

## Extracted from Privy Council Records

*Edinburgh 7<sup>th</sup> March 1588/9*

The King and Council understanding that the "rouch hydys and barkit leddir" have hitherto for the most part been exported "be certane gredy and avaritious personis, mair respecting thair awne particulair proffitt nor the commounweill of this thair native cuntrey," so that "not onlie ar the same hydys and leddir rissin to sic exhorbitant derth, bot now ar becum so scant that scairslie can the craftismen, labouraris of leddir, have sic quantitie as will hald thame occupiit, for furnissing of his Hienes legis," proclamation is ordered at the market crosses of the head burghs forbidding the lieges to export any rough bides or barked leather till 20th April next, under pain of confiscation of the same, together with the rest of the moveables of the owners, and of the ships in which they shall be apprehended,- one third of the penalty to go to the "apprehendair and dilatair," and the rest to the King. That the Act may be enforced, the said craftsmen are empowered to apprehend and intromit with the said goods, applying the third to their own use "for thair labouris and travellis," and delivering the remainder to the King's treasurer, and the provosts, bailies, and inhabitants of burghs are to assist the said craftsmen in their exertions. The King and Council, however, certify the said craftsmen that, "giff thair werk and werkmanship sall not be sauld in the meantyme to his Hienes legis upoun sic priceis as thay wer sauld at the feist of Martymes last bipast," in that case na forder restraint of the saidis hydys and barkit leddir salbe grantit eftir the said day."

*Edinburgh 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1609*

*Sederunt*-Forbes; Bishop of Orknay; President; Privy Seal; Quhittinghame; Kilsyth; Advocate; Logy; Clerk of Register; Sir Alexander Wammond; Sir Lues Craig; Sir Andro Hammiltoun; Sir Alexander Hay; Sir Johnne Arnot.

The Commission of the Convention of Estates in May 1608 to the magistrates of burghs, and to certain gentlemen associated with them, for fixing the prices of boots and shoes (*ante*, p. 93), having, by negligence of said commissioners, had little or no effect anywhere, so that "the extraordinair and schameles derth of bootis and shoone is not onlie of continewance bot daylie ryseis to heicher priceis, to the grite hurt of all rankis and degreis of personis, especialie of the poor people and servandis, whose haill waigeis in a yeir will scairs be sufficient to furneis thame bootis and shoone," there is order to charge the provosts and bailies of burghs and the gentlemen conjoined with them to put the said commission to execution within 10 days after being charged, and to report their diligence in the matter to the Council within 20 days thereafter, under pain of rebellion.

### ***Letter fom His Majesty to the Convention of Estates***

*Whitehall 9<sup>th</sup> May 1608*

"Richt trustie and weilbelovit cosines and counsellouris, we greete weele:--The mony frequent complaintis of oure poore creditouris," [See the letter, incorporated in a Council minute of date 24th May 1608, p. 96.]

"Richt trustie and weilbelovit cosines, counsellouris, and utheris of oure goode, loving, and obedyent subjectis now presentlie convenit, we greete you weele: -This ordinarie trade of transorting of hydys furth of that oure kingdome as lauchfull wairis and stapill goodis (howsoever the harme thairof hes not bend hithertillis animadvertit unto) hes broght the ledder and suche necessaris as ar required to be maid of the same, as bootes and schone, to suche and extraordinarie rate and price as hardlie may the commoun sort of people, bot specialie suche as haif nothing els bot thair wageis and feallis, ony way manteyne tharnseselfis, or be provydit of those necessaryis whiche thay can noway want. And, becaus this appeiris ane evident detriment to the commounwelth, that foreyne nationis sould injoy by your furnissing these goodis in plantie the scairstie wherof be ressoun of the frequent transportatioun gevis the ocrasioun of this derth amangis yourselfis of the same wairis: we ar thairfoir to desire you in this oure Conventioun dewlie to considder heirof, and to tak ony suche course as those sorte of goodis, to witt hydys of oxin, cattell, and all uther greate beastis, may rather by speciall act be restrayned heirefter frome being onyway transported then that

this course of exporteing the same, being so prejudiciall to the hole estate, and noway beneficiall bot to a few of the meanest sorte, sould ony way continew. Wherin knowing that, upoun motioun heirof, the most parte of you will utter your awne greiffis and urge the remeid to be past and exped by Act of this your Conventioun, we bid you fairweele.-To the richt reverend faderis in God, to our richt trustie and weilbelovit cosines and counsellouris, and to oure trustye and weilbelovit the clergie, nobilitie, and commonis of that oure kingdome, presentlie convenit."

*Edinburgh, 9th July 1611*

*Sederunt* -Chancellor; Bishop of Glasgow; Cassillis; Lynlythqu; Lotheane; Ros; Scone; Blantyr; Burley; President; Privy Seal; Secretary; Justice Clerk; Clerk of Register; Advocate; Master of Elphinstoun; Kilsyth; Sir Alexander Drummond; Sir Jedeone Murray; Sir Peter Young; Sir Johnne Arnott; Mr George Young.

Whereas "grite hurte and prejudice" has been sustained by this country these years past by the "daylie transporting furthe thair of to England of rough hydys, barkit and wrought leddir, and of gait and buk skylinis, quhairthrow the same ar not onlie rissin to extraordinair pryceis, bot ar become so scant as the artisane and craftsmen who doeth worke the same can not haif sufficientlie whairwith to hald thame at worke and to serve his Majesteis liegeis at reasounable pryceis"; and whereas "the Prejudice is so mutche the moir by the restreant and prohibitioun maid in England that no wrought ledder salbe transportit frome thense to this kingdome, -which restreante and prohibitioun is so cairfullie advertit unto and preceislie kept as no brek nor violatioun thair of upoun ony conditionn whatsomevir is tollerat or permittit, whairby the grite cair, foresight and prudent directionis in everie thing whilk way importe the goode of that commounweele is manifest and evident": the Lords, considering that "the prejudice whiche this cuntrey hies formarlie sustenit doeth necessarlie require the lyke restreante and prohibitioun to be maid heir," prohibit all and sundry to export to England hereafter any of the above-described goods, under pain of confiscation thereof, and of all the other moveables of the offenders, one half to go to his Majesty and the other half to the informer. Publication of this ordinance to be made by open proclamation at the market crosses of the head burghs.

## Privy Council Papers

*Edinburgh 27<sup>th</sup> June 1617*

"We, the cordiners and handleris not only of ane great part of the ledder maid within this kingdome bot lykewayis of bringing home of the samen frome forrane partis, duelling in Edinburgh, haveing now efter long prwiff and tryell considderit the great abuis offerit heirtofore be the barkaris of ledder within this cuntre, and that moir to the greit hurt of the leidges in generall as to ws of oure treadis in particular, as may weil appeir to yowr honoris, quhilk growes by drawing of thair ledder furth of thair bark pottis befor the haiff tyme expyre that sould bring the strenth of the bark to the full perfectioun, and carying it away weit, raw, stinking, and undressit to the mercat for present scale, and being bocht efter this maner no man is abill to decerne of the sufficient barking thair of, far les to mak any guid work ather in show or substance of the samen, as the ewill wearing thair of witnessis to the best and greatest sort of the leidges within the realme, spending by this thair often returning of ledder not only ten tymes moir bark yeirlie nor is requisite, bot lyke wayis by this thair unnecessare abuis hes exhaustit the greatest part of the woddis within the kingdome, in forceing ws evir that ar puir treaddismen to bring oure ledder for the most part frome Londoun, quhair it is often tymes seasit upoun to oure utter undoing, having transgressit your statutis prohibiting transportatioun thair of. Oure humbill suit heirfore is, according to the lovable ordour observit not only in the rest of his Majesteis dominionis hot in all cuntreis quhatsumever, that all barkaris of ledder within this realme may be injoynit to latt thair ledder ly in the bark pottis to the full tyme, that it receive the strenth of the bark, and thairefter to bring it sufficientlie dryit to the mercat, according to the custome of all uther partis quhairsoever, as said is: so sall the sufficiencie of barking not only be eassellie decernit, the rawnes, filthie, and stinking handling thair of awoydit, the woddis, being ane of the ornamentis and commoditeis of the cuntry, preservit, our puir tread be finding and bying owre awin ledder at home (quhilk heirtofore hes

undone ws) inlargit, bot with this the most of all the leidges in generall bothe for the moir chepe and profitable weare better furnischt; -for, having oure awin hydis efter this ordour barkit and handlit, we sall not only be inabilit to mak a great deall moir, chepper, and better work thair of, bot lykways salbe fund to prove more profitable for weareing. -And, albeit the airt of barking is in it selfin uther cuntreis ane frie tread evir admitting prentessis [blank] of dyvers yeiris [blank] ayis not permittit, bot heir be the contrair everi[e] [blank] [m[akis it hes tread [blank] hes bene the mother of this continuall corruptioun [blank] of the res [blank] without it sheme guid to yowr honoris [blank] crave that [blank] and for the better obser[vatioun] [blank] intreatte that yowr honoris wald be pleisit to cans mak ane [act] [blank] the setting downe of ane certane ordour for tryall of the sufficiencie [blank] ledder and making the samen sufficient wair to the right honorabill Pre[vie Couusail], that they caus put the samen to dew executioun; without the quhitk we sall [not] be abill nather to serve the cuntry with sufficient geir nor frie oure selfis of the d[eadie] harme receavit of oure nichtbour country for transportatioun, as said is. -Alexander Crawford. Angus Cleland. Matthew Crawford.”

*At thefoot-* "This is a supplicatioun gevin in be the cordinaris craving ane act to be made for the better barking of leather and the executioun of the said act to be remitted to his Majesteis Previe Counsell-George Hay. - "27 Jun.(?) 1617-The Lordis gevis commissioun to the Previe Counsell to tak ordour heiranent as thai think maist expedient.”

*On the back* "Cordinaris. Leiff roome for this.”

Registration of the following documents and minutes of recent proceedings of Council in the matter of a projected reform of the Tanning Industry in Scotland:

*I. His Majesty's Letter on the subject, of date 22nd January 1619*

“Ryght truistie and weilbeloved cousen and counsallour, and right trustie and weilbeloved counsallouris, we greit yow weil.-Wheras in the last Parliament held by us in that oure kingdome thair wes ane Act maid for reforming of the abuse used by tannaris and barkaris of leather VoL XI. pp. cxi.-cxiii.], sieing the making of goode lawis doeth serve no purpos withoute the samyn be putt to executioun, oure pleasour yow consider of the said Act and determine what course is best to be takin thairin for reformeing of the said abuse, and lykewayes what is fitt to be allowed upoun every hyde for rewaird of the pairty who sould have charge thair of, and that yow condescend after what maner and with what conditionis a signatour heirof sould be granted, that, after the returne of your ansuer, we may dispose thair of as we sall think expedient So, expecting to be resolved of this with diligence, we bid yow fairweill. Givin at our Court at Newmarkit the 22nd of Jannar 1619. -Followis the dircetioun upoun the bak of the missive;- To our right trustie and weilbeloved cousen and counsallour, the Erle of Dunfermeling, our Chancellour of Scotland, and to our right truistie and weilbeloved counsallouris, the remanent Lordis of our Previe Counsaill of the said kingdome.”

*II. Representation by the Cordiner Craft, and Proceedings thereanent by the Council at their meeting on the 23rd of November last.*

“Anent oure Soverane Lordis letteris raisit at the instance of the Deaconis and Maisteris of the Cordinair craft within this kingdome, makand mentioun, that quhair the tyme of the lait Parliament haldin at Edinburgh in the moneth of Junij the yeir of God jmvjc and [blank] yeiris, the saidis compleneris gaif in thair petitioun to the King[is Majestie] and his Estaittis thair convenit, complening of the sluggische ignorance and schamefull abuse of the tannaris of ledder, throughout this kingdome [ante, Vol. XI. pp. 613-615] whose stuff is so insufficient and they so constant in the foistering and interteyneing of the abuse as thay will not abyd to heir of a reformatioun, sua that the saidis compleneris ar constrayned, with grite haisard and trouble, and [at] triple chargeis and expenssis, to mak thair furnissing of ledder from Ingland, quhair oftymes thair haill employment and wairing is confiscat inrespect of the restraynt of exportatioun of barkit ledder frome that kingdome; and his Majestie and his Estaittis of Parliament haveing advyseit and considderit of the saidis compleneris petitioun, and of the hurt and prejudice quhilk the haill body of this estate in generall sustenit through the said [caus], and his Majestie and his saidis estaittis [having] remittit the ordour [desyreit] for reformatioun of this abuse unto the Lordis of Secretit Counsaill, [as the Act of] Parliament

maid to that effect produceit befor the saidis Lordis testifies; lykeas his Majestie, oute of his princelie and tender cair to have this abuse reformed and removed, hes recommendit the same of new to the saidis Lordis of Secreit Counsall, as his Majesteis letter bearis ; and now, to lat the saidis Lordis understand more particularlie the ground and fontoun quhairfra this abuse flowis and is foisterit in this kingdome, with the saidis compleneris overtouris and oppinioun how the abuse may be reformed and removed: This it is:-Whereas in all uther estaittis and kingdomes the tanning of ledder is ane trade and occupatioun of the nature of utheris tradis and craftis, admitting prenteisis and restreaneing all utheris frome the exercise of that trade bot suche as after the expyreing of thair prenteisship ar able to gif prooff of thair sufficiencie for that calling, qubairby all of thame ar expert and skilfull personis in the trade, and lives under correctioun and discipline of the deaconis and oversiearis of thair traide as utheris craftismen dois, the contrair of this pollitique ordour and government is in practise and use within this kingdome. For every man at his pleasour who wes nevir prenteist nor servand nor nevir exercised in that trade usurpis and takis upoun him the tanning and barking of ledder, quhairin his unskilfulnes proves to be so gross and rude as his ledder serveis to litill or na use; for it is brocht to the mercat weitt, raw, and stinkand, sua that no man is able to decerne quhidder or not it be barkit, and the saidis compleneris cannot buy abone ane hyde or tua on a mereat day, becaus it will not keip langer, and in the dressing of this hyde and bringing of the same to some perfectioun, able for worke, thay spend moir tyme, chargeis, and expenssis nor thay will do upoun sax Ingliche or Irische barkit hydys, to thair greit hurt, wrak and inconvenient, and, when it is maid in worke, no honest man will buy it nor is able to abyde the smell of it.

And the saidis compleneris may trewlie afferme that thir ten yeiris bygaine thair hes not beine maid fourtie pair of buittis within the burgh of Edinburgh or the Cannogate of Scottis ledder, bot thay ar constrayned to farneis thair selffis fra thair nightbour townes of Beruik, Annik, Morpett, Newmercatt, Durhame, Cairlaill, and utheris Ingliche townes, the tannaris and barkaris of quhilkis townes comes to the mercattis of the burrowis of Dunse, Kelso, Jedburgh, Drumfreis, and utheris Bordour townes, and thair buyis thair hydys, dressis and barkis the same, a pairt quhairof they bring bak againe to the saidis mercattis weill drest and sealed, and one of thir hydys, being of this countrey hydys and drest in England, will gif fyve or sax pundis more nor a Scottis barkit hyde, lykeas ane Irisch barkit hyde broght to the west mercattis of this kingdome will gif that same pryce more nor ane Scottis barkit hyd, althoght thay be both of ane quantitie. And thir extraordinair chargeis the saidis compleneris ar constrayned to lay upoun thair work, the burdyne quhairof the subjectis of this kingdome underlyis; and, besydis "greit hurt and inconvenient quhilk the body of the said craft, and consequentlie the haill countrey, sustenis through this occasioun, the unskilfulnes of thir tannaris procuris the wrak, spoyll, and distructioun of the haill woodis of this countrey ; for thay, oute of thair ignorance and want of skill, will spend more bark upon one pott nor sufficientlie may serve sax, and sua thay bestow more idle tyme and chargeis upoun ane hyde nor ane skilled man will do upoun sax; quhairas, yf they wer reducit to ordour and pollicie and goode government, and wer subject to correctioun and censure as uther craftismen are, not only wald thair worke be weill and trewlie maid, bot thay wald mak that same gayne of thair worke quhilk strangeris now doe, the saidis complenaris trade wald be advanceit and sett forward, the moneis transportit oute of the countrey for inbringing of forreyne barkit ledder wald be haldin within this cuntrey, and the saidis complenaris wald not be sa oft under the haisaird of confiscatioun. of thair ledder broght be tharne frome EngInd as thay ar, and, last, this our country wald be weill, handsomelie and honestlie served within the selff at easier and moir reasounabill pryceis nor now thay ar, sieing now they ar served at heich pryceis with foreyne ledder. And, for the better bringing of this necessair and proffitable worke to perfectioun, it is verry requisite and expedient that no barkit ledder be heirefter presentit to any mercat to be sauld, nor that nane be putt in work, till first it be sene be some discreit and skilled man in everie towne to be appoyntit for that effect, and sealed be him in takin that it is laughfull and goode worke, weill [drest] and barkit; who for his panis and sealling of every hyde sall have [ane] reasounabill allowance, to be modifeit be the Lordis of Previe Counsall, [to] be payit be the barkar for every hyde that he seallis; quhilk [allowance] may be modifeit be the saidis Lordis to suche a reasounable rate as nowther the barkaris nor subjectis salbe prejudgeit or greiveit. And, gif [this goode] ordour will come to practise, the barker will ware threttie schillingis on every hyde more nor he now gettis. And, upoun the lyke complaynt [maid] be some of the saidis, compleneris to the saidis Lordis of Secreit Counsall [thir] threttie yeiris syne or thairby anent the making of dry ledder within [this] kingdome, the saidis Lordis allowit of thair overtouris thane maid quhairby dry ledder is now better maid in

this countrey or any [quhair els], and in suche aboundance as not only is the countrey weill an abundantlie served within the self, bot a great quantitie is yeirlie transportit oute of the countrey and custome payit to his Majestie for the same, and it wald lykewayes prove als proffitable to the countrey gif the saidis [Lordis] wald be pleased to allow and approve the same. And anent [the charge] givin to Stevin Lauriemer and William Weir barkaris in Edinburgh, Niniane Andersone and James Breadwood and Mungo Hammiltoun, barkaris in Glasgw, George Bruice and John, Merser, barkaris in Abirdeine, Johnne Rankeyne and Williame Forbes, barkaris in Dundie, Thomas Crombye, barkar in Perth, George Wood and Alexander Bennie, barkaris in Forfar, Johnne Measoun and Rober Howedoun, barkaris in Strivilling, Allane Logane, barker in Air, Jame Gibbiesoun, Johnne Vaytche, barkaris in Linlythgow, Robert Yeaman barkar in Haddingtoun, George Wicht and James Minto, barkaris in Selkirk, Williame Thomsone and Thomas Robiesone, barkaris in Jedburgh, to have compeirit personallie befor the Lordis of Secret Counsaill upoun this present xxiiij day of November instant, to have hard and sein some goode and solide course established and sett downe for the perfyte and weill barking and tanning of ledder in tyme comeing, and for removeing of abuse and corruptioun that hes beine used in that trad in tyme bygane to the hurt of the leigeis and discreditt of this countre, especiallie that no ledder sould be presentit to mercat nor put in worke till first the sufficiencie thairof be tryit be the personis who sallbe nominat in every towne for that effect, and in takin thairof that the hyde be sealed in maner foirsaid, or els to have schowne ane reassonabil caus quhy the samyn sould not be done, with certificatioun to thame and thay failyeit the saidis Lordis of Secret [Counsall] wald tak suche ordour in this bussynes as they sould think most aggrieabill for the weill and credite of this kingdome, lykeas at mair lenche is contenit in the saidis letteris, executionis and indorsationis thairof. -Quhilk being callit, ar Alexander Crawfurde, Archibald Cleghorne, Daniell Johnnestoun, John Pollok, Williame Adair, and James Crawfurde, cordinaris of Edinburgh compeirand personallie for thame selffis and in name of the remanent persewaris foirsaidis, and Stevin Larymer and Williame Weir, barkas in Edinburgh, Niniane Andersone and Mongo Hammiltoun, barkaris Glasgw, George Bruice, barkar in Abirdeyne, Johnne Maisoun and Johnne Howesoun, barkaris in Strivilling, Allane Logane, barkair in Air, James Gibbiesoun, barkair in Linlythgow, and Robert Yeaman, barkair in Haddingtoun, compeirand lykewayes personallie, and the remanent barkaris who wer laughfullie summond in this action being oftymes callit and not compeirand, the saidis defendaris promiseit to gif in thair ansueris and overtouris concerneing this mater in wreit the nixt Counsaill day; quhairunto the daidis Lordis aggrieit, and contenewit this mater to the nixt Counsaill day, quhairto the pairtyes present wer warneit *apud acta*."

III. *Proceedings of Council at their meeting on 25th November last, with Answers of the Tanners to the Complaint of the Cordiners.*

The quhilk day in presence of the Lordis of Secret Counsaill compeirit personallie the pairtyes persewaris and defendaris abonewreittin, and siclyke compeirit personallie Mongo M'Caill, Nicol Udwart, James Cochrane, and [blank] Speir, balleis of Edinburgh, and David Aikinheid, deane [of Gild] of Edinburgh, and desyreit to be admittit and hard for thair interesse; quhose desyre being fand reassonabill be the saidis Lordis, thay grantit the same. The defendaris gaif in thair ansueris and overtouris underwreittin in write; quhilkis red, the balleis of Edinburgh desyreit that thay might have the nixt Counsaill day to be advysit with the saidis overtouris; quhilkis the Lordis grantit, and contenewis this mater to the next Counsaill day, quhairto the pairtyes present ar warneit *apud acta*.

*The overtouris and ansueris givin in be the Tannaris:*

Pleas your lordschippis. -As we cannot deny bot thair is a verry abuse within this kingdome in the barking of ledder, whilk necessarlie re quyres ane reformatioun, and whairunto we ar most willing to conforme our selffis, so, for your lordschippis better informatioun anent the meanis how this abuse may be removed and the reformatioun effectuat we humblie present unto your lordschippis our simple oppinionis thairanent, whilk we submitt to your lordschippis more grave confess that ane greit part of the hydys of this kingdome ar evill barkit and nawayes sufficient nor worthie to be presentit to mercat nor maid in worke, so we do constantlie afferme and will justifie befor your lordschippis that this abuse and corruptioun procedis

from the ignorance or negligence of numberis of unfriemen and unskillfull barkaris bothe to burgh and land, and of the povirtie of numberis professing that trade, who, living as it wer at libertie, without controlment, and being nowayes subject to ony societie or corporatioun, nor to correctioun or [cen]sure, and, some of thame being unabill to suffer thair hydys to ly in the [pottis] till thay ressave the strenthe of the barke, they thairfoir bring thame [raw] and insufficient to the mercattis, pairtlie in ledder and pairtlie in maid [work], whilk furneises just caus of complaynt, offence and greif to the subjectis. For remeid whairof we mak this overtour and propositioun to your lordschippis: that, quhairas in all utheris countreyis and commounwealthis the barking of [ledder] is a trade allowit only in the personis of friemen and burgessis of [frie burghis], althocht in this only kingdome, and especiallie in landwart, every [man at] his awne pleasour bothe ignorant and unskilled, usurpis and takis upoun [him] the said trade, that thairfoir your lordschippis wald be pleasit to reduce [this trade] to his Majesties frie burrowis allanerlie, secluding all utheris fra [the exerlceise thairof bot only friemen dwelling and resideing in frie [burrow], to whome the same apperteynis and who wilbe ansuerabill for the [sufficiencie] of the worke. And, to the effect the sufficiencie of all hydys may be [better knowne, it] is verry requisite and expedyent, and we ar weill [pleasit, that everie hyde] that heirefter salbe presentit to mercat or maid in worke [be sealit], and [that] ane famous and skillfull man in that arte be appoynted in every burgh to seile the hyd who salbe ansuerabill for the sufficiencie of the same under the pain to be depyveit fra his plaice and service and to be subject to the, payment of the pryce of the hyde that salbe tryit insufficient. And it is lykewayes requisite that ane prohibitioun be maid to all barkaris and cordinaris that nane of thame sell ony hydys nor mak worke thairof till first they be sealed, under sic paines as your lordschippis pleissis preseryve. -This reformatioun being effectuat and imbraceit be us, on humble petitioun to your lordschippis is that thair may be a restreant importatioun of forreyne ledder, quhairthrow a greate deale of money yeirly transportit for that caus wilbe haldin within the countrey, and we wilbe encourageit to furneis the countrey abundantlie with goode and sufficient barkit ledder."

*IV. Proceedings of Council at their meeting on the 30th of November last with appoinment of a Special Committee of the Council for further Consideration of the business.*

"The quhilk day in presence of the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill compeirit personallie the persewaris and defendaris abonewreittin, and siclyk compeirit personallie the provest, bailleis, and deane of gild of Edinburgh; who alledgeit the barking of ledder to be frie to all the frie burgessis of this kingdome and that no corporatioun sould be of that trade. The Lordis haveing hard the pairteyis, and considerrit the ansueris and overtouris givin in be the barkaris, thay fand that thair is ane verry greit abuse in the barking and tanning of ledder, quhairby this countrey ressaveis great damage and hurte, and that thair is a necessitie of reformatioun of this abuse. And, becaus the utheris important affairis of the Estate occurring at the Counsaill table will not admitt tyme nor laser to the hail Counsaill to advyse and resolve upoun the particularis concerneing this reformatioun, and finding that the same wilbe better done be a few number to be nominat and appoyntit to that effect nor be the hail Counsaill: Thairfoir the saidis Lordis hes nominat and appoyntit the Erles of Wyntoun and Lotheane, the Lord Carnegy, the Clerk of Register and Advocat, Sir Williame Livingstoun of Kilsaythe, Sir George Erskene of Innerteill, Sir James Skene of Curryhill, and Sir Robert Denneistoun, Conservatour, or ony fyve of thame, with suche utheris of the Counsaill as salbe pleasit to conveine with thame, to attend this bussynes, with pouer to thame to appoynt thair awne tymes and plaices of meiteing, and to confer, reasoun, mak overtouris, and lay down groundis how and by what meanis the said abuse of tanning of ledder may be reformed and the trew and upright forme of tanning may be brought to practize within this kingdome, and how the countrey may be weill served within the selff with goode ledder, and tuotcheing all utheris particularis requisit and necessair in this earand, and to reporte thair conclusioun heiranent to his Majesteis Counsaill, to the efect the same may accordinglie ressave thair approbatioun and allowance. And, the saidis Lordis finding it requisite that some for the burgh of Edinburgh and some for the cordinaris and barkaris sall lykewayes be nominat to attend and awaitt upoun the saidis Lordis for giveing unto thame suche informatioun as thay can in this bussynes and for resolveing of thame of suche questionis and doubtis as sall result thairpoun: thairfoir the Provost and Bailleis of Edinburgh nominat Nicoll Udward, baillie, David Aikinheid, deane of gild, Johnne Byiris, mercheant, and Robert Meiklejohnne, skynner, and the saidis Cordinaris nominat Archibald Cleghorne, deacone of the cordinaris of

Edinburgh, Alexander and Mathow Craufurd, and Johnne Pollok, cordinaris, of Edinburgh, and the Barkaris nominat Niniane Andersone in James Gibbiesoun in Linlythgw, George Bruce in Abirdene, Stephane Lorymer in Edinburgh -quhilkis personis, being personallie present wer commandit to attend and awaitt upoun the saidis Lordis and to be reddy when they could be callit upoun at thair meiteingis to confer with thame upoun this mater, and how and be quhat meanis the said reformatioun may be effectuat, and for resolveing of thame of suche questionis and doubtis as sall occur and result thairupoun.

*Proceedings of Committee of Council on 1st December last.*

*Sederunt* -Wyntoun; Lotheane; Carnegy; Clerk of Register; Advocate; Kilsaythe; Innerteill; Currihill; Conservator: the commissioneraris nominat for the burgh of Edinburgh, the Cordinaris, and Barkaris [see their names *supra*] being present.

"The quhilk day the Lordis Commissionaris abonewreittin nominat the clerk of Register to be president of thair meiteing.-The quhilk day, the commissionaris nominat be the Cordinaris being demandit yf thair wes ony weill barkit hydis within this kingdome, [they] ansuerit and declairit that the countrey wes verry far abused in the [bark]ing of thair hydis, and that they nevir saw a hyde weill barkit within [this king]dome, the occasion thair of procciding frome the sluggishnes bot principallie frome the unskilfulnes of the tannaris thame selflis, quho [suffer] not thair hydis to ly in the pottis till they ressave the full strenthe of [the bark], bot takis the same oute rawe, and takis no paines in dressing and drying the same; and thay declairit forder that in thair oppinioun the [tanneris] mon have the assistance of some strangeris skilfull in that trade [to instruct] thame. The commissionaris nominat be the Barkaris being present, and demandit yf thay be skilfull in the right forme of tanning and yf thay be able [to mak] goode barkit hydis, thay ansuerit and declairit that thay nouter can nor ar able to bark thair hydis so weill as thay ar barkit [in England]; and, [being] demandit quhat is the caus thair of, thay declairit that the Scottish hydis ar not so goode as the Engliche hydis, and that thay [*blank*] ar transportit rough be mercheantis. And, it being objectit unto thame that, ane Scottish hyde being caryed to England upoun any pairt of the Borderis and barkit thair, that it will prove as goode as ane Engliche hyde of lyke quantitie, thay ansuerit that the caus thair of proceidis frome the bark, quhilk althocht it be small and schairp aneugh, yitt thay haif not mylnes to grind it as it is ground in England, quhairas the bark of England is strong and of the body of the trie, and thay have milnes to grind it. And, thay being demandit how lang commounlie thay suffer thair hydist to ly in the pott, thay ansuerit that commounlie thay will ly xvijj oulkis in the pottis, and that thay tak thame oute in pairtis as thay have ado, and thay declairit, as of befoir, that thay haid not perfyte nor goode skill in tanning.-The Lordis appoyntis Fryday nixt for thair nixt meiteing, and ordanis the Commissionaris of Edinburgh to gif in thair overtouris how the ignorance and want of skill in tanning of ledder, quhilk is the caus of the abuse, may be removed and helpit."

*VI. Proceedings of Committee of Council on 3rd December last.*

*Sederunt ut in die predicto*: the Commissionaris for Edinburgh, the Cordinaris. and Barkaris, present.

"The quhilk day the Commissionaris for Edinburgh declairit that, sieing it is confest that thair is ane abuse in the tanning of ledder, that thairfoir it is expedient for the weill of the countrey that thair salbe ane reformatioun of this abuse; bot anent the meanis how this reformatioun salbe maid thay can gif no overtouris.-The Lordis appoyntis unto thame, and to the Cordinaris and Barkaris, the aucht of this instant to compeir and to gif thair advyse and oppinioun quhidder it is more expedyent that strangeris salbe broght in to instruct the countrey people in the right forme of tanning, or that some of the countrey people salbe send oute of the countrey to learne that trade, or yf bothe salbe done, and by quhat meanis or in quhat forme the one or the uther salbe effectuat."

*VII. Proceedings of the Committee of Council on the 8th of December last, with their decision that Strangers must be brought into the Country to teach the true art of Tanning.*

*Sederunt* –Wyntoun; Lotheane; Lauderdaill; Carnegy; Clerk of Register; Kilsaythe, Innerteill; Advocate; Curryhill; Conservator: the Commissionaris for Edinburgh and the Cordinaris, with George Bruce and Niniane Andersoun for the Barkaris, present.

The quhilk day the saidis George Bruce and Niniane Andersone declairit that thay haid no forder to say in this mater nor thay have alreddy said; and the Commissionaris for Edinburgh declairit that thay could gif no advyse in that mater-The Lordis finding it meite and expedient for the weill of the countrey that some strangeris salbe broght in to instruct the countrey people in the right forme of tanning, thairfoir thay ordane the Commissionaris for Edinburgh and the Cordinaris to compeir befor saidis Lordis this day aucht dayes, to gif thair advyse and oppinioun unto the saidis Lordis quhat strangeris salbe broght and fra quhat pairtis, quhat number salbe broght in, be quhome and upoun quhose chargeis thay salbe broght in, quhair and in quhat burrowis they salbe plaicet, how thay salbe intertenyit, how lang thay salbe haldin in this countrey, and quhat course salbe taine with the Barkaris to compell thame to learne thair trade of tanning frome the strangeris."

*VIII Minute of meeting of the Committee of Council on 15th December last and copy of Objections then given in by the Commissioners for the burgh of Edinburgh to the proposals of the Committee.*

*Sederunt* -Wyntoun; Lotheane; Roxburgh; Lauderdaill; Carnegy; Clerk of Register; Curryhill; Conservator: the Commissionaris for Edinburgh and the Cordinaris present.

The Commissionaris for Edinburgh produceit and gaif in thair ansuer underwreittin to the articles givin to thame to be advyseit with and ansuerit this day, -Followis the ansueris givin in be the Commissionaris for the burgh of Edinburgh ;

The Articles exhibited be the Lordis of the Counsall to the Commissionaris of Edinburgh and offerrit to [thairl consideratioun, anent the questionis presentlie contravertit [anent] the abuse of tanning of ledder.

Quhat strangeris salbe broght in.  
Fra quhat pairtis thay salbe broght.  
Quhat number salbe broght in.  
Be whome thay salbe broght in and upoun whose charge.  
Quhair and in quhat burrowis thay salbe plaiced.  
How thay salbe intertenyit.  
How long thay salbe keipit in this countrey.  
Quhat course salbe tane with the barkaris to compel thame to learne thair trade of tanning frome the strangeris.

*Ansueris be the said commissionaris.*

Quhairas it hes pleased the Soverane Court of this realme to putt to the consideratioun and tryell of the Lordis of his [Majesteis] most honourabill Previe Counsall ane supplicatioun presented befor thame be Alexander and Mathow Crawfoordes and Johnne Kleland, cordinaris of Edinburgh, conteneing certane abuseis committit be the tannaris in tanning of thair ledder, and seiking redress of the same in maner contenit in the same supplicatioun: We say and alledge that nane of these articles abonewreittin can fall within the compass of this tryell. -First, becaus this judgement is establischt be commissioun frome the courte of Parliament, and cannot proceid in this caice bot in the matter remitted be Parliament to be discussed, since all commissionis are limited and *stricti juris* bothe in forme and mater; bot sua it is that nane of these articles ar remitted be Parliament to your lordschippis consideratioun, and thairfoir cannot be heir intreated.-Secoundlie, since the supplicatioun exhibited in Parliament is the ground of this present treatie, thair can no more be heir determined than is be the supplicantis requyred; bot so it is thair is no moir of thame requyred bot the reformatioun of tua abuses committit be the tannaris of ledder, the ane in presenting the same weitt to the mercat, the uther in not suffering the same to ly sufficient tyme in the taunpottis to ressave the strenth of the tann, and the maner of remeid sett down, viz. charge to



be givin to the tannaris to suffer thair ledder ly ane sufficient tyme in the tannpottis, nixt to dry the same befor it be presentit to mercatt; which being to the supplicantis grantit, no moir can be by thame requyred, and sua neideth no furder discussing of these articles.-Thridlie, the abuses complenit upoun may be reformeit withoute discussing of any of the articles abone specefiet; for thair is no questioun bot the ledder may be sufferrit to ly in the tannpottis till it ressave the full strenth, and the barkaris may be chargeit to bring it dry to the mercatt, withoute inbringing of any strangeris. Lykeas, the same tua abuses being complenit upoun be the subjectis of England, the same by Act of Parliament wes ordaneit be thame selffis to be reformeit, withoute inbringing of any strangeris, as at lenth is contenit in the 13 Par. Rich. 2. cap. 12 and sindrie Parliamentis thairefter ensewing. Lykeas we do offer in name of the tannaris of this realme that they sall tann the ledder of this realme als sufficientlie with Scottis bark and mak the same als serviceabill for the use of the countrey as the tannaris of England or any uther can do, withoute trouble, burdeyne or damage to the leigeis, or alteration in any poynte.-We truist these ar reassonis sufficient and forceable ynough to gif contentment to the supplicantis withoute ony forder discussing of these articles; concerneing whiche yf we wald enter in dispute, we could schaw thay wald bring more damage to the natioun and to his Majesteis leigeis then the abuseis complenit upoun doeth bring prejudice, and it is not fitt that the remeidis be schearper then the disease, especiallie since the reformatioun desyred proceidis frome the desyre of sum few privat personis, without any publict warrand, and rather induced for thair awne privat then for the publict weill; which, howsomevir in this caice is pretendit, yit is to be feared to be the least of thair aymes. For utherwayes, yf your lordschippes wald enter into a deip searche of the mater it selff concerneing the generall abuse of the ledder and the prejudice of his Majesteis leigeis sustenit thairby (whiche be this commissioun your lordschippis can not, since it is limited to the supplicatioun and articles thairin contenit), we wald evidentialie prove that the same doeth not meirly proceid of the Tannaris, bot thair is joynd to thame in this the Cordiner and Curryer, -whiche tua last mak not up the least part of this breache, and that withoute reformatioun of thair abuseis the uther is to no purpos, and yf suche overtouris as sould indeid tend to the publict goode. Bot, since the mater is of so deip a tinctour and so full of thornie questionis as the same did occupy so wyse a state as our nighbour countrey of England and the haill Estaittis thairof twentie tua severall Parliamentis, quhairin wes the heidis and wittis both of many hundreth of thair knychtis and commonis of thair lawer hous, as alsua [of] the Lordis spirituall and temporall, busied many not sessionis onlie, [bot] yeiris abone hundrethis, we hoip it sall not be offensive to your lordschippis [yf] we, who are scairce ane handfull of the meanest both in witt and [suffici]encie interessid in this bussynes, cannot tak upoun ws in so [difficult] a mater so suddenlie in so few houris to resolve, and thairfoir [that your] lordschippis wald be pleased to remitt the same to his Majestie and [to the Estaittis] of Parliament, to whome it doeth right appretene, or uth[erwayes that] such competencie of tyme might be grantit and suche sufficiencie [and] portioun of noblemen, gentilmen, and burgessis frome the principall schirefdomes and burrowis of this relame might be grantit [who wald] reassoun heirupoun and gif your lordschippis suche overtouris thairin that [ye] might proceid with so wyse a counsaill and be caryet with so evin [a hand that] heirefter the subjectis sould have no caus of complaynt and ye [wald] enjoy the fruittis of your honourabill serviceis; quhilk is approbatioun of God, thankis of his Majestie, and the hairtlye wischeis and prayeris of the haill subjectis to blisse your lordschippis in your privat estates, quhilk [hes] beine so respective of the publict."

*IX. Decision of the whole Council at their meeting on 16th December last.*

"The quhilk day the Lordis Commissionaris nominat be the Counsaill for the mater of reformeing of the abuse of tanning of ledder produceit befor the Lordis of Secret Counsaill the articles abonewreittin givin in be the Commissionaris of Edinburgh; quhilkis being red in the presence and audiance of the saidis Lordis, the saidis Lordis, withoute ony respect thairto, ordanis the Lordis Commissionaris foirsaidis to keip and contenow thair ordinarie meiteingis with suche utheris of the Counsaill as pleis to convene with thame, and to confer, advyse and resolve upoun the articles sett down be thame selffis anent the inbringing of strangeris, and upoun the best and reddiest meanis to reforme the abuse of tanning of ledder, and to report thair conclusionis to the Counsaill."

*X. Conclusions of the Committee of Council at their meeting on 22nd December 1619.*

*Sederunt* -Lotheane ; Lauderdaill; Carnegy; Clerk of Register, Kilsaythe ; Innerteill; Advocate; Conservator.

"Forsameikle as it hes bene grantit and confest be the Barkaris and Cordinaris that thair is ane greit abuse in the tanning of ledder within this kingdome and that the abuse proceidis frome the ignorance and unskillfulnes of the tannaris thameselffis, it is thairfoir thocht meite and expedyent for reformeing of this abuse that some strangeris skilfull in the arte of tanning salbe broght frome England to this kingdome to instruct the tannaris in the trew and upright forme of tanning, and that this number sall consist of tuelf personis, and that thay salbe broght in betuix and the first day of Junij nixtocome, and that thay sal remaine in this countrey for instructing of the countrey people as said is till the first of Januar 1622, within the quhilk space it is thocht that the tannaris, yf thay be willing, may learne the trew forme of tanning of ledder. By and attour this number it is alsua thocht meite that suche utheris strangeris, barkaris and tannaris of ledder, as pleissis to come in this countrey upoun thair awin haisaird betuix and the first day of Januar 1621 sall be frie to come and to use the trade of tanning for suche speace and withe suche liberteis as the Counsaill shall allow unto thame. And at the inbringing of thir tuelf personis thay salbe presentit befor his Majesteis Counsaill, or suche of the Counsaill as salbe nominat to that effect; befoire whome thay salbe tane deiplie sworne to schowe and declair the trew and perfyte forme of barking and tanning of ledder, in all the poyntes, headis, and circomestanceis thairof, quhat abuseis and corruptionis ar incident to that trade, and how the same may be preventit and reformed; as also thay sail declair upoun thair oathe by whate meanis a weill barkit hyde may be knowne fra ane evill barkit hyde, and quhair of the abuse of evill barking proceidis. And thay sail lykewayes be taine deiplie sworne to deale faithfullie and trewlie with the countrie people by instructing of thame in the hail poyntis of tanning, and that thay sail conceale no poynte nor head thairof frome thame. The charge of the in-bringing of thir strangeris and the burdeyne of thair interteynement dureing the tyme of thair aboade heir salbe layed upoun him whome his Majestie salbe pleasit to truish with the seale. Thir strangeris being broght and presentit and sworne befor his Majesteis Counsaill, thay salbe directit and disperst throughoute the hail kingdome, and some speciall personis salbe nominat and appoyntit in every schyre to designe unto the strangeris the pairtis and plaiceis within every schyre quhairunto thay sall repair, the termes and dyettis of thair repairing thair, and how long thay sall remaine in every plaice. In the quhilk placeis the strangeris salbe haldin to instruct the tannaris [how to] dresse thair pottis and use thair bark, and in all utheris poyntis [and] subjectis concerneing that trade and quhilkis may produce [ane benefeit] thairin thay sail conceale nor hald up no thing. It is thocht meite that thir strangeris salbe disperseit and [send through]oute the kingdome in maner following:- to witt, ane for the [schirefdomes] of Elgin, Forress, Narne, Innernes and Cromartie, one [for the schirefidomes of Abirdene and Banff, one for the schirefdomes of [Kincardine] and Forfar, one for the schireffdome of Perth and Stewartrie [of Strath]erne, one for the schirefdomes of Fyffe and Kinrosse, one for the schirefdomes of Strivilling and Clakmannan, Stewartrie of Mentethe, and [blank] kirkis of the Lennox, ane for the schirefdomes of Dunbartane and [Argyll], ane for the schirefdome of Lanark, ane for the schirefdomes of [Air and] Renfrew and bailliereis of Kyle, Carrik and Cunynghame, ane for [the] shirefdome of Wigtoun and Stewartrie of Kirkcudbright, ane for the [shirefdome] of Drumfreis and Stewartrie of Annanderdaill, ane for the shirefdomes of Selkirk and Peiblis, ane for the schirefdomes of Berw[ick] and [2 lines illegible] concerning this bussynes and appoyntis thair nixt meiteing to be opoun the xiiij day of Januar nixtocome."

*Edinburgh 14<sup>th</sup> January 1620*

*Sederunt* -Lauderdaill; Clerk of Register; Kilsaythe; Advocate; Innerteill; Conservator.

"The quhilk day the thrie articles underwreittin wer proponit be the Lordis Commissionaris to be considerrit be thame againe thair nixt meiteing, appointit to be upoun the xix day of Januar instant, [to] the effect that upoun consideratioun thay may with the better warrand sett down the pryce of the seale -First, Quhat wilbe the chargeis of the inbringing and interteyning of the strangeris dureing the prefixt tyme of thair aboade in this kingdome. [2] Quhat number of personis wilbe requisite to be appointit throughoute the hail kingdome for tryeing of the sufficiencie of the hydys and sealeing of the same, and quhat thair chargeis will

extend to. [3] How many hydys be probable conjectour are barkit and putt in worke within this kingdome."

As will be observed, this is not a meeting of the whole Council, but only of that special Committee of the Council, consisting of nine designated members and as many more as chose to attend, which had been appointed

on the 30th of November last (ante pp. 164, 165). There had been five meetings of the Committee already, the last on the 22nd of December (ante pp. 170-171).

*Edinburgh 25<sup>th</sup> June 1620*

"The quhilk day the Lordis Commissionaris maid thair reporte to the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill of thair proceidingis sen the last reporte, especiallie anent the pryce of the seale, and produceit befor the Lordis thair actis maid and drawne up to that effect; quhilkis being red in the presence and audience of the saidis Lordis and considerit be thame, the saidis Lordis allowis verry weill of the proceidingis of the Commissionaris in this mater, and ordanis the clerk to draw up the forme of ane bussynes and to showe the same to the Commissionaris upoun the xxvij of this instant, to the effect thay may be advyseit thairwith and may reporte the same to the Counsaill upoun the first of Februar now approtcheing."

*Edinburgh 1<sup>st</sup> Februaru 1620*

*Sederunt* -Chancellor; Treasurer; Bishop of St Androis; Bishop of Glasow; Wyntoun; Wigtoun; Lotheane; Melros; Lauderdaill; Lord Erskene; Cranstoun; Carnegy; Master of Elphinstoun ; Privy Seal; Justice Clerk; Clerk of Register; Advocate ; Kilsaythe; Bruntylland; Ridhous; Innerteill; Curryhill; Foistersait ; Sir Andro Ker; Conservator.

The quhilk day the Lordis Commissionaris produceit befor the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill the missive and signatour drawne up to be send to his Majestie anent the Barking and Tanning of Ledder; quhilk missive and signatour being red in the saidis Lordis audience and considerrit be thame, the saidis Lordis allowit verrie weill of the forme of the said missive and signatour; and, in talking of thair allowance of the same, thay subscriyveit the said missive. -Followis the missive. -Most sacred Soverane,-According to the commissioun and warrand of the lait Parliament [*ante*, Vol. xi. pp. cxi-cxiii] and your Majesteis command and directioun following thairupoun [*ante*, p. 159], we have haid diverse meiteingis and conferenceis upoun that subject recommendit unto ws anent the reformeing of the abuse of tanning of ledder within this kingdome, and we callit befor ws some of the principall Tannaris of the cheif burrowis and certaine Cordonaris of gode credeit, knowledge and exerie in that trade; be whome we ar trewlie and sufficientlie informed that the said abuse proceidis frome the ignorance and unskilfulnes of the tannaris thame selffis, and that thair is a necessitie of inbringin, of strangeris for instructing of thame in the right forme of tanning. Quhairupoun, after mature and lang deliberatioun, we have layd down some groundis how and be whome thir strangeris sould be broght in and intertenyt dureing the prefixt tyme of thair abode heir, quhat conditionis thay salbe subject and tyed unto, and quhat course salbe prescryveit unto thame tuotcheing thair behaviour and cariage; lykeas we have maid some provisionis and cautionis for the dewitifull cariage of these whome your Majestie salbe pleased to trust with the seale; with the particularis quhair of being loathe to impesch your Majesteis more important and princelie affairis, we ar only to acquaynt your Majestie with this one poynte, -that the[*blank*] and charge of the inbringin and intertenying of thir strangeris, and [*blank*] utheris the debursementis to be maid in this service, must be [*blank*] him who salbe trusted with the seale. And, becaus the service wilbe chargeabill unto him, and that in mony yeiris the commoditie arrysing [frome the seale] will not be ansuerabill to his debursementis, and we haveing [*blank*]oun that this intendit reformatioun will prove verry profitabill [not] only to the tannaris bot to the hail kingdome, we have thairfoir appoyntit the pryce of iiijjs. Scotis money upoun every hyde that salbe sealled [within] the terme of xxj yeiris, at the expyreing of the quhilk terme, becaus [the] service will then become facile and easie withoute ony forder necessitie [of] advancement, we have appoyntit the pryce of, the seall to be only [xijs] Scottis thairefter. Quhairupoun, according to your Majesteis directioun, we [haif] drawne up, and heirwith send unto your Majestie, ane signatour [*blank*] the speace of xxxj yeiris, to the effect your Majestie efter consideratioun may tak suche forder course thairin as your Majestie of your wisdoms shall hold fittest. And so, humblie praying your [*blank*] in goode pairt our

simple travellis and indeavouris in this bussynes, frome our hairtis praying God to blisese your Majestie with the [blank] of mony lang and happie dayes, we rest for evir. Frome Edinburgh the tent day of Februar 1620.-Sic subscribitur: AL. Cancellar.; Mar; St Androis; Ja: Glasgw; Wyntoun; Wigtoun; Lotheane; Melros; Cranstoun; Camegy; Mr of Elphinstoun; Sir George Hay; Sir Williame Oliphant.-Followis the signatour:-

Oure Sovereane Lord ordanis ane letter to be maid under the great scale in dew forme makand mentioun that, quhairas in the Parliament haldin at Edinburgh in the moneth of Junij the yeir of God jmvjc and sevintene yeiris thair wes ane supplicatioun presentit to the King his Majestie and his Estaitis thair convenit, in name of the cordinaris and handleris of ledder within the kingdome of Scotland, compleneing of the ignorance of the barkaris and tannaris of ledder and of the mony abuseis committit be thame through thair unskilfull handling of thair ledder, quhairthrow the saidis cordinaris wer constrayned, to thair greite haisard and trouble and hurt of the countrey, to mak thair provisioun of ledder for furnishing of the countrey abroad; and the Kingis Majestie, oute of his princelie and tender respect to the commoun weill of this kingdome, being cairfull that the said abuse sould be reformed, and that the trew and upright forme of tanning sould be broght in practize within the said kingdome; and his Majesteis most important and. weyghtie affairis occurring in the said Parliament not admitting his Majestie the opportunitie nor laiser at that tyme to advyse, resolve and determine upoun that subject; thairfoir his Majestie, with advyse of his Estaitis, remittit the ordour taking thairwith to the Lordis of his Majesteis Previe Counsaill, and sensyne his Majestie hes of new recommendit the same unto thame be writte: Quhairupoun the saidis Lordis haveing callit befoir thame a number of the principall barkaris and tannaris of ledder within the said kingdome, with certane cordinaris of goode reporte, knowledge, and experience in that trade, and haveing haid diverse meiteingis and conferrenceis with thame, alsweill anent the said abuse as anent the meanis how to reforme the same; and it being trewlie and deirlie confest and grantit that the said abuse proccidis frome the unskilfulnes of the tannaris thameselfis, and that thair wes a necessitie of inbringing of strangeris for instructing of thame in the right forme of tanning, the saidis Lordis thairupoun enterit in deliberatioun how thair project anent the inbringing of strangeris might be effectual, and, haveing at grite lenth and in diverse and sindrie meiteingis conferrit and advyseit thairupoun, thay have in end with goode and mature advyse and deliberatioun resolveit upoun certane heidis, articleis, and conditionis, bothe anent the inbringing of the strangeris, thair intertenyment and furnissing during the tyme of thair aboade heir, the distributioun of thame throughout the countrey for instructing of the countrey people, the conditionis quhairunto thay salbe tyed and in this service, and upoun certrane utheris poyntis toucheing the advancement of the said service, and thay have appoynted and prefixt a certaine terme, to witt the first day of Januar in the yeir of God jmvjc and tuentie tua yeiris, within the quhilk the barkaris, yf thei be willing, may have convenient tyme to learne the trew and perfyte forme of tanning, and after the expyreing of that terme thay have ordaneit that no hydys sould be presentit to mercatt, sauld, or putt in worke till the sufficiencie thairof be approvyn be a seale to be sett and stampit thairon; and thay have maid sindrie provisionis and cautionis aganis the keiparis of the seale for thair dewytifull cariage in that charge; and thay have thocht meite that the persone whome his Majestie wilbe pleasit to truist with the said seale shall have the charge and burdeyne of the inbringing and intertenying of the strangeris, and of all uther debursementis in this service, as in the articles maid and set down be the saidis Lordis to this effect, conteneing diverse utheris clausis and conditionis for the furtherance of this worke, at lenthe is contenit. And, his Majestie allowing verry weill of the proceedingis of his Majesteis Counsaill in this bussynes, and accordinglie finding it verry meite and expedyent for the credite and weill of the said kingdome that the saidis strangeris salbe broght in for instructing of the countrey people, and that thair salbe a seale maid for sealeing of the saidis hydys, and that the inbringing of the saidis strangeris and keiping of the said seale salbe committit to some persone of credite who wilbe cairfull to approve himselff worthie of that charge and truist reposit be his Majestie in him for the weill and bene[feit of the] countrey; and his Majestie haveing goode prooff of the honestie [blank]tioun and worthie inclinatioun of his traist cousigne and counsel[lour Johnne], Lord Erskene, whose bypast behaviour and cariage in the [blank] progress of his actionis hes beine and is so weill approvyn to his [Majestie: Thair]foir his Majestie, with advyse of the Lordis of his Secreit Counsaill, [hes com]mittit, and be the tennour heirof committis, the charge and [blank]ing of the saidis strangeris and of the keiping of the said seale to [the said] Johnne, Lord Erskene, and giveis to him, his airis and assigneis, the [blank] thairof, and makis and constituteis thame keiparis of the said [seale for] the hail speace, termeis, and yeiris of threttie ane yeiris nixt and [im]mediatlie following the

date heirof, with power to thame to [bring] in the saidis strangeris for instructing of the countrey people [in the] right forme of tanning of ledder, and to direct and disperse thame [through] the countrey for that effect after that thay salbe presentit to the [Lordis of Secret] Counsaill, and that thay have ressaveit the direetioun [of the Lordis] of his Majesteis Counsaill concerneing thair behaviour and cariage [in this] service; as alsua to caus mak the said seale, with a crowned [lyoun] on the ane syde thairof, and to appoynt deputtis for quhome thay salbe ansuerabill in all and convenient pairtis and placeis of the kingdome, according to the conclusionis of his Majesteis Counsaill, for trying of the sufficiencie of all hydys that shalbe presentit to mercat, sauld or put in worke, and for sealeing of the same; and generallie all and sindrie thingis necessar and belonging to the charge of keiping of the said seale to do and use quhilkis lauchfullie in suche a caise may bedone; ferme and stable halding and for to hald all and quhatsumevir thing shalbe laughfullie done heirin; with this speciall provision and condition alwayes, that the said Johnne, Lord Erskene, and his foirsaidis, shall conforme thame seIffis to the conclusionis of his Majesteis Counsaill alreddy maid and sett down in the progres of this bussynes.

And, his Majestie considering that the said Johnne, Lord Erskene, wilbe drivine in verry grite chargeis and expenssis upoun occasioun of this service, not only be the inbringing and intertenyng of strangeris dureing the appoyntit tyme of thair aboade heir and in directing of thame through the countrey and appoynting of deputeis in all convenient placeis to attend that charge and service, bot through ane number of uther occasiouis quhilkis daylie will intervane and occure in the said service, quhilkis will requyre daylie debursementis; and haveing respect thairwithall to the greit benefeite that this reformatioun will produce not only to the tannaris bot to the haill countrey: Thairfoir, and for retributioun of the saidis chargeis and expenssis, and for the said Johnne, Lord Erskene, his haisaird and adventour in this so necessair and proffitabill a worke, his Majestie, with advyse foirsaid, hes givin, grantit, and allowit, and be the tennour heirof gives, grantis, and allowis to the said Johnne, Lord Erskene, his airis and assigneyis, dureing the first tuentie ane yeiris of this patent, the sowme of four schillingis Scottis money upoun the hyde as the pryce of the seale, to be upliftit be thame and to be payit be the awnaris of every hyde that salbe sealed be thame as said is; and, the said tuentie ane yeiris being expyreit, becaus the service will then become facile and easie and that no forder advancement *is* to be maid thairupoun, his Majestie, with advyce foirsaid, allowis only to the said Johnne, Lord Erskene, and his foirsaidis, dureing the last ten yeiris of this patent, the sowme of tuelf pennnyis Scottis upoun the hyde allanerlie, to be payit be the awnair of the hyde as said is. And, for eschewing of all questioun that may aryse betuix the said Johnne, Lord Erskene, and his foirsaidis, and the awnaris of the hydys, anent the qualitie of the hydys, his Majestie, with advyce foirsaid, declairis that four stirk hydys of tua yeir auld or within salbe comptit for ane hyde.

And his Majestie, with advyse foirsaid, dischargeis heirby all his Majesteis subjectis that nane of thame presooome nor tak upoun hand to mak use, or counterfute the said seale, bot to suffer the said Johnne, Lord Erskene, his airis and assigneyis, to have, brooke, and enjoy the benefeite, libertie, and priviledge of the said seale, conforme to this his Majesteis patent and gift maid to thame thairupoun, under the paine to be callit, persewit, and punist in thair personis and goodis as counterfutters of his Majesteis seales, with all rigour and withoute favour or mercie. And that the said letter be extendit in the best forme, with all claussis neidfull, and that preceptis be direct thairupoun in forme as effeiris: -Givin at Whitehall the aught day of Marche 1620, according to theScottis calculatioun, and of his Majesteis reigne the sevintene and fiftie thrie yeiris.

*Holyroodhouse 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1620*

“The quhilk day in presence of the Lordis of Secret Councaill compeirit personallie George Harisone in Durhame in England, Nicolas Rich[ard]soun thair, Cuthbert Huchesoun thair, Edward Craigis thair, Cuthbert Huchesoun, youngair, thair, Johnne Robisoun thair, Thomas Dobiesoun thair, Thomas Dobiesoun, youngar, thair, Robert Haissell thair, Johnne Heroun [in] Hexame, Phillop Kiltoun of Chester of the Streit, Reynold Milburne in Hexame, Hary Tuedaill thair, George Ogill thair, and Thomas Waillis in Morpett, George Lambert in Durhame, and George Wilsoun in Morpett, and gaif thair greit and solemne oathe to instruct the tannaris and barkaris of ledder [in] this kingdome in the trew and perfyte forme of tanning, and sall conceale [no] poynte of that trade frome thame, and that thay sall declair to suche as the Counsaill sall appoynt the trew and perfyte forme of tanning, quhat abuseis and corruptionis are incident to that trade, how the same may be reformeit, and by quhat meanis

ane weil barkit hyde may be knowne frome ane evill barkit hyde, and quhair of the abuse of evill barking proceidis. The Lordis nominatis the commissionaris quho attendit this [bussynes] of befoir, or suche of thame as may be present, to convene upoun Satterday nixt in the laiche Counsalhous of Edinburgh, and confer with thir [personis] in the particularis concerneing this bussynes."

*Edinburgh 24th June 1620.*

*Sederunt -Wyntoun; Carnegy; Clerk of Register; Advocate; Innerteil ; Curryhill; Kilsayth; Ridhous; Conservator.*

"The quhilk day the Ingliche tannaris particularlie [abonewreittin, p. 294] compeirand personallie befoir the Lordis of [Secreit Counsail, the questionis] following wer proponed unto tham, quhairunto thay wer ordaned to gif a direct ansuer according to thair oathes givin to that effect:

Quhat abuseis are committit be the boutcheouris in fleaing and keiping of the hydys.

How and in what maner the hydys are to be lymmed and how to be watterit afoir the lymming.

How long hydys are to ly in the lyme pottis and how oft sall thay be changeit quhen thay ly thair.

How many lyme pottis are necessair at least to every tannair, and of quhat quantitie, breid, and deipnes.

How the hydys salbe watterilt after thay ar tane oute of the lyme pottis, and the lyme tane frome thame with culver dung, or utherwayes.

Quhat forder is to be done with the hydys afoir thay be broght to the tan pottis.

How many tan pottis at least is necessair for every tannair.

Off quhat lenthe, breid, and deipnes, and yf the same salbe lynned with tymmer or stane, and yf the same salbe covered, and yf halff Spanische pypis or tubbis of a lyke quantitie will serve.

How long the best hydys for soill ledler shall ly in the pottis, and how long uther ledler.

How oft sall the hydys be changed in new woustis at the first beginning to tanne, and how oft afterwardis, and how the waiker and stronger woustis are maid and used.

How the hydys are to be used after thay ar taine oute of the pottis, and how thay salbe dried in dry or wake [watel wedder.

How a hyde being dried salbe knowne to be weil tanned.

Ansueris givin be the tannaris to the Articleis particularlie abonewreittin.

Thair is a grite abuse in the boutcheouris by slascheing of the hydys and cutting some of the rime away, quhairby a pairt of the substance of the hyde [is taine] away and the hyde maid the moir apt to ressave watter; and thair is a greit abuse also in the boutchour by cutting and taking away a pairt of the hyde callit in Scotland a tar ledler.

It is requisite that every tannair haveing a goode stock sall have tua lyme pottis at least for changeing of the hydys frome ane pot to another to witt ane (for greyne] ledler and the uther for rype ledler; bot, yf his stok will not ansuer to [the tua pottis], then he must refresche the lyme oftner. And thir pottis ar to be [of sax] or sevin fute in lenth, foure foote breid, and four or fyve foote deip.

The hydys being broght from the boutcheour to the tannair, thay ar to be cassin in freasche watter, thair to ly thrie or four dayes till the bloode and filthe be suckit oute and tane away. Thairefter thay ar to be putt in a lyme pott, thair to ly fyve or sax weikis till thay be sufficientlie lymmed; and thrie dayes every weik thay ar to be han it and sighted and changeit fra pott till pott, for eschewing of putrifaction; and, being taine oute of the lymepottis, thay ar to be cassin in freasche watter, thair to ly ane day or ane night, till the lyme be waschin af.

Thairefter thay ar to be putt in a baitt of freasche watter, with pigeoun or dow dung or hen pen, thair to ly aught dayes till the lyme be cleine wrought oute of thame.

The lyme being cleane wrought oute, the hydys ar then to be broght to the wousceis of the bark pottis; of quhilkis pottis every barker must have at the least fyve or sax, tua for lapping and the rest for handling; and the pottis for lapping must be sevin fute long, fyve fute brid, and fyve fute deip, and the pottis for handling ane yaird squair every way, lynned with tymmer or staine, as the commodity affoordis, and covered yf the awnair thinkis meit for eschewing of thift.

The hydys being broght to the bark pottis and wouseeis, thay ar to be shifted and handled frome ane pott to another: to witt, frome a worse to a better every thrid day or oftner as the occasioun presentis, till thay be sufficientlie tanned. And thir wouseeis ar maid of watter and bark; and of the bark quhilk the tannaris of this kingdome castis oute of thair bark pottis the Englische tannaris makis thair best wouseeis and liquour, with some litle refresching and renewing.

Ane hyde for over ledder must ly tuentie four weikis in the pott, and the hyde for soll ledder xxviij weikis, or les yf the ledder be weill fallowit, at the diseretioun of the awnair.

The hydys being sufficientlie tanned and tane out of the bark pottis, thay ar then to be dried with the ayre, -to witt, thay must be hung up upoun sparris to be dried in convenient placeis according as the seasoun and wedder sall fall oute. And thay are to be keipit frome rayne and nevir to be dried by fire [bot] upoun plain necessitie, and in drying of the hydys all [violent and extreame] heittis ar to be eschewit.

Ane man of skill and experyence will know yf [a dried hyde be weill] tanned by the sight, and ony uther man will know [be handling of the same]: to witt, yf it be weill tanned, it wilbe quhyte or gray, [and yf it be not weill] tanned it will be blak, and the cutting of the hyde in the taill or the head."

*Holyrood- house, 1st July 1620.*

*Sederunt -Chancellor; Wyntoun; Wigtoun; Bugeleugh; Melros; Bishop of Abirdene; Bishop of Ross; Lauderdaill; Lord Erskine; Master of Elphinstoun; Treasurer Depute; Justice Clerk; Clerk of Register; Advocate; Kilsaythe; Ridhous; Innerteill; Foistersait ; Sir Andro Ker; Conservator.*

"Forsamekle as, the Kingis Majestie, oute of his princelie and tender regaird towardis the honnour, credite, and benefite of this his antient kingdome, haveing evir haid a speciall cair and regaird that the practize of trades not formarlie knowne or trewlie and uprightlie practized within the same might be broght in, and that his Majesteis subjectis might be instructed thairin, to the intent that by thair industrie, skill, and laubouris the countrey might be furneist within the selff with mony necessair commoditeis quhairof now a greit pairt are broght frome forreyne pairtis, to the discredite of the countrey in emptying of the same of a great deale of treasour yeirlye exportit for that caus, amongis utheris his Majesteis royall and princelie projectis in this kynd quhilkis hes all haid a happie and goode succes, his Majestie wes pleasit, upoun ane petitioun exhibite unto his Majestie in his soverane and heigh courte of Parliament concerneing the universall abuse in tanning and barking of ledder throughout this haill kingdome, to recommend to the Lordis of his Majesteis Previe Counsaill the ordour taking for reformeing of the said abuse; Thairupoun the saidis Lordis haveing taine some paneis and travellis for trying of the said abuse and the ground and occassioun of the same, and thay haveing at lenth conferrit thairanent, alsweill with a number of the principaill tannaris of this kingdome of best judgement, knowledge, and experyence in that trade as with sindrie cordonaris of goode fame and credite; and, all the particularis quhilkis might produce a cleir discoverie of the said abuse and occasionis thair of, with the meanis how the same might be reformed, being amplie propoised, reassouned, and discussit, in end it wes fundin be the saidis Lordis, oute of thair awne reasoun and judgement and be the declaratioun and confessioun of the tannaris thame selffis, that the abuse and corruptionis of thair trade did proceed frome thair awne ignorance and want of skill in the trew and perfyte forme of tanning, and that thairfoir thair wes a necessitie of inbringing of strangeris to instruct thame thairintill. Quhairupoun the said Lordis haveing enterit in deliberatioun how the the strangeris might be broght in [Scotland], the charge thair of wes imbraiceit and undertane be his Majesteis traist cousigne and counsaillour Johnne, Lord Erskene, quho hes verry [cairfullie] behaveit him selff thairin, and hes broght in and exhibite befor the saidis Lordis the personis particularlie underwreittin, -thay ar to say, George Harasoun in Durehame, Nicolas Richardsoun thair, Cuthbert Hutesoun, elder, thair, Johnne Heroun in Hexem, Edwaird Craigis in Durhame, Cuthbert Hutesoun, younger, thair, Johnne Robiesoun thair, Thomas Dobiesoun, elder, thair, Thomas Dobiesoun, younger, thair, Robert Haisard thair, and George Lambert thair, Reynold Milburne in Hexem, Hary Tuedaill thair, Thomas Wallace thair, George Ogill thair, Phillop Shiltoun of Chester of the Streit, and George Wilsoun in Morpett [compare list p. 294],-quhilkis haill persones are all of goode skill, knowledge, and experyence in the trade of tanning, and upoun thair greit oathes thay have promiseist to deale faithfullie and trewlie with the tannaris of this kingdome, and to instruct thame in the right forme of tanning and how to

dresse thair pottis, lyk as thay have sett down some groundis how the hydys salbe drest and handlit fra the tyme thay ar brocht frome the boutcheour untill thay be perfytlie and weil tanned.-As, namelie, [I.] thay have declairit that thair is a greit abuse committit be the boutcheouris by slasching of the hydys and cutting of sum of the rime away, quhairby a pairt of the substance of the hydys is tane away and the hydys ar thairby the moir apt to ressave watter. [II.] It is requisite that every tannar haveing a goode stock sall have tua lyme pottis at least for changeing of the hydys frome ane pott to another, -to wit, ane for greyne ledder and the uther for rype ledder; bot, yf his stock will not ansuer to tua pottis, then he must refresche the lyme the oftner; and thir pottis are to be of sax or sevin foote in lenth, four foote breid, and four or fyve fute deip. [III.] The hydys being brocht frome the boutcheour to the tannair, thay are to be cassin in fresche watter, thair to ly thrie or four dayes till the bloode and filthe be suckit oute and tane away. [IV.] Thairefter thay ar to be putt in a lyme pott, thair to ly fyve or sax [weikis] till thay be sufficientlie lymmed; and thrie dayes every weik thay ar [to be] handlit and sighted and changed fra pott till pott for eschewing of putrifaction; and, being tane oute of the lyme pottis thay ar [to be cassin in fresche] watter, thair to ly ane day or ane night till the lyme be [waschin af. Thairafter] thay ar to be putt in a baitt of freshe water with pigeon or dow dung or hen pen, thair to ly aught dayes till the lyme [be clene wroght oute of thame]. [V.] The lyme being clene wroght oute, the hydys [ar then to be brocht to] the wousceis of the bark pottis, of quhilkis pottis [every barker must have] at least fyve or sax, tua for lapping and [the rest for handling; and] the pottis for lapping must be sevin fute long, [fyve fute deip, and fyve fute] breid, and the pottis for handling ane [squair every way, lynned] with tymmer or stone as the commodotie affordis, [and covered yf the awnair] thinkis meite, for eschewing of thift. [VI.] The hydys being brocht to the bark pottis and wousceis, thay ar to be shiftit and handlit frome ane pott to another, to witt, frome a worse to a better, every thrid day or oftner as the occasioun presentis, till thay be sufficientlie tanned; and this wousceis ar maid of watter and bark; and of the bark quhilk the tannaris of this kingdome castis oute of thair bark pottis the Inglische tanneris makis thair best wousceis and liquour, with some little refresching and renewing. [VII.] Ane hyde for over ledder must ly tuentie four weikis in the pott, and ane hyde for soile ledder xxvij weikis, or les yf the ledder be weil followit, at the discretioun of the awnair. [VIII.] The hydys being sufficientlie tanned and tane oute of the bark pottis, thay are then to be dried with the ayre, -to witt, thay must be hung up upoun sparis to be dried in convenient plaiceis according as the seassoun and wedder fallis oute, and thay ar to be kept frome rayne and nevir to be dried by fyre bot upoun plaine necessitie; and in drying of the hydys all violent and extreame heittis ar to be eschewed. Mony utheris thingis have thay declairit concerneing the trew and perfyte forme of tanning, the particularis quhair of wilbe better understoode by practize and sight nor by verball informatioun and discourssis. And, quhairas thir strangeris hes left thair awne countrie houssis and fameleis, and are come heir to be directit to the severall pairtis of this kingdome for instructing of the countrie people in the right forme of tanning, quhilk will prove verry gaynefull unto thame and proffitable to the haill country, and will not only spair a great deale of bark quhilk is unnecessarlie, unproffitable and unworthelie spent be thame, bot besydis will halde ane great deale of money within the countrey quhilk is yeirly exportit for inbringing of forreyne ledder: Thairfoir it is verry necessair and expedyent for the honnour and credite of this kingdome that the saidis persones sall not only be kyndlie and frendly useit, with all respect, favour, and dewitie that apperteyneth, bot that thay sall have some previledgeis and liberteis in the said trade during the tyme of thair aboade heir, for the better encourageing of thame to deale faithfullie and trewlie in the earand thay are come for; and siclyke it is verry necessair that the tannaris and barkaris of this kingdome be cairfull and diligent to ressave tymous instructioun from the saidis Englishmen, to the intent that betuix and the terme appoyntit for sealeing of the hydys thay may have a goode knowledge and experyence in the said trade. And for this effect the saidis Lordis hes taikin, and be the tennour heirof takis, the saidis personis and every one of thame under our Soverane Lordis protectioun, defence, and saifgaird, to be unharmit or troublit in thair persones and goodis for quhatsumevir deid or occasioun utherwayes nor be commoun course of law and justice; and siclyke the saidis Lordis hes givin and grantit, and be the tennour heirof giveis and grantis, full libertie, privilege, licence, and warrand to the persones abonewrettin and every one of thame to use the trade of tanning in the severall pairtis and plaiceis of this kingdome quhair thay salhappin to be directit and send in maner following:- to wit, that thay sall concure with the tannaris within these pairtis and joyne with thame in the tanning and dressing of thair ledder, and that thay sall mak use of thair lyme and bark pottis, and sall lay thair hydys in the same pottis with the hydys of the barkaris of these pairtis, and sall handle and dresse the haill hydys in the pottis indifferentlie



and with a commoun and equall respect and consideratioun; by the quhilk doing the tannaris of this kingdome (yf thay be willing or capable of instructioun) may have goode occasioun to learne and to be instructit in scheorte tyme in the trew knowledge of the said trade. And the saidis Lordis ordanis letteris of publicatioun to be direct and publeist heirupoun at the mercat croceis of the head burrowis of this kingdome, quhairthrow nane pretend ignorance of the same, and to command, charge, and inhibite all his Majesteis leigeis and subjectis that nane of thame presooome nor tak upoun hand to vex, molest, harme, trouble, or unquyet the persones particularlie abonewreittin or ony of thame, bot [to] use thame with all respectis of love, frendschip, and kyndnes in all pairtis quhair thay salhappin to repair, as thay and every one of thame will ansuer to his Majestie and the saidis Lordis upoun thair obedyence at thair heigest perrell. And siclyke to command and charge the haill barkaris and tannaris of ledder within this kingdome that thay and every one of thame betuix and the first day of September nixtcome provyde thame selffis with the [number] of lyme and bark pottis abonewreittin, and to dresse [and handle thair] hydys bothe in the lyme and bark pottis according to the forme, [maner, and] ground sett down and to be preseryveit unto thame [blank] effect that thay be cairfull and diligent to re[ssave instructioun from] the persones abonewreittin and to conforme thame selffis [to thair instructi]onis and informationis, alsweill anent the dressing [and handling of the] hydys quhilkis are presentlie in thair pottis as [blank] same heireftir. And, yf ony persone or persones [blank] of this ordinance, and of purposis to hinder the [blank] will prove so proffitable to the countrey, salhappin [blank] for some certane speace with a resolutioun [blank] pleasour and as thay sall find occasioun, the saidis Lordis doeth heirby declair that every suche persones quho salbe tryed to offend in this cause salbe callit befor the saidis Lordis and punist be thame at thair discretioun. And, quhairas it is understand to the saidis Lordis that the tannaris of this kingdome may have sufficient tyme and laiser to learne the said trade of tanning and barking of ledder in a upright and perfyte forme (yf thay be, willing) betuix and the first day of November 1621, quhilk is the terme ap-poyntit be thame quhen the sealeing of the hydys for approveing of the sufficiencie of the same sall begin, thairfoir to intimat and declair to all barkeris and tannaris of ledder within this kingdome that all and quhatsumevir hydys that salhappin to be presentit to mercat, sauld, or putt in worke withoute the seale after the said first day of November 1621 salbe confiscat and escheit to the use and behove of him who hes the charge and truish of the seale."

*Edinburgh 18<sup>th</sup> January 1621*

Complaint by John, Lord Erskineas follows: - "He hes laitlie to his greit chargeis and expenses, broght within this kingdome a number of strangeris, skilled and expert men in the tanning of ledder, to instruct the tannaris and barkeris of ledder, in this kingdome in the right forme of the tanning and barking of thair ledder, how thay sall reforme thair pottis and dress and handle thair ledder the tyme that the same lysis in thair pottis [ante, pp. 304-307]. And, althocht a greit nomber of the best and most skilfull tannaris in this kingdome, acknowledging thair awne ignorance and want of skill in that trade, hes most willinglie and glaidlie imbraceit this reformatioun, and ar hairtly content to resave instructioun and informatioun thairanent, conforme to the articles sett down be his Majesteis Counsaill and proclamationis and charges direct to that effect, thair awne experyence teatching thame that thair formair in ignorance and universall abuse in that trade wes most hurtefull and, prejudiciall to the commonweill, and that the intendit reformatioun importit not only thair awne privat weel bot the commonweel of this kingdome," yet "some of the most rude and ignorant in that trade,-as Council: namelie, Robert Toftis in Southbar, William Grahame in Cunynghous: Walter Patersoun in Sklaitfoorde, William Rodger, Inglitoun, Mathow Rodger in Park, Allane Thomesoun in Craigtounburne, Mathow Thomesoun thair, James Thomesoun betuix the Hillis, Thomas Thomesoun in Glentyrme, Johnne Thomesoun in Wardhous, John Lyell in Auchonneis, William Lyall in Craigance, John Thomesoun at the Milne of Kart, than Robert Thomesoun in Lamarnok, James Ritchie in Hairstingtoun, Robert Speir in Foulwoode, Robert Rodger thair, Johnne Park thair, Williame Greneleis in Blackburne, Johnne Buchannane in Wester Kulbuy, Patrick Speir in Foulwoode, Johnne Andersoun in Glasgw, James Listoun thair, James Andersoun thair, James Mure thair, David Alexander in Garbillis, Williame Weddell in Lauder, Robert Weddell thair, Williame Romannois thair, Andro Meikle thair, Archibald Cairnis thair, Johnne Learmonth in Ersiltoun, Thomas Lindsay thair, Williame Crawford in Fawnis, Williame and Johnne Sheillis in Ligertwoode, Robert Davidsoun in Kelso, Henry Cochrane thair, Alexander Pringle thair, Williame Corsair thair, Johnne Palmour thair, Williame Arnestoun thair, Johnne Hiddlestoun in Langtoun, Andro

Cordinair thair, Henry Purves in Lintlawes, and Andro Spens thair, preferring thair awne ignorance and the abuseis intertenyed be thame in that trade to all goode ordour, pollicie and government and to all instructioun and informatioun,"have resolved to oppose themselfis aganis this reformatioun and to foister and interteny the formair abuseis in that trade." To this end, they refuse to receive instructioun from the strangers, "who hes frielie offerit to instruct thame in the haill poyntis of that trade," and "thay will not suffer thair hydys to ly in the pottis dureing the speace prescryveit unto thame, bot takis thame oute and presentis thame to mercat raw." -The pursuer appearing personally, as also William Graham in Cunynghous, David Alexander in Garbillis and James Mure in Glasgow, and the other defenders not appearing, the Lords order the said William, David, and James to bind themselves, each in £100, to conform to the Acts of Council and the instructions of the English tannaris, "in the tanning anf barking of ledder, dressing and Jul repairing of thair bark pottis, and in every uther thing concerneing the barking and tanning of ledder "; and they order the absent defenders to be denounced rebels.

*Edinburgh, 15th February 1621*

*Sederunt* -Chancellor; Treasurer; Lotheane; Melros; Lauderdaill; Lord Erskine; Carnegy; Master of Elphinstoun; Privy Seal;. Treasurer Depute; Clerk of Register; Justice Clerk; Advocate; Kilsaithe; Bruntyland; Marchinstoun; Innerteill; Ridhous; Currihill; Foistersait; Sir Andro Ker; Sir Peter Young; Mr P. Rollok; Conservator.

"Forsamekle as the Lordis of Secreit Comisell ar informed that, upoun occasioun of the course and ordour sett down he the saidis Lordis for reformeing the abuse of barking and tanning of ledder, the whole cordinaris for the maist pairt within this kingdome, who, verie few exceptit, ar all barkaris and tannaris thame selfis, maligning and repyneing aganis this intendit reformatioun, hes combyned and resolvit so far as in thame lvis to croce and hinder the same, and to foister and interteine thair formair ignorance of the speciall pointis of that trade and, to the efect thay may mak this intendit reformatioun seame distaistfull to the people, as carying with it a havie burdyne to the whole land, and sua to steir the people up to exclame aganis it, thay haif verie extraordinarlie raised and highted the pryceis of thair bootis and shoone to xxs. or thairby the pair of bwts and vjs. or thairby the pair of shoone mor nor wes payed befor, gevand oute fals and sclanderous imputationis that this augmentatioun of the price is sett down be his Majesteis Counsaill as a dewitie to be payit for the seale and under cullour thairof thay oppres and trouble the whole cuntrey, as, namelie, the subjectis of the meaner soirt, suche as the labouraris of the ground, and poore servandis whose yeirlie fees will scairslie interteny thame in shoone; in quhilk point the saidis cordinaris hes not onlie most undeutifullie sclanderit his Majesteis Counsell, bot thay mightelie abuse his Majesteis poore subjectis, becaus the terme appointit for the seale begynnys not quhill November nixt and the dewitie [ten lines illegible]

Thairfoir the Lordis of Secreit Counsell ordanis letteris to be direct to command and charge the provestis and baillies of the whole burrowis within this kingdome, the justiceis of peace and the whole landlordis to landwart, be oppin proclamatioun at the mercat croces of the whole burrowis of this kingdome that thay, and everyane of thame within thair awne boundis respective, conveene befor thame thair whole cordinaris and try and examine [at quhat] priceis thay sauld thair bootis and shoone befor the moneth of November 1619 and at quhat priceis thay now sell the same, and that thay injoyne and command thame upoun heigh panes not to exceed the price tane be thame for thair bootis and shoone befor the said moneth of November 1619, bot to conforme thame selfis thairto in tyme comeing; and that the saidis provestis and baillies within burgh, justiceis of peace and landislordis haif a speciall cair and regaird that the saidis prices beis constantlie keipit in thair mercattis, and for that effect that thay visite thair mercattis everie mercatt day, and quhair thay sie a violatioun of thair ordinance that thay punishe the same accordnglie, as thay will ansuer to the saidis Lordis upoun thair obedience at thair perrell."

*Edinburgh 7<sup>th</sup> February 1622*

"Forsamekle as, the course and ordour appointit to be tane for reformeing of the abuse of barking and tanning of ledder, whilk wes so universall and prejudiciall to the whole liegeis of this kingdome, being now brought to a reasounable goode perfectioun by the panes, travellis, and diligence of these who had the charge of that bussynes, and the terme appointit or tryeing

of the sufficiencie of all ledder that sould be presentit to mercatt, sauld, or putt in worke, by affixing and setting of ane seale thairupoun, being expirit and bigane, sua that now all ledder wanting the approbatioun of the seale is ordanit to be confiscat, according to the actis and conclusionis tane in this matter, yitt the shiftis and subtiltyis of the tannaris to frustrat and disapoint the effect and executioun of the saidis actis ar so frequent and infinite that the whole panes tane thairin ar lyke to prove void and ineffectuall, and the formair abuse is lyke to be fosterit and intertenyed, to the contempt of justice and misregaird of all goode ordour and policie; and quhairas, for preventing and obviating of this forme of circomventioun and cosenage, commissioun hes bene gevin to the personis who ar truisted with the keeping of the said seale throughoute the whole pairtis of this kingdome, every one of thame within thair awne boundis, to searche and trye quhair ony hydys ar concealed, presentit to mercatt, sauld, or putt in worke with out the said seale, and to intromett thairwith and confiscat the same, according to the actis and proclamationis maid thairanent; and, althocht thay haif bene verie solist, cairfull, and diligent to approve thame selffis in that charge accordingle, yitt, becaus the schireffis of the shyris and thair deputis, and the provestis and baillies, within burgh within thair severall boundis and limitis, will not concur and assist the keeparis of the said seale in making of the said searche and tryall and confiscating of the concealed ledder wanting the approbatioun of the seale in maner foirsaid, the executioun of the saidis commissionis is illudit and frustrat: Thairfoir the Lordis of Secreit Counsell ordanis letteris to be direct charging all and sindrie schireffis, stewartis, and baillies of regalityis, and thair deputis, and provestis and baillies within burgh, every one of thame within thair awne boundis, limitis, and jurisdiction, to concur, fortifie, and assist the keeparis of the seale foirsaid in making of the said searche and tryall quhair ony hydys ar concealed, prrentit to mercatt, sauld, or putt in worke without the said seale, and in confiscating of the same accordingle, as the saidis schireffis, steuartis, baillies of regalityis, and thair deputis, and provestis and baillies within burgh, will ansuer upoun thair obedyence at thair heighest charge and perrell."

*Holyrood-house 21<sup>st</sup> March 1622*

*Sederunt: -Chancellor; Treasurer; Nithisdail; Lotheane; Bugeleugh; Mellros; Lauderdaill;  
Air; Lord Erskine; Cranstoun; Melvill; Privy Seal; Kilsaithe; Sir Andro Ker; Ridhous;  
Fostersait; Conservator.*

"Forsamekle as it is understand to the Lordis of Secreit Counsell that the worke undertane for reforiceing the abuse of tanning of ledder within this kingdome is now broght to a goode perfectioun by the labouris and diligence of some skilled and experimented strangearis broght in and intertenyed be the undertakair of the worke for that effect at his grite chargeis and expenssis; and quhairas in the conclusionis maid and sett doun anent the establisheing of this worke it is ordanit that the sufficiencie of all and quhatsomevir ledder that sould be presentit to mercatt, sauld, or putt in worke, in ony pairt of this kingdome sould be approvin be ane seale to be sett thairon; and, the terme appointit for the seale being now bigane, sua that all the said ledder aucht and sould be subject to the seale: nevirtheles the saidis Lordis ar informed that certane personis, preferring thair awne privat gayne to the reformatioun of abussis within this kingdome, and to all goode ordour and policie, hes begun to mak questioun anent foreyne ledder, as yf it wer not subject to the seale, and as yf the foreyne ledder sould haif a forder privilege and oversight nor the proper ledder of the kingdome; in whilk point yf way salbe gevin unto thame, the formair abuse in the tannage wilbe fosterit and intertenyit, and the panes and travellis tane for reformeing of the said abuse will prove void and fruitles, for all ledder of quhatsomevir kynd wilbe callit foreyne ledder, and people who makis not conscience of thair doingis will not stand upoun oathis thairanent. Bot, becaus this questioun and doubt anent foreyne ledder, and quhat wes the meaneing and intention of the saidis Lordis in thair formair conclusionis tane thairanent, is harbourit in the hairtis and opinionis of some people, the Lordis of Secreit Counsell, for removeing of all suche questioun and doubt, hes thocht meete heirby to declair and ordane that, according to the formair conclusionis tane in this mater, all and quhatsomevir ledder, alsweele foreyne ledder as the proper and native ledder of the cuntrie, is and sould be subject to the ordour of the seale, and that no exemptioun, fredome, nor privilege aucht to be grantit to foreyne ledder in this point, and thairfoir ordanis the keeparis of the seale throughoute all the pairtis of this kingdome to be cairfull, respectie, and diligent that no ledder, proper nor foreyne, eschaip the seale. And, yf ony oppositioun salbe maid to the keeparis of the seale anent the sealling of foreyne ledder, ordanis all magistratis to burgh and land to concur and assist the keeparis of the seale anent

the executioun of thair officeis in that point. And ordanis letteris to be direct to mak publicatioun heirof be oppin proclamatioun at the mercatt croceis of the heade burrowis of this realme and other placeis neidfull, quhairthrow nane pretend ignorance of the same."

*Edinburgh 4<sup>th</sup> July 1622*

Complaint by John, Lord Erskine, that, although he had lately "to his grite chargeis and expenssis broght within this kingdome a number of strangeris, skilled and expert men in the tanning of ledder, to instruct the tanneris and barkaris of ledder in this kingdome," nevertheless the following persons, -namely, George Weill in Annand, Watt Hair in Locherwood, Williaim Nicolsoun in Cokpuill, Thomas Richartsoun in Heck, Kikkie Moget in Quhitrigis, John Scott in Penlaw, Thomas Mitchelsoun in Craighous, Symeone Grene in Wyneholme, Thomas Elliott there, John Corrie in Cartertoun hill, John McWittie in Lochbrow, Robert Rodgerson in Chappell, John Grahame in. Crawfurd, Symie Scott in Pyetschawis, David Mitchell in Johnstounhill, James Mitchell in Barganebus, James Mitchell, son to the said David, Blaise Slumane in Haisilbank, Robert Slewmane in Cleughead, James Braidyett in Cogrie, Robert Mitchelsoun in Chopfurd, David Moffett in Raehard, William Thoirbrand in Barganebus, Leonard Dunwiddie in Cleugbrea, Robert Murray in Bonschaw, John Braidyett in Dalmakedder, Patrik Thomesoun in Wiltounknow, Thomas Wilkein in Cogrie, James Carutheris in Stanreishill, Mathow Ranik there, Jok Rodgersoun in Chappell, Adam Lowdoun. in Clewchbrea, David Dunwiddie in Auchindonane, John Hunter there, James Mitchell there, Jok Jamoun, called "the oy," there, William. Jaksoun in Ruddis, Andrew Pott in Clewch, Thomas Dunwiddie in Auchindonane, John McWittie in Chyndes, John Thoirbrand in Milhill, James Mitchelsoun in Auchindonane, John Galloway in Annand, William. Hannay in Dalquhassell, William Mure in Auchinbay, Mathow Mure in Cumnok, Alexander M'Nellane in Bent of Uchiltrie, Richard Kay in Kelloch, James Mure in Steill in Uchiltrie, William. Harper in Holmark, John Harper in Chappelous, Patrick Harvie in Cumnok, Andrew Donald there, Richard Aird there, Adam Cowane in Uchiltrie, John Hind, [or Huid] in Corshead, and William Murdoch at Grenemilne in Carnageya, -have resolved to their utmost "to oppose thame selfis aganis this reformation and to foister and interteny the fairmair abusis in that trade, quhilkis ar notourly knowne to be most hurtfull and prejudiciall not onlie to thame selfis bot to the commoun weill." They refuse instruction from the strangers and will not suffer hides to lie "in thair pottis" during the space prescribed, but send them to market raw, to the abuse of the lieges (see ante, vol. xii., pp. v. xiii.).-The pursuer appeared personally, but the defenders not appearing, the Lords order them to be denounced rebels.

*Note by IAD: This a sample of many such entries on the subject of Scottish tanners not accepting training by English tanners brought in for that purpose.*

*Edinburgh 9<sup>th</sup> January 1623*

Complaint by Robert Bruce, deacon of the cordiners of the burgh of Canongate, and William Lowrie, box-master of the said cordiners, for themselves and in name of the "remanent breithrene of the cordinaris of the said burgh," and by the bailies of the Canongate for themselves and in name of the council of that burgh, as follows :-By various Acts of Privy Council it has been ordained "that the cordinaris of the burgh of Edinburgh sall keip goode nighbourhead with the saidis cordinaris of the Cannogate, and desist and cease frome troubling or molesting of thame utherwayes nor be ordour of law and justice, and speciallie that thay sall desist and cease fra all troubling and molesting of the saidis cordinaris or making any stop, trouble, or impedymnt to thame in bringing in of thair maid worke quhairof the conditioun and pryce is maid afoirhand to ony of his Majesteis subjectis within the said burgh of Edinburgh who employis thame to worke, and fra all meddling or intrometting with thair guidis and geir for that caus." Nevertheless, on 2nd January instant, while Roberb Bruce was quietly repairing "with some of his breithrene, frome the Grayfreiris, quhair he haid bene at the buryall of ane bairne of Thomas Hislope, indwellair in the said burgh," John Fiddes, one of the burgh officers, came to him and violently compelled him to go to "the laigh Tolbooth," where the bailies of Edinburgh and cordiners were for the time. There, Gilbert Achesoun, one of the bailies of Edinburgh, assisted by William Adair, cordiner, and others of his brethren, commanded the complainer, on pain of warding, to find caution for himself as deacon, and for the other cordiners of the Canongate, that they "sould not bring any work maid be thame" to any persons in Edinburgh. When he refused, objecting that they

could not reasonably crave such a thing, they compelled him, before suffering him to go, to find caution to answer them in law, although they were in no wise his judges. Farther, on the 4th instant, complainer, being in Edinburgh, was again compelled by John Fiddes, under the orders of Gilbert Achesoun and James Ainslie, two of the bailies of Edinburgh, to go to the writing chamber of Mr John Hay, clerk of the burgh, where the bailies, with William Adair and other cordiners, commanded him to find the caution formerly refused. Complainer again refusing, they laid hands on him and warded him in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, where he is still detained. In consequence "his servandis and workemen ar altogidder cassin idle, to his havie hurt and skaith, he being bot a poore craftisman haveing nothing to sustene him selff and famelie (who wilbe above the number of threttene personis) bot his calling and that whilk he may procure be his daylie handie worke.-Both parties appearing personally, the defenders object that the Lords are not competent judges in the case, "as the lawfulness of their proceedingis thairin will depend upoun thair libertyes and previledgeis, the tryall quhairof wilbe onlie proper to the Lordis of Counsaill and Sessioun." The Lords "be thair interloquitur" find themselves competent, and also declare that Bruce was wrongfully imprisoned, order him to be set at liberty, and decern the defenders to pay him 20 merks for the expenses of his imprisonment.

*Hoylrood-house 5<sup>th</sup> June 1623*

"The Greevanceis given in be the Tanneris of Scotland to the Commissionaris appoyntit be his Majestie for heiring and reforming the greevanceis of the subjects, against the patent grantit to ane noble and potent lord, Johne, Lord Erskine, thairanent, and impositioun laid upoun the samine:

Oure verie honourable and goode Lordis,- Quhairas in the Parliament haldin by our Soverane Lord and Estaitts of this realme in the moneth of Junie 1617 yearis, upoun supplicaiotioun presentit to his Majestie and Estaitts convenit be Alexander and Mathew Crawfordis and Johne Knieland, cordinaris in Edinburgh, conteneing certane abussis alledgeit committit be the tanneris in tanning of thair lether, and seeking redres of the samine in maner conteanit in the said supplicatioun, his Majestie and Estaitts of Parliament than convenit remittit the ordour taking for reformatiounof this abuse unto the Lordis of secreit Counsaill, as in the Actis of Parliament maid thairanent at lenth is contenit ; like as his Majestie be his letteris direct to the Lordis of his Counsaill of the dait the 22 day of Januar 1619 of new recommendit the same to the Lordis of his Majesties Privie Counsaill, who, upoun supplicatioun maid to thame be the deaconis and maisteris of the cordinair craft within this kingdome, directit thair letteris for summonding of certane personis of tanneris in this kingdome contenit in the saidis letteris to have compeirit to the effect contenit in the saidis letteris: for obedience of the quhilkis letteris certane tanneris compeirand, with some few cordinaris of theburgh of Edinburgh, mentionat in the Acts maid thairanent of the dait the 23 of November 1619, the Lordis continewit the said matter to the 25 day of the said moneth of November 1619 the quhilk day the saidis cordinaris and tannaris compeirand, and some few personis for the burgh of Edinburgh, who were admitted for thair enteresse, after divers and sindrie meittings and overtouris given in be the tannaris anent the reforming of the saidis abussis, and reasonis be the commissionaris of Edinburgh against the imbringing of strangeris and reformatioun thane preetendit for the goode of the cuntrey, certane articles wer concludit and maner of tanning then sett downe; like as thirupoun the said noble and potent Lord, Johne, Lord Erskine, purchest ane patent of our Soverane Lord for reforming of the saidis abussis in maner contenit in the said patent; like as the said noble Lord broght strangeris to the said effect, whome we wer commandit to obey in the ordour of tanning preseryvit be thame, as at mair lenth is contenit in the said proces, patent, and proclamatoun maid thairanent, extant in the buikis of Counsaill, mair at lenth to be sene. Quhairby we ar mightilie prejudgeit and greeved, and the same is done to our grite hurt and prædjudice, and to the enorme læsioun of the whole subjectis of this realme; quhilk sall evidentlie appeir and be maid manieifest be the reasonis following :-

*Imprimis* -Because the supplicatioun preesentit to his Majestie and Estaitts of Parliament then convened be Alexander and Mathow Crawfordis and Johne Knieland, cordinaris of Edinburgh, for themselffis and in name of the remanent cordineris of this kingdome, for reformatioun of the abussis and tanning in maner contenit in the same, wes done be thame without anie warrand proceeding from the Cordinaris of this kingdome, and sua could not the same be laughfullie done be thame, being privatt personis without ane publict warrand from the rest of the cordinaris of this kingdome.

2. The whole tanneris of this kingdome wes not called thairto, nather personallie nor be oppin proclamatioun at the mercat croce, sua that the same [come] never to thair knowledge; quhairby they wer præjudged in those laughfull overtowres quhilk they may have proponit for reformatioun of the alledgeit abussis, and reasonis quhy the ald accustomat forme of tanning observit within this kingdome aught not to haif bene alterit.
3. Becaus in the supplicatioun praesentit to Parliament thair is no more requirit for reformatioun of the alledgeit abuse in tanning bot that charge be given to the tannaris to suffer thair lether ly ane sufficient tyme in the tann pott; and nixt that the samyne be dryed befor the samyne be presentit to the mercat; whilk is all that is contenit in the Acts of Parliament maid thairanent, sua that no forder could be done in that matter, thair charge directit against the tannaris to that effect, the contrair quhairof evidentlie appearis in the said patent.
4. The Commissionaris of Edinburgh compeirand and desireing that ane certane day might be assigned to the Burrowis to have compeirit to have bene hard anent the said reformatioun, as also the noblemen, barrones, and gentlemen who wer interest in the samine, they wer refusit, albeit in a matter of that nature and consequence it is usuall to the Lordis of his Majesties Counsaill to heir his Majesties subjects in what they can alledge thairanent.
5. The abuse compleanit upoun be the cordinaris contenit in the said proclamatioun raisit at thair instance is not remeidit nor reformit, as may evidentlie appear be the Acts of Counsaill of the dait the 23 day of November 1619 ; bot the same evils doe yitt presse us, and nothing done for reformatioun of the samyne, at the least the most pairt thairof.
6. The abussis grantit be the tannaris in the overtouris given in be thame upoun the 25 day of the said moneth of November the yeir of God foirsaid ar not yitt remeidit, as be the saidis overtouris evidentlie sall appeir.
7. Quhereas be the overtouris proponit be thame for reformatioun of the saidis abussis the same ar offerit to be reformit in maner thairin contenit, as proceeding onlie from the unskillfullnes of landward barkeris, thair could be no necessarie consequence induceit thairupone of imbringing of strangeris to the burdene of the cuntrey and vexatioun of the subjects.
8. In all the overtouris given in be the cordinaris, and als be the tanneris, thair is nothing quhairupone anie hold is taikin, bot the appoynting of ane seiller and fies are assignit to him; quhilk is ane burdene to the cuntrey, and to no use, since the reformatioun of those abussis might be otherwayes done, and the visitatioun of the sufficiencie of all wair that comes to the mercatt to be sold be the lawis of this realme wes alreadie committit to the magistratts within burgh and deaconis of craftis in the samine, and to the shireffis and justiceis of peace in landwart. Lyke as the samine of new is ordanit also in the in the Acts of Counsaill maid the 33 day of November 1619, sua that thair is least necessitie of anie seller.
9. The ordour praeseryvit wes not sufficient, in sua far as there is above the number of fyftene hundreth tanneris within Scotland, and yit bot onlie tuelff personis appoynted for instructing of thame all, and that within the space of eightene monethis; whiche how possible it wes to be done may easilie appeir to be the deductioun of bussines, quhairin thair is fiftie appoynted for keeping of the seilles; and out of all queestioun the one work is of gritter difficultie then the other.
10. The imbringing of strangeris wes to no use, since they wer not astricted to ressave prenteissis and traine thame up, nather yitt they wer acquaint with the goodnes of our hydes nor sufficiencie of our bark; quhilk both of necessitie sould have bene knowne to thame befor they could have informit otheris. Naither wes thair sufficient tyme assignit to thame to instruct ilk persone, as may appeir be thair divisious contenit in the proces and Act of Counsaill of the dait the 22 day of December 1619.
11. The retributioun grantit for imbringing of the saidis strangers passis all proportioun for the expenssis calculat in the proces to be debursit be the undertaker of the reformatioun, als weill upoun the expenssis of the saidis strangers and those ar appoyntit to attend thame as als upoun the seilleris, who ar declairit to be fiftie in nomber, befor he ressave anie benefite be the seillis, calculat to amount onlie to tuentie thowsand pundis Scottis, sua that after that he is to undergoe no further charge for the said work, and of the said sowme thair is fyve thowsand pundis allowit for the expenssis of the seillers, who ar onlie appoynted to begin the first of November 1621, sua that the same could not be debursit befor the said day; and thair is allowed for retributioun of the same a grott upoun ilk hyde, whereof thair is reckint three score thowsand, quhilks amounts to ane thowsand pundis sterling *per annum*, sua that in tua yeiris he is payit of all his charges and annuell of the samine, as appeiris be the Act of Counsaill of the dait the 19 day of Januar 1620, and sua for the space of nyntene yeiris he hes frie

nyntene thowsand pundis sterling, and for ten yearis thairafter the fourt pairt of the said grott upoun the hyde ; for the quhilk thair is no publict service, since the seiller is onlie for his awne privatt use, and this by and attour the dewitie upoun the forrayne hydes.

12. Thair is ane dewtie of ane grott of ilk forrayne hyid, quhairof thair [is] no necessitie of seilling, nor can thair anie reasounable caus be alledgeit quhy the samine sould be taken.

13. We ar prejudgeit in sua far as the undertaker hes more benefite of the seilll of ilk hyde then we have for our haill panes and expenssis debursitt upoun barking and tanning of ilk hyde, quhairby to sustene ourselffis and whole families.

14. We are praejudgit in sua far as the saidis strangeris who wer broght in spilt and rotted our ledder and hyides to our grite damage, and, we haveing compleit to thame thairanent, they confest that our bark wes not sufficient for tanning of leder in thair forme, in respect of the waiknes thairof, ane peck of thair bark haveing more strenth then ane furlett of ours, and als in respect of the waiknes of our lether.

15. We ar prejudged in sua far as we ar forceit to bestow twyse als meekle bark upoun tanning of our hydes now as we wer formallie accusustomed to doe.

16. We ar prejudged in sua far as be the said tanning our lether is more insufficient foiruse nor it wes formerlie, as experience teacheth and all the subjects of this kingdome doeth witnes.

17. We ar prejudgeit in sua far as forrayne lether hes better vent within this cuntrey now then formerlie it had, be reasone of the insufficiencie of the same occasioned be the new forme of tanning.

18. We ar prejudged in sua far as, nochtwithstanding it wes sufficientlie knowne to the said noble Lord that thair wes no possibilitie to us to tann our lether after the new forme, and that the strangers had spilt our lether, yitt he exacted bandis of ilk ane of us for obeying of his patent under the forfaltour of tua hundreth pundis; quhilks bandis he hes yitt above our heids.

19. We ar pejudged in sua far as be the charges and expenssis of this new forme of tanning those who had meanis of before ar impoverished, and those who wer meane of befoir ar altogidder undone, as sall appear be this subsequent roll, quhairin is the personis names particularlie after mentionat who hes left the said trade sen the intendit reformatioun, viz:

PERTH. -James Jack, Thomas Douie, Alexander Neiving, James Savantoun, Johne Cuninghame, Johne Culros, Oliver Udnie, Gilbert Mershell, James Knicht, Wilhame Annan, Williame Crawford, Johne Thomesone, Thomas Thomesone, Johne Lowrie, Alexander Law, Thomas Haistie, Johne Ingrim, Robert Chaiplane, Henrie Stirling, Williame Burne.

FORFAR -Williame Dickson, Johne Broun, Andro Thomesoun, Johne Benny, James Benny, George Robertson, Johne Ramsay, George Dysart, James Walker, James Benny, James Dickson, Williame Woode.

DUNDIE.-George Garrow, Johne Gairdner, Andro Craufurde, George Hunter, Andro Hunter, Johne Philp.

BRECHEN.-Alexander Woode, Johne Whyte, George Willis, David Croll, Johne Will, younger, Thomas Bellie, Andro Croll.

KILLIEMURE-Thomas Burnat, James Cuthrow, David Adamesone, Johne Anderson, Thomas Gevanes, David Hutchiesone, younger.

ST ANDROES.-Thomas Fell, Thomas Baverach, Alexander Forfar, younger, Charles Dewar, Williame Mortoun, Robert Petie.

COWPAR OF FYFFE.-Andro Grog, Robert Miller, Johne Robertson, James Robertson, David Weillane, Andro Thomesone.

CRAILL-George Kineragie, Robert Mairtene, David Braidie, James Bradie, Thomas Wyllie, Archbald Thomesone, Williame Alexander, Patrik Low, James Wilsoun, Johne Jamesoun.

GLASGOW.-James Anderson, Robert Anderson, James Listoun, Johne McMichael, Johne Glen, Williame Paterson, Williame Petticrove, Thomas Ritchie, Patrik Lemyeis, Williame Leggat, Patrik Leggat, Williame Cavie, Williame Grahame, David Alexander, James Clerk, Robert Denneistoun, Gilbert Malealme, Johne Howie, Robert Glasgow.

DUMFREIS.-Adame Currou, Johne McLeur, James Maxwell, Johne Maxwell, Andro Robertson, Johne Dickson, Thomas Dickson, Thomas McGoir, Richard Hislop, Williame Haistie, Williame Dyn, Gilbert Twynaine, Johne Robertson, Johne Edzear, Johne McClan.

DUNFERMLING.-Andro Huttoun, James Aissoun, Johne Watson, Alexander Inglis, Williame Walleth, William Hendersone, David Strang, Archbald Boyde.

KIRCALDIE and thairabout.-George Anderson, Robert Thomesone, David Williamesone, Robert Neill, Hendrie Lowrie, David Kidzow, Thomas Forman, Robert Blyith, Archbald Greeve, James Kinell, Johne Bennet, elder, Johne Bennet, younger, Richard Henden.

LINLITHGOW.-Robert Gibsone, Laurence Clerk, Johne Coustoun, Williame Finlay, Robert Gray, James Baxter, Johne Johnestoun, Hendrie Keress, James Walker, Williame Jamesone, Rollan Gibsone, James Scott, Williame Gibsone.

SELKIRK-Johne Smaill, elder, Johne Smaill, younger, James Smaill, Johne Johnestone, William Finlay, Johne BuIrvall, Williame Young, Andro Dobie, Robert Robiesone, Robert Robsoun, younger, Johne Hall, James Blaikie, Mungo Johnestoun, George Wicht, George Smaill, Johne Broun, Williame Murray, Robert Notman, Johne Purves.

We, the tannaris of the Borrowis, ar præjudged in sua far as thair is none who now buyes oure hydes, in respect the samine ar tannit in the new forme, bot all resortis to the tanneris of landwart, who barkis after the old forme, and gentlemen for the most part keeps barkholls for thame selffis, and barkis hydes and servs thame selffis and thair tennents thairwith.

The hail tanneris of this realme ar prejudged in respect all hydes, als weill tannit after the new forme as barkit after the old, are both seilled quhair the seale is in use.

The most part of the cuntrey thair [is] no seile at all. We are præjudged in sua far as the seiller is not content to uplift this grott upoun ilk hyde, bet executis be the head, sua that ilk ane of us payis him ane yeirly dewtie and taxatioun. In manie placeis the seilleris ar no tanneris, bot some of thame ar fleashouris.

These ar our just greeves whiche sensiblie presse us, whiche we have presumit to your lordships consideratioun; quhairin albeit some things we note whiche we know is arbitrarie to the Lordis of his Majesties honnourable Counsaill to doe or not to doe, as call or not anie partie to the graunting of suche patents or reforming of anie such abussis and to mak choise of the numberis of personis to be convenit, yit ar we forceit too call the same to memorie in this effair, since the fontane proceidis from some few personis and thair supplicatioun directit to Parliament in name of the whole withoutwarrant; quhairupoun the commissioun tothe Lordis of his Majesties Secreit Counsaill followed, and the summondis raisit at the instance of the cordinaris of this kingdome without warrant also, and some few tanneris selected be thame, as may appear, to be called who had no power of the rest, and the matter so formallie deduceit as it wald appear under forme of proces as the same might the more lustre to the worke, quhair of now thair remains scairce anie vestigies except the seill and impositioun. Sua nather the tanning is reformit nor abusus is complenit upoun taikin away, sua that be the verie deductioun it is manifest that, howsoever publict goode wes presentit, the impositioun wes the onlie mark whiche wes aymed at and is now hitt and remains. We ar thairfore most humblie to intreat your lordships to mak ane favourable constructioun of our just complaints if [in] anie thing we haif erred, and to free us of the impositioun whiche doeth hardlie as we ar not able to beare. And, since this new inventioun hes produceit no other fruit then ane decay and utter exterminiou of ane grite number of us, the impoverishing of the rest clamors through the whole cuntrey, and in speciall to the commons, who ar altogidder undone thairby, the shoes and buitts now nather holding out weitt nor lesteing, it might pleas your lordships to frie us and the rest of his Majesties lieges thairof; and, if anie abussis be, we sall amend the samine without anie burdene to the cuntrey, and what is defective in shaw salbe supplied be the goodnes of the wair and proffite to the subject. And your lordships answeir humblie we beseik."

*Edinburgh, 18<sup>th</sup> July 1623*

*Sederunt* -Chancellor; Treasurer; Bishop of St Androes; Mortoun; Nithisdail; Roxburgh;  
Melros; Lauderdaill; Treasurer-Depute; Clerk of Register; Advocate.

"The quhilk day the Lordis Commissionaris for the Grevanceis having at lenth red, hard, and considerit the grevanceis given in be the Burrowis and the Tannaris of this kingdome upoun the fyft day of Juine last *fante*, pp. 239-2481, and being well and throughlie advysed thairwith, and with everie poynt, member, and article thairof, the saidis Lordis hes sett thair answeiris to the saidis articles in manner following:-

1. Anent the first article, of monopollis and restraynts whilks ar craved to be dischargit, ordanis the burrowis to shaw what they call monopollis, and to condiscend in particular what they wald have dischargit.

2. Anent the second article, of cessioun of goodes, the Lordis of Sessioun will have ane care thairof and will tak such ordour thairin as the forder growth of that evill salbe restrained. And, toucheing protectionis, the Parliament hes alreadye tane ordour thairanent, and cair salbe had that the Act of Parliament sall ressave executioun, as it hes done præceislie thir tua yeiris bygane.



3. Anent the thrid article, of the Tannaris, the Lordis continewis the adviseing upoun that article till the first Wenisday of November nixt.
4. Anent the fourt article, of the coale, ordanis the Burrowis to condiscend upoun the colheughis quhairfra the hurt and prwjudice proceids, to the intent the pairtyis haveing interesse may be warnit and hard, and that they mak choise of a day to that effect; who tooke the last Counsaill day of November.
5. Anent the fyft article, concerning the victuall, whilk hes tua memberis, the one of importatioun and the other exportatioun. The Lordis, after that all pairtyis haveand interesse ar hard upoun this article, will tak such ordour thairwith as salbe most aggreable with the generall well and benefite of the kingdome; and for this effect ordanis the Burrowis to bak this article with such reasonis and arguments as they think fittest for the expedience of this article, to the intent, the same being propouned to the pairtyis haveand interesse, thay may be the better prepairit to answeir. And it is thocht expedient that it salbe recommendit to the Justiceis of Peace that they at thair first quarter sessioun in the moneth of November yearlie informe thame selffis trewlie and sufficientlie anent the estate of the victuall within the boundis of thair officeis, and that they make a report of thair said informatioun yeirlie to his Majesties Counsaill upoun the last Counsaill day of November yeirlie, to the intent that after dew consideratioun thair of the best course and ordour may be tane thairanent for the publick goode. And that the Commissionaris of Burrowis advertteis the magistratts of the heid burgh of ilk shyre to mak the like report of thair knowledge in this matter.
6. Anent the sext article, of the assise and teynd fish, becaus that matter concernis the King and his officiaris and the Bishop of the Illis, they salbe warnit and hard thairupoun; and, if it salbe fundin that ony unlawfull novaltie hes bene used in the uplifting of this teynd dewtie, or that more is exactit nor is dew to be payit, ordour salbe tane for redres and reformatioun of the abuse; and that the Burrowis declair to what day they will have thame warnit in the beginning of the nixt sessioun.
7. Anent the sevint article, concerning Bogyis patent, the Lordis fndis that the ordinance maid anent that matter and the patent following thairupoun wer upoun goode considerationis grantit; and, if he hes committit anie abuse in the following of that bussienes, after tryall thair of ordour salbe tane thairin.
8. Anent the eight article, ordanis the Burrowis to condiscend upoun the particularis wherein they ar greeved, and after consideratioun Thair of ordour salbe tane thairin.
9. Anent the nynt article, toucheing abulyements, the Lords finds that, seing the Act of Parliament wes upoun goode considerationis maid for repressing of ane abuse most unprofitable, to the cuntrey, the Burrowis thameselffis being present and consenting thairto, that now thair is no place for thame to touche that subject.
10. Anent the tent article, toucheing the burgh of Cullane, the Counsaill finds that they have no warrand to cognosee upoun ony mens heritable titles be thair commissioun, nor to call thame befor thame for that effect.
11. Anent the ellevint article, concerning the Burrowis in the west cuntrey and thair double custome, the Lordis, after conference with the custommaris of these pairts, they will give answeir to this article accordinglie."

*Edinburgh 24<sup>th</sup> November 1624*

My Lordis, -I will humblie intreat your Lordships wilbe pleased first of all to read the supplicatioun given in be the Cordinaris of Edinburgh in *anno* 1617 to the Parliament, whiche is contained in the Commissioun grantit by the Parliament to the Lordis of his Majesties Secret Counsaill extracted under the Clerk of Register his hand, and thairafter that your Lordships will caus read his Majesties letter to the Counsaill, *anno* 1619, whereupoun they did proceed and summond the tanneris from the principall pairts of this kingdome; who haveing compeirit at ane certane day in November 1619, and haveing acknowledged the abuse in tanning to proceid of thair awne unskilfulnes, the Lordis did prosecute the intendit reformatioun, as the proces will beare; which I beseeche your Lordships to cause it be red, that your Lordships may persave how maliciouslie and with what præsumptioun they doe taxe your Lordships proceidings by thair grevanceis; in the whiche howsoever they doe resent the publick præjudice of the cuntrey, yit it salbe found thair onlie intentioun is to have libertie to abuse the cuntrey as they haif done heirtofore, and that it is onlie thair awne fault that haif maliciouslie resisted the reformatioun intendit by your Lordships, as salbe qualified by the answeiris severallie given in to everie ane of thair Articles:-

1. First, whereas it is alledged that the supplicatioun given in to the Parliament wes done by some few personis, cordinaris of Edinburgh, without warrand from the rest of the cordinaris of the kingdome, for answer thairto. -It is not so much to be respected whois warrand they had as if thair complaynt wes just and founded upoun true reasonis; and these who gave it in had the consent and allowance of the whole maisters of the cordinaris within the said burgh of Edinburgh; who resenting the prejudice that aswell they thameselffis as the whole cuntrey did sustene through the abuse in barking, so that they wer forced to imploy the gritest pairt of thair stocks in bringing home of English ledder for serving of this kingdome, and that not without grite hasaird, the transporting of ledder being prohibited by the lawis of England and manie tymes thair ledder was seased upoun and confiscat, and so most justlie wes the supplicatioun præsentit, and his Majestie and Estaitts of Parliament upoun verie goode considerationis gave commissioun to the Lordis of Privie Counsaill to tak tryall in that matter and to sett downe some goode course for reforming of the abuse.

2. Where it wes alledgit that the hail tanners of the kingdome wer not laughfullie summoned:- By the contrarie, it is true that they wer summoned be opin proclamatioun at the mercat croceis of all the heid burrowis of the kingdome; like as a grite nomber out of sindrie burghs compeirit and wes hard, as the proces bearis.

3. Where it is alledgit that no more is craved be the supplicatioun presentit to Parliament bot that the ledder sould be sufferit to ly ane sufficient tyme in the tann pottis, and that it sould be dried befor it be sauld or putt in work, so that the Counsell could doe no further nor wes craved be the supplicatioun :-It is answeirit that the said article is contrair to the supplicatioun and commissioun direct thairupoun, whilk bearis expreslie that ordour be taken for tryall of sufficiencie of barking and drying of leddir and making the same sufficient waire And the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill, haveing power from his Majestie and Estates to tak ordour heiranent, ressaved sufficient informatioun in the proces led before thame be the confessioun of the tannaris and cordinaris that the insufficiencie of leddir did proceid from the ignorance and unskillfulnes of the tanneris of the leddir so that the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill after mature deliberatioun fand it most necessair that strangers sould be broght in by whome they might be instructed in the perfite forme of tanning and drying thair leddir; besydis that it is most certane, as they thameselvis knaw, that without a reformatioun of the tanning the ledder could never be dried, and so the sufficiencie thairof could never be tryed.

4. Thair fourthe article dooth taxe the Lordis of Majesteis Couinsaill of injustice in not heiring of the Burrowis and the Noblemen for thair enteresse, and that not without grite præsumptioun, although the Lordis did never refuse to heir anie that desired to be hard, like as the commissioneris of the burgh of Edinburgh (who in matters of that kynd ar offtymes admittit as repræsenting the bodie of the whole burrowis) being at lenth hard and thair answeiris and reasonis considerit in severall dyettis keepit for that purpos be the commissioneris, and thairafter be thame præsented to the whole Counsaill table, the Lords of Counsaill, without respect had to the saidis articles, as tending to illude and frustrat the intendit reformatioun, ordanit the saidis commisdonariss to proceid. And, for the Noblemen, thair wer allwayes a nomber of thame present, as the proces bearis.

5 and 6. As to thair fyft and sext articles, whilk ar both in effect to one purpose, bearing that the abuses complenit upoun by the cordinaris and graunted be the tanneris ar not yit reformed:- First it is to be remarked that by thair complayning that the abuses ar not reformed they acknowledge thair wes ane abuse, contradicting thairby thair 2 article, wherein it is alledgit that if they had bene laughfullie summonsd they wald haif given goode reasonis why the old and accustomed forme of tanning should not haif bene altered. And, for answer to the articles that the abuse does continue nochtwithstanding, of the intendit reformatioun, it salbe fund that the abuse, if anie be, is not to be imputed to the undertaker, in reguard he hath performed everie thing injoynd to him by the Counsaill, bot meerlie till be thair awne fault, seing whatever reformatioun is maid from the beginning it wes ever done by compulsioun. And yit in divers pairts of the cuntrey they had attained to ane reasounable goode perfectioun, as salbe qualified by the ledder whiche hes bene and is daylie tanned- And, quhair the abuse continues, it proceids rather from thair awne wilfull malice nor from unskillfulnes. Lyke as it salbe qualified befor your Lordships that some, after thair ledder had bene perfitelie tanned and dried be the saidis strangeris and maid reddie to be sauld in mercats, they did putt thair hydes aggain in the tann pottis, by that meyne to weitt thame, out of willfull malice to give a publict distaste in mercattis of the intendit reformatioun. And it cannot be denyed bot if they had bene willing to ressave instructioun at the first they might haif bene as skillfull as they ar who did ressave it. And yit, if they wer willing, they might learne of otheris who wer instructed at the first, and ar now als perfite as these that taught thame.

7. Whereas it is alledgeit that the abuse might haif bene takin away without bringing in of strangeris, as proceeding onlie from unskillfulnes of landward barkaris:-It is answeirit that, howsoevir at the first the tanneris within burghs seemed to lay the grittest blame of the abuse in tanning upoun the unskillfulnes of the landward barkaris, and that out of ane intention whiche they had to haif the whole tanning in the kingdome reducit to the burrowis, wcoring to thair desire contened in thair overtouris given in 26 of November 1619, yit afterward, the first of December 1619, they acknowledged thair awne want of skill as well as the landward tanneris, whereupoun the Lordis fand that thair wes a necessitie to bring home strangeris for instructing of the whole cuntrey; and the strangers that wer broght in wer nather a burdene to the cuntrey nor a vexatioun to the subjects, bot wer intertened whollie upoun the charges of the undertaker.

8. As to the eight article, whairin exception is cheiflie takin at the seiller and fees assigned to him, it being alledgit that thair might haif bene als goode ordour takin by magistratis and deaconis of crafts within burghs and be shireffis and justices of peace to landward:- It is answered that thair wes a necessitie of a seale for trying the sufficiencie of all leddir that sould he sauld or putt in worke, according to the custome of all other nationis, whiche they thame selfis also did acknowledge by thair overtours given in 25 November 1619; and, as thair wes a necessitie of a seale, so his Majestie had to mak choise of a keepar for the seale. And, for the fees assigned to him, it wes cheiflie done in regard of the grite charges and expenssis that he wes to undergoe befor the work could be broght to perfectioun, and in consideratioun of the yeirly allowances he behooveit to bestow upoun the underkeeparis of the sealls throughout the whole cuntrey; and this proportioun of dewtie sett upoun the sealling of ilk hyde is appoynted to indure for such tyme onlie as the Lords of Secreit Counsaill thought competent to recompense the grite charges to be advaunced be the undertaker and ill consideratioun of his panes and travells, at the expyreing of the whiche tyme dureing the rest of the yearis of the patent the duetie of the seale is appoyntit to be no more nor the Lords thought that the allowances of the under seallkeeparis wald amount unto.

9. The nynt article alledgeth that such a few number of strangeris as wer appoynted to be broght in could not be able in eightene moneths to instruct the tanneris of the kingdome, thair being abone fyftene hundreth of thame:- To the whiche it is answeirit, first, that, although the Counsaill appoyntit onlie tuelffe strangeris to be broght in, yit the undertaker, out of the care he had to haif the cuntrey perfetlie instructed, did bring in at two severall tymes first sextene and afterward ten, whereof tuentie-fye remayned the whole tyme præscryved. Nixt, for the shortnes of the tyme that wes appoyntit for the strangeris abyding in the cuntrey, it is answeirit that it wes easie for tuentie fyve strangeris to instruct the haill cuntrey within eightene monethis, in regard that within that space thair might be thrie returnes of leddir maid, everie on within sex moneths and whome they had once taught they neided to teache him no more besydis that everie one that could doe it once might be able to instruct his neighbour. And, for the number of fiftie seallers whiche wer thought sufficient to serve the whole cuntrey, it is true that the undertaker hes established abone foirescore fiftene, in regard the Lordis did appoynt, as the proces bears, 22 December 1619, that no man sould be obleist to carie his ledder to be sealed abone four myllis at most, and the gritter the number of the sealleris be it is the gritter ease to the tanneris, and without anie further burdene of seall duetie. And it may be easilie qualified that one stranger in that space might haif given instructioun to the tanneris within the boundis of Fyfe, or sex seale-keeparis. Besydis all this, it is of trueth that ane grite number of the strangeris were kepted still and intertened by the undertaker thrie moneths longer nor the tyme præscryved, into such places of the cuntrey as had most neid.

10. In the tenth article it is alledgit that the bringing in of strangeris wes to no use becaus they wer astricted to ressave prentissis, nather knew they the goodnes of our hydys nor sufficiencie of our bark:- To the whiche it is answeirit that the tanneris in that poynt ar the more oblist to the undertaker, who fred thame of that burdene and subjectioun of prentissis, and upoun his awne proper charges presented unto thame the meanis and occasioun how they might be frelie instructed in that trade, sua that it wes nather necessair nor expedient for the weele of the tannaris that they sould haif bene tyed to the subjectioun of prentissis, in regard that, haveing once instructed our tanneris, they became als perfite as thameselffis. Indeid it wer a goode course that nane sould be admittit to that trade heirafter bot such as past prentissis, becaus the grittest abuse proceeds of the ignorance of those that becomes tanners never haveing befor understand the trade. As for the goodnes of our hydys and sufficiencie of our bark, it is evident by the tanned ledder whiche hes bene and is daylie maid in diverse pairts of the kingdome that thair is no defect in the hydys according to thair quantitie, nor yit in the

bark, whiche, being taken for the maist part of young timber, proves better and stronger nor the English bark, whiche is taken of auld timber, and the grittest strenth of thair bark is gone befor thair woodes be cutted, whereas our woodes ar cutted younger when the bark is in the full strength. And, for the shortnes of the tyme, it salbe qualified that thair awne unwillingnes wes ane gritter hinder to thair knowledge nor the shortnes of the tyme they had to learne if they had bene willing.

11. In the ellevint article it is alledgit that the retributioun grantit for the bringing in of strangeris passis all proportioun, being compared with the charges of the undertaker:- To the whiche it is answeirit first, that the charges bestowed wes far gritter nor at the first it wes thought it should have bene, in regard that the undertaker, out of his care to sie the cuntrey reformed, did bring in abone a double number of strangeris that wer appoynted to be broght in. Nixt, for fiftie seallers, which wer thought sufficient to serve the haill cuntrey, he wes forced to place fourscore fiftene and abone. So that, in regard both of the double number of strangeris who wer broght in and the double number of seallers whiche wer established more nor at the first wes thought be the Counsaill to be sufficient, besydis the tyme that the undertaker intertained the saidis strangeris longer nor wes appoynted be the Counsaill, all these thrie being severallie considerit will of necessitie inferr abone a double charge to the undertaker of that quhilk. wes esteemed of be the Counsaill at first. Thridlie.- Quhair it is alledgit that the hydys tanned within the kingdome wer reckonnit to be thrie score thowsandis in a yeir, it salbe qualified before your Lordships, whensoever occasioun sall present, that the undertaker did not ressave compt of abone half of that nomber the first Yeir, and of that half nomber the most part of the same wes skinns, whereof four allowit for ane hyde according to the ordinance of the Counsaill. And for the second yeir it did not answeir to the half of the first. And now, in regard of the oppositioun that hath bene maid, it will not answeir to the annual rent of the stock that it coist the undertaker, although no respect wer had to the infinite panes that he bath bene at, from the begining, and now they refuse altogether to give obedience to the ordour of tanning provyded by the Counsaill, upoun ane false alledgeance that the patent is recalled. Besydis all this, it is ane most unjust calculatioun to alledge that heirafter the whole commoditie will redound to the use of the undertaker, in regard that he most still give allowanceis to so grite a number of sealleris, who will still haif the charge to attend that bussienes through the whole cuntrey; for whome when they wer appoptit to be onlie fiftie the Lordis did appoint fyve thowsand pundis *per annum*. And for the last ten yeiris the undertaker will haif no commoditie at all, becaus the dewtie imposed for that space will not intertaine the sealleris according to the calculatioun of fyve thowsand pundis *per annum*.

12. In the twelffe article they alledge that no seale duetie aught to be taken for forrayne ledder:-To the whiche it is answeirit that the Lordis of Counsaill upoun goode considerationis maid ane act for sealling of forrayne ledder, first, becaus they thought unreasounable that forrane ledder sould haif ane gritter priviledge nor our awne cuntrey ledder, nixt, becaus the tanneris thameselflis, howsoever now they oppose aganis the sealling of forrayne ledder, yit wer the urgearis of it at that tyme upoun respect of thair awne privat gaine, alledging if forrayne if ledder had bene Priviledgeit it might haif bene ane mere to hinder the haill reformatioun, seing they wald haif broght it in into so grite a quantitie that our people sould not have had meynis to vent our leddir that wes tanned within the cuntrey according to the new præservyed ordour. And they cannot without grite præsumptioun querrell that whiche the Lordis of Counsaill haif done upoun so goode considerationis. And further, if the said forrayne ledder sould haif bene exemed from the seale, it wald haif bene ane cullour and prætext to haif fostered the abuse, everie persone proetending the ledder broght be him to the mercat to be forrayne ledder.

13. In thair 13 article it is alledgit most unjustlie that the gaine of the undertaker for sealling ilk hyde will be als grite as they will haif for thair haill paines in workeing of it:-To the whiche it is answeirit that the gaine of the undertaker is nowayes answeirable to thairs, becaus they will now get for ane hyde rightlie tanned sex tymes as much as the seale dewtie more nor thay wald haif gotten for ane hyde of the same quantitie done after the old fashioun, and it will be so much better for worke. Besydis it is to be considerit that, where they haif occasioun to carrie thair leddir to mercatts through the haill kingdome, as cheiflie to that of Edinburgh, whiche doeth most consist of cuntrey leddir, from Glasaow cheiflie and Selkrig and otheris pairts, they doe now carie abone tuisse als manie dryed hydys as they could haif done of weitt hydys; as also thair grittest gaine of all is that, where befor they wer forced to sell thair hydys on the mercatt day upoun whatsoever pryce, or otherwayes losse thame, seing they wer not able till keip till another mercat day, being weitt and raw, now they keip thame being dry if they please ane yeir more or lesse till they find ane goode mercatt, so that if the gaine be litle it

is to be imputed to thair misgovernement in the tanning. And that whiche is allowed to the undertaker is not gained bot graunted to him in recompense of the grite advancements that he wes forced to mak in bringing in and intertenyeing of strangeris, who to procure the benefite of our tanneris thairafter did work to thame as sloves dureing the whole tyme of thair abyding in the cuntrey without being oniewayes chargeable unto thame, bet by the contrair did sail so mucche to manie of thame as they wald haif bene forced to bestow on thair awne servandis.

14. Where thay allede that the strangeris did rott and spill thair lether and did confesse that the ledder and bark of this cuntrey wes not sufficient:- It is answeirit that it wes never fund if onie of there leddir wes spilt bot it wes evir in thair awne default. Nather did the strangeris evir confesse that our bark wes insufficient, bot still affirmed that it wes als goode for tanning as the English bark. And, for our hydys, thair salbe no difference fund betuix these that ar tanned heir and these that ar tanned in England, except in the quantitie, as salbe qualified be production and comparisone of bothe if your Lordships think it meete. And it is also evident be the hydys of our Scottis kye that ar taken into England on foote and comes back in tanned ledder.

15. Where it is alledgit in the 15 article that they ar forced to spend tuse as much bark as they wer wont to doe:- Be the contrarie it salbe qualified that they saif ane grite deale which they spent before, becaus that whiche they did cast out in regarde of thair unskilfulnes as serving to no purpos will now serve thame for goode use.

16. Whereas in the 16 article it is alledgit that thair leddir is more insufficient for work nor formarlie it wes, that is onlie to be attribute to thame selffis, whiche ather doe not use it rightlie in the tanne pottis as they wer instructed, or draw it befor it be sufficientlie tanned; or els they doe not bestow so mucche charges in licouring or talloweing of it as they wer forced to doe befor in regaird of the stiffnes of the ledder, being barked after the old forme, and not able otherwayes to be wrought; which now is so gentle, in regaird of the oft handling of it in the tanne pottis, that it is easie to work; and they purposlie doe not licour nor tallonne it as they wer wont, onlie to give the cuntrey people a distaste of the new forme of tanning. And this, last sould indeid be the curriour his pairt; whiche they confound, being tanneris, curriouris, and shoemakeris all in one persone, whiche is the grite fontaine of all the abuses that doe aryse in this bussienes, contrar to the custome of all other nationis, where they ar thrie severall and destinate trades.

17. Whereas in the 17 article it is alledgit that the forrane leddir hes better vent in the cuntrey nor it had befor:- It is answeirit that it is thair awne fault who will not rightlie tanne thair awne leddir, of purpos to give a distaste to the people of the cuntrey, as said is befor, seing it is manifest that if our awne ledder wer sufficientlie tanned within the cuntrey it wald be ane meane to stay the bringing in of forrayne ledder, becaus these that broght it in wald have no commoditie thairby.

18. In the 18 article it is alledgeit that, Although the undertaker knew perfitelie that thair wes no possibilitie of tanning within this cuntrey and that the strangeris had spilt thair leddir, yit he exacted bandis of thame for doeing of it, whiche bandis ar yit abone thair head:- It is answeirit that the undertaker both understoode thair wes a possibilitie of tanning and that the strangers wer skillfull enough to instruct thame, whairof thair is evident proofes by the leddir that hes bene alreadie and is dailie tanned in diverse pairts of the cuntrey., and that the taking of bands wes done be the undertaker at the earnest supplicatioun of the tanneris, who, haveing incurred the panes mentionat thair in the Act of Counsaill for thair bygane transgressioun of the ordour prescryved be the Counsaill, and under the danger of the Counaills censure for the samine, did voluntarlie offer to the undertaker, that they might be frie of bygane censure and punishement, to give the saidis bandis for obedience in tyme comeing. Like as the undertaker keipis yit the saidis bandis abone thair heads to urge thame to obedience and to no other end, as may cleirly appear by his bygane behaviour, in that he hes never yit exacted the penalties contened in the saids bands, nochtwithstanding that they haif most obstinatlie and maliciouslie disobeyed; whiche wes the occasioun of double charges to the undertaker.

19. The 19 article wald make it appear that a grite number of tanneris wer forced to leave thair trade be the charges and expenses of the new forme of tanning:- It is answeirit that nane haif bene forced to leave thair trade bot ather sic as before did abuse the cuntrey by making so often returnes of thair ledder befor it could be perfitelie barked, who now, being urged to reforme thair pottis and to abyde the tyme of barking preseryved be the proclamatioun, wer forced to leave af in regaird of thair povertie, and by all reasone they sould never haif used that trade; or els they haif bene sic as, through the universaill Calamitie of the cuntrey in regaird of the present scarsitie, not having meanis, haif left af thair trade. And these who haif

meanis and skill to use that trade may be the more able to furneis the cuntrey in regaird that these who had nather meanis nor skill haif left it af. And, besyde this, it salbe qualified that of the nomber sett downe in thair roll some never tanned anie at all, some ar dead, and some doeth still use that trade and haif not left it off.

20. Whereas the tanneris within burghs wald alledge that the ledder whiche they say is tanned to the landward after the old fashioun does sell better nor thair ledder tanned within burgh after the new fashioun, and that gentlemen to the landward does bark leddir for thameselffis and thair tennents:- It is answeirit to the first pairt that it is altogether by [without] the knowledge of the undertaker, and proceids of thair wilfull dissobedience, if anie sic ledder as is barkit after the old fashioun be suffered to have course ather to burgh or land, and he hes given speciall directioun in the contrair. And, for that whiche is alledgit to be done by gentlemen in the cuntrey, it is not the fault of the undertaker, and he dois humblie intreate your Lordships to thinke on the best course how it may be amendit in tyme comeing.

21. Where it is alledgit that untanned leddir is sealed and presentit to mercatts aswell as tanned leddir; if anie such thing be, it is unknowen to the undertaker, who hes given speciall command to all his sealleris to confiscat all untanned leddir. And, if it sall come to his knowledge that onie of his sealleris hes done in the contrair, he salbe most carefull to sie him punist accordinglie.

22. Where it is alledgit that in maist pairts of the cuntrey thair is no seale at all, by the contrair it salbe qualified that sealleris ar established in all pairts of the cuntrey wherevir onie barking of leddir hes bene.

23. Where it is alledgit that the sealleris does not tak thair ordinarie seale dueties onlie, bot extentis thame be the heid:- It is answeirit that in the undertakeris opinioun this is a meere calumnie; or, if it can be qualified, the undertaker will concurr to sie the same accordinglie punist.

24. Where it is alledgit that in maist pairts of the cuntrey the seale keiparis ar not tanners:- It is answeirit all of thame ar ather tanneris or shoemakeris.

Thir answeiris to everie one of thair articles being considerit be your Lordships, the undertaker dois not doubt bot your Lordships will find thair articles sufficientlie answeirit and refuted, and that farder warrands salbe grantit be your Lordships for assisting the reformatioun And, howsoever they wald alledge that this reformatioun wes intendit for private endis under the prietence of a publict benefite to the cuntrey, whairin it is no wonder they wald lay that imputatioun on the undertaker, seing in so doeing they also presume to taxe the Lordis of his Majesties Counsaill, who layed downe the grounds to be followed in this bussienes, yit it is evidentlie sein thair haill project is to be fred of the duetie of the seale; whiche wes meerlie imposed for retributioun of the grite charges the Lordis did consider the undertaker behoveit to be at by the bringing and the intertainement of the strangeris and manie other extraordinair debursements belonging to that bussienes, whiche through thair wilfull malice they forced the undertaker to deburse befoir they wer learned, without anie charges at all to thame selffis. And now thair desire is to haif libertie to work as they will; and, whatever they object aganis this new forme of tanneing, yit, if they can be fred of the seale duetie, suche as can doe it never intend to leave it, as sindrie of thameselffis hes confessed. And it salbe qualified that it will turne to the benefite both of the cuntrey in generail and to thameselffis in particulier. And, whereas in the note sett downe in the conclusioun of thair articles they have verie far oversene thameselffis, and hes not caried that duetifull respect to your Lordships whilk become thame, by objecting to your Lordships the establisheing of ane poynt hurtfull and prejudiciall to the whole estate, I think your Lordships so for interested thairin as I haif forborne to answeir the particularis in the termes they deserve, and will reserve the same to your Lordships awne consideratioun, leaving off to tak notice of thair unjust calumnies wherewith I ame so havielie taxed.

Quhilks answeiris, with the articles and grevances given in be the tanneris of this kingdome aganis the said patent, being red, hard, and considerit be the saidis Lordis, and they haveing likewise hard the reasouns and allegatiounis propouned verballie be both the saidis pairtyis in this matter, and being thairwith well advysit ; and the saidis Lordis considerding that one of the cheif poynts contravertit betuix the saidis pairtyis, and wherein the estate hes speciall entereesse, dependis upoun the sufficiencie and unsufficiencie of the new forme of tannage, it being constantlie affirmed be the saidis barkaris that by this new forme of tannage they ar driven to double charges and to bestow the double of the bark upoun the new tanning whilk formarlie they bestowed upoun the old forme, and that the leddir tanned after the new forme is not so usefull to the cuntrey and so able to resist and hold out weete as there ledder barkit

after the auld forme; the contrair quhair of being affirmed be the said Lord Erskine, and that the defect (if onie be) procedis partlie from the malice and pairtie from the sluggisnes of the barkaris thameselffis; and the saidis Lordis being carefull to be fullie and throughlie resolvit of the trueth of this matter be ane assay to be maid and tane both of the new forme of tanning and of the old Scotts forme of barking; whilk assay the saidis Lordis ordanis to be maid be the saids Niniane and Archbald Andersonis or the Scottis forme of barking, and be George Herisoun and Nicolas Richardsone, Englishmen, for the new forme of tanning. Whilks foure personis, being persounallie present, acceptit the charge upoun thame, and gaif thair grite and solenme oathe that they sould deale uprightlie, faithfull, and trewlie in this matter, that they sall use no fraud nor dissait to disapoynt the purpos and intencion of the saidis Lordis to haif the trueth of this matter cleirit, and that the saidis Niniane and Archbald Andersonis sall mak thair assay after the auld Scottis forme of barking and no otherwayes, and that the saidis George Harisoun and Nicolas Richardsone sall ma thair assay after the forme of tanning they teached the people of this cuntrey. And, to the intent this assay and the ordour tane be the saids Lords in this matter may be trewlie and faithfullie according to thair intent and meaning prosequitit and followit out, the saidis Lordis ordanis the saids Niniane and Archbald Andersonis on the ane pairt, and the saids George Harisoun and Nicolas Richardsone on the other part, to nominate certane discret and honnest men for ather part to be visitours and oversearis of thair proceedingis in this matter whilks visitouris sall prepar one or tua convenient houssis at the North Loich syde of Edinburgh with potts thairin answeirable for the said assay, unto the whilk hous or houssis the saidis visitouris sall caus mak double strong lockis and keyis, whereof one key salbe delyverit to ane visitour for ather syde, and the potts within the houssis to be cloissed and sealed, and that none of the barkars and tanneris sall have accesse to the pottis nor within the houssis bot in presence of the judges and visitouris or onie tua for ather syde.

And the saidis Lordis ordanis tuentie Heyland kye hydys to be boght upoun Saterdag nixt be the saids tannaris and cordinaris in presence of the visitouris foirsaidis or anie tua for ather syde, the one half thair of upoun the expenssis of the said Lord Erskine and the other half upoun the expenssis of the saids barkars, and, being boght, that thay be divvdit be the saidis George Harisoun and Nicolas Richardsoun in tua tenis; and then the saids Niniane and Archbald Andemonis to mak thair choise whilk of the tua they will tak. And, the hydys being boght and delyverit to ather partie according to the choise to be maid as said is, that then they begin and enter to thair work in præsance of the judges foirsaidis or anie tua for ather syde, who sall tak notice of the quantitie of the bark that ather partie sall mak use of and sall see the same delyverit unto thame be weight; and the saidis visitouris salbe readie at everie occasioun as they salbe desyrit be the saidis barkaris and tannaris to goe with thame to thair potts and see thame handle and dresse thair work; and of everie particular that sall, occur in the tyme of handling of the work, and of the dayes and tymes of meeting for that effect, the visitouris sall mak and keepe ane perfite record and note in write and sall praesent the same to the Lordis when it salbe callit for. And the saidis Niniane and Archbald Andersonis maid choise of Peter Sommervell and James Cochrane, and, failyeing of the absence of anie ane of thame, they maid choise of George Sutie, thesaurair of the burgh of Edinburgh, to be visitouris and oversearis for thame, and the said Lord Erskine nominat Johne Erskine of Balgownie, Mr Alexander Seatoun of Gargunnoch, James Murray, maister of work, and Walter Murray, or anie tua of thame, the saidis Mr Alexander Seatoun or James Murray being ane of the tua, to be visitouris and oversears for the saidis George Harisoun and Nicolas Richardsone. And the saidis Lordis, for removeing of all suspitioun and matter of contestatioun that may fall out in this bussienes at the tymes of meetting of the visitouris, and to the intent that all things may be done thairin soundlie and effectualie according to thair intent and meaning, they nominat and appoynt Sir Henry Wardlaw and Sir James Baillie to be visitouris and oversears for thame; who both, at the least one of thaine, salbe present at all tymes with the visitouris and oversearis particularlie abone named at all there meettings for this bussienes, and sall assist the meettings with thair presence, and sie that matteris be calmelie, faithfullie, and uprighte handlit according to the saids Lords meaning. Like as the whole visitouris abone named, except the said George Sutie, being persounallie present, acceptit the charge upoun thame, and gaif thair grite oathe that they sall discharge thair dewties thairin faithfullie and trewlie according to thair knowlege. And the saidis Lords ordanis George Sutie to compeir the morne befor the clerk and give his oathe. And the barkaris protestit that this assay nor nothing to be done at this time sall præjudge thame in thair otheris reasonis aganis the patent foirsaid; whilk protestatioun the Lords admittit. Like as the said Lord Erskine protestit in the contrair."

*Edinburgh, 26th November 1624*

"The quhilk day compeirit George Sutie and gaif his oathe *ut supra*. " (see *ante*, p. 646).

*Edinburgh 30<sup>th</sup> March 1625*

Sederunt -Chancellor; Treasurer; Bishop of Glasgou; Melros; Lauderdaill;.Treasurer-deptite;  
Privy Seal; Advocate.

"Anent our Soverane Lordis letteris raisit at the instance of George Harisoun and Nicolas Richartsoun, Inglishmen, makand mentioun that quhair in the matter contravertit befor the commissioneris nominat be the Kings Majestie for heiring of the grevanceis of his subjectis anent the new introduceit forme of tanning and the auld forme of barking of ledder; and, the saidis Lordis being carefull to be fullie and throughlie resolved of the trueth of this matter be ane assay to be maid and tane both of the new forme of tanning and the old Scottis forme of barking, the saidis Lordis for this effect ordanit the said assay to be maid be Archbald Andersone, barker in our burgh of Edinburgh, and Niniane Andersone, barker in our citie of Glasgow, for the Scottis forme of barking, and be the saidis George Harisoun and Nicolas Richartsoun, Inglishmen, for the new forme of tanning; quhilk charge the saidis complenaris and the other tua acceptit upoun thame and gaif thair grite and soleame oathe to deale uprightlie and trewlie in that matter, to witt that the saidis Archbald and Niniane Andersonis sould mak thair assay after the auld Scottis forme and that the saidis complenaris sould mak thair assay after the new Scottis forme, as the Act maid to this effect conteneing the forme and ordour of thair workeing and diverse otheris conditionis præservyved and sett downe be the saidis Lordis unto thame at lenth bearis [*ante*, p. 644]; conforme to the quhilk the saidis complenaris, for discharge of thair dewtie in that matter concredite be the saidis Lordis unto thame, hes remanit in this cuntrey sen the moneth of November last and hes broght thair assay to ane full perfectioun, and ar readie to present the same to the tryall, and thay ar of opinioun that the saidis Archbald and Niniane Andersonis ar in the like readdynes for thair assay, sua that thair restis no forder bot a tryall to be tane of both thair workis for the better cleiring of the trueth of both thair assertionis in that matter; and whereas the saidis complenaris ar strangeris and may not longer attend this bussynes: and anent the charge given to the saidis Niniane and Archbald Andersonis to haif compeirit persounalie befor the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill this penult day of Marche instant to haif hard and sein ane terme and dyet appoyntit for taking tryall of thair assayes and after what forme and maner and be what personis thair assay salbe tryed and examined, and to haif hard and sein suche forder ordour tane in this matter for cleiring of he trueth of the matter contravertit as the saidis Lordis will think expedient, with certificatioun to thame and thay compeirit not that not onlie sould the dyet for the tryall be appoyntit, bot the forme, ordour, and maner thairof in all the circumstanceis that may concerne the same sould be sett downe, lyke as at mair lenth is contenit in the saidis letteris, executionis, and indorsationis thairof: Quhilks being called, and the saidis persewaris compeirand persounalie, and the saidis defendaris being likewise persounalie præsent, the reasons and alligationis of both the saidis pairtyis being hard and considerit be the saidis Lordis, and thay ripely advysed thairwith, the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill assignes, to both the saidis pairtyis the second day of Junij nixt to come for præsenting of thair assay formallie and perfytlie drest and reddy to be putt in worke before the saidis Lordis, to the intent the saidis Lordis may give suche ordour and directioun for tryeing of the sufficiencie of the said assay as thay sall think meitt. And the saidis Lordis ordanis the commissioneris who ar nominat and appoyntit be thame to attend the making of this assay to be likewise present the said day to mak thair report unto the saidis Lordis if the ordour prescryved to thame anent the making of the said assay wes truelie and præceislie followit out."