

AN EPISODE IN THE EARLY ENGLISH GLASS TRADE.

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The reign of Elizabeth was one of intense activity in all departments of public life. The mind of England, liberated from the bondage of centuries, displayed the utmost energy, and sought for employment for its newly-awakened powers in all the fields of human enterprise. It was an age of unparalleled greatness, in which men "went about their noblest tasks like children at their play." In poetry, in philosophy, in government, in war, and in adventure, were found fitting and appropriate openings for the exercise of the highest genius and the use of the ablest talents. It is the age of Shakespeare, of Spenser, of Bacon, of Raleigh, of Cecil, and innumerable other mighty souls who have left their impress on all succeeding ages, and whose "memory the world will not willingly let die." And over all these great ones was placed a ruler who knew how to avail herself of their varied powers, who won for her glory, their deepest devotion and self-sacrificing service, and, working together for the common good of their country, they made her reign one to which all Englishmen look back with pride, and still regard as one of the grandest and brightest epochs in the history of this greatly-favoured land.

As was only natural under such circumstances much attention was paid to the industries of the country, and trade and commerce partook of the new energy and new life which had been so widely aroused and developed. In the correspondence of the time which has been preserved, we find many curious and interesting evidences of the great activity displayed in all matters connected with trade, and that the spirit of enterprise and adventure which animated the nobles and the upper classes, was equally active among the middle classes, the great trading companies, and the people. The heart of the whole nation had been stirred to its depths, and the effects of this marvellous awakening were as visible in the enterprise of the people as in the daring deeds of the commanders, the unconquerable bravery of the adventurers, the matchless wisdom of the statesmen, and the unrivalled strains of the poets whose works have immortalised the reign of Elizabeth.

In the Lansdowne MSS. is preserved a very curious letter from George Longe to Lord Burghley desiring a Patent for glass-making, in which he describes how the trade came first to England. This remarkable letter is published in the second series of "Original Letters Illustrative of English History," by Ellis, and is worthy of being reproduced in *Iron*. It is as follows:—

To the right honourable the Lord Burgleighe, Lord Treasurer of England.

Att what tyme that troubles begun in France and the Lowe Countreys, so that glass could not conveniently be brought from Lorraine into England, certaine glassmakers did covenante with Anthony Dollyne & John Carye, merchants, of the said Low Countreys, to come and make glass in England. Wheruppon Dollyne & Carye obtained the Patent for making glass in England in September, the ixth yeare [1566] of the Queene's Majesties raigne for xxj yeares ensueinge under these conditions, to teache Englishmen & to pay custome, which Patent was fully expired a yeare ago

Carye & Dollyne, having themselves no knowledge, were driven to lease out the benefitt of their Patent to the Frenchmen, who by no means would teach Englishmen, nor at any tyme payde one peny custome. Carye being dead, Dollyne tooke vj. upon a case of glass.

For not performance of covenants, their Patent being then void, about vj. yeares after their grant, other men erected and set on worke divers glasshouses in sundry parts of the realme, and having spent the woods in one place, doe duily so contynue erecting new workes in another place without check or controule.

About vij. yeares past, your honour called them that kept the glasshouses before you, to knowe who should paye the Queene's custome, whose answere generally was, that there was no custome due, but by condicions of a speciall priviledg which no one of them did enjoye, and they not to pay custome for comodities made within the realme. Thus hath Her Majestie benee deceived and still wilbe without reformation.

I most humbly desire your honour to graunt me the like Patent, considering my pretence is not to contynue the making of glass still in England, but that thereby I maye effectually

repress them. And whereas ther are now fifteen glasshouses in England. Yfit so like your honour (graunting me the like Patent) to enjoyne me at no tyme to keep above ij glasshouses in England, but to erect the rest in Ireland, whereof will ensue divers comodities to the commune wealth, according to the effect of my former petition.

The woods in England wilbe preserved.

The superfluous woods in Ireland wasted, then which in tyme of rebellion Her Majestie hath no greater enemy there.

The country wilbe much strengthened, for every glasshouse wilbe so good as twenty men in garison.

The country wilbe sooner brought to civiltie, for many pore fol .j. shalbe sett in worke.

And whereas Her Majestie hath now no peny proffitt, a double custome; must of necessity be payde. Glass be transported from Ireland to England.

May it please your honour to be gracious unto me and, God willing, I will put in sufficient securitie not only to performe all things concerning the Patent, but also (thankfully acknowledging the good I shall receive by your lordshipp) to repaire your honor's buildings from tyme to tyme with the best glasse, duringe the leave of said Patent; & also bestowe one hundred Angels at your honor's appointment.

I have spoken to Dollyne as your honor willed me, & may it please your honor to appoint some tyme that we may both attend your honor.

Your honour's poore orator,

GEORGE LONGE.

We do not know whether George Longe's petition was granted or not. The pretty little bribe offered to keep Lord Burleigh's buildings in repair "with the best glasse," and to give him, in addition, "one hundred Angells," was likely to prove effective, and is in strict accordance with the habits of the time. Such bribes or "fees" were the recognised payment for such services, and were looked upon as part of the recognised revenue of all persons holding public offices. George Longe was too shrewd a man of business not to include such offer in his petition. We do not know the petitioner's success, but we do know that he was not able to divert the trade from England, and transplant it into Ireland, notwithstanding the many public advantages which he declares would result from such a transference. Looking at the magnitude of the glass trade in England at the present time, it is curious to note that three hundred years ago there were only fifteen glass-houses in the kingdom, and that George Longe proposed to reduce them to two. It is also illustrative of the time to find the petitioner placing as one of his principal reasons for urging his suit for the granting of the patent, that the trade would destroy the superfluous woods in Ireland, "then which in tyme of rebellion Her Majestie hath no greater enemy there." Such a reason would not fail to have its weight with the astute statesman to whom it was addressed.

A SIMPLE ORNAMENT.—A pretty mantelpiece ornament may be obtained by suspending an acorn, by a piece of thread tied around it, within half an inch of the surface of some water contained in a vase, tumbler, or saucer, and allowing it to remain undisturbed for several weeks. It will soon burst open, and small roots will seek the water; a straight and tapering stem, with beautiful glossy green leaves will shoot upward, and present a very pleasing appearance. Chestnut trees may be grown in the same manner, but their leaves are not so beautiful as those of the oak. The water should be changed once a month, taking care to supply water of the same warmth; bits of charcoal added to it will prevent the water from souring. If the little leaves turn yellow, add one drop of ammonia into the utensil which holds the water, and they will renew their luxuriance.

The *Telegraph* says. St. John now is the great lumber exporting city of the world. We sent 2,000 tons more of lumber-laden vessels to Liverpool than Quebec, nearly 40,000 tons more than all the other Colonial ports put together. About 70,000 tons more than the pitch pine ports, and over 15,000 tons more than all the Baltic ports. Such an exhibit should be most gratifying to us, as it unmistakably shows how thoroughly we have eclipsed all competitors in the lumber trade. This year, there is little doubt will be even more favorable to St. John than last was, as there is a prospect of a large rise in Baltic wood.