

THE
MASONIC ILLUSTRATED
OFFICES, 15, GREAT QUEEN ST. LONDON, W.C. (Opposite Freemasons' Hall)

A MONTHLY JOURNAL
for FREEMASONS

Vol. IV., No. 40. JANUARY, 1904. Price 6d.



*R. W. Bro. Viscount Valentia, M.P.,
Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire.*

The Province of Oxfordshire.—(Concluded.)

THERE are twelve lodges on the present roll of the Province of Oxfordshire, the senior being the "Alfred," which was warranted as No. 649, to assemble in the "Ship Inn," Oxford. In its by-laws for 1899 it is declared (in an admirable historical introduction) that—

"The warrant was granted by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, M.W.G.M., on the 16th of February, 1814, and is remarkable as the *first* issued by the United Grand Lodge of England."

Unfortunately the claim thus made cannot be substantiated, as the "Alfred" really was the *second* so authorized, the *first* being the "Royal Inverness," No. 648, which united with the "Time Immemorial" Lodge, No. 4, in 1828.

Its present habitation is the Masonic Hall, Alfred Street ; four other inns, besides the "Ship," having been selected for its meetings from 1818 to 1832. In 1832 the number was altered to 425, and again in 1863 to 340, its present position on the roll. During the 90 years, or so, that the "Alfred" has been at work, prosperity has ever attended in its train ; in which period close on *one thousand* members have been admitted, some four-fifths having been initiated.



BRO. REV. H. R. COOPER SMITH, D.D., P.G.C., P.P.G.J.W.

The founders were Bros. John Ireland (P.M. of the old "Constitution" Lodge in 1780), James Macdonald (Grand Stewards' Lodge), William Hayes, P.M., Sir Edward Hitchings, and eight others. The first three were the W.M. and the Senior and Junior Wardens, respectively. Bro. William Thompson, the first S.D., succeeded Bro. John Ireland (the first to occupy the chair) as the W.M. in 1816, and was followed by Bro. Thomas Wyatt (the first J.D.) in 1817. The Master in 1818 was Dr. George Hitchings. Bro. Thompson served as the W.M. seven times during the period, 1819-1834.

At the Grand Lodge held in September, 1847, the R.W. Bro. R. G. Alston, P.J.G.W., stated that "there was no lodge in the kingdom in which the true principles of Masonry were better carried out and attended to" than in the "Alfred," and assuredly the members have continued to deserve such high praise. Bro. Alston was W.M. of the "Apollo University Lodge" in 1835.

In 1876, H.R.H. the late Duke of Albany, K.G., &c., the Prov. Grand Master, graciously accepted honorary membership in this lodge.

In the list of Past Masters, printed with the by-laws, A.D. 1899, *thirty-five* out of the forty-eight have had the honour of being appointed Provincial Grand Wardens ; and four out of the five Prov. Grand Treasurers elected for the same period, 1837-1899, were also members of the same lodge ; the first Prov. S.G.W., of what may be termed the revived Prov. G.L., being Bro. Charles J. Sadler, P.M., then Mayor of Oxford, and an initiate of the "Alfred" in 1820.

The second oldest lodge and one of the most influential in the kingdom is the

"Apollo University, No. 357,"

which was warranted on 28th December, 1818, to meet at the "Star Hotel" in the Corn Market. Subsequently it assembled at the "Angel," then the "Maidenhead," and from 1833 at the Masonic Hall in Alfred Street, until 1865, when it removed to the "University Masonic Hall" in Frewen Court, built for the Clarendon Hotel Co.

The zealous Craftsman, Bro. John Ireland, P.M. of the "Constitution" (extinct) and the "Alfred," was the first W.M. ; Dr. Geo. Hitchings (P.M. of the "Constitution") was the S.W., and Bro. L. B. Larking, F.S.A., the J.W. The original number of the lodge was 711, changed to 460 in 1832, and has been 357 from 1863. The name selected at first was "Apollo," but in 1820, the more lengthy and appropriate title was duly sanctioned.

One of the early by-laws provided that—

"On account of keeping the good-will of the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, the members of this lodge shall proceed to their meetings in their academics."

Some of the original regulations would read very strangely in the latest by-laws of the lodge, but were doubtless common to the meetings of early last century.

The latest regulations of No. 357 were published in 1897, and dedicated to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Jersey, the beloved Prov. G.M. (an initiate of A.D. 1865 ; Lord Lieut. of Oxfordshire, &c.). It is a remarkable little work, running to some 160 pages, and containing numerous particulars of the lodge from 1819, nearly eighty years ; a complete roll of the members, with titles and offices attained subsequently to their admission ; a list of Masters, and register of brethren of No. 357, who have held or are holding office in Grand Lodge and Prov. Grand Lodge.

Some idea of the extraordinary character of this roll of *Grand Officers*, from 1842 to 1897, may be obtained from the statement that it includes 4 Grand Masters, 2 Pro G.Ms., 4 Deputy Grand Masters, 37 Prov. G.Ms., 27 Grand Wardens, 28 Grand Chaplains, a Grand Treasurer, 17 Grand Deacons, an Organist, and Grand Stewards. All these brethren, mostly of high rank, socially, as well as Masonically, were members of the "Apollo University" during the period of fifty years, an experience not realized by any other lodge under the English Constitution ; many of the Craftsmen being still zealous and competent in the discharge of their duties to their Country and the Fraternity.

There are considerably over 300 subscribers on the present register, all of whom "are, or have been members of the University," for although a by-law in 1853 restricting membership accordingly, was not confirmed by the Prov. G.M., the rule has been practically maintained as with the other University Lodges in the country and elsewhere. The Masters of the "Isaac Newton University Lodge," No. 859, Cambridge, and of the "University of London Lodge," No. 2033, are, *jure dignitatis*, honorary members for life ; and their Wardens, as well as the Masters of the "Westminster and Keystone Lodge," No. 10, of the "Oxford and Cambridge University Lodge," No. 1118, London, and of the "Universities Lodge," No. 2352, Durham, being honorary members during their years of office.

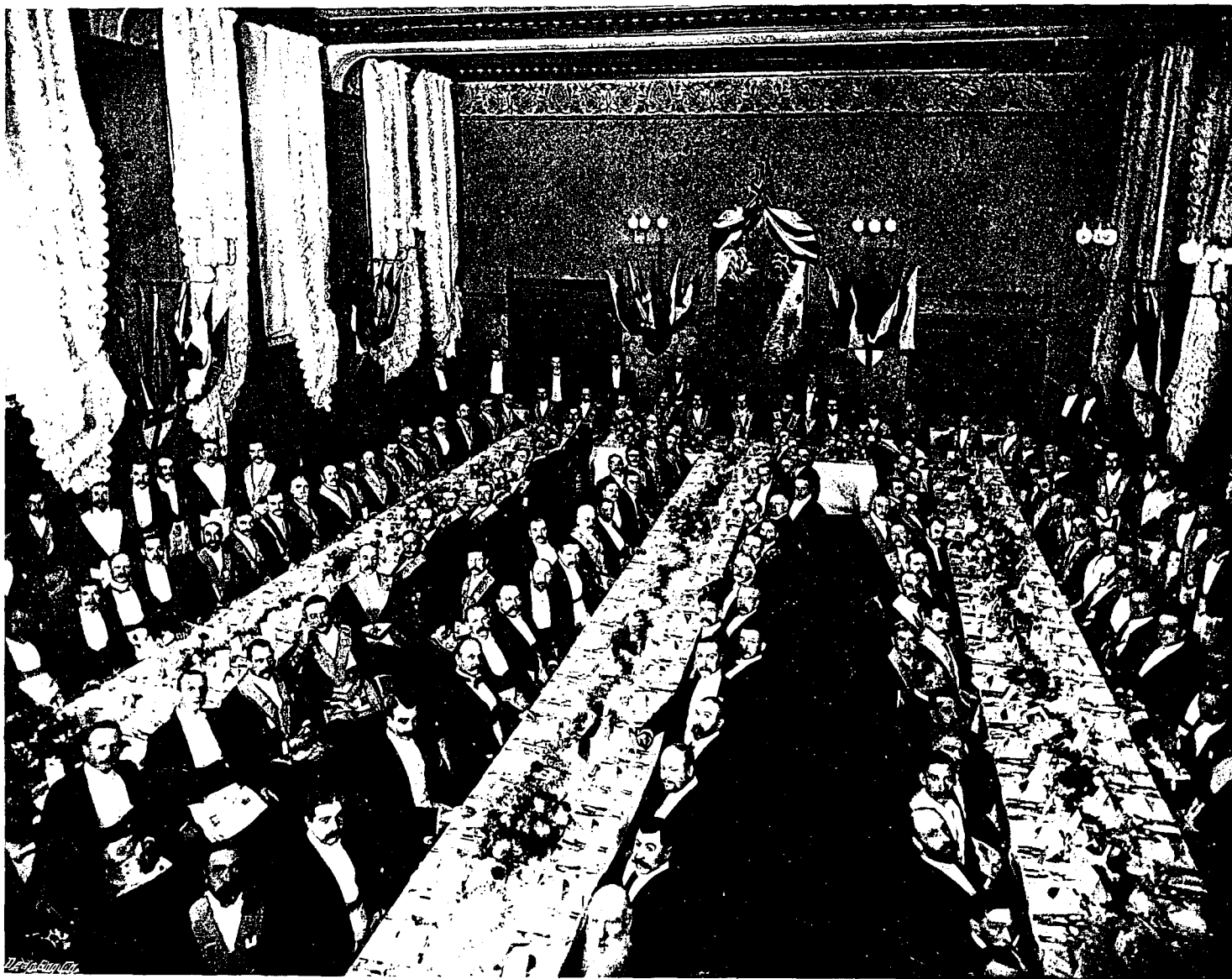
The fiftieth anniversary of the lodge was celebrated on the 19th February, 1869, when the members entertained a number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, the W.M., P.M.s. and brethren of the "Isaac University Lodge," Cambridge, and other invited guests.

On the 30th April, 1872, the lodge had the special honour of adding the name of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., M.W. Grand Master (with the consent of H.R.H.), to their roll. At the following annual meeting H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (now his Majesty King Edward VII.) became the W.M. of the lodge, and graciously appointed Bro. Reginald Bird, M.A., I.P.M. (D. Prov. G.M. Oxfordshire, 1876-91, P.G.D.), to be H.R.H.'s Deputy Master.

Another great honour was conferred on the lodge in 1874, when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c., intimated that H.R.H. Prince Leopold, K.G., &c. (afterwards Duke of

at Nuneham, but in 1858 it was removed to the City, at the Masonic Hall, Alfred Street. The first Master and Wardens (petitioners with four others) were Bros. John Lane, D.C.L., Rev. W. H. Cox, B.D. (P.M. of "Apollo Univ."), and the Rev. G. F. Thomas, M.A., respectively. There was little business transacted until 1850, when another start was inaugurated by the election of Bro. R. J. Spiers (P.G.S.B. Eng. and D. Prov. G.M. 1855-75), P.M. of the "Alfred" and several members of the "Apollo University"; the Rev. Edward Moore being the W.M., who had as his officers brethren connected with Lodges 340 and 357. That a very intimate friendship exists between the "Apollo University" and the "Churchill," is evidenced by the number of brethren who join the latter lodge from No. 357 and go "through the chair."

The "Cherwell," Banbury, No. 599 (formerly 873), was



DINNER GIVEN TO VISCOUNT VALENTIA, M.P., ON HIS RETURN FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

Albany), desired to become a Mason and a member of the "Apollo University." On the 1st of May in that year, H.R.H. was elected, and on the same day initiated by Bro. Frederic Parker Morrell, M.A. In the following year H.R.H. served as Senior Warden, and on 23rd February, 1876, was installed as Worshipful Master by the Rev. H. A. Pickard, M.A. (P.G.C.); the Rev. R. W. M. Pope, D.D. (P.G.C.), being appointed Deputy Master.

The long list of members of the lodge who have served as Stewards of the Central Masonic Charities, proves how heartily the brethren respond to the dictates of that "distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart." The total votes held by the Province number nearly 7000, so that the other lodges in Oxfordshire cheerfully do their part as well, for our admirable Institutions.

The "Churchill Lodge" was chartered 26th of April, 1841, as No. 702, which was changed to 478 in 1863. It first assembled at Henley, then, in 1851, at Oxford, and in 1852

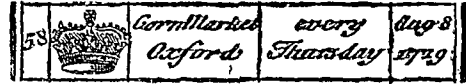
established in 1852, its first W.M. being the Rev. C. K. Paul (P. Prov. G. Chaplain); the next W.M. being Lt.-Col. H. A. Bowyer (Prov. G.M. from 1854). The "Bowyer," Chipping Norton, No. 1036, entered on its career at the "White Hart" in 1864, but from 1867 has been located at the Masonic Hall. The "Marlborough" was formed at Woodstock in 1872 as No. 1399; all but one of the petitioners hailing from the "Alfred," No. 340; whereas those who founded the "Bertie" in 1874 belonged to four lodges. It was consecrated at the "University" Masonic Hall, Oxford, as number 1515, on 6th November by the late Bro. Richard James Spiers as D. Prov. G.M. It was the first lodge warranted during the Grand Mastership of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c.

The other lodges on the roll of the province are the "Windrush," No. 1703, Witney (A.D. 1877); the "St. Mary's," No. 1763, Thame (A.D. 1878); the "Thames," No. 1895, Henley-on-Thames (A.D. 1881); the "Jersey," No. 2334, Bicester (A.D. 1890); and the "Wychwood," No. 2414,

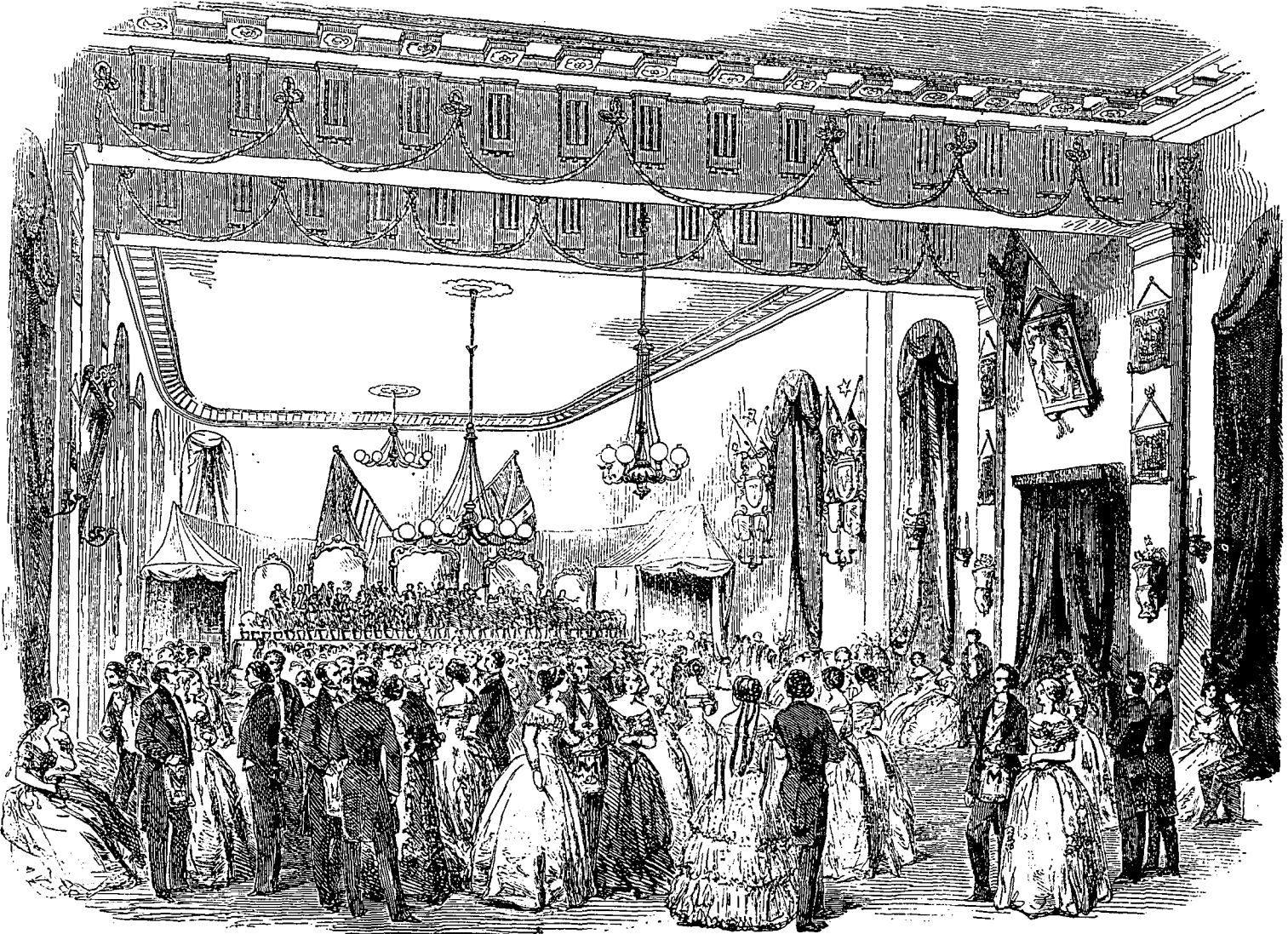
Burford, of A.D. 1892; twelve lodges in all, four being located in the venerable city, the total membership being about 800.

Oxfordshire was not formed into a province until the year 1795, the premier Prov. G.M. being Sir John McNamara Hayes, Bart., who was succeeded in 1810 by Viscount Forbes, (afterwards the Rt. Hon. Earl of Granard), neither of whom could have been burdened with very much official work. Practically the province dates from 1837, when Lord Henry Spencer Churchill (*Deputy Grand Master* of England, 1835-8) was appointed to the oversight. His lordship was also S.G.W. in 1832 and died in 1840; No. 478 handing down his

In the year following H.R.H.'s untimely and deeply regretted decease (1884), the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Jersey accepted the dignity of Prov. G.M. (P.M. 478 in 1868, S.G.W.



in 1870); since which period the prosperity of the province has been continuous, Bro. Reginald Bird, M.A., being D. Prov. G.M. to 1892, from which year the Rt. Hon.



MASONIC BALL AT OXFORD IN 1852.

name, Masonically, to posterity. In 1844 the Rev. Charles J. Ridley (D. Prov. G.M.) became the Prov. G.M.; his zeal having been manifested as the W.M. of No. 357 for five years (1824-8-9, 1833-4). Ten years later Colonel Henry Atkins Bowyer (P.M. 599 in 1883-5) entered on his duties as Prov. G.M., whose name is perpetuated by No. 1036. On his decease in 1871 the province was once more placed in the charge of the Grand Registrar until 1876, when H.R.H. the Duke of Albany, K.G., &c. (P.G.W.), was installed as Prov. G.M. in the Sheldonian Theatre, Bro. Reginald Bird being again the D. Prov. G.M. The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lathom (then Lord Skelmersdale, since deceased) was the Installing Master as D.G.M. of England.

Viscount Valentia, M.P., has held that office, whose zeal for the Fraternity is much appreciated (P.M. 478, &c., P.J.G.W.). From 1898, Bro. P. Colville Smith (P.M. 357, &c., P.G.D., D. Prov. G.M. of Cornwall, &c.), has been the esteemed Provincial Grand Secretary, who is now also the energetic Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, so that the province is particularly well suited in having such a worthy trio to conduct its affairs.

The province has an excellent calendar and directory published annually, edited by Bros. P. Colville Smith and A. Rowley (P. Prov. S.G.W.), the energetic Assistant Prov. G. Sec., whose services for the Craft, locally and generally, are well known and appreciated.

Some Memorials
of the
Globe Lodge, No. 23, and of the "Red Apron."
(By HENRY SADLER.)

AT a meeting of the Globe Lodge, No. 23, on the 19th November last, one of the Special Centenary Jewels, which had previously been voted by the Lodge as a contribution to the Grand Lodge Museum, was handed to

the sub-Librarian, who had attended at the invitation of the W. Master (Bro. F. A. Powell, P.G. Std. B.), to receive it. In thanking the Lodge, on behalf of the Library Committee, for their presentation, Br. Henry Sadler

expressed his admiration of the jewel and the appropriateness of the design, which he had no doubt was due to one of their former members, as, at the time permission was given to wear it, the Lodges applying for a Centenary Warrant were expected to submit a design for the Grand Master's approval. He assured the brethren that he, personally, considered the Globe Lodge Jewel a very valuable acquisition to the Grand Lodge collection, and for

It had become the fashion amongst certain brethren to decorate their persons with various unauthorized Jewels, a practice which, in his opinion, was to be deprecated, although it materially enhanced the value of those that *were* authorized. At all events he quite believed these Special Jewels attracted more attention than any other jewels in the collection, for no two were alike, although they were all, more or less, appropriate to their respective Lodges.

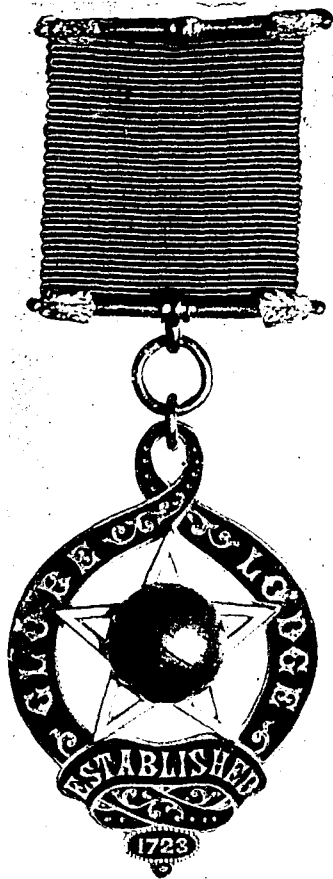


EIGHTEENTH CENTURY SUMMONS OF THE GLOBE LODGE, No. 23.

this reason, out of the 2500 Lodges on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, about 235 had Centenary Warrants, but only 42 of these were legally entitled to Special Centenary Jewels. Of this number he had had the good fortune to acquire, either by the liberality of the various Lodges or by purchase, for the Grand Lodge Museum, 29, and this would make the 30th. He hoped by the exercise of a little patience and perseverance to eventually make the series complete.

At a subsequent period of the evening, on being requested to respond to the toast of the Grand Officers, Bro. Sadler said he was sure the W. Master would not desire that he should dilate at any great length upon a theme with which they were all to some extent familiar. However, he might assure the brethren that the Grand Officers, both collectively and individually, fully appreciated the value and the services of those venerable Lodges, of which the Globe Lodge was

one of the oldest and most respected. They had a very fair sample of the Grand Officers amongst their own members, who were now standing round the table, but if they were to resume their seats he should feel more at ease during the short time he should occupy their attention. He had learnt to-night in the Lodge room that the early records of the Lodge had been lost, and no one could possibly regret that loss more than he did himself, for he well knew how intensely interesting they would have been to the Masons of the present generation. It would be but small consolation to the brethren to tell them that they were not at all singular in this respect, but it was nevertheless a fact, much to be regretted, that probably not more than a half-dozen Lodges in London were in possession of their records reaching back for a period of 150 years. Personally he only knew of three. They were the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2; the Lodge of Friendship, No. 6; and the Old King's Arms Lodge, No. 28; which old Lodge, he was glad to see, had a representative



SPECIAL CENTENARY JEWEL OF THE GLOBE LODGE, No. 23.
Centenary Warrant granted 1864.

here to-night in the person of Bro. Newland, its much esteemed Past Master and Treasurer. The early history of English Masonry and of old English Lodges was to him a most fascinating study, and when he heard to-night that their old records had disappeared, it occurred to him, that should an opportunity offer, he would call their attention to a few incidents relating to the early career of their Lodge that had come under his notice in the course of Masonic research, which, he thought, would probably interest them more than the usual after-dinner oratory, and, by so doing, enable them to draw a comparison between the Freemasonry of the period when this Lodge was constituted, and the gigantic Institution it has since become.

Bro. Sadler then addressed the Lodge as above indicated, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him.

The Treasurer (Bro. Charles Martin, P.A.G.D.C.), in referring to the interesting address which they had listened to with so much pleasure, said Bro. Sadler would confer a still greater favour on the brethren if he would consent to dictate the substance of it to a short-hand writer, so that they could get it printed for preservation, and every member be in possession of a copy.

Bro. Sadler, in response, said he would readily accede to the request, but he thought he could do even better than that. He had omitted much he would have said, knowing

that he was in front of a musical entertainment, but if the brethren would give him time (his hands being rather full just now) he would himself write the address for the printer, as near as he could remember, and possibly make a few additions to it, which he has now done.

You are, no doubt, aware Brethren, that the Globe Lodge was constituted on the 18th September, 1723. It was not however, then known by its present name, indeed, it had no name, nor had it a number, neither had any other Lodge. At that period Lodges were simply distinguished by the names of the taverns at which they were held, and it was not until five or six years after this Lodge was constituted that it was deemed advisable that the Lodges should bear consecutive numbers. This curious little book which I will pass round for inspection, will serve to simplify my remarks on this subject. As you will observe from the inscription on the cover, it was presented to the Grand Lodge some years ago. On the frontispiece it bears the date 1729, and is the first List in which the Lodges bear numbers.

It is known as "Pine's Engraved List of Lodges," and when I tell you it is the only one of that year known to be in existence, you will readily understand how valuable it is, and I am sure you will take the greatest care of it.

We have two earlier lists of a similar kind in the Grand Lodge Library, namely, for 1723 and 1725, but in them the signs of the taverns, their locality, and the days of meeting only are given.

If you will turn to No. 23 in the List, you will find the sign of *The Half Moon* in Cheapside, and that was the house at which this Lodge had its birth, although it could not have remained there very long, for, in the 1725 List, it was stated to be held at *The Sun*, South side of St. Paul's Church Yard, going back to the former house in 1726. It is a rather curious coincidence that at the first enumeration of the Lodges, this Lodge should have been given the number 23, and after all the intervening years since 1729, having had five different numbers in the interval, it should now be under its original number.

The Half-Moon, in Cheapside, was the earliest Masonic house of which we have any definite knowledge, and also the scene of the first Masonic banquet recorded. On the 24th of June, 1731, the Grand Lodge held a meeting there.

Elias Ashmole, the Antiquary, in his celebrated Diary, under date March 10th, 1682, writes that he received a summons to a Lodge to be held next day, at Masons' Hall, London; he says: "Accordingly I went, and about Noone were admitted to the Fellowship of Free Masons, Sir William Wilson, Knight, Capt. Rich. Borthwick, Mr. Will. Woodman, Mr. Wm. Grey, Mr. Samuel Taylor, and Mr. William Wise."

He gives also the names of several brethren who were present on the occasion, and finishes the entry thus: "Wee all dined at the Halfe Moone Taverne in Cheapeside, at a Noble Dinner, prepared at the charge of the New Accepted Masons."

The Lodge remained at *The Half Moon* until 1755, when it was removed to *The Bell*, in Noble Street, thence, in 1757, to *The Salutation*, in Newgate Street, where it met until 1762, and then made another move to *The Fountain*, on Snow Hill. In 1764 we find it meeting at another celebrated Masonic tavern, *The Globe*, in Fleet Street. At this period Lodges generally began to be distinguished by names, and, although the Lodge only remained there four years, it has ever since been known as "The Globe Lodge." From 1768 till 1792, it was held at *The Crown and Rolls*, in Chancery Lane, so-called from its proximity to The Rolls House, or Record Office. During the year 1792, the Lodge returned to *The Globe*, but only remained there for a short time, for in the following year we find it located at *The White Hart*, Holborn, where it continued to meet till 1815, when it was removed to *The Freemasons' Tavern*, and in 1865, on the completion of the Lodge rooms in the new Building of Freemasons' Hall, it took up its quarters there. It will thus be seen that the Lodge has only been held at ten different houses during the 180 years of its existence, and that the last 88 years have been passed on the Grand Lodge premises.

The Globe Tavern, from which the Lodge takes its name, was not only a well known Masonic meeting place, but is immortalized in history as the home of a certain literary and convivial club, much frequented by that versatile genius, Oliver Goldsmith, historian and poet, at the period when the Globe Lodge was held there. Unfortunately the Register of the Grand Lodge, so far as the Globe Lodge is concerned, is blank from 1730 to about 1776, had that not been the case it is not unlikely that some of the members of that celebrated club would have been found to have also been members of this Lodge.

occupied its present position ever since the rebuilding of the city after the great fire in 1666. Should any of the brethren desire to pay it a visit and test the quality of its liquors, it is now called *Ye Olde Bell*, and is situated in Noble Street, Falcon Square, Aldersgate.

N.B.—The entrance to the *Saloon Bar* is in Oat Lane.

Since writing the foregoing paragraph, I have been fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of the proprietor of this old tavern, Bro. George H. Sweet, who courteously invited me to inspect the interior, and having done so from attics to cellars, I see no reason to alter or modify the opinion



YE OLDE BELL TAVERN, WHERE THE GLOBE LODGE WAS HELD FROM 1755 TO 1757.—(Photo Elite Portrait Co.)

Of the ten different houses at which this Lodge has found a home, it may be noted that, with the exception of the adjoining premises, not one is now to be found in the condition in which it was at the time the Lodge was held there, several of them have been entirely swept away, others have been rebuilt, and one seems to have been only slightly altered. The last referred to is the house at which the Lodge was held, from 1755 to 1757, and judging from external appearance this old tavern has undergone very little structural change, notwithstanding that it is situated in the very heart of London. Only recently I made an inspection of it, I didn't go inside because — well, I don't hold with liquid refreshment in the forenoon, but, with the exception of the windows having been slightly modernized, the house has every appearance of venerable age, indeed, I see no reason to doubt its being quite 200 years old, and may have possibly

already expressed. Considerable alterations have undoubtedly been made, both internally and externally, but unless I am much mistaken, the room in which Masonic meetings were held is practically intact.

The old brickwork of the outer walls, as will be seen from the accompanying photograph, has been hidden by stucco, and the windows enlarged and modernized by the removal of the old-fashioned broad, wooden framing, but I have not the shadow of a doubt that it is the identical house in which the Globe Lodge was held from 1755 to 1757, and the Lodge of Industry, No. 186, in 1815.

On account of the narrowness of the street and the dullness of the weather at this season, it was very difficult to get a good photograph of the building, and I shall only be doing bare justice to the photographer in saying that he has done much better than I expected.

In this connection I may mention a circumstance which will, no doubt, interest as well as surprise the brethren present. The ground on which this tavern stands, or that part of it which includes the room we are now in, was formerly owned by a very old member of this Lodge, one of its earliest, I might say, for in the first list of its members returned to Grand Lodge, in the year 1725, comprising 17 names, the 12th name on that list is that of Philip Carteret Webb, who, I have every reason to believe, was for many years the freeholder and the occupier of the houses and grounds on which the original Freemasons' Tavern stood and our Grand old Hall was afterwards erected.



the above and think it the most desirable plan that has yet been offered to the Committee. (Signed) PÉTRÉ."

Early in 1774 the purchase was completed, and it was in the garden above referred to that our fine old Hall, in which the meetings of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter are now held, was built. The premises consisted of a front house facing the street, and a smaller or back house adjoining the garden, probably used as a museum. The former became the original Freemasons' Coffee house, or Tavern, and the latter was fitted up as offices and a committee room for the purposes of the Grand Lodge.

Notwithstanding the large expenditure in repairs and



SIGNS OF THE TAVERNS AT WHICH THE GLOBE LODGE WAS HELD FROM 1723 TO 1764.

During the first 59 years of the existence of the Grand Lodge, it had neither home nor habitation, nor, indeed, anything else in the shape of real estate. Its ordinary meetings were held at various taverns, and the Annual Festivals at one of the Halls of the City Companies hired for the occasion.

About the year 1767, strong efforts were made to raise a Fund to provide furniture and jewels for the Grand Lodge. This movement eventually developed into the formation of a Fund for building a Hall and proper offices. It may interest the brethren to know that the Globe Lodge was one of the earliest contributors to this Fund. In 1773, a Hall Committee, consisting of the leading Masons in London, headed by the Grand Master, was formed, with certain powers delegated to it by the Grand Lodge. This Committee soon set to work, and after having inspected several places that were unsuitable, had practically decided to recommend the purchase of certain Freehold premises situated on the North side of Fleet street, when word was brought to the Committee that two commodious dwelling houses and a large garden in Great Queen Street, late in the possession of Philip Carteret Webb, Esq., deceased, were

alterations of the old premises previously occupied by Philip Carteret Webb, it was found that, as the business increased, they were ill adapted for Tavern purposes, the Grand Lodge, therefore, on the advice of Thomas Sandby, Esq., R.A., Grand Architect; William Tyler, Esq., P.G. Steward, another eminent architect, decided to demolish the old buildings and erect instead a large tavern connected with the Hall, with suitable accommodation for the Grand Secretary, and the meetings of Lodges and other Societies. This was a serious undertaking in view of the fact that the Hall was not yet paid for, and the amount received for its use was barely enough for working expenses—still it was, no doubt, the right thing to do, considering the great age of the structure.

The next question was how to raise the money to pay for the rebuilding, and, as a matter of course, the Lodges and individual brethren were first appealed to for contributions. At that time there were but 104 Lodges on the London List, many of which were, doubtless, not in a condition to be able to contribute anything to the object in view, but the few that responded did so in a liberal spirit, as will be seen from the first and only list of donations printed in the Grand Lodge Report, and here appended in facsimile.

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Donations of the following Lodges towards re-building Freemasons' Tavern, agreeable to the Resolution of the Grand Lodge, on the 20th of March, 1788.

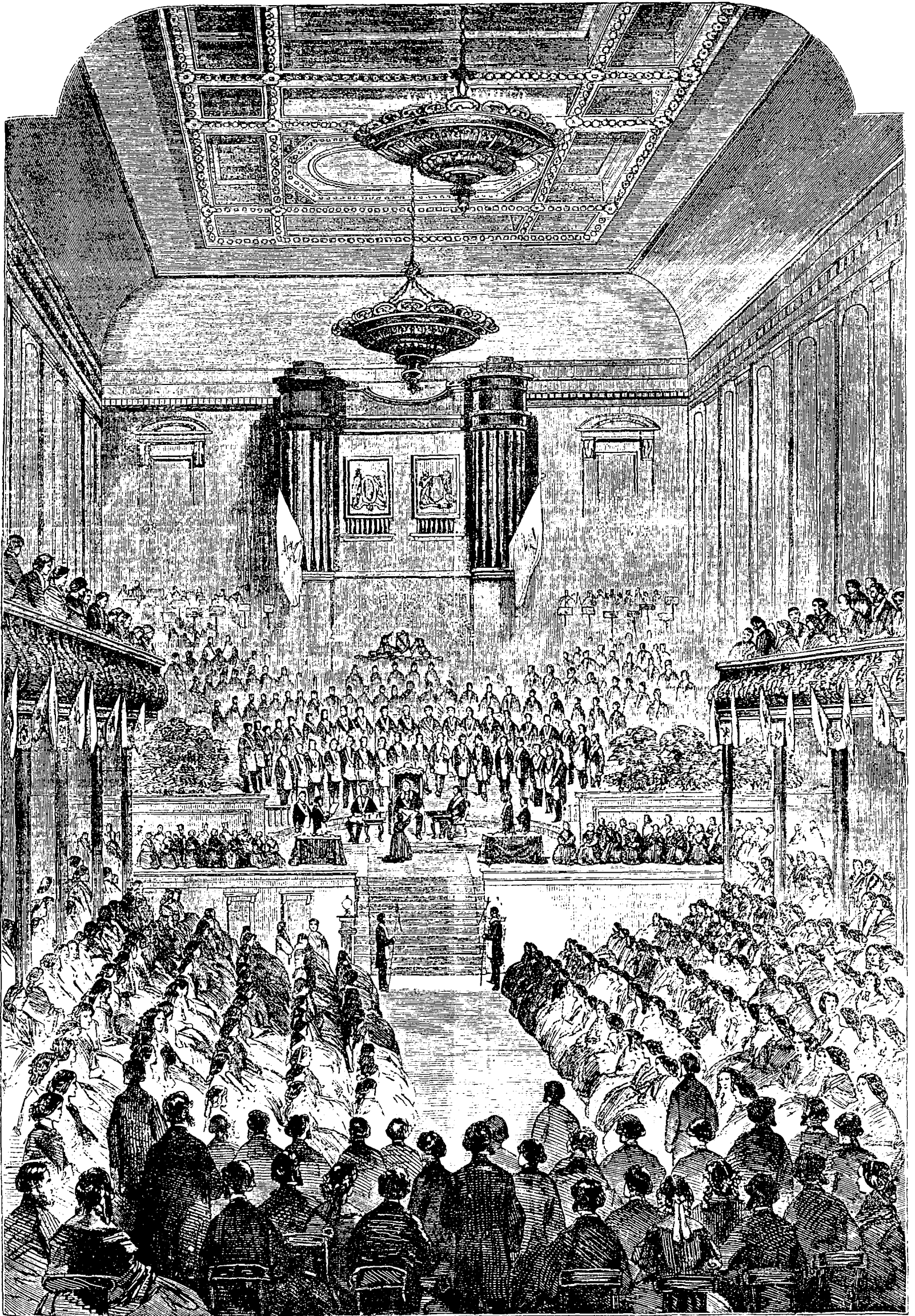
No 2.	Somerfet-House Lodge, Freemasons' Tavern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£ 105	0	0
15.	Globe-Lodge, Crown-and-Rolls, Chancery-lane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	0
22.	Old King's-Arms Lodge, Freemasons' Tavern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	0
28.	Corner-Stone Lodge, Dean Street, Oxford-Street	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	0
29.	Britannic Lodge, Star-and-Garter, Pall-Mall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	10	0
47.	The Stewards Lodge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	0	0
130.	Lodge of Regularity, Thatched-House Tavern, St. James's Street	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	0
216.	Tuscan Lodge, King's-Head Tavern, Holborn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	0
									£ 214	0	0

to be disposed of. They at once deputed Thomas Dight, Carpenter, of Great Wild Street, who had brought the intelligence, and Brother Alexander McKowl, Bricklayer, to make a careful survey of the premises and report the result. Everything being found satisfactory, the Committee made their report to the Grand Master, who wrote his opinion at the foot of the report in the minute book, "I have considered

It will be observed that all the contributions came from what were then, and are still, "Red Apron Lodges."

The Caledonian Lodge subsequently contributed £10 10s. The sum required (about £5000) was eventually raised by borrowing from the Fund of Charity and from certain wealthy members of the Hall Committee.

(To be Continued).



THE DUKE OF LEINSTER PRESENTING PRIZES TO THE CHILDREN OF THE MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL AT DUBLIN IN 1862.

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The Festival of St. John.

IN all probability, before another number of this journal appears, many of our readers will have celebrated the Festival of St. John in winter—more familiar to our provincial brethren than to the metropolitan Mason—and there may be some who wonder what St. John has to do with Freemasonry.

Possibly the approximate coincidence of the summer and winter solstices with the festivals of the two Saints may have something to do with the general acceptance of the connection, the one synchronizing with the summer outing and the other with the installation. But there is a good deal more in it than that. In the first place why two St. John's? In fact there are three, the Knights Templars ranging themselves under the banner of St. John the Almoner, son of the King of Cyprus, who flourished in the sixth century. Of him, however, we shall speak later.

It is not known that either of the St. John's had any connection with building or architecture. If it were desirable to range ourselves under the patronage of any one on this ground, it would have to be St. Thomas.

The architectural pursuits of this saint are set forth in a hymn found in the Mozarabic Breviary, edited by Cardinal Lorenzana in 1775.

Most of the old trade guilds had their patron saints, thus we have the connection of Crispin with the shoemaking fraternity, Cecilia with music, Boniface with innkeepers, Blasius with woolcombers, Valentine with letter writing, Dunstan with blacksmiths, and so on.

In Moore's Masonic Magazine (1842), page 263, what is described as an old Masonic legend finds a place, which receives countenance from the fact that Oliver has incorporated it, word for word, in his Dictionary of Symbolic Masonry (1853). In substance it recites how that the first

lodges were dedicated to Solomon, then to Zerrubabel, and, after the coming of the Messiah, to the Baptist. After the destruction of Jerusalem, the Craft fell into great disorder, every one of sufficient qualification to be Grand Master having perished, until it was recollected that St. John still survived, being Bishop of Ephesus, and in his 90th year. He consented to be nominated, and "thus completed by his knowledge what his namesake had begun by his zeal." The two St. John's thus formed the two "parallel lines" familiar to those who know the lectures.

There can be little doubt, however, that it is as the apostle of light that St. John is revered by our Order as its patron saint. The three great lights, the three lesser lights, the light of science, the glimmering ray that makes darkness visible, all these are but emblems of that great Light "which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." An old legend says that our lodges are placed east and west, because the gospel was first preached in the east by St. John the Baptist, and afterwards spread its divine influence to the west by the preaching of St. John the Evangelist. Mackey has a theory of his own, which deserves to be noted. He goes back to a very ancient period, when our Masonic ancestors, in their adoration of the light, worshipped the sun, which appeared to them to be the source of life and light and fruition. The periods, therefore, when the sun reached his greatest altitude in either hemisphere, that is when he entered the zodiacal signs of Cancer and of Capricorn, seemed to call for some special recognition, and these periods were, for the northern hemisphere, June 21st, and for the southern, December 21st. When Christianity came to mingle its rays with those of Freemasonry, it was found that the Church had appropriated two days near to these two solstitial periods as the festivals of two eminent saints, each of whom had much in common with the other, and thus the present dedication of the Craft is traced to the heliacal worship of the ancients.

Yet another suggestion has been made, by Bazot, who published a manual of Freemasonry in Paris in 1811, who thinks that the St. John referred to is the St. John of Jerusalem, the almoner, already alluded to as the patron of Knights Templars. According to Roman use, the festival of this saint falls on January 23rd, and if St. John the Evangelist has claims founded on his being the apostle of light, the other St. John may certainly be credited with being the apostle of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

It would seem as if the Order could hardly find a worthier patron, if one were needed at all, than the founder of the order of Knights Hospitallers. Of course, in this case, St. John the Baptist becomes but a mere convenience. For further interesting information on this subject we might refer our readers to a series of articles by Dr. Oliver on "Johannite Masonry." To this day, "St. John's Masonry" is held to refer to the three Craft Degrees, excluding the Holy Royal Arch.

The annual installation or "St. John" is regarded, very rightly, as the principal event in the yearly round of the lodge, and, as a rule, the lodge is on parade on that occasion. Not only does the new Master date his official existence as such from the "St. John," but the same may be said of every other officer of the lodge. The attendance of visitors is encouraged, and the Provincial Grand Master and his officers are usually asked to grace the function with their presence. Ceremonial work which, at less important times may occasionally halt, is now faultlessly performed.

Finis coronat opus, and no Master can desire a more satisfactory crown to a year's good work in the chair than a dignified and impressive installation of his successor. We said just now that St. John's Masonry was held to include but the three Degrees, but this statement requires modification, inasmuch the fourth Degree is, as a rule, more impressively rendered on this occasion than any other. And it is not unworthy of notice that whereas Grand Lodge at the close of even the most important festivals, repairs to "an excellent entertainment," similar proceedings in private lodges are concluded by a "sumptuous banquet." Our good wishes go with all those brethren who will, this month, be entering upon new and higher responsibilities.



The Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys has issued his usual statement of income (which, by the way, is every year promptly placed in the hands of the subscribers on the 1st of January), together with the amount received for the twenty-four years from 1884 to 1903, by which it appears that the total income of the past year has been £40,440 ros. 10d., which is the highest in the history of the Institution, apart from the centenary year, exceeding that of 1901 by more than £10,000. Bro. McLeod is to be congratulated on the splendid success which has attended his efforts on behalf of the Institutions, and it is gratifying to learn that he pays a hearty and grateful tribute to the members of the Board of Management, the Stewards of the Festival, and all other friends who have helped to bring about the satisfactory result.

The announcement that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught had appointed Bro. John Thornhill Morland, M.A., as Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, has been received by all the lodges and brethren in the province with unqualified satisfaction. During the Provincial Grand Mastership of the late Duke of Clarence and of Lord Wantage, as well as during the intervening periods after the death of both, Bro. Morland, as Deputy Prov. Grand Master, has been practically in charge of the province, and his promotion, therefore, has been well deserved and fully earned. Bro. Morland resides at Abingdon, and has been an active and prominent Mason for forty years. He is a Past Grand Deacon and has been Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch Chapter of Berkshire since 1891.

An equally popular appointment is that of the Rev. H. W. Turner, M.A., Rector of Surrey, as Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Freemasons of Surrey, in succession to the late Col. John Davis, A.D.C., who died in 1900. Bro. Turner was appointed Grand Chaplain in 1890 in the Craft, and in the same year filled the office of Grand Scribe N. in the Royal Arch.

There has been a very nice and highly appreciated compliment paid to the Army and Navy Lodge of Freemasons by its permanent W.M., H.R.H. Field Marshal the Duke of Connaught, Worshipful Grand Master. The Duke has presented every member of the lodge with a Masonic jewel, and it need scarcely be added that these are highly treasured by the recipients.

Wor. Bro. Vice-Admiral Sir Albert Hastings Markham, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief at the Nore, was, in November, installed as Worshipful Master of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, in succession to Bro. E. J. Castle, K.C. The ceremony was performed by Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D., one of the founders of the lodge, and there was a large attendance from all parts of the country to witness the interesting event. The first Master of the lodge was General Sir Charles Warren, and the first Treasurer Sir Walter Besant. Our readers will scarcely need to be reminded that a literary or artistic qualification is essential to membership, and there are about three thousand subscribers to its printed transactions who are at the same time members of what is termed the Outer Circle.

The Bishop of London, in answer to a correspondent, says, "though not a Freemason myself, I have not objected to Freemasonry at all, nor to the best of my belief has any order with which I am connected." Had he done so, a contemporary asks, what would vigorous Archdeacon Sinclair have said?

We regret to record the death, after only a few days' illness, of Bro. Peter de Lande Long. Bro. Long was for a great number of years associated professionally, as well as by family ties, with the late Sir John Monckton, and for nearly the whole of that period shared with him that lively interest in Freemasonry which was so prominent a feature in the career of that wise and zealous Craftsman. Like Sir John Monckton, his best efforts were put forth in connection with the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, on the committee of which he has long rendered valuable services. Bro. Long was initiated in the Jerusalem Lodge, No. 197, in the year 1866, shortly afterwards joining the Buckingham and Chandos Lodge, No. 1150, of which he was a Past Master and a member until his death. He was also a member and a Past Master of the Royal Union Lodge, No. 114. In 1877 he was



THE LATE BRO. PETER DE LANDE LONG.

made Senior Grand Deacon. Bro. Long was exalted in the Royal Arch in the British Chapter, No. 8, in 1870, and was elected M.E.Z. in 1877. In the same year he was appointed to the office of Principal Grand Sojourner in Grand Chapter. For many years he served efficiently as a member, and for some time Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes, then under the presidency of Sir John Monckton. Bro. Long was a Patron of the Girls' School and a Life Governor of both the Boys' School and the Benevolent Institution, in each of which he has stood several times as Steward.

The Province of Derbyshire has sustained a heavy loss by the death of Bro. Thomas Cox, who for many years has occupied a distinguished and deservedly respected position in that province. Bro. Cox was initiated in the Tyrian Lodge, No. 253, so long ago as 1857, and from that time until his death, was distinguished for his zeal, not only for the Craft as a whole, but for the practical application of the principles of the Order. At a time when it was not thought imperative that the officers of a lodge should be quite conversant with the ritual, Bro. Cox rendered valuable services, and for many years the province was dependent on him for assistance in connection with all the ceremonies of the Craft, with the result that he soon became recognised as the Installing Master for Derbyshire, and the present reputation of the province for its excellent working is in a large measure due to his good and sound tuition.

He was a P.P.G.S.B. in the Royal Arch, and a thorough worker in that degree, having after the usual chapter work been preferred to the office of Prov. G.J. in his province. He also held the office of Prov. G. Treasurer of Derbyshire

from its formation until a year before his death, when he resigned. In the Mark Degree he was a distinguished member, having been advanced in the Duke of Connaught Lodge on its consecration in 1879, and passed the chair in the Derby Lodge, No. 302, in 1883. He afterwards received several Prov. Grand offices, and in 1886 was made by Bro. W. Kelly, Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and continued to hold that office until 1894. He was a Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and a good general supporter of the Charities. It is given to few men to attain the Masonic standard which Bro. Cox had reached, and all must deplore his loss. Bro. Cox died at Ockbrook, Derbyshire, on the 26th ult., and was interred in the parish churchyard on the 29th December.



Freemasons generally, as well as the brethren of the Province of Derbyshire, will be interested in noting that the Duke of Devonshire has attained his Masonic Jubilee, having been initiated into the mysteries on December 12, 1853, whilst under age, and an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, of which University he is now the Chancellor. He went through the three Degrees of the Craft in the Scientific Lodge, No. 88, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary next March. The Cavendish family has long been associated with Cambridge Masonry. The late Duke is reputed to have been a member of the Cambridge "New" Lodge, which has been extinct for many years, and to have endowed it with some very fine glassware, whilst the heir to the present Duke was introduced into the Fraternity in the Isaac Newton (University) Lodge.



The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire was held on the 7th December at the Masonic Hall, Derby. There was a large attendance, every lodge of the province being represented. The Duke of Devonshire (P.G.M.) was to have presided, but at the last moment he telegraphed that owing to a severe cold he was unable to fulfil the engagement, his doctor having ordered him to remain at Chatsworth. In his Grace's absence the chair was taken by the Deputy P.G.M. (Bro. H. C. Okeover). The business of the P.G. Lodge included the reading of the annual reports by the W.M.'s of the various lodges in the province, from which it appeared that the Craft was making steady but satisfactory progress. Reports were also presented by various committees, and the appointment and investment of officers for the ensuing year was made as follows:—Bros. John Hassall, P.G.S.W. ; J. E. Steward, P.G.J.W. ; the Rev. J. L. Knowles, P.G. Senior Chaplain ; Rev. C. C. Nation, P.G. Junior Chaplain ; S. C. Wardell, P.G. Registrar ; J. Lingard, P.G. Treasurer ; W. Naylor, P.G. Secretary ; E. Coates, P.G.S.D. ; J. Roden, P.G.J.D. ; A. F. Pine, P.G.S. of W. ; W. J. Piper, jun., P.G.D. of C. ; S. E. Short, P.G. Asst. D. of C. ; W. R. Bryden, Swd. B. ; H. R. Proctor and C. E. Birch-Thorpe, P.G. Std. Bearers ; E. Ely, P.G. Organist ; Percy Wallis, P.G. Asst. Secretary ; W. Woodiss, P.G. Pur. ; A. Wadsworth, P.G. Asst. Pur. ; and Bro. A. Slinn, P.G. Tyler.



The annual banquet was presided over by Bro. H. Fitzherbert Wright, to whose candidature for the office of Grand Treasurer of England suitable reference was made. His own Province of Derbyshire has already pledged him its undivided support, and Bro. Fraser, who recently nominated him for the office in Grand Lodge, and who was present as a visitor, stated that many lodges in London and the South were also solid in his favour. An authoritative denial was given to the statement that his opponent for the office (Bro. George Edwardes) retired a year ago in favour of the present Grand Treasurer (Bro. Penley).



By invitation of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire, the Earl of Lathom, a general meeting of the brethren of the province over which he presides, including the Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of

the various lodges in the division, was held on Wednesday, December 9th, at the Exchange Station Hotel, Liverpool, for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the best method of carrying out the Provincial Grand Master's wish that the brethren should erect some special portion of the Liverpool Cathedral. The chair was occupied by the Earl of Lathom, and the very numerous attendance included representatives from nearly every part of the province, especially from Liverpool lodges. The Provincial Grand Secretary submitted his report with regard to the sectional meetings which had been held, from which it appeared that the feeling was almost unanimous in favour of erecting some portion of the cathedral by the Masons in the West Lancashire Division.



The noble chairman referred to the vast importance of the work of erecting a cathedral in Liverpool, and he trusted as Masons they would take some part in indentifying themselves with a building which would be essentially for the glory of God and the good of mankind. He hoped that all the brethren would feel it incumbent upon them, so far as their consciences would allow, to contribute towards the object in view, and he trusted that where brethren did not see their way to devote any part of the lodge funds to such a purpose, they would individually contribute to the scheme, the payments to be spread over a period of five or seven years if desirable.



After considerable discussion it was unanimously resolved that the money subscribed during the next five years be devoted to the erection of a chapter house as a memorial to the late Earl of Lathom, Pro Grand Master and Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire, the building to be known as the "Lathom Chapter House." A resolution was also passed pledging those present to use their utmost endeavour to secure subscriptions towards the scheme. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Wor. Bro. R. Wylie) and Wor. Bro. G. A. Harradon, P.P.G. Treas., were elected honorary treasurers of the fund, and the Prov. Grand Secretary in association with Wor. Bro. Burrows were unanimously appointed honorary secretaries. Subscriptions to a considerable amount were announced at the close of the meeting.



So far as expressions in clubs and trains indicate, the province appears to cordially endorse the decision of the Provincial Grand Lodge to make the Masonic contribution to the Cathedral in the form of the Chapter House. Two considerations influenced the meeting—first, the probable cost ; and, secondly, the prospect of speedy completion. The cost of the Chapter House is estimated at £10,000, an amount at which the Masons of the diocese, together with neighbouring brethren (of whom the Lord Mayor of Manchester was a welcome representative, his lordship being a Grand Warden of the Province), have aimed and virtually guaranteed. The building should be completed in about seven years.



Lest the idea should spread among non-Masons that the brethren have waited so long before proposing a memorial (it is hoped to obtain the title "Lathom" Chapter House) of the late Earl of Lathom, the public may be reminded that a Lathom Masonic Fund was promptly raised. A handsome amount was devoted to the sustenance of the West Lancashire Masonic charities, which are munificent and unique.



At the Annual Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Cornwall, held at Falmouth on December 14th, E. Comp. P. Colville Smith, Prov. G.H., acted as Grand Superintendent in the absence of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. The officers for the ensuing year were invested as under:—Bros. B. F. Edyvean, Prov. G.H. ; W. Hammond, Prov. G.S.E. ; R. P. Crouch, P.G.S.N. ; S. Tresidder, P.G. Treas. ; T. J. Smith, P.G. Reg. ; W. F. Clarke, P.G. Soj. ; W. Hall, 1st Asst. G. Soj. ; S. Trehane, 2nd Asst. G. Soj. ; T. G. Holder, P.G. Swd. B. ; A. E. Webber, P.G. St. B. ; J. W

Olver, P.G.D.C. ; R. Edgcumbe, P. Asst. G.D.C. ; J. Cleave, P.G. Org. The banquet was held at the Royal Hotel, Comp. P. Colville Smith presiding.



At the last meeting of the Cornish Lodge, No. 2369, which, as our readers are no doubt aware, is composed of Cornishmen resident in London, and was, we believe, the first of its kind established in the metropolis, the Secretary of the lodge and a P.M. of No. 1641, Bro. Richard Greenwood, was elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge has had the misfortune of losing, by death, its much respected W.M. elect, Bro. Church, and it was the unanimous desire of the brethren that Bro. Greenwood, who had filled the office of Secretary from the first, and to whose constant efforts so much of the success of the lodge was due, should fill the Master's chair. The lodge may look forward to a year of progress and prosperity under Bro. Greenwood's able guidance. At the same meeting, Bro. P. Colville Smith, P.G.D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall, and Secretary of the R.M.B. Institution, was elected a joining member.



We hardly dare imagine what would have been the result of such proceedings as are recorded in the *Kelso Mail* of the 30th December had they occurred in connection with a lodge under the Grand Lodge of England. Our Scotch brethren are evidently less amenable to the influence and discipline which characterises our own authorities in the direction of public assemblages of Masons clothed in badges of the Order. On the occasion in question it appears that the brethren of the ancient lodge at Melrose met in the afternoon and evening and celebrated the festival of St. John. After the business meeting there was a procession through the streets and round the old Market Cross, headed by the Hawick Volunteer Band. After dinner the procession was repeated, the brethren on this occasion each bearing a flaming torch. An adjournment was then made to the Abbey, round the inside of which the Masons marched three times, and before leaving they halted while the band played "Scots Wha Hae" over the spot where the heart of Bruce lies buried. The burgh regulations were relaxed for the day, and during the procession there was a fine display of fireworks and coloured lights in the streets and the Abbey, the effect on the famous ruin being specially striking.



But for the undoubted Scotch origin of the following communication which a correspondent has forwarded to the *Dunfries Courier*, we should have thought that some humourist had attempted, albeit "with deefficulty," to foist a joke on the worthy editor:—"To the editor of the *Courier and Herald*. Sir,—In Wednesday's issue I observed an admirable address on Freemasonry by Mr. William Campbell. There is no proof, however, that Seth, Noah, Shem, and Abraham were Freemasons. If the claims that Freemasons make regarding Freemasonry of its wonderfulness could be established, then how is it that our Lord and His Apostles never mentioned such a craft, or taught that men ought to join such a secret society? Why should such a society be secret? Why do they not have a schedule so that men would know what is to pay, what ceremony they have to go through, and what oaths they are expected to make, commencing with the apprentice Freemason? Unless Freemasons can answer these questions straight and open, then Freemasonry is a delusion and not of God, but of man's invention, and therefore to be strictly avoided by all Christian men.—I am, etc., J. M., Edinburgh."



Cannot some of our Masonic students help to lay at rest the good man's doubts as to the connection of Seth and other patriarchs with Freemasonry. The writer is evidently in earnest in seeking light, but he is perhaps a trifle too practical, and it is quite evident that the symbolic and figurative sides of Freemasonry do not appeal to his severely logical mind.

A curious action came before the Court of Session at Edinburgh recently, which raised the question of whether the Chapter General of the United Order of the Religious and Military Order of the Temple and Hospital of Scotland was a body identical with the Supreme Council in Scotland of the 33^o of the ancient and accepted Scottish rite of Freemasonry. The action was at the instance of the former body against the trustees of the late Lindsay Mackersy, W.S., and its purpose was to recover a debenture for £100 issued by the Supreme Council and certain sums on the deposit receipt that were in the hands of the late Mr. Mackersy in his capacity as Grand Treasurer of the Chapter General at the date of his death in August, 1902. The defence was that Mr. Mackersy also acted as treasurer and agent to the Supreme Council, which they averred was composed of the same individuals as composed the Chapter General, and that the latter body was responsible for obligations of the former. As between the two they maintained that there was a balance in favour of Mr. Mackersy of £246, which they claimed they were entitled to set off against the pursuer's claim.



The evidence for the pursuers was to the effect that the Supreme Council and the Chapter General were entirely separate bodies. The only common interest was that the Chapter General paid a rent to the Supreme Council for the use of the hall in Queen Street. The two bodies had a different origin and a different history. In reply to Lord Kyllachy, Mr. Jos. Inglis, grand treasurer of the Chapter General of the Temple, explained that that was a religious and military order, and was not a Masonic order, and was in no way connected with the ancient and accepted Scottish rite. Its members supposed themselves to be direct descendants of the Knights Templar. They were really a religious order. They took a religious obligation. The Chapter General governed bodies known as preceptories, and these preceptories admitted Knights Templar by the signing of a formal ritual, ordination and obligation on the part of the initiate. By a certain process of selection they were permitted to be members of the governing body, the Chapter General. On the other hand, the Supreme Council was admittedly a Masonic body. In order to be a member of the Chapter General one must be a Royal Arch Mason, but that was part of the process of selection. To be a Royal Arch Mason was regarded as a certificate of character. A member of the Supreme Council did not require to be a Royal Arch Mason. There were no preceptory buildings left in Scotland except at Torphichen. No evidence was led for the defenders. After hearing council, his Lordship repelled the defences that both bodies were identical, and that the pursuers had no title to sue, and made an order on the account of Court, with whom the bond and the money had been consigned, to hand them over to the pursuers, who were found entitled to expenses.



The Grand Lodge of Sweden will always possess agreeable associations for the English Craftsmen as the Masonic birthplace of King Edward VII., who, as Prince of Wales, was received into Freemasonry in a lodge under the jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge, of which his Majesty King Oscar II. (a portrait of whom appeared in our last issue), is the Grand Master.



Swedish Freemasonry as at present worked dates from the year 1760, but its ritual and observances appear from that time to have possessed little in common with the other nationalities of Europe. The Grand Lodge of Sweden was formed in 1759, of which Count Eckleff was the first Grand Master. There is much ambiguity in the available records of that period, but it appears tolerably clear that down to the time of the union of the two kingdoms of Norway and Sweden, many of the lodges were working under a patent from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, while there were a few that had been erected by the English Provincial Grand Lodge which then existed in Denmark. These, however, all became absorbed in the Grand Lodge of Sweden.

The present King was already Grand Master when he ascended the throne in 1859 (?) as Oscar II., and it was in the year 1868 that his Majesty King Edward VII. was initiated while on a visit to the Swedish Court. In 1887 the rank of Past Grand Master of England was conferred on King Oscar, and in the same year it will be remembered by many of our readers that his Majesty attended the great assembly of Freemasons at the Royal Albert Hall, under the presidency of the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., when an address to her Majesty the Queen on her jubilee was voted. The cordial relations existing between the Royal families and people of the two countries have their natural reflex on the Masonic communities, and the intercourse between the two bodies, although not frequent, is always of a sincere and fraternal character.



Lodge Secretaries on the look out for pleasing novelties in the way of boxes and cabinets of artistic and original design for cigars and cigarettes at installation banquets, should make a point of seeing specimens of these specialities at Messrs. S. Cohen and Co., 1 and 2, Snow Hill, E.C. This firm has a world-wide reputation for this class of work, and Secretaries may with every confidence entrust them with their orders.

Installation Meeting
of the
Empress Lodge, No. 2581.

THE ninth installation meeting of the above popular lodge, whose first Master was Sir Joseph Dimsdale, P.G.T., P.G.W., was held on Wednesday, December 9th, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, when Bro. Geo. Rowland Blades was installed Worshipful Master by W. Bro. G. C. Breese. He appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. G. C. Kirchner, S.W.; W. H. Bond, J.W.; Sir C. Purdon Clarke, Treasurer; G. H. Nelson, Secretary; W. F. Allvey, S.D.; Percival Dipon, J.D.; W. H. Jeffcoat, I.G.; F. A. Nash, P.M., D.C.; J. Kynock and Hal Williams, Stewards. The sum of fifteen guineas was proposed to be placed on the Worshipful Master's list.

The subsequent banquet was partaken of by about one hundred and twenty brethren, and the usual loyal toasts duly honoured.

In submitting that of "The Grand Officers," the Worshipful Master said they were specially honoured in having some thirteen or fourteen present.

Bro. Rev. Canon Brownrigg, P.G. Chap., in reply, said he could hardly believe it was eight years since he assisted in the consecration of the lodge, but during those years its members had done good suit and service, both in the lodge and out of it. Being an honorary member he should continue to take an interest in it.

Bro. Rev. H. W. Turner, P.G. Chap. (Rector of Sutton), said that Brotherly Love was certainly present that evening. The Worshipful Master was one of his dearest friends, "less than kin, but more than kind" towards him. He wished him a very happy and successful year of office.

Bro. Breese, in proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," said never was a toast better deserved. He took up everything enthusiastically. He was a keen man, both in business, volunteering and Masonry. A good man needed no push, as good wine needed no bush. He had already proved he would be one of the best workers, particularly on behalf of the Masonic Charities. He proposed taking up a list for the three, of all of which he was Vice-Patron. They were all fond of him and would support him, and wished him good health, long life, and prosperity.

The Worshipful Master, in responding, expressed his cordial thanks for the kind way he had been received. He should try to the utmost of his power to keep unsullied the traditions of the lodge.

The Worshipful Master, in proposing "The Acting I.P.M.," said the beautiful manner in which he had carried out the ceremony of installation was a specimen of the work he had done in the lodge during the last two years. Through the unavoidable absence, in India, of their Worshipful Master, Bro. J. S. Bhungara, he had acted in that capacity for the second year.

The I.P.M. said he was overwhelmed with his reception, which he did not think was deserved. He asked the W.M. to cut the toast out of the list, and received in reply, "are you the boss or am I?" He had received every help from the brethren, particularly from W. Bro. Nash, who button-holed him even when at lunch in the City, enquiring if he remembered such and such a point. He was glad to say the real I.P.M. hoped to be present at the next meeting.

The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by the Worshipful Master, who was very pleased to see so many of his old friends and those of his late father's among them, including W. Bro. R. R. Davis, who initiated his father into Masonry in the Lodge of Union, and Bro. Griffin, who initiated him.



BRO. G. ROWLAND BLADES.

Bro. T. Poultney Griffin, P.G.D., in reply, said he had the pleasure of initiating the Worshipful Master, and he was very proud of him. He had been present at each installation since the lodge was consecrated, and hoped to be present again. He congratulated the brethren on having such a good Master to preside over them.

Bros. F. L. Jermyn, P.P.G.D. Essex, and C. J. Drummond, W.M. 2920, also responded.

Bro. P. Colville Smith, P.G.D., Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons, in reply to the toast of "The Charities," said there were over a thousand in the three Institutions. Their hearts and sympathies went out to those young lives they were preparing to send out into the world. He asked all to go to the Institutions and see for themselves, and he would say they would have a heart of steel if they did not come away feeling they were doing a good work. They would feel the same when they thought of those who had fallen by the way. He asked the brethren to support the Worshipful Master and to do credit to him who was going up on their behalf.

Bros. Imre Kiralfy and G. D. Coleman responded for "The Past Masters" and Bros. Sir Purdon Clarke and Kirchner for "The Officers."

A most enjoyable musical programme, under the direction of Bro. James Kift, was interspersed between the speeches.

A Historic Lodge.

THE brethren of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning met recently in the Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh, to celebrate the formal handing over of the deeds of the addition to their possessions in St. John Street, and to entertain the R.W.M., Councillor A. A. Murray, W.S., to whose generosity



BRO. ALFRED A. MURRAY.

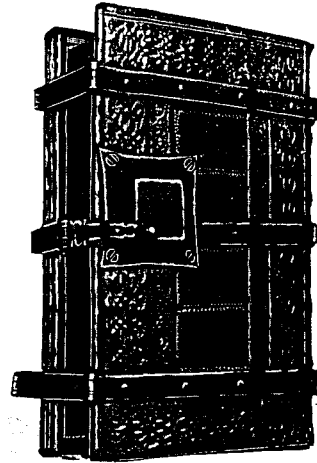
the lodge is indebted for the latest acquisition to the historic premises. This lodge is one of the most ancient in the Craft, the date of its establishment going back traditionally to 1488, in the reign of James IV., and the historic building in which it meets in St. John Street, is almost equally as venerable, it being said to be the oldest used continually for Masonic purposes. The brethren received a warrant from Lodge Mother Kilwinning in 1677 constituting the Canongate a speculative Freemason lodge. Before the year 1735, the present chapel had been used as a lodge room, but in that year some reconstructions were made in order to bring it into a condition to meet the requirements of the brethren. It has been regularly used ever since as the lodge room, and notwithstanding the many changes which have taken place in the neighbourhood, the old form and aspect of the ancient meeting place has been retained in its main features, the only changes made being those tending to give the place its original appearance.

The lodge had for some time been growing in membership and influence, and through the efforts of Councillor Murray, who joined in 1896, the property between S. John's

Chapel and Canongate passed into its hands, and will now be utilised for Masonic administration. This new property of the lodge is also very ancient, and has an interesting fireplace, where the ancient inscription, "The Morw ne Sorrv be heir," dating from the year 1486, and the symbols, a daisy, heart, and anchor over the fireplace are shown. This new property, which Mr. Murray acquired, has been formally handed over to the lodge by him as a gift to be administered by trustees, and will be taken possession of after some reconstructions and repairs have been made.

The Trade Society, out of which the speculative lodge sprang, was the Incorporation of masons, wrights, coopers, &c., in Canongate. Their Deacon, from 1672 to 1674, was Wm. Orrock, who, a few years afterwards, became the leader of the inner circle, which formed the Speculative Lodge under the ægis of Mother Kilwinning. It is certain from the records of the Incorporation that masons from the west occasionally sought employment in Edinburgh and Canongate, and these records give the dates of the "booking" of several of those whose names or signatures are inserted in the well-known warrant of 1677, issued by Mother Kilwinning.

The Freeman's oath of the Incorporation and the "actis of the Craft" appended to it, practically embody the old charges. Besides the Deacon and the Box Master at the head of the Society, it annually elected keepers for the keys of the "lokkit kist," the poor's box and the "lokkit buik" containing the minutes.



THE MINUTE BOOK OF THE INCORPORATION OF MASONS.

The minutes are continuous back to 1630, and the records of office bearers and entrants extend back to 1585. They contain many points of interest, such as the very early use

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of the word cowan or cowaner, meaning a dyker or builder without lime, and not a full and properly qualified mason. Thus, on 27th May, 1636, the minute runs—

“At the Cannogate the xxvii. of Maii, 1636, the qlk day Henry Levingtoun, Deacone and haill Mrs. being convent compeirit Johne McCoull, cowane, and is admittit during his



THE FIREPLACE OF THE OLD KITCHEN OF THE TENANDRIES OF ST. JOHN.

lyftyme to work as ane cowane any work with stane and clay allenarly w'out lyme w'in ye haill regality and barony of Brochtoun ffor the qlk he faithfully promittit to pay to ye said craft or ye box mr. in their names. The sowme of ffoure pounds money yeirly during ye said space of his lyftyme quarterly, viz., at foure severill tymes yearly To witt Lambes, Hallowmes, Candlemes, and Beltane and geve he failz eies ony tyme at ye leist twenty dayis efter ony terme that he sall pay ye doubill at ilk tymes failzie as said is, viz., forty shillingis for ilk twenty shillingis but ony objectioun.

J. HAMILTOUN.”

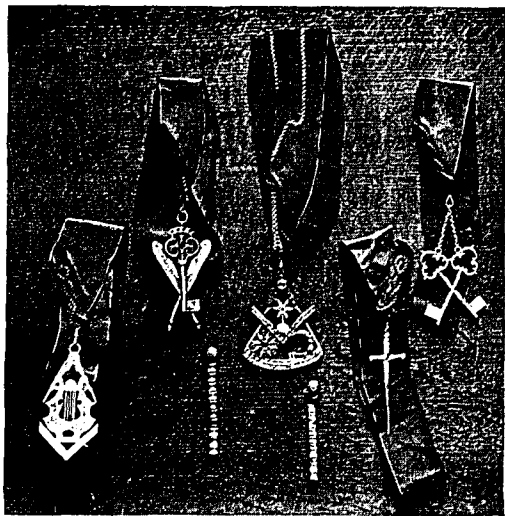
Another minute refers to the close connection of the Craft with the Royal House. It runs—

“At ye kirk of Halyruid hous the sevent day of October, 1630.

“The qlk day the Deacone Mrs. and haill brethrene being conveint consentit to ye granting payt of xiv. capouns grantit to his Matie. as they wer accustomat of befoir.

J. HAMILTOUN.

The illustrations which, by the courtesy of the Editor of the St. John's Card issued by the lodges, we are enabled



SOME OF THE JEWELS OF LODGE CANONGATE KILWINNING.

to present to our readers, will give some idea of the valued relics possessed by the members, notably, the old fire-place which is in the property recently acquired with its ancient

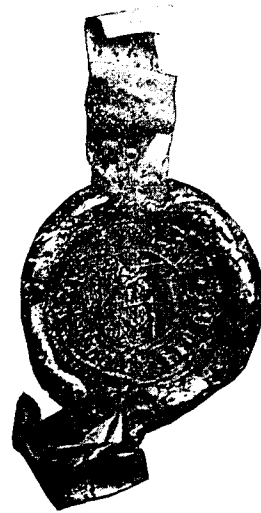
inscription above referred to, the minute book of the incorporation of Masons with its list of Deacons from 1585 downwards, the poor's box of the lodge, the ancient Secretary's chair, &c.

We extract the following from the interesting Historical Sketch, contained in a booklet, issued by R.W. Master, Bro. Murray, for the use of the brethren :—

St. JOHN'S CHAPEL is of unique antiquarian interest, from the traditions associated with Lodge Canongate Kilwinning and with the site of the Chapel.

The Lodge is one of the very few which holds its Annual Festival on St. John the Baptist's Day corresponding with the Summer Solstice, and its bright red clothing and apt motto both pointedly refer to the dawn of day in the East and ancient Sun Worship. As the Sun never sets but to rise again, so, according to the oldest forms at every Communication, the work is closed, but the Lodge is never closed—only adjourned. The Chapel is the oldest Masonic Lodge Chapel in the World.

The Lodge preserves the ancient Scottish arrangement of the interior. This is the correct and most ancient form or arrangement of a Scottish Lodge, corresponding with the so-called Higher Degrees, and also with the Continental Masonic systems, but differing from the English and American systems.



MASONIC SEAL CONNECTED WITH CANONGATE OF DATE ABOUT 1530.

The traditions of Canongate Kilwinning, as an operative body, begin with the building of Holyrood Abbey and Palace, when, by Royal Warrant, skilled builders and craftsmen were brought from all parts of the country to assist in the work. The Abbey was founded by King David I. in 1128 for the Canons Regular of St. Augustine, and dedicated to the Holy Rood or Cross brought to Scotland by his mother, the pious Margaret. The Cross was called the Black Rood of Scotland. The Lodge was practically identified with the

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Religious foundation of the Abbey, till the growing Burgh of Canongate outside the walls of Edinburgh became of sufficient importance, amid the religious struggles of the 16th and 17th centuries, to confer rights of freedom of trade apart from the protection of the Church. The trade societies of the Burgh never owed any allegiance to Edinburgh, and the somewhat arrogant attempts made by the trades of the latter occasionally to exercise control in the Canongate invariably led to indignant repudiation.



THE MASTER'S CHAIR, ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL (circa 1730).

The Canongate Masons, however, while dating their corporate privileges from King David's charter to the Canons of Holyrood, and the constitution of the Burgh of Canongate, and being entirely separate from and independent of Edinburgh, identified themselves with the general body of Freemasons in Scotland in 1677, five years after the Parish

Church was transferred from the Abbey. In that year they accepted a warrant from Mother Kilwinning, which was at the time—as the Head, though in influence only the second, Lodge in the Kingdom—exercising the functions of Grand Lodge. Mother Kilwinning had a traditional connection similar to that of Canongate, with the skilled ecclesiastical builders and architects of the time.

Like several other Lodges in England and Scotland, and owing to the incompleteness or absence of documentary evidence of earlier existence, our precedence thus runs conventionally from a much later date, 1677, than the real inception of the Lodge warrants. In respect of its constitution at so early a date as a purely speculative Lodge, independent of and uncontrolled by any trade organisation or incorporation, it takes rank as one of the very oldest of existing Lodges. It is one of the few which cannot, and does not, produce to candidates or anyone else any "charter or warrant of constitution from the Grand Lodge of Scotland." Grand Lodge, indeed, was formed under its hospitable roof, and took its first Grand Master from its chair.

This year we have taken the opportunity of illustrating our notes by inserting a number of cuts relating to the Lodge and its prized possessions. These will probably be of as much interest to those who are familiar with them by frequent attendance as to those who are not so privileged. Our thanks are due to Brothers Adamson, Milne, and E. L. Brown for their able assistance in preparing the photographs, etc., required. (In respect of the Defensive Band Lodge Notes to follow, the author is happy to acknowledge the kindness and help afforded not only by that Lodge, but also by Brothers David Reid, Grand Secretary, R. S. Brown, Grand Scribe E., and W. Alston.)

During the recess this summer the part of the old Tenandries of St. John nearest to St. John's Chapel, has been repaired and restored with the happiest results.

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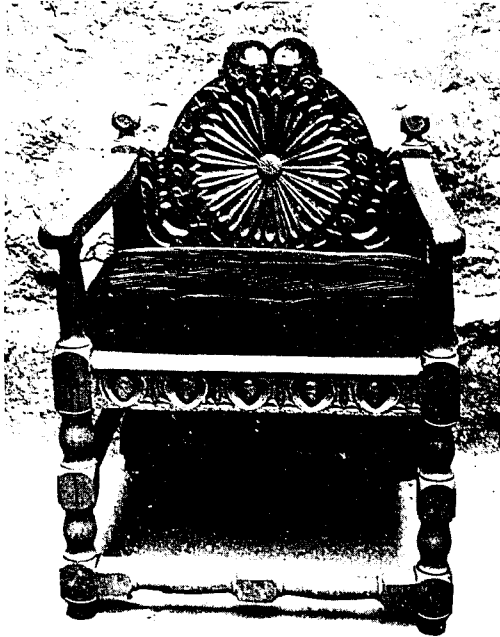
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The old entrance to the Lodge by St. John's Close can now be used at any time. It gives access to a store-room or scullery and to an arched vault in the basement. There is a caretaker's house of room and kitchen, etc., on the top flat, while on the middle flat, to which access is obtained by a turreted staircase, is the old kitchen of the Tenandries restored. The pillars in it are from the old Council Chambers



THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR.

in Leith, and the recess between them is intended for a group emblematic of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. The fireplace now disclosed was formerly covered up by masonry and partitions. The lintel bears the date 1486, with the emblems the daisy, an anchor, and a heart, and the motto, "The morw ne sorw be heir," a somewhat rude rendering of *post nubila phoebus*. The emblems represent Faith, Hope and Charity.

Opening of the New Masonic Temple, Hounslow, Middlesex.

AN emergency meeting of the three lodges, Dalhousie, 865; Gosling Murray, 1871; and Roll Call, 2523, was jointly held at the above on Wednesday, December the 16th, when the Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., P.G.M. of Middlesex, attended and declared the building open for Masonic purposes.

The building provides a long-felt want in the province. It is within a few minutes' walk of the L. & S.W. and District Railways and electric trams from Hammersmith. On the ground floor are two entrance halls, cloak room, Secretary's office, two club rooms, which by removal of a partition make a room 36 ft. by 19 ft. 6 in., large banqueting saloon, which has a capacity for dining upwards of 100 guests, and which communicates with a well-appointed kitchen provided with every modern appliance. Forethought has been shown in providing twelve separate wine cellars for the use of the different lodges meeting there, and ample lavatory accommodation. On the first floor are the temple, a handsome chamber 48 ft. by 28 ft., lit by a dome of coloured glass and ventilated by openings on the tops of the dado rails, which can be opened and closed at will, and the usual retiring rooms. There is also a fine hall 47 ft. by 36 ft., with gallery, together seating 600. The stage is handsomely decorated and provided with fireproof curtain. The syndicate of brethren of the above lodges are hoping that other lodges will be attracted to make this their headquarters.

The Grand Master was supported by Bros. E. Bartley Dennis, P.G.D.; G. Repton, P.G.D.; A. Williams, P.G.S.B.; Col. Guyon, P.G.S.W.; G. R. Longley, P.G.J.W.; W. J. Newbottom, P.G. Treas.; A. Burnett Brown, P.G. Sec.; E. Leonard, P.D.G.D.C.; E. C. P. Hodgkinson, P.G.S. of W.;

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The Alfred Bevan Memorial Convalescent Home was founded in 1901 in memory of Sir Alfred Henry Bevan, who was Grand Treasurer in 1899. Accommodation, 250 beds. Entirely supported by voluntary contributions. Subscriptions and Donations URGENTLY needed.

This Home has already received the practical support of the following Lodges:—

Sternhall Bennett Lodge, No. 2182.
Gooderich Lodge, No. 1211.
Ixion Lodge, No. 2501.
The Guelph Lodge, No. 1605.
The Royal Clarence, No. 98.
Acacia Lodge, No. 1314.
Foxth Lodge, No. 1356.
Finsbury Park Lodge, No. 1288.
Molesworth Lodge, No. 1954.

St. Peter's Lodge, No. 990.
Neyland Lodge, No. 990.
Lord Charles Beresford Lodge, No. 2104.
Amberst Lodge, No. 1223.
The King's Navy Lodge, No. 2901.
Bute Lodge, No. 990.
Temperantia Lodge, No. 2854.
Asaph Lodge, No. 1319.
Priory Lodge, No. 1863.

Bendon Lodge, No. 619.
Stuart Lodge, No. 1302.
Wilson-Isles Lodge, No. 2054.
Stability Lodge, No. 217.
Mersey Lodge, No. 477.
Bethnal Green Lodge, No. 2896.
Hammersmith Lodge, No. 2090.
Hervey Lodge, No. 1692.
Hartington Lodge, No. 916.

Friendship Lodge, No. 190.
Urban Lodge, No. 1196.
West Kent Lodge, No. 2012.
Mareians Lodge, No. 2648.
Rufford Lodge, No. 2553.
Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871.
Justicia Lodge, No. 2563.
Philanthropic Lodge, No. 107.
And several others,

and is strongly recommended by Brothers H. E. Clark, W. H. Cornell, F. Crawford, A. S. Harvey, D. Mitchell, and J. Stark, who are also members of its Management Committee.

Subscriptions and Donations may be forwarded to the Bankers, Messrs. Hoare, 37, Fleet Street, to H. N. Hamilton Hoare, Esq., 3, Draycott Place, S.W., Treasurer, or to the Offices, 13 and 14, King Street, E.C.

H. Hodge, P.G. Org.; W. W. Lee, P.P.G.D.; Sir A. Quaille Jones, P.P.G.W.; J. Cox, P.P.G.D.; C. J. Hatt, P.P.G.D.C.; S. Sidders, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Essex, P.P.G.P.; R. H. Williams, P.P.G.D.; W. Crowhurst, P.P.G.P.; E. Clare, P.P.A.G.D.C.; H. Burkett, P.A.G.P. Berks.; W. F. Angel, P.P.G.D.; C. A. Walter, P.P.G.D.; L. H. Walker, P.P.G. Org.; W. H. Meyrick, Sec. of Elections; W. H. Jones, P.P.G.S.W., and about 80 other brethren.

The lodge was opened in due form, the three chairs being occupied respectively by Bros. W. T. Lewis, W.M. 865; Sir W. H. Quayle Jones, P.M. 1871; and Sergt. Hill, W.M. 2535. The Grand Master then took the chair, and Bro. C. A. Walter explained that the building had been secured after many years of expense and trouble. Twenty years ago they endeavoured to find a suitable place to meet in, but directly it was known it was for Masonic purposes, the price became prohibitive. He hoped the temple would be appreciated by the lodges of the province, and that several would make their home there.

The P. Grand Master expressed himself as proud to visit the new temple, and thanked the brethren for the kind welcome they had given him, particularly from Bro. Walter, who he might say was the oldest Mason present. He had consulted with his brother Grand Officers, and they agreed it was well worthy their support. It was the duty of the Prov. Grand Master and his officers to assist them in the advancement of their good work and to support any movement which might increase their power for doing good. Middlesex was a difficult province to govern. It was only a slice of the county, the greater part being under the Grand Lodge in London. It had been their policy only to sanction new lodges when required by brethren of the locality, for they considered it very undesirable to have lodges whose members were from another province, and they only encouraged the formation of those which were local in their origin. By these restrictions all the lodges were in direct association with the province. Unless the lodges had a proper and convenient place to meet in, it was impossible to properly supervise them. Therefore, when he heard the brethren had secured a convenient site, he felt it was an enterprise which they might properly encourage. He hoped it would become a centre of Freemasonry for the district. In declaring the temple open, he prayed that the G.A. would bestow his blessing upon all Masons who met there, so that the works of charity, benevolence and goodwill, might permeate the whole locality.

The lodge was then closed and the brethren adjourned to a banquet, at which the Prov. Grand Master presided.

The usual loyal toasts having been proposed, Bro. E. Bartley Dennis, in replying for "The Grand Officers," took the opportunity of thanking the Prov. Grand Master for the progress he had made in the Craft, having been appointed by him many years ago. He congratulated the brethren on the adaptability of the new premises. He believed it would be of great use in the future.

Sunday Times.

(ESTABLISHED 1822.)

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That the art of short story-telling is still known in England is amply proved by Max Pemberton's "Sadi the Fiddler," a beautifully written story of the war of 1870. "Strand" Readers will not easily forget the pathetic story of Sadi and his broken fiddle. Miss Winifred Graham contributes a delightful story of child life, "Miss Cairn's Cough Drops."

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PRICE SIXPENCE.

Bro. C. A. Walter, in proposing "The Prov. Grand Master," said all united in giving him a hearty welcome. This was the third time he had greeted him in Hounslow. The first, when he came to seek their support for Parliament; the second, when he consecrated the Roll Call Lodge, 2523; and the third, that night. They looked upon the building as their freehold. They hoped to see the P.G.M. again soon, and that before long Prov. Grand Lodge would be held at their own home.

The P.G.M., in reply, congratulated them on the commodiousness of the new building, for, having had time to go through, he found it far exceeded what he had expected. It was a great acquisition to Masonry in that part of Middlesex, and hoped it would be well supported from every point of view. The province was very much hampered by its curious limitations. Overtures had been made to reduce the ten mile radius from Freemasons' Hall, but had not succeeded, but believed a different mood now prevailed. It would be a great advantage if they could have all the area of Middlesex outside the six mile limit, which would make the province far more workable. He proposed to approach Grand Lodge and say that, hearing there was a proposition for a revision, he should like to propose on behalf of the province that the area should be increased in the direction of the metropolis. All would have to be consulted, including those that would be transferred. They had had an excellent meeting that day, because, in Freemasonry, autocracy and democracy reigned supreme. The Master was supreme in the lodge, but outside all were on a footing of equality, this was one of the mainsprings of Freemasonry.

Bro. A. Burnett Brown briefly replied for the Prov. Grand Officers. "The Visitors" and Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

A Chicago attorney, having been enticed into a spurious Masonic lodge, under the impression that he would be entitled to recognition among the brotherhood the world over, has haled into court the man who fleeced him. A Chicago paper says: "According to evidence submitted in the Harrison Street police court yesterday, there is an organized band of swindlers in Chicago who obtain money from unsuspecting victims under the pretence of initiating them into the Masonic Order. Attorney Peter G. Raff, after being laughed at by his friends yesterday, caused the arrest of Meyer Samson, who, he claims, induced him to part with \$20 to join the 'Hall of Justin lodge, No. 204, A. F. & A. M.,' but investigation failed to reveal any Masonic lodge by that name, and Raff then procured the warrant for Samson's arrest. The Masonic fraternity is interested in the prosecution of Samson."

The Grand Lodge of Kansas has by legislative pronouncement declared the sale, gift, or printing or use of cipher rituals or secret work, to be a violation against the Constitutions, and an offence against the body of Masonry.

LIBERATOR RELIEF FUND.

I am aware that a few people have thought this Fund should have been finished some time since, at least when our rough original estimate of its needs came to be realised. But that was clearly because they did not know the facts. If they will kindly take the trouble to read this column, I feel sure they will quickly arrive at another conclusion.

It was impossible to forecast the actual requirements of the Fund. Much has been accomplished. That 3000 destitute or semi-destitute cases have received assistance, and that nearly 1000 of these who were seventy years of age and upwards have been made annuitants and receive their half-yearly grants as long as they live and are in need, is, indeed, something to be devoutly thankful for. But the simple fact that during the past twelve months more than fifty new cases have applied for help, most of them as pitiable as any that had been previously dealt with, is sufficient to show that the Fund cannot yet be closed. Moreover, a fresh and careful survey of the many hundreds of cases that still remain upon our books has convinced the committee that much still remains to be done if they would truly carry out its original beneficent purpose.

THE OUTLOOK.

There are now 3170 cases registered, of whom no fewer than 633 have died since the Fund was started. Of the survivors there are still 659 annuitants, seventy years of age and upwards, whose half-yearly grant is assured to them, but in many cases is felt to be miserably insufficient. Much better than nothing, undoubtedly! But how meagre the help has been compared with the heavy loss sustained, is seen in the last report, which shows that the average of the 2161 grants made during the year was less than £3 10s. apiece, or £7 a year, whilst many of the recipients had been accustomed to receive £25, £50, and in some cases more than £100 per annum, in the way of interest, from the various companies of the Balfour group.

Then there are over 350 cases that are sixty years of age and under seventy, most of them greatly afflicted, and needing the help quite as much as the annuitants, *but who have yet to be provided for.*

From the foregoing it is, I think, clearly apparent that another ten or twenty thousand pounds are urgently needed to complete this Good Samaritan effort.

SOME TYPICAL NEW CASES.

An ex-corn-storekeeper (age sixty-five), who lost £300 in the "Liberator" Building Society, and had only received one quarter's dividend when the crash came.

His rector writes:—

"I have known applicant for more than ten years, and can testify to the perfect respectability of his character.

"He has worked for thirty-five years at the corn stores, which are now given up, and he is so afflicted with rheumatic gout that he is unable to obtain another situation. His wife is seventy-three years of age and nearly blind.

"Trusting that this application may receive favourable consideration,

"Believe me,

"Yours faithfully, &c."

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