
RELICS *and* MEMORIALS *of* LONDON CITY

The same Act also gave them a general supervision over the Commissioners of Northern Lights and the Ballast Board of Dublin.

It was formerly the practice to distribute the surplus monies from light and pilotage dues and the sale of ballast to charitable purposes, but this was also done away with in 1854, and the surplus income devoted to the extinction of the debt incurred by the purchase of private rights in lighthouses.

The Corporation consists of a Master (usually the Prince of Wales), Deputy Master, nineteen acting Elder Brethren, eleven honorary Elder Brethren, and an unlimited number of Younger Brethren, who all belong to the sea services; two Elder Brethren assist the Court of Admiralty as assessors, by advice only.

The founder, Sir Thomas Spert, was a seaman of mark in the time of Henry VIII., commander of the *Henry Grace de Dieu*, better known as the *Great Harry*, the greatest ship known at that time. He and his three wives were buried in Stepney Church.

Trinity House appears continually in the pages of Pepys; on the 15th February 1662, he was sworn a Younger Brother. He pervaded Tower Hill even more than any other district in London, going about his work and seeing all the sights, in a cheerful, indefatigable way. "To Aldgate," he says, "and at the corner shop, a draper's, I stood and did see Barkestead, Okey, and Corbet drawn towards the gallows at Tyburn, and there they were hanged and quartered. They all looked very cheerful." A few weeks later, "About eleven o'clock, having a room got ready for us, we all went out to Tower Hill, and there over against the scaffold made on purpose this day, saw Sir Harry Vane brought; a very great press of people. . . . The scaffold was so crowded