

HISTORY OF THE INNOLDERS' COMPANY.

Read at a Meeting of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, at Innholders' Hall, on Tuesday, 12th June, 1894,

BY

J. DOUGLASS MATHEWS, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.I.

HAVING had the curiosity to know something of the antecedents of the Innholders' Company, and finding little information obtainable from the sources whence the history of City Companies are generally to be found, I exercised the little patience of which I am possessed to search the Minute Books commencing 1642 and extending to the present time, and to extract therefrom such items that I thought would be of interest either to the general public or to members of the Company, and, after classifying them, to prepare a digest.

The Secretaries of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society having expressed their desire to hold their meeting in this ancient Hall, requested me to read a paper on the History of the Company, to which I assented, in the hope that by publication in their Transactions some missing link might be presented to a diligent student in City Companies' lore, and possibly be of some interest to those who honour us by their presence this evening.

Were it any other public body I should probably have endeavoured to have pictured to my hearers the old Inns (of which so many excellent examples adorn the walls), and walked through the narrow and

picturesque streets of the City to the Company's Hall, Elbow Lane (now called College Street), on the banks of the Walbrook, close to Dowgate, and, after surveying the Hall, enter the Court Room, and sit with our fathers whilst discussing some subject of much importance to them as Innholders, and to their patrons—the public, and after business to join them in their feast, and afterwards in the merry dance, returning with them to their homes by the light of the horn lantern, the only sound being the voice of the City Watch announcing it past one o'clock; but remembering that those present know as much about this as I can tell them, and are much more interested in the prosaic history of the Company, I will commence without further prelude.

The first reference that I have found which in any way refers to a Society of Innholders, is mentioned in the "Memorials of London and London life," and is a petition from the Hostellers and Haymongers of London to the Mayor and Aldermen in the first year of Edward the Third's reign (1327), complaining "that
" whereas they used to buy hay to serve our Lord the
" King and the great people of the land and the
" common folks coming and repairing to the same
" city, there now come foreign folks, and bring their
" hay in ships to divers quays in the City, and whereas
" they were wont to sell their hay upon the water and
" not elsewhere, they now stow it away in houses,
" gardens, and other places, just as though they were
" free of the City, and also that foreign folk who bring
" their hay by land in carts ought to sell their hay by
" the whole cartload or by trusses, and that before
" the hour of noon; they now bring their carts laden
" with dozens of small boteles powdered with dust and

“other refuse, and sell it retail for half-pennies and farthings, and stay to sell it at their own will, and praying for redress that as the foreigners will be in better plight than those who are denizens and free of the City, and are charged towards rating the same.” This petition was favorably received, and inspectors appointed to prevent the irregularities. In the thirty-ninth year of Edward the Third’s reign (1365), in consequence of complaints that the Hostellers and Herbergeours have made bread to sell in their houses at their pleasure, that which has no assize and not of the value it ought to be, and that some of the Hostellers and Herbergeours go unto Southwark and elsewhere to buy horse bread, and there buy it dry at the rate of eighteen loaves for twelve, and sell it to their guests at one half-penny per loaf, whereas four such loaves are really not worth a penny, to the great scandal of the City, and to the great damage of the common people. It was ordained by the Mayor and Aldermen with the assent of the Commons, that bread should be bought of the common bakers in the City, each loaf being stamped with the mark of the baker, so that every one may see that the bread is of the right assize, and also that all the Hostellers and Herbergeours in the City of London and the suburbs thereof shall sell hay and oats at a reasonable price, that is to say, that they shall not take more than twopence for finding hay for one horse for a day and a night, and if they sell their hay by boteles they are to make them in proportion to the same price, and on the sale of a quarter of oats they are to gain eightpence and no more.

The Hostellers evidently required a great deal of looking after, for in the forty-fifth year of Edward’s reign (1371), a proclamation was made by the Mayor

and Aldermen that forasmuch as the Peers of the realm, and a great number of other Lords and Commons summoned to the Parliament of our Lord the King for the common profit of all the land, are lodged within the City and the suburbs, and will there remain until the end of the said Parliament, and wishing that they may not be subjected to outrageous demands for the price of victuals, command that no Hosteler or Herbergeour shall take for the feeding of one horse a day and a night more than $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ That he shall not charge more than $2d.$ for the gallon of the best ale. That he shall not sell the bushel of oats for more than $8d.$, and that he shall not make any bread, but it shall be bought of bakers, and stamped by them, and that all other victuals shall be sold at a reasonable price.

From particulars prepared by a former clerk of the Company, it appears that a petition was presented to the Mayor and Aldermen in December, 1446, by certain men of the Mystery of Hostelers in the City praying them to confirm certain ordinances which were ordered to be entered upon the records and observed in all future times, which were, " That the Wardens have power to search all Hosteries and to inform the Mayor or Chamberlain of such guests or people as they find not of good rule or good name or fame. That no person be allowed to hold any Hostery that has not an open sygne, and that he be of good name and good fame. That every man, alien or stranger born out of the realm be brought before the Mayor within a day and night under a penalty of $6s. 8d.$ for the first time, and $13s. 4d.$ the second time, and $20s.$ the third time, and doubling at each offence, one-half the fines to go to the said craft of Hostelers. That no man holding

a Hostel receive nor take a servant of another if he has been vicious or untrue to his master or any of his guests. That all persons enfranchised in the craft be ruled and governed after the ordinances and rules of the craft for the common weal of the king and his people. That they shall be obedient to the wardens of the said craft and attend when summoned, and, if absent, to pay one pound of wax, half to the chamber at Guildhall and half to the said fraternite.

In October, 1473, a further petition was presented to the Right Honourable Lord the Maire and his worshipful brethren, the Aldermen of the Citee of London, beseeching that the members of the craft being called Hostellers and not Innholders which they were, and that there was no difference between them and their servants who were Hostellers indeed, that all they of the said craft, and being freemen of the City and keeping Inns within the City and liberties, shall henceforth be named and called *Innholders*. This request was granted.

Another petition was presented in July, 1483, asking that no person within the City and its liberties shall lodge people or horses in private or petty *Ostryes*, but that all such people and horses should be lodged in open Inns having signs hanging in the open streets, lanes or places. That no botell of hay weigh less than 5lb. troy weight. That the Wardens have power to search and execute the ordinances and to search all Inns and Ostrys, to see that all botels of hay are of due weight.

In 1509, an application was made for a Charter, and in the year 1514, the King, Henry VIII, granted a Patent or License to the then Master and three Wardens of the art and mystery of S. Julian le Herberger of

Innholders of the City of London, directing that out of themselves and other persons as well men as women, may erect, create, found, and establish a certain Fraternity or Guild, and admit and accept persons as brothers and sisters of the said Guild; and to elect every year a Master and three Wardens to form and superintend the said Fraternity, with power to meet and confer with others for counsel and advice, and to invest the brothers and sisters with a particular sort of gown or hood, and power to use and employ a common seal, and may have and bear the name of Master and Wardens of the Fraternity or Guild of S. Julian of Innholders within the City of London.

This Charter (which is exhibited) has an illuminated border containing the red rose of the House of Lancaster, and the red-and-white rose of the Tudors, and the pomegranate bursting the badge of Katherine of Aragon. Within the initial H is a miniature of a youthful king, crowned with sceptre and orb, and figures kneeling, clad in blue-grey gowns, edged with scarlet, and on the opposite corner is a figure of S. Julian in armour, with ermine cloak and cap.

S. Julian (not the Apostate) owes his adoption as the patron saint of the Company, to the fact that he is said to have turned his house into a hospital and lodging place for the sick and indigent.

An Act of Common Council, dated the 23rd May, 1663, enacts that every person using the art, mystery, or occupation of an Innholder, shall be translated to the Company of Innholders, and that if any person should use or occupy any Inn, Ostery or Livery Stable, within the City and liberties not being free of this Company shall pay 40s. for every month he shall offend, and that no person using the occupation of

an Innholder or keeping any Inn, Ostery or Livery Stable should be admitted into the Freedom of the City, unless first admitted into the Freedom of this Company.

A second Charter was granted by Charles II, 1663, reciting the Charter of Henry VIII and the Act of Common Council, 1663, and enjoining that all persons keeping or occupying any Inn, Hosterie, Petty Hosterie or Livery Stable, not only in the City of London but within three miles thereof should be free of the Company, and also to elect Master, Wardens, and Assistants, and to possess and enjoy all the messuage, land, tenements, goods and chattels which belonged to the Fraternity or Guild of S. Julian le Herberger of Innholders.

This Charter, which is also exhibited, and is in Latin, has a portion of the great seal appended. It is written on five skins of vellum, the first skin has a richly gilded border containing at the top the royal arms, and at the side shields of the several quarterings. Within the initial C of Carolus is a painted miniature of Charles II, but the borders have partially flaked off. The borders round the next three skins contain well executed representations of birds and flowers with shields, badges, &c. The borders round the fifth skin contains at the top the royal arms between those of the City of London and the Company of Innholders, and at the sides the proper supporters bearing banners with the crosses of S. George and S. Andrew, and the arms of the City and Company.

In 1758, however, the privileges of this Charter were questioned, and the opinion of Counsel was taken, who considered that the right to compel persons

living within three miles of the City could not be enforced as the King could not by his Charter, and without the foundation of some custom for the purpose restrain the common law right of the subject to exercise any trade, or compel any person to be made free of the Company, and therefore the power would only apply in the City of London.

By an order of the Court of Aldermen in 1685, His Majesty had signified his pleasure that amongst other Companies the Innholders shall have a livery or clothing, and in the same year the Company returned the names of the Master, three Wardens, twenty Assistants and twenty-four others.

In February, 1685 (James II), another Charter was granted on the surrender of that of Charles II, re-constituting the Society in accordance with the terms of the Charter, but requiring all persons holding public offices to enter into a solemn league and covenant abjuring Popery.

In September, 1687, a Minute records an order from the King that the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Innholders be, and that they are hereby removed and displaced from being any longer Wardens or Assistants of the said Company. This order was communicated by the Lord Mayor, requiring it to be entered in the Company's books. In the following month, however, a Master, three Wardens and Steward were elected, and in October, 1688, another Minute states that by an order of the Lord Mayor, that His Majesty restores all the Liverymen their Charters, and in December in the same year, a further Minute that this day the surrender being delivered to the Company by the Lord Chancellor was cancelled. These bare entries

are unsatisfactory, as there was evidently some special reason for the displeasure of the King, which was afterwards atoned.

An Act of Parliament of William and Mary, 1691, restores to the Corporation and the City Companies all their former privileges.

In 1729 a question arose as to whether it was necessary under a recent Act of Parliament for members of the Company to obtain licenses for the sale of brandy. The Court of Aldermen adjudged that the Company was within the very letter of the Act, but made an order that none should be entitled to such license but those who were actually members of the Company of Innholders.

Much difficulty appears to have arisen, from time to time, to induce persons keeping Inns and Livery Stables to enrol themselves members of this Company, and also to prevent them from joining another company instead of this when they took up the Freedom of the City.

It was customary for Granaries to be established in the City under the charge of the several Companies for the purpose of keeping a store of corn in case of famine, and a Minute of 1670 states that a view was appointed to the Granary, but no mention is made as to its locality nor when it was given up.

In 1758 a complaint was made by two members of the Company to the Court that great inconvenience and distress was occasioned to them and other members and persons, the consumers of oats and other grain, wherein by a combination of Factors and Jobbers they had constituted a sample market in the heart of the City where they openly buy and sell contrary to law, and desired the aid of this Company

to assist them in making application to Parliament, or otherwise to have a legal market in the City, whereby such distresses may be prevented.

In 1765 it was ordered that consumers of oats have leave to petition the Court of Aldermen or Common Council or Parliament if they think proper, in the name of the Company, for leave to alter the present law which empowers the Session of the Peace in London to grant a certificate for the importations of oats into the Port of London at the low duty instead of twice to four times a year. And in 1771 the Company subscribed towards a fund to defray the expense of application to the Sessions to open the Port of London for the importation of oats at a low duty.

A grant of arms was made in 1634, as follows:—*Azure* a chevron *argent* between three oat sheaves *or*, on a chief *argent*, a S. Julian Cross *sable*, and for their crest a star *or*, appearing out of a cloud proper, supported with two horses regardant *argent*.

The following may be interesting as shewing the unsettled state of the nation in the latter end of the last and the first portion of this century, being the prices of the purchase of £100 stock in Consols:— In the year 1789, £79 7s. 6d.; 1791, £81 3s. 8d.; 1796, £58 2s. 6d.; 1797, £53 15s.; 1802, £67 12s. 6d.; 1803, £71 in February, and £62 15s. in the following month; 1820, £77 5s.; and 1833, £87 7s. 6d.

Having now dealt with the general history of the Company, it may be interesting to note some of the incidents which present themselves in searching the existing Minute Books which date for September, 1642.

By the Charter of Charles II it was ordained that every person keeping an Inn, Hostellie or Livery

Stable should make himself a brother and pay 2s. for quarterage four times a year or be fined 5s. for neglect over and above the amount, also that any member free of the said Company having an estate in money, goods or stock of the value of two hundred pounds or more, shall be called upon to take the livery or clothing, or in default to pay £5 and the same as often as called upon. Although the Company possessed a great number of Freemen, the Minutes show that there was often a disinclination to follow up the advantages of membership by becoming Liverymen, the reason not always being the impecuniousness of the member. Constant calls were made upon them to take the clothing or livery, and in some cases members were summoned before the Lord Mayor; one entry states that judgment was obtained in the court of King's bench, but, on the member attending the court of assistants and confessing his misdeed, he was admitted in the livery after paying £20.

One gentleman in answer to the call of the beadle so far forgot himself that he sent word to the Court "that he would neither serve nor fine nor "would he come near the Hall," and another who stood indebted for eighteen years' quarterage refused to pay up, and made use of very unhandsome language. An order was made in 1667 that a Freeman should pay, in addition to his fine, 17s. 6d. for a spoon and five pairs of gloves to the assistants. Some of the spoons possessed by the Company date as early as 1609.

One of the privileges of a Liveryman in 1657 was "that if any member of y^e Company shall give to y^e "Company in his life time or by his will at his death "ten pounds, either in plate or money, or a bond, his

“ widdow shall be invited to y^e hall at such tymes as y^e
“ Companies wifes do come to any feast.”

In 1760, the number of the Livery was so small that a fee was allowed for introducing members into the Company, but in 1810 the Livery amounted to 360, and the Court being of opinion that the Hall would not entertain the whole Livery if it continued to increase, it was decided that only those who had served, or fined, for steward should be invited to dinner in December, and in 1831, the members were so numerous that there was not sufficient accommodation in the Hall, and it was decided that the members should not be increased.

Newspapers were sufficiently general in 1787, that it was decided that the Livery be summoned to attend at Guildhall by public advertisement instead of individually.

The Court of the Company consists of a Master, a Senior, Middle and Renter Wardens, and a Court of Assistants, numbering in all, including the above officers, twenty-four members. The day of meeting is the first Tuesday in each month, and this day appears to have been adhered to from the commencement of the present Minutes, and possibly a long time previously. The times of meeting varied considerably. In 1764, it was decided that the Court should meet at ten o'clock in the morning instead of nine, and that dinner should be brought on the table at two o'clock. In 1767, this was altered to three o'clock. In 1845, the Court was summoned at two for three o'clock instead of two o'clock, and that dinner should be at half past four.

The places of meeting were not always at the Hall. In 1667 the Court was held at The George Inn, Aldersgate Street, and the Minutes show that it met

at various Inns in the City. Punctuality and regular attendance were enjoined, and fines were levied upon late or absentee members.

An important duty of the Court was to collect the quarterage in company with some of the Livery, and also to inspect the measures used in all Inns within a circuit of three miles from the City, for which purpose they arranged the localities in Walks. In one year it was arranged that the Court should meet for this purpose at six o'clock in the morning.

The election day takes place in July, and it was formerly usual for the Court to proceed previously to the Parish Church of S. Michael, Paternoster Royal, or S. Lawrence, Jewry, and attend service and finish up the day with a venison feast. I fear some of the members were rather lax in their religious duties, as each member attending was allowed 2s. 6d., but nothing if he does not go to church.

The Annual Audit was also a red letter day, and the prosperity or adversity of the Company can be fairly gauged by the entertainments given on this occasion. In one year the Audit Dinner was omitted, and instead, the members of the Company were to be invited at 5 o'clock to tea and coffee, and a handsome cold collation provided in the evening for supper. In other years the entertainment was omitted altogether, as the state of the funds would not allow of it.

A deputation from the Court appears to have been appointed to dine at the Lord Mayor's, for in 1664, spoons and napkins were delivered out to certain persons, and a Renter Warden having served a second year was paid twenty shillings towards his charges "for going to the Lord Maires to dinner."

A certain amount of laxity appears to have crept

into the ceremonial part of the offices, for in 1756 it was ordered that for the future the Master and two Upper Wardens appear at the Hall in their gowns from Michaelmas Day to Lady Day to be worn on their backs, and from Lady Day to Michaelmas to be laid on their chair backs.

In 1887, it was resolved that each member of the Court should wear a silver medal, bearing the arms of the Company and the date of admission to the Livery and the Court, and that when the member becomes Master it shall be gilt.

There appear to be no particulars of the Company's Hall prior to the Fire of London, except that it was on the site of the present Hall, and in 1659 the Master and Wardens were directed to view the cellar under the Hall to see what defaults are in the reparation.

The first entry after the Fire relating to the Hall was on 10th September, 1667, when a draught of the building to be made was ordered, and a fortnight after the Master and Wardens were directed to view the ground at the Hall and report, and at the next meeting one of the tenants had his arrears remitted on surrendering his lease of the house next the Hall.

In January, 1668, it was ordered that the ground should be cleared and the foundations laid, and the first stone laid with what convenient speed may be. In April permission was given to the Master and Wardens to take advice with some able workman for the most convenient way of building for the commodiousness of the Hall with the least charge to the Company. There appears to have been no contract, but the several tradesmen were employed and paid, from time to time, by instalments, the amounts being as nearly as I can get as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
To the Bricklayer and Tyler -	500	0	0
„ Carpenter - - -	344	0	0
„ Joiner - - -	164	0	0
„ Slater (for the yard) -	4	8	0
„ Plumber - - -	43	0	0
„ Mason - - -	31	0	0
„ Smith - - -	28	12	0
„ Plasterer - - -	66	8	0
„ Glazier - - -	10	0	0
„ Painter - - -	11	10	0
Total	<u>£1,202</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>

The clearing of the site cost £28 17s. There is no reference in the Minutes or in the Accounts to the employment of an architect or surveyor, or clerk of works as he would then have been called, but it is evident that although the structure was not scientifically constructed there was a master-hand engaged, as indicated by the entrance doorway, the old Court room, and the modelled ceiling now existing.

The money paid for the building appears to have been obtained from subscriptions, which amounted to about £220, and the remainder by bonds, which were paid off, with interest, from time to time. The gallery across the angle of the Hall was an after-thought, and built in 1681.

Considerable repairs were needed from time to time, and alarm was caused in 1784 by a report that the Hall was in a dangerous state. A surveyor was sent for, but not being at home, a bricklayer was directed to inspect it, and he reported that it was in a very good state of security, and was paid 10s. 6d. for his trouble.

Large sums were expended, from time to time, for the maintenance and repair of the building, and in 1839 a legacy of £50 was left to start a fund for rebuilding or for substantial repair of the Hall. In 1842 Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Tite was employed as architect, and a sum of nearly £700 expended. It is satisfactory to know that the present generation are not wholly to blame for builders' extras, as each time any work was done the total cost was very far in excess of the original estimate.

Immediately after the last-named alterations were made a fire occurred in the cellar under the Hall, which was occupied by a basket-maker. Although the premises were insured, it had not been made known to the Insurance Company of the use made of the cellar, and they denied their liability to restore the damage. Eventually, however, matters were arranged and the restoration completed.

In 1882, in consequence of the dilapidated condition of the building, the writer was called in to survey and report as to its safety. His report was that it was necessary at once to secure some portion of the building from danger. The Court therefore decided that a committee should be appointed to consider whether the building should be pulled down entirely and rebuilt and a part let off for business purposes, or to retain the entire use of the Hall, rebuilding only such portions as were absolutely necessary, and after much careful consideration the Court decided upon the latter course.

The writer determined to deal with the building in the most conservative spirit. He found that the old Livery Hall could be retained but the roof and ceiling required renewal. The whole of the remainder of

the building was so ruinous and dilapidated that it was absolutely necessary to take it down. This meant the demolition of the fine modelled plaster ceiling of the old Court room and the oak wainscoting round the walls. He however decided that, if it were possible, these should be preserved, and although three of the walls and the entire superstructure was removed, he was able with great difficulty to preserve the ceiling during the rebuilding and secure it to the new floor above and fix the wainscoting to the new walls, so that the room is now in the same condition as when the Hall was erected, more than 200 years ago, except that the width has been increased by the removal of a very large stack of chimneys. The shields in the spandrels of the ceiling bear the arms of the King, the City of London, the Innholders' Company and the date, 1670. The entrance from the street remains in the same position and the old brick door case has been reproduced and the original arms and canopy over refixed. The old door and frame, after removing the old paint, which had well nigh obliterated the carved work were reused. By the rebuilding, a new and larger Court Room has been obtained on the first floor, and an ante room and apartments for the Beadle on the floor above. The Entrance Hall and staircase are entirely new and the latter has been so arranged that it gives access to the old Minstrels Gallery, a new entrance is formed into the Livery hall from the Entrance hall and the windows in the Hall have been re-arranged and filled with stained glass. The west window contains the arms of our present sovereign in the centre, and in the side lights the arms of Henry VIII and Charles II, the kings who granted the Company their earliest Charters. The window over

the door contains the arms of three past members of the Company who have been Lord Mayors ; viz. Sir Chapman Marshall, Mr. Alderman Wire and Sir Thomas Owden. The east windows have the arms of the Company and the City of London and preparation is made for the arms of distinguished members of the Company. A Buffet for the display of the Company's plate is fitted under the east window, surmounted by the figure of S. Julian the patron saint. Some old glass bearing the arms of the master at the time of rebuilding after the fire and a master in 1678 has been preserved in the window on the staircase.

The basement is occupied by kitchens, wine cellars, &c., and so arranged that the dinners may be wholly prepared on the premises.

The last Court in the old buildings was held in August, 1885, and the first Court assembled in the new Hall in November, 1886. The total cost of the works was about £5,000.

In 1691 the use of the Hall was granted to the Poulterers' Company, which held its meetings here for several years. During the re-building of the Dyers' Hall in 1769, the Hall and Court room were placed at the disposal of that Company, and this favour was reciprocated by the Dyers lending their Hall during the re-building of this Hall in 1885.

This Company is unfortunately not rich in paintings or in objects of great interest. The large painting over the fire-place in the Livery Hall is a copy of a portrait by Pickersgill of Mr. Charles Druce, formerly the clerk, and in 1842 father of the Company, painted by subscription. This picture has especial interest as being the portrait of the first of four generations of Druce who have been and are clerks of the Company,

the two present clerks being respectively the grandson and the great grandson of this gentleman, and each generation being equally respected. Two pictures in the new Court room have some interest. One is the birth of the Saviour in an Inn which is associated with the Crest of the Company, "The Star of Bethlehem," and the other an emblematical picture of Charles II dispelling rebellion and instituting a reign of peace.

Portraits of Alderman Sir Chapman Marshall, Sir Thomas Owden and Sir Polydore de Keyser, Mr. Deputy Walter, the father of the Court of Common Council, are hung on the walls. There are two oil paintings in the old Court Room, one of the opening of London Bridge, on panel, and the other of a Lord Mayor taking water at Blackfriars Bridge, but neither bear the artists' names nor dates. A small picture of Richard Whittington, sitting on the mile-stone at Highgate, has a special interest, as he was associated with the parish in which the Hall stands and the College named after him was on the opposite side of the street.

The sporting picture over the fire-place in the old Court Room is signed by Francis Sartorions, 1798, of Gerrard S. Soho, and inscribed "Newmarket, May 4th, 1797, Totteridge, property of Mr. H. Boot, winning King's plate of 100 guineas for horses, &c., not more than six years old, carrying twelve stone. Eleven to eight on Totteridge, who won easy. The other horse was Gabriel, the property of E. B. Deloune, Esq."

A fine old upright clock was given in 1739, and ordered to be placed in the Court Room, where it has stood ever since, and is still a good time-keeper. The three chairs for the Master and Wardens in this room

are the original ones, and contemporaneous with the Hall. Various donations have been made from time to time.

The cushion placed in front of the Master is covered in dark velvet, and has embroidered in silver thread on one side the initials C. I. 1684, and on the other J. J. 1808. The cushion was evidently recovered in the latter year, but the earlier embroidery is evidently original.

Owing to a curious circumstance this Company is possessed of some very interesting and valuable old plate. A resolution was passed in July, 1665, the year before the Fire, that all plate belonging to the Company be removed to the Master's House, to be secured there by him for their use. This appears to have been the Ram Inn, in Smithfield, which was outside the area affected by the Fire.

As Mr. Freshfield will make some observations on the plate, I will not take up your time by alluding to it, except to say that most, if not all of it has been presented from time to time by Masters and members of the Court, a good example recently followed by our present worthy Master.

In 1667, "a strong Cheyst was bought with three locks to put the Companies evidences and plate therein. This chest is now in the Livery Hall."

The following is a copy of an inventory of the plate in the year :—

		Ozs.	Dwts.	Grs.
One guilt bowle, the gift of	Edward Osborne, weighing	27	15	0
One "	Thomas Hynd, "	32	10	0
One "	Nicholas Cooke, "	29	14	0
One lesser,	Mrs. G. T. Walter, "	16	05	0
One shell cup.				
Two guilt salts,	Mrs. Waterworth, "	20	00	0
One grate guilt salt,	Mrs. Sweete, "	32	08	0
One large silver salt,	Mr. Reeve, "	30	00	0

	Oss.	Dwts.	Grs.
One guilt tankard, the gift of Mr. Pennington, weighing	30	17	0
One silver " " Mr. Charlott, "	28	13	0
Two mazers.			
Two dozen of St. Julyan Spoons, "	69	10	0
* Half one dozen of silver spoons.			
The Company's seal.			
One silver guilt spoon.			
One silver guilt spoon, given by Mr. Whittome for his freedom.			
One guilt spoon. Lost by Mr. Drewry; had to make it good.			
One guilt bowle, the gift of Mrs. Stockton in memory of Mr. Stockton, - - - weighing	25	02	0
Twelve trough salts, the gift of Mr. Edward Norman, ,,	18	00	09
Also a quantity of pewter including			
Six 10 pound dishes			
Twelve 7 " "			
Twelve 5 " "			
Twelve 4 " "			
Twelve 3 " "			
Twelve other dishes.			
Nine dozen and one plates.			
Twelve pie plates.			
Four pastry plates.			
Two dozen saucers.			
Two flagons.			
Two others.			

In 1670 there is a mention of the three garlands for the Master and Wardens, and a great Bible.

In 1666, the Company being indebted by bonds of £100 apiece to three of the Assistants, it was ordered that plate and pewter of the amount be pledged to them to be redeemed as funds will permit. The total weight of the plate being 639 ounces at 5s. per ounce, amounting to £159 19s., to be divided proportionately.

In 1677, funds again appear to have been low, and plate was sold weighing 226 ounces at 5s. 2d., amounting to £79 11s. 4d.

No entry relative to the plate occurs until 1821, when two dozen silver dessert spoons were ordered for

* In 1670 there appears to have been five dozen and three spoons.

the use of the Court, and in an inventory made in 1830, twenty-nine apostle spoons are included.

It is to be regretted that so recently as 1845, a quantity of old pewter was sold as it was never used.

Subsequent inventories give a detailed account of the plate and inscriptions.

A fresh inventory of the plate was made when it was transferred to the new building in 1887.

In a society mainly composed of Innholders under the patronage of so hospitable a saint as S. Julian, it would ill become its members if they were behind other companies in the City of London in their hospitality and entertainments, but it is only fair to say that our predecessors were not extravagant in their expenditure in this respect and were ready at all times to deny themselves when money was required for other purposes, and when the exchequer was low ; and, therefore, there are constant entries in the Minutes of entertainments abandoned or the bill of fare simplified to bridge over these difficulties.

The members evidently appreciated the festivities, and were eager to avail themselves of all the privileges that they considered their due, for in 1695, a resolution was passed " that the master, wardens and assistants, " take their wives according, as they are called, and " that no person presume to sett att table before the " Company be sett, and if any person doe contrary to " the order aforementioned the person who invited the " said person shall forfeit and pay to the use of the " Company the sum of five shillings."

The wives of the members were on certain occasions allowed to accompany their husbands to dinner, and a dance generally followed. In 1780 a member of the Court who for many years had taken the trouble to

officiate as master of the ceremonies at the ladies' feast had the misfortune to lose a very good hat, and it was ordered that he be presented with a hat and feather as a testimony of their respect for him and his services.

The badge worn by the present senior warden was provided in 1790 to be worn by the person who shall act as Master of the Ceremonies on audit day as a mark of distinction and to command attention.

It is noteworthy as showing the love our ancestors had for the fragrant weed that in 1780 it was ordered that no fruit be introduced at any dinner except at the ladies' feast.

The Company does not seem to have been notorious for public display. In common with other Companies it was usual to line Cheapside with Members of the several guilds on Lord Mayors' processions and State receptions. Each Company setting up its stands in the positions allotted to them ; this Company being in front of Saddlers' Hall. On the occasion of King Charles the Second passing through the City, an inventory describes 92 foote of rails of oak timber, four turned posts, iron hooks and staples, benches and boards to stand upon, and all other things belonging to them (such as cloths and ornaments).

It would seem that these demonstrations gradually lost favour, for in 1768, in consequence of the dilapidated condition of the Company's stand, they purchased that belonging to the Turners' Company for £33, and two years afterwards a motion was made and carried "that this Company do discontinue "their procession on Lord Mayors days from the Hall "to their stand for two reasons, first that trade being "in great decay and taxes much increased to support

“the present war with France and Spain and also a
“rebellion in America, many of the Members are
“become unable to take upon them their offices in
“turn, by means whereof the revenue of the Company
“is become less, and the Court of Assistants find it
“necessary to decrease its expenses, and secondly
“because the Company in their procession and also
“on their stand are often insulted by the rude
“licentious populace.” As presumably little further
use was made of the stand, in 1793 it was stated to be in
such a bad state that it could not be used, and was
sold for five guineas. On the occasion of the
procession of King Charles II through the City on
his restoration in 1660, it was ordered that every
person that rides send his footman to Innholders’ Hall
to have measurement taken for the livery trimmed
with white and blue ribbons and mixt grey serge.
King’s colours in the hatte, and a short truncheon of
white fir tippt with blue at each end.

In 1667 a precept was received from the Lord
Mayor requiring this Company to attend him in their
barge to Westminster, but after some debate it was
agreed that the Livery should not be summoned, and
that no barge should be provided, whereupon the
Master required that the Assistants and Court should
promise to save him harmless for disobedience, which
they promised to do.

The Court has taken part, from time to time, in
Lord Mayors’ processions, when their members have
served the office of Lord Mayor or Sheriff.

There is little doubt that much of the sentiment
which surrounds City Companies is due to the fact
that the more wealthy members have left money and
property for the benefit of their poorer brethren, and

the good feeling which existed between members of the same craft is evidenced by the fact that the Companies were constantly appointed trustees to carry out the provisions of their wills, and I venture to think that, judging from past experience, especially in connection with the City Parochial Charities Act, no body is better able to distribute the funds in a more economical or sympathetic manner, and in the channels intended by the donors, than the Courts of the several Companies.

A former member of this Company—Mr. Henry Scambler, an uncle of the late Sir Thomas Owden—gave in 1845 £6,000 to be invested, and the dividends distributed amongst poor Liverymen or their widows. At the present time there are twelve pensioners receiving £15 and £10 per annum each.

The dividends arising out of bequests for other members are given to decayed Freemen or Liverymen or their widows and children at certain times of the year.

I think I have now nearly exhausted my subject and greatly tired your patience. I have, however, endeavoured to give you an insight into our domestic concerns as well as our history, and although the Company is a small one, and great opportunities of doing some great thing either never presented themselves or were never made use of, yet it exercised a considerable influence over a trade (or to use the Old English term "Mystery"), which was an important one in the City of London, as not only did it conduce to the good fellowship which has always characterized the citizens, especially when after a very long and hard day's work, the chief relaxation of our forefathers appeared to be smoking a pipe with

their neighbours in the nearest tavern, but it safeguarded the persons and enhanced the comforts of those who were constantly visiting the City for business purposes from the principal towns in the Kingdom, and also from foreign countries, who were ever keen to open up business transactions with us which has conduced in no small degree to the building up of our great empire.

We cannot boast of technical schools, nor are they required as the business of an Innholder has never waned and has ever been up to date. Possibly we may see our way some day to follow the prevailing fashion and institute an examination, but the purpose for it is not at present apparent, or we may as was once suggested popularize art by endeavouring to supersede the present pint pot by one which will be as pleasant to the eye as its contents are to the palate. If any lady or gentleman present has any suggestion to offer to extend the usefulness of the Company, I am sure it will meet with careful consideration by the Master and his brethren of the Court.
