

FIFTH MEETING—20th February, 1923.

THE INCORPORATION OF TAILORS OF STIRLING.

(By DAVID B. MORRIS.)

INTRODUCTORY

Once Queen Elizabeth was waited upon by a deputation of eighteen tailors. She greeted them with a cheerful "Good morning, gentlemen both!" Carlyle says—"An idea has gone abroad, and fixed itself down into a wide-spreading rooted error, that tailors are a distinct species in physiology, not men but fractional parts of a man." The jibe that a tailor is not a man is very ancient, and apparently was a favourite with Queen Elizabeth, who, less happily than in our previous anecdote, boasted that she might have a cavalry regiment, whereof neither horse nor man could be injured, if it were a regiment of tailors mounted on mares. Dean Swift, with his keen wit, makes play with the idea, and says that a tailor is not only a man, but something more than a man; he is a Creator or Divinity. Why, because it is the tailor who makes the man. Whereupon Carlyle comments—"And this is he, whom sitting downcast, on the hard basis of his shop board, the world treats with contumely as the ninth part of a man. Look up, thou much-injured one, look up with the kindling eye of hope, and prophetic bodings of a noble better time. Too long hast thou sat there, on crossed legs, wearing thy ankle joints to horn. Be of hope." However the public might joke and jeer, tailors have always taken themselves seriously enough. It was three tailors in Tooley Street that addressed Parliament in a petition beginning, "We, the people of England."

Another famous trio were the three tailors of Selkirkshire of whom Christopher North tells us in "Noctes Ambrosianae," in the words of the Ettrick Shepherd. The tailor at Yarrow Ford went on strike. "At sax he strack, an' by nine it was kent frae Selkirk to the Grey Mare's Tail." Over the hills he went to Watty o' Ettrick Pen, who struck too, and then by a short cut they

sought out Bauldy o' Bourhope, "wha loupit frae the buird like a puddock, an' flang the guse i' the fire, swearin' by the shears, as he flourished them roun' his head, an' then sent them into the aiss-hole, that a' mankind micht thenceforth gang naked for him, up to the airm-pits in snaw." The consequences were serious. "Some folk, wi' a strang prejudice against it, began tailorin' for theirsels, but the result was baith ridiculous an' painfu', an' in ae case had nearly proved fatal."

The country tailor's profession was followed, until comparatively recent days, by the method known as "whipping the cat." The origin of the expression is obscure, but it meant that the tailor worked in the house of his customer, and was provided with bed and food as well as money payment. The town tailors indulged in this practice during the spring and autumn, and generally "Whip-the-cat" or "Snip" as he was called, was accompanied by his journeyman and apprentice, the latter carrying over his shoulder a pock containing the goose and the lay board. The little party could always be distinguished from the rural folks by the outward crook and suppleness of their legs in walking.

The wandering tailor was the theme of many a rustic song, such as this—

"The tailor cam' to cloot the claes,
Sic a braw fellow;
He filled the hoose sae fu' o' flaes,
Daff-an-doo and dillow.

The lassie sat ayont the fire,
An' smirkit on her Willie,
An' she was a' his heart's desire,
Daff-and-doo and dillow."

He had a place also in chapbook literature. Coarse but humorous, these stories had a great vogue in rural Scotland up till the middle of last century. One of the best known was "Leper the Taylor," the authorship of which is attributed to Dougal Graham, a native of the Raploch. Very popular too were the tales of Mansie Wauch, Tailor in Dalkeith, and of Tammas Bodkin.

But it is time for us to leave the tailor as he appears in literature and proceed with our history of the Incorporation of Tailors of Stirling.

EARLY HISTORY

We have very early mention of the Crafts in Scotland, but little notice is taken of the Tailors,

whose record throughout the centuries is singularly non-contentious. It was the custom for the Chamberlain of the Kingdom to go on a tour throughout the burghs with the object of ascertaining whether local government was efficient, and Stirling certainly received these visits. In the reign of Robert I., who died in 1329, there was drawn up a list of points to be inquired into, and, later on, this was expanded. The latter document, known as the "Iter Camerarii," has come down to us in Latin and old Scots. Chapter XXIV. deals with the Tailors, who were to be examined in the following questions:

IN THE FIRST, that thai mak our mekil refus and schredis of mennis claith, whiles for greit haist and vther whillis for faut of cunnyng.

(Do they make too much waste cloth through haste or want of skill?)

Item, that thai tak peeis and scrodis and sleuis, vther small thingis.

(Do they "cabbage" the cloth?)

Item, that thai mak mennis garmentis otherwayin than mon ordanis thaimself or biddis.

(Do they make garments otherwise than as ordered?)

Item, thai sow with fals graith.

(Do they sew with rotten thread?)

Item, thai breik men ther dais.

(Do they fail to deliver the clothes on the day promised?)

Item, thai mak thaim maisteris or thai can the craft in grete skaithing of the king and the peple.

(Does the Craft admit a master tailor before he knows his trade?)

Item, thai wrik on haly dayis aganis the law of God, etc.

(Do they work on holy days?)

There is a singularly modern ring about some of these queries, which shows that though the fashion of dress may change, the human nature of the tailor and his customer remains the same throughout the ages.

An early attempt to deal with profiteering was made by the Scots Parliament in the reign of King James I. on 1st March, 1427. By an Act passed at Perth, each Craft was ordained to appoint a wardane, who, in consultation with other discreet and neutral men assigned to him by the Town Council, should fix the price of goods and workmanship. The Act was stated to apply to masons, wrights, smiths, tailors and weavers.

This was one of many similar attempts. These generally dealt with the price of food, and so it is seldom that the tailors are mentioned in this connection.

One of the earliest recorded incidents concerning the Tailors of Stirling took place in July, 1521. The bailies held a court on the 20th of that month, when Jame Moffat, tailyour, was fined for the "bloud and trubulance" of Sande Duncan, tailyour. It seems to have been a stand-up fight, for Sandy, although he had got the worst of the encounter, was also fined for the "trubulance committed and done" upon Jame Moffat. Sandy was also fined for disobeying James Lam the serjeant or town's officer. What the cause of all the trouble was does not appear, but both parties had their friends. One Moffat, whose Christian name is not mentioned, became security for Jame Moffat. He was probably a relative, and is described as a pigmaker, that is a potter or maker of earthenware. Sandy Duncan had no security other than his own hand and goods, but he had a champion against the town's officer, for John Bully appeared, and in the presence of the bailies, said that he "sould mak Jame Lam onable to bruk ane office." Whether this was a threat of personal violence or an intimation that he knew something against the character of Jame Lam that would cause him to lose his appointment as town's serjeant is not clear. Thomas Allan, tailor, now intervened and appeared to have threatened Jame Moffat, and the bailies caused Duncan Smart and John Allan, tailor, to become security that Thomas Allan would not harm Jame Moffat. The bailies must have had a troublesome time clearing up the disturbance, as John Bully and John Allan were both Town Councillors, the latter being the Deacon of the Tailors. John Bully was a notable man, being parish clerk and having duties to perform at divine service. A claim which he made to be keeper of the church "knok" caused the Town Council trouble. His son Sir Thomas Bully ("Sir" was an ecclesiastical title) became canon of the Cathedral Church of Glasgow.

In 1546 a woman was admitted to the Craft. On 7th December of that year the Town Council allowed Elspet Tailzor, the relict of Alexander Tailzor, to occupy the freedom of the craft, "so long as she is unclad with a husband."

The practice of "whipping the cat" is referred to in a Petition presented to the Convention of Royal Burghs by the Tailors of Dundee in 1587. "Thair is ane gryit number of unfriemen, speciallie of ye Talzier Craft, ressait, interteanit and quietlie mantenit be friemen, inhabitants of burrowis wtin yis Realme, wtin yair privat houssis and duelling places, and sufferit to virk yairin" to the prejudice of the freemen. The Convention ordained the Provost and Baillies of each burgh to attend sharply to these unfreemen. The Stirling Town Council records for that year are awanting, so we cannot learn what they did in the matter.

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE TAILORS

The history of the crafts is a tale of one long struggle for freedom and for privilege, fought out on the continent of Europe, in England, and in Scotland. At first the nobles and the church were the common foes of merchant and craftsman alike, but after the burghs had firmly established their independence, the merchant guilds and the trades had their own differences to settle. The contest was long and bitter, and the citizens of Stirling bore a full share in the stirring events of these times. The story of the struggle between the Guildry and the Seven Incorporated Trades of our town has been told elsewhere. Throughout, the Tailors loyally supported their class in the fight for the common privileges of the craftsmen both here and elsewhere. At the same time, the Tailors had their own peculiar rights to conserve, and the story of the Incorporation is largely a record of their efforts to that end.

While the Merchant Guilds were generally founded by Royal Charter, the corporate authority of the Crafts in Scotland was derived from the Town Councils. This took the form of a document called a "Seal of Cause," granted by the Council and defining the privileges of the Trade in favour of which it was executed. There is no record of any original Seal of Cause in favour of any of the Seven Incorporated Trades of Stirling. The reason of this is that these Trades were all incorporated prior to the date of the earliest extant records of the Town Council, which begin in 1519. There can be little doubt that such Seals of Cause were granted at an earlier date, for the Trades repeatedly came back to the Council for the confirmation of their privileges.

The Deacon of the Tailors on 16th January, 1519, appeared before the Provost and Baillies and presented a petition craving that, in consideration of the work which the Tailors had caused to be done at the parish kirk, they should be granted the same privileges as their craft had in other burghs. The Provost and Baillies ordered them to ascertain the privileges granted to the Tailors in "Sanct Jonis toun" (Perth), after which they should consult the Town Council. Probably the Perth Tailors had got some rights which their Stirling brethren were desirous of also having. The upshot does not appear. On 19th May, 1645, the Tailors secured a valuable Act in their favour, which we may take as the equivalent of the original Seal of Cause. It is so important that we give it in full.

"At Stirling the nynt day of May, 1645. The proveist, baillies, and counsell of the brugh of Stirling, haveing considered the complent givin in be James Miller, deacon of the tailyeors, in name and behalfe of the hail brethrin of tailyeor craft, makeing mention that they are mightilie prejudged by unfriemen duelling in landward, who are imployed be gentlemen and others residents in this brugh to come in and work to them within this brugh; for preventing the lyke abuse in tyme comeing, give full pouer and warrand to the [deacon of tailors for the time being] to seaze upon, take, and apprehend all maner of work wrought within this toun be unfriemen tailyeors, and to keep the samen whill they pay ane unlaw of fyve pound money; and wher the work cannot be apprehended the counsell gives libertie to the deacon of the craft and his brethren to call and conveyin such unfriemen befor themselves, and ther, efter tryell, to unlaw them in ane unlaw of fyve pounds money, toties quoties, and to tak cautione of them to desist in tyme comeing. As also the counsell ordaines that noe neibour nor inhabitant within the said brugh imploy unfriemen to work to them under the pain forsaidd. And ordaines this act to be intimat at the mercat croce that no persone pretend ignorance thereof."

On 19th April, 1647, the Town Council ratified this Act, and it was proclaimed at the Market Cross on 21st and 24th April following. On 4th September, 1682, and again on 28th August, 1703, it was ratified by the Council and intimated at the Market Cross, and on 25th August, 1739, it was

re-enacted with some slight changes, and again proclaimed at the cross on 31st August. This last Act provided that in no case could the Incorporation seize and detain the work if belonging to an inhabitant of the burgh. This restriction of their powers did not please the Tailors, who in 1752 presented a Petition to the Town Council. The Council on 29th February, 1752, restored the Incorporation's privileges as they were prior to 1739, relying on a decision of 1708 in a similar question between the Tailors of Edinburgh and those of Cannongate.

In the fight for privilege the Tailors did not have it all their own way. On 2nd May, 1524, John Allan, Deacon of the Tailors (of whom we heard before when the Tailors quarreled among themselves) found himself in conflict with the "furrier craft" or Skinners. He had provided fur for a gown. It is not stated whether it was the Provost's robe, more probably it was for some one at the Royal Court in the Castle. At all events, the Provost and Bailies ordained that no tailor should provide fur under the pain of forty shillings to be paid for each fault, towards the extension of the church building.

The Tailors were more successful on 6th June, 1547, when they were accused by James Modrell of taking away his "scheris." The Court decided that the Deacon and craftsmen had done no wrong in taking the shears, because James was found working therewith and he was neither a freeman of the town or the craft, and he, along with John Stene were ordered to desist until they joined the trade.

In 1750 trouble arose with certain mantua makers who had begun business in the town. Isabella Baird was prosecuted, and the Magistrates forbade her to work unless she settled with the Tailors. At first she paid part of the sum decreed for, and then she refused to pay any more. Apparently she relied on a decision of the Court of Session in a case at the instance of the Tailors of Perth against the mantua makers there. The Incorporation offered to let her off with a small yearly sum to be paid to the poor of the Trade, but as the Minute bears, "Mrs Baird will listen to no reasonable terms." The Tailors resolved in 1763 to take legal advice and presented a Memorial to Mr Walter Stewart, Advocate. Mr Stewart gave his opinion that they had no case against Mrs Baird, as it had been decided in the

Perth case that mantua making was distinct from the Tailor Craft. The advocate whom the Tailors consulted was Walter Stewart, Younger of Stewarthall. He had a short but brilliant career at the bar, and was one of the counsel for the defence of James Stewart of the Glens when tried for the murder of Campbell of Glenure. He figures in Stevenson's well-known novel "Catriona." The case of the tailors against the mantua makers of Perth is remembered as the occasion of one of those absurdities of speech which made Lord Bankton notorious. The great institutional writer was a man of profound legal knowledge, but, like some other judges of his time, coarse in manners and eccentric. In giving his judgment in the case of the Perth mantua makers, he began thus—"My lords, I confess I have a great inclination for the girls." (Jurid. Rev. vol. 34, p. 155.)

On 25th May, 1745, the Trade caused John M'Nab, Tailor at "South Aylway" (South Alloa), to be apprehended for encroaching upon the Tailors' privileges. He was set at liberty upon promising never to be guilty again under pain of £20 Scots. Poor John could not sign his name, and his promise is authenticated by his mark. There are frequent records of similar proceedings.

A peculiar case was tried in the Burgh Court in 1791. By an Act of the Parliament of George III., men who had served as soldiers were entitled to exercise such trades as they were able for without any molestation. Alexander Wright married Elizabeth Norsar, whose father, Jonathan Norsar, had been a private in Colonel Hale's Light Dragoons. Her mother, Elizabeth Symington, the soldier's widow, lived with them. Wright started business as a tailor without entering with the Incorporation, and claimed to do so by virtue of the right conferred by the Act of Parliament on his wife and mother-in-law. In the end, the Court decided that the privilege was personal to the ladies, who could not transfer it to the defender, even though the parties all resided together, and so the Incorporation won their case.

The Guildry records are full of their efforts to preserve their rights, and they were constantly coming up against the Trades. As early as 1525 the Town Council warned the Tailors not to encroach on the Guildry privileges. On 13th

October, 1739, the Guildry appointed visitors to report whether the Tailors were selling cloth, silk thread, buckram, mohair, and buttons, etc., while so late as 1831 we find the Guildry threatening a tailor with interdict.

CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

The conditions of entry are set forth at great length in 1695, the sums being Scots money. (1) All wishing to join had to give in their trial or "seye" as to their perfect skill and qualification by making any piece of work which shall be fashionable either for men or women as the Deacon and Trade shall appoint. (2) The eldest son of a freeman paid twenty merks and was liable in "ane pynt of wyne" to the Deacon in lieu of the speaking drink, and forty shillings for booking. (3) If his father were dead the entry money was ten merks besides the other payments. (4) Other sons and sons-in-law paid twenty merks besides the other payments. (5) Apprentices paid seventy pounds, with a pint of wine to the Deacon, Six Pounds for the speaking drink and Four Pounds for booking, but were not allowed to enter until three years had passed after completion of the indenture, unless upon such farther payment as the Trade might enact. The trade cancelled a former practice of allowing apprentices to enter by giving a Bond in place of paying ready money, as the enforcing of these Bonds had given rise to great trouble and expense. (6) Strangers were to pay two hundred merks, with a pint of wine to the Deacon, and speaking drink to the Deacon and Masters of the trade, one dollar of earnest or "airleppennie," and to pay for booking what the trade pleased. For the entry money a Bond with sufficient security might be granted. (7) An apprentice, on being "booked to the trade" when he began his apprenticeship, paid Six Pounds and the expense of "ane four hours" besides. If the master paid the booking, the "four hours" cost forty shillings. In either case the Deacon was out of the booking money to spend twenty shillings at the "four hours," and to account to the Trade for Five Pounds. On its completion the Indenture was to be discharged by the Master and given in to the Trade, and the apprentice on getting up his Discharge was to pay fourteen shillings. These Regulations are signed by the whole Trade, who at that time numbered sixteen.

These conditions were revised on 13th June, 1774, when it was decided that a stranger's entry money should be Seven Pounds Sterling, with fifteen shillings for speaking drink and fifteen shillings for booking after his say is performed. Ten shillings were to be saved from the speaking drink money and ten shillings from the booking, for behoof of the Trades poor. He was also to give the Deacon his pint of wine and pay fifty pence to the Convener Court, one shilling for upholding the Trades House, one shilling to the Clerk and sixpence to the officer. An apprentice who had served his time was to pay £3 16s for entry, 10s for speaking drink, 10s for booking (half of these last two sums to be saved for the poor), Convener Court dues, Trades house, Clerk and officer as mentioned before, and the Deacon's pint of wine. A freeman's son paid £1 2s for entry, 5s for speaking drink, 5s for booking (40 pence from the speaking drink and 20 pence from the booking to be saved for the poor), also Convener Court dues, Trades House, Clerk and officer as above. If the entrant were the eldest son and his father were dead, his entry money was 11s along with all the other dues. In subsequent years these rules were to a great extent departed from.

The making of a "sey" or essay piece, as a test of the workman's skill before admission to the Trade was insisted on by all the Crafts in Stirling as in other towns. The practice of the Tailors of Dundee is set forth in their published records. "That the candidate shall take the measure, cut the cloth, and sew the same with his own hand in presence of two masters to be appointed for the purpose, but who must give no advice or assistance, the garment to be inspected by the whole Trade, and if not found sufficient, the person not to be admitted to the Trade."

Although the Incorporation were careful that only tailors exercising their craft should be admitted to membership, there is occasional evidence of laxness in this respect. In September, 1728, the Trade had to send in their list for membership of the Town Council in accordance with the Set of the Burgh then in force. They, however, sent in the name of a "jaylor" instead of a taylor, and although the difference of a single letter might be thought of little consequence, the Council would have none of him, nor

would they accept Thomas Wallace, "castle soldier," whose name was also submitted. It may be that both the jailor and the soldier had previously been tailors as they were undoubtedly entered with the trade, but the Incorporation were ordained to make choice of "sufficient" persons.

In 1764, the practice of admitting those who were not practical tradesmen had obtained for several years in all the Seven Incorporated Trades, and the Tailors passed a solemn resolution condemning the practice.

TROUBLE WITH A HATTER

In the year 1747 the Incorporation were greatly exercised over a case of discipline. It appears that in the year 1730 one Alexander Graham, a hatter, came to Stirling, and being a relative of John Allan, the founder of Allan's Hospital, he was admitted free to the Tailors' Incorporation as being the nearest trade to his occupation. There was a precedent as old as the year 1589, when a hatter, who desired protection from those of that employment "who then it seems strolled about from place to place," was directed by the Town Council to join the Tailors. It is recorded that "scarce any after that time settled hear" until the arrival of Alexander Graham. A few years afterwards trouble began. Repeatedly Graham was brought up before the Incorporation for abusing the Deacon and the Master Court, for insolent and abusive carriage, for maltreating the Deacon, and for calling the Convener "a damned perjured villain." Sometimes he is stated to have "acknowledged the crimes charged," and although ordered to find caution it was never found, and though expelled from the Trade he always came back. After eleven years of this kind of thing the Tailors could stand Graham's conduct no longer, and brought the matter before the Convener Court, who conducted an impartial trial, hearing all parties. Their decision was that the offender should be rendered incapable of holding office or taking part in the management of the Trade, and this they accomplished by a Petition to the Town Council, in which the whole charges and procedure are set forth at great length. The Town Council confirmed the decision of the Convener Court.

ROBERT SPITTAL

Whether Robert Spittal was a member of the Incorporation of Tailors or not is a matter of conjecture. Nowhere in the records is he styled a burgess, and as his work lay with the Court at the Castle, it was not essential for the purpose of his business that he should be a member of the Incorporation. The Castle being outwith the Burgh, he would not be infringing the privileges of the Craft. He had, moreover, a residence at Coldoch throughout his life, and he probably lived a good deal there. On the other hand he owned many properties in Stirling, and his great benefaction was for the benefit of the poor of the town. The only connection that I can trace between Robert Spittal and the Incorporation of Tailors is an entry in the Town Council Minutes of 20th December, 1546. (Trans. 1905-6, p. 41.) He became cautioner for Donald Spittal when the latter joined the Incorporation, apparently after working as a tailor without duly entering with the craft. In what relationship Donald stood to Robert Spittal does not appear. The entry is as follows:—

20 December, 1546.—Donald Spittal entered to the freedom of the burgh and paid 13s 4d, pledge Robert Spittal, and heireftir he being enterit to the town, offers him readie to enter to the craft and doe to them thairfor as uthers had done before, and Robert Spittal became surety: thairfor, the bailies ordains the craftsmen of tailzours to deliver again to him his warklumes and wark taen by them.

Robert Spittal was born some time about the year 1480. He was of the family of Spittals of Cessintully and Blair Logie. The first appearance of his name in the records is in 1509, when he appears as tailor to the Queen of James IV. On 14th August, 1513, less than a month after the battle of Flodden, in which James lost his life, Spittal was granted a charter of the lands of Easter Coldoch, part of the Barony of Cessintully. This was granted by James V. under the Great Seal. The first record of Spittal acquiring property within the Burgh of Stirling is in May, 1521, when he bought a property on the north side of what is now named after him, Spittal Street. In subsequent years he bought a number of properties on the south side of Spittal Street, and he appears to have owned most of the ground

lying between the sites of the present High School and Allan's School. He also acquired ground on the south side of the town wall, and we find on 28th June, 1556, the Town Council ordering Spittal to build up an opening which he had made in the town wall by which he had access from the one part of his property to the other. At that troubled period in Scottish history, when the town was in imminent danger, it was necessary to take every precaution for strengthening the walls. One wonders if the built-up doorway, which is still apparent in the wall at this point, is the opening made by Robert Spittal.

The first of Spittal's bridge building activities was the erection of a bridge over the River Bannock at Bannockburn, the evidence of which is the inscription on the bridge itself. The date, 1516, is rather doubtful. In 1535 he erected a bridge over the Teith near Doune in substitution for the ferry which formerly existed there. This route must have been very familiar to Robert Spittal on his journeys between his house at Coldoch and Doune Castle, where his patroness, Queen Margaret, chiefly resided. A few years later James V., with consent of his mother, granted to Spittal the land adjoining the ferry, known as the "Cobhilland" of Doune, now part of the estate of Blair Drummond. Spittal also built the bridge over the River Devon at Tullibody, the maintenance of which was undertaken by the Town Council of Stirling.

The story of Spittal's Hospital is not altogether clear. He appears to have erected an almshouse, known as the "Nether Hospital," during his life. The site of this building was on the south side of Irvine Place on the crest of the hill. It was called the Nether Hospital because the old almshouse near the church was known as the "Over Hospital," that title being subsequently transferred to Cowane's Hospital.

Spittal died in the beginning of 1558, apparently upwards of 70 years of age. He was never married. His nephew, Mr Nicholas Robeson, was served as his heir in Easter Coldoch on 31st March, 1558. Robert Spittal left a will, the evidence of which is contained in the Protocol Book of Robert Ramsay, which is preserved in the Town Clerk's Office. Under date 8th January, 1559, Nicholl Robesone, as heir of Robert Spittal, came to an agreement with the Town Council for the sustentation of the Hospital which Robert

Spittal had founded "and ye pair cratoris yrintill." The marginal note bears that the benefaction was for the community of the Burgh.

This almshouse was administered by the Town Council as Patrons of Spittal's Hospital for 200 years. It was disposed of in 1751. The Hospital was then removed to a site on the north side of the Baxter's Wynd, now Baker Street. By this time the Hospital building had become simply the meeting place of the Seven Incorporated Trades. This was afterwards in the Trades Hall, which stood on the site where the Primary High School was erected a few years ago. The traditional date of the foundation of Spittal's Hospital is 1530, and is probably not inaccurate.

The revenues of Spittal's Hospital trust have all along been administered by the Town Council. Whatever may have been Spittal's intention, the beneficiaries since the earliest extant records were confined to decayed members of the Guildry and the Seven Incorporated Trades and their relatives. When Cowane's Hospital, which was for exclusive benefit of the Guildry, came into operation, fewer Guild brothers were put on Spittal's Hospital, and the practice definitely ceased about 1672, since which time the beneficiaries have been solely confined to the Trades. The interest of the Guildry in Spittal's Hospital is still maintained in two ways. A Guild brother is always appointed one of the two factors of Spittal's Hospital (Cowane's Hospital has only one factor), and a sum of 3s per week is still contributed from Spittal's Hospital towards the salary of the Guildry Officer. This takes the place of the former practice of keeping one Guild Brother on Spittal's pension fund.

At the present time the capital of Spittal's Hospital is valued at £35,000, invested chiefly in feu duties payable from the residential area on the south side of Stirling. About forty old people get pensions from the funds, and a substantial annual payment is made to the Stirling Educational Trust and used for paying bursaries to deserving school children.

THE CHURCH

In pre-Reformation times the crafts in Stirling, as elsewhere, constituted themselves religious fraternities. Each trade maintained in the Parish Church an altar dedicated to its patron saint. The

members made weekly contributions, and the money so gathered was paid to a priest, who said mass at the altar. There the craftsmen went to worship, the Deacon taking part in the service, and very jealous they were of their religious privileges. Twenty-five of these altars in the Parish Church of Stirling have been traced. The High Altar was at the eastern end, and the others were placed round about the walls. Unfortunately we have no direct evidence of which altar was maintained by the Tailors, but we may hazard a guess. In London the Tailors called themselves the Fraternity of St John the Baptist. The Edinburgh Tailors maintained the altar of St Ann in St Giles Cathedral, and the Dundee Tailors also had St Ann for their Patron Saint. In Stirling Parish Church there were altars both to St John the Baptist and to St Ann, and probably one or other was the Stirling Tailors' patron saint.

In the Miracle Plays which in pre-Reformation times were enacted in Stirling and other burghs throughout Europe, I cannot trace any special part assigned to the Tailors, although it was sometimes the rule that a definite function in the play was assigned to a particular craft, as when in York the shipwrights were assigned the duty of representing the building of the ark (Bates 41). In the London pageants of later date the part represented by the Tailors was that of St John the Baptist (Unwin 271, 275). It is probable that the Tailors were responsible for providing the costumes of the players, and this is borne out by an old bill of expense preserved in Coventry (Bates 44), in which the following items appear—

Paid for a pair of gloves for God...	2d
Paid for four pair of angels' wings...	2s 8d
Paid for nine and a half yards of bulkrum for the souls' coats...	7s
Paid for ale when the players dress them...	4d
Paid for a pair of new hose and mending of the old for the white souls...	18d
Paid for mending the garment of Jesus, and the cross painting...	1s 3d
Paid for a pound of hemp to mend the angels' heads...	4d
To Fawston for cock crowing...	10d
Item—Painting of the world.	
Item—Link for setting the world on fire.	
Item—Girdle for God.	
Item—For mending the demon's head.	

It should be remembered that this was written in all seriousness, and that the crowds who went to these pageants looked on and listened to their spiritual edification.

In 1267 an armed conflict took place in the streets of London between the Goldsmiths and the Tailors. The clothworkers and the cordwainers also joined in the fray on either side. Over five hundred were said to have been engaged, and many were wounded and some slain. The Tailors Fraternity of St John the Baptist in London was strongly organised before the close of the thirteenth century, and had probably been in existence since the early part of the century. In the reign of Richard III., the banqueting hall of the Merchant Tailors was spacious enough to hold a couple of hundred guests, and splendid enough for the entertainment of the company's royal members. The windows were enriched with the best Flemish glass, and its walls were decked with scenes wrought in tapestry from the life of St John the Baptist. The Tailors acquired the site of their present hall in Threadneedle Street (so named from its presence) in 1331. At the Reformation the London Tailors had nine church livings in their gift. During the civil war they lent £26,000 to the Parliament. (Unwin, 58, 176, 208, 214.) Two of the ancient mortcloths of the Tailors of London are still in existence. One dating from the fifteenth century is of red colour with a floral design. On each side is a flap of purple velvet with figures of John the Baptist and of the Baptism of Christ. (Unwin, 214.) The Arms of the Tailors granted in 1586 were the field silver, a pavilion with two mantles, imperial purple garnished with gold, on a chief azure a lion passant gold; crest upon the helm on a wreath silver and azure on a mount vert a Lamb silver in the sun beams gold, mantled gules double silver, supported with two camels gold. Motto, "Concordia parvae res crescunt." (Coat Armour of the London Livery Companies by Charles Welch, page 20.)

After the Reformation the Patronage of the Town Council of Stirling in the Parish Church was confirmed by a Charter of Queen Mary, dated 15th April, 1567. The Council exercised this right in consultation with the Guildry and the Trades, and thus the intimate association of the Crafts and the Church was maintained until modern times. Whenever a new minister was to be

called, each of the Trades met separately to consider the matter, and their decision was reported to the Town Council. The minute of Town Council of 12th June, 1682, is interesting as showing the procedure.—

12 June, 1682.—The magistrates and counsell being convened for receiving in of the opinions of the gildrie and trades anent their calling of Mr James Hunter, minister at Donyng, to succeed as second minister in this burgh in place of the deceased Mr Patrick Murray, minister their, the dean of gild made report that the gildrie wer content; the conveyer made report that the major pairt of the hamermen wer content; and the deacons of the baxters, cordiners, and gloves declaired their trades were content; and the deacons of the weavers, talzeors, and fleshers declaired their trades wer not content. Which being considered the magistratis and hail counsell appoyntis the said Mr James Hunter to be called, and for that end have all of them subscrivit and presentationis to him, ordaining the clerk to appoynt the ordinario seall theirunto."

The baxters, cordiners and gloves were the bakers, shoemakers and skimmers.

The Trades took a keen interest in the ecclesiastical troubles that led to the deposition of the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine and the formation of the Secession Church. Along with the Guildry they petitioned the Town Council, declaring their grief for being likely to be deprived of Mr Erskine's ministry. A representation was drawn up and presented to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, praying that the Act of Assembly might not be put into execution. This memorial was a sagacious and human document, highly creditable to those who prepared it, but it was of no avail.

On 16th January, 1731, an arrangement was come to for assisting to provide the stipends of the second and third ministers out of the dues of the Bridge and Burgh Mills, the members of the Trades and other bodies thirling themselves to these mills and undertaking to pay certain multures. In those days there was much brewing in the town, and the dues represented a considerable sum. In consideration of these payments it was declared that each of the communities should have a voice in calling of the second and third ministers in all time coming. In 1740 a dispute arose as to what was meant by these words, and

the Incorporations were asked for their opinions. Meetings were held and much diversity appeared. Some thought that each individual tradesman should have a vote, but the Tailors' decision was that each trade should have one vote and that by a representative. The question apparently solved itself and gave rise to no further trouble.

In 1732 the Tailors erected a loft in the West Church. It was situated "betwixt the second eastmost pillar and the east side of the southmost window of the church opposite thereto." John Gib, Merchant, obtained for the sum of £12 10s a grant from the Town Council to build the loft. Shortly afterwards he made an Agreement with the Tailors, to whom he disposed his rights, reserving to himself the half of the foremost desk or seat of the loft which he divided off by a partition. The Tailors refunded Gib the £12 10s and some other expense to which he had been put, and themselves built the loft, Gib paying them £2 for his own seat. The structure was supported upon pillars, which were to be temporarily removed when any burial took place underneath. The loft was entered by the same stair as that belonging to the Guildry, and in November, 1800, the Tailors' half of the expense of repairing the stair amounted to £7 11s 1d. The intention no doubt was that the members of the Incorporation should occupy this pew personally in accordance with the ancient custom, and probably they did so for a time. By the year 1834, however, we find the pew regularly let, the occupants paying generally about £2 a year. On 15th November, 1860, the Incorporation gave their consent to the gallery being removed, and this was done in 1868. (Council Committee Minutes, 2nd May and 15th August, 1867.—Ronald, page 89.)

THE MORTCLOTH

In July, 1707, the Tailors' Incorporation of Stirling agreed to procure a new mortcloth, or cover for the coffin at the funeral of a member. This was a momentous affair. The Deacon and present Master were given a free hand, and from the account of their "deursements" we learn what took place. The Deacon hired a horse to go to Glasgow, and that cost £1 16s 0d. His own expenses and horse meat the two days he was from home cost £4 6s 0d, but that sum is stated to include what he spent with Deacon

Downie at the hiring of the horse and at his home coming. In addition the Trade spent £1 13s 0d with the Deacon when he came home. The mortcloth contained nine ells of fine velvet, it had deep mohair fringes and fine fringes of silk, and was lined with seven and a half ells of serge. John Christie was paid £1 2s 0d for enlarging the mortcloth "chist." The old mortcloth was mended with an ell of serge costing 18s, and there was paid 2s 8d "for strings to the pock." The final entry is "spent be the Trade at sighting the mortcloth after it was made, and the old cloath after it was mended, £1 17s 0d." The total bill was £137 17s 4d, but of course these sums were all Scots money. Frequent entries occur in the account of sums spent at airing the mortcloth, which proceeding was obviously an excuse for a drink.

In 1782 a new mortcloth was procured, and again in 1836 another was provided which was made by a member of the trade for 4s, velvet and cotton costing 14s 8d, and black fringes and binding laces 7s 0d. In the following year 6s was paid for dyeing two mortcloths, and, so recently as 1850, the airing of the mortcloth cost 3s 6d, while 12s 8d was spent on its repair.

THE FUNDS OF THE INCORPORATION

From time to time the Tailors took steps to preserve their funds against maladministration. Thus on 20th March, 1620, the new Deacon and five old Deacons, on behalf of the whole trade, entered into an obligation to the Town Council to "inputt and keip all the entreis and fynes of their craft in the box to the succour help and use of yair said cwaift and brether yrof and never to distribute nor deall the same bot to the indigent pure and misterfull brether of their craft in tyme of plaige, pest, war or seiknes, or in defence or persute of ye libertie of thair craft."

On 7th September, 1677, some of the Tailors appealed to the Town Council to protect the funds of the Trade. Several of the Tailors were found to be "extraordiner spenders of ther owne common good," and the Council decreed that the debts which they had incurred, or should thereafter incur, should not affect the common good of the trade in any time coming.

The strange mingling of good and bad, frugality and thriftlessness that constantly appears in the annals of the Tailors is strikingly brought out in

the story of the Orphan Fund. A petition was presented to the Town Council, following upon which the Council, on 8th March, 1740, passed the following judgment—

"8 March, 1740.—Anent the petition and representation given in by Hugh Lennox [in name of the incorporation of taylors], showing that the said incorporation having on the thirty first of January, 1737, out of a pious and charitable designe for the better preservation of their stock, and for settling a fund for the benefit, maintenance, and education of orphans belonging to any of the incorporation, whether male or female, till they were capable to do for themselves (a thing formerly very much neglected), voluntarily and most generously stented themselves and oblidged them to pay the boxmaster six shillings Scots quarterly, or at least two shillings sterling at the end of each year; . . . yet, notwithstanding all this, there are severall persons like to break up amongst the said corporation, who, void of all charity and bowells of compassion, are making a bustle as if they would have this so charitable a work frustrated, which has been hitherto carried on with very good success, and may funder prove successful and beneficial for the good of mankind; and the petitioner and his adherents can see no cause for this bustle, if it is not this, that severall of the funds, which by the foresaid act are appointed to be laid out for pious uses, used formerly to be drunk, which it's hoped the council would prevent by their sanction to the said act. . . . The magistrats and council find that conveener Lennox has done good service to his trade in making the foresaid application to the council, because the foresaid act of the taylor court appears to be most just and reasonable in all its parts, and to be made out of a reall good intent and designe; and therefore they unanimously ratifie and approve thereof, and interpone their authority and sanction thereto."

A similar question arose in 1766, when certain members of the Trade accused the Deacon and Boxmaster with some others of drinking the Poor Fund in Janet Edmond's and other houses. They laid a formal complaint before the Conveener Court, alleging that when they challenged the accused parties "they tells us they will spend it and no thanks to our noses." The Conveener Court went fully into the question, receiving written statements and hearing parties *viva voce*.

The Court decided that the expense laid out could not be called extravagant, but directed the Tailors' Accounts to be made out quarterly with the items more particularly stated.

The earliest Accounts of the Incorporation that are preserved begin at Martinmas, 1744. At that time the invested funds were as follows:—

The Laird of Bandeath per Bond ... £266 13 4
Robert M'Farland and cautioners per

Bill ... 84 0 0
John Monteath and cautioners per

Bill ... 84 0 0

The foregoing sums were in Scots money. Generally speaking the accounts are well kept and clearly stated. The transition from Scots to Sterling took place at Martinmas, 1746.

In 1833 a Government Commission reported on the Municipal Corporations in Scotland. The information given by the Stirling Tailors is meagre, but we learn that in that year they had a capital of £76 lent out at interest, and owned some pews in the West Church which yielded about 2s of yearly rent. The income was stated to be expended in paying pensions to decayed brethren and their widows, and the remainder to corporation purposes. What these purposes were is not stated, but an examination of the Treasurer's Accounts during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries discloses that, while certain payments were made to poor men and women, the funds of the Incorporation were not, on the whole, worthily spent. One need not be too strict about the Deacon's farewell, as such an annual social gathering has much to commend it. There are, however, endless entries of money spent on drink on any kind of pretext, while the practice of dividing the funds among the members whenever a few pounds had accumulated robbed the Incorporation of the means of any real influence or usefulness in the community.

RECENT HISTORY

The number of members of the Tailors' Incorporation has varied from time to time. From several sources I have extracted the following figures—

1695	...	16 members
1724	...	16 members
1747	...	36 members
1754	...	30 members
1810	...	18 members

1815	...	19 members
1820	...	26 members
1833	...	20 members
1853	...	17 members
1859	...	12 members
1863	...	19 members
1869	...	12 members
1871	...	18 members
1923	...	80 members

A period of crisis in the history of the Seven Incorporated Trades arose on the passing of the Endowed Institutions (Scotland) Act, 1869, following upon which a Commission was appointed to report on all the Hospitals in Stirling, and the claims of the several Incorporations to the benefits of these. Sheriff Blackburn and Principal Tulloch were the Commissioners, and the taking of the evidence occupied five days. The case for the Tailors was presented by Mr Alexander Duthie, who at that time was the Ex-Deacon. He stated that the Trade numbered 18, or whom 4 were in receipt of Spittal's charity and 7 had boys at Allan's School as Hospital boys. He was very closely examined as to members being admitted who were not practical tailors, and his evidence was that none but practical men were admitted at the long hand, but any one having the right to enter at the short hand as a son or son-in-law was freely admitted although not a tailor to trade. As to the motive which induced new members to join, he admitted that it generally was to obtain the benefit of Allan's Mortification for their sons. The Commissioners reported in favour of all the Hospitals and Mortifications, except the M'Laurin Bequest and Adamson's Bursary, being included in a Scheme for the educational benefit of the whole community, with certain reservations of existing rights, an annual sum being set apart for pensions.

Upon the passing of the Educational Endowments (Scotland) Act, 1882, which superseded the previous Act, the matter was taken up afresh. The new Commissioners were Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who was Chairman; the Earl of Elgin; Mr John Ramsay, M.P.; and Sir Thomas J. Boyd, and they took farther evidence on 17th and 18th January, 1884. The Seven Incorporated Trades were represented, but not the Tailors specially. The upshot was the constitution of the Stirling Educational Trust under a Scheme dated 3rd April, 1886, which, as amended by a

private Act passed in 1922, now regulates the administration of the funds of Cowane's, Spittal's, Allan's and Cunningham's Mortifications, and also the M'Laurin, Ramsay and Sponce Bequests. The only trust which the Seven Incorporated Trades still retain in their own hands is the Adamson Bursary, and even that came under the partial control of a University Ordinance on 30th July, 1894.

Recently there has been a great revival in the membership of the Incorporation of Tailors, due to the energy of the present popular Deacon, Bailie Thomas Ferguson, who has also the honour of being Convener of the Seven Incorporated Trades. The Tailors now number eighty, and are the most vigorous and flourishing of all the Stirling Incorporations. Long may their prosperity continue.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE TAILORS' INCORPORATION OF STIRLING.

Note.—The volumes of records of the Tailors' Incorporation of which we have definite knowledge are the following:—

- (1) Minute Book for the period 1695 to 1831. On the title page this bears that the volume was to be used only for recording the entry of new members and of important Acts of the Trade. That rule was not departed from, and the volume is therefore but an incomplete record of the doings of the Incorporation.
- (2) Volume consisting of three portions—(First) Acts extracted from the Trades Old Book by James Brown, Deacon, in April, 1727. These Acts are dated from 1530 to 1615. (Second) Minutes from 1728 to 1820. (Third) Accounts from 1744 to 1759.
- (3) Minute Book from 1777 to 1831.
Note.—The Minutes in these three volumes overlap, but are not duplicated.
- (4) Minute Book from 1831 to the present time.
- (5) "The Old Book." In volumes (1) and (2) there are references to earlier Acts of the Trade contained in "the Old Book," and a number of these are extracted. The volume has been lost, but such of the

transcribed minutes as are included in the following extracts are inserted under their proper dates.

- (6) "The Claspot Book." This is referred to in the volume 1695-1831, and extracts from it are given. It was evidently the equivalent of the "Locket Book" kept by the Trade Incorporations in other towns.
- (7) "The Act Book." This book is referred to in Minutes dated 17th December, 1782, and 16th January, 1783, being purchased then. Into it were to be transcribed the necessary Acts of the Trade. The book has disappeared. It cannot be the same volume as (1), because that book was begun on 16th May, 1695.
- (8) Treasurer's Account Book from 1834 to 1907. At the beginning of the book are lists of the names of members from 1809 to 1821.
- (9) Treasurer's Account Book from 1907 to the present time.

Act for entering Tailor apprentices. Old Book page 25. Sterling the 6th of March, 1630 years. John Mill, Deacon.

The which day the Deacon being conveyed with the most number of his Craft having considered of the welfare and standing of the Craft and of certain abuses that prejudices them through entering of prontices to there libertie and therefore and for good order hereafter the hail brethren all in ano voce has concluded, concludes statuts and ordeins That whatsoever prentices shall creive to be entred to our libertie That the seimen prentice shall pay Thirtie pounds and his dinner and whatsoever extreinious prentice shall creive to the entred shall pay fiftie pound and his dinner and attour for observing good order and the statuts forsd. in time coming hereafter statuts that no brother insist in prejudice of thir statuts in time coming and if any brother presum to insist he shall be secluded of the craft.

Subs. by all our hands at our Clerk's pen.

Da. M'alay, Clerk.

[As David M'Alay was Clerk in 1590, it is apparent that this Minute was first transcribed by him and then recopied by James Brown in 1727. The spelling has become modernised in these processes.]

THIS INDENTURE of an Apprentice

Tailor, being the earliest Stirling Indenture on record, is taken from the Town Council Book. (Trans. 1905-6, page 57.)

31 October, 1545.—It is appoyntit and accordit betwixt Alexander Watson John Norwell and John Norwell his broder's son on the ane pairt, and Thomas Wallace tailor on the uther, in this manner:—The said John Norwell elder and Alexander Watson as binding the said John Norwell younger prentiss to the said Thomas for the spaies of seven zeiris, for the quhilk spaies the said Thomas sal find him meat and wark accordingly to a gude maister and craftsmen aucht to do, and instruct him his craft sufficiently as effeirs, and sal find clothes the latter three zeiris; and for the causis foresaid, the said John and Alexander hes debursit and payit to the said Thomas the sum of £10 money of the reaulm, quhilk the said Thomas grantit him to have received and dischargit them and all others whom it effeirs thereto for ever; and as they sal find the said John Norwell younger his necessar clothing the first four zeiris of the said seven zeiris and sall pay 10s to the altar of the saids craft as dewtie for the said prentiss and becums suretie for his biding and lawtie; and in cais the said Thomas inlaik in this Mertymes, he obleissis him his heirs executors and assignees to recompense the inlaik of the tyme and zeiris accordingly as law will; and for the faithful observing and keiping of the premises either of the saids parties hes obleissit them *fidie media* befor thir witnesses, Robert Brus of Auchenbowie, Andro Quhite, Thomas M'Calpy, and John Worthie, with uthers diverss.

At Stirling the 5th of November 1600 years
Andrew Liddal Deacon

The which day the haill bretheren of the Taylor Craft being convined in one Assembly it is aledged and propounded that sundrey of the bretheren absents themselves from convining at Courts. And Lekewas negleting to attend the burils of ane frei man or his wife or children And that for negleting to inflict punishment in uptaking of un-lawes in times by past theirfore fore remied in time coming, it is stated and ordered that whatsomever brother being lawfully warned to convin at such ane houre appointed by the Deacon to such a court, and whatsoever brother

beys abesent at the said houre or plecte apinted by the Deacon or beys absent any of the forsaid buriels, the Conterviner or absenter therefrom shall pay sixteen shillings Scots money, And that without the offender have special bussness that layes upon his honestie or what my be hurtfull to himself: And in such lenke casess they are to come to the Deacon and let him know and creve his liberty and obten the same therfor And the fines is to be uplifted for the use of the poocr.

Sic Sub Da. M'Aly, Clk.

[The foregoing Minute is engrossed on page 158 of the Minute Book, 1695-1831, and is there stated to be "from Old Book, page 43, and from the Clespot Book, page 174." It is also one of the Acts extracted by James Brown.]

10th June 1634.

The Incorporation passed an Act forbidding members to undertake work for persons families burgesses and inhabitants of the burgh not formerly in use and custom to work with them without knowing if their brother or brethren tradesmen in use before to work to them be paid for their pains and workmanship. [This Act is referred to in Minute of 2nd June, 1715.]

6th January, 1680.

The Incorporation passed an Act providing that entrant members should serve the Trade for one year as officer. [This Act is referred to in Minute of 22nd September, 1744.]

May the 16th day 1695.

The which day the Tread being convened in there odinar Meeting place on the Goune hills viz as under wroitten

William Alano, present Deacone, Thomas Galloway, late Deacone, James Clearck, late Deacone, James Alane, late Deacone and present Mester, Thomas Espline, William Broune, John Youine, present Mesters for the tyme, Gilbert M'laine, Clereck, Alexander Hamiltone, Archibald Harlie, William Gilmour, Mathias Espline, James Harlie, Archibald Stirling, John Stirling, John Scott, Alexander Jack, Thomas Murdough, James Plenderlieth, John Galawa.

They being treating upone the affairs of the Tread amongst the rest They have thought it fitt and most convenient this book should be

ordainet only for Booking of friemen and Booking of substantial Acts for the Good of the Tread.

Att Stirling the day of MVIC nyntie
five yrs.

The which day William Allane present Deacon of the tailzeas within the sd. burgh and the heall remanent brethren of the said trade therein being frequentlie fullie mett and conveyed at ther ordinar place of meitting in the common hills of the sd. burgh for treating communing and consulting upon the affairs of the samen trade And amongst the rest considering that the trade often tymes yea and allways hitherto has been putt to a great deall of trouble and inconveniences throu ther not having an exact rule and method laid doune for thos who at first enters to the libertie and privilege of the sd. trade within the sd. burgh, And also considering the great expenss and unnecessary charges thos who are entering with the said trade hav in former tymes incurred and been putt to, throu not having a constant and standing rule as to the extent of the sd. entrie tyme and maner of the payment thereof with uthor charges which should be dou and paid be thom at ther sd. entrie. And therefore the deacon and his sd. heall brethren being most desyrous to setle and make a standing rule in tyme coming as to the entries and qualifications of friemen's sons, prentises, and strangers or neutrall persons who may be desyring to become members of the sd. incorporatione yt was concluded and aggried upon that the sd. deacon and severall uthers of the sd. trade appoynted thereto might go apairt be themselves for some considerable space, And ther to draw up for ymselves and in name of the rest ther opinione and judgement what they thought to be most propper and beneficiall for the interest of the said trade and thos entering with ym, the maner how they are to be tryed before entering and the tyme when they may be entred wher found qualified, the money to be dou and payable to the trade, and maner and tyme of payment thereof or securitie therefor. And accordingly the said deacon and thos nominat yrto wis removing for some tyme and seriouslie and deliberatlie consulting amongst ym anent the premiss and conclude upon the several articles after sett doune. Whilks being once again read over to the heall trade was unanimouslie ratified and approven of by them. And which are hereby

statute enacted and ordained to be the constant and only standing rules in all tyme hereafter to be punctuallie observed as o the sd. entries and maner thereof as followes. [The remainder is abridged.]

In the first place All friemens sons, prontises also weel as strangers shall give in ther tryall or seye as to ther perfect skill and qualificatione by making ane piece of work which shall be fashionable the tyme either for men or women as the deacon and trade shall nominat and appoint And that the whole tyme the sd. tryall or seye shall be in making the persons who is to be entered shall be inclosed in a rounge be himself and none to be allowed accesss or communing with him while the sd. piece of work perfect and outread be him salbe onlie such as shall be appoynted be the deacon and trade.

Secondlie. The eldest son of ane frieman of the said trade if his father be alive shall pay 20 merks for his entry or upsett, and in satisfaction of earnest pennie the same verie day and tyme of his admission he shall pay and be lyable for ane pynt of wine to the deacon in lieu and place of the speaking drink, 40 shilling Scotts for ther booking and swearing and no further either less or mair to be dou or exacted from ym.

Thirdlie. If his father be dead 10 merks Scots for his entrie or upsett or arlepennie togithor with ane pynt of wyne to the deacon and masters and 40 shillings Scotts for booking.

ffourthlie The heall rest of friemens sons of the said trade or ther daughters, whether ther fathor be dead or alyve and marieing strangers of the said employment shall pay 20 merks Scotts for yer said upsett and arlepennie, a pynt of wyne to the deacon and masters and 40 shillings Scots for booking.

ffyfthlie. As to prentises who have served friemen of the sd. trade within the sd. burgh the heall years and space of ther indentures shall pay Thrie score ten pund Scots for ther upsett or admissiome, ane pynt of wyne to the deacons, 6 pund Scots for ther speaking drink, 4 pund for booking. Appoints none of the said prentises be admitted untill thrie full years run and expire after the tyme and years of ther indentures. Whilk if the said trade shall notwithstanding of ther own goodwill allow ym to be entered before thes said years pas then the prentises shall pay

to the trade as they shall please to exact besydes and by and attour what is above stated for them. And whilk said soume above wreatten for the prentises upsett being formerly payed by some the tyme of ther entrie, and band gyven therfore by uthers (who had not that soume in readiness) to the said trade be ymselves and two caurs [cautioners] conform as the trade formerlie ordered, considering the hudge expenss the trade has been driven to in seeking for the same and doing diligence therfore Therefore the trade hes now thought fitt to take away the said former custome and any acts made thereanent without the respect of any persons qtfur.

Sixthlie. Strangers or neutrall persons shall pay 200 merks Scotts for entrie, with ane pynt of wyne to the deacone, with ane speaking drink to the deacone and masters, and ane dollar of earnest or airlepennie, also to pay for booking whatever the trade pleases. For ther said upsett ther is band to be granted be themselves as prinll. and two sufficient caurs conlic and scallie [principal and two sufficient cautioners conjointly and severally].

7. Anent prentises who come to be booked be the trade, they are to pay six pund Scotts and the expenss of ane four hours besydes. And if the prentee be to be booked on the masters charges 40 shilling for the said four hours with 6 pund for booking. And that the deacone shall pay out of the sd. booking money 20 shilling Scotts to be spent at the sd. four hours whither it shall be either on the prenteis or masters expenss. So that the deacon shall only be lyable to hold compt to the trade for the remanent thereof being fyve pund Also that prentises having served the heall years of ther indentures the masters shall subscribe and deliver ane full discharge to them thereof which is to be given in be the master to the trade, and by them to be delyvered to the said prenteis, who shall pay to the trade 14 shilling Scotts at getting up of the discharge as formerly prentises of the sd. trade have been in use to doe.

Lastlie to make it the more evidentlie appear that the severall articles above wrine are really canclued enacted and aggried upon be the said heall trade and in testimonie of ther consent and firme adhering thereunto, the said deacone masters and remanent brethren of the said trade

have subt. thes pnts with ther hands day month place and year abovewrine.

William Allan, Deacon
James Plenderloth
Thomas Galloway
James Clark
James Allane
Thomas Esplene
Alexr hamiltoun
Archibald harlay
Willem brown
Alexanr Jack
John Ewing
William Gillmoor
Archibald Stirling
John Scott
James Harlaiy
John Galloway

Town Council minute dated the day of
1695, as to the Common Good
engrossed in full in the Minute Book.

At Stirling ye 25 May, 1695.

The whilk day in preasents of Willm: Allan
preasent deacon to ye tailors John Galloway son
to Thomas Galloway leat Deacon is enterd to ye
libertie and fridom of ye said tread and his payd
his doue latholl to him and his given his oath of
verritie as witness my hand

Gilbert M'lain, Clerk
[Many other similar entries follow.]

20th October 1696.

The Trade considered an Act of the Convener
Court agreeing that the Trades should act
unitedly in defence of their privileges against the
Guildry. The Act is engrossed in full.

This our desire we are contente what eaver it
may come to unittie to stok and stand on with
another and on for another as witnes all our hands
thereto

Signed by 17 members.

At Stirling the last day of August 1706
years.

The which day the Deacon-Conveener and
remanent Deacons now and old of the seven
incorporat trades within the burgh of Stirling
being conveyed at their ordinar meeting place
and taking to their serious consideration that the
deceast Mr. David Adamson sometime miner

[minister] at Fintrie by his letter of mortification dated the 3d of March 1674 years did legatee and mortise the soume of Eight hundred merks due by the persons contained in the said mortification for maintaining ane Burcar of Philosophy in the Colledge of Glasgow being the son of any tradesman within the said seven incorporat trades By which mortification the said soume of Eight hundred merks is appointed to stand and continou as ane constant and perpetuall stock And only the a'rent thereof to be applyed for the use and end forrsaid. By which also it is provided that the said a'rent should fall due and payable to John Campbell of Donan and his heirs during the vacancie of the said Bursar as the said mortification of the date forrsaid in itself more fullie bears LIKEAS the said John Campbell by his Discharge and renunciation dated the sixth day of July last by past not only renunced in favours of the said Conveener and Deacons present and to come the right of nomination and presentation of the said Bursar from time to time competent to him and his forrsaid by virtue of the said mortification But also discharge them and their successors in office of the a'rent of the said mortified soume also well of all years and terms bygone that the same was not applyed or employed for maintaining of the said Bursar as in all time heirafter to the effect that during the space of the sd vacancies so oft as they shall occur the same may be added to the stock for augmentation thereof RESERVING always pouer and liberty to the said John Campbell his heirs and successors to call and pursue the said Conveener and Deacons for making payment of the saids a'rents in time coming in case they shall happen to bestow or imploy the same for any other use then for maintaining the said Bursar or for augmenting the said stock as the said Reunuciation and Discharge likwys more fullie bears and the said Conveener and Deacons likwys considering the great trouble pain and expences they have been at in making effectuall the forrsaid mortified soume so far as could be recovered thereof which at this present time extends to Seven hundred merks and being most willing and desirous that the same with the a'rents thereof should be secured against all imbezlements whatsoever Therefore they all of on consent hereby declare that the said soume of Seven hundred merks money foressaid is and shall continaw as ane

perpetuall stock for the use and end above-mentioned &c.

23rd July 1707.

The gilk day in presence of William Allen present deacon to the Taylors of Stirling the trade being convind about of a morte cloath for the us of the sd incorporation of the sd trade which the sd trade has given a comission to William Allen our present deacon and James Allen present master to gou to aney place whar it shall hapen to be. Att Stirling 23 of July 1707.

Stirling the day of July 1707.

The which day William Allen present deacono of the Taylors and Deacon Conveener of the samen burgh, who was speckallie authorized and commissionat by the unanimous consent and voice of the said trade to the effect aftermentioned gave in the particulare account of the expences and depursements given out and bestowed upon ane new large morteloath and mending the old as followes viz.

	lib.	sh	d.
Nine ellnes fyne velvett at 10 lib 10			
sh pr ellne is	004	10	00
Item 2 pound 3 ounces moyhair for			
deep fringe to the old cloath ...	000	16	00
Item six ounces small silk for the			
small fringes of the new cloath			
and making theirot	006	02	08
It for working the small and deep			
moyhair freinges... ..	004	00	00
It seavine ells and ane half small rock			
sairge for lyning to the new			
morteloath and for lynning yrto			
qlk at 18 sh pr ell amounts to ...	006	15	00
It the deacones horse hyre for			
Glasgow to buy that velvet			
cloath	001	16	00
It his ounne expences and horse meat			
the tuo dayes he was from home			
and spent with deacones Dounie			
at hyreing his horse and at home			
coming... ..	004	06	00
It to John Christie for enlarging the			
morteloath chist	001	02	00
It spent be the Trade with the			
deacone when he came home and			
saw the new morteloath	001	13	00
It ane ell of sarge to the old mort-			
cloth	000	18	00
It for strings to the pock	000	02	08

It for making the new mortcloth
and making up the old and
putting on the freigne and
making the pock ... 006 - 00 - 00
It spent be the Trade at sighting
the mortcloth after it was made
and the old cloath after it was
mended... 001 - 17 - 00

Summa ... 137 - 17 - 4
2nd June 1715.

Complaint by some of the brethren of the trade
against others thereof for undertaking work with
persons and families not formerly in use and
custom to work for them without trying far less
knowing if their brother tradesman in use before
to work for them be payed, contrary to an Act
of the trade dated 10th June 1634. The said Act
approved and revived.

31 July 1722.

The Trade met with Robert Wingat, merchant,
one of the Bailies of the Burgh and complained
that John Fleming, sometime soldier in the
Honorable Colonel Scaton his regiment of foot
now Tailor in St Ninians has encroached on their
privileges. He denied the same and refused to
give his oath of verity. The Bailie found him
guilty and ordained him to enact himself that
he should not be guilty of taking measure of or
shaping or showing to any burgess &c. The
minute is signed

Ro Wingate, Baillie
John flemen.

Stirling ye twenty one day Agoust 1722.

The which day the prasince of Robert Summars
prasint decoan to the Taylors in Stirling Mungo
Ross becomes prentise to Alexander Stalker and
his payed the dous as other his done befor him
and the said Mungo is to kep order, of trad that
is to say he shall nether shape nor shou [sew]
within this our freedom without the libertay of
a mister askit and givne and that under the pain
of five pound scoates.

Mungo Ross
James Brown, Clerk.

[Similar entries follow.]

21 July 1724.

The Trade considering that some years ago a
bad and disallowable practise obtained in this and

the other six Incorporate Trades of this Burgh
of entiring persons who were never educate in
the knowledge of the particular trades by whom
they were admitted a member which cannot be
reasonably construed to have been of any other
desingne than that which is base mercenarie and
lucrative, and if not restrained may prove loss
and disadvantageous to them and other Incorporat
Trades whose sons if being poor may reap the
benefite of a large sum of money lately mortified
by Mr John Allan, Writter in Stirling &c. &c.
No one to be admitted unless they have served an
apprenticeship to the trade.

[The foregoing Act is re-engrossed in the minute
book, and the two copies are signed by 87
members. Apparently new members signed when
they entered.]

21st September 1725.

The Trade considered an Act of the Convener
Court that a Convener should not continue in
office longer than two years at once, "the Trad
unanimously rishioned the same Act by their
voses."

21st January 1727.

At Stirling the twenty first day of Januarie
one thousand seven hundred and twentie seven
years. The which day in presence of James
Brown Deacon of the Taylors . . . have
entred and received Andrew King sone to John
King carlar in Callender, Taylor, . . . he
having given his oath of fidelity to be leal and
trew to the said craft and that he shall neither
reveal their secrets nor conceal their damnges and
the said Andrew has payed the sum of one
hundred pund Scots mony together with his
dinner to the Craft . . .

16th November 1735.

Considering the great confusion that has been
brought in amongst them by reason of one
brother searching and daving into there
brethrenes work after it was made and com-
plaining amongst themselves upon one another
and prompting there customers so to dou. The
practice forbidden.

24th October 1737.

Minute of Town Council copied from the "Clespet
Book." The Toun Council in pursuance of an
Act of the Convener Court of twelfth current
ordained that a Convener should not continue
longer than two years at once.

22nd September 1744.

The Trade renewed an Act of 6th January 1680 providing that entrant members should serve for one year as officer to the Trade.

Addendum dated 30 September 1746.

The Incorporation considering the above Act "does by a majority of votts reshind the same and declare it null void and of noe effectt."

[The Act was re-enacted on 2nd April, 1747.]

27th October 1744.

Record of proceedings in the Burgh Court of Stirling against Andrew Gooldsby, Dragoon in Collonell Gardners Regiment, and who resides with the Troop he belongs to within this Burgh, for infringing the privileges of the Incorporation.

25th May 1745.

John M'Nab, Taylor att Southe Alyway, apprehended and fined for encroachment upon the Tailor's privileges.

29th January 1747.

Minute of Convener Court in Complaint by Deacon M'farlan of the Tailors against John M'Klum and Alexr Graham, Taylors, for abusing him and contemning his authority and otherways as is fully sett furth in the information thereanent And partys being called and Alexr. Graham and deacon M'farlan present being fully heard thereon were removed AND the court having considered the same with the said Alexr. Grahame indsent and abusive behevior befor the court with his aknowledgment of the crimes charged. They unanimously find him guilty of the factts charged againstt him And that he is unfitt for being a member of the society, far less a member of the master court And therfor deprive him of his office as a member of the master court of the Taylors And declare him incapable of holding the lick office in time coming. &c.

28th March 1747.

Record of proceedings before the Town Council in the case at the instance of the Incorporation of Tailors against Alexander Graham, a Hatter who had joined the Trade.

2nd April 1747.

Act of 22nd September 1744 as to entrant members serving the Trade as officer, which was rescinded on 30th September 1746, re-enacted.

The signatures to this Act are as follows. Some of these may have been subsequently adhibited.

John Ferguson
Robert Russell
Alexr. Bromner
William Robson
William Coutts
Joseph Stalker
William Stirling
Robert Auld
James Weir
John Fleming
James Houet
James Thomson
William Hood
James Robertson
William Grahame
William Forsythe
John M'Nie
Peter M'Kinlay
Malcolm M'farlan
Robert Lang
William frazer
John Monteath
William Thomson
John Wallace
Robert Cramb
John Williamson
James Crawford
Thomas Drummond
Malcolm M'gilvra
John Reid
John Monteath
John M'farlan
John Maxwell
Alexander Taylor
William Brown
John Houet.

5th December 1747.

And amongst other things taking to their serious Consideration, ano undue practice that has crept in amongst them of making the Entry money payable by unfreemen entring, higher or Lower according as the members affected & favoured the person entring, which was not only unjust toward the entring person, and prejudiciall to the Stock and intrest of the Trade, But also made every member lyable to urgent solicitation and which experience taught was not allways withstood FOR REMEDYING whereof THE

TRADE recomend to the Deacon to convene the master Court against Munday first, that he with them may consider of the maters and prepare and bring inn ane overture to be laid before the Trade at their next meeting.

23rd January 1748.

Entry by Unfreemen to be £100 Scots and £12 dues.

Signed by 21 members.

23rd February 1751.

Copy Minute of Toun Council as to the erection of the Trades Hall.

19th October 1751.

Copy Act of Convener Court providing that each person entering the Seven Incorporated Trades shall pay One shilling and each apprentice tence for upholding the Trades Hall.

4th July 1752.

William Robertson, staymaker entered.

8th February 1754.

Less money to be spent at entries, and money to go to the poor.

9th February 1754.

Taking into Consideration the mean condition of many of the Trade especialy those who work abroad out of their own houses, and whose families are allone subsisted on the small wages given them much inferior to the hire of any other mechannick, or person who has served ane apprenticeship to the particular business he professes and less by much than those who pay amuch less sum of entry money, And as small as any country taylor draws who is lyable to neither watch or ward, or to such high rents, or high price of aperall, or maintainance, and the price of vivers as well as house rents, have very considerably encreased of late years in this Burgh, the Taylors wages are no more than many years ago, whereas the wages of other employment have obtained great additions, and those of journeymen Taylors' wages to double what they were, THEREFORE and for other obvious occasions, THE TRADE as well the members that work not abroad as those that doe, unanimously resolve, that the wages of a master Taylor who works abroad furth of his own house by the day ought to be sixpence and victuals, and his journeymen from the Employer four pence, and apprentices as they may be worthy or deserving of, &c.

Signed by 30 members.

18th June 1754.

Taking to their serious consideration a bad and dissallowable practise that has of late obtained amongst the said trade of entering persons for their life time, moerly for love of office of money payed to said trade and fare inferior to that which is payed by the real members of said Incorporation who are lyable to all the publick offices belonging to said Trade which makes it a greater burden on the rest of the Community, which practise is contrary to the Ancient Rules of this and the other six Incorporated Trades of this Burgh and to all the well-governed Burghs of this Kingdome, Except in the case of superannuated journeymen being tolerat to mend the old cloaths.

Signed by 26 members.

9th March 1755.

Copy Minute of Toun Council as to application of the Taylors as to wages paid to master tailors, journeymen and apprentices, and as to not lending the funds of the Trade to their own members.

1st December 1757.

The Incorporation met in the Trades Hall.

page 105.

The Will of Mr John Allan, Writer in Stirling engrossed in full.

22nd July 1763.

Memorial for the Incorporation of Taylors for the Opinion of Counsel.
Answers to the Memorial for the Incorporation of Taylors in Stirling 1763.

Answers to the Memorial for John Ferguson present Deacon of the Incorporation of Taylors in Stirling and remnant members of that Incorporation.

I happend to be a Conail in the cause the Incorporation of Taylors in Perth against the mantua makers there, and well remember that the Decision went upon, that Mantua making is distant from the employment of Taylors, and does not fall under any branch of the privilegedge of the Incorporation and it is a mistake that the Taylors that the Taylors there refused to allow the mantua makers to work there at any rate or upon any termes, for they expressly pleaded that they tollerated female mantua makers in the town upon condition of paing a small acknowledgment for the benefite of the poor of the Incorporation But the mantua makers would

submit to to no such terms and therfor the Taylors brought the action to preserve the privileges of the Incorporation and to make them submit to the Regulations But the Lords pronounced this judgement found the action not competent and that therefore the persuers have no right to debar the Defenders from the exercise of the trade of mantua making It wold indeed apear from the last part of this judgement that the Taylors were insisiting to debar them altogether but I have the papers lying by me from which itt apear that the Taylors did not prohibote famile mantua makers altogether, but only oblidged them to pay a trifle to their poor. And as the defenders refused to pay that trifle they insisted that they should be debarred from working the furst part of the interloctur finding the action not competent could only proceed ground that mantua making was distint from the Taylor craft, and that resson will striko equall against exacting anything from mantua-makers for allowing them to work as against excluding them altogether. It is no part of the Taylor Craft. The Taylors have no right of levying contributions from them more then debarring them altogether from working. As to the Taylors of Stirling having been of use of upluffing this triffling sum from the mantua makers it dos not seem to have been immemorially possessed and besides the Taylors of Perth had the same possession and altho Miss Baird has paid this small yearly acknowledgment yet I doubt it will not be sufficient to bind her to pay the same in time to come as the same will be considered in the light of ane unlawfull exaction, which she aquiesced to pay until the decision in the case of Perth, which first discovered that mantua making did not fall under the Taylor Craft and therefore upon the whole I cannot advise the Incorporation of Taylors to call the suspension against Mis Baird or to bring an action against the rest who refuse to pay as I doubt very much if they will be successfull. Edinr. 22 July 1763. This is the humle oppinion of sic sub, Wa. Stewart.

[Note.—Mr Stewart should not be held responsible for the spelling in the foregoing copy of his Opinion.]

9th March 1765.

Funds not to be lent to members.

18th August 1766.

Complaint to the Convener Court by six members

that on looking into the Boxmaster's Account we found several things which we can by no means approve, because there is a great deal of the Poores money spent needlessly, there is £1 spent in Janet Edmonds, and several shillings besides in other houses, and when we quarle such conduct, some of our brethren that we take to be at the spending of this money, tells us they will spend it and no thanks to our Noses. Farther details of sums similarly spent. The parties complained against explained that the money was spent on the business of the Trade and that the complaint was got up to influence the members of the Trade against the Deacon and others upon the ensuing election. The Convener Court ordained the Accounts to be made up quarterly and more particularly, and if any members have cause to complain they will be heard by the Court.

13th May 1768.

Yearly salary of five shillings allowed the Clerk.

13th June 1774.

Entry money altered.

First. Neutrall persons.—Entry £7 stg.; speaking drink 15s; Booking and Swearing when his my is performed 15s; 20s of which to go for behoof of the Trades Poor; a pint of wine for the Deacon; 50 pence to Convener Court; 1s for upholding Trades House; 1s to Trades Clerk; and 6d to Trades Officer.

Second. Freeman's apprentice.—Entry £3 15s; speaking drink 10s; Booking and swearing 10s; of said 20s one half for Poor; other dues as before mentioned; and the Deacon's pint of wine.

Third. Freeman's son.—Entry £1 2s; speaking drink 5s; Booking and swearing 5s; of which 40 pence and 20 pence for poor; other dues as above; but if the oldest son and his father bees dead his entry money is 11s and all other dues.

This sinding is for the within Act

Signed by 28 names.

26th September 1776.

Alexander Taylor admitted. Alexr. Taylor has gon the marches.

5th November 1776.

Yearly salary of five shillings to the Clerk revoked.

5th November 1776.

There is great loss been sustained by the Trade for this number of years past by entred members that should have served officer according to the turne of being officer have absconded, agreed that every person entering shall pay 10s and the Trade shall furnish an officer chosen of their own members.

6th November 1776.

Journeyman's Booking to be punctually paid.

Page 158.

Extracts from Old Book [given under their dates].

Page 159.

Extracts from Clespet Book [given under their dates].

14th November 1776.

Same time they bought this book, the price being payed by the Boxmaster to Mr Banks is one shilling and tenpence Sterling.

29th April, 1777.

The Mortcloth to be lent to freemen and their wives and children and blood relations down to second cussens on both sides that is to say on the freeman's said and their wives also, on paying 3s 4d for the best big mortcloth, and the officer to go along with the mortcloth and receive 6d for his trouble and if it shall go to the countree-1s; and our best small one to be 1s 8d and the officer to be payed and to go along as with the large one.

21st October 1777.

James Craford complend against Alex Taylor for refusing to give in his Report as to messering of a coat and vest belonging to James Ross, Jurman showmaker. The Trade finding Taylor's parchalitay in not dowing according to Justice, They unanimoslay fine the said Alexr. Taylor in forty shillings Scots. Same time he payd the forsaid fine and acnoledged his falt for his contimashisness.

Two members chosen to meet with the rest of the delegates of the Trades and Guildry to confer as to the restoration of the burgh.

14th January 1778.

The Tailors are of opinion that there can be no poll without the joint voice or vote of the whole Royal Incorporations. Suggest a compromise, and desire to see the Memorial to be laid before the Lord Advocate for the Trades' opinion.

16th November 1778.

Agreed to give Mrs Ferguson a pair of shears.

10th December 1778.

Appoint William Couls a man's coat for his saypiece to be made in James Thomson's house at the sight of James Thomson and James Howel within six weeks.

5th July 1779.

Considered Petition by the Guildry to the King's Most Excellent Majesty craving that the Burgh might be restored, and craving an alteration in the mode of election, the Tailors agree that the Burgh be speedily restored, but object to the alteration required.

22nd January 1780.

Delegate appointed to confer on a compromise with the Guildry as to the restoration of the Burgh, on condition that no money come off the Trade or the Hospitals, but off the Town's Revenue.

22nd May 1780.

The Tailors considering that in the throng of work they are at a loss for hands, agree to make no charge for booking a journeyman or apprentice, unless an apprentice who shall be bound for the freedom.

12th August 1780.

Recommend Mr Walter Buchanan, Preacher of the Gospel as assistant and successor to Mr Muschet.

15th December 1780.

Decline to allow two apprentices to lift their indentures, as they have not served the full five years.

William Forsyth fined forty pence for insolence to the Deacon.

20th March 1781.

A member forbidden to employ as his servant an apprentice before he was free of his former master.

29th March 1781.

Members forbidden to free apprentices for a payment before completion of five years.

31st January 1782.

Objection to the Magistrates' plan of laying out Cowane's yard for building a Flesh market.

30th March 1782.

Agreed upon a prosecution for redress as to the taking down of the gardener's house at Cowane's yard.

17th May 1782.

As the large mortcloth is insufficient, agree that a new one is necessary.

23rd August 1782.

James Thomson, a freeman of the Incorporation of Tailors who has paid all his dues, having married a merchant's daughter, is allowed to join the Guildry, and to continue to exercise his employment as a tailor, renouncing all title to the management of the trade, their common stock or voting, or by any of the Hospital's donations or mortifications.

17th December 1782.

A Committee appointed to mark out what Acts are necessary for the Trade and to purchase a book for an Act book.

16th January 1783.

Agreed to give John Maxwell £1 for transcribing the Trade's Acts into a new book bought for that purpose.

3rd February 1783.

Agreed to a proposal to raise a fund for tradesmen's widows of the Seven Incorporated Trades, and to ask the Town Council to grant £200 from Spittal's Hospital to begin the fund, or to pay £10 yearly.

11th February 1783.

An apprentice not to make his saypiece in his own house, but where the Trade appoints.

26th March 1784.

A member being fined and refusing to pay, the Trade lays him aside that he cannot vote nor elect nor be elected to bear any office among the Incorporation. The amount was sixpence.

29th June 1784.

The proceedings of the Town Council objected to, and the Council called upon to stop illegal entries.

28th June 1785.

The vote of a non-resident member at the election of Deacon to be rejected.

7th June 1786.

A member directed to turn off an apprentice for disobedience, for taking three days to accomplish one day's work, for insolent language to the whole family and setting a bad example before the children "some of which has felt the rod severely upon his account," and likewise the

profanation of the Lord's day to the worst purposes.

8th December 1786.

Agreed to bear no part of the expense of the plea about the fishing.

11th October 1787.

Two members fined for "being undecent in their behaviour."

5th April 1788.

An indenture discharged and cautioner relieved when the apprentice had gone to South Britain.

5th August 1788.

Respooling the Deacons dinner, agreed to put a final end to observing of a regular dinner, and substitute in its place the Deacon's discretion. Considered enclosing the ground lying before the Trade's House.

23rd September 1788.

Twelve shillings allowed to Mrs Robertson to purchase utensils to her son who has gone to be a wright.

5th March 1789.

Considered the supplying of the second minister's charge upon the removal of the Rev. Mr Walter Buchanan, agreed that the brethren of the craft who were not hearers or members of the congregation should not vote, there being five who are members of the congregation, four voted for the Rev. Mr Russell, Minister of the Gospel in Kilmarnock.

23rd June 1789.

Considered an application by Malcolm M'Farlan, Deacon, against Alex. Taylor, for an offence committed by him, and he being duly warned to said Court but did not appear, on which the Trade went for him, and he said for answer, "You may go to the Devil for me if you like," on the which we proper to apply to a magistrate for redress.

11th May 1793.

Recommend Mr Innes as second minister on the translation of the Rev. Mr Somerville to the First Charge, vacant by the death of the Rev. Mr John Muschel.

1st November 1796.

Considering that the want of accommodation in the East Church is now matter of complaint before the Reverend Presbytery of Stirling, agree to apply to the Presbytery by Petition to have the vacancy of a third minister supplied and the West

Church repaired in terms of agreement in 1731 betwixt the Town Council and Communities.

12th February 1799.

Object to the unequal distribution of the billeting of the military in the town at large, as all ranks ought to bear them as we do and as we think it is a Government burden.

23rd February 1799.

Agree to improvements of East Church.

19th October 1799.

Delegate appointed to vote for a minister of the Second Charge vacant by the abdication and subsequent deposition of the Reverend Mr William Innes.

9th December 1799.

Agreed to let each of the members have one peck of meal in the week and widows half a peck and to have it twopence below the selling price, and the Trade is to pay the balance out of their public fund.

7th October 1800.

Delegates appointed to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament to apply some remedy to put a stop to the present high price of provisions.

25th February 1802.

Agreed to give £5 to a scheme for bringing more water to the town.

3rd March 1802.

Agreed that the age for joining any of the Trades be fixed at forty years.

23rd September 1803.

Committee appointed to attend at the East Church to inspect the seats belonging to the Seven Incorporated Trades, with instructions to use their best endeavours for the Tailors Incorporation and to get allotted for them a true proportion of said seats.

[Date blank] 1804.

Agreed to lift £17 from Allans Hospital to pay what the Incorporation is indebted to the Stirling Bank.

Stirling 19 March 1806.

Which day the Incorporation of Taylors being met in presence of Peter M'Gibbon present Deacon they receive and admit of Colin Sharp Taylor in Stirling with full power to enjoy all the privileges of said Incorporation as fully and truly in all respects as any other Brother and the said

Colin Sharp gave his oath de fideli that he will not pack or peel with any unfreeman to the detriment of the said Incorporation and the trade hold themselves satisfied with regard to his entry money as he has satisfied the Box masters, only as the Incorporation are at a loss to know whether this entry is liable in the duty of nineteen shillings Sterling to Government for the said Colin Sharps admittance, the said Colin Sharp in case it is found that the said duty is exigible hereby binds and obliges himself to furnish a stamp of nineteen shillings for his admittance and to free and relieve the incorporation thereof. (Signed) Colin Sharp, Peter M'Gibbon.

8th October 1810.

Agreed to petition the Town Council that the making of Allan's Hospital boys clothes be continued with the present Deacon while in office.

6th March 1812.

Hugh Macdonald, permanent sergeant in the local militia to be prosecuted for infringing the Trade's privileges.

24th February 1813.

Considered application for aid from the widows' pension fund, as the fund is weak they agreed to shut the box for the space of two years.

1st May 1815.

Approved of the proposed building of the steeple at Quality Street.

4th February 1817.

The entry of unfreemen raised from £20 to £30 besides other dues.

May 1817.

Agreed to give 20 shillings for the benefit of the public walks.

28th January 1819.

Agreed to give 6 guineas to assist Aberdeen in the redress of their grievances.

12th April 1819.

Agreed to oppose a plan of the Town Council to build bathing houses with the money of Spittal's Hospital.

20th September 1819.

Seats belonging to the Incorporation of Taylors set for one year after Michaelmas next 1819.

Guildry Loft.

No. 9—13 seats or bottom rooms at 3s to Richard Johnstone ... £1 19 0

No. 15—15 do. at 2s 6d let to David
 Pollock, nailer 1 17 6
 South Loft.
 4 seats or bottom rooms in front
 let to Jas. Buchanan,
 Tailor at 2s 6d 0 10 0
 No. 29—5 seats not let
 No. 30—4 do. do.
 No. 31—4 do. let to Alex. Gillfillan at 0 2 0

7th December 1819.

List of the Absent Members, twenty one in
 number (last leaf of volume).

11th February 1820.

Answers drawn to the Order of the House of
 Commons.

21st March 1821.

New Articles for the Trade approved.

6th February 1821.

Considered Report of the Auditor of the
 Hospital's Accounts shewing the embezzlement of
 the Revenues of the Hospitals.

28th November 1821.

Fine for unfreemen working raised to Two
 guineas.

5th September 1822.

James Chalmers, lawful son of John Chalmers,
 Tailor in this Burgh admitted.

6th February 1824.

Oppose the Council installing William M'Leach
 upon the funds of Allan's Mortification, without
 shewing documents of propinquity.

23rd March 1826.

Petition from the Tailors of Dysart for aid not
 granted.

19th July 1827.

Agreed to concur in Petition by the Seven
 Incorporated Trades to the Town Council against
 improper expenditure of Hospital funds.

14th November 1827.

Protest against the purchase of the lands of
 Inclosure by Spittal's Hospital.

11th March 1829.

Agreed to protect the burgh rights at the west
 end of Port Street.

7th August 1829.

Copy of Queen-Mary's Charter made by Mr
 Haldane, writer.

10th and 13th August 1829.

Proceedings with reference to the right of a
 soldier's daughter to carry on business.

14th June 1830.

Considered a plan for forming a Friendly
 Society.

Four members fined 1s 6d for not attending the
 funeral of a member.

20th July 1830.

Agreed to take part in a procession on 11th
 August in commemoration of Robert Spittal,
 being the third "anniversary" from his decease.
 Agreed to get a silk flag, to be painted with his
 inscription upon it. A dinner to take place after
 the procession.