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HALL-MARKS
ON
GOLD AND SILVER PLATE



ARMS OF THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY

W. CHAFFERS

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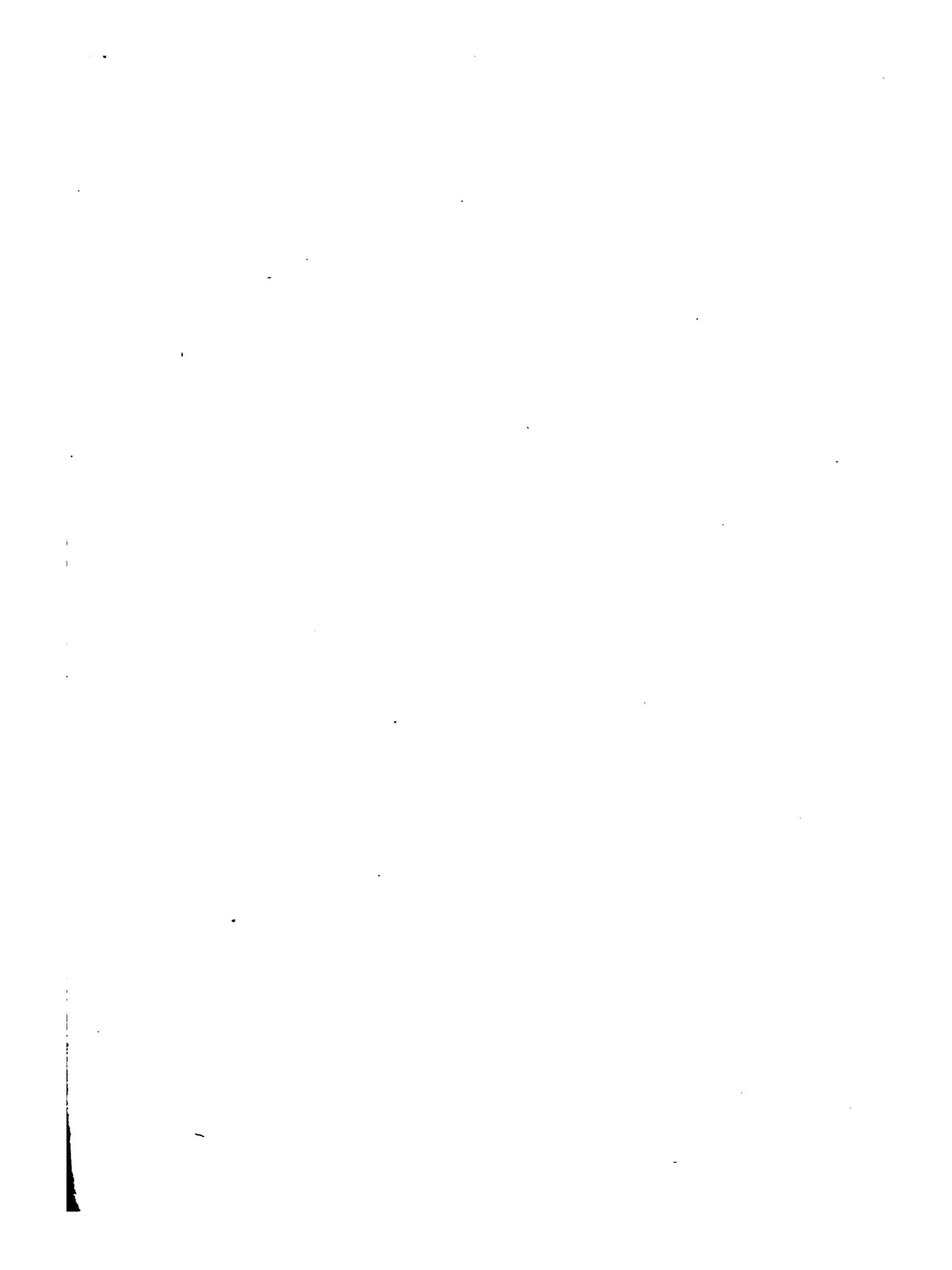
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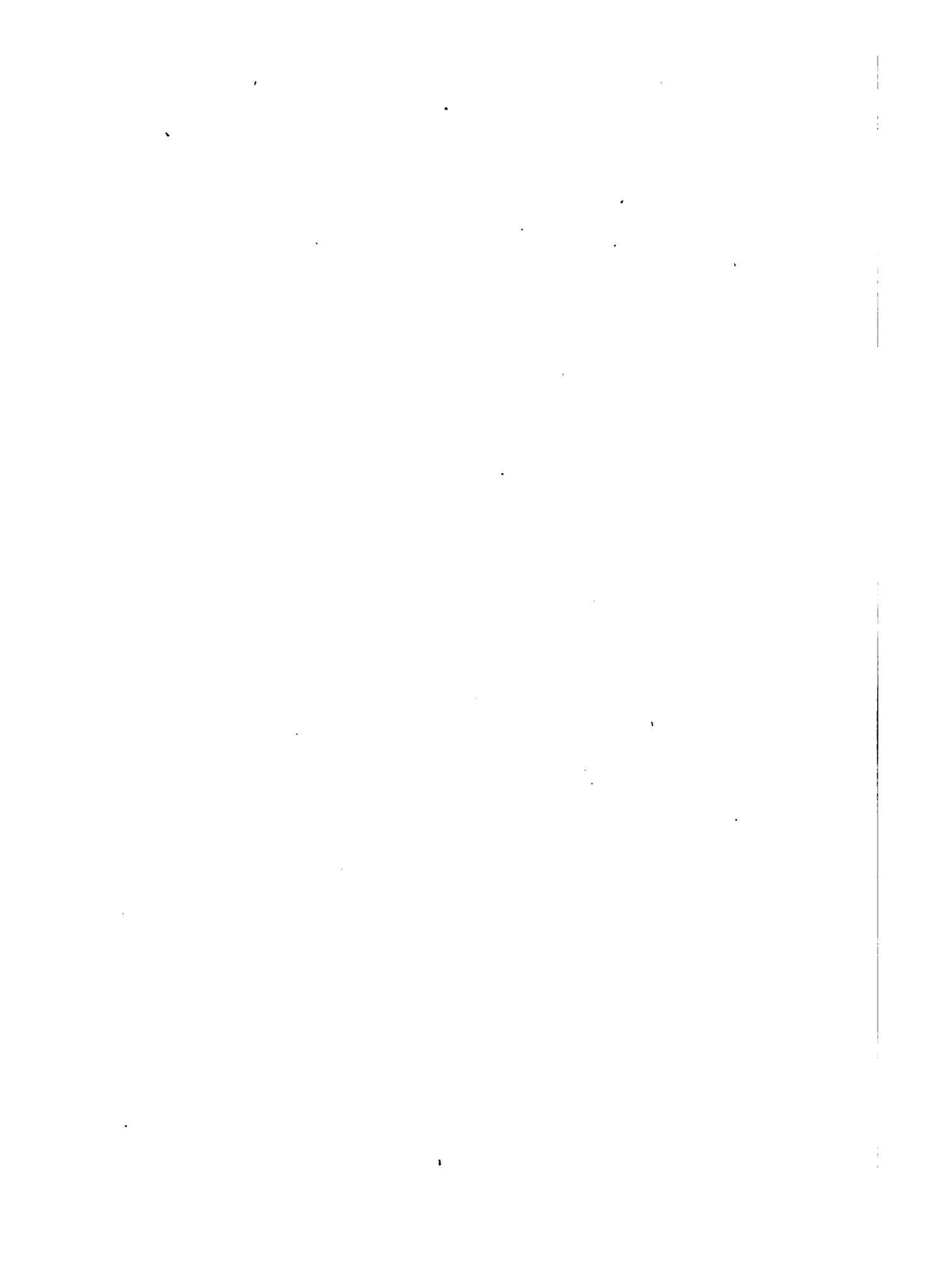
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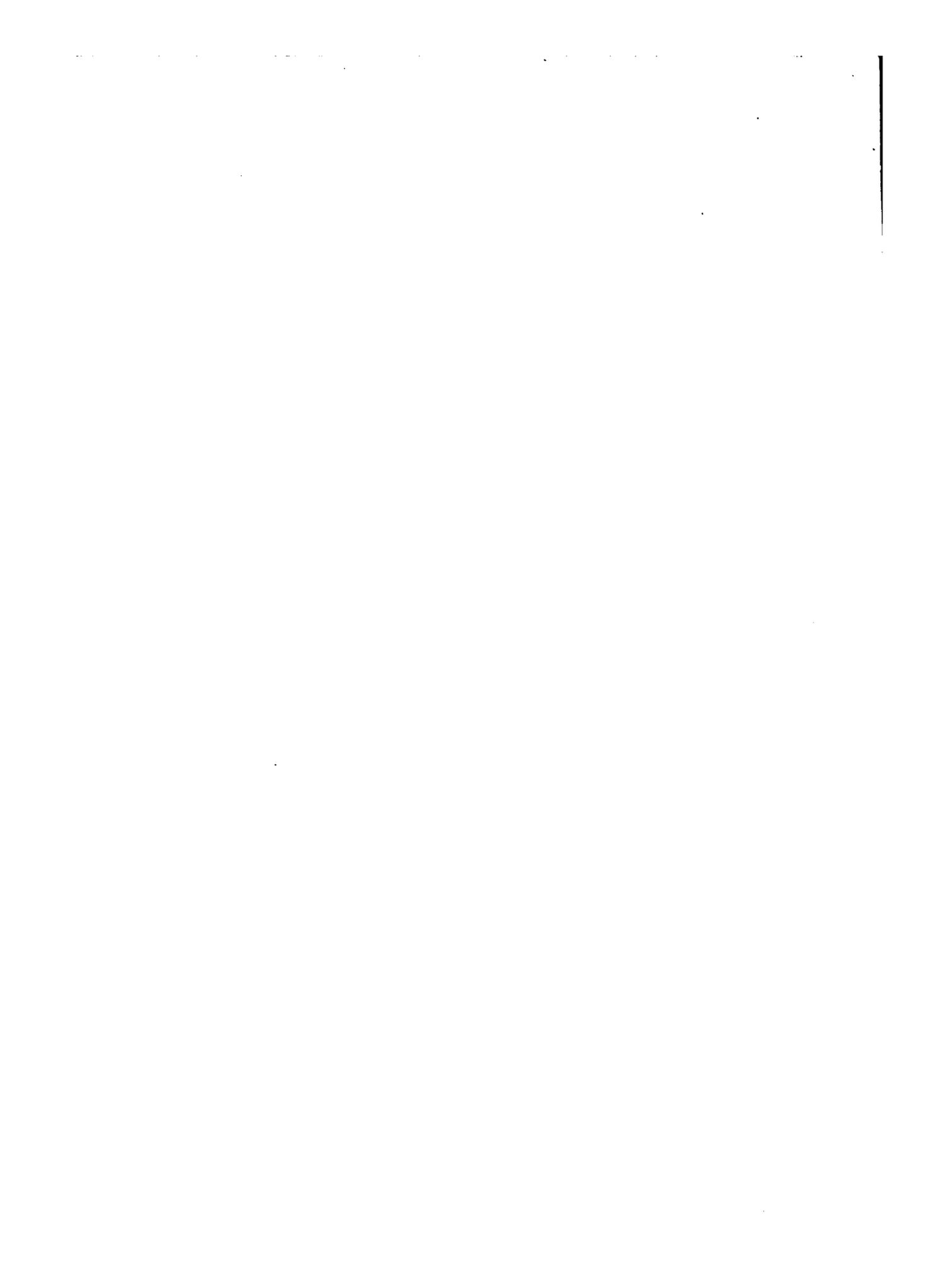
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HALL
MARKS
ON
GOLD
AND
SILVER
PLATE





SILVER GILT STANDING CUP,
DATE 1609,
THE PROPERTY OF THE MARQUIS OF EXETER.

Hall Marks
ON
GOLD AND SILVER PLATE

*ILLUSTRATED WITH REVISED TABLES OF
ANNUAL DATE LETTERS*

EMPLOYED IN

The Assay Offices of England, Scotland and Ireland.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A HISTORY OF L'ORFÈVRENERIE FRANÇAISE

BY

WILLIAM CHAFFERS,

AUTHOR OF "A HISTORY OF LONDON GOLD-SMITHS AND PLATEWORKERS (GOLD AND SILVER)"

Ninth Edition.

**Extended and Enlarged, and with the Addition of 260 New Date
Letters and Marks, and a Bibliography.**

EDITED BY

CHRISTOPHER A. MARKHAM, F.S.A.

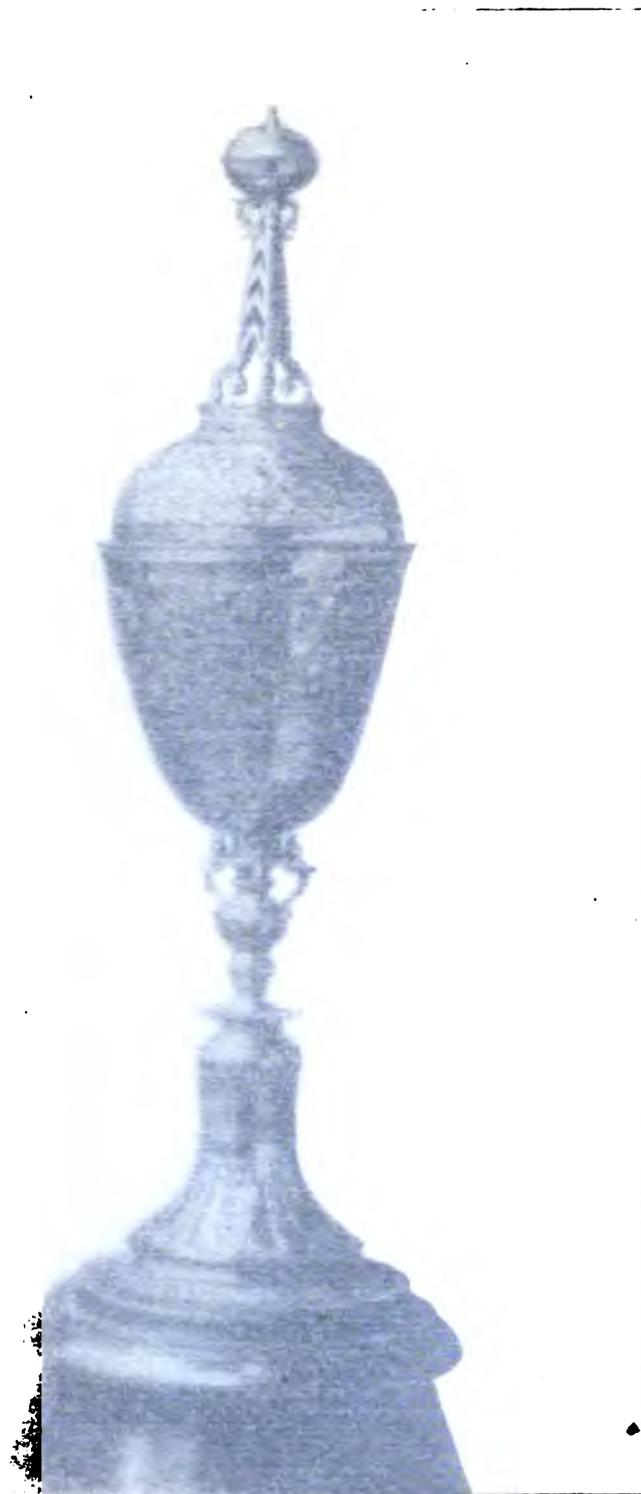
AUTHOR OF "THE CHURCH PLATE OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON," ETC.

LONDON:
REEVES AND TURNER,

83, CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.

1905

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CHALICE CUP.

1850. EXETER

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ON
GOLD AND SILVER PLATE

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ANNUAL DATE LETTERS

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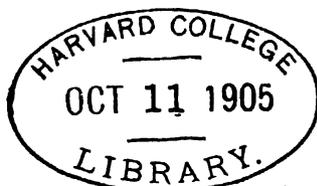
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ART PUBLICATIONS.

THE COMPANION TO "HALL MARKS ON GOLD AND SILVER PLATE."

CHAFFERS (W.), A HISTORY OF ENGLISH GOLD-SMITHS AND PLATEWORKERS ("GILDA AURIFABRORUM") and their Marks stamped on Plate, copied in *facsimile* from celebrated Examples and the earliest Records preserved at Goldsmiths' Hall, London, with their names, addresses and dates of entry. 2,500 *illustrations*; also Historical Account of the Goldsmiths' Company, and their Hall Marks and Regalia; the Mint; Closing of the Exchequer; Goldsmith Bankers; Shop Signs, a Copious Index, etc., a New Edition, 267 pp., roy. 8vo, cloth, 12s.

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LONDON: REEVES AND TURNER.

DEDICATED TO
The Goldsmiths' Company of London,
WITH THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE
WARDENS AND COURT OF ASSISTANTS,

*Accompanied by the following gracious reply, signed by the Clerk
of the Company.*

GOLDSMITHS' HALL,
LONDON, E.C.
11th December, 1902.

Dear Sir,

I had an opportunity of submitting your letter of the 6th instant to the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company yesterday, and I was desired to say that they have pleasure in giving you permission to dedicate your forthcoming edition of "Chaffers' Hall Marks on Gold and Silver Plate" to the Company.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
WALTER S. PRIDEAUX.

CHRISTOPHER A. MARKHAM, Esq.



“Opus quale sit, ignis probabit.”—1 COR. iii. 13.
(Motto of the Goldsmiths' Company of Rouen.)

THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY.

THE following account of the Goldsmiths' Company is from a plate of their arms in the Clerk's office:—

“To the Master Warden & Wardens with the rest of the Worthy Members of the R^t Worship^l Company of Goldsmiths.

“*T. B. Wisheth Event of all Felicity & humbly dedicates this Plate.*

“The R^t Worship^l Company of Goldsmiths London, bear for their Ensigne Armoriall: Quarterly, Gules and Azure; In the 1st and 4th a Leopards head Or. In $\frac{e}{y}$ 2^d & 3^d a Cup covered between 2 Buckles of the last: On a Helmet a Wreath of their Colours, a denty* Lady her Arms extended proper, in γ Dexter hand a Pair of Scales, & in $\frac{e}{y}$ Sinister an Ingot as $\frac{e}{y}$ 3^d Supported by 2 Unicorns Gold Underneath on an Escrole for their Motto JUSTITA VIRTUTUM REGINA. Patron, St. Dunstan.

“It is to $\frac{e}{y}$ very great Honour of this Company, that severall Persons of Eminent worth in Antient & Modern times, have been inrolled among them (particularly) in $\frac{e}{y}$ Reigne of Hen: $\frac{e}{y}$ first Leofstane Goldsmith, was Provost of this City. That Henry Fitz Alwin Fitz Leofstane Goldsmith was Maior of London: 1st of Rich: 1st 1189. That Gregory Rokesby Goldsmith continued Maior 7 year together. That W^m Farrington Goldsmith was Sheriff 9th of Edw: 1st 1280. & his son Nicholas after him 4 times L^d Major in $\frac{e}{y}$ Reigne of Edw^d 2 1308. Besides King Prince Earle Lord and L^d Maiors. They were Incorporated 16th of

* Dainty, an old word for *fine* or *elegant*, here used for an elegantly dressed lady.

Rich : 2^d 1392. W^m Stonden L^d Maior. Gilbert Mafield,
Tho : Newington Sheriffs.

“Their Mansion Hall Scituate Foster Lane London.

“*London Printed for T. Bower Painter and are to be Sold at his Shop at the Kings head in Budge Row.*”

Their crest and supporters were granted in 1591.

Preface to the Ninth Edition, 1905

IN issuing the Ninth Edition of this work, the publishers have the pleasure of adding to it an Essay by CHRISTOPHER A. MARKHAM, Esq., F.S.A., on the History of Plate, who has also edited this volume, the value of which they trust has been increased.

Many of the letters included in the London Assay Office Letters being the copyright of the late Mr. W. J. Cripps, C.B., F.S.A., author of “Old English Plate,” by whose courtesy and express permission they are used in this book, the publishers desire to renew the acknowledgments for them and the permission to use other matter which has previously appeared in this work.

Their thanks are due to the Marquis of Exeter for permission to reproduce one of his beautiful standing cups, as the frontispiece; and also to Messrs. H. Hancock Dove and Alfred G. Dove, of Messrs. Hancocks & Co., Bond Street, and Messrs. Lambert of Coventry Street and to others mentioned in the body of this work.

The publishers regret to record the death in 1892 of Mr. William Chaffers, the author of the book; but in this work, and his elaborate volume on Pottery and Porcelain, his careful and industrious labours still remain to the public.

Some 260 new date letters and marks have been added, which have in every case been drawn by the present Editor from original examples.

Preface to the First Edition, 1863

THE Tables of Assay Office Letters here given will be found more complete than any hitherto published. Of those which have already appeared, the first printed about thirty years since by a printer in St. Anne's Lane was a short list of alphabetical letters from the year 1697; but they were badly formed, and printed without being compared with the actual marks on the plate itself.

Mr. Octavius Morgan, in 1853, produced an improved Table of the Annual Assay Office Letters of the Goldsmiths' Hall of London, tracing them back to the fifteenth century, and carefully comparing his lists with the marks on the plate, consulting also the Records and Minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company for confirmation. He tells us that from the year 1558 regularly formed escutcheons were used to enclose the letters, but unfortunately did not show us what their forms were, only giving the letters.

I have endeavoured to supply this defect by placing each letter in its proper shield,—a most important aid in determining the date of a piece of plate, where several alphabets of different dates are similar.

Some years since I also printed a small sheet of Assay Office Letters. All these are now out of print, and, at the request of numerous friends, I have been induced to publish one on a more extended scale, embracing the Marks used at the principal Assay Offices of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Although a great proportion of the plate made in England was *stamped* in London, yet other towns, from an early period, had the

like privilege. Scotland also had its Assay Office at Edinburgh, and I am enabled, through the perseverance and untiring zeal of Mr. J. H. Sanderson of that city (in carefully consulting the Records of the Goldsmiths' Company, and comparing them with pieces of old Scotch plate), to give a correct Table of the Assay Letters used there from the year 1681. I take this opportunity of thanking him for his trouble and kind assistance.

In Ireland, the principal Assay Office was at Dublin, and the Corporation of Goldsmiths of that city, through their Master, Edmond Johnston, Esq., liberally granted me permission to examine their Records, and, with the assistance of Mr. Thomas Ryves Metcalf, their Clerk (who furnished me with extracts from the local Acts by which they are governed), I am enabled to give a List of Assay Office Letters used there since 1646.

Impressions in wax or gutta-percha of early stamps on ancient plate, especially those with engraved dates of presentation, will be very acceptable, that the blanks in the earlier cycles may be filled up satisfactorily.

W. CHAFFERS.

Preface to the Sixth Edition, 1883

IN offering the Sixth Edition of "HALL MARKS ON PLATE," a few prefatory remarks are necessary to explain that numerous additions have been made in the various sections. All the recent enactments have been consulted, and the important clauses embodied in the Work. The whole has undergone careful revision, and as it is essentially a book of reference for Plate Collectors and Goldsmiths, due attention has been paid in giving facilities for that purpose. The new Act, abolishing the use of pennyweights and grains and dividing the Troy ounce into thousandths, has caused

some difficulty to Goldsmiths in weighing plate by the new weights, but tables of comparison are given to remedy the temporary inconvenience of the decimal system. The Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1879 on the Hall-marking of Gold and Silver will show what reforms were considered desirable, although no action has yet been taken by the Government. In consequence of the importation of vast quantities of foreign plate of an inferior quality, its sale has been prohibited in the United Kingdom by an Act of 1875, unless assayed and stamped at the Halls, with an additional mark denoting its foreign manufacture. The Tables of Date Letters of the London and Provincial Assay Offices have received especial attention, and a number of Hall Marks of the Provinces hitherto unappropriated are inserted under their respective cities and towns, with hints for the further elucidation of the subject, thereby preventing the destruction of many interesting pieces which from being unknown have hitherto been consigned to the crucible.

So many additions having been made throughout, it is needless to do more than refer to the fact that nearly a *hundred pages of new matter and five hundred fresh marks* have been introduced. But a pleasing duty remains to be performed, viz., to express our grateful thanks to several gentlemen who have given us important information, and have assisted us materially in elucidating many obscure portions of our History of Hall Marks on Plate. Their names will be found recorded in the body of the work, yet a few must be specially noticed in anticipation. The urbanity and great help accorded us on all occasions by the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company and their clerk, Mr. Walter Prideaux, aided by the obliging attention of the Deputy Warden, Mr. W. Robinson, merit our warmest thanks. Our inquiries and communications made to the Assay masters of Chester, Sheffield, and other provincial offices, have met with immediate attention. To Mr. Horatio Stewart, of the

firm of Messrs. Hancocks & Co., our especial thanks are due in supplying us with careful drawings of Hall marks, taken by their artist from all pieces of ancient plate which have come under their notice for the last twenty years. The reader will also perceive how much we are indebted to the assistance of the Right Hon. the Earl of Breadalbane in allowing us to copy the marks on examples of plate collected by his Lordship in illustration of those of the Royal Burghs of Scotland, which have hitherto been involved in mystery. Our thanks are also due to [the late] Mr. W. J. Cripps for permission to make some important additions and corrections in several of our Tables of London and provincial date letters contained in his interesting work, entitled "Old English Plate"; and to the same gentleman for permitting us to print certain other matter, including some authorities given by Mr. J. H. Sanderson for the Tables of Edinburgh Hall Marks, which originally appeared in the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. These tables have appeared in our previous editions, and we rendered our thanks to Mr. J. H. Sanderson in the Preface to the first edition of 1863, but the property in Mr. Sanderson's work and notes passed to [the late] Mr. Cripps.

W. CHAFFERS.

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OF
DATE LETTERS OF ASSAY OFFICES.

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MEMORANDUM.

By the "Act to amend the Law with respect to the Hall-marking of Foreign Plate" (4 Edward VII. cap. 6.) when any plate or article imported from a foreign part is brought to an assay office in the United Kingdom to be assayed or stamped, the same shall be stamped in such manner as the King by an order in Council may determine. The person bringing such plate or article to be assayed or stamped shall state in writing whether the same was wrought in the United Kingdom or imported from abroad. If it is not known where the plate or article was wrought, it shall be stamped as if it were imported. Any person making a false declaration shall be liable to a fine.

This Act came into force on the 4th November, 1904.

INTRODUCTION.

"Money spent in the purchase of well-designed plate, of precious engraved vases, cameos, or enamels, does good to humanity."

—RUSKIN, "The Stones of Venice," II. vi. 18

WHAT more beautiful craft has been practised by mankind than the craft of gold and silver smith? From the earliest times of which we have any record, vessels of gold and vessels of silver, made "for pleasure and for state," have been objects of universal admiration.

Great artists have expended their power in producing articles made from the precious metals. Dominico Ghirlandajo, who flourished towards the end of the fifteenth century, and who was the master of Michael Angelo, worked as a goldsmith; Verocchio, the master of Leonardo da Vinci, worked as a goldsmith; Ghiberti, the artist who designed and constructed those wonderful bronze gates of the Baptistry at Florence, which, as Michael Angelo said, might serve as the gates of Paradise, worked as a goldsmith; Francia of Bologna, whose real name was Raibolini, and who often signed himself on his pictures *Aurifex*, and on his jewellery *Pictor*, thus indicating the double craft, worked as a goldsmith; and Benvenuto Cellini of Florence, one of the most artistic men of his time, and a cunning workman, was the prince of goldsmiths and autobiographers.

Not only have great artists devoted themselves to the goldsmith's craft, but "true goldsmith's work, when it exists, is generally the means of education of the greatest painters and sculptors of the day."

No matter whether we go to the old Egyptian records graven or painted on stone, to the Bible, or to the classics, we everywhere meet the workers in gold and silver.

Whenever we enquire into the origin of any art, we generally turn for information to the monuments in Egypt, and to the volume of the Sacred Law.

The Egyptians were exceedingly skilful in the use of metals of all kinds, and understood the mixing of various alloys. The paintings at Beni Hasan, drawn about 2500 years before Christ, show the whole process of converting gold dust into jewellery. We see the workmen washing the dust, weighing it in the scales, the clerk writing down the weights on his tables, the use of the blowpipe to produce sufficient heat to melt the gold in the crucible, and the final working of the metal into vases, and articles of jewellery.

The paintings in the tombs at Thebes also, show the gold and silver smiths at their work, together with beautiful specimens of gold and silverware.*

We read of Pharaoh having taken Joseph out of prison arraying him in fine linen and putting "a gold chain about his neck"; he also placed his ring on Joseph's hand, thus delegating to him the power of sealing documents with the royal signet.†

A few years later Joseph gave orders that his cup, "the silver cup," was to be placed in the sack's mouth of his youngest brother.‡

When the Israelites had completed their term of bondage, they "borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver and jewels of gold,"|| proving that the Egyptians were at that time possessed of stores of earrings, bracelets, and all kinds of jewels.

In the book of Job, one of the oldest, if not the oldest history in the world, there are numerous references to gold and silver. "Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold where they fine it."§ The chapter commencing with these lines refers to the mining and working of precious metals.

If we go to the ancient account of gold-mining in Egypt written by Agatharchides, who lived in the first century before Christ, we find a very full account of the process by which the gold ore was obtained from the mines, the manner in which it was broken up, the earthy portions washed away, the final smelting of the ore, and the production of the pure gold. We also find a very vivid picture of the terrible life led by the slaves who worked in the mines.

At the Great Exhibition of 1867 a beautiful little Egyptian barque of solid gold was exhibited. It contained twelve oars-men of silver, a figure in the bows in a sort of cabin, another in the centre of the boat holding the bâton of command, and in the stern the helmsman steering with a large oar; the last three figures are of gold. The boat is mounted on a wooden carriage with four bronze wheels. The workmanship of the whole is very fine, and shows that the Egyptians were at that early period masters of the goldsmith's art.

This beautiful little object is now in the Museum at Cairo, and it is probably the oldest piece of Egyptian jewellery now in existence, having been discovered in the tomb of Aah-hotep, the wife of the last king of the sixteenth dynasty.

The Israelites thoroughly understood the method of working in gold; they appreciated the malleability of it when "they did beat the gold into thin plates," and the ductility of it when they did "cut it into wires, to work it in the blue, and in the purple, and in the scarlet, and in the fine linen, with cunning work."¶

The famous golden candelabrum or candlestick** of the Temple was no mean specimen of the smith's art. It was probably carried off by Titus when he conquered Jerusalem, and it is shown on the well known bas-relief sculptured on the Arch at Rome, which was

* Wilkinson's Antient Egyptians.
1854, Vol. ii. p. 136.

|| Exodus xii. 35.

¶ Exodus xxxix. 3.

† Genesis xli. 42.

‡ Genesis xliv. 2.

§ Job xxviii. 1.

** Id. xxv. 31.

erected by the conqueror. Indeed the vessels of the house of the Lord were all of the most beautiful and costly character, and are very fully described.*

We read that "all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon."†

The early Greeks were dexterous in working gold and silver, and their skill and refinement were very great, as early as six centuries before Christ. They were especially clever in using solder, or other metallic cement, by means of which they fixed on the level surface of the articles they made, excessively small pieces of gold, which enabled them to build up the tiny ornaments with which they decorated their work.

The great age of Greek art did not, however, commence until about 330 B.C., and the highest stage in the history of all art was reached about a century later.

Amongst the most remarkable of the Greek sculptures were those composed of ivory and gold, known as chryselephantines. There were many of these in Greece, the most famous being those of Zeus at Olympia, of Hera at Argos, and of Athene at Athens, which was executed by Phidias about 433 B.C., and were of immense size. The framework of these figures was of olive wood, the faces and all uncovered parts were of ivory, while the dress was of gold, with beautifully wrought borders. Both ivory and gold were very thin, and in the case of Athene, at any rate, the golden drapery could be taken entirely off.‡

The statue of Zeus was said to be from fifty to sixty feet high, without reckoning the pedestal. The god was seated in a chair, in his right hand he held a life-sized Victory, and in his left a tall sceptre with the eagle.

The Athene of the Parthenon was somewhat smaller. The goddess was standing, her helmet surmounted by a sphinx, and like the Zeus she held a life-sized Victory in her right, and a spear and shield, in her left hand.

These colossal figures were most perfectly finished in every respect, and were placed on pedestals, which were covered with figures in relief.

The Greeks were also very skilful in making smaller articles, the enumeration of which would take us too far afield. Their golden shields, belts, helmets, and other pieces of armour were very celebrated.

Diana, great of the Ephesians, was certainly a patroness of the silversmith, for we read that "a man, Demetrie bi name a worcker in siluer makide siluer housis to Diane."||

Passing from the Greeks to the Romans, we leave a most artistic and highly trained people, for a people certainly not artistic in the

* I Kings vii. 48 et seq.

† Id. x. 21.

‡ *Jupiter Olympieu* by Quartermère de Quincy.

|| "Deeds of Apostles," xix. 21, Wycliffe's Version.

higher sense of the word. The Romans were not great goldsmiths, but if they could not produce beautiful articles, they appreciated what was good, and they employed Greeks whose skill was well known. Many beautiful silver vases have been found at Pompeii, Rome, and other places, most of which were no doubt made by the Greeks.

A number of silver vessels were some years ago unearthed near Hildesheim, in Hanover, and placed in the Museum at Berlin. They are of a good period, and comprise drinking-vessels, some being parcel gilt; dishes, ladles, pieces of tripods, and other articles. These vessels probably formed part of the camp equipage of some Roman commander, for it is known that the sets of silver plate carried by the Romans on their expeditions, were both large and costly. Copies of all these articles may now be seen in the South Kensington Museum.*

The number of gold and silver vessels, each with its name, used by the Romans was very great. There was the crater, used for mixing the wine and water; the cylix, used for drinking; the cyathus or oenochœ, used as a ladle to fill the cylix; the carchesium, or goblet with or without handles; the pronchos, or jug; the patera, or saucer; and many others. Small silver tripods were also used for tables.

The decline of classic art commenced after the close of the third century, and before many years, all traditions of good classic art had died out.

After the decay of Roman art, the remains of the Roman power, and what was left of the traditions of their art, were transplanted to Constantinople, and formed the foundation of the great art called Byzantine, which lasted from the fourth to the eleventh century.

In this style architectural forms were much used; these were ornamented by scrolls and conventional foliage, interlaced with figures, animals, fabulous creatures, and legends in most complicated patterns. "Human figures no longer represented gods and goddesses, the images of natural strength and beauty, the pride or the passions of mankind. As the old religion had inspired the earlier art, so did the solemnity of the Christian religion set its mark on the new. Its austerities, its strife with the world, its contempt of pleasure, its future hopes—all these found expression in the heads and bodies of prophets, apostles, and martyrs. Instead of the smoothness of face and roundness of limb of the Greek artists, those of Byzantium represented the wasted shapes of hermits, the sorrows of the mother of the Redeemer, and the mystery of the Cross."*

The Gloucester candlestick, which is mentioned hereafter, is an excellent example of Byzantine ornamentation.

During the early centuries of our era the barbarians from the north and from the east of Europe, and from the neighbouring continent of Asia overran Great Britain, France, Spain, and Italy. All trace of the old art was blotted out and an entirely different and ruder style followed.

* Pollen's "Gold and Silver Smiths' Work."

Several specimens of the goldsmiths' skill of this period still remain.

One of these is a diadem of pure gold which was found at Novo Tcherkask on the River Don, and is adorned with pearls, and a magnificent cameo; it is of fine workmanship, though of grotesque form.

In 1858 a beautiful treasure, consisting of eight golden votive crowns, was found near Toledo. The most important of these crowns is an excellent specimen of the goldsmith's art of the seventh century. It is formed of a golden band suspended from a central ornament, by four chains, and set with sapphires, pearls, and carbuncles. From the lower edge of the band hang small letters of gold set with sapphires. These letters form the words RECCES-VINTHVS REX OFFERET. These crowns are now at the Cluny Museum at Paris.

The Emperor Charlemagne, who was crowned in 800, did much to encourage the goldsmiths of that period, and many beautiful jewels and ornaments were made for his use. Amongst these was the imperial crown, which is still preserved at Vienna. This is formed of eight plates of gold rounded above and joined together, and ornamented with jewels and enamels.

Somewhat later we meet with the name of Saint Éloi, who was born at Simonsin in France at the end of the sixteenth century, and who became a celebrated goldsmith. Some beautiful crosses and chalices made by him still remain in the Cathedral at Limoges, and in a few of the churches at Paris.

Ireland produced some early and very remarkable pieces of wrought silver, in the Byzantine style.

Miss N. Stokes mentions that there is a beautiful silver chalice of Irish design at Kremsmünster, in Lower Austria, eighteen miles South of Wels, near the Danube.* This appears, from the inscription it bears, to have been made in the middle of the eighth century; and, if it is really of Irish manufacture, it is the earliest work in silver made in that country.

The Tara brooch is a most delicate and charming work, ornamented with a variety of designs, including various forms of interlacing pattern known as spiral knots. The greater portion of this brooch however is of white bronze, only the chain being of silver. It was found in 1850.

The Ardagh chalice is formed of several different metals. The upper rim is of brass; the bowl is of silver, adorned with plaques of gold; the handles are composed of enamels; the stem is of bronze metal gilt; and the foot is of silver. It is ornamented with the interlacing pattern, and set with crystals, amber, and enamels.

Passing on to a time nearer the present day, we find that the first working goldsmith of whom we hear in England was Dunstan, who was born at Glastonbury, about the year 925. He built a cell near the Abbey of Glastonbury, containing an oratory, and also a forge. There he made censers and crosses, chalices and patens,

* Stokes' "Early Christian Art in Ireland," 1887, p. 67.

as well as articles for domestic use. He successively became Abbot of Glastonbury, Bishop of Worcester, and of London, and Archbishop of Canterbury. After his death in 979 he was buried in Canterbury Cathedral, canonised, and made the patron of all good goldsmiths. The London Goldsmiths' Company especially honoured S. Dunstan, always subscribing towards the light of S. Dunstan in the Church of S. John Zachary, keeping his day as a holiday, and designating him in their books as "Seynt Dunstan, our blessed Patron, Protector and Founder."*

The Anglo-Saxons were, indeed, always reckoned skilful in the use of gold and silver. We are told that after the Conquest, when William returned to Normandy, he carried with him the choicest wealth of England, as gifts to S. Stephen's at Caen, and other churches which he visited. "Men gazed with wonder upon the rich spoils of the conquered island. In arts of skill and adornment England and other Teutonic lands were allowed to outdo the nations of the Romance speech. And if the women of England were renowned for the art which had wrought the Raven on the banner of Ragnar, and the Fighting Man on the banner of Harold, the men were no less renowned for the art which wrought the cups of gold, the cups of silver, and the many other articles which adorned the tables of the great."

Theodoric, the goldsmith, was settled in England in King Eadward's time, and held lands in various shires both under that King and under Earl Harold. He was a man of unrecorded nationality, and was no doubt one of those craftsmen from the Teutonic land, whose presence in England had been encouraged by a constant tradition, probably going back to the days of Eadgar. Immediately after the Conquest, William granted to him estates in Berkshire. In Essex and Suffolk we find a tenant called "*Otto aurifaber*," or "*Otho aurifex*," who must have been a clever workman, for he was employed on William's own tomb; and in Wiltshire, also, "*Grimbaldus aurifaber*" was one of the King's Thegns.

In the eleventh century a great revival of art took place throughout Europe, the movement being to a large extent ecclesiastical in character. Most of the workers were monks, who founded their monasteries in all parts of the land, the most wonderful structures, adorned with images and sculpture, with altar fronts, crosses and candlesticks, with chalices and patens, and with reliquaries and lamps.

Brithnodus, the Abbot of Ely, at this time was a worker in gold and silver, and the jewelled images made by him were given to turn the wrath of the Conqueror from the Abbey of Ely.

Robert, the Abbot of St. Albans, was a skilful goldsmith, and the maker of two remarkable reliquaries with golden images; and Baldwin and Anketil, two monks of the same monastery, were also celebrated as goldsmiths and the makers of elegant cups and candlesticks.

In the twelfth century we read of many gold-workers; amongst

* Chaffers' *Gilda Aurifabrorum*. (Reeves & Turner).

them Leofstane, a celebrated goldsmith, who was appointed by the King, Provost of London, a title antecedent to that of the Lord Mayor. Ralph Flael was a goldsmith, and Alderman of London, and in the twelfth century he was one of those amerced for practising in a guild without the King's license.

In 1180 a guild of goldsmiths existed in London, but it was simply an association of manufacturers working together as a trade union, probably using the leopard's head as a trade-mark, but unrecognised by the legislature, and having no charter or other privilege.

The first Mayor of London was a goldsmith, Henry Fitz-Alweyn by name, who held this high office from 1189 to 1213.

The reputation of the gold-worker for honesty, does not, however, appear to have been very high, for in 1238 the King issued a mandate commanding the Mayor and Aldermen to choose six of the more discreet goldsmiths to superintend the craft, to inquire as to the pureness of gold and silver used, and to prevent any one from working in private.

Neither does it appear that the gold-workers were a very peaceful race, for, as the guild became powerful, it is recorded that in 1268—

"In this liii yere [of Henry III.] in y^e moneth of Nouembre, fyll a varyaunce atwene the felysshypes of goldsmythes and taylloures of London, whiche grewe to makynge of parties, so that . . . moche people nyghtly gaderyd in the stretes in harneys, and at length as it were prouyded, the thirde nyght of the sayd parties mette vpon the nombre of v.c. men on both sydes, and ran togyder with such vyolence that some were slayne and many wonded. Then outcry was made, so that y^e shyreffes, with strengthe of other cc̄mons, came to the ryddyng of theym, and of theym toke certayne persones, and sent theym vnto dyuers prysons. . . . Then vpon the Fryday folowyng saynt Katheryns daye, sessyons were kepte at Newgate by the mayre and Laurence de Broke iustyce and other, where xxx. of the sayd persones were arregnede of felony, and xiii. of theym caste and hanged."*

At the end of the thirteenth century we meet with the name of William Torel, who was a goldsmith and citizen of London, and maker of the beautiful recumbent statue of Eleanor of Castile, in brass, gilt with gold; and at the same time, Ade, a goldsmith, made many gold and silver vessels for Edward I.

Sir William Faringdon, who gave his name to the City Ward, and who was Sheriff and Mayor of London in 1280, was a goldsmith, as was also his son, Sir Nicholas Faringdon, who was four times Mayor of London.

The first time any mark was officially mentioned as being impressed on articles of silver, was in 1300, when it was enacted that gold should be no worse than the touch of Paris, and silver should be of the sterling alloy, or in any case no worse than money. Silver articles were to be marked with a leopard's head by the wardens of

* "The Chronicles," by Robert Fabyan, 1811, p. 364.

the craft, but no mark was ordained for gold articles.* Gold of the touch of Paris and silver of the sterling of England, were both at that time, everywhere, the recognised standards for precious metals.

John de Louthe and William de Berkinge were celebrated jewellers about 1307, and they made for Isabella, queen of Edward II., "A chaplet of gold set with balays, sapphires, emeralds, diamonds and pearls; a crown of gold set with sapphires and rubies of Alexandria; a circlet of gold, and other articles."

Twenty years later the Goldsmiths' Company was incorporated by Edward III., by letters patent, in the first year of his reign, under the name of "The Wardens and Commonality of the Mystery of Goldsmiths of the City of London." This charter especially provided for the protection of the home industry; and after reciting that private merchants and strangers from foreign lands counterfeited sterling, kept shops in obscure streets, made jewellery in which they set glass of divers colours, covered tin with silver so subtly and with such sleight that the same could not be separated, and otherwise misbehaved themselves, the King granted that only plate of fine silver should be imported, that men of the trade should only keep shops in Cheap, that honest and sufficient men should be chosen to reform defects and punish offenders, and that in the trading cities of England the same ordinance should be observed, and that certain from such towns or cities should carry the wares to London, in order that, after the touch of gold had been ascertained, their works might be marked with the puncheon of the leopard's head, as it was anciently ordained.

This charter speaks of the leopard's head as being even then an old mark, and only provides for the marking of gold articles, the marking of silver articles having been directed by the previous statute.

The earliest Court minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company are dated in 1334.

In 1336 the ordinances of the Company speak of three marks, "the owner's and sayer's marks and the Liberdshede crowned"; the first mark being the maker's, the second the assayer's, and the third that of the Goldsmiths' Hall, the crown being for the first time mentioned.

Another statute in 1363 provided that every master goldsmith should have a mark for himself, which he was to set on his work, after it had been assayed and the surveyor had set on it the King's mark.† This is the first time the maker's mark is mentioned in any statute.

Sir John de Chichester was a celebrated goldsmith, and the maker of the wedding jewellery for the son of Edward III. and the Lady Blanche. He was Mayor of London in 1369.

In 1379 it was more specifically enacted that every goldsmith should have his own proper mark upon his work, and also that Mayors of cities and boroughs should assay the work; and that the same should bear the mark of the city or borough where it was

* 28th Edward I. cap. 20.

† 37th Edward III. cap. 7.

assayed, and, after the assay, that the work should be stamped with another mark to be appointed by the King.*

In 1392 the Goldsmiths' Company received their second charter, giving them license to be a community, and to choose out of their own number four wardens to govern the community.†

At the commencement of the fifteenth century the Goldsmiths' Company assembled in their Hall in Foster's Lane.

In 1403, in consequence of fraudulent artificers having daily made articles of copper and latten, gilt and silvered, it was enacted that no artificer should gild or silver any article made of copper or latten; but ornaments made for the church might be gilt or silvered, provided a piece of the foot were left plain, though chalices were always to be of pure metal.

In 1407 the second Goldsmiths' Hall was probably built by Sir Drugo Barentyn, and endowed by him with fair lands. He was a goldsmith, and twice Mayor of London.

In 1414, in consequence of the goldsmiths refusing to sell gilt wares for less than double the price of the weight of the silver in the same, an Act was passed fixing the price of silver gilt of the English sterling, at 46s. 8d. for a pound troy.‡

As the two last-mentioned Acts were not sufficient to prevent frauds, another Act was passed to forbid the gilding of any metal except silver, the only things excepted being church ornaments and knights' spurs.||

In 1423 it was ordained that the gold or silver smiths sell no worked silver in the city of London, unless it be of the fineness of silver; and that no harness of silver be sold before it be touched with the touch of the leopard's head, if it may reasonably bear the same, and also be marked with the workman's mark. The cities of York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Lincoln, Norwich, Bristol, Salisbury, and Coventry were each to have a distinct touch, to be fixed by the Mayor, bailiff, or governor of the same town.§

Sir John Pattesley, goldsmith, was the maker of a "tablett of golde with a crucifixe garnized with sapphires and perles weyng about xiiij unc," for Queen Katherine, in 1437. He also was Mayor of London.

In 1462 the Goldsmiths' Company received a third charter, constituting them a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, much enlarging their powers, and giving the wardens authority to search and try all sorts of gold and silver in the city of London, and in all other places throughout the kingdom of England, to punish and correct all defects, and to break all deceitful works and wares of gold and silver. This charter has since been many times confirmed and enlarged by later sovereigns.

In 1477 it was enacted that gold should be of the fineness of 18 carats, and silver as fine as sterling; and that all articles of silver sold within London, or within two leagues thereof, should be touched with the mark of the worker and the leopard's head crowned.

* 2nd Richard II.

† 16th Richard II.

‡ 2nd Henry V. Stat. 2, cap. 4.

§ 2nd Henry III. caps. 13, 14.

|| 8th Henry V. cap. 3.

Sir Edmund Shaa or Shaw was Mayor of London in 1482, and attended as cup-bearer at the coronation of King Richard III. He was goldsmith to the King, and sold to him "4 pots of silver parcel gilt, 3 pots and 5 bowes, 12 dishes, 11 saucers silver with gilt borders, 2 chargers, 10 saucers, an ewer parcel gilt and 8 other chargers. The weight of the said plate was 275 pounds 4 ounces of troy weight, and came to £550 13s. 4d." He founded a free school at Stockport, in Cheshire, and by his will provided for its endowment; he also directed "16 rings of fine gold to be graved with the well of pitie, the well of mercie, and the well of everlasting life," and given to his friends.

Sir Hugh Bryce was a goldsmith, Governor of the Mint, and Mayor of London in 1485. He gave a goodly and rich hearsecloth to the Goldsmiths' Company, who recorded in a minute that whenever it was used the company assembled were to pray for the donor's soul.

Thomas Wood was an opulent goldsmith about 1491, and the builder of Goldsmiths' Row, Cheapside, which "containeth in number, ten fair dwellings and fourteen shops, all in one frame."

Sir Bartholomew Reade, goldsmith, was Mayor in 1501. He purchased Crosby Place, where he resided, and where he received the ambassadors of the Emperor Maximilian, when they visited England to condole with Henry VII. on the death of his queen Elizabeth, and his son.

Sir John Shaw, goldsmith, who was probably the son of Sir Edmund Shaw, was Mayor of London in 1508. He made for King Henry VII. "a George of Diamants iiij *li.* iiij *sh.*," and "iiij rings of gold viij *li.*"

Robert Amades in 1518 was goldsmith to Cardinal Wolsey, and made a quantity of plate for him, including an image of Our Lady, and six great candlesticks made at Bruges with leopards' heads and cardinals' hats. The leopards' heads were no doubt the Hall-marks. Were the cardinal's hats also used as Hall-marks? It will be remembered that one of the indictments against this ambitious prelate was the charge of stamping his cardinal's hat on the coin of the realm.

Many other Acts were passed in the reigns of Henry VII., Henry VIII., and Elizabeth, all of which aimed at keeping the standard of gold and silver in a high state of fineness, and preventing frauds.

In 1550 the great Sir Thomas Gresham was a goldsmith, and carried on business at the "Grasshopper" in Lombard Street. He was present at Queen Elizabeth's first council at Hatfield, and was treated by her with marked favour.

Sir Martin Bowes, goldsmith, was Sheriff and Mayor of London five times from 1545, and Member of Parliament four times from 1546 to 1555. He was butler at Queen Elizabeth's coronation, and presented to her his gold cup, out of which she drank to the Goldsmiths' Company. His portrait now hangs in Goldsmiths' Hall.

Sir Richard Martin, goldsmith, was Mayor in 1589, and kept

his mayoralty in a house in Goldsmiths' Row, Cheapside; and Sir James Pemberton was also a goldsmith, and Mayor in 1611.

In 1634-6 the third Hall of the Goldsmiths' Company was erected, and Inigo Jones the King's architect acted as consulting architect, for which service the Company gave him a gratuity.

The last Charter granted to the Goldsmiths' Company was the Insuperimus Charter of the second James I. dated 13th March. This recites and confirms all the previous charters and letters patent granted to the Company, and it is printed in the Memorial of the Goldsmiths' Company by Sir Walter S. Prideaux.

Sir Thomas Vyner, goldsmith, was Sheriff of London in 1640, and Lord Mayor in 1653. He was knighted by Cromwell, and created a baronet by Charles II.

Alderman Francis Meynell, who was a goldsmith and banker, was Sheriff of London in 1662. He is mentioned several times by Pepys, who on one occasion at least went "by invitation to dinner to Sheriff Maynell's, the great money man."

In the Great Fire in 1666 the Hall of the Goldsmiths' Company received much damage, and it was afterwards in great part rebuilt.

Sir Robert Vyner, goldsmith, of Lombard Street, was Sheriff in 1666 and Mayor in 1675. He made the crown jewels for the coronation of King Charles II., and he entertained the King at a banquet in the Guildhall during his mayoralty. Both Pepys and Evelyn allude to him in their diaries.

In 1697 the standard for worked silver was raised above that of the coinage, which was sterling, in order to prevent the custom of melting silver coins. The Hall-marks were therefore changed to the lion's head erased, the figure of Britannia, the date letter, and the maker's mark.*

Sir Francis Child, who was a goldsmith, and who succeeded to the business of Robert Blanchard, was Sheriff in 1690 and Lord Mayor in 1699. He was the first of a race of Childs who were jewellers, goldsmiths, and bankers; as were also Mr. James Hoare and Mr. James Coutts, who both founded houses well known at the present day.

William Gamble, of Foster's Lane, was a celebrated goldsmith and plate-worker, and the maker of a great number of valuable articles.

Anthony Nelme, also, of "Avie Mary Lane," was a most prolific goldsmith.

And David Willaume, of the "Golden Ball," was also a well known goldsmith.

So we come to the great Paul de Lamerie, who lived at the "Golden Ball," Windmill Street, and who entered his name at Goldsmiths' Hall in 1712. For forty years Lamerie carried on his business as an artist, designer, and worker in gold and silver. He was the royal goldsmith, and much employed by the nobility and gentry, being the first artist of his time. After his death in 1751 no one succeeded to his business.

* 8th & 9th William III. cap. 8.

The higher standard introduced in 1697 did not last long, for in 1719 the old standard was again made lawful and the old Hallmarks were revived, although the higher standard was and is still legal.*

The last goldsmith, perhaps, that we need mention, was Richard Gurney, who entered his name at Goldsmiths' Hall in 1734, in partnership with Thomas Cook. His place of business was "The Golden Cup" in Foster's Lane. In 1739 the new mark of Richard Gurney & Co. was registered, and this mark is found on a very great number of silver vessels throughout the country.

In 1739 the maker's mark was altered from the first two letters of his surname, to the first letters of his Christian and surname. All gold and silver smiths, therefore, destroyed their punches and procured new ones.

In 1771 the Goldsmiths' Company was again insubordinate, and on the 5th June in that year, at a Common Council held in London, the master and wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company were disfranchised for disobeying the Lord Mayor's precept.†

In 1784 duties were made payable on all gold and silver plate, and the sovereign's head was impressed as a fifth mark, to denote the payment of the duty.

In 1823 the mark of the leopard's head appears for the first time without the crown, and it is so stamped at the present day.

In 1890 the duty on both gold and silver articles was abolished, and consequently the sovereign's head ceased to be impressed on assayed articles.

Many other Acts have been passed at various times regulating the working and sale of the precious metals, which are hereinafter more particularly specified; the effect of the more important only of these Acts being given in this sketch.

And many other great goldsmiths have lived and worked, full particulars of whom will be found in Chaffers' *Gilda Aurifabrorum*.

Ecclesiastical Plate.

*"And he took the cuppe and dide thankynge, and gaf to hem,
and seide, Drynke ze alle herof."*

—MATT. xxvi. 27 (Wycliffe's Version).

THE only vessels which are absolutely necessary for use in the communion service are chalices and patens, and we therefore propose to give a slight sketch of the change in the forms of these vessels, during the last seven hundred years.

CHALICES AND PATENS.

The earliest records we have of Communion plate, show the chalice similar in form to a classic drinking-cup, having a large bowl, round spreading foot, and two handles. About the beginning

* 6th George I. cap. 2.

† Allen's "London," vol. ii. p. 81.

of the twelfth century the use of the handles came to an end, and chalices with smaller bowls were introduced; although the cup was not absolutely forbidden to the laity until the order of the Council of Constantine in 1414.

The earliest chalices and patens now remaining are those which have been discovered in the coffins of bishops and priests who died during the twelfth and following centuries, it having been the custom to bury silver vessels with the higher, and pewter vessels with the lower dignitaries of the Church, as symbols of their calling. These interesting vessels are now and then found during the restoration of an old church, or when the tomb of an ecclesiastic is disturbed. When the Church at Nassington, in Northamptonshire, was restored in 1885 a pewter paten and chalice of an early type were found.*

The first type of chalice which dates from 1200 to 1250 always has a circular foot. The oldest now remaining is quite plain, with a broad and shallow bowl, having a slight lip, a short stem with knop, and plain foot. Only three examples of this date remain; two of these are coffin chalices, and the third was, until recently, used at Berwick, S. James', Wilts, and is now in the British Museum. The patens of the same date have two depressions, the first circular, the second quatrefoil, with a central device, the *Manus Dei* often being used.

The next type of chalice has the stem and knop wrought separately from the rest of the vessel, and either stem or knop, or both, lobed or polygonal. The patens belonging to this type have the lower depression, or single depression, octofoil or multiple, and some device in the centre. In York Minster there is a good chalice and paten of this period, which were found in the grave of an archbishop.

The third type of chalice, which was made at the end of the thirteenth century, is similar to the last, except that the foot is ornamented. At Dolgelly a silver-gilt chalice and paten were recently discovered. They are large and massive. The chalice has a wide and shallow bowl, with a slight lip; the knop is circular, and divided into twelve lobes by ribs; the stem is ornamented with vertical leaves; the foot is broad and circular, with twelve lobes ending in trefoils; between and below these are larger trefoils, beautifully engraved with early English foliage; and between these again is similar foliage. The paten is sunk in two depressions, the first circular, the second sexfoil, with symbols of the evangelists in the spandrels, and the seated figure of Our Lord in the centre. Both chalice and paten were made by Nicholas of Hereford about 1280.†

During the next half-century, the pattern changed but little, except that the bowl of the chalice became deeper and more conical. Only one chalice of this period is known, which was found in the grave of William de Melton, Archbishop of York.

About the middle of the fourteenth century, chalices with six-

* Markham's "Church Plate of the County of Northampton," 1894, p. 195.

† *Archæologia*, vol. liii. p. 575.

pointed feet were first made. The reason for abandoning the round foot, was that the custom of laying down the chalice to drain was introduced, and the polygonal foot prevented the vessel from rolling. The earliest chalice of this fashion is that at Hamstal Ridware, Co. Stafford. This is of silver, parcel gilt, the bowl conical, the stem short and thick, the knop formed of curved lobes, and the foot having six points. Its paten is also silver, parcel gilt, sunk in circle, and again in sexfoil, with plain cusps, and the *Manus Dei* in the centre.

The next example was probably made about a hundred years later. It is silver, parcel gilt, the bowl quite plain and conical, the stem hexagonal, the knop also quite plain and hexagonal, the foot mullet-shaped, having six points, and on the front is engraved the *ihc* and round the edge a double row of small-leaved flowers.

From 1450 to 1520 the chalices became somewhat more ornate. Of this period several still remain, most of which have their patens. At this time the bowl becomes deeper, and is generally plain; the stem is much taller and hexagonal, also plain, but sometimes buttressed at the angles; the knop is more beautiful, having on its six faces masks or roses; the foot is either plain with six points, or the points are ornamented with loops, and on the front is usually engraved or enamelled the crucifix or the *ihc*. The patens at this time have a single circular depression, with *ihc* or *ih̄s* as the device in the centre.

A little later the foot of the chalice becomes sexfoil in plan, instead of having six points. The best example of this type is the chalice of gold at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, which, with its paten, was given to the College by Bishop Fox, when it was founded in 1516.

The last type of chalice, made immediately before the Reformation, is still more elaborate. The bowl is flatter, more like the Early Norman shape, and generally bears a legend; the stem is tall and hexagonal, sometimes being pierced with tracery; the knop has six sides, and is much like those before described; where the stem joins the foot there is a kind of parapet, and the foot is formed into a wavy-sided hexagon, on the front of which is engraved the crucifix, and it generally also bears a legend. The patens belonging to this period have a single circular depression, with the Vernicle as a central device, surrounded by a glory of rays, and also having a legend engraved round the edge.

Pre-reformation chalices and patens have been classified by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope and Mr. T. N. Fallow, according to the following types:—*

* English Medieval Chalices and Patens, by W. H. St. John Hope, 1887.

CHALICES.

- TYPE A. *circa* 1200 to *circa* 1250. Bowl broad and shallow; stem and knot, and foot plain and circular.
- TYPE B. *circa* 1250 to *circa* 1275. Bowl broad and shallow; stem and knot wrought separately from the bowl and foot, and one or the other or both polygonal; foot plain and circular.
- TYPE C. *circa* 1275 to *circa* 1300. Bowl broad and shallow; stem and knot as in type B; foot circular, but with its spread worked into ornate lobes.
- TYPE D. *circa* 1300 to *circa* 1350. Bowl deeper and more conical; stem, knot, and foot as before.
- TYPE E. *circa* 1350 to *circa* 1450. Bowl as in type D; stem and knot uncertain; six-sided foot.
- TYPE F. *circa* 1450 to *circa* 1510. Bowl deep and conical; stem hexagonal, with ornate knot; six-sided foot. In late instances the points of the latter terminate in knops.
- TYPE G. *circa* 1510 to *circa* 1525. Bowl broader at base; stem and knot as in type F; sexfoil foot.
- TYPE H. *circa* 1525 to *circa* 1540. Bowl broad and shallow; stem cabled or buttressed on edges, with knot as before, but somewhat flattened; foot sexfoil, or hexagonal with wavy sides, and with an open crown at its junction with the stem.

PATENS.

- TYPE A. (Form I.) *circa* 1180 to *circa* 1260. Lower depression quatrefoil; central device various.
- TYPE B. (Form I or II.) *circa* 1260 to *circa* 1300. Lower depression, or single depression, octofoil or multiple; central device usually the *Manus Dei*.
- TYPE C. (Form I.) *circa* 1300 to *circa* 1350, and later. Lower depression sexfoil with plain spandrels; central device usually the *Manus Dei*.
- TYPE D. (Form I.) *circa* 1430 to *circa* 1530. Lower depression sexfoil, but spandrels filled with a rayed leaf ornament. Central device most frequently the Vernicle, with, in many cases, an encircling glory of short rays. Some of the later examples of this type have an engraved legend round the rim.
- TYPE E. (Form II.) *circa* 1450 to *circa* 1510. Single circular depression, with more generally *ihc* or *ihz* as the central device.
- TYPE F. (Form I.) *circa* 1525. An elaboration of type D, which it resembles in general form, but the central device has a glory of long rays filling the field of the paten, and the rim bears an engraved legend.
- TYPE G. (Form II.) *circa* 1520 to *circa* 1535. An elaboration of type E. Single circular depression, with central device surrounded by a glory of long rays. The rim bears an engraved legend. The only two examples of this type have the Vernicle as the central device.

Form I comprises patens with plain circular depression, with an inner depression multifoil in outline: and form II. those with one depression only, either circular or multifoil.

From this sketch it will be seen that the amount of mediæval Communion plate remaining is very limited. Throughout England there are not above forty chalices and about twice that number of patens now in existence.

The display of gold and silver plate, much of it being ornamented with jewels, in our cathedrals, abbeys, and churches previous to the Reformation, must have been wonderfully beautiful. The number of vessels possessed was considerable, and the value of the same must have been great. As a typical example of the utensils of a great cathedral, even as late as the sixteenth century, a short summary of the inventory of the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin at Lincoln, which was taken in 1536, is here given* :—

Chalices.—A chalice of gold with pearls and precious stones set in the foot and knop, and a paten with the figures of Our Lord and the Apostles. A great silver and gilt chalice with the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, and the salutation of the Virgin on the foot; and a paten with the coronation of the Virgin, weighing 74 ounces. A silver and gilt chalice and paten, with gilt spoon; and three other large silver and gilt chalices and patens.

Feretories.†—A great silver and gilt feretory with steeple, twelve pinnacles, and images of the Virgin and S. Hugh. Four other feretories, silver and gilt and crystal.

Phylacteries.‡—A silver and gilt phylactery with red and blue stones, containing the bones of S. Stephen. A similar phylactery, containing the bones of S. Agnes. Another phylactery with a knop of beryl, containing the bones of S. Vincent. A phylactery of crystal and silver, containing a tooth of S. Hugh.

Ampullæ with Reliques.||—Six ampullæ of crystal, with feet and covers of silver and gilt, containing relics of various saints.

Tabernacles.§—Six tabernacles of ivory or wood, one containing relics.

Images.—An image of Our Saviour, silver and gilt, with a cross in the hand. A great image of Our Lady, crowned, sitting in a chair, silver and gilt, with the Holy Child on her knee, also crowned. Relics of virgins in a silver and gilt vessel.

Chests for Relics.—Twenty-four chests, some made of silver and gilt, some of crystal, and some covered with cloth of gold or needlework.

Pyxes.¶—A round pyx of crystal, ornamented with silver and gilt, containing the relics of saints. Four pyxes of ivory, bound with silver and gilt, or with copper. A pyx of crystal, with foot of silver and gilt. And a silver and gilt pyx.

Crosses.—A cross of silver and gilt, with a crucifix in the centre, S. Mary and S. John on either hand, and the evangelists at the corners, weighing 57 ounces. Fifteen other crosses, of divers

* *Archæologia*, vol. liii. p. 13. † A shrine.

‡ A reliquary. || A covered vessel. § A receptacle for the Sacrament.

¶ Vessels of precious metal to contain the Eucharist.

materials and sizes. A silver and gilt cross, similar to the first, but weighing 84 ounces.

Candelabra.—Two great candlesticks of gold, for eight candles each, weighing 22 and 10 ounces respectively. Six other candlesticks, silver and gilt.

*Thuribles.**—A pair of great censers, silver and gilt, weighing 88 ounces. Four other smaller pairs of censers. And a silver and gilt ship, having a spoon with a cross, weighing 34 ounces.

Bowls, &c.—Two fair basins of silver and gilt, chased with double roses and enamelled, one weighing 81 ounces, the other 79 ounces. Three other pairs of basins of silver and gilt, of smaller size. A patte of silver for holy water. Two saucers of silver gilt. A sacring bell of silver. Two-squared sconce of silver and gilt. A calefactory, silver and gilt. Two fioles of silver and gilt.

Staves.—A staff covered with silver and gilt, with an image of Our Lady at one end, and an image of S. Hugh at the other. Four other staves of silver and gilt. And four staves of wood, two of which have plates of silver.

Pastoral Staves.—The head of a bishop's staff, silver and gilt, with a knop of pearls and stones, an image of Our Saviour on one side, and an image of S. John Baptist on the other, weighing 18 ounces. The head of a staff, copper and gilt. Two staves for the same.

Texts of the Evangelists.—A text after S. Matthew, covered with a plate, silver and gilt, and with divers stones. Six other similar texts. And three texts for Lent and the Passion.

Chrismatory.—A chrismatory, silver and gilt, with sixteen images, enamelled, weighing 26 ounces.

Ampullæ for Oil.—Three ampullæ, silver and gilt, each with a cover, and a spoon with an acorn.

Morses.†—Seventeen morses, silver and gilt, some set with stones and pearls, others enamelled.

Serta.—Three garlands, silver and gilt, enriched with pearls and stones.

Such were the holy vessels and utensils of a great church in the Middle Ages.

After 1534 the work of spoliation commenced, and has been carried on more or less ever since. First came Henry VIII., who in 1539-40 suppressed all religious houses throughout the realm, and of course appropriated their possessions, including their vessels of gold and silver.

In 1548 Edward VI. sent his commissioners throughout the land, with orders to take all plate, except one, two, or more chalices, according to the size of the parish. And a few years later further orders were issued, that "monuments of feigned miracles, pilgrimages, idolatry and superstition" were to be entirely done away with and destroyed. Then it was that churchwardens and incumbents, feeling that all church property was insecure, sold a good deal of the Communion plate, and expended the proceeds in the repairs of their churches and other ways.

* Vessels in which to burn incense. † The metal fastenings of a cape.

Cups made in the time of Edward VI. are as rare as pre-Reformation chalices. At S. Margaret's Church, Westminster, there are two large silver-gilt cups of this date.* At Clapton and Great Houghton, Co. Northampton, are two beautiful silver-gilt cups, made in 1548 and 1553 respectively;† and a few others may be found throughout the country.

It is believed that about the year 1562, some general order was issued in London, as to the shape of communion cups, for those made at this time are all of the same design, no matter in what part of England they are found. They are mostly of elegant form, but as different from the chalices, out of which they were probably made, as can well be imagined.

A cup of this period has a conical bowl with slightly hollowed sides and somewhat flat base, engraved with one or two belts of strap work enclosing foliage. The stem is always evenly balanced, with a circular knop in the centre, on a flat fillet, and it is joined to the bowl and foot by either horizontal or vertical mouldings. The foot is generally high and dome-shaped, resting on a flat flange, on which is sometimes engraved the egg and tongue pattern. The paten is made so as to serve as a cover for the cup, the foot forming a handle; sometimes the paten is engraved with strap ornamentation like the cup, and sometimes the date is engraved on the foot or button.

An enormous number of Elizabethan cups and patens still remain, but no two are alike, although the same type is used for all.

During the reigns of James I. and Charles I. the type of cup and cover changes but little. The cups were, however, often taller, slighter and less elegant, the engraved belt round the bowl being often omitted. Cover patens were also used. Another type of cup at this time was made with a bell-shaped bowl and baluster stem, and this form of cup does not appear ever to have been used with a cover paten.

During the Commonwealth but little plate of any kind was made in England. Two patterns of cups were used at this time. One of these has a somewhat large bowl, with flat base, baluster stem, and flat foot. The other has a large bell-shaped or conical bowl, a thick stem with a flat flange or plate for knop, swelling gradually to form a plain foot, a cup of this type generally has a cover paten, with a single depression, made to fit it face upwards.

During the reigns of Charles II. and James II. some magnificent cups and patens will be found, and also some which are very plain and ugly.

The same pattern of cup before described continued to be manufactured, and at the same time a new form was introduced. The bowl of this cup is cylindrical, deep, and of great capacity; the stem short and thick, and swelling out to rest on a flat flange and form the foot; the whole is large and clumsy. The paten corresponding with the cup, but not used as a cover, is also

* Freshfield's "Communion Plate in the County of London."

† Markham's "Church Plate of the County of Northampton," 1894, pp. 70, 162.

clumsy, being of large size, sunk in a single depression on short thick foot.

In the eighteenth century the form of the cups and patens still further degenerated. The cup at this time has a large bell-shaped bowl; an evenly balanced stem, generally with a circular knop in the centre; and the foot is formed of horizontal mouldings. The paten is large, with a broad edge and one circular depression; the foot is quite plain, and generally large and high. Sometimes the paten fits the cup foot upward. Frequently the knop and foot of the cup, and the foot of the paten are ornamented with rope or rolled moulding.

In the present century the same kind of vessels are made, and the earlier of these are not very beautiful. But now the pre-Reformation types are being again introduced, and some of the Communion sets manufactured are of excellent design and workmanship.

FLAGONS.

The earliest flagons at present existing are those made during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. These are generally of "the round-bellied type." At Cirencester Church; S. Margaret's Church, Westminster; S. George's Chapel, Windsor; and a few other places, are flagons which have high feet, round bulbous bodies, straight necks, domed lids, and curved handles. Flagons of this shape are far from elegant in appearance.

This type of flagon was only made for a few years, for the tankard type came into fashion about 1600, and has ever since been used. A tankard-shaped flagon is generally handsome and massive, though quite plain. It has straight sides, dome-shaped lid, high, straight purchase, rather large curved handle, and broad spreading foot; the handle often ending in a heart-shaped plate.

The Communion service at Easton Mauduit, Northamptonshire, is represented in the frontispiece of this volume. The paten and cup were made of silver gilt in 1630, and are marked with the initials of the donor, the Right Reverend Thomas Morton, who was successively Bishop of Chester, Lichfield and Coventry, and Durham. The flagon is a very beautiful vessel, made in 1672, of silver gilt repoussé work. The alms-dishes are quite plain, and are also silver gilt. In the parish register there is an entry relating to this silver, signed by the Rev. Thomas Percy, author of "The Reliques of Ancient English Poetry," who was once vicar of the parish.

ALMS DISHES.

There are throughout the country a good number of silver alms dishes, most of which are quite plain, though a few are most beautifully ornamented with leaves and fruit in repoussé work, and others are engraved.

CHRISTENING BOWLS.

Occasionally a christening bowl is found at a church, but it is usually quite plain.

SPOONS.

Strainer spoons are sometimes used in churches, but probably in most cases they are of domestic origin, having the bowl afterwards pierced for use in removing anything from the wine.

The greater part of the Communion plate now in use was given by individuals, and such gifts are frequently recorded in mediæval wills. Thus in 1246 King Henry III., gave a chalice to the Church of All Saints, and smaller vessels to the other parish churches in the town of Northampton.*

Coronation Plate.

"A crown of pure gold on his head."

—PSALM xxi. 3.

THE English Regalia was generally kept in Westminster Abbey, though in times of danger it was sometimes removed to the Tower of London. During the reign of Henry VIII., the Crown jewels were taken to the Tower where they are now permanently housed.

The present regalia is but a small portion of what it used to be, both Kings and Parliaments having helped to disperse it.†

In 1625 King Charles I. pawned a great number of the Crown jewels to Holland, in order to raise money for his wars with Spain. These included "A greate riche 'Jewell of goulde' called the '*Mirrou of Greate Brittain*'": a gold cup with "The Dreame of Paris" weighing 120 ounces: the gold cup with "The Morris Dance" weighing 147 ounces: "The Constable's Cup": and many more celebrated articles.‡ There is no record of these jewels ever having been redeemed.

Again in 1643 the king melted the crown and sceptre; and the following year the House of Commons issued an order that the King's Plate, then in the Tower was to be melted down and coined. The House of Lords remonstrated, alleging that the beautiful workmanship of the plate rendered it very valuable, but this was without effect, and a few years later these beautiful works of art were consigned to the crucible. Thus unique jewels and plate were destroyed without mercy, and "the produce employed to buy horses."||

In consequence of this, some difficulty was experienced in providing regalia for the Coronation of Charles II., and new crowns,

* Bridge's "Northamptonshire," vol. i. p. 426.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xviii. p. 236.

‡ Chaffer's *Gilda Aurifabrorum*.

|| Chaffer's *Gilda Aurifabrorum*, p. 200.

sceptres, a globe, staves, maces, and other things were provided by Sir Robert Vyner at the cost of some thirty-two thousand pounds.

The present regalia consists of the following articles :—

Queen Victoria's State Crown was made in 1838, and is adorned with jewels from other crowns. It has a crimson velvet cap, with ermine border lined with white silk, and weighs 39 oz. 5 dwt. On the cross patée above the mound in the centre is the inestimable sapphire which is supposed to have been taken from the ring of Edward the Confessor. In front is the heart shaped ruby said to have belonged to the Black Prince.

St. Edward's Crown is the great state crown of England. It was made by Sir Robert Vyner in 1662 from the old design, and consists of a rim of gold, embellished with diamonds, rubies, pearls, emeralds and sapphires. Four arches support a mound of gold, on which is a cross patée adorned with gems and pearls.

Mary of Modena's Circlet which was used at her Coronation, and which she first wore. It consists of a golden circlet set with magnificent pearls, and a large diamond in front.

Mary of Modena's Crown, which was worn by the queen after her coronation. This has arches, surmounted by a cross patée, and is ornamented by large diamonds and pearls.

The Prince of Wales Coronet, is of gold, with a single arch carrying a cross patée, and it is adorned with jewels.

St. Edward's Staff of pure gold 4 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, with mound and cross patée at the top. This staff formed part of the regalia made by Sir Robert Vyner in 1662.

There are five sceptres.

The Royal Sceptre with the cross, is made of gold, it is 2 ft. $9\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, and is elaborately ornamented with enamels and precious stones. It is placed in the Sovereign's hand, at the Coronation by the Primate.

The Queen's Sceptre with the cross is also made of gold, it is 2 feet 10 in. long, and is ornamented with diamonds.

The Royal Sceptre with the Dove is similar to the other royal sceptre, except that it is slightly longer, less ornate, and it bears a dove on a cross above the mound instead of a cross patée.

The Queen's Sceptre with the Dove, is somewhat smaller, but more highly ornamented than the Royal Sceptre.

The Queen's Ivory Rod is 3 ft. $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, the mound has a cross patée on which is an enamelled dove. This sceptre was made for Mary of Modena.

There are two orbs.

The Larger Orb is a golden globe 6 in. in diameter. It has a fillet round the centre, from which springs an arch, both fillet and arch being ornamented with pearls and precious stones. On the top is a large amethyst surmounted by a cross, composed of diamonds and other stones. It was made by Sir Robert Vyner.

The Smaller Orb is very similar, and was made for the Coronation of Queen Mary the consort of King William.

The Ampulla is a golden eagle, with expanded wings, the height of which with the pedestal is 9 in., and the diameter of the

pedestal $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. The body of the eagle is filled with oil, by unscrewing the head, and the oil is poured out through the beak at the coronation. This is undoubtedly an ancient piece of plate, and probably older than the time of Charles II.

There are in addition the Bracelets, Queen Elizabeth's Salt-Cellar, and the Coronation Spoon, of which more hereafter. All these articles are illustrated in Mr. Cyril Davenport's beautiful work.*

Corporation Plate.

"JACK CADE. *Strike off their heads, and bring them both upon two poles . . . for with these borne before us instead of maces, will we ride through the streets.*"

—SHAKESPEARE, "2nd Pt. Henry VI.," Act iv. sc. 7.

THE only articles used by corporate towns that we need consider now are maces; for, although such towns often possess loving-cups and other vessels, they are not, like maces, used officially.

Maces were once used as weapons of warfare. Thus, at the Conquest of England, Duke William and Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, fought with maces; and it is said that Odo carried this terrible and crushing instrument, in lieu of a sword, because the canons of the Church forbade a priest to shed blood.†

Afterwards maces were used as symbols of authority, and are found in almost every borough in England.

And first as to sergeants' maces. The earliest of these is of the fifteenth century; this is silver parcel gilt and 25 inches long, with an iron grip, and a later crown at the top. It is now at Hedon, in Yorkshire. At Stratford-on-Avon and a few other places there are maces of about the same date, none of which has a crown. In the sixteenth century the heads of the maces became more bowl-shaped, and the lower end lost its mace-like character, and appeared with small brackets at the base. In the course of the seventeenth century the head was enlarged to give room for various symbols, such as the royal arms, or the initials of the sovereign, and a crown was added above the bowl, surmounted by a globe and cross. The small brackets also were carried upward; first they were placed at the lower end, then half-way up the handle, and finally immediately beneath the bowl. About 1650, sergeants' maces ceased to be manufactured; at least hardly any were made after that time.

Secondly, as to great maces which were borne before the Mayor as a sign of authority. The earliest of these now in existence, is the

* The English Regalia, by Cyril Davenport, 1897.

† Freeman's "History of the Norman Conquest."

fine one at Chichester, which is of the early part of the seventeenth century. The maces at Stafford, Grimsby, and York are only a little later in date. These maces, though somewhat more ornate, are made on the same lines as the sergeants' maces before noticed. The mace of the House of Commons, which was made in 1649-60, is a good example of maces of that date. In the eighteenth century many of the maces were made with baluster stems, the other parts remaining unaltered.

Maces of exceptional form are sometimes found. Thus, maces shaped like oars are now at Dover and other seaport towns. That at Dover is a plain silver oar, and is a symbol of the Admiralty jurisdiction, being held by the town clerk of Dover as registrar; it is probably of the time of Queen Elizabeth. The mace of the Tower Ward in London is also uncommon. It was made in 1671, and is surmounted by a model of the Tower, with small turrets at the corners, each having a weather-vane, with the letters C.R.

A few societies, such as the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries, also have the privilege of using a mace.

Further information about maces will be found in "The Corporation Plate" by Llewellyn Jewitt and W. H. St. John Hope, 1895.

Domestic Plate.

IN all houses of the better class a court cupboard, or livery cupboard was essential. This was, according to Nares, a moveable closet or buffet in which plate and other articles of luxury were displayed. He gives the following quotations from *Comenius's Janua* printed in 1659:—

"Golden and gilded beakers, cruces, great cups, crystal glasses, cans, tankards, and two-ear'd pots are brought forth out of the cup-board, and glass case, and being rinsed and rub'd with a pot-brush, are set on the livery-cupboard."*

Shakespeare alludes to this in *Romeo and Juliet* where the serving man exclaims:—"Away with the join-stools, remove the court-cup-board, look to the plate."†

MAZERS.

"A bowl or mazer curiously carved."

—DRYDEN'S "Virgil."

Mazers are ancient wooden drinking-vessels, on which much has been written and learning expended. Even the meaning of the word is disputed, although the general opinion obtains that it was derived from "maserle," or maple wood. For in early times platters and bowls, and other articles for the table, were frequently made of beech or maple wood, often having silver mountings.

* Nares' "Glossary," 1822.

† *Romeo and Juliet*, I. v. 7.

The Bishop of Chichester, in his will in 1253, speaks of his great cup of mazer; and such mazers are mentioned for a little over three hundred years from this date, in all kinds of inventories and wills, the spelling of the name, of course varying very much. After 1590 no more mazers were made.

Simon the goldsmith, who lived in 1369, and who was a benefactor to the Goldsmiths' Company, was called Simon le Maserer, from his skill in making silver-mounted mazers.

Early mazers had a rim above, and a small rim for foot below, being wide and shallow, and generally having an inscription round the upper rim. The later ones are generally deeper, and often mounted on high feet. Inside, in the centre, there is usually a flat plate called the print, or boss, often ornamented with a shield of arms or other design. The object of this was, no doubt, to cover the flaws made in completing the turning of the bowl.

The earliest mazer now known is at Harbledown Hospital, near Canterbury, and has a plain gilt foot or stem, a plain rim, a silver-gilt medallion, with the figure of Guy, Earl of Warwick, and an inscription. This vessel is of the time of Edward II. After this comes the "Scrope Mazer," which is now at York; it has a long inscription on the rim, which fixes the date of it as being about 1400. It stands on feet made of small heads, and is altogether a most interesting specimen.

At All Soul's College, Oxford, there is a set of mazers, one of which, made in the middle of the fifteenth century, is a very fine specimen of such a cup. This is mounted on a high circular foot, and has a deep rim round the edge, both being silver gilt and somewhat plain. On the bottom, inside, there is a boss, or print, bearing the arms and initials of the donor, Thomas Ballard. A cup made of polished maple, in the collection of the late Mr. E. P. Shirley of Eaton, bore the legend on the rim:—

"In the name of the Tirnite
Fille the kup and drinke to me."

At the Armourers' Hall, London, there is a large deep bowl nearly a foot in diameter. The silver-gilt foot and rim of this bowl are united by bands in the same manner as are those of cocoa-nut cups. Oriel College, Oxford, is the possessor of a very fine mazer, made about 1470. This has a low, circular foot, ornamented with stiff leaves, points downward. The upper rim is deep, and also ornamented with similar leaves, points upward, and the legend in black letter:—

**"Vir racione bibas non quod petit atra voluptas
sic caro casta datur lis lingue suppeditatur."***

A vessel called the Narford Mazer, now in the collection of Sir

* Cripps' "Old English Plate," 1891, p. 243.

A. W. Franks, P.S.A., bears the London Hall-marks for 1532 on the silver-gilt rim, on which are the words—

“CIPHUS REFECTORII ROFENSIS PER FRATREM
ROBERTUM PECHAM,”

in Tudor capitals, black letters having ceased to be used after the end of the fifteenth century.*

Another of Sir A. W. Franks' mazers has a very low rim for foot, and a somewhat deep rim above, ornamented with small pendent leaves and the text in large letters:—

“MISEREMINI: MEI: MISEREMINI: MEI:
SALTEM: VOS: AMICI: MEI.”

At All Souls' College, Oxford, is a deep but somewhat small bowl, which is mounted on a tall foot and stem composed of clustered shafts, so that the whole forms a standing cup; it was made in 1529. With the Inquest plate at St. Giles', Cripplegate Without, London, there is a mazer bowl of maple wood, mounted with a broad silver-gilt rim and foot, round the stem of which is a scroll ornament, above which is inscribed: “Ihon Birde Mead This In Anno Domine 1568”; the foot is engraved with various ornaments, and on the print inside is a merchant's mark.†

Nothing more remains to be said about mazers, as the manufacture of them entirely ceased towards the end of the sixteenth century.

Standing Cups.

“*And guf hem echone
Coupes of clene gold and coppes of silver.*”

—“Pier's Ploughman,” p. 39.

THE State cups possessed by the great men of the land in the Middle Ages were often of great value and beauty. Sometimes these cups were made of solid gold or silver, and sometimes of cocoa-nuts or ostrich eggs mounted with silver.

Some of these are of early date, for at the end of the thirteenth century we find the Bishop of Durham bequeathing a cocoa-nut cup with a foot and mountings of silver; and such cups are very frequently mentioned in old wills and inventories. Many of the City companies have specimens of these cups. The Ironmongers possess a good cocoa-nut cup, made at the commencement of the sixteenth

* *Archæologia*, vol. xiii. p. 392.

† *Archæologia*, vol. i. p. 167.

century.* The Armourers and Vintners also possess such cups, that of the latter having been made in 1518; and Mr. E. P. Monckton, has a good cocoa-nut cup which was made in London in 1586-7.†

At Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, there are the remains of what is probably the oldest cup formed by an ostrich egg in the world. It dates from the fourteenth century, although the present silver mounts are not older than 1592. The well-known ostrich egg cup at Exeter College, Oxford, is somewhat later in date, having been made in 1610, but it is a fine example of this particular form. The foot is of the shape usual at that time; the stem is formed of three ostrich legs, supporting the egg, which is held in position by three bands, and on the cover an ostrich stands on a plume of feathers.‡ The Earl of Ducie has a unique silver-gilt cup which was made in London in 1584, shaped as an ostrich egg, with hinged straps and a foot surmounted by four dolphins.

"Cups made of the horn of the wild bull of the English woods, and tipped at either end with gold or silver," were likewise used in very early times. At Queen's College, there is a cup, the horn of which it is made being twenty-five inches long; the end is tipped by metal formed into an animal's head, and is supported by two claw-shaped feet attached to bands, and round the upper end of the horn is also an inscribed band. The lid, surmounted by an eagle, is of later date. At Christ's Hospital, London, there is a somewhat similar horn, but in this case the two claw-shaped feet are attached to a single band, and are side by side instead of being in front of each other. The Cawdor horn is also celebrated, although it is not the original one, but was made in the time of Henry VII. The horn is borne by the royal supporters, and is highly ornamented.

Of standing cups made entirely of the precious metals there are many notable examples still remaining. The cup at Lynn is supposed to have been given to that town by King John; it is silver gilt, richly ornamented with enamelled figures, the stem is slender, the foot circular, the height 15 ins. and it is of the fourteenth century.∥ The Foundress' Cup at Christ's College, Cambridge, of the fifteenth century, is a quaint, if not altogether pleasing, piece of work; the stem, bowl, and cover are ornamented with broad twisted bands composed of conventional foliage in repoussé work. At Pembroke College, Cambridge, there is a fine specimen known as the Anathema Cup, bearing the London Hallmarks for 1481, and it is one of the earliest dated vessels in existence. The second earliest cup with a date mark is the "Leigh Cup," now at the Mercers' Hall, London. This is of silver gilt, richly ornamented by raised ropes, which form lozenges, containing alternately heads of maidens and flasks; round the bowl and lid is a record of the gift of this cup, on the foot and bowl is an open cresting, and the lid is surmounted by a virgin with an unicorn. At Christ's College, Cambridge, there is a handsome standing cup or

* Cripps' "Old English Plate."

† Pro. Soc. Antiq., vol. xv. p. 249.

‡ Cripps' "Old English Plate."

∥ "Examples of Art Workmanship."

stoup, covered with diaper work enclosing double roses, fleur-de-lis, and portcullis in the centre of each lozenge, and a daisy at each intersection, which was made early in the sixteenth century.

The Richmond Cup, now at Armourers' Hall, made about the same time, is of a different type, having raised ribs, which form the bowl, cover, and stem. The silver-gilt hanap or standing cup at Portsmouth was made in 1590, and presented by Robert Lee to the Corporation. At Corby Church, Co. Northampton, there is a beautiful silver-gilt covered cup that was made in 1601. The bowl and cover form a perfect oval, entirely covered with repoussé work of bands of leaves; on the cover is a pyramid, with three sides; the stem is baluster in form, with a high foot.* This cup was evidently made for secular purposes, though now used in the church. A somewhat similar cup will be found at Braunstone Church, Co. Leicester.†

A very fine standing cup with cover, made of silver gilt, repoussé with fruit and foliage, strap work and dolphins, with the London Hall-marks for 1604-5, bears the legend:—

“ This Cupp was Made of the Greate Seale of
Irelande In Anno Domini 1604 After the
Deathe of The Blessed Queene Elizabeth
The Moste Blessed Prince That Euer raigned
Adam loftus lord Archbisshopp of Dublin was then
And Is Now lorde Chaunceller of Irelande and was
Three Tymes lorde Iustice and Gouvernor of the same realme.”

This cup belongs to Mr. J. Dunn Gardner, and is now in the South Kensington Museum. A highly enriched gourd-shaped cup, called “The Berry Cup,” forms part of the Corporation plate of the town of Portsmouth; it is silver gilt, and was made in 1608-9. At the Clothworkers' Hall there is a large and well-worked cup, which was given by Samuel Pepys in 1678. The bowl of this is formed of two parts, the inner being plain, and the outer one, which is removable, is ornamented with flowers and scrolls of elaborate form. The designs in the eighteenth century were somewhat different, being more urn-shaped, and having two, or sometimes three, handles. A fine example of such a two-handled covered cup, made in 1739 by the celebrated Paul de Lamerie, is now at the Goldsmiths' Hall in London. This is simple in outline, but richly decorated with masks and flowers in repoussé work. Many of the standing cups made at this period are of the same pattern as the Wedgwood ware designed by Flaxman; indeed, some of the silver vessels made at this time might almost as well have been in china as in silver.

TANKARDS.

These are large vessels, with a handle and cover, used for drinking. The earliest were made in the middle of the sixteenth century, and many excellent examples are still in existence. At

* Markham's “Church Plate of the County of Northampton,” p. 77.

† Trollope's “Church Plate of Leicestershire,” p. 321.

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, there is a very old silver tankard which is used as a flagon. And at the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford there is a fine tankard which was made in 1574; this has straight sides, partly ornamented with the incised patterns used on early Communion cups, and partly with the egg and tongue pattern, and heads in medallions, in the Renaissance style. At Clare College, Cambridge, there is the celebrated Poison Cup, which is made of glass, enclosed in silver filigree casing, of about the same date.

A little later the tankards are made somewhat taller and narrower; and in the middle of the seventeenth century they assume a tall cylindrical shape, often adorned with strap work or semi-classical ornamentation. Still later the tankards were made shorter, and of much larger diameter, often being quite plain. Such tankards were almost always used in churches as flagons immediately after the Restoration, and until flagons made of the round-bodied shape came into fashion.

Other smaller cups are known by special names, such as Tazze, Beakers, Porringers, and Caudle Cups.

A TAZZA is a small but elegant cup, with a wide but shallow bowl, a tall, slender baluster-shaped stem, and circular foot, similar to the ordinary shallow champagne glasses of the present day. A very curious silver-gilt tazza, called a loving-cup, made in London in 1525-6, was given to the Corporation of Portsmouth by Mrs. Bodkin; it is low, with a large foot, and on the bowl, which has a straight side, is inscribed, "Si Deus nobiscum quis contra nos." There is also an elegant little tazza made in 1582-3 belonging to the same Corporation.

A BEAKER is a small cup without handles, like a little tumbler, and only slightly ornamented. These came into use at the commencement of the seventeenth century, and were more commonly made in Holland or Germany than in England. At the Mercers' Hall in London there is a gilt beaker which was made in 1604, ornamented with three maidens' heads on the side. At Upton Church, Co. Northampton, there is an elegant little beaker of about the same date, which was probably made in Germany; the upper part is plain, and the lower is covered with an engraved ornament, and in three medallions are as many heads, apparently of Dutch or German folk. At the neighbouring church of Sutton there is also a little beaker-shaped cup; it is rude, and has no Hall-marks, and was probably made in the locality.*

A PORRINGER is a little vessel shaped like a modern sugar-basin, with a wide mouth, two handles, and often a loose lid.

A CAUDLE CUP commonly has a small mouth, swelling out below into a bowl form. At Loddington Church, Co. Northampton, there is a pretty little silver porringer or caudle cup with two handles, covered with leaves and flowers in repoussé work, that was made in 1671.†

Both porringers and caudle cups were used for drinking posset;

* Markham's "Church Plate of the County of Northampton," pp. 276, 291.

† *Ibid.*, p. 179.

they were mostly made in the seventeenth or in the early part of the eighteenth centuries, and are often of most elegant form and ornamentation.

Ewers and Basins.

*"As you know, my house within the city
Is richly furnished with plate and gold;
Basins and ewers to lave her dainty hands."*

—SHAKESPEARE, "Taming of the Shrew," II. i. 348.

IN the Middle Ages ewers and basins were much used at meals, for when people ate more or less with their fingers, it was essential that these vessels should be carried round after each course, in order that the guests might wash their hands.

The introduction of forks in the seventeenth century rendered the use of the ewer and basin, to a large extent, unnecessary, and they therefore ceased to be made for that purpose.

At Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, there is an early ewer and salver of the year 1545. The ewer has eight sides, somewhat like a large coffee-pot, with spout, handle, and lid, and ornamented with engraved arabesques. The salver is also ornamented with arabesque work round the edge, the centre being raised with a coat-of-arms on a boss.

The Duke of Rutland has a fine silver-gilt ewer and basin of the dates 1579 and 1581, which were exhibited at South Kensington in 1862.

The Corporation of Bristol possess a good ewer and salver, ornamented with engraving and repoussé work, which were made in 1595.

The Corporation of Norwich also possess a fine set, made in 1617. The ewer is vase-shaped, with a high foot, spout, and high handle, and is covered with classic figures in repoussé work. The salver also is covered with similar figures in repoussé, having an elegantly ornamented border, and a high boss or print in the centre.

At Peterborough Cathedral there is a very beautiful silver-gilt dish* 19½ inches in diameter, which was made about 1650. The broad border of this is ornamented with fruit and flowers in high relief. This was probably made for a domestic salver, though it is now used as an alms-dish.

At Towcester Church, Co. Northampton, there is a large and handsome, but plain, ewer and basin,* which were made in 1691, and given to the church in 1755 by Thomas Farmor, Earl of Pomfret.

At Easton Neston, in the same county, there is an ewer* which

* Markham's "Church Plate of the County of Northampton," pp. 112, 232, 237.

is an excellent specimen of Paul de Lamerie's work, and was made in 1735. It is beaker-shaped, without stem, the foot formed by a double-rolled ornament, the lower portion enriched by a raised Romanesque pattern, the upper portion quite plain; the spout is curved, and also enriched with a raised pattern; the handle is partly formed of foliage. The lid is large and very ornate, formed of double-rolled mouldings, which curve up to a centre-piece; this is high, formed of several members, and is clasped by three little brackets, above which is an ornate shield bearing the arms of Fermor and Jeffreys, and surmounted by an earl's coronet. It was given by the Earl of Pomfret.

Another beautiful ewer belonging to the Goldsmiths' Company, made by Lamerie in 1741, was exhibited in 1862 at South Kensington. It is helmet-shaped. "On the lower part of the vase is a winged mermaid with two tails, accompanied by two boy-tritons blowing conches. The foot consists of marine flowers, shells, and reptiles. On the upper part of the vase are festoons of flowers, and the company's badges, the leopards' heads. The handle has a very bold half-length figure of a sea-god, terminating in foliage." The Company also own a salver to correspond, which is ornamented with Louis Quatorze scrolls and figures of boys.

After this time the work becomes plainer, engraving being used instead of repoussé work.

In the time of Queen Anne these vessels were also engraved and chased. The salvers often had the edges shaped, and were mounted on small feet. A little later they took the form of elliptical trays with handles.

Standing Salts.

"Where is the salt; where are the hospitable tables?"

--POTTER, "Antiquities of Greece," B. iii. c. 21.

VESSELS to contain salt played an important part in the economy of the house in the Middle Ages, the great standing salt marking the line between the higher and lower guests at the table.

The earliest salts are shaped like hour-glasses, and are sometimes with and sometimes without covers. At Corpus Christi College and New College, Oxford, and a few other places, there are specimens of this type, which were all made towards the end of the fifteenth century.

In the sixteenth century the type changed to a cylindrical form, richly ornamented with repoussé work, and covered with a lid. Of this pattern is the fine standing salt at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, which was made in 1554. There is also a good standing salt belonging to the Corporation of Norwich. It is of silver gilt, 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches high, cylindrical in shape, and the cover is surmounted by a statuette resting on a spear, with a shield bearing the city arms;

the date of it is 1567-8. At Portsmouth there is, with the Corporation plate, another fine standing salt, made in 1615-6, with cylindrical body, having a bowl for salt at the top, then three brackets supporting a second bowl, and three more brackets supporting a cover, which is surmounted by a three-cornered ornamental spike.* Standing salts of this period are also found of square form, and in appearance more like caskets than salts. Such a salt is that belonging to the Vintners' Hall, London, which is of silver-gilt, and a most beautiful specimen. Somewhat later the salt assumed a bell shape, and it was sometimes divided into several compartments, fitting one above another, in order to contain salt and spices.

In the seventeenth century salts of more simple form came into use, which were low and plain, sometimes circular, sometimes square, and sometimes octagonal. Small trencher salts were also used; these were circular or triangular, with a small depression in the centre to contain the salt.

A very remarkable silver salt, made about 1698, is the exact model of the original Eddystone lighthouse. This is made in stories. The lower is large and empty, and appears to be made of piles bound together; the next has a lid perforated for pepper, and appears as if made of masonry; the upper story is also made of masonry, having a depression above to contain the salt; this is surrounded by a gallery and surmounted by the lantern, which is perforated for pounded sugar; above this again is scroll work, terminating in a weather-vane. Outside there is a little ladder from the base to the first story, where it joins a little winding staircase leading to the gallery.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries small open salts, standing on feet, and often being simply a cage or frame to contain a small glass vessel holding the salt, came into use.

Spoons.

*"Therefore behoveth him a ful long spone
That shal ete with a fend."*

- CHAUCER, "The Squire's Tale," 10,916.

SOME elegant specimens of Anglo-Saxon spoons have been found in different parts of England. Two of these are figured in *Archæologia*.† The first made of silver jewelled with garnets, was found at Chatham, and is an interesting example; the second was found at Desborough, Co. Northampton, and is also probably Anglo-Saxon; the bowl is large and oval, the stem plain, tied in at

* "Corporation Plate," by Ll. Jewitt and W. H. St. John Hope.

† Vol. liii. pp. 116, 117.

intervals by small bands; the handle also is oval and flat, and ornamented with an incised pattern.

Silver spoons appear to be first mentioned in the will of Martin de S. Cross in 1259,* and from that time they are frequently referred to in mediæval wills.

One of the most beautiful spoons now in existence is that known as the Coronation spoon. Although the date of this cannot be accurately determined, it is supposed to be of the twelfth or thirteenth century. It is made of silver gilt, with four pearls on the lower part of the handle; the bowl is elegantly ornamented with an engraved arabesque pattern, and the handle also is well moulded.† This spoon is used to hold the oil for anointing the sovereign at the Coronation, and is now kept with the regalia in the Tower of London.

A very early domestic silver spoon, of slender make, with fig-shaped bowl, "six-sided stele," and gilt "dyamond poynte," is mentioned by Mr. C. J. Jackson.‡ In the bowl is stamped the leopard's head, uncrowned, but surrounded by a circle of dots; and the spoon probably belongs to the early part of the fourteenth century.

Spoons terminating with the head and shoulders of the Virgin Mary are known as "Maidenhead spoons," and such spoons are recorded in an inventory of Durham Priory made in 1446;|| and several good examples of these spoons are still in existence.

Other examples have knops shaped as acorns, diamond points, animals, birds, or other terminations. Sometimes the handle was simply cut off, and such a spoon was said to be "slipped in the stalk," and, being almost painfully plain, obtained favour with the Puritans.

An apostle spoon made in 1490-1 appears to be the earliest still remaining, though there are many of later date. The most perfect set is probably that made in 1626-7, now belonging to the Goldsmiths' Company. This set consists of thirteen pieces, one being the "Master spoon," bearing the figure of Christ; the others bearing the figures of the twelve apostles, each with his symbol. At Dallington, Co. Northampton, there is a pretty little spoon with S. Andrew bearing the cross saltier, which was made in York in 1599-1600, and which is now used as a strainer spoon in the church. §

In the seventeenth century the form of the stem changed, becoming flatter and wider at the top, and often turned up; and a little later the stem was continued at the back of the bowl, forming the rat-tail type.

In the middle of the eighteenth century the "Onslow" pattern of spoon was introduced; the handle of this is curved like an Ionic volute, only downwards instead of upward, as had previously been the case.

* "Wills and Inventories" (Surtees Society, 2), i. 9.

† *Archæologia*, vol. liii. p. 118.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. liii. p. 130.

|| "Wills and Inventories" (Surtees Society, 2), i. 91.

§ Markham's "Church Plate of the County of Northampton," p. 89.

Then followed the many varieties of the "King" and "Fiddle pattern" spoon, which are in use at the present day.

Forks.

"Then must you learn the use, and handling of your silver forke at meales."

—BEN JONSON, "The Fox," iv. 1.

SILVER forks did not come into general use until comparatively modern times, though the quotation given above shows that they were used in 1605 when "Rare Old Ben Jonson" wrote his *Volpone*.

The earlier forks no doubt were made of steel. The oldest now known, are probably the set of twelve which were made in 1667, and are now at Cotehele, Co. Cornwall. These have three prongs, with plain flat handle, cleft at the top. Another three-pronged fork, made during the reign of Charles II., was dug up in Covent Garden. This has a flat round handle, nicked at the top, on which is engraved a coat-of arms.* Four-pronged forks were first made in 1726, although there is one with the Musgrave crest that was made in 1683, but it is possible that this was fashioned out of a spoon. All modern forks are made with four prongs, the handles generally matching the spoons with which they are used.

Candlesticks.

"A candlestick all of gold."

—ZEC. iv. 2.

THE celebrated candlestick made in the twelfth century at Gloucester, of white metal gilt, is the earliest, as well as one of the finest, in the country. It has a large head with pricket, a straight stem with three bosses, interlaced bands, knots, monsters and other objects, on a tripod of dragon's claws, and is of Byzantine character. It was given by Abbot Peter of Gloucester to the Church of S. Peter at that city, and is now in the South Kensington Museum.†

After this solitary specimen there is nothing to be noticed until the reign of Charles II. We then meet with candlesticks having

* Cripps' "Old English Plate," 1891, p. 313.

† Pollen's "Gold and Silver Smiths' Work."

square bases, stems composed of clustered columns, and a square rim. In the seventeenth century baluster stems of simple form came into fashion, and a little later more ornate patterns were employed. In the eighteenth century the Corinthian column was introduced for candlesticks, movable candle sockets being then first used. About the same time baluster stems were used. The candlesticks were then enriched with festoons of flowers looped to bosses or masks in high relief, the whole being very ornate and often of great beauty. During the present century all the old designs have been reproduced for candlesticks.

It is sad to think of the multitude of beautiful articles which have been made for pleasure and for state, and destroyed. Indeed the very costliness of the materials in which the great goldsmiths of all ages have wrought, has ensured the ruin of their beautiful works. At various times religious houses, sovereigns and nobles, have sold their treasures, which have found their way into the melting pot, and applied the proceeds for their immediate needs.

In this sketch it has not been possible to do more than give an outline of the history of the workings of the precious metals, of the makers, of the various vessels wrought, and of the changes of form that have obtained at different times. Still, it is hoped that these notes may not be without interest to those who appreciate old, curious, or beautiful workmanship.

CHRISTOPHER A. MARKHAM, F.S.A.

Hall Marks on Plate
 AND
TAXATION OF GOLD AND SILVER GOODS, &c.,
 IN ORDER OF DATE,
From the Twelfth to the Nineteenth Century.

The Statutes now in force relating to the Duties and to the Hall-marking of gold and silver plate are very numerous. There are certainly not less than twenty-five different statutes which are more or less in force, and it seems most desirable that they should be consolidated into one Act of Parliament. The Parliamentary Committee of 1856 strongly recommended that the law should be consolidated, but the suggestion was not carried out.

In the following table those which are not repealed are marked N.R.

TABLE OF STATUTES AND ORDINANCES

REFERRED TO IN THIS BOOK.

1180.	26 Henry II.	Goldsmiths' Company amerced for being adulterine.
1238.	22 Henry III. close rolls m. 6.	Assay of Gold and Silver.
1300.	28 Edward I. c. 20.	Leopard's head. Assay.
1327.	1 Edward III.....	First Charter to Goldsmiths' Company.
1336.	Ordinance of the Goldsmiths' Company.....	1. Leopard's head crowned. 2. Owners' or goldsmiths' mark. 3. Assayer's mark, or variable date letter.
1363.	37 Edward III. c. 7	Assay: marks.
1369.	43 Edward III. close rolls } m. 35	Relating to the Goldsmiths' trade.

1379. 2 Richard II. 1. Goldsmith's, "his own proper mark." 2. "Mark of the city or borough." 3. Assayer's mark, "appointed by the King."
1381. 5 Richard II. c. 2. Exports forbidden.
1392. 16 Richard II. Second Charter to Goldsmiths' Company.
1403. 5 Henry IV. c. 13. Gilding and plating inferior metals prohibited.
1414. 2 Henry V. c. 4. Regulating the prices of gold, gilding silver, &c.
1420. 8 Henry V. c. 3. Gilding inferior metals prohibited.
1423. 2 Henry VI. c. 14. Provincial offices, standard of gold and silver. "Touch of the Leopard's head," and "mark or touch of the workman."
1432. 2 Henry VI. c. 14. Exports forbidden.
1457. James II. (Scots) Appoints deacons, marks.
1462. 2 Edward IV. Another Charter to Goldsmiths' Company.
1473. James III. (Scots) Places appointed to mark gold.
1477. 17 Edward IV. c. 1. "Leopard's head crowned," and "Mark of the Worker." Standard of 18 carats.
1483. James III (Scots) Marks on Goldsmiths' work.
1487. 4 Henry VII. Parl. 3, c. 2. Relates to the Assays. Sale restricted.
1504. 20 Henry VII. Charter to Goldsmiths' Company.
1555. Mary (Scots) Standard and marks.
1573. 15 Elizabeth Standard of gold and silver and marks: 22 carat revived.
1576. 18 Elizabeth, c. 15. 1. "The goldsmith to set his mark thereon." 2. "Touch of the leopard's head crowned," and "marked by the wardens."
1587. James VI. (Scots) Search for inferior gold and silver.
1597. Goldsmiths' Company Records Marks: lion, leopard's head, and alphabetical mark.
1638. Charles I. (Irish) Charter to the Dublin Goldsmiths' Company.
1675. Goldsmiths' Order Marks of the lion and leopard's head.
1687. James VII. (Scots) Charter to the Edinburgh Goldsmith's Hall.
- 1697-8 8 & 9 William III. c. 8. New standard of silver of 11 oz 10 dwt.: Hall marks. N.R.
1698. 9 & 10 William III. c. 28. Exports permitted.
- 1700-1. 12 William III. c. 4. Provincial offices reappointed. Assays, marks. N.R.
1701. 1 Anne, c. 9, s. 3 Newcastle Act. N.R.

1719. 6 George I. c. 11, s. 1, 3, 41... Old silver standard of 11 oz. 2 dwt. revived. Duty imposed. The lion, leopard's head, maker's mark, and date mark. Both old and new standards allowed by this Act. N.R.
1730. 3 George II. (Irish) c. 3, s. 32 Ireland: Standards. N.R.
1739. 12 George II. c. 26..... Standards of gold and silver. New makers' marks. "The initials of his Christian and surname." N.R.
1742. 15 George II. Silver wire.
1756. 29 George II. c. 14..... Annual duty—5s. for every 100 oz.
1758. 31 George II. c. 32..... Licence in lieu of duty.
1759. 32 George II. c. 24..... Licence duty increased.
1773. 13 George III. c. 52..... Birmingham and Sheffield. N.R.
1784. 24 George III. c. 53..... Plated goods: Duty increased and exemptions. King's Head mark.
1785. 25 George III. c. 64. Duty. Drawback. Watch-cases.
1789. 30 George III. c. 31..... Exemptions of silver. N.R.
1797. 37 George III. c. 90..... Duty—gold at 8s., silver 1s. REPEALED.
1798. 38 George III. c. 69 & c. 24. Gold standard lowered to 18 carat. Mark a crown and 18. N.R.
1803. 43 George III. c. 69 Licences. Drawback on plate. REPEALED.
1804. 44 George III. c. 98..... Duty—16s. on gold, 1s. 3d. on silver. REPEALED.
1807. 47 George III. Ireland. N.R.
1812. 52 George III. c. 59..... Duty. Drawback. N.R.
1815. 55 George III. c. 185..... Duty—17s. on gold and 1s. 6d. on silver. Repealed as regards silver plate 1890.
1819. 59 George III. c. 28..... Glasgow. N.R.
1820. 1 George IV. c. 14..... Duty. Drawback. N.R.
1824. 5 George IV. c. 52..... Birmingham Act. N.R.
1825. 6 George IV. Irish.
1836. 6 William IV. c. 69. Scotland. N.R.
1842. 5 & 6 Victoria, c. 47, 56, 82... Foreign plate to be assayed and stamped. N.R.
1844. 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 22..... Criminal Law Consolidation Act, Distinctive mark on 22 carat gold. Mark a crown and 22 instead of the lion passant. N.R.
1849. 12 & 13 Victoria..... Duty. N.R.
1854. 17 & 18 Victoria, c. 96..... Reduced standards of gold—15, 12, and 9 carats. Mark 15.625—12.5—9.375, without crown or King's head. N.R.
1855. 18 & 19 Victoria, c. 60..... Wedding-rings. N.R.
1856. Parliamentary Commission Report on Gold and Silver Wares.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

1866. 29 & 30 Victoria, c. 64.....	Duty. Drawback. N.R.
1867. 30 & 31 Victoria, c. 90.....	Additional mark for foreign plate. Duty. N.R.
1869. 32 Victoria	Additional mark for foreign plate. Duty. N.R.
1870. 33 & 34 Victoria	Licence and watch-cases. N.R.
1876. 39 & 40 Victoria, c. 36	Counterfeit. English marks on foreign plate, and letter F in oval escutcheon. N.R.
1876 & 1878.	Notices by the Goldsmiths' Company.
1878.	Parliamentary Commission Report.
1879.	Parliamentary Commission Report.
1890. 53 & 54 Victoria, c. 8	The duty of 1s. 6d. per ounce on silver plate abolished, and the stamp of the Queen's head, duty mark, discontinued. N.R.
1897.	Parliamentary Commission Report. 4 volumes.

Extracts from Statutes, Ordinances, etc.,

REGULATING THE

MANUFACTURE AND STAMPING OF PLATE IN
ENGLAND,

WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES.

A.D. 1180. 26 HENRY II. A fraternity or Guild of Goldsmiths was in existence at this early period, although no Charter of Incorporation had been granted; for in the year above named the Company was, amongst other guilds, amerced for being *adulterine, i.e.*, set up without the King's licence. The leopard's head, taken from their arms, was probably used by them to denote the proper standard, for in their first charter it is spoken of as being anciently ordained.

A.D. 1238. In the Close Rolls of 22 HENRY III. M. 6. A mandate was issued entitled "De auro fabricando in Civitate Londoniarum." That in consequence of the frauds which had been practised by the gold and silver smiths, it became necessary to prescribe some regulations for their trade, because the mixing too much alloy in the composition of these wares naturally tended to encourage the melting down of coin of the realm. It was therefore ordained that no one should use any gold of which the mark was not worth one hundred shillings at the least, nor any silver worse than the standard of the coins ("quod non valeat in se, quantum valeat moneta Regis").

STANDARDS: LEOPARD'S HEAD.

The assaying of the precious metals was a privilege conferred upon the Goldsmiths' Company of London by the following statute:—

A.D. 1300. 28 EDWARD I., c. 20, commonly called *Articuli super cartas*. "It is ordained (*inter alia*) that no Goldsmith of

England, nor none otherwhere within the King's Dominions, shall from henceforth make, or cause to be made any Manner of Vessel, Jewel, or any other Thing of Gold or Silver, except it be of good and true Allay, that is to say, Gold of a certain Touch and Silver of the Sterling Allay, or of better, at the Pleasure of him to whom the Work belongeth (argent del alay de esterling ou de meillur), and that none work worse Silver than Money. And that no Manner of Vessel of Silver depart out of the Hands of the Workers, until it be essayed by the Wardens of the Craft; and further, that it be marked with the Leopard's head (e q'ele soit signée de une teste de leopart); and that they work no worse Gold than of the Touch of *Paris* (tuche de Parys). And that the Wardens of the Craft shall go from Shop to Shop among the Goldsmiths, to Assay, if their Gold be of the same Touch that is spoken of before; and if they find any other than of the Touch aforesaid, the Gold shall be forfeit to the King: * [And that none shall make Rings, Crosses, nor Locks;] and that none shall set any Stone in gold except it be natural; and that Gravers or Cutters of Stones, and of Seals, shall give to each their Weight of Silver and Gold (as near as they can) upon their Fidelity; and the Jewels of base Gold which they have in their Hands, they shall utter as fast as they can; and from thenceforth if they buy any of the same Work, they shall buy it to work upon and not to sell again; and that all the good Towns of *England* where any Goldsmith be dwelling shall be ordered according to this Estatute as they of *London* be; and that one shall come from every good Town for all the Residue that be dwelling in the same, unto *London* for to be ascertained of their Touch. And if any Goldsmith be attainted hereafter, because that he has done otherwise than before is ordained, he shall be punished by Imprisonment, and by Ransome at the King's Pleasure," &c. REPEALED.

The *touch* of Paris was referred to in this statute because there were no English gold coins which could be made a standard for the goldsmiths' work. The French coins of that time were of fine gold. The touch of Paris therefore was as celebrated over Europe as the *sterling* of England.

Note.—This statute is prior to the first charter granted to the Goldsmiths' Company, and shows that the company was then a corporation, and that all plate then made in the King's dominions was assayed by them.

GOLDSMITHS' CHARTER.

1327. I EDWARD III. The first Charter was granted by Letters Patent from Edward III. to "the Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Goldsmiths of the City of London." It is quoted at length in Herbert's "History of the London Livery Companies," both in French and English. The following are the principal provisions of this Charter:—That the Goldsmiths had by their petition exhibited to the King and Council in Parliament holden at Westminster

* The portion between brackets repealed 21 Jac. 28

shown that theretofore no private merchants or strangers were wont to bring into this land any money coined, but plate and silver to exchange for our coin; that it had been ordained that all of the trade of Goldsmiths were to sit in their shops in the High Street of Cheap, and that no silver or gold plate ought to be sold in the City of London except in the King's Exchange or in Cheap, among the Goldsmiths, and that publicly, to the end that persons in the trade might inform themselves whether the seller came lawfully by it; but that of late both private merchants and strangers bring from foreign lands counterfeit sterling whereof the pound is not worth sixteen sols of the right sterling, and of this money none can know the right value but by melting it down; and that many of the trade of Goldsmiths do keep shops in obscure streets, and do buy vessels of gold and silver secretly without inquiring whether such vessels were stolen or come lawfully by, and immediately melting them down, make them into plate, and sell it to merchants trading beyond sea, and so make false work of gold, silver, and jewels, in which they set glass of divers colours, counterfeiting right stones, and put more alloy in their silver than they ought, which they sell to such as have no skill in such things; that the cutlers cover tin with silver so subtilly and with such sleight that the same cannot be discerned nor separated, and so sell the tin for fine silver; to the great damage and deceit of the King and his people: The King, with the assent of the lords spiritual and temporal and the commons of the realm willed and granted for him and his heirs that henceforth no one shall bring into this land any sort of money but only plate of fine silver, and that no plate of gold or silver be sold to sell again, or be carried out of the kingdom, but shall be sold openly for private use: That none of the trade shall keep any shop except in Cheap, that it may be seen that their work be good: that those of the trade may by virtue of these presents elect honest and sufficient men, best skilled in the trade, to inquire of the matters aforesaid, and that those who are so chosen reform what defects they shall find, and inflict punishment on the offenders, and that by the help of the mayor and sheriffs, if need be; that in all trading cities in England, where Goldsmiths reside, the same ordinance be observed as in London, and that one or two of every such city or town for the rest of the trade shall come to London to be ascertained of their touch of gold, and to have their works *marked with the punchon of the leopard's head* as it was *anciently ordained*.

The earliest records of the Goldsmiths' Company commence in 1334, with the Wardens' Accounts and Court Minutes: and these books are continued in an almost unbroken sequence until 1636, when the records of the Court of Assistants begin.

The following notes are taken by the kind permission of Sir Walter S. Prideaux, from his "*Memorials of the Goldsmiths' Company*."

In these minutes the following information is generally given:—

The names of the Wardens for the year.

The payments given to the increase.

The names of the Poor of the Mystery.

The names of the Apprentices.

The Amerciaments for bad practices.

Amongst the most common frauds in the fourteenth century was debasing gold by mixing it with glass, and silver by adding lead or fine sand; and gilding and silvering latten and brass vessels and passing them off as pure silver; false stones also were set in gold and real stones in copper or latten gilt. Amerciaments surely followed these practices whenever they were detected; and frequently the offender was adjudged to the pillory.

In 1359 one of the members of the Fellowship was found guilty of *mals outrages*, and he was adjudged to forfeit his livery. He prayed mercy of the Company, and offered them ten tons of wine; and he was forgiven on paying for a pipe of wine, and 12d. a week for one year to a poor man of the Company.

It seems to have been a usual practice at this time for defaulters to make their peace with the Company by presenting them with a pipe of wine; or sometimes with a dinner.

In 1370 the first recorded ordinances are entered in the minutes, and the statutes are sworn to by the good men, and also entered in full. These statutes give minute direction, not only as to the manner of the assay; as to workings of ouches, buckles, and what not; as to the apprentices; but also as to praying for the souls of the departed members of the Brotherhood.

In Riley's "Memorials of London" we also find that several charges were brought before the notice of the mayors and aldermen of London for counterfeiting silver *cuppebonds* of mazer or wooden cups and bowls. These mazers were usually mounted with silver circlets which ran round the foot and mouth of the vessel connected by vertical bands which enclosed the bowl.

"In 1372, Thomas Lauleye, contriving to deceive the common people, had circlets of latone gilded, and with them bound divers cups, which he afterwards sold and exposed others for sale, as well *in the citee as without*, asserting that the same circlets were made of silver gilt and paid for accordingly. And in like manner for that he had pledged two cups so bound with circlets of gilded latoune to one William de Stoke, taillour, for xxxij. shillings, asserting that the same were of silver gilt. He was sentenced to stand in the pillory on several days with the cups hung round his neck.

"In 1376, one Peter Randolfe, a lattener, was charged with exposing for sale two circlets for mazers which were of mixed silver, and not good or pure, in deceit of the people. He was let off mildly, however, on promising not to interfere again with the Goldsmiths' trade.

"In 1376, Edward Bor was attached to make answer to the mayor and aldermen for that he silvered 240 buttons of latone and 34 circlets of latone for purses called gibesers (*gipcières*) and had maliciously purposed and imagined to sell the same for pure silver in deceit of the people; whereupon he said that one, Michael Hak-

eneye, had given him the said buttons and circlets to silver. Both were committed to prison in Newgate, the former for one week, the latter for three weeks.

"In 1414, one John of Rochester, was taken by the master of the trade of goldsmiths there for counterfeiting mazer bonds in copper and brass plated over with silver, or gilded, and brought up to London, having sold them within the City."

These cases show that the Goldsmiths' Company then had jurisdiction not only in the Metropolis, but elsewhere within the kingdom of England.

THE GOLDSMITHS' ORDINANCES.

THE COMPANY'S ORDINANCE of the year 1336 enjoin, that none do work gold unless it be as good as the assay of the mystery; or in silver, unless as good or better than the King's coin or sterling, and that when done it shall be brought to the Hall to be assayed, and that such as will bear the *touch* shall be marked "with the owners and sayers marks, and afterwards be touched with the Liberdshede crowned." It will be observed here that three distinct marks are spoken of—(1) the goldsmith's mark, viz., his initials; (2) The assay mark, probably a letter of the alphabet; and (3) The mark of the Goldsmiths' Hall, a leopard's head crowned.

ASSAY MARKS.

A.D. 1363. 37 EDWARD III. c. 7. "Item, it is ordered that goldsmiths as well in London as elsewhere within the realm, shall make all manner of vessels and other works of silver, well and lawfully of the alloy of good sterling; and every master goldsmith shall have a mark by himself, and the same mark shall be known by them which shall be assigned by the King to survey their work and assay; and that the said goldsmiths set not their marks upon their works, till the said surveyors have made their assay, as shall be ordained by the King and his council: and after the assay made, the surveyor shall set the King's mark, and after the goldsmith his mark, for which he will answer; and that no goldsmith take for vessel white and full for the weight of a pound (that is to say) of the price of two marks of Paris weight, but eighteen pence as they do in Paris;* [and that no goldsmith making white vessel shall meddle with gilding, nor they that do gild shall meddle to make white vessel:] and they which shall be so assigned in every town shall make their searches as oftentimes as shall be ordained; and for that which shall be in the goldsmiths' default they shall incur the pain of forfeiture to the King, the value of the metal which shall be found in default." REPEALED.

The laws which regulated the goldsmiths' trade were rigorously enforced, and we read (Cl. 43 Edw. III. m. 35) that William de

* The clause in brackets relating to gilding was repealed 21 Jac. 18.

Mulsho and John de Newenham, in 1369, were commanded to examine by the touch, or by other methods, certain vessels of silver and belts of gold which William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, had caused to be made by goldsmiths of London of less fineness than the ordinance required, and to report the assay to the King in Chancery.

MARKS APPOINTED.

A.D. 1379. 2 RICHARD II. It was enacted by Parliament that whereas the gold and silver worked by English goldsmiths was oftentimes less fine than it ought to be, because the goldsmith were their own assayers, from that time *every goldsmith should have his own proper mark upon his work*, and that the assay of touch should belong to the mayors and governors of cities and boroughs, with the assistance of the Master of the Mint, if there should be occasion; and that *the work should bear the mark of the city or borough where it was assayed*. And also that the King should assign such persons as he should please to make the said assay, as well in London as elsewhere, as often as should be necessary; *and after the assay should be made to stamp the work with another mark, to be appointed by the King*. And it was agreed that the ordinance should commence from the said feast of St. John, and continue until the next Parliament, to try whether it would be advantageous or not. REPEALED.

EXPORTS FORBIDDEN.

A.D. 1381. 15 RICHARD II. c. 2. The export of gold and silver in any shape is forbidden ("or et argent si bien monoie vessell plate et joialx"). REPEALED.

In 1402 this provision was reinforced by another Act, forbidding any person to carry gold or silver in money, vessel, or plate out of the realm without the King's licence.

GOLDSMITHS' CHARTER.

A.D. 1392 16 RICHARD II. Another charter to the Goldsmiths' Company bearing date the 6th of February of this year granted and gave licence to the men of the said craft of goldsmiths of the City of London to be a perpetual community or society of themselves, and elect yearly out of themselves four wardens to oversee, rule, and duly govern the said craft and community, and every member of the same.

IRISH STATUTE.

A.D. 1447. It was ordained that no persons except knights and prelates of the Holy Church should use any gilt bridles, peytrells, or other harness; and that if any other should be found with such harness, is should be lawful for every man that would to take the

said man, his horse and harness, and to possess the same as his own goods. This statute was not repealed until 10 and 11 Charles I., 1635.

GILDING INFERIOR METALS PROHIBITED.

A.D. 1403. 5 HENRY IV. c. 13. *Recites*, That many fraudulent artificers do daily make locks, &c., of copper and latten, and the same do over gild and silver like to gold and silver, to the great deceit, loss, and hindrance of the common people, and the wasting of gold and silver; and *ordains*, That no artificer, nor other man, shall gild nor silver any such locks, rings, beads, candlestick, harness for girdles (buckles), chalices, hilts nor pommels of swords, powder boxes, nor covers for cups, made of copper or latten, upon pain to forfeit to the King 100 shillings every time, and to make satisfaction to the party grieved for his damages; but that (chalices always excepted) the said artificers may work ornaments for the Church of copper and latten, and the same gild or silver, so that always in the foot or some other part of such ornament the copper and latten shall be plain, that a man may see whereof the thing is made, for to eschew the deceit aforesaid.* REPEALED.

In the same Act, c. 4, "It shall be felony to use the craft of multiplication of gold or silver" (repealed 1 William and Mary).

CUTLERS AND GOLDSMITHS.

A.D. 1405. A contest happened between the Companies of the Goldsmiths and Cutlers, with regard to certain privileges, claimed by the former, of inspecting all the gold and silver work made by the latter. At length the Goldsmiths appealed to the Parliament, and by the authority of the King, the affair was referred to the Lord Mayor of London, who, having carefully examined into the same, reported, that according to the ancient immunities of the City, the Cutlers had a right to work in gold and silver; but that all things made by them were to be assayed by the Goldsmiths; whereupon the Goldsmiths' Charter was confirmed by Parliament, and additional privileges were granted.

PRICE OF GILT SILVER LIMITED.

A.D. 1414. 2 HENRY V., s. 2, c. 4. *Recites*, "That the Goldsmiths of England, of their covin and ordinances, will not sell the wares of their mystery gilt but at the double price of the weight of the silver of the same, which seemeth to the King very outrageous and too excessive a price, the King, for the ease of his people, willing to remedy the same, hath ordained and established, that all the Goldsmiths of England shall gild no silver worse than of the allay

*Louis XI., King of France, in an ordinance to the goldsmiths of Tours, January, 1470, authorises them to employ *only for ecclesiastical utensils*, such as reliquaries, &c., gold and silver of base alloy, which pieces were to be inscribed "*non venundetur*," to certify that they were not destined for commerce.

of the English sterling, and that they take for a pound of troy gilt but Forty-six shillings and eightpence at the most, and of greater weight and less, according to the quantity and rate of the same sum: and that which shall be by them gilt from henceforth shall be of reasonable price, and not excessive; and if any goldsmith do contrary to this statute, he shall forfeit to the King the value of the thing so sold." REPEALED.

A.D. 1420. 8 HENRY V., c. 3. *Ordains*, "That none shall gild any sheaths, nor metal but silver and Church ornaments; nor shall silver no metal but Knight's spurs, and all the apparel that pertaineth to a Baron, and above that estate; upon pain of forfeiture to the King ten times as much as the thing so gilt is of value, and shall have one year's imprisonment; and he that will sue for the King shall have the third part of the said pecuniary forfeiture." REPEALED.

This statute seems to have been made because the two last were found ineffectual to prevent frauds.

STANDARD OF GOLD AND SILVER: PROVINCIAL OFFICES.

A.D. 1423. 2 HENRY VI. c. 14. It was ordained that no goldsmith or worker of silver within the City of London sell no workmanship of silver, unless it be as fine as the sterling; and that no goldsmith nor jeweller, nor any other that worketh harness of silver, shall set any of the same to sell within the city, before that it be *touched with the touch*, and also *with a mark or sign of the workman* of the same, upon pain of forfeiture of the double value thereof. And that the mark or sign of every goldsmith be known to the wardens of the craft. And if it may be found that the said Keeper of the Touch touch any such harness with the *leopard's head*, except it be as fine in allay as the sterling, that then he shall forfeit for everything so proved, the double value to the King, and to the party who shall prove it. And it is also ordained that in the city of York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Lincoln, Norwich, Bristol, Salisbury and Coventry, there shall be divers touches, according to the ordinance of Mayors, Bailiffs, or Governors of the said towns. And that no goldsmith nor other workers of silver, nor Keepers of the said touches, within the said towns, shall set to sell, nor touch any silver in other manner than is ordained before within the City of London, upon pain of the said forfeiture. And that no goldsmith nor other worker of silver, in England, where no touch is ordained, shall work any silver except it be as fine in allay as the sterling, and that he set thereon his mark before he set it to sale; and if it is not as fine, he shall forfeit double value as in London; and justices, &c., shall hear, inquire, and determine offences, and make due execution by their discretions. REPEALED.

It appears that before the last statute all the gold and silver plate made in England was assayed and marked at Goldsmiths' Hall in London.

EXPORTS.

A.D. 1432. 11 HENRY VI., c. 14. In this year the laws which prohibited the exportation of money and plate were partially suspended. The Pope's Ambassador had licence to pass out of the kingdom with gold, money, and jewels to the amount of one hundred pounds. And the Bishop of Worcester, being about to attend the General Council at Basle, had permission to carry with him goods, jewels, and vessels of silver to the value of one thousand pounds. The Bishop of Winchester had licence to carry out of the realm money and plate to the amount of £20,000 of sterlings. And about the same time a certain Spaniard had permission to take his horses, silver, plate and money out of the kingdom. REPEALED.

GOLDSMITHS' CHARTER.

A.D. 1462. The most important charter ever given to the Company of Goldsmiths in London bears date the 30th of May, 2 Edw. 4, and grants (*inter alia*) as follows: "And for the credit of the men of the said craft, dwelling and residing in the said city, for the time being, and for the preventing and avoiding of the damage and loss, which do or may daily happen or arise, as well to us as to any of our liege people, for want of a due and provident care in regulating certain of our subjects and others using and exercising the said trade, without any regard to the credit of the said company; and also for the preventing and taking away the subtilties and deceits practised in the said trade. We have further granted, and by these presents do grant to the said now wardens and commonalty, and their successors for ever, that the wardens of the said mystery for the time being shall and may for ever have the search, inspection, trial and regulation of all sorts of gold and silver, wrought or to be wrought, and to be exposed to sale within the City of London, and the suburbs thereof, and in all fairs and markets, and all cities, towns, and boroughs, and all other places whatsoever throughout our kingdom of England, and also shall and may have power to punish and correct all defects that shall be found in the working of gold and silver; . . . and also by themselves, or any of them, to break all such deceitful works and wares of gold and silver, of what sort soever, if any such they shall find, to be made, wrought, and exposed to sale, in deceit of our people."

This privilege has been since so materially enlarged, that they have the power of inspecting all gold and silver wares in the following particular places, viz., Chester, Newcastle, Norwich, Exeter, Birmingham and Sheffield, with the power of punishing all offenders concerned in working adulterated gold and silver, and of making bye-laws for their better government.

STANDARD OF 18-CARAT GOLD.

A.D. 1477. STAT. 17, EDWARD IV. c. 1, directs (*inter alia*), that no goldsmith, or worker of gold or silver, shall work, or put to sale,

any gold under the fineness of 18 carats, nor silver, unless it be as fine as sterling, except such thing as requireth solder; also, that no goldsmith work, or set to sale, harness of silver plate, or jewel of silver, from the feast of Easter, within the City of London, or within two leagues* of London, before it be touched with the leopard's head crowned, such as may bear the said touch, and also with a mark or sign of the worker of the same so wrought, upon pain of forfeiture of the double value of such silver wrought and sold to the contrary; that the mark or sign of every goldsmith be committed to the wardens of the same mystery, and if it be found that the keeper of the touch of the leopard's head crowned, do mark or touch any harness with the leopard's head, if it be not as fine in alloy as sterling, he shall forfeit double the value of the silver, and that the craft of goldsmiths of London shall be answerable for the non-sufficiency of the warden.

This statute was enacted for seven years, and was afterwards re-enacted for twenty years in 1489, and again for twenty years in 1552 by 7 Edw. VI. c. 6. REPEALED.

ASSAY OF GOLD AND SILVER.

A.D. 1487. 4 HENRY VII. PARL. 3, c. 2, sets forth "That it was of old time used and continued till now of late years, that there was, for the avail of the King and the Realm, Finers and Parters of gold and silver by fire and water, under a Rule and Order belonging to the Mints of London, Calais, Canterbury, York, and Durham, and other places where mints be holden, and at the Goldsmiths' Hall in London, to fine and part all gold and silver, belonging and needful for the said Mints and Fellowship of Goldsmiths, for the amendment of money and plate of the realm: that everything might be reformed to the right standard, as well in money as plate, to the least cost, for the weal of the King's nobleman of the land and common people. But now that such finers and parters dwell abroad in every part of this realm, out of the Rules aforesaid, and buy gilt silver from the mints, changes and goldsmiths, and part and fine it; and for the most part of the silver so fined, they do allay in divers manner; and sell it to every man that will buy of them, to make such works as pleaseth the buyers; therefore man can get no fine silver, when they need it, for their money, for the amendment of money and plate as hath been in times past, wherefore it causeth money and plate, in divers places of the realm to be made worse in fineness than it should be, as it appeareth evidently in divers places, to the great hurt of the King's noblemen and common people." And enacts, "That no Finer, nor Parter of gold and silver allay any fine silver or gold, ne none sell in any otherwise, ne to any person or persons, but only to the officers of mints, changes and goldsmiths within this realm, for augmentation and amending of coin and plate; ne that no Finer nor Parter sell

* This statute is in Norman French; this word in the original is "leukez."

to no person any manner of silver in mass, molten and allayed, on forfeiture of the same,—one half to the King, and the other half to the finder, that can prove and will sue for it in the Exchequer.”*
REPEALED.

GOLDSMITHS' CHARTER.

A.D. 1504. Another Charter granted to the Goldsmiths' Company of London, bearing date 3rd February, 20 Henry VII., mentions “that divers persons in divers parts of this Kingdom do work and expose to sale gold and silver wrought worse than standard, and neither fear nor doubt to be punished; as due search, or due punishment, is seldom executed out of London. And that the common standard, or assize of gold and silver (according to the ordinances in that behalf made), is kept in Goldsmiths' Hall, in London; and that all works and wares in gold and silver there tried and assayed, and affirmed for good, shall be stamped with their marks, which they use for that purpose; and all defective works utterly condemned.”

In 1547, the Court of the Goldsmiths' Company, passed resolutions, in accordance with the King's injunctions, for breaking up the image of St. Dunstan. These were shortly afterwards carried out, and the weight of the image, and of St. Dunstan's standing cup, with the number of the stones set therein, are entered in the proceedings.

At this time the year began at the Feast of the Holy and Blessed Trinity [Sunday after Whit Sunday] instead of at the Feast of St. Dunstan [May 19th] as formerly.

Four years later an almswoman was committed to ward for setting an Apostle on a spoon.

Soon after Queen Mary commenced her reign, the old style of St. Dunstan was restored. †

STANDARDS OF GOLD AND SILVER: 22-CARAT GOLD REVIVED.

A.D. 1573. 15 ELIZABETH. Commissioners were appointed to inquire into the standard of gold and silver, which had not been attended to, in consequence of the disgraceful state of the coinage, and the low degree of baseness to which that and goldsmiths' work generally had then recently fallen, but which had then reached again to its former purity. The Commissioners called before them the Master and Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company, to see how far they had complied with the standard; and they were compelled to give security that in future no gold wares should be of less fineness than 22 carats, and silver wares 11 oz. 2 dwts. in the pound.

* As this Act makes no mention of any country Assay Offices, it is probable that all or most of them were then discontinued.

† Memorials of the Goldsmiths' Company.

STANDARDS AND PRICE OF GOLD AND SILVER
22-CARAT GOLD.

A.D. 1576. 18 ELIZABETH, c. 15. In this Parliament the abuses in goldsmiths' work were taken into consideration; and it was enacted that, after the 20th of April, no goldsmith should work, sell, or exchange, or cause to be sold, &c., any wares of *gold* less in fineness than 22 carats, and that he should use no solder, amell, or other stuffings whatsoever, more than should be necessary, and that he should not take above the rate of twelve pence for the ounce of gold, besides the fashion, more than the buyer should or might be allowed for the same at the Queen's Exchange or Mint, upon pain to forfeit the value of the thing so sold or exchanged.

That he should not put to sale any wares, &c., of *silver* before he should have set his mark thereon, to so much as might conveniently bear it, upon pain of forfeiture of the same. And if in any goldsmith's ware, &c., touched, marked and allowed for good by the Wardens and Corporation of that mystery, after the said 20th of April, there should be found any falsehood or deceit, then the Wardens and Corporation of that mystery, for the time being, should forfeit the value of the said wares.

The Goldsmiths' Company of London is entrusted with the custody of the pile of troy weights made in this Queen's reign, and no country office is mentioned in this Act. PARTLY REPEALED.

In 1630 new gowns were purchased for the almsmen of the Goldsmiths' Company, and it was ordered that "The badge of the Leopard's Head is to be set upon each gown."

When Mr. Harrison, a goldsmith, was Sheriff, in 1633, the Company lent him a quantity of plate. The list of this shows that the Company possessed a very valuable collection prior to the loss of the greater portion of it during the Civil War. The vessels lent to Mr. Harrison weighed between 2,000 and 3,000 ounces, and were mostly gilt. They included eleven standing cups and covers, many basins and ewers, greater and lesser salts, Livery pots, trencher plates, &c.

At the Court of Assistants, held 23rd May, 1638, it was reported that:—

"The alphabet of small Roman letters has been used down to 'V.' It being the custom of the Company not to go beyond 'V,' it is resolved that the alphabet of great letters of the Court handwriting shall now be used."

At the Court held two years later it was resolved that "In consequence of the devices of workmen to entrap the Assay Master, namely, by clogging their work with unnecessary solder; making pieces of plate of many parts of silver of different qualities; putting new feet to the bodies of old bowls which have passed the touch; and adding potkins of coarse silver; and in consequence of the leniency of the wardens by which many offenders escape punishment, it is ordered that Alderman Wollaston shall make relation

of the aforesaid practices in the Hall, and warn offenders that they will in future be visited with condigne punishment."

In 1650, a complaint was made against Thomas Maundy, because he had printed and published an order of the Commonwealth whereby he was appointed to make the great maces, thus deterring others from providing maces. Mr. Maundy was sent for, and explained that he had no desire of monopolizing the making of maces, and that he conceived that the order was only to extend to the making of the great maces, namely: for the Parliament, for the Council of State, for the City of London, and for Ireland. The Wardens therefore resolved to publish something showing that the members of the Company might make any maces, which should be bespoken of them.

On the 12th June, 1652, the new Wardens took their places at the Court of Assistants, and the new pounsons were brought in by the graver. The letter for the ensuing year was to be the great O in the Court character in an escutcheon.

At the Court held 4th June, 1658, there was an order made for the new letter to be used, "the Company having run through the alphabet of the character of the Courte hand letter."

A complaint was made to the Court of Assistants on the 2nd June, 1663, that the spoons had then lately not been wrought for length and wideness of the bowls as they ought to be, but were shorter in the handles and less in the bowls than theretofore.

It was therefore ordered that the form and pattern of a spoon should be made and hung up in the Assay Office; and if spoons were brought to be assayed otherwise made, the Deputy Assayer was to return them to be new wrought again.

The Company, in 1664, in conformity with the request of one of the Secretaries of State, made a return of the quantity and value of the plate made during the previous ten years. This shows that the total weight of silver plate was 309,728 lbs. 6oz. 6dwts., and the value thereof £929,185 11s. 6d. (5s. an ounce). That gold plate was very seldom made, and that gilt plate was included in the total amount named.*

Eleven years later the Company made the following order:—

London, Goldsmiths' Hall, 23rd February, 1675.

Whereas complaints have been made to the Wardens of the Company of Goldsmiths, London, that divers small works, as buckles for belts, silver hilts, and the pieces thereto belonging, with divers other small wares, both of gold and silver, are frequently wrought and put to sale by divers goldsmiths and others, worse than standard, to the great abuse of his Majesty's good subjects, and great discredit of that manufacture, and reproach in foreign parts to the English goldsmiths; and that there are also divers pieces of silver plate sold, not being assayed at Goldsmith's *Hall*, and so not marked with the *leopard's head crowned*, or *lyon*, as by law the same ought to be: And whereas the Wardens of the said

* Memorials of the Goldsmiths' Company.

Company, to prevent the said frauds, have formerly required all persons to forbear putting to sale any adulterate wares, either of gold or silver : but that they cause the same forthwith to be defaced : And that as well plate workers as small workers shall cause their respective marks to be brought to Goldsmiths' Hall, and there strike the same in a table kept in the Assay Office ; and likewise enter their names and places of habitations in a book there kept for that purpose, whereby the persons and their marks might be known unto the Wardens of the said Company ; which having not hitherto been duly observed, and many of the offenders seem to be incorrigible ; these are therefore to give notice to, and to require again all those who exercise the said art or mystery of goldsmith in or about the cities of London and Westminster and the suburbs of the same, that they forthwith repair to Goldsmiths' Hall and there strike their marks, first approved by the Wardens in Court, in a table appointed for that purpose, and likewise enter their names with the places of their respective dwellings in a book remaining in the *Assay Office* there.* And that as well the worker as shopkeeper, and all cutlers and girdlers and all others working or trading in gold or silver wares of what kind soever or quality they be, forbear putting to sale any of the said works, not being agreeable to standard, that is to say, gold not less in fineness than 22 carats, and silver not less in fineness than 11 oz. 2 dwts. ; and that no person or persons do from henceforth put to sale any of the said wares, either small or great, before the *workman's mark* be struck clear and visible thereon, and upon every part thereof, that is wrought asunder, and afterwards soldered or made fast thereto, in finishing the same, unless it be such sort of work adjudged by the wardens, that it will not conveniently bear the worker's mark. And that all manner of silver vessels, and all manner of silver hilts for swords, and all manner of silver buckles for belts and girdles, and other harness of silver, be assayed at Goldsmiths' Hall, and there approved for standard, by striking thereon the *lion and leopard's head crowned*, or one of them, before they be exposed to sale. And hereof all persons concerned are required to take notice, and demean themselves accordingly ; otherwise the wardens resolve to make it their care to procure them to be proceeded against according to law. And will reward every person for their pains in discovering before them (in court) the matter of fact of any transgressor (in the premises) upon the conviction of the offender.

A.D. 1696. By the Act 7 and 8 WILLIAM III. c. 19, s. 3. "No retailers of liquors to use or expose any wrought plate, except spoons, on pain of forfeiture," &c.

* The table here alluded to was a copper plate of nine columns, which is still preserved at the Hall. It contains punches of the makers' marks from the date of this order, 1675, up to the passing of the Act altering the standard in 1697 ; but the book in which their names and places of abode were entered is unfortunately lost. A copy of the first five columns of this plate is printed in this volume ; the remaining marks are of the second size for small pieces of plate.

NEW STANDARD OF SILVER (OF 11 OZ. 10 DWTS.)
AND MARKS.

A.D. 1697-8. 8 and 9, WILLIAM III. c. 8, s. 1. Enacts that any persons that shall bring any sort of wrought plate, between the 1st January, 1696 and the 4th November 1697, into any of his Majesty's mints, &c., shall be paid 5s. 4d. per ounce for the same; and that the master and worker of the mints shall receive all such wrought plate, which shall plainly appear to have thereon the mark commonly used at the Hall, belonging to the Company of Goldsmiths in London, besides the workman's mark, as sterling silver, without tarrying till it be melted and assayed. And where the wrought plate, so brought, shall not have the said marks thereon, then the party bringing such plate shall have the same forthwith melted and assayed, and shall be allowed 5s. 4d. per ounce for every ounce of sterling silver found therein.

Cap. 8, Sect. 9. "And whereas it might reasonably be suspected that part of the silver coins of the realm had been, by persons regarding their own private gain more than the public good, molten and converted into vessels of silver or other manufactured plate, which crime had been the more easily perpetrated by them, in regard the goldsmiths or others, workers of plate, by the former laws and statutes of the realm, were not obliged to make their plate of finer silver than the sterling or standard ordained for the monies of the realm." It was therefore enacted that, from and after the 25th day of March 1697, no silver plate should be made of less fineness than that of 11 oz. 10 dwts. of fine silver in every pound troy, and that no silver vessels, &c. made after that time should be put to sale until such vessels, &c., should be marked, except silver wire or such things as, in respect of their smallness, were incapable of receiving a mark. That the marks should be—that of the worker, to be expressed by the two first letters of his surname; the marks of the mystery or craft of the goldsmiths, which, instead of the leopard's head and the lion, should be for this plate the figure of a lion's head erased,* and the figure of a woman, commonly called Britannia; and a distinct variable mark to be used by the Warden of the said mystery, to denote the year in which such plate was made; and that those marks should be affixed, on pain of forfeiture of all silver vessels, &c., that should be exposed for sale. REPEALED, except sec. 8.

Wrought plate not marked with the Hall mark of the Goldsmiths' Company of London was not to be received by the officers of his Majesty's mints as sterling, but as uncertain silver.

This enactment was made in consequence of the practice of melting the coin of the realm by silversmiths to convert it into plate, being the readiest way of obtaining silver "as good as sterling," both the coinage and the standard of plate being sterling, that is, 11 oz. 2 dwts.; and in consequence of the immense quantities of plate that had been sacrificed in the preceding reign for the

* This standard was compulsory until 1720, and is still a legal standard.

use of the King and Parliament by converting it into money or siege pieces of equal value; the opulent gentry were desirous of replenishing their tables and sideboards with plate, as they were before the Civil War, so they set about turning the tables, by converting money back again into plate. This was carried to such an extent that the King had recourse to legislation to remedy the inconvenience, and the plan was carried out of raising the standard of plate above the sterling of the coinage, rendering the latter less available to the silversmith. The inducement held out by the same Act to bring wrought plate to the mint was the offer of purchasing any which bore the mark of the Goldsmiths' Hall at 5s. 4d. the ounce, which doubtless led to a still further destruction of ancient plate. In this Act the Assay offices of the provinces were not mentioned; and they appear, therefore, to have been deprived of the power of marking silver plate, because they were not empowered to use the marks for the new standard, and to work the old was illegal; hence from April 1697 until May 1701 plate was only assayed and marked at the Goldsmiths' Hall, London, to the entire exclusion of the provincial assay offices during that period.

A.D. 1698. 9 & 10 WILLIAM III. c. 28. Recites, "That by an Act of the 7 & 8 William III. c. 19, no wrought plate can be shipped off, under the great penalties therein named, whereby no home-wrought manufactured plate, though never so beneficial to the artificers and trade of this kingdom, is permitted to be exported;" which was at that time a good and wholesome law, and tended to the benefit of the kingdom by keeping bullion at home to be coined. And that a great benefit may accrue to many artificers and to the kingdom in general, by giving liberty to export watches, sword hilts, wrought plate, and several other manufactures, made within this kingdom, being of the fineness prescribed in the last recited Act, it is enacted that after the 24th June 1698, "it shall be lawful to export such watches, plate, &c., according to the rules prescribed in the said last recited Act, as shall be yearly allowed by the Commissioners of the Customs." REPEALED.

The same Act, c. 39, says, "No gilt wire to be covered with verdigrease, &c. Six ounces of plate to cover four ounces of silk."

PROVINCIAL OFFICES REAPPOINTED.

A.D. 1700. 12 WILLIAM c. 4. Recites that the goldsmiths, silver smiths, and plateworkers remote from London are under great difficulties and hardships in the exercise of their trades, for want of assayers in convenient places to assay and touch their wrought plate; and therefore, for remedy thereof, and for preventing all frauds and corruptions therein—

Sect. 1. Appoints the several cities where the mints were lately erected for recoining the silver money, viz., York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, and Norwich, for the assaying and marking of wrought plate, and for executing the powers, authorities, and directions given by this Act.

Sect. 2. Incorporates the goldsmiths, silversmiths, and plate-workers, freemen of, and inhabiting within, any of the said cities, and having served an apprenticeship to the said trade, the Company of Goldsmiths of such city respectively, and enables them annually to choose two wardens, who shall continue for one year, and no longer, unless re-elected.

Sect. 3. Enacts, that no goldsmith, &c., there, shall work any silver plate less in fineness than the standard, nor put to sale, exchange, or sell the same until marked with the worker's mark, the lion's head erased, the Britannia, the arms of the city, and a variable yearly Roman letter.

Sect. 4. Enacts, that each of the said companies shall elect an able and skilful man, experienced in assaying of gold and silver, who may detain eight grains per pound troy of silver he shall assay, four grains whereof shall be put into the diet-box, and the other four grains shall be allowed him for his waste and spillings in making the said assays; and appoints the oath he shall take immediately after his election before the Mayor.

Sect. 6. Enacts, that the diet-box shall be locked up with three keys, kept by the wardens and assayer, and shall be at the company's charge conveyed annually (if required by the Lord Chancellor or Keeper) to the Mint at the Tower, and the diet therein tried as the pix of the coin is tried; and if any falsehood or deceit therein, the company shall forfeit £50, to be recovered against such company, or any member thereof in his private capacity: and if any plate shall be touched, marked, or allowed for good by the assayer, and any deceit found therein, he shall forfeit double the value thereof.

Sect. 7. Enacts, that every goldsmith, &c., inhabiting there or elsewhere, shall first enter his name, mark, and abode with the wardens of such company of that city or place where an assayer is or shall be appointed, which shall be done without fee. And if such goldsmith shall not enter his mark, or shall strike any unentered mark on plate, he shall forfeit double the value thereof. This section is REPEALED.

Sect. 8. Enacts, that if any person shall counterfeit any of the stamps appointed by this Act to be used by the said wardens or assayers for marking wrought plate, or any of the stamps used by the wardens of the Company of Goldsmiths of the City of London, such person shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of £500, to be recovered and disposed as aforesaid.

Sect. 9. Recites, that it is not the intent or meaning of this Act to hinder any goldsmith, silversmith, or plateworker, not inhabiting within any of the cities aforesaid, from exercising his trade; yet for preventing of abuse or corruption therein, it enacts that every such goldsmith, &c., shall first fix his mark upon his plate, and then shall send the same to some city or place where an assayer is or shall be appointed who shall assay and mark the same as he is by this Act required to mark the plate of his company, and he shall be paid towards his charge and trouble in making such assays a sum not exceeding 6d. per pound troy.

Nearly all these cities, it will be seen, were chosen for the same purpose, as early as 2 Henry VI. A.D. 1424, but many had probably never availed themselves of the privilege, or had long since discontinued it, or it would have been unnecessary to reappoint them expressly by this statute.

As the King's subjects had, in the year 1697, sold most of their wrought plate to the mints to be coined into money, and the said Act William III. c. 8, had abolished the old standard of 11 oz. 2 dwts. and established the new standard of 11 oz. 10 dwts. for wrought silver plate, and had only entrusted the said Company of Goldsmiths in London with assaying and marking all the new standard plate of the kingdom; and as a large demand now arose for wrought plate, and the goldsmiths in the remote parts of the kingdom were under great difficulties to supply their customers, therefore the goldsmiths, &c., in the above cities (where mints were lately erected) obtained the above Act, which conferred the same privileges upon the cities therein named, but from 1696 to 1701 no plate had been assayed or stamped anywhere but in London.

In the parts of England distant from the metropolis it was the custom, as enacted by 2 Rich. II. 1379, "that every goldsmith should have his own proper mark set upon his work," and also that "the work should bear the mark of the city or borough where it was assayed."

In the Acts of 1423 and 1462, York, Norwich, Lincoln, Newcastle, and other cities were appointed to assay gold and silver, and were directed to use "divers touches according to the ordinance of the Mayor, Bailiff, or Governor of the said towns;" hence it seems they could adopt any mark they thought proper; but in 1700, when these assay towns were re-established, Sect. 3 expressly defined the five marks to be (1) *the arms of their cities*, (2) *the maker's mark*, (3) *a variable Roman letter to show the year in which the plate was made*, (4) *the lion's head erased*, and (5) *Britannia*.

THE NEWCASTLE ACT.

A.D. 1701. 1 ANNE c. 9, s. c. Recites the Act of 12 William III. c. 4, and adds, "that in the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne there is, and time out of mind hath been, an ancient Company of Goldsmiths, which, with their families, by the said penalty are like to be ruined, and the trade utterly lost in the said town;" and recites, that by the statute 2 Hen. VI. c. 14, the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is one of the places appointed to have touches for wrought silver plate; therefore this Act appoints the said town for the assaying and marking wrought plate, as fully as if named in the said Act of 12 Will. III. c. 4. PARTLY REPEALED.

OLD STANDARD SILVER OF 11 OZ. 2 DWTS. REVIVED— DUTY OF 6D. PER OZ. IMPOSED.

A.D. 1719. STAT. 6 GEO. I. c. 11, Sect. 1. Recites, that it is found by experience that the manufactures of silver which were

made according to the old standard are more serviceable and durable than those which have been made according to the new standard; and therefore enacts, that the said old standard of silver plate, made after the 1st of June, 1720, shall be restored, revived, and take place instead of the said new standard.

Sect. 2. Enacts, that no goldsmith, &c., shall be obliged to make silver plate according to the said new standard.

Sect. 3. Enacts, that no person shall make any silver plate less in fineness than 11 ounces 2 pennyweights per pound troy, or put to sale, exchange, or selling any silver plate (unless wire, or things by smallness not capable of a mark) until touched, assayed, and marked in manner prescribed by the laws, for marking the new standard of 11 ounces 10 pennyweights fine in case the same standard had continued; and that all former laws for preserving the said new standard shall be put in execution for preserving the old standard.

Sect. 4. Grants to his Majesty a duty of 6d. per ounce on all silver plate imported into and made in Great Britain, to be paid by the importer and makers respectively; and subsequent sections provide for the levying of it.

Sect. 41. Recites, that it may be requisite, for encouraging the several manufactures of wrought plate, to continue both the new and the old standards, for the better accommodating all buyers of plate, and the workers and dealers therein: And therefore enacts, that all wrought plate shall not be made less in fineness than 11 ounces 10 pennyweights, or 11 ounces 2 pennyweights; which two different standards of wrought plate shall be severally marked with distinguishing marks, viz., plate of 11 ounces 10 pennyweights, with the workman's mark, the warden's mark, the lion's head erased, and the Britannia; and plate of 11 ounces 2 pennyweights, with the worker's mark, the warden's mark, a lion passant, and a leopard's head. And that it shall not be lawful to make silver plate of a coarser alloy, under the penalties by any of the laws in being concerning wrought plate. PARTLY REPEALED.

The contemplated alteration of the standard, in 1719, from the new one of 11 oz. 10 dwts. to the old one of 11oz. 2 dwts. was not generally approved of by the goldsmiths; for although the quality of the silver was reduced, yet the price was raised to the public by reason of the additional duty of 6d. per oz. The goldsmiths therefore memorialised the House of Commons, as shown in the following case.

It was probably in consideration of their alleged grievances that Sect. 41 was added to the Bill, giving the workers an opportunity of choosing the new or old standard; but they do not appear to have availed themselves of adhering to the new standard to any great extent after 1720.

"CASE OF THE WORKING GOLDSMITHS. In relation to a Bill now depending in the Honourable House of Commons for reducing the standard of wrought silver plate and laying a duty thereon.

"1st. It must be acknowledged by all who are workers of silver plate that the new standard of 11 oz. 10 dwts. is of much finer

colour and better adapted for curious work than the old standard of 11 oz. 2 dwts., which will not stand the fire to receive proper ornaments. So that foreign courts (where a coarser alloy is used) give frequent commissions for their most valuable plate to be made in London, to the great profit of this kingdom. But should the standard be altered, as by the Bill is intended, it would be impossible for the finest artist to finish so compleat a work in silver of the old standard as it is now performed in the new standard. Besides that, there are some instances where plate of the old standard will require more silver than the same piece of plate were it made of the new standard.

"2nd. That the laying a duty will ruin the goldsmiths' trade is apparent; for where a duty is laid on any manufacture, the consumption of which is not absolutely necessary, the consequence must be the sinking or destroying that trade, because every person is at liberty to use or refuse it. And if 6d. per oz. be laid on plate, the manufacturer must, for all weighty plate, pay as much, or more, than he receives for the fashion (besides the loss to the buyer at every time of exchanging such plate). And it must further be observed that the old standard, with the duty, will be 3d. per oz. dearer than the new standard now is; whereby so great decrease will be made in the trade that not only the duty will fall short of what is expected from it, but many numerous families will be deprived of their subsistence.

"3rd. The liberty of search by officers by night or day objected to.

"4th. Complains of the delay of getting their work assayed and marked at Goldsmiths' Hall.

"5th. Objects to the duty on small plate such as snuff boxes, watch cases, sword hilts, shoe buckles, and other small toys, as well as the annoyance of search by night or day, &c.

"6th. That Government will be deprived of the advantage received by wrought plate when bullion was wanting should the manufacture of silver decay in this kingdom, 'as certainly it will, should this Bill pass.'—*Guildhall Library*.

At the Committee meeting of the Goldsmiths' Company, held on the 23rd February, 1725, "The Workmen's remonstrances is read, complaining, first, against the practice of plateing of brass, iron, copper, and other metalls with silver.

Secondly, against admitting any but freemen of the Company to have the benefit of the assay and touch, and saying that there is an Act of ye 3rd King William to forbid it.

Thirdly, complaining of the number of apprentices.

The Committee order the first paragraph to be read again, and then resolve to give for answer thereto that the company have already applied to the Government against the evil complained of, and have bought several pieces of the said brass wares to lay before them; and will use their further endeavours to prevent the same.

The second paragraph is read a second time, and it is resolved yt the Act of King William III. enacts yt no plate shall be wrought or sold before it is markt at Gold-

smiths' Hall; and that the Attorney-General, in his report for the Treasury, says the Company cannot refuse to mark plate wrought by unfreeman; as has been also the opinion of all the counsell the company have consulted thereupon, as particularly the late Common Sergeant, Mr. Dee, Mr. Sergeant Darnell, and Mr. Fazakerly, and hath not been contradicted by the counsell of the late prosecutors, Sergeant Cheshire, Knot, and Probyn.

The third paragraph is read a second time, and it is resolved that the company cannot prevent goldsmiths free of other companies from binding many apprentices, but will consider of the best method they can to remedy it, and will recommend it to the consideration of the next Court of Assistants."

At the Court of Wardens, 8th January, 1730:—

"Then Mr. Wardens took into consideration how to remedy an antient evil practice, amongst ill-disposed goldsmiths, of cutting out the Company's marks from old pieces of plate, and soldering the same into new pieces, which have never been tryed at the Hall, and may possibly be very coarse, and the fraud equal to the counterfeiting of the Company's marks, for which there is a penalty of £500 set by Act of Parliament. Now in order to prevent the said evil practice of cutting out the marks from one piece of plate, and soldering the same into another piece, Mr. Wardens ordered that the officers in the Assay Office, who usually strike the marks on plate, do strike the marks on every piece of plate as far distant from each other as the same conveniently may be struck, so that they may not be cutt out together."*

MAKERS TO DESTROY EXISTING MARKS AND ADOPT FRESH TYPES.

A.D. 1739. STAT. 12 GEORGE II. c. 26. Recites the Acts of 28 Edward I. c. 20; 2 Henry VI. c. 14; 18 Elizabeth c. 15; 12 William III. c. 4; recites also, that "the wardens and commonalty of the mystery of goldsmiths of the City of London are, and have been, a guild or corporation time out of mind, with divers privileges confirmed and enlarged by several Charters from his Majesty's Royal predecessors, Kings and Queens of this realm (amongst other things) for the searching, assaying, supervising, marking, and regulating wrought plate, in order to ascertain the standard thereof, for the good and safety of the public;" recites also the Charter of 18th of Charles II.; and recites, that "the standards of the plate of this Kingdom are both for the honour and riches of the realm, and so highly concern his Majesty's subjects that the same ought to be most carefully observed, and all deceits therein to be prevented as much as possible; but, notwithstanding the aforesaid several Acts of Parliament and Charters, great frauds are daily committed in the manufacturing of gold and silver wares for want of sufficient power effectually to prevent the same."

* Memorials of the Goldsmiths' Company.

Sect. 1. Enacts that in England no ware of gold shall be made, sold, or exported less in fineness than 22 carats of fine gold in every pound weight troy, and no ware of silver less in fineness than 11 oz. 2 dwts. of fine silver in every pound weight troy, under a penalty of £10 for every offence.

Sect. 2. Provides that the Act shall not extend to jewellers' work, except mourning rings.

Sect. 3. Provides how shopkeepers may be exempted from prosecutions.

Sect. 4. Provides that there shall be no trial against them, unless within four terms.

Sect. 5. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the said twenty-eighth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine, no goldsmith, silversmith, or other person whatsoever, making or selling, trading or dealing in gold or silver wares shall sell, exchange, or expose to sale within that part of great Britain called England any gold or silver vessel, plate, or manufacture of gold or silver whatsoever made after the said twenty-eighth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine, or export the same out of this kingdom until such time as such vessel, plate or manufacture of gold (being of the standard of twenty-two carats of fine gold per pound troy), and such vessel, plate or manufacture of silver (being of the standard of 11 oz. 2 dwts. of fine silver per pound troy) shall be marked as followeth; that is to say, with the mark of the worker or maker thereof, which shall *be the first letters of his Christian and surname*, and with these marks of the said Company of Goldsmiths in London, viz., the leopard's head, the lion passant, and a distinct variable mark or letter to denote the year in which such plate shall be made; or with the mark of the worker or maker, and with the marks appointed to be used by the assayers at York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, Norwich, or Newcastle-upon-Tyne; or plate (being of the standard of 11 oz. 10 dwts. of fine silver per pound weight troy) with the mark of the worker or maker thereof, *which shall be the first letters of his Christian and surname* as aforesaid, and with these marks of the said Company, viz., the lion's head erased, the figure of a woman commonly called Britannia, and the said mark or letter to denote the year as aforesaid; or with the mark of the worker or maker, and the marks of one of the said cities or towns, upon pain that every such goldsmith, silversmith, or other person, *for every such offence shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds*, to be recovered and disposed of as herein after is mentioned, and for default of payment shall be committed by the Court in which judgment shall be given thereon to the House of Correction for the county, city, or liberty where convicted, there to remain and be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding the space of six months, or until payment be made of the said forfeiture.

Sect. 7. Recites and repeals the clause in 12 William III. c. 4 which provides that any person counterfeiting the stamps shall be liable to a penalty of £500.

Sect. 8. Imposes a penalty of £100 on any person who shall forge the marks, or sell wares with forged marks on them.

Sect. 10. Provides that there shall be no drawback of duty on the exportation of silver plate above seven years old.

Sect. 11 of this Act states the great frauds in the trade, and particularly in using too much solder, and entrusts the wardens, &c., with determining what solder is necessary, and whether wrought plate is forward enough in workmanship, and has all the pieces affixed together or not.

Sect. 20. Empowers the wardens, after three assays, to break any parcel of plate reported to be of a coarser alloy than the said respective standards.

Sect. 21. Enacts that every person who shall make, or cause to be made, any manufacture of gold or silver, shall first enter his name, mark, and place of abode, in the assay office of the Goldsmiths' Company of London, or in the assay office at York, &c., on pain to forfeit £10, and £10 more for using any other mark.

By the same Act it was ordered that the makers were to destroy their existing marks, which were *the two first letters of their surname*, and substitute the initials of their Christian and surnames on both standards in a different type or character to that previously used. PARTLY REPEALED.

EXEMPTIONS.

(12 GEORGE II. c. 26, AND 30 GEORGE III. c. 31.)

All Gold and Silver Wares are required to be Assayed, Marked, and Duty paid *except the* under-mentioned Wares, which are specially exempted, being printed in italics:—

GOLD.

Jewellers' Work, wherein any Jewels or other Stones are set (other than *Mourning Rings*).
Rings (Wedding Rings and Mourning Rings excepted).
 Collets, for Rings or other Jewels.
 Chains.
 Necklace Beads.
 Locketts.
 Buttons, Hollow or Raised.
 Sleeve Buttons.
 Thimbles.
 Coral Sockets and Bells.
 Ferules.
 Pipe Lighters.
 Cranes for Bottles.
 Very Small Book Clasps.
 Stock or Garter Clasps, Jointed.
 Very Small Nutmeg Graters.
 Rims of Snuff Boxes, whereof Tops or Bottoms are made of Shell or Stone.
 Sliding Pencils.
 Toothpick Cases.
 Tweezer Cases.
 Pencil Cases.
 Needle Cases.
 Filigree Work.
 Tippings or Swages on Stone, or Ivory Cases, Mounts, Screws, or Stoppers to Stone or Glass Bottles, or Phials.
 Small or Slight Ornaments, put to Amber or other Eggs or Urns.
 Wrought Seals, or Seals with Cornelian or other Stones set therein.
 Watch Rings.
 Watch Keys.
 Watch Hooks.
 Ear Rings.
 Necklaces.
 Eyeglasses.
 Spectacles.
 Shirt Pins.
 Shirt Studs.
 Bracelets.
 Head Ornaments.
 Waist Buckles.

Any Gold or Silver Vessel, or Manufacture of Gold or Silver, so richly Engraved, Carved, or Chased, or set with Jewels or other Stones, as not to admit of any Assay being taken of, or a Mark to be struck thereon, without damaging, prejudicing, or defacing the same.
 Things which, by reason of their smallness or thinness, are not capable of receiving the Marks, and not weighing ten pennyweights each.

SILVER.

Chains.
 Necklace Beads
 Locketts.
 Filigree Work.
 Shirt Buckles or Brooches.
 Stamped Medals.
 Spouts to China, Stone, or Earthenware Tea Pots.
 Tippings, Swages, or Mounts not Weighing ten pennyweights each *except Necks and Collars for Castors, Cruets, or Glasses, and appertaining to any sort of stands or Frames*.
 Silver Wares not weighing five penny weights each, *except the following articles:—Neck collars and tops for castors, cruets, or glasses, appertaining to any sort of Stands or Frames*.
Buttons for Wearing Apparel.
Solid Sleeve Buttons and Solid Studs, not having a bezilled edge soldered on.
Wrought Seals.
Blank Seals.
Bottle Tickets.
Shoe Clasps.
Patch Boxes.
Salt Spoons.
Salt Shovels.
Salt Ladles.
Tea Spoons.
Tea Strainers.
Caddy Ladles.
Buckles (Shirt Buckles or Brooches before mentioned excepted).
Pieces to Garnish Cabinets or Knife Cases, or Tea Chests, or Bridles, or Stands or Frames.

Note.—All these Wares printed in italics are excepted out of the exemption, and are liable to be Assayed and Marked.

All Gold and Silver Wares liable to be Assayed and Marked are chargeable with Duty (Watch Cases only excepted).

Gold Wares, not required to be Assayed and Marked, may, nevertheless, be Assayed and Marked, and are not thereby liable to the Duty, but this does not extend to Silver Wares.

Notwithstanding that in this Act of George II. a penalty of £10 for every offence against any infraction relating to the standards and the proper marking of wares, it does not altogether invalidate the penalties which may be inflicted under the ancient Acts here recited which were not actually repealed, and since the passing of this Act prisoners have been sentenced to imprisonment and fine under the old Acts of Parliament for making silver plate worse than standard.

In 1741, the Court of Assistants of the Goldsmiths' Company received a petition from Drew Drury, who stated that he had inadvertently been concerned in causing a stamp to be made resembling the "Lion Passant," and thereby incurred the displeasure of the Company, and the penalty of £100, but that he had never made any use of the stamp, had caused the same to be broken, and that, being sensible of his guilt, he was willing to pay any penalty imposed on him, with the charges incurred. The petition was, however, rejected, and the Clerk was ordered to proceed against the petitioner.

The Wardens of the Company, on the 3rd December, 1741, caused all the new plate belonging to the Company to be weighed, and full particulars of both old and new plate are entered in the inventory of that date. The total weight of the old and new gilt and white plate amounted to 3,134 ounces.*

DUTY.

A.D. 1756. STAT. 29 GEORGE II. c. 14. Grants an annual duty to his Majesty for all silver plate in Great Britain, from 100 to 4,000 ounces, of 5s. for every 100 ounces from 5th July, 1756. REPEALED.

LICENCE OF £2 IN LIEU OF DUTY.

A.D. 1758. 31 GEORGE II. c. 32. An Act to repeal the statute of the 6th of Geo. I., by which a duty of 6d. had been imposed upon every ounce troy of silver plate imported into, or made in, Great Britain; and a duty of forty shillings for a licence, to be taken out by every person trading in, selling, or vending gold or silver plate, was granted in lieu of it; to take place from and after the first day of June, 1758, and the licence to be taken out annually, on forfeiture of twenty pounds for neglecting so to do, and for discontinuing all drawbacks upon silver plate exported. By the same Act, the statute of the 12th of the King, for the better preventing frauds and abuses in gold and silver wares, was likewise repealed, because the punishment which was enacted by it against counterfeiting stamps and marks upon gold and silver plate was not sufficiently severe to prevent that practice, and the said crime was now made felony,

* Memorials of the Goldsmiths' Company.

without benefit of clergy. This penalty was, in 1773, commuted to transportation for fourteen years. REPEALED.

LICENCE INCREASED TO £5.

A.D. 1759. STAT. 32 GEORGE II. c. 24, s. 1. Exempts persons trading in gold not exceeding two pennyweights, or in silver not exceeding four pennyweights, in one piece of goods, from taking out a licence; and Sect. 3 grants an annual duty of £5 (instead of 40s.) to his Majesty for every licence by each person trading in gold plate of two ounces or upwards, or in silver plate of thirty ounces or upwards. REPEALED.

SILVER WIRE.

A.D. 1742. 15 GEORGE II. c. 20, s. 1. All metal inferior to silver to be spun on thread, yard, or incle, only, under a penalty of 5s. for every ounce.

Silver thread to hold 11 oz. 15 dwts. of fine silver upon the pound weight troy; and gilt silver thread 11 oz. 8 dwts. and 4 dwts. 4 grs. of fine gold, on penalty of 5s. for every ounce. PARTLY REPEALED.

BIRMINGHAM AND SHEFFIELD.

A.D. 1773. 13 GEORGE III. c. 52. This Act was passed for the appointment of wardens and assay masters for assaying and stamping wrought silver plate, in the towns of Sheffield and Birmingham. Silver goods "shall be marked as followeth; that is to say, with the mark of the maker or worker thereof, which shall be the first letter of his Christian and surname; and also with the lion passant, and with the mark of the Company within whose Assay Office such plate shall be assayed and marked, to denote the goodness thereof, and the place where the same was assayed and marked; and also with a distinct variable mark or letter, which letter or mark shall be annually charged upon the election of new wardens for each Company, to denote the year in which such plate is marked. PARTLY REPEALED.

DUTY. MARK OF THE KING'S HEAD.

A.D. 1784. 24 GEORGE III. c. 53 From December 1st, 1784, the following duties upon gold and silver plate are to be paid to his Majesty:—

Sect. 1. For gold plate imported into or made in Great Britain, an additional duty of eight shillings per ounce troy, over and above all other duties already imposed thereon.

For silver plate imported into or made in Great Britain, an additional duty of sixpence per ounce.

Sect. 4. From December 1st, 1784, all goldsmiths and manufacturers shall send to the Assay Offices of the Goldsmiths' Companies in London or Edinburgh, or to the Birmingham and Sheffield

Companies, or to the Wardens and Assayers of York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, Norwich and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with every parcel of gold or silver, a note or memorandum, fairly written, containing the day of the month and year, the Christian and surname of the worker or maker, and place of abode, and the species, number, and weight, &c., of each parcel, and the sum payable for duty upon the total weight.

Sect. 5. Enacts that the Wardens or Assay-Master shall mark with the following new mark, that is to say, with the mark of the King's head, over and besides the other marks directed by law, all and every parcel or parcels of gold or silver plate so sent to be touched, marked, and assayed, &c.

Sect. 7. An allowance of part of the Duty to be made for goods sent to be assayed in a rough state, of one-fifth in weight and duty.

Sect. 8. Gold or silver plate, made after December 1st, 1784, not to be sold, exchanged, or exported until marked as hereby directed, on penalty of Fifty pounds and forfeiture of the goods.

Sect. 9. This Act not to extend to any jewellers' work (that is to say) any gold or silver wherein any jewels or other stones are set (other than mourning rings), nor any jointed ear-rings of gold, springs of lockets, &c.

Sect. 11. The new duties paid for plate shall be drawn back on exportation thereon.

Sect. 12. From 1st December, 1784, and the better to prevent the fraudulent relanding of any plate in this kingdom after the drawback has been paid, it is hereby enacted that all wrought plate of gold and silver, which shall be intended to be exported from this kingdom, shall be brought by the owner to the Assay Office, and shall be there stamped or marked with the figure of a *Britannia*, in order to denote that such plate is entered and intended for exportation, and to be allowed the drawback thereon.

Sect. 16. From 1st December, 1784, any person who shall counterfeit any stamp to be used in pursuance of this Act, or shall stamp any wrought plate, &c., with any counterfeit stamp, or shall remove from any one piece of wrought plate, &c., to another any stamp to be used by the said Companies or Assayers, &c., or shall sell or export any plate with such counterfeit stamps thereon, &c., shall suffer death as a felon, without benefit of clergy. REPEALED.

1785. 25 GEORGE III. c. 64. Recites and repeals the two clauses in the Act of 24th Geo. III. relating to the stamping of the drawback mark on plate. "And whereas by the said recited Act it was also further enacted, That all wrought gold and silver plate, which should be intended to be exported from this kingdom into any foreign parts, should, before the same was shipped, be brought to the Assay Office, and should there be stamped with the figure of a *Britannia*, in order to denote that such plate was intended for exportation, and to be allowed the drawback thereon; And whereas the striking of the *Britannia* mark on many articles of wrought gold and silver plate, in their finished state, can in no way be practised without doing material damage to such wrought plate; be it there-

fore enacted, That from and after the 24th day of July, 1785, the said two last recited clauses in the said Act shall be repealed."

By the same it was enacted, that from and after July 24th, 1785, the person appointed to receive the duties payable for marking of plate may make an allowance of one-sixth part of the duty for all plate brought in an unfinished state, instead of one-fifth, as directed by the previous Act (24 Geo. III.). By the same Act—The exporters of gold and silver watches shall mark or engrave in the inside of every case or box of each watch enclosing the works thereof, the same numbers and figures which shall be respectively marked or engraved on the works of the watch. REPEALED.

This appears to have been the law until 1871, when the provision was repealed by the *Statute Law Revision Act* of that year.

DUTY INCREASED.

A.D. 1797. 37 GEORGE III. c. 90. By this Act the duty on gold was placed at eight shillings per ounce, and silver at one shilling. REPEALED.

A.D. 1803. 43 GEORGE III. c. 69. The former Act of 24 Geo. III., as regards the licence, was repealed, and new licences appointed, viz—For trading in gold more than two pennyweights and under two ounces, and in silver over five pennyweights and under thirty ounces, £2, 6s. per annum; for trading in gold of two ounces in weight and upwards, and in silver of thirty ounces and upwards, £5, 15s. per annum. REPEALED.

A.D. 1804. 44 GEORGE III. c. 98. The duty was increased, on gold to sixteen shillings per ounce, and silver one shilling and three-pence per ounce. REPEALED.

A.D. 1815. 55 GEORGE III. c. 185. By this Act the duties were raised, on manufactured gold to seventeen shillings per ounce, on manufactured silver to eighteenpence per ounce.

Sect. 7. Makes the counterfeiting of the King's head Duty mark a felony, punishable by death.

This duty is paid to the assay officers at the time of handing the articles for assay, but if they are cut at the Hall and sent back as being worse than standard, the duty is returned with the articles. REPEALED.

DUTY ON WATCH CASES REPEALED.

A.D. 1798. STAT. 38. GEORGE III. c. 24. REPEALED.

18-CARAT GOLD AND APPOINTED MARK.

A.D. 1798. 38 GEORGE III. c. 69. An Act was passed to permit gold wares to be manufactured, for sale or exportation, of the standard of 18 carats of fine gold in every pound weight troy, such gold to be stamped with a crown and the figures 18, instead of the mark of the lion passant, not to the exclusion of, but concurrently with the former standard of 22 carats.

Sect. 7. The counterfeiting marks, &c., is made a felony, punishable by transportation for seven years. PARTLY REPEALED.

DRAWBACK ON PLATE.

A.D. 1803. 44 GEORGE III. c. 98. Schedule referred to in Sect. 2 of this Act. Drawback for or in respect of gold plate and silver plate, wrought or manufactured in Great Britain, which shall be duly exported by way of merchandise to Ireland or any foreign parts, the whole duties which shall have been paid for the same. PARTLY REPEALED.

A.D. 1812. 53 GEORGE III. c. 59. Referring to the last-named Act, allows to private persons residing or going to reside abroad the same drawback as allowed on the exportation of merchandise. This Act contains only one section. REPEALED.

FOREIGN PLATE TO BE ASSAYED AND STAMPED.

A.D. 1842. 5 & 6 VICT. c. 47, Sect. 59. And be it enacted, that all gold and silver plate, not being battered, which shall be imported from foreign parts after the commencement of this Act, and sold, exchanged, or exposed to sale, within the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, shall be of the respective standards now required for any ware, vessel, plate, or manufacture of gold or silver, wrought or made in *England*; and that no gold or silver plate so to be imported as aforesaid, not being battered, shall be sold, exchanged, or exposed to sale within the said United Kingdom until the same shall have been assayed, stamped and marked, either in *England, Scotland or Ireland*, in the same manner as any ware, vessel, plate, or manufacture of gold and silver wrought or made in *England, Scotland, or Ireland* respectively is or are now by law required to be assayed, stamped and marked; and that every goldsmith, silversmith, or other person whatsoever, who shall sell or expose to sale in *England, Scotland, or Ireland* any gold or silver plate so to be imported as aforesaid, and not being battered, before the same shall have been so assayed, stamped, and marked, as aforesaid, shall be subject and liable to the like penalties and forfeitures in all respects, and to be recoverable in the same manner as the penalties and forfeitures now by law imposed upon goldsmiths and silversmiths selling, exchanging, or exposing to sale in *England, Scotland, or Ireland* respectively, any ware or manufacture of gold or silver plate made or wrought in *England, Ireland or Scotland* respectively, and not assayed, stamped and marked, as required by law: Provided always that no article or ware of gold or silver so to be imported as aforesaid shall be liable to be assayed, stamped or marked as aforesaid which would not be liable to be assayed, stamped or marked if it had been wrought or made in *England*.

Sect. 60. And be it enacted, that in order that gold and silver plate so imported as aforesaid may be assayed, stamped and marked, it shall and may be lawful for any person to send the same

to any Assay Office in the United Kingdom at which gold and silver plate is now by law required to be assayed, and when so sent it shall be assayed, tested, stamped and marked in such and the same manner, and be subject to such and the same charges, other than stamp duty, as if the same were *British* plate by law assayable in such office; and the wardens and officers in each such Assay Offices, and the persons employed by them, shall have such and the same powers of assaying, touching, testing, marking, cutting, breaking or defacing such gold or silver plate so sent to be assayed, as are now by law exercisable by such wardens, officers, and other persons in respect of gold and plate now by law required to be assayed in such Assay Offices. PARTLY REPEALED.

5 & 6 VICT. c. 56, Sect. 6. Provides that ornamental plate made prior to the year 1800 may be sold without being assayed and marked. (*Vide* also 30 & 31 Vict. c. 82, sect. 24.) PARTLY REPEALED.

Note.—It is to be observed that these enactments do not oblige the importer to send foreign plate to be assayed and marked at the time of its importation, nor indeed at any time.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION. MARK FOR 22-CARAT GOLD.

A.D. 1844. Abstract of the Act of the 7th & 8th VICTORIA, cap. 22, entitled "An Act to amend the Laws now in force, for preventing Frauds and Abuses in the Marking of Gold and Silver Wares in England."

By Sect. 1, the Act of the 13 Geo. III. c. 59, and that part of the 38 Geo. III. c. 69, which relates to the punishment of offenders, are repealed.

By Sect. 2, the forging or counterfeiting any die used for marking gold or silver wares, or *knowingly* uttering the same;—the marking wares with forged dies, or *knowingly* uttering any such ware;—the forging any mark of any such die used as aforesaid, or *knowingly* uttering the same;—the transposing or removing any mark of any die used as aforesaid, or *knowingly* uttering any such transposed mark;—the having in possession any such forged or counterfeit die as aforesaid, or any ware of gold or silver, or any ware of base metal, having thereupon the mark of any such forged or counterfeit die as aforesaid, or any such forged or counterfeit mark, or imitation of a mark as aforesaid, or any mark transposed or removed as aforesaid, *knowing* the same respectively to have been forged, counterfeited, imitated, marked, transposed, or removed; the cutting or severing any mark, with intent to join or affix the same to any other ware;—the joining or affixing to any ware, any cut or severed mark;—and the fraudulently using any genuine die,—are respectively made *felony*, punishable by *transportation* for any term not exceeding *fourteen nor less than seven years*, or by *imprisonment with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding three years*.

By Sect. 3, every dealer who shall sell, exchange, expose for sale,

export, import, or attempt to export or import, or who shall have in his possession without lawful excuse (the proof whereof shall lie upon him) any ware of gold or silver, or base metal, having thereupon any forged or counterfeit mark, or any mark which shall have been transposed or removed, *is made liable for every such ware to a penalty of ten pounds.*

N.B.—In the cases provided for by this section, it will be seen that it is not necessary for the Company of Goldsmiths, suing for the penalty, to prove a guilty knowledge.

By Sect. 4, dealers are exempted from the penalty of discovering and making known the actual manufacturer of any such ware, or the person for whom the same was bought, had, or received.

By Sect. 5, it is enacted, that if any ware which shall have been duly assayed and marked, shall be altered, by any addition being made thereto, or otherwise, *so that its character or use shall be changed*, or if any addition shall be made thereto (although its character or use shall not be changed), the weight of which addition *shall bear a greater proportion of the original weight than four ounces to every pound troy weight*, every such ware shall be assayed and marked again as a new ware, and the duty shall be paid upon the whole weight.

But if the weight of such addition shall *not* bear a greater proportion to the original weight than four ounces to every pound troy, and the character or use of such ware shall *not* be changed, the addition only may be assayed and marked, and the duty paid on the weight of such addition only; but before any such addition shall be made, the ware shall be brought to the Assay Office for inspection, and the nature and extent of the additions explained, and the assent of the Company to the making of such addition signified:

And every dealer who shall alter, or add to, any ware which shall have been before assayed and marked, so that its character or use shall be changed, or so that the addition shall bear a greater proportion to the original weight than *four ounces to every pound troy*, without bringing the same to be assayed and marked as a new ware; or if its character or use shall not be changed, or the addition shall *not* bear a greater proportion to the original weight than aforesaid, without first bringing such ware to the Assay Office, and explaining the nature and extent of the intended addition to the Company, and obtaining their consent thereto: and every dealer who shall sell, exchange, expose for sale, export, import, or attempt to export or import, or who shall have in his possession any such ware so altered, changed, or added to as aforesaid, *is made liable for every such ware to a penalty of ten pounds*; and every such ware may be *seized*.

By Sect. 6, dealers are exempted from the penalty on discovering and making known the actual manufacturer of any such ware, or the person from whom the same was bought, had, or received.

By Sect. 7, every officer of the several Halls who shall mark as standard any ware worse than standard *is made liable to a penalty of twenty pounds*; every such officer shall be *dismissed*; and every such ware may be *seized*.

By Sect. 8, it is enacted, that every dealer who shall enter, or has already entered, his private mark, under the existing laws, with any of the Companies, shall give them the particulars of *every place where he carries on his business, or keeps wares, and his place of abode*, and so from time to time, *under a penalty for every offence of five pounds.*

By Sect. 9, *a penalty of five pounds for every offence* is imposed on every dealer who shall fraudulently *erase, obliterate, or deface any mark* of the several Companies of Goldsmiths from any ware.

By Sect. 10, the recovery and application of penalties is provided for.

By Sect. 11, Justices of the Peace are required, upon information by any of the several Companies of Goldsmiths, to grant such warrants *to search for forged or counterfeit dies and false or illegal wares*; and every such die and ware may be *seized*, but not any wares which by existing laws are not required to be marked, nor any of the wares following, viz.:—*Watch-rings, watch-keys, watch-hooks, ear-rings, necklaces, eye-glasses, spectacles of gold, shirt pins or studs, bracelets, head ornaments, waist-buckles.*

By Sect. 12, the disposal of false dies and wares seized is provided for.

Sect. 13 regulates the proceedings in actions and prosecutions against any person acting in pursuance or under the authority of this Act.

Sect. 14 defines the meaning and interpretation of the words and terms used in the Act.

Sect. 15 provides that after the 1st October, 1844, *gold wares* of the standard of *22 carats of fine gold in every pound troy* shall be marked with *a crown and the figure 22*, instead of the lion passant, by the Goldsmiths' Companies in the Cities of London, York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, and Norwich and the towns of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Birmingham.

Sect. 16 extends the powers, penalties, and provisions concerning the lion passant to the mark directed to be used instead thereof, by this Act.

Sect. 17 declares that this Act shall not extend to *Scotland or Ireland.*

Sect. 18 declares that it shall come into operation on the 1st *October, 1844.*

Sect. 19 declares that it may be amended or repealed in the then present session. PARTLY REPEALED.

Note.—It will be observed that throughout this Act the word "dealer" has been substituted for "maker," as in former Acts, which enables the Goldsmiths' Company to sue any person who deals in plate, or has any ware of base gold, silver, or other metal in his possession, having any forged or counterfeit mark, without lawful excuse (the proof of which lies with the dealer).

The interpretation clause defines a *dealer* to be "one who deals in gold or silver wares, including every goldsmith and silversmith,

and every worker, maker, and manufacturer of and trader and dealer in gold and silver wares, or shall sell such wares."

This is the most recent statute, and must be taken as the guide and authority in all cases of forgery of the dies and marks used at the Assay Offices, and penalties for selling spurious plate, or having any such in possession, &c.

REDUCED STANDARDS OF GOLD OF 15, 12, AND 9 CARATS.

A.D. 1854. 17 & 18 VICTORIA, cap. 96. An Act was passed allowing gold wares to be manufactured at a lower standard than before allowed by law, and to amend the law relating to the assaying of gold and silver wares. The first section recites that Her Majesty may, by Order in Council, allow any standard of gold wares not less than *one-third part in the whole* of fine gold, to be marked with such mark or marks for distinguishing the actual fineness, to be declared in such order; and also to approve thereby of the instrument with which gold vessels, &c., shall be marked or stamped, setting forth in figures the fineness according to the standard declared.

Sect. 2 provides that workers and dealers may have their wares assayed and marked at any established Assay Office which they may select.

Sect. 3 provides that if any of the *gold* wares which are not liable to be assayed and marked, shall nevertheless be assayed and marked, such wares shall not be chargeable with the duty.

Sect. 4 extends the provisions of existing Acts to the new standards.

Sect. 5 imposes a penalty of £20 on any assayer or other officer who shall mark a gold ware of a lower standard with the mark appropriated to a higher standard. PARTLY REPEALED.

In pursuance of this Act, an Order of Council of 11th December, 1854, fixes the new standards of 15, 12, and 9 carats, and provides that they shall be marked as follows, viz. :—

The first with the figures 15 and the decimal mark .625.

The second with the figures 12 and the decimal mark .5 (500).

The third with the figure 9 and the decimal mark .375.

Note.—The Goldsmiths' Company of London advised against the introduction of these lower standards. The plain and intelligible manner in which it was ordered that wares of 15, 12, and 9 carats should be marked, has been, it is believed, the chief cause of the comparatively small quantity of gold of these standards which is manufactured. In the year, ending 27th May (1878), at Goldsmiths' Hall, London, gold wares weighing 7084 lbs. were marked, and the articles made of the higher standards (viz., 22 and 18 carats) weighed 6607 lbs. 7 oz. 14 dwts. 14 grains. — (*Prideaux's evidence*).

N.B.—All gold wares, whether manufactured of 22, 18, 15, 12, or 9 carats, are liable to the usual duty of 17s. per oz. as levied on

gold plate; except watch-cases and certain wares mentioned in 12 Geo. II. c. 26, s. 6, and a few enumerated 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22, s. 11.

WEDDING RINGS.

A.D. 1855. 18 & 19 VICTORIA, c. 60. An Act for excepting gold wedding rings from the operation of the Act of the last session relating to the standard of gold and silver wares, and from the exemptions contained in the other Acts relating to gold wares. Whereas an Act was passed in the 17 & 18 year of Vict. entitled "An Act for allowing gold wares to be manufactured at a lower standard than that now allowed by law, and to amend the law relating to the assaying of gold and silver wares," whereby it is among other things enacted, that if any of the gold wares which by any statute now in force are not liable to be assayed and marked, shall, nevertheless, be assayed and marked as of one of the standards authorised by law, such wares shall not by reason thereof be chargeable with the duty now levied on gold plate. And whereas by certain statutes now in force, no gold rings, except mourning rings, are liable to be assayed and marked, but gold wedding rings have nevertheless been assayed and marked; and whereas it is expedient that gold wedding rings should be made liable to the provisions of the statutes now in force relating to the assaying and marking of gold plate: be it therefore enacted, &c. : as follows:—

1. From and after the passing of this Act, gold wedding rings shall be assayed and marked in like manner as gold plate not exempted is required by the statutes now in force to be assayed and marked, and all the provisions of the statutes relating to the manufacture or sale of gold plate shall apply to gold wedding rings, anything therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

2. The 3rd section of the Act passed in the 18 Vict. herein recited is hereby repealed so far as the same might affect gold wedding rings. PARTLY REPEALED.

Note.—Gold wedding rings must not be sold without being duly assayed and marked. They can be made of any of the authorised standards, and are liable to the duty of 17s. per oz., of whatever standard they are.

DRAWBACK BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

A.D. 1866. 29 & 30 VICTORIA, c. 64, s. 15, provides for allowing drawback on plate made in Great Britain exported from Ireland, and on Irish plate exported from Great Britain.

All gold and silver plate which shall be imported from foreign parts, and which shall be sent to any Assay Office in the United Kingdom at which gold and silver plate is now or shall at any time hereafter be by law required to be assayed, and which when so sent shall be then assayed, tested, stamped and marked, shall in addition to the marks for the time being used at such Assay Office for the purpose of marking *British* plate, *be marked with the*

further mark of the letter F on an oval escutcheon, in order to denote that such gold or silver plate was imported from foreign parts, and was not wrought or made in *England, Scotland, or Ireland*; and the wardens and officers in such and every such Assay Office, and the persons employed by them, shall have power to impress and mark, and shall impress and mark such further and additional mark before such plate shall be delivered out from such Assay Office.

Cap. 82, sect. 24. Foreign plate of an ornamental character made before the year 1800 is exempted. PARTLY REPEALED.

Note.—This Act made it compulsory on gold and silversmiths, &c., to have all foreign plate assayed at the Hall, and if not of the standard allowed by law, shall be dealt with in every respect as made in the United Kingdom, the sale or exchange of such foreign plate being prohibited unless so assayed. Upon pain that every such gold or silver smith, &c., shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds for every offence, and in default of payment shall be committed by the Court to the House of Correction, and kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding six months, or until payment be made of the said forfeiture.

This important addition to our Hall-marks with regard to foreign silver was rendered necessary in consequence of the quantity of spurious silver from abroad which had found its way into this country, and notwithstanding an Act had been passed in 1841 prohibiting its sale unless of the proper standard, no notice had been taken until 1875, when proceedings were instituted by the Goldsmiths' Company to recover penalties. In this respect the English Government tardily followed the example of the French, who for more than a hundred years had ordered all such silver from foreign parts to have a separate mark of E (*étrange*).

The opportunities of importing plate without having it assayed and marked at Goldsmiths' Hall are extremely easy, and no steps are taken by the Customs when it arrives in this country to test its quality. The officer takes the duty of 1s. 6d. per oz. on whatever stuff it may be, if it bears any resemblance to silver, and it is released without any mark being placed upon it. Although the traffic in unmarked plate is prohibited by law, the Customs take no cognisance of the prohibition, and are not in co-operation with the department who have the control of the standard, and whose duty it is to detect this base silver, and who would break it up when below the authorised standard, or if equal to it, after an assay, to place the marks of the Goldsmiths' Hall, with the additional stamp of the letter F, denoting its foreign origin.

A strong objection is raised to the system of placing the same marks upon foreign standard plate as upon English, for although the additional letter F is added, it can easily be obliterated and passed off as English, or even if left, few people would notice it, but look only to the lion and Queen's head—the usual guarantee of British standard plate.

One hardship in connection with the assay and stamping of foreign plate at Goldsmiths' Hall is, that although the duty of 1s. 6d. per oz. may have been paid when imported to the Customs, unless

the person sending the plate for that purpose can produce the certificate of its payment he will have to pay the duty over again, at the Hall, and in many cases, where the plate had been in the owner's possession for twenty or thirty years and could not produce proof, he would be liable to pay it a second time.

Mr. (now Sir Walter) Prideaux, in his examination before the Committee on Gold and Silver Hall-Marking in 1878, gave the following replies to the Chairman on the subject of sales by auctions:—

Is a large quantity of foreign plate sold by auction at the present time?—I have heard that a good deal has been sold.

How is it that you do not put a stop to this; you have the power, have you not, by Act of Parliament?—No power whatever, but by proceeding for the penalties.

That is very severe, is it not?—£10 upon each article.

Supposing there were a dozen spoons, the penalty would come to a large sum?—Yes.

Supposing that I have a set of foreign silver, and I send it to an auction room, and I sell it by the lot and not by the ounce, does not that get over the difficulty?—I have not had occasion maturely to consider the question, but I should think not.

Supposing that the auctioneer is not liable by the existing law, do not you think that he ought to be?—Certainly; and my opinion is that he is liable—he is the seller.

ANNUAL LICENCES.

A.D. 1867. 30 & 31 VICTORIA, c. 90, s. 1. Annual Licences are to be taken out by every dealer in gold and silver articles in respect of any shop, and by every hawker or pedlar.*

If gold is above 2 dwts. and under 2 oz., or if silver is above 5 dwts. and under 30 oz., at .	£2 6 0
If gold is 2 oz. or more, or silver 30 oz. or more, at .	£5 15 0
Every pawnbroker taking in gold or silver, in respect of every shop	£5 15 0
Every refiner, in respect of every shop	£5 15 0

*** No licence required for dealing in gold or silver wire, or thread lace. PARTLY REPEALED.

A.D. 1869. 33 & 34 VICTORIA, c. 32, s. 4. No licence required by makers of watch-cases for selling watch-cases made by them. PARTLY REPEALED.

With regard to licences, we may refer to a case which was decided in 1877 in the Court of Exchequer. It was on an appeal from the decision of a metropolitan police magistrate with reference to the licence duty imposed by 30 & 31 Vict. c. 90, s. 1. It was contended that the weight of pure gold in a chain that had been sold

* A penalty of £50 is imposed for dealing without licence. This penalty may be mitigated under the general regulations of the excise laws.

was less than two ounces, and consequently that the lower rate of duty only was sufficient; but the Inland Revenue contended that there was nothing as to pure gold in the statute, that the weight of the article sold as gold must be taken as the weight which regulates the rate of duty. The magistrate upheld the contention of the defendant in this case, and dismissed the information; but on appeal to the Court of Exchequer they took the view of the Revenue against that of the magistrate, namely, that the higher duty attached to it, and it was held that the weight of the article sold as gold is the weight which regulates the rate of duty.

A.D. 1876. By the Act 39 & 40 VICTORIA, c. 36, s. 42, clocks, watches, and other articles bearing a counterfeited British mark, or purporting to be the manufacture of the United Kingdom, may not be imported, and if imported may be seized and forfeited. PARTLY REPEALED.

FOREIGN PLATE.—NOTICE BY THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY.

A.D. 1876. It having been brought to the notice of the Goldsmiths' Company that articles of silver plate in considerable quantities have been for some time past imported into this country from foreign countries and sold without having been assayed and marked as required by law, the wardens of the Company consider it their duty to remind dealers in gold and silver plate of the laws which prohibit the sale of foreign plate of gold and silver imported into this country, unless it be of one of the authorised standards, and shall have been assayed and marked; and the wardens, at the same time, notify that they will consider it their duty to institute proceedings at law against offenders in every case of an offence committed in breach of the law which shall be brought to their notice and capable of proof.

NOTICE TO THE TRADE ISSUED IN AUGUST 1878 BY THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY.

In which the clauses from Acts of Parliament relating to foreign plate were reprinted, and attention was drawn to the 12 Geo. II. and to the list of exemptions from compulsory marking. Also that in consequence of information given them of infringements of the laws, the wardens had been compelled to institute proceedings against several persons, the result of which had been the recovery of penalties in every case, and warning the trade and dealers generally that the wardens will not hesitate to put in force the powers vested in them to take such steps as will prevent all irregular and illegal practices.

NOTICE BY THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY. £100 REWARD.

“Whereas extensive frauds have been committed by counterfeiting the marks used by the Goldsmiths' Company of London, and

by the transposition of such marks. And whereas the wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company, with a view to the prevention of fraud and the detection of offenders, have determined to offer such reward as is hereinafter mentioned. Now I, the undersigned Walter Prideaux, Clerk of the said Company of Goldsmiths, for and on behalf of the said wardens, do hereby promise to pay the sum of £100 to every person who shall give such information and evidence as shall lead to the conviction of any person who shall have forged or counterfeited any die or other instrument which is or has been used by the said Company of Goldsmiths for the marking of gold or silver wares, or who shall have marked with any such forged or counterfeit die any such ware, or who shall have uttered any such ware knowing the same to be marked as aforesaid, or who shall by any means whatever have produced an imitation of any such mark as aforesaid upon any ware of gold or silver, or who shall have transposed or removed or shall have uttered knowing the same to be transposed or removed, any such mark from any ware of gold or silver, or any other ware, or shall have in his possession any such ware of gold or silver having thereupon the mark of any such forged or counterfeit die, or having thereupon any such imitation of a mark as aforesaid, or any mark which shall have been so transposed as aforesaid, knowing the same to have been forged, imitated, marked, or transposed.

"Witness my hand this 4th day of June, 1880.

(Signed)

"WALTER PRIDEAUX, *Clerk.*"

THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE HALL-MARKING OF GOLD AND SILVER PLATE, &C., ISSUED IN MAY, 1879.

The Committee have examined numerous witnesses upon the matter before them; and the Report of a Select Committee of this Honourable House that was appointed in the year 1856 "to inquire into the offices for assaying silver and gold wares in the United Kingdom," and the evidence taken by that Committee, have been considered by them.

The inquiry before your Committee was directed to three distinct topics; the first being the incidence and effect of the duties at present levied upon articles of gold and silver manufacture; the second, the effect of the existing system of compulsory assay and Hall-marking; and the third, certain complaints against the operation of the present law.

It is in these days an accepted truism that every duty must operate as a fetter upon the manufacture on which it is imposed. To this the duties on gold and silver ware are no exception. It is true that the feeling of the trade is generally in favour of the retention of the duty. The close connection between the duty and the Hall-marking system has been prominently put forward as a reason

why the tax is willingly borne by the trade. Probably, too, this feeling is, to some extent, due to an apprehension as to the effect of a remission of duty upon stocks in hand.

The evidence establishes that the manufacture of gold and silver plate is not growing. It seems rather to be declining. But your Committee do not adopt the suggestion that this is entirely or even chiefly due to the duty. In England and Scotland duties were reimposed (in place of licences) in 1784, at the rate of 8s. per oz. on gold, and 6d. per oz. on silver. They continued at that rate till 1798, when the duty on gold was raised to 16s. per oz. and on silver to 1s. per oz. In 1805 the duty on silver was again raised to 1s. 3d. per oz. The late duty (17s. per oz. on gold and 1s. 6d. per oz. on silver) was imposed in 1817. In Ireland, from 1730 down to 1806, the duty was 6d. per oz. on gold and silver alike, from 1807 till 1842 it was 1s. per oz. on gold and silver alike. Since 1842 it has been levied at the same rate as in England and Scotland. The returns of the amount of duty paid during these periods do not suggest that the successive increases of duty had any depressing effect on the manufacture. On the contrary, the maximum return (£123,128) was in 1825, nine years after the imposition of the existing duty. For the year ending 1878 the total amount of duty was £78,610 only. This decline is to some extent due to change in fashion; to some extent, also, to the durability of plate, which results in a large trade in second-hand silver; but in all probability is chiefly due to the development of the electro-plate manufacture, which seems to have become fully established in or about 1846, from which date a marked diminution in the yield of the plate duties is to be observed.

That the trade in gold and silver articles (as distinguished from the manufacture of plate) is not diminishing is suggested by the returns of the licences granted to plate dealers, the proceeds of which have steadily increased from £16,898, 8s. 6d. in the year ending 1846, to £44,216, 15s. 9d. in the year ending 1878.

One evident objection to the duties on plate is to be found in the inequality of their incidence. The list of articles exempted from duty is long and apparently capricious. It seems to be based on no principle, except that of the necessity of collecting the duty by means of the Assay Offices, and consequently of exempting from duty all articles which cannot be assayed without "damaging, prejudicing, or defacing the same," or which are "too small to be safely marked." In consequence, a large number of articles in common use, such as chains and bracelets, escape payment of the duty, not because their material is different from similar articles which are liable to duty, but simply because as the goods cannot be Hall-marked, the duty cannot be collected. Again, electro-plate pays no duty, though it is evident that a large amount of silver bullion is used every year in this manufacture. The imposition of a duty bearing so great a proportion to the intrinsic value of the raw material has a tendency to diminish the use of silver as an article of manufacture. Considering all the circumstances connected with this trade, and the importance of promoting the use of

silver as an article of manufacture, the Committee recommend the abolition of this duty, both customs and inland, whenever the condition of the revenue will permit.

To the principle of compulsorily assaying and marking articles of gold and silver manufacture there are no doubt some objections. It is possible that if the matter were new, and it were for the first time in contemplation to establish an assay under the control of Government, these objections might prevail. But in this country the system has existed substantially in its present form since the reign of Edward I.

Without speculating on its origin, and while making due allowances for its defects, it is established that it has resulted in the creation and the maintenance of a high standard of excellence for all British assayed wares, which has not only raised the reputation of British workmanship at home and abroad, but has also created a large amount of private wealth readily convertible by reason of the guarantees of value which the Hall-marks afford.

As far as can be ascertained, every British manufacturer, and by far the largest number of the dealers, cling to the maintenance of the system with marked tenacity. The public do not complain of it. That the foreigner appreciates it, is shown by the fact that, rejecting the theoretical advantage of private marks and personal reputation, foreign watch-cases are sent to this country to be Hall-marked in yearly increasing numbers. Nor should the antiquarian or sentimental aspect of the question be altogether disregarded. At any rate this should prevail to the extent of throwing the entire burthen of proof on those who propose the abolition of a system which has worked well for 500 years.

The Committee do not consider that a voluntary or optional system of Hall-marking would be satisfactory. So long as the inland duty on plate is retained, no better means of collecting it than through the assay authorities has been suggested. But the Committee are of opinion that the abolition of the duty need not entail the abolition of compulsory Hall-marking. Watch-cases have been free from duty since 1798, but no difficulty has been experienced in enforcing the Hall-marking laws with regard to them. Assuming that the system of compulsory Hall-marking, with or without the duty, is to be maintained, the Committee proceed to consider the operation of the Acts under which that system is carried on.

Since the report of the Committee of 1856 the Assay Office at York has ceased to exist. In other respects the condition of the offices described in that report seems to have continued unaltered.

The chief complaint against the operation of the existing law comes from the manufacturers of watches and watch-cases. They have established by evidence that within the last few years a practice has sprung up, and is rapidly increasing, under which foreign-made watch-cases are sent to this country to be Hall-marked with the British Hall-mark, and are afterwards fitted with foreign movements, and are not then unfrequently sold and dealt in as British made watches; and they assert that this not only injures their own

reputation and lowers the credit of British workmanship, but is contrary to the spirit and intention of our legislation. The Assay Offices are unable legally to refuse to Hall-mark these foreign watch-cases when brought for assay by registered dealers, though their officials are practically able to distinguish them from cases of British manufacture.

That Parliament has recognised the distinction between foreign and British plate is shown by the provisions of an Act 30 & 31 Vict. c. 82, s. 24, which requires all imported plate to be marked before sale with the letter F in an oval escutcheon, "in order to denote that such gold or silver plate was imported from foreign parts, and was not wrought or made in England, Scotland, or Ireland."

Until the practice of Hall-marking foreign watch-cases sprang up, the British Hall-marks were taken to indicate British workmanship, and your Committee cannot doubt that foreign watches in watch-cases so Hall-marked are frequently sold as of British manufacture. The Committee are therefore of opinion that all-foreign-made watch-cases assayed in this country ought to be impressed with an additional distinctive mark (the letter F, by reason of its resemblance to existing marks, is not sufficiently distinctive) indicative of foreign manufacture, and that the law ought to be altered accordingly.

The Committee are further of opinion that the Acts now in force require to be amended in regard to the following matters:—
(*a*) The assaying authorities should be allowed to return imported articles which are found below standard, instead of breaking them up, as at present. (*b*) A dome made of base metal should not exclude watch-cases from being Hall-marked. (*c*.) The assay authorities should have power to mark articles which, though standard have enamel or other metals or substances added for the purposes of ornament only. (*d*.) The lower standards of gold, viz., 15, 12, and 9 carats (equal respectively to 15-24th, 12-24th, and 9-24th of pure metal), should be discontinued. A composition containing less than two-thirds of pure metal ought not to be called by the name of that metal. (*e*.) The whole of the Assay Offices should be placed under the direct supervision of the Mint, so that uniform standard of quality shall be guaranteed. (*f*.) So long as a licence duty is maintained it should be levied at a uniform rate.

It appears that in 1857 a Bill was prepared by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue for giving effect to the recommendation of the Committee of 1856, that the Acts relating to the assaying of plate should be consolidated into one Act; but this Bill was never laid before Parliament. This is to be regretted. There seems to be considerable uncertainty in the application of the law in consequence of the number of statutes in which it is found, and the Committee now express their opinion that the consolidation and amendment of the law should be carried out as proposed without further delay.

THE DUTY ON GOLD AND SILVER PLATE ABOLISHED.

A.D. 1890. 53 & 54 VICTORIA cap. 8. The Select Committee of the House of Commons, in their report on the Hall-marking of gold and silver in 1879, remarked that the imposition of a duty bearing so great a proportion to the intrinsic value of the raw material had a tendency to diminish the use of such metals as articles of manufacture. Considering all the circumstances connected with this trade, and the importance of promoting the use of gold and silver as mediums of manufacture, the Committee strongly recommended the abolition of this duty whenever the condition of the revenue would permit. That time having arrived, the Government, by the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1890, Part II., provided that on and after the first day of May, 1890, the stamp duties and duties of Customs on plate of gold and plate of silver should cease to be payable.

ALLOWANCE OF DRAWBACK ON SILVER PLATE.

The following notice was issued by the Inland Revenue to silversmiths with regard to the drawback of duty: —

“Regulations as to claiming drawback of duty on silver plate which is as to every part thereof new and unused, manufactured in the United Kingdom, and which has never left the stock of a licensed dealer.

“Plate will be received by the collectors of Inland Revenue for examination at the various Assay Offices on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th June, 1890.

“The claimant must produce his current licence dated prior to the 17th April, 1890: also his stock-book or some other satisfactory evidence to prove the date of purchase or manufacture of each article, and prove to the officer's satisfaction that it has never left the stock of a manufacturer or licensed dealer.

“Care must be taken that only those articles which have actually paid duty and bear the impression of the duty mark (the sovereign's head) are included in the claim.

“Foreign manufactured plate is not included in the claim.”

Then follows a penalty of £500 for making any false statement, &c.

The Standard.

The English sterling, or silver standard, which term first occurs in the reign of Henry II., was of the fineness of 11 oz. 2 dwts. in the pound troy, and 18 dwts. of alloy, and it has remained so, almost without interruption, for more than 600 years, with the exception of a period of twenty years, from the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. to the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, when at one time it was so debased that nine ounces of alloy were actually employed with only three ounces of silver. In the earliest accounts in which the standard of fineness is mentioned, it is always spoken of as the "old standard of England," or "esterling." The Saxon pennies were of the same standard.

In computing the standard of gold, it will be observed that the word *karat* is employed. This term is used by refiners, whereby they certify a certain composition of weights used in assaying and computing of standard gold, and this karat contains either the twenty-fourth part of a pound or the twenty-fourth part of an ounce troy.*

The standard of gold, when first introduced into the coinage, was of 24 karats, that is, pure gold, and from Henry III. to Edward III. remained so; it was subsequently 23 karats $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains fine, and half a grain only of alloy. The gold was debased by Henry VIII. to 20 karats, but it was raised to 22 karats, which Charles II. made standard, and which still continues to be so for coins of the realm. In the reign of Edward IV., A.D. 1477, an Act was passed which ordained that, as the Act had been daily broken in the manufacture of gold wares, the fineness of gold should be fixed at 18 karats, but it was raised again to the standard.

One pound or one ounce of standard gold must contain 22 karats of fine gold, 1 karat of silver, and 1 karat of fine copper, which together make 24 karats, or one pound or one ounce troy weight.

* The karat is a bean, the fruit of an Abyssinian tree called *Kuara*. This bean, from the time of its being gathered, varies very little in weight, and seems to have been a weight for gold in Africa. In India it is used as a weight for diamonds, as well as in Europe. It contains four grains. The orthography of this word is varied, and we have, for the sake of uniformity, adopted the way it is spelt on the continent: Karat for Carat. The term karat or carat appears to have been first used early in the sixteenth century.

In France the term *denier* was used to denote the fineness of silver, in the same manner as we use the word *karat* for gold. It indeed agrees with the English ounce. The pound is divided into twelve parts, or *deniers*, and each denier or twelfth part into two *oboles*, or twenty-four grains.

Sterling or standard silver contains $\frac{322}{240}$ of pure silver and $\frac{18}{240}$ of alloy. Silver coins are usually alloyed with copper in the above proportions, but gold coins, being sometimes alloyed with silver alone, sometimes with silver and copper together, no two sovereigns are of exactly the same colour, the former being of a pale gold, the latter more red. So long as the bars of gold sent to the Mint to be coined contain the correct proportion of pure gold, the nature of the alloy is not a matter of importance to the moneyer.

Pure gold and silver are invariable in their qualities, from whatever mines they are produced.

The marks for gold of 22 karats, and for silver of 11 oz. 2 dwts., were, up to the year 1844, the same; hence a great facility was afforded to fraud, and, consequently, many instances occurred. An article of silver of the standard above named, being duly assayed and marked, had only to be gilt, and who but those more skilled than ordinary purchasers could say it was not gold?

This was changed by 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22, s. 15, which required that all wares of 22-karat gold should be marked with a "crown and the figures 22, instead of the mark of the lion passant," but the operation of this Act did not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

A lower standard of gold was allowed by an Act, 38 Geo. III. c. 69, 1798, which was marked with a crown and the figures 18, instead of the lion passant.

In 1854, 17 & 18 VICTORIA, still lower qualities of gold wares were allowed to be made, of 15, 12, and 9 karats pure gold in 24: stamped with the figures denoting the fineness, *without the crown and Queen's head*, but not without payment of duty.

Gold and silver wares may be assayed at any lawful Assay Office *wherever* manufactured, without being liable to any forfeiture or penalty imposed by any previous Act.

(No particular standard named in this Act, but to be directed by an order from the Privy Council.) This Act is in force throughout the United Kingdom.

The Goldsmiths' Company have unfortunately no jurisdiction over the manufacture of jewellery, hence the spurious nature of a great proportion of the jewellery sold in England; and there is no real security to the public unless the articles have the Hall-mark; or wanting this, purchasers should insist on having the quality of the gold written plainly on the invoice as a guarantee of its genuineness, not only whether it is *gold*, for this admits of a wide interpretation, but the quality of it expressed in numerals, as equal to 22, 18, 15, 12, or 9 karats. Provided with such an invoice, they have always their remedy against the jeweller.*

* From the following passage in the *Comedy of Errors* (Act iv. Sc. 1) we find that it was the custom in England, in Shakespeare's time, for the Goldsmith to place on his invoice the *weight*, the *standard*, and the *charge for fashion*. Angelo the Goldsmith says:

"Here's the note
How much your chain weighs to the utmost carat,
The fineness of the gold, and chargeful fashion."

We quote this passage as given in most of the editions, which as it stands is evidently an incorrect reading. *Weighing a chain to its utmost karat is*

The value *per ounce* of the different qualities of gold permitted to be manufactured into plate, jewellery, watches, &c., by the various Acts of Parliament, and stamped accordingly, calculated at the highest Mint Price,* is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	ALLOY			
24 karat or pure gold	4	4	11½	None.			
22 karat (first standard and currency)	3	17	10½	2 karat.			
20 karat (Ireland only)	3	10	9½	4 "			
18 karat (second standard)	3	3	8½	6 "			
15 karat } since 1854	2	13	1	9 "			
12 karat }				2	2	5½	12 "
9 karat }				1	11	10½	15 "

If these variations in the value of the different qualities of gold were better known or attended to, the public would not so frequently be duped by dishonest tradesmen. Mr. Watherston, in his pamphlet "On the Art of Assaying," observes: "Advertisements are sometimes thus ingeniously contrived: 'Fine gold chains weighing five sovereigns for £5 each,' by which it is meant to be inferred that the gold in the chains is of the same fineness as the sovereigns, while it is no such thing; and an accurate knowledge of this subject would enable the purchaser to detect the imposition by showing the vendor that five sovereigns would weigh 1 oz. 5 dwts. 12½ grs., and that sovereigns being standard or 22 karats, the weight of such gold at the Mint price of 77s. 10½d. per oz. would be worth £5, whereas the gold in the chain *might* be only half the fineness, say 11 karats, or 1 oz. 5 dwts. 12½ grs. at 38s. 11¼d per oz = £2 10s. Thus £2 10s. would be obtained for the workmanship of the chain, which charge it was the object of the vendor *wholly* to conceal."

The Bank of England is bound to buy all gold at £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce.

The parliamentary price of gold is only an equivalent denomination; £3, 17s. 10½d. is not the price of an ounce of gold, but is

impossible, and the *chargeful fashion* incomprehensible. By placing the commas aright we arrive at the poet's meaning, and find that three separate items are alluded to in the Goldsmith's note. 1st. *How much your chain weighs*, that is always expressed in troy ounces, pennyweights and grains. 2nd. *To the utmost karat the fineness of the gold*, the standard or fineness is always computed by refiners in karats or imaginary weights. 3rd. *The charge for fashion*, that is the cost of making. Shakespeare's meaning is clearly expressed in another play, where the Prince says:—

"Therefore, thou best of gold art worst of gold:
Other, less fine in carat, is more precious,
Preserving life in med'cine potable."

Second Part of King Henry IV. (Act iv. Sc. 5).

* A purchaser, in estimating the probable cost of a piece of plate or jewellery, must add to the *intrinsic value* of the gold, the *duty* paid by the goldsmith of 17s. per ounce on all the standards, of 22 down to 9 karats, if above 10 dwts. (the small articles, and those which cannot be stamped without injuring them, and watch-cases being exempted), the Assay Office fees, and the charge for *fashion* or manufacture, which, of course, varies according to the artistic labour bestowed upon the material by the designer, the chaser, and the engraver.

according to the number of gold coins that can be made out of an ounce of gold. This simple fact has not been generally observed.

There are five standards for *gold*, and two for *silver*. The manufacturer may use either at his option, informing the authorities at the Assay Office which he has adopted, in each parcel of goods sent to be assayed. *The Higher Standards for Gold* are 22 and 18 karats of pure metal in every ounce, the ounce containing 24 karats: so that in each ounce there may be 2 or 6 karats (one-twelfth or a quarter of the weight) of alloy. The coinage of England is of the higher standard, 22 karats. The lower standard is used for all manufacturing purposes, except in the case of wedding rings, which are usually made of 22-karat gold. Since 1854 debased gold standards of 15, 12, and 9 karats in the ounce of 24 karats have been legalised. *The Standards for Silver* are 11 oz. 10 dwts. and 11 oz. 2 dwts. of pure metal in every pound troy. The higher standard is seldom or never used. The silver coinage is of the lower standard.

It has been seen that in the year 1697 there was an alteration in the standard of fineness of silver, which was increased from 11 oz. 2 dwts. to 11 oz. 10 dwts. in the pound troy. This better standard was denoted by a change of stamps as follows:—(1.) The marks of the workers to be expressed by the two first letters of their surnames. (2.) The mark of the mystery or craft of the goldsmith which instead of the leopard's head was to be a lion's head erased. (3.) Instead of the lion, the figure of a woman, commonly called Britannia, was to be substituted; and (4.) A distinct variable mark to be used by the warden of the said mystery to denote the year in which such plate was made. Both these marks were, after 1700, used by the provincial Assay Offices, but the lion's head erased was omitted on silver of the new standard at Sheffield and Birmingham.

On referring to the minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company, we find that, "on the 29th day of May, 1695, new puncheons were received, the letter for the year being t in an escutcheon." And on "the 27th March, 1697, the puncheons for the remaining part of this year (viz., up to the 30th May) were received, being, according to Act of Parliament, a lyon's head erased, a Britannia, and for the letter, the great court A in an escutcheon."

TABLE showing the alterations English coins and plate have undergone with respect to weight and fineness, from the reign of William the Conqueror to that of Victoria.

MONEY.					PLATE.				
DATE.	REIGN.	GOLD.		SILVER.		REIGN.	Karats.	SILVER.	
		Fineness of Gold Coins.	Pound Troy of such Gold coined into	Fineness of Silver Coins.	Pound Troy of such Silver coined into			REIGN.	oz. dwt.
		kar. grs.	£ s. d.	oz. dwt	£ s. d.				
1066	Will. I. . .	...	...	11 2	1 1 4	...	...	...	...
1280	8 Ed. I. . .	...	...	...	1 1 4	28 Ed. I. .	19½	Ed. I.	11 2
1344	18 Ed. III. .	23 3½	14 0 10	...	1 1 6	...	...	...	...
1349	23 " . . .	...	14 18 8	...	1 3 0	...	...	...	...
1356	30 " . . .	...	16 0 0	...	1 6 8	...	...	...	...
1421	9 Hen. V. . .	...	17 16 0	...	1 12 0	...	...	...	...
1464	4 Ed. IV. . .	...	22 4 6	...	2 0 0	...	...	...	...
1465	5 " . . .	...	24 0 0	...	2 0 0	...	...	...	...
1470	49 Hen. VI. .	...	24 0 0	...	2 0 0	...	...	...	...
1482	22 Ed. IV. . .	...	24 0 0	...	2 0 0	17 Ed. 4. .	18	...	...
1509	1 Hen. VIII. .	...	24 0 0	...	2 0 0	...	...	...	...
1527	18 " . . .	22 0	24 0 0	...	2 2 8	...	...	...	...
1543	34 " . . .	23 0	28 16 0	10 0	2 8 0	...	...	...	...
1545	36 " . . .	22 0	30 0 0	6 0	2 8 0	...	...	...	...
1546	37 " . . .	20 0	30 0 0	4 0	2 8 0	...	...	...	...
1547	1 Ed. VI. . .	20 0	30 0 0	4 0	2 8 0	...	...	...	...
1549	3 " . . .	22 0	34 0 0	6 0	3 12 0	...	...	...	...
1551	5 " . . .	23 3½	34 0 0	5 0	3 12 0	...	...	...	...
1552	6 " . . .	22 0	36 0 0	11 1	3 0 0	...	...	...	...
1553	1 Mary . . .	23 3½	36 0 0	11 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	...
1560	2 Elizabeth .	22 0	36 0 0	11 2	3 0 0	15 Eliz. . .	22	...	...
1600	43 " . . .	23 3½	36 10 0	...	3 2 0	...	...	...	...
1604	2 James I. .	22 0	33 10 0	...	3 2 0	...	...	...	...
1626	2 Charles I. .	...	41 0 0	...	3 2 0	...	...	...	...
1666	18 Charles II. .	...	44 10 0	...	3 2 0	...	...	9 Will. III. .	11 10
1717	3 George I. . .	...	46 14 6	...	3 2 0	...	...	6 Geo. I. . .	11 2
1816	56 Geo. III. .	...	46 14 6	...	3 6 0	38 Geo. III. .	{ 22 18	These two Standards have both remained legal from 1720 to the present day.	
1821	2 Geo. IV. . .	...	46 14 6	...	3 6 0	...	...
to									
1881	Victoria . . .	22 karats. at which it has remained ever since.		Sterling Standard as at present.		18 Vict. . .	{ 22 18 15 12 9		

It is a curious coincidence, if not actually premeditated, that the two great changes in the debasement of the coinage and its restoration to the ancient purity of the standard should be notified in the arrangement of the Hall-marks on plate. In 1543 the fineness of silver coins was reduced by Henry VIII. from 11 dwts. 2 grs. to ten parts out of the twelve; in 1545 to half, and in 1546 to one-third part only of pure silver. It has been suggested that between 1543 and 1545 the stamp of the lion passant was introduced to notify that the plate still remained as good as the old standard,

and was not debased like the coins of that period. We have not met with any plate of the years 1543 or 1544, but in 1545 we find "Her Majesty's lion" for the first time added as a standard mark. The second change occurred in 1560. Up to that date the escutcheon or encircling line had taken the form of the date letter; but in the second year of the glorious reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the purity of the coinage was restored to the old standard, for gold of 22 karats, and for silver 11 oz. 2 dwts., a change was made by the Goldsmiths' Company, and the letters were henceforward enclosed in a regular Heraldic Shield, commencing on Old Christmas Day, viz., the 6th January, 1561, with the letter D, as shown in our tables.

These shields continued, with more or less pointed bases, down to 1738, when an ornamental form was adopted, eminently distinguishing the dates down to the year 1755. In the following year a square shield, with the upper corners cut off, and the base slightly rounded ending in a point was continued until 1877, the old Heraldic pointed shield being then revived. In 1896 the shield, instead of being pointed, was made with three circular lobes below.

We may here advert to one of the most important features in our improved tables of London Assay Office letters, independent of the careful representation of the letters themselves, viz., the introduction of the escutcheons or shields enclosing them. This had never before been attempted, and the idea originated with the author of this work in 1863.

The system of both gold and silver being standard measures of value, which they were in virtue of each being a legal tender to any amount, was the source of much disorder; for, as their market prices were always subject to variation, one kind of coin had a constant tendency to drive the other out of circulation. To remedy this great inconvenience, our present monetary system was established in 1816, at which time, as gold was the metal in which the principal payments were made in England, the following law was enacted:—

"That gold coins shall in future be the sole standard measure of value, and legal tender of payment, without any limitation of amount, and that silver coins shall be a legal tender for the limited amount of forty shillings only, at one time."

Besides this standard fineness of coins, there is also a legal weight, fixed according to the Mint regulation, or rate of coinage of each country. Thus in England a pound troy of standard gold is coined into $44\frac{1}{2}$ guineas, or $46\frac{2}{3}$ sovereigns, and a pound of standard silver into 66 shillings, with divisions and multiples in proportion; and hence the Mint price of standard gold is £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce, and that of standard silver 66 pence per ounce. Before the year 1816, silver was coined at the rate of 62 pence per ounce. The Mint price of standard silver at 66 pence per ounce is above the average market value, which is considered to be about 60 pence, the price now usually adopted in the valuation of coins, but since this was written the market value of silver has much decreased.

The silver coins in circulation are considered only as tokens

payable by the Government, and pass for more than their metallic value as compared with gold. Precaution is taken that it shall not be worth while to melt the silver coin into bullion, and it is so nearly worth its current value that imitation would not be ventured, on so small a profit. The Government will always receive back its tokens, however worn they may be, provided they be not wilfully defaced or fraudulently reduced. But gold, being the sole standard measure of value, and legal tender of payment, circulates as a commodity; and hence the necessity of Government receiving it at value on its return to the Mint, and making a deduction for loss of weight when the same exceeds the remedy of the Mint. The wear and tear of the gold coinage is such, that very nearly 3 per cent. of the whole circulation goes out annually; and the quantity which will suffice to throw a sovereign out of circulation is $\frac{257}{1000}$ th parts, or about one-fourth of a grain. (*Woolhouse.*)

Mr. Freemantle, Deputy Master of the Mint, in his report for the year 1874, states that "the amount of gold coined during the year, £1,460,000, has again been below the average (which may be reckoned at £5,000,000), notwithstanding that in 1873 the amount coined was only £3,300,000, as against £15,000,000 in 1872, and £10,000,000 in 1871. This diminution in the demand for gold coin is in a great measure to be accounted for by the magnitude of the coinages just referred to; but it should also be mentioned that the importations into the Bank of England during the year of Australian sovereigns and half-sovereigns, which are now somewhat of the same design as those issued from the Mint in London, are equally legal tender in the United Kingdom, and have been considerable, having amounted to £1,972,000, and have contributed in a sensible degree towards maintaining the supply of gold coin required for circulation in this country."

It may be here remarked, while speaking of Bank operations, that the Bank of England weighs about 20,000,000 pieces separately and singly in each year, and if each had to be examined to see the date the labour would be trebled.

"The natural colour of pure gold is a deep rich orange yellow. If, however, gold is beaten into thin leaves, and placed between the eye and the light, it appears of a green colour. Gold is also green in a molten state at a high temperature. When precipitated from its solutions it assumes a dark brown colour. If the brown precipitate is boiled in concentrated sulphuric acid, it cakes together, and becomes red. If gold is precipitated as a very fine powder it is black; if finely diffused in transparent glass it is violet; and it has been surmised that the colour of rose-quartz is due to a very fine diffusion of gold in that substance." (*Lutschaunig.*)

There are six different ways of giving gold the various shades of colour by means of alloy with other metals. These six colours may be combined and produce all the possible variations. 1. Yellow gold, or pure. 2. Red gold, composed of three parts fine gold and one of purified copper. 3. Grass green gold, three parts of pure gold and one of silver. 4. Dead leaf green, half gold and half silver. 5. Sea green, fourteen parts of fine gold, and ten of

fine silver. 6. Blueish gold, fine gold melted, in which is thrown a small quantity of iron.

Coloured gold (of which cheap jewellery is made) means that the article contains a very small proportion of gold, less frequently than 9-karat gold, or 9 parts pure and 15 alloy out of the 24, which is intrinsically worth about 30 shillings per ounce. As this debased gold is of a bad colour and wanting in brilliancy, the following operation is adopted, called *colouring*:—From the immediate surface of the article the copper is removed, exposing the pure gold only, but this coating of pure gold is not thicker than the 100th part of the breadth of a hair. It is the same as if the article were gilt or electro-plated, only that in the one instance the alloy is taken from the gold on the surface, leaving the pure gold, and that in the other the pure gold is put on. Any bad gold over 9 karats can be coloured by boiling in nitric acid, or other preparation acting in the same manner.

“The bleaching of silver is an analogous operation to the colouring of gold. If an article of silver alloyed with copper be heated to a dull red heat, and then quickly dipped in water containing a small proportion of sulphuric acid, the copper will be taken away, leaving the pure silver on the surface as white as snow.” (*Lutschaunig*.)

To convert gold or silver into grains or granular pieces requires the assistance of two persons. The one procures a pan of cold water and keeps it in movement by stirring it round with a stick, while the other pours the molten metal into it. This sudden transition from heat to cold, and the circular motion of the water, naturally converts the metal into irregularly shaped grains.

Filagree is composed of two round threads, so twisted together by means of a tourniquet that they form but one thread.

The Loupe or magnifying-glass is a sort of microscope of a simple glass, convex on both sides, or a pair of lenses (convexo convexes) fixed at a certain distance from each other in a frame, with a handle attached. The latter is used by goldsmiths and employés of the Assay Offices to verify the Hall-marks upon gold and silver plate. It is more to be depended upon in a careful investigation, as the whole field within the radius is magnified equally, while the single glass distorts that portion of the object seen towards the edge. For this reason it is preferred by engravers. It is also very useful for examining coins and medals to ascertain whether they are genuine.

The choice of a glass to verify the marks on plate &c., is very important, but it is impossible to establish any positive general rule, since every person must consult his own eyesight. In every case the glass ought to be mounted or set in a deep flat border or diaphragm, to concentrate the rays of light in the centre of the lens. The light should be thrown direct on to the object to render the whole surface distinctly visible at one view without shadow. The closing of one eye during inspection should be avoided as much as possible, as this involuntary habit fatigues the eye without producing any better effect. The glass should be brought near to the eye, or at the most only two inches from it.

WEIGHTS.

The weight used by the Saxons was the *Colonia* or *Cologne pound* of 16 ounces, containing 7680 grains. This pound was divided into two marks of 8 ounces each, being equal to two-thirds of the Tower pound, still used in Germany. In the time of William the Conqueror the *pound Troy* was introduced of 5760 grains, as at present used for gold and silver, so called, it is supposed, from being used at Troyes, in France; but this idea is incompatible with its French name, which denotes a more remote origin, being called "Poids Romain." There was another weight in use at the same time called the *Tower or moneyer's pound* (*pois d'orfèvres*), by which gold and silver coins were weighed, so called in consequence of the principal Mint being in the Tower. This Tower pound, which had 12 ounces of its own, consisted of 5400 grains, being less than the Troy pound by 15 pennyweights or three-quarters of an ounce. It is still occasionally referred to on the subject of coins, and in the early inventories of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, such as the Exchequer and Wardrobe accounts, &c., the weight of silver and gold is expressed by pounds, shillings, and pence, the pound being subdivided into 20 shillings, and 12 pence or pennyweights. The shilling represents three-fifths of an ounce.* This ceased to be a legal Mint weight in the eighteenth year of the reign of Henry VIII., when in 1526-7 the Tower pound was abolished by Royal proclamation and the Troy pound substituted.

As an example of the manner of expressing weight and Mint value in the fourteenth century, we quote two items from the particulars of a present of plate from the City of London to Edward the Black Prince, on his return from Gascony in 1371:—

"Bought of John de Chichestre, Goldsmith (Mayor in 1369), 48 Esqueles and 24 Salt-cellars, weighing by goldsmith's weight, £76 5s. od., adding six shillings in the pound with the making; total, £109, os. 9d. Also, 6 Chargers, weight £14, 18s. 9d., which amounts with the making to £21, 7s. 2d.," &c., &c., (*Riley's Memorials of London*.)

These imaginary coins had no exact representation in the coinage of Great Britain until long after the period when they were used merely as moneys of account. The term shilling was used by the Saxon as equivalent to four pennies, but William the Conqueror established the Norman shilling at twelve pennies, yet no positive coin of that denomination was made current until the reign of Henry VII. The *mark* was a Danish mode of computation intro-

* This was a source of great revenue, and is thus stated in a MS. relating to Mint affairs which is preserved in the Collection of the Society of Antiquaries:—"There is a weight which hath been used in England from the beginning in the King's Mints, till of late years, and derived from the Troy weights; for by the *Troy weight* of twelve ounces the merchant bought his gold and silver abroad, and by the same delivered it into the King's Mint, receiving in counterpoise by *Tower weight*, which was the King's prerogative, who gained thereby three-quarters of an ounce in the exchange of each pound weight converted into money, beside the gain of coining, which did rise to a great revenue, making for every 30 lbs. *Troy*, being a *journey* of coined money, 32 lbs. *Tower*."

duced in the reign of Alfred, then valued at 100 pennies, but William the Conqueror valued it at 160 pennies, or 13s. 4d., being two-thirds of a pound. The pound referred principally to weight; the pound of gold or silver meant the value in money, according to the current coins which could be made out of the pound weight of either metal. At the time we are speaking of, silver pennies were the only coins used in England. In the reign of Edward III. (1327-77) coins of various denominations were introduced—groats, half-groats, pennies, half-pennies, and farthings, as well as the gold noble passing at 6s. 8d. its half and quarter. The first sovereign or double rial, coined by Henry VII., passed for 22s. 6d. Then succeeded, in the time of the Stuarts, the unit or pound sovereign of 20 shillings.

There was a method of paying and receiving moneys so as to avoid the necessity of counting and weighing each piece separately, thereby avoiding the loss of time necessarily occupied in dealing with large sums of money. This was termed "payments *ad scalam*," and would be completely answered by the plan, provided the coins were of just weight and undiminished in the course of currency, each being weighed separately on *receipt*, as at the Bank of England, where the practice is still in use. In *paying* large sums in gold the first thousand is counted and placed in one of the scales, the additional thousands being estimated by weighing them successively in the other scale against it. This is sometimes adopted at banking houses in the present day. In a general way the gold coins are taken indiscriminately from the mass, but instances are recorded by which deception has in former times been practised. A certain monk of St. Augustine's in Canterbury, in the fourteenth century, contrived to defraud those who made payments to that abbey, of whose rents he was the receiver, by taking advantage of the unequal manner in which coins were then formed, selecting the heaviest, against which he weighed all the money he received, gaining thereby sometimes five shillings and never less than three shillings and fourpence in every twenty shillings. On discovery of the fraud, however, the abbot and convent were severely fined.

Troy weights are now exclusively used in the gold and silver trade, the weights being stated in ounces, and until recently in pennyweights and grains. The troy pound is not used; the troy ounce being the present unit of weight, which in 1879 was divided into decimals.

Silver plate is always sold at per ounce.

The old series of cup weights or nest set of ounce weights, established in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, are still in use in the City of London, for which there is no standard above 12 ounces, and they are usually made of brass.

The Founders' Company claim the right to stamp and verify *brass* weights after they are made, but they have no power to enforce it. The right is based on a Royal Charter of James II., and a clause in the Weights and Measures Act reserves such, which, however, has frequently been disputed, but no legal decision has been taken upon it.

Troy weights marked by the Founders' Company should be stamped at Goldsmiths' Hall, but it is not done now. The legal provisions for stamping troy weights are practically inoperative. A set of old troy standards still exists at Goldsmiths' Hall.

The standard brass weight of one pound troy made in the year 1758 is now in the custody of the Clerk of the House of Commons, and is by 5 Geo. IV. c. 74 the established standard, and called "The Imperial Troy Pound." Very few troy weights are stamped at all, and till recently they never were. They are sold unstamped; but if the Goldsmiths' Company have not the power to enforce the supervision, a clause in some Act of Parliament should forthwith enable them to exercise it legally. It would be a better guarantee to the public. Troy weights are not subject to inspection like the avoirdupois, but although inaccuracy and fraud are seldom met with, yet goldsmiths' weights are frequently in an unsatisfactory condition, and require official supervision.

It seems to us that the more scientific system adopted in France might be carried out advantageously in England. The French regulation requires weights to be marked with the name of the maker and stamped by the appointed inspector; not only this, for every part of a balance is made to a gauge like a watch, and the beams and scales stamped accordingly. Balances are also subject to variation through changes in the humidity of the atmosphere.

A decimal series of troy ounces are used for bullion, legalised in 1853; but they have not been adopted by the general public, and are not used in the gold and silver trade. At that time the Bank abolished the system of weighing in pounds and ounces, and substituted weighing in ounces and decimals of ounces—a more scientific method; but no one in the trade has adopted the system, except in his relations with the Bank.

By troy weight, gold, silver, jewels, and precious stones are weighed. Diamonds and pearls are the exception. They are weighed by the karat, which contains 4 grains; but 5 diamond grains are only equal to 4 troy grains, the ounce troy containing 150 diamond karats.

TROY WEIGHT.

14 ounces 8 pennyweights	}	make	(	1 lb., avoirdupois weight (7000 grains)
12 ounces				1 pound, troy weight (5760 grains).
20 pennyweights				1 ounce (480 grains).
24 grains				1 pennyweight (24 grains).
20 mites				1 grain.*
24 droits				1 mite.
20 periots	1 droit.			
24 blanks	1 periot.			

The above subdivisions of troy weight are appended to an Act relating to a new coinage passed by the Long Parliament, and it was probably copied from earlier records; but how these infinitesimal fractions were to be used is a mystery, and this Act does not furnish us with the information—a blank being about the thirteen hundred' and twenty-seven millionth of a pound troy.

* The grains in avoirdupois and troy weight are identical.

These divisions of the grain are in reality only imaginary; but there are real weights of decimal divisions to the thousandth part of a grain.

REFINERS' WEIGHTS.

A POUND WEIGHT KARAT.				AN OUNCE KARAT.			
12 ounces	make 24 karats.	1 ounce troy	makes 24 karats.				
4 grains	" 1 karat.	4 grains	" 1 karat.				
4 quarters. . . .	" 1 grain.	4 quarters	" 1 grain.				
10 dwts. troy	" 1 karat.	20 grains troy	" 1 karat.				
2 dwts. 12 grains troy	" 1 grain.	5 grains troy	make 1 karat grain.				
15 grains troy	" $\frac{1}{2}$ grain.						

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TROY AND AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHTS.

Avoirdupois				Troy				Avoirdupois				Troy			
oz.	oz.	dwt.	grs.	oz.	oz.	dwt.	grs.	oz.	oz.	dwt.	grs.	oz.	oz.	dwt.	grs.
$\frac{1}{2}$	...	4	13 $\frac{3}{8}$	15	13	13	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	28	5	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	two lb.	29	3	8
$\frac{1}{4}$	...	9	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	16	14	11	16	32	29	3	8				
10 ^{oz}	...	18	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	15	9	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	33	30	1	13 $\frac{1}{2}$				
2	1	16	11	18	16	8	3	34	30	19	19				
3	2	14	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	17	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	31	18	0 $\frac{1}{2}$				
4	3	12	22	20	18	4	14	36	32	16	6				
5	4	11	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	19	2	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	33	14	11 $\frac{1}{2}$				
6	5	9	9	22	20	1	1	38	34	12	17				
7	6	7	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	20	19	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	35	10	22 $\frac{1}{2}$				
8	7	5	20	24	21	17	12	40	36	9	4				
9	8	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	22	15	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	45	11	11				
10	9	2	7	26	23	13	23	60	54	13	18				
11	10	0	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	24	12	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	70	63	16	1				
12	10	18	18	28	25	10	10	80	72	18	8				
13	11	16	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	26	8	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	82	0	15				
14	12	15	5	30	27	6	21	100	91	2	22				

This table will be found useful when weighing gold or silver, if troy weights are not at hand. A pound troy of gold in England is coined into 46 $\frac{2}{3}$ sovereigns, or £46, 14s. 6d.; a pound troy of sterling silver into 66 shillings. Therefore, new silver coins to the amount of 5s. 6d. will weigh an ounce troy, and could be used as a substitute on an emergency.

Note.—The weight of silver is always given in ounces and penny-weights, omitting the grains and pounds. Thus, 6 lbs. 10 oz. 10 dwts. 12 grains is called 82 oz. 10 dwts.

Assay.

Manufacturers of gold and silver are required to register their names and marks which indicate the same (usually their initials) at the Assay Office of their district, and all articles sent in by them to be assayed must be impressed with this maker's mark.

If they are then found to have been made in conformity with the appointed regulations, a small quantity, not exceeding 8 troy grains in the pound, is to be cut or scraped from them for trial of their purity, according to the standard for which they are required to be stamped. One moiety of the scrapings, or *diet*, as it is called, to be reserved for the assay, and the other, if the purity prove to be correct, is to be put into that compartment of what is called the *diet box* which appertains to its standard.

The diet boxes from the Assay Offices of Birmingham and Sheffield are proved twice a year at the Royal Mint by the Queen's Assay Master in the presence of an officer appointed by the Lords of the Treasury, and the fineness of the gold and silver must equal the standard trial plates which are kept in the custody of the Warden of the Standards at the Royal Mint. The other provincial Assay Offices are only compelled to do so when required.

The method of ascertaining the quantity of pure gold in a given alloy is usually effected by adding to a weighed piece of gold three times its weight of fine silver, called inquartation, *i.e.*, 3 parts silver to 1 part of alloyed gold: these are wrapped all together in a piece of sheet lead and cupelled, or melted in a crucible called a cupel. All the impurities are thus got rid of, and the button taken from the cupel consists solely of the mixed gold and silver. This button is then flattened on an anvil, and twisted into a screw called a *cornet*. It is then placed in a bottle with aquafortis, in which it remains for a certain time, muriatic acid being subsequently added to make it stronger. This operation dissolves all the silver, leaving only the pure gold, which after being dried and shrunk, is carefully weighed, and the difference between that and its original weight before cupellation shows the exact quantity of alloy.

The assay of silver is more simple. Weigh accurately the piece of silver to be assayed, wrap it in about twelve times its weight of sheet lead, melt the whole in a cupel, which expels all the alloy with the lead, leaving a bead of pure silver. It is again weighed in a very sensitive balance, and the alloy calculated from the loss in weight.

The assay marks used at the Goldsmiths' Hall of London were ordered to be the letters of the alphabet, changing every year. We do not know with certainty when this plan was first adopted, but it was probably as early as the time when the Goldsmiths' Company were empowered to assay the precious metals, which, according to their ordinances, was in the year 1300. We can trace these letters back with a degree of certainty to the fifteenth century. This method of denoting the year in which any piece of plate was made and assayed, by placing upon it a letter of the alphabet, enables us at the present day to ascertain the date of its manufacture, if assayed at the Goldsmiths' Hall of London.

Different arrangements of the letters were adopted by the Corporations of other towns, who subsequently had the privilege of assaying granted them. The marks of the principal towns—Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Exeter, Chester, Newcastle, Sheffield, and Birmingham, we have succeeded in establishing, and they are given in a tabular form, through the kindness of the local authorities, who readily accorded leave to examine the records.

The Goldsmiths' Hall of London employs the letters A to U inclusive (omitting J), forming a cycle of twenty years, the character of the alphabet being varied every succeeding cycle. These letters are changed on the 30th of May in every year, the office suspending business on the two days preceding, and the diet box being proved on the 29th. Each letter is therefore used during the moieties of two calendar years.

If an Assay Master divulge any design, or pattern, or secret of the workman whose plate is sent to the Hall to be assayed and stamped, he is liable to a penalty of £200, and to be discharged; or if he mark any plate knowingly not of the required fineness.

In a work published in 1678, entitled "News from the Goldsmiths, or a Tryal of Gold and Silver Wares," by W. T., a Goldsmith, we are told that—

"There is a certain standard for gold and silver, according to which standard the coins of this kingdom (both gold and silver) are made: and as good as that standard, all plate and small wares in gold and silver are to be made, and that there may be no defraud used by making any gold and silver work worse than the standard, there is a very easy and sure way appointed by law for the regulating those wares, the understanding of which may be of signal benefit to all who buy and wear any sorts of gold and silver ware whatsoever.

"As to London and the places adjacent, the Company of Goldsmiths hath the oversight of those wares, and the tryal of them committed to them: and therefore, three days in the week, there is a trial made of any workman's wares (whose name and mark is inrolled in their Assay Office), and whatsoever works they try and find standard are marked with these marks following: first, the workman's mark who made the wares (which is usually the two first letters of his Christian and surname, and every workman's mark differs from other); the second is a leopard's head crowned; the third is a lion; the fourth is a single letter (the letter which is

used this present year being **A.** 1677-78); and whatsoever plate or small wares have these marks upon them, it is not to be questioned but that they are sterling or standard, that is, as good as money.

“But there being several sorts of small wares, both in gold and silver, which cannot be assayed and marked at Goldsmiths’ Hall, after they are finished: they are therefore sold with the private workman’s mark; and to prevent defrauds in this, all workers in gold and silver, in London and its suburbs, are required by law to make known their marks to the wardens of the Company of Goldsmiths, at their Hall in Foster Lane, that one workman may not strike a mark that is like another workman’s; and that any persons who have wares marked with the workman’s mark only, may, by addressing themselves to the Company of Goldsmiths, find out the makers of their wares; and if the wares which they have marked be found worse than standard, the Company of Goldsmiths will procure the aggrieved party recompense and punish the workman.

“The reader cannot but be satisfied of the excellency of this way of warranting silver; but I shall show you how it’s neglected to the publick’s great wrong. Although the wardens have power to search any goldsmiths’ shops and houses, and carry away any works which they shall make choice, to try them, whether they be standard or not, and to fine the owners if they find them worse than standard; yet the workers and sellers of gold and silver wares being so numerous and dispersed in their dwellings to all parts of the city and suburbs, it is not easy that all their small wares can be found out by the wardens of the Company, to be tryed; they being sold therefore upon the bare workman’s or shopkeeper’s credit, and they having the marking of these wares themselves; there are these evils that do follow it.

“1. Some of their wares are not marked at all, though they may very well bear marking (whereby they are forfeited, though they be standard).

“2. Some of their wares are marked with private marks, which are not inroulled at Goldsmiths’ Hall: For some of them who have a mark inroulled at Goldsmiths’ Hall will have another mark not inroulled; which mark they will set upon adulterated wares: and this counterfeit mark shall be so like the inroulled mark, that it will not be known to be the unlawful mark by any that doth not know what marks are inroulled and what are not; for there is only this difference: as if $\frac{P}{B}$ (one over the other) is the mark inroulled at Goldsmiths’ Hall, then “P.B.” (one by the other) may be the counterfeit mark; of if “S.” be the inroulled mark, then “I.S.” may be the counterfeit, or any other way, according to the workman’s device,” &c.

The following extract from the “Touchstone for Gold and Silver Wares” will show what marks were in use in 1677, and the views of the writer, himself a goldsmith, on the subject of marks:—

“The Company of Goldsmiths have caused to be made (according to the aforesaid statutes and their Charter) puncheons of

steel and marks at the ends of them, both great and small, of these several sorts of following, that is, *the leopard's head crowned, the lyon; and a letter*, which letter is changed alphabetically every year. The reason of changing thereof is (as I conceive) for that by the aforesaid recited statutes it is provided, That if any silver work that is worse than sterling be marked with the Company's mark, the Wardens and Corporation for the time being shall make recompence to the party grieved, so that if any such default should happen, they can tell by the letter on the work in what year it was assayed and marked, and thereby know which of their own officers deceived them, and from them obtain a recompence. These marks are every year made new for the use of the new wardens; and although the assaying is referred to the Assay Master, yet the Touch Wardens look to the striking of the marks.

"They have also made in a part of their Hall, a place called by them the *Assay Office*, wherein is a sworn weigher. His duty is to weigh all silver work into the office, and enter the same into a book kept for that purpose, and also to weigh it out again to the owner; only four grains out of every twelve ounces that are marked are, according to their ancient custom, to be retained and kept for a re-assaying once in every year, before the Lords of the Council, in the Star Chamber at Westminster, and before a jury of twenty-four able Goldsmiths, all the silver works they have passed for good the year foregoing.

"In this office is kept for public view a Table or Tables, artificially made in columns, that is to say, one column of hardened lead, another of parchment or velom, and several of the same sorts. In the lead column are struck or entered the workers' marks (which are generally the first two letters of their Christian and surnames), and right against them in the parchment columns are writ and entered the owners' names, according to the intent of the words in the statute (2 Henry VI. 14), to wit, '*And that the sign of every Goldsmith be known to the Wardens of the Craft,*' which said wardens' duty is to see that the marks be plain and of a fit size, and not one like another, and to require the thus entering the said marks, and also the setting them clear and visible on all gold and silver work, not only on every work, but also on every part thereof that is wrought apart, and afterwards soldered and made fast thereto, in finishing the same."

The same work gives an engraving of the marks used by the Goldsmiths' Company for the year 1676, viz., The Leopard's Head crowned, the Lion passant, and the Old English Letter T of a peculiar form, being like an L, but evidently intended for the former, as the same is used at the head of each page in the word "Touchstone."

The letter is enclosed in a pointed shield. (See Cycle 12.)

Hence we observe that tables were kept in public view in the Assay Office of the stamps of all the gold and silver plate makers; their signs being struck or punched on a strip of hardened lead, their names being written at length on parchment columns immediately opposite; and this plan of striking the signs appears to

have been adopted and continued since 1423. Unfortunately none of these tables have been preserved; but one very interesting relic of the custom is in existence, namely, a large sheet of copper closely stamped with makers' signs only of large and small sizes, but nothing is known of the names of the workers who used them.

The size of this copper plate is 24 by 18 inches, and the inscription on a tablet underneath is as follows:—

"On the above PLATE are the MARKS from WORKMEN taken at this OFFICE Prior to the Fifteenth of April, A.D. 1697, of which not any other Entry is to be found."

With the permission kindly given by the Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants of the Goldsmiths' Company, we are enabled to give, in this work, a copy of this important tablet. It will be remembered that 1697 was the date of the Act of Parliament ordering the new standard of 11 oz. 10 dwts., and altering the marks from the lion and leopard's head to a figure of Britannia and the lion's head erased, and that the makers' marks were ordered to be the two first letters of their surnames. Before that period the mark or sign of the workman was left to his own fancy, using a device or monogram of his own choice; and that the sign of every goldsmith should be known to the Wardens of the craft, it was struck upon a copper plate which hung in the Assay Office. By a comparison of the maker's marks on the plate with pieces of silver bearing corresponding stamps and the letter denoting the year, we may safely assume that it was first used on the 23rd February, 1675, the date of the Goldsmiths' Order (see p. 17), and is the identical table therein referred to for the plate-workers to strike their marks upon, and continued to be used for that purpose until the 15th of April, 1697, when the new standard was adopted.

From the 15th April 1697, the stamps were regularly placed against the makers' names and date of entry; and these records are fairly preserved in volumes, bound in parchment, in the Goldsmiths' Hall, London.

A clause in the Act 17 & 18 Victoria, cap. 96, directs that "Gold and Silver Wares may be assayed at any lawful Assay Office, *wherever* manufactured, without being liable to any forfeiture or penalty imposed by any previous Act."

DIRECTIONS FOR ASSAYING.

Assaying is the only method by which the real value of bullion can be ascertained; and about twelve grains of gold and one penny-weight of silver in cuttings or scrapings are sufficient for either. These must be rolled up in a piece of paper, about six inches long and three broad, turning in the corners to prevent the pieces dropping out, and the owner's name written upon the top. This paper must then be carried to an Assay Master, who will make his report in some of the underwritten characters, which compared with the scale will give the exact value per ounce.

Assayers marks are *j* † *2* *iiij* *ob.* $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ with *W*^o and *B*^r meaning Worse or Better than Standard. The first stands for 1

ounce, the second 10 dwts., the third 5 dwts., those with the dots 1 dwt. each, *ob* (obolus) half-pennyweight, the others for quarters as usual.

Gold assays are reported in karats, grains, three-quarter grains, half grains, and quarter grains, and are thus expressed: 1 kar. 1 gr. $\frac{3}{4}$. Thus gold found to be 23 karats 2 grains fine is reported "Better 1 karat 2 grains"; and gold of 20 karats 2 grains is reported "Worse 1 karat 2 grains."

Silver assays are reported in ounces, pennyweights, and half-pennyweights, and are thus expressed: 1 oz. † *Lib ob.* (*Ede.*)

The standard for silver means 222 parts or pennyweights of fine silver to 18 parts or pennyweights of copper, weighing together 240 parts or pennyweights, equal to one pound troy: thus if silver has 19 parts of copper to 221 of fine silver, the Assayer reports 1 dwt., *worse*. If the silver alloy, on the other hand, contains only 17 parts of copper to 223 of fine silver, the report says, 1 dwt. *better*.

The more rational way of reporting the quality of silver is in millims or thousandth parts of a unit. So, for instance, an alloy of 9 parts silver to 1 part copper would be 900 millims, $\frac{900}{1000}$, and our English standard of $\frac{322}{320}$ would be equal to 925 millims.

The assay report for gold is also generally made with reference to standard, or $\frac{22}{24}$, that is 22 parts or karats of gold to 24 parts or karats of alloy (silver, copper, or of both), stating the number of karats under or above standard as so much worse or better. As, however, the goldsmith always turns the report into *fine*, that is, so many karats of pure gold out of the 24, it seems the most rational to report in the manner most comprehensible, and to say, for example, instead of 4 karats worse, 18 karats *fine*. Gold is also reported in millims (*millièmes*), in the same way as silver.

PARTING ASSAYS are reported in ounces of fine gold or silver in 1 pound troy. For example:—

	oz.	dwt.	gr.	
GOLD . . .	8	3	10	}
SILVER . . .	2	12	0	
	in 1 pound troy.			

This means, that of 12 oz. which make 1 pound troy of the alloy, 8 oz. 3 dwts. 10 grs. are gold and 2 oz. 12 dwts. silver, the remaining 1 oz. 4 dwts. 14 grs. being base metal. (*Lutschaunig.*)

The decimal assay is always noted in the assay report as a memorandum, but never enters into the calculation of the value. It is not used as between the Bank and the public.

The millième system of reporting assays in France goes to the ten-thousandth part, but experience shows that accuracy cannot practically be attained to that nicety. Assays may be relied upon to the millième; but beyond that it is hardly safe, in consequence of difference between the different assayers; it is barely possible to assay closer than $\frac{1}{10}$ of the millième.

ASSAY BY MEANS OF THE SPECTROSCOPE.

Before concluding our account of the Assay Offices of the United Kingdom, we may here briefly notice the new system of

assay of the precious metals by means of the spectroscope, recently proposed by Mr. J. Norman Lockyer, F.R.S. Experiments have been conducted at the Mint to ascertain the practicability of the scheme and determine whether it would be possible to adopt it. Mr. Roberts, Chemist of the Mint, expresses an opinion that by the aid of the spectroscope differences of composition more minute than the $\frac{1}{10000}$ th part might be readily distinguished.

The Deputy Master of the Mint (Mr. C. W. Fremantle), in his report for the year 1873, states that he had requested Mr. Roberts to render every assistance to Mr. Lockyer in developing a process of quantitative spectrum analysis, which might with advantage replace the methods of assay, or at any rate of verification, in use at the Mint. Experiments conducted by Mr. Lockyer and Mr. Roberts were continued throughout the early part of the year, and the results were communicated in a paper to the Royal Society, who have directed their publication in the "Philosophical Transactions." As, however, these researches were of the nature of laboratory experiments merely, it became necessary to conduct a series under conditions more nearly approaching those which would occur in actual practice, and instructions were given that such experiments should be conducted in the Mint itself. Instruments have been obtained, and arrangements have now been completed for this branch of the work.

WASTE AND SWEEP.

The *sweep* is composed of cinders or dust from the forge, the sweepings of the workshop, broken crucibles, the dross which adheres to the ingots of metal after fusion, and of every *waste* which can possibly contain minute particles of gold and silver, which had escaped the notice of the workman, or had become dispersed and lost in the manipulation of the metals.

This *sweep* is washed over a fine hair sieve, and the more perceptible portions of metal separated and refined; but the remainder called by the French *les regrets*, yet contain impalpable particles, and is usually sold to persons who have the necessary utensils and appliances, and who by means of mercury mills, about the size of a coffee mill, burning it in the crucible, and by the employment of fluxes of saltpetre, &c., are able to extract whatever metal may remain. It is then cupelled to determine the proportions of gold and silver eliminated in the process.

In large establishments the *waste* and *sweep* form a considerable item. We may especially notice the coinage operations at the London Mint. The large gold coinage which commenced in 1871, and was finished in June, 1873, amounted to £24,500,000 sterling. The value of the metal actually deficient during the operation was £3826, 7s. 10d., or £156, 3s. 7d. per million. The *sweep*, weighing more than 26 tons, was sold for £2414, 10s. The loss, therefore, was £1411, 17s. 10d., or £57, 12s. 5d. per million. It was considered by the authorities at the Mint that if the operation had been conducted there, the sum realised would not compensate them for the loss of time and labour necessary for the purpose.

THE TRIAL OF THE PYX AND STANDARD
TRIAL PLATES.

The origin of the custom of the Trial of the Pyx is lost in obscurity.* The first statutory mention of it is in an Act of the first year of the reign of Edward III. The examination was then decreed, *as of old time ordained*. The pyx (*πυξίς*) is a box or chest, like an iron safe, divided into three compartments, two for silver coins and one for gold, secured by three intricate locks, each opened by different keys, which are entrusted to distinct officials of different departments. In the lid are three carefully protected apertures, through which the coins are dropped, and when full, the fact is notified by the Master of the Mint to the Privy Council, and it is then examined in the presence of the Lord Chancellor† and other high functionaries of the State, the Master and Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company, and a jury of freemen goldsmiths selected by them. No stated times are appointed, but usually the trial takes place every five or six years.

Each milling of gold or silver, and its subsequent coinage, is termed a "journey" or day's work. These *journeys* formerly were supposed to mean the melting of 15 lbs. of gold, or 60 lbs. of silver, but now they vary in amount; and from each batch, whether large or small, specimen coins of every denomination that have been made from it are deposited in the pyx, marked with the date and value of the *journey* from which they are selected. The oath being administered to the Jury by the Queen's Remembrancer, they are addressed by the Lord Chancellor upon the importance of their functions, and the officers of the Mint are virtually given into their custody, until by finding the correctness of the coin submitted to their assay, both in weight and fineness, they should deliver their verdict of acquittal, and give the officers their *quietus*. The assay formerly took place in a room at the Exchequer, fitted up with furnaces, crucibles, tests, &c., but now it is done at Goldsmiths' Hall. The actual process is as follows:—The whole mass of gold and silver coin in the pyx is rolled under enormous pressure into two distinct ingots; a piece is then cut off the end of each, and rolled into a long and narrow plate, about the thickness of a shilling; a number of small pieces are then cut off each plate, and, after being weighed with the strictest accuracy, are assayed in the usual manner, and the results compared with the standard trial pieces brought from the Exchequer, where they are always preserved.

In the Annual Report of the Deputy Master of the Mint (C. W. Fremantle, Esq.), he observes:—"The Annual Trial of the Pyx was

* The first known writ for a Trial of the Pyx dates from the time of Edward I., 1281.

† Several royal and distinguished personages have in former times presided at the Trials of the Pyx. In 1611, James I., attended by Henry Prince of Wales; in 1669, Charles II., attended by the Duke of York and Prince Rupert; and four years later, Prince Rupert, himself a scientific chemist, presided. From 1717 to 1870 the Lord Chancellor always presided, except in 1787, when the Right Honourable William Pitt was the President.

held at Goldsmiths' Hall on the 17th July, 1873, when the gold and silver coins struck at the Mint during the preceding twelve months were subjected to the rigid examination rendered necessary by the passing of the Coinage Act of 1870, which, by prescribing the standard weight and fineness of each coin, makes it necessary for the jury of the Goldsmiths' Company to pronounce their verdict, not only upon the correctness of the coins as weighed and assayed in bulk, but also upon the weight and fineness of any individual coin which they may select for trial. The amount of coinage under examination was £11,235,000 of gold coin, and £1,597,000 of silver coin; and of the six sovereigns and three half-sovereigns examined, five coins were found to be of the exact standard of fineness, 916.6, &c., the greatest variation from standard being only $\frac{1}{10000}$ th part. The result of the examination as regarded the weight of the gold coins and the weight and fineness of the silver coin was equally satisfactory." He continues:—

"There are few points connected with the operations of coinage of greater importance than the maintenance of accurate standards, by reference to which the fineness of coin may be determined and the integrity of a metallic currency guaranteed. From the first introduction of a gold coinage into this country in the reign of Henry III., whose coins were 24 karats fine, or pure gold, there have always been 'fiducial' pieces with which the coin could be compared; and the changes which have been from time to time made in the fineness of the coinage have always been accompanied by the establishment of standards intended to contain the exact proportion of precious metal prescribed by law. Fragments of ancient trial plates, representing the various changes made, are still preserved in the Mint, and have been examined under my directions.

"Having pointed out in my First Annual Report that the gold standard trial plate prepared in 1829, and then in use, was below the exact standard of fineness, and further, that it might be well to supplement it with a plate of fine gold, the Board of Trade took the necessary steps for the preparation of new standard plates both of fine gold and silver, and for supplementing them with plates of fine metal, and the preparation of them was undertaken at the Mint, and verified by the Goldsmiths' Company. The bar of standard gold was rolled into a plate and assayed carefully at different parts. It weighed 72 ounces. The silver trial plate weighed 104 ounces. It should be borne in mind that, as portions of the plate are distributed to the provincial Assay Offices in the country, and to the Indian and Colonial Mints, both their preparation and verification are matters of the highest importance."

W. C. Roberts, Esq., Chemist of the Mint, in his Report for the year 1873, has given in a tabular form a statement of the results of assays which he had made to ascertain the composition of the ancient trial plates, with some remarks as to their history. The earliest gold trial plate of which there is any record was made in 17 Edward IV., 1477. Its fineness is 23 karats $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains, and only $\frac{1}{2}$ a karat alloy, which was principally silver. When gold coins were first introduced into England by Henry III., in 1257, they were

24 karats fine; that is, pure gold. Edward III., in 1345, was the first to use the standard of this plate. The next is of 22 karats, issued by Henry VIII. A trial plate of 1553 of 23 karats $10\frac{1}{2}$ grains bears the following inscription: STAN . OF . XXIII . KARE . X . GRE . DEMI . FYNE . PRYVE . MARKE Φ . It has no date, but the "pryve marke" (a pomegranate) is the same as that borne by the sovereigns and angels issued by Mary in this year. There are three of Elizabeth of 22 karats and 23 karats $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains; one of James I., 1605, of 23 karats $3\frac{1}{2}$ grains; the first year of the Commonwealth, 1649, 22 karats; Charles II., 1660, of 22 karats. Since this date 22 karats has continued standard. The other trial plates are of 1688, 1707, 1728, and 1829, and the new trial plates made in 1873, one of 22 karats, the other of pure gold.

Silver trial pieces of the same dates are preserved, which, with two exceptions as "standards for Ireland" much debased, were of the present standard, 11 oz. 2 dwts. These trial plates are in charge of the Warden of the Standards at the Royal Mint.

Mr. Roberts says:—"It is evident that, although the standards of fineness were always prescribed by law, the trial plates have nevertheless at times been very inaccurate. The imperfections of the gold plates are mainly due to sources of error, which had been recognised, but which were ignored when the last plates were made; and it is well to explain, therefore, that plates were in former times authoritatively pronounced to be 'standard' simply with reference to the results of an inaccurate process of assay. The process now consists in submitting an accurately weighed portion of the alloy to a rapid method of chemical analysis, whereby impurities are eliminated, and the precious metal, thus purified, is again weighed; but the method is complicated, and the accuracy of the result may be affected by the retention of impurities, or by an actual loss of metal during the process. The weight of gold as indicated by the balance will, in consequence, not represent the amount originally present in the alloy, and it is therefore necessary to control the 'standards' or check pieces, the composition of which is known. As, however, any error in the composition of these checks will be reflected in the result of the assay, it is preferable to use pieces of pure metal corresponding in weight to the amount which the alloys to be tested are anticipated to contain. Formerly such checks of pure metal were not employed, and a small amount of silver, varying from $\frac{1}{10000}$ th to $\frac{1}{1000}$ th part of the initial weight of the assay piece which remained in association with the gold was consequently reckoned as gold in the assay report. It follows, therefore, that even the more recent plates, when accurately assayed, are usually found to be sensibly below the exact standards which they were intended to represent."

The amount of gold and silver plate assayed and marked at the Assay Offices for seven years ending the 29th May 1872:—

LONDON	Gold, 3926 lbs. 2 oz. 8 dwts. 8 grs.
"	Silver, 692,528 lbs. 3 oz. 11 dwts.
CHESTER	Total, 715 lbs. weight of silver plate.
EXETER	Total, 2800 lbs. weight of silver plate.
NEWCASTLE	Total, 7266 lbs. weight of silver plate.

The Duty.

A.D. 1719. 6 GEORGE I. A duty of sixpence per ounce troy was imposed on all silver plate which should be imported or made in Great Britain. Goldsmiths to keep scales and weights.

A.D. 1756. 29 GEORGE II. Owners of plate to pay a duty of 5s. annually for 100 ounces; 10s. for 200 ounces; and so on—to be entered at the Office of Excise.

Plate belonging to the Church, or stock in trade of Goldsmiths, exempt.

A.D. 1758. 31 GEORGE II. c. 32. The previous Act was repealed, and in lieu thereof a licence of forty shillings substituted, to be taken out by every person trading in, selling, or vending gold or silver plate, and the licence to be renewed annually.

A.D. 1759. 32 GEORGE II. c. 14. The licence was increased to £5 per annum for every person trading in gold plate of two ounces, and silver of thirty ounces and upwards. Persons dealing in gold and silver, of less weight than two pennyweights of gold, or in silver not exceeding five pennyweights, in one piece of goods, exempted.

A.D. 1784. 24 GEORGE III. An Act was passed imposing an additional duty of eight shillings per ounce on gold plate, and sixpence per ounce on silver plate. It was also enacted that the wardens or their assay masters should mark the pieces with a new mark, viz., the King's head, over and above the several other marks directed by law. The expression "The King's Head" is understood to mean the representation of the head of the reigning sovereign.

After the passing of this Act, which came into operation on the 1st December 1784, a duty stamp of the *King's head incuse* was used for a short period. We find it in conjunction with the letter *i* of 1784, and also with the letter *k* of 1785. There were several pieces of plate in the late Dr. and Mrs. Ashford's possession of the latter year, *k* and *head incuse*, viz., a cake-basket, pepper-box, and some spoons.

The Duty Act of 1784 (24 Geo. III. c. 53) directs that all gold and silver plate intended for exportation shall be stamped at the Assay Office, when the drawback is allowed, with a punch of the figure of Britannia; and to distinguish it from the similar mark used for the new standard, it was stamped *incuse*. It was of short duration, for the manufacturers objecting to the number of stamps and consequent disfigurement of the plate, that part of the Act re-

lating to the drawback stamp was repealed in the following year, 1785 (25 Geo. III. c. 64), and took effect on the 24th July of that year; so that the incuse Britannia denoting the drawback was only in use about seven months.

Upon the exportation of plate (except gold rings and wares under two ounces) a drawback of the whole duty is allowed if the plate be new and has never been used, and the same has been wrought in the United Kingdom.

In 1797 the duty on gold was 8s. per ounce, and silver 1s.

In 1803 the former Act of 1784, as regards the licence, was repealed, and new licences appointed. For trading in gold more than 2 pennyweights and under 2 ounces, and in silver over 5 ounces and under 30 ounces, £2, 6s. per annum; for 2 ounces and above, and for 30 ounces and upwards, £5, 15s. per annum.

In 1804 the duty was increased on gold to 16s. and silver 1s. 3d. per ounce.

In 1815 the duties were raised on manufactured gold to 17s. per ounce, and silver 1s. 6d. per ounce, allowing one-sixth of the weight for waste in finishing, called the *rebate*; watch-cases being exempt by 38 Geo. III. c. 24.

In this year (1815) the licences for dealing in gold and silver were raised to double the amount specified by the Act of 1803, viz., £11, 10s. for gold above 2 ounces and silver above 30 ounces, and £4, 12s. for the minor trading.

The deduction from the actual weight of the silver of one-sixth was equal to a rebate of 3d. per ounce on unfinished plate, reducing the duty to 1s. 3d. instead of 1s. 6d. per ounce, as an allowance for waste in finishing. On some articles, such as flat dishes, or waiters, the rebate scarcely covered the loss in finishing. On other articles the manufacturer realised a small profit, amounting to between a penny and twopence per ounce, which ought, perhaps, to be looked upon as a sort of discount, as the maker paid the duty long before, in many instances, he recouped it again when the article is sold. The rebate of one-sixth in gold articles reduced the actual duty paid to 14s. 3d. instead of 17s. per ounce, so that on wedding rings, allowing for waste in finishing, there would, perhaps, be a profit of 2s. per ounce.

Plate in an unfinished state when sent to the Hall to be assayed was subject to the full duty of 1s. 6d. per ounce, no rebate being allowed.

By the 12 and 13 Victoria, c. 80, the allowance to the Hall for collection of the duty is fixed at 1 per cent.

All gold, *so called*, whether of 22 and 18 karats fine, or the debased gold of 15, 12, or 9 karats in the 24, *must pay the full duty*, and be stamped accordingly. Wedding rings pay duty of whatever weight and quality they may be. Gold plate of any weight must pay duty. The weight of an article does not determine whether it is liable, and only articles specially exempted may be assayed and marked duty free. Articles not weighing 10 dwts. each are only exempted when they are too small or too thin to bear the marks.

In 1890 the duty of 1s. 6d. per ounce on silver plate was abolished, but the duty of 17s. per ounce on gold was retained, and marked as before with the stamp of the sovereign's head to denote payment thereof. For particulars of the abolition of the duty on silver the reader is referred to page 46 *ante*.

The fashion for large and heavy masses of plate has entirely gone out since the commencement of this century, such as dinner services, &c., although the number of plate-workers has not decreased, the articles manufactured being usually of comparatively small character. The introduction of electro-plating has had considerable influence in diminishing the employment of silver in plate. Mr. Prideaux, Secretary of the Goldsmiths' Company, in his examination before the Committee on the Gold and Silver Hall-Marking, in the year 1878, handed in the following return of the duty on manufactured plate at Goldsmiths' Hall for seven decennial periods from 1808 to 1878.

He stated, that it proved that the falling off of the trade was greatly attributable to the use of electro-plate, which was introduced about 1843 or 1845, and got in full swing about 1848, when it will be observed that the duty on silver had decreased from £721,949 sterling in 1828 down to £487,633 in 1858, still dropping down to the present time.

AMOUNT OF DUTY RECEIVED AT GOLDSMITHS' HALL, LONDON,
FROM 1ST APRIL 1808 TO 31ST MARCH 1878.

	1808 to 1818.	1818 to 1828.	1828 to 1838.	1838 to 1848.	1848 to 1858.	1858 to 1868.	1868 to 1878.
Gold . . .	£ 52,229	£ 51,152	£ 42,032	£ 40,308	£ 45,558	£ 47,765	£ 59,223
Silver . . .	656,259	721,949	673,380	674,673	487,633	454,073	428,425
Total . . .	708,488	773,101	715,412	714,981	533,191	501,838	487,648

It will be observed that gold has not been in the least affected by electro-plating, because the duty which is derived may in point of fact be said to be entirely derived from wedding rings, which has also been subject to fluctuation. No large works in gold are now made, even snuff-boxes have gone out of date, but wedding rings increase with the population.

In the Report of the Committee on the Depreciation of Silver in 1876, one witness (Mr. Seyd), who appeared to be conversant with the subject, showed in his evidence that the amount of silver bullion used in electro-plating in one year was a million ounces, which was only about a hundred thousand ounces less than the entire amount used in the manufacture of silver plate. This large amount of silver employed in electro-plating paid no duty, raw silver being exempt; the duty of 1s. 6d. per ounce formerly chargeable on manufactured articles of sterling silver was abolished by Act of Parliament in 1890.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

GOLD AND SILVER PLATE—DUTY AND DEALERS' LICENCES FROM 1720 TO 1882.

ENGLAND.				SCOTLAND.				IRELAND.			
DUTY.				DUTY.				DUTY.			
Date.	Silver per oz.	Gold per oz.	LICENCES.	Date.	Silver per oz.	Gold per oz.	LICENCES.	Date.	Silver per oz.	Gold per oz.	LICENCES.
1729	6d.	...	On silver only	1720	6d.	...	{ On silver only.	178	6d. per gold silver	ounce and alike	}
1757				1757				1806			
1756	...	...	5s. for every 100 oz.	...	...	...		...	...	...	}
1758	} Duty repealed		.....	1758	} Duty repealed			...	...	...	}
1783				1783				...			
1758	...	...	40s. per annum	...	...	...		...	...	...	}
1759	} ...	...	{ £5 above 2 oz. gold and 80 oz. silver, £3 below	...	...	...		...	...	...	}
1778				...							
1779	} ...	...	{ £5 5 0 and	...	...	...		...	...	...	}
1780				...							
1781	} ...	...	{ £2 2 0 and £5 10 0	...	...	...		...	...	...	}
1782				...							
1814	} ...	...	{ £2 4 0 and £5 15 0	...	...	...		1785	} ...	...	} 20s. per annum
1814				...							
1784	} 6d.	8s.	.....	1784	} 6d.	8s.		...	...	...	}
1797				1803				...			
1798	} 1s.	8s.	.....	...	...	...		1805	} ...	...	} 40s. per annum
1803				1806	...						
1804	} 1s.3d.	16s.	.....	1804	} 1s.3d.	16s.		1807	} 1s. per gold silver	} ounce and alike	} King's head used 1807.
1815				1816				...			
1815	} ...	...	{ £11 10 0 and £4 12 0	...	...	...		1807	} ...	...	} £5 on cities; £2 other places.
1825				1811	...						
1815	} 1s.6d.	17s.	.....	1817	} 1s.6d.	17s.		1812	} ...	...	} £5, 5s. Dublin; £2, 2s. other places.
1882				1841				...			
1826	} ...	...	{ £5 15 0 and £2 6 0	...	...	...		1842	} ...	...	} £5, 15s. and £2, 6s. as in England.
1882				1880	...						
								1843	} 1s.	} 17s.	}
								1882			

The same as in England.

NOTE.—In 1890 the duty on silver was abolished in the United Kingdom.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

STATEMENT OF THE QUANTITY OF GOLD AND SILVER PLATE ON WHICH DUTY WAS PAID IN THE YEARS ENDING
JANUARY 5th, 1865, MARCH 31st, 1877, AND 1878.

ASSAY OFFICERS.	1865.				1877.				1878.			
	Gold, at 17/-		Silver, at 1 6.		Gold, at 17/-		Silver, at 1 6.		Gold, at 17/-		Silver, at 1 6.	
	oz.	dwt.	oz.	dwt.	oz.	dwt.	oz.	dwt.	oz.	dwt.	oz.	dwt.
ENGLAND—												
Birmingham	3,229	3	51,743	16	14,501	18	87,728	0	13,858	4	94,496	7
Chester*	188	4	124	3	28	16	155	14	21	14	195	6
Exeter	762	2	55,759	16	1,064	3	32,478	18	886	13	35,171	16
Newcastle	217	8	10,800	9	137	8	2,132	10	77	9	1,681	5
Sheffield .....	...	...	64,826	14	...	...	85,444	16	...	...	87,346	18
York†	26	10	1,272	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
London	6,340	13	765,677	14	7,883	15	583,019	7	7,587	15	537,697	17
SCOTLAND—												
Glasgow	13	6	20,852	7	205	10	11,190	9	180	9	11,745	7
Edinburgh	87	5	15,924	6	64	5	13,647	15	66	5	14,755	18
IRELAND—												
Dublin	34	8	13,318	2	14	6	7,594	18	30	6	7,667	17
TOTAL	10,898	19	1,000,299	15	23,850	1	823,392	7	22,708	15	790,758	11
Drawback United Kingdom	6	10	164,348	18	68	4	190,261	10	8	...	83,345	7

* The Chester Office assays and marks a great quantity of Watch Cases, but as they pay no duty, the weight is not given in this statement.
The Liverpool watchmakers send their cases to Chester to be stamped.

† The last duty paid at this office was in July, 1869.

ENACTMENTS.

13 GEORGE III. c. 52; 24 GEORGE III. c. 20. Makers of plated goods in Sheffield must not put letters on them unless they have first been approved by and registered with the Company.

6 & 7 WILLIAM IV. c. 69. Makers of plated goods in Scotland must not put letters upon them.

NOTICES TO THE TRADE.

The following Notices to the Trade have been issued from the Assay Office, Goldsmiths' Hall, signed by Mr. William Robinson, the Deputy Warden:—

London, *October 11, 1880.*

"SIR,—I beg to refer you to the following extract from a letter received from the Secretary of the Board of Inland Revenue, in reference to the payment of duty on plain gold rings: 'As regards plain gold rings, not intended for chasing or engraving, the Board adhere to their determination, that they must be regarded as wedding rings and duty paid accordingly.'"

"ASSAY OFFICE, GOLDSMITHS' HALL,
December 1881.

"All plain gold rings, *irrespective of weight*, not intended to be set with stones, or to be chased or engraved, will be regarded as wedding rings for the purposes of duty.—By order of the Board of Inland Revenue."

"ASSAY OFFICE, GOLDSMITHS' HALL,
August 1882.

"Referring to the Notice issued from this Office in December 1881, notice is hereby further given that all plain gold rings, *irrespective of weight*, not intended to be set with stones, or to be chased or engraved, will be regarded as wedding rings for the purposes of duty, *and must be sent to Goldsmiths' Hall to be assayed and marked before sale.*—By order of the Board of Inland Revenue.

"WM. ROBINSON, *Deputy Warden.*"

We may likewise mention that the duty is no longer levied on mourning rings when sent to be assayed and marked. It was discontinued to be charged in October 1878 by an order from the Board of Inland Revenue. So that now all rings (other than plain gold rings irrespective of weight) are exempted from duty and compulsory Hall-marking.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Appointed to inquire into the manner of conducting the several Assay Offices in London, York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, Norwich, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ordered to be printed in 1773.

The Report commences, that "in order to discover in what manner the several Assay Offices in London, Chester, Exeter, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne (being the only Assay Offices which they find are now kept up in this kingdom) have been conducted, ordered the Assay Masters to attend them, and produce an account of the number of Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, and Plate-Workers, &c.—the names and places of abode of those now living that have entered their marks, also an account of the weight of all the gold and silver plate assayed and marked at each office for seven years last past."

From this it appears that the offices at York, Bristol, and Norwich were not then in operation.

As to the Goldsmiths' Hall, London, Mr. David Hennell, Deputy Warden, stated that there are at the said office two weighers, four drawers, and two assayers; and described what their duties were. Mr. Fendall Rushworth, Senior Assay Master; Mr. George Fair, Clerk to the Company; and Mr. Richard Collins, Fireman and Drawer, were also examined as to the annual diet tried on the 28th May, the modes of assay, &c.

Mr. W. Hancock, a silversmith of Sheffield, said that his work had been injured by scraping; and he went to the Hall, and gave some drink to the Assay Master and scraper, since which time his plate had been less damaged. Mr. Spilsbury said that drawers or scrapers, if inclined, had opportunities of delivering to the assayer better silver than they scrape from the work; that the assayer had an opportunity of wrapping in lead what scrapings he pleased, to put upon the cupels which he delivered to the fireman; and as the standard mark is put upon the silver by the report of the assayer alone, he had opportunities of favouring any silversmith he pleased; that he had several times treated the workmen with drink; and thought it of consequence to be on good terms with the scrapers, as they had the power of showing favour; for when his plate had been objected to, he had known those difficulties removed by giving liquor at the Hall.

As to the office at Chester, Mr. John Scasebrick, the Assay Master, described the mode of operating: If pieces came from which he could cut bits, he did so; if not, he scraped off sufficient for the assay and wrapped it in lead, and when the furnace and cupels were hot enough he refined the assay, but no flux was used, because the lead refined it. If it came out 11 ounces 2 dwts. fine silver, it was marked with the lion, the leopard's head, the city arms (being three lions and a wheatsheaf), and the letter for the year, the letter for the present official year (1772-3) being U. Sometimes it is

passed at 11 oz., but then the owners are written to to be more cautious for the future. He had no fixed salary — his profit never amounted to £10 in any one year; the diet was never sent to the Tower to be assayed. When asked how he knew when silver was sufficiently assayed, he answered, "We know by the assay: it first has a cap over it, then that works off in various colours; and after that it grows quite bright, and then we know all the lead is worked away."

Mr. Matthew Skinner, Assay Master at Exeter, described the mode of work. When asked to describe his method of assaying silver, he said, "I take a small quantity of silver from each piece (the quantity allowed by Act of Parliament is eight grains from every pound troy weight), which I weigh by the assay pound weight; I wrap it up in a thin sheet of lead, and when the furnace is properly heated, the assays are put in and fired off; they are taken out when cool, and then weighed, and from the waste we ascertain its goodness. That the standard for plate is 11 oz. 2 dwts. of fine silver, and 18 dwts. of alloy, but they allow a remedy of 2 dwts. in the pound. That the marks he strikes upon wrought plate are the lion, the leopard's head, the Exeter mark (which is a castle), and the letter for the year; that the letter for the present official year (1772-3) is Z, in Roman character; that the letter is appointed annually, at the first Hall meeting after the 7th August, and goes through the whole alphabet; and that A will be the letter for next year."

Mr. Matthew Prior, Assay Master of the Goldsmiths' Company at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, described his mode of assaying: "That of silver by fine lead; and his flux for gold was aquafortis, fine silver and lead. That he puts four marks upon the plate, viz., the lion, the leopard's head, the three castles, and the letter for the year; and that the letter for the present official year (1772-3) is D.

Mr. David Hennell described a fraud which was sometimes attempted by dishonest workers, called a *convoy*, to deceive the assayer. He said, "If scrapings or cuttings are taken from different pieces of the same sorts of plate, the whole mass so cut or scraped may prove standard, but several of these pieces may not be standard; and that it is common to put good pieces in spoons, &c., to the amount of 10, 12, or 15 dwts. above standard amongst the bad ones, as a kind of *convoy* for the rest; but if that is suspected, they separate it, and make different assays of all the parts, and if they find one part worse than standard they break the whole."

Another fraud spoken of by several witnesses was inserting iron, brass, &c., in the handles of snuffers, tankards, sauce-boats, &c., which had escaped detection at Goldsmiths' Hall, and had been marked accordingly.

An appendix to this report contains the names and places of abode of all the goldsmiths, silversmiths, and plate-workers now living, that have entered their marks in the Assay Office in Goldsmiths' Hall, in the City of London, 8th March 1773.

The names and trades of the present wardens and assayers of the Goldsmiths' Company, and when, at what times, and by whom they were respectively elected.

The oath taken by the Assayer at Goldsmiths' Hall.

The Appendix also contains an account of the prosecutions which have been commenced and carried on by the Company of Goldsmiths of the City of London, against any person or persons for frauds or abuses, in gold or silver plate, within seven years last past:—

“In 1767 William C., working silversmith, was prosecuted by indictment upon Stat. 28 Edw. I., and Stat. 6 George I. c. 11, for soldering bits of standard silver to tea-tongs and shoe-buckles which were worse than standard, and sending the same to the said Company's Assay Office, in order fraudulently to obtain their marks to the same.

“In 1768 William K. of London, working silversmith, was prosecuted by indictment upon the said statutes for making two salt cellars worse than standard, and selling them for standard.

“In 1770 James M. E. and partners were severally prosecuted by actions on Stat. 12 George II. for making gold chains worse than standard; and Roger S. and others were prosecuted for selling gold watch-chains worse than standard.

“In 1778 John G. and William V., watchmakers, were prosecuted for selling two silver watch-cases without being marked, and which on that account were stopped at the Custom House in London, on their being found in a cask of hardware, in which action they suffered judgment to go by default.”

PLATE MARKED WITH FALSE PUNCHES AND OTHER OFFENCES.

A consideration of this subject by the Government is of the highest importance, and the perpetrators of forged Hall-marks should be sought for with diligence and visited with condign punishment. Not only is it an evasion of payment of the duty and a deception towards the public, but it throws suspicion upon plate bearing the genuine stamps, and public confidence is destroyed.

At the present day the sale of antique plate with forged Hall-marks is carried on to a great extent, especially in England, where, in consequence of the publication of our tables of date-marks, its precise age may be ascertained, and the value of old plate having thereby increased enormously, forgers are busy counterfeiting the ancient marks not only in England but on the Continent. In many cases unprincipled dealers are cognisant of the fact, and assist in spreading the falsifications throughout the country. It is incumbent upon the authorities to use their best endeavours to put a stop to such practices, and seize all spurious plate wherever it may be found, and the dealer (who is bound to know from whom he purchases plate) be made amenable and subject to penalties as in France.

We subjoin some of the cases of fraud which have been adjudicated upon.

In the records of the Goldsmiths' Company is an entry, dated 4th May 1597: “The Attorney-General filed an information

against John Moore and Robert Thomas, 'That whereas it had been heretofore of long time provided by divers laws and statutes for the avoiding deceit and fraud in the making of plate, that every goldsmith should, before the sale of any plate by him made, bring the same to Goldsmiths' Hall for trial by assay, to be touched or marked and allowed by the wardens of the said Company of Goldsmiths; the which wardens by their indenture, in their search, find out the aforesaid deceitful workmanship and counterfeit, also of plate and puncheons; yet the said I. M. and R. T., being lately made free of the Goldsmiths' Company, did about three months past make divers parcels of counterfeit plate, debased and worse than Her Majesty's standard twelve pence and more in the ounce, and to give appearance to the said counterfeit plate being good and lawful, did thereto put and counterfeit the marks of *Her Majesty's lion, the leopard's head, limited by statute, and the alphabetical mark approved* by ordinance amongst themselves, which are the private marks of the Goldsmiths' Hall, and be and remain in the custody of the said wardens, and puncheons to be worked and imprinted thereon, and the said J. M. did afterwards sell the same for good and sufficient plate, to the defrauding of Her Majesty's subjects,' &c. They were convicted, and sentenced to stand in the pillory at Westminster, with their ears nailed thereto, and with papers above their heads stating their offence to be "For making false plate and counterfeiting Her Majesty's touch." They were then put in the pillory at Cheapside, had one ear cut off, and were taken through Foster Lane to Fleet Prison, and had to pay a fine of ten marks.* Although this is the first mention of *Her Majesty's lion*, or lion passant, and the *alphabetical mark*, yet they were both used long before this date. The lion passant is first found on plate of the year 1545, and the alphabetical mark was doubtless used since the first Charter was granted to the Goldsmiths' Company in 1327, and is alluded to in an ordinance of 1336 as the "*assayer's mark*."

A case under the Statute of 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 22 (1844), was tried before Lord Denman at the Taunton Assizes in 1849. Two silversmiths were indicted for having in their possession a silver spoon having thereon a mark of a die used by the Goldsmiths' Company, which had been transposed from a silver skewer; and also a similar charge in respect to a silver soup ladle. The prosecution was instituted by the Goldsmiths' Company of London. The spoon and ladle were of modern make, but bore the mark of the year 1774. An officer of the Goldsmiths' Company proved that on clearing off the gilding and using a blow-pipe, he found that the spoon and ladle were not made in one piece, which would be the ordinary mode of manufacture, but that the parts bearing the marks were "inserted" or "brought on." A working silversmith proved that by direction of the prisoners he had made and sent to them two silver

* This was the usual punishment for similar offences. In Belgium it was slightly varied; the goldsmith convicted of having fabricated base gold or silver was led to the market place, and there had his ear nailed to a pillar, where he remained thus fixed, until he released himself by leaving a piece of his ear behind him.

bowls for spoons; that they were afterwards returned to him with handles attached to be gilt, and when he burnished them he perceived the old Hall-marks; that the bowls and stems or handles were generally made together. The defence was that the facts proved did not amount to a *transposition*, but were an *addition*, and as such were not a felony, but came under the 5th section of the Act, which imposed a pecuniary penalty for the offence.

It was suggested that the spoon and ladle were made by using old silver skewers, with the old Hall-mark, for the stems, and adding to them bowls and figures at the top called "apostles," in order to give them the appearance of old plate, and that this was an addition. It was admitted by the prisoners' counsel to be a fraud in contravention of the Act, but not a felony under the 2nd section. The jury found that it was not a *transposition* but an *addition*, and the prisoners were discharged. The judge remarked, however, "It appears to me very much to be questioned, at least, whether the description of *transposition* in the one section is not precisely the same as the description of *addition* in the other section."

1876. D. L. G., a dealer carrying on business in London, was convicted at the Central Criminal Court in August 1876 of feloniously altering and transferring a certain mark of a die used by the Goldsmiths' Company under the following circumstances. A customer found displayed in the prisoner's shop a coffee-pot, Hall-marked and bearing the letter m of the year 1747, there being appended to it a label with the words "120 years old." This he purchased for £10. He also purchased a small silver ewer bearing the Goldsmiths' letter for 1744.

It being discovered that these articles were of recent manufacture, the Goldsmiths' Company issued a writ against the prisoner to recover penalties under s. 3 of the Act 7 & 8 Victoria (1844); in regard to which, under another section, a dealer could, however, be protected, if within twenty-one days he gave up the name of the person from whom he bought the article. He at first stated that he had bought it in the way of trade, and did not know from whom, but he afterwards gave the name of a working electro-plater, who was thereupon arrested, and, on the prisoner's evidence, being committed for trial, pleaded guilty. Judgment was postponed, and his evidence taken against the principal offender, from which it appeared that he had transferred to the coffee-pot and ewer certain old marks from pieces of silver brought to him by the prisoner for that purpose, the prisoner agreeing to purchase those articles if the witness would put the old marks upon them. The offenders were thereupon sentenced, the dealer to six months' and the electro-plater to two months' imprisonment, in both cases with hard labour.

A few hints may be acceptable to the collector in his investigation of antique plate.

By the electrotype process, an ancient vase, cup, or any piece of plate may be moulded with the greatest exactness, showing the minutest chasing and engraving and even the hammer marks of the original, as well as the Hall-mark itself. These reproductions are

difficult of detection to the uninitiated, but an expert will at a glance discover the spurious copy, although the means by which he arrives at such a conclusion are not so easily explained. An experienced numismatist will, by the feel as well as the sight, distinguish between a true and a false coin; so a perceptible difference will be observed between a genuine piece of old chased silver and its modern prototype. There is about the latter a greasy, unsatisfactory appearance, which a practised hand and eye will at once detect. Of course in these electrotype copies the reverse would show the crystals formed in the process; but these are inside the cup or vase, and if in sight are tooled over to prevent detection.

Sometimes English Hall-marks are cut from a spoon or small article and transferred to a large and more important piece of plate, such as a cup or vase, perhaps of old German manufacture. This might be detected by an assay, to ascertain if the quality correspond with the English standard, foreign plate being usually inferior, which could be done with little trouble and at a trifling cost at an Assay Office, by scraping a few grains from the piece. On close examination with a magnifier, the transposed fragment containing the Hall-mark may be traced by the line round the edge, which is generally inserted with solder; or if highly polished, the junction may be observed by applying the fumes of sulphur, or by the blow-pipe.

In examining pieces with supposed counterfeit or forged Hall-marks several indicia must be specially considered. We must first try and divine the motive of falsification; whether it be to pass off inferior or base metal as standard, or whether the object be to deceive by making the piece appear of a more ancient date than it really is, by placing the counterfeit of the old die upon good silver and taking advantage of the increased value between antique and modern plate. In the first case we easily arrive at a safe conclusion by an assay; in the second we must to a great extent be guided by the style and fashion of the vessel, and judge whether they correspond with the date assigned to it by the stamps, which, if copied accurately from the English Hall-marks, can be easily ascertained. Again, the methods of manufacturing plate, ancient and modern, are essentially different, as indicated by the presence of hammer-marks, &c. The style of ornamentation in repoussé, engraving, and chasing differs materially; the colour and tint of old gilding is also difficult to imitate. Moreover, we must not be misled or taken off our guard by abrasions, marks of wear and tear, or rough usage, as these are easily counterfeited.

Another method of detecting spurious plate is by a close observation of the position of the Hall-marks on the piece of plate under examination. The stamping of plate at the Assay Offices is not done at random, but is subject to official orders and regulations, and rules are issued instructing the stamping clerk on which particular part of each piece the punch is to be applied. This established practice dates from an early period, and was so constant that any deviation will, to a connoisseur, raise in his mind doubts of the genuineness of the piece under inspection. From habit, any person

accustomed to examine ancient Hall-marks knows exactly the position in which they ought to be placed, and an inexperienced person will do well to compare a doubtful piece with an undoubted specimen, and form his judgment accordingly.

Spoons are sometimes found metamorphosed into "*Postles*" by the addition of a modern statuette of a saint cut from a German spoon.

In Holland and in Germany spoons are still made in the style of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and recently large quantities have come into the English market; but by the Hall-marks they are easily recognised, and if not equal to English standard are now prohibited for sale unless previously stamped at Goldsmiths' Hall.

In genuine apostle spoons, the statuette is frequently affixed to the end of the stem by means of solder, but in a particular manner; *e.g.*, the end of the stem is filed downwards to a point like the letter V, and the pedestal of the figure is wedge-shaped to fit closely into the opening and fastened with solder. Modern additions are cut straight off and soldered on, usually in a very clumsy and unsatisfactory manner.

We may here remark, that the old-fashioned French pattern spoons which have been superseded by the modern fiddle-head, instead of being consigned to the crucible, are purchased by silver-smiths at the *melting price*, the bowls being chased with fruit and gilt, and form very elegant spoons for dessert; but of course the chasing is modern, and not of the date indicated by the Hall-mark. The large old-fashioned plain tea-kettles, teapots, and milk-jugs of the last 150 years are in like manner elaborately chased or engraved by modern artists.

Deception is practised in many other ways. For instance, an antique silver bas-relief with its Hall-mark is soldered into the centre of a salver, the border being modern and very heavy, the former weighing perhaps no more than 5 or 6 ounces, and worth 40s. to 50s. per oz., the latter 20 or 30 ounces, made at a cost of about 8s. per oz. The new Hall-mark is erased, leaving only the old one visible, and the purchaser is deceived, thinking the whole salver is antique.

In old times the *Beef-eaters* (as they are termed) of the Tower, when in their pride of office, with the old Stuart costume, wore on their left arm a large silver badge or cognisance, having the arms of the ordnance (three mounted cannons) in a handsome scroll border, measuring about 10 inches by eight, of oval form. From motives of economy the late administration ordered these emblems to be sold for their intrinsic value. The purchaser having about twenty of these silver medallions conceived the idea, in preference to melting them down into ingots, of converting them into articles of general use; so by adding silver branches with nozzles for candles on the lower parts of the badges, transmogrified them into very handsome sconces to hang upon the walls; the old Hall-marks upon the medallions proving incontestably to an unwary purchaser the antiquity of these cleverly adapted articles.

The duty mark of the sovereign's head, denoting payment of the impost, was first used in 1784. This additional stamp at once proclaims the comparatively recent date of a piece of plate. To remedy this, the intrusive stamp is frequently erased, leaving only *four* marks, as previously used, instead of *five*, which, if it does not convince every collector, at any rate puzzles him, and in many instances the deception is successful.

Even the experienced collector may occasionally be deceived, and it requires somewhat more than a hasty glance to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion on the merits or demerits of a piece of plate, *e.g.*, an isolated spoon, with cleverly imitated Hall-marks, might pass muster, but when a whole set is produced suspicion is naturally aroused, and a more scrutinising investigation with the magnifying glass becomes necessary. We shall perchance discover that the three or four Hall-marks exactly correspond on each spoon, and all are precisely in the same relative position or distance from each other, the same angle of inclination of each punch, in fact the exact counterpart in the minutest particular. Now a little reasoning on this coincidence will prove that such a close resemblance of one set of stamps to another amounts to an impossibility on genuine spoons, when we consider the method of stamping at the Hall, the marks being punched with several punches at different times, the maker placing his registered stamp upon the article before he sends it to be assayed, and after the assay is completed the Hall-marks are placed by its side.

TRANSFORMATIONS are common, and old-fashioned articles of plate are frequently beaten out, added to, or ornamented in such a manner as to render them serviceable and attractive, still retaining the ancient Hall-mark, although it appears in a wrong position on the piece. Old saucepans of Queen Anne's time having become unsaleable, are converted into tankards and mugs; dishes originally plain are turned into chased waiters or baskets; old decanter stands (now out of date) are, by trifling additions, turned into soy frames, &c.

These transformations have been dealt with to a certain extent by 7 & 8 Victoria, cap. 22, sec. 5. Manufacturers are allowed by this Act to add to any piece of silver a quantity not exceeding one-third of the whole, which additional piece may be sent to the Goldsmiths' Hall and stamped, but these additions must be made in such a manner as not to alter the original use for which it was intended; thus, a piece may have a foot, handle, spout, or stand affixed; an old tankard may have a lip attached for pouring out liquids, but it must not have a spout added so as to serve as a coffee-pot. In fact, no piece whatever may be diverted from its original use by any addition or alteration. Pieces of Hall-marked plate which have been added to beyond the limit of one-third proportion to the weight of the article are subject to a duty upon the whole, and must be stamped accordingly. The old Hall-marks, in this case, are not obliterated, but a new series of Hall-marks are placed under the original marks; hence the occurrence of these two

sets of Hall-marks reveals the alterations and additions made by the manufacturer.

The Hall-marks were formerly placed on plate by rule and not by chance, according to the form of the piece. Before the year 1700 the marks were placed upon cups and bowls outside, on the margin, near the mouth. On tankards they will be found on the margin to the right of the handle, and if a flat lid, straight across in a line with the purchase-knob or sometimes upon the flange; dishes and salvers, upon the faces. At and after Queen Anne's period these rules were altered, and instead of being so conspicuously situated, the marks were placed on the backs, and upon cups and bowls were stamped underneath or inside the hollow stem of the foot, and inside the lids of the tankards. Any variation from these rules will naturally give rise to suspicion, and a careful examination will be necessary to ascertain whether the piece of plate has been altered from its original shape as before alluded to.

In early spoons the leopards' head, crowned, was placed inside the bowl close to the stem, the maker's mark, date letter, and lion on the back of the stem; but on rat-tail spoons of the latter half of the seventeenth century all the four marks were placed on the back of the stems. The books of the Goldsmiths' Company of London having perished in the great fire of 1666, the orders for the application of stamps in their relative positions on articles of plate are unknown, but there was evidently a regular system adopted, as in France. The application of the punches in that country was entrusted to the comptrollers of the bureaux, and in this operation to ensure uniformity a catalogue was published previous to the prohibition of massive plate in 1679, and again, in 1819, giving instructions for placing the stamps in the exact positions indicated on each piece of plate. A new catalogue was issued in 1838.

A case of considerable importance came under the immediate notice of the author. This case was afterwards tried before the Court of Queen's Bench and the Court of Appeal. In the years 1872 and 1873 a silversmith sold to a collector a large service of Queen Anne plate, consisting of spoons, forks, knives, &c., of all sizes, suitable for dinner and dessert, numbering upwards of 600 pieces. Half the articles had on the ends of each of the stems a bust of Queen Anne, the other half a bust of her husband, Prince George of Denmark. The very magnitude of this service naturally caused a suspicion of its genuineness, and on close inspection it was discovered that all the stamps were forgeries.

The service consisted of the following:—

- 326 Table, dessert, and tea spoons.
- 17 Gravy spoons, fish slices, ladles, and butter knives.
- 180 Silver-handled knives and forks.
- 120 Gilt dessert knives, forks, and spoons.

It may be desirable to give a more minute description of these particular articles as a caution to future collectors, especially as many most imposing pieces of plate of the time of William and Mary and Anne have come under our notice bearing, in some cases, identical marks, and being evidently from the same source; and although of different periods, bearing makers' initials which were never entered at Goldsmiths' Hall, or if imitated, were not in existence at the date falsely indicated.

Those pieces with the bust of Queen Anne bear four Hall-marks all cast in the same mould as the stem itself. These were: (1) Britannia; (2) lion's head erased; (3) date letter H, of the year 1703; and (4) the maker's initials, *PE*, crowned. The pieces with the bust of Prince George of Denmark have three marks cast, but on several the fourth, indicating the date, is struck with a false punch of the Court hand *R*, of 1712-13. The maker's initials are *JJ* in italics, no such letters being entered in the book at Goldsmiths' Hall of that date. Other pieces of an equally suspicious character, bear the same struck letter *R*, of 1712, the other three being cast, and the maker's initials, *H. B.*, not found at the Hall of that date.

We may also add that on an assay being made, the quality of the silver was far below the Britannia or New Standard. The fraud having been brought to the notice of the House of Commons, application was made to Goldsmiths' Hall for information, who made the following return through their Clerk, Mr. Walter Pridcaux, on the 22nd June 1880:—

"In the years 1872 and 1873 a silversmith in London, in an extensive way of business, sold a large quantity of silver plate to a customer. Last autumn a gentleman who is well acquainted with plate-marks saw this plate, and informed the owner that it was spurious.

"Hereupon the Goldsmiths' Company were communicated with. Their officers were sent to examine the plate, and over 600 pieces were found to bear counterfeit marks.

"Application was then made to the seller, and he was informed that the Goldsmiths' Company would sue for the penalties, unless he could relieve himself under the statute by making known the person, and the place of abode of the person, from whom he received it. After having seen the invoices he admitted the sale, and, after some time, during which he had the plate examined by several persons in the trade, gave the name and residence of a person who, he said, supplied him with all the articles in question. This person is a working silversmith in a small way of business.

"The Goldsmiths' Company thereupon applied to the last-mentioned person, who examined some of the plate in a cursory way, and after some time, replied through his solicitor that he was not prepared to admit that he sold the plate, or that he had ever had the plate in his possession; but that if the wares in question had been sold by him, they must be some of certain wares which in 1872 he either bought or received in exchange from a person whose name he mentioned, who is dead.

"The solicitor of the first person applied to was then asked by

letter whether he was prepared by production of his books, or in some other manner, to substantiate his statement.

"Whereupon he produced invoices which covered about 600 pieces of plate answering the descriptions of the plate which is the subject of inquiry, and cheques to order for payments made for it; all of which cheques appear to have passed through a bank, and are duly endorsed.

"The circumstances bore a very suspicious appearance, but the Goldsmiths' Company were advised that the evidence was not such as would be deemed sufficient in a court of law, and that they would not be doing right to continue the proceedings against the person who apparently had cleared himself under the provisions of the Act of Parliament.

"They thereupon commenced proceedings against the person from whom he asserts that he bought the plate in question, and these proceedings are now pending.

"The defendant has raised a point of law under the Statute of Limitations, which is set down for argument on demurrer.

"The articles in question purport to be of the time of Queen Anne, before the duty was imposed, and therefore do not bear the duty mark."

This case came before the Court of Queen's Bench on the 12th November 1880; Robinson, a deputy warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, being the plaintiff, and Currey the defendant.

This action was brought by the plaintiff to recover penalties amounting in the aggregate to £6430, from the defendant, a silversmith, of Great Sutton Street, Clerkenwell, for having sold 643 articles of silver bearing a spurious mark, the penalty for each offence being £10. The defendant pleaded—first, that he had bought the articles from a well-known dealer in Islington, and had resold them in ignorance that the marks were forged; and secondly, that the plaintiffs could not maintain the action, as it had not been brought within the period specified by law—6, 8, and 9 Vic. c. 22, to amend the laws then in force on the marking of gold and silver wares in England. The offence was clearly proved, but a point of law was raised as the cause of action did not arise within two years before the action was brought. On the 17th November, the Court, consisting of Justice Field and Justice Manisty, gave judgment for the defendant on the ground that the action had not been brought within two years of the time of the offence.*

The Goldsmiths' Company, however, were not satisfied with this decision, and appealed. The case came before the Court of Appeal, consisting of the Lords Justice Bramwell, Baggallay, and Lush, on the 2nd April 1881. Mr. A. Wills, Q.C., and Mr. Webster, Q.C., and Mr. Coxon were Counsel for the Goldsmiths' Company; Sir John Holker, Q.C., Mr. Crump, and Mr. Jones represented the defendant (the then respondent).

The Court of Appeal reversed the judgment of the Divisional Court, as they were unanimously of opinion that the statutes did not apply in this case, as the plaintiffs were neither 'common in-

* Law Reports, Q. B. D., Vol. 6, p. 21.

formers' nor 'aggrieved persons,' who could only bring actions respectively within one and two years. The Company were not restricted as to the periods in which they could bring actions for penalties against persons infringing the law. The judgment of the Court below was, therefore, reversed, with the costs of the demurrer and also of the appeal.*

The following paragraph in the *City Press* of the 23rd December 1881 announces the termination of the action by a verdict for the plaintiff and full amount of penalties, amounting to £6430:—

"The proceedings by the Goldsmiths' Company for the recovery of 643 penalties of £10 each in respect of the sale by a well-known dealer in Oxford Street of a large quantity of spurious Queen Anne plate have been terminated by the defendant abandoning his defence. Judgment has been signed by the Goldsmiths' Company for the whole of the penalties in question. We understand, however, that the amount of the penalties may probably be reduced by the Company."

The Criminal Law Consolidation Act of 7 & 8 Victoria, which we have quoted (page 34), "for preventing frauds and abuses in the marking of gold and silver wares or possessing such without lawful excuse," imposes a penalty of £10 for each article. This comparatively trifling penalty (which formerly was death, or at least transportation for a lengthened term), when a number of forged articles are detected, increases proportionately, as we have seen, to a large amount; but with larger and more massive pieces of plate, each of which would weigh fifty to a hundred ounces, requiring only one Hall-mark, if that be forged, the penalty of £10 is cheerfully paid, and the forger, for this trivial compounding of felony, gets off scot free. Hence whether a piece weighs half an ounce at the cost of a few shillings, or a hundred ounces at the cost of as many pounds, the penalty is the same. At the present moment we know of several most imposing silver vases of the time of Queen Anne bearing forged Hall-marks, for which great prices have been paid. If a limit were put to the weight, corresponding to the penalty, the law might prove effective. As it is now, a premium is held out for placing the forged marks on large and important pieces of plate.

Before the introduction of milling the edges of coins, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the dishonest were accustomed to clip small pieces carefully from the edges, which being struck, were not always in a true circle when they were issued from the Mint. Although the weight was diminished, the fraud was not easily detected. This system of speculation was, it was thought, put a stop to by the milled edges being placed upon the coins in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But although baffled by this invention, the ingenious thieves discovered another system of fraud, professionally

* Law Reports, Q. B. D., Vol. 7, p. 465.

called "*sweating*." They placed a large number of sovereigns loose in a coarse linen bag; this being violently shaken, rubbed off portions of gold which adhered to the sides of the bag, which was then burnt in an iron vessel, and the particles collected together. The coins after this operation had the appearance of being worn by circulation, until about thirty years ago the whole coinage was called into the Mint and allowed for by weight instead of being taken as currency. The public, upon whom the loss fell to a great extent, became more careful, and rejected the gold unless of full weight, and sovereign scales came into general use. This habit of weighing sovereigns was in time discontinued, and people judged from the appearance of the coin only. A more wholesome system of disintegration was then conceived, viz., filing off the edges of the gold coin and afterwards milling them afresh, the size and weight being thus considerably reduced, but the fresh appearance of the surface preserved. At the Liverpool Sessions in 1879 a man was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for "*sweating*" sovereigns and reducing them in size by one twenty-fourth. The Recorder said, hundreds of sovereigns, which had a new milling substituted for the genuine one, had in a short time found their way into the bank. The case had been waiting the judgment of a Court of Criminal Appeal, which, by a majority of the judges, was against the prisoner.

Chronological Table of Marks.

- 1300 (28 Edw. I.) Leopard's head.
- 1336 (Ordinance of the Goldsmiths' Company). 1. Leopard's head crowned. 2. Owner's or goldsmith's mark. 3. Assayer's mark, or variable letter.
- 1379 (2. Rich. II.). 1. Goldsmith's, "his own proper mark." 2. "Mark of the city or borough." 3. Assayer's mark, "appointed by the King."
- 1424 (2 Henry VI.). "Touch of the Leopard's Head," and "Mark or touch of the workman."
- 1477 (16 Edw. IV.). "Leopard's head crowned," and "Mark of the worker." Standard of 18-karat gold.
- 1573 (15 Eliz.). Standard of 22-karat gold revived.
- 1576 (18 Eliz.). 1. "The goldsmith to set his mark thereon." 2. "Touch of the leopard's head crowned," and "marked by the wardens."
- 1597 (Minutes of Goldsmiths' Company). "Her Majesty's Lion," "Alphabetical mark approved," and "Leopard's head, limited by statute."
- 1675 (Goldsmiths' order). "Lion," and "Leopard's head crowned or one of them."
- 1697 (8 & 9 Will. III.). New standard of silver. "Lion's head erased; Figure of Britannia and the maker's mark, being the two first letters of his surname."
- 1700 (12 Will. III.). York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, and Norwich appointed to assay silver plate, and stamp it with the marks of the lion's head erased and Britannia, and, in addition to the marks of their cities, a variable mark or letter in Roman character.
- 1701 (1 Anne). Newcastle added to the other cities for assaying and stamping plate.
- 1719 (6 Geo. I.). Old standard restored. The lion, leopard's head, maker's mark, and date mark, but both standards were allowed by this Act simultaneously, varying the respective marks.
- 1739 (12 George II.). Goldsmiths' mark, "the initials of his Christian or surname."
- 1773 (13 Geo. III.). Birmingham and Sheffield appointed for assaying and stamping silver plate.
- 1784 (24 Geo. III.). Duty mark of the King's head, and drawback stamp of Britannia.

- 1785 (25 Geo. III.). Drawback stamp of Britannia, discontinued.
 1798 (38 Geo. III.). Standard of 18-karat gold marked with a crown and 18.
 1824 (5 Geo. IV.). Birmingham empowered to stamp gold.
 1844 (7 & 8 Vict.). Gold of 22 karats to be stamped with a crown and 22, instead of the lion passant.
 1854 (17 & 18 Vict.). Reduced standards of gold to be stamped; 15.625—12.5—9.375—for gold of 15, 12, and 9 karats, but without the crown and King's head.
 1876 Foreign plate, when assayed, to be marked, in addition to the usual marks of the Hall, with the letter F in an oval escutcheon.
 1890 (54 Vict.). The duty of 1s. 6d. per ounce on silver plate abolished, and the stamp of the Queen's head, duty mark, discontinued.

I.—THE HALL-MARKS OF ASSAY TOWNS.

1. LONDON. A leopard's head crowned. Since 1823 the leopard's head not crowned.
2. YORK. Five lions on a cross (discontinued).
3. EXETER. A castle with three towers (discontinued).
4. CHESTER. Now the mark is a sword between three wheat-sheaves, but before 1779 the shield of the city arms was three demi-lions and a wheat-sheaf on a shield, and a small quartering above the sheaf.
5. NORWICH. A castle and lion passant (discontinued).
6. NEWCASTLE. Three castles (discontinued).
7. SHEFFIELD. A crown.
8. BIRMINGHAM. An anchor.

THE LEOPARD'S HEAD.

Taking first the London mark of the leopard's head, which was the earliest assay mark impressed on vessels of gold and silver, we give the forms of this stamp during the last five and a half centuries.

This mark used to be called sometimes the "Liberdes Hede," sometimes the "Liberd Heed," and sometimes the "Catte's Face." The stamp itself was known as the "punson," and it was most zealously guarded.

It is mentioned in the statute of 1300 as "une teste de leopart"; and in the charter granted in 1327 to the Goldsmiths' Company, the puncheon of the leopard's head was then said to have been of ancient use. At all events it is always found on assayed silver, from the middle of the fifteenth century.

The form of the head has changed at various times. At first the leopard's or lion's head crowned within a circle was used, and this form continued in use until early in the sixteenth century.



In 1519 the lion's head appears with different shaped crown, and within a shaped outline.



From that time until the end of the seventeenth century, the crowned leopard's head was placed within a line following the shape of the head and crown. The appearance of the lion at this time is very noble, and he appears as the crowned king of beasts.



In 1678 the head was once again and for the last time placed in a circle.



In 1697 the Britannia standard was introduced and the lion's head erased was used instead of the leopard's head.



The form of this stamp has never been altered and is still used in the same shaped outline, at the present time, for the higher standard.

The old standard was revived in 1720, and the leopard's head crowned was again used, but the shields at this time were of very uncertain shapes.



In 1739 the shield was altered to a shape similar to that of the date letter.



After 1763 the head was made smaller and placed in a plain shield.



In 1822 the leopard's head was deprived of its crown, and denuded of its mane and beard—a great change from the bold front presented in the old punches; and it has ever since looked more like a half-starved cat than a lion.



Indeed, from the earliest times until 1896, this mark has been constantly changed, and each change has been for the worse.

The leopard's head of the present cycle, adopted in 1896, however, certainly is a great improvement, though the shield may not meet with universal approbation.



II.—THE MAKER'S MARK.

Formerly this was some emblem, as a rose, a crown, a star, &c., with or without the goldsmith's initials. These marks were ordered to be in 1363, "a mark of the goldsmith known by the surveyor." In 1379, "Every goldsmith shall have his own proper mark upon the work." In 1423, "The mark or sign of the worker." In 1675, the "Goldsmiths' order" enjoins that "the plate workers shall bring their marks to Goldsmiths' Hall, and there strike the same in a table kept in the Assay Office, and likewise enter their names and places of habitation in a book kept there for that purpose, whereby the persons and their marks may be known unto the wardens of the said company." (*See plate.*)

In 1697 (8 & 9 Will. III.), the marks of the goldsmiths were to be expressed by the two first letters of their surnames, but this seems to have been partially discontinued on the repeal of the Act in 1720.

1739. In 12 Geo. II. it was ordered that the makers were to destroy their existing marks, which were the two first letters of their surnames, and substitute the initials of their Christian and surnames, of an entirely different type from that before used.

Note.—Sometimes a small mark, such as a cross, star, &c., is found near the maker's mark; it is that of the workman for the

purpose of tracing the work to the actual hands that executed it; in large manufactories it is indispensable.

It has been suggested that we should give the names of the goldsmiths whose initials are found stamped upon plate. Acting upon this suggestion, and being of opinion that such a list would be of great importance to plate collectors, we have at considerable labour and expense copied all the makers' marks, together with their names and addresses, and dates of entry at the Hall; in which we have been kindly assisted by the authorities in giving every facility for searching their books. This list will be found in a volume entitled "A HISTORY OF LONDON GOLDSMITHS AND THEIR MARKS ON PLATE," *from the earliest records preserved at Goldsmiths' Hall*, by W. CHAFFERS. London.

A list of initials of silversmiths or plate workers is here given, which, although necessarily very imperfect, may be useful in fixing within certain limits the date of a piece of plate in the absence or obliteration of the date letter. A reference to the volume alluded to above will give the exact copy of the impress.

The following occur for the most part on important examples, the fact of their preservation proving that they must have possessed merit independent of their associations or memories.

III.—DATE MARK.

A letter of the alphabet. Each Assay Office has its peculiar alphabetical mark, indicating the year in which the plate was assayed and stamped; and, therefore, plate that was stamped in any other place than London had to be, when entered for drawback, accompanied by a certificate of the date from the office in which it was assayed and stamped.

In London, previous to the Restoration, the annual letter was changed on St Dunstan's Day (19th May), when the new wardens were elected. Since 1660 the assay year commences on the 30th May, and the new wardens were appointed on the same day in each and every year, and the date marks are continued regularly with twenty letters of the alphabet, from A to U or V inclusive, which were used in succession; the letters J W X Y Z being always omitted.

The debased standards of the coinage of the previous twenty or thirty years were raised by Queen Elizabeth to their former purity; and in February 1560-1 all the base money was called in by proclamation. The minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company record that on the 18th of June 1561, "the first dyett of the new standard was tried"—that is, the trial of the quality of gold and silver of the new standard of the year ending in June 1561. The restoration of what should be more properly styled the *old sterling standard* by the Queen, was commemorated by an alteration in the style of the date letters, or rather, their enclosures. This change is notified in a minute of the Goldsmiths' Company, dated 16th June 1560, and is indicated by the use of a regular shield instead of an escutcheon taking the form of the letter (see page 52).

This circumstance shows the great importance of the introduc-

tion of the shields, first adopted by us in 1863, in our alphabetical tables, but which a recent writer terms "a somewhat doubtful improvement" upon Mr. Morgan's tables. We beg leave to differ with him in this, and in another respect, for he says, "The shields are in many cases incorrect." Some slight alterations may have been found necessary, but on the whole, our tables having stood the test of nearly twenty years' consultation by eminent connoisseurs, it will be generally acknowledged that no better or more correct tables have ever since that time been published. *Ecce signum!* They will be found in the hands of every silversmith and collector in the kingdom, which proves their practical utility as a book of almost daily reference.

Cycles 18 and 20 being both in small Roman letters, and in similar shields, it is at first sight difficult to distinguish the dates of 1776-1795 from those of 1816-1835. The following remarks will assist us in doing so. The former alphabet up to i of 1784-5 is not accompanied by the duty mark of the king's head, there being only four marks. After that date down to the g of 1822-3 there will be no difficulty, as there is an additional mark; but in 1824 down to 1835 there would be nothing but the king's head (the portrait of Geo. III. being changed for Geo. IV.) to depend upon, except that in that very year, 1823, the crown was taken from the leopard's head, and it remains uncovered to the present day.

IV.—THE STANDARD MARK.

The standard mark of the lion passant has been used on all standard gold, and sterling silver, from 1545 until the present time, except from 1696 to 1720. The first mention of the lion passant is in the records of the Goldsmiths' Company in May 1597, where it is called "Her Majesty's Lion." It is not referred to in any statute until 1675. The earliest piece we have met with bearing the mark of the lion passant is a spoon of 1545, in Dr. Ashford's collection, but it may have been used in one of the intervening years between 1540 and 1545, but no pieces have come under our immediate notice.

The following representations of the lion passant are of those used by the Goldsmiths' Company, the provincial marks vary slightly from those employed in London.

The lion is always represented as passant guardant, and during the first few years was life-like, crowned, and enclosed in a shaped outline.

From 1545 until 1548.—



From 1548 until 1558.—



From 1558 until 1678.—



From 1678 until 1697.—



The standard of silver was raised, and the mark of the lion passant was changed to that of "the figure of a woman commonly called Britannia," on the 25th March 1697.



This form of stamp is still used at the present time for the higher standard.

In 1720 the old standard was again allowed and the lion passant was again used. Between 1720 and 1739 the lion was placed in a rectangle:—



From 1739 until 1756 the shaped outline was again used:—



The marks at this period are somewhat uncertain in form.

From 1756 until 1806 the lion was placed in a regular shield:—



In 1806 a new form of shield was introduced, having three lobes above and the same number below.



There are six legal standards for gold and two for silver, as follows:—

GOLD.

22 karats	=	917 millims.	
20 "	=	834 "	(Dublin only).
18 "	=	750 "	
15 "	=	625 "	
12 "	=	500 "	
9 "	=	375 "	

SILVER.

11 oz. 2 dwts. = 925 millims.

11 oz. 10 dwts. = 959 "

FOR GOLD OF THE OLD STANDARD OF 22 KARATS, and sterling silver of 11 oz. 2 dwts., the mark was a lion passant. Previous to 1845 there was no distinctive mark between standard gold and sterling silver. But in that year, for gold, the lion was omitted, and the quality in karats and a crown substituted.

FOR GOLD, OF 18 KARATS, a crown and the figures 18, instead of the lion passant (38 Geo. III., 1798).

FOR GOLD OF 22 KARATS (or the old standard), a crown and the figures 22, instead of the lion passant (7 & 8 Vict., 1844).

FOR GOLD MANUFACTURES OF THE REDUCED STANDARD (17 & 18 Vict., 1854), the leopard's head and date letter and the numerals.

15 karats : 15 and .625 on separate stamps.

12 " : 12 and .5 " "

9 " : 9 and .375 " "

The numerals on these punches are to express, decimally, the quantity of pure gold in the article so marked, thus: pure gold being 24 karats.

15 karats $\frac{15}{24} = \frac{5}{8} = 625$ parts or millims in 1000.

12 " $\frac{12}{24} = \frac{1}{2} = 500$ " "

9 " $\frac{9}{24} = \frac{3}{8} = 375$ " "

FOR SILVER OF THE NEW STANDARD OF 11 OZ. 10 DWTS. the marks are a figure of Britannia and the lion's head erased, instead of the lion passant and leopard's head (8 Will. III., 1697).

V.—DUTY MARK.

The head in profile of the reigning sovereign. This mark was introduced in 1784. (24 George III). It indicates the payment of the duty, and is impressed at the Assay Offices on every manufactured article of standard gold and silver that is liable to the duty after payment to the officers of the Goldsmiths' Company who are the appointed receivers.

After the passing of the Duty Act, which took effect on St. Dunstan's Day (19th May) 1784, the duty stamp of the *King's head incuse* was used for a short period. We find it in conjunction with the letter i of 1784, and also with the letter k of 1785.

The head of George III. is in an ellipse and is turned to the right:—



George the Fourth's is also turned to the right for the silver mark, though he is turned to the left on his coins:—



The next sovereign, William the Fourth, was turned to the right in a similar manner:—



The head of our late gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria is turned to the left:—



The duty imposed in 1784 was—on gold, 8s. per oz.; on silver, 6d. per oz. In 1797, gold, 8s. per oz.; silver 1s. per oz. In 1804, gold, 16s. per oz.; silver, 1s. 3d. per oz. In 1815, gold, 17s. per oz.; silver 1s. 6d.; independent of the licence. The duty on silver was abolished in 1890.

Both the *crown* and *duty mark* of the sovereign's head are omitted on the three lower standards, although they pay the same duty as the higher standards, but there is no indication of it on the stamps.

These standards, especially that of 9 karats, are almost universally disapproved of by the trade. It has been suggested that the law was made to accommodate the Birmingham manufacturers; but when they discovered that the Government did not allow the crown to be placed on these lower standards, they said they did not care a button about it. They doubtless desired the alteration for the purpose of forwarding English-manufactured goods abroad with the crown mark upon them, that the public should imagine they were of a higher quality than they really were.—*Evidence before the Parliamentary Committee, 1878.*

VI.—FOREIGN MARK.

THE LETTER F.

In 1876 it was enacted that gold and silver plate imported from foreign parts, and assayed at any assay office in the United Kingdom, should be marked in addition to the marks used at such assay office, with the mark of the letter F on an oval escutcheon.



SPOON MAKERS' MARKS.

ON SPOONS IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE REV. T. STANIFORTH,
DR. ASHFORD, AND R. TEMPLE FRERE, ESQ.

S Staniforth; A Ashford; F Frere

MAKER'S MARK.	REMARKS.	DATES ACCORDING TO THE LETTERS
S	With dotted edges	S 1493, 1515, 1519, 1530; A 1515, 1537, 1562.
	A bunch of grapes	S 1519.
	A leaflet	A 1522.
L	Lombardic letter in a square . . .	S 1530, 1590.
N S	Interlaced	A 1545.
	A mullet within a crescent	S 1558, 1578, 1589, 1618; A 1605; F 1619.
	3 leaves on a stalk	S 1562, 1564; A 1570.
	A rosette	S 1561.
	A cross	F 1572.
I F	In a square border	S 1573.
	A shell in a round border	S 1574, 1578, 1582.
R A	With small crescent below	A 1580.
	An annulet and a mullet in a shield	S 1581, 1586, 1596; F 1586.
	A trefoil leaf in a circle	S 1589.
I.C	I within the C on a shield	S 1599, 1611, 1616, 1617.
W	Enclosed in a crescent or the letter C with W enclosed	S 1598, 1601, 1604-5-6-7-8-9; F 1589, 1596, 1609; A 1610.
	An anchor	A 1602.
T	Within a crescent	S 1602, 1613.
CD	C enclosed in a large D in a shield.	A 1605; F 1608, 1629; S 1614, 1617, 1621, 1627, 1632, 1634, 1636-7-8, 1646.
	A pair of compasses	S 1610.
R.C.	In a square shield.	S 1617, 1619, 1633, 1637; A 1632; F 1634.
W.L	In monogram on a shield	F 1613.
B.N	In monogram on a shield	F 1609.
X	Or a cross in a heart-shaped shield.	S 1609, 1631.
M H	In a monogram on a shield	S 1614, 1615; F 1614.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MAKER'S MARK.	REMARKS.	DATES ACCORDING TO THE LETTERS.
W	In a shield	S 1614.
W F	In a shield	S 1618.
B.Y	Above a three-barred gate in a shield	F 1621, 1638.
I.I	With dots and lis variously placed.	S 1623, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1651, 1654, 1663, 1665.
C	With mullet enclosed	S 1624.
W S	In a shield	S 1624; A 1624.
I F	3 dots under in a shield	F 1621; S 1641.
S V	In an ornamental shield.	S 1624, 1652, 1654, 1655, 1671, 1676; F 1653, 1659.
R.I	A mullet below in a shield	A 1626, 1628; F 1628.
I E		A 1620.
I.P		A 1621.
X B	Not in a shield	S 1627.
D	In a shield	S 1628, 1631; F 1628, 1629.
R G	In a square	S 1629, 1633.
	A dolphin	A 1631.
I D	In a shield	S 1634.
E H	Crowned, crescent and pellets below	F 1631; A 1663; S 1682; B 1684.
W C	Mullet below and pellets round.	A 1633; S 1641, 1656, 1660, 1662.
F	In a shield	S 1636.
T F	3 pellets under	A 1637.
H.L.	Joined in a shield	S 1639.
H I	Two small crosses between	A 1639.
E.I.		A 1640.
T.H	Joined in a shield	F 1646-1648.
<i>J P</i>	Scrip	A 1646.
I S.	Crowned	S 1669.
I. T.	Star below	A 1671.
L O	Crowned, crescent below	S 1674.*
A.K	Rose and pellets	S 1677, 1683.
S O	Crowned, mullet below	S 1679.
T.M	In monogram	S 1683.

* The maker's initials on these two lists, between 1675 and 1697, will be found stamped on the copper plate at Goldsmiths' Hall. (See plate).

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MAKER'S MARK.	REMARKS.	DATES ACCORDING TO THE LETTERS.
H.S		A 1683.
E.C	Crowned, crescent and pellets below	S 1684.
W M	Crowned	S 1685, 1688.
D.A		S 1686.
R.M	In a square	S 1691.
W C	One above	S 1691.
L.C	Crowned, crescent and pellets . .	S 1693
S.W	S above W	S 1695, 1696.
W S	W above S	S 1696.
D.G	In a lozenge	S 1696.
<i>L.A</i>	Scrip, crowned, ornamental shield.	S 1697, 1704.
S c	In Roman letters	S 1699, 1702, 1704, 1713, 1715.
<i>P. & C.</i>	Scrip, crowned, on oval escutcheon.	S 1701.
S A	Alone	A 1706.
S A	Demi lion above	S 1712.
I.S		A 1734.
<i>E.A</i>	Scrip	A 1764.
G S		A 1781.
C H		A 1781.
<i>J & C</i>	Scrip	A 1784.
<i>W S</i>	Scrip	A 1785.

PLATE WORKERS' MARKS.

MAKER'S MARK.	DATE.	REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	COLLECTION.
S K	1559		Stone-ware jug . . .	R. Temple Frere, Esq.
G	1560		The Cockayne cups . .	Skinner's Company.
R V	1566	A heart below	Plateau.	Skinner's Company.
I R	1569	Not crowned	Stone-ware jug	E. A. Sanford, Esq.
	1569	A stag's head	Stone-ware jug	J. Toovey, Esq.
N S	1571	Interlaced	Stone-ware jug	J. P. Dexter, Esq.
	1573	A crab	Tankard	Colonel North.
C. L	1574	A halberd between . .	Tankard	Ashmolean Museum.
C C	1577	Interlaced	Stone-ware jug	H. Durlacher, Esq.
E S	1578		Tankard	Baron Lionel de Rothschild.
	1578	A spread eagle	Salt cellar	Sir Richard Wallace
	1579	A bird	Pelican cup.	Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Esq.
	1579	3 trefoil leaves	Ewer and salver	Duke of Rutland.
H C	1579	A hammer and vice. . .	Tazza	H.R.H. Duke of Cambridge.
H C	1579	A hammer and vice. . .	Cup and cover	Brett Collection.
H C	1580	A hammer and vice. . .	Cup and cover	L. Huth, Esq.
S B	1580		Chapman cup	Armourers' Company.
R M	1581		Salt cellar	Baron Lionel de Rothschild.
B	1581	A pellet in each space.	Stone-ware jug	T. M. Whitehead, Esq.
B	1584	do.	Stone-ware jug	A. W. Franks, Esq.
	1583	A tree	Salt cellar	Baron Lionel de Rothschild.
	1585	3 trefoil leaves	China vase, silver mounted.	H. Farrer, Esq.
H C	1588	A cross between	Patent	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
	1588	A flower	Ostrich egg cup	Earl of Home.
C B	1594		Stone-ware jug	H. Owen, Esq.
C K	1594		Ewer and salver	S. Addington, Esq.
I B	1595	A rose under	Ewer and salver	Corporation of Bristol.
I N	1597	do	Ewer and salver	Corporation of Norwich.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MAKER'S MARK.	DATE.	REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	COLLECTION.
H B	1597		Persian jug	T. G. Sambrooke, Esq.
E. R	1599		Spice box	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
R C	1599		Standing cup	Innholders' Company.
I H	1604	A bear below	Cup	Lord Willoughby de Eresby.
I H	1604	do.	Cup and cover. . . .	do.
M	1606		Salt cellar	R. Neville Grenville, Esq.
A R	1613		Cup and cover	Lord Londesborough.
I T	1613	A bow between	Spice box	Sir T. W. Holburne.
T. F	1616	Monogram	Cup	Skinners' Company.
	1616	A trefoil leaf	Salver	do.
I. A	1616		Dish	C. Winn, Esq.
I. C	1621		Tankard	W. Cozier, Esq.
T. F	1625		Chester cup	Viscount Clifden.
F. G	1633		2 Monteiths	Haberdashers' Company
W S	1634	On a shield	2 cups	do.
RR V	1637		Cup	do.
D W	1639	A mullet and 5 bezants .	Cup	Skinners' Company.
R M	1641		Cup and cover	Viscount Clifden.
I R	1646	Between a crown and leopard's head.	Tankard	Skinners' Company.
W M	1650	On shield with moor's head.	Cup	do.
E S	1652		Fauconberg cup	Paul Butler, Esq.
I W	1655		Blacksmith's cup. . . .	J. P. Dexter, Esq.
F. C	1656		2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
W H	1662		Large salver	Earl Spencer.
G S	1665	A crozier between the letters.	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
I N	1669		Creyghton cup	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
I N	1673		Covered cup	J. W. Walrond, Esq.
I N	1674		Cutler cup	Paul Butler, Esq.
M G	1672	Lis and 2 pellets below and a victory.	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
R A	1675		3 sugar castors	J. Rainey, Esq.
P. P	1676		Rosewater dish	Fishmongers' Company.
R T	1679	Pellets and mullet . .	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MAKER'S MARK.	DATE.	REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	COLLECTION.
I C	1679	Mullet below	1-handled mug. . . .	R. T. Frere, Esq.
R L	1681		Large cistern	Duke of Rutland.
I C	1681	With mullet	Tankard	Fishmongers' Company.
M K	1681	Lis above	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere Esq.
R S	1683	Mullet below	do.	do.
W F	1683		Tezza	Sir W. C. Trevelyan.
I P	1684	Crown above, small shield below.	Plain cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
I I	1684	And fleur de lis . . .	Covered bowl	Sir T. W. Holburne.
I S	1684	Interlaced	Tankard	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
H T	1684	Lis above, pellet below.	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere. Esq.
C K	1684	Mullet below	do.	do.
R G	1685	Mullet above	do.	do.
S H	1683	Monogram	do.	do.
I K	1686	Crescent below. . . .	do.	do.
R S	1686	In heart-shaped shield.	do.	do.
G G	1685		Monteith and tankard .	Skinners' Company.
G G	1690		Tankard	Baron Lionel de Rothschild.
I.R	1686	Crowned	Reynold's cup	Skinners' Company.
I.R	1686	Crowned	Tankard	do.
W M	1690	Lis and 2 pellets above.	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
N L	1691		do.	do.
A K	1691	Plain shield	do.	do.
P H	1691		do.	do.
I K	1694	Crowned, annulet between the letters.	do.	
M A	1696		Fire dogs	Hampton Court.
N K	1696	3 pellets above in monogram.	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
C H	1697	Ornamental shield . .	do.	do.
E			Cup and candlesticks with arms of William III.	Duke of Manchester.
D.B	1697			
A		<i>(From 1697 to 1720 the makers placed the two first letters of their surnames.)</i>		
P A	1698	Small A	Plain tumbler	R. T. Frere, Esq.
B I	1698	Crowned and bird below	Pair of candesticks . .	
S T	1698	In a heart	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MAKER'S MARK.	DATE.	REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	COLLECTION.
S T	1699	In a heart	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
M I	1699	2 pellets above	do.	do.
A N	1699	In ornamental shield.	do.	do.
I N	1700		Pair chocolate cups & covers.	Lord Crewe.
R O	1701	Trefoil above and below	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
V N	1701	Small n	do.	do.
W I	1701	2 stars above, lis below.	Ewer and salver	Marquis of Abercorn.
G O	1701	Crowned	Pair large flagons	Earl Spencer.
H A	1701		Pair ewers and salvers	do.
M E	1702		Helmet - shaped ewer, with royal arms "Semper eadem."	Lord Willoughby de Eresby.
<i>B F</i>	1702	Scrip	2-handled cup	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
L o	1702	Key above	do.	R. T. Frere, Esq.
D o	1702	Lis above and below.	do.	do.
C o	1703	Small o	do.	do.
N e	1703		Large tureen	Lord Bateman.
S I	1704		2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
G R	1704	The R within G	do.	do.
<i>H V</i>	1705	Italics	do.	do.
A D	1705		Sugar castor	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
A N	1705	Small n	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere Esq.
P a	1705	Cup above	do.	do.
<i>H V</i>	1705	Italics	do.	do.
S V	1705	In a circle	do.	do.
W E	1706	3 pellets	do.	do.
G R	1708	R within G	do.	do.
B E	1708		do.	do.
G R	1709	The R within G	do.	do.
C O	1709	2 pellets above	do.	do.
<i>L o</i>	1709	Lo in black letter	do.	do.
L o	1709	Key above	do.	do.
P A	1710	A lis under.	2-handled cup and cover	do.
P A	1711	Under a large rose	4 circular stands	W. Maskell, Esq.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

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MAKER'S MARK.	DATE.	REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	COLLECTION.
P A	1710	Under a large rose . . .	Sugar castor	R. T. Frere, Esq.
	1712	A bird above, e below .	Tankard	Brett collection.
<i>J.H.</i>	1712	Lis above, pellet below .	Salver with royal arms .	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford
L O	1712	Key above	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
F L	1713	Crown above	do.	do.
V I	1714		Pepper castor	do.
	1714	Black letter	2-handled cup	do.
L O	1715	2 pellets above	do.	do.
L O	1715	Key above	do.	do.
W I	1716	2 stars above, lis below .	do.	do.
F L	1716	Crown above	do.	do.
L O	1717	L traversing O, mono-gram.	do.	do.
W I	1718	2 stars and fleur de lis .	Basin and cover	Sir W. Stirling.
B A	1719	In quatrefoil	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
L O	1719	2 pellets above	do.	do.
	1719	AV black letter	do.	do.
B A	1720	In quatrefoil	do.	do.
I S	1720	2 pellets below.	do.	do.
	1722		do.	do.
W D	1728	Trefoil above	do.	do.
G S	1728		Cup	Corporation of Don-caster.
I L	1728	And a trefoil	Toilet set	Earl Stamford and Warrington.
I L	1730	do.	Pair sugar boxes	do.
P.A	1730	Crowned	6 sconces	do.
P L	1732	By Paul Lamerie, Star & crown above, lis under	Pair tankards	do.
L C	1732	Crown and fleur de lis.	Tea kettle	Windsor Castle.
A C	1732		Milk pot and cover	Earl of Home.
P L	1733	Star and crown above, lis under (Paul Lamerie)	Basket	J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.
P L	1733	Star and crown above, lis under (Paul Lamerie)	Kettle	Brett Collection.
T.R	1734		Walpole mace	Corporation of Norwich
D W	1735		Pair massive sauce boats.	R. T. Frere, Esq.
N S	1743	A star above	Pair dishes	Windsor Castle.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MAKER'S MARK.	DATE.	REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	COLLECTION.
T.T	1740		Pair vase and covers	Goldsmiths' Company.
<i>R G</i>	1740	Crowned	Tankard	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
I.R	1741	Star above	Salver	do.
P.L	1741	Crown and star above, lis below (Paul Lamerie)	Ewer and salver	Goldsmiths' Company.
P.L	1742	do. do.	Cup and cover	Hunt and Roskell.
<i>H M</i>	1744	Scrip	Cake basket.	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
P.L	1747	Crown and star above, lis below (Paul Lamerie)	Pair tea caddies	J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.
P.L	1750	do. do.	Cruet stand	do.
<i>J P</i>	1752	Scrip	2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
M F	1754		2 caddies	Earl Stamford and Warrington.
<i>W G</i>	1754	Scrip	Plain tumbler	R. T. Frere, Esq.
P.B	1755		Milk pot	Sir T. W. Holburne.
R T	1756		Engraved tea kettle	J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.
^T R.G G	1756		Pair butter boats.	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
T.H	1758	Crowned	Ewer	O. E. Coope, Esq.
<i>S C</i>	1758	Under a sun	Coffee pot	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
<i>W P</i>	1759	Scrip	Bread basket	do.
T.H	1761	Crowned	Pair coronation salvers	Lord Willoughby de Eresby.
T.H	1763	do.	Basin and cover	Windsor Castle.
<i>J. S.</i>	1763	Scrip	Milk jug	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
^C T.W W	1765		Cup and cover	J. G. Fanshawe, Esq.
I.K	1765	Crown above	Tea kettle	Lord Bateman.
<i>S A</i>	1765	Scrip	Tankard	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
R.P.	1766		Pepper cæstor	do.
<i>W G</i>	1767	Scrip	Coffee pot	Brett Collection.
<i>W H</i>	1768	Scrip	Milk jug	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
^S I C C	1770		Ewer	Sir T. W. Holburne.
I M	1770		Cup (Teniers subject)	G. Moffatt, Esq.
R.R	1773		Salver	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
C C	1773		Pair sugar baskets	do.
C W	1774		Tea pot	do.
S M	1775		4 salt cellars	do.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MAKER'S MARK.	DATE.	REMARKS.	DESCRIPTION.	COLLECTION.
W C	1774		2-handled cup	R. T. Frere, Esq.
I W	1774		Plain tumbler. . . .	do.
<i>J.S</i>	1776	Scrip	Pair butter boats . .	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
<i>W.G</i>	1776	Scrip	Coffee pot	do.
<i>S.A</i>	1777	Scrip	Milk jug	do.
A C	1777		Sugar basin	do.
WGR	1779		Pair vases with rams' heads.	Brett Collection.
<i>W.E</i>	1780	Scrip	Cream jug	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
<i>B.M</i>	1780	Scrip	do.	do.
<i>H.B</i>	1783	Scrip	do.	do.
I D	1784	Repeated 3 times . .	2-handled cup	do.
<i>H.B</i>	1785	Scrip	Cake basket	do
I B	1786	(Rundell and Bridge).	Pair cups with ivory plaques.	Windsor Castle.
M N	1788		4 salt cellars	Lord Bateman.
R G				
P.B	1788		Tea pot	Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.
T.R	1792		Candlestick	do.

N.B.—All the foregoing makers' initials will be found with their shields as stamped on Plate in the companion work to this volume, by W. CHAFFERS, entitled "A HISTORY OF LONDON GOLDSMITHS AND PLATE WORKERS, with their marks, as stamped on plate, copied from celebrated examples and the earliest records preserved at Goldsmiths' Hall, accompanied by their names, addresses, and dates of entry. 2500 Illustrations. Preceded by an Introductory Essay on the Goldsmiths' Art. London: WM. REEVES, Charing Cross Road."

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

1874.

TABLE OF MARKS used at all the Assay Offices in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Assay Town.	Description.	1 Quality.	2. Standard.	3. Assay Town.	4. Date.	5. Duty.	6. Maker.
LONDON. Estab. 13th Century.	Gold 22 karat	22	Crown	Leopard's head without a crown	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 18 k ...	18	Crown	Leopard's head	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 15 k ...	15.625	Nil	Leopard's head	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 12 k ...	12.5	Nil	Leopard's head	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 9 k ...	9.375	Nil	Leopard's head	Letter	Nil	Initials
	Silver O.S.	Nil	Lion passant	Leopard's head	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
" N.S.	Nil	Britannia	Lion's head erased	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials	
No 18-karat gold stamped here, EXETER, no watches stamp- ped here, only wedding rings of 22 karats.	Gold 22 k ...	32	Crown	Castle	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	Silver O.S.	Nil	Lion passant	Castle	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
CHESTER. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 k ...	22	Crown	Dagger & 3 sheaves	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 18 k ...	18	Crown	Dagger & 3 sheaves	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 15 k ...	15.625	Nil	Dagger & 3 sheaves	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 12 k ...	12.5	Nil	Dagger & 3 sheaves	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 9 k ...	9.375	Nil	Dagger & 3 sheaves	Letter	Nil	Initials
	Silver O.S.	Nil	Lion passant	Dagger & 3 sheaves	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
" N.S.	Nil	Britannia	Dagger & 3 sheaves	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials	
NEWCASTLE. Re-established 1702.	Gold 22 k ...	22	Crown	3 castles	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 18 k ...	18	Crown	3 castles	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 15 k ...	15.625	Nil	3 castles	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 12 k ...	12.5	Nil	3 castles	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 9 k ...	9.375	Nil	3 castles	Letter	Nil	Initials
	Silver O.S.	Leopard's head crowned ditto	Lion passant	3 castles	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
" N.S.	Nil	Britannia	3 castles	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials	
SHEFFIELD. Estab. 1778. No gold stamp- ped here.	Silver O.S.	Nil	Lion passant	Crown	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" N.S.	Nil	Britannia	Crown	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
BIRMINGHAM. Established 1773.	Gold 22 k ...	22	Crown	Anchor	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 18 k ...	18	Crown	Anchor	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 15 k ...	15.625	Nil	Anchor	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 12 k ...	12.5	Nil	Anchor.	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 9 k ...	9.375	Nil	Anchor	Letter	Nil	Initials
	Silver O.S.	Nil	Lion passant	Anchor	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
" N.S.	Nil	Britannia	Anchor	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials	
EDINBURGH. Established 1457.	Gold 22 k ...	22	Thistle	Castle	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 18 k ...	18	Thistle	Castle	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 15 k ...	15	Nil	Castle	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 12 k ...	12	Nil	Castle	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 9 k ...	9	Nil	Castle	Letter	Nil	Initials
	Silver O.S.	Nil	Thistle	Castle	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
" N.S.	Britannia	Thistle	Castle	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials	
GLASGOW. Established 1810.	Gold 22 k ...	22	Lion rampant	Tree, fish, & bell	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 18 k ...	18	Lion rampant	Tree, fish, & bell	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 15 k ...	15	Lion rampant	Tree, fish, & bell	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 12 k ...	12	Lion rampant	Tree, fish, & bell	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 9 k ...	9	Lion rampant	Tree, fish, & bell	Letter	Nil	Initials
	Silver O.S.	Nil	Lion rampant	Tree, fish, & bell	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
" N.S.	Britannia	Lion rampant	Tree, fish, & bell	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials	
Established 1638. DUBLIN. No New Standard sil- ver marked here.	Gold 22 k ...	22	Harp crowned	Hibernia	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 20 k ...	20	Plume feathers	Hibernia	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
	" 18 k ...	18	Unicorn's head	Hibernia	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 15 k ...	15.625	Nil	Hibernia	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 12 k ...	12.5	Nil	Hibernia	Letter	Nil	Initials
	" 9 k ...	9.375	Nil	Hibernia	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials
Silver O.S.	Nil	Harp crowned	Hibernia	Letter	Sovereign's head	Initials	

TABLE OF MARKS used in 1701-2 at the Assay Offices in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Assay Town.	Description.	1. Quality.	2. Standard.	3. Assay Town.	4. Date.	5. Maker.
LONDON. Established 13 Cent.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S. Silver N. S.	..... ..... .....	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	Leopard's head crowned Leopard's head crowned Lion's head erased	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
EXETER. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S. Silver N. S.	Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	Castle Castle Castle	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
CHESTER. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S. Silver N. S.	Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	3 demilions & wheat sheaf ditto ditto	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
NEWCASTLE. Established 1702.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S. Silver N. S.	Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	3 castles 3 castles 3 castles	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
YORK. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S. Silver N. S.	Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	5 lions 5 lions 5 lions on a cross	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
NORWICH. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S. Silver N. S.	Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	Castle and lion Castle and lion Castle and lion	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
EDINBURGH. Re-established 1631.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S. Silver N. S.	Assay mark Assay mark Britannia	(Thistle in 1759)	Castle Castle Castle	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
DUBLIN. Established 1638.	Gold 22 k... Silver O. S.	..... .....	Harp crowned Harp crowned	(Hibernia in 1730)	Letter Letter	Initials Initials

London Assay Office Letters.

By the introduction, in the annexed Table, of the shield used to enclose the letters in each cycle, much assistance is given in ascertaining the date of a piece of plate; but as several of the alphabets are somewhat alike, a few remarks are appended to each cycle to enable those who have not studied them sufficiently to tell at a glance the peculiar variations in each. Care must be taken in examining plate to place the shield containing the date letter with its pointed base downwards, or some confusion may arise in mistaking **b** for **q**, **p** for **d**, **n** for **u**, **r** for **J** (in Cycle 16), &c.

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LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. LOMBARDIC CAPITALS.		CYCLE 2. UNKNOWN.		CYCLE 3 LOMBARDIC.		CYCLE 4. BLACK LETTER SMALL.	
HENRY VI.		EDWRD IV.		HENRY VII.		HENRY VIII.	
h	1488-9		1458-9		1478-9		1498-9
	1489-0		1459-0		1479-0		1499-0
	1440-1		1460-1		1480-1		1500-1
	1441-2		EDWARD IV. 1461-2		1481-2		1501-2
	1442-3		1462-3		EDWARD V. 1482-3		1502-3
	1443-4		1463-4		RICHARD III. 1483-4		1503-4
	1444-5		1464-5		1484-5		1504-5
	1445-6		1465-6		HENRY VII. 1485-6		1505-6
	1446-7		1466-7		1486-7		1506-7
	1447-8		1467-8		1487-8		1507-8
	1448-9		1468-9		1488-9		1508-9
	1449-0		1469-0		1489-0	HENRY VIII. 1509-0	1509-0
	1450-1		1470-1		1490-1		1510-1
	1451-2		1471-2		1491-2		1511-2
	1452-3		1472-3		1492-3		1512-3
	1453-4		1473-4		1493-4		1513-4
	1454-5		1474-5		1494-5		1514-5
	1455-6		1475-6		1495-6		1515-6
	1456-7		1476-7		1496-7		1516-7
	1457-8		1477-8		1497-8		1517-8
<p>THREE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark. No lion passant. No regular shield.</p>		<p>The Stamps for this Cycle are unknown.</p>		<p>THREE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head crowned in 1477. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark. No lion passant. No regular shield.</p>		<p>THREE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark. No lion passant. No regular shield.</p>	

LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 8. LOMBARDIC CAPITALS. HENRY VIII.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN CAPITALS. HENRY VIII.—MARY.		CYCLE 7. BLACK LETTER SMALL. ELIZABETH.		CYCLE 8. ROMAN CAPITALS. ELIZABETH.	
	1518-9				ELIZABETH. 1558-9		1578-9
	1519-0		1538-9		1559-0		1579-0
	1520-1		1540-1		1560-1		1580-1
	1521-2		1541-2		1561-2		1581-2
	1522-3		1542-8		1562-3		1582-3
	1523-4		1543-4		1563-4		1583-4
	1524-5		1544-5		1564-5		1584-5
	1525-6		1545-6		1565-6		1585-6
	1526-7		1546-7		1566-7		1586-7
	1527-8		EDWARD VI. 1547-8		1567-8		1587-8
	1528-9		1548-9		1568-9		1588-9
	1529-0		1549-0		1569-0		1589-0
	1530-1		1550-1		1570-1		1590-1
	1531-2		1551-2		1571-2		1591-2
	1532-3		1552-3		1572-3		1592-3
	1533-4		MARY. 1553-4		1573-4		1593-4
	1534-5		1554-5		1574-5		1594-5
	1535-6		*1555-6		1575-6		1595-6
	1536-7		1556-7		1576-7		1596-7
	1537-8		1557-8		1577-8		1597-8
<p>THREE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head crowned. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark. <p>No lion passant. No escutcheons.</p>		<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark. 4. The lion passant first used about 1545. <p>No escutcheons.</p>		<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>The date letter first put in a shield.</p>		<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>The letter in a regular shield.</p>	

* This letter being accompanied by the lion passant on plate may be distinguished from the S of 1535, when there were only three marks.

LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 9. LOMBARDIC CAPITALS.		CYCLE 10. SMALL ITALICS.		CYCLE 11. COURT HAND.		CYCLE 12. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 13. BLACK LETTER SMALL.	
JAMES I.		CHARLES I.		CHOMWELL.		CHARLES II.		JAS. I. & WILL. III.	
	1598-9		1618-9		1698-9		*1658-9		1678-9
	1599-0		1619-0		1689-0		1659-0		1679-0
	1600-1		1620-1		1640-1		CHARLES II. 1660-1		1680-1
	1601-2		1621-2		1641-2		1661-2		1681-2
	1602-3		1622-3		1642-3		1662-3		1682-3
	JAMES I. 1603-4		1623-4		1643-4		1663-4		1683-4
	1604-5		1624-5		1644-5		1664-5		1684-5
	1605-6		CHARLES I. 1625-6		1645-6		1665-6		JAMES II. 1685-6
	1606-7		1626-7		1646-7		1666-7		1686-7
	1607-8		1627-8		1647-8		1667-8		1687-8
	1608-9		1628-9		1648-9		1668-9		WILL. & MARY 1688-9
	1609-0		1629-0		COMWT 1649-0		1669-0		1689-0
	1610-1		1630-1		1650-1		1670-1		1690-1
	1611-2		1631-2		1651-2		1671-2		1691-2
	1612-3		1632-3		1652-3		1672-3		1692-3
	1613-4		1633-4		1653-4		1673-4		1693-4
	1614-5		1634-5		1654-5		1674-5		1694-5
	1615-6		1635-6		1655-6		1675-6		WILLIAM III. 1695-6
	1616-7		1636-7		OLIVER. 1656-7		1676-7		30 MAY 1696
	1617-8		1637-8		1657-8		1677-8		TO MAR. 1697 NO LETTER
<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head crowned. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>The letter put in a shield.</p>	<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head crowned. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>Letter in a shield, as above.</p>	<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head crowned. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>Letter in a shield, as above.</p>	<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head crowned. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. 	<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>The leopard's head was large up to 1696; in after years it was smaller.</p>					

* This letter, towards the end of the official year, appears to have been injured, as represented, but is also seen quite perfect.
 NOTE.—The two stamps of the leopard's and the lion passant were, previous to 1673, placed in irregular shields, the border line following the design; after that time the leopard's head was placed in a symmetrical shield, and the lion in a distinct oblong with a few exceptions; from and after 1750 both punches had regular heraldic shields.

LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 14. COURT HAND.	CYCLE 15. ROMAN CAPITALS.	CYCLE 16. ROMAN SMALL.	CYCLE 17. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.	CYCLE 18. ROMAN SMALL.
ANNE.	GEORGE I. & II.	GEORGE II.	GEORGE III.	GEORGE III.
 MAR. to MAY 1697	 1716-7	 1786-7	 1756-7	 1776-7
 1697-8	 1717-8	 1787-8	 1757-8	 1777-8
 1698-9	 1718-9	 1788-9	 1758-9	 1778-9
 1699-0	 1719-0	 1789-0	 1759-0	 1779-0
 1700-1	 1720-1	 1740-1	 GEORGE III. 1760-1	 1780-1
 1701-2	 1721-2	 1741-2	 1761-2	 1781-2
 ANNE. 1702-3	 1722-3	 1742-3	 1762-3	 1782-3
 1708-4	 1723-4	 1743-4	 1763-4	 1783-4
 1704-5	 1724-5	 1744-5	 1764-5	 *1784-5
 1705-6	 1725-6	 1745-6	 1765-6	 1785-6
 1706-7	 1726-7	 1746-7	 1766-7	 1786-7
 1707-8	 GEORGE II. 1727-8	 1747-8	 1767-8	 1787-8
 1708-9	 1728-9	 1748-9	 1768-9	 1788-9
 1709-0	 1729-0	 1749-0	 1769-0	 1789-0
 1710-1	 1730-1	 1750-1	 1770-1	 1790-1
 1711-2	 1731-2	 1751-2	 1771-2	 1791-2
 1712-3	 1732-3	 1752-3	 1772-3	 1792-3
 1718-4	 1738-4	 1758-4	 1773-4	 1793-4
 GEORGE I. 1714-5	 1734-5	 1754-5	 1774-5	 1794 5
 1715-6	 1735-6	 1755-6	 1775-6	 1795-6
<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Britannia. 2. Lion's Head erased. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>The two first letters of the maker's surname.</p>	<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>The old standard revived in 1730, but both the old and new were allowed simultaneously.</p>	<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>After 1730 the initials of maker's Christian and surname.</p>	<p>FOUR STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. <p>The leopard's head smaller after 1731 than before.</p>	<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leopard's Head cr. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. 5. King's Head. <p>After 1784 the duty mark of the King's head.</p>

* By the Duty Act of March 1734, the payment of duty was denoted by a stamp of the King's head, which at first was *tenus* accompanied by the date letter i, and continued in 1735-6 with the letter k; for the drawback of duty on exportation, a stamp of Britannia *tenus* was adopted, but it was discontinued in the following year; the King's head was subsequently in relief.

LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 19. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 20. ROMAN SMALLS.		CYCLE 21. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 22. BLACK LETTER SMALLS.		CYCLE 23. ROMAN CAPITALS.	
GEORGE III.		GEO. IV.—WILL. IV.		VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.	
	1796-7		1816-7		1836-7		1856-7		1876-7
	1797-8		1817-8		VICTORIA. 1837-8		1857-8		1877-8
	1798-9		1818-9		1838-9		1858-9		1878-9
	1799-0		1819-0		1839-0		1859-0		1879-0
	1800-1		GEORGE IV. 1820-1		1840-1		1860-1		1880-1
	1801-2		1821-2		1841-2		1861-2		1881-2
	1802-3		1822-3		1842-3		1862-3		1882-3
	1803-4		1823-4		1843-4		1863-4		1883-4
	1804-5		1824-5		1844-5		1864-5		1884-5
	1805-6		1825-6		1845-6		1865-6		1885-6
	1806-7		1826-7		1846-7		1866-7		1886-7
	1807-8		1827-8		1847-8		1867-8		1887-8
	1808-9		1828-9		1848-9		1868-9		1888-9
	1809-0		1829-0		1849-0		1869-0		1889-0
	1810-1		WILL. IV. 1830-1		1850-1		1870-1		1890-1
	1811-2		1831-2		1851-2		1871-2		1891-2
	1812-3		1832-3		1852-3		1872-3		1892-3
	1813-4		1833-4		1853-4		1873-4		1893-4
	1814-5		1834-5		1854-5		1874-5		1894-5
	1815-6		1835-6		1855-6		1875-6		1895-6
<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. 5. King's Head. After 1796 gold of 18-kar. was marked with a crown and 18.</p>		<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. 5. King's Head. After 1823 the leopard's head without a crown.</p>		<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. 5. Queen's Head. After 1845 the gold standard was marked with 22 and a crown.</p>		<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head. 2. Lion passant for silver. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. 5. Queen's Head. For gold a crown and 22 or 18, according to standard.</p>		<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Leopard's Head. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark. 5. Queen's Head. For foreign plate the letter F. Duty abolished on silver, 1890, and Queen's head omitted.</p>	

NOTE.—Large and small sized punches are used to suit the plate to be stamped; so that from 1756 to the present day, the large stamps bear the letter in a shield as here indicated—the smaller ones have the letter in a square escutcheon, the base slightly convex but not pointed, and the upper corners out off.

CYCLE 24.							
ROMAN SMALL.							
VICTORIA.				EDWARD VII.			
	1896-7		1900-1		1902-3		1906-7
	1897-8		1901-2		1903-4		1907-8
	1898-9				1904-5		1908-9
	1899-0				1905-6		1909-0

FOUR STAMPS.

1. Leopard's Head.	3. Date Letter.
2. Lion passant.	4. Maker's Mark.

Chronological List of English Plate.

Many of these examples of English plate were exhibited at the *Special Exhibition of Works of Art on Loan* at the South Kensington Museum, in 1862. When cataloguing that magnificent collection of plate, the writer had an opportunity of verifying the foregoing table, not only as regards the assay or date letters, but also the forms of the escutcheons enclosing them, a great desideratum to those who consult the table, in determining the date of a piece of plate when the characters used in the cycles are similar.

The numbers which precede the references allude to their places in the catalogue of that collection, where they will be found fully described. Besides these, many other interesting and important specimens of English silversmiths' work were displayed on that occasion, but they could not be included in this list from the fact of the marks having become illegible or altogether obliterated, so that their exact date could not be ascertained.

CYCLE I.—May 1438 to May 1458. (Henry VI.)

Date. Catalogue No.

1445. H. 7767. The Grace Cup of St. Thomas-à-Becket; the cup and cover of ivory, mounted in silver gilt, inscribed "Vinvm . tvvm . bibe . cvm . gaudio;" the ornamented borders are of a later period.—*Philip H. Howard, Esq., of Corby.*
1445. H. 7753. The silver spoon given by Henry VI. to Sir Ralph Pudsey in 1463, together with his boots and gloves, at Bolton Hall, after the battle of Hexham, now preserved at Hornby Castle, Lancashire.—*Capt. Pudsey Dawson.*

CYCLE III.—May 1478 to May 1498. (Henry VII.)

1481. D. 3241a. Silver gilt Cup called the Anathema Cup, dated 1497, inscribed with the name of the donor, Langton Bishop of Winchester, and the sentence, "Qui alienaverit anathema sit."—*Pembroke Coll., Camb.*
1481. D. 5725. Silver gilt low Bowl, fluted stem, inscribed "Benedictus . Deus . Im . Dona . Suis . ame," in Lombardic letters.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
1487. K. Silver gilt Salt Cellar.—*Christ's College, Cambridge.*

Date. Catalogue No.

1493. Q. Apostle Spoon with full-length figure of a Saint, the earliest spoon known with an Apostle. The date letter Q is cusped inwards and outwards; maker S.—*The Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1497. V. Three small Spoons, with slender stems.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

CYCLE IV.—May 1498 to May 1518. (Henry VII. and VIII.)

1499. b. 5455. Grace Cup and Cover ornamented with crossed bands, and in the panels are maidens' heads and flags, the badges of the Company; on the cover a maiden seated with a unicorn, with blue enamel bands, &c., presented by Sir Thomas Legh.—*Mercers' Company.*
1500. c. Old English Spoon.—*Painter Stainers' Company.*
1506. i. Bishop Fox's Spoons, with owls at the ends of the handles.—*Corpus Christi College, Oxon.*
1507. k. 3223. Silver Gilt Cup and Cover in form of a Tudor rose, battlemented, engraved with roses, portcullises, and daisies (Marguerites), given by the Foundress, Margaret, Countess of Richmond.—*Christ's College, Cambridge.*
1507. k. 3224. Pair of Silver Gilt Salt Cellars, of hour-glass form, ornamented with Tudor roses, &c., presented by the Foundress, the Countess of Richmond.—*Christ's College, Cambridge.*
1510. n. The mounting of a Mazer Bowl.—*A. W. Franks, Esq.*
1512. p. Spoon.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1514. q. Gothic Silver Paten; within a tressure of 6 spandrils is the head of our Saviour and radiating borders.—*Heworth Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*
1515. s. Apostle Spoon, with the maker's mark of an S.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
1515. s. 3207. Silver Gilt Tazza Cup and Cover, ornamented with stamped pattern of roses and fleurs de lis.—*Corpus Christi College, Oxford.*
1515. s. Apostle Spoon (St. Paul), one of a set of 13 given by Archbishop Parker.—*Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.*
1516. t. Bishop Fox's Spoons, with balls at the ends of the stems.—*Corpus Christi College, Oxford.*
1517. u. Gothic Silver Paten, parcel gilt, sunk centre; within a tressure of 6 arches is the head of our Saviour, a nimbus round His head and radiating borders, engraved and gilt.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

CYCLE V.—May 1518 to May 1538. (Henry VIII.)

1518. A. 5448. Salt Cellar, of hour-glass form.—*Ironmongers' Company.*
1519. B. Set of Twelve Apostle Spoons, from the Bernal Collection; maker S.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

Date Catalogue No.

1520. C. Silver Cup.—*Christ's College, Cambridge.*
 1521. D. 5726. Old English Spoon, with fluted knob on the stem.—*J. Rainey, Esq.*
 1522. E. 5448. Salt Cellar, of hour-glass form.—*Ironmongers' Company.*
 1522. E. Spoon, with seal top, in the possession of *Dr. and Mrs. Ashford, Torquay.*
 1523. F. 5402. Henry VIII.'s Cup, repoussé with scrolls, fleur de lis and rose, with bells on the bottom of the cup.—*Barber Surgeons' Company.*
 1523. F. 5497. Cocoa-Nut Cup, silver mounted.—*Vintners' Company.*
 1527. K. Chalice and Paten, given by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Pope.—*Trinity College, Oxford.*
 1528. L. Spoon, with statuette of St. Nicholas, and three children in a tub, of good early work; the stem is inscribed SYNT. NYCOLAS. PRAY. FOR. WS. This spoon is supposed to have been formerly used in the Abbey of St. Nicholas, Abingdon, founded by Edward VI.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
 1529. M. 3202. Mazer Bowl, silver gilt mounting.—*All Souls' College, Oxford.*
 1530. N. Two Apostle Spoons; maker S.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1533. Q. 3204. Silver gilt Cup and Cover, double handled and urn shaped, repoussé with scrolls.—*Christ's College, Oxford.*
 1537. V. Apostle Spoon, with dots on the date letter as shown on the table.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*

CYCLE VI.—May 1538 to May 1558. (Edward VI. Mary.)

1539. B. Apostle Spoon.—*Innholders' Company.*
 1545. H. Spoon, with lion sejant on the end of the stem, the leopard's head crowned in the bowl. The lion passant on this piece is the earliest example we have met with.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford of Torquay.*
 1545. H. 3239. Silver gilt Ewer and Salver, given by Archbishop Parker in 1570.—*Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.*
 1554. R. Sir Martin Bowes' Cup, presented (according to the Minutes) 1561.—*Goldsmiths' Company.*

CYCLE VII.—May 1558 to May 1578. (Elizabeth.)

1558. a. Spoon with seal top; maker's mark, mullet and crescent.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1558. a. Stone Jug, silver mounted, repoussé with scrolls, fruit satyrs, and masks, the cover surmounted by St. George and the Dragon; on the handle a bifrons maiden's head and quaint head-dress.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
 1559. b. Silver-mounted Stoneware Jug and Cover, with date of presentation 1560; maker S. K.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*

- Date Catalogue No.*
1560. **l.** Spoon, with stem cut off obliquely.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
Two Spoons, with seal tops; maker's mark, a rose.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1561. **l.** Apostle Spoon.—*Innholder's Company.*
1562. **l.** 5500. Delft Tankard, silver mounted, given by David Gitting in 1563.—*Vintners' Company.*
1562. **l.** Apostle Spoon; maker's mark, a trefoil leaf.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1562. **l.** 3236. Circular Salt and Cover, given by Archbishop Parker in 1570.—*Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.*
1563. **f.** 5505. Large Cup and Cover, engraved with subjects relating to the manufacture of wax, the gift of Richard Normansell.—*Wax Chandlers' Company.*
1564. **g.** Apostle Spoon; maker's mark, a trefoil leaf.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1564. **g.** 5412. Square Salt, given by Roger Dunster in 1641.—*Clothworkers' Company.*
1565. **h.** The Cockayne Cups; maker G.—*Skinner's Company.*
1566. **i.** 5727. Silver gilt Chalice.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
1566. **i.** Plateau; maker R. V.—*Skinner's Company.*
1566. **i.** Set of 12 Apostle Spoons, given by Archbishop Parker in 1570.—*Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.*
1569. **m.** 3234. Cup and Cover, richly ornamented with masks, fruit and flowers, and female heads in relief, surmounted by a nude male figure, given by Archbishop Parker in 1569.—*Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.*
1569. **m.** 5729. Brown Stoneware Jug, silver mounted; maker I. R.—*E. A. Sanford, Esq.*
1569. **m.** 5729. Stoneware Jug, silver mounted.—*J. Toovey, Esq.*
1570. **n.** Silver seal-top Spoon.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
1571. **o.** 3235. Silver gilt Tankard, repoussé with arabesques, given by Archbishop Parker in 1571.—*Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.*
1571. **o.** 5730. Brown Stoneware Jug, silver mounted; maker N. S. interlaced.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
1571. **o.** 5731. Chalice and Paten, with engraved belt, dated 1576.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
1572. **p.** 5733. Earthenware Jug, silver mounted.—*H. Magniac, Esq.*
1572. **p.** 3230. Silver gilt Tazza, with punched ornaments.—*Christ's College, Cambridge.*
1573. **q.** 5734. Silver Tankard engraved with strap work and medallions of female heads; maker's mark, a crab.—*L. Huth, Esq.*
1573. **q.** 5735. Chalice and Paten, with engraved belt of running pattern.—*J. Rainey, Esq.*

Date Catalogue No.

1574. r. 5738. Silver Tankard; maker's initials C. L., a halberd between.—*Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.*
1574. r. Apostle Spoon; maker's mark, a shell.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1576. t. 5739. Silver Chalice and Paten.—*J. Rainey, Esq.*
1576. t. 5423. Simon Gibbons' square Salt.—*Goldsmiths' Company.*
1577. tt. 5741. Stoneware Jug, silver mounted; maker's initials C. C.—*J. D. Gardner, Esq.*
1577. tt. Apostle Spoon.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

CYCLE VIII.—May 1578 to May 1598. (Elizabeth.)

1578. A. Gilt Apostle Spoon, inscribed "A H. Nata Ano Dni 1578 Octob. 10. Inter Hor. 12 et Pri. in Aurora Susceptore Gual Moyse."—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1578. A. 5742. Silver gilt Tankard, repoussé with fruit and flowers; on the purchase is a mermaid; maker's initials E. S.—*Baron Lionel de Rothschild.*
1578. A. Silver gilt Salt Cellar, cylindrical, with high cover, surmounted by a soldier, elaborately ornamented with strap work and repoussé masks, lions' heads, fruit, &c., maker's mark, a bird with wings expanded.—*Sir Richard Wallace.*
1579. B. 5744. Silver gilt Tazza, chased with cartouches and repoussé helmeted head; maker H. C., a hammer and vice.—*H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge.*
1579. B. 5745. Silver Cup, in form of a "Pelican in her piety" the stem ornamented with masks and scrolls, the foot with hunting scenes; maker's mark, a bird.—*Sir Stephen Glynne, Bart.*
1580. C. Antique Spoon, with terminal female bust.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
1580. C. 5748. Silver gilt Cup and Cover; maker's mark, H. C., a hammer and vice.—*L. Huth, Esq.*
1581. D. 5746. Silver gilt Ewer and Salver, beautifully chased, set with Oriental agates: one of the finest examples of English plate known; maker's mark, a trefoil.—*The Duke of Rutland.*
1581. D. 5750. Stoneware Jug, silver mounted.—*L. Huth, Esq.*
1582. E. Spoon with baluster knob; maker's mark, a shell.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1583. F. 5751. Square Salt Cellar.—*Baron Lionel de Rothschild.*
1584. G. 5752. Mounted Stoneware Jug; maker's mark, B., a pellet in each space.—*A. W. Franks, Esq.*
1585. H. 5753. Porcelain Vase, silver mounted; maker's mark, three trefoil leaves.—*H. Farrer, Esq.*
1586. I. Spoon with seal top; maker's mark, mullet and ring under.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1588. L. 5754. Ostrich Egg Cup; maker's mark, a flower.—*Earl of Home.*

Date Catalogue No.

1588. L. Silver Paten; maker H. C.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1589. M. Silver Chalice; maker's mark, a trefoil.—*Messrs. Garrard.*
 1589. M. Apostle Spoon; maker's mark, a mullet and crescent.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1590. N. 5465. Rose-water Dish, chased with Dolphins and flowers, lions' heads, &c., the gift of William Offley.—*Merchant Taylors' Company.*
 1590. N. Spoon with seal top; maker L.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1591. O. Stoneware Jug, silver mounted.—*Robert Napier, Esq.*
 1592. P. 5755. Silver gilt Cup, baluster stem.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
 1593. Q. 5756. Silver Tazza.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
 1593. Q. Seal top Spoon; maker's mark, a mullet.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1594. R. 3206. Gilt Salt Cellar and Cover, ornamented with repoussé scrolls, &c., surmounted by an amorino.—*Corpus Christi College, Oxford.*
 1594. R. 5757. Stoneware Jug, silver mounted; maker C. B.—*Hugh Owen, Esq.*
 1595. S. 5651. Ewer and Salver, the gift of Robert Kitchen, broken up during the Bristol Riots; maker I. B. and a rose above.—*Corporation of Bristol.*
 1596. T. Spoon with seal top; maker's mark, a mullet.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1596. T. Apostle Spoon, St. Peter; maker WC or W in a crescent.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
 1597. V. 5678. Silver Ewer and Salver of very fine work, with sea deities and monsters, Neptune and Amphitrite, &c., the gift of Henry Howard; maker I. N. and a rose below.—*Corporation of Norwich.*
 1597. V. Cup, "the gyfte of John Stuart, A.D. 1600."—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

CYCLE IX.—May 1598 to May 1618. (James I.)

1598. A. Spoon with seal top; maker W. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1598. A. Parcel gilt Salt Cellar.—*Octavius Morgan, Esq.*
 1599. B. Spice Box, in three compartments.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1599. B. 5445. Silver Cup, the gift of Grace Gwalter.—*Innholders' Company.*
 1599. B. Apostle Spoon.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1601. D. 5771. Silver gilt Cup, engraved with fruit and flowers.—*Earl of Derby.*
 1601. D. 5422. Circular Salt, the gift of Richard Rogers, "Comptroller of His Majesty's Mint," given in 1632 to the *Goldsmiths' Company.*
 1602. E. Spoon with seal top; maker T. in a crescent.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1602. E. Spoon with seal top.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1603. F. Silver gilt Ewer and Salver.—*Lord Willoughby de Eresby.*

Date Catalogue No.

1604. G. 5774. Silver covered Cup, engraved flowers; maker's mark, I. H. and a bear.—*Lord Willoughby de Eresby.*
1604. G. Silver gilt Tankard, engraved scrolls.—*L. Huth, Esq.*
1605. H. 5481. The "Cockayne" Loving Cups in the form of Cocks.—*The Skinners' Company.*
1605. H. 5414. Salver, the gift of John Burnell.—*Clothworkers' Company.*
1606. I. 5777. Silver gilt Salt Cellar, in form of a temple.—*R. Neville Grenville, Esq.*
1606. I. 5776. Silver Cup, with punched ornaments.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
1607. K. Silver gilt Ewer and Salver, with square escutcheons of repoussé flowers and engraved interlaced designs between.—*Louis Huth, Esq.*
1607. K. Apostle Spoon; maker W. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1608. L. Old English Spoon; maker D. enclosing C.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1608. L. 3231. Silver gilt Tazza, on baluster stem.—*Christ's College, Cambridge.*
1609. M. 3231. Silver gilt Tazza, of similar character to the preceding.—*Christ's College, Cambridge.*
1609. M. Spoon with lion sejant top; maker W. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1610. N. Old English Spoon.—*Octavius Morgan, Esq.*
1610. N. Old English Spoon; maker's mark, a pair of compasses.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1611. O. 5406. Tall standing Cup and Cover.—*Broderers' Company.*
1611. O. 5407. Standing Cup, the gift of John Reeves.—*Carpenters' Company.*
1612. P. Small Paten in Derry Cathedral.—*Communicated by Mrs. Dorothea Alexander of Blackhill, Coleraine.*
1613. Q. 5778. Silver Gilt Spice Box; maker's mark, a bow between I. T.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
1613. Q. Spoon with seal top; maker T. in a crescent.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1614. R. 5440. Silver gilt Circular Salt, given by John Sweete, 1635.—*Innholders' Company.*
1614. R. Two Apostle Spoons; maker M. H. joined. — *Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1614. S. 3244. Tall Cup and Cover, surmounted by a statuette of Hercules.—*St. John's College, Cambridge.*
1616. T. 5779. Salver, repoussé subject of Alexander and Darius; maker's mark, a trefoil leaf.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
1616. T. Dish, inscribed "The dishes of the Arch Duke gotten at the battle of Newporte," and "Taken by the Lord Viscount Wimbaldon in the year 1600."—*C. Winn, Esq.*
1617. V. 5780. Silver Beaker, engraved with roses, thistles, and pomegranates.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
1617. V. Apostle Spoon; maker I. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

CYCLE X.—May 1618 to May 1638. (James I. and Charles I.)

Date Catalogue No.

1618. *a.* 5580. Tall silver gilt Tankard, repoussé with strap work and medallions of sea monsters and the arms of Norwich, of fine work.—*Corporation of Norwich.*
1618. *a.* Lofty silver Beaker and Cover, engraved with imbricated pattern, surmounted by a female figure, inscribed "The gyfte of Sir William Cockayne, sonne of Roger Cockayne, of Baddesley, Warwickshire, 1619."—*E. C. Baring, Esq.*
1619. *b.* Apostle Spoon; maker R. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1619. *b.* Silver Communion Plates.—*All Souls' College, Oxford.*
1620. *c.* Salt Cellar, with double receptacles and open covers, surmounted by an obelisk.—*Dr. G. W. Dasent.*
1620. *c.* Apostle Spoon.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1621. *d.* 5782. Pair of silver gilt Tankards, given by Richard Wyatt, citizen and carpenter; maker I. C.—*W. Cosier, Esq.*
1621. *d.* Spoon, seal top; maker I. F. Another of the same date, with maker's mark, B. Y., over a 3-barred gate.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1622. *e.* Apostle Spoon.—*Sir W. Stirling of Keir.*
1622. *e.* Apostle Spoon.—*Innholders' Company.*
1622. *e.* Chalice and Paten.—*St. Antholin's Church, City.*
1623. *f.* 5407. The Camden Cup and Cover, repoussé with leaves and inscription.—*Painter Stainers' Company.*
1624. *g.* Three Apostle Spoons; maker S. V.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1624. *g.* Silver Paten at *Mark, Somersetshire.*
1625. *h.* 5784. Silver gilt Cup, the gift of Richard Chester to the Corporation; maker T. F.—*Viscount Clifden.*
1626. *i.* 5482. Rosewater Dish, the gift of Francis Couell.—*Skinners' Company.*
1626. *i.* 5439. Two Salts, given by John Wetterworth.—*Skinners' Company.*
1627. *k.* Six Silver Apostle Spoons, given in the same year.—*Innholders' Company.*
1628. *l.* Spoon, seal top; maker R. I.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1628. *l.* Apostle Spoon; maker D.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1629. *m.* The Ivatt Cup, given in the same year.—*Haberdashers' Company.*
1629. *m.* Spoon with seal top; maker R.G.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1630. *n.* Apostle Spoon.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1630. *n.* Silver Chalice.—*Queen's College, Oxford.*
1631. *o.* Apostle Spoon; maker D.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1631. *o.* Silver Chalice.—*Broomfield Church, Kent.*
1632. *p.* Silver Chalice and Paten.—*St. James's Church, Dover.*
1633. *q.* Large Silver Flagon.—*Corporation of Bristol.*
1633. *q.* Two-handed Cup.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1634. *r.* 5650. Pair of Tankards; given by John Dodridge.—*Corporation of Bristol.*
1634. *r.* Apostle Spoon; maker C. D.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1635. *s.* 5433. Circular Salt, the gift of Sir Hugh Hammersley, Knt.—*Haberdashers' Company.*

Date Catalogue No.

1635. *s.* Apostle Spoon, inscribed with date of presentation 1635; maker C. D.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1636. *t.* Apostle Spoon.—*G. H. Head, Esq.*
 1636. *t.* Apostle Spoon, inscribed with date of presentation, 1637; maker C. D.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1637. *v.* Apostle Spoon, 1637; maker R. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1637. *v.* 5438. Loving Cup, repoussé work, inscribed "Fides ex Charitate agens valet."—*Haberdashers' Company.*

CYCLE XI.—May 1638 to May 1658. (Commonwealth and Cromwell).

1638. *A.* Two-handled Cup and Cover, embossed with flowers.—*South Kensington Museum.*
 1638. *A.* 5458. Circular Salt, of hour-glass form.—*Mercers' Company.*
 1639. *B.* 5493. Loving Cup, the gift of Robert Bateman, Chamberlain of London.—*Skinners' Company*
 1639. *B.* 5785. Two Wine Cups, the gift of John Harris to the Company of Taylors, Oxford, in 1639.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
 1640. *C.* 5452. Four Cups, the gift of George Humble in 1640.—*Leathersellers' Company.*
 1641. *D.* Two seal top Spoons, with date of presentation.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1641. *D.* 5787. Cup and Cover; maker R. M.—*Viscount Clifden.*
 1642. *E.* Two-handled Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
 1646. *I.* Silver Spoon; maker C. D.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1646. *I.* Spoon, seal top; maker T. H. in monogram.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
 1648. *L.* Spoon, seal top; maker T. H. joined.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
 1649. *M.* 5417. Tankard, the gift of W. Clissworth, 1661.—*Coopers' Company.*
 1650. *N.* 5491. Cup, the gift of George Breton.—*Skinners' Company.*
 1651. *O.* 5667. Four Apostle Spoons.—*Corporation of Hedon.*
 1652. *P.* 5788. Covered Cup, said to have been given by Oliver Cromwell to his daughter, Lady Fauconberg; maker E. S.—*The late Paul Butler, Esq.*
 1653. *Q.* 5504. Cup and Cover, the gift of Thomas Bloodworth in 1682.—*Vintners' Company.*
 1653. *Q.* 5789. Silver Ladle.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
 1654. *R.* Apostle Spoon; maker S. V.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1655. *S.* 5791. Silver Cup, given by Christopher Pim to the Blacksmiths' Company, inscribed "By hammer and hand all arts do stand"; maker I. W.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
 1655. *S.* 5790. Tankard.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
 1656. *T.* Old English Spoon; maker W. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1657. *V.* Apostle Spoon.—*Innholders' Company.*

CYCLE XII.—May 1658 to May 1678. (Charles II.)

Date Catalogue No.

1658. **A.** * 5444. Silver gilt Cup, the gift of Edward Osborne.—*Innholders' Company.*
1659. **B.** 5665. Large Mace, the gift of Henry Guy.—*Corporation of Hedon.*
1659. **B.** Spoon with seal top; maker S. V.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1660. **C.** 5655. Silver Mace.—*Corporation of Doncaster.*
1661. **D.** Three Apostle Spoons.—*Innholders' Company.*
1662. **E.** 5794. Silver Salver, repoussé with the labours of Hercules and trophies of arms.—*Baron Lionel de Rothschild*
1662. **E.** 5901. Large Salver.—*Earl Spencer.*
1663. **F.** Silver Grace Cup.—*Goldsmiths' Company.*
1664. **G.** 5795. Silver Cup.—*The late Paul Butler, Esq.*
1665. **H.** Spoon, flat stem; maker I. I., a bird, and fleur de lis.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
1665. **H.** Cup given by Charles II. to the *Corporation of Oxford.*
1666. **I.** Embossed Silver Cup.—*Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.*
1667. **K.** Old English Spoon.—*O. Morgan, Esq., M.P.*
1668. **L.** Rosewater Dish.—*Queen's College, Oxford.*
1669. **M.** Two-handled Bowl and Cover.—*Sir C. Morgan, Bart.*
1669. **M.** Cup and Cover engraved with the royal arms and the arms of Robertus Creyghtonus; on the cover is inscribed "Ex donis Caroli Secundi Regis."—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
1670. **N.** Porringer, inscribed 1670.—*Queen's College, Oxford.*
1671. **O.** Communion plate.—*Westminster Abbey.*
1672. **P.** 5683. Two Tankards, the gift of Thomas Bawtrey, Lord Mayor of the City of York in 1673.—*Corporation of York.*
1672. **P.** Two-handled Cup; maker M. G.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1673. **Q.** 5796. Covered Cup; maker I N.; in fine gold, plain with scroll handles, coiled serpent on the cover. (Hall marks the same as on silver.)—*J. W. Walrond, Esq.*
1674. **R.** 5799. Two-handled Cup, the gift of Sir John Cutler to Charles Lush; maker I. N.—*The late Paul Butler, Esq.*
1674. **R.** 5797. Two Cups fitting into each other, matted surface.—*W. B. Stopford, Esq.*
1675. **S.** 5800. Set of 3 Casters; maker R. A.—*J. Rainey, Esq.*
1676. **T.** Cup and Cover with two handles.—*S. K. Museum.*
1676. **T.** Silver Tankard.—*Corporation of Oxford.*

* The stamp of the church-text A on some of these pieces, towards the end of the official year, appears to have been injured.

Date Catalogue No.

1677. **U.** 8103. Cup.—*Messrs. Hunt and Roskell.*
 1677. **U.** Pair of Candlesticks.—*Earl of Charlemont.*
 1677. **U.** Spoon, flat stem, triple rat tail ornament; maker A. K.
 —*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

CYCLE XIII.—May 1678 to March 1697. (James II. William III.).

1678. **a.** 5803. Two-handled Cup, chased with leaves.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
 1679. **b.** 5804. Silver Ladle.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
 1680. **c.** 5461. The "Brett" Loving Cup and Cover.—*Merchant Taylors' Company.*
 1681. **d.** 5806. Large silver Cistern, the handles in form of peacocks, resting on four lions' claws, weighing 2000 oz.; maker R. L.*—*Duke of Rutland.*
 1682. **e.** 5807. Tankard. *Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
 1682. **e.** Two Spoons with heart-shaped ends; maker E. H. and crown.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1683. **f.** 5808. Silver Tazza, with figures in the centre of Jupiter, Diana, &c.; maker W. F.—*Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart.*
 1683. **f.** Oval Casket and Cover, engraved with Chinese figures, birds, &c.—*South Kensington Museum.*
 1683. **f.** Basin engraved with Chinese figures, trees, fountains, and birds.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
 1684. **g.** 5809. Covered Bowl, pounced with Chinese figures, maker I. I. and lis.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
 1684. **g.** Spoon, flat stem, heart-shaped end; maker L. C. crowned.—*Brett Collection.*
 1685. **h.** Silver Tankard.—*Messrs. Garrard.*
 1686. **i.** Communion Plate; maker's initials I. S. in monogram.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1686. **i.** 5945. Tankard, the gift of James Langdon Reynolds; maker I. R. crowned.—*Skinners' Company.*
 1687. **k.** Mace with the arms of James II.—*Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*
 1688. **l.** 5810. Circular Salver, engraved with Chinese figures.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
 1688. **l.** 5811. Pair of Candlesticks, in form of architectural columns.—*W. Maskell, Esq.*
 1689. **m.** Spoon with heart-shaped end.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1690. **n.** 5813. Silver Tankard, the cover in form of a helmet repoussé with trophies, &c., maker G. G.—*Baron Lionel de Rothschild.*

* It holds 60 gallons, and is said to have been filled with caudle when the father of the present Duke was born, and with punch at the christening of the Marquis of Granby in January 1814, the Prince Regent being sponsor.

Date Catalogue No.

1691. **o.** Embossed Altar Candlesticks.—*Westminster Abbey.*
 1692. **p.** Silver Cup.—*Jesus College, Oxford.*
 1693. **q.** Pair of Wine Cups.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
 1693. **q.** Two Spoons; maker L. C.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1694. **r.** Silver Loving Cup.—*Mercers' Company.*
 1695. **s.** 5815. Silver Cup of Richard Deeble, 1724.—*P. W. Doyle, Esq.*
 1696. **t.** 5816. Pair of Fire Dogs at Hampton Court; maker M. A.—*Her Majesty the Queen.*

CYCLE XIV.—March 1697 to May 1716. (Anne).

1697. **A.** 5817. Teapot of rock-work, vine-leaves, and grapes.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
 1697. **B.** 5818. Silver-gilt Cup with Cover, on the top the royal arms and W.R. III.; and a pair of large pricket Candlesticks on tripod stems, with the royal arms of W. III.; maker ^B_A.—*The Duke of Manchester.*
 1698. **C.** 5894. Pair of silver-gilt Candlesticks.—*Rev. G. Jepson.*
 1699. **D.** Silver Candlesticks.—*C. H. Leigh, Esq.*
 1700. **E.** 5902. Helmet-shaped Ewer, engraved with the royal arms of William III., maker H. A.—*Lord Willoughby de Eresby.*
 1700. **E.** 5898. Large Silver Fountain, engraved with the Marlborough arms; maker H. A.—*Earl Spencer.*
 1701. **F.** 5894. Two Ewers and Salvers, engraved with the Marlborough arms; and large Cistern weighing 1920 oz. Marlborough plate; maker H. A.—*Earl Spencer.*
 1701. **F.** 5896. Pair of Massive Flagons. Marlborough Plate; maker G. O. crowned.—*Earl Spencer.*
 1701. **F.** 5907. Ewer and Salver; maker W. I., two stars above and lis below.—*Marquis of Abercorn.*
 1702. **G.** 5910. Helmet-shaped Ewer, with female bust handle, engraved with the royal arms and motto "Semper eadem"; maker M. E.—*Lord Willoughby de Eresby.*
 1703. **H.** 5911. Tureen; maker Ne.—*Lord Bateman.*
 1703. **H.** Silver Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
 1704. **I.** Silver Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
 1704. **I.** Spoon, flat stem, heart-shaped end; maker L. A. and crown.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*
 1705. **K.** 5912. Two-handled Cup and Cover, with the royal arms, presented by Queen Anne to Sir John Leake.—*The late Paul Butler, Esq.*
 1705. **K.** Two-handled Cup; maker's mark, an anchor dividing the letters W. A.—*Captain North's Collection.*
 1706. **L.** 5913. Gilt Communion Service, the salver engraved with the Descent from the Cross.—*Earl of Stamford and Warrington.*

Date Catalogue No.

1706. L. 5449. Loving Cup, given by William Humphreys.—*Ironmongers' Company*.
1707. M. Old English Spoon.—*O. Morgan, Esq., M.P.*
1708. N. The Goldsmiths' Company's Minutes.
1708. N. Silver Porringer; maker B. E.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1709. O. Silver Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1710. P. Silver Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1711. Q. 5914. Four circular Salt Cellars; maker P. A. under a rose.—*W. Maskell, Esq.*
1712. R. 5450. Loving Cup, the gift of Randolph Lane, in the same year.—*Ironmongers' Company*.
1712. R. Salver, engraved with the royal arms and motto "Semper eadem," 15½ in. diam.; maker F. A., lis above pellet below.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford*.
1713. S. Silver Tankard.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
1714. T. 5432. Loving Cup, the gift of Hugh Radcliffe.—*Haberdashers' Company*.
1714. T. Pepper Caster; maker V. I.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1715. V. Six Spoons; maker Sc.—*Rev. T. Staniforth*.

CYCLE XV.—May 1716 to May 1736. (George I. & II.)

1716. A. Two-handled Porringer; maker F. L.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1717. B. Silver Monteith or Punch-bowl, with a detached scallop rim.—*J. G. Fanshawe, Esq.*
1717. B. Silver Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1718. C. 5919. Silver Waiter.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*
1718. C. 5920. Silver Basin and Cover; maker W. I., two stars and lis.—*Sir W. Stirling of Keir*.
1719. D. 5921. Pair of covered Cups, chased with scrolls and head of Bacchus.—*Earl of Stamford and Warrington*.
1720. E. 5657. Sugar Tongs.—*Corporation of Doncaster*.
1721. F. 5677. Cup, the gift of John Kilpatrick.—*Corporation of Norwich*.
1722. G. Silver Paten.—*Crowhurst Church*.
1724. I. Two-handled Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1725. K. 6005. Silver-gilt Oar, a copy of a more ancient one of the time of Queen Elizabeth, 3 ft. 3 in. long, inscribed, "This oar, a badge of authority used by the ancient Corporation of Boston, was sold by the modern Town Council in 1832, and purchased by Francis Thurkill, Esq., an Alderman of that Borough, by whose widow it was presented in 1840 to the Earl Brownlow."—*Earl Brownlow*.
1726. L. Two-handled Porringer.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
1727. M. Paten; the date letter M in a square (second size punch) the larger one being in the form of a shield.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford*.
1727. M. 5923. Helmet-shaped Ewer, engraved with the arms of George I.—*J. P. Dexter, Esq.*

Date Catalogue No.

1728. N. 5928. Gilt Toilet Service; maker I. L.—*Earl of Stamford and Warrington.*
1729. O. 5929. Silver Basin, scrolls and flowers.—*Lord Bateman.*
1730. P. Six Sconces; maker P. A. crowned.—*Earl of Stamford and Warrington.*
1732. R. 5934. Pair of gilt Tankards; maker P. L. (Paul* de Lamerie), star and crown above, lis below.—*Earl of Stamford and Warrington.*
1732. R. Two-handled Cup.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
1733. S. 5938. Bread Basket, of wicker pattern; maker P. L. (Paul de Lamerie), crown and star above, lis below.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
1734. T. 5671. The Walpole Mace; maker T. R.—*Corporation of Norwich.*
1735. V. Teapot, melon-shaped, chased with shells and flowers.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*

CYCLE XVI.—May 1736 to May 1756. (George II.)

1736. a. Sacramental Flagon.—*Crowhurst Church.*
1737. b. 5939. Chalice and Paten.—*Messrs. Hunt and Roskell.*
1739. d. Spoon, the stem surmounted by a group representing Charity.—*Hon. G. Mostyn.*
1740. e. 5426. Pair of Vases and Covers, chased with deities and emblems of the arts and sciences, scroll handles of terminal figures; maker's initials T. T.—*Goldsmiths' Company.*
1741. f. 5424. Large Ewer and Salver, handsomely chased with heathen deities, Minerva holding a scroll inscribed, "By prudence and good management I am restored"; maker Paul de Lamerie.—*Goldsmiths' Company.*
1742. g. 5940. Silver Cup and Cover, elaborately chased; maker P. L. (Paul de Lamerie), and star, crown above, lis below.—*Messrs. Hunt and Roskell.*
1743. h. 5941. Pair of Silver Dishes; maker N. S., star above.—*Her Majesty the Queen.*
1744. i. Cake Basket, with mermaid handles; maker H. M.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
1747. m. 5943. Pair of Tortoiseshell Caddies, silver-mounted, ornamented with repoussé work in figures, scrolls, &c. maker P. L. (Paul de Lamerie), crown and star above, lis below.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
1748. n. Pair of Vases and Covers, with acanthus-leaf ornament.—*Jos. Bond, Esq.*

* The first entry of Paul de Lamerie in the mark-book of the Goldsmiths' Hall occurs in 1712, when he resided at the Golden Ball, in Windmill Street, in the Haymarket. In 1739 he removed to Garrard Street or Gerard Street, Soho. His mark up to 1732 was L. A. crowned. In 1733 it was altered to P. L. crowned for the Old Standard.

Date Catalogue No.

1750. p. 5944. Cruet Stand by Paul de Lamerie.—*J. Dunn Gardner, Esq.*
 1752. r. 5649. State Sword.—*Corporation of Bristol.*
 1753. s. 5945. Set of Casters.—*Sir W. Stirling of Keir.*
 1754. t. 5948. Two Tea Caddies; maker M. F.—*Earl of Stamford and Warrington.*
 1755. u. 5950. Milk-pot, repoussé with vine-leaves and grapes; maker P. B.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*

CYCLE XVII.—May 1756 to May 1776. (George III.)

1756. **A.** 5951. Tea-kettle, gourd-shaped, engraved with landscapes and figures; on a stand.—*J. D. Gardner, Esq.*
 1758. **C.** 5952. Ewer; maker T. H.—*O. E. Coope, Esq.*
 1759. **D.** Two-handled Vase; and a Coffee-pot.—*S. K. Museum.*
 1759. **D.** Bread Basket, of pierced and repoussé work; maker W. P.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1760. **G.** Jug, plain with ribbed neck.—*J. D. Gardner, Esq.*
 1761. **J.** 5953. Bread basket, of pierced work and arms of George III.—*Her Majesty the Queen.*
 1763. **H.** Pair of Coronation Salvers; maker T. H.—*Lord Willoughby.*
 1764. **J.** Bread Basket and a Caddy.—*Sir J. Esmonde.*
 1765. **K.** 5961. Tea-kettle and Milk-pot; maker I K. crowned.—*Lord Bateman.*
 1765. **K.** Silver Tankard.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1766. **L.** Pepper Caster; maker R. P.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1767. **M.** 5963. Two small Waiters.—*Lord Bateman.*
 1767. **M.** Coffee-pot, handsomely chased; maker W. G.—*Brett Collection.*
 1768. **N.** Coffee-pot, repoussé with flowers and love-knots.—*J. D. Gardner, Esq.*
 1768. **N.** Four Salt Cellars.—*Sir J. Esmonde.*
 1770. **P.** 5965. Gilt Ewer and Cover; maker's mark S. C.: I. C.—*Sir T. W. Holburne, Bart.*
 1770. **P.** Cup engraved with Teniers subjects; maker I. M.—*Geo. Moffatt, Esq.*
 1771. **Q.** 5966. Tankard.—*Sir W. Stirling of Keir.*
 1772. **R.** 5967. Pair of Pillar Candlesticks.—*Lord Bateman.*
 1772. **R.** Fluted Vase and Cover, satyr-head handles, festoons, &c., fluted body, square foot.—*S. K. Museum.*
 1773. **S.** Tea-kettle and Stand, chased with foliage, by Paul de Lamerie.—*Messrs. Hancock.*
 1774. **T.** Candlestick. Brett Collection.—*W. Meyrick, Esq.*
 1774. **T.** Two-handled Cup; maker W. C.—*R. Temple Frere, Esq.*
 1775. **U.** Four Salt Cellars; maker S. M.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*

CYCLE XVIII.—May 1776 to May 1796 (George III.)

Date Catalogue No.

1776. a. Coffee-pot; maker's mark W. G.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1776. a. Pair of Candlesticks, in form of figures holding flowers.
 —*Messrs. Hancock.*
 1777. b. Milk Jug; maker S. I.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1778. c. Set of three Vases, designed by Adams.—*Percy Doyle,*
Esq.
 1779. d. 5969. Pair of Vases, open-work body with rams' heads
 and festoons; maker W. G. R.—*J. W. Brett, Esq.*
 1780. e. Cream Jug, repoussé with flowers and scrolls, stalk handle.
 —*J. D. Gardner, Esq.*
 1783. h. Cream jug; maker H. B.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*
 1784. i. Small two-handled Cup, stamped at the Hall between the
 1st December 1784 and the 24th July 1785 with these four
 marks—1st. The drawback mark of Britannia *incuse*;*
 2nd. The duty mark of the King's head *incuse*; 3rd. The
 Hall-mark of a leopard's head in relief; 4th. The maker's
 initials; the date letter being omitted.—*Dr. and Mrs.*
Ashford.
 1785. k. Pair of Salts, open ribs, festoons and lion's heads.—*J. D.*
Gardner, Esq.
 1786. l. 5971. Pair of Cups, with ivory plaques; maker I. B.—*Her*
Majesty the Queen.
 1788. n. 5676. Silver-gilt Salt Cellars; maker's mark M. N., R. G.
 —*Lord Bateman.*
 1792. r. 5978. Silver globe Inkstand.—*J. W. Brett, Esq.*

* This refers to the drawback.

Provincial Assay Offices.

The seven towns appointed by the Act 2 Henry VI. (1423) were York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich, Lincoln, Bristol, Coventry, and Salisbury, where mints had already been established, and most of them had guilds or fraternities previously existing. The town marks of the three first have been identified, but as nothing is known of the "touches" or town marks of any of the remaining four, they probably did not avail themselves of the privilege of assaying and marking plate, or if they did, few or no traces have been discovered of their doings or the marks they adopted.

By the Act 12 and 13 William III. (1700), York, Bristol, and Norwich, and in 1701-2 Newcastle-upon-Tyne, were reappointed, with the addition of Exeter and Chester, in which two last-named town mints had then lately been appointed for coining the silver monies of the kingdom—Coventry, Salisbury, and Lincoln having then evidently ceased working. Bristol and Norwich, if they ever did exercise the privilege, must have ceased shortly after as we have no evidence of their having assayed plate since 1700.

BARNSTABLE.

A maker, using the initials I. P., manufactured a little plate at this town in the middle of the seventeenth century.

BIRMINGHAM.

A.D. 1773. 13 GEORGE III. c. 52. This Act was passed for the appointment of Wardens and Assay Masters for assaying and stamping wrought silver plate in the towns of Sheffield and Birmingham. Silver goods "shall be marked as followeth; that is to say, with the mark of the maker or worker thereof, which shall be the first letter of his Christian and surname; and also with the lion passant, and with the mark of the Company, within whose Assay Office such plate shall be assayed and marked, to denote the goodness thereof, and the place where the same was assayed and marked; and also with a distinct variable mark or letter, which letter or mark shall be annually changed upon the election of new wardens for each Company, to denote the year in which such plate is marked."

By the above-named Act of 1773, both the officers of Birmingham and Sheffield had jurisdiction to assay all plate made within

twenty miles of those towns. By the 17 & 18 Victoria, cap. 96, all workers or dealers in plate are authorised to register their marks at any Assay Office legally established which they may select.

Sheffield and Birmingham only verify their Hall-marking at the Mint, and the Act requires twice a year that the Assay Master shall appear at the Mint and verify his proceedings, under a penalty of £200, and dismissal from the office for ever, which is not the case in the other Assay Offices of Chester, Exeter, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Edinburgh, or Dublin.

In the Parliamentary inquiry on the subject of Hall-marks and Plate in 1856, it appeared that no other offices but Birmingham and Sheffield had ever within living memory sent up their diet boxes to be tested at the Mint, being only liable when required to do so.

In the Parliamentary inquiry of 1879, it was expressly urged that the whole of the Assay Offices should be placed under the direct supervision of the Mint, so that uniform standard of quality should be guaranteed.

At Birmingham the selection of the variable letter, which is directed to be changed with the annual election of the wardens in *July*, is not confided to any officers, but the custom has been to take the letters in alphabetical order, adopting for one cycle of twenty-six years the Roman, and for another cycle the old English letters.

A.D. 1824. 5 GEORGE IV. Power was given to the Company at Birmingham to assay gold as well as silver, and their marks are the same as those used in London, except that the anchor is substituted for the leopard's head.

Mr. Arthur Westwood, the Assay Master at Birmingham, has most kindly furnished us with impressions of the date letters, and standard marks now used at this city.

The following is the present form of the anchor, and of the lion passant, which is not guardant:—



BIRMINGHAM ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1.		CYCLE 2.		CYCLE 3.		CYCLE 4.		CYCLE 5.	
	JULY		JULY		JULY		JULY		JULY
A	1778-4	a	1799-0	A	1825-6	A	1850-1	a	1875-6
B	1774-5	b	1800-1	B	1826-7	B	1851-2	b	1876-7
C	1775-6	c	1801-2	C	1827-8	C	1852-3	c	1877-8
D	1776-7	d	1802-3	D	1828-9	D	1853-4	d	1878-9
E	1777-8	e	1803-4	E	1829-0	E	1854-5	e	1879-0
F	1778-9	f	1804-5	F	1830-1	F	1855-6	f	1880-1
G	1779-0	g	1805-6	G	1831-2	G	1856-7	g	1881-2
H	1780-1	h	1806-7	H	1832-3	H	1857-8	h	1882-3
I	1781-2	i	1807-8	I	1833-4	I	1858-9	i	1883-4
J	1782-3	j	1808-9	J	1834-5	J	1859-0	j	1884-5
K	1783-4	k	1809-0	K	1835-6	K	1860-1	k	1885-6
L	1784-5	l	1810-1	L	1836-7	L	1861-2	l	1886-7
M	1785-6	m	1811-2	M	1837-8	M	1862-3	m	1886-7
N	1786-7	n	1812-3	N	1838-9	N	1863-4	n	1887-8
O	1787-8	o	1813-4	O	1839-0	O	1864-5	o	1888-9
P	1788-9	p	1814-5	P	1840-1	P	1865-6	p	1889-0
Q	1789-0	q	1815-6	Q	1841-2	Q	1866-7	q	1890-1
R	1790-1	r	1816-7	R	1842-3	R	1867-8	r	1891-2
S	1791-2	s	1817-8	S	1843-4	S	1868-9	s	1892-3
T	1792-3	t	1818-9	T	1844-5	T	1869-0	t	1893-4
U	1793-4	u	1819-0	U	1845-6	U	1870-1	u	1894-5
V	1794-5	v	1820-1	V	1846-7	V	1871-2	v	1895-6
W	1795-6	w	1821-2	W	1847-8	W	1872-3	w	1896-7
X	1796-7	x	1822-3	X	1848-9	X	1873-4	x	1897-8
Y	1797-8	y	1823-4	Y	1849-0	Y	1874-5	y	1898-9
Z	1798-9	z	1824-5	Z		Z		z	1899-0
FIVE STAMPS. 1. Anchor. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Sovereign's Head, 1784. 5. Maker's Mark.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Anchor. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Sovereign's Head. 5. Maker's Mark.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Anchor. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Sovereign's Head. 5. Maker's Mark.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Anchor. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Queen's Head. 5. Maker's Mark.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Anchor. 2. Lion passant. 3. Date Letter. 4. Queen's Head. 5. Maker's Mark.	

NOTE.—For the New Standard of 11 oz. 10 dwts. a stamp of Britannia is used instead of the lion passant.

CYCLE 6.									
 a	1900-1	 C	1902-3	 e	1904-5	 g	1906-7	 i	1908-9
 b	1901-2	 d	1903-4	 f	1905-6	 h	1907-8	 k	1909-0
1. Anchor. 2. Lion passant.				3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark.					

BRISTOL.

Bristol may, perhaps, have had an office, for there were several silversmiths there, who afterwards sent their goods to Exeter to be assayed.

It is not, however, by any means certain that the right of assay was ever exercised at Bristol; although it was appointed as an assay office in 1423, and reappointed in 1700. Indeed though we have enquired from a leading silversmith at Bristol, we have failed to trace any local silver.

There is a cup on a stem, ornamented with punched diamond pattern, which from the inscription appears to have been made in this town, although it bears no Hall-mark. It is late sixteenth century work:—

In the possession of
Sir A. H. Elton, Bart.

{ "From Mendep I was brought,
Out of a leden mine;
In Bristol I was wrought,
And now am silver fine."

There are some interesting pieces of plate preserved by the Corporation of Bristol, especially a pair of gilt tankards richly decorated, the gift of John Dodridge, Recorder of Bristol, 1658, and a gilt ewer and salver, the gift of Robert Kitchen. These were both assayed and marked in London. The salver made in 1595 was stolen during the Bristol riots in October 1831, and was cut up into 167 pieces, in which state it was offered for sale to a silversmith of the town, who apprehended the thief, and he was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. The pieces were rivetted together on a silver plate by the same silversmith, in which state it now remains, its history being recorded on the back. A State sword, bearing date 1483, ornamented and enamelled, is also preserved; on one of the mounts are the arms of Bristol, viz., a three-masted ship approaching a castle on a rock, with two unicorns as supporters, and on a torse two arms, one holding a serpent, the other the scales of justice, being the crest of the city arms.

CHESTER.

It appears by the record of Domesday, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor there were seven Mint Masters in Chester. In the reign of Charles I. much of the silver was coined here, and in that of William III. it was one of the six cities in which mints were established for recoining the silver of the kingdom. The Mint-mark of Chester on the half-crowns of Charles I. struck in 1645 is three gerbes or wheat sheaves.

We have no record of the time when Chester first commenced assaying plate; it is not mentioned in the statute of the 2nd Henry IV. (A.D. 1423), but an office must have been established early in the sixteenth century. An old minute-book contains an entry sometime prior to 1573, directing "that noe brother shall delevre noe plate by him wrought unles his touche be marked and set upon the same before deliverie thereof, upon paine of forfeiture of everie diffalt

to be levied out of his goods iij^s iiij^d." We also quote the following, which may interest some of our readers:—

"Md. the viij day of March in Anno 1603^o Yt is concluded and agreed by the whole Compney of the Gouldsmys y^s this Order shall be houlden and kept amongst us all, that the *brood Arrowes agaynst Shrowftid** shall way everie one vj^d stalling and everie on of the Compney shall not sell vnder ix^d and for everie on that selles vnder ix^d shall fforfyt xij^d. And yt is ffourth agreyed that the Steward for y^s time shall come and sey them wayd and touchte. And to have ffor his paynes ij^d a duzen, and for the performance of this order we have subscribed our names. At that time beinge Alderman and Steward of y^s said Compney of the Gouldsmys.

"It is agreed by the consent of the Aldermen and Steward of the Gouldsmys that who soe ever shall make the bell that shalbe made against Shrovetide ffor the Sadlers shall have for his paines iij^s iiij^d, and yf any of the Compney shall offend in the premisses, he shall pay unto the Alderman and Steward and the reste of the Compney being, iij^s iiij^d."

"And y^s all the oulde bells shalbe broke and not any of the Compney to by any to be new burnished or sould to the peneltie aforesaid iij^s iiij^d."

The arms of Chester, granted in 1580, were, party per pale, composed of the dexter half of the coat of England, *gules*, three lions passant gardant dimidiated, *or*, and the sinister half of the coat of Blundeville, Earl of Chester, *azure*, three gerbes also dimidiated *or*. The crest is, on a wreath or *gules* and *azure*, over a royal helmet, a sword of State erect, with the point upwards. Supporters on the dexter side, a lion rampant, *or*, ducally gorged, *argent*; on the sinister side, a wolf *argent*, ducally gorged *or*. The grant mentions the antiquity of the city, &c., and that the ancient arms were nearly lost by time and negligence, and that the coat which the citizens claimed was deficient in crest and supporters. The Hall-

* This allusion to the "broad arrows against Shrovetide" refers to an ancient custom at Chester of holding shooting and running matches for prizes of silver broad arrows every Shrove Tuesday. These arrows (in sheaves of six in each quiver) were given by the Shoemakers' Company, and by all newly married couples, as homages to the Drapers' Company. The homage of the Saddlers' Company was a silver bell, to be given to the owner of the swiftest horse in a race on the same day. In the Collection of the Corporation of Carlisle are a pair of silver racing bells. One bears the date 1599; the other has a band inscribed with this rude distich:—

"THE SWEFTES HORSE THIS BELL TO TAKE
FOR MY LADE DAKER SAKE."

Bells were frequently given as racing prizes; hence the phrase "to bear away the bell." Camden, under the head of Yorkshire, mentions "a solemne horse running, in which the horse that outrunneth the rest hath for his prize a little golden bell." That was in the days of James I. The well-known nursery rhyme also alludes to the custom, when children are being started for a race:—

"Bell horses, Bell horses, what time o' day,
One o'clock, two o'clock, three and away."

At the word "away" they commence the start.

marks on plate were as shown in the examples annexed, viz.—The arms of the city, a dagger erect between three wheat-sheaves down to 1697. In 1701, the coat adopted was three demi-lions with three wheat-sheaves also dimidiated, which was again changed about 1775 to the more simple coat above described, without the demi-lions, &c., still in use.

The following extracts from the books of the Chester Goldsmiths' Company are all we can find relating to the Hall-marks, commencing in the year following the date of the Charter from King James II. in 1685:—

1686.	Feb 1st.	And it is further concluded that the Warden's marks shall be the Coat and Crest of the City of Chester on two punsons with a letter for the year.			
1687.		Paid for ye tuches engraving	£0	12	0
		Paid for ye three punsons	0	00	6
1690.	June 2nd.	On the same day the letter was changed from A to B, and so to continue for one year.			
1692.	April.	Paid for a punson and engraving the letter C	£0	01	6
1692.	Novr.	Paid Mr. Bullen for copperplate and punson	0	04	0
1694.		Paid Mr. Bullen for a new letter punson	0	01	0
1697.		Paid for the punson and carriage	0	05	8

These extracts prove that the Goldsmiths' Company at Chester assayed and stamped plate with three marks—the arms of the city, the crest, and the date letter—before 1701; the maker's mark being set upon the plate before it was delivered into the Assay Office, upon pain of forfeiture, as ordained.

There is no plate preserved by the Corporation of Chester of an earlier date than the latter half of the seventeenth century. The three tankards, two flagons, ewer, and tobacco-box which we have examined were all presented and made between the years 1668 and 1685, being all previous to the Charter of James II. granted in 1685-6, which took effect in the year following. These were all assayed and stamped in London. The city mace, "given by the Earl of Derby, Lord of Man and the Isles, Maior 1668," bears two stamps nearly effaced, of a maker's mark and the city arms. At the same time the Earl presented a very handsome State sword.

A writer, describing the ruinous state of Chester immediately after the siege, says: "Thus of the most anchante and famous Citie of Chester in times past; mark the ruins of it at present, viz.:—within these three years, 1643, 1644, 1645, the particular demolitions of it now most grievous to the spectator and more woeful to the inhabitants thereof." After describing the devastations he continues: "The drawing dry of the Cittie stockes, plate, rentes and collections, all which losses will amount to two hundred thousand pounds at the least." (MS. volume at Stowe, quoted by Lysons.) After reading this graphic account, we need not be surprised at the absence of ancient plate at Chester.

Chester was reappointed by the Act 12th William III. (1700), and is regulated by that Act and the Act of 12th George II.

We must here express our thanks to the present Assay Master, Mr. Jas. Foulkes Lowe, B.A., for his persevering kindness, not only in searching the records and furnishing extracts, but in obtaining impressions of ancient plate and affording much valuable information on the subject, which has enabled us to give a Table of the Assay Letters used at Chester from 1701 to the present time. In this task he has been ably assisted by Mr. Thos. Hughes, F.S.A., the indefatigable Secretary of the Chester Archæological Society.

An interesting copperplate is preserved in the office, and is perhaps that mentioned in the cash-book of Nov. 1692—"Paid Mr. Bullen for a copperplate and punson 4^s." It contains principally the maker's marks, which consisted of the two first letters of the surname, and on and after 1720 the initials of Christian and surname. It has also the Roman capital date letters on square stamps used in the cycle commencing 1701, and those of other cycles of a later date, but not arranged in order. The other stamps are struck promiscuously on the plate, for the purpose of proving them, as well as for reference.

In 1773, the Members of the Company of Goldsmiths and Watchmakers of the City of Chester were:—

Mr. Joseph Duke, Silversmith.	
George Walker, do.	
John Scasebrick, Jeweller, Assayer.	
Gabriel Smith, Watchmaker.	
Thomas Brown, do.	
Robert Cowley, do.	
John Richardson	} Apprenticed to Silversmiths, but out of business.
Thomas Duke	
James Conway	

The names and places of abode of Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, and Plate-workers (then living, 1773), who had entered their names and marks in the Assay Office at Chester, were Messrs.

George Walker,	Chester.	John Gimlet,	Birmingham.
William Pemberton,	do.	Ralph Wakefield,	Liverpool.
Richard Richardson,	do.	Joseph Walley,	do.
Jas. Dixon,	do.	Christian Thyme,	do.
William Hardwick,	Manchester	Ralph Walker,	do.
T. Prichard,	Shrewsbury.	— Fisher,	do.
Geo. Smith,	Warrington.	J. Wyke & T. Green	do.
Gimble & Vale,	Birmingham.	Bolton & Fothergill.	

The following is the present form of the Chester mark:—



CHESTER DATE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1.		CYCLE 2.		CYCLE 3.		CYCLE 4.		CYCLE 5.	
	1664-5		1689-0		JULY 1701-2		JULY 1726-7		JULY 1752-8
	1665-6		1690-1		1702-8		1727-8		1753-4
	1666-7		1691-2		1703-4		1728-9		1754-5
	1667-8		1692-8		1704-5		1729-0		1755-6
	1668-9		1693-4		1705-6		1780-1		1756-7
	1669-0		1694-5		1706-7		1781-2		1757-8
	1670-1		1695-6		1707-8		1782-8		1758-9
	1671-2		1696-7		1708-9		1783-4		1759-0
	1672-3				1709-0		1784-5		1760-1
	1673-4				1710-1		1785-6		1761-2
	1674-5				1711-2		1786-7		1762-3
	1675-6				1712-3		1787-8		1763-4
	1676-7				1713-4		1788-9		1764-5
	1677-8				1714-5		1789-0		1765-6
	1678-9				1715-6		1740-1		1766-7
	1679-0				1716-7		1741-2		*P 1767-8
	1680-1				1717-8		1742-3		1768-9
	1681-2				1718-9		1743-4		1769-0
	1682-3				1719-0		1744-5		1770-1
	1683-4				1720-1		1745-6		1771-2
	1684-5				1721-2		1746-7		1772-3
	1685-6				1722-3		1747-8		1773-4
	1686-7				1723-4		1748-9		1774-5
	1687-8				1724-5		1749-0		1775-6
	1688-9				1725-6		1750-1		1776-7
							1751-2		
<p>FOUR MARKS. 1. City Arms, of a dagger and 3 gerbes. 2. Crest, a sword erect. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark.</p>		<p>FOUR MARKS. 1. City Arms, as before. 2. Crest, fleur-de-lis or sword erect. 3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark.</p>		<p>FIVE MARKS. 1. City Arms, changed about 1720 to 3 demi-lions & 3 half gerbes. 2. Britannia. 3. Leopard's Head er. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Mark. After 1790. Old Standard.</p>		<p>FIVE MARKS. 1. City Arms, as the preceding, after 1720. 2. Lion passant. 3. Leopard's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Mark.</p>		<p>FIVE MARKS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Leopard's Head. 3. City Arms, as the preceding. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Mark.</p>	

NOTE.—The letters after 1701, with few exceptions, are placed in square escutoheons, with the corners cut off.
* Sir Philip Egerton, of Oulton, has sent us fac-similes of the Chester Marks on a pair of barrel mugs with P in Roman capitals, and an invoice of R. Richardson, Silversmith, 1709, made in 1767-8 for P. Egerton, Esq., of Oulton.

CHESTER DATE LETTERS.

CYCLE 6.		CYCLE 7.		CYCLE 8.		CYCLE 9.		CYCLE 10.	
			JULY		JULY		JULY		JULY
a	1777-8	<i>A</i>	1797-8	A	1818-9		1899-0		1864-5
b	1778-9	<i>B</i>	1798-9	B	1819-0		1840-1		1865-6
c	1779-0	<i>C</i>	1799-0	C	1820-1		1841-2		1866-7
d	1780-1	<i>D</i>	1800-1	D	1821-2		1842-3		1867-8
e	1781-2	<i>E</i>	1801-2	E	1822-3		1843-4		1868-9
f	1782-3	<i>F</i>	1802-3	F	1823-4		1844-5		1869-0
g	1783-4	<i>G</i>	1803-4	G	1824-5		1845-6		1870-1
h	1784-5	<i>H</i>	1804-5	H	1825-6		1846-7		1871-2
i	1785-6	<i>I</i>	1805-6	I	1826-7		1847-8		1872-3
k	1786-7	<i>K</i>	1806-7	K	1827-8		1848-9		1873-4
l	1787-8	<i>L</i>	1807-8	L	1828-9		1849-0		1874-5
m	1788-9	<i>M</i>	1808-9	M	1829-0		1850-1		1875-6
n	1789-0	<i>N</i>	1809-0	N	1830-1		1851-2		1876-7
o	1790-1	<i>O</i>	1810-1	O	1831-2		1852-3		1877-8
p	1791-2	<i>P</i>	1811-2	P	1832-3		1853-4		1878-9
q	1792-3	<i>Q</i>	1812-3	Q	1833-4		1854-5		1879-0
r	1793-4	<i>R</i>	1813-4	R	1834-5		1855-6		1880-1
s	1794-5	<i>S</i>	1814-5	S	1835-6		1856-7		1881-2
t	1795-6	<i>T</i>	1815-6	T	1836-7		1857-8		1882-3
u	1796-7	<i>U</i>	1816-7	U	1837-8		1858-9		1883-4
		<i>V</i>	1817-8	V	1838-9		1859-0		
							1860-1		
							1861-2		
							1862-3		
							1863-4		

<p>The stamp of the City Arms of 3 demilions and gerbe, changed to the Old Stamp of a sword between 3 gerbes, about 1784.</p>	<p>SIX MARKS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Leopard's Head. 3. City Arms. 4. Date Letter. 5. Duty Mark in 1784. 6. Maker's Mark. These letters are not fac-similes.</p>	<p>SIX MARKS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Leopard's Head. 3. City Arms. 4. Duty Mark. 5. Date Mark. 6. Maker.</p>	<p>SIX MARKS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Leopard's Head. 3. City Arms. 4. Duty Mark. 5. Date Mark. 6. Maker.</p>	<p>FIVE MARKS. 1. Lion passant. 2. City Arms. 3. Duty Mark. 4. Date Mark. 5. Maker. (The Leopard's Head discontinued 1839.)</p>	<p>FIVE MARKS. 1. Lion passant. 2. City Arms. 3. Duty Mark. 4. Date Mark. 5. Maker.</p>
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CHESTER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 11.					CYCLE 12.				
	1884-5	G	1890-1	N	1896-7		1901-2		1905-6
B	1885-6	H	1891-2	O	1897-8		1902-3		1906-7
C	1886-7	I	1892-3	P	1898-9		1903-4		1907-8
D	1887-8	K	1893-4	Q	1899-0		1904-5		1908-9
E	1888-9	L	1894-5	R	1900-1				
F	1889-0	M	1895-6						

1. Lion passant. 3. Date Mark. 5. Queen's Head.
2. City Arms. 4. Maker's Mark.

Duty abolished on silver in 1890, and Queen's Head omitted.

EXAMPLES.

CHESTER, 1665. The following four marks occur on a porringer or two-handled cup and cover, lately in the possession of *Messrs. Lewis and Son*, Brighton. It is the earliest authentic piece of Chester plate we have hitherto met with, enabling us to ascertain the type of letter used in the cycle commencing 1664.



City Crest.

Still used by the Assay Office as a heading to letters and correspondence.

1. The Chester City Arms, a sword between three wheat-sheaves or gerbes.
2. The City Crest, adopted by the Assay Office as their Hall-mark formerly, viz., a sword with a bandelet, which is still used by the officials on their printed documents, issuing from an earl's coronet, the five pellets underneath indicating the balls of the coronet.
3. A German text B, denoting the year 1665.
4. The maker's initials crowned, probably some of the Pembertons, who were silversmiths at Chester and members of the Guild about that date. Mr. Lowe, the Assay Master, informs us that the signature of Peter Pemberton occurs very regularly in the minute-book from 1677 until 1702.



Date, 1689. These marks are on a spoon with flat stem, leaf-shaped end, rat-tail bowl, clearly of this date. In the possession of the *Earl of Breadalbane*.

1. The Chester City Arms of a sword between three gerbes or wheat-sheaves.
2. The Crest of the Assay Office at Chester.
3. Court-hand A, denoting the year 1689, according to the minutes of the year 1690.
4. The maker's initials, Alexander Pulford, silversmith, who was admitted in that year as a member of the guild, whose name occurs frequently in the minutes.

The assay mark of a fleur-de-lis somewhat similar to the sword and bandelet requires some explanation; and Mr. Lowe, the Assay Master, remarks as a strange coincidence, that in the same old minute-book there is a sketch of a fleur-de-lis, as above shown, from which we may infer that this stamp was an old Chester mark, and we may with some degree of certainty attribute the stamp of a fleur-de-lis within a circle, so frequently found on plate of the early part of the seventeenth century, to Chester, when some such distinc-

tive mark must have been used, and the lis has never hitherto been accounted for.

These two examples prove that the sword between three gerbes, erroneously called the *new* arms, to distinguish the shield from another styled the *old* arms of three demi-lions and gerbes, was used as a punch on silver long before the last named: and Mr. Lowe informs us that it is found on public documents in the time of the Commonwealth, and is frequently met with in the reign of Charles II.

Hence the coat of a sword between three wheat-sheaves was used as a stamp previous to 1701, and was altered in that year to that of three demi-lions *per pale* with three wheat-sheaves also dimidiated, which was again changed about 1784 for the sword erect between three wheat-sheaves, which still remains in use.

The date letters on the above examples, taken in conjunction with the initials of silversmiths whose names are recorded in the minute-book, show the character of the alphabets adopted at the Chester Assay Office, viz., 1664 to 1688 inclusive, a German text alphabet, and 1689 to 1697 a court-hand or church text alphabet brought to a premature end by the Act altering the standard, recommencing in 1701; by which Act "A variable Roman letter" was expressly stated for the succeeding first cycle.

The variable letter was changed annually on the 5th July, from 1701 until 1839, when it was altered to the 5th August.

UNCERTAIN CHESTER MARKS.



CIRCA, 1660. A rat-tail spoon in the possession of the *Rev. T. Staniforth*.



A piece of plate of the seventeenth century in *Messrs. Hancock's* possession.

COVENTRY.

Although this city is mentioned in the Statute of 2nd Henry VI., as being entitled to assay plate, it is not probable that plate was ever stamped here.

EXETER.

There are no records at the Hall previous to 1701, when this city was first appointed an assay town.

The early mark used at Exeter previous to this date was a letter X crowned, subsequently altered to a castle of three towers. The Act passed in 1700, reappointing this city for assaying plate, did not come into operation until the 29th September, 1701. On the 7th of August the Company of Goldsmiths met, and on the 17th of September Wardens were appointed, and they resolved, with all

convenient speed and safety, to put the Act in execution; and the first wardens and assayer were sworn in before the Mayor on the 19th of November 1701. The letters commenced with a Roman capital A for that year, as ordered by the statute, which characters, large and small, they used throughout the alphabet until 1837, when they adopted old English capitals for that cycle. A Table of Letters for each year will be found annexed.

We have given below the probable dates of some early pieces bearing date-letters, according to the London Tables, in a parenthesis, which from the style of workmanship are approximate, if not actually correct. It is a curious fact that from 1797 they reduced the number of letters in each cycle from 24 to 20 to correspond with those of London, adopting the same alphabets down to 1856. The extensive collection of old English spoons in the possession of Dr. and Mrs. Ashford, of Torquay, especially rich in those manufactured at Exeter, has been of great service in verifying the Table of Date-Marks, and Dr. Ashford's careful investigation of the subject has greatly assisted our research.

Mr. Morgan speaks of a mark he had occasionally met with on old plate, resembling the letter X, surmounted by a crown, which he conjectured might be St. Andrew's cross, therefore of Scotch origin. We have met with several specimens, and on all the mark is invariably the Roman letter X, not a cross saltire or St. Andrew's cross.

Another peculiarity relating to this mark is, when it occurs on spoons, it is always placed within the bowl, in the same position as the leopard's head on spoons struck in London, a proof that it denotes the stamp of a town.

In order, therefore, that we may endeavour to trace this mark to its proper locality, we will briefly notice some of the specimens which have come under our notice, being all evidently of English manufacture.

A brown mottled stoneware jug, in silver gilt mounting of the sixteenth century, has the letter X crowned, the word EASTON, and a small old English date letter *g* on a shield (London, 1560). The date engraved on the handle is 1586.

A brown stoneware jug, mounted in silver, has—1st, the letter X, surmounted by a crown and two pellets; 2nd, the word ESTON; 3rd, C on a shield; 4th, a small old English date-letter *g* on a shield (London, 1564). On the handle is engraved the date, 1595.—*W. Cozier, Esq.*

A silver apostle spoon has three marks—1st, the letter X crowned, and two fleur-de-lis, within the bowl; 2nd, the word EASTON; 3rd, a small old English date-letter *g* on a pointed shield (London, 1560). On the back are some letters pounced and the date 1634 of a later period.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford, Torquay.*

These three pieces are from families in Devonshire, and we have traced several others to the same county. A silversmith residing in Exeter assures us that he has frequently met with similar marks, and has always considered them to be old Exeter stamps,

in which opinion he is corroborated by other residents of the vicinity.

A silver spoon bears an oblong stamp of a castle of three towers, with the word EXON (Exoniensis), EX on one side and ON on the other. It has on the handle the date 1692 pounced or pricked, but the make is probably earlier.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*

There are in Exeter parish churches several communion cups of the sixteenth century, mostly 1570 to 1580, bearing the stamp IONS, with or without the crowned X, which may be part of a maker's name, Jonson or Johnson.

A stoneware jug of the sixteenth century, mounted in silver, bears the marks of the letter X crowned and the word YEDS.—*South Kensington Museum.*

A spoon with a maiden's head on the stem, of old Exeter make, has the X crowned and the name of the maker, OSBORN, impressed. Date of presentation I.H. 1612.—*Dr. and Mrs. Ashford.*

Dr. Ashford informs us he has met with an old Exeter seal-top spoon with the maker's name, BENTLY.

A silver apostle spoon has in the bowl—1st, the letter X crowned; 2nd, on the stem the name RADCLIFF; and 3rd, the letters I.R. and a flower. It also bears the pounced or pricked letters and date of presentation 1637.—*Rev. T. Staniforth, Storrs, Windermere.*

A brown stoneware jug of the sixteenth century, mounted in silver handsomely chased, has the marks of an X crowned, with two pellets in the side angles and the word HORWOD stamped.—*In the possession of Martin Tucker Smith, Esq.*

There are two silver apostle spoons marked with the letter X crowned in a dotted circle, and a goldsmith's mark, ET, repeated thrice,* with pounced letters and date 1659.—*In the Salford Royal Museum, Peel Park.*

A silver apostle spoon has the letter X crowned, as before, and a goldsmith's mark, and is pounced with letters and date of presentation 1635.—*Rev. T. Staniforth, Storrs, Windermere*

Dr. and Mrs. Ashford possess several apostle spoons, with the crowned X inscribed with the following dates, which in many instances are much later than the periods of their manufacture:—

1634 and 1646. The crowned X has a small cross in each lateral angle, on a round shield.

1649. The crowned X has a triangular pellet in each lateral angle, ditto.

1660. The crowned X is on an escutcheon shaped to the letter.

1675. Crowned X with round pellets in each lateral angle, on a round shield.

* Repetitions of the maker's mark frequently occur in close proximity on the same piece, when other stamps are wanting, on provincial silver. This double or treble stamp may perhaps denote the quality of the silver, a system adopted in other countries; e.g., at Geneva, in the time of the old Republic, the stamp for silver of the first quality was the City Arms; for the second, the double punch of the maker; for the third, the maker's single punch.

1678. Crowned X with two pellets and round beaded escutcheon.
 1682. Crowned X with two stars of five points at the sides and a small s under.

By reference to the date of presentation on the pieces of plate here described, it will be observed they range from 1586 to 1700; and doubtless at Exeter most of the plate made in the West of England, especially at Plymouth, was sent to be stamped. Indeed, so much was an Assay Office required, that in the year 1700 Exeter was included in the statute, and after that date the shield of arms of the town (a castle with three towers) was adopted; and although Bristol was empowered to assay plate, both by 2 Henry VI. (1424), and also by 12 William III. (1700), it never availed itself of the powers thereby conferred. On the other hand, Exeter, as soon as the Act came into operation, appointed its wardens and assayer with all convenient speed and safety.

The first page of the register-book, in which the plate-workers entered their names and marks being lost, we can only commence with "Peeter Eliot of Dartmouth," who entered on the 13th November 1703, stamping the two first letters of his surname, E.L., in old English capitals, in compliance with the Act for the New Standard, a specimen of which will be seen in the examples (page 153) occurring on a rat-tail spoon of the year 1703. This was the twenty-fourth worker who had entered his mark. Other marks of goldsmiths follow, who resided principally at Plymouth, a few at Exeter, and other places:—

May 8, 1704.	Richard Wilcocks, Plymouth—Wj.
" "	Richard Holin, Truro—HO crowned.
" "	Edward Sweet, Dunster—SW.
" "	Richard Vavasour, Tottness—VA.
	etc., etc.

In the early register-book the workers stamped their marks on the margin of the page, opposite to their names.

On May 6, 1708, Robert Palmer was appointed Assay Master.

In 1773 the names of the members of the Goldsmiths' Company at Exeter were Mr. Thos. Coffin, Mr. Richard Sams, Mr. David Jones, and Mr. Richard Jenkins; and Mr. Matthew Skinner was the Assay Master.

The names and places of abode of all the Goldsmiths, Silver-smiths, and plate workers then living (1773), that had entered their names and marks in the Assay Office at Exeter, were—Messrs.

Edward Broadhurst,	Plymouth.	John Brown,	Plymouth
Roger Berryman Symons,	do.	Thomas Strong,	do.
Welch,	do.	William Harvey,	do.
Jason Rolt,	do.	Thomas Beer,	do.
James Jenkins,	do.	Richard Bidlake,	do.
Thomas Thorne,	do.	William Eveleigh,	Dartmouth.
Benjamin Symons Nathan,	do.	Richard Jenkins,	Exeter.
John Tingcombe,	do.	William Coffin,	do.
David Hawkins,	do.		

At this Office only one standard of gold was assayed, which was the highest standard of 22 karats.

Since 1701 the date letter has always been changed on the 7th of August in each year.

The office at this city continued to do useful work, until twenty years ago, when it was closed. A great part of the silver assayed at Exeter was manufactured in Bristol.

Ultimately the amount of business decreased to so large an extent, that on the 26th June, 1883, a special Court was held at the Goldsmiths' Hall. At this Court there were present Mr. Josiah Williams, Mr. John Ellett Lake, Mr. Ross, Mr. Henry Lake, Mr. Maynard, Assay Master, and Mr. Henry Wilcocks Hooper, Solicitor to the Company. The Company resolved, having regard to the small quantity of silver recently marked, that it was not desirable to obtain new punches; and that the premises used for the business should be given up; and that no fresh premises should be taken until sufficient applications were received to render it desirable to re-open the Hall. The old punches were surrendered to the Inland Revenue Office, and the books and paper deposited with Mr. Hooper, the Solicitor to the Company.

The early minute books and other documents of the Company are now in the custody of Mr. Hooper; and six copper plates, on which many of the date letters and makers' marks have been struck, are now in the custody of Mr. J. Jerman, of Exeter.

For much of this information relating to the Exeter Assay Office, we are indebted to Mr. Percy H. Hooper, the last Deputy Assayer, and Mr. J. Jerman.

The form of the castle used at Exeter has varied at different times. At first the mark appeared of the following form:—



About 1710 the form was slightly varied:—



In 1823 the three towers are detached and placed in an oblong:



A few years later the the castles were again joined, and that form was retained until the office was closed:—



The lion passant was very similar to that used at Birmingham:—



EXETER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1.		CYCLE 2.		CYCLE 3.		CYCLE 4.	
A	AUGUST 1701-2	a	AUGUST 1725-6	A	AUGUST 1749-0	ⓐ	AUGUST 1778-4
B	1702-3	b	1726-7	B	1750-1	b	1774-5
C	1703-4	c	1727-8	C	1751-2	c	1775-6
D	1704-5	d	1728-9	D	1752-3	d	1776-7
E	1705-6	e	1729-0	E	1753-4	e	1777-8
F	1706-7	f	1780-1	F	1754-5	f	1778-9
G	1707-8	g	1781-2	G	1755-6	g	1779-0
H	1708-9	h	1782-3	H	1756-7	h	1780-1
I	1709-0	i	1783-4	I	1757-8	i	1781-2
K	1710-1	k	1784-5	K	1758-9	k	1782-3
L	1711-2	l	1785-6	L	1759-0	l	1783-4
M	1712-3	m	1786-7	M	1760-1	m	1784-5
N	1713-4	n	1787-8	N	1761-2	n	1785-6
O	1714-5	o	1788-9	O	1762-3	o	1786-7
P	1715-6	p	1789-0	P	1763-4	p	1787-8
Q	1716-7	q	1740-1	Q	1764-5	ⓑ	1788-9
R	1717-8	r	1741-2	R	1765-6	r	1789-0
S	1718-9	f	1742-3	S	1766-7	f	1790-1
T	1719-0	t	1743-4	T	1767-8	t	1791-2
V	1720-1	v	1744-5	V	1768-9	v	1792-3
W	1721-2	w	1745-6	W	1769-0	w	1793-4
X	1722-3	x	1746-7	X	1770-1	ⓧ	1794-5
Y	1723-4	y	1747-8	Y	1771-2	y	1795-6
Z	1724-5	Z	1748-9	Z	1772-3	Z	1796-7
FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion's Head erased. 2. Britannia. 3. Castle. 4. Date Mark. 5. Maker's Initials. [In 1780 the Marks of		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Leopard's Head. 3. Castle. 4. Date Mark. 5. Maker's Initials. Old Standard resumed.]		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Leopard's Head. 3. Castle. 4. Date Mark. 5. Maker's Initials.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Castle. 3. Date Mark. 4. Maker's Initials. 5. Duty Mark of King's Head in 1784.	

CYCLE 5.		CYCLE 6.		CYCLE 7.		CYCLE 8.	
A	AUGUST 1797-8	a	AUGUST 1817-8	A	AUGUST 1897-8	A	AUGUST 1857-8
B	1798-9	b	1818-9	B	1898-9	B	1858-9
C	1799-0	c	1819-0	C	1899-0	C	1859-0
D	1800-1	d	1820-1	D	1840-1	D	1860-1
E	1801-2	e	1821-2	E	1841-2	E	1861-2
F	1802-3	f	1822-3	F	1842-3	F	1862-3
G	1803-4	g	1823-4	G	1843-4	G	1863-4
H	1804-5	h	1824-5	H	1844-5	H	1864-5
I	1805-6	i	1825-6	I	1845-6	I	1865-6
K	1806-7	k	1826-7	K	1846-7	K	1866-7
L	1807-8	l	1827-8	L	1847-8	L	1867-8
M	1808-9	m	1828-9	M	1848-9	M	1868-9
N	1809-0	n	1829-0	N	1849-0	N	1869-0
O	1810-1	o	1830-1	O	1850-1	O	1870-1
P	1811-2	p	1831-2	P	1851-2	P	1871-2
Q	1812-3	q	1832-3	Q	1852-3	Q	1872-3
R	1813-4	r	1833-4	R	1853-4	R	1873-4
S	1814-5	s	1834-5	S	1854-5	S	1874-5
T	1815-6	t	1835-6	T	1855-6	T	1875-6
U	1816-7	u	1836-7	U	1856-7	U	1876-7
<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Castle. 3. King's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.</p>		<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Castle. 3. King's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.</p>		<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Castle. 3. Queen's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.</p>		<p>FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Castle. 3. Queen's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.</p>	

EXETER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 9.									
(A)	1877-8	(B)	1878-9	(C)	1879-0	(D)	1880-1	(E)	1881-2
(F)	1882-3								
1. Lion passant. 4. Date Letter.			2. Castle. 5. Maker's Initials.		3. Queen's Head.				

EXETER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

The arms of the City of Exeter are:—Per pale *gu* and *sa* a triangular castle with three towers *or*. *Crest* a demi-lion rampant *gu*, crowned, *or*, holding between its paws a bezant, surmounted by a cross botonne *or*. Supporters, two pegasi *ar*, wings endorsed, maned and crined *or*; on the wings three bars wavy *az*. Motto, "Semper Fidelis."

EXAMPLES.



Apostle spoon, date about 1576.—
Messrs. Hancock.



A spoon of the sixteenth century,
with hexagonal stem, pear-shaped
bowl, button top. Date of pre-
sentation 1620.—*Earl of Breadal-
bane.*



Apostle spoon, 1637. — *Rev. T.
Staniforth.*



A spoon of about 1670, flat stem
and oval bowl, bears this stamp
with monogram and maker's initials
W.F.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



Split head spoon, pricked ^{EP}_{MN} 1689.
*Circa 1689.—Messrs. Ellett Lake &
Son.*



Handsome tankard. Date 1703.—
Messrs. Ellett Lake & Son.

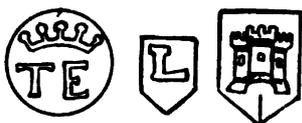


Date 1703. These new standard
marks are on a three-pint tankard.
(Britannia holds in her hand a
flower or sprig, not a cross as here
given in the cut.)—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Salver *circa* 1710. The City mark of
a Castle has a thin line rising from
the printed base of the shield to the
central tower, indicating the partition
per pale, like the City arms.—
Messrs. Ellett Lake & Son.





Split head spoon. Date 1711.—*Messrs. Ellett Lake & Son.*

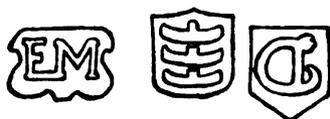


Date 1712. On a rat-tail spoon, given in 1713.—*Messrs. Hancock.*

HULL.

A little plate was marked here with the town arms during the seventeenth century, though there was never a proper assay office at this place.

EXAMPLE.



Date *Circa* 1660. Spoon.—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*



LINCOLN.

The city of Lincoln was mentioned as an assay town in 1423, but it does not appear that plate was ever manufactured at this place, to any large amount.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

At Newcastle-upon-Tyne as early as 1249, Henry III. commanded the bailiffs and good men to choose four of the most prudent and trusty men of their town for the office of moneyers there, and other four like persons for keeping the King's Mint in that town; also two fit and prudent goldsmiths to be assayers of the money to be made there.

By the Act of 1423 this town was appointed one of the seven provincial assay towns in England. In 1536, the goldsmiths were by an ordinary, incorporated with the plumbers and glaziers, and the united company required to go together, on the feast of Corpus Christi, and maintain their play of the "Three Kings of Coleyn." They were to have four wardens, viz., one goldsmith, one plumber, one glazier, and one pewterer or painter; and it is quaintly added that no Scotchman born should be taken apprentice or suffered to work in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. They had their hall in "Maden Tower" granted them in the mayoralty of Sir Peter Riddell in 1619, and the association of the goldsmiths with the other tradesmen seems to have lasted till 1702.*

This town was reappointed as an assay town by the Act of 1701.

The annual letter appears to have been used from 1702. Mr. Thomas Sewell, one of the Wardens of the Assay Office, has kindly furnished us with a Table of Date-Letters, chronologically arranged, compiled from the Assay Office books and the copperplate on which the maker strikes his initials, as well as from pieces of old plate which have from time to time come under his notice. From careful examination of various examples of Newcastle plate, we have, in this edition, altered some of the characters, making the table more complete. The change of letter took place on the 3rd of May in each year.

In 1773 the members of the Goldsmiths' Company at Newcastle-upon-Tyne were—Mr. John Langlands and Mr. John Kirkup, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths, Wardens; and Mr. Matthew Prior, Assayer.

The names and places of abode of all the Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, and Plate-workers then living, who had entered their names and marks, were—Mr. John Langlands, Mr. John Kirkup, Mr. Samuel James, Mr. James Crawford, Mr. John Jobson, Mr. James Hetherington (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), Mr. John Fearney (Sunderland), and Mr. Samuel Thomson (Durham).

The Assay Office at Newcastle was closed in May, 1884, in consequence of there being insufficient work to make it worth keeping open. The Assay Master of the Office before 1854 was Mr. F. Somerville. He was succeeded by Mr. James Robson, who entered the office as a stamper in 1836, became Assay Master in 1854, and retained that post until the Office was finally closed. The last two wardens were Mr. T. A. Reid and Mr. J. W. Wakinshaw. A curious incident occurred when Mr. Robson commenced his duties. By some means he obtained the wrong punches, and marked some plate which afterwards went to Carlisle. This almost led to an action against a silversmith at that city, who was accused of forging the hall marks.

When the office was closed the stamping punches were obliterated or defaced by an Inland Revenue Officer. The name punch plate and the old books of the Goldsmiths' Company were placed in the Black Gate Museum of the Old Castle in the city.

* From an "Impartial History of the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne," published in 1801, p. 429.

156 NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1.		CYCLE 2.		CYCLE 3.		CYCLE 4.	
A	MAY 1702-3	A	MAY 1724-5	A	MAY 1746-7	A	MAY 1769-0
B	1703-4	B	1725-6	B	1747-8	B	1770-1
C	1704-5	C	1726-7	C	1748-9	C	1771-2
D	1705-6	D	1727-8	D	1749-0	D	1772-3†
E	1706-7	E	1728-9	E	1750-1	E	1773-4
F	1707-8	F	1729-0	F	1751-2	F	1774-5
G	1708-9	G	1730-1	G	1752-3	G	1775-6
H	1709-0	H	1731-2	H	1753-4	H	1776-7
I	1710-1	I	1732-3	I	1754-5	I	1777-8
K	1711-2	K	1733-4	J	1755-6	J	1778-9
L	1712-3	L	1734-5	K	1756-7	K	1779-0
M	1713-4	M	1735-6	L	1757-8	L	1780-1
N	1714-5	N	1736-7	M	1758-9	M	1781-2
O	1715-6	O	1737-8	N	1759-0	N	1782-3
P	1716-7	P	1738-9	O	1760-1	O	1783-4
Q	1717-8	Q	1739-0	P	1761-2	P	1784-5
R	1718-9	R	1740-1	Q	1762-3	Q	1785-6
S	1719-0	S	1741-2	R	1763-4	R	1786-7
T	1720-1	T	1742-3	S	1764-5	S	1787-8
U	1721-2	U	1743-4	T	1765-6	T	1788-9
V	1722-3	V	1744-5	U	1766-7	U	1789-0
W	1723-4*	W	1745-6	V	1767-8	V	1790-1
				W	1768-9	W	

* A mug with a Newcastle stamp of 1723-4 (W) in Messrs. Garrard's possession.
 † The Assay Master of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, before alluded to, says expressly: "The letter for the present official year (1772-3) is D."

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS. 157

CYCLE 5.		CYCLE 6.		CYCLE 7.		CYCLE 8.	
A	MAY 1791-2	a	MAY 1815-6	A	MAY 1839-0	a	MAY 1864-5
B	1792-3	b	1816-7	B	1840-1	b	1865-6
C	1793-4	c	1817-8	C	1841-2	c	1866-7
D	1794-5	d	1818-9	D	1842-3	d	1867-8
E	1795-6	e	1819-0	E	1843-4	e	1868-9
F	1796-7	f	1820-1	F	1844-5	f	1869-0
G	1797-8	g	1821-2	G	1845-6	g	1870-1
H	1798-9	h	1822-3	H	1846-7	h	1871-2
I	1799-0	i	1823-4	I	1847-8	i	1872-3
K	1800-1	k	1824-5	J	1848-9	k	1873-4
L	1801-2	l	1825-6	K	1849-0	l	1874-5
M	1802-3	m	1826-7	L	1850-1	m	1875-6
N	1803-4	n	1827-8	M	1851-2	n	1876-7
O	1804-5	o	1828-9	N	1852-3	o	1877-8
P	1805-6	p	1829-0	O	1853-4	p	1878-9
Q	1806-7	q	1830-1	P	1854-5	q	1879-0
R	1807-8	r	1831-2	Q	1855-6	r	1880-1
S	1808-9	s	1832-3	R	1856-7	s	1881-2
T	1809-0	t	1833-4	S	1857-8	t	1882-3
U	1810-1	v	1834-5	T	1858-9	u	1883-4
W	1811-2	w	1835-6	U	1859-0		
X	1812-3	x	1836-7	W	1860-1		
Y	1813-4	y	1837-8	X	1861-2		
Z	1814-5	z	1838-9	Y	1862-3		
				Z	1863-4		

NOTE.—The usual stamps found upon plate assayed at Newcastle are:—1. The Lion passant. 2. The Leopard's Head crowned. 3. The Town Mark of Three Castles. 4. The Letter or Date Mark; and 5. The Maker's Initials. After 1784 the Duty Mark of the Sovereign's Head is added.

EXAMPLES.



A porringer with two handles, fluted base and gadroon border at top. Date about 1680.—*The Earl of Breadalbane.*



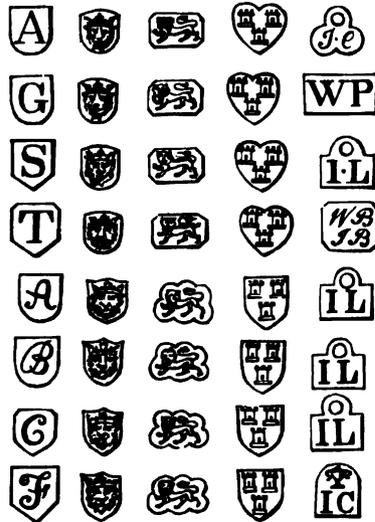
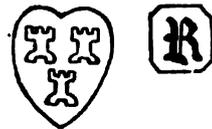
Large gravy ladle. Date 1725.—*H. A. Attenborough, Esq.*



Ditto. 1740.—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Small beaker. Date 1740.—*The Marquis of Exeter.*



Do. 1746.—*Messrs. Hancock*
 Do. 1752. do.
 Do. 1764. do.
 Do. 1765. do.
 Do. 1769. do.
 Do. 1770. do.
 Do. 1771. do.
 Do. 1774. do.

NORWICH.

In Norwich, plate was assayed and marked at an early period, this City being one of the assay towns mentioned in the Act of 1423. Some specimens are existing among the Corporation plate of the

date 1567. An annual letter seems to have been used, for we find on a gilt cylindrical salt and cover, elaborately chased with strap-work and elegant borders, this inscription:—"The Gyfte of Peter Reade, Esquiar." The plate-marks are—1. The Arms of Norwich, viz., a castle surmounted with a tower, in base a lion *passant gardant*; 2. A Roman capital D; and 3. Cross-mound (or orb and cross) within a lozenge. It was therefore made and stamped at Norwich in 1568, for Peter Reade died in that year.

Among the records of the Corporation of Norwich we see that in 1624 the mark of a castle and lion was delivered by the Mayor and Corporation to the Wardens and Searcher of the trade of goldsmiths; the city was reappointed an assay town in 1700; and in July 1, 1702, Mr. Robert Harstonge was sworn assayer of gold and silver to the Company, although we have never met with any plate with marks of Norwich after that date.

A cocoa-nut cup, mounted in silver, bears the city arms of castle and lion and a rose crowned, with the date mark, a Roman capital S.—*Messrs. Hunt & Roskell.*

The stamp of a rose is frequently found on plate of the sixteenth century, and is thought to denote the Norwich Assay Office, being, as in the piece just alluded to, found by the side of the city arms. A silver-mounted cocoa-nut cup in the *South Kensington Museum* bears the impress of a rose crowned, a date letter R, and the maker's mark, a star. It has the date of presentation, 1576, engraved upon it.

Among the Corporation plate is a gilt tazza cup on a short baluster stem. Engraved round the edge in cusped letters is the following inscription:—"THE MOST HERE OF IS DVNE BY PETER PETERSON." He was an eminent goldsmith at Norwich in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In the bottom of the bowl are engraved, within a circle, the arms of the city of Norwich, viz., gu. a castle surmounted with a tower ar., in base a lion passant gardant or. Two plate-marks have existed on the edge of the bowl. One of these seems to bear the arms of the city in an escutcheon, which was used to distinguish the plate made and assayed at Norwich, and the other a cross-mound. English work, the latter half of the sixteenth century. There are two other cups of similar character belonging to the Corporation, on one of which are the following assay marks, the lion, leopard's face, a covered cup, and letter. All three were probably the gift of John Blenerhasset whose arms are engraved within one of them. He was steward of the city in 1563, and one of the burgesses in Parliament, 13 Eliz.—*Proceedings Arch. Inst.* 1847.

A silver mace-head of the Company of St. George, in form of a capital of a column, enriched with acanthus leaves, and surmounted by a statuette of St. George and the Dragon. Round the collar has been engraved, but now partly obliterated by the insertion of four sockets, the following inscription:—

"*Ex Dono Honorabil: Fraternalitatis Sti. Georgij in Norwico*
Ano Dom 1705."

On the top is engraved the shield of St. George and the following:—

“DIE III. MAEII, MDCCLXXXVI. BENE ET FELICITER MVNICIPIO
NORVICENSI OMNIA VT EVENIANT PRECATVR ROBERTVS
PARTRIDGE PRAETER.”

The plate-mark, a court-hand *b* in an escutcheon on the mace-head, is of the year 1697. The initial H occurs on one of the marks, the remainder of which is illegible. Height $12\frac{3}{4}$ in.—*Ibid.*

The Walpole mace, presented in 1733, was assayed and stamped in London.

A finely ornamented repoussé ewer and salver, with Neptune and Amphitrite, “The gift of the Hon. Henry Howard, June 16, 1663,” was stamped in London in 1597. A tall gilt tankard, repoussé with strap-work, flowers, and fruit, and engraved with the arms of Norwich, was stamped in London in 1618.

EXAMPLES.

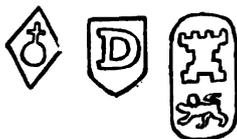
A chalice dated 1567, stamped with the letter C. and a cross-mound within a lozenge.—*North Creake Church, Norfolk.*



A piece of plate, date about 1567.
—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Communion cup of the same date.—
Messrs. Hancock.



Silver gilt salt. Date 1568.—*The Corporation of Norwich.*

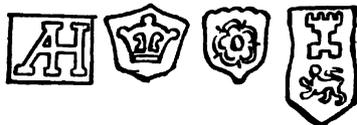


Mount of a cocoa-nut cup, with date of presentation 1576.—*South Kensington Museum.*

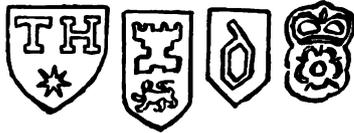
A cocoa-nut cup, stamped with a rose, and the letter S., date about 1580.—*Messrs. Hunt & Roskell.*



Seal-top Spoon. Date *circa* 1637.—
J. H. Walter, Esq.



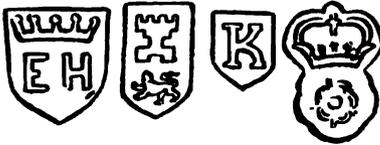
Split head Spoon. Date *circa* 1662.
—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*



Tankard, date 1691.—*James Reeve, Esq.*



Button top spoon, pounced date 1717, date of make about 1693.—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Beaker, date 1697.—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*

The rose crowned is the standard mark; the castle and lion that of the town; the cross-mound and star being the mark of the famous Peter Peterson. All the silver bearing this symbol having been made by him.

SALISBURY.

This city was appointed as an assay town in 1423, but it is not known if plate was ever assayed here; in any case nothing was done in 1700, when several other places were re-appointed as assay towns.

SHEFFIELD.

At Sheffield, silver only is assayed. Mr. B. W. Watson, the Assay Master, has most courteously furnished us with the variable letter for each year from the commencement in 1773, from references to the minute-book wherein are recorded the meetings for the election of new wardens, as well as the letter to be used for the ensuing year. The change takes place on the first Monday in July. The plan adopted at Sheffield differs from all the other offices, for instead of taking the alphabet in regular succession, the special letter for each year is selected apparently at random until 1824, after which the letters follow in their proper order. Through Mr. Watson's kindness, we are enabled to lay before our readers a table of marks, which have been verified by him. The marks used at this office are the same as at London, except that the crown is substituted for the leopard's head, and variation of the date-mark. Sometimes we find the crown and date-letter combined in one stamp, probably on small pieces of plate, but they are generally separate on square punches. When practicable, the four marks are placed in order and struck from one punch, but they are struck separately when that cannot be done. Occasionally we find the crown and lion on one

stamp. The marks are so combined for the convenience of the wardens in marking the goods, *but the letter only* is used to denote the year in which the article was made.

The date-letters are invariably placed in square escutcheons.

The form of the lion and crown now used is:—



CYCLE 1.		CYCLE 2.		CYCLE 3.		CYCLE 4.		CYCLE 5.	
	1778-4		1799-0		1824-5		1844-5		1868-9
F	1774-5	N	1800-1	b	1825-6	B	1845-6	B	1869-0
R	1775-6	H	1801-2	c	1826-7	C	1846-7	C	1870-1
R	1776-7	M	1802-3	d	1827-8	D	1847-8	D	1871-2
R	1777-8	F	1803-4	e	1828-9	E	1848-9	E	1872-3
S	1778-9	G	1804-5	f	1829-0	F	1849-0	F	1873-4
S	1779-0	B	1805-6	g	1830-1	G	1850-1	G	1874-5
A	1780-1	A	1806-7	h	1831-2	H	1851-2	H	1875-6
A	1781-2	S	1807-8	k	1832-3	I	1852-3	J	1876-7
B	1782-3	P	1808-9	l	1833-4	K	1853-4	K	1877-8
B	1783-4	K	1809-0	m	1834-5	L	1854-5	L	1878-9
B	1784-5	L	1810-1	p	1835-6	M	1855-6	M	1879-0
R	1785-6	C	1811-2	q	1836-7	N	1856-7	N	1880-1
R	1786-7	D	1812-3	r	1837-8	O	1857-8	O	1881-2
R	1787-8	R	1813-4	s	1838-9	P	1858-9	P	1882-3
A	1788-9	W	1814-5	t	1839-0	R	1859-0	Q	1883-4
A	1789-0	O	1815-6	u	1840-1	S	1860-1	R	1884-5
R	1790-1	T	1816-7	v	1841-2	T	1861-2	S	1885-6
R	1791-2	X	1817-8	x	1842-3	U	1862-3	T	1886-7
A	1792-3	I	1818-9	z	1843-4	V	1863-4	U	1887-8
A	1793-4	V	1819-0			W	1864-5	V	1888-9
m	1794-5	Q	1820-1			X	1865-6	W	1889-0
Q	1795-6	Y	1821-2			Y	1866-7	X	1890-1
Z	1796-7	Z	1822-3			Z	1867-8	Y	1891-2
X	1797-8	U	1823-4					Z	1892-3
V	1798-9								
1. Lion passant. 2. Crown. 3. Date-Letter. 4. Duty, King's Head. 5. Maker's Mark.		1. Lion passant. 2. Crown and Date in one stamp. 3. Duty. 4. Maker.		1. Lion passant. 2. Crown and Date. 3. Duty. 4. Maker.		1. Lion passant. 2. Crown and Date, 3. Date. 4. Duty, 5. Maker. The crown sometimes on a separate stamp.		1. Lion passant. 2. Crown. 3. Date Letter. 4. Duty, until 1890. 5. Maker.	

For the New Standard, Britannia instead of Lion passant.

SHEFFIELD ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 6.									
	1893-4		1896-7		1899-0		1902-3		1905-6
	1894-5		1897-8		1900-1		1903-4		1906-7
	1895-6		1898-9		1901-2		1904-5		1907-8
1. Lion passant. 2. Crown.					3. Date Letter. 4. Maker.				

EXAMPLES.



Candle Stick. Date 1791-2.—/.
H. Walter Esq.



Salver. Date 1831-2. — W.
Shoosmith Esq.

YORK.

York was one of the most ancient places of assay, and it was mentioned in the Act of 1423. The operations at this place appear to have been discontinued, and it was re-appointed as an assay office in 1700. It does not seem however that much business was ever done here.

It will be seen that in 1772, when a return was made to Parliament, the Assay Office was not in existence; but after that it appears to have recommenced. In 1848 we find it mentioned as an assay town, but doing very little business.*

The Corporation of the City of York possesses some interesting pieces of plate. A State sword with velvet scabbard, mounted in silver, the arms of the city, emblazoned, the arms of Bowes, &c., of the time of Henry VIII. On the blade is this inscription:—"SYR MARTYN BOWES KNYGHT, BORNE WITHIN THIS CITIE OF YORK AND MAIOR OF THE CITIE OF LONDON 1545. FOR A REMEMBRANCE" (continued on the other side) "GAVE THIS S TO THE MAIOR AND COMMUNALTIE OF THIS SAID HONORABLE CITIE."

Two tankards, the gift of Thomas Bawtreay in 1673, engraved with the arms of York, were made at York, and stamped with the York mark and the italic capital *P*. The gold cup and other pieces were made elsewhere.

A silver chalice and paten in the Church of Chapel-Allerton, Leeds, has three marks: a half fleur-de-lis and half rose, crowned; an italic *b*, similar to the London date letters of 1619; and maker's initials R.H. On the rim is the date of presentation, 1633.

A stoneware jug has in relief the royal arms of England and the date 1576. It is mounted in silver, and bears three stamps: that of the maker, a half rose and half fleur-de-lis conjoined, and the date letter R; it is in Mr. Addington's collection.

* The last duty paid at the Inland Revenue Office was in July 1869. The officer who formerly acted as assayer for the city of York died many years ago, and no successor has been appointed.

A spoon of the end of the sixteenth century, in the Rev. T. Staniforth's possession, has also the half rose and half fleur-de-lis, and the date letter k.

The stamp used at York previous to 1700 was probably that of the half rose and half fleur-de-lis conjoined, which is frequently met with on plate of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The junction of the lis and rose is probably in allusion to the union of the rival houses of York and Lancaster by the marriage of Henry the Seventh to the Princess Margaret, daughter of Edward IV., in 1486; the lis being a favourite badge of the Lancastrians, as the rose was that of York. As a mint mark we find occasionally the fleur-de-lis on the coins of the Lancastrian kings, in allusion to their French conquests; but upon some of the coins of Henry VII. we find as mint mark the lis and rose conjoined—sometimes half rose and half lis as on the York punch on plate, on others a lis stamped upon a rose, and sometimes a lis issuing from a rose (*vide* Hawkins, figs. 362, 364, 368).

The York mark here given, being found on plate of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, is frequently much worn and partially obliterated. The half fleur-de-lis is easily distinguished, but the corresponding half is not so easily discerned. In some instances it looks like a dimidiated leopard's head crowned; in others like the half of a seeded rose, with portion of the crown over it, for which it is probably intended. There is a great similarity, however, in all the punches we have examined, as if struck from one die, which, having been a long time in use, may have got damaged. It may be remarked as a curious coincidence, that two diminutive letters can be traced—YO, the two first of the word York.

In our previous editions we suggested that this punch originated at York, but our data are not yet sufficient to form a satisfactory table.

In alluding to the plate preserved at York, we must not omit to notice the ancient bowl called "The Scrope Mazer," from the Archbishop whose name is engraved upon it.

This bowl is preserved at the Minster, in charge of the Dean and Chapter. Drake, in his History of York, thus describes it: "In the Shoemakers' Company, at York, is kept a bowl called a *Mazer bowl*, edged about with silver, double gilt, with three silver feet, and cherub's head to it. Round the rim on one side is this inscription (in old English characters):—'Richard archebeshope scrope grants on to all tho that drinkis of this cope R^{th} dapis to pardon'; on the other side is, 'Robart Gubson beshope mesm grants in same forme aforesaide R^{th} dapis to pardon Robart Stiensall.' I take these two last to be suffragan bishops of the See. Every feast day, after dinner, the Company have this bowl filled with spiced ale, and according to ancient custom the bowl is drunk round amongst them. It has since had an additional lining of silver, and the Company's arms put upon it in 1669." Archbishop Scrope died in 1405. On the

dissolution of the Cordwainers' Company, in 1808, it passed into the possession of the Dean and Chapter, and is now kept in the vestry room at York Minster. The silver mounts have been frequently repaired at subsequent dates, and some local Hall-marks have been detected on close inspection.

EXAMPLES.



Apostle spoon. Date 1597. *Dallington Church, Northamptonshire.*



Apostle spoon of the seventeenth century. The stamp is a half lis and half rose crowned. Date 1626—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*



A piece of plate, seventeenth century. —*Messrs. Hancock.*



Ditto.



On a spoon with flat stem, leaf-shaped end and oval bowl, date about 1680 to 1690.—*Earl of Breadalbane.* (This has also the stamp of a half lis and rose, here omitted by mistake.)

On an oval engraved teapot. This mark proves that J was used as a date letter previous to 1784, having no duty mark. It may belong to the year 1736, for J of 1710 would have the Britannia mark of the new standard.—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Scotland.

EXTRACTS FROM STATUTES AND ORDINANCES,

WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES,

OF THE DEACON AND MARKING PLATE.

A.D. 1457. In the reign of James II. (Scots), a statute was passed for "the reformation of gold and silver wrought by Goldsmiths, and to eschew the deceiving done to the King's lieges, there shall be ordained in each Burgh where Goldsmiths work, one understanding and cunning man of good conscience, who shall be deacon of the craft; and when work is brought to the Goldsmith and it be gold, he shall give it forth again in work no worse than twenty grains, and silver eleven grains fine, and he shall take his work to the deacon of the craft that he may examine that it be fine as above written, and the said deacon shall set his mark and token thereto, together with the said Goldsmith's; and where there is no Goldsmith but one in a town he shall show that work, tokened with his own mark, to the head officials of the town which shall have a mark in like manner ordained therefor, and shall be set to the said work."

In 1473 it was enacted that places were to be appointed in Scotland wherein goldsmiths should examine the gold, and when sufficient "set their marks thereto."

GOLDSMITHS. MARKS APPOINTED.

A.D. 1483. JAMES III. In the records of the Town Council of the year 1483, we read that the goldsmiths, with other trades, under the general title of hammermen, presented a petition complaining of certain irregularities: —

"IN THE FIRST thair complaint bure and specifyt that thay war rycht havelly hurt and put to great poverty throw the douncumming of the blak money, walking, warding and in the payment of yeldis and extentis quhilkis thay war compellit to do be use.

“And in lykwyis that thai were havely hurt be the dayly mercat maid throw the hie street in cramis and on the bakside the toun in haichling and hammermennis werk pertaining to thame of thair craft in greit dishonour to the burgh and in braking of the auld gude rule and statutis of thair craft and upon uther skathis that thay sustenit in default of reformatioun.”

Whereupon it was ordered there should be no “oppin mercat usit of any of the saidis craftis upon the hie streittis nor in cramis upon buirdis,” &c. “That upon ilk Settirday eftir none tua or thrie of the worthiest maisters and maist of knowledge of the said craftis, quhilk sall haif powar with ane officiar with thame to pas serch and se all mennis work gif it be sufficient in stuff and workmanship, gude worth and hable work to serve the Kingis liegis with and quahir it beis fundin faultive to forbid the samyn to be sauld under the paine of escheitt.” Also it is advised and concluded by the Lords of the Articles, “That henceforth there be in each burgh of the realm where goldsmiths are, one deacon and one searcher of the craft, and that each goldsmith’s work be marked with *his own mark*, the *deacon’s mark*, and *the mark of the town*, silver of the fineness of eleven penny fine, and gold of twenty-two karats fine.”

GOLDSMITHS’ MARKS.

A.D. 1489. Another statute to the same effect was ordained. By this each goldsmith was to have one special mark, sign, and token. His works were to be of the fineness of the new works of silver of Bruges, and there was to be a deacon of the craft, who was to examine and mark the works.

PENALTIES FOR FRAUD.

A.D. 1555. “Forasmuch as there is great fraud, &c., it is ordained that no goldsmith make in work nor set forth either his own or other men’s silver under the just fineness of eleven penny fine under the pain of death and confiscation of all their goods and movables; and that every goldsmith mark the silver work with his own mark, and with the town’s mark; also that no goldsmith set forth either his own or other men’s gold, under the just fineness of 22 karats fine, under the pains aforesaid.”

POWER OF SEARCH.

A.D. 1586. Letters under the Privy Seal by King James VI. in favour of “the Deacon and Maisteris of the Goldsmyth Craft in Edinburgh,” Jany. 3, 1586, which empowered them to search for gold and silver, and to try whether it were of the fineness required by former Acts of Parliament, and seize such as should be deficient. “That it shall not be lawful for any, except the masters of the craft, to melt any gold or silver work unless it be first shown to

them to see whether it has been stolen (the libertie of our Sovereine Lordis cunyiehouis alwis exceptit.)" This gave them the entire regulation of the trade, separating them finally from all association with the "hammermen" or common smiths.

Act and Statute of the Town Council of Edinburgh in favour of the Corporation of Goldsmiths, August 20, 1591.

"The samin day the Provost bailles and counsell, and Adame Newtoun, *baxter*, Cudbert Cranstoun, *furrou*, William Blythman, *flescheour*, Thomas Weir, *masoun*, Robert Meid, *wobster*, William Cowts, *walker*, Thomas Brown, *bonemaker*, of the remanent deykins of crafts being convenit in counsall anent the supplicatioun gevin in before thame be George Heriott, deykin of the goldsmithis, for himself and in name and behalff of the remanent brether of the said craft."

The tenor of these articles, which were agreed to, referred to the taking of apprentices for a term of seven years, that every master shall have served his apprenticeship, and three years over and above, to make himself more perfect therein, and have given proof to the deacon of the craft of his experience both in workmanship and knowledge of the fineness of the metals, &c.

Only those admitted by the deacon and masters were to work, melt, or break down, or sell any gold or silver work, under penalty of twenty pounds, or imprisonment.

That no goldsmith melt any work without first showing it to the deacon to see whether it was stolen, nor gild any lattoun or copper work.

By the foregoing enactments it will be seen that only three marks are referred to, namely, the Goldsmith's mark, the Deacon's mark, and the Town mark—the first was the initials of the maker's name, the second the initials of the deacon's name, and the third the castle, indicating the City of Edinburgh—and nothing is said about a variable letter. The first mention of it we find in the Minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company is in September 1681, when a small black letter α was ordered to be the letter for the ensuing year. After this the letter is ordered annually in alphabetical order, from A to Z, in cycles of twenty-five years, omitting the letter J. In many cases the letter is stamped at the top of the page with the identical punch used for the plate.

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

A.D. 1687. JAMES VII. This Charter, incorporating the Society of Goldsmiths of Edinburgh, dated 10th November 1687, ratifies the letters patent of James VI., of the 3rd January 1586, in every respect, and amplifies their power in many instances, such as granting them the privilege of an Incorporated Society, with power to acquire, purchase, possess lands, &c., enact statutes and laws for the regulation of the trade, &c.

“And because the art and science of goldsmiths, for the most part, is exercised in the City of Edinburgh, to which our subjects frequently resort, because it is the seat of our supreme parliament, and of the other supreme courts, and there are few goldsmiths in other cities; Therefore we by these presents give and grant to the said deacon and masters, full power, faculty and authority to investigate, inquire into and examine the gold or silver work, and all gems and stones set in gold or silver, or made and wrought in any other city, royal burgh, or barony, market or fair, or exposed to sale any where within our said kingdom,” &c.

The Charter of 1687 did not prevent silversmiths in other towns of Scotland from manufacturing plate and placing their own marks by the side of the attesting stamps of the various towns, so placed officially by competent assayers appointed by the Edinburgh Goldsmiths' Company, and it was not imperative to have it assayed at Edinburgh, or even at Glasgow, after the Act of 1819. The sale of plate thus marked in the provincial towns was evidently legal, as the Charter did not prohibit it. Hence we find that at Glasgow, Aberdeen, Montrose, Inverness, Perth, Dundee, Stirling, St. Andrews, and other towns of less note, as Banff, Tain, Leith, &c., plate was assayed and marked, although, from the imperfect knowledge of the town marks, their punches could not be identified, and they have been usually set down as foreign and sold as old silver, being consigned to the crucible.

It is with the view of appropriating these hitherto unknown marks to the places of their adoption that we give short notices of the insignia of the Royal Burghs of Scotland, for at many of these places plate continued to be marked until the Act of Parliament relating solely to Scotland, of 6 and 7 William IV. (1836) expressly prohibited the sale of *newly manufactured plate* in Scotland, unless assayed and stamped at Edinburgh or Glasgow.

In our endeavours to trace these Scottish provincial marks to their source we have to acknowledge the kind assistance of the Earl of Breadalbane, whose name will be found appended to many interesting examples.

MARK OF THE THISTLE INTRODUCED.

A.D. 1759. The first entry in the books of the Goldsmiths' Company of Edinburgh where THE THISTLE is noticed is in the year 1759; and after that date, for about twenty years, the minutes year by year particularly name the thistle to be used (instead of the Assay Master's initials) along with the letter for the year.

SALE OF PLATE PROHIBITED IN SCOTLAND UNLESS
ASSAYED AND MARKED AT EDINBURGH OR
GLASGOW.

A.D. 1836. 6 & 7 WILLIAM IV. Entitled, "An Act to fix the standard qualities of gold and silver plate in Scotland, and to provide for the assaying and marking thereof.

"Section 2. And be it enacted that on or before the 1st day of October 1836, every goldsmith, silversmith, or plate-worker, or person carrying on any of the said trades in Scotland, and also every person who at any time after the 1st day of October 1836 shall follow the trade of goldsmith, silversmith, or plate-worker, before he shall exercise the same, shall send or deliver either to the Wardens of the Incorporation of the City of Edinburgh or to the Wardens of the Glasgow Company a written statement of his Christian and surname, place of abode, &c.

"Section 3. Every such goldsmith, silversmith, and plate-worker, or person carrying on any of the said trades in Scotland, shall first stamp or strike his mark upon all gold or silver plate (except such as are hereinafter excepted)* which he shall make or cause to be made after the 1st October 1836, and bring or send it to the Assay Office of the Incorporation to which he shall have delivered his name and address and mark aforesaid, together with a note of the weight, quality, &c.; and such gold plate as shall be ascertained to be not less in fineness than 22 karats of fine gold in every pound weight Troy, and such silver plate as shall be ascertained to be not less in fineness than 11 ounces and 2 pennyweights of fine silver in every pound weight Troy, shall be marked at such Assay Office as follows—that is to say, with the mark of the thistle and such a distinct variable letter, denoting the year in which such plate shall be marked, and also with the mark or marks used by the Incorporation at whose Assay Office the same shall be assayed; and such gold plate as shall be ascertained to be not less in fineness than 18 karats of fine gold in every pound weight Troy shall be marked with the figures 18 in addition to the said several marks therein before required; and such silver plate as shall not be less in fineness than 11 oz. 10 dwts. of fine silver in every pound Troy shall be marked with the figure of Britannia in addition to the several other marks hereinbefore required."

A more recent Act of 1842, 5 & 6 Vict., relating to the stamping of foreign plate, and the prohibition of its sale in the United Kingdom unless assayed and stamped at the appointed Assay Offices as being of the legal standard, under certain penalties, extends to Scotland.

The Act of 7 & 8 Vict., 1844, "Criminal Law Consolidation," does not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

The Act of 17 and 18 Vict., 1854, legalising the lower standards of 15, 12, and 9 karats however, applies to Scotland.

* The exemptions are the same as in England (see p. 28).

The Act of 30 & 31 Vict., 1867, stating that, in addition to the usual Hall-marks, the letter F shall be stamped on foreign plate, as well as the sections relating to licenses also extends to Scotland.

TOTAL OF MARKS now required to be stamped on gold and silver plate in Scotland:—

GOLD.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Standard
Gold.
(6 marks.) | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality in karats (22 or 18). 2. The thistle for Edinburgh or the lion rampant for Glasgow. 3. Mark of the assay town, castle, or tree, fish, and bell. 4. Date-letter. 5. Duty-mark, sovereign's head. 6. Maker's mark. |
| 3 Lower
Qualities.
(5 marks.) | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mark of the assay town, castle, or tree, fish, and bell. 2. Quality marked in karats (15, 12, or 9). 3. Thistle or lion rampant. 4. Date-letter. 5. Maker's mark. |

Although paying duty as well as the higher standards, these debased qualities are not honoured with the duty-mark of the Queen's head.

SILVER.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Silver,
New Standard,
11 oz. 10 dwt.
(6 marks.) | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The standard mark of the thistle for Edinburgh, the lion rampant for Glasgow. 2. The mark of the assay town, castle, or tree, fish, and bell. 3. Date-letter. 4. Duty-mark. 5. Britannia. 6. Maker's mark. |
| Old Standard,
11 oz. 2 dwt.
(5 marks.) | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The standard mark of the thistle for Edinburgh or lion rampant for Glasgow. 2. Mark of assay town, castle, or tree, fish, and bell. 3. Date-letter. 4. Duty-mark. Abolished 1890. 5. Maker's mark. |

GOLD AND SILVER PLATE DUTY, SCOTLAND.

1720.	Duty on silver, 6d. per oz.
1758.	Duty repealed and license substituted.
1784.	Duty on gold 8s., and silver 6d. per oz.
1803.	" " 16s. " 1s. 3d. "
1817.	" " 17s. " 1s. 6d. "
1890.	Duty on silver plate abolished.

LICENSESES.

The licenses to deal in plate are also the same as in England, viz. :—

For gold exceeding 2 dwts. and under 2 oz., and for silver exceeding 5 dwts. and under 30 oz., per annum	£2 6 0
For gold 2 oz. and upwards, and silver 30 oz. and upwards per annum	£5 15 0

EDINBURGH.

The arms of the City of Edinburgh are—*Ar.* on a rock *ppr.*, a castle triple towered, embattled *sa.*, masoned of the first and topped with three fans *gu.*, windows and portcullis closed of the last. *Crest*, an anchor wreathed about with a cable, both *ppr.* *Supporters*; dexter, a maid richly attired, hair hanging down over her shoulders, *ppr.*; sinister, a doe, also *ppr.* *Motto*, NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA.

I.—THE STANDARD.

For Edinburgh—A THISTLE (after 1757); before that the Assay Master's initials.

For gold of 22 karats, a thistle and 22.

For gold of 18 karats, a thistle and 18.

The present mark is :—



II.—THE HALL-MARK.

For Edinburgh—A CASTLE with three towers, introduced in the fifteenth century (1483); before that the Assay Master's initials.

The three towered castle now used is :—



III.—THE DUTY-MARK.

The head of the sovereign, indicating payment of the duty. It is omitted on the debased standards of 15, 12, and 9 karats on gold, although subject to the same duty as the higher standards. Abolished on silver plate in 1890.

IV.—THE DATE-MARK.

A LETTER OF THE ALPHABET. The custom has been to use the letters alphabetically from A to Z, omitting J, thus making a cycle of twenty-five years (with some exceptions); introduced 1681, and changed on the first Hall day in October every year.

V.—THE MAKER'S NAME.

Formerly some device, with or without the maker's initials; afterwards the initials of his Christian and surname used from time immemorial accompanied by the Assay Master's initials only.

1. The standard mark was the Deacon's initials from 1457 to 1757, when the thistle was substituted for it.
2. The maker's mark from 1457.
3. The town mark of a castle with three towers from 1483.
4. The date-letter from 1681-2.
5. The duty-mark of the sovereign's head from 1784 as in England, except on the debased standards of 15, 12, and 9 karat gold, and discontinued on silver plate.

The following table is arranged from the minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company of Edinburgh, where the date-letters appear noted almost every year from 1681, verified by pieces of plate bearing dates. The goldsmiths' year is from Michaelmas to Michaelmas (29th September). The Hall-mark or town mark of a castle was used as early as 1457, and is referred to in that Act (before quoted), and alluded to again in 1483 and 1555.

Previous to 1681, when our table commences, no date-mark appears to have been used. On a piece of plate said to be of the sixteenth century, exhibited at Edinburgh in 1856, in the Museum of the Archæological Institute, we find a castle (the middle tower higher than the two others, as usual), and two other stamps of the letter E. These are, perhaps, the town mark, Assay Master's, and maker's mark. The silver mace belonging to the City of Edinburgh, and known from the town records to have been made by George Robertson in 1617, has three marks, viz., the castle, the cipher G. R., and the letter G. (See p. 181.)

The High Church plate, dated 1643, and the Newbattle Church plate, dated 1646, and several others of the same date, have only the town mark, the Assay Master's mark, and that of the maker.

Our thanks are due to the Assay Master, Mr. Alex. Keir, for his kindness in furnishing the present marks.

CYCLE 1. BLACK LETTER SMALL.		CYCLE 2. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 3. ITALIC CAPITALS.		CYCLE 4. OLD ENGLISH CAPS.	
	OCTOBER CHARLES II. 1681-2		OCTOBER 1705-6		OCTOBER 1730-1		OCTOBER 1755-6
							
	1682-3		1706-7		1731-2		1756-7
	1683-4		1707-8		1732-3		1757-8
	1684-5		1708-9		1733-4		1758-9
	JAMES II. 1685-6		1709-0		1734-5		1759-0
	1686-7		1710-1		1735-6		GEORGE III. 1760-1
	1687-8		1711-2		1736-7		1761-2
	WILL. & MARY. 1688-9		1712-3		1737-8		1762-3
	1689-0		1713-4		1738-9		1763-4
	1690-1		GEORGE I. 1714-5		1739-0		1764-5
	1691-2		1715-6		1740-1		1765-6
	1692-3		1716-7		1741-2		1766-7
	1693-4		1717-8		1742-3		1767-8
	1694-5		1718-9		1743-4		1768-9
	WILLIAM III. 1695-6		1719-0		1744-5		1769-0
	1696-7		1720-1		1745-6		1770-1
	1697-8		1721-2		1746-7		1771-2
	1698-9		1722-3		1747-8		1772-3
	1699-0		1723-4		1748-9		1773-4
	1700-1		1724-5		1749-0		1774-5
	1701-2		1725-6		1750-1		1775-6
	ANNE. 1702-3		1726-7		1751-2		1776-7
	1703-4		GEORGE II. 1727-8		1752-3		1777-8
	1704-5		1728-9		1753-4		1778-9
			1729-0		1754-5		1779-0
FOUR STAMPS. 1. The Castle. 2. The Assay Master's Initials. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in a pointed shield.		FOUR STAMPS. 1. The Castle. 2. The Assay Mark. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in a pointed shield.		FOUR STAMPS. 1. The Castle. 2. The Assay Mark. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in square shield.		FOUR STAMPS. 1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle, in 1757. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in square shield.	

From 1700 to 1720 Britannia was added for the New Standard.

* The standard mark of a thistle was used instead of the Assay Master's initials in 1757-3.

EDINBURGH ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 5. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN SMALLS.		CYCLE 7. OLD ENGLISH CAPS.		CYCLE 8. EGYPTIAN CAPITALS.	
	OCTOBER 1780-1		OCTOBER 1806-7		OCTOBER 1892-3		OCTOBER 1857-8
B	1781-2	b	1807-8		1893-4	B	1858-9
C	1782-3	c	1808-9		1894-5	C	1859-0
D	1783-4	d	1809-0		1895-6	D	1860-1
E*	1784-5	e	1810-1		1896-7	E	1861-2
F	1785-6	f	1811-2		VICTORIA. 1837-8	F	1862-3
G	1786-7	g	1812-3		1898-9	G	1863-4
G†	1787-8	h	1813-4		1899-0	H	1864-5
H	1788-9	i	1814-5		1840-1	I	1865-6
I	1789-0	j	1815-6		1841-2	K	1866-7
K	1790-1	k	1816-7		1842-3	L	1867-8
L	1791-2	l	1817-8		1843-4	M	1868-9
M	1792-3	m	1818-9		1844-5	N	1869-0
N	1793-4	n	1819-0		1845-6	O	1870-1
O	1794-5	o	GEORGE IV. 1820-1		1846-7	P	1871-2
P	1795-6	p	1821-2		1847-8	Q	1872-3
Q	1796-7	q	1822-3		1848-9	R	1873-4
R	1797-8	r	1823-4		1849-0	S	1874-5
S	1798-9	s	1824-5		1850-1	T	1875-6
T	1799-0	t	1825-6		1851-2	U	1876-7
U	1800-1	u	1826-7		1852-3	V	1877-8
V	1801-2	v	1827-8		1853-4	W	1878-9
W	1802-3	w	1828-9		1854-5	X	1879-0
X	1803-4	x	1829-0		1855-6	Y	1880-1
Y	1804-5	y	WILLIAM IV. 1830-1		1856-7	Z	1881-2
Z	1805-6	z	1831-2				
<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in a pointed shield. 5. King's Head, 1784. 		<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in a square shield. 5. Sovereign's Head. 		<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in a shield, concave sides. 5. Sovereign's Head. 		<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in an oval. 5. Sovereign's Head. 	

* In 1784 the Duty Mark of the Sovereign's Head was added.
 † The G is repeated according to the Minutes.

CYCLE 9.							
VICTORIA.							
Ⓐ	1882-3	Ⓐ	1888-9	Ⓝ	1894-5	Ⓣ	1900-1
						EDWARD VII.	
Ⓑ	1883-4	Ⓑ	1889-0	Ⓞ	1895-6	Ⓤ	1901-2
Ⓒ	1884-5	Ⓘ	1890-1	Ⓟ	1896-7	Ⓦ	1902-3
Ⓓ	1885-6	Ⓚ	1891-2	Ⓠ	1897-8	Ⓡ	1903-4
Ⓔ	1886-7	Ⓛ	1892-3	Ⓡ	1898-9	Ⓢ	1904-5
Ⓕ	1887-8	Ⓜ	1893-4	Ⓢ	1899-0	Ⓣ	1905-6
1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle.				3. The Maker's Mark. 4. The Date Letter. 5. Sovereign's Head until 1890.			

The preceding Table of Assay Office Letters and the following List of Plate are taken from a communication by the late Mr. J. H. Sanderson to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, published in vol. iv. of their *Transactions* in 1862, page 544, and plate xx., vol. iv., and we have to acknowledge with thanks the kind permission accorded to us by the Council to reprint any portions of the paper bearing upon the subject. Our indebtedness to the late Mr. J. H. Sanderson for his valuable assistance was duly acknowledged in the preface to our first edition of 1863, which we have reprinted in this edition.

LIST OF PLATE FROM WHICH THE ANNUAL LETTERS
HAVE BEEN TAKEN, MANY OF THEM BEARING
DATES.

CYCLE I.

Most of the letters in this cycle are taken from the Minutes of the Goldsmiths' Corporation, in many cases from an impression of the actual punch given on the paper. Those from plate are:—

- B. 1682-3. A Jug, the property of the late Lord Murray. There seems to have been another form of B. used this year, as on the Duddingston Communion Cups, dated 1682.
- E. 1685-6. Auchtermuchtie Communion Cups, "gifted by Janet Ross," bearing date 1686.
- N. 1693-4. Trinity College Communion Cups, "the gift of George Stirling," the arms of Edinburgh engraved inside, and bearing date 1693.
- R. 1697-8. A Cup at Messrs. C. R. & Son.
- S. 1698-9. Trinity College Communion Cups, a gift, arms of Edinburgh inside, and dated 1698.
- W. 1701-2. New North Kirk Communion Cups, "the gift of Mr. William Archibald," 1702.
- Y. 1703-4. New North Kirk Communion Cups, "the gift of John Cunningham of Bandalas," 1704.

CYCLE II.

- C. 1707-8. Lady Yester's Communion Cups, "presented by Thomas Wilkie," 1708. Another C. New North Kirk Baptism Laver, "gifted by Mary Ereskin," 1708.
- D. 1708-9. Eddleston Communion Cups, bearing date 1709.
- H. 1712-3. A pair of Candlesticks, at Messrs. C. R. & Son.
- P. 1719-0. Punch Bowl, Royal Company of Archers, bearing date 1720.

CYCLE III.

- B. 1731-2. Sugar Basin, Messrs. Mackay & Chisholm.
- O. 1743-4. Silver Club, the Edinburgh Golfers, bearing date 1744.
- T. 1748-9. Dinner Spoon, Mr. Munro.
- U. 1749-0. The Old Church St. Giles', Communion Cups, bearing date 1750.
- Y. 1753-4. Dinner Spoon, Mr. Stewart.

CYCLE IV.

- B. 1756-7. Teapot, Messrs. Mackay & Chisholm.
- H. 1762-3. Old Chapel of Ease Communion Cups, St. Cuthbert's Parish, 1763.
- I. 1763-4. Baptismal Laver, ditto, ditto, 1763.
- M. 1766-7. Cake Basket, Messrs. Mackay & Chisholm.
- N. 1767-8. Snuffer Tray, late Lord Murray.
- P. 1769-0. Sugar Basket, Messrs. Mackay & Chisholm.
- Q. 1770-1. Spoon, Captain Gordon of Cluny.
- R. 1771-2. Salt Cellar, Messrs. C. R. & Son.
- S. 1772-3. Spoon, Captain Gordon of Cluny.
- Y. 1777-8. Salver, Messrs. C. R. & Son.
- &. 1779-0. Spoon, Mr. Munro.

CYCLE V.

- E. 1784-5. Medal, Royal Company of Archers, 1785.
- K. 1790-1. Cup, Messrs. C. R. & Son.
- L. 1791-2. Medal, Royal Company of Archers, 1792.
- R. 1797-8. Spoon, Mr. Sanderson's.
- W. 1802-3. Spoon, Mrs. Aitchison's.

CYCLE VI.

- A. 1806-7. Salver, Mr. Nisbet's.
- D. 1809-0. Pepper-Box, Messrs. C. R. & Son.
- E. 1810-1. Salver, Mr. Nisbet's.
- G. 1812-3. Basin, ditto, 1812.
- H. 1813-4. Spoon, Mrs. Aitchison's.
- L. 1817-8. Medal, Royal Company of Archers, 1818.
- T. 1825-6. Mr. Sanderson's.

Cycles VII., VIII. and IX. require no proof.

EXAMPLES.



George Robertson, maker of the mace of the city in 1617.—*Mr. J. H. Sanderson's Paper, Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland*, vol. iv. p. 543, and plate xx.



“On the Dalkeith Church plate there is no date, but it is known from the records to be older than that of Newbattle” (dated 1646).—*Ibid.*



From the plate belonging to Trinity College Church, Edinburgh, bearing date 1633.—*Ibid.* (The castle is omitted by mistake in the cut.)



On a Quaigh, hemispherical bowl with flat projecting hollow handles, on one A C, on the other I M^oL; engraved outside with full-blown roses and lilies. The initials I M^oL are found as a maker on the Glasgow Sugar Castor (p. 186). Date 1713.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



On a Table Spoon, French pattern, rat's tail. On back of spoon are four marks: (1) maker's unknown; (2) castle; (3) deacon's mark; (4) date-letter U. Date 1749.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



On a Dessert Spoon, French pattern. The date-letter is the old English **E** of 1757, showing that the thistle was used in this year, as before stated. Maker unknown. Date 1757.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



Maker's name unknown. Date 1766.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



Spoon. Date 1837.—*J. P. Stott, Esq.*

Our thanks are due here again to the late Mr. W. J. Cripps, C.B., for permitting us to include some authorities given by the late Mr. J. H. Sanderson for the Tables of Edinburgh Hall Marks, the property in which passed to that gentleman.

GLASGOW.

The arms of the city of Glasgow are—*Ar.* on a mount in base *vert*, an oak-tree *ppr.*, the stem at the base thereof surmounted by a salmon on its back also *ppr.*, with a signet ring in its mouth *or*; on the top of the tree a redbreast, and in the sinister fess point an ancient hand-bell, both also *ppr.*

Crest. The half-length figure of St. Kentigern affrontée vested and mitred, his right hand raised in the act of benediction, and in his left a crosier, all *ppr.*

Supporters. Two salmon *ppr.*, each holding in its mouth a signet ring *ppr.* *Motto*, "Let Glasgow flourish."

The bearings of the western metropolis are to commemorate the well-known miracle of St. Kentigern (also called St. Mungo), the Patron Saint of the City, with reference to the recovery in the fish's mouth of the lost ring of the frail Queen of Caidyow.

An ancient seal attached to a deed of the sixteenth century bears a full-faced head of the saint, mitred, between an ancient square bell, fish and ring on the dexter, and a bird on a tree on the sinister side, inscribed "Sigillum comune de Glasgu." (*Laing's Ancient Seals.*)

The ancient marks on plate made at Glasgow previous to the Act of 1819 were:—1. The city arms, a tree with a hand-bell on one side, and sometimes a letter G on the other, a bird on the top branch, and a fish across the trunk, holding a ring in its mouth enclosed in a very small oval escutcheon. 2. The maker's initials, frequently repeated; and 3. A date-letter; but it is at present useless to attempt to assign correct dates of manufacture.

The parliamentary inquiry of 1773 did not extend to Scotland.

Glasgow was made an assay town by the 59 Geo. III. (May 1819). The district comprised Glasgow and forty miles round, and it was directed that all plate made in the district should be assayed at that office. The peculiar mark of the Company is a tree growing out of a mount, with a bell pendant on the sinister branch, and a bird on the top branch across the trunk of the tree a salmon holding in its mouth a signet ring.

The marks used on the silver plate stamped at Glasgow are—since the Act of 1819:—

1. *The Standard*, lion rampant. The present form of which is:—



2. *The Hall-Mark*, being the arms of the city, a tree, fish and bell.



3. *The maker's mark*, being his initials.

4. *The date-mark*, or variable letter, changed on the 1st. July in every year.

5. *The duty-mark* of the sovereign's head, discontinued in 1890. For gold of 22 or 18 karats the figures 22 or 18 are added, and for silver of the New Standard, Britannia is added.

The Scotch Act of 8 and 9 Wm. IV., 1836-7, in some respects extended to Glasgow, although it is generally regulated by the 59th of Geo. III.; but they have not adopted the marks prescribed by this statute of 1836, and continue those previously in use. The only difference, however, is, that the lion rampant takes the place of the thistle.

The lower gold standards of 15, and 9 karats bear the town mark, the date letter, and the decimals $\cdot 625$ and $\cdot 375$. The Assay Master, Mr. D. D. Graham has been good enough to send us copies of the marks now used.

GLASGOW ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1.		CYCLE 2.		CYCLE 3.	
A	1 st JULY 1819-0	A	1 st JULY 1845-6	A	1 st JULY 1871-2
B	1820-1	B	1846-7	B	1872-3
C	1821-2	C	1847-8	C	1873-4
D	1822-3	D	1848-9	D	1874-5
E	1823-4	E	1849-0	E	1875-6
F	1824-5	F	1850-1	F	1876-7
G	1825-6	G	1851-2	G	1877-8
H	1826-7	H	1852-3	H	1878-9
I	1827-8	I	1853-4	I	1879-0
J	1828-9	J	1854-5	J	1880-1
K	1829-0	K	1855-6	K	1881-2
L	1830-1	L	1856-7	L	1882-3
M	1831-2	M	1857-8	M	1883-4
N	1832-3	N	1858-9	N	1884-5
O	1833-4	O	1859-0	O	1885-6
P	1834-5	P	1860-1	P	1886-7
Q	1835-6	Q	1861-2	Q	1887-8
R	1836-7	R	1862-3	R	1888-9
S	1837-8	S	1863-4	S	1889-0
T	1838-9	T	1864-5	T	1890-1
U	1839-0	U	1865-6	U	1891-2
V	1840-1	V	1866-7	V	1892-3
W	1841-2	W	1867-8	W	1893-4
X	1842-3	X	1868-9	X	1894-5
Y	1843-4	Y	1869-0	Y	1895-6
Z	1844-5	Z	1870-1	Z	1896-7
FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion rampant. 2. Tree, Fish, and Bell. 3. Sovereign's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion rampant. 2. Tree, Fish, and Bell. 3. Queen's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Lion rampant. 2. Tree, Fish, and Bell. 3. Queen's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.	

CYCLE 4.							
	1897-8		1900-1		1903-4		1906-7
	1898-9		1901-2		1904-5		1907-8
	1899-0		1902-3		1905-6		1908-9
1. Lion rampant. 2. Tree, Fish, and Bell.				3. Sovereign's Head until 1890. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Mark.			

EXAMPLES.



These marks are on the narrow rim of the foot of an elegant silver Tazza, chased in centre with bold leaf scrolls, bordered with engrailed lines. The work is evidently of the time of Charles II., 1670-1680.—*Messrs. Hancock.*



These four stamps are found on an oval silver box, originally made to contain the wax seal appended to a diploma granted by the University. The cover is finely engraved, having in the centre the University mace and an open Bible above. On each side are represented the objects composing the coat-of-arms of Glasgow, viz., to the right a tree, with a bird perched on the top branch, to the left a hand-bell, and at the base a salmon on its back holding a signet ring in its mouth. Surmounted by the motto of the University, "*Via Veritas Vita,*" instead of that of the city, "Let Glasgow flourish."

The usual case to contain the diploma is made of tin; but this, being of sterling silver, was probably presented to some person of great distinction.

Dated about 1700.—*In the possession of the Earl of Breadalbane.* On a Sugar Castor, chased with festoons of roses. This maker's initials are also found engraved on the handle of a Quaigh of Edinburgh make of 1713.—*The Earl of Breadalbane.*



ABERDEEN.

The town of Aberdeen bears, *gu.* three towers, triple towered, within a double tressure flowered and counter-flowered *arg.*

Supporters. Two leopards *ppr.*

Motto, "BON ACCORD!" This was the watchword of the town when it was attacked by the English, and the latter were all massacred, for which service the extra tressure was accorded. A much earlier seal of the town represents the three triple-towered castles, with three cones or spires, attached to a deed for the ransom

of King David II., in 1357, preserved in H.M. Record Office, thus described (*Laing's Ancient Seals*):—

A figure of a bishop (St. Nicholas) bestowing the benediction; on the dexter side, a crescent; and on the sinister, a mullet of six points. "Signum Beati Nicolai Aberdonensis." The counter seal represents a church, or other edifice, with a large central spire and two smaller ones each terminating in a cross. "Sigillum de Commune Aberdonensis."

The Town Assay Office mark adopted at Aberdeen consisted of two or more of the letters in the word, thus, the letters B D or A B D, with a mark of contraction above, and later A B N D, as in the following example:—



On a Table Spoon, handle turned up, and ridges in front of stem, elongated oval bowl, date about 1780.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*

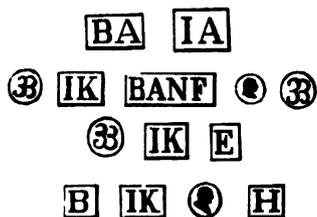
AYR.

Arms. A castle, triple towered, between the holy lamb passant with banner.

BANFF.

Capital of the County. Erected into a Burgh A.D. 1372.

A matrix in the office of the Town Clerk of Banff bears an oval-shaped seal of a boar passant, "Insignia Urbis Banfiensis."—*Ibid.*



Dessert Spoon, French pattern.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*

Dessert Spoon, French pattern, with king's head.—*Ditto.*

Table Spoon, French pattern.—*Ditto.*

Table Spoon, French pattern, with king's head.—*Ditto.*

BERWICK (NORTH).

Capital of the County, and created a Burgh at an early period.

A very fine seal, appended to a document dated 1330, is in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. A bear chained to a tree, in the branches of which are two birds (parrots) surrounded by a double tressure of fleur-de-lis. "S . . . T . . . Ville Berwic . . . edam."—*Laing's Ancient Seals.*

The counter seal represents the Trinity.

The town of Berwick-on-Tweed, in Northumberland, bears the arms *az.* on a mount, a bear standing against a tree all *ppr.*, the bear collared and chained *or.* In fesse two escutcheons with the arms of France and England quarterly; on a chief of the first a king crowned and habited, of the second, holding in his dexter hand a mound, and in the sinister a sceptre, both gold.

CRAIL.

*A Royal Burgh in the County of Fife, 8 miles from St. Andrews.
Chartered by King Robert Bruce.*

Arms. A galley with sails furled, stars and crescent above, inscribed "Sigillum Commune Burgi de Karale." From an original matrix in the Town Clerk's Office.

DINGWALL (ROSS-SHIRE).

Capital of the County. A Royal Burgh.

Arms. A star-fish or estoille; between the points are two lozenges, a heart and two mullets. "Sigillum Comune Burgi de Dingwall." The present seal is copied from an older one.—*Laing's Seals.*

DUNBAR (HADDINGTON).

*A Royal Burgh created by King David II., 20 miles E. of
Edinburgh.*

Seal. An elephant with a castle on its back. Inscribed "Sigill. comune Burgi Dun."—*Laing's Seals.*

DUNDEE (ANGUS).

On the North side of the Firth of Tay.

The arms of the town are *az.* a pot of growing lilies *arg.*

Crest. A lily *arg.*

Supporters. Two dragons *vert*, tails knotted together below the shield.

Motto, "DEI DONUM."

The patron saint of Dundee was the Virgin Mary, and the arms a pot of lilies, which are still adopted.

In the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, there is an interesting brass matrix of a seal of the fifteenth century in excellent preser-

vation, executed for the use of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Dundee, representing a figure of St. Eligius, in episcopal vestments, holding a hammer in his right hand and a crosier in his left, within a niche; at each side is a bough-pot of lilies, and beneath, a shield bearing a hammer in pale, a crown of three points in chief, inscribed "S. ce Malliato Sci Elegi de Dundee."

The goldsmiths, being then incorporated with the hammermen of Dundee, chose as their patron the celebrated St. Eligius, the Councillor-Minister and Goldsmith of Dagobert, King of France. He became Bishop of Noyen, and died A.D. 659. He was the patron of French and Flemish goldsmiths.

The town mark adopted by the Dundee Assay Office is a pot with two handles containing three lilies, as shown in the following.

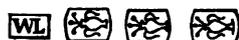
EXAMPLES.



On a Table Spoon, oval bowl, rat's tail, flat stem, leaf-shaped end, date *circa* 1660.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



Tea Spoon, fiddle head, *Dundee*, last century.—*Ditto.*



On a pair of Sugar Tongs, shell and fiddle pattern, about 1880.—*Ditto.*

DYSART.

County of Fife.

Arms. A tree eradicated.

ELGIN.

A Royal Burgh, 30 miles E. of Inverness and 59 miles N.W. of Aberdeen.

The assay towns of Aberdeen, Inverness, and Banff in the adjoining counties adopted abbreviations of their names, usually the first two or three and the last letters, thus: ABDN, INS, and BA; hence, on the same principle, Elgin used ELN.



The annexed marks are on a Table Spoon, with oval bowl, the end of the handle or stem turned upwards with a ridge down the centre: a form in use from about 1730 to 1760.—*In the Earl of Breadalbane's Collection.*

HADDINGTON.

Capital of the County, 14 miles E. from Edinburgh. A Royal Burgh.

Seal. A goat reared on its hind-legs browsing against an apple-tree. "Sigillum Commune Burg de Haddington." Another seal bears a goat passant; another a goat standing.

IRVINE (AYRSHIRE).

A Royal Burgh, 21 miles S.W. of Glasgow.

Arms. A lion sejant, guardant, crowned, between two trees.

INVERNESS.

Capital of the County and a Royal Burgh.

The present seal, or matrix, not earlier than the last century, in the Town Clerk's Office, is, a camel passant, above the shield INVERNESS, inscribed "FIDELITAS ET CONCORDIA."

The armorial ensigns on this seal differ materially from those displayed in the Town Hall, where they are executed in stone. There they appear as the Saviour on the Cross, with a camel as the dexter supporter of the shield, and an elephant for the sinister.

Crest. A cornucopia, and on a ribbon above the motto, "Concordia et Fidelitas." The crest and the supporters were assumed as representing the extensive trade once carried on between the port of Inverness and the East.

EXAMPLES.



On a Tea Spoon, fiddle head, date about 1820, with a cornucopia, the crest of the town of Inverness.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



The camel, one of the supporters of the City arms. On a large annular Scotch Brooch, flat, with engraved vandykes, and a cluster of fine small annulets between each. Maker's mark, and another of the same, larger, as Deacon. Attributed to Chas. Jamison, *circa* 1810.—*Ditto.*

JEDBURGH (ROXBURGH).

A Royal Burgh, 34 miles S.E. of Edinburgh.

The seal of the town of Jedburgh, in Teviotdale, is *azure*, a unicorn tripping *argent*, angled, maned and horned.—*Nisbet*.

Another seal bears a shield with a unicorn passant, inscribed "S. Comunitatis de Jedburgh."—*Laing's Seals*.

Another coat-of-arms is a horse salient and a chevalier armed at all points.

LEITH.

A seaport town in the County of Edinburgh, is a large and populous place, with a good harbour and quay, the commerce with foreign countries being very considerable.

From the fact of several pieces of plate having been bought here, bearing the stamp of an anchor which indicates its position as a harbour for shipping, we are inclined to attribute this mark to Leith. The circular object with rays which accompanies it yet remains to be explained, but in another example here adduced it is placed by the side of the thistle, the standard mark of Scotland. The crest of Edinburgh is an anchor wreathed about with a cable; but in this instance the cable is omitted.



Five Tea Spoons, French pattern, 18th century.—*Earl of Breadalbane*.



Tea Spoon and Tongs, French pattern, 18th century.—*Ditto*.



Caddy Spoon, shell-shaped bowl, fiddle head, with Scotch standard mark and that of a provincial town; no duty-letter, but made about 1820, judging from the fashion.—*Ditto*.



A Scotch Brooch of conventional form, with circular broad band, plain surface, short pin at back with hinge and clasp; stamped behind with five marks.—*Ditto*.

LINLITHGOW.

Arms: *az.* St. Michael, with wings expanded, treading on a serpent, a spear in his dexter hand piercing the head of the serpent, and in his sinister hand an inescutcheon charged with the Royal Arms of Scotland.

MELROSE.

In the County of Roxburgh, 25 miles S.S.W. from Edinburgh, famous for its Monastery, now in ruins, founded in 1136 by King David of Scotland. A Royal Burgh.

A stone preserved in this town bears the arms of "A mell or mallet, surmounted by a rose, being a pun upon the name."

MONTROSE (ANGUS).

A Burgh Royal, as relative to the name, carries roses. Thus in the Lion register of arms—*arg.* a rose *gules* with helmet, mantling and wreath suitable thereto.

Crest. A hand issuing from a cloud, reaching down a garland of roses *ppr.*

Supporters. Two mermaids rising from the sea. "MARE DITAT ROSA DECORAT" (The sea enriches and the rose adorns), which are upon the face of the town seal; and upon the reverse of it, *gules* St. Peter on his proper cross, with the keys hanging at his girdle. On an ancient seal of Montrose is represented the Crucifixion, the counter seal being a rose; and on a seal of causes we find a rose seeded and barbed, inscribed "Sig. Burgi de Muntros ad causas."

The Montrose Assay Office mark was probably a seeded rose with the maker's initials, which may be confounded with a similar mark supposed to have been used at Norwich.

NEWTON-ON-AYR (AYRSHIRE).

A Royal Burgh.

A seal of the fifteenth century, still in use, bears a fess chequé between three monograms of old English letters WB. Inscribed "Sigillum comune Nove Ville de Are."—*Laing's Seals.*

PERTH.

The arms of the City of Perth (*alias* St. John's Town), so called since the Reformation, are:—An eagle displayed with two heads *or*, surmounted on the breast with an escutcheon *gules*, charged with the holy lamb *passant regardant*, carrying the banner of St. Andrew within a double tressure, flowered and counter-flowered, *arg.*, with the hackneyed motto, "PRO REGE LEGE ET GREGE;" the two-headed eagle being in imitation of the Roman ensign, which, according to Menestrier, was borrowed from the East, to denote the conjunct reign of two emperors, and bears reference to its Roman origin. The old City seal, which was laid aside at the Reformation as "Superstitious," represented the decollation St. John Baptist with the legend "S. Communitatis Ville Sancti Johannis de Perth."

In Perth Cathedral a curious cup is preserved, called Queen Mary's Cup, which has been reproduced by the electro process, and

may be seen at the South Kensington Museum. It is thus described by Mr. W. J. Cripps in the "Art Handbook" (College and Corporation Plate, page 66):

"It is a composite cup, formed of a very finely chased body of Nuremberg work, c. 1560-1570, of the best kind, with some additions and repairs of coarser and commoner work, executed at Dundee, as records testify, in 1637. The curious Scotch Hall-marks bear out the record; the maker's mark being a known one of that period."



The seal of the City of Perth, used on public documents and headings of letters. Spread eagle with two necks, on its breast, in an escutcheon, the holy lamb and flag, adopted occasionally as a town mark on plate in the early part of this century.

EXAMPLES.

On a small quaih, or cup with two handles, date about 1660, with these two marks only. The lamb and flag, emblem of St. John, being the arms of St. John's Town, as Perth was formerly called.—*C. A. North, Esq.*



Split head Spoon. Date circa 1675.—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*



On a set of Table Spoons, French pattern, with rat tail on back of bowl, date about 1760. Some have four marks of spread eagles only, without the shield on the breast, as used recently.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



On a Dessert Spoon, fiddle head, date circa 1820. The spread eagle part of the City arms, on its breast a shield with the lamb and flag of St. John; made by Robert Kay, silversmith, at Perth, in 1815.—*Ditto.*



On a set of four Salt-Cellars, gad-roon edge on three legs and claws—the seven marks arranged in a circle underneath, with the town mark in the centre, three maker's initials, and three town marks round—date circa 1810.—*Ditto.*

ST. ANDREWS (FIFE).

A Royal Burgh, 26 miles N. of Edinburgh. Its University is the oldest in Scotland, being founded in 1444.

On the matrix of a privy seal in custody of the Town Clerk of St. Andrews is a wild boar passant, secured by a rope to a rugged staff. "Sigillum Secretu Civitatis Sancti Andree Aposti."

Another seal, affixed to a deed dated 1453, bears a full-length figure of a bishop holding a crosier, &c. The counter seal has a figure of St. Andrew extended on his cross. In the lower part of the seal is a wild boar passant in front of a tree, inscribed around, "CURSUS (APRI) REGALIS."—*Laing's Ancient Seals.*

STIRLING.

Capital of the County and a Royal Burgh.

The seal is a lamb couchant on the top of a rock, inscribed with the motto, "OPPIDUM STERLINI."

The ancient seal of the Corporation bears: a bridge with a crucifix in the centre of it; men armed with bows on one side of the bridge, and men with spears on the other, and the legend, "Hic Armis Bruti, Scoti stant hac cruce tuti."

On the reverse, a fortalice surrounded with trees, inscribed "Continent hoc in se nemus et castrum Strivilense."

"Burke's General Armoury" gives the arms of the town, as at present used: *az.* on a mount a castle, triple towered, without windows *arg.*, masoned *sa.*, the gate closed *gu.*, surrounded with four oak-trees disposed in orle of the second, the interstices of the field being semée of stars of six points of the last, and the motto as above.



On an oblong Tobacco Box, engraved on the cover with two coats-of-arms surmounted by a ducal coronet. The town mark is a castle, triple towered, as described above, having beneath the letter S to distinguish it from a similar mark at Edinburgh. The maker's (?) mark, a mermaid and star, and his initials G R.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*

TAIN (ROSS-SHIRE).

A Royal Burgh, principal town of the County, 8 miles N. of Cromarty, 24 miles N.E. of Inverness.



On a pair of Toddy Ladles, date about 1800. —*Earl of Breadalbane.*

UNCERTAIN SCOTCH MARKS.

UNKNOWN. These three stamps are on the inside of the silver lid of a Shell Snuff Box. Date about 1800.—*In the possession of the Earl of Breadalbane.*



UNKNOWN. On a fiddle head Toddy Ladle, provincial mark of some town in Scotland, unknown. Made *circa* 1810. Representing an otter or badger on a wheat-ear (?) and the letters I. & G. H.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



UNKNOWN. On a Seal Top Spoon, of English or Scotch make, of the seventeenth century, the baluster end well finished. The monogram inside the bowl, the animal on the back of the stem. Letters on the bottom, ^{W.S.}_{W.K.} 1624.—*Lady Du Cane.*



UNCERTAIN. (Query Edinburgh.) These four marks are on the bottom of a Mug with one scroll handle, broad mouth, repoussé pyri-form ornament round the lower part. The small mark is that of the maker, the other two those of the Deacon, probably the same silversmith. Date about 1680.—*Messrs. Mackay & Chisholm.*



Ireland.

DUBLIN.

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

The Goldsmiths' Company of Dublin has the exclusive management of the assaying and marking of wrought gold and silver plate in Ireland.

The harp, and subsequently, A.D. 1638, the harp crowned, was the original Hall or district mark for all Irish manufactured plate assayed in Dublin and found to be standard, and was used long previous to the charter granted by Charles I., 22nd December, in the year 1638, in the thirteenth year of his reign, to the Corporation of Goldsmiths of Dublin, Ireland. This charter adopted for Ireland the standards then in use in England, viz.—22 karats for gold, and 11 oz. 2 dwts. for silver. "The harp crowned now appointed by his Majesty" has been continued in use ever since, in pursuance of a clause contained in that charter, and also by the Act 23 & 24 Geo. III. c. 23, s. 3 (1784).

The Journals of the Goldsmiths' Company from 1637 until the present time are still in existence, and a complete list of the Masters and Wardens of the Company from that date until 1800 has been printed by Mr. H. F. Berry, M.A., together with the list of Apprentices from 1653 to 1752.

A date mark was used in Dublin from a very early period, as it appears to have been in use previous to the year 1638.

STANDARDS.—LEGAL PUNCHES.

A.D. 1729. 3 GEORGE II. The Irish Parliament enacted that all articles of gold and silver should be assayed at Dublin by the Assay Master appointed by the Company of Goldsmiths, the standard of gold being fixed at 22 karats and silver at 11 oz. 2 dwts., and ordered that the articles should be marked with the marks then used, viz., *the harp crowned, a date-letter, and the maker's initials.*

DUTY IMPOSED AND MARK OF HIBERNIA.

A.D. 1730. The figure of HIBERNIA was used by order of the Commissioners of Excise in the year 1730, when a duty was first imposed, to denote the payment of the same, viz., sixpence per ounce on manufactures of gold and silver plate, which has been used ever since on every standard of Irish plate.

REDUCED STANDARDS OF GOLD.—NEW GENEVA.

A.D. 1783-4. 23 & 24 GEORGE III. c. 23. In this year a Company of Geneva Watchmakers came to Ireland, and commenced an establishment near Waterford, and the place or locality of this establishment was called NEW GENEVA. An Assay Office and a Deputy Assay-Master or Assayer were granted to them at that place. This Act came into operation on the 1st June 1784, and repeals so much of the 3rd of Geo. II. as respects the assaying of gold, or regulating the manufacture, assaying, or exchange or sale of gold, or the duty on any manufacture of gold in Ireland.

The only standard of gold allowed by the Act 3 George II. was that of 22 karats fine; this was altered by the above Act, whereby three standards are provided of 22, 20, and 18 karats fine respectively. These standards were authorised to facilitate and encourage the manufacture of gold and silver wares and watch-cases, &c. &c., in Ireland, and especially at New Geneva.

This establishment and Assay Office did not continue to work over five or six years, and with this exception the Assay Office in Dublin has been and is the only one in Ireland, and has power and jurisdiction in all parts of Ireland.

For description of articles that are exempted from duty and marking by this Act, *see* sec. 6 (page 28).

By the 11th section of this Act it is enacted, "That on and after the 1st June 1784, every person making, or causing to be made, any manufactures of gold, are to enter an impression of his or her *new* marks or punches made as aforesaid, with his or her name and place of abode, in either of the said Assay Offices, upon paying the sum of five shillings to the Assayer or Wardens, who are hereby required to make, on a plate of pewter or copper, impressions of such marks or punches; and also entries of such marks or punches, with the names and places of abode of the owners thereof, in a book or books to be carefully kept for that purpose, if such owners be resident in Dublin or at New Geneva. And that no person or persons shall be entitled to have any manufactures of gold made, or caused to be made by him or her, assayed or stamped at either of the said Assay Offices, until after same have been stamped by the maker, and until after such impression and entry have been made at such office of the mark or punch of said person or persons, which denotes the particular standard of such manufactures of gold; and that no manufacture of gold shall be assayed or stamped at the said Assay Offices, if marked with any other mark or punch but

such as is duly entered; and that no manufacture of gold shall be assayed or stamped at such Assay Offices unless such gold work be marked with the mark which denotes the true standard of same."

The maker's marks were in use, and were also registered, at the time of the passing of this Act and for many years previously, in accordance with other Acts of Parliament and the practice of the London Hall. The manufacturers were required to stamp and register their mark punches in the Assay Office in Dublin, previous to the year 1694, and this practice has been continued to the present time.

These three standards of 22, 20, and 18 karats, directed by this Act, were continued by another Act, subsequently passed, namely, the 47 Geo. III., sess. 2, c. 15, s. 3, 10th August 1807, and are still in use.

By the same Act, c. 23, s. 29 (Ireland), no refiner may sell gold without alloy, or less fine than with one grain per ounce.

KING'S HEAD DUTY-MARK.—DUTY INCREASED.

A.D. 1807. 47 GEORGE III., sess. 2, c. 15, s. 6 (Ireland). The stamp of the King's head, or head of the reigning sovereign, was now for the first time added to the others to denote payment of the duty, but no notice was taken of the former mark of Hibernia, and both marks were used. The duty was raised to one shilling per ounce on gold and silver plate. (The duty on silver plate abolished 1890.)

By the same Act, sect. 15, both buyer and seller are liable to a penalty for plate without the required marks.

STANDARD OF SILVER IMPROVED.

A.D. 1825. 6 GEORGE IV. c. 118. A small Roman letter e is found for the date towards the end of this year, succeeding the capital letter E. This was done in compliance with the order of the Commissioners of Stamps, to denote the transfer of the duty from the Commissioners and Collectors of Excise to the Commissioners of Stamps; and also to mark the change of the standard of silver made in Ireland at that time, by having to adopt the practice of the London Hall in marking silver plate, at an allowance of only one pennyweight and a half below the standard—this was also by order of the Commissioners of Stamps, and according to the 47 Geo. III. sess. 2., c. 15. Previous to this order, Irish manufactured silver plate used to be marked in Dublin, at some periods, as standard, at an allowance of from two and a half to three and a half pennyweight worse than the standard; consequently Irish sterling, manufactured previous to that date, was inferior to English sterling, and to the Irish sterling subsequently manufactured.

FOREIGN PLATE ASSAYED AND MARKED.

A.D. 1842. 5 & 6 VICTORIA, c. 47, ss. 59, 60. The several Assay Offices in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland are directed and empowered to assay and mark foreign manufactured gold and silver plate; and also to assay and mark, at any of the said Assay Offices, gold and silver plate manufactured in any part of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Previous to the passing of this Act, each of the Assay Offices had power only to assay and mark gold and silver plate manufactured within their own districts.

N.B.—The mark punch of the resident shopkeeper, or importer of plate, is required to be registered, in respect of assaying and marking foreign plate, or plate manufactured out of the district of the Assay Office that it is sent to be assayed at; but the maker's marks are not required unless he is resident in the city or town or district of the assay.

The variable letter of the year is the date-mark, and is impressed on all manufactured gold and silver plate that is stamped at the Assay Office in Dublin, in accordance with the practice of the Goldsmiths' Hall in London; but the letter, and also the character of the letter, used in Dublin in each year is not the same as is used in London in each corresponding year.

REDUCED STANDARDS OF GOLD.

A.D. 1854. 17 & 18 VICTORIA. It was enacted that from and after the 22nd December 1854, three lower standards for gold wares were allowed in addition to the standards of 22, 20, and 18 karats, fixed by the Act 23 and 24 Geo. III. (1784). The figures 15, 12, and 9, and thousandths parts to be stamped denoting the true quality of the same. The marks of the harp crowned and the sovereign's head are omitted, although subject to the same duty as the higher standards.

There are *six legal* standards for gold in Ireland and only *one* for silver.

DRAWBACK.

A.D. 1866. 29 & 30 VICTORIA, c. 64. An Act to amend the laws relating to the Inland Revenue. Section 15 provides for allowing drawback on plate made in Great Britain exported from Ireland, and on Irish plate exported from Great Britain.

I.—THE STANDARD (as fixed by the Act 1st June 1784).

For Dublin.—Gold of 22 karats; a harp crowned and the numerals 22.

Gold of 20 karats; a plume of three feathers and 20.

Gold of 18 karats; a unicorn's head and 18.

Silver of 11 oz. 2 dwt. ; a harp crowned.

The harp now used is placed in an upright oblong, with the corners cut off:—



No New Standard silver is stamped in Ireland.

THREE LOWER STANDARDS (17 and 18 Vict., 1854).

For Dublin.—On these the mark of the standard proper (a harp crowned) is omitted, and although subject to the same duty, the mark of the Sovereign's head is also withheld, but Hibernia is used as a Hall-mark.

Gold of 15 karats; a stamp of 15.625 (thousandths).

Gold of 12 karats; a stamp of 12.500 ,,

Gold of 9 karats; a stamp of 9.375 ,,

For New Geneva.—Gold of 22 karats; a harp crowned with a bar across the strings and 22.

Gold of 20 karats; a plume of *two* feathers and 20.

Gold of 18 karats; a unicorn's head *with collar on the neck* and 18.

The watch manufactory at New Geneva was discontinued about 1790, having only lasted six years.

II.—THE HALL-MARK.

For Dublin.—A figure of HIBERNIA, used since 1730, on gold or silver of every standard.

The figure of Hibernia is also now placed in a similar outline:—



III.—THE DUTY-MARK.

The SOVEREIGN'S HEAD, first used in 1807 to denote the payment of duty on silver and on the higher standards of gold of 22, 20, and 18 karats; but not on the lower gold of 15, 12, and 9 karats, although paying the same duty. Discontinued on silver in 1890.

IV.—THE MAKER'S MARK.

Formerly some device, with or without the initials of the goldsmith; later the initials of his Christian and surname.

V.—THE DATE-MARK.

A LETTER OF THE ALPHABET, changing every year from A to Z (omitting J), in cycles of twenty-five years, is now adopted.

TOTAL OF MARKS now required to be stamped on gold and silver plate in Ireland:—

GOLD.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Standard 1st,
22 karats
(6 marks). | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality in karats (22). 2. Harp crowned. 3. Hibernia (Dublin assay mark, first used 1730). 4. Date-letter. 5. Duty-mark (first used in 1807). 6. Maker's mark. |
| Standard 2nd,
20 karats
(6 marks). | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality in karats (20). 2. Plume of three feathers. 3. Hibernia. 4. Date-letter. 5. Duty-mark. 6. Maker's mark. |
| Standard 3rd,
18 karats
(6 marks). | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality in karats (18). 2. Unicorn's head. 3. Hibernia. 4. Date-letter. 5. Duty-mark, sovereign's head. 6. Maker's mark. |
| 3 Lower
Standards
(4 marks). | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality, karats and thousandths in one stamp. 2. Hibernia. 3. Date-letter. 4. Maker's mark. |

SILVER.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Old Standard,
11 oz. 2 dwts.
(5 marks). | { | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harp crowned. 2. Hibernia. 3. Date-letter. 4. Duty-mark. Discontinued 1890. 5. Maker's mark. |
|---|---|---|

No New Standard silver is marked in Ireland.

We frequently meet on silver plate of the seventeenth century the stamp STERLING and the punch of the maker's initials;

sometimes in two lines, thus STER
LING or Ster
ling

These marks are attributed by Irish silversmiths and collectors to Cork, at which city there was no Government Assay Office; but in

conjunction with that of the maker, it was considered a sufficient guarantee in the South of Ireland, without the trouble and expense of sending all the plate to Dublin to be Hall-marked.

The Dublin Goldsmiths' Company may appoint assayers for any part of Ireland.

47 GEORGE III. c. 15, s. 3 (Ireland). In Ireland the marks for silver do not seem to be determined by the statutes, but are those in use in 1807, or as determined by the Commissioners of Taxes.

GOLD AND SILVER PLATE DUTY.

The duties were first imposed in 1730 at 6d. per ounce both on gold and silver. The rates were doubled in 1807 by the Act of 47 GEO. 3 (Sess. I.), c. 18, which was repealed by Statute Law Revision Act, 1872 (No. 2).

The receipt of the duties was committed to the Excise Department, until by the Act of 6 Geo. 4, c. 118, it was transferred to the Department of Stamps.

1807. 47 Geo. 3, Sess. 2, c. 15. "An Act to provide for the regulating and securing the Collection of the Duty on Gold and Silver Plate wrought or manufactured in Ireland."

This Act is still in force, except Sects. 1, 2, and 12, repealed by Statute Law Revision Act, 1872 (No. 2).

Sects. 3 and 4 relate to the assaying and marking by the Assay Master, &c.

Sect. 5 provides for a written note to be delivered of certain particulars, and of the weight of every parcel of gold or silver, and for payment of the duty.

Sect. 6. As to accounting for the duty.

Sect. 7. Allowance of one-sixth of duty on goods sent to be assayed in a rough state.

Sect. 8. As to filing of notes and accounts of duties to be kept in books.

Sect. 9 provides for books being lodged by Assay Master with Goldsmiths' Company, and for inspection of such books.

Sect. 10. As to payment of the duties.

Sect. 11. As to any Deputy Assay Masters in the country paying the duty and accounting.

Sects. 13 to 17. Penalties for various offences and mode of recovery.

1842. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 82. "An Act to assimilate the Stamp Duties in Great Britain and Ireland, and to make Regulations for collecting and managing the same until the Tenth day of October 1845." (Partly repealed by 8 & 9 Vict. c. 76, s. 1, and 33 & 34 Vict. c. 99.)

Sect. 1. Repeal of duties on gold and silver plate granted by 47 Geo. 3, s. 1, c. 18.

Sect. 2. Duties on gold and silver plate to be the same as by 53 Geo. 3, c. 185.

PLATE DEALERS' LICENSES IN IRELAND.

From 1785 to 1804 were £1 per annum.

In 1805-6, £2 per annum.

In 1807, in the City of Dublin and in any city or town sending one or more members to Parliament, £5. In any other part of Ireland, £2.

In 1812 it was raised to 5 and 2 guineas.

In 1842. Act 5 & 6 Vict. The licenses were the same as in England, viz., for 2 dwts. and under 2 oz. of gold and under 30 oz. of silver, £2, 6s.; above that quantity, £5, 15s.

Chronological List of Specimens of Irish Plate.

DATE.	MAKER.	ARTICLE.
1638-9	VB	Communion Flagon; given by Moses Hill in 1638.— <i>Trinity Coll., Dublin.</i>
1679-0	ES	Chalice, with IHS engraved.— <i>Messrs. Waterhouse.</i>
1680-1	AG	Great Tankards.— <i>Merchant Taylors' Company, London.</i>
1680-1	IS	Box, with scroll feet.— <i>T. G. Willes Sandford, Esq.</i>
1682-3	IS	Tazza Bowl.— <i>Mrs. Bischoffsheim.</i>
1693-4	<i>JB</i>	(<i>mon.</i>) Octagonal Casket, with Chinese Figures.— <i>T. G. Willes Sandford, Esq.</i>
"	"	Cup; given in 1696.— <i>Mansion House, Dublin.</i>
"	"	Cup, ex dono Duncombe.— <i>Trinity Coll., Dublin.</i>
1694-5	<i>JV</i>	Cup and Cover.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1695-6	DK	Monteith and Coronal.— <i>Earl of Charlemont.</i>
"	<i>B</i>	Flagon, dated 1700.— <i>Trinity Coll., Dublin.</i>
1696-7	DK	A Cup exhibited in the <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
1697-8	pk	A Cup exhibited in the <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
"	"	Pair of Taper Candlesticks, with Law's name, ¹⁷⁸⁸ 1828 stamped subsequently.— <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>

DATE.	MAKER.	ARTICLE.
1699-0	D K	Punch Bowl, "Plunket," 1702.— <i>Trinity Coll., Dublin.</i>
1700-1	<i>J B</i>	(<i>mon.</i>) A piece exhibited at the <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
1710-1	<i>J W</i>	Two-handed Cup.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
"	"	Cup, "Pattens"; given 1705.— <i>Trinity Coll., Dublin.</i>
1714-5	"	Tazza Bowl.— <i>Mrs. Bischoffsheim.</i>
1715-6	"	Tazza Bowl.— <i>Mrs. Bischoffsheim.</i>
1716-7	"	Cup with two handles.— <i>Messrs. Hancock.</i>
1717-8	D K	Two-handed Cup.— <i>Messrs. Hancock.</i>
1718-9	<i>J B</i>	Corporation Mace.— <i>Dublin.</i>
"	M W	(<i>mon.</i>) Basin.— <i>Mr. Jos. Johnson, Dublin.</i>
"	L O	(<i>lion rampant between letters.</i>) Cup.— <i>Messrs. Hancock.</i>
1720-1	<i>R H</i>	Bowl Plate, fluted, scalloped edge.— <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
1724-5	—	Two-handed Cup.— <i>Lord John Butler.</i>
1725-6	I H	(<i>letters crowned.</i>) Alms Dish; given in 1725 to <i>St. Michan's, Dublin.</i>
"	T S	(<i>letters crowned.</i>) Bowl Plate.— <i>Mrs. Bischoffsheim.</i>
1726-7	<i>J B</i>	Chalice and Paten; given in 1725 by <i>Mrs. Dorothy Ormsby</i> of Rookewood to <i>Athleage Church.</i>
1727-8	WA	Two-handed Cup.— <i>Hon. Eric Barrington.</i>
"	<i>W C</i>	Two-handed Cup.— <i>Messrs. Hancock.</i>
"	R G	Piece of Plate.— <i>Messrs. Hancock.</i>
1728-9	WW	Mace, dated 1728, see cut.— <i>Goldsmiths' Company London.</i>
"	TW	Mace, dated 1728, top embossed with royal arms.— <i>Messrs. Hancock.</i>
1729-0	illeg.	Sugar Basin, repoussé flowers.— <i>Earl of Breadalbane.</i>
1730-1	<i>J B</i>	Cup and Cover; the gift of <i>W. Duncombe.</i> — <i>Trinity Coll., Dublin.</i>
1731-2	D K	Pair of Tazze.— <i>Earl of Breadalbane.</i>

DATE.	MAKER.	ARTICLE.
1736-7	IW	Pair of Square Waiters.— <i>Earl of Breadalbane.</i>
"	RG	Plate, won by "Cheshire Tom," Mullingar Races, in 1737.— <i>Sir C. Domville.</i>
"	RG	Three Table Spoons and a Mug.— <i>Messrs. Waterhouse.</i>
1739-0	AG	Two-handled Cup, see cut.— <i>Messrs. Hancock.</i>
"	—	Cup; presented by P. Routledge in 1741 to <i>H. Blake.</i>
1743-4	LET	Gilt Plateau; given by Dr. Gilbert to <i>Trinity Coll., Dublin.</i>
1748	WW	Six Spoons, leaf-shaped ends.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1750	MW	Five two-handled Cups, in sizes, with festoons.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1754	CS	Gravy Spoon with curved end.— <i>Messrs. Waterhouse.</i>
1755	RW	Soup Ladle, scroll end, fluted bowl.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1757	TJ	Sugar Basin, on three feet.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1759	—	Table Spoons.— <i>Messrs. Waterhouse.</i>
1762	CS	Two-handled Cup, chased with scrolls.— <i>C. M. Longfield, Esq.</i>
"	"	Soup Ladle.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1769	IC	Epergne.— <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
"	CT	Two-handled Cup.— <i>C. M. Longfield, Esq.</i>
1770	RB	Large silver Cruet Frame, with branches and 14 bottles.— <i>Mr. Harris of Dublin.</i>
"	WW	Six Spoons.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1778	—	Plate, with Hibernia.— <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
1785-6	IO	Silver Gilt Sugar Sifter, see cut.— <i>J. H. Walter, Esq.</i>
"	MW	Sugar Basin.— <i>Rev. T. Staniforth.</i>
1790	—	Cup, with Hibernia.— <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
1792	—	Cup.— <i>Dublin Exhibition.</i>
1793	—	Cup; presented in 1799.— <i>Lady Loftus.</i>
1803	WW	Spoon. Date 1803, see cut.— <i>J. P. Stott, Esq.</i>
1817	I'LB	Sugar Bowl, Cover and Stand, and Waiter, made by I. Le Bas.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>

DATE.	MAKER.	ARTICLE.
1824	EP	Teapot, chased with flowers, made by E. Power.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1825	„	Bread Basket, chased with flowers.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1830	—	Mount of a Bog Oak Cup, presented to King William IV.— <i>H.M. the Queen.</i>
1832	<i>GB</i>	Two-handled Cup, made by G. Bryden.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1837	RS	Waiter; presented in 1837, made by R. Sayer.— <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>
1864	SL'B	Trowel, presented to <i>Sir Jno. Esmonde.</i>

N.B.—The dates in the first column are placed according to the arrangement of date letters in the late Mr. W. J. Cripps' tables ("Old English Plate," pp. 419-421), which that gentleman gave us permission to adopt in the following list.

Dublin Assay Office Letters.

The time appointed for the letter to be changed, and the new punches put in commission, is the 29th or 30th May in every year; but this date has not been strictly adhered to, the changes having been made at various later periods in some years.

1638 to 1729. 3 *marks*: harp crowned, date letter, and maker's mark.

1806 to 1807. 4 *marks*: harp, date, Hibernia, and maker's initials.

1807 to 1882. 5 *marks*: harp, date, Hibernia, sovereign's head for duty, and the maker's initials.

From 1638, the year in which the Communion flagon was given by Moses Hill to Trinity College, Dublin, the fact is clearly established, confirmed also by the Charter granted by Charles I. on the 22nd December of 1638, that a Roman letter for that year was adopted, commencing with A. No other examples between 1638 and 1679 have come under our notice, but in the latter year we have a chalice with the Old English , followed in 1680 by the tankard preserved in the Merchant Taylors' Company, bearing an old English . Following the order of the alphabet, plate was doubtless stamped down to 1686, finishing with .

The unsettled state of Ireland during the next six years will

account for the cessation of work at the Dublin Assay Office. In 1693 the letter **R** (next in succession) was adopted, and continued alphabetically down to **R** in 1700. At this time the Act of William III., in 1700, reappointing the provincial offices for adopting the new or Britannia standard, and making it imperative on all the provincial offices to discontinue the *old*, may have operated in Dublin, where the *new* standard was never made, so that a few years may have elapsed before work was resumed. It appears, from no examples having been discovered during this period, that in 1710 the Hall recommenced stamping old standard plate with the letter **S**, next in succession (the top of the shield being escalated), down to **Z** in 1717, thus completing the Old English alphabet.

In 1718 a new alphabet was commenced, and as we have met with two court-hand letters A and C, whilst Mr. W. J. Cripps ("Old English Plate," edition 1878, page 419) gives a letter B in the same hand (although no authority is quoted in his list of specimens), we have adopted his suggestion, which is probably correct, viz., that they represented the years 1718, 1719 and 1720.

In 1721 Old English letters were used, and continued with uninterrupted succession (omitting J) from A to Z, in all twenty-five letters. In 1746 Roman capitals commence, and we have to acknowledge with thanks the late Mr. Cripps' permission to introduce his arrangement of Roman capitals from 1771 to 1820. It seems unaccountable and contrary to the practice of every other Assay Office to repeat the same character of letter in four successive cycles—the custom has always been to vary the style of alphabet in succession; but at Dublin we have Roman capitals from 1746 to 1845, just a century, the only variations in the Hall-Marks being the introduction of the king's head duty-mark in 1807, and apparently a distinctive form of shield, which, however, was not strictly adhered to throughout each cycle. The arrangement of the tables is still unsatisfactory, and it is to be hoped the promised assistance of the Royal Irish Academy will enable us to clear up the existing discrepancies. Mr. Thomas Ryves Metcalf more than twenty years ago furnished us with extracts from the local Acts of Parliament and extracts from the Minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company recording the Assay Office letters and dates; but he could not do more than give us Roman capitals without any variation of type, hence the present uncertainty, and I am compelled to add, the incompleteness of our Dublin Tables. Mr. S. W. Le Bass, the Assay Master has kindly given us copies of the recent marks.

DUBLIN ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

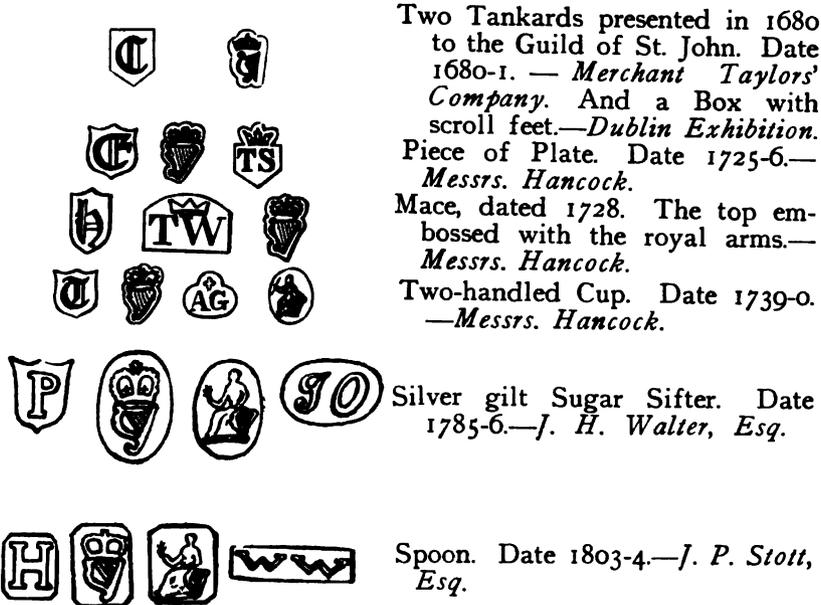
CYCLE 5. OLD ENGLISH CAPS.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 7. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 8. ROMAN CAPITALS.	
	1721-2		1746-7		1771-2		1796-7
	1722-3		1747-8		1772-3		1797-8
	1723-4		1748-9		1773-4		1798-9
	1724-5		1749-0		1774-5		1799-0
	1725-6		1750-1		1775-6		1800-1
	1726-7		1751-2		1776-7		1801-2
	1727-8		1752-3		1777-8		1802-3
	1728-9		1753-4		1778-9		1803-4
	1729-0		1754-5		1779-0		1804-5
	1780-1		1755-6		1780-1		1805-6
	1781-2		1756-7		1781-2		1806-7
	1782-3		1757-8		1782-3		1807-8
	1783-4		1758-9		1783-4		1808-9
	1784-5		1759-0		1784-5		1809-0
	1785-6		1760-1		1785-6		1810-1
	1786-7		1761-2		1786-7		1811-2
	1787-8		1762-3		1787-8		1812-3
	1788-9		1763-4		1788-9		1813-4
	1789-0		1764-5		1789-0		1814-5
	1740-1		1765-6		1790-1		1815-6
	1741-2		1766-7		1791-2		1816-7
	1742-3		1767-8		1792-3		1817-8
	1743-4		1768-9		1793-4		1818-9
	1744-5		1769-0		1794-5		1819-0
	1745-6		1770-1		1795-6		1820-1
FOUR STAMPS. 1. Harp crowned. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Initials. 4. Hibernia in 1730.		FOUR STAMPS. 1. Harp crowned. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Initials. 4. Hibernia.		FOUR STAMPS. 1. Harp cr., Plume, or Unicorn. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Initials. 4. Hibernia. The three Standards of 22, 20, and 18 karat, di- rected to be used after 1784, are the Harp, Plume, or Unicorn.		FIVE STAMPS. 1. Harp cr., Plume, or Unicorn. 2. Maker's Mark. 3. Date Letter. 4. Hibernia. 5. The King's Head in 1807.	

CYCLE 9. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 10. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 11. ROMAN CAPITALS.	
Ⓐ	1821-2	a	1846-7	Ⓐ	1871-2
B	1822-3	b	1847-8	B	1872-3
C	1823-4	c	1848-9	C	1873-4
D	1824-5	d	1849-0	D	1874-5
Ⓔ ⓔ	1825-6	e	1850-1	E	1875-6
F	1826-7	f	1851-2	F	1876-7
G	1827-8	g	1852-3	G	1877-8
H	1828-9	h	1853-4	H	1878-9
I	1829-0	i	1854-5	I	1879-0
K	1830-1	k	1855-6	K	1880-1
L	1831-2	l	1856-7	L	1881-2
M	1832-3	m	1857-8	M	1882-3
N	1833-4	n	1858-9	N	1883-4
O	1834-5	o	1859-0	O	1884-5
P	1835-6	p	1860-1	P	1885-6
Q	1836-7	q	1861-2	Q	1886-7
R	1837-8	r	1862-3	R	1887-8
S	1838-9	s	1863-4	S	1888-9
T	1839-0	t	1864-5	T	1889-0
U	1840-1	u	1865-6	U	1890-1
V	1841-2	v	1866-7	V	1891-2
W	1842-3	w	1867-8	W	1892-3
X	1843-4	x	1868-9	X	1893-4
Y	1844-5	y	1869-0	Y	1894-5
Z	1845-6	z	1870-1	Z	1895-6
<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harp crowned, Plume, or Unicorn. 2. Maker's Mark. 3. Date Letter. 4. Hibernia. 5. King's Head, or Queen's. 		<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harp crowned, Plume, or Unicorn. 2. Maker's Mark. 3. Date Letter. 4. Hibernia. 5. Queen's Head. 		<p>FIVE STAMPS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harp crowned, Plume, or Unicorn. 2. Maker's Mark. 3. Date Letter. 4. Hibernia. 5. Queen's Head. 	

DUBLIN ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 12.							
BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.							
	VICTORIA. 1896-7		1900-1		1904-5		1908-9
EDWARD VII.							
	1897-8		1901-2		1905-6		1909-0
	1898-9		1902-3		1906-7		1910-1
	1899-0		1903-4		1907-8		1911-2
1. Harp crowned, Plume, or Unicorn. 2. Maker's Mark.				3. Date Letter. 4. Hibernia.			

EXAMPLES.



Two Tankards presented in 1680 to the Guild of St. John. Date 1680-1. — *Merchant Taylors' Company*. And a Box with scroll feet.—*Dublin Exhibition*. Piece of Plate. Date 1725-6.—*Messrs. Hancock*.

Mace, dated 1728. The top embossed with the royal arms.—*Messrs. Hancock*.

Two-handed Cup. Date 1739-0.—*Messrs. Hancock*.

Silver gilt Sugar Sifter. Date 1785-6.—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*

Spoon. Date 1803-4.—*J. P. Stott, Esq.*

Celebrated Goldsmiths.

ENGLAND.

- 1100. Leofstane, Goldsmith, Provost of London.
- 1189. Henry Fitz Alwyn, Fitz Leofstane, Goldsmith, and Mayor of London.
- 1200. Ade, the King's Goldsmith.
- 1222. Itger, Goldsmith, Master of the Mint.
- 1255. William de Gloucester, Goldsmith, Keeper of the Dies.
- 1258. William, the King's Goldsmith, Master of the Mint.
- 1275 to 1281. Gregory de Rokesley, eight times Mayor, Chief Assay Master of all the King's Mints in England.
- 1276. Jocee the Goldsmith, Keeper of the Dies.
- 1280. William Farringdon, Goldsmith, Sheriff of London.
- 1308, 1323. Sir Nicholas Farrindon, Goldsmith, Mayor four times.
- 1410. Sir Dru Barentine, twice Lord Mayor, died 1415, Foster Lane.
- 1415. William Fitzhugh, Goldsmith, Comptroller of the Mint.
- 1452. Humphrey Hayford, Goldsmith, do. do.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

1485. Bartholomew Read, Goldsmith, Master of the Mint.
 1527. Martin Bowes, do. do. do.
 1543. Sir Martin Bowes, five times Mayor, Goldsmith, Master of the Mint.
 1545. Lawrence Warren, Goldsmith, Mint Assay Master.
 1702-1722. Sir Francis Child, Goldsmith, Temple Bar, Mayor.
 1712-1740. Paul de Lamerie, Crown Goldsmith.

ENGRAVERS TO THE MINT.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1100. Otto the elder and younger, Goldsmiths. | 1633. Edward Greene. |
| 1150. Wm. Fitz Otho, Goldsmith. | 1646-49-58-72-74. Thomas Simon |
| 1243. Richard Abel, do. | 1648. Thomas Rawlins. |
| 1265. Thomas Fitz Otho, do. | 1672. James Roettier. |
| 1280. Hugh Fitz Otho, do. | 1672. Norbert Roettier. |
| 1290. Thomas Fitz Otho, do. | 1672. Phillip Roettier. |
| 1294. William Fitz Otho, do. | 1672. Joseph Roettier. |
| 1389. J. Edmund, do. | 1674. Peter Blondeau, Engineer. |
| 1422. Gilbert Van Brandeburg, Goldsmith. | His patent expired in 1688. |
| 1432. John Orewell, Goldsmith. | 1674-88. John Roettier.† |
| 1455. William Wodeward, do. | 1685. Henry Harris. |
| 1461. German Lynch, graver of the puncheons. | 1706-26-27. John Croker. |
| 1483.* John Shaa. | 1706-26. Samuel Bull. |
| 1487. Nicholas Flynte. | 1706. Gabriel Clerk. |
| 1507. John Sharpe. | 1727. John Rolles. |
| 1520. Demaire. | 1727. Beresford. |
| 1553. Deric Anthony. | 1729-40. J. Sigismund Tanner. |
| 1555. Vincentius. | 1741, 1749. Jas. Anthony Dassier. |
| 1560-78. Deric Anthony. | 1741. Richard Yeo. |
| 1579. Menestrelle. | 1741, 1742, 1749. J. Ralph Ocks. |
| 1611. Charles Anthony. | 1742. John Tanner. |
| 1612. John Dicker. | 1764. Lawrence Natter. |
| 1628-36. Nicholas Briot. | 1771. Thomas Pingo. |
| | 1779. Lewis Pingo. |
| | 1787. John Pingo. |
| | 1797. Nathaniel Marchant. |

Note.—The initials of all Goldsmiths found stamped on English Plate may be identified by the entries in the books at Goldsmiths' Hall. These have been accurately copied, with their names and addresses in full, and dates of entry, in a work entitled "*Gilda Aurifabrorum, or a History of English Goldsmiths and their Marks,*" &c., by W. Chaffers. (Reeves & Turner).

* It was not until Henry VII.'s reign that any real expression was given to the human countenance, either in sculpture or coinage, in England.

† Roettier left the year William III. came to the throne. He had coined for Charles II. and James II. Being a Jacobite, he made King William's halfpence so that the back part of the head represented a satyr's face with horns. For this he was turned out of his office, and was subsequently employed in the French Mint.

the

1

L'ORFEVRERIE FRANÇAISE

WITH

Extracts from the Statutes and Ordinances

RELATING TO THE STAMPING OF

GOLD AND SILVER WARES,

FROM THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAKER'S MARK TO THE PRESENT DAY.

Illustrated with Twelve Plates of Hall Marks

OF THE

STANDARD AND ASSAY.

BY

WILLIAM CHAFFERS,

AUTHOR OF "MARKS AND MONOGRAMS ON POTTERY AND PORCELAIN," ETC.

"Opus quale sit, ignis probabit."—1 COR. iii. 13.

(Motto of the Goldsmiths' Company of Rouen.)

LONDON.

1904.

France.

DECLARATIONS, EDICTS, AND DECREES

REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK.

- 1275. Compelling goldsmiths to stamp their works with the *seign* or punch of the town in which they lived.
- 1313. Ordering gold works to be stamped with the punch of the Goldsmiths' Company of Paris.
- 1506. Nov. Confirming ancient privileges and enjoining goldsmiths to have their works countermarked by the wardens and limiting the weight of silver works to 3 marks.
- 1510. Feb. Authorising the manufacture of vessels of gold and silver of any weight conformable to the standard.
- 1554. Limiting the number of goldsmiths, and relating to the keeping of registers of buyers and sellers of gold and silver works, partly repealed in the following year.
- 1577. Sept. Relating to marks and countermarks.
- 1631. Oct. Placing a duty (*droit de remède*) on all works of gold and silver.
- 1633. May. The previous Act revoked, by the goldsmiths of Paris paying the composition of 24,000 livres, and 8000 by the wire drawers.
- 1672. March 30. Goldsmiths' work to pay a duty of 30 sols per ounce on gold and 20 sols per mark on silver to the King's profit.
- 1674. Feb. 17. Augmenting the duty on gold and silver, viz., 60 sols per ounce on gold and 40 sols per mark on silver.
- 1679. Dec. 30. Regulating the goldsmiths' trade, and on the commerce of gold and silver.
- 1681. July. Duties on gold and silver (*de Marque*); 3 livres per ounce on gold and 40 sols per mark on silver.
- 1685. Feb. 3. For the countermark of old vessels and other large works of gold and silver.
- 1687. Feb. 21. Prohibiting the manufacture of works in gold and of massive pieces of silver, therein named.

1689. Oct. 25. Regulations for the refining of gold and silver.
1697. June. Concerning the droit de Marque and Contrôle on works of gold and silver.
1700. March. Limiting the weight of vessels of gold to 1 ounce, and silver to 12 marks; prohibiting the manufacture of massive plate.
1720. Feb. 18. Renewing the prohibitions decreed in March 1700.
1721. Nov. 23. Permitting the manufacture of gold snuff-boxes, étuis, and other jewels of the weight of 7 ounces, and reducing the standard for watch-cases, boxes, &c., to 20¼ karats.
1724. Jan. 4. Declaring sentence of death against those who counterfeit stamps, or insert or solder stamps on other plate.
1725. April 20. Regulating the commerce of gold and silver.
1733. Nov. 13. Ditto, and relating to the stamping of metals.
1735. April 19. Confirming the decree of Jan. 1724, &c.
1746. May 21. Regulating the fabrication of galloons and lace of gold and imitation.
1749. Jan. 26. Concerning the duties on gold and silver.
1751. Mar. 17. New Regulations for the marque of gold and silver.
1760. June 21. Directing the Farmer of the duties not to apply the stamp of discharge on plate, unless previously stamped by the Maison Commune.
1763. Dec. 5. Directing all assayers of the Mint of the kingdom to adopt an uniform method of making assays of gold and silver.
1765. Dec. 2. Requiring all silver articles plated, or covered with gold, to be distinctly stamped ARGENT.
1769. Sept. 9. Concerning works of gold and silver coming from abroad.
1779. Mar. 18. Concerning the duties on plate sold at the Mont de Piété in Paris.
1782. Aug. 31. Regulating the duties and describing all the marks of standard, &c., to be used.
1783. Sept. 10. Authorising wardens to increase the number of punches for small works of gold and silver.
1783. Sept. 20. Forbidding the sale of jewels or small works of gold and silver which have not been assayed and marked.
1783. Dec. 13. Regulating the standard of works of silver at 11 ounces 12 grains, and gold at 20¼ karats.
1783. Dec. 15. Establishing an invariable mark for each community of goldsmiths in France.
1705. (An IV.) Introducing the metric system of weights.
1797. (An VI.) Re-establishing the standards of gold and silver, and ordering new punches, &c., recense, &c.
1803. May 31. Ordering new punches as herein described.
1817. Oct. 22. Ditto ditto.
1818. July 1. Ditto ditto, recense, &c.
1825. Dec. 18. Relating to the metric system.

1835. June 30. Ordering new punches of standard and assay, &c.
 1837. July 4. Relating to the metric system.
 1838. April 7. Ordering the *recense gratuite* or gratuitous verification of works of gold and silver.

FRANCE.

IN France a system of stamping gold and silver wares was adopted as early as the thirteenth century, but the means of ascertaining the date of manufacture is not so easily determined as in England.

In the *Livres des Métiers*, for the regulation of trades in France, compiled by Etienne Boileau, Provost of Paris 1258-1269, we find some of the rules by which the goldsmiths were regulated, and that masters were appointed to see them carried into effect. This was probably the first institution of the Goldsmiths' Company in Paris, in which we meet with the following clauses, in the old language of the time of Saint Louis:—

“Nus orfevres ne puet ouvrer d'or à Paris qu'il ne soit à la touche de Paris ou mieudres, laquele touche passe touz les ors de quoi on œuvre en nule terre.” Again, “Nus orfevres ne puet ouvrer à Paris d'argent que il ne soit ausi bons come estelins ou mieudres.”

No goldsmith may work gold in Paris which is not of the Paris touch or better, which touch or standard surpasses all the gold which is worked in any other country.

No goldsmith may work at Paris any silver which is not as good as sterling (of England) or better.

“Nus orfevres ne puet avoir que un aprenti estrange mès de son lignage ou du lignage sa fame, soit de loing soit de près en peut-il avoir tant come il li plaist.” No goldsmith can have but one apprentice who is a stranger, but as many of his or his wife's relations as he pleases.

“Nus orfevres ne puet ouvrer de nuit, se ce n'est à l'œuvre lou Roy, la Roine, leur anfans, leur frères et l'évesque de Paris.” No goldsmith may work at night except on work commanded by the King, the Queen, their children, their brothers, and the Bishop of Paris.

“Nus orfevres ne doit paiage ne costume nule de chose qu'il achate ne vende appartenant a leur mestier.” No goldsmith shall pay any tax or duty on anything he buys or sells appertaining to his trade.

“Nus orfevres ne puet ouvrir sa forge au jour d'apostele, se ele n'eschiet au Samedi fors que un ouvrer que chascun ouvre à son tour à ces festes et au diemenche; et quanques cil gaaigne qui i'ouvrer a ouvert, il le met en la boiste de la confrairie des orfevres, en laquele boiste en met les deniers Dieu que il orfevre font des choses que il vendent ou achètent appartenans à leur mestier, et de tout l'argent de celle boiste done-on chascun an le jor de Pasques

un diner as povres de l'Ostel Dieu de Paris." No goldsmith may open his forge on the day of the fête of one of the twelve Apostles, if it does not fall on a Saturday, with the exception of the shop, which every one opens in his turn on the fête days and on Sundays, and all that he gains who has an open shop on these days he shall put in the box of the Confrérie of Goldsmiths, in which box the alms are placed, given by the goldsmiths according as they buy and sell their merchandise, the contents being devoted on Easter Day every year for a dinner to the poor at the Hôtel Dieu of Paris.

These regulations appear to have supplemented an ordinance which has not come down to our times, for they do not enter into any details of the fabrication of works of gold and silver, or notice the stamps necessary to be placed upon them.

In an ordinance of Philippe le Hardi, A.D. 1275, the *argentarii* were compelled to stamp their works with the *seign* of the town in which their forge was situated, on pain of confiscation of the goods; and in the reign of Philippe le Bel, A.D. 1313, gold was ordered to be stamped with the punch of the Goldsmiths' Company of Paris, which was kept by the *prudhommes* of the Company.

"Tout orfèvre qui négligerait de faire marquer ses ouvrages serait puni *de corps et d'avoir*," that is, by fine and imprisonment.

It was also ordained that each city should have a particular mark for works in silver.

This was the origin of the Hall-mark in France, each town having a different device and a letter, changing every year at the election of the new masters.

The marks for goldsmiths' work made at Paris were anciently of two sorts, the maker's mark, and the assay mark of the *maison commune*, or common hall. The first was the signature of the goldsmith, who usually adopted some emblem, as a star, cross, rose, &c., surmounted by a *fleur de lis*.

The second, or assay mark, was impressed by the Corporation, and proved that the article had been assayed, and found to be as good as the Paris standard. This stamp can be traced back as far as 1275, as before noticed. The punch was at Paris a letter of the alphabet crowned, changing every year with the new wardens of the craft, or *gardes du métier*, in alphabetical order. We are informed by Pierre de Rosnel, in the third part of his *Mercurie Indien*, that the letter for the year 1752 was M; but as several irregularities occur from incidental circumstances, the exact order cannot be ascertained without consulting the minutes of the Mint, where all the marks were registered on a plate of brass by the identical punches. In 1680 the letter L was ordered to be used; in 1783 a man was convicted for forging the letter T of the previous year. The variable mark continued in use until 1783, U being the letter for that year, when Louis XVI. assigned to each community of goldsmiths in France an invariable mark, that of Paris being the letter P crowned. *From 1789 we find no stamp until 1797.*

In the Wardrobe Accounts of Edward VI. we have a very early record of this Hall-mark in the year 1300 (*Lib. Gard. Soc. Ant.* 352):—"Item, viij. cocleares argenti signata in collo signo

Parisius scilicet, de quondam *flore glegelli*—which may be thus rendered—Item, eight silver spoons, marked on the neck or stem with the Paris mark, that is to say, a certain *fleur de lis*.

In the Inventory of the Dukes of Burgundy, 1423, "Pour un pou avoir amendè x marcs ij. ounces xv. esterlins dudit or estant à xix. karas, pour faire aultre vaisselle et l'avour fait venir à xix. karas et un quint, qui est *or de touche* et au dessoubz n'oseroit on œuvrer."

Again, in the will of Thomas Rotherham, Archbishop of York, A.D. 1498, are the following allusions to the touches or Hall-marks of Paris, London, and Bruges:—"Item volo quod Thomas Sentegeorg habeat sex taceas sive Bollezbasse Stantes (standing low bowls), in fundo tacearum sunt *flores tres sunt Paris towch*, et ponderant de Troy LXXI. unc'; aliæ tres sunt *London Towch*, et ponderant cum coopertor, C unc' de Troy.

"Volo etiam quod habeat duas ollas argent' wynding chaced, quarum una et *Brugg's towch*, altera *London* et est ponderant Troy XI. unc." (Lib. Nig. Scacc., vol. ii. p. 676.)

La Croix (*Histoire de l'Orfèverie*) says:—"The Revolution of 1789 disorganised all the Trade Guilds and Communities, and the Goldsmiths did not escape the universal shipwreck which engulfed at the same time Religion, Royalty, and the Public fortune. Of what avail could be the Goldsmiths' trade in a time when sceptres and crowns were broken, all the church plate melted and jewels placed on the altar of the country, when gold and silver coin was replaced by bell-metal and assignats. The Goldsmiths' trade could not survive the Monarchy and the Ecclesiastical power which had given it birth, and under which it had flourished for fifteen centuries."

From 1789, therefore, little or no attention was paid to the stamping of plate in France until the passing of the Act of 1797, so that for a period of nearly eight years goldsmiths were allowed to make whatever quality of gold and silver articles they pleased.

SUMPTUARY LAWS.

Laws restricting the manufacture of gold and silver to pieces of a certain weight were decreed by Philippe le Bel in the thirteenth century, as well as by his successors, not only to moderate or limit the progress of luxury, but with a view of reserving a sufficient quantity of the precious metals for the coinage. Goldsmiths' work was therefore limited in weight according to the exigencies and resources of the State at particular times.

Under Louis XI. (1461-1483), who disdained luxury and frequently ate and drank out of tin or pewter vessels, the goldsmiths' art was not much supported, his principal employment of the precious metals being to enshrine the relics of saints and make gifts to ecclesiastical edifices, adorning tombs, &c. His greatest personal

expense was the use of enseignes or brooches for his hat, sometimes of gold, but more frequently of baser metal. The former restrictions, therefore, in the size and weight of vessels of gold and silver were continued.

Louis XII.'s first ordinance, given at Blois in November 1506, confirmed the ancient decrees and limited the manufacture of silver vessels to three marks, without his express permission.

The Goldsmiths of Paris complained bitterly of this restriction, and the increased prosperity of the country induced Louis XII. to alter this law four years later.

In February 1510 another ordinance authorised goldsmiths to make all manner of silver vessels "de tels poids et façon que chacun le jugera convenable," provided they were of the Paris standard and received the mark of the wardens of the assay. It also states that, in consequence of the ordinance of 1506, many prelates, princes, and nobles had been compelled to have their large pieces of plate made in other countries, to the great injury of the trade.

Louis XII. and his Minister the Cardinal d'Amboise, in patronising the arts generally, paved the way for the development of the Renaissance under Francis I. and Henri II.

Francis I. greatly encouraged the goldsmiths' trade and drew all the best Italian artists to Paris by his liberal patronage, among them the famous Benvenuto Cellini, who was created Orfèvre du Roi: but a great many jewels which are attributed to him (if really of the time) are the work of contemporary artists, and Cellini was not the only goldsmith employed by the King. The sumptuous presents the King made to his favourites, and lords and ladies of his court, kept the trade generally in full activity, and he frequently directed the artist himself, and furnished models with his own hands.

All the works of Cellini and others were first submitted to the King for approbation and approval. Brantome relates that Francis I. ordered a great number of jewels, ornamented with emblems and devices and set with precious stones, for his mistress, Madame de Chateaubriand; but his penchant for the lady having subsided or become extinct, he reclaimed all the jewels which had been presented to her. The Countess, obeying his command, returned them all melted into ingots.

The reign of Henri II. was still more favourable to the goldsmiths' and jewellers' trade, and his inventory records the wonderful jewels and works in gold and silver made by his orders. His taste was ably seconded or probably inspired by Diana of Poitiers, and the goldsmiths' art kept pace with the other arts which flourished in this King's reign.

It must be remembered also that after the discovery of the New World, when the quantity of gold and silver had increased to such an amazing extent, these sumptuary laws fell into disuse and were disregarded; the manufactures increased, and the State obtained sufficient specie without intrenching upon the luxuries of the rich. It is said that Spain withdrew from America alone, from the end of the fifteenth to the commencement of the eighteenth century,

specie of the value of five milliards of piastres in gold and silver, which is about twenty-five milliards of francs, much more than existed in the whole world before the voyage of Christopher Columbus.

In the declaration of 1672, Louis XIV. sets forth in the preamble: "The care which the Kings our predecessors have taken from time to time by ordinances, &c., to repress luxury, has prompted us frequently to follow their example; but the abundance with which God has blessed our kingdom since the Peace, the benefits which our subjects enjoy, and the dignities to which we have elevated those whose distinguished services have entitled them thereto, having insensibly augmented their expenses, we have not thought it *à propos* to subject them to the severity of the ancient ordinances which would not suit the present state of the kingdom.

"We have endeavoured by divers edicts and regulations to prevent the use of many costly works, especially gold and silver lace, which independent of the price of fashion consume the largest proportion of gold and silver, which form the true riches of the State, &c. But as much of the precious metals is consumed by the excessive weight and quantity of vessels of silver and works of gold, so much so that scarcely any find their way into the Mint for coinage, we have sought the most convenient means to remedy this disorder, without injuring the freedom of commerce, amongst which we have found none more easy than the imposition of a duty. For these reasons we will and desire, that there shall be raised for our profit on all gold and silver that shall be worked throughout the kingdom 20 sols for each mark of silver, and 30 sols for each ounce of gold.* And as our principal aim is to reduce the fabrication of silver vessels to a reasonable weight so that sufficient be returned into our Mint to be converted into coin, we enjoin that these works be limited to a certain weight which cannot be exceeded without our permission in writing, and which we reserve to ourselves the right to accord, as we think fit and proper."

The weight of any piece of silver was not to exceed 8 marks, except for ecclesiastical purposes, which were to be made as heretofore without limitation of weight. (This was renewed in February 1687, March 1700, and in February 1720.)

These prohibitory edicts, however, do not appear to have had the desired effect, or it may have happened that the King and his special favourites who had his permission to use massive plate carried their extravagance to a high pitch, for it continued to be made and used to a great extent; and in an edict of 30th December 1679, relating to the commerce of gold and silver, a long list is appended giving goldsmiths instructions on what particular parts the stamps were to be applied. The massive character of some of these may be inferred from the descriptions of objects it includes: Chênets or fire-dogs with the garnitures de feu or grilles, chandeliers with branches, girandoles, torchères, guéridons, mirrors, flambeaux,

* In February 1674 this duty was doubled and increased to 2 livres (francs) per mark on silver, and 3 livres per ounce on gold.

tables, large salières or salts with flambeaux, urns, ewers, cassolettes, &c.

To give some idea of the extravagance of Louis XIV., one instance will suffice: it relates to a fête given at Versailles in 1668, and describes some of the costly pieces of silversmiths' work displayed on that occasion, which were all melted in 1688. On each side of the royal buffet was elevated on a portico, 10 feet high, a grand silver guéridon bearing a silver grandole, which lighted the buffet, accompanied by numerous large silver vases; on the table and steps of this buffet, which reached the altitude of not less than 25 feet, were shown, beautifully arranged, twenty-four massive bowls of marvellous workmanship—these were separated by as many large vases, cassolettes, and girandoles of equal beauty. On the table of the buffet was the gold NEF and the silver gilt vessels for the King's use—these shone forth from among twenty-four large silver jardinières full of flowers; in front of the table was a grand silver cistern, shaped like a shell; at the two extremities were four guéridons, 6 feet high, surmounted by silver girandoles. Two other buffets for the service of the ladies displayed, each, four large bowls and four silver figures, supporting a grand vase fitted with girandoles; above the backs of each of these buffets a silver guéridon, gleaming with wax candles, threw a lustre on six grand silver bowls, which served as a background, and many large vases of extraordinary weight and value; before the table of each buffet was a silver cistern weighing 1000 marcs. All this chased and modelled silver-work was of the estimated weight of more than 100,000 marcs of metal (800,000 ounces.)

An Edict of February 1687 again forbids the manufacture of these large pieces, mentioning those just referred to in the list of 1679, which was probably this time more effectual, for the King himself set an example and his court followed it. A time of great scarcity of money had arrived, and Louis XIV., to raise money for the expenses of his wars, sent all his massive plate to the Mint, and made it compulsory that the nobility and gentry should do the same; in 1688, therefore, all the magnificent services of plate made by Claude Ballin, Pierre Germain, Montarsy, and other celebrated goldsmiths, designed by Le Brun and artists of note, were sold for their intrinsic value to the Mint. The King's plate alone, which had cost more than ten millions of francs, realised only three millions; the plate of other persons produced a similar amount.

These *chefs-d'œuvre* were, however, before being broken and cast into the melting-pot, all carefully copied or drawn by the artist-goldsmith Delaunay, and their forms are consequently faithfully preserved.

Many of the crown jewels were saved from destruction, among the rest the gold Nef or ship just mentioned, weighing 150 marcs, or about 1200 ounces, which Charles V., Francis I., Henri II., and Charles IX. had successively bequeathed to the crown of France.

The decree of February 1687, and the King's magnanimity (if we may so term it), caused a taste to arise for materials of a less expensive character, and, by the force of circumstances, the age of

silver was suddenly metamorphosed into an age of pottery; painted and gilt earthenware, and eventually porcelain, became the fashion of the day for table services and ornament. Hence a great impetus was given to the fabriques of pottery at Moustiers, Marseilles, Nevers, and Rouen. Louis XIV., it is said, ordered a table service at Rouen, the principal pieces of which were in form of birds, poultry, and animals, and even of vegetables, to replace those magnificent pieces of plate which political exigencies had caused to be so ruthlessly destroyed.

The saying of Horace was thus put to the test, and le Grand Monarque (whose *impresa* was the sun in its splendour) and all his nobles were made cognizant of the fact that it was possible to make a good repast from plates of rude earthenware.

FICTILIBUS BENE CŒNATUR.

In March 1700 the edicts of 1672 and 1687 were ordained to remain in force with certain additions; no work of gold was to be made exceeding an ounce in weight, and silver articles were not to exceed 8 marcs, under a penalty of 3000 livres and confiscation. All merchants and others were forbid in future to make or sell any stuffs worked with gold or silver above the price of 70 livres the ell. No persons, of whatsoever rank they may be, were to wear clothes full and covered entirely with embroidery, tissue, or lace of gold and silver. Women were forbid, under 3000 livres' penalty, to wear any embroidery, lace, buttons, or other ornaments on stuffs of gold and silver; nor to wear any gold or silver on scarves, aprons, neckerchiefs, tippets, &c.; nor to wear in future any jewels (except certain rings), stuffs, fringes, or embroideries of gold and silver. It was forbid to use gold or silver on carriages, horse trappings, tapestries, chairs or other furniture, liveries, &c.

A declaration of 23rd November 1721, concerning vessels of silver, commences thus:—"Louis, &c., We are always of opinion that we cannot pay too much attention to the repressing of the luxury which causes the ruin of our subjects, and in preventing the precious metals of gold and silver being employed in useless and superfluous goldsmiths' work. With this view our declaration of February 1720 forbids the fabrication of any work of gold exceeding the weight of one ounce, but our intention has not been to interdict for ever to our subjects a reasonable use of jewels of gold, nor that of silver vessels of such a weight as to preserve them without deterioration. We are also informed that since our said declaration, there have been introduced into our kingdom, by foreign dealers and pedlars, a large quantity of snuff-boxes, étuis, and other jewels of gold, the greater part being of inferior quality, which is doubly prejudicial to our subjects, by reason of being deceived on the one hand, and on the other being deprived of the profit of manufacture, which frequently exceeds the intrinsic value, and of which the price

has passed into foreign hands. We know also that the standard of gold regulated by the ordinances at 22 karats, with a remedy of a quarter, can only be observed on medals, jettons, and solid works, but that the small works in which solder is employed cannot be worked at this standard; so far from it, in fact, that it does not exceed 14 karats. "A ces causes, nous ordonnons," &c., that jewels of gold, as snuff-boxes, étuis, and other jewels, may be made of the weight of 7 ounces at the most. Goldsmiths and watchmakers are permitted to make and sell small objects of gold in which solder is employed, as crosses, snuff-boxes, étuis, buckles, buttons, watch-cases, &c., of the standard only of 20 karats and a quarter, with a remedy of a quarter; all other works to remain of the standard as heretofore, not exceeding 7 ounces in weight, without permission in writing.

THE STANDARD.

The *Marc* of the finest or pure gold contains 24 *karats*.

The *Marc* of the finest or pure silver contains 12 *deniers*.

Goldsmiths and others who employ materials of gold and silver must work them of the standard prescribed by the regulations and within the remedies allowed by the law.

Refiners may not refine silver at a lower standard than 11 deniers 18 grains, and gold below 23 karats 26 thirty-seconds ($\frac{3}{2}$).

Goldsmiths are compelled to work gold of the standard 22 karats, with a remedy of a quarter of a karat, and silver at 11 deniers 12 grains, with a remedy of 2 grains; that is to say, if the gold does not contain 21 karats and three quarters, and if the silver does not contain 11 deniers 10 grains, the metals are not of the standard, and after the assay made at the Maison Commune the work shall be returned to the workman, and shall not be marked with the punch of the countermark at the Common Hall. But the Paris goldsmiths take care, more than all the others, to attain the fineness required by the regulations; and that it is which contributes to keep up the reputation of the punch of Paris. It is, however, permitted that goldsmiths may manufacture small works and jewels of gold, such as crosses, snuff-boxes, étuis, buckles, buttons, &c., at a lower standard, viz., 20 karats and a quarter fine gold with a remedy of a quarter of a karat. (13th Dec. 1783.)

The wire-drawers (*Tireurs*) employ gold of 24 karats with a remedy of a quarter, and silver of 12 deniers with a remedy of 4 grains. The beaters (*Batteurs*) employ gold of 23 karats ($\frac{3}{2}$), and silver of 11 deniers 18 grains. Watchmakers are compelled to work gold of 20 karats and a quarter with a remedy of a quarter, and silver of 11 deniers 12 grains with a remedy of 2 grains. The sword cutlers work gold at 21 karats three quarters, and silver at 11 deniers 10 grains.

Foreign works of gold cannot be marked unless they are of the quality of 18 karats, if they weigh more than a *gros*; if they weigh less, they must be of 17 karats.

THE PUNCHES.

1. THE PUNCH OF THE MAKER.

The origin of this mark is unknown, but previous to the end of the thirteenth century it was the only guarantee for the goodness of the standard. It is mentioned in an edict of Philippe le Hardi in 1275, and repeated in subsequent Acts.

There is a copper plate in the Musée de Cluny at Paris, which originally hung in the Assay Office of the Goldsmiths' Company at Rouen, on which the makers of gold and silver plate in the year 1408 struck their punches; it is inscribed in the old black-letter as follows, and contains the names of 123 goldsmiths arranged in 3 rows: 1st. The initial of the Christian name; 2nd. The punch; 3rd. The surname at length:—

**Cest cy la table ou sont escripts les noms des oubriers
du mestier dorfabrerie a Rouen qui ont contresignes et
aussi y sont frappez les contresignes du dis oubriers,
entre le nom et le sournom diceulr laquelle table fu fce
et commencee la regille. de Rouel. lan de grace Mil
quatre cens et huit, Jehan Cabel estant garde du Mere
des Mars de Rouen et de ceste table a cause du dis
mestier et Jehan Peten, Jehen Courtoys, et Jehan Picart,
gardes dicellui mestier.**

The Museum of Rouen preserves a stained-glass window, which was formerly in the Maison des Orfèvres of that city, dated 1543, representing the arms of the Goldsmiths' Company, a chased cup and cover, supported by griffins and surmounted by a crucible in flames, with the motto from a verse of St. Paul (1 Cor. iii. v. 13), *Opus quale sit ignis probatit.*

An arrêt du Conseil or Decree of 30th October 1674 says, "All goldsmiths are prohibited from exposing for sale any works of gold or silver unless they are marked with, 1st. *His Majesty's punch*; 2nd. That of *the assay*; and 3rd. That of *the goldsmith*, under penalties, &c."

His Majesty's punch is that of the duty applied by the Fermier Général. There appears at that time to have been only *one* duty-mark; those of the *charge* and *discharge* were not then in use. *The assay mark*, or the countermark placed after the assay, was stamped next to that of the maker. At this time only three marks were used.

In an edict of Francis I. (Sept. 1543) we find: "Goldsmiths shall be bound to sign with their mark, and afterwards with the countermark kept by the sworn wardens, all their works of silver before they expose them for sale." According to an edict of March 1554, "The Goldsmiths shall carry their punches to the Mint to be struck on the copper plate always kept there, as the goldsmiths of

Paris have always done." This punch is the seal of the workman, and for which he is always answerable; it must be stamped or insculped on the copper plates deposited in the Mint and in the bureau of the Company, and his name and abode engraved in the margin—its size and dimensions regulated—it must be placed on the principal part of the works, and parts attached thereto. If disfigured in finishing the work, it must be stamped again. It must not be lent. Those who absent themselves or shut up their shop must send it to the bureau. After the death of the workman his punch must be defaced at the bureau. The punch of the maker who refuses to accept the *charge* of the warden must also be defaced: he must see that the countermark of the assay office is placed by the side of his own, conspicuously on every piece. Every maker is directed to alter his punch, so as not to exceed in size that of the assay.

Dec. 1765. Goldsmiths who make silver boxes covered with gold on the outside, of one or more colours, and gilt inside, with hinges of gold or fastenings mounted in gold, are compelled by this decree to place on the bottom of the interior, or in some prominent place, the word ARGENT, in such a manner that the punch of the *discharge* shall be placed upon the letter A.

The administration of the Mint, in execution of the clauses 9 & 14 of the law 19 Brumaire An VI. (19th Nov. 1797), directed that the form of the punch of each maker of gold and silver works shall be in form of a lozenge or diamond, and the proportions be regulated according to the size of the works, and that he shall have it engraved by his own artist, bearing the initial letter of his name with some symbol, which must differ from that of any other maker. The form of the punch of every maker of plated goods is a perfect square; the administration directs that, conformably to the law above quoted, each maker shall place upon his work numerals indicating the quantity of gold or silver it contains, and to his mark shall be joined the word DOUBLE. The sword cutlers, clock and watch makers, engravers, and others, have also makers' punches, which are insculped at the Mint and at the bureau of the Maison Commune.

2. PUNCH OF THE MAISON COMMUNE OR CONTREMARQUE. (Assay.)

This punch was anciently designated the poinçon de contre-marque, because it was the only stamp placed by the side of that of the maker.

In after times this name was given also to the punches of the Fermier.

Until towards the end of the thirteenth century, the public had no other guarantee of the standard, except that of the goldsmith who made the works. But in 1275, Philippe le Hardi prescribed the necessity of the punch of the maker being placed upon the works, and accordingly of the punch of the Maison Commune, of which the impress has always designated the goodness of the standard. A

case in point is, that the works marked with this punch are the only ones which the Mint does not submit to a fresh assay. In his request presented to the Council in May 1771, the Fermier Général observes that the goldsmiths of Paris are faithful to the standard, more than elsewhere, and that this fidelity is the chief cause of its celebrity. The punches of the Maison Commune, as well as the matrices, are made and tempered in the bureau, in presence of the wardens newly elected, and the Fermier of the duty; they are four in number, one for the large works in gold and silver, one for the middling-sized pieces of gold, another for the middling-sized pieces of silver; the fourth serves for the very small pieces of gold, which are assayed by the touchstone, but there are several of each size. They must be stamped by the Fermier, on a table of copper, deposited with the Registrar of the Mint, and also in the Assay Office of the Company. The old punches are at the same time defaced, and ground down, after being compared with the insculped tables in the bureau. The new punches are immediately shut up in the bureau of the Maison Commune. The wardens alone can use them. They cannot be used to mark the works until after the assay has been made. The stamp must be placed upon the principal part of the work, as well as those attached thereto. The works must be assayed and marked with this punch before they are finished. It must not be stamped by the wardens until after the Fermier has put his stamp upon the works; it must be used only in the presence of the Fermier, and in a conspicuous place.

Clause 14 (30th Dec. 1679) decrees, that to prevent disfigurement of the works, the punch applied by the Assay Office, which shall be THE LETTER *L*, commencing from the 1st January next (1680), shall not exceed in size, including the field, two lines in height, by one and a quarter in width. At the end of this general regulation is a list of works of gold and silver, indicating the exact positions where the punches of the maker and assayer are to be placed.

Le Roy (Section X.) also tells us that the punches of the assay used by the wardens to countermark works of gold and silver were of four sizes, according to the size of the plate to be marked; the first, for marking large pieces, was to be two lines high by one and a quarter broad, two others smaller, and the fourth very small, for very small pieces of plate. The three largest of these punches shall represent one and the same letter of the alphabet, which shall change annually in alphabetical order.

The punch indicating the standard is to be stamped on the piece of plate, which is placed on an anvil with a plain polished surface, consequently without a countermark. That of the assay is struck upon the plate placed upon the *bigorne* or anvil, engraved on its surface with some particular design, so that it shall receive, when struck, a double impression, that of the assay on the *upper* surface and the countermark *underneath*, or on the reverse side. (Circular of the Mint, 30th July 1819.)

September 1769. Articles of gold and silver coming from abroad are to be assayed and marked at the Maison Commune, the

large pieces with E T., and the small ones with the letter E. (Etrange).

3. PUNCH OF THE FERMIER GENERAL DU DROIT. (Duty.)

At first the Fermier had only one punch, which was placed upon the plate, when the goldsmiths brought it to the Assay Office of the Maison Commune to be assayed and stamped. (*October 1631; March 1672.*) Subsequently he had two punches, one of the *charge* to mark the works while in an unfinished state, and the other of *discharge* to mark the works when finished, at the time of payment of the duty. (*July 1681.*)

Punch of the Charge:—

This must be placed upon the works before they are finished, showing the goldsmith that he is answerable for the *charge* for duty, and they are bound to report and make a submission to the Fermier when they are finished, that they may be marked with the punch of *discharge* and quittance of duties. The punch of the *charge* is not described in the Act of 1681, but it is to be different from that of the *discharge*, which is to be a fleur-de-lys. It must be placed upon the works before the assay is made at the bureau of the Maison Commune, and the wardens cannot assay them, unless they see this stamp. If, after having received the punch of the *charge*, the goldsmiths desire to change the destination of the works, they must make a declaration and alter their submissions.

As soon as the punch of the *charge* has been placed upon the works, which must be done when first put into shape, and before being finished, they are returned to the goldsmith, who carries them to the wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company to be assayed. If the works are found to be standard, they are marked with the punch of the Maison Commune, and returned to the goldsmith, who then finishes them off. If they are found not to be standard, they are broken and returned to the workman, who takes care to have the articles erased from the register of the Fermier, on which is placed his submission to present the pieces when finished, to be marked with the punch of the *discharge*, and for the duty on which he had made himself answerable.

Punch of the Discharge:—

This punch is directed by the Act of 1681 to be a fleur-de-lys, with the Mint letter of the town underneath.

It must not be placed upon the works until they are finished and completed, immediately after the duty is acquitted and paid.

It must not be stamped thereon before that of the countermark of the Maison Commune, or the Fermier is subject to a heavy penalty, whether the works come from abroad, or are made in France.

There are some works which are not marked with the punch of the *charge*, on account of their small size: a declaration of the goldsmith is then made before the work is finished, and where possible, a very small seal is put upon it.

This stamp is also of great importance in verifying the quality

of plate, for it not only denotes the payment of duty, but assures the validity and existence of the punch of Assay or Maison Commune, which must have been stamped upon it *before* the stamp of the Fermier was applied.

The marks of the *charge* and *discharge* remained in use until the law of April 1791, which abolished all the duties. They were not renewed by the law of the 19 Brumaire (November 1797), but the duty was levied at the time of the assay, and that stamp denotes both the legal assay and payment of the duties.

Political events having been the cause of the disappearance of some of the punches of standard and guarantee, the administration caused others to be made in execution of the Royal Ordinance of the 22nd Oct. 1817, which were in use from the 16th August 1819. There are also special punches for watches, made by an Ordinance of the 19th Sept. 1821. The designs of all these punches will be given in the following tables.

Le Droit de Seigneurage, Droit de Remède, and Droit de Marque are all three synonymous and designate the same duty, but the Droit de Marque prevailed. In November 1708 it was decreed that the duties levied by the assayers and their comptrollers should be made conjointly with the duties of the marque of gold and silver; hence the origin of the droit de marque and de contrôle.

In 1631. The amount of duty was fixed at 3 sols per ounce for goldsmiths' work.

In 1633. This duty was compounded for by a sum of 24,000 livres paid by the goldsmiths of Paris, and 8000 livres by the wire-drawers (*tireurs*) and gold-beaters (*batteurs*).

In 1672. The duty was re-established and fixed at 30 sous per ounce on gold, and 20 sous per marc on silver.

In 1674. The duty was increased to 2 livres (francs) per marc on silver, and to 3 livres per ounce on gold.

In 1681. Works of silver gilt (*vermeil*) fixed at the same duty as silver, and additional imposts were levied, as shown in the following table.

About 1780 the duties which were collected at the Grand Bureau de la Marque d'Or et d'Argent at Paris are shown in the following table:—

	Once d'Or.			Marc d'Argent.		
	livre.	sous.	den.	livre.	sous.	den.
Ordinance of 1681 Livres	8	0	0	2	0	0
Assayers and Controllers "	1	4	0	0	16	0
A twentieth for the Hospital and double	0	8	$\frac{4}{10}$	0	5	$\frac{7}{10}$
The profit of the community of Goldsmiths	0	10	0	0	5	0
Ten sous per livre for the King's profit	2	11	$\frac{2}{10}$	1	18	$\frac{8}{10}$
Total Livres	7	18	$\frac{7}{10}$	4	19	$\frac{10}{10}$

In 1674 the marc of silver was worth 29 to 30 livres; the duty was then a fifteenth. In 1780 the marc of silver was worth 51 to 52 livres; the impost and the other duties, which were not for the King's profit, did not reach a tenth.

THE ARGUE.

The Argue is a machine used to reduce the size of ingots of silver and silver gilt, and to stretch or draw out the silver to a diminutive thread, for the purpose of making lace, or for embroidery, &c. These machines are kept in the different Mints for the purpose, and are worked under the control and surveillance of the administration. The silver ingots when brought to the Mint are refined and stamped with the assay marks: each ingot is divided, beaten, and filed into three *batons* or sticks of equal length and thickness, viz., 2 feet long by 3 inches 4 lines in circumference; they are then gilt, and usually weigh about 4150 grammes (17 marcs). These *batons* are then drawn through draw-plates, which are made of fine steel, with a series of round holes gradually diminishing in size; this operation is performed by means of strong pincers through the different-sized holes until the thread is sufficiently attenuated for the purpose, new wax being used to allow the wire to pass through the holes more freely.

Silver, when gilt for the manufacture of gold lace, can be drawn into a thread of $\frac{1}{500}$ of an inch in thickness; the film of gold on the surface of the wire being distended in an equal ratio, and covering entirely the attenuated thread.

The baton above described can by this process be elongated to more than a million metric feet. The following experiment will exemplify this fact, which was made at the Hôtel de Ville at Lyons, before the Ducs de Bourgogne and De Berri, in 1701. A Silver ingot, or rather the third of an ingot, of cylindrical form, weighing 17 marcs, produced a thread of silver of the length of one million, ninety-six thousand, seven hundred and four feet.

DEMONSTRATION.

One grain (marc weight) produced a length of	. . .	14 feet.
Multiplied by 24 grains, which make the denier	. . .	336 "
Multiplied by 24 deniers, which make the ounce	. . .	8,066 "
Multiplied by 8 ounces, which make the marc	. . .	64,512 "
Multiplied by 17 marcs, which make the ingot in question	. . .	1,096,704 "

Thus we find that this baton of silver was lengthened by the art of wire-drawing more than 543,000 times its primitive length, equivalent to a distance of 73 French leagues.

How much soever we may be surprised at the ductility of silver, gold is still more so. Réaumur has proved by calculation that a single grain of gold is so malleable that it can be beaten thin enough to cover a surface of $46\frac{1}{2}$ square feet.

But this distention of gold under the hammer, although so considerable, does not equal that which it acquires in passing through the draw-plate. There are leaves of gold which are hardly of the thickness of $\frac{1}{38000}$ of an inch, but this is inconsiderable in comparison with the gold thread round the silk of which the gold lace is made. While speaking of gold thread we may insert the following clause from an Act of the 21st May 1746:—

“The lacemakers and makers of galloons or ribbons are enjoined under heavy penalties to wind fine gold thread only on *raw silk*, and false metal on *red cotton* thread, and the ribbons and galloons of false metal are to have red threads along the two selvages or borders, so that wherever they are cut there shall be this distinguishing mark between the real gold and the imitation.”

THE METRIC SYSTEM

OF METRES, LITRES, AND GRAMMES, OR OF LENGTH, CAPACITY,
AND WEIGHT.

The French metric system of weights and measures is based upon the length of the fourth part of a terrestrial meridian. The ten-millionth part of this arc was chosen as the unit of measures of length, and was called *mètre*. The cube of the tenth part of the metre was adopted as the unit of measures of capacity, and denominated *litre*. The weight of distilled water at its greatest density which the litre is capable of containing was called *kilogramme*, of which the thousandth part, under the name *gramme*, was adopted as the unit of weight. The multiples of these measures, proceeding in decimal progression, are distinguished by the employment of the prefixes *deka*, *hekto*, *kilo*, and *myria*, from the Greek, and the subdivisions by *deci*, *centi*, and *milli*, from the Latin.

The *Orfèvre* is understood to mean a person who undertakes to make and sell plates, dishes, and other large works of gold and silver; but in ordinary parlance the *Orfèvre* trades in all sorts of works in gold and bijouterie. Thus a goldsmith is at the same time a silversmith and a jeweller.

These professions necessarily oblige the persons who exercise them to provide themselves with scales and weights, to weigh the objects of gold and silver, and for this reason the goldsmith-jewellers are compelled neither to sell nor to buy except after the metric system, conformably to the law of the 1^{re} Vendémiaire An IV. (1795), to the Royal Ordinance of the 18th December 1825, and to the law of the 4th July 1837.

This obligation, imposed upon goldsmiths, to make use only

of the new weights* is so indispensable, that the Tribunal of Police at Paris, in March 1835, delivered a judgment which condemned for the neglect of it forty-one goldsmiths, each to a fine of two francs, and the expenses and confiscation of the old marc weights. M. l'Avocat du Roi remarked on the occasion, that if the same offenders were convicted of a repetition of a similar infraction of the law, he should inflict a fine of fifteen francs and five days' imprisonment.

At the present day the commerce of works of gold and silver at Paris is carried on entirely after the new metric system, and the Provinces have followed the example set by the Capital, insomuch that on the 1st January 1840 the ancient marc weights had altogether disappeared, as directed by the law of the 4th July 1837.†

However, many persons not being yet perfectly familiar with the metric system, they are often forced to use the ancient system, either in comparing results or in translating the expressions of the one or the other into the language they desire. For example, suppose a private gentleman carries to a goldsmith some old silver of which he has calculated the value according to the old system, the value put upon it by the goldsmith after the metric system embarrasses him and disposes him to believe he is being deceived, especially if there is any error in his calculation; in this case it is indispensable to have to his hand the tables of conversion to compare the results and to convince him of the correct calculation. In giving this table, which is taken from Raibaud's work (*Matières d'Or et d'Argent*, p. 93), we may remark that goldsmiths, jewellers, and others who use the *gramme* weights, as required by law, can always ascertain the corresponding weight of the *marc*. There are 1000 grammes to a kilogramme; 100 to a hektogramme; 10 to a dekagramme; and the *gramme* is subdivided into decigrammes, centigrammes, and milligrammes, as the *marc* was subdivided into ounces, gros, grains, and centièmes of grains or fractions.

* The weights which belong to the French metric system are of hexagonal form.

† The marc weight of eight ounces or half a pound avoirdupois was established by Charlemagne; before this time the Roman pound or troy weight was used in France, corresponding to 10 ounces, 4 gros; or 321 grammes, 238 milligrammes. The mark was subdivided thus: 24 grains—1 denier; 3 deniers—1 gros; 8 gros—1 ounce; 8 ounces—1 marc.

TABLE of conversion of Marcs, Ounces, Gros and Grains into Kilogrammes, Grammes, Milligrammes and Fractions.

MARCS.			ONCES.			GROS.			GRAINS.		
Grammes.	Milligs.	Fract. dec.	Grammes.	Milligs.	Fract. dec.	Grammes.	Milligs.	Fract. dec.	Grammes.	Milligs.	Fract. dec.
1	244	925	1	30	594	515	1	3	824	264	115
2	489	846	2	61	188	281	2	7	848	529	230
3	734	769	3	91	782	346	3	11	472	793	344
4	979	692	4	122	376	461	4	15	297	058	459
5	1223	615	5	152	970	577	5	19	121	822	574
6	1468	538	6	183	564	692	6	22	945	587	689
7	1713	461	7	214	158	807	7	26	769	851	808
8	1958	384	8	244	752	928	8	30	594	115	918
9	2202	307	9	275	347	038	9	34	418	380	033
10	2447	230	10	305	941	154	10	38	242	644	148
20	4895	460	20	611	882	307	20	76	485	288	296
30	7342	690	30	917	323	461	30	114	727	933	443
40	9790	920	40	1223	764	615	40	152	970	577	591
50	12237	150	50	1529	705	769	50	191	213	221	789
60	14685	380	60	1835	646	928	60	229	455	865	887
70	17132	704	70	2141	588	076	70	267	698	510	085
80	19580	233	80	2447	529	230	80	305	941	154	182
90	22027	763	90	2753	470	382	90	344	183	798	390
100	24475	292	100	3059	411	537	100	382	426	442	478
200	48950	584	200	6118	823	074	200	764	852	884	956
300	73425	876	300	9178	234	612	300	1147	279	326	434
400	97901	169	400	12237	646	150	400	1529	705	768	912
500	122376	461	500	15297	057	687	500	1912	132	211	390
600	146851	753	600	18356	469	225	600	2294	558	658	868
700	171327	046	700	21415	860	763	700	2676	985	095	346
800	195802	338	800	24475	292	900	800	3059	411	587	824
900	220277	630	900	27534	708	837	900	3441	837	979	802
1000	244752	923	1000	30594	115	370	1000	3824	264	420	780
2000	489505	846	2000	61188	230	740	2000	7648	528	840	560

The French weights bear the following comparison to the English:—

- 1 Milligramme is equal to 0·0154 English grains.
- 1 Gramme " 15·4440 " "
- 1 Kilogramme " 1544·40234 " "
- 1 Kilogramme is equal to 2 lb. 8 oz. 3 dwts. 12 grs. Troy.
- 1 Kilogramme " 2·2406 pounds Avoirdupois.

THE ASSAY.

In ancient times, says Pierre le Roy, they had no other means of judging of the standard of gold and silver than the *touch* for the one and the scraping for the other: to these imperfect methods have succeeded other proofs of a certainty and precision infinitely superior—that is to say, the cupel, for assaying silver by means of refining it with lead in a muffle kiln; and by aquafortis, for assaying gold by way of dissolution, or, as it is termed, *départ* (i.e., separation). The fixity or coherence of the parts of gold and silver has the effect of driving off all the alloy mixed with these metals, leaving them perfectly refined from dross of every description; this can be distinguished to the nicety of a quarter of a grain of the fineness of silver, and a thirty-second of a karat of the fineness of gold, a precision which the scraping and the touch could never approach. The assay by the cupel was invented in the reign of Philippe le Bel towards the year 1300, but the precipitation of the silver by means of aquafortis was not adopted for two centuries later.

The *coupelle*, or cupel, derives its name from the French word *coupe*, a cup, its shape being conical and broad at top, to allow as much of the surface of the molten metal as possible to come in contact with the air, which assists in carrying off the scoria or dross together with the litharge floating on the top.

We will briefly describe the operation of assaying silver and gold as practised in the French Bureaux de Garantie.

Before proceeding to make the assay of silver, a small portion is cut or scraped from the ingot or work of which it is desired to ascertain the standard, and the fragment is carefully weighed with the *gramme* weights. A piece of lead proportioned to the weight and the quality of the piece of silver is then put into a cupel and placed in the furnace; when the lead is melted, the piece of silver is thrown into the cupel, which soon becomes fused. These two metals thus mixed together circulate in the cupel until the lead is absorbed or evaporated and has carried off with it all the alloy which the silver contained, which is ascertained when the button of silver is perfectly free from the iridized dross, leaving it in a convex shape. Shortly after the silver button is settled at the bottom of the cupel, it is removed from the furnace and allowed to cool; the button is then taken out and well brushed underneath, from all sediment and dirt, and weighed to a great nicety; the difference which is found between its fresh weight and that which represented it before the operation, determines the standard of the silver required to be assayed, by indicating the quantity of alloy it contained. This alloy, when it refers to works of silver of the first standard, ought to be a twentieth part of the whole mass; and to ascertain this, the button is placed in one of the scales with a weight of 50 milligrammes or 5 centigrammes, which represents the portion of alloy contained in the work submitted to the assay; in

the other scale is put the weight of a gramme, which represents the primitive weight of the metal; and if the balance rests in equilibrio, or if there be a difference of 4 or 5 millièmes at least, it is a proof that the work is within the remedy or *tolérance*, and that it may be stamped as first standard.

Although this method of assaying silver by cupellation is usually adopted, and has been from time immemorial, its imperfections have been acknowledged, and by the assistance of a table of compensation to rectify the results, the public assayer is bound to admit as silver of the first standard those assays which reach by cupellation 943 thousandths, although it frequently happens that it is actually 2 thousandths worse, which is still within the limit of the remedy or *tolérance* allowed by law.

M. Berthier, in the introduction to his valuable work,* tells us there are two methods of assaying metals—1st. The assay by the *voie sèche*, or dry method; 2nd. The analysis by the *voie humide*, or wet method. An assay by the *voie sèche* is so called when it is desired to ascertain the nature of a mineral substance, to discover its properties, and investigate the proportions of one or other of its elements, employing only the action of heat and fluxes.

The ancient *Docimasistes* (as assayers of metals were styled) usually adopted the *voie sèche*, and they deemed it advisable to have recourse as seldom as possible to the *voie humide*.

At the epoch when the composition of the most simple combinations were not exactly known, the *voie sèche* was indeed preferable to the *voie humide*, at least as regards the metallic substances, because this method has the advantage of producing the metal in its natural state, or an alloy of some of the metals contained in the substance to be assayed; but it became evident that the results of the *voie sèche* had not, under all circumstances, the exactitude which was at first supposed, and that it was in many cases variable, and consequently only approximative, and chemistry having invented new methods, advantage was taken of the process by the *voie humide*; that is to say, in employing, as chemical agents, the liquids or solvents, on those occasions when the *voie sèche* appeared insufficient. From that originates the *mineral analysis*—a science which has for its object the ascertainment of the nature and the proportion of all the elements of any mineral substance, to which chemistry in general and the arts owe so many important discoveries.

At the present day, when the analysis of a mineral is made, it is submitted either to the *voie sèche* or the operations of the *voie humide*, whichever is considered to yield the best results, and more frequently the two methods are combined, each lending a mutual aid: this is termed the *voie mixte*.

A Royal Ordinance of the 6th June 1830 mentions the assay

* Berthier, P., *Traité des Essais par le voie Sèche*, Paris, 1834. In this treatise the branches of mineral analysis, extracting metals from their ores, and the incidental mechanical and chemical operations, such as furnaces, fuel, crucibles, fluxes, acids and all matters necessary for this purpose, are minutely described.

by the *voie humide*, but it does not forbid assayers of the Government Offices and of commerce the employment of the ancient method of assay yet in use, considering they are responsible only for the standard as they find it.

In case of dispute, the assay by the *voie humide* shall be adopted in Paris, unless the Commissioners of the Mint find necessary reasons for operating under the ancient mode by cupellation.

The instruction of M. Gay-Lussac, Chief Assayer of the Assay Office of Paris, is as follows:—In applying the method of assay by the *voie humide* to alloys known by the name of *doré*, our aim has been rather to make known the possibility of this application than to substitute it for the process of cupellation and *du départ*. We will, at the same time, add, that the assay by the *voie humide* only supposes that the alloy contains nothing but silver, copper, or gold, and that if it should contain a certain proportion of tin, which sometimes happens, cupellation becomes indispensable to separate this metal. This is the reason why assayers have not all adopted the assay by the *voie humide*; they fear probably they may find themselves compelled to operate by cupellation, for the metal taken from the melting of old silver plate frequently contains some small fraction of tin.

Again, ingots coming from abroad have tin in so considerable a quantity, that it seems to have been mixed with the silver expressly to give it the appearance of being finer quality than it actually is.

The *voie humide* process we are about to describe consists in determining the standard of silver works by the quantity of a solution of sea salt *titré*, necessary to precipitate exactly the silver contained in a given weight of alloy; it is based on the following principles:—The alloyed silver, previously dissolved in nitric acid, is mixed with a solution of sea salt, which precipitates the silver in a state of chloride (*chlorure*), altogether insoluble in water, and even in acids. The quantity of chloride of silver precipitated is determined, not by its weight, which would not be sure, and, above all, much too tedious, but by the weight or the volume of the solution of sea salt necessary to precipitate exactly the silver dissolved in the nitric acid.

The period or term of the complete precipitation of the silver is easily ascertained by the cessation of all nebulosity or cloudiness when the solution of sea salt is gradually poured into that of the nitrate of silver. A thousandth part (milligramme) of metal is rendered very sensible in a weight of liquid of a hundred grammes; a half, and even a quarter of a milligramme can be distinguished, provided that before the addition of the sea salt the liquor is perfectly limpid.

In agitating it briskly, during a minute or two at the most, the liquid, rendered milky by the precipitation of the chloride of silver, is sufficiently clarified to ascertain, after some instants of repose, the commotion which the addition of a half-milligramme of silver would produce. Supposing that a gramme of pure silver is acted upon, the solution of sea salt ought to be such that it requires 100 grammes measured by weight (or 100 centimetres cubes

if measured by volume) to precipitate exactly the silver. This quantity of solution of sea salt is divided into a thousand parts, called *millièmes*. The standard of an alloy of silver is given by the number of *millièmes* of the solution of sea salt necessary to precipitate the silver contained in a gramme of this alloy.

The assay of gold only differs from that of silver, because there is added a certain portion of silver which is determined by the standard of the bullion, usually three parts silver to one of gold, and that after the operation of the assay; the two metals thus melted together are submitted to that of the *départ*, the parting or separation of them, which takes place in the following manner:—When the button is taken out of the cupel, it is flattened on the anvil and annealed; it is then reduced by means of a small laminoir, or a machine with two cylinders, into very thin strips, which are rolled up in form of a *cornet*. This roll or screw is placed in a small bottle or phial with a long neck, into which is poured some weak nitric acid (about 22 degrees) and heated: the liquid is left in ebullition during fifteen or twenty minutes; it is then poured off very gently and replaced by a stronger acid (about 32 degrees); it is again heated, and left again to bubble or seethe for seven or eight minutes; the acid is then removed and replaced by distilled water. This operation, called the inquartation, completed, and the silver dissolved, the cornet or roll of gold is drained and re-heated, and then weighed with great exactness; the difference which is found between the weight before and after the operation determines the standard of the metal. The assayer must carefully watch this method of assay, lest a portion of platinum should be mixed with the gold; which metal possesses some of the properties common both to gold and silver, such as resisting the action of lead in cupellation, and repelling that of aquafortis in the parting or separation. This the experienced assayer will easily detect, by the colour and other appearances on the surface of the metal.

After gold and silver have been hardened by the mallet, the steel cylinders (laminoir), or by the drawing plate (*filière*), it must be heated in a small crucible to a red heat to restore its malleability; and to render it still more so, it should, when at a red heat, be plunged into cold water instead of letting it cool gradually in the air.

In assaying gold and silver the metric weights are now adopted in France, viz., the gramme, and its subdivisions of decigrammes, centigrammes, and milligrammes.

Formerly the *poids de semelle* were used, which represented the 24 karats of pure gold. The *semelle* represented generally the weight of 12 grains; that is to say, the 384th part of the marc, the real and effective weight. Each grain of the *poids de semelle* represented 2 karats: each half-grain, 1 karat; each quarter-grain, a half-karat or $\frac{1}{2}$; each eighth of a grain, one quarter of a karat or $\frac{1}{4}$; each sixteenth of a grain, $\frac{1}{8}$; each thirty-second of a grain, $\frac{1}{16}$; each sixty-fourth of a grain, $\frac{1}{32}$ of a karat.

The *semelle* represented also the 12 deniers of pure silver; it represents then the weight of 36 grains; that is to say, the 128th

part of the marc, the real and effective weight. Each grain of the *poids de semelle* represented 8 grains pure silver; each half-grain, 4 grains; each quarter of a grain, 2 grains; each eighth, 1 grain; and each sixteenth, half a grain of pure silver.

An edict of the 5th December 1763 prescribes to all assayers of the Mint a uniform method of making the assays of gold and silver, to remedy the uncertainty so frequently found in the assays of gold and silver taken to the Mint.

The cupels are to be made of certain materials therein described, formed in a press of the shape required at the Mint, and furnished to the assayer; the relative thicknesses of the parts of the cupels being made according to rule.

"There shall be employed in all future assays, new lead of *poor* quality, which shall be furnished by the Clerk of the Goldsmiths' Company, to establish uniformity." The poorest lead is best for the purposes of assay, as lead frequently contains a very small portion of silver, which would interfere with the correctness of the assay.

The proportions of the said lead which shall be used in the different assays shall remain fixed, as follows: For refined silver there shall be employed 2 parts of the said poor lead, or double the weight destined for the assay; for silver of 11 deniers 12 grains, or standard, 4 parts of lead; for silver of 11 deniers and under, 6 parts of lead; for silver of 10 deniers, 8 parts; for silver of 9 deniers, 10 parts; for silver of 8 deniers, 12 parts; for silver of 7 deniers, 14 parts; and for silver of 6 deniers and under, 16 parts of lead.

The standards of the *semelle* weight for silver of 36 grains (marc weight), inscribed 12 *deniers*, with its diminutions; and the *semelle* weight for gold of 12 grains (marc weight), inscribed 24 *K* (karats), and its diminutions shall be kept by the Ushers of the various Mints, to regulate all other assay weights.

PUBLIC SALES

AT THE MONT PIÉTÉ AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS APPOINTED
TO HAVE SALES BY AUCTION.

THE MONTS DE PIÉTÉ.—These establishments were created in France by an edict of February 1626.

The ancient regulations subjected all works of gold and silver deposited at the Mont de Piété of Paris to the dues and to the stamp, like all other objects of gold and silver which entered into commerce. There was a special punch to mark all works sold at this establishment, which represented a *cap of Mercury*, and it was applied by one of the employés of the Fermier at the time of sale. (Arrêt du Conseil du 18 Mars 1779.)

The law of the 19th Brumaire, An VI. (1797), decrees, that

the works of gold and silver deposited at the Mont de Piété, and in the other establishments where sales take place, or dépôts of sale, shall be subject to pay the *droit de garantie* or assay dues, when they have not been acquitted or paid before they were deposited. The employés are bound to inspect this establishment, but the goldsmiths' works which are there exposed for sale are not subject to the payment of the dues until the moment of the sale, because then only they enter into commerce, and cease to be the property of private individuals. This rule has become law, by the regulations relative to the Mont de Piété of Paris.

The Comptroller of the Guarantee consequently arranges with the Director of the Mont de Piété the days of sale of works of gold and silver, that he may send an employé to assist in verifying them, and separate those which have not the legal marks, or break up those which shall not be sold for more than old metal, and finally to take an exact account of the works, which must be carried to the Assay Office, to be there marked, after the assay and quittance of the dues.

A decision of the Minister of Finance, of the 15th November 1822, Art. 2, establishes as a general rule, that all the works of gold and silver sold at the Mont de Piété of Paris shall be assayed by the touch; that all the works found to be of the legal standard shall be marked with the ordinary punch of assay, and that the pieces which are of inferior quality shall be marked only with the punch used for foreign work. This decision applies to all the other Monts de Piété in France.

The works sold at these establishments, being assayed only by the touch, need not be marked when they are of the standard, except with the small punches of assay, like the small works, which only approximately indicate the last of the standards of gold and silver, or the small punches for foreign works, which are not of the legal standard. (Circ. de l'Adm. des Monn. du 26 Dec. 1822.)

It has been decided by the Minister of Finance, that it suffices to require the Commissaires-priseurs to declare the effects in gold and silver which they intend selling, and it is only after the adjudication or actual sale that they must be assayed, stamped, and be subject to the usual dues, unless to dispense with these obligations the auctioneer declares that it is not necessary to preserve the form of the works, in which case they must be broken up by the employé who has been specially charged to assist at the sale. (Circ. de la Regie 28 June 1823.)

Old plate is subject to duty every time it is sold or resold. (Feb. 3, 1685.)

OBLIGATIONS OF GOLDSMITHS.

Goldsmiths are prohibited from exposing for sale any work of gold or silver which is not marked with the punches of *the maker*, of the *Maison Commune*, and of the *Fermier* of the duties, not only on the principal piece, but on the applied parts; and if the *sub-*

mission has not been discharged, and the duty paid, on pain of confiscation of the value and 100 livres penalty for every piece. (July 1681, June 1697, Jan. 1749.)

Commerce in works of gold and silver, bearing the French Hall-marks (poinçons de Paris) permitted only to goldsmiths, under a penalty of 1000 livres and confiscation. (Dec. 1679, June 1686.)

Goldsmiths are compelled to sell the gold or silver of manufactured articles separately from the fashion, and to give invoices written and signed with their hands to all purchasers, in which shall be set forth the same as on their registers, the price of the gold or silver, the price charged for the fashion, and the duty, in separate items, under a penalty of 500 livres for the first offence, and for a repetition, to be deprived of rights of freedom. They are also bound to have in their shops a table containing the price of the *marc*, with its diminutions, and not to buy or sell at a higher price than the tariff of the Mint under a penalty of 1000 livres; and to keep a register of the names and places of abode of all persons from whom they purchase works of gold or silver. (March 1700, April 1726.)

An Edict of Henry II., March 1554, clause 8, enacted that goldsmiths, under a penalty of 1000 *livres tournois*, and corporal punishment, should inscribe with their own hands, on good, complete, and legal registers, all the matters of gold and silver, made or unmade, they bought or sold, and the name of the buyers and sellers. This Act was repealed and modified in March 1555.

The law of the 19th Brumaire, An VI. (Nov. 1797), is still more explicit: Goldsmiths and jewellers shall deliver to purchasers a bordereau or invoice, setting forth the description of the pieces, the standard and the weight of the works they shall have sold, also designating whether they were new or old. These bordereaux, prepared beforehand, and which shall be furnished to the maker or dealer by the Administration, shall have in all the Republic the same formulary, which shall be printed. The vendor shall write thereon with his own hand the designation of the work sold, whether of gold or silver, its weight and standard, distinguished by these words, *premier*, *second*, or *troisième*, according to the quality; he shall also place the name of the district where the sale was made, with the date thereof, and with his signature.

Transgressors for the first offence were liable to a penalty of 200 francs; for the second, 500 francs and expenses; for the third, 1000 francs, and their trade of goldsmith interdicted, under pain of confiscation of all their stock-in-trade.

Goldsmiths are bound under heavy penalties, and confiscation of the articles or the value thereof, to fill in their printed registers, which are supplied by the Administration, day by day, with the weight and standard of vessels and other works, old or so reputed, that they shall buy or sell, as well as those which are brought to be repaired, or lodged as security, or as models, or deposits, or any other pretext, and this at the time the said works are brought to them, or have been purchased. They are also to mention in the register the nature and quality of the works, the arms which are

engraved upon them, and the names and addresses of the persons to whom they belong, before they begin repairing or altering them. (Feb. 1694, March 1704, Jan. 1749, Jan. 1791, Nov. 1796, and subsequent Acts). See models, page 242.

The clauses 14, 16, and 17, referring to this subject in the Act of Jan. 1749, are reprinted and enforced by the decree of Sept. 1821.

Note.—THE ROUGE which is used by all goldsmiths to polish plate and jewellery is called in France *Rouge d'Angleterre*. It is composed of sulphate of iron or green copperas, placed in a crucible and subjected to a degree of heat in the furnace, which is nearly sufficient to melt gold or silver; the crucible is taken from the fire and left to cool; the copperas when removed has become changed in colour from green to dark red.

The rouge is carefully washed and levigated in a glazed earthen pan with clear water sufficient to allow the grosser particles to sink to the bottom; it is then poured off into another pan and the washing repeated, the deposit being thrown away, lest it should contain any sharp particles, which might scratch the articles in polishing them, taking care that the fine part of the rouge is entirely mixed with the water; this liquid mixture is then covered over with a cloth and left to stand for twenty-four hours to allow the water to deposit all the rouge it contains; the water is poured off and filtered and the rouge dried in the air, but to render it still more perfect it is again baked and washed and when perfectly dry, diluted with spirits of wine, placed on the fire and allowed to burn. This last operation removes any grease which may have been present.

PATTE DE LIÈVRE.—This article, a hare's foot or paw, is of great utility to goldsmiths in collecting together the filings of gold and silver, and may be called an emblem of their trade. Formerly the Assistant Goldsmiths (Compagnons) suspended one from the button-holes of their coats, at the fête of their patron, St. Eloi; and even in Paris it is seen attached to the bell-pull in the workshops of jewellers. When a goldsmith has distinguished himself by his talents, his virtue, or any meritorious action, he is said to have done honour to the *Patte de Lièvre*.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

MODEL for the Keeping of the Register, ruled and headed for the use of Makers and Dealers in Gold and Silver, worked or not worked.—Law of the 16th June 1824.

Dates.	Désignation des objets achetés, vendus, ou donnés à raccommoder, au nantissement pour modèle ou dépôt.	Nature des objets.	Poids.	Titres.	Noms et Demeures des Particuliers.
1825			Grammes.		
1 Jan.	Acheté une tabatière .	Or	60	3 ^o	M.....rue...No...à...
3 "	Vendu deux couverts unis	Arg.	280	1 ^{er}	M.....rue...No...à...
4 "	A raccommoder une soupière	Arg.	1350	"	M.....rue...No...à...
	Acheté six couverts à filets et un plat forme ovale .	Arg.	2000	1 ^{er}	Mad...rue...No...à...

Note.—The watchmakers have an ordinal number which is copied from the register to be placed upon the watch, in order to identify its registration when the watch is sent to be mended or cleaned.

TARIFF of Works of Gold and Silver of France of the Old and New Fabrications.—Law of the 16th June 1824.

Désignation des Ouvrages d'Or.	Titres d'après l'Essai.		Valeurs.			
	Nouv.	Anciens.	Le Gros.		Les 5 grams.	
	Millièmes.	Kar. 32 ^o .	Frs.	Cents.	Frs.	Cents.
Ancienne vaisselle marquée de 3 poinçons de Paris	906	21 24	11	90	15	56
Anciens bijoux marqués des mêmes poinçons	750	18 0	9	85	12	88
Nouvelle Vaisselle tit. 1 ^o	920	22 2½	12	08	15	80
Celle du deuxième titre	840	20 5	11	03	14	42
Nouveaux bijoux, au troisième titre .	750	18 0	9	85	12	88

Désignation des Ouvrages d'Argent.	Titres d'après l'Essai.		Valeurs.			
	Nouv.	Anciens.	L'once.		Les 50 grams.	
	Millièmes.	Den. Grains.	Frs.	Cents.	Frs.	Cents.
Vaisselle à l'ancien poinçon de Paris, tant plate que soudée et non soudée	948	11 9	6	35	10	37
Vaisselle montée, au même poinçon .	938	11 6	6	28	10	26
Vaisselle plate des départemens à l'ancien poinçon	934	11 5	6	25	10	22
Vaisselle soudée et montée des départemens à l'ancien poinçon . .	927	11 3	6	21	10	19
Argenterie de Lorraine marquée d'une aigle, et celle marquée de la lettre A surmontée d'une croix	785	9 10	5	26	8	59
Nouveaux ouvrages du Royaume, au première titre	950	11 9½	6	36	10	39
Ceux au titre deuxième	800	9 14½	5	36	8	75

COUNTERFEIT STAMPS AND PENALTIES.

A decree of 1681 subjects the forger of Hall-marks to a fine of 3000 livres; the *amende honorable*, which was an ignominious punishment, consisting in the culprit publicly confessing his crime at the church door, and asking pardon for the same, having a torch in his hand and a rope round his neck; and a sentence of five years at the galleys for the first offence, and in cases of repetition, condemnation to the galleys for life. This was not, however, considered sufficiently severe, and the sentence of death, *d'être pendus et étranglés*, was pronounced against those who made, copied, or otherwise counterfeited the mark or marks of the Fermier, of the Common Hall, or of the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company (Jan. 4, 1724). The same punishment was accorded those who abused the stamps of the countermark of Paris and of those towns where standard plate was stamped, also those who engrafted or inserted the stamps, soldered, added, or applied them to other pieces of plate which had not been assayed and marked in the Assay Offices (April 19, 1739). The extreme punishment was only carried into effect in those cases where persons were arrested with false punches in their possession.

Louis Legros, Boirot, and others were tried and convicted in 1733 for making fourteen spoons and forks of silver and marking them with false punches, imitating and counterfeiting the mark of discharge, representing a *horse rearing on his hind-legs*. Another person was tried and convicted for making a false punch of the year 1733, imitating that of the Assay Office of *the letter T*.

The capital portion of the sentence against Legros and Boirot was not carried out in consequence of a pardon granted on the occasion of the public entry of the Bishop of Orleans into the town and church of that city; but they were condemned to make the *amende honorable* before the principal doors of Notre Dâme, their heads and feet bare, in their shirts only, a cord about their necks, holding burning torches of yellow wax, and a placard before and behind them bearing these words, "Orfèvre ouvrier se servant de faux poinçons," and to declare with a loud and intelligible voice that wickedly, defiantly, and badly disposed they had used false punches, of which they repent, and ask pardon of God, of all, and of justice. This done, they were to be conducted to the Place de Grève, to be there hung, which was executed by effigy in a painting attached to a gibbet, there set up. They were also each condemned in 3000 livres penalty.

Antoine Chateau in 1783 was convicted of having bought several crucifixes and keys of silver at different goldsmiths of Metz, gilding them and selling them for gold. As reparation he was condemned to the galleys for six years, and previously to be placed in the stocks near the Town Hall on three consecutive market days from nine till ten o'clock, with a placard before and behind with these words, "Escroc, et vendeur dans les champagnes des christs et claviers d'argent doré pour des ouvrages d'or," branded on the

right shoulder by a hot iron with the letters G A L., and fined 200 francs.

The law of the 19th Brumaire, An VI., Titre vii. Art. 108 (Nov. 1797), decrees that all works of gold and silver on which the marks of punches shall be found *inserted* (entées), *soldered* or *copied* in any way whatever, shall be seized and confiscated, and the possessor having a guilty knowledge of the fact shall be condemned to six years at the galleys.

Art. 109. Works marked with false punches shall be confiscated in every case, and those persons in whose possession they are found, or who shall knowingly expose them for sale, shall be condemned for the first offence to a penalty of 200 francs; for the second, a penalty of 400 francs, with a publication of his conviction throughout the department at his expense; for the third time, a fine of 1000 francs, with interdiction in future of all commerce in gold and silver.

The confiscation of plate with false marks eventually falls upon the forger himself, for the merchant who has purchased it supposing it to bear a genuine mark or marks has his remedy against the party who sold it to him, and thus recovers the value of the seizure: he is bound in his own interest as well as by law to ensure this redress by properly filling in the register or form supplied by the Mint with the correct name and address of the person from whom he purchased it. (Ibid., Art. 9 and Art. 74.) If he neglects these precautions it is his own fault, and if he purchase articles of gold or silver from persons unknown, against whom he has no indemnity to recover, the blame rests with himself; and if in contravention of Articles 75 and 76 of the same law and of the police regulations, as well as of the law of the 26th Jan. 1726, by which it is decreed that if a silversmith purchase plate of a person unknown, he can be proceeded against as a receiver of stolen goods and an accomplice, and is compelled to restore it to its owner, or the value thereof, and other damages.

DECREE OF 31ST AUGUST 1782,* regulating the marks on gold and silver, and ordering new punches to be made, to serve the administration of duties in the city of Paris, to the number of eight, viz. :—

1. A punch of the *charge* for large works of silver, representing a *great A crowned*.
2. A punch of the *charge* for large works of gold and medium-sized works of silver, representing a cipher of *two L's interlaced*.
3. A punch of the *discharge* for large works of silver, representing *the head of a dog*.
4. A punch of the *discharge* for works of gold and medium-sized works of gold and silver, representing *the head of a peasant girl*.
5. A punch of the *discharge* for small works of gold and silver, representing *the head of a lapwing*.
6. A punch of the *discharge* for very small works of gold and silver, representing *the flower of a pink*.
7. A punch used for marking the body of other punches, representing *an arrow-head*.
8. And lastly, a punch of the *countermark*, representing *the head of a dolphin*.

Also retaining the following punches :—

1. The punch of *gratis*, representing a *royal crown*, which was insculped on the copperplate in possession of the Registrar, by a decree of the 1st October 1768.
2. The punch serving to mark works *going abroad*, representing *an ewer*.
3. The punch used for marking works coming *from abroad*, representing *the head of a griffin*.
4. The punch used for marking *ancient* works, representing a *lyre*.
5. The punch used at the office of the Argue, for the *charge* of ingots of gold, representing *the marc weight*.
6. The punch for marking the *discharge* of the same ingots, representing *an open right hand*.
7. The punch used for *recognition*, representing *an antique vase* in form of a *cassolette*.
8. The punch for the provinces only, used for marking the *very small* works of gold and silver in the same manner as the two punches of different sizes destined to mark the body of the punches representing a *fleur de lys*.

In 1783 Louis XVI. caused a Declaration to be issued, of which the following extracts are here given :—

“ The number of communities having increased so much of late years, and the punches of countermark of the Maisons Communes having multiplied to such an extent, that it frequently happens, as

* This decree only relates to the stamps of the charge and discharge of the duties. The stamps of the standard and of the assay were not altered.

they employ mostly one of the letters of the alphabet for a distinctive mark, many of them have at the same time and in the same year the same letter for a countermark. The confusion caused by this state of things seems to us absolutely contrary to the intent of the ordinances and regulations of the establishment of the countermark, not only because it favours the abuse which can be made of this punch on works which are not of the legal standard, but because it deprives our subjects of a resource which the law has provided to ascertain the authors of it. We have thought that the surest way of re-establishing order in this respect will be to ordain that in future the punch of the countermark of each community shall bear a particular and invariable mark, which shall serve to distinguish it from other punches of the same nature, *and to which shall be added the year in which the wardens of the community in charge had caused it to be stamped. A ces causes nous ordonnons,* &c. It was further ordered that each community should send to the Mint the impress of the particular punch they had chosen, and that all the designs should vary from each other, together with the names of the communities and the wardens in the margin to be deposited with the Registrar, &c. "Donné à Versailles le 15th day of December 1783, and the tenth year of our reign."

This declaration was registered at the Mint on the 26th May 1784, with the following alteration: "*Instead of the year, there shall be added to the distinctive and invariable mark or punch of each community of goldsmiths a number or secret character, which shall vary every year with the election of wardens.*"

In use from May 1784 to 1789.

AN ALPHABETICAL TABLE

OF

COMMUNITIES OF GOLDSMITHS IN THE SEVERAL TOWNS IN FRANCE,

With the Emblems adopted by them for stamping Plate, as decreed by Louis XVI. in Dec. 1783 (registered May 1784), and used until 1879, with the dates of foundation (after the plates published in 1786 by Bernier, engraver to the Mint.)

 Abbeville, 1508.	 Bar le Duc.	 Cambrais, 1315.	 Dieppe, 1599.
 Agen, 1775.	 Bar sur Aube, 1768.	 Carcassonne, 1676.	 Dijon, 15...
 Aix, 1775.	 Bayonne, 1512.	 Castres, 1749.	 Dinan, 1746.
 Alais, 1775.	 Beaucaire, 1776.	 Caudebec.	 Dole.
 Alençon, 1718.	 Beaune, 1742.	 Chalons sur Marne, 1749.	 Douai.
 Amiens, 1727.	 Beauvais, 1609.	 Chalons sur Saone, 1682.	 Draguignan, 1751.
 Angers.	 Bergues St. Vinox, 1759.	 Chartres, 15...	 Dunkerque, 1753.
 Angoulême, 1749.	 Besançon, 1688.	 Château Gonthier, 1757.	 Etampes.
 Annonay.	 Béziers, 1598.	 Château Thierry.	 Falaise, 1750.
 Apt.	 Blois, 1567.	 Châtellereault 1758.	 Fécamp, 1745.
 Arles.	 Bordeaux, 12...	 Chatillon sur Seine, 15...	 Fontenay le Comte, 1571.
 Arras, 15...	 Boulogne and Montreuil, 1744.	 Chaumont en Assigny, 1744.	 Gien, 1757.
 Aurillac.	 Bourg en Bresse, 1747.	 Clermont Ferrand, 15...	 Gisors, 1754.
 Autun, 1784.	 Bourges, 1557.	 Cognac, 1762.	 Grasse.
 Auxerre, 1731.	 Brest, Lesneven, Landerneau, 1695.	 Colmar.	 Grenoble.
 Avalon, 1743.	 Caen, 1594.	 Compiègne, 1667.	 Guise and Ver vins, 1743.
 Avesnes, 1773.	 Cahors, 1777.	 Coutances, 1751.	 Havre, 15...
 Bailleul, 1731.	 Calais, 1748.	 Daligre, 1758.	 Joinville, 1757.

PLATE 2.

 Issoudun, 1757.	 Lunel, 1775.	 Moulins, 1736.	 Reims, 1560.
 Issoire, 1766.	 Lyon.	 Nantes, 1579.	 Rennes, 1579.
 La Charité, 1757.	 Macon, 1600.	 Narbonne, 1669.	 Réthel, 1660.
 Lafère.	 Manosque.	 Nevers, 1757.	 Riez.
 Landrecy, 1759.	 Mans, 1757.	 Nimes, 1586.	 Riom.
 Langheac, 1781.	 Mantes.	 Niort, 15...	 Rochefort, 1743.
 Langres, 1566.	 Marennes, 1777.	 Noyon, 1748.	 Rodez, 1777.
 Laon.	 Marseille, 12...	 Orleans, 1611.	 Rouen, 13...
 La Rochelle, 1698.	 Maubeuge.	 Paris, 1260.	 Sables, 168...
 Laval.	 Méaux.	 Parthenay, 1745.	 Saintes, 1758.
 Le Vigan, 1775.	 Melle.	 Pau.	 St. Esprit, 1777.
 N.D. de Liesse, 1749.	 Melun, 1727.	 Payrat, St. Colombe, Chaulabre, 1753.	 St. Flour, 1785.
 Lille.	 Mende, 1757.	 Périgueux.	 St. Germain en Laye.
 Limoges, 1719.	 Metz, 1635.	 Perpignan.	 St. Jean de'Angely, 1779.
 Lisieux, 1750.	 Mézières, 1746.	 Pézénas, 1586.	 St. Lô.
 Longwy.	 Milhau, 1770.	 Poitiers.	 St. Maixent.
 Lons le Saulnier, 1780.	 Montargis, 1737.	 Pontoise, 1752.	 St. Malo, 168...
 L'orient, 1745.	 Montauban, 1705.	 Provins, 1759.	 St. Martin, 1785.
 Loudun, 1646.	 Montpellier.	 Puy en Velay, 1967.	 St. Menehould, 1742.
 Luçon, 1758.	 Morlaix, 1607.	 Quimper, 1780.	 St. Omer.

PLATE 3.

	St. Quentin, Peronne, 1743.		Sens, 1745.		Toulon, 1712.		Valognes, 1750.
	Salins, 1640.		Soissons, 1734.		Toulouse, 1500.		Vannes, 1745.
	Saumur, 1749.		Strasbourg.		Tours, 1529.		Verdun, 1630.
	Sedan, 1575.		Tarascon.		Trévoux, 1783.		Versailles, 1768.
	Semur en Auxois, 1701.		Thouars, 1714.		Troyes, 1369.		Vesoul, 1775.
	Senlis.		Toul, 1643.		Valenciennes, 1625.		Vitry le Français, 1614.

Independently of the stamp of the Maison Commune, where the works were assayed, and the mark of the goldsmith or manufacturer, there were placed on every piece capable of receiving them the stamps of the CHARGE and DISCHARGE of the Registrar, which varied in each department of the administration. It suffices to give here the types of the Punches of the principal towns where the collection of the duties of control and of the mark took place.

The following Plates are engraved from the "Traité de la Garantie," &c., par B. L. Raibaud, published in 1825. The originals were authorised and the expense partly defrayed by the Minister of Finance, who took a considerable number of copies of the book.

PLATE 4.

PUNCHES IN USE PREVIOUS TO THE ABOLITION OF ALL TAXES, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1791.						
MINT TOWNS	CHARGE.		DISCHARGE.		GENERAL PUNCHES.	
	Large works, Silver.	Gold & small Silver.	Large works, Silver.	Gold & small Silver.	Distinction.	Types.
PARIS . . .					Ingots for drawing.	
LYON . . .					Foreign Plate.	
BORDEAUX . .					Ancient works.	
ROUEN . . .					Very small works.	

These towns were also appointed for coining money, and the Mint marks adopted by them were particular letters of the alphabet; but we do not know when they were first employed for that purpose. Under the earliest kings of France there were Mints in the principal towns, under the authority of Dukes and Earls of the locality, but submitted to the inspection of an Intendant, or General Master of Mints; but their surveillance could not prevent deception, for Charlemagne suppressed all the provincial Mints, and decreed that money should be coined only in his own palace. This restriction, however, did not last beyond his reign; the provincial Mints were re-established, and there were subsequently many changes. François I. increased the number to twenty-five, but an edict of February 1772 reduced them to seventeen. During the Revolution of 1789 they were all again suppressed, except that of Paris; being, in fact, useless, because the currency of actual cash was replaced by paper assignats. Another law of 1795 re-established eight, especially for copper money, and at length in 1803 there were sixteen. The number of the Mints was three years after fixed at thirteen. The Mint letters were probably the same as were used in the sixteenth century.

TOWNS.	LETTERS	MINT MARKS.
PARIS	A	An anchor and C interlaced.
ROUEN	B	Lamb and flag.
LYON	D	An arch.
LA ROCHELLE	H	A trident.
LIMOGES	J	Two hands joined.
BORDEAUX	K	A vine-leaf.
BAYONNE	L	A tulip.
TOULOUSE	M	F and C interlaced.
PERPIGNAN	Q	A bunch of grapes.
NANTES	T	A key.
STRASBOURG	BB	A wheatsheaf.
MARSEILLE	M	A palm-tree.
LILLE	W	A caduceus.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ACT OF THE 19TH BRUMAIRE,
AN VI.(19TH NOV. 1797) INDICATING THE STAMPS USED ON GOLD AND
SILVER PLATE IN FRANCE FROM THAT PERIOD.

The law of the 10th Brumaire, An VI., forms the groundwork of subsequent legislation on the standard and assay works of gold and silver, and all other matters relating thereto, and we have therefore quoted largely from this important Act.

PREAMBLE.—The Council of Five Hundred, after having heard the Report of the Commission of Finance, considering that the re-establishment of the supervision of the guarantee of standard of works in gold and silver is necessary to the prosperity of this branch of national commerce as well for the interior as abroad; at the same time that the dues to be collected on these objects are indispensable to the Public Treasury, to contribute, with the other revenues of the Republic, for the maintenance of various parts of the service, declare the urgency and take the following resolution :—

TITRE I.

SECTION I.—OF THE STANDARDS OF GOLD AND SILVER WORKS.

Art. 1.—All works of gold and silver made in France must be conformable to the standards prescribed by the law, respectively according to their nature.

Art. 2.—These standards, or the quantity of pure gold or silver contained in each piece, are expressed in *thousandths* (millièmes), the old denominations of *karats* and of *deniers* to express the degree of purity of the precious metals being discontinued.

Art. 3.—It is, however, permitted during one year from this date to employ in the acts or writings which come under the observation of any public officer the ancient terms of *karats* and *deniers* or their subdivisions, but only immediately following the number of *millièmes* which express the true quality of precious metal.

Art. 4.—There are three legal standards for works in gold and two for silver, that is to say :

For gold	1st of .920 millièmes	or 22 $\frac{2}{3}$ karats.
	2nd of .840 "	or 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ karats.
	3rd of .750 "	or 18 karats.
For silver	1st of .950 "	or 11 deniers $9\frac{7}{10}$ grains.
	2nd of .800 "	or 9 deniers $14\frac{1}{2}$ grains.

Art. 5.—The *remedy* (tolérance) for gold is 3 millièmes, and for silver 5 millièmes.

Art. 6.—The makers may employ at their option any one of the standards mentioned in Art. 4 for works in gold or silver, whatever the size or description of pieces fabricated.

SECTION II.—OF PUNCHES.

Art. 7.—The guarantee of the standard of works of gold and silver is assured by punches; they are applied on every piece, after the assay, conformably to the following rules.

Art. 8.—There are three principal punches to mark gold and silver works—1st. That of the maker; 2nd. That of the standard; and 3rd. That of the Assay Office (*Bureau de garantie*).

There are also two little punches, one for small works of gold, the other for small works of silver, too small to receive the impress of the three preceding marks.

There is also a particular punch for old pieces of plate, called *de hasard*.

A second for works coming from abroad.

A third for works plated with gold and silver (*doublé ou plaqué*).

A fourth called the stamp of verification (*recense*), which is applied by public authority, when any doubt arises as to the genuineness of the standard or of the stamps.

Lastly, a particular punch to stamp ingots of refined gold or silver.

Art. 9.—The punch of the maker bears the initial letter of his name with some symbol, which he can select and have made for himself, observing the correct forms and proportions, as established by the Administration of the Mint.

Art. 10.—The standard punches have a stamp of a *cock*, accompanied by one of the Arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, indicating the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd standard fixed in the preceding section. These punches are uniform throughout the Republic, but each punch has a particular form, easily distinguished by the eye.

Art. 11.—The punch of every Assay Office has the characteristic sign which is determined by the Administration of the Mint. This sign is changed as often as may be considered necessary to prevent the effect of a theft or unfaithfulness.*

Art. 12.—The little punch destined for the small works in gold has the stamp of a *cock's head*. That for small pieces of silver a *fasces* or bundle of rods.

Art. 13.—The punch for old work (*poinçon de vieux*), destined solely to mark works styled *de hasard*, represents *an axe*.

That to mark works coming from abroad contains the letters E.T.

* The assay mark was a full-faced classical head for both gold and silver, accompanied by the number of the department.

Art. 14.—The punch of each maker *de doublé ou de plaqué* has a particular form determined by the Administration of the Mint. The maker also indicates on his works the numerals denoting the quantity of gold and silver which they contain.

Art. 15.—The punch of verification (*recense*) is also determined by the Administration of the Mint, which alters it according to circumstances.*

Art. 16.—The punch to stamp refined gold and silver ingots is also determined by the Administration of the Mint, and is uniform throughout France.†

Art. 17.—All the punches designated in the articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 are made by the engraver to the Mint, who distributes them in the various Assay Offices and retains the matrices.

The punch destined for refined ingots is only deposited in the Assay Office of the district where a refiner of the *Chambre du delivrance* of the Mint of Paris resides, who verifies the stamp and gives a discharge.

Art. 18.—When the punches are not required for use, they are enclosed in a casket with three locks, and left in charge of the employés of the Assay Office, as afterwards recited.

Art. 19.—The fabricators of false punches, and those persons who make use of them, shall be condemned to ten years at the galleys, and their works confiscated.

Art. 20.—The punches serving at present to verify the standards and the acquittance of the duties shall be defaced immediately after the punches directed by the present law are in a state to be employed.

TITRE II.—OF THE DUTIES ON WORKS OF GOLD AND SILVER.

Art. 21.—There shall be collected an assay duty on the works of gold and silver of every description, of new fabrication.

This duty shall be of 20 francs per hectogramme (3 ounces, 2 gros, 12 grains) on gold, and of 1 franc per hectogramme on silver, not including the expense of assay, or of the touch.

Art. 22.—There shall be nothing collected on works of gold and silver termed *de hasard* put again in commerce; they are only subject to be marked once with the punch *de vieux*, as ordained by Art. 8 of this law.

Art. 23.—Works of gold and silver coming from abroad must be presented at the Custom House on the frontier, to be there declared, weighed, sealed, and sent to the nearest Assay Office, where they shall be marked with the punch ET., and shall pay the same duties as those collected for works of gold and silver made in France, excepting—1st. Objects of gold and silver belonging to ambassadors and envoys of foreign powers; 2nd. Personal jewels of travellers

* This mark was a head wearing a Phrygian cap (the cap of Liberty.)

† The mark adopted was, for gold, the head of Apollo; for silver, the moon and stars; both surrounded by the words "Garantie National."

and silver in use by them, if the weight altogether does not exceed 5 hectogrammes (16 ounces, 2 gros, 60½ grains).

Art. 24.—When works of gold and silver coming from abroad, and introduced in France by virtue of the preceding exceptions, are placed in commerce, they must be taken to the Assay Office to be marked with the punch destined for that purpose, and the same duty shall be levied as for those made in France.

Art. 25.—When new works of gold and silver, made in France, and having paid the duties, are sent out of the Republic, as sold, or to be sold abroad, the assay duty shall be returned to the maker, except the retention of one-third.

Art. 26.—This restitution shall be made by the Assay Office which received the duties of the said works, or in default of funds, by an order on the Paris Assay Office. This restitution, however, shall not be made except on presentation of a certificate from the Customs, specially sealed, stating the departure of the said works out of France. This certificate must be presented within three months of its date.

Art. 27.—The executive Directory shall designate the Continental and Maritime Communes by which it allows the works of gold and silver to leave the Republic.

Art. 28.—All works deposited at the Mont de Piété and in other establishments destined for sales or at dépôts of sales are subject to payment of the duties of assay, when they have not been paid previously.

Art. 29.—Ingots of refined gold and silver shall pay an assay duty before they can be placed in commerce.

Art. 30.—This duty shall be: for gold, 8 francs, 18 centimes, par kilogramme (or 2 francs par marc); and for silver, 2 francs, 4 centimes (or ten sous par marc). Ingots called *de tirage* shall only pay a duty of 82 centimes par kilogramme (or 4 sous par marc).

TITRE III.—Relates to the suppression of the Common Halls of Goldsmiths.

TITRE IV.—Relates to the government and regulations of Assay Offices.

TITRE V.—Describes the functions of the employés of the Assay Office.

TITRE VI.—OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF MAKERS AND DEALERS IN WORKS OF GOLD AND SILVER.

Art. 72.—The ancient goldsmiths and those who desire to exercise this profession are bound to report themselves to the Administration of the department, and the municipality of the district in which they reside, and cause their particular punch with their name to be insculpé on a copper plate kept for the purpose in the two Administrations. The Administration of the department

must be careful that the same symbol be not employed by two makers in the district.

Art. 73.—Whoever desires to trade in goldsmiths' work without undertaking the manufacture is only required to make his declaration at the municipality of his district, and is dispensed from having a punch.

Art. 74.—The makers and dealers in gold and silver, worked or not worked, shall have within a month at latest after the publication of the present law a register ruled and headed by the Municipal Administration, on which they shall write the nature, the number, the weight, and the standard of matters and works of gold and silver which they shall buy or sell, with the names and dwellings of those from whom they have purchased them.

Art. 75.—They shall only buy from persons they know, or having references to others known to them.

Art. 76.—They are bound to show their registers to the public authorities whenever they shall be required.

Art. 77.—They shall carry to the Assay Office of the district in which they reside their works, to be there assayed, standardised, and marked with one of the stamps of the punches prescribed in the second section of Titre I.

Art. 78.—They shall put in the most prominent place in their warehouse or shop a table setting forth the articles of the present law relating to the standards and the sale of works of gold and silver.

Art. 79.—They shall deliver to purchasers a bordereau or invoice, setting forth the description of the pieces, the standard and the weight of the works which they shall have sold, also designating whether they were new or old. These bordereaux, prepared beforehand, and which shall be furnished to the maker or dealer by the Administration of the registry, shall have in all the Republic the same formulary, which shall be printed. The seller shall write thereon with his own hand the designation of the work sold, whether of gold or silver, its weight and standard distinguished by these words *premier*, *second*, or *troisième*, according to the quality; he shall also place the name of the district where the sale was made, with the date and his signature.

Art. 80.—The transgressors against any of the ordinances prescribed in the eight preceding articles shall be condemned for the first offence to a penalty of 200 francs; for the second, a penalty of 500 francs and expenses; for the third, the penalty shall be 1000 francs, and his trade of goldsmith shall be interdicted under pain of confiscation of all his stock-in-trade.

Art. 81.—The Articles 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, and 80 are applicable to makers and dealers in laces, tissues, embroideries, or other works of gold or silver thread. Those who shall sell for fine any false works in gold or silver shall be subject, independent of the just restitution to those whom they have deceived, to a penalty of 200 francs for the first offence; 400 francs for the second, with all the expenses; and for the third time, a penalty of 1000 francs, with interdiction of all trade in gold or silver.

Art. 82.—The makers and merchant goldsmiths are bound within six months' delay from the publication of the present law to carry to the Assay Office of their district their new works of gold, silver, and silver gilt, marked with the old punches, to have the stamp of a punch of verification, which shall be determined upon to this effect by the Administration of the Mint. These works of old make shall only be submitted to the verification of the mark, and of the old punches, and this verification shall be without expense, but the time of six months' delay having expired, the works shall be submitted to the assay, standardised, and the expenses paid.

Art. 83.—The works not bearing the ancient stamp of *discharge* shall be likewise presented at the Assay Office, that they may be stamped with the punch of the standard and that of the assay. These works shall pay the assay dues.

Art. 84.—These dues shall be equally payable for the works called *de hasard*, which after the before-named delay (Art. 82) shall not be found marked except with the old punches.

Art. 85.—The law guarantees the conditions of the respective engagements of goldsmiths and their apprentices.

Art. 86.—Jewellers are not bound to carry to the Assay Offices the works mounted with stones fine or false, nor with pearls; nor those enamelled all over, or set with crystals; but they shall have a register similar to that of the goldsmiths, to inscribe thereon daily the sales and purchases they have made.

Art. 87.—They shall be bound, like the goldsmiths, to give to purchasers a bordereau, which shall also be supplied by the Administration of registry, and on which they shall describe the nature and the form of each work, also the quality of the stones of which it is composed, which shall be dated and signed by them.

Art. 88.—The contravention of the two preceding articles shall be subject to the same penalties as decreed in the like cases against goldsmiths.

Art. 89.—Jewellers are interdicted from mixing together in the same works genuine stones with false, without declaring the fact to the purchasers, on pain of making restitution of the value which they would have possessed had the stones been genuine, and beyond this to pay a penalty of 300 francs; for the second offence, the penalty shall be trebled, with the payment of all expenses; and the third time they shall be declared incapable of carrying on their trade, and all the stock in their warehouses confiscated.

Art. 90.—When a goldsmith dies, his punch shall be remitted in the space of five decades (fifty days) after the decease to the Assay Office of his district, to be there defaced immediately. During this period the person in whose possession it remains shall be responsible for the use which shall be made of it, as are the actual manufacturers.

Art. 91.—If a goldsmith or maker leaves the trade, he shall remit his punch to the Assay Office of the district, to be there destroyed in his presence; if he desires to absent himself for more than six months, he shall deposit his punch at the Assay Office, and

the Comptroller shall stamp the works made at his establishment during his absence.

Arts. 92 to 94 describe the obligations of travelling goldsmiths.

TITRE VII.—OF THE FABRICATION OF PLATED GOODS AND
GILDING AND SILVERING METALS.

Art. 95.—Whoever desires to plate or gild on copper, or any other metal, is bound to make the declaration to his municipality, to the Administration of his department, and to the Mint.

Art. 96.—He may employ gold and silver in any proportion he desires.

Art. 97.—He is bound to place upon each of his works his own punch, determined by the Mint, as stated in Article 14 of the present law. He shall add to the stamp numerals indicating the quantity of gold or silver contained in the work, on which shall also be impressed in full the word *DOUBLÉ*.

Art. 98.—The maker of *doublé* or plated goods shall transcribe daily the sales he shall have made, on a register ruled and headed, furnished by the Municipal Administration. He shall also be supplied by the Administration with blank *bordereaux* like the goldsmiths and jewellers, and shall be bound to give to every purchaser one of these signed and dated by him, filling it in with the designation of the work, its weight, and the quantity of gold and silver it contains.

Art. 99.—In case of contravention of the two preceding articles, the works shall be confiscated, and the delinquent condemned to a penalty, for the first offence, of ten times the value of the object confiscated; for the second, double the penalty and all expenses; for the third time, four times the penalty of the first, and the trade as well as the fabrication of gold and silver shall be interdicted, on pain of confiscation of all his stock-in-trade.

Art. 100.—The maker of plated goods is subject, like the goldsmith, to all the same penalties, and must not buy any works of gold or silver, except from persons known to him, or having references from people who are known to him.

TITRE VIII.—Relates to searches and seizures made in contravention of this law.

TITRE IX.—Relates to the refining of gold and silver.

TITRE X.—Relates to the argue for drawing gold or silver wires, &c.

PLATE 5.

IN USE FROM 19TH NOVEMBER 1797 TO 1ST SEPTEMBER 1809.

TABLE OF PUNCHES,						
Made in execution of the Law of 19th Brumaire, An VI. (19th Nov 1797), instead of those of the Communities of Goldsmiths and the Administration of the Excise.						
DISTINCTION.		PARIS.	DEPARTMENTS.	DISTINCTION.		
GOLD STANDARDS.	1st. 0.920			FOREIGN.	Large.	
	2nd. 0.840				Small.	
	3rd. 0.750			HAZARD.	—	
SILVER STANDARDS.	1st. 0.950			WATCHES MADE AT BESANCON.	Large.	
	2nd. 0.800				Small.	
ASSAY OF GOLD AND SILVER.	Large.			ASSAYED INGOTS.	Gold.	
	Small.				Silver.	
SMALL ASSAY.	Gold.			ARGUE.	—	
	Silver.					
VERIFICATION.	Large.			<p>The use of these punches, except those of the Ingots and the Argue, ceased 1st Sept. 1809. They were replaced by those in the following table.</p>		
	Small.					

PLATE 6.

IN USE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 1809 TO 16TH AUGUST 1819.

TABLE OF PUNCHES, Made in execution of the Decree of the 11th Prairial, An XI. (31st May 1803).							
DISTINCTION.	PARIS.	DEPARTMENTS.	DISTINCTION.	PARIS.	DEPARTMENTS.		
GOLD STANDARDS.	1st. 0.920.			SILVER ASSAY MARKS.	Large.		
	2nd. 0.840				Medium.		
	3rd. 0.750				Small.		
SILVER STANDARDS.	1st. 0.950			VERIFICATION.	Large.		
	2nd. 0.800				Medium.		
					Small.		
GOLD ASSAY MARKS.	Large.			FOREIGN.	Large.		
	Small.				Small.		
	Small.				At this epoch there were two small assay marks for gold: the first for articles with garniture; the other without.		

Note.—The use of these punches ceased on the 16th of August 1819. The same day they were replaced by those of the Standard and Assay drawn in the following tables. The punches of the Ingots and the Argue were not renewed.

IN USE FROM 16TH AUGUST 1819 TO 10TH MAY 1838.

TABLE OF PUNCHES,								
Made in execution of the Royal Ordinance of 22nd October 1817.								
DISTINCTION.	PARIS.	DEPARTMENTS.	DISTINCTION.	PARIS.	DEPARTMENTS.			
GOLD STANDARDS.	1st. 0.920			SILVER ASSAY.	Large.			
	2nd. 0.840				Medium.		None for the Departments.	
	3rd. 0.750				Small.		See the Table of Divisional Punches.	
SILVER STANDARDS.	1st. 0.950			VERIFICATION.	Large.			
	2nd. 0.800				Small.		See the Table of Divisional Punches.	
GOLD ASSAY.	Large.			FOREIGN.	Large.			
	Small.		See the Divisional Punches.		Small.			
<p>REMARKS.—1. In the figure of the large punch of Assay of gold and silver, and of Verification, is engraved the number of the Department as shown in the list of Assay Offices. 2. The numeral indicative of each standard is engraved in the figure of the punches which serve to standard the works of gold and silver.</p>								
22nd October 1817.								
SPECIAL PUNCHES FOR WATCHES.								
SILVER ASSAY.		GOLD ASSAY.						
								
<p>REMARKS.—1. The letter P belongs to the Paris Assay Office. 2. The Departments have the number which is indicated for the other punches of Assay: thus 23. is that assigned to the Monthéliard Assay Office; 12. . to Arles; 57. . to Dunkerque; 84. to Sens, and so on.</p>								

TABLE OF DIVISIONAL PUNCHES,
Made in execution of the Ordinance of 22nd October 1817.

DIVISION.		GOLD ASSAY.		SILVER ASSAY.		VERIFICATION.
1	North.		Butterfly.		Coffee-pot.	
2	N.E.		Tortoise.		Tower.	
3	East.		Shell.		Ciborium.	
4	S.E.		Beetle.		Goblet.	
5	South.		Lysse.		Bell.	
6	S.W.		Frog.		Watering-pot.	
7	West.		Snail.		Ewer.	
8	N.W.		Thornback.		Guitar.	
9	Centre.		Guinea Pig.		Book.	

In the figure of the small punches of Assay of gold and silver and of Verification of each Division is engraved the characteristic sign indicated in the following List of Assay Offices.

IN USE FROM 16TH AUGUST 1819 TO 10TH MAY 1838.

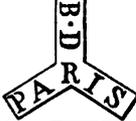
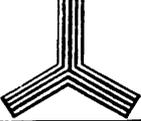
LIST OF BUREAUX DE GARANTIE OR ASSAY OFFICES OF DEPARTMENTS,
DIVIDED INTO NINE REGIONS

(See Plate 8), indicating the Characteristic Signs which distinguish the Punches of each Bureau (22nd Oct 1817).

DIVISIONS.	DEPARTMENTS.	BUREAUX.	Characteristic Signs.		DIVISIONS.	DEPARTMENTS.	BUREAUX.	Characteristic Signs.			
			Large Work.	Small Work.				Large Work.	Small Work.		
I. NORD.	Nord	Lille.....	57	A	V. SUD.	Pyrénées-Orient.	Perpignan.....	64	A		
		Valenciennes.....	57*	C		Aude	Carcassonne	10	C		
	Pas-de-Calais	Dunkerque.....	57**	D		Hérault	Montpellier	32	D		
		Arras.....	60	E		Tarn	Castres.....	78	E		
	Somme	St. Omer.....	60*	H		Aveyron	Rodès.....	11	H		
		Amiens.....	75	J		Lozère	Mendes.....	46	J		
	Aisne	Laon.....	2	M		Lot	Cahors.....	44	M		
		Rouen.....	73	8		Cantal	Aurillac.....	14	8		
	Seine-Inférieure	Havre.....	73*	N		Corrèze	Tulle.....	18	N		
		Boulogne.....	58	T							
	Eure	Evreux.....	25	V							
	Eure-et-Loir	Chartres.....	26	X							
	Seine-et-Oise	Versailles.....	72	Y							
Seine-et-Marne	Melun.....	71	✠								
II. NORD-EST.	Ardennes	Mézières.....	7	A	VI. SUD-EST.	Ariège	Foix.....	8	A		
		Verdun.....	53	C		Garonne (Ha.)	Toulouse.....	29	C		
	Meuse	Bar le Duc.....	53*	D		Pyrénées (Ht.)	Tarbes.....	63	D		
		Metz.....	55	E		Pau	62	E			
	Moselle	Strasbourg.....	65	H		Pyrénées (B.)	Baïonne.....	62*	H		
		Nancy.....	52	J		Landes	Mont de Marsan	38	J		
	Meurthe	Pont à Mousson.....	52*	M		Gers	Auch.....	30	M		
		Lunéville.....	52**	8		Tarn-et-Garonne	Montauban.....	77	8		
	Vosges	Epinal.....	85	N		Lot-et-Garonne	Agen.....	45	N		
		Châlons.....	49	T		Gironde	Bordeaux.....	31	T		
	Marne	Reims.....	49*	V		Dordogne	Perigueux.....	22	V		
		Chaumont.....	50	X							
	Marne (Haute)	Langres.....	50*	Y							
Troyes.....		9	✠								
III. EST.	Rhin (Haut)	Colmar.....	66	A	VII. OUEST.	Charente	Angoulême.....	15	A		
		Saône (Haute)	Vesoul.....	68		C	Charente-Inf.	La Rochelle.....	16	C	
	Doubs	Besançon.....	23	D		Saintes.....	16*	D			
		Montbéliard.....	23*	E		Vienne (Haute)	Limoges.....	82	E		
	Jura	Lons-le-Saulnier.....	35	H		Vienne	Poitiers.....	81	H		
	Côte d'Or	Dijon.....	19	J		Vendée	Fontenay.....	80	J		
		Saône-et-Loire	Macon.....	69		M	Deux Sèvres	Niort.....	74	M	
	Ain	Trevoux.....	1	8		Loire-Inférieure	Nantes.....	42	8		
		Grenoble.....	33	N		Maine-et-Loire	Angers.....	47	N		
	Rhône	Lyon.....	67	T		Indre-et-Loire	Tours.....	35	T		
						Vienne	Châtelleraut.....	35	✠		
	IV. SUD-EST.	Var	Toulon.....	78		A	VIII. NORD-OUEST.	Finistère	Brest.....	27	A
			Grasse.....	78*		C		Morbihan	Vannes.....	54	C
Bouches du Rhône		Marseille.....	12	D	Côtes du Nord	St. Brieux.....		20	D		
		Aix.....	12*	E	Ille-et-Vilaine	Rennes.....		33	E		
Arles		Arles.....	12**	H	St. Malo.....	33*		H			
		Nîmes.....	28	J	Mayenne	Laval.....		51	J		
Alais		Alais.....	28*	M	Sarthe	Le Mans.....		70	M		
		Avignon.....	79	8	Orne	Alençon.....		59	8		
Vaucluse		Gap.....	5	N	Manche	St. Lô.....		48	N		
		Digne.....	4	T	Valognes.....	48*		T			
Alpes (Basses)		Valence.....	24	V	Calvados	Caen.....		13	V		
		Alpes (Hautes)	Privas.....	6	X						
Drôme		Le Puy.....	41	Y	IX. CENTRE.	Puy-de-Dôme		Clermont.....	61	A	
	Ardeche	St. Etienne.....	40	✠		Creuse	Guéret.....	21	C		
Loire (Haute)				Allier		Moulins.....	3	D			
				Indre		Châteauroux.....	34	E			
Loire				Loir-et-Cher		Blois.....	39	H			
				Cher		Bourges.....	17	J			
				Nièvre		Nevers.....	56	M			
				Yonne		Auxerre.....	84	N			
				Loiret		Sens.....	84*	T			
						Orléans.....	43	8			

PLATE 9.

IN USE FROM 16TH AUGUST 1819 TO 10TH MAY 1838.

TABLE OF SIGNS					
Which cover the surface of BIGORNES and of Countermark, made in execution of the Ordinance of the 1st July 1818.					
LARGE COUNTERMARK.			SMALL COUNTERMARK.		
DISTINCTION.	DENOMINATION.	TYPES.	DISTINCTION.	DENOMINATION.	TYPES.
Paris and the Departments.	Notoxe.		Paris and the Departments.	Plain Ground.	
Ditto.	Conops.		Paris only.	Ditto.	
Ditto.	Saperde.		Ditto.	Ditto.	
Ditto.	Criquet.		Departments	Ditto.	
Ditto.	Pentatome.		Ditto.	Ditto.	
Ditto.	Bibion.		Paris and the Departments.	Gules.	
Extra for the large Countermark.			Ditto.	Or.	
Ditto.	Head of Notoxe.		Ditto.	Sable.	
Ditto.	Head of Bibion.		Ditto.	Azure.	

THE RECENSE GRATUITE, OR GRATUITOUS VERIFICATION OF GOLD AND SILVER.

In order to prevent the effect of uncertainty in the Hall-marks on Gold and Silver Plate, which had been so much tampered with that people had no confidence in them as indicative of the actual quality of the material, the public authority took the matter into consideration, and directed the application of another punch, called *de recense*, or of verification upon all works of gold and silver. This punch was applied gratis, for a certain period, at the Assay Offices after the old marks had been verified by competent persons.

The first general *recense* was decreed by the Act of the 19th Brumaire, An VI. (1797), with regard to works marked with the old stamps of the French Administration; the second in 1809; and the third on the 16th August 1819, of which the term expired on the 16th November of the same year. There was another *recense* for watches only, which finished on the 1st May 1822.

After the expiration of the delay fixed for the gratuitous verification, works of gold and silver, although marked with the old stamps, which should be found in commerce, or exposed for sale, not bearing the new punches of *recense* and the countermark, were subjected to a fresh assay, and liable to a fresh duty.

For many years the want of a new *recense* became more and more necessary. There were in the jewellers' trade a great quantity of articles which by reason of the insertion of genuine Hall-Marks on inferior gold, and some altogether false or cleverly imitated, had escaped the surveillance of the agents of the Administration.

To put an end to frauds of this nature, a Royal Ordinance of the 30th June 1835 prescribed a general *recense* or verification, and the creation of a new series of punches.

Another Ordinance of the 7th April 1838 decreed that the punch of verification (*recense*) should be applied from the 10th of May following, on all works of gold and silver existing in commerce. A delay of three months was accorded for the application of this punch, and at the expiration of that term the works, although bearing the genuine old marks, were to be reputed as unmarked.

The special punches for watch-cases decreed by the Act of 19th September 1821 were suppressed. The French watches were directed to be marked with the ordinary punches of standard and assay; those coming from abroad with a particular punch for imported watches, which was to be applied by the offices designated in the Act of the 2nd July 1836. These offices were Paris, Lyons, Besançon, Montbéliard, and Lons le Saulnier. (Ordinance 7 Avril 1838.)

The punch of the standard and that of the assay shall form but one stamp, which shall bear a particular sign for each office. A punch of *remarque* shall be stamped every centimètre on chains, bands, and other works of the same character. (Ibid.)

The multiplicity of types of punches adopted in 1819 rendered the knowledge and verification of stamps very embarrassing for the

officers of the Excise. In order to facilitate this study, the number of punches previously used was considerably reduced, and they were altered not only in their external form, but by the addition of a distinctive sign for each bureau. (Circulaire de l'Adm. des Contrib. indir. 10 Avril 1838.)

It was ordained that, in order to stop the prevalence of counterfeiting and of inserting marks, the *recense* should be the reason for a severe and strict examination of the punches on each piece, in order to apply to them with discernment the benefit of this gratuitous mark or submit them to the duty, or to clear entirely from fraud the commerce of gold and silver, which had so long been practised with impunity. (Circul. de la Comm. des Monn. du 28 Avril 1838.)

The stamp of verification (*recense*) ought as nearly as possible to be applied by the side of the old punches, and to be accompanied by that of the countermark. Works in silver and jewellery in personal use by the merchants or makers ought to be submitted to the *recense*, as well as those of their commerce. Private people, not connected with the trade of goldsmiths or jewellers, have no right to claim the benefit of the *recense*. (Ibid.)

ORDINANCE OF LOUIS PHILIPPE,

DATED 7TH APRIL 1838.

We give a translation of this important Act, and a plate of the stamps directed to be used as therein stated.

7-12 APRIL 1838, LOUIS PHILIPPE, &c.—ROYAL ORDINANCE directing a general verification of the quality of gold and silver works, and the employment of new punches.

Referring to the clauses 7, 8, and 15 of the Act of the 19th Brumaire, An VI. (19th November 1797), and taking into consideration that numerous seizures have taken place of gold and silver works, in which the State punches have in a great degree been counterfeited, and that it is highly important as well that the public guarantee should be preserved, as to secure the revenues of the Treasury and to put a stop to the use of false punches. It is enacted:—

Art. 1.—From and after the 10th May following, a punch of verification shall be applied on all the works of gold and silver now existing in commerce, and bearing the impress of the legal marks.

Art. 2.—From the same date the new punches of standard and guarantee or assay and the punch of the countermark (of which a table will be published with this minute) shall be exclusively employed in all the Assay Offices.

Art. 3.—The special punches for watch-cases, and other watch-makers' work, decreed by Article 2 of the Act of the 19th September 1821, shall be repealed.

French watches shall be marked with the ordinary punches of standard and assay. Those coming from abroad shall be marked

with a special punch for imported watches, which shall be applied in the offices designated by the Act of the 2nd July 1836.

Art. 4.—The punch of the standard and that of the Assay Office shall consist of a single stamp, which shall bear a particular sign for each office. A punch called the *Remarque* shall be placed every décimètre (4 inches) on chains, and other works in gold of the same class.

Art. 5.—At the expiration of three months from the day when the new punches are to be used, all merchants, working goldsmiths, jewellers, watchmakers, cutlers, armourers, cabinetmakers, and all other workmen and merchants dealing in gold and silver works, shall be compelled to carry to the Assay Office of their districts the gold and silver works in their possession, to be there marked, free of expense, with the punches of verification and countermark.

Art. 6.—At the expiration of the term fixed for the verification, the gold and silver works marked with the ancient punches which shall be found in commerce, without being stamped with the punch of verification, shall be reputed as unmarked, and the holders subject to the condemnations decreed by the law.

An Appendix to this Act gives a table of the punches of *Standard* and *Assay*, and of *Verification*, of works in gold and silver as prescribed by the ordinance. The *designations, forms, and types* of these stamps are engraved in the annexed plate, as they appear on gold and silver, but considerably enlarged.

TABLE OF STAMPS

Of STANDARD and ASSAY, and of VERIFICATION of *Gold* and *Silver* Works, for PARIS and the DEPARTMENTS, as directed by the Act of 30th June 1835.

E T Stamp for Foreign Wares.

<p>HEAD OF A GREEK PHYSICIAN. <i>Gold.</i> Standard No. 1. 0.920.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D under the chin.</p>	<p>HEAD OF AN EAGLE. <i>Gold</i> Assay Mark.</p>  <p>PARIS.</p>	<p>A WEEVIL (Small). Guarantee of Standard. <i>Foreign Gold and Silver.</i></p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D between the legs.</p>
<p>HEAD OF A GREEK PHYSICIAN. <i>Gold.</i> Standard No. 2. 0.840.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D behind the neck.</p>	<p>HEAD OF A HORSE. <i>Gold</i> Assay Mark.</p>  <p>DEPARTMENTS. D on the cheek.</p>	<p>A CHIMERA (Large). <i>Silver.</i> Watches imported.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D between the wings and back.</p>
<p>HEAD OF A GREEK PHYSICIAN. <i>Gold.</i> Standard No. 3. 0.750.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D behind the neck.</p>	<p>HEAD OF A WILD BOAR. <i>Silver</i> Assay Mark.</p>  <p>PARIS.</p>	<p>A CHIMERA (Small). <i>Gold.</i> Watches imported.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D between the wings and back.</p>
<p>HEAD OF MINERVA. <i>Silver.</i> Standard No. 1. 0.950.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D under the chin.</p>	<p>A CRAB. <i>Silver</i> Assay Mark.</p>  <p>DEPARTMENTS. D between the claws.</p>	<p>A GIRAFFE. <i>Gold and Silver.</i> Stamp of Verification.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D below the lower jaw.</p>
<p>HEAD OF MINERVA. <i>Silver.</i> Standard No. 2. 0.800.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D before the forehead.</p>	<p>HEAD OF A RHINOCEROS. Re-mark or mark of repetition for <i>Gold</i> Chains.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D between the horn and forehead.</p>	<p>A BULLDOG. <i>Gold and Silver.</i> Stamp of Verification.</p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D on the collar.</p>
	<p>A WEEVIL (Large). Guarantee of Standard. <i>Foreign Gold and Silver.</i></p>  <p>PARIS AND DEPARTMENTS. D between the legs.</p>	

Note.—The dotted line indicates the forms of the Punches for the Paris Assay Office. There is no particular sign for Paris, but the distinctive sign of the Assay Office of each Department (see Plate 11) is placed in that part of the stamp indicated in the last line of the above descriptions, marked D. The four special Assay Offices for imported Watches are those of Lyon, Besançon, Montbéliard, and Lons-le-Saulnier.

PLATE 11.

USED ON THE 10TH MAY 1838. (Decree of 30th June 1835).

LIST OF ASSAY OFFICES (BUREAUX DE GARANTIE),							
Showing the Characteristic Signs which distinguish the Punches of Standard and Assay of each Office.							
DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Department.	ASSAY OFFICES.	Signs of Punches of each Office.	DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Department.	ASSAY OFFICES.	Signs of Punches of each Office.
Ain . . .	1	Trevoux . .	A	Dordogne . .	22	Perigueux . .	U
Aisne . . .	2	Laon . . .	B	Doubs . . .	23*	Besançon . .	V
Allier . . .	3	Moulins . .	C	Drôme . . .		24	Montbéliard . .	W
Alpes (Basses).	4	Digne . . .	D	Eure . . .	25	Valence . . .	X
Alpes (Hautes).	5	Gap . . .	E	Eure-et-Loire . .	26	Chartres . . .	Y
Ardennes . .	7	Charleville . .	F	Finistère . . .	27	Brest . . .	Z
Aube . . .	9	Troyes . . .	G	Gard . . .	28	Nîmes . . .	aa
Aude . . .	10	Carcassonne . .	H	Garonne (H.) . .	29	Toulouse . . .	bb
Averon . . .	11	Rodez . . .	I	Gironde . . .	31	Bordeaux . . .	cc
B. du Rhone . .	12	Marseille . . .	J	Hérault . . .	32	Montpellier . .	dd
Calvados . . .	13	Caen . . .	K	Ille-et-Vilaine . .	33*	Rennes . . .	ee
Cantal . . .	14	Aurillac . . .	L	Indre-et-Loire . .		35	Tours . . .	ff
Charente . . .	15	Angoulême . .	M	Isère . . .	36	Grenoble . . .	gg
Charente-Inf. .	16	La Rochelle . .	N	Jura . . .	37	Lons-le-Saulnier	hh
	16*	Saintes . . .	O	Landes . . .	38	Mont de Marsan	ii
Cher . . .	17	Bourges . . .	P	Loire-et-Cher . .	39	Blois . . .	jj
Corrèze . . .	18	Tulle . . .	Q	Loire . . .	40	St. Etienne . .	kk
Côte d'Or . .	19	Dijon . . .	R	Loire (Haute) . .	41	Le Puy . . .	ll
Côtes du Nord .	20	St. Brieux . .	S				
Creuse . . .	21	Guéret . . .	T				

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

PLATE 12.

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DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Department.	ASSAY OFFICES.	Signs of Punches of each Office.	DEPARTMENTS.	Number of Department.	ASSAY OFFICES.	Signs of Punches of each Office.
Loire-Inférieure	42	Nantes . .	✠	Pyrénées (B.) .	62*	Bayonne . .	Ⓒ
Loiret . .	43	Orleans . .	Ⓒ	Pyrénées (H.) .	63	Tarbes . .	Ⓒ
Lot . .	44	Cahors . .	Ⓒ	Pyrénées Orient	64	Perpignan . .	Ⓒ
Lot-et-Garonne	45	Agen . .	Ⓒ	Rhin (Bas) . .	65	Strasbourg . .	Ⓒ
Lozère . .	46	Mende . .	Ⓒ	Rhin (Haut) . .	66	Colmar . .	Ⓒ
Maine-et-Loire	47	Angers . .	Ⓒ	Rhône . .	67	Lyon . .	Ⓒ
Manche . .	48	St. Lô . .	Ⓒ	Saône-et-Loire.	69	Macon . .	Ⓒ
	48*	Valognes . .	Ⓒ	Sarthe . .	70	Le Mans . .	Ⓒ
Marne . .	49	Châlons . .	Ⓒ	Seine . .	71	Paris (none) . .	"
	49*	Reims . .	Ⓒ	Seine-Inférieure	72	Rouen . .	Ⓒ
Marne (Haute)	50	Chaumont . .	Ⓒ		72*	Havre . .	Ⓒ
Mayenne . .	51	Laval . .	Ⓒ	Seine-et-Marne.	73	Melun . .	Ⓒ
Meurthe . .	52	Nancy . .	Ⓒ	Seine-et-Oise . .	74	Versailles . .	Ⓒ
Meuse . .	53	Bar-le-Duc . .	Ⓒ	Sèvres (Deux) . .	75	Niort . .	Ⓒ
	53*	Verdun . .	Ⓒ	Somme . .	76	Amiens . .	Ⓒ
Morbihan . .	54	Vannes . .	Ⓒ	Tarn . .	77	Alby . .	Ⓒ
Moselle . .	55	Metz . .	Ⓒ	Var . .	79	Toulon . .	Ⓒ
		Lille . .	Ⓒ		79*	Grasse . .	Ⓒ
Nord . .	57	Dunkerque . .	Ⓒ	Vaucluse . .	80	Avignon . .	Ⓒ
	57*	Valenciennes . .	Ⓒ	Vendée . .	81	Fontenay . .	Ⓒ
Oise . .	58	Beauvais . .	Ⓒ	Vienne . .	82	Poitiers . .	Ⓒ
Orne . .	59	Alençon . .	Ⓒ		82*	Châtelleraut . .	Ⓒ
Pas-de-Calais . .	60	Arras . .	Ⓒ	Vienne (Haute).	83	Limoges . .	Ⓒ
	60*	St. Omer . .	Ⓒ	Vosges . .	84	Épinal . .	Ⓒ
Puy-de-Dôme . .	61	Clermont . .	Ⓒ	Yonne . .	85	Auxerre . .	Ⓒ
Pyrénées (B.) .	62	Pau . .	Ⓒ				

It will be observed that in the table of new punches of the 30th June 1835 the assay marks for large pieces of gold and silver plate are omitted, and a punch, not previously used, called the *poinçon de remarque*, for gold chains, is added. The standard marks for large works are not now, as heretofore, accompanied by a large assay mark; it has been suppressed, as it could without inconvenience be replaced by a second impress of the standard mark, taking care not to employ the countermark except next that which takes the place of the large assay mark; thus, for example, a dish shall be marked on the bottom with the standard without the countermark, and on the border with a second standard mark, countermarked.

ON THE APPLICATION OF THE STAMPS.

Since the establishment of Assay Offices in the different departments, the application of punches has been entrusted to the comptrollers of these bureaux, and in this operation, to ensure uniformity among the various places appointed for that purpose, a catalogue was published by the Administration previous to the prohibition of massive plate in December 1679 (and again on 15th July 1819) of the principal species of works, and instructing the comptroller with the exact position on each piece of plate where the marks and countermarks were to be placed. A new catalogue of the position of Hall-marks was issued in 1838.

The punches at present in use are of two classes, which may be designated *simple* and *countermark*. The first are the punches of standard and the maker's mark; they are destined, according to custom, to stamp prominently the external surface of the gold or silver work after the nature of the piece and the character of the stamp. The others are effected by what the French term *bigornes*, a system introduced by the Decree of July 1818, which are engraved punches affixed by the screw to the anvil, serving to countermark the piece of plate underneath when the punch is applied upon the upper surface by a hammer or mallet, forming a reverse mark on the spot where the marks of the assay or verification of foreign plate are stamped, as well as on the reverse of the special punches for watches. These *bigornes* are in every Assay office of three different sizes, and are thus used: the works which are destined to receive the stamps of the standard are marked upon an anvil having a smoothed and polished surface without any countermark; but for the application of punches of assay and verification, on foreign plate and watches, the pieces of plate are placed upon the engraved surface of the anvil intended as the countermark, which is effected by the counter-blow struck on the upper surface.

These engraved surfaces called *bigornes* or countermarks affixed to the anvil are of different forms, very varied in design; those decreed in 1818 are given on Plate 9 (page 204), which remained in use until 1835. The number was considerably increased

in that year in order to prevent as far as possible the means of counterfeiting the principal marks on the outer surface. They usually represent insects: those for Paris are engraved in profile or side view, those for the departments are represented as seen from above or full-faced. They are too numerous to be engraved here, but it may interest some of our readers to know the names of them: The Ichneumon, Hercule, Charançon, Scarabée, Sauterelle, Copris, Fulgore porte lanterne, Capricorne, Fourmi, Anthia, Libellule, Perce-oreille, Carabe-Monitis, Mante, Manticore, Sphex, Staphilin, Clairon, Frelon, Mormolis, Ecrevisse Cicendele, Scorpion, Prione, Cetoine, Terme, Petatôme, Crabe. There are 8 plates containing representations of 134 of these creatures, which may be referred to in Raibaud's work, entitled *Matières d'Or et d'Argent*, Paris, 1838.

The *poinçon de remarque* for gold chains was first adopted in 1838, and chains or bands are now required to be stamped every décimètre.

In conclusion, we must acknowledge our obligations to M. Raibaud, the author of the *Traité de la Garantie*, from whose work we have derived much valuable information; and also express our thanks to M. le Baron Chas. Davillier, of Paris, for the loan of some scarce books, illustrating the early history of the Goldsmiths' trade in France.



APPENDIX.

A P P E N D I X.

THE Goldsmiths' Company of Paris has religiously preserved among its Archives a variety of curious materials for its history; these have been carefully and laboriously searched, and the selected portions commented upon and expounded by Pierre Le Roy, a Goldsmith and Warden of the Corporation, who has arranged them in order, and in a concise form for reference, so as to be serviceable to his successors in office.

We have thought that a translation and selection from the Rules and Regulations of the Goldsmiths' Trade in France might present some features of interest, and even suggest important alterations in our present laws for the government of the trade in England.

The compiler of the *Code de l'Orfèverie*, published in 1785, by Knapen of Paris, thus refers to the work on the Statutes and Privileges of the Company of Merchant Goldsmith-Jewellers of the City of Paris, by Pierre Le Roy:—

“The enterprise of Le Roy was bold; the Company of Goldsmiths possesses a collection of documents which their antiquity and rarity render the more precious in consequence of their immense number. It was not an easy task to place in due order these scattered records, to collect and arrange them so as to form a complete and regular series. Le Roy undertook the task, and he has perfectly succeeded. One observes in the compilation of these Statutes the same intelligence which guides the clever goldsmith in the composition of the works of his art. All that surrounds him offers to the spectator nothing but detached pieces, mangled fragments, incoherent parts, and rough surfaces; but beneath the hands of the industrious artist all is placed in order and polished, the confused mass takes the form of a body and a soul; the astonished gaze admires a *chef-d'œuvre*, and does not perceive the chaos of which the badly assorted scraps presented at first only a glimpse.

“The work of Le Roy, divided into Sections, and subdivided into Clauses, comprehends all the statutes of the Goldsmiths. It

has not the actual force of law, but every one of its clauses, being founded upon the text of the laws themselves, which the author brings together, and containing no other expressions than those of the law; one can say with reason, that his work offers the most complete Code of legislation in that particular."

STATUTES AND PRIVILEGES
OF THE
COMPANY OF MERCHANT GOLDSMITH-JEWELLERS
OF THE CITY OF PARIS.

Collected together from the Texts of all the Edicts, Ordinances, Declarations, Letters Patent, Decrees and other Deeds, Ancient and Modern, which constitute the Prerogatives and the Administration of the Establishment of Goldsmith-Jewellers in this City,

By PIERRE LE ROY,
1734-1759.

SECTION I.

OF THE COMPANY IN GENERAL AND OF ITS CHIEF PRIVILEGES.

CLAUSE 1.—The Art and Trade or Establishment of Goldsmith-Jewellers at Paris shall be and continue a Livery in this city, and consequently cannot be exercised by any but the Masters and Merchants, having been sworn to that effect, and forming together an administrative community, successively managed by Directors chosen from among themselves, by the titles of MASTERS AND WARDENS.

CLAUSE 2.—The Masters and Merchants forming the Company and exercising the trade of Goldsmith-Jewellers at Paris shall have for the object of their Art and their Trade the manufacture and traffic of works and matters of gold and silver, with the employment and dealing in diamonds, pearls, and all sorts of precious stones, under the title of GOLDSMITH-JEWELLERS.

CLAUSE 3.—There shall be kept in the office of the Common Hall of the Company a common punch called the Countermark or Punch of Paris, the care of which shall be confided solely to the Wardens in charge; with which punch they shall stamp all the works of gold and silver made in Paris, to the end of verifying by their stamp the goodness of the Standard of the materials.

CLAUSE 4.—The number of Goldsmiths of Paris fixed and limited to three hundred.

CLAUSES 5, 6, and 7 refer to the same subjects.

CLAUSE 8.—No Goldsmith, although a Master, can exercise his trade in Paris in any Palace, Priory, Commanderie, College, or other enclosed and privileged places, or so reputed, except in the Galeries du Louvre only, under a penalty of five hundred livres, and even corporal punishment.

CLAUSE 9.—No person can exercise the trade nor have a Goldsmith's shop in any suburb of Paris under the pretended title of Master of the Suburbs or otherwise, unless he has been admitted into the Company in the manner prescribed by the regulations, and consequently subject to the rules of the Company and its administration and to the jurisdiction of the magistrates.

CLAUSE 10.—It shall be lawful for any Master Goldsmith of the city of Paris, if he thinks fit, to establish himself and exercise his trade in other towns of the kingdom without being compelled to make a fresh oath in that he has selected; but only to present his deed of administration to the Freedom, and have it registered in the Court of Record of the Jurisdiction to which he is subject.

CLAUSE 11.—The said Goldsmith-Jewellers of the city of Paris, Proprietors and Founders of the Chapel of St. Eloi, their Patron in the Common Hall of the Company, are privileged to celebrate for ever the mass and other sacred offices *soit à note ou à voix basse*; and this by such priests approved and capable, and in such number as they think proper to select.

CLAUSE 12.—Relates to the admission of the Brotherhoods (*confrairies*) of the Goldsmiths of Paris to attend and celebrate divine services at the Chapel of St. Eloi under the administration of the two junior Wardens.

N.B.—Besides the worship rendered to St. Eloi, Patron of the Company, the Goldsmiths of Paris had a Brotherhood of St. Denis, another of the Holy Martyrs, of St. Anne, and St. Marcel.

CLAUSE 13.—The poor Master Goldsmiths and Widows of Masters shall be received and lodged by the Wardens in charge in the Common Hall of the Company, which is at the same time the Almshouse of the said poor persons, who shall be there as regularly and abundantly assisted as shall be in the power of the Wardens from the annual produce of the alms of the Company and other pious funds devoted to this work.

CLAUSE 14.—The produce of confiscations awarded by the Courts of Justice for infractions of the Regulations of the Goldsmiths' Company shall belong to the Common Hall, as well as a third part of waifs and strays or unclaimed goods left at the office; all these shall be employed by the Wardens, together with the alms collected each year in the Company, for the maintenance of divine service in the chapel and for the relief of the poor.

CLAUSE 15.—The Company of Goldsmith-Jewellers of Paris, being one of the six companies of Merchants of this City, shall enjoy the prerogatives which have been accorded them, and which they enjoy in common; consequently their deputies in company with the

rest shall carry the daïs or canopy over the person of the Kings when making their solemn entry into Paris, and shall compliment their Majesties on great events, and their Merchants by their position shall be eligible for the Municipal and Magisterial Offices of this City.

SECTION II.

OF APPRENTICES.

CLAUSE 1.—Only one apprentice at a time shall be allowed to each master, and he shall not take a second until the apprenticeship of the first has entirely expired.

CLAUSE 2.—Masters without shops cannot take apprentices.

CLAUSE 3.—Apprentices shall not enter before the age of ten years nor after the age of sixteen.

CLAUSE 4.—The apprenticeship shall last for eight years and for no shorter period, nor can the master remit any portion of it.

CLAUSES 5 and 6 relate to the registering and binding of apprentices, with the penalties and fines.

CLAUSE 7.—Apprentices shall work at their masters' houses without wages and not elsewhere.

CLAUSES 8, 9, and 10 relate to apprentices.

CLAUSE 11.—The sons of Freemen are not subject to the laws of apprenticeship, but shall receive their freedom by their *chefs-d'œuvre* alone.

SECTION III.

OF ASSOCIATES.

CLAUSE 1.—All Goldsmiths' apprentices of Paris who have served their term of eight years are compelled to serve with masters three years more as assistants, before they can be received themselves.

CLAUSE 2.—All associates awaiting their freedom shall work at the masters' wages by the day or month.

CLAUSE 3.—They shall not quit service without legitimate cause.

CLAUSE 4.—Nor work in chambers or in secret places.

CLAUSE 5.—Proprietors of houses shall not let them to associates.

CLAUSE 6.—Principals of Colleges shall not give them retreat.

CLAUSE 7.—Associates working in secret places are to be arrested.

CLAUSE 8.—They shall not work nor trade on their own account.

SECTION IV.

OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FREEDOM.

CLAUSE 1.—No candidate shall be received as Master and Merchant in the Company of Goldsmith-Jewellers who has not attained the age of twenty years, whether he claims the freedom as the son of a Freeman, or whether he gains the franchise by way of apprenticeship.

CLAUSE 2.—All apprentices, candidates for the freedom, shall be previously bound to bring to the Masters and Wardens their certificates of apprenticeship duly discharged, with the certificate of their service with the masters in quality of assistants since the expiration of their term.

CLAUSE 3.—Candidates, sons of Freemen, as well as apprentices, cannot be admitted freemen unless there are places vacant in the number of three hundred, whether by death, abdication, or renunciation of any of them, by deed, or if any of the Masters have retired from trade and remitted their punches to the office, or have absented themselves to live in the provinces.

CLAUSE 4.—Candidates, whether sons of Freemen or apprentices, shall be admitted to the freedom in equal numbers, commencing with the former; and in case one of these two classes of Candidates does not furnish sufficient to fill the moiety of places then vacant, they shall be filled from the other class.

CLAUSE 5.—The Candidates shall be duly examined by the six Wardens in charge, not only on the division of the marc weight, but on the price and the alloy of matters of gold and silver, and on the manner of alloying the low and the fine qualities to make them of the proper standard to be worked, according to the ordinances; and, moreover, the said Wardens shall diligently inform themselves of the morals and conduct of the said Candidates, who cannot be admitted if they do not know how to read and write.

CLAUSE 6.—The said Candidates having passed the examination, and having been found capable in these different respects, shall be then bound to give proofs of their capacity in works of the Goldsmith's art by a *chef-d'œuvre*, which shall be suggested by the Wardens and made in their presence in the Common Hall.

CLAUSE 7.—The sons of Freemen as well as apprentices shall be bound to execute the said *chef-d'œuvre* to obtain the freedom, which cannot be dispensed with on any pretext whatever, on pain of nullity of admission.

CLAUSE 8.—According to the Ordinances and Regulations of the Goldsmiths' State, the Wardens in charge shall be the sole competent judges of the capacity of the Candidates in the Goldsmith's art; consequently no Officer of Justice shall be called in, nor his presence required, during the operation or examination of the *chefs-d'œuvre* of the Candidates.

SECTION V.

OF THE ADMISSION.

CLAUSE 1.—The Candidates for the Goldsmiths' State who shall have been duly examined, and of whom the *chefs-d'œuvre* have been approved, shall be then presented to the Masters and Wardens to the Court of the Mint, to be by the said Court received as Masters and Merchant Goldsmiths.

CLAUSE 2.—Therefore the said Wardens shall certify to the Court of the Mint, that the apprenticeships and the *chefs-d'œuvre* of the Candidates which they present have been well and duly executed, and that the certificates are in proper form, without the Wardens or Candidates being bound to re-produce the said certificates.

CLAUSE 3.—No Candidate can be admitted to the Court of the Mint unless presented and certified by the Wardens.

CLAUSE 4.—Candidates shall be examined afresh on the duties of the Goldsmith's State by the Court of the Mint, and in pursuance the said Court shall admit them Masters and Merchant Goldsmiths, if they are found capable, on their taking the oath to keep and observe the ordinances, decrees, and regulations of the said State of Goldsmiths.

CLAUSE 5.—The newly elected Freemen shall each give a bond of good and sufficient security for the sum of a thousand livres to the Mint.

CLAUSE 6.—Every new Master shall cause to be engraved, and shall receive from the Mint a punch of fleur-de-lys crowned, and with his name and device, to mark his own works; the stamp of which punch of the maker shall not exceed in size, including the field, two lines in height by one line and a quarter wide.

CLAUSE 7.—The punches of the new Masters shall be struck, and the names of those who are to use them engraved by the side of their stamps, on the table of copper in the Mint, as well as in the Assay Office of the Goldsmiths' Company, before any use shall be made of the said punches.

SECTION VI.

OF THE DUTIES OF MASTERS AND MERCHANT GOLDSMITH-

JEWELLERS IN THE PROFESSION OF THEIR ART.

CLAUSE 1.—All Masters and Merchant Goldsmith-Jewellers of the city and suburbs of Paris, as well as widows of Masters, shall be bound in three days after their establishment, or change of residence, to declare their abode to the Masters and Wardens of the Company, under a penalty of two hundred livres in case of omission.

CLAUSE 2.—They shall have their shops in public and con-

spicuous places and in the public streets, in which they shall have their forges and furnaces fixed with cement, and not in back shops, halls, or secret chambers, nor other places.

CLAUSE 3.—They are forbidden to melt works or matters of gold and silver, or to fabricate any work of their art, elsewhere than in their said shops, on pain of exemplary punishment; as also to melt and work beyond the hours prescribed to this effect by the Ordinances.

CLAUSE 4.—In the fabrication of their works, they shall be bound to employ standard gold and silver, and in the legal remedies prescribed by the Ordinances, that is to say, gold of 22 karats fine, with a remedy of a quarter of a karat; and silver of 11 deniers 12 grains fine, with a remedy of 2 grains.

CLAUSE 5.—They shall nevertheless be permitted to fabricate small works and jewels of gold, as crosses, snuff-boxes, étuis, buckles, buttons, &c., of the standard of 20 karats and a quarter fine, with a remedy of a quarter of a karat.

CLAUSE 6.—The Delinquents in the aforesaid prescribed standards for gold and silver shall be condemned in fifty livres penalty for the first offence, besides the confiscation of the defective works; in one hundred livres for the second; and for the third offence they shall lose their freedom, and in no case can the said penalties be remitted nor lessened under any pretext whatever.

CLAUSE 7.—The said Goldsmiths shall strike their punches upon all their works, not only on the body and principal pieces applied thereto, but upon the mountings that can bear the stamps without disfigurement; and every one of them shall be held responsible in his own name for any faults which may be found upon works marked with this punch, whether of standard or otherwise.

CLAUSE 8.—They shall, moreover, be bound to send all their works in gold and silver, thus marked with their punches, to the office of the Common Hall (Assay Office), to be there assayed and countermarked with the common punch by the Wardens, on all the pieces of the said work, which by their size, weight, figures, and forms can fairly and easily bear the said mark and countermark without disfigurement.

CLAUSE 9.—The works coming from different fonts or meltings shall be sent to be countermarked in separate parcels, that they may be assayed separately; and cannot be confounded, on pain of confiscation of the said works, in case any shall be found of different standards beyond the remedy, and the Master fined.

CLAUSE 10.—The said Goldsmiths shall not have in their houses and shops any works mounted and put together, finished at the edges, polished or otherwise too far advanced, unless the said works have been previously marked and countermarked as has been said; under pain of confiscation of the said works and a penalty.

CLAUSE 11.—They shall not fabricate any works composed of parts of which the one shall be of gold and silver, and the other of copper gilt or silvered, nor even of gold and silver, in such a manner that the metals cannot be weighed and estimated separately, under the aforesaid penalties of confiscation and fine.

CLAUSE 12.—They shall not likewise make the rims turned over full of solder, in form of hammered edges to basins, dishes, and plates; nor, under pretext of joining, solder on to them other bottoms; so also they shall not apply any new piece to old work unless it has been previously marked and countermarked, and that the old work shall not have been well and duly marked also. All under the same pain of confiscation and penalty.

CLAUSE 13.—It shall be lawful for them to use indifferently any enamels on their works of gold or silver, on condition always that the said enamels shall be fairly and legally applied, and without any intentional excess and superfluity.

CLAUSE 14.—They shall not work up any false stones or false pearls confusedly mixed with fine stones or otherwise, and they shall not even have, nor keep in their houses and shops, any false and imitation stones, on pain of confiscation and penalty.

CLAUSE 15.—So also they shall not colour or place tinsel nor disguise any fine stones in setting them or otherwise, to make them appear of a kind more precious than they really are, or to hide any defect they may have in them.

CLAUSE 16.—They shall not, moreover, without the express permission of the King, undertake nor make any goldsmiths' work of which the fabrication is prohibited by the edicts and declarations of his Majesty, under the penalties therein named.

CLAUSE 17.—Those among the said Goldsmiths of Paris, who, from whatever cause it may arise, shall cease to keep an open shop in this city, shall not be allowed to retain their punches, and shall be bound to return them to the Wardens, to be by the said Wardens sealed and deposited in the office of the Common Hall.

CLAUSE 18.—They shall have the power to extract the precious metals from the sweepings* (lavûres) themselves, or cause it to be done by their assistants and apprentices, or by any other persons they may think fit, without being prevented by the master refiners and parters of gold and silver.

SECTION VII.

OF THE DUTIES OF MASTERS AND MERCHANT GOLDSMITH-JEWELLERS IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR TRADE.

CLAUSE 1.—The Masters and Merchant Goldsmith-Jewellers of the City of Paris shall not form any Association of Trade with other Merchants than those of their Company to deal in Goldsmiths' work, whether at fairs or otherwise, and in whatever manner it may be possible.

CLAUSE 2.—The said Goldsmiths shall not sell or expose for sale any vessels or other works of gold and silver unless the said works have been duly assayed by the Master and Wardens of the

* See the Article on "Waste and Sweep," page 66.

Goldsmiths' Company, and countermarked by them with the punch of the Common Hall according to the ordinances and regulations, on pain of confiscation of the works not marked, and of three thousand livres penalty.

CLAUSE 3.—In their commerce the said Goldsmiths shall be bound to use just scales and marc weights* duly certified and marked at the Mint, and they shall have no others in their houses under any pretext whatever, on pain of confiscation and fine.

CLAUSE 4.—They shall not buy nor sell materials of gold and silver at a higher price than that which shall be paid at the money-changers', on pain of penalty and confiscation of the matters overpaid, and other fines prescribed by the ordinances.

CLAUSE 5.—They shall have in a prominent place in their shops a table containing the value of the marc of gold and silver, of the standards to which they are bound to work, with the diminutions of the marc, to the end of making it conformable to the price given for the said materials whether in buying or selling.

CLAUSE 6.—They shall sell the materials of their work separately from the fashion of the said works, and they shall give to those who purchase them invoices signed by themselves, in which they shall distinguish the price of the material, and the price of the fashion, under the penalties prescribed by the ordinances in case of contravention.

CLAUSE 7.—They shall each keep for their reference a good and faithful register of materials and works of gold and silver which they shall buy or sell, and on that they shall write the quality and the quantity of the said merchandises, with the names and residences of those to whom they have sold, or of whom they have bought, that the said register may be overlooked when necessary, under pain of arbitrary penalty.

CLAUSE 8.—They shall not buy any pieces of plate with or without armorial bearings, although they have not had notice to stop it, except from persons who are known to them, or unless they can give references to residents by whom they are known, on pain of being proceeded against criminally in case of robbery, to answer for the damages and interest of parties and for restitution of the things stolen.

CLAUSE 9.—They shall detain the plate or other pieces of Goldsmiths' work brought to them for sale and suspected of being stolen, and when they shall have received notice to stop them, they shall immediately make their declaration to the Clerk of the Goldsmiths' Company, so that he may use necessary diligence in the matter.

CLAUSE 10.—The said Clerk shall keep a register of merchandise and matters of Goldsmiths' work and jewellery lost or stolen, and as soon as notice is given him, he shall distribute handbills to stop them among the Goldsmiths, and promptly make his declaration to the commissary of the district of the particulars which have been given him on the subject.

* The poids de marc was eight ounces, or half a pound, avoirdupois weight.

SECTION VIII.

OF THE PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES OF THE WIDOWS OF MASTERS
AND MERCHANT GOLDSMITH-JEWELLERS.

SECTION IX.

OF THE ELECTION OF MASTERS AND WARDENS OF THE GOLD-
SMITHS' COMPANY, AND OF THEIR OATH TO THE
ADMINISTRATION.

The election takes place on the 1st July every year of three Masters and Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company of Paris, in which offices they remain for two years. They are thus chosen, an ancient who has already served one year, and two juniors to replace those who have finished their service, making with the three of the preceding election six Wardens in charge. The Assembly is held in presence of the Prefect, or his Lieutenant-General, of the Administration, and the Procureur du Roi, and is composed of all the ancient Wardens and thirty other Masters and Merchants of the Company, who have not passed the said offices, &c.

SECTION X.

OF THE OATH OF THE MASTERS AND WARDENS AT THE COURT
OF THE MINT, AND THAT WHICH RELATES TO THE NEW
PUNCHES OF COUNTERMARK.

CLAUSE 1.—Immediately after their election, the new Wardens shall cause the matrices to be made, and upon them the punches shall be struck which are to serve for countermarking the works of gold and silver during the course of the first year of their functions; the said punches, as well as their matrices, shall be made and tempered in the Common Hall, in the presence of the said Wardens, and in that of the Farmer of the Duties on gold and silver (Fermier des Droits de la Marque sur l'or et l'argent).

CLAUSE 2.—The said punches shall be four in number, and made of sizes convenient for the purposes to which they are destined; that is to say, one to countermark the large works of gold and silver, of which the impress shall be two lines high by one and a quarter broad; two others of half the size of the impress, the one for smaller works of gold, the other for smaller works of silver, and the fourth of as small an impress as possible, to countermark

the very little pieces of jewellery which from their diminutive size can only be assayed by the touchstone.

CLAUSE 3.—The first three of these punches shall represent one and the same letter of the alphabet crowned, which shall change annually in alphabetical order at each change of Wardens, in order that each shall be answerable for the work countermarked during his year of office; and considering the extreme smallness of the fourth of the said punches, it shall represent only a small character selected at random, which shall also change every year.

CLAUSE 4.—The said new Wardens shall take the oath in the Court of the Mint to exercise their functions well and truly, and shall strike or insculp the new punches of countermark on the table of copper in the Registry of the said Court; at which insculpation the Farmer of the Duty of the mark on gold and silver shall be duly summoned to attend.

CLAUSE 5.—The punches which shall have served to countermark the works during the course of the past year shall be at the same time returned to the Court of the Mint by the three Wardens retiring from the charge; which punches, having been previously restruck and identified with their insculpated impresses, shall be, as well as the matrices, broken and defaced in presence of the said Court.

CLAUSE 6.—The new punches of countermark shall be then in like manner insculpated at the office of the Common Hall, and immediately put with their matrices into a casket, of which the Wardens alone shall have the keys; and the said casket shall be enclosed in a coffer fastened with several locks in the said bureau, of one of which the aforesaid Farmer shall have the key.

CLAUSE 7.—The insculpation of the punches being done, the three new Wardens shall unite themselves with the three that remain who have still one year of their functions to perform, and shall together elect for a Dean one of the Ancients who shall have twice held the office of Warden, so that he may enjoy during the year of his Deanship the prerogatives of rank and similar dignities attached to this honorary title, and to assist the Wardens in charge with his counsel when it shall be required of him.

SECTION XI.

OF ASSAYS AND OF THE COUNTERMARK OF GOLDSMITHS' WORK BY THE WARDENS IN THE COMMON HALL.

CLAUSE 1.—The six Wardens in charge shall assiduously attend every week at the office of the Common Hall, and as often as may be necessary, to assay and countermark the works of gold and silver made in Paris, as also to attend to the other functions of their charge and ordinary duties of the Company.

CLAUSE 2.—They shall make the assays of gold and silver in the Common Hall; that is to say, of those in gold by aquafortis, and those of silver by the cupel, and not otherwise. The said Wardens may nevertheless assay the very small articles of gold by the touchstone alone, if by their delicate workmanship and lightness of weight they cannot be assayed otherwise.

CLAUSE 3.—In the operation of assaying and the judgment of the standard, the said Wardens shall bring to bear all the exactitude and care which the importance of the function requires of them; consequently all the works which they shall find beyond the remedy allowed by the ordinances shall be cut up and broken.

CLAUSE 4.—The works considered to be standard by the said Wardens shall be countermarked by them in a conspicuous place, and as near as possible to the maker's punch already stamped upon the works; and this in the presence of the Farmer of the Duty of the mark on gold and silver, who shall produce for the purpose as often as may be necessary his key of the coffer, containing the casket in which the punches of countermark are deposited.

CLAUSE 5.—The said Masters and Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company shall not be allowed to strike their punch of countermark on any works of gold and silver of which the fabrication is prohibited, under the penalties prescribed by the Edicts and Declarations of the King which forbid the fabrication of the said works.

CLAUSE 6.—It is prohibited and forbidden that the Farmer of the Mark on gold and silver, his deputy and overseer, shall apply his punch, called the Discharge, upon any works unless the punch of countermark of the Common Hall has been previously struck upon them by the Wardens, under a penalty of three thousand livres for each contravention.

CLAUSE 7.—The old works marked with the said punch of the Common Hall which, by default of payment of the duty on the resale of them, shall be seized by the said Farmer of the Duties cannot be taken to the Court of the Mint, nor their standard be there determined, seeing that the standard of the said works is known and verified by the impress of the said punch.

CLAUSE 8.—And forasmuch as this punch of the countermark establishes the public faith, and is the guarantee of the goodness of the standard of works which bear its stamp, those who shall forge, counterfeit, copy, or otherwise imitate the said punch, or shall make use of it for a false mark, shall be condemned to do penance at the church door (*amende honorable*), and afterwards to be hung and strangled (*à être pendus et étranglez*).

SECTION XII.

OF THE VISIT AND INSPECTION OF THE MASTERS AND WARDENS OF THE GOLDSMITH-JEWELLERS OF PARIS.

CLAUSE 1.—Visit of the Wardens among the Freemen of the Company.

CLAUSE 2.—Visit of the Wardens to those not of the Company.

CLAUSE 3.—Inspection of Wardens over the Goldsmiths of the environs of Paris.

CLAUSE 4.—Officers of Justice shall assist the Wardens in their visits.

CLAUSE 5.—Wardens shall not be liable to action for seizures made in their visits of inspection.

SECTION XIII.

OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY IN REGARD TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT GOLDSMITHS.

CLAUSE 1.—All Merchants and Artisans of whatsoever quality or condition they may be, except Merchant Goldsmiths and their widows, are forbid to make any commerce of Goldsmiths' work of the punch of Paris, on pain of confiscation and of one thousand livres penalty for every contravention.

CLAUSE 2.—Merchant Mercers of Paris only are allowed to sell plate and jewellery coming from Germany and other Foreign Countries, on condition that after arrival and reception of the said Goldsmiths' work they shall be bound to make their declaration to the Office of the Merchant Goldsmiths, who shall stamp them on the body or on one of the principal pieces with a special punch, used for no other purpose, in such a manner nevertheless that they shall not be disfigured.

CLAUSE 3.—The said Merchant Mercers are forbid to expose for sale the said plate and jewellery of foreign manufacture before they have been stamped with the said special punch; and in case of contravention the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company are permitted to cause them to be seized, and with this intent to send a commissary to the Châtelet.

CLAUSE 4.—All strangers are likewise forbid to make or cause to be made, or bring, any Merchandise of Goldsmiths' work and jewellery to Paris, to sell them there and hawk them about, unless they are fine stones loose and unset; and all hawkers male and female are forbid to meddle themselves with retailing the said Merchandises, on pain of confiscation and arbitrary fine.

CLAUSE 5.—All persons of either sex, not qualified, commonly called brokers (courtiers), are forbid to expose for sale, hawk, or sell in Paris any works or materials of gold and silver, precious stones, rings and jewels, on pain of being prosecuted and also punished exemplarily.

CLAUSE 6.—All private people of whatsoever station or condition they may be are likewise forbid to buy, sell, or cry about the streets of Paris old gold and silver lace, on pain of fine, confiscation, and imprisonment.

CLAUSE 7.—Refiners and Parters of Gold and Silver, and

Changers, shall not adventure or undertake directly or indirectly the establishment and commerce of Merchant Goldsmiths; consequently they shall not sell nor expose for sale any Goldsmiths' works, on pain of confiscation of the said works and fine.

CLAUSE 8.—The commerce of Diamonds and other precious stones, rough or cut, which shall be brought by Foreign Merchants to Paris shall be and remain free to the Merchant Goldsmith-Jewellers and Master Lapidaries.

CLAUSE 9.—Neither Lapidaries nor Goldsmiths of Paris shall become directly or indirectly Commissioners or Agents of the said Foreign Merchants, on pain of a hundred livres penalty.

CLAUSE 10.—The said Lapidaries are forbid to sell or expose for sale any precious stones mounted and worked, on pain of fine and confiscation; and the said Lapidaries are only allowed to sell the stones rough or cut and not mounted.

CLAUSE 11.—The said Lapidaries are likewise forbid to garnish or mount in work any precious stones in gold and silver, and also all others than the said Goldsmith-Jewellers, on pain of three thousand livres penalty, and all expenses, damages, and interests.

CLAUSE 12.—The Master Sword Cutlers of Paris may make and fashion in gold and silver the hilts of swords and daggers provided they buy of the Goldsmiths the gold and silver in mass which they desire to employ on their works, and do not engage the services of Assistant Goldsmiths.

CLAUSE 13.—The said Sword Cutlers shall be bound to employ gold and silver of the standards and within the remedies prescribed by the ordinances, and to have a punch to stamp their works, and to send them to the office of the Goldsmiths' Company to be there assayed and countermarked by the Wardens.

CLAUSE 14.—Master Engravers of Paris shall be allowed to make in gold and silver seals only, provided they buy the materials of the Goldsmiths, and work them of the standards prescribed by the ordinances, and to have a special punch to mark their works.

CLAUSE 15.—The Masters and Merchant Goldsmiths are allowed to engrave seals and all sorts of Goldsmiths' work which they have made, and also to make and engrave intaglio and cameo all sorts of punches and plates of steel, straight or otherwise, which may be necessary for the fabrication and ornamentation of their works.

CLAUSE 16.—Master Watchmakers of Paris shall be allowed to make watch-cases as well as every description of ornaments of gold and silver for their watches and clocks; and they shall not be able to employ Assistant Goldsmiths, nor to enrich with precious stones any of their said cases, under penalty of confiscation and fine.

CLAUSE 17.—The said Watchmakers of Paris shall be bound to buy of the Goldsmiths of the said city and of no others the materials of gold and silver for the fabrication of their works, and to employ them of the standard prescribed by the ordinances, to have each their special punch to mark their works, and to send them

to the office of the Goldsmiths' Company to be there assayed and countermarked.

CLAUSE 18.—The Master Founders shall not melt any works of gold and silver which are not of the standard, and only for the Goldsmiths and others who have the right to employ these materials, for which reason the said Founders shall not receive the said materials except in mass or in ingots, duly marked with the punch of him who gives them to him; and, moreover, the said Founders shall be bound to preserve the stamp of the said punch for ten days, to be produced in case of seizure of the works melted, on pain of confiscation and penalty.

CLAUSE 19.—The said Founders, Sword Cutlers, Watchmakers, and Engravers are bound to have, like the Goldsmiths, their forges and furnaces fixed in their shops and in the public street; and they are forbid on pain of exemplary punishment to melt or work elsewhere than in their said shops, under any pretext whatever, and beyond the hours prescribed by the ordinances.

CLAUSE 20.—The Master Lace Button-makers shall have the privilege of selling, concurrently with the Merchant Goldsmiths, buttons formed of a cap of gold or silver, stamped and sustained by a mould of wood, and also to apply these caps to the said models or moulds, on condition that they buy of the Goldsmiths the said caps already stamped, finished, and marked if possible with the punch of the Goldsmith who sold them. So reciprocally the Goldsmith shall buy of the Button-makers or others the moulds of wood they may require to make the said buttons, and they shall be bound to keep a register of sales and purchases.

SECTION XIV.

OF WARDENS' ASSISTANTS, THEIR FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

SECTION XV.

OF THE JUDICIAL REPORTS OF THE MASTERS AND WARDENS.

SECTION XVI. AND LAST.

OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE WARDENS RETIRING FROM OFFICE.

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