

RECORDS

Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

4 April 1622

It is ordered, etc., that whereas monies and gold (as is supposed) is in great quantities exported by some of the brethren of this fellowship into foreign parts, whereby great inconveniences have and daily do arise and ensue to this fellowship, and the trade heretofore driven in the manufactures of this kingdom by the said fellowship much impaired, as also that this abuse is a great cause of want of coin within these parts of the kingdom, and likewise repugnant to the good and wholesome laws of this, His Majesty's realm of England, made in that behalf. Therefore it is this day enacted, etc., that no brother of this fellowship, nor any other that are or shall be capable of the freedom of the same fellowship, shall directly or indirectly, by himself or his servant, or servants, or by any others, convey or carry away into foreign parts any money, gold, plate, or bullion of this kingdom, or any foreign gold or money, more then shall be for his reasonable expences and defraying the tolls and customs for such cloth and other commodities as shall be by the brethren of this Company exported from this port and members. The which sum and sums of money or gold so to be carried out for the defraying of his charges and tolls as aforesaid, he shall acquaint the Governor or one of the wardens of the said Company therewith, and have his allowance under his hand for the same, whereby all fraudulent dealing may be avoided. And therefore what brother or brothers that shall do contrary to this act shall be disfranchised and expelled out of the freedom of this Fellowship and privileges of the same. And for the discovering of secret exportation of money and gold as above said, it is further ordered that Mr. William Hall, Mr. Alexander Davison, Henry Bowes senior, John Butler, Lyonell Maddison the younger, Jacob Ferneside, or any three of them, shall, from time to time, take true notice of all the entries of goods, as well inwards as outwards, that shall, from after the day of the date hereof, be carried forth or brought into this port and members by the brethren of this Fellowship or others capable of that freedom, or apprentices, and once every quarter, or oftener if there shall be cause, to acquaint the wardens with all or any such abuses as shall happen in that time, and the names of the offenders therein (if any be) to make known, that thereby the parties may be called and dealt with according to the validity of this act, and the true meaning thereof. And it is further enacted and decreed that no brother of this Fellowship shall be aiding or assisting to any stranger or strangers, or combine himself with any stranger or strangers, for the carrying or conveying forth of this kingdom any monies or gold, nether culler any stranger's goods by entering them in the custom house in his own name. And further, that no brother buy any goods or merchandise of strangers secretly, or be aiding unto them in taking up any goods or merchandizes, until a true entry be made unto the King's officers in the custom house, and warrant from them for the landing of the said goods according to the laws in that case provided; for, by the cullerable landing of strangers' goods, ether by day or by night, the merchant stranger gets his moneys away for such goods not entered, without making any employment in the native commodities of this kingdom, whereby does redound great hurt to the state in general, and the merchants of this town in particular. And if any brother of this Fellowship shall infringe, break, or violate this act, upon the due proof thereof, such brother offending shall be disfranchised and expelled from the freedom of this Fellowship. And if any apprentice shall presume to offend herein, the said apprentice or apprentices so offending as before, shall never be capable of any freedom of this Fellowship, but his or their name or names so offending to be raised and put forth of the book of entries of apprentices of this Fellowship. And let it further be enacted and ordered that every brother of this Fellowship shall enter his goods in his own name in the custom house and not in the name or names of any other. And what brother shall offend contrary to this act shall forfeit and pay to the use of this Fellowship for every time he shall offend therein five pounds of current money.

26 October 1655

Whereas by the prudence, foresight, and great care of our ancestors, divers laudable, convenient, and necessary acts have been made for the well ordering of apprentices in their trade, limiting them to a certain sum of money at certain years, and prohibiting them from trading in some sorts of goods, and not in any other than in joint stock with their master, as by an act of the first of April 1574, does and may more fully appear. And whereas by the said act apprentices were restrained from trading in wool and woolfells (the great commodities of this Company), as being more fit for the master alone than for his servant in partnership. And whereas, in the time of King James, the said trade of wool and woolfells, for great reasons of state, was taken away from this Company, though granted to us by charter, and reserved to us by several statutes, whereby the trade of the Company is much altered, and carried on in cloth and lead, etc. And whereas divers apprentices of late, not regarding the orders of this Company, have not only traded for greater sums of money then allowed by the acts of this Company and, to be feared, not in joint stock with their masters, but have and do deal in great quantities of cloth, the principal commodity of this Company, so that great quantities thereof have been by apprentices shipped, and great returns made in several sorts of goods, whereby

the Company is not only wronged in their profit, but even those apprentices by the profit thereof, making an ill use of it, grow haughty and insolent in their carriages, vain and ridiculous in their apparel, scandalous and vitious in their lives, and stubborn and disobedient to their masters, to the great dishonour of God, discredit of this Company, grief to their masters, and utter undoing of themselves. Therefore this Company, taking into their serious consideration the matters aforesaid, do order, etc., that, from 25 December next, no apprentice shall trade in cloth or lead during the whole time of his apprenticeship, nor for any greater sum, nor at other times, nor in any other way, than by the aforesaid act of the first of April 1574, is limited; upon the penalty that every apprentice that shall trade in cloth or lead, directly or indirectly, shall forfeit the whole time he has served, and shall not receive the freedom of this Company without new indentures for the ordinary time, to begin when he traded in cloth or lead as aforesaid. And that every master taking his apprentice, during the time of his apprenticeship, into joint trade with him for cloth or lead, shall, upon due proof thereof, pay to the use of this Company the sum of one hundred pounds for every such offence, without grace or favour of court. And that every other brother that shall clear the cloth, lead, or other goods belonging to any apprentice as his own, or become partner with him, shall, for the first offence, forfeit to the use of the Company one hundred pounds; and for the second offence be disfranchised. And that this act be read every first court after the election of officers; and every master is to give notice hereof to his apprentices, to the intent that it may be the better observed, and that none may plead ignorance thereof.

9 July 1660

Robert Crow, late apprentice to Master Lewen, deceased, humbly petitioned this day that the Fellowship would be pleased to consider of a difference betwixt Mr. Francis Gray and him, with whom he had contracted (by the advice of his friends, after the death of his master) to serve him the remainder of his apprenticeship, for which he had paid Mr. Gray the sum of £35, Mr. Gray promising he would set him over by order of court, which is not yet done, though he had continued fifteen months in his service, but on the contrary that he had turned the said Robert Crow out of his service without any just cause (as he conceived). The Company took this into serious consideration; Mr. Gray was desired to give reasons of his so dealing with his servant; he replied that he was stubborn and undutiful, and that he neither would nor could any longer entertain him in his service, though he was several times by Mr. Governor and the whole Fellowship thereunto desired, the young man also promising to do him the best service he could. Whereupon Mr. Gray was ordered to withdraw; after which the Fellowship, deliberately considering the premises, ordered that Mr. Francis Gray should forthwith restore to Robert Crow the £35 he had received with him, whereby he might be enabled to provide himself of a trading brother of this company for a master to serve the residue of his term unto, and that he should give him in the indenture bond or what other engagements soever Mr. Gray had from the said Crow. Mr. Gray being called in and told what the court had ordered, fell into passion and very uncivil language against Mr. Governor, telling him that he would not let his horse stand so long at door as he had caused him to stand for the hearing of an idle fellow prate; which he aggravated by his deportment to the whole Company, ill-becoming any member in open court. He was ordered again to withdraw and, after debate, he was for these his words and refractory deportment, together for that he had kept his servant 15 months not set over, by order of court contrary to the acts of this Fellowship, he was fined the sum of £20.

30 July 1660

A presentment was read wherein is laid down that Mr. Robert Johnson should join in partnership with one Lieutenant-Colonel John Rogers and one Mr. William London (foreigners to the freedom of this town and Company) in several ships' ladings of big from Scotland, and should sell part thereof out off his lofts here. In regard of Mr. Johnson's absence at this court it was ordered this shall be considered of when Mr. Johnson shall be present.

15 August 1660

The right worshipful Thomas Bonner, Esquire, present mayor of this town, having the last week required all the freemen of this corporation to meet him in the Guild Hall of the same town on Monday last; being met accordingly, Mr. Mayor declared to them that he had received a letter from the King's Majesty, which he then produced, and it being thus directed: To the mayor, aldermen, recorder, and commonalty of the corporation of our town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he told them he would not open it until he had first called them together. It being there opened and read, it contained as follows:

Charles Rex. Whereas request has been made unto Us by Richard Lambert, a man of known integrity, We have thought good to recommend him unto you as a most fit person for town clerk of your corporation, and the rather because We hope his merits will deserve your free election, which as you claim by charter, We shall not molest you in it further than refer it to your consideration. From Our Court at Whitehall this 12 July 1660.

After the reading whereof Mr. Mayor desired to know what answer they would return to His Majesty. The commons requested a week's time to consider of their answer, which was granted, and it was then ordered that two of every of

the several companies of this town should meet and consider of what answer to return to Mr. Mayor on Monday next.

17 October 1660

Mr. Anthony Dobson moved that, whereas he had seized on some sacks of wheat which belonged to Mr. William Rutter, draper, and by him sold to a Baxster in Gateside (a foreigner to the freedom of this corporation), that the Company would order the disposal thereof. This was referred to the next court.

These gentlemen, Mr. William Johnson and five others, or any three of them, were desired to meet with some masters of ships (such as the Trinity House shall appoint) to consider what fees were taken by the customers, collectors, and other the King's officers in this port in the fourth year of King James, and to report the same to the Committee for Customs and Excise before 10 November next.

Thomas Starking, mariner, petitioned as follows:

To the Right Worshipful Christopher Nicolson, Esquire, Governor, the assistants, and whole fellowship of Merchants Adventurers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The humble petition of Thomas Starkin, mariner, and freeman of this town, shows that your petitioner coming lately out of the East Country with Mr. John Simpson, did return his wages in flax; and, being ignorant of the acts of this worshipful Company, sold the same (being two hundred weight) to a foreigner to the freedom of this Corporation, which flax was seized by Mr. Roger Proctor, merchant, as foreign bought and foreign sold, and is still detained from your orator. His humble suit is that your worships would be pleased to restore him the said flax, and he does hereby engage not to transgress in the like for the future, and shall ever pray for the prosperity of your worshipful society, etc.

It was ordered that Thomas Starkin should have his flax restored, he signing this petition.

8 November 1660

Ordered that the wheat seized on by Mr. Anthony Dobson, with the sacks in which it was, should be appraised, and that it be forthwith sold.

13 February 1661

Railph Fell, master and mariner, petitioned for a full of battery seized on (as foreign bought and foreign sold) by Mr. Anthony Dobson. Mr. Fell laid down that the one half of the said battery belonged either to Mr. Ralph Henderson or Mr. John Bailes, merchants, the other was part of his ship's stock, being the GREENLAND MERCHANT, whereof he was then master. The court ordered that he should have the battery restored him.

5 April 1661

Mr. George Beadnell, having arrested Mr. Henry Thompson, a brother of this Fellowship, without leave of Mr. Governor, is, according to the acts of this Company, to pay his fine of 40s. Mr. Henry Thompson to pay the like fine for arresting Mr. George Beadnell without leave.

2 September 1661

Marke Cooke, of Gateside, master and mariner, humbly petitioned to have 6 boules of rye restored him which was seized on by Mr. Nicholas Fenwicke; he having sold it out of a loft by the Keyside to an unfreeman. Ordered his rye should be restored.

William Hanby, late apprentice to Mr. Thomas San, deceased, and since set over to Mr. George Errington, wanting seventeen months of completing his full term of apprenticeship, humbly petitioned for his freedom upon a reasonable fine. His petition was taken into serious consideration, and also his non-conformity to the acts of this Fellowship; it being made appear in court that he had kept shop for his own account, that he had received several parcels of goods from London, and had bills of exchange drawn upon him for the same, as also that he lived out of his master's service, and tabled himself in town, all which is directly contrary to the acts and orders of the Company; yet after a very long debate it was ordered by great grace and favour, he paying one hundred pounds into the wardens betwixt and next court as a fine, not only for the time he has yet to serve, but for his great transgressions against the good acts of this society, should be admitted to his freedom according to his petition.

25 September 1661

Whereas Sir Francis Andeson, knight, one of the burgesses for this present parliament, who, though he were the grandchild of Francis Anderson, Esquire, one of the aldermen of this town, and a free brother of this society, yet, through his father's omission, neglecting to take his freedom of this Fellowship, he was rendered incapable thereof, and the Company taking into serious consideration that the said Sir Francis had descended from such worthy progenitors, some of which had been governors of this society, and having experienced the endeavours and readiness of the said Sir Francis to maintain and promote the privileges of the said Company, thought it expedient, and it was with general consent agreed upon that in testimony of the greatest respects they were able to express unto

him, did admit him and his son, Mr. Robert Anderson, not their personal but their absolute freedom of the said Fellowship, which they both gratefully accepted and were admitted and sworn accordingly. And it is hereby ordered, etc., that the said Sir Francis Anderson, and Robert Anderson, his son, are invested with all the privileges and immunities of the said Company, in as full and ample a manner, to all intents and purposes, as any person coming by patrimony can challenge the same. And that not only those sons which shall be hereafter, but those that are already born unto the said Sir Francis shall, when they come to maturity, be admitted to the freedom of the said Fellowship for their accustomed duties paying.

16 October 1661

William Swan, son of Mr. Richard Swan, desired his freedom of this Fellowship by patrimony, but in regard he was bound an apprentice to a mariner and now goes to sea as occasion offers, it was denied him.

The former committee was desired to prepare a letter to be sent to the company of Merchants Adventurers of London, to request them to admit Sir Francis Anderson, knight, into the freedom of their Fellowship, as we have done here.

20 November 1661

The former committee which at the last court were ordered to prepare a letter to the right worshipful Company of Merchants Adventurers of London in the behalf of Sir Francis Anderson, knight, a copy of the said letter was, at this court, read and by general consent approved of, and ordered to be sent, which contained as follows:

Right Worshipful Sir and Sirs,

The bearer hereof, Sir Francis Anderson, knight, a member of this present Parliament, our worthy friend, being desirous to have his freedom of the Company beyond seas, that his children might have equal benefit with other freemen, etc., when we came to look over our books we find that his grandfather, Mr. Francis Anderson, was free of our Fellowship; but that Mr. Roger Anderson, father to this Sir Francis, had neglected to take his freedom, so that we could not give our usual certificate for this gentleman. Yet considering his worth, and how little it would prejudice the Company, we do desire you would be pleased out of your respects to us to grant the said Sir Francis Anderson his freedom, which will very much engage us to be, right worshipful Sir and Sirs, your loving brethren and friends, the Governor, assistants, wardens, and Fellowship of Merchants Adventurers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

27 November 1661

Mr. Richard Wright, coming to court in a coat, contrary to an act of this Fellowship, paid his fine of 5*s*, and he ordered to withdraw, he had by favour of Court 4*s* restored him, and the other 12*d* was put into the poor box.

8 January 1662

Ordered that the new oaths should be cut out of the new book of acts, and the good old oaths taken by the governor, wardens, secretary, etc., should be writ instead thereof.

29 January 1662

The information of James Dixon of this town, tailor, taken upon oath 26 September 1661, before Alderman Christopher Nicholson, our present Governor, was again read at this court, Mr. Peter Sanderson and his apprentice, William Ainsloe, brought him as much worsted stuff of 2*s* 4*d* a yard as made the said Ainsloe a suit, and 6 dosin of ribbon, with all other necessaries for the trimming thereof, and that another time the same Ainsloe brought him as much silk prunella as made him 2 waistcoats, the one of 7*s*, the other 8*s* a yard, with silver and gold lace, and silk and silver buttons for trimming of them also; and further says that the aforesaid Ainsloe sent him at a third time as much Padua serge as made him a pair of large riding stockings; all which William Ainsloe confessed in open court he had taken out of his master's shop without his privity; and for this was turned out of his service; neither could his master be prevailed with to take him again; therefor the Company considering the great scandal would lie upon the Company if he were not made exemplary; with general consent ordered he should be crossed the Fellowship's books, which was done accordingly.

28 May 1662

There being a late act of guild that two of each of the twelve mysteries should be chosen by their several companies to join with Sir John Marlay, knight, present mayor of this town, and others, to dispose of the grand lease of the manners of Whickum and Gateside; which lease belongs to the mayor and burgesses for 19 years next ensuing, and receiving intimation thereof under Mr. Mayor's hand. At the aforesaid court there was by general consent chosen from the Company of Drapers, Mr. John Bowes and Mr. Humphrey Pious, from the Company of Mercers, Mr. George Dawson and Mr. Robert Ellyson, and from the Company of Boothmen, Mr. Christopher Nicolson, our present governor, and Mr. James Briggs.

27 August 1662

It was ordered that John Fenwicke should have timely notice to appear at the next court in regard coming towards the town this day, he received a fall from his horse, whereby he was disabled to appear at this.

9 October 1662

Whereas at the late election of the mayor, sheriff, and other the town's officers for this present year, these two appointed (viz., Isaac Crabtree and Mark Dover) by the Company of Butchers for their first men in that election willfully absented themselves from the Spittle, by reason whereof the said election was not only obstructed and the electors affronted, but the peace and charter of this corporation exceedingly endangered; this being at the aforesaid court taken into serious consideration, it was by the whole Company ordered that four of their brethren, viz., Mr. Robert Ellison, Mr. Thomas Davison, Mr. James Briggs, and Mr. William Blacket, should at the next guild move in the name of this whole Fellowship that the said Isaac Crabtree and Mark Dover might be proceeded against according to their demerit that so the like miscarriage may be prevented for the future.

29 October 1662

Whereas at a Merchant Adventurers Court held the 9th of this month, Mr. Robert Ellyon and three others were ordered to move in guild to Isaac Crabtree and Mark Dover... and those forenamed brethren moving in Guild that the said I.C. and M.D. might be proceeded against according to their demerit, and further, whereas the guild referred the same to the Common Council, it was ordered that Mr. Thomas Davison and three others should attend the Common Council, and put them in mind of the same, and to desire them to act therein as in their wisdoms they shall see cause.

Extracts from the Records of the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (1895), I:8–9, 44–46, 199–205.