the common advantage of the Commonalty set forth;—that whereas the men of divers trades, at the presentation of the Sheriffs on the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel (29 September), before the Barons of the Exchequer at Westminster, as the usage was, had been wont to array themselves in a new suit, and to hire horses for riding upon, and to incur many other expenses; and then shortly afterwards, on the Mayor riding to Westminster on the morrow of St. Simon and St. Jude (28 October), as it had

been the custom to do, they again incurred the like expenses, and this, every year; and whereas by reason of such vesture and outlays, within so short a time and in each year, very many men in their goods were in many ways aggrieved and impoverished; and forasmuch as it seemed, as well to the said Mayor and Aldermen as to the Commonalty, a matter of necessity to curtail such expenditure in part, in relief of the Commonalty; and to the end that the Commons might be better enabled, as they are bound to do, to pay honour to the Mayor on his said riding to Westminster; as also for the purpose of avoiding and getting rid of such heavy outlays and expenses, by common consent of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, it was agreed and unanimously granted that no Sheriff should in future, for the day of his presentation aforesaid, give any vestments to any other persons than the servants of the City and his own officers and serjeants; or should on that day, himself or by others, have any riding; but that the said Sheriffs always afterwards on that day, together with their servants and others who might desire to go with them, should go by water in barges and boats, or else proceed by land, to Westminster aforesaid, and in like manner return to London without there being any arraying of men of the trades in like suit for that purpose; except that such men of the trades as should wish to accompany them, should walk in such suit of vestments of the livery of their respective trades as they might then have. And that if any Sheriff should in future in any way infringe

upon the ordinance aforesaid, he should immediately pay to the Chamberlain of the said City for the time being, to the use of the Commonalty, 100 marks sterling, without any remission thereof.”*

He was buried in 1390 in the church of St. John Zakary, which had been rebuilt at his cost and charge.

His will is enrolled in the Hustings Court, and is dated 11 June, 1390. It contains (*inter alia*) the following bequests:—

- (1) The house in the parish of St. John Zakary, wherein he lived, to his cousin Thomas Conelee, of county Bucks, after the decease of his wife Margaret.
- (2) All his lands, tenements, &c. in the parishes of Tottenham and Edmonton, county of Middlesex, to remain to his cousin John Twyford after the decease of his said wife.
- (3) To the Rector and Churchwardens of St. John Zakary, an annual quitrent of two marks from a tenement called “le crane,” in the parish of St. Nicholas Shambles, wherewith to observe the anniversary of himself, wife and children, with further sums for masses, for maintaining the fabric of the church, and for candles on his tomb, &c. &c.

SIR MATTHEW PHILIP, Goldsmith, son of Arnold Philip, of the city of Norwich, chosen Alderman of

* Riley's Memorials, p. 515.

Aldersgate Ward 10 July, 28 Henry VI. A.D. 1450: Sheriff 1451: Lord Mayor 1463: Created Knight of the Bath 5th Edward IV. (1466): Knighted at the restoration of Edward IV. 1471.

“ When the King (Edward IV.) was at Coventry after the battle of Tewkesbury he had daily messages from the Lords in London how that the Bastard Fawcomberge had assembled great people, and both by land many thousands, and by water with all his ships full of people, he came afore London thinking to rob and spoil and do all manner of mischief, and thereto many of the contrye of Kent were assenting, and came with their good wills, as people ready to be appliable to such seditious commotions. So that right in a short time the said Bastard and his fellowship had assembled to the number of 16 or 17 thousand men as they accounted themselves. Which came before London the 12th day of May (1471) in the quarrel of King Henry (the sixth), whom they said they would have out of the Tower of London, as they pretended. And for that cause they desired the Citizens of London that they might have free entry into the City, where first their intent was to have with them the said Henry, and after to pass peaceably through the City, as they said, without any grievance to be done to any person, upon the intent from thence to go towards the King wheresoever they might find him, him to destroy, and all his partakers, in quarrel of the said Henry, if they might have of him the over (upper) hand.

“ But so it was, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and

other Officers and Citizens denied them their entry. The Lords and the Citizens urged the King to approach and come with all possible haste to the City to the defence of the Queen, then being in the Tower of London, my Lord Prince, and my ladies his daughters. The King sent forward a detachment of 1500 men on the 13th May, and himself departed out of Coventry towards London on the 16th of May.*

“Here it is to be remembered, that when the Bastard and his fellowship could not purchase of the Mayor and Citizens of London the overture of the said city for their passage through, neither for their promises nor for great threatenings and menacings, they made semblance to pass over the Thames by Kingston Bridge, and thither drew with them the whole host. But they returned again and came before London, and shewed themselves in whole battle in St. George's Fields. Wherefore incontinent they assailed the city with great violence, with shot guns such as they had brought out of their ships in great number, and laid them on length (along) the waterside, straight over against the city, wherewith they prevailed nothing, for the citizens again-warde in divers places, laid ordnance and made so sharp shot against them that they durst not abide in any place along the waterside, and so were driven from their own ordnance. ‘A great fellowship’ afterwards set fire to the bridge and burnt sixty of the houses on the bridge, but they did not profit thereby,

* Camden Society, pp. 32-33.

for the citizens had set such ordnance in their way that though all the way had been open it had been hard for them to have entered by that way, but upon their lives. Another 'great fellowshipe,' dividing into two parts, went to Aldgate and to Bishopsgate with the intent to enter the city there by assault, and they shot guns and arrows into the city, doing much harm and hurt. The Mayor, Aldermen, and worshipful Citizens of the city were in good array and set to every part where was behoveful great fellowship, well ordered and ordained to withstand the malice of these rebels.

"The Earl of Essex and many knights, squires, gentlemen, and yeomen, right well arrayed, came to the assistance of the citizens, and eventually the Kentish men were put to flight and discomfiture. They withdrew to Blackheath, and in a few days the whole body of them was dispersed."

The King (Edward IV.) was not slow to recognise the important assistance rendered to his cause by the citizens. On the 21st May, soon after the dispersing of the Kentish host, the King, well accompanied and mightily with great lords, and in substance all the noblemen of the land and many able men, well armed for the war, to the number of xxx^m horsemen,* came to the City of London, where he was honorably received by all the people, the Mayor, Aldermen, and many other worshipful men, citizens of the said City. At the meeting the King dubbed knights the Mayor,

* Leland's Collectanea, p. 507, gives 3000 men.

the Recorder, divers Aldermen, with other worshipful of the said City of London which had manfully and honorably acquitted themselves against Falconbridge and his cruel host; honoring and rewarding them with the order of his good love and grace, for their true acquittal, as they had right well and truly deserved that time. Sir Matthew Philip was one of the twelve Aldermen knighted on this occasion.

The register of St. Martin's-le-Grand gives the following account of a *difficulty* with the Dean of St. Martin's:—

“On the 26th day of July, in the 29th year of King Henry VI. (A.D. 1451), Mathew Philip, Alderman of the Warde called Alderichescgate Warde, for a certain imposition for wages of a crew of men-of-war for the ‘saufigarde’ of Caley (Calais), set by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London upon the commons of the said City, would have levied a certain sum of money of the inhabitants of St. Martin's Lane, which is sanctuary and privileged and within the precincts of St. Martin's, in and not of the said City or Ward. And for the said inhabitants would not pay the said sum so set on them, they have (taken) away certain of their goods by way of ‘stresse,’ of which deed when Master Richard Caudray, then Dean, was certified by his servants, he came to London and complained him unto Wyfold, then Mayor, and to the Aldermen in the Guildhall, of the said wrong so done unto him by the said Alderman. Where after consideration had among them it was answered by the Recorder's deputy

that the Alderman had done but as he ought, considering that St. Martin's Lane is under his distress and out of the precinct of St. Martin's and no sanctuary, and that they would all approve and stand by, desiring of the Dean to charge the tenants to pay the money, and they should have their distress; and the Dean desired lyvere of the distress; and for he would not displease them he would, for his tenants, lay down the money, though it be against law and reason, and also his charter and privileges. And thus the Dean departed, and wrote to the King at Canterbury and complained, on which his grace quickly considered the matter, and commanded the Chancellor to send his writ unto the said Alderman. This writ the Alderman declined to obey because all the City had made him party to defend the Mayor against the Dean. On this the Dean brought the Alderman a second writ called an 'alias,' followed by another called a 'pluries.' Also he had ready a letter under the 'signet' in case the Alderman had not obeyed the writs, like as he did, which letter, a duke, two earls, and four barons, by contemplation of the right of the Church and the Dean, were ready to have delivered unto him; the which letter afterwards, at a dinner made by the said Alderman purveying thereof unto the Dean for amends, in the presence of the said Mayor, Recorder, and others, the said Dean delivered to him, the tenure of which letter is as follows:—

“By the King. Matthew Philip, forasmuch as it seemeth ye have forgotten how that ye ought of your

natural and true allegiance and obeissance the which ye owe unto us to obey unto us our lawful and reasonable desires and commandment (namely, such as concern God's right and his churches, and also the right of our owne places, privileged by our 'holy ffaders the Popes,' and our noble progenitors, whom God asoile), we remember you of the last charge and commandment we gave unto you by our writ, closed under our Great Seale as for the great injuries ye have done late unto our Clerke the Dean of St. Martin's and the inhabitants within St. Martin's Lane, which is within the precinct of our sanctuary there, the which our commandment ye list not yet to obey, nor consider God's right nor ours in that behalf contented at large in our said writ, whereof we send you a copy inclosed in these our letters. Wherefore we charge you yet strictly as we have done afore, that anon, after the sight of these our letters, ye perform the charge that we gave unto you by our said writ, letting you fully know that we will not suffer the said liberties and immunities of our said chapel to be by you or any other injured or defeated more now in our than they have been in our said progenitors' days before us. And for the 'paine' in our said writ was as ye would eschew God's indignation and ours (the which it seemeth by your disobedient deeds ye set at little or nought) we charge you now to obey the contents in our said writ, upon the faith and allegiance ye owe to us. Given," &c.

HENRY COOTE (or Cotes), Goldsmith. Chosen Alder-

man of Aldersgate Ward 3 April, 1490; was elected Sheriff the same year; Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company 9 Henry VII. (1494), and again the following year, 1495. He died in 1509, and was buried at St. Foster's church in Foster Lane.

By his will, dated 14 January, 1509, he left freehold and copyhold lands and tenements, meadows, closes, woods, and pastures in the parish of Chesthunt, in the county of Hertford, to be sold after his decease, and the proceeds, with the addition of 100*l.* reinvested in lands and tenements in the City of London to the value of 20*l.* per annum, to have and to hold to the Goldsmiths' Company to find a chaplain to pray specially for his soul, the souls of Julyan and Emma, his late wives, and of other persons named, and to observe an obit or anniversary of his death. He left various sums to be distributed to poor men and women of the Company who should be present at his obit. If the Goldsmiths' Company fail to provide a chaplain the property was to be transferred to the churchwardens of St. Foster in trust to apply the income to the same purposes.

The residue of his property he left to the disposition of his executors in amending of "noyous" and ruinous highways, in marrying of poor and well-disposed maidens, in giving exhibitions to poor and well-disposed scholars studying in Holy Divinity, and in other deeds of charity, such as his executors should think best to please Almighty God and most profit unto his soul, as they would he did for them in case semblable.

24 MEMBERS OF THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY WHO

SIR BARTHOLOMEW REDE, Goldsmith, was the son of Robert Rede, of Cromer, Norfolk. His place of business was in the parish of St. John Zachary; he was chosen Prime Warden of his Company in 1493, elected Sheriff in 1497, and became Alderman of the Ward of Aldersgate 10 July, 1499. In 1501 he was again chosen Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company. In this year he purchased Crosby Place, where he kept his splendid mayoralty in 1502. Lady Rede resided here until 1507.

Stow, describing Goldsmiths' Hall in 1598, says: "On the east side of Foster Lane, at Engoyne Lane, is the Goldsmythes Hall, a proper house, but not large, and therefore to say that Bartholomew Rede, Goldsmith, Mayor in the year 1502, kept such a feast in this hall as some have fabuled* is far incredible and altogether impossible, considering the smallness of the hall and the number of the guests, which as they say were more than an hundredth persons of great estate. For the messes and dishes of meats in them served, the paled parke in the same hall furnished with fruitfull trees, beastes of venery and other circumstances of that pretended feast well weighed, Westminster Hall would hardly have sufficed." †

Sir B. Rede by his will dated the 19 October, 1505, gave to the Goldsmiths' Company a great messuage or mansion place in the parish of St. John Zachary, and divers other lands and tenements in that parish,

* The Goldsmiths' Company have no account of such feast.

† Stow, edition 1598, p. 308. Herbert, vol. ii. p. 227.

St. Ann and St. Mary Steyning in London, and in St. Botolph Billingsgate, St. Mildred Bread Street, and in Knight Rider Street, for establishing a Grammar School at Cromer, Norfolk, &c. He was buried in the cloysters of the Charterhouse in 1505. His wife Dame Elizabeth also gave property for charitable purposes. She was buried at the church of St. John Zachary.

The Company still attend the church of St. John Zachary at the obit of Rede.

ROBERT FENROTHER, Goldsmith. He was chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward on the 4th of September, 3rd Henry VIII.* served the office of Sheriff in 1512. He was Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1516-17. The account of the feast given on St. Dunstan's day will be found in Herbert's History of the Livery Companies, vol. ii. pp. 243-5. It would appear from an entry in the records of the Corporation† that on his supplication he was discharged for the term of three years of the office of Mayor and Alderman on payment of 100 marks (23 Sept. 1522), the money to be returned to him if after the expiration of the three years he should be elected to the said office of Mayoralty and occupy the same, provided also that if it fortune him to decease within the three years, or in case he be never Mayor, the said 100 marks shall remain to the use of the said Commonalty for ever.

By his will, enrolled in the Court of Hustings, dated the 17 March, 15 Henry VIII. 1523-4, he left

* Repertory 2, fo. 116^b.

† Repertory 5, fo. 322^b.

all his manors, lands, and tenements in county Middlesex to his wife Julian, viz. The manor of "Nottying Barnere" in Westbourn, parish of Paddington, and lands and tenements in Chelsea for life; also the manor of "Maundys," near Romford, in parish of Hornchurch, county Essex; Also land, &c. in "Theydon Boys" and Epping, county Essex, to the said Julian for life, with remainder to Margaret, the daughter of the testator. Also lands and tenements in Chesthunt, county Herts, to the same for life, with remainder to his daughter Margaret, Julian, wife of Nicholas Tychebourne, and Awdry, wife of Harry White.

He further disposed of lands and tenements in Kingston, county Surrey, and in Tillyngham and Denge, county Essex.

EDWARD GILBERT, Goldsmith, chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward 1st August, 4 Elizabeth, A.D. 1562, and Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company in the same year. He did not attain the office of Sheriff or Lord Mayor.

A letter from the Queen to the Mayor and Aldermen was read at the Court 16th November, 1564 (6 Elizabeth), recommending the discharge of Edward Gilbert from the office of Alderman as well as of Sheriff of Middlesex, whereupon the Court did very lovingly grant and agree not only to give and grant unto him their own good wills, assents, and consents, that he be clearly exempt of and from the office of Shrievalty and of and from all other offices of charge

by the Common Council of the said City, but also friendly to move the same Council thereunto.

The request was granted subject to the payment of 100 marks.

Edward Gilbert was the son of Richard Gilbert of Somerson, in the county of Suffolk. He married Alice, daughter of — Bond of Warwickshire. He had three children, two daughters and one son : his daughter Dorothy married Sir George Speak of Somersetshire, and his daughter Elizabeth married, first, — Colby, and afterwards, Sir Michael Mollyns of Wallingford, in county Berkshire.*

SIR JOHN WOLLASTON, Goldsmith, was descended from the Wollastons of Staffordshire, being the second son of Edward Wollaston of Perton. He was a man of great wealth and consideration and resided in a large house (with a garden) on the west side of Foster Lane, in the parish of St. John Zachary, where he carried on his business. He was well known at Court, and in August 1618 the wife of Sir Walter Raleigh was committed to his custody by the command of James the First ; this onerous charge compelled him to reside in Sir Walter's house in Broad Street from 20th of August to the 10th September, 1618, when, on his representing to the Privy Council "the hinderances which it caused to his many great occasions and affairs," her safe keeping was transferred to another merchant. On the 27th of October,

* Visitation of London, 1568.

1624, he was appointed sole Refiner* to the Mint. In 1637-8 he was chosen one of the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company, and in 1639-40 he was elected Prime Warden. In 1638 he was chosen Alderman of Farringdon Ward Without, and in the same year he served the office of Sheriff. On the 23rd August, 1642, he removed his Aldermanship to Dowgate Ward, and in the following year he was elected Lord Mayor.

On the 26th of August he migrated and became Alderman of Aldersgate Ward, and on the 23rd of October, 1657, he removed his Aldermanship to Bridge Ward Without.†

He was knighted by King Charles the First at Hampton Court on the 3rd of December, 1641, but when the Civil War broke out he took an active part on the side of the Parliament; and at the review of the City trainbands on the 26th of September, 1643, Sir John was Colonel of the Third or Yellow Regiment, of which John Venn, M.P., was the Lieutenant-Colonel. Sir John held afterwards several official employments under the Commonwealth, one being that of Treasurer at War. He was also one of the Commissioners for the sale of the lands which belonged to the Crown and the Bishops. He became the purchaser of the estates of the See of London at Hornsey and Finchley, which were valued in 1647 at 224*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* per annum, with improvements in reversion estimated at 884*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* per annum, and

* State Papers, Domestic, 1624, p. 363.

† Genealogical Memoirs of the Chesters of Chicheley, by Edmond Chester Waters, p. 553.

timber worth 1010*l*. The manors of Hornsey and Finchley were conveyed to him on the 24th September 1647, for the sum of 4391*l*. 5*s*. 4½*d*. Haringay Park, with the little park at Hornsey, he purchased on 18th September, 1648, for 1030*l*. 5*s*. 10*d*. The Gate House at Highgate cost him 261*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*., and was conveyed to him on the 26th of September, 1649, together with the Bishop's woods at Hornsey, for which he paid 1022*l*. 18*s*. 0*d*. His last purchase was the tolls at Highgate, for which he gave 449*l*., 27th February, 1649-50. At the Restoration all these estates were restored to the Bishopric of London, and the purchase-money was lost to Wollaston's heirs and legatees.

Sir John had his country-house at Highgate for thirty years.

He was elected President of Christ's Hospital in 1649, to which he subscribed 12*l*. per annum during the remainder of his life. He desired that this subscription should be continued until the death of his wife, when he directed an annuity of 100*l*. per annum to be given for ever. This was, however, lost to the hospital. He founded six almshouses at Highgate.

He married in 1616 Rebecca, youngest daughter of Edward Greene, goldsmith, of London; died without issue 26th April, 1658, and was buried in Highgate chapel.

By his will dated 16th April, 1658, he left two messuages in St. John Zachary to the Goldsmiths' Company in trust. These premises were sold under Act of Parliament for erecting the new General Post

Office, and realised the sum of 2787*l*. His wife, Dame Rebecca, survived him two years, and was buried at Highgate 1st June, 1660.

FRANCIS MAYNELL, Goldsmith, chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward 7th February, 1659; translated to Cordwainer Ward 17th December, 1663; elected Sheriff in 1661.

On the 31st October, 1660, he appeared before the Court of the Goldsmiths' Company in obedience to their summons, and was informed, that, as he had attained such a degree of eminence in the government of the City, so he might if he pleased be seated in such a degree of place in this government as might forthwith put him into such capacity as to be eligible to the eminent place in this Corporation. And in order thereunto it was told him, that, although he were Alderman, yet the custom and usage had ever been that before any member thereof could be admitted to act as a member of this Court, he was in the first place to accept of the degree of one of the clothing of this Company, by which he was eligible afterwards to be Renter, and after, Warden of this Company. And therefore, if he pleased to do as other members of this Company had formerly done, in passing of the several degrees before mentioned, he might be assured of the Company's civil and fair respects to him; unto which he made some answer, and by discourse it was conceived that he apprehended some former neglect towards him. And then it was replied that this Court was well assured that there was no

neglect by the former Wardens or Assistants. But if any particular person did give any distaste unto him it was hoped he would not charge it upon the Company. After some discussion he expressed himself willing to pass by any affront he might have received by (*sic*) some particular person, and also to pass by the personal service of such degrees of place in this government as should make him capable to be admitted a member of the Court.

It was proposed to impose some fine, including his admission unto the clothing and passing by the personal service of the several places before-mentioned, or leave it to himself as was suggested by him.

It was decided to leave it to himself, with the condition that he put on a livery gown and hood (whood, *sic*) according to the ancient usage and custom of this Company upon the admission of any member thereof into the clothing, being a formal ceremony and not to be omitted. He declared his consent and did put on a livery gown, and then the Clerk was desired by Mr. Warden to put a livery hood on Mr. Alderman's shoulders, which he did, and afterwards Mr. Alderman gave the Clerk the hood again. "Whereupon it is ordered by this Court that he is admitted one of the Assistants, and he is now admitted accordingly, and to be summoned to all the Courts of Assistants and other meeting as other of the Assistants are used to be." After which he was desired to sit down and take his place in this Court as an Alderman of this city on the right hand of the Upper Warden's place, which was done accordingly.

He was chosen Prime Warden the following year.

On being elected Sheriff in 1661 the Goldsmiths' Company voted him 50*l.* "towards trimming up his house and his other expenses." The sum was afterwards increased to 100*l.*, with a reservation that the grant was not to be drawn into a precedent. The Court also lent him for the election feast of the Sheriffs a large quantity of their gold and silver plate, which was sent to his house in Clement's Lane, a bond being given for its safe return to the Company.

In Pepys's Diary, Sept. 18, 1662, is the following passage :

"At noon Sir G. Carteret, Mr. Coventry, and I, by invitation to dinner to Sheriff Maynell's, the great money man, he, Alderman Backewell, and much noble and brave company, with the privilege of their rare discourse, which is great content to me above all other things in the world. And after a great dinner and much discourse we took leave." *

Again, on the 19th January, 1662-3, Pepys writes :

"Singled out Mr. Coventry into the matted gallery, and there I told him the complaints I meet every day about our Treasurer's or his people's paying no money but at the Goldsmiths' shops, where they are forced to pay fifteen or twenty sometimes per cent. for their money, which is a most horrid shame and that which must not be suffered. Nor is it likely that the Treasurer (at least his people) will suffer

* Fourth edition, vol. i. p. 166.

Maynell the Goldsmith to go away with 10,000*l.* per annum, as he do now get, by making people pay after this manner for their money." *

The last entry relating to him is on the 8th October, 1666 :

" Alderman Maynell, I hear, is dead."

SIR PETER FLOYER, Goldsmith.

Refiner and Goldsmith in Foster, alias St. Vedast's Lane. Chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward 14 November 1700 : sworn Prime Warden of Goldsmiths' Company, 5 June, 1701 : Knighted at Hampton Court 29 June, 1701 : elected Sheriff 1701 : died in his year of office 1st February, 1701-2 : James Bateman, Loriner, elected in his stead.

SIR THOMAS HALLIFAX, Goldsmith. A Banker in Birchin Lane, chosen Alderman of Aldersgate Ward 26th of November, 1766 ; elected Sheriff 1768 ; Prime Warden May, 1768 ; Lord Mayor, 1776.

On the 11th November, 1776,† the Lord Mayor gave orders to the City Marshals to search the public houses in City and liberties, and to take into custody all suspected persons, that such as can give no good account of themselves may be sent to serve his Majesty. This method has been judged more effectual than the ordinary method of pressing.

He died 7 February, 1789.

Sir Thomas Halifax, Knight, buried February 17, 1789. He was an Alderman of the City of London

* Vol. i. p. 194.

† Gentleman's Magazine, 1776, p. 520.

and Lord Mayor in 1776. He resided in a house on the Chase side, which had formerly belonged to the family of Pettiward, and was sold by Roger Pettiward, D.D. to William Cosmo, Duke of Gordon. It is said the celebrated Lord George Gordon was born in this house.*

ROBERT ALBION COX, Goldsmith. Elected Sheriff 1801; Alderman of Aldersgate Ward, 31st May, 1813; Assistant of Goldsmiths' Company 1814, and Prime Warden 1818. He was not called to the office of Lord Mayor.

His remains lie buried in St. Anne's church, where a monument was erected to his memory.

These sketches are necessarily imperfect. The sources of information are limited, and the statements found are often extremely vague. In many instances we know simply the fact that the Alderman was elected to office; in others he is only mentioned in connection with some municipal acts or in reference to the affairs of the Company to which he belonged. When he is found taking part in public or political affairs for the benefit of the Citizens, the action of the individual is generally merged in that of the community.

* From the Parish Registers, Robinson's History of Enfield, vol. ii. p. 101.

Slight, however, as these recorded incidents may be to afford glimpses of the state of society in bygone ages, they contribute something to our knowledge of the habits and usages of our forefathers long passed away—of men who made London the most important, the most wealthy, and most influential community in England. Let us hope that their great example will not be lost upon the present generation of Citizens of London.
