The Trade Guilds Of Limerick.

By ROBERT HERBERT.

Origin of the Guilds.

The Mediaeval Guilds originated in the desire of merchants to obtain a monopoly of trading. To effect this they entered into combinations and drew up elaborate rules and regulations for the proper conduct of trade. The craftsmen, seeing the success of the merchants who, by their associations, had become the rulers of civic life, organised themselves into similar associations. The keynote of these guilds was their exclusiveness. No merchant who was not free of his guild could buy or sell merchandise in the district in which the guild was operative; no tradesman could practice his particular craft or mystery unless he was first admitted a brother of his trade fraternity or guild.

The Normans brought this guild system with them into England, and it became established firmly in Bristol, Coventry and other English towns. Later they brought it into Ireland, and in 1192 Prince John granted to the citizens of Dublin the right to have “all their reasonable guilds, as the Burgess of Bristol had.” Seven years later, John granted the same right to Limerick, viz.: “All the liberties and free customs which the citizens of Dublin, by whatsoever charters of Kings of England and Lords of Ireland, wheresoever used.”

The first specific mention of the right of Limerick Citizens to form Guilds is contained in the Charter of Edward the First, dated 4th February, 1291: “that the citizens of Limerick should have all reasonable guilds as the Burgess of Bristol had.” Each succeeding charter to Limerick continued to grant this right, with the exceptions, stipulations or expansions mentioned in the course of this paper.

Exclusion of Irish or Catholics.

In Henry the Fifth’s Charter of 1413 it is directed “that no person should take or maintain any man or child of Irish blood or nation as apprentice on pain of losing his franchise. Thus, almost from the beginning, Irishmen were excluded from the guilds. This practice, with the exception of a very short period during the reign of James II., was continued till the breaking-up of the guilds in the 19th century. In fact, until the year 1757, not only were the Irish, or rather the Catholic tradesmen excluded from membership of the guilds, but they were compelled, at the same time, to pay a quarterage to them, and in spite of that, forbidden to practice their trades within the City Walls.

In 1678, when the citizens had complained of the oppressions suffered by the billeting of soldiers, the Corporation replied that the order of quartering was as follows:—

“The Butchers, Bakers, Brewers, Malsters, Shoemakers and Brogues-makers, and such as make malt to sell whether they keep Inns and sell ale or not.” But in 1761, Arthur Roche, ex-Mayor, said he had quartered the soldiers first on the Brewers and then on the Romanish merchants; and before the same Committee Richard Harrold, who was a brewer and tanner, and a Catholic, gave evidence that in one year he had to pay £48 18s. 6d. for the quartering of soldiers.

Revolt of the Catholics.

In that year, however, heartened by the legal victory of a Catholic tradesman in Cork over an Orange Guild, they left St. Francis Abbey, where they had been confined hitherto, set up in business throughout the city, and refused to pay quarterage any longer. Petitions were sent to Parliament by the Guilds and a Counter-Petition from the Catholics contained among others, the signatures of Nicholas Mahon, woolen draper; Edmond Sexton, wine merchant; James Browne, woolen draper; and Philip Roche, merchant and venturer. A Parliamentary Committee, presided over by Edmond Sexton Pery, was ordered to inquire into the matter, and it was decided that the guilds had no authority to exact unwilling payment from tradesmen or to prevent them from practising their trades within the city. Thus ended the suppression of the Catholic tradesmen. The Guilds, however, continued as exclusive as before, and refused to admit Catholic tradesmen to membership. This stubbornness on their part, by allowing the growth of a strong opposing body, was eventually one of the main causes of their decay.
The "New Rules" enacted in the 28th year of Charles II. (1672) provided for the loyalty of the guilds and for the admission to them of foreigners and Protestant settlers: — "That no person shall be elected . . . or master or warden of any corporation, guild or fraternity . . . until he shall have taken the oath of supremacy," and "That all merchants, traders, citizens, artisans, artificers, seamen, or otherwise skilled and exercised in any mystery or trade . . . be made free on payment of twenty shillings and of all or any guild brotherhood society or fellowship of any trade or other mystery . . . provided they take the oath of allegiance and also such other oaths as are customably taken by all or any members of any such guild or brotherhood . . . and pay the requisite charges. If any master warden or other governor of such guild refuse, he shall be disfranchised."

List of Guilds in 1769. The following is a list of the guilds which were in existence in the year 1769, with the names of their Masters and Wardens: —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guild</th>
<th>Master</th>
<th>Wardens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smiths</td>
<td>Richard Bennis</td>
<td>Samuel Johns, Thomas Carr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>George Russell</td>
<td>John Byrum, Thomas Brehon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weavers</td>
<td>Thomas Pincheon</td>
<td>Giles Powell, Thomas Kendall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoemakers</td>
<td>George Fivens</td>
<td>Thomas Farquhar, Thomas Burrowes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailors</td>
<td>George Evans</td>
<td>Laurence Bluet, William Ryan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddlers</td>
<td>Mitchell Bennis</td>
<td>Maurice O'Donnell, Robert Carr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masons</td>
<td>Michael Dobbs</td>
<td>Philip Dollard, James Charlton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakers</td>
<td>William Walker</td>
<td>James Allison, Thomas Bourke.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coopers</td>
<td>James Clocken</td>
<td>David Jones, William Giller.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgeon-Barbers</td>
<td>Jacob Bennis</td>
<td>Francis Downes, John Fitzgerald.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butchers</td>
<td>James Allison</td>
<td>John Dick, George Coonerty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacconists</td>
<td>Thomas Mason</td>
<td>Patrick Martin, John Robinson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallow-Chandlers</td>
<td>Thomas Alley</td>
<td>Raleigh James, Jacob Ringrose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatters</td>
<td>John Kincaid</td>
<td>Henry Lee, James Ryan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewers</td>
<td></td>
<td>John Bryen, Edmond Casey.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apparently the Master continued in office year after year if found suitable, as a list of 1765 differs only in three instances from the list of 1769. Of the above, only two, Samuel Johns and Raleigh James were members of the Common Council of the City.

List of Guilds in 1833. In 1833, the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Ireland found twenty-one guilds in existence. The Saddlers, Barbers, Butchers, Chandlers, and Brewers seem to have been dissolved, and the following new guilds to have been formed or re-formed in the meantime: —Ropemakers, Painters, Slaters, Sawyer's, Nailers, Stone-cutters, Cordwainers, Founders, Millwrights, Shipwrights and Coachbuilders. Some of these, e.g., Painters, Slaters, Sawyer's, Nailers, Stone-cutters and Coachbuilders, would seem to have been formed by the breaking-up of the Masons and Carpenters into sections, while others, as the Founders and the Millwrights, were obviously new guilds.

Other Guilds. Other Guilds, in existence at some time or another, although not in either of the above lists were (1) The Feltmakers who, according to the Limerick Corporation Assembly Book for the year 1677, were created a Guild by the Council and directed to have rules, orders and directions for their government as other societies of the city. (2) The Company of Grocers who, on May Day, 1669, "would fain bring the Catholic Merchants under quarterage, as other trades had practised, and, therefore, would form themselves into a company, and began to march through the streets with their officers and colours, as others did; but as they imagined that all other trades should give way to them, they attempted to take the right hand, but they were terribly bashed and beaten, which ought to deter them from the like for the future." White Mass. (3) The Curriers and Tanners, to whom a Charter of Incorporation was granted in the year 1721. The names of the tradesmen mentioned in the Charter are William Franklin, alderman; William Brett, Thomas Brett, Charles Tawleys, Edward Gray, William Benn, James Fortners and Joshua Tabb. This trade had already been referred to as a guild in the Charter of 1658 to the Broque-makers.
In the reign of James I. the tradesmen of Limerick must have belonged to the comparatively wealthy classes. Doctor Thomas Arthur in his Fee-Book, records the attending of many of them; and his fees all regularly paid, are no less than those paid him by the merchants or the nobility:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee (£ s. d.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/11/1619</td>
<td>A certain fisherman, cauphso corruptus</td>
<td>5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/8/1620</td>
<td>One Leynchy, a weaver, whom I restored to health</td>
<td>1 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/8/1620</td>
<td>A certain carpenter restored beyond hope</td>
<td>10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/9/1620</td>
<td>David Ronan, shoemaker, who vomited much black bile</td>
<td>12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2/1620</td>
<td>Red Thady, a barber, for his wife</td>
<td>6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/9/1621</td>
<td>Dermot O'Dereleco, a fuller, for his wife</td>
<td>10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/10/1621</td>
<td>Dominick Haly, a cooper, with cirosis (?)</td>
<td>5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/5/1622</td>
<td>Johannes Haly, a fuller, for his wife</td>
<td>12 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/1/1622</td>
<td>Andrewes, an English baker</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/2/1623</td>
<td>James Stackpoole, known as the Pilot, for his wife</td>
<td>10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/11/1623</td>
<td>James Stackpoole, a pilot, for a self-diagnosis</td>
<td>5 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The earliest record of the formation of a particular guild is contained in Lenihan’s History of Limerick, which states that in 1470 a charter was granted by Henry VI. to the Barbers and Chirurgeons, or the Guild of St. Mary Magdalen, Limerick. In the year 1874 Lenihan exhibited to the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Ireland what he claimed to be the seal of this guild. It was made of brass, 2½ inches in diameter, the central device bearing a shield divided into quarters by a cross charged in the centre with a lion passant gardant. In each of the first and fourth quarters was a chevron between three mullets, and in the second and third quarters a crowned harp. The crest above the escutcheon consisted of a female bust holding a wine-glass in the right hand; the whole supported by a leopard on the dexter and a greyhound on the sinister side. Underneath the central device was the motto: “Christi salus nostra” and round the edge were the words: “The Arms of the Barbers Chirurgeons, or Guild of St. My Magdalene; granted by Henery VI.” It was stated that the seal was no older than the late 17th century. Now the Barber-Surgeons of Dublin had a seal similar to this, and were, without doubt, chartered by Henry VI. They had a similar motto and a similar coat of arms, and since Lenihan gives no authority for his statement of the date of foundation of the guild, and since there is nothing on the seal to indicate that it belonged to the Limerick Guild, it is reasonable to assume that Lenihan is in error.

Elizabeth’s Charter to Dublin Barbers.

This Charter of Elizabeth to the Dublin Barbers is interesting, not only in that it gives us the date of the first union of the Barbers and Surgeons, but that it also shows that at this early date the guilds were not confined to persons engaged in the particular trade. As a final point of interest, it provides for the admission of women, the only reference to them which I have come across: — “Considering that it is necessary for the preservation of health that these should be more skilled in the art of surgery and that there are two distinct societies exercising that art, the barbers and the surgeons, and that the latter have not been incorporated. It is granted that Wm. Kelly and others surgeons, and all others to be admitted, shall form for ever a society to be called the Guild of the Blessed Mary Magdalen of Dublin. . . . Further, on the petition of the two bodies, it is granted that the Master, wardens and fraternity of Barbers and the society of Surgeons shall henceforth be one corporation.” It then quotes Henry VI’s charter which incorporated “Egidius Thornton, treasurer of Ireland; brother Tho. Talbot, prior of Kilmaynham; brother William, prior of St. John without Newgate; Chr. Barnewall, Chief Justice; (Rob) Dowdall, chief justice of the common Bench; Mich. Griffin, chief baron; Edw. Somerton, sergeant at laws; Stephen Roche, attorney. . . . James Cheyny, barber; Ph. Leghlin, barber; John Brown, Rich. Russell, barber; Stephen Barbi, and John Vale, barber, and other persons, men or women, to be admitted as the guild of the art of Barbers of the City of Dublin, to be called the guild of the Blessed Mary Magdalen.”

“The Merchants’ guild a brotherhood is made
And they this year two masters had.”
In these words Davis, Limerick’s rhyming historian, records the incorporation of a Guild of Merchants in the year 1496. In the same year a statute of Henry VII. enacted that “every subject having goods to the value of £20 must have a jack, socol, an English bow and sheaf of arrows, and every freeholder a horse also to assist the King.” It had earlier been enacted (5th Edward IV.) that “every merchant who imports goods into Limerick must also import bows to the value of one hundred shillings.”

In the year 1375 Edward III. made a grant of the Staple to Limerick. An extension of this grant was made in 1609 by the Charter of James I., in which a society of merchants of the staple was incorporated under the title “The Mayor, Constables, and Society of Merchants of the Staple of the City of Limerick,” and it was granted the privileges and franchises of the Merchants of the Staple of Dublin and Waterford. The names of the merchants forming this guild were: — James Galway, John Stritch, James Gromwell, Stephen Roche, Edmond Sexton, Edward Fox, William Weagh, Michael Waller, David White, Patrick Everard, William Long, William Bourke, George Harrold, William Verdun, John Skeolan, Robert Loys, Thomas Morony, Rowland Rochford, John Lofters, Thomas Power, Peter Stacpoole, Robert Bonfield, Patrick Gold and Edmond Leo.

This guild was the predecessor of the present Chamber of Commerce, which was incorporated by Royal Charter on 2nd June, 1815. In 1824 an effort was made to revive the Merchants of the Staple so that merchants could obtain representation on the Common Council. But the effort was short-lived. It was impossible to prove the right of the Guild to this representation, and the Chamber of Commerce was performing very efficiently all the other duties of the Guild of Merchants.

That the merchants early exercised their right to prevent foreigners interfering in their trade is shown in the following further extract from Davis for the year 1499:

One Richard Power, of Bristol, brought in here
Such goods as by the laws forbidden were;
Half of his ship, the Maria Deneda,
Was forfeited—the sale thereof to pay
For the wall and vault on south side of the quay—
A pyramid or trophy to this day.

The following Rules for the Common Brokers of the City of Limerick for the year 1577 give some idea of the scope and powers of the Guild:

“That there be appointed three persons (by the Mayor and Councell of the City) for making of bargains between merchants and merchants and others who sell goods in gross and by great parcells to be sworn well and faithfully to execute yt place without fraud or deceit to continue therein during the pleasure of the Corporation. That they take care that no freeman who hath either shop cellar or storehouse in this city encroach on his neighbour to buy any goods from countrymen before another man’s doare who would buy the same before such neighbour or his servant shall refuse the same and the party selling departed from before his doare according as the same has been anciently practiced. That they take care that no foreigner allion or stranger doo buy any of the goods aforesaid or other commodities to be transported from any other (freeman excepted) but only on faires and markett dayes and within the Markett houses.”

In Elizabeth’s reign the Limerick merchants were so rich and powerful that we find Richard Striche, who leased the Curragour Mills for sixty years at £4 13s. 4d. per annum, being called alternatively a gent and a merchant; and that Andrew Creagh fitz James, and Stephen Whyte fitz Dominick, both Limerick merchants, could pay £520 for a lease of the import of wines coming into Limerick and its havens. Not all, however, were so worthy of the Elizabethan title of gent. In 1579 Peter and Richard Creagh fitz John, merchants of Limerick, were pardoned and fined 20/- for the slaying of Nich. Symkin of Rathbane, Kern; James Richford of Limerick, merchant, with others was pardoned for the robbery of three horses or garrans; and in 1599 protection and licence
to trade was granted to Stephen Gaultier of St. Mallowes in France, and Julien Gaultier, until the execution of a decree of the Lord Chancellor in favour of Gaultier against divers merchants of Limerick for 6 lasts and 6 dickers of hides or 9½ rials for each hide amounting to £299 5s.

**Seventeenth Century Merchandise.** When Dineley came to Limerick in 1680 he found that “the ordinary traffique is Frize, Corne, Rape, Hides, Tallow, Beanes, Barley, Salmon, Butter which they transport for France, Spayne, and Holland.”

A ballad written about the year 1714 and entitled “The Battle of the Mayor’s Stone,” tells of the adventures of the Clothiers in their fights with the other guilds. At this time the colours of the Clothiers were orange and blue and their arms The Golden Fleece. Among their numbers were men named Bennis and Alexander, and Sheriff Vokes. The guild was under the patronage of St. Blase and on his feast day, the 3rd of February, the members wore orange colours in their hats. Other guilds mentioned in this ballad are The Smiths, who bore the arms of Vulcan; the Carpenters, the Masons, the Tinkers, the Bricklayers, the Glaziers, the Stone-cutters, and the Braziers. In a perambulation of the Franchises on 12th August, 1777, Ferrar tells us that the Smiths carried Venus and Cupid in a Phaeton, the Carpenters and Clothiers had Bishop Blase, and that the Tobaccoists wound up the procession with the King of Morocco.

**Certificate of the Clothiers.**

The following certificate of the Clothiers is a model of effective English and is worth reprinting for the names it gives:

“We, the Master and Wardens of the Corporation of Clothiers, and the undernamed inhabitants of the City of Limerick, do hereby declare and certifie that we know James Lombard of the sd. city, who was bred to the Clothing trade, and now a common and notorious bum, to be a person of bad reputation, and a very infamous character, and do really believe he would swear the greatest falsehood, if importuned to do so for a consideration, so he thought he would do it with impunity, or secure from the punishment of the law. Dated this 16th of May, 1761.


**Power of the Guilds.**

At this period the guilds were very influential bodies and were courted by all in or seeking civic or parliamentary office. In 1756 we find the Mayor spending £118 15s. in entertaining the guilds on the proclamation of peace with France; and earlier in the same year the miserable sum of £23 for ale delivered to the several corporations on the declaration of war with France (obviously the guild-members were men of peace). When Charles Smith was a candidate for Parliament he sought and obtained the freedom of the Guild of Victuallers and that of the Cordwainers. Robert Wilson was the Master of the Cordwainers in that year.

**Butchers’ Certificate of Freedom.**

The following is the Certificate of Smith’s freedom to the Victuallers’ Guild:

“We, the Master, Wardens, and Elders of the Society of Vittuilers in the Cittie of Limerick, unanimously concurr’d and agreed together to admit Charless Smith, of the said Cittie, Esq., into our Society as a free Brother and Member of the same, and by virtue of our Charter to enjoy all the privileges, Franchises and Liberties that we or any of the said Society can or doth enjoy by the said Charter. In witness whereof we, the Master and Wardens, have subscribed our hands and affix the Company’s seal the eleventh day of October, 1731. George Allison, Master; Philip Tomlinson, Robert Smithson, Wardens.

The seal attaching was the Arms of the Victuallers; two axes quartered on a shield supported by winged bulls, surmounted by the crest, a lamp over a helmet, and underneath the legend “The Company of Victuallers of the Citty of Limerick.” In the year 1679 the Butchers’ Guild had issued a halfpenny token, and the arms on it are similar to these. A specimen of this coin is in the City Museum.
That the guilds were undoubtedly recognised as the official representatives of the trades is proved by the following certificate issued by the Guild Company of Masons, Bricklayers, &c., when an inquiry was being held into the building of the Barracks attaching to King John's Castle:

"We, the Master, Wardens, &c., of the Guild Company of Masons, Bricklayers, &c., have viewed the barracks now building in the Castle of the said City, and find what work is now done to be sufficient, both in stone and brickwork, and the mortar full sufficient for any work of that kind. As witness our hands, at our hall, this 3rd day of October, 1748. Patt Boyle, Master; James Leckin, John Hartwell, Wardens; Richard Walsh, Michael Carroll, Daniel Quin, John Murphy, John McKeogh, Darby MacKeogh."

The "Hall" referred to in this certificate simply means the meeting and does not refer to a particular house or hall belonging to the guild.

A further proof of this public recognition is contained in the fact that when a Jury was appointed in the year 1723 to value the Property in the City, the following were elected to it:—Richard Craven, Fran. Sargent, Wm. Franklin and John Higgins, Aldermen; Thomas Cash, Burgess and Mason; laurene. Cantwell, James Carr, Wm. Raynor, Carpenters and Joiners; Richard Curtis, Glazier; Barthow. McKeogh, John McKeogh and Roger Gonan, Masons; and Plasterers.

In all processions and pageants the guilds were prominent and, according to the White Mss., “each trade was placed according to the antiquity of its charter, was headed by its master and wardens, and had a standard according to the colour of the trade, with the arms of the trade in the centre and cockades peculiar to the trade; and after the master and wardens followed the Principal of each trade, all well dressed, well mounted and accompanied with drums and music.” The following list of guilds in which order Ferrar says they took part in a perambulation of the franchises in 1777, should, therefore, be a guide to their antiquity:

"The Smiths with Venus and Cupid in a Phoeton,
The Carpenters and Clothiers with Bishop Blase,
The Cordwainers, Taylors and Coopers,
The Skinner, Tanners and Saddlers,
The Bakers, Barbers and Surgeons,
The Butchers and Chandlers,
The Tobacconists with the King of Morocco closed the procession."

If Ferrar's order is correct, it would mean that all the above trades were not operative, but had actually obtained their charters before 1676, the year in which the Tobacconists obtained theirs.

The Commission of 1835, already referred to, reported that only two of the twenty-one guilds which were still in existence, were able to produce their charters. These were belonging to the Plasterers and Slater, and the Brogue-makers. The former was, I am told, burnt in a fit of pique by an official of the Plasterers' Union some years ago. It had been granted to the guild by the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council on 2nd February, 1674. The latter is, fortunately, still in existence and has been deposited recently in the City Museum.

Although this charter is dated 1688, there is no doubt that the Guild of Brogue-makers, of which the Tanners were once a branch, was in existence at a much earlier date. In 1577, Elizabeth granted a licence to the Shoemakers of Limerick, "to tan leather as well for the maintenance of their trade as for the benefit of their neighbours and town-dwellers, the commodity of foreigners, and specially the multitude of the country people who were destitute of places to resort unto where to have leather for their necessary uses by reason there is neither within the city or county any place yet assigned for that purpose." Dineley in his description of Limerick in 1680 says:—"Here is also in the North East Part of the town a faire Tanyard in the Ruines of an Abbey." This Tanyard, in St. Francis Abbey, was in use up to a few years ago.
In the year 1655 the Quakers first arrived in Limerick, and as several of them took up the trade of shoemakers, it is probable that the guild was inoperative at this time. In a Ms. list of the sufferings of the Quakers, the following entries occur, giving us the price of shoes in the 17th century. They compare unfavourably with the Elizabethan one of 8d. per pair, but are cheap in comparison with those of to-day.

"Peter Peacock for one shill. sixpence demanded for John Sowden, Priest of John's Psh., had taken from him by Arthur Smith and Thomas Magher, warden's, a pair of shoes worth four shill., and for ninepence demanded a pair of shoes worth 2/6. 1671.

James Slater, elder of Limerick shoemaker, for opening his shopp on the day called Christmas day and his son James being therein at work was hailed out hence by Thomas Horton, Goalier, and Edward Bond, a beadle, and by the order (as they alleged) of John Burne, Mayor, was put in prison. Soon after James the elder being in the shopp and his apprentice boy was hailed to prison by Robert Barrett, ye Mayor's Sergeant, and Robert Clifton, constable, where they remained six daies without . . . or examination. 1671.

Peter Peacock of Limerick, Shoemaker, the same day being in his shopp was hailed thence by the aforesaid jailer and ye said Barrett and Thomas Atkinson, the Mayor's sergeants, and put in prison where he remained.

John Mathews for three shill. demanded for the repair of ye worship called St. John's Church had taken from him by Christo. Waldram and James Carr, called warden's, in ye 3d month two dozen and halfe of wooden hecles worth three shill. ninepence. 1681.

James Slater hath taken from him by John Blood churchwarden so called for ye maintenance of William Twigge, Priest of John's Parish, for a demand of three shillings a dressed young skin worth £00 0s. 0d. and for a demand of seaven shillings he tooke halfe a hyde of scale leather worth eight shillings and three pence and threw down 5d. this he did pretending to buy leather in all £00 : 10 : 0."

During the reign of James II, the Catholics took complete control of the city. Robert Hannan, a Catholic, was twice Mayor, and he granted to the Brogue-makers the Charter which is printed at the end of this paper. This Charter provides for the annual election of a Master and two Wardens, from and by the Members of the Guild; for the proper conduct of their Meetings under pain of fine to offenders; that each member might have two journeymen for whom he would pay quarterage to the Guild; for the purchase and tanning of leather for their own use only; that no person not free of the Company should be allowed to work at the trade or sell any of its wares; that its apprentices should be entered in the books of the guild and should serve at least seven years; that "foreigners" be charged no more than £2 for the freedom of the guild; that the members should have the right of appeal to the Mayor against penalties inflicted by the Guild Officials; that the Wardens might distrain for fines and penalties; that the Mayor and Common Council should have the authority to remove any master or warden from office; and that each officer of the Guild should take the oath of allegiance to James II. before entering upon his office.

The names of the members of the Guild bear an interesting contrast to those of all other periods in the life of the guilds. Michael O'Quinn was the first master; Thomas Molony and Morress O'Flein were the first wardens, and the other brothers mentioned in the course of the charter are Edmond Linchy, Thomas O'Flein, William Collman, Patrick Doully, Richard Ronan, Edigo O'Crohan, William Lynchey, Patrick Cumineen, John Linchy, Thomas Darnell and John Dwyer.

On the defeat of James II, the Guild immediately resumed its orange colour and in 1769 George Fives was Master, Thomas Farquhar and Thomas Burrowes were wardens, and men by the names of Worrall, Palmer, Jellico, Jephson, Edwardes, Holland, Ferguson, Purcell, Hayes, Hannahan and Conway were members. The latter six may possibly have been Catholic, but in the same year we find the following names in the Freemason Guilds: —Casey, Dillon, Ryan, Hayes and Holland.
In addition to the Brogue-makers' Charter, at least one other old document relating to the guilds has escaped the destruction of time. This is a Minute-Book of the Masons' Guild for the 16th century, and through the good offices of Deputy Keyes and Councillor Casey, I have been enabled to examine it.

The book is now in a very mutilated condition, the spelling is most erratic, and in many of the entries the writing is almost illegible. Entries were generally confined to the recto of each page, but when the book was thus filled, occasional entries were made on the blank versos. The periods which the book covers are approximately as follows: 1747-1756; 1765; 1773-1775; 1778; 1782-1784. Credit should be paid to one Ezekiel Edwards, who was clerk to the guild for more than half the period which the book covers, and whose entries, when the general state of education at that time is considered, are irrefragable.

The title of the guild given in the minute-book varies. Sometimes one trade is left out and sometimes another; but in general the title was THE GUILD COMPANY OF MASONs, BRICKLAYERS, SLATERS, PLASTERERS, PAINTERs, PAVOURS, LIME-BURNERS, &c.

The following are the transactions entered in the Guild Minute Book:

(1). ADMISSION OF FREEMEN. This was not confined to persons engaged in the trades constituting the Guild. Among those admitted were Robert Russell, the Master of the Smiths (1749); Wm. Jones, Master of the Taylers (1750); a silver-smith, a printer, a linenbleacher, a jeweller, a shoemaker, a cooper, a peruke-maker, and many "Gents." In 1750, when Henry Ievers was a warden, the following kinsmen of his were admitted: J. Augustine Ievers of Sigginstown, Co. Kildare; H. Norton Ievers, of do.; Thomas Ievers of Dublin, Merchant; John Ievers of Drimin, Clare, Gent; George Ievers of Ballyludan West, Clare, Gent.

The terms of admission varied. Some were admitted without charge, or at least no charge is recorded. Others had to pay a certain sum per quarter (usually 1/1), whilst others, in addition to this contribution, promised to give a brass candlestick, or a bowl of punch for the use of the guild.

(2). CERTIFICATION OF TRADESMEN'S WORK. The Guild was the legal authority over all building work. They could certify a tradesman's work, or if they found it unworkmanlike, could compel him to do the work again, fine him, or even dis-enfranchise him.

(3). ADJUDICATION. Many entries consist of decisions of the guild on disputes between rival house-owners regarding partition-walls, or other matters concerning the building rights of the parties. Other entries decide on disputes between employers and employees regarding the cost of work, etc.

(4). QUARTERAGE. Periodically a list is given of the Quartermen, or those liable to pay quarterage; and of those who paid it and those who did not.

(5). GUILD-DISCIPLINE. In addition to adjudication on their work, the Guild had the power of trying tradesmen for other offences against the Guild, as the employment of Papists or foreigners, the undercutting of other members in estimates for proposed works, or for gratuitous insults to the Guild (as when a certain John Rose told them what he proposed doing with a "proper summons in print" which they had sent him). The tradesmen in general, realising the authority of the Guild, submitted to its decision.

(6). ADMISSION OF FREEMEN'S SONS. It was apparently usual to admit the sons of freemen to the guild before they came of age. However, they were not sworn free until they came of age.

In each entry the first item mentioned is the place in which the Hall or Meeting was held, and the date on which it was held. Many of these places prove on examination to have been Inns or Public-houses, and in almost every case, probably in return for his hospitality, the proprietor is admitted a freeman of the Guild. In fact, in some of the entries the only business recorded is this admission, so the remainder of the meeting was probably convivial. The second item of each entry is a list of the members present, headed by the Master and Wardens. After this comes the business of the Meeting, and finally the signatures of the Master and Wardens.
The following entry, as well as giving the form in which each entry is made, is interesting for itself:

"Att a Hall held at Mr. Stephen Ford's in ye City of Limk. ye 24th of May, 1755.

John Shaw Master.
James Quin
Michael Dobbs
Murtagh Quin
John McKeogh
Patt Woulfe
Batt Cullinan
John Woulfe
Michael Haly
Henry Fargison
Danl. Connily
Martin Brien
Simon Reddin
Stephen Ford.

By Mutual Consent of ye Hall above mentd. have constituted and appointed Mr. Stephen Ford & Mr. Patrick White, Lieutenants (sic), Mr. John Ready & Mr. Daniel Connily Ensignes of the Company of Masons to honour the Lord Lieutenant's Coming to the City of Limk. the Lieutenants paying tenn shill. & ten pence & a blew scarf fringed with white silk fringe. the Ensigns five & five pence each the scarves to be at the election of ye Master Wardens & Elders of ye Company of Masons & said Scarves to be for the time to come for the use of ye said Company—witness their hands this 24th of May, 1755.

Earnest 6d. Stephen Ford
 Earnest 6d. Patrick White
 Earnest 6d. John Ready
 Earnest 6d. Danl. Connily."

This entry is not signed by the Master and Wardens, but that is probably because they had reached the end of the page and there was no space available for them.

The following is a list of the masters and wardens for the years with Masters and which the Minute-Book deals. In the year 1748 Batt Boyle was elected Wardens of Master but acted for a short time only. In the year 1754 John Shaw was the Masons: elected Master, but several entries made during his Mastership have been crossed out and marked illegal. The Wardens did not always attend the "Halls" and so other members signed the books in their place. This is the reason why there are three or four wardens for some of the years.

**MASTER.**

1747 James Lecock
  8 do. Batt Boyle
  9 do.
1750 do.
  1 Samuel Lecock
1752 do.
1753 do.
  4 Quinn, James; Shaw, John.
  5 Peirce Connell
  6 do.
1765 do.
  9 Michael Dobbs
1773 Simon Keeth
  4 John Flyn, Sleator
  5 Wm. Brown
  8 George Keith
1782 James White
  3 do.
  4 Simon Keeth

**WARDENS.**

John Murphy, Jer. Carole.
  do. Batt Boyle, Laurence Castela, Jno. Hartwell
  do. Thomas Keith, do. S. Lecock
  do. Henry Levers, Michael Dobbs, James Lecock
  do. Mitchell Bennis, Michael Dobbs.
  do. Thomas Keith, John Shaw.
  do. Michael Dobbs, John Ready.
  do. do.
  do. Daniel Connelly, James Quin.
  do. James Carlton, Mason; Michael Dobbs.
  do. do.
  do. Philip Dolland, James Charlton.
  do. Patt Boyle, John Woods.
  do. do. Walter Spring.
  do. George Keith, Michael Ryan, James White, Sleator.
  do. Patt Daly, Wllm. Magrath.
  do. John Doyle.
  do. Daniel Carthy, John Doyle.
Decline of the Guilds.

The beginning of the 19th century saw the decline of the guilds. They were themselves partly responsible for this decline by their exclusion of the Catholic tradesmen. These were allowed to grow into strong opposing bodies over which the guilds exercised no jurisdiction, and therefore the latter lost the monopoly which was essential to their continued existence. However, even if this reason had never existed, the arrival of the machine age, with its ministering angels, Capital and Labour, would have been sufficient to put a quick finish to the life of the guilds. Once the Masters and the Journeymen began to squabble over wages and conditions of employment, the spirit of fraternity, another absolute essential to guild life was crushed out. In its place arose an antagonism that became more bitter with every year. The friendly dinners at which master and servant sat together in convivial brotherhood were replaced by riots and robberies. The Masters had so much law on their side that the Journeymen became completely lawless. The Flies of the Limerick Chronicle for this period tell the story only too well.

Quarrels Between Masters and Journeymen.

"1805. 261 guineas reward. Whereas on Monday night, the 30th of September last, the house now building in George's Street, by Robert Ferguson, John, Merchant, was forcibly entered into and the staircases, sashes, window-shutters, trimmings of the windows, and door cases of the said house, were maliciously and wantonly cut and abused with chisels. And whereas there is good reason to know that the persons concerned in this outrage were Journeymen Carpenters of this City, instigated thereby by a spirit of combination, on account of their being discharged about three weeks hence by the Architect, John Roche, for neglecting the work, with an intent of extorting an advance of wages from him; and the said Journeymen Carpenters, having not only frequently abused and threatened, but assaulted and beat the Country carpenters since employed by said Roche to finish the building.

"Now, we, the undersigned, holding in detestation such violent outrage, alarming to every individual, and destructive to the advancing improvement of this city, will pay the sums respectively annexed to our names for the discovery of such person or persons."

The list is headed by the Mayor and Sheriffs and is composed of about 100 names.

1812. "We, the Master Coopers of the City of Limerick, determine to put down the spirit of combination which at present exists among the Journeymen of the trade. We will give employment and the wages the Journeymen had when they left us to any number of Journeymen who come in from any other part of Ireland. Laurence Casey, Batt Casey, James Casey, Thomas Byrne, Pat Boland, Sen. & Jun.; John Farrell, Matthew Kean, John Bloomfield, James Peginin, John Toomey, John Meehan, John M'Carthy, Wm. Connell, John M'Cann, Pat Higgins, Pat M'Donell, John O'Mealy."

1813. "The Journeymen Masons of the City do caution the Employers and the Public that they will not work under 4/4 per day from 1st March."

1813. "We regret to find that notwithstanding the exertion of our City magistrates to prevent Combination among Tradesmen there are to be found Societies whose funds are so rich as to enable the Treasurers to pay every Sunday night 9/- to such Journeymen as will not work at less prices than agreed to by their secret Committees."

In 1820 the struggle had become so bitter that the United Tradesmen attacked and wrecked the manufactories of James Quinlan and Stephenson, and of B. O'Brien. As a result of the attack, several butchers, harness makers, coach-makers, and smiths were put in Gaol. In the same year five brogue-makers were committed for stealing corduroy from the same O'Brien. In 1821, the United Trades had become so lawless that the Journeymen Carpenters, Slaters and Plasterers refused to associate with them any further and withdrew from the combination.

In spite of these troubles, the Guilds endeavoured to continue their work, but they were concerned now only with the rights of the Masters. In 1812, we find James Doyle & Co. Ironfounders, warning other Ironfounders against employing William Lyons, their absconded assistant. In 1813, "The Cabinetmakers advertise the fact that they will not put up, alter or repair any article of furniture that may be purchased in any other city or town."
In 1814 a carpenter from Garryspolane cautions all other carpenters against employing his indentured apprentice who had eloped, still having 3½ years of apprenticeship to serve; and in 1820, the Coopers grant Mr. Boyce the freedom of their guild for his efforts to recover their Charter rights, and publish the following petition—"The Master and Wardens of the ancient Guild of Master Coopers petition the Mayor to swear in newly elected Master and Wardens on 1st Monday after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, according to ancient usage and to the rights and privileges of our Charter granted to us on the 8th of September, 1685, and which has been acted upon down to the year 1778. William Bantin, Master; Patrick Sarsfield, Thomas Smith, Wardens; Thomas Ryan, Secretary."

The Coopers' Guild had, apparently, been allowed to lapse in the intervening years.

In the year 1833, the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in Ireland wrote the following obituary to the Guilds:

"There are not, as we have before noticed, any guilds of trades now in connection with the Corporation. The attempt to restore the company of Merchants of the Staple has been unsuccessful from the reasons already stated.

The several associations which still appear to act under the name of the guilds are, in their present state, merely private societies for the regulation of their respective trades. They all seem to consider themselves as having at some period received Charters from the Corporation and some of them have books of their proceedings of very early dates. Their rules relate to the limitation of the number of apprentices, the admission of operatives to the freedom of the guild, for which, in some of them, considerable sums are demanded, and the exclusion from work, as far as they can legally enforce it, of persons not free of the Guild. We were not informed of the recent commission of any acts of violence against strangers, but it was admitted in some cases persons attempting to work, not being free of the guild, had been obliged to leave Limerick. It was not shown to us that at any time the officers of the guild had thereby acquired a right of attending the common council though an impression to that effect appears to prevail among the present members of these bodies.

We did not find that any of the guilds were every possessed of property, except the books and insignia of their society. They, however, collect funds by weekly subscriptions from the members, which appear to be applied to the support of brethren out of work, and the other purposes usual in such bodies."

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

In addition to the three local histories, the following works were found useful in the compilation of the above paper:

— Statutes at large.
— Journals of the House of Commons.
Ferrar: Limerick Directory, 1769.
— Journals of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
— Journals of the Limerick Field Club and North Munster Archæological Society.
— Report from the Select Committee on the Limerick Election. Limerick. 1820.
Limerick Chronicle Files, 1768—1820.
Transcript of Limerick Corporation Minute-Book. 1767-1796. ms.
Minute-Book of the Masons’ (etc.) Guild. c. 1747-1784. ms.
Charter of the Limerick Brogue-makers. ms. printed herewith.
The Sufferings of the Quakers in Limerick. ms.
Charter granted to the Limerick Brogue-makers on 3rd July, 1688.

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whom these presents shall come. The Mayor, Sheriffs, Lord God Everlasting, WHEREAS the said City of Limerick is a very ancient and populous City and companies of the respective Tradesmen and Artificers residing and trading in the said City the said City and the good and advantage of all persons living in or resorting to the same and for the Charter under the Great Seal of Dublin the Thirteenth day of January in the year of ... Granted unto us the Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens of Limerick and our Successors that for the better regulation ... of Limerick and Liberties thereof it should and may be lawful to and for the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Limerick or the Mayor ... expedient to direct and make under the Common Seal of the said City Guilds or Fraternities of the respective Tradesmen and Artificers and so provide and make the said Guilds or Fraternities for their better Government and ordaining in such or the like manner as has been ... City as by the said Charter relation being thereunto had may more fully appear. And for as much as the Brogue-makers by the name of the Guild ... Brogue-makers have been heretofore reputed and taken as a Member or Company of the said City distinct and separate from the other Guilds ... using the Trade and Mystery aforesaid and have had for the better Government and endowing of the said Company and Master and two Wardens to be annually appointed ... always hereafter be within the said City and Company of Brogue-makers whereby the said Trade and Occupation may be the better ordered and observed ... able to support themselves and to do credit and service to the said City and the Magistrates thereof, and for as much as the persons hereafter named have sufficient ... of this City to be incorporated a Member Fraternity and Guild of themselves several and distinct from the Society and Company of the said City of the said Guild of the said City do by these presents present unto the said City of the said City ... It is therefore resolved, concluded on and ordered by the Mayor and Common Council assembled in the Guild Hall of the said City the sixteenth day of March in the fourth year of his Majesty's Reign, and the said Mayor, Sheriffs and Common Council of the City of Limerick ... them and their Successors ordain, constitute and appoint that those be for ever hereafter within the said City of Limerick one Guild Company. Fraternity or Brotherhood or Society that is known and called by the name of the Company of Brogue Makers of the City of Limerick, and that they the said Guild or Fraternity and their Successors he and shall always hereafter be taken and reputed a Company of the said City of Limerick and the said Company of Brogue Makers and their Successors for the better order and Government of the same have Yearly and every Year hereafter One Master and two Wardens to be annually assorted, nominated and appointed by the said Company and their Successors or the Major part of them at such time and place and in such manner as hereafter is set forth and that the said Company of Brogue Makers shall and may from henceforth have use and enjoy such liberties, Rights, Ordinances and lawful Customs to and for the Preservation of the said Company and the advancement of the said Trade as heretofore they have had done or used or lawfully might have used or done. AND it was also then ordered concluded and resolved by the Mayor and Common Council of the said City and the said Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens for them and their Successors do order and appoint ... Yearly and every Year on the Second Monday after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archenangel that the said Company of Brogue Makers and every Member of the said Company for the time being ... shall proceed to nominate assent and appoint one of the Brotherhood shall assemble themselves at some convenient place within the said City or Suburbs thereof and then and there they or the major part of them shall proceed to nominate, assent and appoint one of the Brotherhood and best member of the said Company to be Master of the said Company for one year, and such other two honest men of the said Company as Wardens of the said Company for one year then also next ensuing, and if it shall then appear that the Master and Wardens of the said Company, or any of them within the year aforesaid ... said Company surviving or residing in the said City within ten days after the death of any such person and persons shall assemble themselves in the Guild Hall within the said City or the Suburbs thereof and proceed to the ascension of a Master, Warden or Wardens, and the election of such persons in the room of such or any of them so dead ... remaining part of the said Year, and that he or they of the said Company that shall be absent at such assemblage, having no reasonable excuse for such his absence or being present shall discover that any or that the same assemblage or authority or otherwise shall withstand or not obey the good rules and ordinances or any of them made or to be made for the good ordering of the said Company or refuse to be reasonably ordered by the Master and Wardens of the said Company for the time being shall be forfeit for every such offence to the use of the said Company Two Shillings and Sixpence. ALSO that if any Brother of the said Company that shall be hereafter assorted Master or Warden of the said Company (other than any one of the Common Council of the said City of Limerick) do refuse to serve as Master or Warden thereof shall forfeit each of them to the use of the said Company the sum of Three Pounds Sterling AND the said Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens by and in pursuance of the said Ordinances of the said City shall do by these presents nominate, con- stitute, form and ordain Edmund Lynchy, Thomas O'Flinn, William Coleman, Paul O'Crohan, William Lynchy, Patrick Cunneene, John Linchy, Thomas Darnell and John Dwyer to be Brothers Members and Freemen of the said Company of Brogue Makers. TO HAVE HOLD and enjoy the Benefits Freedom and Privileges of the said Company during their natural lives. AND the said Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens by and in pursuance of the said Ordinance of Common Council do by these presents nominate, constitute, form and ordain Edmund Lynchy, Thomas O'Flinn, William Coleman, Paul O'Crohan, William Lynchy, Patrick Cunneene, John Linchy, Thomas Darnell and John Dwyer to be Brothers Members and Freemen of the said Company of Brogue Makers. TO HAVE HOLD and enjoy the Benefits Freedom and Privileges of the said Company during their natural lives. AND the said Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens by and in pursuance of the said Ordinance of Common Council do by these presents nominate, constitute, form and ordain Edmund Lynchy, Thomas O'Flinn, William Coleman, Paul O'Crohan, William Lynchy, Patrick Cunneene, John Linchy, Thomas Darnell and John Dwyer to be Brothers Members and Freemen of the said Company of Brogue Makers. TO HAVE HOLD and enjoy the Benefits Freedom and Privileges of the said Company during their natural lives.
the said Company and for concerning such lawful thing and things act and acts, order and orders as shall be propounded and enforced for and touching the good order, maintenance and Government of the said Company AND that the said Master and every of them shall and will and faithfully observe and perform according to the best of their skill and judgment any and every order and act as shall be made and ordained and established by the said Company and every of them that now is or that hereafter may be a Member and Brother of the said Company that shall or may make any order not in those presents expressed any other lawful order that hereafter shall happen to be made by the said Company for the better Government thereof shall forfeit for every such offence to the use of the said Company the sum of Five Shillings AND that no Brother or Member of the said Company shall let any personer to work with any of the said Company that is idle and without any work and shall hire to have work upon unreasonable Wages and that no Brother of the said Company by any craft or subtle means injure or take away the appointed Workman or Servant of any other Brother upon pain of forfeiting for every such offence to the use of the said Company the Sum of Five Shillings, be it understood also if any Brother of the said Company do not appear at their meeting release upon due warning given by the Master and Wardens of the said Company or by any other Brother in their behalf and good cause show not that he shall forfeit and lose for every time so offending to the use of the said Company Two Shillings and Sixpence, ALSO if any Brother of the said Company be present at such Meeting and will not be obedient to the Master and Wardens of the said Company or will not keep peace and silence when any Matter or thing is debating and treating of in such Meetings and shall be warned three times by the Master or Wardens of the said Company to be still and hold his peace shall forfeit and lose for every such offence to the use of the said Company the sum of Forty Shillings Sterling and shall unless some good and sufficient reason be given therefor be immediately dismissed from the said Company or if any Brother of the said Company or any Journeyman or Journeyman's Quarter at any quarter's end after the Rate that the said Quarter shall amount to upon pain of forfeiting for every time so offending to the use of the said Company Five Shillings ALSO if any of the said Brothers make any reason which will not obey the Master of the said Company or the said Brotherhood and shall not cause the Warden to take distress when they come to distrain for any of the offenders shall lose for every time so offending Shillings to the use of the said Company ALSO that the Brothers of the said Company shall have their work and every of them shall, of the Brothers of the said Company if they may and shall do for every time for every time so offending their own Company well and truly to dispose to the best effect and advantage to the said Company and to render and give a Just and true account thereof to the said Company or the Major part of them on demand or to the succeeding Master and Wardens of the said Company and to the said Company within one Month after the time of their alteration AND that the said Master, Wardens and Company of Brogue Makers and their Successors and the Masters or any Brother or more of the said Company for ever hereafter as they or any of them shall think fit convene and assemble themselves together and shall think convenient within the the said City and make such Laws orders and constitutions not repugnant to the Common Laws and Statutes of this City for the better ordering, regulating and ruling the said Company as they or the major part of them shall agree on AND also at any time or times hereafter to make and admit Freemen and Brothers of the said Company upon the payment of such reasonable sum or sums of money as the said Company or the Major part of them shall seem convenient Provided always that for a foreigner that hath not served his apprenticeship within the said City or Liberties thereof so to be admitted to the freedom of the said Company such sum shall not exceed Two Pounds Sterling Provided always that all such Eye-Laws, Orders and Constitutions hereafter to be made by the said Company shall be first approved and ratified by the Master and one of the Common Council of the said City otherwise they to be void and of no force and effect and and may be the Common Ordinances and Common Council of the said City for the time being or the Major part of them at any time or times hereafter upon application made to them by any person or persons that now are or hereafter shall be Members and Brothers of the said Company of Brogue Makers, or otherwise that shall or may incur any pain or penalty in these presents, or by reason of these presents expressed so as such pain, penalty or fine amount to the sum of Ten Shillings or more to call from the Master and Wardens of the said Company the said person or persons for the said pain and penalty as aforesaid and/or complaining and upon hearing of such complaint to mitigate losses or wholly discharge such pain, penalty fine so incurred or supposed to be incurred as the said Common Council all or the Major part of them within direction and upon consideration of the Equity
of the Matter and the circumstances thereof shall seem meet and expedient, AND the said Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens for them and their Successors do ordain and appoint that for the more orderly levy, raising and getting in of the several Penalties and forfeitures ... Penalties and forfeitures as the said Company shall or may hereafter prescribe or agree on and it shall and may be lawful to and for the Wardens of the said Company, Fraternity of Brogue Makers Citizens shall either in their own names or in the names of the Chamberlain or Treasurer of the City of Limerick for the time being to set to the use and benefit of the said Company to distrain for the said penalties and forfeitures and every of them on the goods of the person or persons so offending in the premises and to seize upon so much of the Goods and Chattels of the person or persons so offending found within the said City or Liberties thereof as shall countervail the said penalties and forfeitures and them to detain until such satisfaction be made to the said Company or otherwise to dispose of them according to the Orders and Bye-Laws of the said Company or that it may be lawful to and for the Wardens of the said Company either in their own proper names or in the name of the Chamberlain therein of the City of Limerick for the time being to sue for and recover such penalties and forfeitures by Action or Plaint commenced or levied in the Court of Record held before the Mayor and Sheriffs of the said City or in any other Court of Record in this Kingdom whatsoever or before the Mayor of the City for the time being by summary hearing if the matter will bear it but to and for the Use of the said Company, Provided always that where such action or distresses shall be taken or begin in the name of the Chamberlain of the said City the Master and Wardens of the said Company for the time being shall give good Security unto the said Chamberlain to save him harmless from any Costs of Suit or other damages whatsoever that may arise or come to the Chamberlain by reason of such distresses or action. Provided also that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Mayor and Common Council of the said City of Limerick at any time or times hereafter to remove and displace any Master, Warden or Wardens of the said Company for the time being, AND it is hereby declared that immediately from and after an order in writing under the Common Seal of the said City convened for that purpose by the Common Council of the said City or the Major part of them such Master or Masters, Warden or Wardens Officer or other minister of the said Company is and are hereby removed and displaced from such office or offices and that the said Company or the Major part of them shall upon such order signed to them forthwith proceed to a new assoction of fit persons to serve in the room or place of such person or persons so removed. Provided also and it is hereby ordered that every Master, Warden and Wardens of the said Company of Brogue Makers and every other Minister and Officer thereof shall be or they enter upon his said office or offices before the Mayor of the said City for the time being take the oath of fidelity to his Majesty his heirs and successors in these words ensuing: "I do hereby acknowledge profess testify and declare in my conscience before God and the World that our Sovereign Lord King James is lawful and rightful King of this Realm and all other his Majesty's Dominions and Kingdoms and I will bear faith and true allegiance to his Majesty his heirs and Successors and him and them will defend to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts whatsoever which shall be made against his or their Crown and Dignity and do swear to disclose and make known to his Majesty his heirs and Successors or to the Lord Deputy or the Chief Governor or Governors of this Kingdom for the time being all Treasons and unlawful conspiracies which I shall know or hear to be against his Majesty his heirs or successors or any of them, and I do make this obligation and acknowledgment heartily willingly and truly upon the true faith of a Christian 'SO HELP ME GOD,' and I do also declare and believe that it is not lawful upon any pretence whatever to take arms against the King and that I do abhor unlawful association against his authority against his person or against those that are commissioned by him, 'SO HELP ME GOD,' and also shall take the accustomed oath or oaths of same. IN WITNESS whereof we the Mayor, Sheriffs and Citizens of the City of Limerick by and in pursuance of the said Ordinance of Common Council have caused the Common Seal of the said City to be attached and affixed the Third day of July n the Fourth Year of his Majesty's Reign that now is and in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and eighty eight."

Instat examinat Ct. Indictat 3 July 1638 Robt. R.

ROBERT HANNAN, Mayor.
JOHN MacNAMARA.

(Sec.)

[The original Charter is in a mutilated condition and the unreadable or missing parts are indicated thus ... .]
ASKEATON CHALICE AND PATEN.
Town Marks on Chalice and Paten.

ENNIS CHALICE.
Town Marks on Chalice.