admitted to the church of St. Mary-at-Hill, October 25th, A.D. 1521, which he enjoyed almost forty years. Richard Edwards was rector of this church during the Great Fire in 1666, having been presented to the rectory September 5th 1662.

GOLDSMITHS' HALL.

PAPER BY MAJOR GEORGE LAMBERT, F.S.A.

The members afterwards assembled in Goldsmiths' Hall, Mr. Alderman STAPLES, in the absence of the Prime Warden, presiding.

Warden Major G. LAMBERT read the following paper on the

HISTORY OF THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY.

From the very earliest of time we read of gold. The sacred historian, so early as in Genesis ii. mentions the fact that the river which watered the garden of Eden had four heads, and the first was called Pison, that is it, that compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is much gold (Genesis ii. 11.) And the gold of that land is good. Now as no date can possibly be given for the time of Adam, gold must have been known to the ancients long before any

chronology, for this mention of the precious metal is before the birth of Cain and Abel. Later on, we find it stated that Abimelech gave to Abraham 5,000 pieces of silver (Genesis xx. 16). And again, later on, at chap. xxiii. 13, 15, 16, when, after the death of Sarah, Abraham was desirous of burying his wife's remains, he says, "I will give thee money for the field." Ephron answers, "The land is worth 400 shekels of silver." And Abraham weighed to Ephron 400 shekels of silver (current money with the merchants). Here then we have a distinct history of where gold is found, and the use and property of silver, and the way it was disposed of—by weight—"Librii, solidii, et denarii," or the more current appellation of "£ s. d." I have introduced these remarks because the art of goldsmithery and coining have ever gone hand and glove together. From the earliest times of civilization places of meeting were fixed where citizens met to transact business. In ancient Roman times the places of meeting were large open spaces, and in later times these got to be known by the name *forum*, and corresponded with the Greek *αγορα*. In this country the Anglo-Saxons had a *halla*, a place where wares were exposed for sale, and from these meeting-places sprang our fairs, markets, our guild halls, and exchanges. The Romans had these guild halls; for example, the "balentorien" spoken of by Pliny at Cyzicus built of wood, (no iron,) so made that one part could be repaired without damage to the other. Then the porticos of the great buildings of the City, where the jewellers, goldsmiths, and such as dealt in the most precious wares, took up their standing, to expose their goods for sale.

The people of this country are derived from many sources. Thus we have the Briton, who in his early day had had intercourse with the opposite coast, Gaul; for it must not for one moment be supposed that the first foreigner who touched our shore was Julius Cæsar. No; he was the first foreigner who had held his ground here, but only held it. Then we have the result of the Roman, who introduced his rule, laws; and left such a stamp upon Britain, that English law—government, money, liberty—is from the Roman. He succumbed before the Saxon, a

bibulous heathen, who did naught for posterity, other than leaving his bad manners and worse habits, a legacy to England. Then comes the Dane, then the Anglo-Saxon; thus I think I have shown that we spring from all races, when distinction of race became lost in the fusion of blood, and the rise of the English language—for Norman, French, Anglo-Saxon (Danish-Saxon), and Latin, had been in common parlance, in this country—various circumstances arose, which created and perpetuated distinction among classes, and as commercial property became more secure, against the exactions of arbitrary power, so did personal wealth and trading resources become more developed, and the masters of various crafts founded themselves into guilds or societies, either for religious or secular purposes, connected with their several trades. With the secular guild, we have now to deal—the *gilda aurifabricatorum*. In course of time every guild or company had a house of its own, where its alderman, a master or prime warden, sat with his committee or court, for the despatch of public business; and this house, in Edward III.'s time, was first styled a hall. It consisted of several rooms or chambers, together with one immense room, lighted by windows of painted glass, with the armorial bearings of the benefactors, masters, and members; a louvre or lantern, to carry off the smoke from the fire; at the upper end was the *haut-pas*, or dais, and at the other the reredos or screen, which hid the way to the kitchen, wine and ale cellars, bake and brew house." Herbert, in his *History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies in London*, says (vol. i., page 88): "Thus also the change of the name, from guild to company, and doing away with the religious part of the guild, and altering the same to a trading company. Under the guilds their chief or head was called an alderman, then it was changed to master or prime warden, the title of alderman being used only by the elected head of the wards into which the City of London was divided. Guild, gild, gelt, means literally money; it also means a payment, tax, or tribute. It would be impossible in a short paper, as this is intended to be, to give particulars of the foundation and rise of this great livery guild, the history of which contains a

mass of matter respecting the trade in gold and silver. The history of the Goldsmiths' Company is the history of England. The ancient charters of Edward III. and Richard II., (considered to be dull and unentertaining,) exhibit curious facts illustrating the simplicity of early times, the rise of commerce and various regulations concerning the same. The Great Fire of London, 1666, did not touch Goldsmiths' Hall, therefore the company is enabled to lay these upon the table before you this day. This company was a fraternity as early as 1180, being then amerced for being "adulterine," that is for setting itself up without the King's licence; they obtained their patent from King Edward III., and were incorporated for the sum of ten marks. Richard II. confirmed the same in consideration of the sum of twenty marks. Their business was to buy and sell plate, to purchase foreign coin, to melt it, and coin English money at the Mint. Banking was simply accidental, foreign to their institution. Banking by private people resulted from the calamity of 1643 (the Civil War), when a seditious spirit was incited by the arts of the Parliamentary leaders. Merchants and traders, who before this time had trusted their cash to their servants and apprentices, found that this practice was not safe; neither did they dare leave it in the Mint or the Tower by reason of the distresses of the King himself; and it was in the year 1645 that they began to place it in the hands of the Goldsmiths, who then for the first time began openly and publicly to exercise the two trades—goldsmith and banker. The first regular banker was Francis Child (Praed's House, where Cromwell kept cash). He began business about the Restoration. He was the originator, of trading with other people's capital, the father of banking, a person of large fortune, and gentleman of the highest respectability. Granville speaks of guilds in the reign of Henry II. as being common institutions, and in the *History of the Exchequer* there is a list of eighteen guilds fined (amerced) as "adulterine"; that is, acting without the King's permission; and the Goldsmiths', who were presided over by Ralph Flael, an alderman, was amongst the eighteen. (Glan., 5 lib., cap. 5, 1154-1188.) In the charter of Edward III. this company is

called a mystery, from an old French word, *mestiere*, a craft, art, or employment. In a Venetian statute, dated 1519, the crafts or trades of that city are called *misteri*, and Edward applied the name in all, or nearly all of his charters. It was with this King's reign that commerce began to make strides in England, commerce begat wealth, and that created a taste for the fine arts, and the King re-constituted the trading companies. The fraternity of the guild assumed a distinctive style of dress, and as the fact of being a brother, or one of the company, gave the members the freedom of the City—an honour in those days of the highest importance—the members were called Livery, or Freemen, and that name has now become the common parlance when speaking of any set dress. Richard II. by patent confirmed the charter of Edward I. and Edward III., by "inspeximus" (whether he looked into them or not, cannot now be affirmed,) ratifying "good customs, omitted, or not, expressed, in the former patents," allowing the company "to have, hold and exercise their guild or fraternity of themselves, and of such other persons as they may be willing to admit into their said fraternity, permitting the men of the guild so incorporated to be a perpetual community or society of themselves (*deseipsis quociens eis placurit*), a certain number of wardens "for the better keeping and regulation (*vel opus furit p' gubr nacone custod' et regimine*), of the said craft and community, and every member thereof" (1 Edward III. The charters granted by King Edward I. (Statute 28) to the Goldsmiths are almost the oldest and the earliest enrolled, except the Weavers' craft, which is a much older grant. His first grant was to the Goldsmiths in the first year of his reign, but they had held guild licences, before his time; these he confirmed by letters patent, and added thereto new privileges. This company was incorporated and confirmed in the 16th year of King Richard II. The armorial bearings of the company are very ancient, the supporters and crest added and granted, by Robert Cooke Clarencieux (A.D. 1571). The charters of the City companies were regularly confirmed every new reign (until that of Elizabeth) by "inspeximi," or new charters. This "inspeximus" recites the original grant, which is given at length, and takes notice of the

additional privileges conferred by each succeeding monarch, ratifying and confirming (if unobjectionable) the whole of them. Almost all the companies' charters were so confirmed by Elizabeth, who was the last sovereign to whom the original grants were presented. Nine of the twelve great companies presented their charters to James I., who granted them new ones. Grocers, Drapers, Skinners, Haberdashers, Salters, Ironmongers, Vintners, and Clothmakers. The Goldsmiths and the Mercers preferred their ancient incorporations, so also the Merchant Taylors, who had been reincorporated by Henry VII. The government of the company was by bye-laws, ordinances framed by common consent amongst themselves called "pointz"—such as qualification of members, keeping trade secrets, regulation of apprentices, regulation of the company's concerns, domestic management of the fraternity, management of its funds, uniting together in brotherly love, regulation of religious and other ceremonies. Goldsmiths' hall ranks with the earliest in point of age, as the fraternity had an assay office in the reign of Edward I. In this old hall one Bartholomew Read, goldsmith and Lord Mayor A.D. 1502, gave a feast of such magnitude that Stow treats Grafton's account of it as fabulous. He says: On the east side of Foster Lane, at Engine Lane end, is Goldsmiths' Hall, a proper house, but not large; therefore to say that Bartholomew Read kept such a feast as some have fabled is incredible, and altogether impossible, considering the smallness of the hall and the number of the guests, which, as they say were more than one hundred persons of distinction. For the messes and dishes of meats to them served, the paled park in the same hall, furnished with fruitful trees, beasts of venery, and other circumstances of that pretended feast, well considered, Westminster Hall could hardly have sufficed." He was buried at the Charterhouse, but his wife, Dame Read, was buried at St. John Zachary. In Cheapside, which, according to Stowe, was called Crown Field, from an inn with the sign of a crown, stood Goldsmiths' Row, which, says the same writer, "consisted of the most beautiful frame of faire houses and shops that be within the walls of London, or elsewhere in England, built by Thomas Wood, goldsmith,

and Sheriff of London, in 1491. It contained ten faire dwelling-houses and fourteen shops, all in one frame uniformly builded, foure storeys high, beautified towards the street with the Goldsmiths' arms, and likenesses of woodmen, in memorie of his name, riding on monstrous beasts, all richly painted and gilt." In 1226, a great quarrel arose between the Goldsmiths and the Tailors, sometimes styled linen armourers; each party had its friends, and on an appointed night, 500 men, completely armed, met to decide the difference by blows. Many were killed, and more were wounded on each side, nor could they be parted until the Sheriffs with the City "posse comitatis" came on the scene of slaughter and apprehended the ringleaders, thirteen of whom were condemned and executed. (Northouck, 56.) There is mention of spoons as early as the time Edward IV., seventh year, thus: "16th April, 1468, five silver spoons." There is also this entry: Sir John Havand writes, "I deliver to my wife a pot of silver, to put in green ginger, that the King gave me." (MSS. G. E. Frere, Esq.. Rep. 7, p 537.) In the Supplementary Calendar of the House of Lords is a petition to the House of Commons setting forth the grievances of John Brode, of the parish of St. Giles Without, Cripplegate, London, goldsmith, "For redress against the patentees or company for commixing copper and the Callamyn stone to maken latten metals. The company having employed strangers in the work and entirely failed, Brode took a lease of the patent and with eight years' practice brought the work to good effect, employing Englishmen therein. After which the company informed the Council that Brode had forfeited his lease, and obtained an order for taking up all his stock-in-trade. Large quantities of Callamyn stone and other properties were taken, for which Brode cannot obtain payment, either at common law or in equity. Brode was the first man that here in England commixed copper and Callamyn and brought it to perfection, namely to abide the hammer and beaten into plates and raised into kettles and pans by hammers driven by water. He desires that the company may recompense him for the wrongs and damage done by them and their assigns, and that the said work may

be revived and set at liberty to the common good." "A note of the plate delivered to Mr. John Williams, goldsmythe, this 19th September, 1615, to pawne for money to make the great plate for the christening. An inventory of the plate brought into the Tower by the Earl and Countess of Salisbury (1616), silver plate for the Earl's use: Twelve dishes, one round trencher salt, six slip spoons, one porringer and cover, one barrel pot, two saucers, a deep bason and ewer, two wire candlesticks, a warming pan and handle, and a cofer boxe, weighing altogether 598¾ ounces, valued at clvii.L*s.* iii*s.*, at viii*d.* per ounce. Plate for the Countess' use: Six dishes, six trencher plates, two bell candlesticks, one pair of snuffers, two boates, one saucer, ten spoons, two triangle salts, weighing 308¼ ounces, valued at lxxx£*s.* xviii*s.*, total value of plate dcliii£*s.*" (See 7 Report, p. 473, W. M. Molyneux's MSS.) January 10th, 1616: An indenture was entered into by the King, of the one part, and Richard Dike, Matthias Fowle, and Francis Dorrington, of the other part, granting to them, their deputies, and assigns, the monopoly of making gold and silver thread for twenty-one years, upon payment of £10 per annum, and indemnification of loss to the Customs caused by the ceasing of the importation of said thread. About April 5th, 1616, a patent was granted to the "Gold and Silver Wire Drawers." This interfered with the rights of the Goldsmiths' Company, and they produced one Parket Nightingale and others, who showed that they spun gold and silver thread for Thomas Williams and others for many years before granting this patent, and in the year 1617, April 2nd, the wardens and assistants of the Mystery of Goldsmiths of London entered a certificate to the effect that "the trade of gold and silver wiredrawing and spinning upon silk is no new invention, but used for sixty years back, and that Thomas Ledsam, now a prisoner in the Marshalsea, has served ten years' apprenticeship." (*House of Lords, Hist. MSS.*, 3 Rep., p. 15.) That the Goldsmiths were very important people can be shown by the fact that on September 2nd, 1626, the officers of the Mint delivered a proposition to the Lords in Council for the enhancing the gold and silver

coinage, and questions were to be proposed to the merchants, mint masters, and goldsmiths concerning the alteration of silver moneys. (*Townley MSS.*, 4 Rep., p. 410.) In 1636, February 5th, Nicholas Herman writes to the Earl of Middlesex, in a letter dated from Chelsey, Delaware, that five goldsmiths were fined in the Star Chamber £4,000 a-piece for transporting gold out of this country. That they were people of authority is shewn by the following (4 Ref. p. 279): In 1641-2, January 17th, the merchants and goldsmiths' traders to His Majesty's Mint with foreign bullion and coin praying for the removal of Sir John Byron from the lieutenancy of the Tower. A committee were constantly sitting at Goldsmiths' Hall to arrange compound pay or receive moneys connected with the State. Thus in the calendars of the House of Lords, under date 1648, March 27th: Petition of John Lord Poulett, and on the 22nd, petition of Lady Ellen Drake, in which she prays that she is a Parliamentarian, shown by her contributing £100 towards buying provision to furnish the inhabitants with victuals during the siege of Lyme; that the King's army had burned her clothes, taken £6,000 from her, together with the very clothes off her back and the backs of her children; and she prays the committee at Goldsmiths' Hall to make reparation for her losses out of Lord Poulett's estate, the soldiery being at that time under his command. 1650, January 15th: Receipt by Richard Waring and Michael Herring, treasurers of the moneys to be paid into Goldsmiths' Hall to Sir Richard Leverson, for £1,923 in full of his £6,000 (over and above £3,846) allowed for rectories by him settled, towards maintenance of the ministers, and for interest due on the latter society. £136 13*s.* 6*d.*, imposed on him by the Parliament of England as a fine for his delinquency, to the Parliament. Goldsmiths' Hall was lent for State purposes. Thus we find this entry under date 26th August, 1652: "Order by Parliament for payment of money disbursed by Sir William Parsons in answer to his petition, thus: 'Captain William Parsons, his humble desires.' The Commissioners for compounding are to examine and pay out of the Treasury at Goldsmiths' Hall the amount due to Captain Parsons at

the rate of £10 a-week." In 1694-5, January 18th, three goldsmiths of note, one of Lombard Street, were in Newgate upon the account of clipping coin. Again, under date 1696, May 16th: "The goldsmiths faulter much in bringing forth their best money, and would still put the people off with clipt. Several of them have been arrested, though men reported very wealthy." (MSS. Rep. 5, 385). The effigy of Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, K.G., Regent of France, who died 1493, and who lies buried in the chapel of St. Mary, adjoining the parish church of Warwick, was contracted for and made by one William Austin, of London, for xli., and Bartholomew Lambrespring, a Dutchman, a goldsmith of London, agreed to gild, burnish, and polish the same for a sum not exactly defined, but considerably above the sum paid for the founding; it is to be regretted that the entire cost of the great image of latten has not been kept. Who the sculptor was who designed it and finished the effigy, and what he was paid, is now lost in oblivion." (*Gent's. Mag.*, vol. x., p. 62. New series, 1838.) "July 16th, 1379, the Lord King in his chamber for two 'cipps' and two pitchers of silver gilt, bought of Nicholas Twyford, goldsmith, London, and delivered for the nuptials of Philip de Courtenay, Knight, and Anne de Wake, his wife, £22 17*s.* 4*d.*" (Issue Roll. pasch., 2 Richard II.) "In the thirtieth year of King Henry VIII. (1539) the manner of casting leaden pipes for conveying water underground without solder was discovered: it was invented by the Rev. Robert Brooke, one of the King's chaplains, and one Robert Cooper, a goldsmith, was the first that made the instruments which put this invention in practice." (*Baker's Chronicle*, p. 298.) 1599: Sir Thomas Boleyne, or Bullen, appointed warden of the Exchange at Calais, with a salary of £30 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum. There is, amongst the MSS. of the late Colonel Townley, a small folio volume, being "a treatise on the standard of gold and silver by Richard Bentley, of London, goldsmith, dated 1588. (4 Rep. p. 411.) The goldsmiths changed their names: thus in the reign of Edward VI. we find by a deed, the property of Baliol College, Oxford, that the Mayor of that City, signing that

deed as a witness, wrote: Nicholas Orfeure, Goldsmith, Aurifex, Orfevre.

Major Lambert afterwards described the magnificent plate of the Company One of the most interesting pieces was that presented to Queen Elizabeth on her coronation day. The Queen handed it to Sir Martin Bowes, who was Master of the Mint, and who, at his death, bequeathed it to the Goldsmiths' Company.

The foregoing pages 65–84 *have been printed at the cost of* MAJOR GEORGE LAMBERT, F.S.A., *and kindly presented by him to the London and Middlesex Archæological Society.*