

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE PEWTERERS' COMPANY.

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THE Pewterers' Company are said by Stow to have been originally a company or meeting of friendly and neighbourly men associated together as a society or fellowship of persons actually carrying on the trade from which they took their name. The Company certainly existed as a fraternity long before its incorporation, but no record exists illustrating its history earlier than the 22nd year of Edward III, 1348 A.D., when ordinances for the regulation of the trade were granted by the Mayor and Aldermen upon the petition of the good folks, makers of vessels of pewter in the City of London. These ordinances are entered at length in the ancient Book of Records given to the Company by Robert Chamberlain. The document is an interesting specimen of early English, and its existence in this form has hitherto been unknown. It was enrolled in the City records in Latin and Norman French, and has been turned into modern English by Riley, in his "Memorials of London and London Life."

From several expressions in the document it would appear that a trade fellowship or mystery existed at this early period, mention being made of "freemen" and "wardens," and of power in the latter

to oust offenders from the trade. The ordinances also give proof of the jealousy of these early craftsmen for the credit of their trade, which they sought to protect from the practices of dishonest workmen and dealers. Although we cannot consider their action as entirely disinterested, we must yet concede that it was doubtless owing to the high standard of workmanship and commercial probity aimed at in these ordinances, and the successful efforts of the Company through a long period of years to give them full effect, that the good reputation of English pewter for quality and workmanship was secured and maintained. The ordinances provide that "three or four of the most lawful and the most skilful in the trade may be chosen to oversee the alloys and the workmanship," with power to bring offenders before the Court of the Mayor and Aldermen.

Two kinds of pewter of different qualities are specified: the first, which is called finite pewter, contained such proportion of brass to tin "as, of its own nature, it will take." The articles proper to be made of this fine pewter were esquelles, salt cellars, platters, chargers, pitchers squared, cruets squared, and christmatories, and other things that are made squared or ribbed. The second quality was composed of an alloy consisting of 1 cwt. of tin and 26 lbs. of lead. Articles of this material were called vessels of tin, and comprised rounded pots, cruets, and candlesticks, and other rounded vessels that belonged to the trade.

No person was allowed to intermeddle with the trade who had not been either an apprentice or otherwise a lawful workman known and tried among them. No one was permitted to bring any pewter goods into the City for sale before the material had been assayed

by the Wardens, on peril of forfeiture of such wares, and no one of the trade was to make privily in secret vessels of lead or of false alloy for sending out of the City to fairs and markets for sale, to the scandal of the City and the damage and scandal of the good folks of the trade. The penalties for disobedience of these provisions were, upon the first default, loss of the material so wrought; upon the second, loss of the material and punishment at the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen; and upon being found guilty a third time, the offenders were to forswear the trade for evermore.

The following curious provision of these ancient ordinances also deserves mention: "The good folks of the trade have also agreed that no one shall be so daring as to work at night upon articles of pewter, seeing that the sight is not so profitable by night, or so certain as by day, to the profit, that is, of the community."

The next entry in the Book of Records declares that the craft made ordinances without the authority of the Mayor and Aldermen, before whom the offenders were summoned on November 19th, xvii Henry VI, A.D. 1438, and the said ordinances were then and there annulled. The pewterers made due submission, and approached the Court of Aldermen with a petition addressed to "the full honourable Lords and Sovereigns, Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London," requesting the sanction of the Court to their new ordinances, so far as they be good and reasonable.

The original oath of the Pewterers, which was afterwards superseded by one of much greater length, provided simply for obedience to the good rules of the craft, and keeping its counsels in due secrecy. It

ended as follows : “ And also ye shall worshep owre brethren of the Pewterers which ben ye brethren of our Lady and soccor and help in every place, so it be not hindering to yourself ne to your worshep, so help you God and our holy Dame, and by this boke, kiss the boke.”

An order was enrolled in the City records [letter-book K, folio 176] in the year 1430, to prevent the manufacture of pewter of light weight, a practice then very prevalent. It contains the earliest list, which I have met with, of the standard sizes and weights for the various kinds of pewter ware :—

	Weight per dozen.	Weight per piece.
Largest chargers - - -	3 qrs.	7 lbs.
Chargers, next size - - -	60 lbs.	5 „
„ middle - - -	39 „	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
„ small hollow - - -	33 „	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ „
Platters, largest size - - -	30 „	—
„ next size - - -	27 „	—
„ middle - - -	24 „	—
„ small middle - - -	22 „	—
Dishes, largest size - - -	18 „	—
„ middle size - - -	14 „	—
„ King's - - -	16 „	—
„ small - - -	12 „	—
„ hollow - - -	11 „	—
„ small hollow - - -	10 „	—
Saucers, largest size - - -	9 „	—
„ middle - - -	7 „	—
„ next the middle - - -	6 „	—
„ small - - -	4 „	—
Galley dishes and galley saucers, greatest size - - -	12 „	—

Also xiiij dishes and xiiij saucers weighing of the next Galey mold.

	Weight per dozen.
Small dishes of galley and galley saucers -	12 lbs.
Cardinal's hatte and saucers - - -	15 „
Florentine dishes and Florentine saucers, greatest size - - -	13 „
Next Florentine dishes and saucers - - -	12 „
Small bolles - - -	13 „

In 1444, July 10th, it appears from the City records that the Wardens of the Mystery of Pewterers were allowed to claim a fourth part of all the tin brought into the City whether by land or by sea. On the same day it was likewise ordered, in consequence of the complaints of "the multitude of tin which was untrue and deceyvable brought to the City, the defaults not being perceptible until it comes to the melting," that the Company should have the right to search and assay all the tin which was brought into the City of London.

From the first yearly account, 1451-2, in the *Book of Wardens' Accounts*, we learn that the usual admission fee for one of the brethren or "sustren" of the craft was 6s. 8d., with a further charge for quarterage amounting for the whole craft for this year to 57s. One John Sogowe, a Cornishman, was charged £3 6s. 8d. for his admission. The receipts included a balance in hand kept in the common box of £10 15s. 7d. Then follow fees for entries or admissions of new brethren, fines, and quarterages, amounting to £6 10s. 4d. The gifts and bequests for the year, amounting to £21 8s. 6d., complete the income of the craft, making a total of £39 4s. 11d.

The items of expenditure are more numerous, and include payments to almsmen, 24s. ; the waxchandler for making of the wax at three times, 8s. 9d. ; hire of a barge "at ye goyng of the shereves to Westminster, 5s. ;" one penny for points for the banner cloths ; and "2d. yove to the bargemen to drynke ;" to the Friars Augustines, 2s. (this was for the hire of the hall at Austin-friars on election day) ; to clerks the day of the mass, 2s. ; for making and painting of Judas staves, 9d. ; for the burying of Thomas Lamb, 16d. ;

“law costs in a sute in the Meyre’s Court” between the craft and Piers Wells’ executors amounted to 2s. 10*d.* ; a final charge of 12*d.* for making, writing, and engrossing up of the account, completes the payments, which amount to 46s. 11*d.* The substantial balance of £36 17s. is left by the wardens of this year to their successors.

In the next year’s accounts, 1452-3, occurs the following payment: “Item, paid to a clerk of the Chancery that arrested John Turner and William Stroud, for his reward in labouring to search for statutes and other things to the intent to labour to the Parliament for a charter for the craft to have search through England, 5s.” The suit with Piers Wells’ executors ended satisfactorily as the next entry shows: “Item, expent in drinking with Piers Wells’ executors at the receiving of the money 8*d.*”

In 1454-5 the costs at the “dirige” of the craft were, first, for bread 10*d.* ; item for cheese, 9*d.* ; item for nine gallons and a-half of ale, 19*d.* ; total, 3s. 2*d.* In 1455-6 the payments include 2s. 8*d.* for mass done at Grey-friars on our Lady Day. The stringent rules under which membership of the craft was restricted in later times to persons actually engaged in the trade did not exist at this period. In 1456 one Thomas Downton, a mercer, was admitted as a brother of the craft at the ordinary fee of 6s. 8*d.*

The first list of brethren that pay quarterage occurs in 1456-7, and consists of 53 brethren and two wives of deceased brethren. It includes the name of William Smallwode, who gave the Company their Hall and other property in Lime Street. This list is followed by another of the names of covenant men and apprentices. Forty-three of the brethren are

included, against each of whose names appear the names of the covenant or journeymen and apprentices in their employ. The number of these workmen employed by each master varies from seven journeymen and eleven apprentices to a single journeyman or apprentice. The total number of covenant men is thirty-four, of apprentices ninety-six, and of workmen not described twelve.

In 1456-7 the cost of the annual dinner of the craft was 32*s.* 5*d.* In the same year the costs at the "dirige" include, beside 8*d.* for bread and 10*d.* for cheese, the sum of 2*s.* for "a hole shepe for the Frerys." The list of brethren of the craft for 1458-9 includes fifty-two brethren and seven wives. The election feast for the same year cost 17*s.* 2*d.*, the details of which are as follows:—

"Enprymis ffor a kylderkynd off all ijs. ijd.
 Item ffor ij pygys (pigs) xvjd.
 Item ffor a gosse (goose) viijd.
 Item ffor iij capons iijs.
 Item ffor ffychese ijs. iijd.
 Item ffor wyn xxd.
 Item ffor iij conyis (rabbits) viijd.
 Item ffor xvij pygons (pigeons) xijd.
 Item ffor moton xjd.
 Item ffor bred xd.
 Item ffor iij checons (chickens) vijd.
 Item ffor spyssys (spices) viijd.
 Item ffor a stond off ale xijd.
 Item ffor ffyrre iiijd.
 Item ffor savse (sauce) jd."

A substantial repast, truly, though lacking, perhaps, in the culinary refinements and delicacies of later times.

The Company obtained their first charter of incorporation from Edward IV, in the year 1473-4,

under which their power to search and assay all merchandise belonging to the craft was confirmed. In 1503-4, the 19th Henry VII, chap. 6, an Act of Parliament was passed to prevent the sale of pewter and brass at any place except an open fair or market, or in the dwelling-house of a pewterer. The Act also provided that the makers of pewter wares should "mark the same with several marks of their own to the intent that the makers of such wares shall avow the same wares by them to be wrought." This is the first compulsory provision of which I can find the record, for marking vessels with the makers' names, although many makers certainly used such marks previous to this date. The Act also prohibited the use of false scales and weights.

Under this Act certain ordinances were drawn up by the Company for carrying out its provisions, which were approved by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord High Treasurer, and the Lord Chief Justice. They are entered in full in the Book of Records, without date, but were probably confirmed in the first year of Henry VIII. Among the provisions it is forbidden that members of the craft should "rebuke or revile each other with any opprobrious, evil, inconvenient, or ungoodly wordes." The Master and Wardens were ordered to search for defective wares five times in the year.

The Charter of Henry VII was confirmed and further extended by statutes of Henry VIII in the fourth and twenty-fifth years of his reign, the latter granted upon the petition of the Company, who complained that pewter vessels of inferior quality were imported from abroad. These imports were forbidden upon pain of forfeiture, and on the plea of maintaining

the high quality of the English manufacture no foreigner was permitted to use the trade either as master, journeyman, or apprentice in England, and all English pewterers were forbidden to exercise their craft in strange regions or countries upon pain of losing the privilege and benefit of an Englishman.

The privileges of the Company were further confirmed and amplified by charters granted successively by Henry VIII, Philip and Mary, Queen Elizabeth, James I, and Anne. Under the last-mentioned charter the Company obtained powers to ordain new bye-laws for their government. These were approved on October 13th, 1702, and among the regulations are the following: To avoid abuses practised by persons of the mystery in counterfeiting of another man's work to gain credit to his own bad ware, each member was obliged to deliver to the master for the time being, "one peculiar and selected mark or touch solely and properly of itselfe and for yourselfe only without adding thereunto any other man's mark in part or in whole, to be struck and impressed on the plate kept in the hall of the said Company for that purpose, which said mark and none other he shall strike and sette upon his ware of whatsoever sort that he shall make and sell without diminution or addition, and shall, upon striking of such his mark or touch, pay to the renter warden *6s. 8d.*, and *2s. 6d.* to the clerk for entering the same, and *6d.* to the beadle"; the fine for disobedience of this provision was *40s.* All pewter found on search to be untruly mixed, wrought, or unmarked, to pay *1d.* per pound weight. All pewterers applauding or boasting of their goods and wares, and disparaging those of other pewterers,

or improperly enticing the customers of another pewterer, to pay a fine of 40s.

In 1555 it was ordered that any member buying metal of tylors, labourers, boys, women, or suspected persons, or between 6 at night and 6 in the morning, if the metal should prove to have been stolen, should not only be dismissed the Company, but stand to such punishment as the Lord Mayor and Aldermen might direct.

In 1635 the Company contributed £10 towards the repair of St. Paul's Cathedral, in response to a circular letter from the Bishop of London ; and in 1657 occurs a curious minute to the following effect : —“The Court, having noticed that two companies had obtained leave for seats in Paul's, and that our Company was to be set upon forms at the lower end of the said companies,” it was ordered that there should be a pew made for the Company, and the wardens to pay the charge of it.

Three years later, in 1660, it was ordered that only half the livery should be summoned to attend at St. Paul's on Thanksgiving days, their number being so great that the seat appointed for the Company could not contain them.

Many of the old traditions and formalities in use among the members of this ancient Company survived to comparatively modern times, and the Company is fortunate in having upon its Court a past master—Mr. Willoughby Mullins, whose personal experience, and the information he has obtained from members of his own family, who have long been connected with the Company, constitute him an authority upon its customs and history for several past generations. Mr. Mullins was also instrumental in saving many of the

Company's records and other memorials at the time of their removal from the old hall ; and I am indebted to this gentleman for much valuable information contained in this present paper. The election of the master and wardens takes place in August, and was formerly conducted with great ceremony. The company assembled early in the day, and went in procession to the church of St. Dionys Backchurch, the master being attended by two boy pages, who were styled his cup-bearers, and the wardens by one each. The Company then returned to their hall, and the newly-elected master and wardens were crowned with garlands, bearing the arms of the Company and other devices in silver. The members of the Company, all habited in their livery gowns, then went in procession to the dining hall, where the outgoing master and wardens, being served by the cup-bearers, drank to the health of their successors. The cups were then placed upon the table, and afterwards passed round the company in the ordinary use as loving cups. The cup-bearers were appointed from the sons of livery-men, and dined with the Company on the occasion. Mr. Mullins' earliest recollection connected with the Company is that of serving as cup-bearer on one of these occasions when a lad. This curious and interesting office is, as far as I am aware, unique in the annals of the livery companies, and has long been in disuse ; but the ceremony of crowning the master and wardens is still continued.

The Company has not been remarkable for the civic honours attained by its members. Being sixteenth in order of precedence, and therefore not one of the twelve great companies, none of its members were until recent years eligible for the office of Lord Mayor.

There is, on this point, a curious incident in connection with Sir Thomas Curtis, who was master of the Company in 1538, 1545, 1546, sheriff in 1546, and Lord Mayor in 1557. Curtis refused to comply with the old custom requiring Aldermen who were members of minor companies to translate to one of the twelve great companies upon being elected to the mayoralty. His refusal, in which he seems to have been heartily supported by his brother Pewterers, brought him into collision with the Court of the Aldermen, who, for his "wilful stiffness and disobedience diversely showed to My Lord Mayor and the whole Court," sent him to Newgate, there to remain until he should be obediently contented to stand to the order of the Court. This sentence was followed by a fine of 300 marks, and appears to have had its effect, for on January 12th, 1553, being eight days after his committal, he made due submission to the Court.

The list of civic dignitaries of the Company is completed by a few other names : Alderman John Catcher was master in 1585 ; Alderman James Phillips served that office 1651 ; and Thomas Gregg, who was three times master of the Company, was sheriff in 1674. Alderman Sir John Friar, master in 1710 and 1715, served the office of sheriff in the latter year, and was created Baronet, but never became Lord Mayor.

The only Pewterer, besides Sir Thomas Curtis, who attained the high dignity of Lord Mayor was the late Sir John Staples, K.C.M.G., who took the warmest interest in the affairs of the Company, and made much investigation into its history. I am indebted for several particulars contained in this present paper to the notes of Sir John Staples, which he, unfortunately, did not live to complete and publish.

Some 250 years ago the master and wardens attended in Haberdashers' Hall, having been summoned thither by the Parliamentary Committee of Lords and Commons, which was then sitting at Haberdashers' Hall as a Court for adjustment of claims, the Parliament having seized upon the Companies' halls for its various committees, in order to tighten its hold upon the City finances, and assess the citizens to their last shilling. The Company's case was then truly deplorable. In October, 1640, they had been required to contribute £350 to the King, and in June, 1642, £700 to the Commonwealth. To raise this £1,050 they had been compelled to borrow money upon interest, and to sell all their plate. They were now required to furnish another £350, and after a vain appeal to the members of the Company for individual contributions, they were compelled by the committee to deliver in the rental of their lands, on November 20th, 1643. It is not surprising that, from this date, there is a gap in the Company's records until the year 1648. An association of a more pleasant character between the two Companies took place in 1664, when the Pewterers agreed with the Haberdashers' Company for the hire of part of their barge house at Lambeth. The lease was renewed in 1701, and the partnership existed until 1805, when the Pewterers' Company ceased to own a barge, and discontinued their practice of accompanying the Lord Mayor in his water processions.

The records of the Pewterers' Company include the title deeds of the Company's Hall and of six tenements adjoining, bequeathed to them by William Smallwood, a great benefactor of the Company, by his will dated August 23rd, 1487. His full-length

portrait is preserved at Pewterers' Hall. These documents, fourteen in number, extend from 1391 to 1487. The charters of the Company form a very complete series. They commence with Edward IV's foundation grant, dated February 1st, in his thirteenth year, and include charters and confirmations by the following sovereigns: Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Philip and Mary, Elizabeth (two charters), James I (three charters), Charles II, and Anne. The portraits of the monarchs on the first skin, and the floriated headings and margins on many of the charters will repay a careful examination.

"The Book of Records" has been already quoted. This is a folio volume, 12 inches by 8½ inches, beautifully written upon vellum. A note on the verso of folio I quaintly records its gift by Robert Chamberlayn, citizen and Pewterer, of London, and Cecile his wife, on August 11th, 1463, and further states that the said Robert and Cecile "gave on the said day three garlands unto ye worship and cheeing of ye wardens of ye said craft and one thereof is garnished with silver and the arms of the craft thereon." Following the outer leaf is a finely-written calendar with illuminated initial letters. This is followed by a beautiful illumination representing the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, to whose honour the fraternity was dedicated. The opposite page is also finely illuminated. Besides the entries contemporary with the gift of the book, many others of later date have been added and interpolated. The volume is bound in stout wooden boards covered with leather, the back cover being much worm-eaten. It was formerly provided with metal clasps, which have all but disappeared. A paper label, of much later date, upon the front

cover, wrongly describes the volume as bye-laws made in 1561, etc.

The "Book of Inventories" is a folio volume of much interest, written on paper, and in its original vellum binding. The front cover is much torn, and has been badly repaired. The first page contains an illuminated letter and the following title:—

"Thys is the booke of the Inventory of the goodys longgyng to the craft of pewterars within the Cyte of London."

The first inventory is thus described:—

"This Inventory apartenyng to the brethirhode of thassumpcion of our blessid lady of the Crafte of pewtrers of London was made the Vth yere of the Reingne of kynge Herry the vijth Thomas Alysandry than maist. Water Walsh and John Hyndsson than Wardens of the same brethirhode and crafte."

There are two points of special interest in these early inventories. First, they show that the possessions of the Company at this period were nearly all gifts from members, and for the most part made by a brother and his wife jointly, whilst not a few are made by ladies, probably the widows of deceased members; secondly, owing to the practical interest taken in the affairs of the fellowship by the goodwives aforesaid—wisely encouraged by the ruling body—Pewterers' Hall must have been one of the best furnished halls in the City. The articles enumerated include not only napery, "sponys," cups, tankards, and banners, but more substantial gifts, such as tables, forms, ladders, racks, and spits. Some of the vessels were made of metal seized by the Company in their trade searches.

The earliest Book of Accounts, to which I have already referred at length, is a beautifully

written folio volume, extending from the year 1451 to 1530.

The Book of Orders of Court, beginning A.D. 1564, is a folio volume of paper, chiefly interesting for its leather binding. The front cover has a border of stamped ornaments, consisting of fleurs-de-lis and roses alternately with the curious impression of an ape. The body of the cover is divided into two compartments, separated by a scroll. The upper of these contains the name Jhesus, and the lower Maria, both in embossed characters. The book was given by William Curtis, in 1564, and contains a quaint representation in water colours of the Company's arms, with two angels as supporters. Only eight of the folios have been used, the remainder being blank.

Besides the older and more interesting books already described, the following should be mentioned to illustrate the Company's modes of procedure in their internal management and their control of the trade: first audit book, 1495 to 1530; first livery book, 1570 to 1680; country search book, 1669 to 1683; earliest tin ledger, 1634-5.

Among the miscellaneous relics of the Company are an ancient hour-glass, a box containing the assay implements used in the searches, a curious antique box containing the Company's seal, coat of arms belonging to the barge, views of the old hall in Lime Street, now occupied by Messrs. Townend & Co., the beadle's staff-head of silver, and that of the assistant beadle in pewter, and the master's walking-stick, etc., etc.

The grant of arms, which is in beautiful preservation, was made by Thomas Benolt, Clarendieux King of Arms, on May 26th, 1533, the 22nd year of

Henry VIII. The arms are described as azure, a chevron or, between three stryks argent, on the chevron three roses gules, with stalks, leaves, and buds vert. Neither crest, supporters, nor motto are specified, but the Company's streamers are described as powdered with lily-pots or stryks. These appear to have been the most ancient emblems of the Company. They are specified in the warden's accounts for 1452-3, nearly a century before the date of the grant of arms, as follows. "Item viij., banners, with lily-pots and stracks for trumpets." The lily-pot and strack may be seen in the upper part of the floriated border to the grant of arms. The rose also was undoubtedly an ancient emblem, as it appears on the Company's livery stand-cloth, which formerly decorated the stands, or, more properly, seats, erected in Cheapside upon the occasion of pageants, for the accommodation of the livery of the Company. Two portions of this stand-cloth are fortunately preserved, the larger containing the arms of the Company, beautifully worked, and the smaller a portion of the powdering of roses. Edmondson, in his "Heraldry," gives another name to the charge, which is described in the original grant as a stryek or strack. He designates it as "an ancient limbeck," the colloquial form of the term "alembic" or "still." The origin and purpose of this emblem are not clear, and must be reserved for future investigation.

At the end of the accounts for 1455-6 appears an entry of an earlier grant of arms, unfortunately not described, and of which no other particulars exist: "Item, a licence under seal of the yifte [of] armes unto the seid crafte by an herault of armes."

I must draw attention to the interesting series of

touch-plates belonging to the Company. These contain the marks or touches of the makers of pewter. The earliest mention of them in the Company's records occurs in the ancient Book of Inventories, under the year 1550, on the recto of folio 20, as follows: "Item, a table of pewter, with every man's mark therein." As only one plate is here mentioned, it is probable that the custom of registering marks originated, as I have previously suggested, in 1503-4, under the Act of the 19th Henry VII. Unfortunately this original plate has disappeared. The plates remaining in the Company's possession, are five in number. The earliest contains marks of various dates, without any strict chronological arrangement. The earliest date is 1640, but it is quite possible that some of the undated touches of this plate may be ten or even twenty years earlier. They are of various sizes, suited to the different descriptions of vessels. Those of smallest size were used for spoons and other small articles, and in these the date is abbreviated by the omission of the two first figures. The initials or full name of the maker usually appear together with a device which is, in a few instances, the Company's rose or stryk. Other devices are the sun, a hand, a heart, a caduceus, a dog, a dolphin, pelican, etc., etc. In some cases an old stamp is obliterated by another, adopted by the same maker at a later date. The last of these plates contains the marks registered from 1796 to 1824. These are, of course, very few in number compared with those of earlier years. The marks are not confined to those of London makers, but, in some cases at least, include makers in various parts of the country. It is curious to note that the Company's official mark does not appear either on

these plates or preserved, so far as I have been able to ascertain, in any other form among their records. On the other hand, the marks registered on the touch-plates of the Goldsmiths' Company are not those of the makers, but the official stamps of the Company, which varied from year to year. The methods employed by the two companies in exercising control over their trades account for the different registration adopted by each. The Goldsmiths' Company required every maker to have his wares stamped at their hall with the hall-mark ; the Pewterers, on the other hand, obliged the maker to affix his own mark to his goods and register it at their Hall, which enabled the Company, in their periodical trade searches, to bring home to the culprit any delinquencies in manufacture.

The great regard felt by the pewterers for their brethren the goldsmiths in the seventeenth century unfortunately led to some little differences between the two crafts, the pewterers having shown the sincerity of their flattery by imitating the goldsmiths' marks for silver plate. Indeed, the practice of placing the Goldsmiths' hall-mark on pewter vessels became so frequent that, upon the complaint of the Goldsmiths' Company, the Privy Council directed the Court of Aldermen to inquire into the matter ; and on March 3rd, 1635, the Court passed an order that the Pewterers should strike but one stamp or mark upon their pewter, "as anciently hath been accustomed, unless the buyer shall desire his own arms or stamp of his sign to be stricken thereupon."

From the inventory of 1540 we find that the apartments in the hall were as follows : the counting-house, the great hall, the buttery, the pantry, the kitchen, the larder-house, the parlour over the hall,

and the garret over the parlour ; and the inn-yard is also mentioned, in which was a well.

In the Great Fire of London, the hall and many of the records of the Company perished ; but the buildings were re-erected from the designs of Christopher Wren, and the Company continued to hold their meetings in this hall until the year 1804. In this year, owing to a serious diminution in the Company's income through the general use of glass, china, and earthenware for domestic purposes, and the resistance offered by the master pewterers to the Company's chartered rights of search, assay, hall-marking, etc., the Company let their hall and removed to the adjoining house, 17, Lime Street, and, subsequently, on their rent-roll improving, the accommodation was increased by taking the adjoining house to form what was called the new court-room.

Subsequently, it was found necessary to rebuild these premises, together with No. 18, the material of which Wren's structure had been built having been more or less damaged in the Great Fire. Unfortunately, through defects in the roof of these old premises, many of the Company's possessions were utterly spoiled by dust, damp, and moth, among the chief articles being the state barge-master's coat and rower's jacket, the banners, staff-cloths, and draperies for use in civic and water pageants, and the very richly embroidered pall of Genoa crimson velvet, which was borne in procession on the occasion of the officers and members of the guild attending to distribute the dole of silver maundy money bequeathed by an ancient benefactor of the Company, named Astlin.

This observance was on a specific Friday, and those attending dined afterwards upon herrings. The custom was discontinued about fifty or sixty years ago, as was also the procession to St. Dionis Church on election day, already alluded to.
