

in, all in scarlet gowns. The recorder, or law-officer of the city, rises, bows to the Lord Mayor and the assembled liverymen, and makes a little speech, declaring how from the time of King John they have had grants of certain rights of election. The Lord Mayor and aldermen then go out; another law officer, the common sergeant, repeats what the recorder has already said, and tells the liverymen that they must name two for the office of Lord Mayor, of whom the Lord Mayor and aldermen will select one. Two names are then chosen, and are carried to the aldermen by the heads of some of the chief guilds. One is selected, and thereupon the Lord Mayor and the aldermen return to the Guildhall and sit down, the chosen future Lord Mayor sitting on the left hand of the actual Lord Mayor. The recorder again rises, and reads the two names and the one selected, and asks the liverymen if it is their free election, "Yea or No." They shout "Yea," and the sword-bearer thereupon takes off the fur tippet of the Lord Mayor to be, and puts a chain around his neck.

On 8th of November there is another meeting in the Guildhall. The old Lord Mayor rises and gives the new one his seat. The chamberlain of the city then approaches with three solemn bows, and hands to the new Lord Mayor a jewelled sceptre, the common seal of the city, and an ancient purse. The sword-bearer next advances, and bowing three times, each time with increasing reverence, gives the Lord Mayor elect the great two-handed sword of state, which symbolizes justice and legal supremacy. The crier, with bows equal in number and profundity to those of the sword-bearer, next approaches, and presents the mace. The alder-

men and sheriffs then congratulate their new chief, who proceeds to sign certain documents, and among them a receipt for the city plate. Last of all, he is presented with the keys of the standard weights and measures, deposited in his custody. The meeting then breaks up, and the old Lord Mayor goes back to the Mansion House, his official residence, for the last time.

"The next day, the 9th of November, is known in London as Lord Mayor's Day, because on that morning the new Lord Mayor takes office in the Guildhall. He drives thence through the ward of which he is alderman, and proceeds in gaudy procession to the courts of law within the bounds of Westminster. Before his coach are running footmen, and there is a long procession of the carriages of the aldermen, and of the heads of the several guilds, and of the main body of his own guild, all in their best official gowns. The banners of the guilds, their beadles, and pageants, which vary according to each Lord Mayor's taste, make up a wonderful show, which, as it winds in and out the narrow streets of the city, enlivens them with brilliant colour. Though often decried because it obstructs business for one day, should the progress of modern times abolish the custom, it would be regretted by all who have witnessed it.

"The Lord Mayor is presented to the Lord Chief Justice of England, takes an oath of fidelity, and calls on the judges of the several divisions of the High Court of Justice and invites them to dinner. The judges always reply somewhat haughtily that some of them will attend, and the Lord Mayor then returns to the city, in which for a year he is to be the greatest person, obliged to give place only when the Queen herself comes."