

Ordinances of the Plumbers.

38 Edward III. A.D. 1365. Letter-Book E. fol. cxlix. (Norman French.)

"May it please the honourable men, and wise, the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of London, to grant unto the Plumbers of the same city the points that here follow.—

"In the first place,—that no one of the trade of Plumbers shall meddle with works touching such trade within the said city, or take house or apprentices, or other workmen, in the same, if he be not made free of the City; and that, by assent of the best and most skilled men in the said trade, testifying that he knows how well and lawfully to work, and to do his work; that so, the said trade may not be scandalized, or the commonalty damaged and deceived, by folks who do not know their trade.

"Also,—that no one of the said trade shall take an apprentice for less than seven years; and that he shall have him enrolled within the first year, and at the end of his term shall make him take up his freedom, according to the usage of the said city.

"Also,—that every one of the trade shall do his work well and lawfully, and shall use lawful weights, as well in selling as in buying, without any deceit or evil intent against any one; and that for working a clove of lead for gutters, or for roofs of houses, he shall only take one halfpenny; and for working a clove for furnaces, *tappetroghes*, belfreys, and conduit-pipes, one penny; and for the waste of a wey of lead when newly molten [he shall have an allowance of] two cloves, (fn. 3) as has been the usage heretofore.

"Also,—that no one for any singular profit shall engross lead coming to the said city for sale, to the damage of the commonalty; but that all persons of the said trade, as well poor as rich, who may wish, shall be partners therein, at their desire. And that no one, himself or by another, shall buy old lead that is on sale, or shall be, within the said city or without, to sell it again to the folks of the said trade, and enhance the price of lead, to the damage of all the commonalty.

"Also,—that no one of the said trade shall buy stripped lead of the assistants to tilers, *lagers*, (fn. 4) or masons, or of women who cannot find warranty for the same. And if any one shall do so, himself or by his servants, or if any one of them shall be found stealing lead, tin, or nails, in the place where he works, he shall be ousted from the said trade for ever, at the will and ordinance of the good folks of such trade.

"Also,— that no one of the said trade shall oust another from his work undertaken or begun, or shall take away his customers or his employers, to his damage, by enticement through carpenters, masons, tilers, or other persons; as he would answer for the damage so inflicted, by good consideration of the Masters of the said trade.

"And if any one shall be found guilty under any one of the Articles aforesaid, let him pay to the Chamber of the Guildhall in London, for the first offence, 40 pence; for the second,