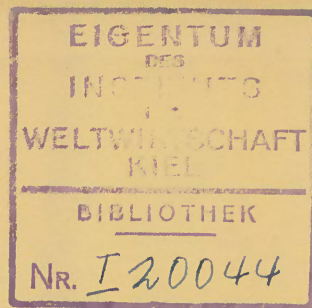


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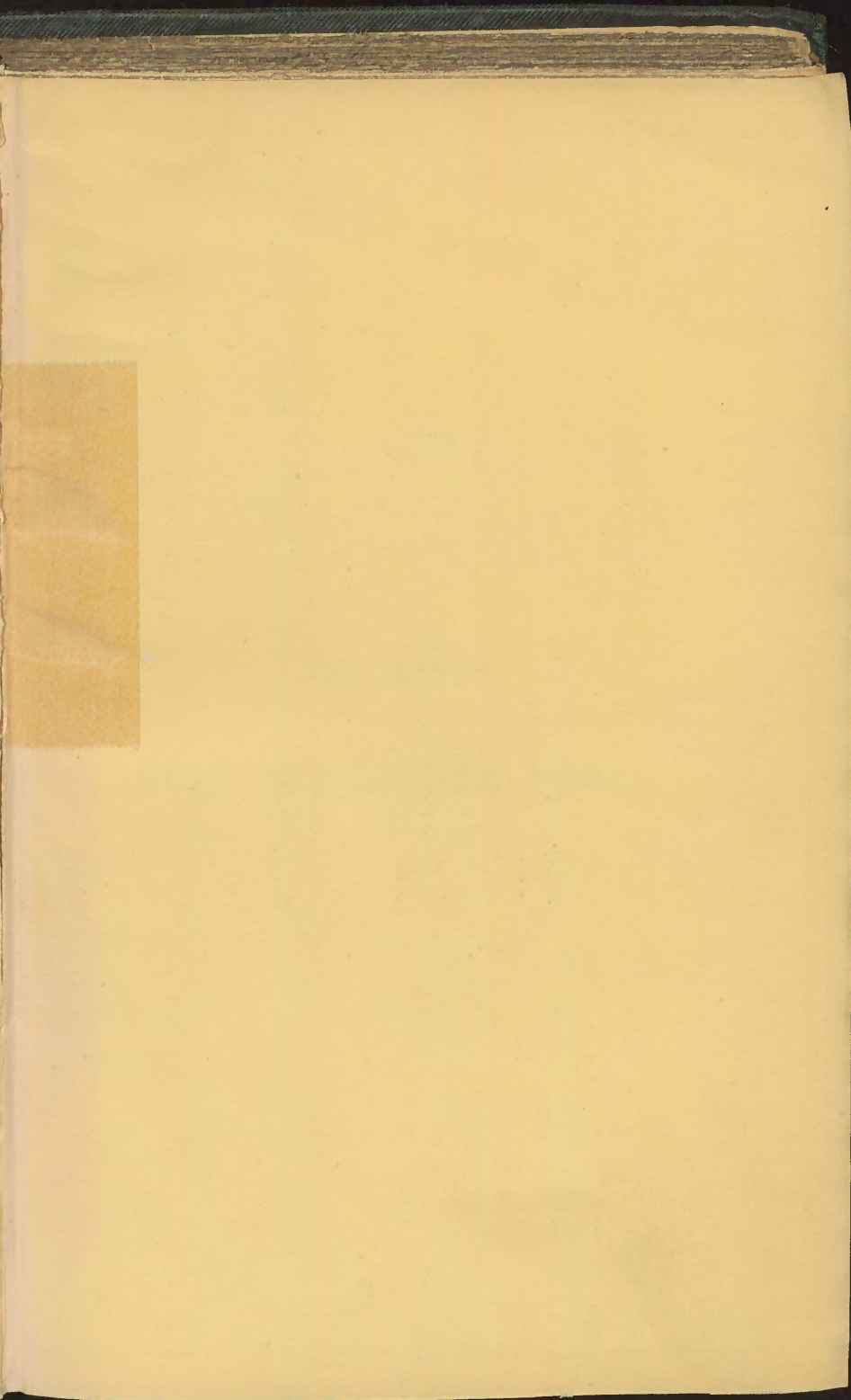




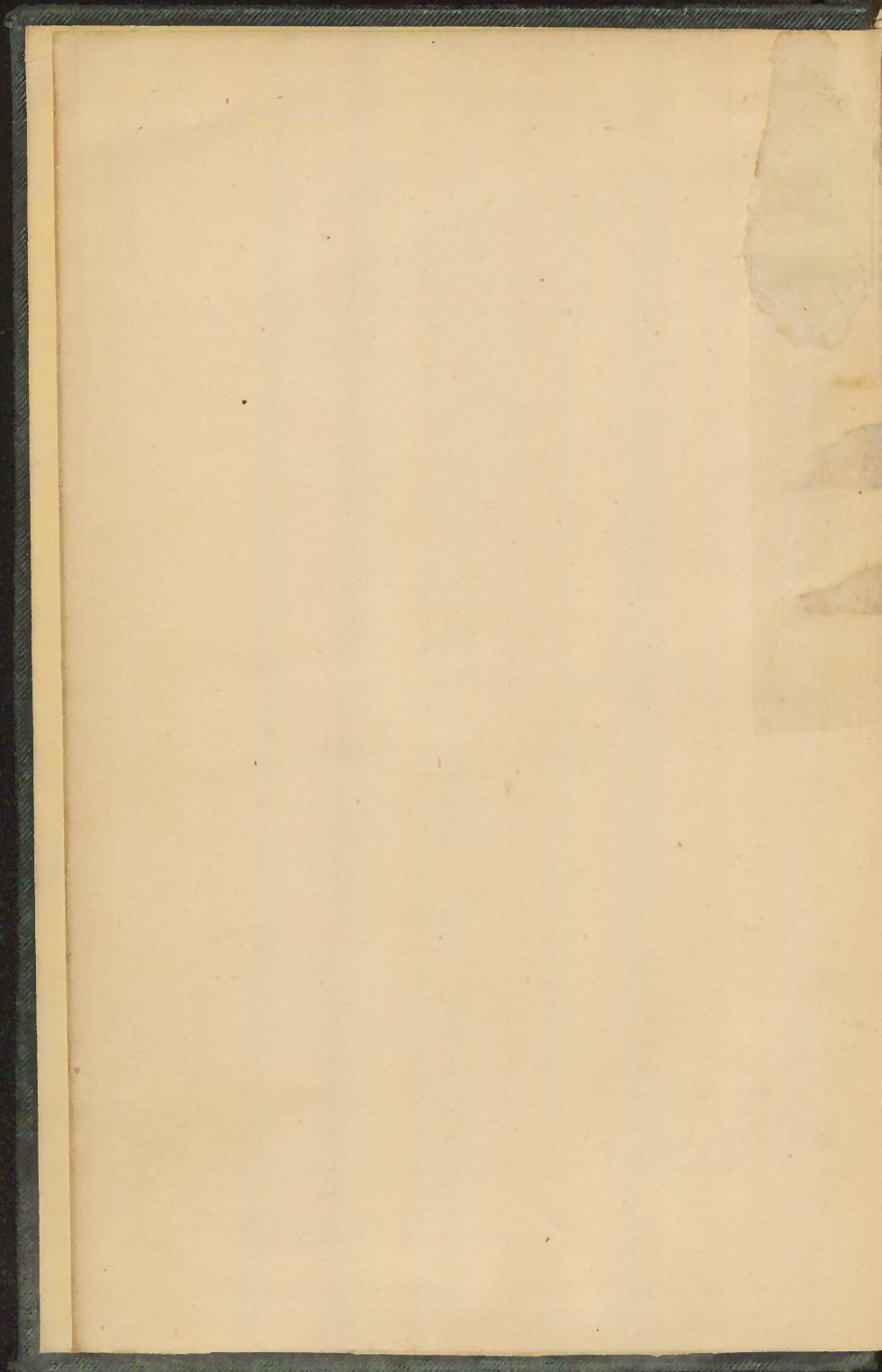
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THE ASSAY  
OF  
GOLD AND SILVER WARES.



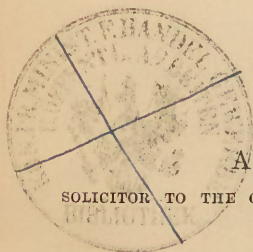




THE ASSAY  
OF  
GOLD AND SILVER WARES:

AN ACCOUNT OF  
THE LAWS RELATING TO THE STANDARDS  
AND MARKS,  
AND OF  
THE EXISTING ASSAY OFFICES.

Here's the note ;  
How much your chain weighs to the utmost carrat ;  
The fineness of the gold, and charge for fashion.  
*Comedy of Errors*, iv. 1.



BY  
ARTHUR RYLAND,

SOLICITOR TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE STANDARD OF WROUGHT  
PLATE IN BIRMINGHAM.

2694.

LONDON:  
SMITH, ELDER, AND CO., CORNHILL.  
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## PREFACE.

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I PROPOSE, in the following pages, to trace the History of Legislation on the subject of the standard of wrought plate—to show the object and requirements of the present laws—and to give some particulars of the Companies entrusted with the administration of those laws.

My attention has been directed to this subject by my connection with one of the provincial Assay Offices; and it has occurred to me that the result of my inquiries may be interesting and useful to those connected with the manufacture of gold and silver wares. And in publishing this little work, I am in some degree influenced by the consideration, that the subject will probably, at an early period, engage the attention of Parliament, and that the Public

should, in a matter of so much importance to them, possess some account of the laws and institutions in question. At present no such account, I believe, exists. After diligent search, the only works I can find on the subject are, 'The Touchstone,' published in 1677, now out of print, and from its date not answering the object in view; and the 'Goldsmiths' Repository,' by Aldridge, published in 1789, also out of print. The latter work is chiefly occupied by tables for mixing and assaying bullion; the Introduction and Appendix alone relate to the subject of these pages.

I have no theory to advocate, no change in the present institutions to propose or resist; I desire only to supply information, not easily accessible, on a subject of very general importance.

I have treated of the matter as it relates to Scotland and Ireland in separate chapters, the other parts relate only to England.

*Birmingham, February, 1852.*



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THE ASSAY  
OF  
GOLD AND SILVER WARES.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

It may be thought by the uninitiated that our gold and silver money, and the costly plate and other articles made from the precious metals, are composed entirely of pure, or, as it is sometimes called, fine gold or silver, and that the words "sterling" and "standard" denote a freedom from all alloy.

Such, however, is not the case. Neither gold nor silver is ever used in its pure state, either in coinage or in the manufacture of plate. With gold, a certain portion of silver or copper or of both is mixed; and with silver is mixed copper,

B

or other baser metal: the proportions of the pure and baser metals are determined by law, and hence the added metal is called the "allay" or "alloy," from *à la loi*\*, and the whole is called "standard" or "sterling."

The derivation of the word "sterling" indicates this admixture of the metals. Camden, in writing of Stirling Borough and Castle, says, "They are much mistaken who think that our good and lawful money of England, commonly called *sterling* money, takes its name from hence; for that came from the Germans, who were termed Easterlings by the English, from their living eastward; and who were first called in by King John to reduce the silver to its due fineness; and such money in ancient writings is always called *Easterlings*."

This admixture with baser metal is necessary to the due working of the gold and silver; and is thus noticed in the 'Touchstone for Gold and

\* Some think that alloy is derived from *allier*, and this idea is supported by the fact that the French call the alloy *alliage*: but if derived from this word, it would more properly describe the aggregate mixture.



Silver Wares \*.' "Our forefathers, considering that silver in its finest degree would be too soft for use and service (for the finest silver is almost as soft as lead), did consult to reduce or harden the silver (by allaying it with baser metal) to such a degree that it might be both serviceable in the works, and also in the wearing keep its native whiteness."

We have also the authority of Hudibras:—

"For fools are stubborn in the way,  
As coins are hardened by th' allay."

The object of our laws on this subject is to prevent too much of this alloy being used. No fraud could be practised so successfully, either as to escaping detection, or as to reaping large pecuniary profits, as the selling adulterated gold and silver plate, did not the law lend its especial aids to the purchasers of these wares. What these aids are I will now describe; premising that there are some articles of gold and silver which are exempt from such supervision as we

\* A curious book, now very scarce, by "W. B. of London, Goldsmith," published 1667.

are about to notice: a list of these will be found in the Appendix\*. I shall not think it necessary again to notice these exceptions in treating of the wares required to be assayed. Doubtless every one has observed that all plate bears certain marks;—these are generally five in number, and are called the Hall marks, or assay marks. Four of them denote that the article on which they are impressed has been duly assayed by the proper authorities and found to be of legal standard, and also at what office and in what year it was assayed, and that the duty has been paid: these are the Hall marks; in addition to these, the initials of the worker appear. The process of assay I do not propose to describe here, further than to observe, that the assayer scrapes a very small quantity of metal off each article, and after accurately weighing it, extracts from it all the alloy, then weighs it again, and ascertains the proportion of pure silver or gold: and the whole ware from which the scraping is taken, is judged of by this sample. I would refer such of my readers as may be curious on the subject to the

\* See Appendix G.



interesting little work of Mr. Watherston\*. The important duties of assaying all gold and silver wares are entrusted, in England, to the goldsmiths of London and six provincial companies; in Scotland, to two companies at Edinburgh and Glasgow; and in Ireland, to the Goldsmiths' Company of Dublin. Of these bodies a more particular account will hereafter be given.

Let us trace the history of a piece of silver plate until it is ready for sale. Before the silversmith can commence his work, he must enter with the wardens at one of these assay offices, his name and place of abode and his mark, that is, the form in which he intends to stamp his initials upon all plate made by him; this is done by a punch, and an impression from this punch is the mark to be so entered. Having mixed his metal, so as not to have more than 18 pennyweight of alloy in every pound, and from it made the plate desired, he stamps it with his initials, and then, before it is quite finished, lest the plate should be damaged in the process of scraping and

\* 'A Familiar Exposition of the Art of Assaying Gold and Silver,' by H. Watherston, 1847.

marking it at the office, he sends it, with the amount of the duty and charges for marking, to the Assay Office where his mark is so entered; it is here examined by the wardens and assayer, in order to ascertain if it bear the maker's registered mark,—whether all the parts which are intended to be affixed together are put together,—whether they are sufficiently advanced in the work,—and whether there is any unnecessary solder. If they are not satisfied on these points, the work is returned to the maker; if the wardens and assayer are satisfied, then a scraping is taken from it and handed over to the assayer, who subjects it to analysis, to ascertain the quality of the metal in reference to such of the legal standards as the worker states it to be of. If it be found deficient, then two other assays are made; and if it be still deficient the work is cut through, and the pieces are returned to the worker. If any fraud be suspected by the introduction of base metal which could not be discovered by assay, the wardens and assayer are authorized to cut the work through, and if their suspicion should prove well-founded it is forfeited



to the office, otherwise a compensation is made to the owner for the destruction of his work. But if, as is generally the case, the assayer finds the plate as good or better than standard, it is marked and returned to the worker, who finishes it ready for sale. There are some matters of detail required from the workers, which I have not noticed here, as my object in this introduction is simply to give such a general view as shall enable my readers the better to understand the following Chapters.

Before I close this introduction, it may be well to notice some technical terms, which will be found in the subsequent pages. And first, as to "The Touchstone." This was one of the ancient modes, if not the most ancient mode, of assaying. It is thus described in the little work I have before referred to, bearing its name :—"To know a good Touchstone you must observe that the best sort are very black and of a fine grain, polished very smooth and without any spongy or grain holes, and near the hardness of a flint, but yet with such a sharp cutting greet that it will cut or wear the silver or gold when rubbed

thereon. The way to make a true touch on the touchstone is thus: when your touchstone is very clean, which if foul or soily it may be taken off by wetting it, and then rubbing it dry with a clean woollen cloth; or if filled with touches of gold or silver, &c., it may be taken off by rubbing the touchstone with a pumice-stone in water, and it will make it very clean; then (your silver being filed as aforesaid) rub it steadily and very hard on the stone, not spreading your touch above a quarter of an inch long, and no broader than the thickness of a five-shilling piece of silver, and so continue rubbing it until the place of the stone whereon you rub be like the metal itself; and when every sort is rubbed on that you intend at that time, wet all the touched places with your tongue, and it will show itself in its own countenance."

"The Touch" is used in the old statutes to denote, in some places the standard, in some the punch used in marking the wares, and in others the mark impressed on the plate.

"Partings" are the assays of metal which is composed of gold and silver only; when gold



predominates it is called a gold parting, and when silver predominates a silver parting.

“The Diet” is the silver scraped off the wares sent to be assayed.

In the old statutes the words *harness* and *vessels* of gold and silver often occur; these were intended to comprehend much more than in modern phraseology would be understood by them. In 1677 the author of ‘The Touchstone’ considered it necessary to observe upon these terms. In reference to one of them he observes, page 28, “Under the title or term of *harness* is included all kind of furniture for defence of man and horses against the enemy: which term of *harness* (in the same signification as we take it, by the opinion of the best expositors) is mentioned, 2 Chron. ix. 24; Jer. xlv. 4; Exod. xiii. 18.”

## CHAPTER II.

## HISTORY OF LEGISLATION.

It is now more than five hundred years since the first statute was made for regulating the standard of gold and silver, to be used by the workers in these metals in England. And it will be seen that the main principles then laid down are the same as are adopted in our most modern Acts of Parliament on this subject, namely, that all gold and silver goods shall be wrought of one uniform standard; that they shall not be offered for sale until assayed by the wardens of the craft and marked. The statute I refer to is the 28th Ed. I. c. 20 (A. D. 1300). It ordains that no goldsmith shall make anything of gold or silver except it be of the good and true allay, which it describes thus:—"No worse gold than of



the touch of Paris," and "silver of the sterling alloy, or of better, at the pleasure of him to whom the work belongeth; and that none work worse silver than money." And in order to ensure a compliance with these requisitions, it ordains that "no manner of vessel of silver depart out of the hands of the worker until it be assayed by the wardens of the craft, and further that it be marked with the leopard's head . . . . 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 as is spoken of before." All gold found of any other touch is declared forfeited to the king. These provisions were intended for London only; subsequent clauses extended them to the provinces thus:—"In all the good towns of England where any goldsmiths be dwelling, they shall be ordered according to this statute, 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." The punishment imposed by this statute on goldsmiths contravening its enactments,

is "imprisonment and ransom at the king's pleasure."

Reading this statute alone, it would appear, in reference to the provincial goldsmiths, that the person to be sent to London from each town was to be instructed in the art of assaying, or the touch, as it was then called, so that he might superintend the standard of wrought plate in his own town. But we shall find as we proceed that such was not the intention, but that all the work made in the provincial towns should be sent to London by one of the craft to be assayed. At the date of this statute of Edward I., the goldsmiths of London were a guild, but were not incorporated. In the year 1327, being the first year of Edward III., they obtained their first charter. It prohibited the importation "of any sort of money but only plate of fine silver," and the exportation of gold or silver. It declares that no goldsmith "shall keep any shop but in Cheap, that it may be seen that their work is good;" and authorizes the goldsmiths to elect officers to inquire into offences against the charter, and to inflict due punishment upon offenders,



and if need be, "by the assistance of the Mayor and Sheriffs." And it repeats the provision of the statute of Edward I. as to provincial towns sending one or two goldsmiths to London, with this addition, "And there to have a stamp of punction with a leopard's head marked upon their work, as of ancient time it has been ordained."

In the same reign, by the statute 37 Ed. III. c. 7, it was required that every master goldsmith should have his own peculiar mark, which mark "shall be known by them assigned by the king to survey their work and allay." And the goldsmith is to set it upon his work after it shall have been assayed and marked with the king's mark. This is the first mention of the workers' mark—it has been continued up to the present day.

We next meet with a statute of great interest and importance, passed in the 2 Rich. II.\*: it has the virtue of most of our ancient laws—brevity: I give it *in extenso*. "Because gold and silver, which is wrought by goldsmiths in England, is oftentimes less fine than it ought to be, because the goldsmiths are their own judges, be it or-

\* Roll of Parliament, 2 Rich. II., No. 30.

dained that henceforth every goldsmith puts his own mark upon his work ; and the assay of the Touch belongs to the mayors and governors of the cities and boroughs, with the aid of the Master of the Mint, if there be such, putting the mark of the city or borough where the assay is."

This latter clause was clearly declaratory of the law of England, and it does not appear to have been repealed. It throws great light upon all the other statutes upon this subject, and is suggestive of important considerations in any future legislative enactments for the extension or modification of the present system.

In the same Roll of 2 Rich. II. we find the following Act :—"It is further ordained that every goldsmith shall have his own mark by himself, and if any vessel which has been made is found within the realm after the nativity of St. John next coming, not marked with the mark of the goldsmith who made it, or shall be of worse alloy than the sterling, then the same goldsmith shall pay to the party complaining double the value of the vessel, and be put in prison, and pay a fine according to the extent of the trespass. And our



Lord the King shall appoint such as he thinks proper to make the said assay as well in London as elsewhere, at all such times as shall be necessary, and after the assay made, to mark the said work with another mark, appointed therefore by our said Lord the King. And it is assented that this ordinance shall begin from the said Feast of St. John, and shall last as long as the next Parliament, to try within that time whether it be useful or no."

It does not appear that this was renewed upon the expiration of the probationary term assigned to it, but similar provisions are contained in subsequent statutes.

In the year 1404 a statute was passed connected with our subject, and although but indirectly, yet calling for notice here. I refer to 5 Hen. IV., entitled "What things may be plated with gold or silver, and what not;" it recited "that fraudulent artificers, imagining to deceive the common people, do daily make locks, rings, beads, candlesticks, harness for girdles, hilts, chalices, and sword pomels, powder-boxes, and covers for cups, of copper and of latten, and the same

overgilt and silver, like to gold or silver, and the same sell and put to gage (pawn) to many men not having full knowledge thereof for whole gold and whole silver, to the great deceit, loss, and hindrance of the common people and the wasting of gold and silver." It is then made penal to gild or silver any of the articles named in the preamble, made of copper or latten (brass), with an exception that ornaments for the church might be made of copper or latten, provided that in the foot or some other part of the ornament the copper was left bare; "that a man may see whereof the thing is made, for to eschew the deceit aforesaid."

Why the protection provided for the church should not suffice for the laity, and the laity should be denied the luxury of the comparatively inexpensive ornaments, is not very clear; the sincerity of the preamble is suspicious.

In the next reign, the price of silver gilt was regulated by 2 Hen. V. c. 4, by which it was also enacted that the goldsmiths should gild no silver of worse alloy than English sterling.

In that reign the knights and barons obtained



a relaxation, in their favour, of the statute of Henry IV. against gilding. The statute 8 Hen. V. c. 3, declares that no other metal than silver shall be gilt except "the ornaments of Holy Church;" and no metal shall be silvered except "knights' spurs and all the apparel that pertaineth to a baron and above that estate."

In the year 1423 we meet with a statute (2 Hen. VI. c. 14) which re-enacts the provisions of former statutes, with some additions, directing an allowance to be made for such "souder" as may be necessary, and imposing a penalty on "the keeper of the touch for every harness of silver which he shall touch that is worse than sterling."

This statute also appoints "York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Lincoln, Norwich, Bristow, Salisbury, and Coventry to have divers touches," and contains provisions for their guidance, but in no way altering the existing laws on the subject.

It is to be remarked on this statute, that, except those clauses relating expressly to the towns above named, its operation is confined to the city of London, and relates only to silver wares.

The goldsmiths of London obtained further

recognition of their functions as assayers in the following reign of Edward IV., with additional powers for discovery and punishment of offenders. In this reign the standard of gold was more strictly defined by 17 Ed. IV. c. 1, and provisions made that all gold and silver plate should bear the assay mark.

It would appear from the preamble to the 4th Hen. VII. c. 2 (A.D. 1490), which is the next statute on the subject, that all gold required, as well by the mints as by goldsmiths, was refined by "finers and parters, under a rule or order belonging to the mints of London, Calais, Canterbury, York, and Durham, for the amendment of money and plate," "that everything might be reformed to the right standard;" but that a practice had grown up in certain places distant from those towns where mints were established, of buying "gilt silver," and "parting and fining it," and of allaying the silver so obtained without regard to the sterling allay, and so causing "money and plate in divers places of the realm to be worse in fineness than it should be;" and by this statute it is made penal for any "finer of gold or



silver," or any "parter of the same by fire or water," to allay any fine silver or gold, or to sell to any except to the "officers of the mints, changes, and goldsmiths;" and every finer is to put his mark upon the silver parted by him. No silver is to be sold "molten into mass."

In 1576, by the 18th Eliz. c. 15, it is declared that no plate or other goldsmiths' wares of gold shall be less in fineness than 22 carats. And the standard of silver, which before was defined by reference to the coinage, is in this statute declared to be 11 oz. 2 dwt.; and the price to be charged for both gold and silver wares by dealers is limited to twelve pence above the mint price and the fashion. It is very remarkable that this statute does not notice the 17 Ed. IV., which had fixed the gold standard at 18 carats. In 1623 (by 21 Jac. I. c. 28, s. 11), some of the provisions of the older statutes were repealed; no reason for the repeal appears in the Act. The provisions so repealed are prohibitions as to the making of certain articles, and the prices to be charged for silver-gilt and silver.

In 1677 the 'Touchstone for Gold and Silver

Wares' was published: it throws much light on the state of the gold and silver trade at that time. It describes very quaintly the mode of proceeding adopted by the Goldsmiths' Company, and suggests to purchasers of gold and silver wares how to prevent "deceit in gold or silver work, and how to obtain redress for such offences." It is obvious from this interesting little work, that the Goldsmiths' Company were very active in the discharge of their duties, in London and three miles round, which appears to have been considered the extent of their district; but their jurisdiction had no such narrow limits, for it extended throughout England, excepting only those districts to which assay masters and wardens had been appointed by statute.

In 1696 the standard of silver for wrought plate was raised from 11 oz. 2 dwt. to 11 oz. 10 dwt. The preamble of the statute making this change (8 Wm. III. c. 8) recites, that silver coins had been melted down and converted into plate; and that this injury to the public had been occasioned by the laws not obliging the workers to make their wares of finer silver than



the standard of the silver coinage. In this Act occurs the first exemption from the control of the assay office. Silver wire, and such things as in respect of their smallness are not capable of receiving a mark, are excepted from the provisions of this Act. New marks are introduced, which will be noticed in a subsequent chapter. A penalty is imposed upon the Goldsmiths' Company for every article which shall be marked by them, in which it shall appear there is any deceit, or which shall be made contrary to the Act.

In the year 1700 an Act was passed for appointing wardens and assay masters in the cities of York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, and Norwich. This statute (12 & 13 Wm. III. c. 4) recites, "that the goldsmiths, silversmiths, and plate-workers of the kingdom remote from the city of London are under great difficulties and hardships in the exercise of their trades for the want of assayers in convenient places to assay and touch their wrought plate." The provisions of this statute will be more particularly noticed in the Chapter on the "Assay Offices." It is remarkable that no re-

ference is made in this Act to the 2nd Hen. VI. c. 14, by which three of the cities here named, namely, York, Norwich, and Bristol, were, together with Coventry and Newcastle, appointed to have divers touches according to the ordinance of the mayors, bailiffs, and governors of the towns. By 1 Anne, stat. 1, c. 2, Newcastle-upon-Tyne is appointed for the assaying and marking of wrought plate, and reference is made in this Act to the 2nd Hen. VI.

A very important statute was passed in 1738 (the 12th Geo. II. c. 26) under the title of "An Act for the better preventing Frauds and Abuses in Gold and Silver Wares." This is now the chief guide for all the assay offices in England except those at Birmingham and Sheffield, which have local Acts.

It 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;" it then notices that great frauds are daily committed for want of sufficient



power effectually to prevent the same. I cannot but think that this object would have been more effectually obtained, if all the existing Acts had been repealed, and this statute had been made to contain all the provisions on the subject; for now, in order to ascertain what those provisions are, reference has to be made to all the prior Acts, for none have been wholly repealed, and the operation of the several Acts passed under the varying circumstances of four centuries reconciled. The only part of the then existing laws repealed by this statute was the 4th section of 12 & 13 Wm. III. c. 4, which imposed a penalty of £500 for counterfeit marks on wrought plate.

The chief provisions of the Act under consideration are as follow:—it imposes new penalties on persons selling gold and silver wares below the standard, and without the proper assay marks, and for forging marks; it excepts many wares out of the operation of the Act; requires the workers to send certain information with the wares of gold or silver sent to be assayed, in order to check frauds in payment of the duty, by the “private making and manufacturing of silver plate;” the duties of the wardens on some points

are defined ; certain regulations are laid down for the Assay Office in London ; an appeal is given to persons aggrieved by proceedings of the London Assay Office ; the prices for assays are limited, and a new mark for the workers is introduced. These points will be more particularly noticed under their appropriate titles.

The statutes relating to the *Duty* next present themselves to our attention in order of time ; but from their number and peculiar character, I propose to make them the subject of a distinct chapter. We may observe, in passing, that no duty was charged until the year 1720 : thus it will be seen that the assay offices were not established, as some have suggested, for the sake of collecting the duty ; the probability is, that, the offices affording a convenient mode of collection, suggested the imposition of the present duty.

No other statute calls for particular mention here, except the 7th and 8th Vict. ; the only other Acts on the subject, and which relate to the new standard for gold in 1798, and to the punishment of certain offenders, will be found under their respective heads.

The 7th and 8th Vict. c. 22, "To amend the



Laws now in force for preventing Frauds and Abuses in the Marking of Gold and Silver Wares in England," repealed the 13th Geo. III. c. 59, which made certain offences felony, and the section of 38 Geo. III. c. 69, which awarded transportation as the punishment of certain offences; with these exceptions, and the abolition of one of the standard marks, it has left the former laws as they were. It has made some most important additions; but here the same reflection occurs as was suggested by 12 Geo. II., that instead of accumulating descriptions of offences and penalties, the old laws should have been repealed, and all the provisions necessary to the due maintenance of the standards should have been incorporated in one Act. Although not necessary to the elucidation of the subject, I cannot pass over the last recital in this Act without remark. The first recital simply states the title of the 13th Geo. III.; this is followed by a recital of one section of 38 Geo. III.; then comes the following and only other recital, "Whereas it is expedient" [not to repeal, but] "to simplify the said laws and to alter the punishments thereby imposed and to

c

make further provisions," &c. And forthwith the Act and section so recited are *repealed*; this was much better than any attempt at simplification, but the inaccuracy is glaring. This must have been a slip of the pen, but it is one of many constantly recurring, and which might be prevented if Parliament provided as carefully for the revision of public bills as for estate bills. I notice it here, because the more frequently attention is called to such matters, the sooner will proper means be taken to prevent their recurrence.

This statute describes clearly and succinctly the offences of forging dies and marks, and imposes fines on dealers for certain other offences, all which will be stated more fully in the Chapter on "Offences."

Much difficulty had been found in carrying into effect the provisions in previous Acts for the punishment of persons who transposed marks from one article to another; and no adequate provision was made for preventing parties making an addition to an article already assayed and marked; for instance, if silver epaulettes apparently quite complete had been assayed and



marked as standard and afterwards the silver-smith added a lining of German silver, there was no means under the assay laws of punishing him. Such cases as this have been provided for by the Act under consideration.

By the fifth section it is required, that if any ware after being duly assayed shall be altered so that its character be changed, or shall have an addition made to it bearing a greater proportion to its original weight than four ounces to every pound troy, then that it shall be assayed as a new ware and the duty paid on the whole weight. In the case of an addition of a less proportion than before stated, the character of the ware not being changed, then the *addition* shall be assayed, and marked, and the duty paid on that addition only, provided the worker has, previously to making it, submitted the original ware, with a description of the proposed addition, to the Assay Office, and obtained the sanction of the authorities to the addition being made. Additional penalties are imposed on goldsmiths' companies for the default or negligence of their officers, and further regulations required to be observed by dealers.

## CHAPTER III.

## THE STANDARDS.

THERE are two 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 standards for gold are 22 and 18 carats of pure metal in every ounce; the ounce containing 24 carats\*: so that in each ounce there may be two or six carats, or one-twelfth or one-fourth of the weight, of alloy. The coinage is of the higher standard, 22 carats. The lower

\* The carat is an Abyssinian weight; it is divided into four parts called grains, and these again into quarters; so that a carat-grain is equivalent to  $2\frac{1}{3}$  dwts.



standard is used for all manufacturing purposes, except in the case of wedding-rings, which are usually made of 22-carat gold.

The standards for silver are 11 oz. 10 dwt. and 11 oz. 2 dwt. of pure metal in every pound troy: or in other words 10 or 18 dwt. of alloy are permitted in every 12 ounces. The higher standard is never used. The silver coinage is of the lower standard.

We have seen that in the first introduction of a standard for gold, it is described as "*the Touch of Paris*" (28 Ed. I.), and that no other standard is mentioned until 1477, when 17 Ed. IV. c. 1 required all gold to be of the fineness of 18 carats: the next change was by 18 Eliz. c. 15, which enacted that all gold plate and wares should be not less in fineness than 22 carats: and this standard continued until 1798, when by 38 Geo. III. c. 69, the present standard of 18 carats was introduced, not to the exclusion of, but concurrently with, the former standard. The reason for this change is recited to be, that "it would be for the advantage of the manufactures of gold in this kingdom that gold of an inferior

standard to what is now allowed by law should be permitted to be used of the same." The standard for the coinage was at this time, and has since continued at, 22 carats.

The desirableness of a lower standard for gold wares than 18 carats has long been felt by the English merchants and the manufacturers of watches, and has from time to time been urged upon the Board of Trade.

There is a very great demand in the United States of America for English watches, but the English gold cases, being necessarily very expensive from the high quality of the gold, are too costly for the tastes of the country; and the consequence is that the Americans import English watch-movements without cases, put them into gold cases of from 10 to 16 carat standard of their own manufacture, and sell watches in South America and other markets at lower prices than articles of the same *appearance* can be *made for* in England.

If the English manufacturer were allowed to use gold of a standard as low as that used in other countries, there is little doubt that no watch



movements would be exported without a case; and as the assay mark would indicate the standard, as much protection would be afforded to the purchaser as is now afforded in reference to the existing standard; and since the legislature has already admitted a standard lower than the coinage, no objection can exist on that ground.

The first silver standard, it has been seen, was the same as that for silver money: this was described simply by the enactment "that none work worse silver than money." The 18 Eliz. c. 15, was the first which particularly stated the standard for silver wrought plate; namely, of the fineness of 11 oz. 2 dwt.: this statute made no alteration in the standard. Silver money, which had hitherto been the guide, had from the time of the Conquest been made of the same standard, namely, 11 oz. 2 dwt., except from 34th of Henry VIII. to the 6th of Edward VI., during which short period it underwent various changes, as will be seen by the subjoined table.

In 1696 the standard was raised to 11 oz. 10 dwt. by 8 Wm. III. c. 8, in order to prevent the conversion of coin into plate. By 6 Geo. I.

c. 11, s. 1 and 41, the former standard of 11 oz. 2 dwt. was revived concurrently with 11 oz. 10 dwt. The reason assigned in the preamble is, that manufactures of silver which were made according to the old standard of 11 oz. 2 dwt. of fine silver were more serviceable and durable than those made of the standard of 11 oz. 10 dwt. The following table, which I have taken from the Goldsmiths' Repository, will show the variations of the standard of the gold and silver currency from the year 1300. The author of that work observes, "Though the annexed tables do not immediately apply to our subject, as they respect only the alterations which have taken place in the current coin, yet, as they may be entertaining to some of our readers, and not without their use in perusing the Acts of Parliament in the Appendix, in which there are frequent references to the fineness of the coin, we cannot persuade ourselves to omit them." For the same reason this extract is here given.



*Extracted from "Tables of Gold and Silver composed from the authority of Mr. Lowndes, who inspected the original Indentures, and from Bishop Fleetwood."*

A. D.	REIGNS.	GOLD STANDARD.		SILVER STANDARD.	
		car.	gr.	oz.	dwt.
* 1300	28 Edward I. ....	—	—	11	2
1344	18 Edward III. ...	23	3½	—	—
1509	1 Henry VIII. ...	22	0	—	—
1542	34 „ ...	23	0	10	0
1544	36 „ ...	22	0	6	0
1545	37 „ ...	20	0	4	0
1547	1 Edward VI. ....	20	0	4	0
1549	3 „ ....	22	0	6	0
1550	4 „ ....	23	3½	6	0
1551	5 „ ....	—	—	3	0
1552	6 „ ....	23	3½	11	1
1553	1 Mary .....	23	3½	11	0
1560	2 Elizabeth .....	23	3½	11	2
1593	35 „ ....	22	0	11	2
1601	43 „ ....	23	3½	11	2
1604	2 James I. ....	22	0	11	2
1605	3 „ ....	23	3½	11	2
1626	2 Charles I. ....	22	0	11	2

The table from which the foregoing is extracted contains much interesting information

\* This column is no part of the original table.

respecting the variations in the species and value of the coins; but my object has been to show simply what variations the standards have undergone.



## CHAPTER IV.

## THE MARKS.

THE marks which, according to our present laws, must be stamped on all gold and silver wares, except such as are specially exempted\*, are five in number, and are as follow :—

<i>Character of Mark.</i>	<i>Signification.</i>
1. The Maker's Initials.	The Maker.
2. One of the Marks hereafter stated as Standard Marks.	The quality of the Standard.
3. The Arms of the Company.	The place of Assay.
4. A Letter, changed every year, and used throughout the year: the letter is appointed by each Company.	The year of Assay.
5. The Sovereign's Head.	The payment of Duty.

\* Appendix, G.

The standard marks are—

A Crown, and figures 22.	For gold of 22 carats.
A Crown, and figures 18.	For gold of 18 carats.
Lion's Head erased*, and Britannia, (except at Bir- mingham and Sheffield, and there Britannia alone.)	For silver of 11 oz. 10 dwt.
Lion Passant.	For silver of 11 oz. 2 dwt.

*Arms of the Companies.*

Leopard's Head.	London.
Anchor.	Birmingham.
A Sword between three Garbs.	Chester.
A Castle with three Towers.	Exeter.
Three Castles.	Newcastle-upon-Tyne†.
Crown.	Sheffield.
Cross and five Lions.	York†.

We have seen that the statute which first made it incumbent on manufacturers to use gold or silver of a certain standard, required them to have their gold as well as their silver assayed by the wardens. That statute, it will be recollected, was passed in the year 1300; and a question has been raised, whether any provision was made,

\* A technical term of Heraldry, meaning, separate, without the body.

† Each of these towns adds the mark of the Leopard's Head.



before the year 1739, for any assay *mark* to be placed on gold wares\*.

The author of 'The Touchstone,' in his treatise of sixty pages, devotes but three pages to the subject of gold; and he remarks (p. 56), "I have made but little mention of gold wares, and of the provision made to prevent deceit therein, because gold wares are much less common than silver wares." At the same time it is clear, both from the terms of 28 Ed. I. c. 20 itself, and from the provisions which we find in other statutes respecting gold, that gold articles were not very rare. Thus even the 28 Ed. I. mentions, "nul manner de vessel, ne joialx, ne auter chose *dore* ne dargent, que ne sont de bone et veray alloy." And in the 18th Eliz. deceitful sales of gold are mentioned in the preamble; while the standard for gold is described as particularly as the standard for silver.

\* The 37th Ed. III., for the Regulation of Goldsmiths, required "every master goldsmith to have his mark for himself, and to set it upon his work." It might be doubtful, from the first clause of the Act, whether this was intended for more than silver work; but the statutes 2 Rich. II. and 17 Ed. IV. c. 1, leave no doubt that gold work also was meant, and was practically within the Act.

Mr. Tilsley, in his short but interesting notice of this subject\*, observes that it is "*very probable*" that, from the first statute, the *Leopard's Head*, the mark for silver, would be struck upon gold: he does not assign any reason for the suggestion; but, in the goldsmiths' first charter, granted by Edward III., we meet with a clause which would favour such a presumption. After providing that the trading towns shall send one or two goldsmiths to London, it adds, "To be assayed of their touch of gold, and there to have a stamp of a punction with a *Leopard's Head* marked upon their work, as of ancient time it has been ordained."

But this point is placed beyond doubt and mere presumption, by the statute of 2 Rich. II., which, with 17 Ed. IV., appear to have escaped the attention of both the authors just quoted.

It is observable that the 28th Ed. I. c. 20 itself requires the gold to be "of a certain *touch*;" which "*touch*" is to be that of Paris. But the word "*touch*" is equivalent to "*mark*." In different old copies of some statutes, the two words

\* Treatise on the Stamp Laws, p. 522.



“touch” and “sign” [mark] are found as various readings. And in 2 Hen. VI. c. 14, the phrase used as to the *silver* mark is “the touch of the Leopard’s Head.” Coming to the reign of Edward IV., we find a statute which settles the matter. The 17th Ed. IV. c. 1 expressly recites that “the king’s liege people,—daily buying things wrought by the goldsmiths or workers as fine *gold* or fine silver, supposing it so to be, where indeed it is not so,—be grievously deceived, because that the *said touch of the Leopard’s Head* is oftentimes put on such things by the keeper of the said touch of London and other places, just as if the thing were fine, whereas the same thing is not fine, but defective.” Further on, in the same statute, all foreigners are required to “suffer the stuff of *gold* and silver, by them wrought, to be searched *and marked*, after the rule of the said city;”—that is, just as English workers had to do. And again:—“It is ordained that, if the aforesaid keeper of the said *touch of the Leopard’s Head*, or worker of harness or other thing of *gold* or silver not made of the said fineness, do touch or mark the same harness or other thing as

fine and able," he shall be liable in heavy penalties. This statute clearly leaves no doubt that the law and custom then were, and unquestionably had long before practically been, that *gold* bore its "touch" or mark, as evidence of its being of the standard fineness, just as silver did.

Silver wares were required from the first introduction of the system to be marked with the *Leopard's Head*\*: to this was soon added the *Goldsmiths' Mark*. In 1424, by 2 Hen. VI. c. 14, in the five cities therein named every one is to have divers touches according to the ordinance of the mayors and governors of the same towns. In Norwich this power was exercised†, and an examination of the records of other corporations would probably show the further exercise of the powers of this statute, and also of that of Rich. II.

Before any other mark was introduced by statute, the Goldsmiths' Company, in addition to the Leopard's Head and Goldsmiths' Mark, introduced two new marks.

The following extract from the 'Touchstone' ‡

\* Altered to *Leopard's Head Crowned* for London and two miles round, 17 Ed. IV. c. 1.

† Page 60.

‡ Page 19.



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) punchions of steel and marks at the end of them, both great and small of these several sorts following, that is, *the Leopard's Head crowned, the Lyon and a letter* (a true emblem of which marks are expressed in the copper cut following), which letter is changed alphabetically every year; the reason of changing thereof is (as I conceive), for that by the afore-recited statutes it is provided, That if any silver work that is worse than sterling be marked with the Company's marks, the Wardens and Corporation for the time being shall make recompense 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 over a recompense. 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 the marks."

That one of the marks here mentioned was struck upon gold is clear, from an order of the Company of the 23rd of February, 1675, which will be found in the Appendix F, and I think there is little doubt that the *Lion* was the mark so used.

In the preamble to the order, the *Leopard's Head Crowned* is stated to be the mark required by law for silver. In the clause requiring all wares of gold or silver to be brought to the Hall to be assayed, the marks are thus referred to: "And there approved for standard by striking thereon the *Lyon* and *Leopard's Head Crowned*, or one of them."

I may give some further extracts from the 'Touchstone' on the subject of marks. After describing the Assay Office, the author says, "In this office is likewise kept for publique view a table or tables artificially made of columns of parchment or velom and several of the same sorts; in the lead columns 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 or velom columns are writ and entered the owners' names; This is that which is meant in the before-recited statutes, by the expression of *making the workers' mark known to the surveyors or 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 soddered, or made fast thereto in finishing the same\*.

"Our law-makers (as I conceive) did think the thus setting the marks on the work, to be the securest way to prevent fraud in this kind; for if it would not deter from the working and selling coarse silver and gold wares, yet would it be a sure way to find out the offenders, and to have the injured righted. But if the marks might be omitted, and the work should pass but into a

\* It is a matter of surprise, that in the Acts constituting the modern Assay Offices, in which many duties are particularly described, this rule, as to marking each part, should not have been adopted. If the practice described above were neglected, great temptation to fraud would be occasioned.

third owner's hand, for the most part it would be impossible to discern one man's work from another, by reason that divers workers make all sorts of work in shape so near alike."

The 8th Wm. III. (1696) introduced two new marks to designate the new silver standard of 11 oz. 10 dwt., established by that statute; and four years later the 12th & 13th Wm. III. c. 4 prescribed certain marks to be used on silver goods assayed in the five provincial towns mentioned in the Act. These marks will be found in the subjoined table.

The statute 6 Geo. I. c. 11, which revived the old standard of 11 oz. 2 dwt., enjoined a set of marks for this standard, and also for the standard of 11 oz. 10 dwt., and these are the same as those now in use; except that the Leopard's Head is included in this statute for the lower standard.

The next change in the marks was made by 12 Geo. II. c. 26. This Act required the makers to destroy their existing marks, which were the first two letters of their surname, and substitute their initials. It enacts that no gold or silver plate shall be sold unless marked as described by that Act, and then proceeds to describe certain



marks, which, with a variation to be presently noticed, are the same as are now in use.

The marks for gold of 22 carats and for silver of 11 oz. 10 dwt. were, up to the year 1844, the same, and hence a great facility to fraud was afforded, and, indeed, many instances of fraud occurred. An article of silver of the standard mentioned 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 all wares of 22 carat gold to be marked by a "Crown and the figures 22 instead of the mark of the Lion Passant."

The following Table will enable the reader to see more clearly the introduction of the various marks.

<i>Gold.</i>	<i>Silver.</i>
From 1300 to 1363.	
Probably Leopard's Head*.	Leopard's Head†.
From 1363 to 1675.	
Leopard's Head‡.	Leopard's Head§.
Leopard's Head crowned, for London, from 1477   .	Goldsmiths' Mark.

\* See p. 37. † 28 Ed. I. c. 20. ‡ Pp. 37, 38, *ante*.

§ 37 Ed. III. c. 7, and 2 Hen. VI. c. 14.

|| 17 Ed. IV. c. 1.

*Gold.**Silver.*

From 1675 to 1696.

Lion.

Leopard's Head crowned\*.

Leopard's Head crowned.

Goldsmiths' Mark.

Goldsmiths' Mark.

From 1696 to 1719.

Lion.

Worker's Mark, *i.e.* †—

Leopard's Head crowned.

The two first letters of his  
surname.

Goldsmiths' Mark.

Mark of the Mystery or Craft  
of Goldsmiths, which, in-  
stead of the Leopard's Head  
and Lion, shall be Lion's  
Head erased and Britannia.

A distinct variable mark to  
denote the year in which  
the plate is made.

*Note.*—12 Wm. III. c. 4 re-  
quired that the Goldsmiths'  
Companies at *York, Exeter,*  
*Bristol, Chester,* and *Nor-*  
*wich* should stamp the sil-  
ver plate assayed by them  
with the marks above de-  
scribed, and in addition  
with the arms of their  
cities. And to the descrip-  
tion of the variable mark  
is added, "or letter in Ro-  
man character." By 1 Anne  
c. 9, s. 3, *Newcastle-upon-*  
*Tyne* is placed in the same  
position as the above cities.

\* Order of Goldsmiths' Company, 23rd February, 1675.  
Appendix F, and 17 Ed. IV. c. 1.    † 8 Wm. III. c. 8, s. 9.



*Gold.**Silver.*

From 1719 to 1739.

Lion.	11 oz. 10 dwt.—
Leopard's Head crowned.	The Workman's Mark*.
Goldsmiths' Mark.	Mark of the Wardens of the Mystery or Craft of Gold- smiths.
	Lion's Head erased†.
	Britannia.
	11 oz. 2 dwt.—
	Workman's Mark.
	Wardens of the Mystery, &c.
	Lion Passant.
	Leopard's Head.

From 1739 to 1798‡.

	11 oz. 10 dwt.—
Maker's Initials, and these marks of the Company of Goldsmiths in London :—	Maker's Initials, and with these marks of the Com- pany of Goldsmiths in Lon- don :—
Leopard's Head ;	Lion's Head erased§ ;
Lion Passant ;	Britannia ;
Variable Letter ;	Variable Letter ;
or	or

\* 6 Geo. I. c. 11. s. 41.

† The Lion's Head erased and Britannia are described in 8 Wm. III. as the mark of the Goldsmiths : here they are distinct.

‡ 12 Geo. II. c. 26.

§ From the year 1773 this was omitted on silver assayed at Sheffield and Birmingham.

*Gold.*

Maker's initials and marks\*  
appointed to be used by the  
assayers at York, Exeter,  
Bristol, Chester, Norwich,  
or Newcastle-upon-Tyne†.

*Silver.*

Maker's initials, and the  
marks of one of the said  
towns.

11 oz. 2 dwt.—

Same marks as for Gold.

From 1798 to 1852.

For 22 carats—

Same as in preceding period.

Same as in preceding period  
up to 1844, and thenceforth  
the Crown and 22, substituted  
for Lion Passant‡.

For 18 carats—same as on 22  
carats, except Lion Passant,  
for which Lion and 18 were  
substituted§.

*Note.*—In 1824 power was  
given to the Company at  
Birmingham to assay gold,  
and their marks are the  
same as those assigned to  
London, except that the  
Anchor is substituted for  
the Leopard's Head.

Doubts have been entertained upon the construction of the statutes referred to in this Table,

\* No marks had been assigned to them.

† 12 Geo. II. c. 26, s. 5.

‡ 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22, s. 15.

§ 38 Geo. III. c. 69. This Act expressly applied to all the provincial offices.



as to whether marks in use before the 12 Geo. II. and not adopted by that statute, can be retained, or whether all previously ordained marks not continued by that statute, were not thereby impliedly abolished. The Assay Offices at York and Newcastle have retained the mark of the Leopard's Head. Mr. Tilsley\* suggests that the strict right of the provincial companies to impress the Leopard's Head on silver of the lower standard may perhaps be sustainable. It is with hesitation that I express a different opinion; but it appears to me that there is no ground for such a proposition. Although the 12 Geo. II. does not expressly repeal the statutory enactments then in force respecting marks, the object of that Act was certainly to describe all the marks that should for the future be used, and the previous provisions on this subject would thereby be repealed†. A glance at the foregoing table will show that if this were not the case, the array of

\* Treatise on Stamp Laws, 523.

† It is a rule of law that statutes introductory of a new law, though framed in the affirmative, always repeal former statutes concerning the same matter. *Harecourt v. Fox*, 1 Shower, 520.

marks, and several of them duplicates, that would have to be stamped, would be impracticable and absurd. On this point I cannot imagine a serious argument. The difficulty must arise upon the construction of 12 Geo. II. itself. The 5th section, defining marks, is as follows:—"No goldsmith, etc. . . . shall sell . . . any manufacture of gold or silver . . . until such time as . . . such manufacture of gold, being of the standard of 22 carats, and such manufacture of silver, being of the standard of 11 oz. 2 dwt. . . 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 with those marks of the 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 the plate was 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." The marks for the other standard are described by a reference to the foregoing. This clause is certainly not so



clearly expressed as it might be ; but it appears to me that it would be difficult to maintain the right of any provincial company to use the Leopard's Head mark. In this section three classes of marks are mentioned : first, the maker's mark, which is common to London and the provincial assay offices ; second, "the marks of the said Company of Goldsmiths in London," consisting for two standards of "the Leopard's Head, the Lion Passant, and a distinct variable mark or letter," and for the other standard, "the Lion's Head erased and Britannia," evidently intended to be used only by the London Company ; and third, "the marks appointed to be used by the assayers at York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, Norwich, or Newcastle," intended, as it appears to me, to be used in those places, as the London marks are to be used in London. If the Leopard's Head be used under this Act, it must be the Leopard's Head of the Goldsmiths' Company of London ; and no other than that Company itself can use any of its marks.

The importance of this subject of marks cannot well be over-estimated, as they afford the only

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evidence which the public possess of the genuineness of gold and silver wares ; and they are calculated to afford great facilities in the detection of frauds. The Legislature has been careful to inflict severe punishments for the forgery of the marks, and from time to time to amend the laws relating to the subject, in order to ensure their more thorough efficiency, and, if we may judge from the small number of cases which have come before our criminal courts, with considerable success.



## CHAPTER V.

## DUTY.

ALL manufactured gold and silver which is subject to the control of the Assay Offices, except watch-cases, is chargeable with a duty\* of 17*s.* per ounce on gold, and 1*s.* 6*d.* on silver; calculated not on the gross weight of the articles, but on five-sixths of the weight, one-sixth being allowed for waste in finishing: it is paid to the officers of the goldsmiths' companies when the wares are sent for assay. And every dealer in gold and silver plate is liable to another duty in the shape of a license†, which he is required to take out annually, at the cost of £2. 6*s.* or £5. 15*s.*, according to the description of the goods in which he deals.

\* 55 Geo. III. c. 185.

† 25 Geo. III. c. 64.

A duty was first imposed on plate in 1720, by 6 Geo. I. c. 11, which levied the tax of 6*d.* per ounce on all silver plate wrought in Great Britain, which "should or ought to be touched, assayed, or marked:" this was collected by the officers of Excise. This statute was repealed by 31 Geo. II. c. 32, in consequence of its provisions for ascertaining and collecting the duty being found ineffectual; and as a substitute, a duty for licenses was imposed on dealers in plate. In 1784 a duty on plate was again introduced, and was extended to gold.

The statute 24 Geo. III. c. 53 subjected gold to 8*s.* per ounce and silver to 6*d.* per ounce. The amount of the duty has been increased from time to time, but the provisions of this Act, so far as they relate to collection, are still in force. These provisions require the assayers at the various offices to receive the duty, and to stamp each ware with the mark of "The King's Head," in addition to other marks in use. The assayer is to pay over the duty to the accountant or clerk of the Assay Office each day. Every worker is required, under a penalty, to send to the Assay



Office a ticket with every parcel of work, containing his name, place of abode, and an account of the wares and duty.

These notes are filed and entered by the accountant, and he has to deliver to an officer of the Inland Revenue, within two months after the end of every quarter, a copy of his account, and at the same time to pay over the duty received, after deducting a certain commission for his services; this commission was two-and-a-half per cent., but by 12 and 13 Vict. c. 80, it has been reduced to one per cent. The Goldsmiths' Company, or guardians of wrought plate, are responsible for the duty collected by their officers, and therefore they take security from those entrusted with the collection. The present allowance is but a poor remuneration for the responsible duties performed. By the Parliamentary Return in the Appendix H, it will be seen that at the provincial office paying the largest amount of duty, which is Birmingham, the present rate of allowance, taking the average of the five years included in that return as a fair indication of the business of the office, will not yield £45 per annum, and for

this the accountant has to attend at the Assay Office each day when it is open, and to discharge the duties before described. The Act effecting this reduction was introduced without any communication with the Assay Offices, or it is probable so great a reduction would not have been made. It would have been a sounder reform to have required the collector to pay over the duties immediately upon the close of each quarter; the present arrangement suggests the idea that the officer derives some advantage from the use of the money — a dangerous and vicious mode of remuneration.

On the exportation of plate, except gold rings and gold wares under two ounces, a drawback of the whole duty is allowed, upon the officers of the Customs being satisfied that the duty has been paid, and that the plate is new and has not been used, and upon the owner giving security that it shall not be reimported.

The provisions on the subject of drawback will be found in 44 Geo. III. c. 98; 52 Geo. III. c. 59; 1 Geo. IV. c. 14; 3 and 4 Wm. IV. c. 97; and 5 and 6 Vict. c. 82 (Ireland).



If plate be cut at the Assay Office, in consequence of the metal being worse than standard, the duty is returned (24 Geo. III. c. 53, s. 10); the amount of duty being paid before any ware is assayed.

All wares which are not required to be assayed and marked, are exempted from the duty, as that is imposed only on "gold and silver" . . . . . "which shall or ought to be touched, assayed, and marked." We are therefore surprised to find in the list of exemptions in the statute regulating the duty (55 Geo. III. c. 185) a particular description of all the silver articles which were already exempted by 30 Geo. III. c. 31, as not being liable to be assayed. This is making assurance doubly sure. A list of exempted articles will be found in Appendix G.

By the 12th Geo. II. c. 26, s. 6, many wares, whether made of gold or silver, were exempted from the operation of the Assay Acts; and by 24 Geo. III. c. 53, s. 9, certain gold and silver wares in addition to these are exempted from duty. Then came the 30 Geo. III. c. 31, which repealed the exempting section of 12 Geo. II.

“so far as it concerns wares of *silver*,” leaving the clause in force as to the same articles when made in gold. The exemptions of 24 Geo. III. still continue: these relate not to the assay, but only to the duty. I have endeavoured in the Appendix G to make clear the effect of these various Acts.

It is to be hoped that in the next statute relating to gold and silver wares all exemptions may be repealed, and some simple principle be adopted, taking the weight or the character of the article as the test. A person desiring to ascertain whether an article must be assayed or is liable to duty, has now to refer to four Acts of Parliament. In the oldest he finds exempted a long enumeration of trinkets and such like things, followed by a general description of other wares of a very comprehensive character; the second Act adopts the former exemptions and adds others; the third repeals some of the preceding exemptions and substitutes others, and the mode of substitution is very involved, by first exempting a class of wares, and then excepting out of the exemptions about twenty enume-



rated articles; the fourth Act adopts the exemptions of the third. Of these four Acts, two relate to exemptions directly from the assay and marking, and indirectly from the duty; and the other two relate exclusively to exemption from duty.

Watch-cases were exempted from duty by 38 Geo. III. c. 24; and in the subsequent statutes imposing additional duties, the exemption in favour of gold and silver watch-cases has been continued.

In the last statute, that under which the present duty is levied, watch-cases are the only exemption under the head of gold plate. In connection with this subject, it should be observed that the 25th Geo. III. c. 64, which had for its object the relief of manufacturers in reference to the duty and the drawback, required the exporters of gold and silver watches to mark or engrave in the inside of every watch-case, the same number as should be engraved upon the works of the watch. This has not been repealed; for the 38th Geo. III. c. 24 repeals only the provisions of 24 Geo. III. c. 53, and 37 Geo. III.

c. 90, relating to the duty on watch-cases. This probably was an oversight, as the requirement was made in connection with the drawback on watches.



## CHAPTER VI.

## ASSAY OFFICES.

THE administration of the laws for maintaining the standard of gold and silver used by manufacturers in England, is entrusted to certain companies or corporations, which have been incidentally alluded to in previous chapters.

They are established in London, Birmingham, Chester, Exeter, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sheffield, and York : but at Sheffield silver only is assayed. It will be recollected that the function of assaying was imposed upon other towns, not included in this list ; they, however, did not exercise it, or have long since discontinued to do so. I refer to Bristol, Coventry, Lincoln, Norwich, and Salisbury. At Norwich, the mark of a Castle and Lion was appointed in 1624 by the Mayor and

Corporation\*, and was delivered to the Wardens and Searcher of the trade of the goldsmiths: this was not the first mark used there, for an antiquarian friend informs me that he has seen plate of the date of 1550, bearing the Norwich mark. This city affords evidence of having been the seat of a considerable goldsmiths' trade. There is now an old house there with the arms of the goldsmiths carved upon it; this was formerly the residence, it is said, of several wealthy goldsmiths. In Blomefield's Map of Norwich (1746) the site of "the Goldsmiths' Hall" is marked; but no part of it is now remaining. It was near to what was once called *Aurifabria*, or Goldsmiths' Row, and was connected with a street then called "Smithy Row," and chiefly occupied by working goldsmiths. All the gold and silver wares now manufactured in Norwich are sent to London to be assayed and marked.

*London.*—The Goldsmiths' Company of London, one of the most ancient and important of the Guilds of London, had under the Mayor the sole

\* Ewing's 'Notices and Illustrations of Costume, etc., displayed by Corporation of Norwich,' folio, 1850. Muskett, Norwich.



management of the assay of gold and silver, until the growing provincial trade rendered it necessary to have assayers appointed in the towns where gold and silver workers carried on their trade. In Herbert's 'History of the Twelve Great Companies of London,' there are some very interesting particulars respecting the Goldsmiths' Company, showing its high antiquity, its modes of procedure, the management of the affairs of the guild in reference to the trade, the punishment of refractory apprentices, and the masques and pageants got up by the Company in honour of Royalty. It will be interesting, and illustrative of the condition of the gold and silver manufacture, to notice some of the proceedings of this Company.

The petition of the goldsmiths to Edward III., on the occasion of their obtaining their first Charter, affords some curious particulars on the subject, and will be found in the Appendix B.

In the year 1404, the wardens of the Goldsmiths claimed, on the occasion of a dispute with the cutlers, that "from time whereof there was no memory, they and all others who had

been wardens of the said mystery had, and had used to have, the search, survey, assay, and governance of all manner of gold and silver work, as well within the city of London as elsewhere within the kingdom of England\*." In 1366 it was ordained by the Goldsmiths that none of the fraternity should go to fairs to trade without having all goldsmiths' work assayed before the wardens. In 1369 the books of the Company contain an entry, directing the wardens to go from the Hall to Chepe, and to all the shops against the Cross of London, to assay all works of gold and silver. And by ancient ordinances it is required, that the workers shall bring their work to the Hall to be assayed. The Goldsmiths' Company obtained in the reign of Edward IV. a charter, by which they were created a corporation, under the name of the "*Wardens and Company of the Mystery of Goldsmiths of the City of London*," with perpetual succession and a common seal. The following extract from that Charter is important to our present purpose:—

\* Rolls of Parliament, 5 Hen. IV., No. 51. See this curious roll in Appendix C.



“And also for the preventing and taking away subtleties and deceits practised in the said trade, we have further granted, and by these presents do grant to the said now Wardens and Company, 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 or 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 or 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 to that end, if need be, to call to their assistance the mayor and sheriffs of the said city, and the mayors and bailiffs, or other officers whatever, in any fairs, markets, cities, boroughs, and towns, and other places out of the said city, where any such search or trial shall happen to be made. And that the wardens of the said mystery for the time being shall and may have full power and authority for

ever, by themselves or any of them, duly to search and try all and singular the premises, and also all manner of works touching and concerning the craft found or being in the hands of the goldsmiths or any other whomsoever, selling, making, or working any wares or works pertaining to or concerning the said mystery, as well within our said city of London and the suburbs thereof, as elsewhere out of the said city, in all fairs, markets, cities, boroughs, and towns, and other places whatsoever throughout our realm of England; 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 such sort they shall find to be made, wrought, and exposed to sale in deceit of our people; and also, according to their discretion and as often as they shall see it necessary, to punish and correct the makers, sellers, and workers of the same works, according to their demerits, by the assistance, if need be, of our mayors, sheriffs, bailiffs, reeves, and such like officers."

In 1545 the Goldsmiths' Company were summoned before the King's Council for some faults



connected with the assay. What the faults were does not appear. However, the Company found it to their interest to confess the charges touching the assay, and to pay a large sum to obtain a renewal of their Charter; but their confession was accompanied by the comment, "notwithstanding the lyke had been used time passing their remembrance." It appears that Henry VII., in addition to the vexatious proceedings before referred to, appointed two assayers at the cost to the Company of £503. 6s. 8d. yearly, which the Company stated in their petition to the Chancellor might be as well furnished and served for £20 a-year. And in this petition they seek the Chancellor's mediation, to obtain the King's grant for continuing to them "the touch and working of assays" and the removal of the new officers; they offer to pay for these boons 3000 marks.

Henry VII. granted a Charter to the Company confirming previous Charters, and giving the Wardens of the Company power to commit to prison all offenders against the ordinances of the mystery; and such offenders "are to be delivered out of prison at the discretion of the Wardens;"

or to punish them by fines. One clause demands especial notice; it requires the Wardens in all their searches *within three miles of the city of London* to cause to be brought all the wares of gold and silver there wrought, to the Hall of the Company to be assayed: no such provision as this is to be found in preceding charters, and it is scarcely consistent with them, nor with the statutes then in force, by which the Goldsmiths' Company had jurisdiction throughout England, subject to the powers of the mayors under 2 Rich. II., and excepting the seven towns mentioned in the 2nd Henry VI. c. 14\*. The author of the 'Touchstone,' in referring to the Goldsmiths' Company, frequently mentions this district of three miles round London.

The several charters granted since Henry VII.'s reign do not call for especial notice. I will now mention a few instances of the exercise of the powers vested in this great Company, for which I am indebted to Mr. Herbert's interesting work.

\* The only explanation would seem to be that, within three miles, all workers must bring their work to Goldsmiths' Hall. The Goldsmiths' Company must itself provide, on the other hand, the means for assaying work done at greater distances.



Under the date of 1442, we meet with an amusing account of how the Wardens went to a Prior of St. Bartholomew to complain of "some untrue workers" there; and how the Prior accompanied the Wardens to one Tomkins, and obtained admission for them into his shop; and how they found there "a piece which was copper, and silver above, the which was likely for to have be sold for good silver;" and how whilst the search was proceeding the delinquent stole away, "or else he had be set in the stokkis." In 1444, a member was fined 6*s.* 8*d.* for "withstanding the Wardens in making the assay." In 1452, one German Lyas was fined "for selling a tablet of gold dishonestly wrought, being two parts silver:" the punishment was to give to the fraternity a gilt cup of 24 oz.

In 1529-30, a severe punishment was inflicted upon one John Carswell for working silver worse than sterling. He was first set openly in the stocks, and then sent by the Wardens to Newgate, "there to remain till his acts were better examined," and there he died.

In 1539 we have a record of another instance

of the exercise of their power, which is thus quaintly told:—"This day were brought to Mr. Wardens and divers of the assistants, two flat pieces of silver of Robert Aleyn's making; which, after they were assayed, the said Robert deceitfully did set swags for feet to the same pieces; which matter was shewed at the last court before this to Mr. Wardens; whereupon they went to his shop and took them, and caused assay to be made of the said swags, which was found worse than sterling 20 dwt. Whereupon at this court Mr. Wardens sent the said Robert Aleyn to the Compter, there to remain at their pleasure."

The mode of proceeding at the Assay Office in 1677 will be seen by the following extract from the 'Touchstone' (page 20):—"They have also made in a part of their Hall a place called by them their *Assay Office*, as is before mentioned, wherein is a sworn weigher; his duty is to weigh all silver work into the office, and enter the same into a book for that purpose. And also to weigh it out again to the owner, only four grains out of every twelve ounces that is marked, is, according to their ancient custom, to be detained and



kept for a reassaying once in every year all the silver works they have passed for good the year foregoing."

The powers or duties of the Goldsmiths' Company have not been materially affected by any statute, except so far as those establishing Provincial Assay Offices have taken certain places from the jurisdiction of the Company, which will be noticed under the titles of the towns possessing such offices; and except by the 12th Geo. II. c. 26, which contains provisions relating to the charges to be made for assays, the conduct of the Assay Office, and the entry of marks.

The provision respecting the charges is preceded by the recital that the Company had for many years been at great trouble and expenses in assaying and marking wrought plate, and the same had of late years very much increased by their assaying and marking several sorts of small wares of gold and silver, which were not theretofore usually assayed, and of which there were much greater quantities made than were theretofore made. And for better enabling the Company to defray such expenses for the future, they

are authorized to make certain charges to the workers for all the assays made by them.

This is the first statutory provision authorizing the London Company to make any charge for assays; but it cannot be supposed that previously to this time no charge was made by the Company to the gold and silver workers. The only remuneration which we have met with is the four grains detained out of every twelve ounces.

It would appear, however, from the Charter of Henry VII. that the Company had theretofore conducted their operations at its own cost, and although this is recited as one of the inducements to the Charter, no power is there given to make any charge for their trouble\*.

*Birmingham.*—The Assay Office at Birmingham was first established in 1773, by 13 Geo. III. c. 52† (local), which recites that the silversmiths and plateworkers in that town were under great difficulties and hardships in the exercise of their trades, for want of assayers in convenient places to assay and touch their plate. This Act ap-

\* See further, Appendix G.

† By this Act an Assay Office was also established at Sheffield. See p. 88. See Appendix K.



pointed Birmingham for assaying and marking wrought plate, and incorporated a company for the purpose. It was repealed, so far as it related to Birmingham, in 1824, by 5 Geo. IV. c. 52 (local), and by this Act the office at Birmingham is now regulated. The title of the company is "*The Guardians of the Standard of Wrought Plate in Birmingham.*" It has exclusive jurisdiction over all gold and silver plate made in the town of Birmingham or within thirty miles of it. Any person, in that district, offering for sale any gold or silver ware made therein, without the requisitions of this Act having been complied with in reference thereto, is liable to the forfeiture of the ware or its value. All gold and silver workers residing in the district are to enter their names, places of abode, and marks at the Assay Office, and if they omit to do so, or if they stamp on any ware any other mark than that so entered, they are liable to the penalty of £100 for every offence. The district was assigned to Birmingham, in order to ensure a sufficient income to cover the expenses of the office, which was established there for the benefit of the manu-

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facturers of the district, and it must be regarded as a condition of the grant obtained by them.

The number of the guardians appointed by the Act is thirty-six, and of this number there are not to be more than nine, nor less than six, goldsmiths or silversmiths. The guardians are incorporated, and have a common seal. They are required to elect from the guardians, annually, not more than six nor less than four wardens; to appoint an assayer or assayers, a treasurer, and other officers; and are empowered to make byelaws for the management of the Assay Office. Certain oaths are required to be taken by the wardens, the assayers, and the servants employed in the office, faithfully to discharge their duties, and not to disclose the design of any plate sent to be assayed, and the assayer's oath also recapitulates his chief duties.

The marks to be used at the office are particularly described; and the prices to be charged for assaying are limited. The money received for marking and from sale of the DIET\*, are directed to be applied in the payment of the

\* That is, the scrapings of metal taken off for assay.



expenses of the office, and the prosecution of offenders; and the surplus is to be invested in the public funds or Government securities; and when such surplus shall amount to £3000 the prices charged for marking are to be lowered, and when the surplus shall be reduced to £1000 the prices are to be raised.

The duties of the wardens and assayers are as follow:—

To provide a trial plate for each standard, and have it assayed at the Mint.

To provide punches with the statutory marks; and box, for their safe custody, with three different locks and keys—a key to be kept by each of two wardens and by the assayer. The marks are never to be taken out except in the presence of the assayer and two wardens, and for the purpose of marking goods assayed.

To provide diet box with three locks, each lock being different, the key to be kept as before-mentioned of mark-box. The box is never to be opened except in the presence of the three; and no diet is to be taken out except once a year for the purpose of trial.

To examine all work sent to be assayed, in order to ascertain whether each parcel be of one sort of gold or silver, and forward enough in the workmanship; whether all the pieces be together that are intended to be affixed together; whether it be marked with the owner's mark, or be not charged with unnecessary solder; and to return such as may be liable to any objection. If the work be free from objections on all the foregoing points, to be present whilst scrapings are taken from each piece of work, and see that no more is taken than the proportions of six grains to a lb. from gold, and eight grains to a lb. from silver.

The scrapings, or diet, after assay, are to be divided by assayer; and, in the presence of wardens and assayer, part is to be put into diet box, and part into the assayer's box.

The wardens are, further:—To be present whilst goods, reported by assayer as equal to or better than standard, are marked.

To be present when wares, reported by assayer as worse than standard, are broken to pieces.

To cut all work suspected by them to have base metal introduced, or concealed. If suspicion



prove well founded, to have ware broken ; and the ware is forfeited to wardens and assayer for benefit of office. If otherwise, wardens and assayer are to recompense the owner out of the funds of the guardians.

To open the diet box once a year in the presence of themselves and two other wardens (*i.e.*, four wardens and one assayer) and take out the diet and make it up ; keeping each standard in a separate parcel, but not opening the papers ; sealing up the parcels with their four respective seals ; and delivering them to a messenger in each other's presence, to be conveyed by him to the Mint.

To sell the diet returned from the Mint, and account for produce.

The selection of the variable letter, which is directed to be changed with the annual election of the wardens, 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.

The duties of the assayer, in addition to the foregoing, are :—

To assay the diet, or scrapings, in comparison with the trial plate, and report each parcel of wares to the wardens.

To keep books, containing the names of every owner of gold and silver plate brought to be assayed, and the particulars of the weight of the same, and an account of money received for assaying, and for scrapings and cuttings; and also an account of the expenses of the office, including salaries and wages; and to allow every member of the Company to have access to such books.

To see that nothing is put in diet-box except the diet.

To receive money paid for marking.

The assayer is liable to a penalty of £200, and to be discharged, if he divulge any pattern, design, or invention, of any plate brought to be assayed, or permit it to be viewed by any person except the persons necessarily employed at the Assay Office; or if he mark any plate otherwise than in the presence of two wardens; or if he mark any plate not assayed and found standard; or if the diet should not be agreeable in fineness with trial plate.



The assayer is required to give security to the Master of the Mint, with two sureties of £500, for the execution of the office and the payment of fines.

The amount of gold and silver assayed and marked during the years to which the Parliamentary Return in the Appendix relates, much exceeded the amount there stated, as that return includes only the wares yielding duty; and watch-cases, which are exempt from duty, form a very important part of the work of the office. If these were added, the number of ounces would probably be half as much again.

The Office is open every Monday and Thursday.

The officers in attendance on each of these days are two wardens, one of the assayers, a fireman, and several persons employed as scrapers and markers. The other officers are—a treasurer, law clerk, and accountant, or collector of the duties. The guardians meet annually in July, and then appoint the wardens and supply vacancies which have occurred in their body. It is at this time that the variable letter is changed.

I have thus fully described the duties of the

Assay Office and its officers at Birmingham, because the Act prescribing them is the most modern English statute, and may be taken as showing what the experience of the older offices suggested as necessary in the constitution of such an establishment.

*Chester.*—The Assay Office at Chester is under the management of the Goldsmiths' Company of that city: it was established under the 12 & 13 Wm. III. c. 4, and is now regulated by the provisions of that statute and the 12 Geo. II. c. 26.

The selection of Chester as a proper place for an assay office would appear to have been suggested by the circumstance, that a mint for re-coining the silver money had previously been erected there; or perhaps both the Mint and the Assay Office may have been called into existence by the trade of goldsmiths being much followed in the city. The same observations apply to York, Exeter, Bristol, and Norwich, as they are all appointed by 12 & 13 Wm. III. "for assaying and marking wrought plate, and for executing the powers, &c., given by that Act."



Bristol did not avail itself of the powers thus conferred; and Norwich has long ceased to exercise them. The statute referred to enacts, that the goldsmiths and plate-workers, who were or should be freemen of or inhabiting the city, and having served an apprenticeship to the trade of a goldsmith, silversmith, or plate-worker, should be incorporated under the name of the "*Company of Goldsmiths*." And it empowered such Company to elect, annually, "two persons" to be wardens, who should hold the office no longer than one year, unless re-elected. No qualification is required for the office of wardens annually elected; except that the clause relating to vacancies suggests that they must belong to the Company and reside in the city. This clause provides that if any of the wardens so chosen should "die or remove out of the city," the Company should, within one month, "choose another person of their Company" to be warden in his room\*. The Company is required to

\* The 12 Geo. II. c. 26, s. 11, suggests, if it do not require, that one of the wardens, or the assayer, should have been a working goldsmith or silversmith. See p. 85, *post*.

elect "an able and skilful man experienced in assaying of gold and silver." The assayer is to take an oath, which is a recapitulation of his duties, namely, to make no undue profit; to detain no more than four grains for every pound of wrought plate, to be put into the box of diet, and four grains towards his waste in making the assays; to touch no gold or silver but what shall be of the goodness of and according to the standard; to keep an account of all gold and silver brought to be assayed; to return same, except the allowance of eight grains; to account to the wardens; not to assay anything until it shall be marked with the mark of the maker or owner; and not to put into the diet box any silver except such as he should have taken from the plate which he should assay and pass for standard.

The Diet Box is required to be kept under three different locks, of which the respective keys are to be kept by the Wardens and the Assayer, and to be sent annually, if required by the Lord Chancellor, to the Mint, and the diet is to be tried "as the pix of the coin of this kingdom is



tried\*.” If in the diet there shall be found “any falsehood or deceit,” a penalty of £50 is imposed on the Company for every offence. And this penalty may be recovered against any member of it in his private capacity. This liability of individual members of a corporation is most unusual, and must operate, one would think, very prejudicially. The Assayer is subjected to a penalty of double the value of any plate which shall be allowed and marked by him, and in which “there shall be found any deceit.” Every goldsmith and silversmith in the City is required to enter his name, mark, and place of abode with the Wardens, and not to stamp his work with any other mark than the mark so entered. By 12 Geo. II. c. 26, s. 21, it is required that the old marks shall be destroyed, and new marks adopted and entered under a penalty of £10.

There is not any such express provision in this

\* The Trial of the Pix is an important and ceremonious proceeding. It is held before the Privy Council, the Lord Chancellor presiding. The jury consists of twelve practical goldsmiths summoned by the Wardens of the Goldsmiths' Company of London. Several coins are taken at random from a certain weight, called a journey, and are assayed by the jury, who certify the result in their verdict.

Act as there is in the Birmingham Act, in reference to an exclusive jurisdiction ; but the third section would probably be held to have this effect in respect to the limits of the City. That section enacts that no goldsmith, &c., "in any of the said cities" shall sell any manufacture of silver unless it shall be marked with, amongst others, the arms of "such of the cities aforesaid wherein it shall be assayed and marked." The obvious intention of this must be, that the goldsmiths of each city shall take his wares to the Company of his own city ; at any rate it must have the peculiar mark of one of the five cities named in the Act ; and no manufacturer living in any of them can take his work to London to be assayed ; and it is in reference to London that questions as to jurisdiction arise, from the desire so generally entertained by manufacturers to obtain for their goods the reputation of London-made goods, which of course cannot be claimed if they bear a provincial office mark.

In addition to the requirements of the statute already referred to, other duties are by 12th Geo. II. c. 26, imposed upon the Wardens and



Assayers of Chester, and other provincial offices then in existence. One of the Wardens or the Assayer (being or having been a working goldsmith or silversmith) is required to determine what solder is necessary about every piece of plate sent to be assayed, how forward in the workmanship it ought to be, and whether all the pieces are put or affixed together that are intended so to be; and he is to refuse to permit any article with which he may not be satisfied on these points, to be assayed. And the Wardens are authorized to break or deface any parcel of plate which the Assayer shall report, after three assays, to be coarser than standard; but such breaking or defacing is not to be done until after the expiration of three days after the last assay, unless the owner otherwise desire.

The Assay Office at Chester is open every week-day. The officers consist of two wardens, one assayer and assistant assayer, a clerk and solicitor. The variable letter is changed on the 5th of August every year.

*Exeter.*—The Goldsmiths' Company of Exeter have the management of the Assay Office in that



city, and are subject to the same regulations as have been described in connection with Chester.

The Assay Office is open five days in every week: the officers in attendance are the warden, deputy-warden, assay master, and accountant: the assay master and deputy-warden stamp the marks and receive the duty.

The goldsmiths in Exeter appear to have appreciated the privilege conferred upon them, if we may judge by their alacrity in putting the Act into execution.

It was passed in 1700, but did not come into operation in reference to the obligations imposed upon the plate-workers, until the 29th of September, 1701. On the 7th of August, 1701, the Company of Goldsmiths met in Taylor's Hall,—eleven goldsmiths being present, and the names of two wardens and a beadle are recorded. On the 17th of September in the same year, the Company resolved with all convenient speed and safety to put the Act in execution, and that nine freemen of the body should form a court; and the first Assayer was sworn-in before the Mayor on the 19th of November, 1701.



*Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*—This town, as we have seen, was appointed by the 2nd Henry VI. c. 14, to have a *touch* according to the ordinance of its Mayor or Governor. How soon it availed itself of the privilege I have not been able to ascertain; but from the recital prefixed to the third section of the 1st Anne, stat. 1, c. 9, it would appear that the Goldsmiths' Company here is of very ancient date; and yet if it had exercised the privilege given to it by the first-named statute for any considerable period, that circumstance could not have been well omitted from this recital,—indeed it would probably have led to the town being included in the 12th & 13th Wm. III. The statute of Anne, 1701, after a reference to the provisions of the Act of William III., which required all goldsmiths living in places where an Assayer had not been appointed, to bring their wrought plate “to some of the said cities to be assayed and marked,” under the penalty of forfeiting all plate not so assayed and marked, proceeds thus:—“And whereas in the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne there is, and time out of mind there hath been, an ancient Company of

Goldsmiths, which, with their families, by the said penalty are likely to be ruined, and the said trade utterly lost in the said town; and whereas, by the statute of the 2nd of Henry VI., the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is one of the places appointed to have touches for wrought silver plate." The Act then appoints Newcastle for assaying and marking wrought plate, and for executing the powers contained in the Act of William III.; and the goldsmiths of that town are incorporated in the same manner as the cities named in the former statute were.

The Assay Office at Newcastle is consequently subject to the same regulations as have been described in connection with Chester.

*Sheffield.*—The Assay Office at Sheffield was established, like that at Birmingham, in the year 1773, and is under the management of "*the guardians of the standard of wrought plate in Sheffield*," who were incorporated by 13 Geo. III. c. 52\*. The provisions of that statute, as modified by 24 Geo. III. c. 20, which authorized an increase in the charges for assaying, still regu-

See Appendix K.



late the proceedings of the Corporation. A district consisting of the town of Sheffield and twenty miles round is assigned to this office for the assaying and marking of silver; and no manufactures of silver made within that district can be assayed and marked elsewhere than at the Sheffield office.

The regulations are very similar to those of the Birmingham Act, 5 Geo. IV. They are more precise in reference to the portion of the scrapings which is to be placed in the diet box; and more particularly so with respect to the custody of the assayer's box.

The Assay Office is open every Monday and Thursday; the officers are two wardens, the assayer, and a law clerk and accountant.

*York.*—The city of York was included in the statutes of Henry VI. and William III. The Assay Office is under the management of the Goldsmiths' Company of that city, subject to the regulations which have been described in connection with Chester. I have not been able to obtain any particulars of its history or present working condition.

Hargrove, in his 'History of York,' notices the Assay Office, and after referring to the statute of William III. states [1818] that the assay days were Tuesday and Friday in every week; that the members of the Goldsmiths' Company, with the Wardens, Assay Master, and Clerk, met quarterly to regulate and balance the accounts, and to attend to the general business of the Company, and concludes thus:—"This privilege, which York, with the other places, enjoys, is not only highly beneficial to the revenue of the country, but prevents a system of gross fraud which would otherwise be practised upon the public, and injure both society in general, and the honest tradesman in particular."

The condition of such of these Assay Offices as were in operation in 1773 may be seen by a reference to Appendix K, which contains an abstract of a very interesting report presented to the House of Commons in 1773 by a committee appointed to inquire into the manner in which these offices were conducted. It is placed in the Appendix, as otherwise it must have been divided, and so its interest would have been lessened.



## CHAPTER VII.

## OFFENCES AND THEIR PUNISHMENT.

THE offences against the laws under consideration may be divided into two classes:—those which are punishable as felonies or misdemeanors; and those to which pecuniary penalties are attached.

The former class may be again divided—into offences against the laws for maintaining the standard; and crimes connected with the dies and marks used at Assay Offices.

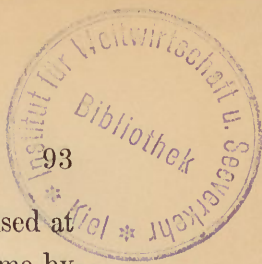
The 28th Edward I. and subsequent statutes, prohibiting the manufacture of wrought plate worse than standard, do not appear to have been repealed; and if a goldsmith should now make

any gold or silver ware worse than standard, he may be indicted for a misdemeanor.

In 1774 a case of this kind occurred. One Jackson was indicted for making silver plate worse than standard, and found guilty. He applied to the Court of Queen's Bench to arrest the judgment, on the ground that the statute 28 Ed. I. on which he had been indicted had been repealed; but the Court decided\* that the statute had not been repealed or abrogated by any of the subsequent statutes, and being a prohibitory law, the proper remedy under it was by indictment. Lord Mansfield, in delivering the judgment of the Court, referred to the principal statutes from 28th Ed. I. to the 12th Geo. II., and held that the new penalties which had been introduced from time to time were cumulative, and that the Acts imposing them did not repeal the former statutes. He mentioned two similar cases which had been tried before himself, one in 1758, the other in 1759, and in which the prisoners were convicted and sentenced to fine and imprisonment.

\* *Rex v. Jackson.* Cowper, 297.





The counterfeiting the dies or marks used at Assay Offices, was first declared to be a crime by 31 Geo. II. c. 32; this statute recites that the penalty of £100 imposed on such offences had not been efficacious, and that it was necessary that all persons guilty of such practices should be subjected to exemplary punishment. It declares that the forging of the marks or stamps then in use at the Assay Offices, and the transposing of genuine marks, should be felony and be punished with death. This was repealed by 13 Geo. III. c. 59, and the punishment of transportation for fourteen years substituted. The 24th Geo. III. c. 53, which introduced the duty mark, the King's Head, made it felony, punishable with death, to forge that stamp or any mark of it.

This was repeated in the 55 Geo. III. c. 143, and 55 Geo. III. c. 185. The 38 Geo. III., which introduced the mark to be used to denote the gold standard of 18 carats, declared the forgery of that mark to be felony, and punishable by transportation for seven years.

Under these Acts the offences and their punishments stood as follows:—

The forgery of the duty mark.—Felony : capital.

The forgery of any of the Assay Office marks, not including the duty mark, or the standard mark for 18-carat gold.—Felony : transportation for fourteen years.

The forgery of the standard mark for 18-carat gold.—Felony : transportation for seven years.

And in this state of the law, the 1st Wm. IV. c. 66, was passed. This Act abolished the punishment of death in all those cases in which by previous Acts it had been imposed, for “falsely making, forging, counterfeiting, erasing, or altering any matter whatsoever,” and substituted transportation or imprisonment, except in a few specified cases, for which capital punishment was expressly retained. The forgery of Assay Office and duty marks on gold and silver are not amongst the exceptions; it was therefore considered that these offences were no longer capital; but on this statute being subjected to the scrutiny of Westminster Hall (in 1833\*), it was decided,

\* The King v. Hope. Tilsley Stamp Laws, 285.



that it did not extend to any of the Stamp Acts, consequently the forgery of the duty mark was still capital. This failure of the Act to carry out the intentions of its authors was not remedied until 1841; then the 4th & 5th Vict. c. 56 abolished the punishment of death in the several excluded cases, and amongst them was the forgery of the duty mark on plate.

The most recent statute on the subject is the 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22; and this must now be taken as the guide and authority in all cases of forgery of the dies and marks used at the Assay Offices. It declares (sec. 2) each of the following offences to be felony, and punishable with transportation or imprisonment. I do not quote the exact words of the statute.

Forging or counterfeiting any die used by  
any of the Companies of Goldsmiths or  
Guardians for marking gold or silver  
wares.

Marking wares with a forged die.

Counterfeiting marks of any die.

Transposing marks from one ware of gold or  
silver to another, or to a ware of base metal.

Having possession, without lawful excuse, and knowingly, of a forged die, or of any ware bearing the mark of a forged die, or a transposed mark.

Cutting off marks with intent to affix them to other wares.

Affixing to any ware a mark cut from another.

Fraudulently using genuine dies.

A very remarkable and interesting case illustrating the practical operation of this statute was tried before Lord Denman at Taunton Spring Assizes, 1849. Two silversmiths were indicted for having in their possession, without lawful excuse, 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 on 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 from the Goldsmiths' Company proved that, on clearing off the gilding and using a blowpipe, 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 bowls for spoons; that they afterwards were 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 workman who actually completed the spoon by affixing the handles or stems to the bowls, and who was named in one of the counts of the indictment, was not called. 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 fifth 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

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by the prisoner's counsel to be a fraud in contravention of the Act, but not a felony under the second section. Lord Denman, in summing up, said\* :—"The question is, in my opinion, simply confined to the transposition, and to the construction of the law: whether these facts that are proved before you amount to a *transposition* of the die, or are only proof of an *addition* to an article in which the die is found. And I confess, that I am very much perplexed by this Act of Parliament; because 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. I rather think that it is; but we have no choice here,—I, in laying down the law to you, and you in applying it to the facts of the case,—but to follow the distinct words of the Act of Parliament, . . . . the question you have really to try is, whether the prisoners have incurred one penalty under one section for doing the thing under a particular

\* Report of the Trial, from Cherer's Notes, printed by Couchman, London, 1849.



name, or whether they have incurred the greater penalty under the second section by doing it under another name. . . . Now, I shall repeat the charge: it is, 'Having in their possession, without lawful excuse, and knowingly, a spoon with an old Hall-mark transposed to it;' the person who transposes it is immaterial, the silver on which it has been transposed is also immaterial; if they did transpose the mark from a former silver ware to the present silver ware, then, in my opinion, they are guilty, under the Act of Parliament, of that which makes it a felony. We have nothing to do with the propriety of making such a case felony\*; . . . if it was thought proper for some reason or another to make it a felony—they have a spoon in their possession, and they know that fact; then the only question is, Is it a transposition, or is it an addition? Now the view I take is, that no line is so reasonable to take on that subject as to see whether it is taken out and put upon an entirely new article, or whether it is only a small addition made to the article. If the thing alone were

\* Lord Denman here referred to the Act.

taken out, just merely the mark, and put upon anything else, there can be no doubt that that would be a transposition of the mark—and I am much at a loss to perceive that it can make any difference, that it is done with some more dexterity and more disguise in a considerable length, and so applied to these two articles which are so very different: I cannot conceive that it is necessary both articles should be perfect when the transfer is made. I think, taking it from one article, altering that or not, and making it part of a new article, and applying it to an entirely new thing, is transposing the mark. If you take the same view with me, it appears to me to be clear of all doubt the prisoners have done that act, and are guilty of the felony; but if you think it can reasonably be called only an addition, then you will acquit the prisoners. That is the law that I lay down to you upon the construction of the statute.”

The jury found the prisoners not guilty.



*Offences by Gold or Silver Workers or Dealers  
Punishable by Pecuniary Penalties.*

Working any silver ware worse than sterling.—

Selling a silver ware before marked.

Penalty—Double the value—2 Hen. VI.

c. 14. s. 6, 7. 17 Ed. IV. c. 1. The

value—18 Eliz.\* c. 15. ss. 4, 5, 6.

Selling, exchanging, or exposing to sell any gold  
or silver ware worse than standard.

£10, or, in default of payment, imprisonment

with hard labour, not exceeding six months,

or until payment. 12 Geo. II. c. 26. s. 1.

Selling, exchanging, or exposing to sale any gold  
or silver ware before it is duly marked.

£10, or, in default, imprisonment not exceed-

ing six months, or until payment. 12

Geo. II. c. 26. s. 5.

The ware, or value, in Birmingham district,

and as to silver only in Sheffield district.

5 Geo. IV. c. 52. s. 20. 13 Geo. III. c. 52.

s. 4.

\* This statute imposed a like penalty on every goldsmith  
who should use unnecessary solder: or charge more than 12*d.*  
per ounce for gold above the mint price and fashion price.

102 OFFENCES AND THEIR PUNISHMENT.

£50, as to gold wares. 38 Geo. III. c. 69.  
s. 6.

Selling or having possession of, without lawful excuse, any ware with the mark of a forged die, or with a transposed mark.

£10. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22, s. 3.

The distinction between this offence, and that in section 2, is, that in the former section a knowledge of the forgery or transposition is necessary, here it is not.

Not sending, with every parcel of wares to the Assay Office, a note stating the day of sending, the name and place of abode of worker or maker, all the species in each parcel, the number of each species, and the weight of each parcel.

£5, or, in default, imprisonment with hard labour, not exceeding three months, or until payment. 12 Geo. II. c. 26, s. 9.

Manufacturing gold or silver without first entering name, place of abode, and marks, at the Assay Office, or using any other mark than what shall be entered.



As to places out of London, double value of plate. 12 & 13 Wm. III. c. 4, s. 7.

In London and elsewhere, £10. 12 Geo. II. c. 26, s. 21.

In Birmingham or Sheffield district, £100. 5 Geo. IV. c. 52. s. 21, and 13 Geo. III. c. 52, s. 13.

Omission to enter in like manner, and in addition to place of abode, the particulars of every house, shop, or other place where trade is carried on, or wares deposited.

£5. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22, s. 8.

Fraudulently erasing, obliterating, or defacing from any ware of gold or silver, any mark of any die, or any private mark of any dealer.

£5. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22, s. 9.

Concealment of iron or other base metal in any gold or silver ware in Birmingham district, or in silver ware in Sheffield district.

The ware or its value. 5 Geo. IV. c. 52, s. 16, and 13 Geo. III. c. 52, s. 9.

Altering or adding to any ware already assayed and marked, so as to alter its character or denomination, or making any addition to a ware

already assayed and marked of a greater proportionate weight than four ounces to a pound, without taking to Assay Office the ware so altered or added to, in order to be assayed and marked as a new.

Making any addition to a ware already assayed and marked, bearing a less proportionate weight than above, without obtaining assent of Assay Office to such addition before it was made.

Selling, exchanging, or having possession of any ware so altered or added to.

£10, and if found in dealer's place of business, forfeiture of ware. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22, s. 5.

*Offences by Goldsmiths' Companies, and Guardians, or their Officers.*

The marking any gold or silver ware which is worse than standard.

Double the value of the ware. 2 Hen. VI. c. 14, s. 3, and 17 Edward IV. c. 1.

The value of ware. 18 Eliz. c. 15, s. 8, and 12 & 13 Wm. III. c. 4, s. 6.

£50 upon the company—double the value



on assayer. 12 & 13 Wm. III. c. 4,  
s. 6.

£200 on assayer in Birmingham district.  
5 Geo. IV. c. 52, s. 29.

£200 on Assayer in Sheffield district as to  
silver. 13 Geo. III. c. 52, s. 23.

£20 on Company, dismissal of officer and  
seizure of ware. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 22,  
s. 7.

If any assayer shall mark, in Birmingham district, any gold or silver, or, in Sheffield, any silver, except in the presence of two wardens, or mark it before assayed and found standard, or discover any pattern, design, or invention of any ware brought to be assayed, or suffer it to be viewed by any person not necessarily employed in the office.

£200—dismissed—and incapable of acting  
as assayer again. 5 Geo. IV. c. 52, s. 26,  
and 13 Geo. III. c. 52, s. 19.

Accepting the offices of treasurer and clerk by  
one person.

£100. 5 Geo. IV. c. 52, s. 12.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## SCOTLAND.

THE supervision of the standards of wrought plate in Scotland is entrusted to the companies bearing the titles of *The Wardens of the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh*, and *The Glasgow Goldsmiths' Company*. These are regulated by the statutes of the 59 Geo. III. c. 28, and the 6 and 7 Wm. IV. c. 69; the former relates only to Glasgow, and is in some respects varied by the latter, which extends to the whole of Scotland.

The statute of Wm. IV. is entitled "An Act to Fix the Standard qualities of Gold and Silver Plate in Scotland, and to provide for the Assaying and Marking thereof," and, being the more general, must be first noticed.



The standards appointed for Scotland are the same as those in England. And the provisions of the Act of Wm. IV., for the election of wardens, the appointment and duties of assayers, the care and trial of the diet, and the entries to be made by goldsmiths, are very much the same as those in the Birmingham Act. The only duties assigned to the wardens are, to be present, when requested by the assayer, at the breaking of any plate suspected by the assayer to be fraudulently put together, and four times a year to superintend and keep an account of the weighing of the scrapings deposited in the assayer's box; and to be present at the opening of the diet-boxes once a year, and to sell the diet returned from the Mint. The custody of the dies or marking instruments is assigned to the assayer alone, under very heavy penalties if he should use them improperly. The assayer's box and the diet-boxes are required to be under two different locks; the key of the one to be kept by the assayer, of the other by the deacon of the incorporation or the chairman of the company. There are two peculiarities in this Act worthy of notice: one in

reference to the prices for assaying and marking, which allows a reduction of one-third from the charge on every parcel of plate which shall be sent from any distance greater than thirty miles; the other, which provides an appeal from the decision of the wardens and assayer in those cases where plate shall have been broken from suspicion of fraud, without fraud being discovered.

The penalties in reference to the offences against the standards and marks are heavier than in the English Acts. By section 1, every person who shall make, sell, or export, or attempt to export, out of Scotland, any manufacture of gold or silver, less in fineness than is thereby directed, is liable to a penalty of £100 for each piece of plate; and by section 18, every person who shall knowingly sell, exchange, keep for sale, export, or attempt to export, any gold or silver plate or ware not marked with the proper marks thereby required, incurs the penalty of £100 for each piece of plate, and also forfeiture of the plate. The strict interpretation of the 1st section would render a person who should



*inadvertently* make plate below the standard, liable to the penalty of £100, for there is no condition annexed of guilty knowledge or fraudulent intent; it is simply the making or selling wares below standard. As regards the 18th section, it would appear to have a much more extended application than could be contemplated by its authors. It prohibits the sale not only of plate manufactured in Scotland, but of *all* plate without the marks of one of the Scotch Assay Offices. So that no plate made in London, or elsewhere out of Scotland, can be sold there unless it be re-assayed and marked at the Edinburgh or Glasgow offices.

The marks required by this statute to be used at Edinburgh and Glasgow are as follow:—

## GOLD.

## 22 Carats.

---

Maker's Initials.  
The Thistle.  
Peculiar Mark of Company.  
Variable Letter.

## 18 Carats.

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Maker's Initials.  
The Thistle.  
Peculiar Mark of Company.  
The figures 18.  
Variable Letter.

## SILVER.

11 oz. 2 dwt.

Maker's Initials.

The Thistle.

Variable Letter.

Peculiar Mark of Company.

11 oz. 10 dwt.

Maker's Initials.

The Thistle.

Variable Letter.

Peculiar Mark of Company.  
Britannia\*.

The sovereign's head is stamped on every ware chargeable with duty in addition to the foregoing marks.

The peculiar marks of the companies are—  
Edinburgh—a castle ;

Glasgow—a tree growing out of a mount, with a bell pendent on the sinister branch, and a bird on the top branch ; over the trunk of the tree a salmon in fesse, in its mouth an annulet.

The office at Glasgow has not adopted the marks prescribed by this statute, but has continued those previously in use by them ; the only

\* If section 3, which describes these marks, were literally construed, the figure 18 would be added to this standard ; for after describing the marks for the three other standards, including 18 carats, it runs thus :—" Such silver plate or ware as shall be ascertained to be of not less fineness than 11oz. 10 dwt. of fine silver in every lb. troy, shall be marked with the figure *Britannia*, in addition to the several other marks hereinbefore required."



difference, however, is that the lion rampant takes the place of the thistle.

In the Act we have been considering, no reference is made to any previous statute until we come to the 24th section. A reader not knowing of the Glasgow Act, would consider that the statute before him was a general law for the whole of Scotland, until he came to the last section but one; and then he would have some difficulty to determine whether the Glasgow district was to be excepted altogether, or whether the Act establishing it, and here referred to, was in any and what respects altered. The 24th section is as follows:—"That nothing herein contained shall affect or alter, or be construed to affect or alter, the provisions of an Act passed in the 59th year of his late Majesty King George the Third, entitled, 'An Act for establishing an Assay Office in the City of Glasgow,' but such Act shall continue in full force and effect, except so far as the same is expressly altered or varied by this Act."

I do not see how any provisions of a former Act can be "expressly" altered where they are not referred to; but some effect must be given

to these words, and I presume they must be understood as meaning that where the two Acts are inconsistent the later shall prevail; this surely is an implied and not an express variation. It may, perhaps, be contended that the Glasgow district is excluded altogether from the operation of this statute. I know nothing of its private history, but I can well imagine that originally it contained a clause repealing the Glasgow Act, and that an opposition from that city led to the substitution of this 24th clause, without the other parts of the Act undergoing any corresponding amendment.

The 59th Geo. III. c. 28, constituted the Glasgow Goldsmiths' Company, and gave to it powers, and placed it under regulations which are similar to those in the Act of Wm. IV., and provided, in addition, for the election of new members to supply vacancies in the corporation.

It established a district comprising Glasgow and forty miles round, and required that all plate made in that district should be assayed at the office of the Company. This district, I presume, was not affected by the subsequent statute.



I should have considered that the marks provided by this Act were abrogated by the later statute, but it does not appear to be so regarded by the authorities.

We meet in this Act with a direction to the Assayer which is quite peculiar. He is required to weigh the plate in water, and to try the effect of magnetism. This is made a condition precedent to the exercise of some of his powers.

No penalty is imposed upon the making or selling of plate worse than standard, as in the more recent Act. The selling plate made in the district, and not bearing the marks appointed by the Act, subjects the offender to a forfeiture of the plate or its value; selling plate not duly marked is, by the general Act, visited with the severer penalty of forfeiting the plate, and also £100.

In other respects the penalties of the two Acts are similar. The offences relating to the forgeries of the marks are differently defined, and the punishments also differ. In the older Act the punishment is transportation for fourteen years; in the later Act it is transportation for any term

not less than seven years, or imprisonment for not more than four nor less than two years.

This chapter would be incomplete without some further notice of the incorporation of the goldsmiths of Edinburgh, which is an ancient guild of great importance. In the year 1483 the goldsmiths of that city with the members of other trades, included under the general title of "Hammermen," presented a petition to the Town Council of Edinburgh, complaining of certain matters which were contrary to the "auld gude rule and statutes of their craft;" whereupon the Town Council granted to the petitioners certain privileges, and enjoined certain rules for their government.

In January, 1586, King James VI. granted letters patent, which, in the following year, were confirmed by Parliament to the "Deacon and Masters of the Goldsmiths' craft in Edinburgh," by which they were empowered, amongst other things, to search for gold and silver work, and to try whether it were of the fineness required by Acts of Parliament, and to seize all such as shall be deficient.



The Deacon and Brethren of the craft presented to the Town Council of Edinburgh, in August, 1591, certain rules for the management of their Guild, and the Town Council declared them to be agreeable to all good laws, equity, and reason, and confirmed them.

King James VII. granted a Charter, dated 10th of November, 1687, to the goldsmiths of Edinburgh, confirming all existing privileges, and granting more extensive powers for the search of gold and silver work, and for the punishment of offenders.

## CHAPTER IX.

## IRELAND.

THE Goldsmiths' Company in Dublin has the exclusive management of the assaying and marking of wrought gold and silver plate in Ireland. Their Assay Office, formerly in the Goldsmiths' Hall, now under the roof of the Custom House, is the only office in that country. This Company was incorporated by a charter granted by Charles II. in the year 1638\*. It appears from its preamble that great abuses and deceits had been practised by goldsmiths, which were attributed to the absence of a standard and good

\* By the kindness of this Company I am enabled to print this charter, (see Appendix,) which has not before been published, and also to present to my readers some particulars of this important corporation.



regulations for the government of the trade, and for providing these the charter was granted. Powers are given to the Company for the "search, supervision, assay, and government of gold and silver" throughout Ireland. The first members of the corporation and the first wardens are appointed by the charter, and power is given for the election of their successors. The Company is also invested with powers similar to those possessed by the Goldsmiths' Company of London. The mark of the *Harp crowned* was appointed to be stamped on all plate assayed and found to be according to standard. This charter adopted for Ireland the standards then in use in England, which were 22 carats for gold, and 11 oz. 2 dwt. for silver, and some of the provisions of the early English statutes are introduced into the charter.

The Company thus established has continued its important functions to the present time. It was deprived of a privilege by the Municipal Corporation Act, which has rendered it less attractive than formerly. I refer to the power previously enjoyed of nominating four

members of the Common Council of the City of Dublin.

In the year 1784, a company of Genevese watchmakers settled near Waterford, and their place of settlement was called "New Geneva." An Assay Office and an Assayer were granted to them; but at the end of six years they had ceased to exist, and have not since been revived.

With this exception, there has not been any other Assay Office in Ireland than the office of the Goldsmiths' Company in Dublin. Several attempts have been made by the goldsmiths in the city of Cork to have an Assay Office established there, but unsuccessfully, as it was considered that the trade of that city would not supply sufficient income to pay the expenses of an establishment.

The first application was made in the year 1807, the last in 1813.

The powers of the Goldsmiths' Company were extended by the 23 & 24 Geo. III. c. 23 (Irish).

This statute introduced two new standards for gold in addition to the standard of 22 carats, until then the only one, namely, 20 and 18 carats;



and these three are now the gold standards of Ireland. It provided marks for gold wares to be used at the Assay Offices at Dublin and New Geneva. These marks were the figures 22, 20, or 18, according to the standard, the maker's initials, and the following marks denoting the office where assayed :—

## GOLD.

22 carats.	20 carats.	18 carats
<i>Dublin.</i> — Harp } crowned.	Plume Three Feathers.	Unicorn's Head.
<i>New Geneva.</i> — Harp crowned and erased, <i>i.e.</i> a bar across its strings.	Plume Two Feathers.	Unicorn's Head and collar on neck.

Certain specified gold wares, and all that should weigh less than 6 dwt. each, are exempted from the operation of the Act. It contains provisions for the registry of the makers' names, abodes, and marks, at one of the offices for the cutting all suspected plate, for the custody of the marking instruments, for the prices to be charged, and for keeping books of account, similar to the provisions for these objects in the English Acts; and penalties are imposed for

offences against these several regulations. Some peculiarities deserve notice. Gold plate bearing any other than the maker's mark, or any mark of the maker which has not been duly entered, is not to be assayed. If on the first assay any gold ware shall be found under standard, it is to be assayed again, and if the maker require it, a third time, he paying for the assaying and re-assaying. Two trial pieces of each standard of gold are directed to be made, and publicly assayed at the Hall in Dublin, and one delivered to the Assayer of that city, and the other to the Assayer at New Geneva.

The Assay Office in Dublin is required to be kept open not less than three days in each week, and two hours on each day, and the same to be advertised.

Two Wardens and the Assayer are always to be present when wares are stamped, and a penalty of £200 and dismissal from the office is imposed on every warden, assayer, or other officer who shall improperly mark any ware, or disclose the design or pattern of any goods sent to be assayed. This is the only instance in any of the numerous



Acts on this subject in which I have met with a penalty upon wardens, and it is particularly remarkable in this case, as this is, I believe, the only office in which the wardens are not remunerated for their services. I have already mentioned that the Touch Warden or Assistant or Deputy Assayer is appointed by virtue of this Act; it requires that he shall have worked at the trade of a goldsmith or silversmith, and his salary is fixed at £70 Irish, or £64. 12s. 4d. present currency.

The powers of the Goldsmiths' Company were extended, in one respect, by the 47th Geo. III. c. 15, s. 2, which authorized it to appoint a deputy assay master or other officer in such parts of Ireland as the Company should think fit. And they are required to mark all wares, in addition to the mark then in use, with "such stamps as the Commissioners of Inland Excise and Taxes shall from time to time devise or appoint." This Act requires the assay masters to be sworn faithfully to perform their duties before the Commissioners of Excise or justices of the peace. The Charter does not provide any oath for assayers

by that name, but the form of oath prescribed for the wardens shows that they were to discharge the duties of the officers now called assayers.

The object of this Act was to provide regulations for the collection of the duty; these are similar to those in the English statutes on the same subject, with this difference, that the assay master is to pay over all money received for duty to the company every week under the penalty of £100 and double the amount of the money received, and the company is to pay the amount to the Collector of Excise within two days after it shall have been so received, and to deliver accounts for each quarter within two months after its termination. The company is allowed a commission of five per cent. upon the amount received and accounted for.

The duties on plate and licenses in Ireland are the same as those in England; they were assimilated by 5 & 6 Vict. c. 82.

To the marks prescribed expressly by statute, and already noticed, the Commissioners of Excise added the figure of Hibernia, in the year 1730,



when a duty was first charged, and its object was to denote the payment of that duty. The 47th Geo. III. required the mark of the King's Head to be stamped upon plate for the same purpose, and without any notice of the former mark.

The two marks are continued. A variable letter is also used, and was introduced by the Commissioners of Excise.

The present marks are the following :—

CHARACTER OF MARK.	SIGNIFICATION.
--------------------	----------------

*Common to every Standard.*

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The Maker's Initials. | The Maker.         |
| 2. Hibernia.             | Payment of Duty.   |
| 3. Sovereign's Head.     | " "                |
| 4. Variable Letter.      | Year when assayed. |

*Additional for Gold of 22 Carats.*

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Figures 22.   | Quality of Standard. |
| Harp crowned. | Place of Assay.      |

*Additional for Gold of 20 Carats.*

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Figures 20.              | Quality of Standard. |
| Plume of three Feathers. | Place of Assay.      |

*Additional for Gold of 18 Carats.*

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Figures 18.     | Quality of Standard. |
| Unicorn's Head. | Place of Assay.      |

*Additional for Silver of 11 oz. 2 dwt.*

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Harp Crowned. | Quality of Standard and Place<br>of Assay. |
|---------------|--|

On the subject of the present staff of the Company I have been favoured with the following particulars. The Goldsmiths' Company elect four wardens annually on the 29th of September, pursuant to a bye-law made soon after the date of their Charter, and they are sworn in on the 1st of November, the day appointed by the Charter for that purpose. These officers are not paid for their services; formerly, however, wardens having passed through the gradations of office from junior warden to be master or senior warden, were generally presented with a piece of plate on their retirement from office.

The salaried officers are the assay master, deputy assay master, a touch warden who is also the clerk of the Assay Office, the weigher and drawer, the assistant in the Assay Office, the beadles of the corporation, and the clerk of the corporation. The assay master, who holds his office during good behaviour, is the first and most responsible officer; he, of course, is answerable for the correctness of the assays, and he has to account for all the moneys paid at the Assay Office. He is allowed to retain for his own use



the fees for all trial-assays of unwrought gold and silver, which the manufacturers are in the habit of sending to the office in order to ascertain with accuracy the standard of their materials\*, he is also allowed half the touchpenny; and in addition to these allowances he has an annual salary subject to reduction on the occasion of a deficiency in the year's income, and proportioned to that deficiency. Previously to the Act 23 & 24 Geo. III. c. 23, the assay master received £50 a year from the Government out of the money received for duty. The deputy assay master is elected annually to stamp or mark the plate. He is appointed under the provisions of 23 & 24 Geo. III., and is paid out of the money received for the duty. He formerly received, in addition, a salary from the Goldsmiths' Company; this was discontinued about ten years ago in consequence of a great depression in the trade of Ireland. This

\* The charges for these assays are 1s. 6d. each for gold, and 4d. each for silver, to non-freemen, or freemen in arrears of quarterage, or continuously absents themselves from the meetings of the corporation; and to freemen attending the meetings and not in arrear, one-half only of these prices are charged.

officer and the weigher act as assistant clerks in checking the accounts of the assay master. The weigher and drawer is appointed annually; his duty is to weigh in and out all work brought to the office, and to take off the scrapings; his salary, like the assay master's, is liable to deduction in case of a deficiency in the income. This officer discharges the duties of the assistant and beadle, which were formerly held by district officers. There were formerly two beadles; their duties were the levying and enforcing fines and arresting offenders.

The income of the Assay Office is derived from the following sources:—*The Touchpenny*, being one penny per ounce on all plate assayed and marked; five per cent. poundage on all duty collected; and the salary of the deputy assay master allowed by the Government out of the duty.

In any future legislation on the subject, many hints may be derived from the Irish statutes, which in some respects are superior to our own, avoiding, however, the errors common to these and the Scotch Acts, of having the same marks for dif-



ferent standards. It is to be hoped, however, that one statute may be made to comprise all the provisions necessary to regulate the standards, the marks, and the duties, and applicable alike to England, Scotland, and Ireland.

## CHAPTER X.

## POLICY OF LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS.

ALL the writers on this subject treat the legislative provisions which we have been considering as having for their object the protection of the public against fraud. This may account for these provisions being continued, but not, I think, for their origin. It appears to me that a jealous regard to the purity and ample supply of the precious metals for the purpose of coinage, suggested the restriction of the standards when used for manufactures. The earliest statutes, as we have seen, adopt the sterling money as the standard for silver wrought plate; and in the statute of Henry IV., which professes to have for its object the protec-



tion of the "common people" from the deceits of "fraudulent artificers," in selling, as gold and silver, articles which were made of "copper and latten," gilt or plated, refers to the "*wasting of gold and silver*," as one of the evil results of the practices proposed to be remedied. The statute of Henry VII. was obviously intended to check the use of silver in the making of plate, and to have it brought to the Mint for coinage. The 8th Wm. III., which was passed to encourage the bringing in of wrought plate to be coined, and introduced a higher standard for silver wrought plate, recites that silver coins of the realm had been converted into plate, and proceeds thus:—"which crime hath been more easily perpetrated by them; in regard the goldsmiths or others workers of plate by the former laws and statutes of this realm are not obliged to make their plate of *finer* silver than the sterling or standard ordained for the moneys of this realm."

It is true that the effect of the ancient laws would be to protect the public against frauds in the manufacture of plate, but I do not see any sufficient reason for supposing that this was the

object of these laws ; another effect as certain was to check the use of the precious metals in manufactures ; for these statutes not only provided for the maintenance of a certain standard, but very much interfered with the supply of the metals to the goldsmiths, by prohibiting refiners from selling molten gold or silver to any but the officers of the Mint, and by other similar provisions. The statutes betray great jealousy of the precious metals being too commonly used\*.

As the importance of these laws in reference to the currency has diminished in consequence of the ample supply of gold and silver, and as the great extension of the manufacture of gold and silver plate has increased the importance of all matters connected with it, the Assay Offices have come to be considered as existing especially for the protection of the purchasers of plate ; and in any dealing with them it will behove Parliament to keep this chiefly in view.

It is not possible for the purchasers of gold and silver plate to know from its appearance

\* See, in addition to the statutes quoted in these pages, the statutes mentioned in Appendix I.



whether it is standard ; whether in fact it is gold or silver, or merely a counterfeit. Nothing could be easier than to pass off spurious articles as genuine, if it were not for the check afforded by the assay marks ; and, from the value of the materials, the temptation to do so is considerable ; the facility and the advantage of successful fraud presented to the workers in gold and silver would be alike great. Now, all make purchases of plate without a doubt or misgiving, knowing that the forgery of the assay marks is as penal as the forgery of a bank-note, and that we are not more likely to be deceived in the one case than in the other. In making purchases of plate, persons, even the wealthiest, are not uninfluenced by the consideration that it forms a good and safe investment.

There are some commercial men who think that the restriction is unnecessary, and the interference injurious ; that any evils which might occur from the abolition of public Assay Offices would right themselves,—in other words, that those gold and silver workers who may not be influenced by higher motives would soon discover



that "honesty is the best policy;" that there is no reason why the purchasers of gold and silver wares should have a protection not afforded in respect to other goods; that it is necessary to the full development of the trades, that the principle of non-interference by the Legislature in manufacturing processes, now so generally admitted in this commercial country to be a sound one, should be applied to the gold and silver trades; and that the complaining purchasers must be taught the value of the law maxim, "*Caveat emptor.*"

And the objectors refer to the regulations of the Zollverein as superior to our own. In the countries included in the Zollverein the smith is required to stamp on each article his name and the standard of the metal, and should it prove false he is liable to punishment.

On the other hand, it may be observed, that to the best general rules there may be exceptions, and that the exception in this case is not to be lightly dispensed with. The impossibility of testing the genuineness of the articles in question, and their great value, make a broad distinction



between them and other goods. Suppose the institution of public Assay Offices were abolished, and that gold and silver might be used with any quantity of alloy, the purchasers must rely entirely on the integrity and skill of the smiths and their workmen; this would operate as a great check upon the purchase of plate. Although purchasers may select tradesmen on whom they can most confidently rely, they would not have the assurance which now they have, that their plate is of indisputable value as an investment, and forms a good subject for bequest, or a resource in case of need during life. And then would not our foreign trade be seriously injured? Seeing that in France, Holland, and Belgium all plate must be of a certain standard, testified by authorized marks, could our plate without such witness be successfully brought into competition in the foreign markets? Might not the abolition of our present institutions lead to the importation of foreign plate for our home market?

Gold and silver plate is not the only matter in which our Legislature has interfered for the protection of the purchaser. In the manufacture of

fire-arms, it is required that they shall be subjected to certain proof, which is testified by a mark; the object here is protection to life and limb, in the other case to the pocket, but the principle is the same. And a similar principle is involved in the conditions imposed on those who desire to become practitioners in medicine or in law.

I believe that the interference we are considering has the effect of increasing the demand for plate; and that persons engaged in the trade approve of the supervision of the standards as a protection to themselves against the dishonest members of their craft. Mr. Watherston, himself an eminent goldsmith, bears his testimony in favour of the present institutions. After expressing his regret that so many articles should have been exempted from the assay-laws, and describing a new system of imposition in exempted articles, by alloying gold with zinc in equal proportions (twelve ounces of pure gold and twelve ounces of zinc!) which present for a time a colour equal to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 carats higher standard (or of 8s. or 10s. more value per ounce), he observes, "While



he [the writer] would permit a free use of gold in its various qualities, for all the manufactures in jewellery, without excepting mourning rings (probably by an increased number of standards); while he would insist upon the absolute necessity of the goldsmith being permitted to alloy his gold in whatever way may best suit the articles he is about to manufacture, or best suit the pockets of his customers; he would, on the other hand, most strenuously contend for the adoption of some plan by which the public may be assured, either wholly or in part, that the value of the metal so wrought into jewellery is, in reality, what it is pretended to be\*."

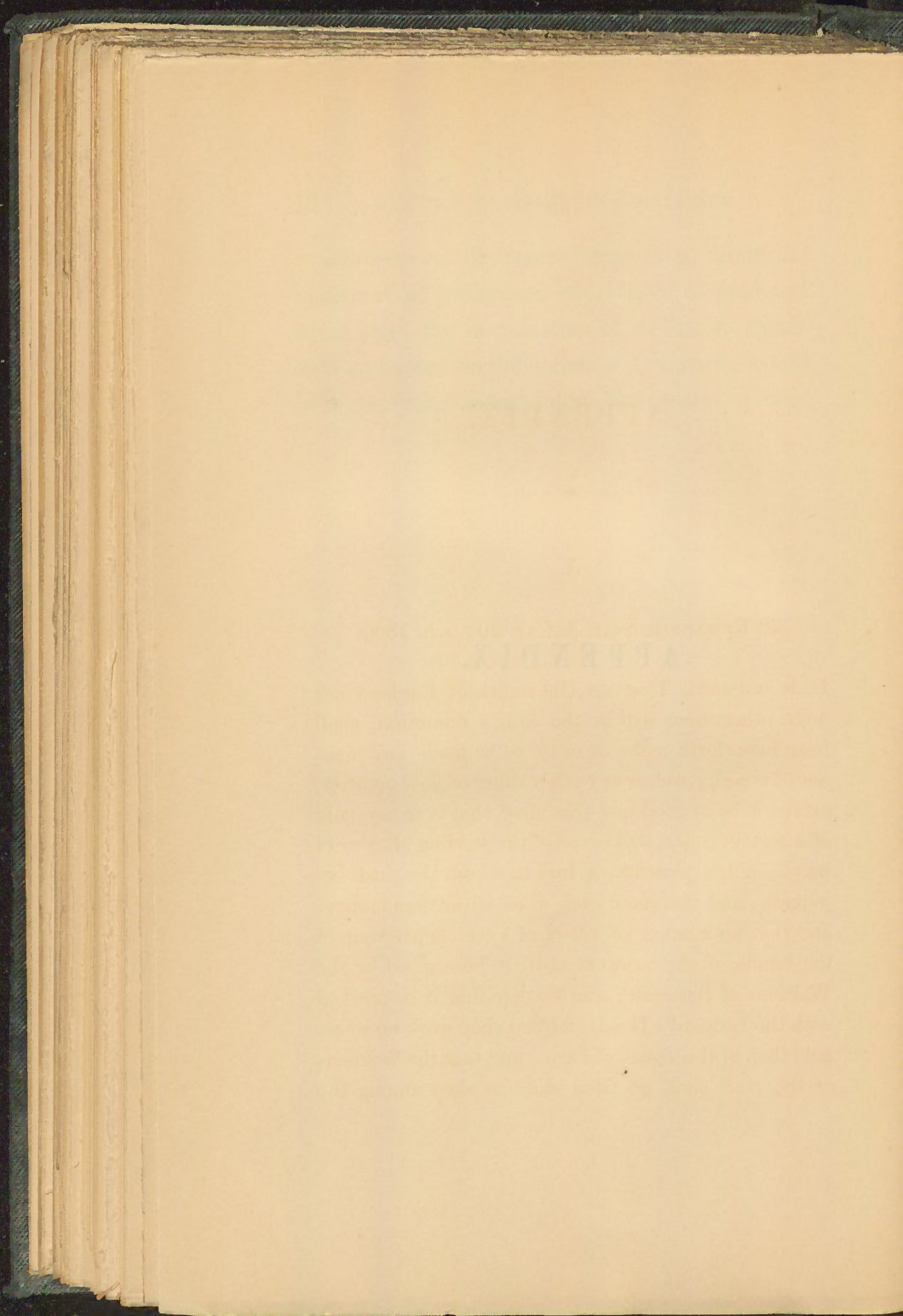
We have a testimony, too, in favour of our present regulations, from a quarter whence it might scarcely be expected. In orders from the United States of America, where there is no protection afforded to the buyer, it is a common thing that express instructions should be sent to have the plate Hall-marked; and orders are received for plate which would be made in America if there were assay marks in use there.

\* Familiar Explanation, p. 58.

But however desirable it may be to retain the system of an authorized supervision of gold and silver plate, the introduction of additional standards and some simplification of the marks would be a great improvement upon the present system.



APPENDIX.





## APPENDIX.

## A.

28 EDWARD I. STAT. 3, CAP. 20; A.D. 1300.

It is ordained, That no Goldsmith of England nor none otherwhere within the king's dominion, 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; 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, and that they work no worse gold than of the Touch of Paris; and that the Wardens of the craft shall go from shop to shop among the

goldsmiths to essay 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 statute 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 hath done otherwise than before is ordained, he shall be punished by imprisonment, and by ransom at the king's pleasure. And notwithstanding all these things before-mentioned, or any point of them, both the king and his council, and all they that were present at the making of this ordinance, will and intend that the right and prerogative of his crown shall be saved to him in all things.



## B.

PETITION OF THE GOLDSMITHS OF LONDON TO EDWARD  
THE THIRD AND HIS COUNCIL IN PARLIAMENT,  
*As recited in the Charter granted by that King.*

That whereas no private merchant nor stranger heretofore were wont to bring into this land any money coined, but plate of silver to exchange for our coin. And that it had been also ordained, that all those who were of the goldsmiths' trade were to sit in their shops in the high street of Cheap, and that no silver in plate, nor vessel of gold or silver, ought to be sold in the city of London except at our Exchange or in Cheap among the goldsmiths, and that publicly, to the end the persons of the said trade might inform themselves whether the seller came lawfully by such vessel or not. But that now of late the said merchants, as well private as strangers, do bring from foreign lands into this land counterfeit sterling, whereof the pound is not worth above sixteen sols of the right sterling, and of this money none can know the true value but by melting it down. And also that many of the said trade of goldsmiths keep shops in obscure turnings and bye-lanes and streets, and do buy vessels of gold and silver secretly without inquiring if such vessel were stolen or lawfully come

by, and immediately melting it down do make it into plate and sell it to merchants trading beyond the sea that it may be exported, and so they make false work of gold and silver, as bracelets, lockets, rings, and other jewels, in which they set glass of divers colours, counterfeiting right stones, and put more alloy in the silver than they ought, which they sell to such as have no skill in such things. And that the cutlers in their workhouses, cover tin with silver so subtilly and with such sleight, that the same cannot be discerned and severed from the tin, and by that means they sell the tin so covered for fine silver, to the great damage and deceit of us and our people.

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C.

## ROLL OF PARLIAMENT, 5 HEN. IV., No. 51.

A Petition was brought into Parliament, by the Goldworkers of London, in the following words\* :—

“To our very redoubtable and very sovereign Seigneur the King, and to the very wise Seigneurs of

\* The observant reader will find much matter of interest in this extract. It illustrates the care formerly taken to provide against rash and crude legislation, and the only constitutional and safe means in which legislation on local or special matters can ever be undertaken.



this present Parliament: Pray your humble lieges, William Grantham, Salamon Oxeneye, Thomas Senyale, and Robert Hall, citizens and goldsmiths of your city of London and Wardens of the mystery of Goldsmiths of your said city, and all the Commonalty of the same mystery. Whereas the said Wardens and all others who have been Wardens of the said mystery in the said city, from time whereof memory runneth not, have had and used to have the search, survey, assay, and government of all manner of gold and of silver works, as well in the same city as elsewhere in your kingdom of England. And whereas the very noble King Edward, your ancestor, whom God assoil, upon certain defaults shown to him and to his Council in his Parliament held at Westminster in the first year of his reign, touching works of silver by the cutlers done in the said city upon cutlery, granted to the goldsmiths of the same city, that they might choose good people, and sufficient, of their mystery of goldsmiths, to inquire and search into the said defaults, and to amend and redress the faults found in the said mystery, and due punishment to give to the wrongdoers, by aid of the Mayor and Sheriffs of the said city. And now the said cutlers are wont to work in gold and in silver in a different manner to what they did in the times aforesaid. Through which, by the defaults and subtilties in the work of the said cutlers, great scandal and drawbacks will come to the said

mystery of goldsmiths if remedy be not applied. May it please your Royal Majesty to grant to the said suppliants, that neither the said cutlers, nor any other artificers whatsoever, may execute in any other manner workmanship of gold or of silver, than they were wont at the time of the grant by your very noble ancestor aforesaid. And, besides that, of your more abundant grace, to grant to the said Wardens that they and their successors, wardens of the said mystery of goldsmith-work, may always have the search, survey, assay, and governance of all kinds of work done and to be done, of gold and of silver, by any person, of any mystery, as well in the said city as elsewhere in your said kingdom, and by them to put due punishment and redress for works defective and deceptive, as well by aid of the Mayor and Sheriffs of the said city, as need shall be, as by aid of the Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, or any other officers elsewhere through the kingdom for the time being, as need may be, in the same way the goldsmiths have used always before now; reserving to the Seigneurs of Franchises the the profits which to them may belong, on account of such false works as shall be found and proven in their Franchises by the Wardens of the aforesaid mystery: for love of God and of charity."

Which petition, read before the King and the Seigneurs in Parliament, and by them fully considered, was answered in the following form:—



“ Let a Writ, containing the purport of this Petition, as well as that of the Cutlers now before Parliament, be sent to the Mayor of the city of London; and let the Mayor be empowered, by the authority of Parliament, to cause to come before him both the men of the mystery of the goldsmiths in London and the men of the cutlers’ mystery; and let them show before the said Mayor the evidences and usages past and present, as well on the one side as the other, in the said city, from old times past; and let inquisition be made, if need be; and let the said Mayor certify to the King and his Council in this present Parliament, without delay, what shall be found concerning this matter; to the end that the King, having had the counsel and advice of Parliament, may be able to do that which shall seem best in the matter.”

Another petition was brought into this Parliament by the cutlers of London, in the following words:—

“To the very honourable and very wise Seigneurs of this present Parliament. The citizens of London of the craft of cutlers humbly supplicate your aid, that, as they and their predecessors from all time have worked gold and silver upon cutlery, etc., in their said craft, and have had four Wardens of their own elected before the Mayor of the said city, and sworn before him to amend all defaults in the same craft; and now lately the goldsmiths of the said city have made a suggestion to you, not at all true as they are

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informed, saying that the said cutlers have worked in gold and silver not according to agreement; to the intent that the said goldsmiths should have the government of the said cutlers, which would be the destruction and ruin of your petitioners: May it please your very gracious Seigneurs to aid your said petitioners, that their rights and franchises may be saved; that they may have and enjoy their franchises in the same manner that they and their predecessors have had them before now; and that no charter be granted to the contrary; for the love of God and of charity."

[To this petition was given the same answer as to the goldsmiths, both being referred to the Mayor of the City of London.

Writs are then entered addressed to the Mayor of London, enclosing both petitions, and the answers endorsed thereupon, and desiring him to take such steps in the matter as seemed best to him, and to make return thereupon forthwith to Parliament: which writs were returned into the same Parliament, and severally answered by the Mayor in form following]:—

"By virtue of two writs of our Lord the King to me, William Askham, Mayor of London, directed and hereunto attached, the tenour of two petitions to our Lord the King in the present Parliament presented by the cutlers and goldsmiths of the said city, together with the indorsements thereupon, having been in-



spected, I caused to come before me the aforesaid Mayor, at the Guildhall of the said city, as well good men of the said mysteries as many other good and sufficient ancient men from all the wards of the said city: and the charters, rolls, and evidences, as well written as not written, being there shown before me by the said mysteries, touching and concerning the rule, custom, assay, and government of the said mysteries, it was determined before me [*coram*, not *per*] the said Mayor, that the cutlers, citizens of the said city, have been accustomed from ancient times to work gold and silver within the liberty of the said city, as fashion and their skill dictated, and still the same cutlers work gold and silver in the said city, as fashion and their skill, according to the change of times, dictate and require; and that the Wardens of the mystery of the art of the said goldsmiths for the time being, subject to the Mayor and Aldermen of the said city for the time being, have been accustomed from ancient times to have the assay of the gold and silver wrought by the said cutlers within the liberty of the said city."

Upon which matters our said Lord the King having taken deliberation and advice with the Seigneurs in the same Parliament, by the assent of the said Seigneurs, granted to the said goldsmiths confirmation of the charter granted to them by King Edward his ancestor, in the first year of his reign, etc.

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## D.

EXTRACTS FROM HERBERT'S 'HISTORY OF THE  
GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY OF LONDON.'

Lawyers' Bills form a curious portion of the trade department of the Wardens' accounts, during the latter end of the reign of Henry VI. and the beginning of that of Edward IV.

## EXPENCES NECESSARIE.

(38 Henry VI., 1460.)

Payed for Counsell ayenst y <sup>e</sup> Abbott of Woburne . . . . .	iijs	iiij <sup>d</sup>
To a Sarjeant for y <sup>e</sup> arrest of John of Bolton & the costys of y <sup>e</sup> court. . . . .	i <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
To Drue Barynton's clerk for writing of certen pap <sup>rs</sup> betwixt his master and the feliship. . . . .	i <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
An obligacion writing . . . . .		ij <sup>d</sup>
Expensis don vpon John Brooking, of Bridgwat <sup>r</sup> for disobeying and rebuk- yng of the wardeyns in time of serche . . . . .	iiij <sup>li</sup>	xij <sup>s</sup> i <sup>d</sup>
For the privie seale . . . . .		vij <sup>d</sup>
	Sm <sup>a</sup> iiij <sup>li</sup>	xviijs j <sup>d</sup>



(8 Edward IV. 1469.)

We adopt the modern orthography:—

For boat-hire to Westminster and home	£.	s.	d.
again, for the suit in Chancery begun in the old Warden's time, for the recovery of a counterfeit diamond set in a ring of gold. ....	0	0	6
For a breakfast at Westminster spent on our Counsel . . . . .	0	1	6
To Mr. Catesby, Serjeant-at-Law, to plead for the same . . . . .	0	3	4
To another time for boat-hire in and out, and a breakfast for two days. ....	0	1	6
Again for boat-hire and one breakfast . . . .	0	1	0
To the keeper of the Chancery door. ....	0	0	2
To Timothy Fairfax, at two times. ....	0	8	4
To Pigott, for attendance at two times. . . .	0	6	8
To a breakfast at Westminster, 7d., and boat-hire, 4d. ....	0	0	11
	<hr/>		
	£1	3	11
	<hr/>		

1470.—In the “expences necessarie” is mentioned  
2s. for engraving the *punches*.” Amongst “the al-  
lowances” the Wardens claim—

For costs done in taking of assays. ....	£1	6	8
For meat and drink in making up the ac- counts. ....	0	13	4

For a supper for the worshipful men of the  
 felishipp ..... £14 0 0  
 For a garnish of two dozen pewter vessels  
 to serve the Company ..... 1 17 6

Under the head of fines received from foreigners,  
 one is mentioned of "6s. 8d. from three strangers,  
 including a goldsmith from Coventry."

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E.

EXTRACT FROM 17 EDWARD IV., CAP. 1; A. D. 1477.

AND whereas in the Parliament holden the second  
 year of the usurped reign of Henry the Sixth, late in  
 deed and not of right King of England, amongst other  
 it was ordained, that no goldsmith nor worker of  
 silver within the City of London should sell anything  
 wrought of silver, unless it be as fine as the sterling,  
 except that that needeth solder in the making, which  
 shall be allowed according as the solder shall be neces-  
 sary to be wrought in the same. And that no gold-  
 smith, nor jeweller, nor other man that worketh har-  
 ness of silver, shall put any of the same to sale in the  
 same city, before it be touched with the touch of the  
 Leopard's Head, that which may reasonably bear the  
 same touch; and also with the mark or sign of the



worker of the same, upon pain of forfeiture of the double. And that the mark or sign of every goldsmith shall be committed to the Wardens of the same mystery. And if it may be found, that the Keeper of the Touch aforesaid do touch any such harness with the Leopard's Head, which is not as fine in allay as the sterling, that then the Keeper of the Touch for everything so proved not so good in allay as the sterling, shall forfeit the double value to our Sovereign Lord the King and to the party, which statute is daily broken by the goldsmiths and other workers of silver, inhabiting as well in the city of London as elsewhere, within this realm and Wales; and our Sovereign Lord the King in effect nothing answered of any forfeiture comprised in the same statute, albeit that the king's liege people daily buying things wrought by the said goldsmiths or workers, as fine gold or fine silver, supposing it to be the same, when in deed it is not so, be grievously deceived, because the said touch of the Leopard's Head is oftentimes set to such things by the said Keeper of the said touch of London and other places, as though the thing were fine and not defective. And oftentimes the sign of the worker of the same is not set thereto according to the statute aforesaid, nor the action given in the same statute is no perfect remedy to the persons grieved in this behalf. It is ordained by authority of this present Parliament, for the better execution of the said statute,

and for to eschew the deceit daily done by the said goldsmiths and workers of gold and silver in the said city of London and elsewhere, within this realm and Wales, that no goldsmith nor other worker of gold and silver, or either of the same metals, from the said feast of Easter shall work, sell, or set to sale any manner of base gold under the fineness of eighteen carats, otherwise called crates, nor no silver, unless it be as fine as the sterling: except such thing as required solder in making of the same, which shall be allowed according to the solder necessary to the making of the same, upon pain of forfeiture of the double value of any such gold or silver wrought or sold to the contrary. Nor that no goldsmith, jeweller, nor other worker of harness of silver shall set no harness of silver plate, nor jewel of silver to sell, from the said feast of Easter, within the said city of London, or within two miles of London, before it be touched with a touch of the Leopard's Head crowned, such as may bear the same touch; and also with a mark or sign of the worker of the same, so wrought within the city of London, or two miles of the same, upon pain of forfeiture of the double value of any such silver wrought and sold to the contrary. And that the mark or sign of every goldsmith be committed to the Wardens of the same mystery. And if it may be found that the said Keeper of the Touch of the Leopard's Head crowned aforesaid, do mark



or touch any such harness with the Leopard's Head, if it be not as fine in allay as the sterling, then the said Keeper of the said Touch, for everything proved not of as good allay as the sterling, shall forfeit the double value: the same forfeitures to be divided in two parts, the one half to be applied to the use of the king's house, and the other half thereof to the party grieved or hurt, in this behalf; or in his default, any other person which will pursue and prove such forfeiture shall be thereto received, and have in this behalf an action of debt or at the common law at his election, or before the justices of peace of the county out of the city or town corporate where such forfeiture shall happen, to pursue as well for the king as for himself; and if it happen in city, borough, or town corporate, then before the mayor, sheriff or sheriffs, bailiff or bailiffs, or other chief governor there, by bill or bills in this party. In which action of debt, and in the bill and bills to be pursued, like disposition, demean, behaviour, judgment, and execution in this party shall be had, according as in the said article concerning the money of Ireland is comprised, any charter, grant, corporation, or act made to the contrary notwithstanding. And because there be divers goldsmiths and other workers of gold and silver, aliens and strangers inhabiting in the city of London, and other places nigh thereabout, working their works in secret places and privileged, and

eloin the same, and will not be searched by the said Wardens of the said Goldsmiths of London for the time being, nor will not be obedient and governed by them: therefore it is hereby ordained, That from the said feast of Easter, every such alien and stranger goldsmith and worker of gold and silver, inhabiting or to inhabit in the said city of London, and other places within two miles of the same city, shall be obedient and ruled by the said Wardens of the said Goldsmiths, in all things lawful and reasonable, and suffer the stuff of gold and silver by them wrought to be searched and marked after the rule of the said city, upon pain to be punished in manner and form as goldsmiths and workers of gold and silver of England, inhabiting within the said city, by the rules of the said craft of goldsmiths ought to be ruled. So always that the said aliens and strangers be not evil entreated, nor otherwise charged by any manner imposition other than the said English goldsmiths be, shall be, and ought to be. And for the better surveying of the said aliens and strangers in time to come to be had, it is ordained by the authority afore-said, That the same aliens and strangers, goldsmiths and workers of gold and silver, inhabiting within the said city, and every of them, from the feast of Saint Michael the archangel next coming, shall inhabit them in the open streets of the said city, and where better and more open showing is of their craft. And



it is ordained by the said authority, that if the aforesaid Keeper of the said Touch, or worker of harness or other thing of gold or silver not made of the said fineness, do touch or mark the same harness or other thing as fine and able, that then for non-sufficiency of the said keeper and worker, the persons of the said craft of goldsmiths of the said city of London, by whatsoever name or names they be corporate, shall be chargeable and charged of the forfeitures by like action or actions of debt as is aforesaid in like manner and form as immediately before is specified.

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F.

## THE GOLDSMITHS' ORDER

*Lately made and set forth for Prevention and Redress  
of the great Abuses committed in the several Wares  
aforementioned\*.*

*Goldsmiths' Hall,  
the 23rd day of February, 1675.*

WHEREAS complaint hath been made to the wardens of the Company of *Goldsmiths, London*, that divers

\* This is copied from the 'Touchstone,' p. 92.

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 abuse of his Majesty's good subjects, and great discredit of that manufacture; and that there are also divers pieces of silver plate sold, not being assayed at *Goldsmiths' Hall*, and so not marked with the *Leopard's Head crowned*; as by law the same ought to be: And whereas the wardens of the said 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 should 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 habitation 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, these are therefore to give notice to, and to require again all those who exercise the said art or mystery of goldsmiths 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 in a table appointed for that pur-



pose, 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 shop-keeper, and all others working and trading in gold or silver wares, of what kind or quality soever 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 two and twenty carats, and silver not less in fineness than eleven ounces two pennyweights; 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 thereon, and the same assayed at *Goldsmiths' Hall*, and there approved for standard, by striking thereon the *Lyon* and *Leopard's Head crowned*, or one of them, if the said works will conveniently bear the same: and hereof all persons concerned are desired to take notice, and demean themselves accordingly: otherwise the wardens will make it their care to procure them to be proceeded against according to law.

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## G.

GOLD AND SILVER ARTICLES EXEMPTED FROM  
CONTROL OF ASSAY OFFICES.

Jewellers' work, wherein any jewels or other stones are set, (other than mourning rings,) jointed night ear-rings of gold, or gold springs of lockets, 12 Geo. II. c. 26. s. 2.

*Gold Articles\*.*

Rings.	Ferrils.
Collets for Rings or other	Pipe Lighters.
Jewels.	Cranes for Bottles.
Chains.	Book-clasps, very small.
Necklace Beads.	Stock or Garter Clasps jointed.
Lockets.	Nutmeg Graters, very small.
Buttons, hollow or raised.	Snuff-box Rims, whereof Tops
Buttons for Sleeves.	or Bottoms are made of
Thimbles.	Shell or Stone.
Coral Sockets and Bells.	Sliding Pencils.

\* 12 Geo. II. c. 26, s. 6. This applied to gold as well as silver originally, but was repealed as to silver, by 30 Geo. III. c. 31.



Toothpick Cases.	Any Manufacture of Gold or
Tweezer Cases.	Silver so richly engraved,
Pencil Cases.	carved, or chased, or set
Needle Cases.	with Jewels or other Stones,
Filigree Work.	as not to admit of an assay
Tippings or Swages on Stone	to be taken of, or a Mark
or Ivory Cases.	to be struck thereon without
Mounts, Screws, or Stoppers	damaging, prejudicing, or
to Stone or Glass Bottles	defacing the same.
or Phials.	Things which, by reason of
Ornaments, small or slight,	their smallness or thinness,
put to Amber or other	are not capable of receiving
Eggs or Urns.	the Marks, and not weigh-
Seals, wrought.	ing 10 dwt. of Gold or
Seals in Carnelian or other	Silver each.
Stones set therein.	

*Silver Articles\*.*

Chains	} Of any Weight.	
Necklace Beads		
Locketts		
Filigree Work		
Shirt Buckles or Brooches		
Stamped Medals		
Spouts to China, Stone, Earth- enware Teapots		
Tippings, Swages, or Mounts not weighing 10 dwt. of Silver each, except Necks and Collars for Castors,		Cruets, or Glasses, apper- taining to any sort of Stands or Frames.

\* 30 Geo. III. c. 31. s. 3 &amp; 4.

Silver Wares not weighing 5 dwt. of Silver each, *except the following articles* \* :—

Necks, Collars, and Tops for	Salt Spoons.
Castors, Cruets, or Glasses,	Salt Shovels.
appertaining to any sort of	Salt Ladles.
Stands or Frames.	Tea Spoons.
Buttons for Wearing Apparel.	Tea Strainers.
Solid Sleeve Buttons.	Caddy Ladles.
Solid Studs not having a bis-	Buckles (Shirt Buckles or
silled Edge soldered on.	Brooches, before mention-
Wrought Seals.	ed, excepted).
Blank Seals.	Pieces to garnish Cabinets or
Bottle Tickets.	Knife Cases, or Tea Chests,
Shoe Clasps.	or Bridles, or Stands, or
Patch Boxes.	Frames.

\* 30 Geo. III. c. 31. s. 5.—It must be recollected that these specified articles are excepted out of the exemption, and are liable to be assayed. And further, that all articles liable to be assayed, except watch-cases, are chargeable with duty.



## H.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 10th March, 1848.

A RETURN of the AMOUNT of GOLD and SILVER PLATE in Ounces, distinguishing each Kind,  
STAMPED in the several Goldsmiths' Halls, in each of the last Five Years.

YEAR ENDED 5TH JANUARY, 1844.

GOLDSMITHS' HALLS.	Gold, 17s. per Oz.	Silver, 1s. 6d. per Oz.	Duty on Amount Stamped.	Amount paid for Collection.	Net Amount paid into the Stamp Office.
ENGLAND.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Birmingham . . . . .	1,476	27,495	3,316 16 4	82 18 4	3,216 14 6
Chester . . . . .	98	656	132 4 6½	3 6 0	128 18 6½
Exeter . . . . .	279	31,259	2,581 11 9¼	64 10 7	2,517 1 2¼
Newcastle-upon-Tyne .	165	9,132	825 3 0½	20 12 7	789 10 6½
Sheffield . . . . .	.	36,836	2,762 14 6	69 1 0	2,610 2 7½
York . . . . .	28	2,080	179 18 1¼	4 9 9½	175 8 3½
London . . . . .	4,290	763,343	60,897 9 11	1,485 8 10	49,479 17 10
SCOTLAND.					
Edinburgh . . . . .	56	25,128	1,933 0 0	48 6 4	1,884 13 8
Glasgow . . . . .	20	15,115	1,150 16 8½	28 15 3	1,122 1 5½
Total . . . . .	6,412	911,044	73,779 14 11	1,807 8 8½	61,924 8 8

## YEAR ENDED 5TH JANUARY, 1845.

GOLDSMITHS' HALLS.	Gold, 17s. per Oz.	Silver, 1s. 6d. per Oz.	Duty on Amount Stamped.	Amount paid for Collection.	Net Amount paid into the Stamp Office.
ENGLAND.					
Birmingham . . . .	1,730	35,242	£. s. d. 4,114 5 4	£. s. d. 102 17 7	£. s. d. 3,993 7 9
Chester . . . .	162	536	178 5 3	4 9 0	173 16 2
Exeter . . . .	269	33,147	2,715 9 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 17 8	2,647 12 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Newcastle-upon-Tyne . . . .	147	10,134	884 14 9	22 2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	862 12 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sheffield . . . .	.	42,210	3,165 15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 2 6	3,057 14 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
York . . . .	25	2,419	202 16 3	5 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	197 14 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
London . . . .	4,833	855,247	68,251 16 11	1,682 13 0	55,909 18 9
SCOTLAND.					
Edinburgh . . . .	67	28,907	2,225 3 0	55 12 4	2,169 10 8
Glasgow . . . .	3	19,208	1,443 19 0	36 2 8	1,407 16 4
Total . . . .	7,236	1,027,050	83,182 5 9	2,055 18 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	70,420 4 1 $\frac{1}{2}$



YEAR ENDED 5TH JANUARY, 1846.

APPENDIX.

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GOLDSMITHS' HALLS.	Gold, 17s. per Oz.	Silver, 1s. 6d. per Oz.	Duty on Amount Stamped.	Amount paid for Collection.	Net Amount paid into the Stamp Office.
ENGLAND.					
Birmingham . . . . .	2,091	43,697	£. s. d. 5,054 18 5	£. s. d. 126 7 3	£. s. d. 4,894 19 10
Chester . . . . .	162	444	170 17 5	4 5 3½	166 12 1½
Exeter . . . . .	297	40,987	3,326 7 8½	83 2 8	3,232 14 3¼
Newcastle-upon-Tyne .	201	11,113	1,004 12 10	25 2 3½	956 10 0½
Sheffield . . . . .	.	55,240	4,143 1 3	103 11 4	4,035 7 5
York . . . . .	87	1,713	202 14 6	5 1 3	197 13 3
London . . . . .	5,127	953,625	75,880 5 11	1,874 19 9	60,861 16 1
SCOTLAND.					
Edinburgh . . . . .	73	31,272	2,407 10 3½	60 3 7½	2,347 6 7¾
Glasgow . . . . .	2	22,342	1,678 0 3½	41 18 6	1,636 1 9½
Total . . . . .	8,040	1,160,433	93,868 8 7¼	2,324 11 11¼	78,329 1 5½

## YEAR ENDED 5TH JANUARY, 1847.

GOLDSMITHS' HALLS.	Gold, 17s. per Oz.	Silver, 1s. 6d. per Oz.	Duty on Amount Stamped.	Amount paid for Collection.	Net Amount paid into the Stamp Office.
ENGLAND.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Birmingham . . . . .	2,276	42,985	5,158 9 10	128 19 1	5,011 12 9
Chester . . . . .	221	379	216 17 3	5 8 3	211 9 0
Exeter . . . . .	294	41,597	3,369 18 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	84 4 9	3,282 16 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Newcastle-upon-Tyne . . . . .	203	12,382	1,101 12 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	27 10 9	1,074 1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sheffield . . . . .	. . . . .	54,012	4,050 18 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 5 4	3,931 12 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
York . . . . .	78	1,651	190 5 0	4 15 0	185 10 0
London . . . . .	5,196	983,250	78,160 17 0	1,933 1 11	64,026 11 5
SCOTLAND.					
Edinburgh . . . . .	62	28,729	2,207 18 11	55 3 10	2,152 15 1
Glasgow . . . . .	5	23,751	1,786 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 12 10	1,741 9 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total . . . . .	8,335	1,188,736	96,243 0 2	2,385 1 9	81,617 18 3



## YEAR ENDED 5TH JANUARY, 1848.

GOLDSMITHS' HALLS.	Gold, 17s. per Oz.	Silver, 1s. 6d. per Oz.	Duty on Amount Stamped.	Amount paid for Collection.	Net Amount paid into the Stamp Office.
ENGLAND.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Birmingham . . . . .	2,115	39,429	4,755 11 9	118 17 8	4,626 11 7
Chester . . . . .	168	638	190 8 5½	4 15 1	185 13 4½
Exeter . . . . .	266	44,451	3,560 6 2½	88 19 11	3,457 17 0½
Newcastle-upon-Tyne . . . . .	193	12,523	1,103 15 6¾	27 11 10	1,060 7 11¼
Sheffield . . . . .	.	49,246	3,693 8 4½	92 6 10	3,558 5 9½
York . . . . .	32	2,274	197 12 8¾	4 18 8½	192 14 0
London . . . . .	4,783	860,799	68,626 6 10	1,690 2 0	55,171 10 3
SCOTLAND.					
Edinburgh . . . . .	65	22,219	1,721 17 2	43 0 9	1,678 16 5
Glasgow . . . . .	7	17,689	1,332 17 8½	33 6 3	1,299 11 5½
Total . . . . .	7,629	1,049,268	85,182 4 8½	2,103 19 0½	71,231 7 10½

*Note.*—The Net Amount paid into the Revenue is, after deducting not only the charge of £2. 10s. per cent. allowed by Act of Parliament to each Hall, but also the amount of Drawbacks on Plate exported.

*Accountant and Comptroller General's Office,  
Stamps and Taxes, 3rd April, 1848.*

THOMAS LIGHTFOOT,  
*A. & C. G.*



A RETURN of the AMOUNT of GOLD and SILVER PLATE in Ounces, distinguishing each kind, STAMPED in the Goldsmiths' Hall, Dublin, in each of the last Five Years.

YEARS.	Description of Plate.	Rate of Duty.	Quantity Stamped.	Amount paid for Stamping and Collecting, &c.	Gross Duty.	Net Amount paid into Stamp Office.	The Mode of Collection.
1843	Gold	s. d.	oz. dwt.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	The Duty is collected by the Assay Master from the parties sending in Plate to be Assayed. The Assay Master accounts weekly with the Receiver-General of Stamps.
	Silver	17 0	22 2 }	152 11 11½	1,759 18 2½	1,601 6 9¼	
1844	Gold	1 6	27,720 15 }				
	Silver	17 0	69 13 }	171 6 5½	2,134 11 3	1,950 12 7½	
1845	Gold	1 6	33,179 15 }				
	Silver	17 0	67 19 }	191 8 3½	2,556 4 9½	2,341 18 6	
1846	Gold	1 6	40,653 6 }				
	Silver	17 0	77 2 }	175 14 3	2,222 6 6	2,047 2 3	
1847	Gold	1 6	34,665 5 }				
	Silver	17 0	69 10 }	130 16 9½	1,324 16 11	1,183 17 11	
		1 6	20,398 9 }				

REGULATIONS.—The Assay Office of the Goldsmiths in Dublin is the only office of that description in Ireland; it is held in an apartment in the basement story of the Stamp Office, and is open for work on each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, when a Comptrolling Officer from the Stamp Office attends, with the Duty-paid Punches, weighing the goods which have been assayed, and sees the Duty-marks placed thereon; he then takes the workmen's tickets, and registers them, thus ascertaining the amount of Duty received each day by the Assay Master, who lodges it with the Receiver-General of Stamp Duties weekly.

J. S. COOPER,  
Comptroller & Accountant General.

Stamp Office, Dublin,  
1st April, 1848.



## I.

STATUTES REFERRED TO ON PAGE 128, AS TO THE  
ORIGINAL OBJECT OF THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE  
STANDARDS IN MANUFACTURE OF PLATE.

20 *Edward I.* "Statutum de Moneta." The object of this ordinance was to prevent the importation or use of foreign money.

9 *Edward III.* Same title. The preamble complains of counterfeit money being introduced by foreigners, and continues, "to provide convenient remedy so that our money be increased in our realm," it is ordained, &c.; then follow several enactments to prohibit the exporting of plate without license; to prohibit goldsmiths melting certain sterling money; to forbid any person leaving the kingdom except at Dover, and there to be searched, "so that no man, of what state or condition he be, shall carry out of our realm sterling money, silver or plate, neither in vessel of gold or of silver, without our leave;" and declaring that innkeepers in every port shall be sworn to search their guests in the same manner as searchers do.

38 *Edward III. c. 2.* "None shall carry out of the realm gold nor silver in plate nor in money," except fishermen which meddle not with other merchandizes.

5 *Richard II. c. 2.* None shall transport gold or silver without license: "for the great mischief which the realm suffereth and long hath done, for that gold and silver as well in money as in plate and jewels as otherwise by exchanges made in divers manners is carried out of the realm, so that in effect there is none left, which thing, if it should be longer suffered, would shortly be the destruction of the same realm, which God forbid."

2 *Henry IV. c. 5,* to amend the last-named Act.

5 *Henry IV. c. 4.* "That none from henceforth shall use to multiply gold or silver, nor use the craft of multiplication, and if any the same do and be thereof attaint that he incur the pain of felony in this case."

2 *Henry VI. c. 6.* Regulating the exporting of gold and silver in certain cases.

2 *Henry VI. c. 12.* "To the intent that the more bullion may be brought to the Mint, and the greater plenty of white money be made and current within the realm, for the ease and profit of the commonalty of the same," the Master of the Mint is required to keep his allay; to give to every person bringing silver its true value; the king's assayer, "which is a person indifferent betwixt the Master of the Mint and the Merchant and also the Controller," is to be present when any bullion is brought to the Mint, and affix its true value in case of difference; the assayer and controller to be credible, substantial, and expert men, having



perfect knowledge of the mystery of goldsmiths and of the Mint; the Master of the Mint is to convert into *coin* all gold and silver, wrought or unwrought, coined or uncoined.

2 *Henry VI. c. 13* fixes the price of a pound of silver, "forasmuch as great scarcity of white money is within the realms, because that silver is bought and sold, not coined, at 22s. the lb."

1 *William and Mary, stat. 1, c. 30*, repealed 5 *Henry IV. c. 4*, because great advances had been made by divers persons in the art of refining metals, "which very much abound within this realm," and extracting gold and silver out of the same, "who dare not exercise their skill within this realm for fear of falling under the penalty of the said statute, but exercise the said art in foreign parts." The repeal was subject to the condition "that all gold and silver that shall be extracted, etc., shall be employed for no other use or uses whatsoever but for the increase of moneys," and are to be taken to the Mint in London, where the full value is to be given.

6 & 7 *William III. c. 17*. No person to export bullion unless stamped at Goldsmiths' Hall, and the Wardens are not to stamp it until proof that no part, before it was molten, was coin.

7 & 8 *William III. c. 19*. "An Act to encourage the bringing plate into the Mint to be coined, and for remedying the ill state of the coin of this realm." No

person keeping an inn or tavern, or selling wine, is to expose in his house any plate except spoons, under the penalty of forfeiting the same; prohibits exporting of silver unless certificate obtained from the court of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen that it was foreign bullion before it was molten.

9 & 10 *William III. c. 28* permitted the exporting of watches and other silver manufactures. The second section prohibits the exporting of watch-cases without movements, and the making of watches without the maker's name being engraved thereon.

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K.

ABSTRACT OF A REPORT ON THE ASSAY OFFICES  
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AND  
ORDERED TO BE PRINTED, APRIL, 1773; AND A  
NOTICE OF SOME ANTECEDENT PROCEEDINGS.

It does not appear, on the Journals of the House of Commons, what occasioned the appointment of the Committee whose Report we are about to notice; but it was contemporaneous with applications from the towns of Birmingham and Sheffield, for powers to establish assay offices in those towns, and doubtless



arose out of them. Before entering upon the Report, it may be well to refer to the proceedings referred to.

On the 1st of February, 1773, a petition of several artificers in silver plate, in the town and neighbourhood of Sheffield, was presented, setting forth that a manufacture had of late years begun within the town and neighbourhood, and was then a very considerable trade there, and was very likely to increase; and that the petitioners were under the necessity of sending their goods to London to be assayed and marked, which occasioned much hazard, expense, and delay; and praying for leave to bring in a bill for establishing an assay office at Sheffield.

On the 2nd of February, a petition of Matthew Boulton, on behalf of himself and the rest of the manufacturers of silver wares in Birmingham, was presented; and, after noticing the application from Sheffield, it set forth that the petitioner and others were engaged in the manufacture of silver plate, which might be considerably improved in case an assay office were established; but the inconvenience they laboured under in sending their goods to Chester, the nearest assay office, was a great interference with their success; and the petitioner prayed that if provision should be made for establishing an assay office at Sheffield, that Birmingham might be included.

On the 15th and 25th of February, petitions of the Goldsmiths' Company in London, and of goldsmiths

and others of the city of London and places adjacent, were presented against the proposed bill.

On the 26th of February, a Committee was appointed to inquire into the manner of conducting the several assay offices in London, York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, Norwich, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the manner in which wrought plate was assayed and marked; and also into the frauds and abuses that had been committed and attempted to be committed by the manufacturers and vendors of gold and silver plate and plated works.

On the 8th of March, a petition of several persons, goldsmiths, etc., of the city of London and places adjacent, was presented to the House, setting forth that frauds and abuses had been committed in the manufacturing of gold and silver plate, in or near to the towns of Sheffield and Birmingham, or one of them; and that divers artificers there had plated with silver, wares made of iron, steel, or other metals, and impressed marks thereon in such manner that the wares were made to look like real plate marked at an assay office; and as a Committee had been appointed to inquire into the manner of conducting the several assay offices, praying that the petitioners might be heard before the Committee to prove the allegations of the petition. It was ordered that the petition be referred to the consideration of the Committee, and that the petitioners be heard.



It would appear that the London Goldsmiths' Company was, as it might be expected it would be, jealous of rival offices, which would take from it some of its work; and out of this wholesome rivalry arose the inquiry, which resulted in the Report about to be noticed, and without which the statute establishing the offices at Sheffield and Birmingham would have been far less complete and satisfactory.

On the 29th of April, the Committee presented a Report to the House, which was ordered to be printed; and of which I now propose to give some account.

The Report commences with the statement, "that, in order to discover in what manner the several offices in London, Chester, Exeter, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne (being the only assay offices which they find are now kept in this kingdom), have been conducted, ordered the Assay Masters of those several offices to attend them," etc.

It would appear, from this, that the assay office at York, one of the most ancient, and one of the present offices, was not then in operation.

As to the office in *London*, the Committee reported that MR. DAVID HENNEL, Deputy Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company in London, was examined, and informed the Committee that there were at the office, two weighers, four drawers, and two assayers [the account of their mode of working in their respective



departments is given in detail]; that the diet was carefully tried, annually, before all the Assistants of the Company, being of the mystery, in the same manner as the pix of the coin was tried; that there was not any check upon the report of the Assayers.

MR. FENDALL RUSHFORTH, Senior Assay Master of the Goldsmiths' Company, was examined to same purport as Mr. Hennell. He also stated that the Trial of the diet in May was the check upon the Assay Master; it did not prove any particular person's plate, but only showed what standard had been passed all the year; that if, upon the trial of the plate at Goldsmiths' Hall, it came within two pennyweights of standard, they passed it as standard.

MR. GEORGE FAIR, Clerk to the Company, produced translations of the charters and other papers, and gave an account of the annual trials of the diets similar to those given by the preceding witnesses.

MR. RICHARD COLLINS, Fireman and Drawer, described his duties.

As to the office at CHESTER, MR. JOHN SCASEBRICK, the Assay Master, stated that there was a company of goldsmiths and watchmakers at Chester, which consisted of two wardens and eight members. He described the mode of proceeding at the office, as to receiving the work, scraping, assaying, marking, etc., and stated the marks to be the *Lion*, the *Leopard's Head*, the *City Arms*, the *Letter for the Year*, which



was then U. He had no fixed salary as Assay Master; his profit arose from the prices allowed by Act of Parliament, which never amounted to £10 in any one year. The diet never was sent to London to be assayed, nor was ever required by the Lord Chancellor or any one else in witness's time.

As to the office at EXETER, MR. MATTHEW SKINNER, Assay Master of the Goldsmiths' Company there, was examined; he described the mode of work, and stated that the marks used on plate were the *Lion*, the *Leopard's Head*, the *Exeter Mark*, and the *Letter for the Year*, which for that year was Z in Roman character; that the letter was changed annually at the first hall-meeting after the 7th of August, and went through the whole alphabet; he did not know when the diet was sent to the Tower; there were many years' diet then in the office.

As to the office at NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, MR. MATTHEW PRIOR, Assay Master of the Goldsmiths' Company, was examined. He described the mode of proceeding at his office. He stated that he had no fixed salary, was paid one-halfpenny an ounce on all plate by the owners; the marks were the *Lion*, the *Leopard's Head*, the *Three Castles*, and the *Letter for the Year*; the letter for the present year was D. He did not remember the diet box ever to have been sent, or required by the Lord Chancellor to be sent, to the Mint.

Several witnesses were called to prove that irregularities had been committed at Sheffield and Birmingham in the manufacture of plate; and that plated goods were marked like silver goods. And witnesses were also examined to prove similar irregularities by the silversmiths of London.

After stating the evidence of the witnesses, the Report concluded thus:—"Your Committee, upon closing the evidence relative to the Assay Office at Chester, in order to testify their approbation thereof, made the following observation, viz., 'that it appears to this Committee that the Assay Office at Chester has been conducted with fidelity and skill;' and upon closing the evidence relative to the Assay Office at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, your Committee made the same observation respecting that office.

"Your Committee further observe to the House, that the artificers are now arrived at so great a perfection in plating with silver the goods made of base metal, that they very much resemble solid silver; and if the practice which has been introduced of putting marks upon them somewhat resembling those used at the Assay Offices shall not be restrained, many frauds and impositions may be committed upon the public.

"And your Committee beg leave further to observe to the House, that it appears to them, from the manner in which the said several Assay Offices have been, and are now, conducted, that they are liable to many



abuses and impositions, and that various frauds have been committed upon silver plate, contrary to the legal standards established in this kingdom ; and that some further checks and regulations are necessary to be made in and over the said offices, besides those provided by the laws now in being."

The recommendations of the Committee were not carried out, except in reference to Birmingham and Sheffield. The only general Act passed on the subject during the session in which the Report was presented, was the statute repealing capital punishment for forgery of the assay marks, and substituting transportation for it, and this was in direct opposition to the evidence adduced, see p. 181. There was not any legislative provision respecting platers' marks, until eleven years later, and then a local Act (24 Geo. III. c. 20) was passed for amending the provisions of the Birmingham and Sheffield Act relating to this and other matters.

The *Appendix to the Report* contains much interesting matter respecting the Assay Offices and the trade of goldsmiths. I shall state all the subject matters on which information is there given, for the sake of those who may desire to pursue the inquiry, extracting such particulars only as relate to the subject of these pages.

## No. 1.

“An account of the number of the goldsmiths, silversmiths, and plate-workers, freemen of and inhabiting within the City of London, and who have served an apprenticeship to the said trade, that are now members of the Company of Goldsmiths.” London, 8th March, 1773.

“An account when and before whom the present Assayers of the Company of Goldsmiths of the City of London were sworn to the due execution of their offices.

*Assayer's Oath.*

“Ye shall swere that ye shall be feithfull and treue to oure Sovereign Lord the Kyng, and treue ye shall be in the office of comen assayer for the crafte of Goldsmyths, and ye shall treue assays make of all suche gold as shall be brought to you to assay, and none avayle to yourself take to the hurtyng of any parson that is owner or brynger in of any gold or silver to be assayed. And ye shall no gold or silver admitte to be towchidd under the goodness ordeyned by Acts of Parliament. Also all such stuffe as ye shall receyve of gold and silver, ye shall safely kepe and treuely remember it in wrytyng.

“And at all tymes when ye shall be requyred deuly and treuely delyver agayn, and treue accompt make therof without favoure, affeccion, hate, or yvell will, shewyng to any parte.

“And if any parson of the said crafte would ima-



gyne or practice any untrough to deceyve the wardeyns or you, ye shall anone geve knowledge to the wardeyns therof, so that they may ordeyn a remedy for the same, as the case shall requyre. Also ye shall none assaye make upon thynges new brought before it be marked with the marke of the owner or maker thereof, and moreover in all other thynges that ye shall dele or doe for the felishipp and every member thereof concernyng your office, ye shall do it justly and treuly to your power without disceyte.

“So helpe you God.”

“An account of 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.

“An account of the weight of all the gold and silver plate assayed and marked at the Assay Office in Goldsmiths’ Hall, London, for seven years, ending the 29th of May, now last past [1772].

<i>Years.</i>	GOLD PLATE.				SILVER PLATE.			
	<i>lb.</i>	<i>oz.</i>	<i>dwt.</i>	<i>gr.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>oz.</i>	<i>dwt.</i>	<i>gr.</i>
1766.....	552	8	1	20	94,232	11	3	
1767.....	574	4	7	15	101,603	10	11	
1768.....	580	0	6	13	95,909	2	10	
1769.....	570	5	16	21	98,011	4	19	
1770.....	516	1	13	19	98,267	8	16	
1771.....	597	1	11	13	99,861	8	17	
1772.....	535	4	10	3	104,641	4	15	
Total ...	3926	2	8	8	692,528	3	11	

“An account of the weight of all the gold plate and silver plate broken and defaced at the Assay Office in Goldsmiths’ Hall, London, for seven years ending 29th May last [1772].

	GOLD PLATE.				SILVER PLATE.			
	<i>lb.</i>	<i>oz.</i>	<i>dwt.</i>	<i>gr.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>oz.</i>	<i>dwt.</i>	
1766.....	6	10	8	15	2,227	2	2	
1767.....	2	1	15	3	870	1	14	
1768.....	1	5	12	4	1,137	11	6	
1769.....	9	4	15	11	1,046	5	18	
1770.....	12	0	14	0	986	3	16	
1771.....	11	8	9	0	1,062	4	16	
1772.....	5	12	13	3	1,082	9	4	
Total .....	49	7	7	12	8,413	2	16	

## No. 2.

“An account of the quantity of gold plate and silver plate broken at the Assay Office, at Goldsmiths’ Hall, London, from 23 May, 1771, to 29 May, 1772; distinguishing each person’s name and place of abode to whom such plate belonged, and the quantities respectively belonging to each person.”

“LONDON, 25 *March*, 1773.

“An account of all 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, one William Chatterton, working silversmith, was prosecuted by indictment upon 28 Ed. I. and 6 Geo. 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, one William Kersil, 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 Morley Evans and others were prosecuted by actions on the 12th Geo. II. for making gold watch-chains worse than standard: and Roger Simkinson and others were prosecuted by actions, on the said statute, for selling gold watch-chains worse than standard.

"In 1770, John Gimlett and William Vale, watch-makers, were prosecuted by an action on the said statute 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 judgement to go by default.

"*Note.*—Since the duty of sixpence per ounce on silver plate, payable by the makers thereof, was taken off, and the counterfeiting the Hall-marks was made a capital crime by 31 Geo. II. c. 32, the frauds in

wrought plate have greatly decreased, except in such wares as are not obliged to be marked with the Company's marks."

## No. 3.

"An account of the names of the present members of the Company of Goldsmiths and Watchmakers of the City of *Chester*."

[These are *nine* in number.]

"An account of the names and trades of the present wardens and assayer at *Chester*."

"An account of the names and places of abode of all the goldsmiths, silversmiths, and plate-workers now living, that have entered their marks at the Assay Office at *Chester*."

[These are seventeen in number, and include parties residing at Manchester, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, Birmingham, *Chester*, and Warrington.]

"An account of the weight of the plate assayed and marked at the Assay Office in the City of *Chester* for seven years:—

	<i>Ounces.</i>		<i>Ounces.</i>
1766 .....	824	1770 .....	2176
1767 .....	331	1771 .....	2429
1768 .....	314	1772 .....	2348
1769 .....	161		
		Total .....	<u>8583</u> ounces.



## No. 4.

“ *Exon, March 14, 1773.*

“ Names of five members composing the Company of Goldsmiths.”

“ 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.”

[Seventeen in number, comprising parties resident at Plymouth, Dartmouth, and Exeter.]

“ The weight of all the plate assayed and marked at the Assay Office for seven years last past.

					<i>lb.</i>	<i>oz.</i>	<i>dwt.</i>
From 7th August, 1765, to 7th August, 1766...					329	4	16
“ “ 1766 “ “ 1767...					273	2	0
“ “ 1767 “ “ 1768...					431	4	3
“ “ 1768 “ “ 1769...					485	7	10
“ “ 1769 “ “ 1770...					475	4	11
“ “ 1770 “ “ 1771...					327	6	16
“ “ 1771 “ “ 1772...					290	11	9
“ “ 1772 to present time.....					184	14	17

“ An account of all the plate broken and defaced at the Assay Office in Exeter for seven years last past.”

[This contains the names of the workers and of the articles, the dates, and the weights. The total weight is 196 lb. 4 oz. 8 dwt.]

## No. 5.

“ An account of the number of goldsmiths, silver-

smiths, and plate-workers, freemen of and inhabiting within the Town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and who have served an apprenticeship to the said trade, that are now members of the Goldsmiths' and Silver-smiths' Company at Newcastle."

[This contains the names of *three* persons only.]

"An account of the names and trades of the present Wardens and Assayer."

"An account of 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 of the Town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne."

[This contains the names of *nine* parties residing at Newcastle, Durham, and Sunderland.]

"An account of the weight of all the gold plate and silver plate assayed and marked at the Assay Office in Newcastle-upon-Tyne for seven years last past:—

	SILVER.	GOLD.
In 1766.....	Oz. 13,040	—
1767.....	12,964	—
1768.....	12,970	—
1769.....	10,987	—
1770.....	11,578	—
1771.....	13,495	—
1772.....	12,158	—
	<u>Oz. 87,192</u>	

"An account of the weight of all the gold plate and silver plate broken and defaced at the said Assay



Office of Newcastle-upon-Tyne for seven years last past:—

	SILVER.	GOLD.
1766 .....	Oz. 262	—
1767 .....	148	—
1768 .....	112	—
1769 .....	210	—
1770 .....	172	—
1771 .....	165	—
1772 .....	125	—
	<hr/> Oz. 1194	

## No. 6.

“LONDON, *March* 25, 1773.

“Extracts from such parts of the charters granted to the Company of Goldsmiths of the City of London, as relate to the regulation of the assays of wrought plate: as taken from their translation of such charters.”

“Extracts from such bye-laws of the Company of Goldsmiths of the City of London as relate to the regulation of the assays of wrought plate.

“(No. 1.) A copy of ancient ordinances, revised in the year 1729, and read annually to the Livery of the said Company.”

[These relate to—searches by the Wardens; indemnity of the Wardens out of the Company’s funds; the marking of weights by Wardens

before used by goldsmiths, etc.; imposition of penalties for working worse than standards; punishments for selling wares not marked with the Owner's Mark, the Leopard's Head crowned, the Lion, and the Letter for the Year; *or*, with the Lion's Head erased, Britannia, Letter, and Owner's Mark.]

"(No. 2.) Copy of orders to be observed in the said Company's Assay Office, made 30th October, 1760."

[These relate to—the days and hours of attendance; the examination of the work brought to be assayed; reference to the Owner's Mark; the notes of owner's name, etc.; to all cast-work having been boiled or filed; to the work having all the pieces joined together; and the prohibition of gratuities.]



## L.

COPY OF THE CHARTER OF THE GOLDSMITHS'  
COMPANY IN DUBLIN.

CHARLES, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; To all people unto whom these Our present Letters shall come Greeting. WHEREAS of late <sup>The cause of the Grant.</sup> we have received certain intelligence, through the great abuses and deceits which heretofore have been and are daily committed within the said kingdom of Ireland; by such men and persons who are bold, and do presume in themselves to take upon them and to exercise the art and mystery of goldsmiths, not altogether being expert, but unskilful therein, to the general loss and grievous damage of us and of our good subjects there. And whereas, we having consideration to the premises, it is observed and is manifestly known, and appeareth unto us, that all those things do fall out and happen through want of a certain stamp,—in English a stand- <sup>A Stamp called a Standard.</sup> ard—and of good rules and ordinances to and for the government and better ruling of the said mystery within our said kingdom of Ireland.

We, therefore, willing and advising graciously to provide a convenient redress and apt reformation on this behalf, and to the intent that from <sup>Incorporated in Dublin same as in London.</sup> henceforth, for ever and everlasting, a

society and body incorporate of the aforesaid mystery of Goldsmiths may be raised and established in our city of Dublin, within our said kingdom of Ireland, as now it is, and for many years last gone and past hath been, in our city of London within our said kingdom of England, it hath been thought good, and

Power to Punish and correct all Abuses.

doth seem meet unto us, to give, grant, and vouchsafe to the Goldsmiths hereafter named, and their successors, which shall hereafter be of our said city of Dublin within our said kingdom of Ireland, full and free license, power, and authority to discover, punish, and correct all and all manner of the aforesaid abuses and deceits of the said mystery within our said kingdom of Ireland hereafter to be done and committed. And that our said royal intention in the premises, for the good and profit of our commonwealth and of our said subjects of our said kingdom of Ireland may more speedier, better, and more effectually be brought to pass and perfected, know ye that we, of our especial grace and of our certain knowledge, and mere motion, also of the advice, assent, and consent of our right well-beloved and right trusty cousin and counsellor, Thomas Viscount Wentworth, our Deputy-General of our kingdom of Ireland aforesaid, and President of our Council established in the north parts of the said kingdom of England, we have willed, ordained, and granted, and by these presents, for us, our heirs



and successors, do will, ordain, and grant, that our beloved subjects, William Cooke, of our said city of Dublin in the county of the said city, goldsmith, John Woodcocke,

The Names  
of the Members  
first Incorporated.

of the same, William Hampton, of the same, James Vanderbegg, of the same, William Gallant, of the same, John Banister, of the same, Nathaniel Houghton, of the same, James Acheson, of the same, Clement Evans, of the same, George Gallant, of the same, Sylvanus Glegg, of the same, William St. Cleere, of the same, Gilbert Tongues, of the same, Edward Shadesy, of the same, Peter Vanemhown, of the same, Matthew Thomas, of the same, William Crawley, of the same, Thomas Duffield, of the same, John Cooke, of the same, and John Burke, of the same, goldsmiths, from henceforth shall be one Society, Company, and body incorporate of itself, in deed and in name, and shall have everlasting succession, to continue for ever hereafter, and may be and shall be in deed, name, and fact, one body incorporate by itself for ever by the name of

By the name  
of Wardens and  
Commonalty.

WARDENS AND COMMONALTY OF GOLD-SMITHS OF OUR SAID CITY OF DUBLIN; and those Wardens and Commonalty of Goldsmiths of our said city of Dublin, and their successors, we have incorporated, established, and united. And the said body incorporate by the same name, and under the same name of Wardens and Commonalty of the mystery

of Goldsmiths of the City of Dublin, for ever to continue, we really and fully do create, erect, incorporate, establish, ordain, make, and appoint, by these presents, and that they may have everlasting succession, and a common seal, to serve for the affairs of the aforesaid mystery.

And we will, and by these presents do nominate,  
The first Wardens hereby appointed. ordain, create, make, and appoint the aforesaid William Cooke, John Woodcock, William Hampton, and John Bannister, the first and modern Wardens of the said mystery of Goldsmiths of our city of Dublin aforesaid, from the making of these our Letters Patent, until the Feast of All Saints next following after the date of these presents, to remain and continue, and for a longer and shorter time, as to the Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery of Goldsmiths of our said city of Dublin aforesaid, or to the greater part of them, shall seem to be fit and necessary.

And further, we will, and by these presents we do, ordain and appoint that the said William Cooke, John Woodcock, William Hampton, and John Bannister, above in these presents named, to be the prime and modern Wardens of the said commonalty of the aforesaid mystery, and before they be admitted to execute the office of the Wardens of the said commonalty of the mystery aforesaid, they take and receive and every of them respectively take and receive before our Chan-



cellor of our said Kingdom of Ireland for the time being the oath or sacrament following, The Wardens' Oaths. in these English words, (viz.) "You and

every of you shall swear to be true and faithful to the King, our Sovereign Lord, his heirs and successors. You shall not be against his profit or advantage, but that you shall be to the advancement of his Crown as much as in your power shall lie. Furthermore, you and every of you shall duly and truly execute and perform the office of Wardens of the Company of Goldsmiths, and in that place or office whereunto you and every of you are now appointed. You and every of you shall faithfully and uprightly behave yourselves. Ye shall therein to every person and persons, who shall bring or cause to be brought unto your hands, within your office, any manner of silver plate to be tried or touched, or any weight called troy weight, to be assized, according to his Majesty's standard, use yourselves in the due execution of the same according to right, equity, and justice, and also that you or any of you do not set, nor by your powers shall not suffer to be set, the King's Majesty's Stamp, called the *Harp crowned*, now appointed Harp crowned not to be affixed to Plate under the Standard, 11 oz. 2 dwt. by his said Majesty, to no manner of plate of silver to you brought into your said office by any manner of person or persons, unless the said silver plate be in every part and parcel thereof according to his Majesty's standard,



otherwise called, eleven ounces two pennyweights. And in case it be under, and not of the said fineness, you and every of you shall cause it to be broken ere it pass your hands, whose plate or of what value soever it be.

“ And you, and every of you, shall also make true Wardens to and diligent search from time to time, search for de- as often as need shall require, for all de- ceivable wares. ceivable wares of gold and silver, and do and perform all other things whatsoever touching the said office, according to the law, and according to the purport of his Majesty’s grant in that behalf made unto the said Company of Goldsmiths, without fear, love, favour, hatred, or affection by you, or by any of you to be borne, to any manner of person or persons, so help you God, and the contents of this Book.” Wherefore

we will, and for our heirs and successors Power to the then Lord Chan- cellor to swear in the first War- dens. we do give and grant full power and authority unto our said Chancellor of our said realm of Ireland for the time being, to give and administer unto the aforesaid William Cooke, John Woodcock, William Hampton, and John Bannister, and every of them respectively, the aforesaid oath or sacrament of the office of the Wardens of the said Company of Goldsmiths as aforesaid, without any other Commission or Warrant from us, our heirs or successors, to be procured or obtained.

And further, for us, our heirs and successors, we



will, and by these presents do grant, that the said Company of the said mystery of Goldsmiths of our city of Dublin aforesaid, and their successors, can and may, at our said city of

Power to the Company to elect new Wardens.

Dublin, choose every year, from time to time for ever, of the men of the Company aforesaid, to supervise, rule, and duly govern the mystery and Company aforesaid. And all and every man or men of them for ever, in the selfsame like manner and form, as the Wardens and Commonalty of the

Powers the same as in London.

said mystery of Goldsmiths of our said city of London within our said kingdom of England, or the greater part of them may choose or have used to choose, and that the said Wardens of the said mystery within our city of Dublin aforesaid, for the time being, have the selfsame, so much, such, and the like power and authority of Goldsmiths of the Company aforesaid, and of all the men of the same, within our said kingdom of Ireland, in all things, and according to all things, to govern, rule, and order, as the Wardens of the said Company of the said mystery, within our city of London in our said kingdom of England, now have, do exercise, or use, or ought, or can lawfully have, enjoy, exercise, or use, by reason or pretence of any grant or grants by us, or any of our progenitors, late kings or queens of England, or of any statute law, ordinance, custom, or lawful prescription, or use, or otherwise by any lawful manner whatsoever.

K



Power to the  
Wardens from  
time to time to  
give the Oath to  
their Successor.

And furthermore, we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do ordain, grant, and appoint, that all and every person and persons, which hereafter may be chosen to be Wardens of the said Company, of the said mystery of Goldsmiths, and every of them, before they exercise the said office, shall from time to time take their corporal oaths, according to the effect of the oath, or sacrament above, in these presents specified and ordained for the aforesaid First Wardens, before the last precedent Wardens of the said Company of the mys-

On All Saints' Day.

tery aforesaid, yearly at the Feast of All Saints, to which truly last precedent Wardens of the Company of the mystery aforesaid, for us, our heirs and successors, we do give and grant full power and authority, from time to time, by these presents, to give and administer the oath and sacrament aforesaid, without any other commission or warrant from us, our heirs and successors, in that behalf to be procured or obtained. And that after such an oath so taken, the aforesaid office, unto which they shall be chosen and named for one whole year, (to wit) at the Feast of All Saints then next following, they may and can respectively execute, and further, until four others into the office of Wardenship of the said Company of the mystery aforesaid, be appointed and sworn respectively, according to the provisos and



ordinances above in these presents expressed and declared.

And furthermore we will, and do by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, ordain, grant, and appoint, that all and every freeman, and men, and every of them, which hereafter shall be admitted or received from time to time into the Company of the mystery aforesaid, shall undertake the oath or sacrament of their liberties and immunities before the Wardens of the same Company of the mystery aforesaid, for the time being, and full power and authority to the Wardens of the said Company of the said mystery for the time being, to give and administer their corporal oaths to all and every freeman, and every of them, which hereafter shall be received into the said Company of the mystery aforesaid, from time to time, the oath or sacrament of their several liberties or immunities respectively, for us, our heirs and successors, we do give and grant, by these presents, without any other commission or warrant from us, our heirs or successors, in that behalf to be procured or obtained.

Power to the  
Wardens to give  
the Oath to the  
Brethren.

And furthermore, for us, our heirs and successors, we grant to the said Wardens and Commonalty of the mystery aforesaid, within our said city of Dublin, and to their successors, that they and their successors for ever, by the name of Wardens and Commonalty of



the mystery of Goldsmiths of our city of Dublin aforesaid, henceforth may and shall be one body incorporate in the law, sufficient, capable, able, and fit  
Power to Plead and to be Impleaded. to plead and be impleaded and to implead, prosecute, answer, and defend before what Judges or Justices whatsoever of ours, our heirs and successors, as well spiritual as temporal, and other persons whatsoever in all our Courts, our heirs and successors, and other Courts and places whatsoever, within the said realm of Ireland, in all and all manner of actions, real, personal, and mixed, assize, novel, dessize, in to all other pleas, suits, complaints, actions, and demands whatsoever, of what kind or nature soever they be, the said Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery of Goldsmiths within our said city of Dublin, or the lands, tenements, affairs, wares, merchandizes, bargains, agreements, debts, or any other thing or things of theirs, touching, concerning, or appertaining to the said Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery, and that the said Wardens and Commonalty of that mystery, and their successors from time to time for ever, may

Powers to make Laws, and how same are to be approved on. make honest and reasonable ordinances and constitutions for the better government of the said mystery, as often as to them shall seem expedient.

Provided always, that none of their ordinances or constitutions be of force or put in execution, until



the same be seen and approved of by two of our Chief Justices and Chief Barons of our Exchequer, our heirs and successors, within our said realm of Ireland, for the time being, and be allowed before the Deputy, or other Chief Governor, and our Counsel of our aforesaid kingdom of Ireland.

And furthermore, we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do grant and give special license unto the said Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery of Goldsmiths of our city of Dublin aforesaid, and to their successors to have, possess, receive, and ask, and them and their successors for ever, such manors, messuages, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, grounds, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, services, reversions and other hereditaments whatsoever, within our said realm of Ireland, as well as from us, our heirs and successors, as from any other person or persons whatsoever, which are not held of us, nor shall be held of our heirs or successors, *in capite* or by knight's service, so that the said manors, messuages, lands, tenements so by them to be had, received, and asked, do not exceed in the whole the clear yearly value of twenty pounds sterling by the year, besides all burthens and reprizes, the statute of lands and tenement in mortmain not to be, or any other statute, act, ordinance, or proviso, heretofore had, done, or-

Powers to Buy  
Houses and  
Lands, etc., and  
to Sell or Be-  
quenth same.



dained, or provided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding, we have also given, and by these presents for us and our heirs and successors, grant unto every subject of ours, and whatsoever subject of ours, our heirs and successors, special license and free power and authority that they and any of them may and can give, grant, sell, bequeath, and alien such manor, messuages, tenements, meadows, feedings, grounds, pastures, woods, underwoods, rectories, tythes, rents, reversions, and other hereditaments whatsoever, within our said realm of Ireland, as are not held of us, neither shall be held of our heirs or successors, *in capite*, nor by knight's service, to the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery of Goldsmiths of our said city of Dublin, and to their successors. So nevertheless that the aforesaid manors, messuages, lands, tenements, and other hereditaments, so as is aforesaid, to the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the mystery aforesaid (by force, virtue, or strength of these presents) to be given, granted, bequeathed, or aliened, may not exceed in the whole the clear yearly value of twenty pounds sterling per annum, besides all burthens and reprises (the said statute of lands and tenements in mortmain not to be, or any other statute, act, ordinance, or proviso, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, done, had, proclaimed, ordained, or heretofore provided,



to the contrary thereof, in anywise notwithstanding).

*And furthermore*, of our like grace, special of the advice, assent, and consent aforesaid, we do grant, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, firmly enjoining, we give, charge, or-  
 No Gold or Silver to be delivered to Workmen but by Assay, or known to be good.

dain, and command, that no master goldsmith whatsoever, within our said realm of Ireland, shall deliver or cause  
 to be delivered unto his workmen, or any of them, any gold or silver in handiwork, to be wrought of less value than that of the Standard in  
 our said realm of England upon assay  
 thereof to be made, or such moneys as  
 No Gold or Silver to be wrought but by Assay.

are well and vulgarly known, and perceived so much worth, and to be of the selfsame value and goodness, to the intent that if the said workman, or any of them, after the delivery thereof into their hands or the hands of any of them, shall make the said gold or silver worse (as often times they are accustomed to do); whereas they shall be punished for their offences, on that behalf he nor they shall not allege that such impure or bad gold or silver was delivered.

And furthermore, for the honesty of the men of the aforesaid mystery in our said city of Dublin, for the time being and dwelling, and for the avoiding and eschewing of the damages and losses which daily do happen and arise, or may happen and arise, as well to



us and our heirs and successors, as to other our liege people and subjects, out of the unjust and indiscreet government of certain of our subjects, and others using the aforesaid mystery, little weighing the honesty of the said mystery. And also for the cutting off and removing the subtleties and deceits in that

Powers to the Wardens to search and punish by themselves or by supervisors. mystery often used, we have given and granted, and do by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant, unto the aforesaid now Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery and their successors for ever, that they the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery for the time being, may for ever have the search, supervision, assay, and government of all and all manner of gold and silver, wrought and to be wrought, or set to sale, within our city of Dublin, and in all fairs, markets, and marts, and also in cities, towns, and boroughs, and other places whatsoever, in and through our said whole kingdom of Ireland, as well within liberties as without, and to punish and correct the defects and deceits in the same works found, and to be found, if occasion shall be, by the help of the mayor and sheriffs of our said city of Dublin and of the mayors, bailiffs, and others of our officers whatsoever, in whatsoever fairs, markets, marts, cities, boroughs, and towns, and other places without the aforesaid cities,

In all cities, towns, and places in Ireland, same as in Dublin.



where such search and searches shall happen to be made; and that now the Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery for the time being, may have full power for ever to make and exercise due search of and in all and singular the premises, as also of all and singular works touching and concerning the said mystery, as well on men of the aforesaid mystery of goldsmiths as also on others whatsoever, selling, making, or working their affairs, merchandizes, or works, to the said mystery belonging or the said mystery concerning, as well in our aforesaid city of Dublin and suburbs thereof, as elsewhere without the said city of Dublin, in whatsoever fairs, markets, marts, cities, boroughs, and towns, and other places whatsoever in and through our said whole realm of Ireland, by themselves or any of them; and all such deceitful works and merchandizes of gold and silver, of what kind or shape soever they be, (if any be) by them or any of them in any such of their searches found, to the deceiving of our people, our heirs and successors, made or wrought and set forth to sale, to be broken, and the makers, sellers, and workers of the same works, according to their demerits, to punish and correct (if need be) by the help of the mayor, sheriffs, bailiffs, seneschal, and other such like officers, according to the laws, statutes, and ordinances in such cases made and provided, and this as often as it shall best seem to be done, by the aforesaid new Wardens and those for the time being.

We will also, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do grant, and firmly commanding, charge, that all and singular mayors, sheriffs, bailiffs, seneschals, and others our officers whosoever, and every of them, in fairs, markets, marts, cities, boroughs, and towns, and other places where such search shall happen to be made, shall be from time to time for ever advising, favouring, and assisting in all things, as becometh to the aforesaid Wardens and every of them, making such search, in the exercise and execution of the premises.

And moreover we having received certain intelligence that divers indigent men, and strangers exercising and using the aforesaid mystery in divers parts

Powers to punish all who sell fraudulent and counterfeit stones, etc. of our said kingdom of Ireland, and fraudulently gaping after their dishonest gains, and studying and propounding

unto themselves the deceits and losses of the rest of our subjects, divers ways do work and put to sale gold and silver deceitfully and cunningly wrought, of less value than duly it ought to be, and wrought contrary to the ordinances thereof, made within our said kingdoms of England and Ireland, and counterfeit stones which are of no value in such like gold and silver subtly glittering, according to the

In workmen or the vendors. kind of such pearls wrought and put in, and do daily sell for a greater price to divers of our subjects, not experienced therein, as well in privileged places as in fairs, markets, and other



places, cities, and boroughs of our said realm of Ireland, and fear not to be punished; and the Justices therefore doubt that due search, or some due punishment for such a defect in that mystery, anywhere heretofore were not executed, by which means so much fraud, deceit, and unjust workmanship of gold and silver, and of counterfeit pearls, and of works of gold and silver and otherwise, in divers ways, in the mystery aforesaid by the workmen of that mystery, in every part of our said kingdom of Ireland, doth daily increase to the great loss or damage of us, and all our liege people and subjects; and we willing (as becometh us), the deceitful, insufficient, and unjust works and wares of gold and silver, precious stones, and stones of pearl, coral, and such like in the mystery aforesaid, insufficient, and not duly wrought and counterfeit, used to be set forth to sale, to be forfeited, abolished; and we, out of our own certain knowledge and mere motion, as also of the advice, assent, and consent aforesaid, have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do give and grant unto the

The grant to search and assay.

aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery, and their successors, that they the aforesaid Wardens and their successors, and every one of them for the time being, have and may have for ever, by virtue of these presents, full power, force, and authority, in every defect, offence, crime, and deceit, made,

or attempted, or committed against the ordinances of the aforesaid mystery, done within our said kingdom of England or Ireland, in all their searches and assays of gold and silver, and wares, and precious stones, and stones of pearl, coral, or precious stones whatsoever, counterfeit stones, in gold and silver, as in jewels, signets, rings, or girdles, or otherwise in any manner wrought or put in within our said kingdom of Ireland, wheresoever it is justly proved against the workmen or users of any of the same premises, to be set to sale by the very Wardens for the time being. All and every person or persons whatsoever of the said mystery working so deceitfully, and putting forth to sale, to be punished according to their offences, and according to the laws, statutes, and ordinances in that behalf published and provided. We have also granted, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, we do grant, to the same Wardens and Commonalty and their successors, that whensoever, how oftensoever, or wheresoever, as well within liberties as without, any wares of gold or silver, or pearl, or any other whatsoever, counterfeit stones, and deceitfully wrought and fixed in the nature of pearl, in gold and silver, and by assay thereof they be of less value and insufficient in the work of gold or silver than of right they ought to be wrought, (to wit) of the value sterling, according to the ordinances and statutes of us and our progenitors or predecessors, Kings and Queens of England,



within our said realm of England or Ireland, in such cases published, or any such deceitful wares of gold and silver wrought within our said kingdom of Ireland, or by any indigent or foreign workman, and users of the aforesaid mystery, wheresoever sold or set forth to sale, and not assayed, approved, and scaled as they ought, in deceit of our people, and offending contrary to the form of the ordinances and statutes aforesaid; that then they, the Wardens for the time being, or any two of them, may have power and authority to arrest, and seize on, and break, and damnify all and all manner of such wares of gold and silver, counterfeit stones, and pearls, or other stones whatsoever, or deceitfully wrought and set forth to sale, wheresoever they can find them, so that our people be no more thereby deceived, and that in all the searches of those Wardens and their successors for the time being, of and in the premises from time to time in whatsoever places within the space of three miles, In Dublin and within three miles. on this side or near the said city of

Dublin, near or adjoining where any workman, or users of the aforesaid mystery, shall remain, work, or make or alloy the same, Wardens, or some of them for the time being, all manner of works and wares of gold and silver aforesaid, or in gold or silver whatsoever, and jewels to be set with pearls and precious stones, there wrought and to be wrought, may cause to be brought into the common Hall of those

L

Wardens and Commonalty of the mystery aforesaid, being within our aforesaid city of Dublin (within which the common assay of gold and silver is had and tried) there to be tried and assayed, and if there shall be any defect therein in any manner to be duly amended, and being so amended there then to be affirmed for good, and to be sealed with their seal for that purpose to be used and put to; and all defective works whatsoever, as well of or in gold or silver deceitfully wrought, with counterfeit stones set in the same for pearls, and falsely wrought, or tried, known, and found in alloys not sufficient according to the laws, statutes, and ordinances in that behalf published and provided. And moreover, of our special grace and certain knowledge and mere motion, we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors,

Powers to put  
in execution  
whatsoever the  
Goldsmiths of  
London do by  
their Charter.

do grant to the said Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery, and their successors for ever, and to every one of the goldsmiths of the said Commonalty of the mystery aforesaid, that they the said Wardens and Commonalty of the mystery aforesaid, and every goldsmith of the said Commonalty of the mystery aforesaid, as well present as to come, for the time being may and can have, hold, use, enjoy, exercise, and execute, within our said realm of Ireland, and may so much like the same have such like liberties, customs, franchises, privileges, powers, authori-



ties, preeminences, jurisdictions, immunities, commodities, and all other rights whatsoever, of what kind, shape, nature, quantity, or condition whatsoever they be, have been, or shall be, not being repugnant or contrary to these presents, or to any article in the same contained or specified, or to the laws and statutes of this our kingdom of Ireland, as many such,

Not being contrary or repugnant to the laws of England or Ireland.

and as much, and what the Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery of Goldsmiths of London aforesaid, or any Wardens and Commonalty of goldsmiths within our said realm of England or Ireland, now have, enjoy, exercise, and use, by reason or pretence of any statutes or Acts of Parliament, or any letters patent by any of our progenitors, Kings and Queens of England, had or made, or of any prescription or custom, or by any other lawful manner, right, or title whatsoever. And furthermore of our like special grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, and also of the advice, assent,

and consent aforesaid, we do, for us, our heirs and successors, grant, and by

Every city and town where goldsmiths live to have a stamp.

these presents ordain, that in all and every city and town within our said realm of Ireland, in which there are goldsmiths, and to which merchants frequent, they hold and will observe the same and the like ordinances which men of the same mystery within our said city of Dublin are bound to observe, and that



one or two men of the same mystery of every of the said cities and towns may come and draw near to our said city of Dublin, to know the science of the said mystery, and there to ask and seek for the same, their touch of gold and silver, and their punch, to seal, mark, and impress their works and wards, and every of them within the same, as of old it was accustomed and ordained within our city of London. We also give charge, and firmly enjoining, do command the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery of goldsmiths, in the said city of Dublin, for themselves and their successors, do covenant and agree to and with our heirs and successors, by these presents, that the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty, and their successors, of the said mystery, nor any of them exercising the said mystery hereafter, shall or will work, sell, or exchange, or procure to be sold, wrought, or exchanged, any vessels or any other goldsmiths' works or gold, for a less price than that of two and twenty carats fine gold; that they shall not use certain things called solder, anneal, or stuffings,

No more solder or stuffings than necessary. in any their works more than necessary to perfect the same, and that they shall not take beyond the rate of twelve pence for every ounce of gold (besides the fashion) more than the buyer thereof can allow, or were allowed for the same at the Exchange or our money office, our heirs and successors, upon pain of forfeiture of the worth of



the thing so sold and exchanged ; and that henceforth no goldsmith of the mystery aforesaid, in the city aforesaid, shall make, or sell, or exchange in any place within our said realm of Ireland, any vessels or goldsmiths' works of silver than that of eleven ounces two pennyweights, nor shall not take beyond the rate of twelve pence for every pound weight of silver merchandizes (besides the fashion) more than the buyer thereof were, or can be allowed for the same at the Exchange or our money office of us, or our heirs and successors, neither shall he set to sale, exchange, or sell any vessels or goldsmiths' silver works before his workmen shall have put his proper mark to so much thereof as he conveniently can carry, under pain of forfeiture of the worth of the thing so sold or exchanged ; and if any aforesaid goldsmiths of the mystery shall make up any vessels or goldsmiths' works, and they be touched, marked, and allowed for good by the Wardens or Master of the aforesaid mystery, and if in the same afterwards any falsehood or deceit be found, that then the Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery for the time being shall forfeit and pay the worth of the things so exchanged or sold, and that the one half of whatever forfeit thereof may remain to the use of us, our heirs, and successors, and the other half to the use of the party

Twelve pence  
allowed in every  
ounce of gold,  
and twelve pence  
in every pound  
of silver.

The Wardens  
and commonalty  
to forfeit in case  
any plate after  
the touch be  
found deceitful.



who sustained the loss by the same, and who will in any court of record, by action, bill, plea, or information, or otherwise, in which no essoin, protection, or surety of the law shall be allowed unto the defendant or defendants.

And furthermore, we will, and by these presents, do declare, our princely good pleasures to be, that no

None to ad- man shall be admitted to be privileged  
mitted but upon or made free of such commonalty of the  
caution. mystery aforesaid until he be approved by men of the said mystery to have served seven years an apprentice in said mystery, and from thenceforth to be a sufficient workman or artist; also, to have made and framed with his hands a certain work or vessel of gold, in English called his masterpiece, tried and approved by the Wardens aforesaid, for the time being; and also, that the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery of Goldsmiths in our said city of Dublin, may be, and be from time to time subject, bound conformable and obedient to all and singular the Acts, ordinances, instructions, and provisoes whatsoever of the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the said mystery and their successors, or in touching or concerning in anything the premises or any part thereof, had done, published, ordained, or provided by us, our heirs or successors, or by our deputy or other chief governor or governors, and our counsel, of our heirs and successors, of



our said realms of England or Ireland for the time being or hereafter to be, had, made, ordained, or provided, anything in these presents to the contrary

Freedom from all other societies, etc., etc. thereof notwithstanding. And, finally, of our more plentiful special grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion of the advice, assent, and consent aforesaid, we will, and by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, grant, and strictly enjoining do command and give charge that the aforesaid Wardens and Commonalty of the aforesaid mystery, and their successors, be from henceforth for ever freed, acquitted, and discharged, and exonerated of and from all other companies, and societies, and fraternities, guilds, incorporations, and bodies incorporate whatsoever, and of and from all observances, service, and appearances, and all manner of actions, fines, and other burthens and demands whatsoever, by reason or occasion of being incorporated with the same or any of them, by any name or names or ways whatsoever, any act, ordinance, restriction, proviso, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding. We will also, and without a fine in the Hanaper, etc., for that an express mention, etc. In witness whereof, we caused these our letters to be made patents. Witness our aforesaid Deputy-General of our Kingdom of Ireland, at Dublin, 22 Decembri, 13 of our reign.

A. D. 1638.

## M.

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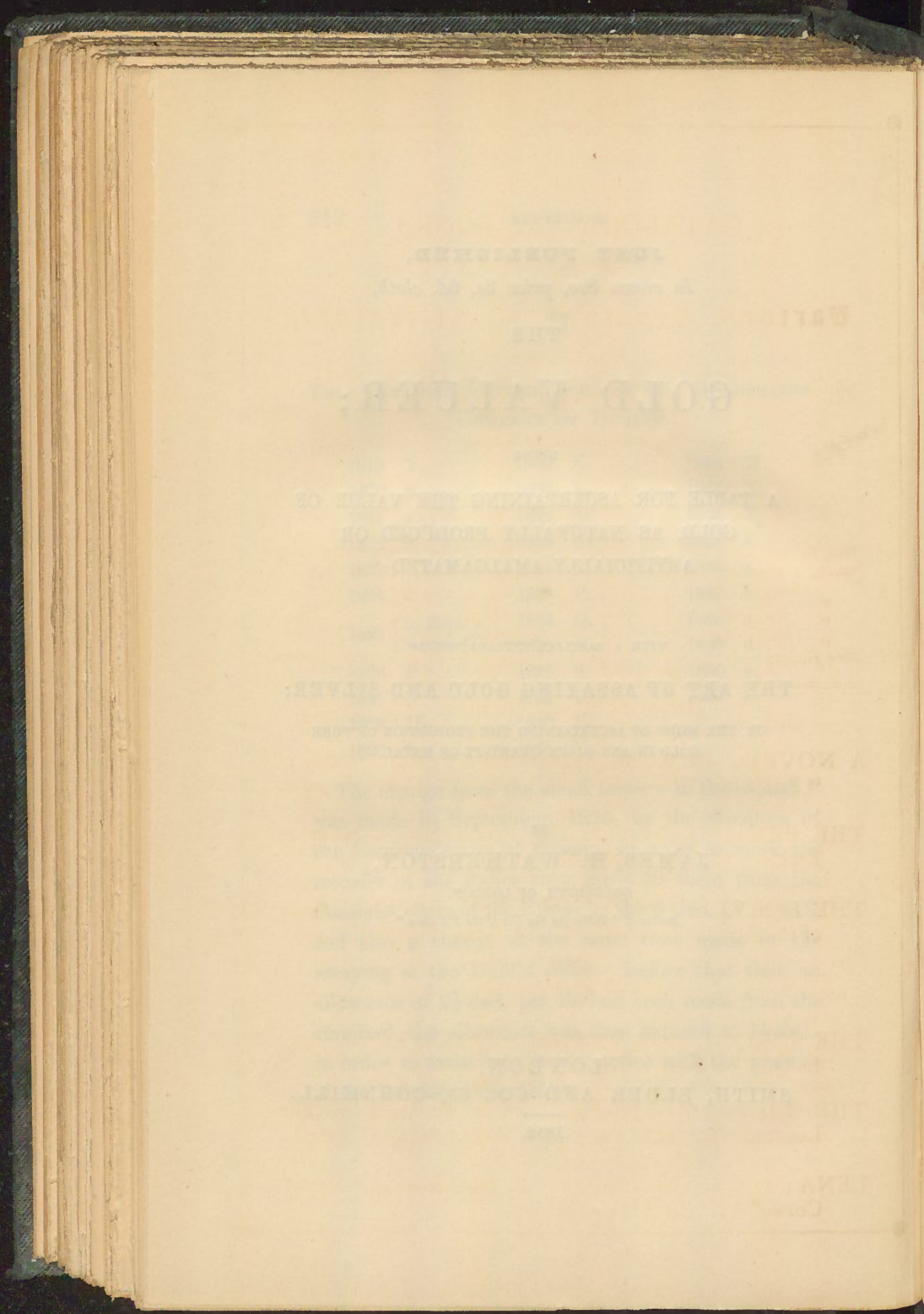
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A

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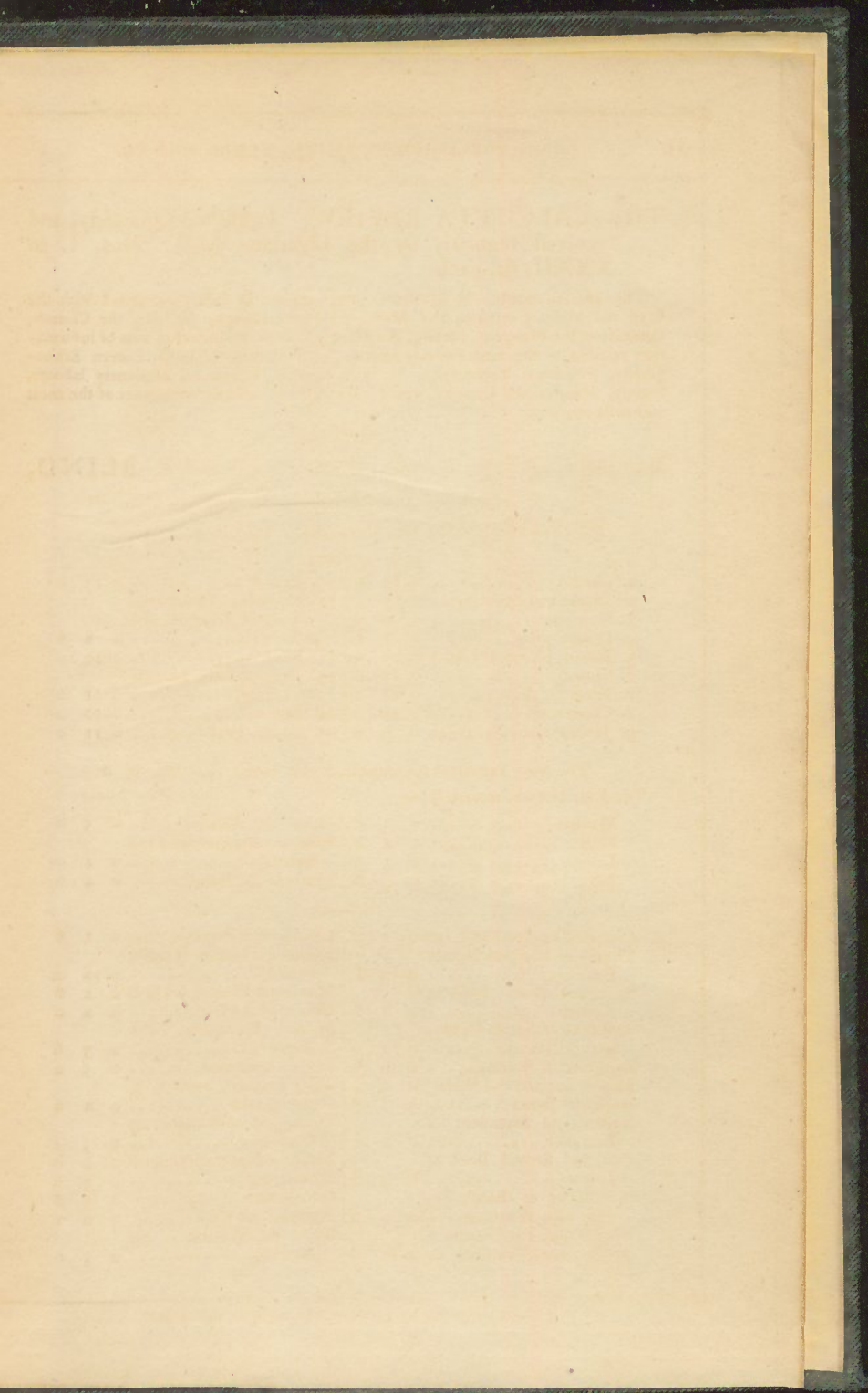
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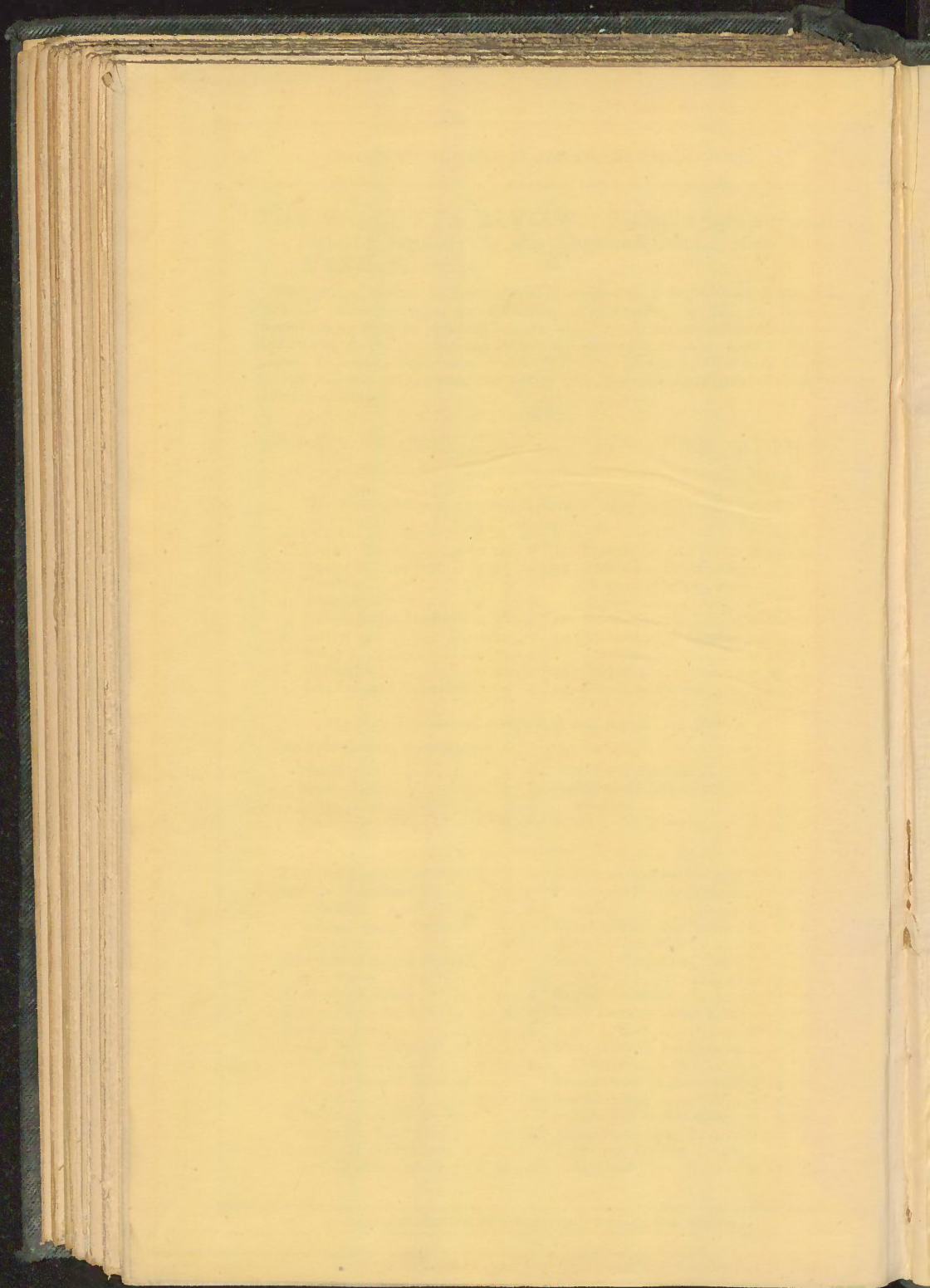
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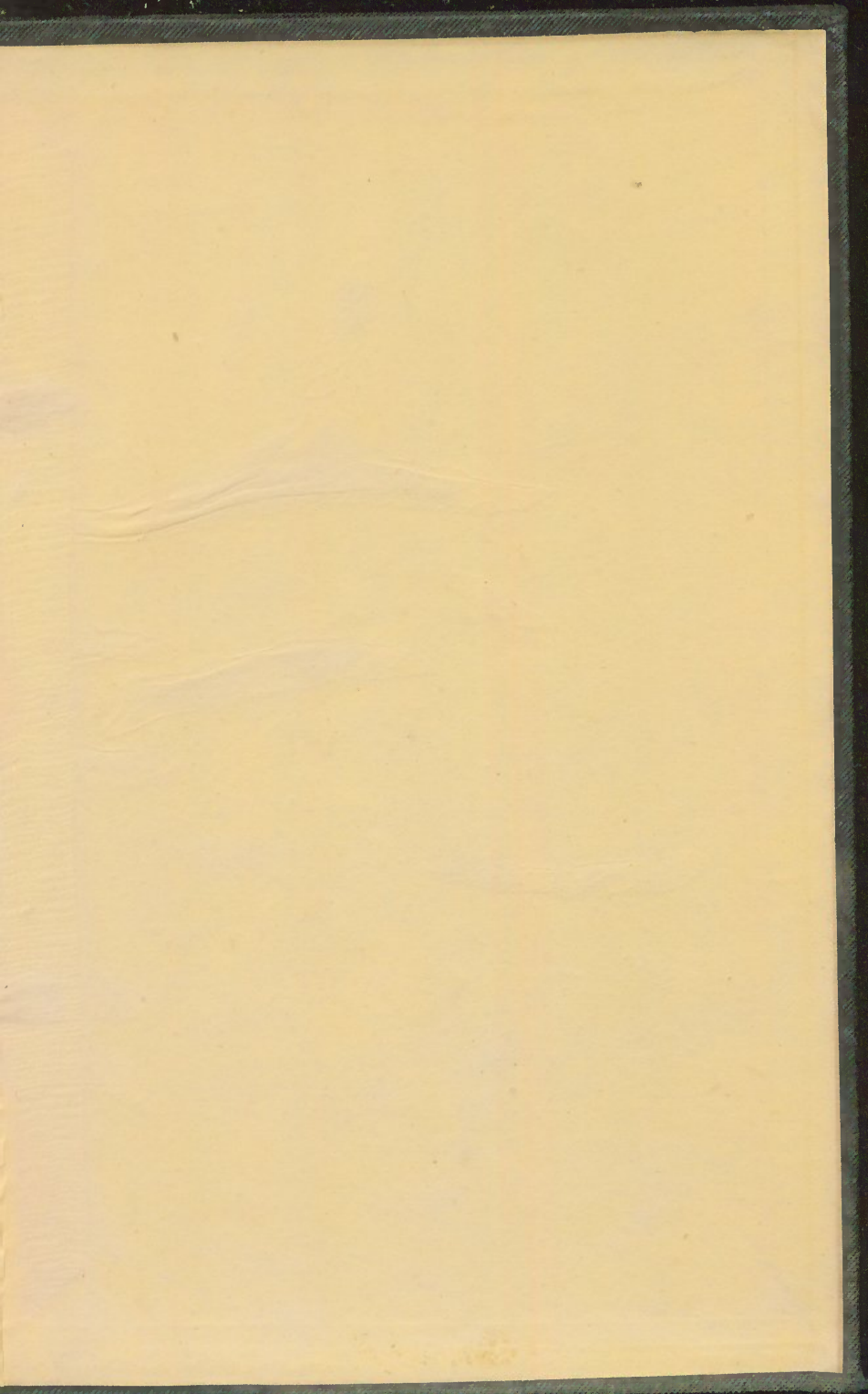
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