

**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
NEEDLEMAKERS OF THE CITY OF
LONDON: WITH A LIST OF THE
COURT OF ASSISTANTS AND
LIVERY**

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The Worshipful Company of Needle-makers of the City of London: With a List of the Court of Assistants and Livery by Various

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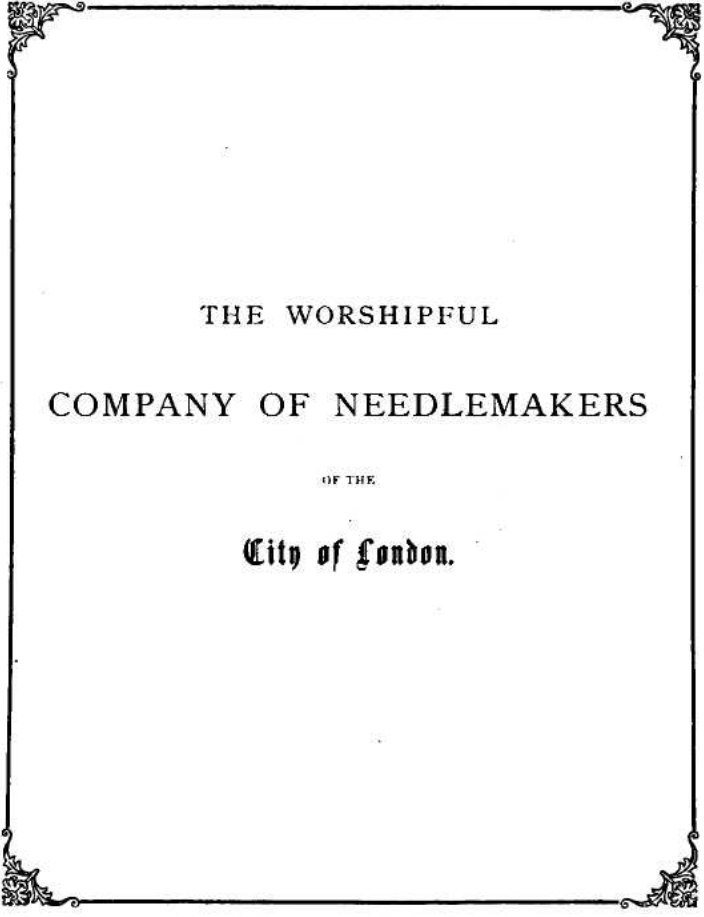
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VARIOUS

**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
NEEDLEMAKERS OF THE CITY OF
LONDON: WITH A LIST OF THE
COURT OF
ASSISTANTS AND LIVERY**



THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF NEEDLEMAKERS

OF THE

City of London.



LONDON :
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THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF NEEDLEMAKERS
OF
THE CITY OF LONDON.

With a List of
THE COURT OF ASSISTANTS AND LIVERY.



OFFICES: 1 CHURCH COURT, CLEMENT'S LANE, E.C.

MDCCLXXVI.

Prof. - Steaks
Redford
11.4-20
31093

Motto.

'They sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons.'

1. 25. 18. 12

ALL historians agree as to the great antiquity of the City Companies. As regards their origin, we must be careful in fixing dates. The earliest charter which any of them possess, but takes us, after all, to a period when they received a recognition of a certain kind, and their earlier rules and ordinances have, in many cases, perished. Their origin is probably to be sought in those combinations which, in a commercial country like Britain, grew up from influences that for four centuries had been gradually imported from Rome. In so long a period, how great must have been the influence of Roman laws and institutions upon the customs and habits of the people of this country! The 'Collegia' of the Empire were analogous to our present trade corporations; and that they flourished in Roman Britain has been shown by various discoveries which have been made. An inscription found at Chichester immortalises the *Collegium Fabrorum* (Carpenters); another, at Castle Cary, Scotland, the 'Image Makers,' or *Collegium Ligniferorum*; and a third, found at Bath, commemorates the 'Smiths,' or *Collegium Fabriciensium*.

That they survived the Roman occupation and passed down to us through Saxon times has been abundantly proved. Mr. Kemble quotes a defaced charter of Ealhere, of the seventh century, which refers to 'cnihta gealdan;' and Herbert mentions a 'guild of knights' as existing in A.D. 860 866. In Domesday there is mention of a 'guild of clerks' possessing house property in Canterbury. The analogy of such institutions with the Roman 'Collegia' it is unnecessary to go into here; it has been so fully and ably done by Mr. H. C. Coote, F.S.A., in his valuable paper, recently published by the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, entitled *Ordinances of some Secular Guilds of London*, 1354-1496.

JOHN E. PRICE, F.S.A.

*Extracted from a contribution to 'Notes and Queries' of September 19, 1874,
by Mr. John E. Price, F.S.A., Citizen and Needle-maker.*



The Worshipful Company of Needlemakers.