

**A Haberdasher, a Dyer, a Carpenter,  
A Weaver, and a Carpet-maker** were  
Among our ranks, all in the clothes  
Of one impressive guild-fraternity. [They are dressed with some  
kind of identifying marks to let others know what guild they  
belong to.]

They were so trim and fresh their gear would pass  
for new. Their knives were not tricked out with brass  
But wrought with purest silver, which avouches  
A like display on a narrow belt and on pouches. [The new-rich  
were over-dressed.]

Each seemed a worthy a member of a legislative group, fit to  
grace

A guild-hall with a seat upon the platform.  
Their wisdom would have justified a plan  
To make each one of them a city council member; [They wanted  
to have positions in the city government as well as in the guild-  
hall.]

They had the capital and revenue,  
Besides their wives declared it was their due.  
And if they did not think so, then they ought;  
To be called "Madam" is a glorious thought,  
And so is going to church and being seen  
Having your a long cape carried like a queen. [The wives were  
complaining that since they have as much money as the  
noblewomen they should be treated in the same way.]