

CONFIRMATION OF ARMS AND GRANT OF CREST AND SUPPORTERS
TO THE CITY OF CHESTER BY WILLIAM FLOWER, NORROY,
DATED 3RD SEPT., 1580.

[MS. Ashm. 844, Part II, fo. 51.]

The truest copy of the patent made to the Citie of Chester, 1580.

Omnibus et singulis tam regibus ad Arma siue Heraldis, quam nobilibus cæterisque hoc scriptum visuris vel auditoris, Willelmus Flower armiger aliter dictus Norroy rex Armorum et principalis Heraldus partium regni Angliæ borealium, Salutem in Domino sempiternam.

Quoniam Venerabiles viri Maior et ciues ciuitatis Cestriæ, sicut et eorum prædecessores, multis et egregijs priuilegijs à regibus Angliæ Comitibusque Cestriæ Palatinis, sint indulti, et per nomen Maioris et ciuium ciuitatis Cestriæ incorporati: Virtute cuius quidem incorporationis ciuitas prædicta (sicut et alij regni Angliæ ciuitates) Armorum siue insigniorum longo vsu ac demonstratione, clarior et spectabilior multo efficitur. Quoniam vero relictis Armis siue insignijs prædictæ ciuitatis antiquis, et ferè penitus è memoria deletis, alia noua insignia prætensa (et nulla autoritate fulcita*) sibi assumpserunt; eisdemque per multos annos elapsos vsi sunt: qua in re, illorum quorum præcipuè intererat negligentia siue incuria, grauitèr erratum est. Et quia neque supra Arma siue insignia prædicta antiqua (quod plerunque et alijs nonnullis similiter accidit) vlla reperitur galea auctuario (quod tymbrum siue Cristam vocant) decenter ornata; neque ad latera Armorum animalia collateralia (quæ supportatores vulgo appellamus) quibus Scuti tutela committitur, cernuntur. Idcirco ego prædictus Norroy rex Armorum, non solum quod est officij mei in reformatione delictorum priorum temporum exequutus, *Arma siue insignia antiqua† coloribus rubeo et asorio siue caruleo per longum distincta, quorum pars prior (quæ et regia appellari merito potest) dimidiatos tres leones gradientes et respicientes aureos quam speciosissimè ostentat, altera vero pars ab ipsis Comitibus olim Palatinis mutuata, spicarum fascem vnum integrum, et dimidiatum alium aurcum præ se fert*, dictæ ciuitati plenariè et in integrum restitui per præsentem. Ac insuper obnixè rogatus vt prædictæ Ciuitati in hac parte non deessem, quin potius, quantum in me est, Ciuitati et societati tam præclaræ, deque Principe et patria nostra tam benè meritæ, gratificarer: pro maiori et ampliori ornamento Ciuitatis prædictæ, *pro Crista supra galeam, regalitatis et Iusticiæ symbolum gladium*

* Words in brackets are struck out in the MS.—[Ed.]

† The arms borne by the City—*England dimidiating three garbs*—are, as shown by the lost small Statute Merchant seal, probably at least as old as 1283. They were formally confirmed to the City by William Flower, Norroy, by grant dated Sept. 3rd, 1580, which included a crest—*on a wreath or, gules, and azure, a sword of state erect, point upwards, scabbard sable, hilt and pommel or, appendant thereto a belt sable, buckled or*—and supporters: *dexter a lion rampant or, ducally gorged argent, and sinister, a wolf salient argenti, ducally gorged or* (Jewitt and Hope, on *Corporation Plate and Insignia of Office*, i, 64).

The grant of arms to the City of Chester has several endorsements on the back, as follows: "A confirmation of the creste and supporters to the auncient arms of the city given by King Richard II but confirmed 1580." "Confirmed by St. George on my visitation, 1613." "Ensign Armorial, on bearings, commonly called arms, were first granted to the City of Chester by King Edward III, in the mayoralty of William Brickhill, A.D. 1329." "These bearings were re-granted and confirmed, and a city sword given, by King Richard II, in the mayoralty of John Armourer, A.D. 1394." (Architect., Archæol., and Historic Society of Chester, i, 181.)

vaginatū erectū cinguloque cinctū, totū deauratū assignaui, situatū super torquem aureis, rubeis, asorijsque coloribus distinctū, simul cum mantellis siue appendicibus partim rubeis partim asorijs intrinsecus argento duplicatis. Et ulterius in clypei siue scuti sustentationem, leonem aureum corona argentea circa collum redimitū à dextro, et lupum argenteum aurea similiter corona circa collum cinctū à sinistro latere destinaui: quemadmodum in margine præsentium pro pleniori notitia magis ad viuū suis metallis atque coloribus illuminanda, delineanda, depingendaque curaui.

Qvæ quidem insignia clypei antiqua, vnà cum apice seu Crista galeæ imposita, animalibusque prædictis collateralibus dictum clypeum sustinentibus et supportantibus, ego prænominatus Norroy rex Armorum, virtute et autoritate functionis et officij mei, à regia maiestate mihi in hac parte concessæ, digna dignis vt præscriberem admissus, dictis Maiori et ciuibus præfatæ ciuitatis Cestriæ eorumque successoribus, in maiorem honoris incrementum, et Ciuitatis prædictæ decus atque ornamentum perenne, dedi, tradidi, et imperpetuum confirmaui per præsentēs. Habenda, vtenda, et ostendenda honoris gratia quibuscunque loco et tempore pro eorum arbitrio, aliquo impedimento, contradictione, aut prohibitione id vt ne fieri possit, non obstantibus. In quorum omnium et singulorum fidem et testimonium, ego Norroy rex Armorum prædictus hijs præsentibus nomen meum manu mea propria subscripsi, et appensione sigilli officij mei præsens meum diploma corroboraui. Datvm Cestriæ tertio die Septembris Anno Christi Saluatoris M.D.LXXX regni verò Sere-nissimæ reginæ Elizabethæ vicesimo atque secundo.
