

**AN HISTORICAL ESSAY ON THE LIVERY
COMPANIES OF LONDON, WITH A SHORT
HISTORY OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
CUTLERS OF LONDON, AND COMBINING AN
ACCOUNT OF ITS CHARTERS, FUNDAMENTAL
LAWS, BYE-LAWS, ESTATES, AND CHARITIES**

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An Historical Essay on the Livery Companies of London, With a Short History of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers of London, and Combining an Account of Its Charters, Fundamental Laws, Bye-Laws, Estates, and Charities by R. J. Cheeswright

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R. J. CHEESWRIGHT

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ESTATES, AND CHARITIES.

MOTTO:

"Four Parvenir a' Bonne Foy."

("TO KEEP GOOD FAITH.")

BY

R. J. CHEESWRIGHT,

A LIVERYMAN OF THE CUTLERS' COMPANY.

1881.

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DEDICATED

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TO THE MASTER, WARDENS, AND COURT

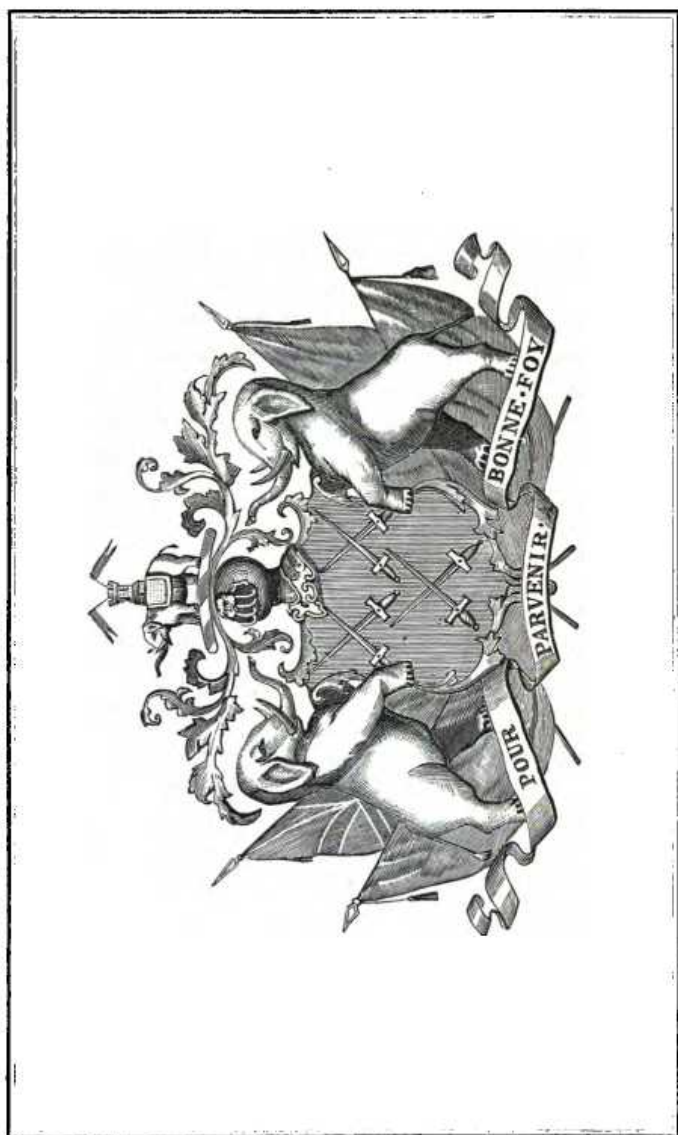
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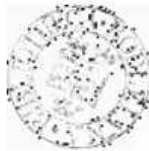
Worshipful Company of Cutlers
of London,

BY THEIR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

R. J. CHEESWRIGHT.



Introduction.



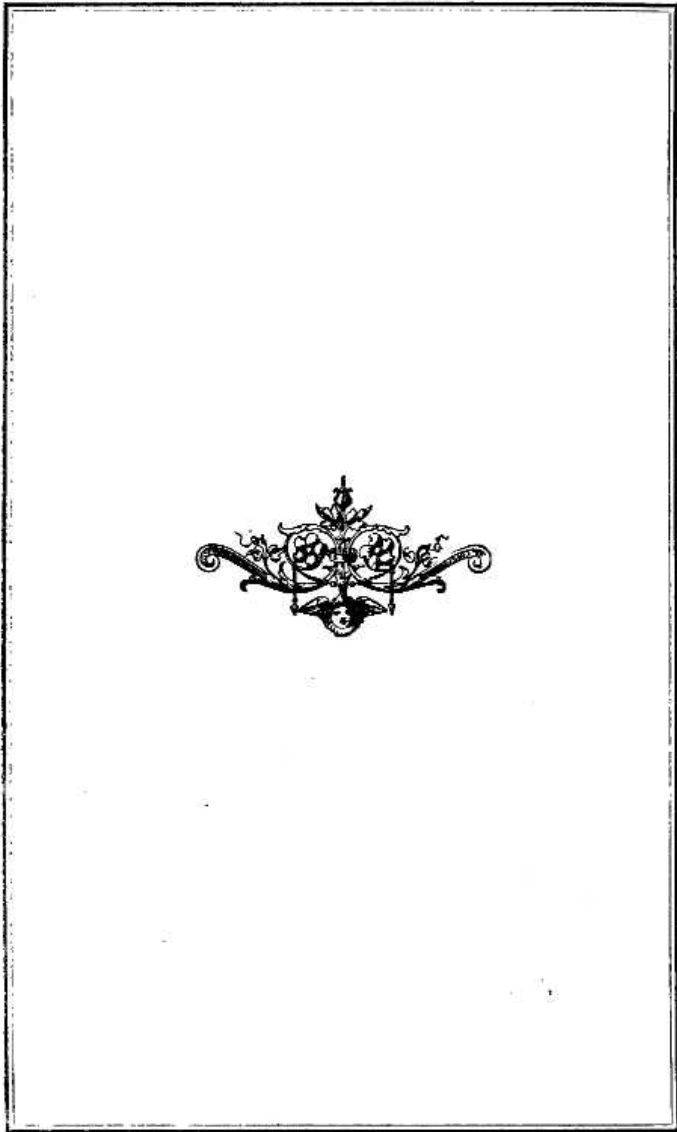
SINCE I was first enrolled as a Liveryman of the Ancient Company of Cutlers, I have constantly lamented the want of a history which could make the Members thereof somewhat acquainted with the origin of the Company, and having for some years been favoured with frequent opportunities of acquiring information respecting the concerns of the Company, I have felt it would be interesting to many of my Brother Liverymen also to become acquainted with some particulars of the Ancient Guild to which they have the honour to belong.

I have accordingly collected a few remarks on the Livery Companies of London generally, with an account of the Incorporation of the Cutlers' Company—its Charters, Fundamental Laws, Bye-Laws, Estates, and Charities.

I now present it to my Brethren of the Company, and should it have the good fortune to receive their approbation, I shall consider the time devoted to its composition as having been well employed, and esteem myself amply rewarded for my labour.

R. J. CHEESWRIGHT.

CROYDON, 1881.





The Livery Companies of London.

"Individuals may form communities; but Institutions must found a Nation."

THE LIVERY COMPANIES OF LONDON hold a high rank in the history of the City of London. Their wealth, the important trusts reposed in them, the noble charities and foundation schools they support, and their connection with the civic constitution of the Metropolis, make them not only of primary interest to every Liveryman, but when it is considered that they had the earliest share in laying the foundation of British commerce, that all trade originally concentrated in their fraternities, that their records are for the most part of remote antiquity, and afford pictures of the government, religious customs, habits and expenses of former times, it will be seen that few subjects are more important in a national point of view, or admit of more entertaining illustration. Not only does the history of the Companies offer a mass of most important information as to the trading interests of the community, but the ancient Charters themselves, although usually conceived to be the reverse of entertaining, disclose various curious facts, illustrating the simplicity of early times, and of the infant state of commerce. The City Records, and the valuable Collections in the Corporation and

Their Origin
and Objects.