*The Grocers' Company and the Aldermen of London
in the Time of Richard II.*

It has been commonly stated that in 1383 the Grocers' Company furnished no fewer than sixteen out of the aldermen of London. This assertion is primarily due to a misunderstanding of an entry in the Grocers' records, which have been printed in facsimile for the years 1345-1463 by the late Mr. J. A. Kingdon, sometime master of the company. There, under the year 1383, we find a list of members of the company, headed by a batch of seventeen names, bracketed together and distinguished by the designation 'aldermen,' this word being in a different handwriting and probably added in 1458, or even later. The entry (p. 58 of the manuscript records) runs as follows :—

1383.

Ceux sont les nouns des Grocers Vestuez en la Lyuere a Noel lan vij^e
Richard Seconde, Johan Haddeley et Johan Chircheman mestres esluz
pur le dit an.

	Monsieur Nichol Brembre Chevalier.
	Johan Haddeley.
	Johan Warde.
	William Baret.
	Adam Carlille.
	Adam Chaungeour.
	William Venour.
	Johan Hoo.
Aldermen ¹	Hugh Fastolf.
	Geffrey Cremylford.
	William Badby.
	William Staundon.
	Richard Aylesbery.
	Johan Furneux.
	William Eynesham.
	Richard Preston.
	Johan Chircheman.

Herbert, in his *History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies*, i. 307, reproduces the list in the following form, and it is his version which Bishop Stubbs,² Dr. Cunningham,³ and others have followed :—

¹ Mr. Kingdon appends the following note: 'These names are bracketed together and the word "Aldermen" written in the margin by the same hand seemingly that wrote the memoranda on pp. 42, 44, and 399 of the MS. vol.' We have therefore the evidence of Mr. Kingdon himself that this handwriting is apparently identical with writing on p. 399 (A.D. 1458). It cannot be earlier than 1458, and is possibly of still later date.

² *Constitutional History of England*, iii. 575.

³ *The Growth of English Industry and Commerce*, 'Early and Middle Ages,' p. 281, 4th ed., 1905.

Aldermen in 1383.

Sir Nicholas Brembre	John Hoo	Richard Aylesbury
Sir John Haddeley	Hugh Falstolfe	John Ferneux
John Warde	Geffrey Cremylford	William Evesham
William Barrett	William Badby	Richard Prestor
Adam Caryl	Sir William Standon	John Churchman ⁴
Adam Chaungeor		

The following table shows who were the aldermen elected at the annual elections in March 1383 and March 1384 :—⁵

—	1383	1384
<i>Aldersgate</i> .	Henry Bamme, goldsmith .	Roger Elys, wax chandler
<i>Aldgate</i> .	William Staundon, grocer .	William Staundon, grocer
<i>Bassishaw</i> .	Richard Norbury, mercer .	Robert Warbulton, mercer
<i>Billingsgate</i> .	William Anecroft, mercer .	William Anecroft, mercer
<i>Bishopsgate</i> .	William Shyrngham, mercer .	John Chircheman, grocer
<i>Bread Street</i> .	John Furneux, grocer .	Sir Nicholas Brembre, grocer
<i>Bridge</i> .	John Chircheman, grocer .	Sir William Walworth, fish- monger
<i>Broad Street</i> .	Thomas Rolf, skinner .	Adam (Changeour) de St. Ive, grocer
<i>Candlewick</i> .	Thomas Noket, draper .	John Hende, draper
<i>Castle Baynard</i>	William Venour, grocer .	William More, vintner
<i>Cheap</i> .	John Boseham, mercer .	John Eston, draper
<i>Coleman Street</i>	William Kyng, draper .	John Organ, mercer
<i>Cordwainer</i>	John Heylesdon, mercer .	Henry Vanner, vintner
<i>Street</i> .		
<i>Cornhill</i> .	William Baret, grocer .	Sir John Philippot, grocer
<i>Cripplegate</i> .	Robert Warbulton, mercer .	Adam Bamme, goldsmith
<i>Dowgate</i> .	Richard Aylesbury, grocer .	Richard Preston, grocer
<i>Farringdon</i> .	John Fraunceis, goldsmith .	John Fraunceis, goldsmith
<i>Langbourn</i> .	Geoffrey Crymelford, grocer .	Geoffrey Crymelford, grocer
<i>Lime Street</i> .	Sir Nicholas Twyford, goldsmith	John Hadle, grocer
<i>[Portsoken</i>	The Prior of Holy Trinity, Ald- gate	(William de Rysing)]
<i>(ex officio)</i>		
<i>Queenhithe</i> .	Henry Vanner, vintner .	Thomas Welford, fishmonger
<i>Tower</i> .	John Shadeworth, mercer .	Hugh Fastolf, grocer
<i>Vintry</i> .	Thomas Cornwaleys, goldsmith	Thomas Cornwaleys, goldsmith
<i>Walbrook</i> .	William Olyver, skinner .	John Sely, skinner

At Christmas 1383 therefore the actual number of grocers who were members of the court of aldermen was eight, including the mayor, who was not an alderman of a ward, but of course presided in the court in virtue of his office.⁶ In the following year there were nine. The writer who inserted the word 'aldermen' in our first list simply included all the persons named who had at any time held that office.

I append a table showing the number of representatives of the

⁴ It will be seen that Herbert, apparently by accident, omits the name of W. Venour and hence gives the total as sixteen. The knightships here attributed to Haddeley and Staundon are imaginary; in no single entry in the various original records at Guildhall, nor in their respective wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, is either of them described as knight.

⁵ I have adopted the spelling of the records at Guildhall.

⁶ Sir Nicholas Brembre was mayor from October 1383 to October 1386; during the first five months of this period he was not an alderman of a ward. Mr. Round (*Dict. of Nat. Biogr.*, s.v.) implies the contrary.

various companies returned each year during the period of annual elections (1377-1394). The number of wards at that time was twenty-four, one of which (Portsoken) did not take part in these elections and was not represented by a member of one of the companies, its alderman *ex officio* being the prior of Holy Trinity; hence the number of elective aldermen was twenty-three. As the period includes that of the struggle for civic supremacy between the victualling guilds represented by the Fishmongers, Grocers, and Vintners on one side and the non-victualling guilds represented by the Drapers, Mercers, and Goldsmiths on the other (the former under the leadership of Brembre and Philipot and the latter under that of Northampton and Twyford), this list may not be without interest to the historical student.

	Mercers	Grocers	Drapers	Fishmongers	Goldsmiths	Skinner	Ironmongers	Vintners	Woolmongers	Waxchangers	Armourers	Brokers	Company not known	Election not recorded
1377	3	3	3	8	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
1378	5	7	2	3	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1379	2	6	5	5	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
1380	3	7	2	5	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1381	4	4	3	6	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
1382	2	4	4	6	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1383	7	7	2	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1384	3	9	2	2	3	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
1385	5	7	1	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1
1386	5	8	2	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
1387	4	8	2	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
1388	4	6	2	2	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
1389	4	6	2	2	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
1390	4	6	2	3	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
1391	5	5	1	3	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0
1392	6	5	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
1393	7	6	2	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
1394 ⁷	6	4	3	3	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

To these should be added the following mayors, who at the dates indicated were not aldermen of wards, but *ex officio* presided at the court of aldermen :—

March 1377 to March 1378	. N. Brembre, grocer.
March to October 1379	. J. Philipot, grocer.
October 1379 to March 1380	. J. Hadle, grocer.
March to October 1381	. W. Walworth, fishmonger.
October 1381 to March 1382	} . J. de Northampton, draper.
March to October 1383	
October 1383 to March 1384	. Sir N. Brembre, grocer.
March to October 1392	. J. Heende, draper.
October 1393 to March 1394	. J. Hadle, grocer. ⁸

ALFRED B. BEAVEN.

⁷ The increased total of 24, exclusive of Portsoken, in 1394 is due to the division, which then took effect, of Farringdon into two wards.

⁸ The strength of the respective companies in the court of aldermen was modified