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*R. W. Bro. Hamon Le Strange,
Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk.*

Freemasonry in the Province of Norfolk.

ALTHOUGH a Provincial Grand Lodge was not formed in Norfolk until 1759, Freemasonry had been flourishing for many years previously. When the Grand Lodge of England extended its embrace, in 1725, to provincial lodges, there was included in the number of those that were incorporated with it a lodge which had been meeting at the "Maid's Head" at Norwich. Bro. Hamon Le Strange, writing of these early provincial lodges,* observes that "there is reason to believe that they had existed as independent and antonomous bodies long before a Grand Lodge was thought of." This was certainly the case with the "Maid's Head" Lodge at Norwich, for the date of its warrant of constitution was 1724. This warrant, however, only regularised, perhaps, a lodge that had been in existence for some years. One contemporary authority states that "about this time (1724) the Society of Free and Accepted Masons appeared *publicly* in this city," and that their lodge was at the "Maid's Head." A collection of manuscripts belonging to Mr. Walter Rye, of Norwich, styled "*Acta Norvicensia*," collected by W. Massey in 1720, contains an account of the doings of local Freemasonry, and the following extract from it may be reproduced in order to show the impression gained by the initiated of the character of the Craft in those early days:—"Several gentlemen and respectable tradesmen were made brothers, for that is the appellation they give one another. We know little yet of their design or *institutes laudantur ab his, culpantur ab illis*. However, I have it from their own mouths very gravely that they have certain signs by which they can know one another in any part of Europe without speaking a word. And that the Masters have likewise a peculiar sign to themselves unknown to the junior fellows. When any new member is initiated, he presents all that lodge with a leathern apron and new gloves, which they wear that evening. Perhaps time may give posterity better information concerning this mysterious brotherhood!" The same manuscript authority recites a satirical song that was made upon the Craft, from which

a few stanzas will suffice to illustrate its splenetic character. It is genuinely funny, if coarse:—

Good people give ear,
And the truth shall appear—
We scorn to put any grimace on;
We've been crammed long enough
With ye damn'd silly stuff
Of a free and an accepted Mason.

With aprons before 'em
For better decorum,
Themselves they employ all their praise on;
In aprons array'd,
Of calves' leather made:
True type of an accepted Mason.

* * * * *

If on house ne'er so high,
A brother they spy,
As his trowel he dextrously lays on;
He must leave off his work,
And come down with a jerk,
At the sign of an accepted Mason.

But a brother, one time,
Being hanged for some crime,
His Brethren did stupidly gaze on;
They made signs without end,
But fast hung their friend,
Like a free and an accepted Mason.

* * * * *

It is evident from the foregoing circumstances that the territory comprised in the present Province of Norfolk can boast of a very early introduction of Freemasonry. The earliest-established of the lodges still working in the province is Union Lodge, No. 52, meeting at Norwich, which was originally warranted in 1736, and which, in 1816, became amalgamated with a larger but younger lodge, No. 236, then meeting at the Gatehouse, upon Tombland. The latter lodge had previously been numbered 192, whilst meeting at the Black Horse Inn, and its interesting and curious Masonic seal, used during this period, is still preserved in the Norwich Museum, and is represented on another page.

At the time of the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Norfolk, few, if any, provinces were organised, and Bro. Henry Sadler, in his life of Thomas Dunckerley,* observes that "the good work done by him was the means of directing attention to the importance of the office of Provincial Grand Master, for at the time of his appointment (1767), the office was virtually dormant in England, as were also most of those who held it." Norfolk, however, was a notable exception. At the formation of the province, in 1759, there were twelve regularly constituted lodges working in Norwich alone. The Masters and Wardens of those lodges had met in August, 1758, and resolved—"That a Provincial Grand Master for this City, the County of Norfolk, and Beccles in Suffolk, would greatly conduce to the benefit of Masonry in general and to the satisfaction of each lodge in particular, and that our worthy Brother, Edward Bacon, Esq., is a proper person for that important office."

The project was evidently promoted with much vigour, and Bro. Bacon was appointed first Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk by patent dated 13th January, 1759. He was a man of much popularity in Norfolk, and was descended from Lord Keeper Bacon. Residing at Earlham Hall, in Norwich, he represented King's Lynn in Parliament, in 1734, and after having sat for Callington and Newport (Cornwall) he was elected to succeed Horace Walpole, as Member for Norwich, and represented that city from 1756 to 1784. His colleague in this position, curiously enough, was Sir Harbord-Harbord, Bart., an ancestor of the present Lord Suffield, who was, until recently, Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk. Bro.

* See a notice and portrait of Dunckerley in "THE MASONIC ILLUSTRATED" for February, 1901.



BRO. LORD SUFFIELD, K.C.B., PAST PROV. G.M.

* See his "Freemasonry in Norfolk," 1896, a most exhaustive record of the rise and present condition of the Craft in Norfolk, and to which the compiler of this article is much indebted for information.

Bacon was a prominent member of the House of Commons, was Chairman of Committees, and was mentioned as a likely candidate for the Speaker's Chair. Whilst he represented Callington, he was elected Steward of Norwich in 1750, and later was advanced to the dignity of Recorder, which he maintained until 1783. He retired from his Masonic and parliamentary offices in 1784, and died, full of honours, two years later.



BRO. HENRY J. SPARKS, DEPUTY PROV. G.M.

There were sixteen lodges warranted in the province at its inauguration, and of them six still exist, although one of these, the Lodge of Unity, was removed to Lowestoft, in Suffolk, in 1814, where it survives as No. 71. The other five are Union Lodge, No. 52, at Norwich; Faithful Lodge, No. 85, Harleston; Social Lodge, No. 93, Norwich; Friendship Lodge, No. 100, Great Yarmouth; and Unanimity Lodge, No. 102, North Walsham. The early Quarterly Communications of Provincial Grand Lodge were held in rotation at the several lodges in the City of Norwich, according to their seniority, the stipulation being made that "if ye Masters and Wardens of any Lodge shall think ye room in w'ch there Lodge is comonly held too small for so large a company then shuch Mastrs and Wardens appoint where it shall be held in ye stead of shuch Lodge."

The first Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk was a prominent Norwich Mason, Bro. Francis Frank, a brother-in-law of the P.G.M., and one of the original members of the earliest local lodge, to which reference has already been made. He was Chapter Clerk and Registrar to the Dean and Chapter, and it is recorded that at Provincial Grand Lodge, on the 6th December, 1759, "Bro. Frank attended as Deputy Provintial Grand and took ye Chair as shuch, and then Desir'd to be admitted a Member of this Lodge."

Some of the early transactions of the Provincial Grand Lodge are somewhat curious. In 1783 it was complained by an anonymous letter-writer that—"Masons are made in Norwich for one guinea, contrary to the regulations." Inquiry was made as to the practice, and the P.G. Secretary, reporting to the Grand Secretary, admitted that Masons had been made for less than two guineas, but observed, that "this liberty was granted only to such Lodges as are here termed Beer Lodges," and—in extenuation of the circumstance—continues, "the reasonableness of their petition appeared to everyone in Provincial Lodge, as their Lodges, which had formerly consisted of from twelve to twenty, were now, by the encreasing expenses, reduced to a very low ebb." A promise was given to revoke the permission, and consequently Grand Secretary promised not to lay the anonymous

letter before Grand Lodge, at the same time hinting that—"Beer Lodges are often got up by publicans for their own profit." In 1784, on the retirement of Bro. Bacon from the office of P.G.M., the Provincial Grand Lodge was in something of a dilemma as to the appointment of a successor. Several meetings were held, when the names of two brethren, the Hon. Henry Hobart and Sir Edward Astley, were advanced, and on each occasion the brethren separated without being able to choose between them. Grand Lodge was then asked to intervene and determine the difficulty, but it was pointed out that the Grand Master would find it disagreeable to reject either of the gentlemen nominated. Another meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge also proved abortive, and the matter was submitted to the lodges of the province for their separate consideration, and in the end the Hon. Henry Hobart was nominated. Singularly enough both Bros. Hobart and Astley ultimately became P.G.M., although it is probable that Sir Edward Astley was never installed.

Early in 1801 Bro. William Earle Bulwer, of Heydon Hall, was appointed Provincial Grand Master, and after an interval of a year he was installed "with great propriety and elegance." Freemasonry was at the moment, and remained during this Mastership, in a somewhat decadent condition, blame seeming to have attached to the Provincial Grand Secretary. No new lodges were constituted; there was no correspondence with Grand Lodge; lodge contributions were not remitted; and the Grand Secretary was ordered to acquaint the Provincial Grand Master that if this conduct was continued his patent would be revoked "for the good of the Craft, as so many lodges are put under his care." This had the desired effect; but the Mastership of Bro. Bulwer terminated in 1807 by his death, and the lodge sank again into comparative abeyance until 1816. More to ensure the occupation of the chair than for the resuscitation of the lodge, an effort was made in 1808 to appoint a Provincial Grand Master, but it was not until 1810 that it was nominally brought about by the election of a London rather than a Norfolk Mason, the Rev. S. S. Colman, of Broome Place, near Bungay. There is no record of his installation, and in 1813 another nominal appointment was made, but the



BRO. R. F. E. FERRIER, PROV. S.G.W.

brother (William Palgrave, of Yarmouth) was not installed. In 1816 a revival of the Craft came with the election of Bro. Sir Jacob Henry Astley. Provincial jewels and collars were obtained; the Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk, although "extremely rusty" in the work, undertook the installation, and the Provincial Junior Grand Warden, writing at the

time, said: "We intend to have a lodge open and setting the whole of the day preceding to re-obligate those invited Brethren who may not yet have received the Union, not being members of any lodge. We have many country gentlemen in that situation." But ill-luck baulked the object of this new enthusiasm. Sir Jacob Astley died in 1817, before he was installed, and it became necessary to again proceed to selection. Choice fell upon a man of world-wide fame, Bro. Coke, of Holkham, whose masterly management of the Holkham estates has earned his undying reputation as an agriculturist.

The effect of the installation of a popular Provincial Grand Master, after so long an interval of apathy, was most pronounced. An energetic Deputy was elected, the minutes of Provincial Grand Lodge were for the first time properly recorded, and much interest in the work of the Craft was aroused throughout the province. The installation was undertaken, at Norwich, by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, G.M., who was received at the Assembly Rooms, at Chapel Field House, by about 320 brethren. The whole assemblage afterwards marched through the streets in full Masonic clothing to the Cathedral, where they were met at the Western door by the Dean and Canons, and a special service was held. There was a magnificent banquet in the evening, presided over by the Grand Master, in St. Andrew's Hall, the



BRO. W. H. JONES, PROV. J.G.W.

tables being ornamented by the Corporation plate. The proceedings were of a most joyous character, and were graced by the presence of many ladies who were permitted to witness the banquet; the Royal Duke, in response to an appeal from the Provincial Grand Master that he would gratify the ladies with a song, complying at once by singing "Precious Goblet."

The management of the lodges of the province principally devolved, at this time, upon the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the province was quickly brought up to a state of proficiency and order. The custom was instituted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of examining the Master of each lodge who attended Provincial Grand Lodge, and interviewing him separately respecting the condition of his lodge. It was in 1831 that Provincial Grand Officers were first appointed annually; previously they had been permanent officers, vacancies through death being filled by the promotion of the lesser officers. It was at first the custom for the Provincial Grand Master, or the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, to declare all offices vacant and then to proceed to re-appoint them, this ceremony taking

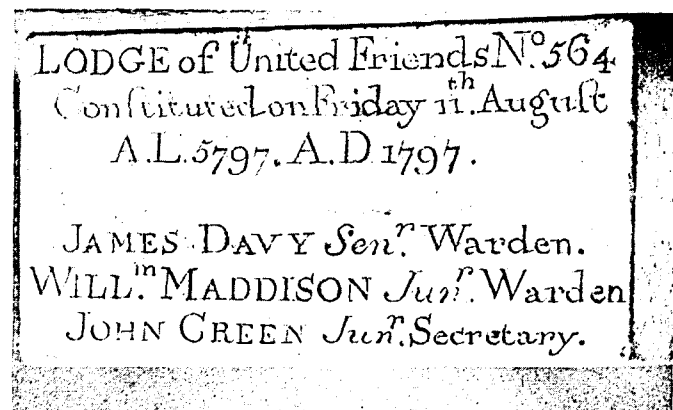
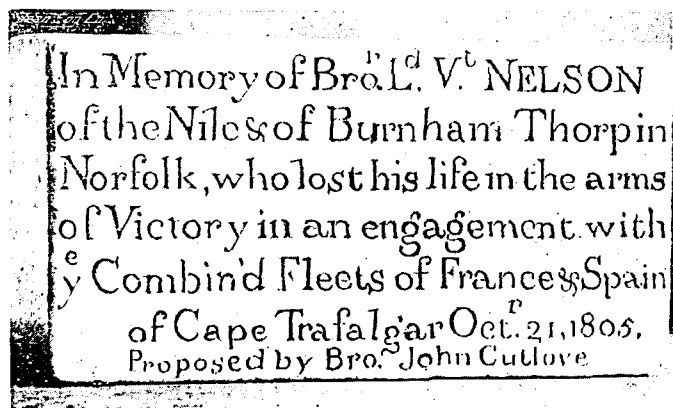
place in the ante-room, after which the Grand Officers entered the lodge room and opened Provincial Grand Lodge. In 1834, however, and always afterwards, Provincial Grand Officers were appointed and installed in open lodge.

Subsequent Provincial Grand Masters of the province have been the late Lord Suffield, who was installed in 1845; Bro. Benjamin Bond-Cabbell, M.P., in 1856 — the long term of whose office and his admirable rule of the province being perpetuated by an inscription upon a portrait by O'Neill, R.A., which occupies the premier position in the lodge room of the province; the Hon. Frederick Walpole, M.P., in 1875, who retained his office for only four months before his decease; the present Lord Suffield, K.C.B., who was installed in 1876, and resigned the office in 1898; and Bro. Hamon Le Strange, who was installed in November, 1898, having occupied the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master since July, 1891.

The circumstance of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, Patron of our Order, and formerly, whilst Prince of Wales, its Grand Master, being a resident in the province, has conferred much distinction upon local Freemasonry. As Prince of Wales, H.R.H. was a frequent visitor to Provincial Grand Lodge. The first occasion was for the purpose of installing Lord Suffield in the chair of the province, as a mark of regard for a member of his own household. This was upon the 20th November, 1876, the ceremony being performed in the presence of several Grand Officers and the Masters of other provinces. Bro. Hamon Le Strange, the present Provincial Grand Master, was on that occasion placed in the Junior Warden's chair of the province. In 1885



BRO. G. W. G. BARNARD,
P.A.G.D.C., PROV. G. SECRETARY.



INSCRIBED ASHLAR IN POSSESSION OF
THE FRIENDSHIP LODGE, No. 100, GREAT YARMOUTH.

H.R.H., the Grand Master, again attended Provincial Grand Lodge which was held at King's Lynn, driving over from Sandringham for the purpose, remaining during the trans-

action of the ordinary business, and participating in the discussion of a scheme for a Provincial Education Fund, towards which he became a subscriber. H.R.H. also attended the subsequent banquet. The occasion is remembered with much natural pride by many who were, in the presence of the Grand Master, invested with their collars of office. Amongst these were:—Bros. C. A. Bathurst-Bignold, who took the office of J.W.; G. W. G. Barnard, Registrar; J. B. Aldis, Secretary; T. C. R. King, J.D.; A. R. J. Woolbright, A.D. of C.; and H. Rosling, P. In 1887 the Prince of Wales, as Grand Master, again visited Provincial Grand Lodge, at Yarmouth, for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of the new hospital with Masonic honours. Again, in 1896, the Grand Master attended a special meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, at Norwich, this time for the purpose of unveiling a bust of the Provincial Grand Master, Lord Suffield, which had been subscribed for by the province, and which has since been presented to it by Lord Suffield, and occupies a prominent position in the lodge room. The King, it may be mentioned, is and has been since 1870, a joining member of a lodge in the province, Philanthropic, No. 107, held at King's Lynn, and an honorary member of Union Lodge, No. 52, at Norwich. As Prince of Wales he attended an emergency meeting of Philanthropic Lodge, in 1871, to witness the passing to the Second Degree of his private secretary, Bro. Sir Francis Knollys, who had been initiated in the Westminster and Keystone Lodge, No. 10. In 1885, the late Bro. Prince Albert Victor of Wales became a joining member of Philanthropic Lodge, and at his lamented death in 1892, the brethren, by special permission of the Prince of Wales, attended the funeral ceremony at Sandringham in full Masonic clothing. It is worthy of being recorded here that another lodge in the province, Friendship, No. 100, Great Yarmouth, had the distinct honour of passing to the Fellow Craft Degree Bro. Prince Albert Victor of Wales, in 1885, whilst H.R.H. was up for the annual training as an officer of the Norfolk Artillery Militia.

As has been stated, the present Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Hamon Le Strange, was installed in succession to Bro. Lord Suffield, in 1898, after a lengthy term of office as Deputy to the latter. Throughout the province the Master is exceeding popular, and is a regular visitor to installation meetings of the various lodges in his territory, and a frequent

attendant upon other occasions. The present Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Harry James Sparks, is also a most experienced and popular Mason, and holds the rank of Past Deputy District Grand Master of Bengal. The office of P.G. Secretary is held by Bro. G. W. G. Barnard, who was appointed in 1899.



CURIOUS MASONIC SEAL IN NORWICH MUSEUM.

Amongst the illustrations accompanying this article is one of a perfect ashlar in the possession of Friendship Lodge, No. 100, Great Yarmouth, bearing an inscription relating to Admiral Lord Nelson. It is interesting as throwing some light upon the somewhat controversial subject of whether the Norfolk hero was a Freemason. He had been frequently claimed as belonging to the Craft, and, if this inscription be admitted to have been cut whilst his memory was fresh, his being styled as "Bror.," as well as the implied statement that he was "proposed by Bror. John Cutlove," who was himself initiated in 1799, and the frequency of Nelson's visits to Yarmouth, in his native county—all circumstances of some importance in determining the speculation—may be thought to throw some favourable light on the matter.

There is a wealth of interesting data to be found in the records of the lodges of the province, but it is impossible to incorporate any representation of them in so brief a *resumé* of the history of the province as this can only pretend to be.

W. H. JONES.

Norwich, May, 1901.



United Grand Lodge of England.

THE Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall on the 4th December, and was largely attended. R.W. Bro. George Richards, District Grand Master for the Transvaal, presided as Grand Master, and R.W. Bro. Hamon Le Strange, Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk, acted as Deputy Grand Master, in the absence of both Earl Amherst and the Earl of Warwick. Colonel John Davis, A.D.C., Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, acted as Past Grand Master. The chairs of Senior and Junior Grand Warden were filled respectively by R.W. Bros. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., and F. S. W. Cornwallis, J.G.W.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication held in September, which were duly confirmed.

The Grand Secretary then read a letter from His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, M.W.G. Master, in reply to a vote of condolence passed by the Grand Lodge at the September meeting on the death of the Empress Frederick.

The Acting Grand Master then announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master had been pleased to sanction the appointment by Provincial and District Grand Masters of a certain number of brethren to Past Grand rank in commemoration of the installation of His Royal Highness as Grand Master. It was further announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master had been pleased to appoint Lieut.-Colonel G. W. Dixon, Deputy Grand Sword Bearer, as Grand Sword Bearer, in place of Colonel C. Malony, C.B., deceased, and Colonel J. Stohwasser as Deputy Grand Sword Bearer in the place of Lieut.-Colonel Dixon, promoted. A further announcement was made that the Most Worshipful Grand Master had been graciously pleased to appoint W. Bro. Gotthelf Greiner, W.M. elect of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, as Assistant Grand Secretary for German Correspondence in the room of Bro. C. Kupferschmidt, deceased.

The nomination of a Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year fell to Bro. Thomas Wakley, W.M. of the Cheselden Lodge, in the absence of Bro. Manisty, who had undertaken that agreeable duty, but who was unable to be present. Bro. Wakley acquitted himself excellently—as well he might with so acceptable a proposition; and our brother's confident assertion that he was but the mouthpiece of every English Freemason was received with the greatest applause.

The nomination of a Grand Treasurer followed. Bro. Colonel Davies Sewell again submitted the name of Captain John Barlow for that important office. The nomination was very heartily received, and, there being no other candidate, Bro. Barlow may be congratulated in advance on his practically unanimous election.

The next business was the appointment and investiture of a President of the Board of Benevolence, and it was announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master had been pleased to re-appoint W. Bro. James Henry Matthews to that office, and he was duly invested. Bros. D. D. Mercer, P.G.P., and Henry Garrod, P.G.P., were respectively re-

elected as Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents, and twelve Past Masters were elected to serve on the Board. Other routine business was then dealt with, and Grand Lodge proceeded to consider an appeal by the Regent's Park Lodge, No. 2202, London, against a decision of the Board of General Purposes, by which it was ruled that the election of the Worshipful Master was void by reason of his not having served as Junior or Senior Warden for the full period of twelve months. The case was presented by the Grand Registrar, V.W. Bro. John Strachan, K.C., and the arguments adduced involved some very nice points of Masonic law. It was submitted that Rule 130 of the Book of Constitutions required that due service meant a service in one or other of the Wardens' chairs for the full period of one year from investiture, and that two broken periods as Senior and Junior, although those periods may amount to one year or more, could not make the qualifying year. The familiar illustration that two halfpennies won't do when you have to put a penny in the slot was quoted by the Grand Registrar with some effect, and it was further asserted that this was the view taken by the late Bro. Thomas Fenn, whose knowledge of Masonic jurisprudence always carried great weight. The Grand Registrar concluded by advising Grand Lodge to abide by the uniform authorised practice in this respect, and moved that the appeal be dismissed. This was seconded by V.W. Bro. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, K.C., Past Deputy Grand Registrar.

R.W. Bro. Sir John Monckton followed on the other side, and maintained that if a brother had served for twelve months in the Senior and Junior Wardens' chairs that was sufficient. In the case under discussion the brother had served eight months as Junior and eight months as Senior Warden. The speaker stated that he had been a member of the Board of General Purposes for thirty-six years, and it was not likely that he would lightly oppose what was brought up as the opinion of the Board, but he felt strongly that they should look at the spirit as well as the letter of the Constitutions. He moved that the appeal be allowed.

This amendment was seconded by R.W. Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G. Registrar, who expressed an opinion that what Grand Lodge wanted was not common law but common sense, and common law was not always common sense. He hoped the brethren would take this view, and decide according to common sense—they would, he felt, decide that two eights was a good deal more than one twelve.

The Grand Registrar replied at some length, and concluded by asserting that the offices of Junior and Senior Warden were entirely distinct the one from the other. The case under discussion might be a hard one, but hard cases made bad law.

The brethren then divided, with the result that there was a majority of seventy-five in favour of the appeal.

Bro. T. H. Roberts, who had a motion on the business paper to alter Rule 130, asked that he might be allowed to withdraw it, and Grand Lodge was then closed in form.

Grand Mark Lodge.

THE Quarterly Communication of Grand Mark Lodge was held at Mark Masons' Hall, on Tuesday, December 3rd, the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, presiding. R.W. Bro. C. Letch Mason, Prov. G.M.M. for West Yorkshire, acted as Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Lord Herschell was Senior Grand Warden, and R.W. Bro. H. J. Sparks was Junior Grand Warden. The Grand Secretary, Bro. Charles Fitzgerald Mater, read a letter from Colonel

Egerton, conveying the thanks of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught for their fraternal sympathy with him on the great loss he had sustained by the death of the late Empress Frederick, and also a letter of thanks from Mrs. Beach for a similar expression of earnest sympathy on the death of Bro. the Right Hon. W. W. B. Beach.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies announced the appointment of Bro. Frank Richardson, Grand Registrar,

as President of the General Board, in place of Bro. Loveland Loveland, K.C., and he was forthwith invested, and took his place at the table as President.

Bro. Frank Richardson then moved a resolution altering Rule 154 of the Book of Constitution so as to include Past Presidents of the Board as *ex-officio* members, which was duly seconded and carried. Another resolution moved by the President, to exclude from the Order a brother who had been convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, was seconded and carried.

The recognition of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Victoria was moved by the President of the Board, and, subject only to the rights of those English lodges which had not joined the newly constituted body being maintained, the resolution was duly carried.

The presentation of a rare copy of the Constitutions of

1767 by the Earl of Euston, and of a very handsome trophy of armour by Bro. Imre Kiralfy, elicited from Grand Lodge a very hearty vote of thanks to both these brethren. The armour had already been placed on the walls of the lobby, and had attracted much attention.

The nomination of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as Grand Master for the ensuing year, was proposed by Bro. G. Philips Parker, and Bro. Frederick G. Ivey, P.M. 3, P.P.G.D. Middlesex, was nominated for the Grand Treasurership by Bro. Hoblyn.

It was then announced that the M.W.G. Master had been pleased to appoint Bro. John Strachan, K.C., as Grand Registrar in the room of Bro. Frank Richardson, who had vacated that office on his appointment as President of the General Board. Grand Mark Lodge was then closed in ample form.

Consecration of the Army and Navy Royal Arch Chapter.

THE roll of London chapters was augmented on Wednesday, December 11th, by the Consecration of the above, attached to the Army and Navy Lodge, No. 2738. The ceremony took place at the Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street, and was admirably performed by Ex. Comp. Edward Letchworth, G.S.E., assisted by E. Comps. J. Leach Barrett, P.G. Swd. Br. as H.; the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, G. Supt. Bucks as J.; the Rev. H. W. Turner, P.G.S.N. as Scribe N.; and J. H. Matthews, P.G.D.C., as D.C. At the conclusion of the consecration ceremony, Comp. C. S. Burdon, who is the present W.M. of the Army and Navy

however, very glad that they had the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, as somehow they were accustomed to look upon him as belonging to the army, his father having been one of their distinguished generals. Comp. the Rev. H. W. Turner was one of those Masons who did a lot of good Masonic work in a quiet way. Comp. Leach Barrett worked hard and well in the Royal Arch, and he was glad to have had him present as one of the Consecrating Officers, as he had assisted at his (the M.E.Z.'s) exaltation.

Comp. the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, replying, could speak with pleasure of the great satisfaction it had given them to consecrate a chapter connected with such a successful lodge. He had recently increased his connection with the Army by accepting the position of Chaplain to the 3rd Middlesex Artillery, he had been a captain of volunteers in his old University days, and had much experience among real soldiers. He would now present to the companions the important toast of "The Principals of the Chapter." He had no misgivings that they had that night placed in the three chairs Masons fully qualified for their important duties, that in years to come members would be able to look back with gratitude and satisfaction to those who had guarded the chapter in its early years. He trusted to see many of those present occupying the chairs of the Principals.

The M.E.Z., Comp. Burdon, in reply, appreciated the encouraging remarks of the Rev. Companion, and was glad to find the work of the Army and Navy Lodge had met with approval. They intended to do their work, and if each principal and officer did his duty as a soldier should they would be sure to attract brethren from one or other of the services. For his own part he promised to do his best, and was confident of the support of his officers.

Comps. H. and J. responded, and the toast of "The Visitors" followed, to which Comps. James Mander, P.Z. 185, and W. O. Welsford, P.Z. 1321, responded.

Comp. J. Mander expressed his pride and satisfaction at seeing the M.E.Z. and H. in their proud positions as he had exalted them both into Royal Arch Masonry, and was confident they would do him credit.

Comp. W. O. Welsford thanked the companions for the heartiness of the toast. He had thought, until that night, that he could claim some connection with the Army, having served in four regiments of volunteers in different counties, but after the remarks of the Rev. Canon, about real soldiers, he should be inclined to doubt the justice of his claim except for the fact that history has it on record that the volunteers have, in the Transvaal, vindicated their right to be considered soldiers and worthy comrades in arms with the regular forces. He did not doubt the success of the chapter if they but brought their training as military and naval men to bear upon their Masonic duties.

The M.E.Z. proposed the toast of "The Officers," to which Comp. Hooker, P.Z., Treasurer, and Comp. H. Bladon suitably responded.

The Janitor's toast closed an enjoyable evening.



COMP. C. S. BURDON.

Lodge, was installed M.E.Z. by the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, Comp. E. G. Farley, I.P.M. of the lodge, in the chair of H.; by Ex. Comp. J. Leach Barrett, P.G.S.B., and Comp. C. H. Perryman, P.P.G.P.S. Surrey, into the chair of J. by Comp. the Rev. Canon Brownrigg. The names of 15 brethren were proposed for exaltation. The consecrating principal and officers were unanimously elected Honorary Members, for which honour Ex. Comp. Letchworth expressed the thanks of the founders.

At the banquet which followed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

In proposing the toast of "The Consecrating Officers," the M.E.Z. regretted the unavoidable absence from their festive board of Ex. Comps. Letchworth and Matthews, whose many engagements had taken them elsewhere. They were all,

Consecration of the United Service Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, No. 489.

THE following oration was delivered at the consecration of the United Service Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, No. 489, at Mark Masons' Hall, London, on the 25th September, by W. Bro. the Rev. C. G. L. Wright, P.C.N., Prov. G. Chap. Surrey, Dist. G. Chap. N. Africa, P.P.G. Chap. N. and E. Yorks.:—

"We are met together to-day to add one more lodge to the roll of those that already exist on the register of the Grand Council of the Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners, held under the ægis of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown. It was my great privilege to act as Chaplain when the United Service Lodge of Mark Master Masons was consecrated, and I esteem it an especial honour that I should be again asked to officiate to-day. It was on December 14th, 1895, that the lodge came into being, and its career has been so successful that the members have felt they are now in a position to add the key-stone to their work by the formation of an Ark Mariner's Lodge.

"I remember on that occasion I stated that it was an interesting circumstance that a lodge, intended especially for members of the Army and Navy, should be founded at a time when an expedition was just going forth to vindicate the honour of England. That was a comparatively small war, and I might almost make the same remark again, only on this occasion we are engaged in a war of considerable magnitude. I am not going to say much about it. There is a very wise rule in Masonry which forbids allusion to matters of a politically controversial nature, but all parties are agreed as to the noble character and heroic efforts of both our lines of defence from the highest to the lowest. Of course, the army has naturally had the greatest opportunities, but both branches of the service have at different times highly distinguished themselves and won the enthusiastic gratitude of their fellow-countrymen; and I trust that the formation of another lodge, principally for the members of these two professions, may aid in binding them together in even closer union and concord.

"The Royal Ark Mariners Degree is of great antiquity, though it is impossible to say exactly how it originated. It was much in favour, and extensively worked, during the 18th Century under a Grand Lodge of its own, and in the year 1793 H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence, afterwards King William IV., was Grand Commander of the Order. Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Kent and Sussex also belonged to it. But from various causes, after this period, the Degree languished; and at last, after many negotiations, it was transferred to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, Canon Portal, who was then Grand Master, being the first Grand Commander.

"Hence it is that the Degree is only conferred upon a regular Mark Master Mason, and that every Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners must be attached to a Mark Master Mason's Lodge.

"The Degree itself was founded, as you are well aware, to commemorate various interesting circumstances connected with that terrible flood of waters which once devastated the earth.

"It is an extremely interesting fact that the authenticity of the Flood does not depend entirely on the Book of Genesis, though the Volume of the Sacred Law is given to us Masons as the rule and guide of our faith, and as such we ought to regard it. Yet the universality of the deluge is corroborated in so many different quarters that the evidence is almost overwhelming. The Sacred Books of all nations refer to it. Not only is there a long account in the Bible, but Egypt and China, Lapland, and

the hardy Norseman, have their own version of it, and what is more curious, in each case there is an account of the doves and the olive-branch, or some very close equivalent. It is to be found, too, in the ancient Vedas of the Hindoos, amongst the Greeks and Romans, and even the Red Indians of North America.

"We do not exactly know what was the scientific cause of the Flood, but it has been suggested that it was caused by the changing of the Polar line through the attraction of the central sun, round which our system revolves. This would cause vast fields of ice to be suddenly projected from the Pole to the Equator, which, as we know, took place during the glacial epoch, when all the tropical vegetation and those enormous creatures, which we still speak of as antediluvian monsters, were destroyed.

"No doubt the earth is very different now to what it was then. Countries now separated by large tracts of water must then have been joined, and if it were not too far from our subject, it might prove an interesting speculation to discuss the connection there must have been between the Aborigines of America and other continents. But if we wanted anything further than our faith, we have got it in the universal consensus of opinion, and it is our duty, as Ark Mariners, to maintain to the best of our power the traditions which have been handed down to us.

"There is, perhaps, less esoteric teaching among Royal Ark Mariners than in the majority of Masonic Degrees. Its lessons are mostly of a simple, practical nature, but our attention is more especially directed to the virtues of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Wisdom is a virtue which is very essential for us all, but in the first instance it cannot be attained to at once.

"It is a gift from the S.G.C. of T.U., which we must pray for, but if we receive the genus of it, we may then cultivate it, even as it is our duty to cultivate all our intellectual faculties.

" 'Wisdom sits alone,
Top-most in Heaven. She is its light—its God;
And in the heart of man she sits as high—
Though grovelling eyes forget her oftentimes,
Seeing but this world's idols. The pure mind
Sees her forever: and in youth we come,
Fill'd with her sainted ravishment, and kneel,
Worshipping God through her sweet altar-fires,
And then is knowledge good! "

"In our earliest Degrees stress is laid on the necessity that the W.M. should be a man of wisdom and good reputation, and it is equally necessary that the W.C.N. in this Degree should be too, for he is the leader of the brethren and they naturally look to him for direction. But he, too, no matter how gifted he may be, can do but little without their assistance; and, therefore, they should do their utmost to support the Master of their choice. We all ought to try continually to add to our knowledge and to strive after wisdom, for the most gifted of kings says of her—"Wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things that may be desired may not be compared to her."

"Strength, again, is another grace which we must pray to attain. The W.C.N. must be a strong man, for no one can hope to rule successfully unless he has the courage of his convictions. But the strength which is especially to be desired by us all, is that of being able to overcome our trials and troubles when they come upon us. No lodge can hope to be absolutely and perfectly successful. It will have its worries and difficulties, just as all human beings have. We can never hope to be entirely free from them in this world, which is only a state of probation for something better; but when trials do come to us, as they must, whether in or out of

the lodge, do not let us despair. Let it rather be an incitement to us to work more earnestly and to rely on that strength which alone can come from the S.G.C. of T.U., who has promised in his covenant, with his servant N., "My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

"And, lastly, beauty—

"Beauty was lent to nature as the type
Of Heaven's unspeakable and holy joy,
Where all perfection makes the sun of bliss."

"So says the poet, and man instinctively admires what is beautiful. As he gazes on the wonderful works of nature as ordered by the Almighty, or those marvellous masterpieces of sculpture and art to be seen in the monuments of the past, or the skill and ability displayed by those amongst whom he

lives in his own day, he can only say, with the prophets of old, "Oh Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all," for none of them could have existed but through Him who inspired the brain to conceive and the hand to execute them. But the beauty which is to be striven after is that excellence of life and conduct which will still exist when all these shall have passed away. It is only thus that we may hope to attain to that perfect happiness which the S.G.C. of H. and E. reserves for those who have tried earnestly to obey Him. Let us remember that we ought to be better men and better citizens, simply because we are Masons, and therefore endeavour, to the utmost of our power, to make a practical use of the symbolic teaching we received, so that hereafter we may gain the approval of the S.G.C. of T.U. and finally be safely brought to the haven of everlasting rest."

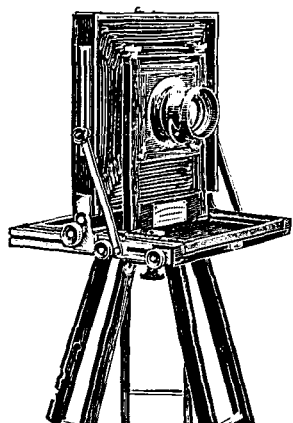
Lodge L'Entente Cordiale, No. 2796.



THE BANQUET.

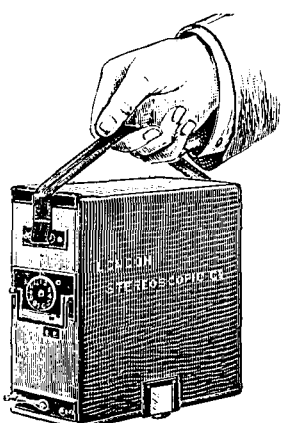
Lodge L'Entente Cordiale, which is composed of French residents in London, held a successful installation meeting at the Café Royal on the 2nd December, the retiring Master being Bro. E. Roehrich, D.G.D. of C. The officers for the year were duly appointed and invested. The W.M. announced his intention of serving as a Steward at the next Festival of the Boys' School, and the I.P.M. made a similar announcement with regard to the R.M.B. Institution. The lodge at once voted a sum of ten guineas as its contribution to each of the Stewards' lists. A banquet followed. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed and responded to, that of "The Visitors" being acknowledged by the W. Master of the Old Masonians Lodge, which is composed of the Old Boys of the Masonic School, and by Bro. H. C. Richards, K.C., M.P., in a telling little speech, which he gave in French, and which was all the more appreciated as coming from a member of the English Parliament.

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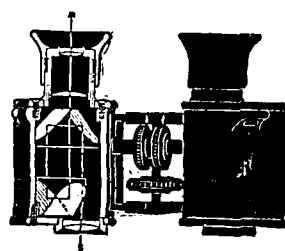
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The New Officers.

BY the time these lines are in the hands of our readers, many lodges will have held their annual installation meetings and investiture of officers, and many others will be on the point of celebrating their "St. John's." During the few weeks that have elapsed between his election and his installation, the new Worshipful Master has been considering the claims and qualifications of those brethren whom he proposes to appoint to office.

In this connection it may be remarked that the custom prevails in nearly all the lodges in London and in many lodges in the provinces of making a Past Master the Secretary, and allowing him to hold office for a number of years. Such a course of procedure tends undoubtedly to the efficiency of the Secretarial department, but we doubt its wisdom, for three reasons.

The Secretary in course of time wields an authority and an influence in the lodge which ought to belong to the Master alone. Then, again, it is not the Secretary, but the Worshipful Master, who is responsible to Grand Lodge for the accuracy and punctuality of returns. The Secretary has no official recognition outside his own lodge, and, therefore, the Worshipful Master ought to be capable of checking his Secretary. This consideration does not apply to the relations between the Master and the Treasurer, because the latter is elected, directly, by the same constituency that elected the former. And, last of all, the permanent possession of a very valuable and interesting office by the same brother for a number of years may possibly be an excellent thing for that brother, but it keeps a number of other brethren out, and deprives every other earnest Mason in the lodge of the opportunity of gaining that Masonic knowledge which is only to be gained at the Secretary's desk. It is, for instance, most desirable that the Worshipful Master should have had a Secretarial training. We have recently heard the result of an interesting appeal to Grand Lodge which involved the assertion of that necessary qualification in every candidate for the chair of King Solomon, namely, service as Warden for a year. We venture to think that a good many lodges would be far more efficient if a year's tenure of office as Secretary were also made an indispensable qualification.

Under prevailing English usage of promotion by seniority, the only free hand the Worshipful Master has in the selection of officers is in the appointment of Inner Guard and Secretary and such minor offices as the Stewards. The Director of Ceremonies is a most important office, and demands the best man available, and there can be no objection to a man retaining this collar, because a member of the lodge can learn quite as much about Freemasonry from a contemplation of that officer, faithfully and zealously discharging his duties, as he could were he incumbent of the office.

The appointment of Organist is necessarily based upon the possession of technical qualifications which may very considerably limit the choice, and the same remark may be made about the appointment of Chaplain; but neither Chaplain nor Organist should be forgotten when circumstances allow the Master to confer a collar which carries with it the prospect of promotion.

Now, with regard to the regular appointments, we may state at the outset that the incoming Worshipful Master has an indefeasible right to appoint any member of the lodge to any office in his gift. He is in nowise fettered. Courtesy and precedent, and tact and common sense, may prescribe a certain course of procedure; but circumstances may arise which require the Master elect to choose his own course. There is more to be considered than the bare claim of seniority and place on the rota. Regard must be had to the manner in which a junior officer has performed minor duties before entrusting him with more important ones.

Regularity and punctuality ought to count for something. Masonic enthusiasm should be regarded, and it ought to be perfectly understood that every brother who accepts an office does so with the implied agreement that his Masonic duties shall take precedence over all other engagements which are not of paramount importance. Absentee officers are a great nuisance. A bad example is set to unofficial brethren. Ceremonies which gain immeasurably in beauty and impressiveness when well performed, halt in some essential part because the brother who should have filled it is absent, and his place is taken by one who may be quite incompetent. First impressions count for a good deal in a candidate for Freemasonry, and the effect of a badly-performed initiation may not wear off for a long time. The new officers must also make up their minds to be loyal. It does not necessarily mean implicit agreement with all that the Worshipful Master says and does. But it does mean the avoidance of all open disagreement in lodge. At all costs the officers must present a united front, cover up each others' deficiencies as far as possible, and be loyal to their Master and each other.

Officers might with advantage recollect that their duty to the brethren does not begin and end with the opening and closing of lodge.

There should be a personal looking up of all candidates, whether for initiation, joining, or affiliation. Brethren whose attendance at lodge is becoming irregular need to be seen and spoken to with tact. Superior officers, that is the Master and Wardens, should assist their colleagues who may find a difficulty in getting up their work, by enabling them to comprehend it intelligently, and thus appreciate its proper place in, and relation to, the rest of the ceremonial. By due attention to these, and many other points which will readily suggest themselves, lodge meetings may be made pleasant and profitable, and much will be done towards removing the popular impression that Masonry is, first and foremost, a social function.

There is one duty attached to the offices of Master and Wardens we have not yet alluded to. That is, attendance at Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge. To one of them, at all events, the Junior Warden, this will constitute a novel experience. Not only is it his duty to the lodge, but it is a duty he owes to himself to be regular in such attendances—not necessarily to speak or influence debates, but to learn, and so qualify himself for the chair when his turn for election comes.



The agenda for the last meeting of Grand Lodge—of which a report appears in another column—was a lengthy one, and moreover provided some material for a more than usually animated debate. It is very rare indeed that the opinion of the Grand Registrar and a decision of the Board of General Purposes are reversed by Grand Lodge, as was the case in the appeal of the Regent's Park Lodge, and this fact alone is a tolerably conclusive evidence that the rule bearing on the question is so indefinitely worded as to allow of an entirely opposite interpretation by two presumably competent authorities. Whatever the general opinion may be as to the real meaning and intention of the rule, it is quite obvious that the next step must be an amendment of its terms, so that a clear indication of its intention may be placed beyond doubt.

It is important to point out that the decision arrived at is only decisive as to the one case of appeal submitted to Grand Lodge, and does not affect the future action of the authorities in giving effect to what they believe to be its true meaning in dealing with other cases that may arise, and therefore the greater reason exists for a prompt and speedy settlement of the matter in dispute.

For ourselves we think that a common sense way out of the difficulty would be to assimilate the practice which obtains in the Royal Arch Degree with that of the Craft, and to reckon "due service" of a Warden from the date of his appointment rather than from his investiture. The obvious intention of the rule is to ensure the proper training and the acquiring of the necessary experience by a brother for the exercise of his more important duties as Master of the Lodge, and, according to the present rule, a Warden may be present to be invested but he may fail to attend a single other meeting during the year and yet be qualified for election as Master; while, on the other hand, he may from some unavoidable cause be unable to present himself for investiture, and although he may attend every subsequent meeting and assiduously discharge his duties as Warden, he is bebarred from deserved promotion by a technicality. We commend this view of the matter to the earnest consideration of the authorities as well as to the Craft generally.

There is one feature of the question which appears to have been insufficiently considered by those who voted in the majority in favour of the appeal, and that is the confusion which must ensue if the records of lodges have to be consulted, as of necessity they must be in many cases, for evidence of the qualification of Wardens for the Master's chair. If six months as Junior Warden and a similar period as Senior Warden qualify, there appears to be no reason why any two or more broken periods making up a full year, at whatever intervals of time, should not also qualify. These considerations, with others before-mentioned, point to the absolute necessity of a revision of the present rules, and we trust the procedure, which has been found to work well in the Royal Arch Degree, will be fully investigated, and, if found practicable, adopted as a simple and ready way out of the difficulty.

Among the most noticeable of the new lodges for which warrants have been granted since the September meeting of Grand Lodge, other than those to which we have already referred, are the Incorporated Society of Musicians Lodge, No. 2881, composed largely of Past Grand Organists; the Westminster City Council Lodge, No. 2882, formed in

connection with the Borough Council of Westminster, Bro. the Hon. A. de Tatton Egerton, M.P., being its Worshipful Master designate; the Deo Dante Dedi Lodge, No. 2885, founded for Old Carthusians; and the Borough of Stepney Lodge, No. 2884, which is now the third lodge to represent the newly-formed Borough Councils.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the vacancy caused by the lamented death of R.W. Bro. Colonel Lyne, Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire, has been filled by the appointment of Bro. H. Martyn Kennard, whose qualifications for the office are of no mean order. A Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for the county, Bro. Kennard was already Senior Provincial Grand Warden of Monmouthshire, and it will be hoped that the province may long prosper under his rule.

Bro. Charles Penny, who for many years has been an active member of the Fraternity in the Province of Middlesex, enjoys the somewhat rare distinction of occupying the chair simultaneously of two lodges, namely, Clapham, No. 1818, and the King Solomon, No. 2029, the latter lodge being composed, we believe, entirely of total abstainers from alcoholic drinks. This naturally indicates that the subject of our notice is a temperance man, and possesses the courage of his convictions in endeavouring to carry his crusade



BRO. CHARLES PENNY.

against drink into Freemasonry. He is also a Past Master of the Unity Lodge, No. 1637, meeting at Harrow-on-the-Hill, and at the last Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex he received the collar of Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works. Bro. Penny has taken an active interest in parish and municipal affairs as Councillor and Vice-Chairman of both the District Council, Board of Guardians, and Overseers. He has also been a member of the School Board.

Bro. Sir Squire Bancroft, P.G. Deacon, who is one of the most regular attendants at the quarterly meetings of Grand Lodge, has been giving in a weekly contemporary some of his early experiences of the stage. His first engagement, he relates, was obtained at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, at a salary of a guinea a week, on which he lived, playing during his apprenticeship of four and a-half years, some 346 different characters. His reminiscences do not omit to conclude with a characteristic tribute to Lady Bancroft, to whom, he says, he owed "bright gleams of genius—which in every art are priceless."

The hearty good wishes of the Craft will follow V.W. Bro. Dr. Welldon, P.G.C., in the new position he will shortly take up as Canon of Westminster. His presence in London will add not a little to the strength of the Church in the Metropolis, where his fine scholarship and rare disciplinary powers will not fail to be appreciated.

It is a matter of pleasing interest that both the President and Secretary of the American Society in London, which held their thanksgiving dinner last month with such success, are enthusiastic members of the Craft. The President is Bro. John Morgan Richards, who was one of the founders of the Columbia Lodge, No. 2397, and the Secretary is Bro. F. C. Van Duzer, who has always been conspicuous for his good work in the same lodge and chapter.

A very old and esteemed member of the Grand Secretary's staff has passed away in the person of Bro. Adam J. Berry, who had been for so long as most of us can remember, a familiar figure in the office of Grand Lodge. His death took place on the morning of the 16th December. Initiated in the Canonbury Lodge, No. 657, in 1858, he was a Past Master of the New Finsbury Park Lodge, No. 1695, as well as a P.Z. of the Duke of Connaught Chapter, No. 1524, in which he had been exalted.

We learn with satisfaction that at a recent meeting of the Jubilee Masters Lodge Bro. Fredk. C. Van Duzer was elected W.M., as under his genial sway the lodge will doubtless continue its career of usefulness. Bro. Van Duzer has a brilliant record. He was initiated in the Canterbury Lodge, No. 1635, in 1889, of which lodge he is a P.M.; is a member of the Empress Lodge, No. 2581; Founder and P.M. of the Columbia Lodge, No. 2397; Founder and acting I.P.M. of the Richard Eve Lodge, No. 2772; and Founder of the Kirby Lodge, No. 2818. In the Royal Arch he is a P.Z. of the Canterbury Chapter, No. 1635; P.Z. and Scribe E. of the Columbia Chapter, No. 2397; and has high rank in other Degrees of Masonry. Among Americans resident in London his name is well known and respected, he having filled the honoured posts of President and Secretary of the American Society.

The Kirby Lodge of Instruction occupies a prominent position amongst the numerous schools of Masonry now possessed by the Craft in London, and its last annual festival, which took place at the Midland Grand Hotel on the 19th of November, was a great success. The Second Lecture was worked by the W.M., Bro. G. J. V. Rankin, assisted by Bro. E. Sherlock, who worked the 1st section. Other sections were worked respectively by Bros. H. E. Wilson, E. C. Fulton, H. Billinghamurst, and A. L. Collins, each of whom rendered the ceremony in a very efficient manner.

A banquet afterwards followed, at which R.W. Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., presided. Bro. Sir Forest Fulton, K.C., on behalf of the lodge, presented a handsome silver cigar-box and mirror to the Hon. Secretary, Bro. Miller, in recognition of his past services, which Bro. Miller suitably acknowledged. Various Masonic toasts were proposed and acknowledged, that of "The President" especially being very warmly received. The proceedings throughout were characterised by much earnestness and zeal, and the lodge may be congratulated, not only on the good work it has done, but on its future prospects.

The announcement of the death of Bro. Henry Sutherland, M.D., P.G.D., on the 19th November, came as a great surprise and shock to his many friends. He had attained considerable eminence in his profession. At the time of his death, and for thirty years previously, he had been physician to the St. George's Square Dispensary, and was a Fellow of many societies connected with the medical profession, and was the author of a considerable number of medical works.

Bro. Sutherland was a well known and enthusiastic Mason, having been initiated over forty years ago, whilst an undergraduate, in the Apollo University Lodge at Oxford. From that time he never ceased to take a deep interest in Freemasonry—indeed, at the time of his death he was Worshipful Master of the Old Westminsters' Lodge, composed of brethren who, like himself, had been educated at Westminster School. He was also, at the time of his death, Secretary of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, of which he was a Past Master, and he had also passed through the chair of the "Shakespeare," the "White Horse of Kent," and other lodges. On the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master, he was one of the twenty-five brethren appointed to Grand office. Bro. Sutherland was the author of a useful little work entitled, "Notes on Freemasonry," which some years ago obtained a considerable circulation amongst the members of the Craft. The funeral took place at Brompton Cemetery on the 22nd November, and was largely attended by his *confreres* of the medical profession, and by the Masonic fraternity.

Yet another exposure of the wicked doings of that terrible anti-Christian and treasonable society, the Freemasons. A London publisher announces a book which its author asserts will prove that the secrets of Freemasonry are unknown to the great majority of Freemasons; that it is anti-Christian in its teaching; has taken to itself Satanism—whatever that might be; that international Freemasonry, which sways English Freemasonry, has been captured by the Jews, who are using the organisation for the return of their race to the Holy Land, and the proclamation of an anti-Christ!

The farewell dinner given in honour of Bro. Hermann Klein, P.G. Organist, previous to his departure for America, which was held at the Prince's Restaurant on December 12th, was presided over by Bro. Sir Arthur Trendell, C.M.G., P.A.G.D. of C. Bro. Klein is well known as a musical critic and professor of singing, and has figured prominently in London Masonry, having for some time past, amongst other duties, filled the office of Scribe E. of the Empire Chapter, No. 2108. The best wishes of the Craft will accompany him on his voyage to "the other side."



BRO. HERMANN KLEIN.

Dual membership of lodges is a matter which requires some light shedding upon it. A brother is a member, say, of half-a-dozen lodges, with only one of which he is in good financial standing. Armed with a certificate from the last-named, he seeks admission to a seventh, and that lodge would have just cause of complaint if brought to book by all the other lodges to which he might be in debt, or from which even he might have been excluded. There is another point. Membership of one lodge is an expense. What about a number? And yet when a brother or his family come before the Masonic Charities, the number of lodges he founded and joined, and the aggregate subscriptions paid, are adduced to show his Masonic worth and zeal. What else it shows is discreetly left unmentioned. We might also ask if it makes good a claim on the charitable to point out that a brother has been a member of half-a-dozen concomitant orders. It rather shows that he has been breaking that part of his S.O. which enjoins him only to carry out Masonic duties so far as they do not act to the detriment of himself or his connections.

We have lately been reading what are called "Masonic stories" in an American contemporary. Why Masonic we cannot make out. Their connection with the Craft is of the

slenderest description. In one of them the heroine's father caught cold at a Masonic funeral, and this fact is relied upon to justify the heading "Stories Illustrative of Freemasonry." In another the connection with the Craft is more attenuated still, and depends on the fact that the lovers arranged to meet near the Masonic Hall.



Few of our readers will dispute the fact that Masonic dances and ladies' festivals have done much to soften the feelings of resentment towards our ancient Craft which had hitherto been felt, and in some cases shown, by the gentler sex, but it has been left to the Commercial Travellers' Lodge, No. 2795, to secure the affections of the rising generation by giving a children's party, under the auspices of Freemasonry, which took place on Saturday, December 21st, in the Victoria Hall at the Hotel Cecil. Refreshments of a light and varied kind were plentifully provided for the vast number who attended on pleasure bent, after which they looked and listened with wrapt attention and unmistakeable enjoyment to the performance of living marionettes, conjurers, Punch and Judy, clowns and ventriloquists. The W.M., Bro. Herbert O. Budd, must have felt amply repaid for his experiment by the happy faces and joyous laughter of the little ones; and the Secretary, Bro. John Irwin, is to be congratulated upon the admirable arrangements which secured its undoubted success.



The world moves fast, and Masonry, which we are told is spread over its surface, must perforce move with it. It seems but yesterday that the Soudan was a howling wilderness, and if anyone had predicted that the city of Khartoum, then the abode of cruelty and wrong, would in a few short years witness the establishment of a temple of peace in the shape of a Masonic lodge he would have been considered a crazy Masonic enthusiast. A lodge, however, has been formed, and on Thursday, the 19th December, it was duly consecrated by the District Grand Master Sir Reginald Wingate, who installed Captain W. E. Bailey as Worshipful Master.



Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd, Recorder of Chester since 1866, and County Court Judge since 1874, celebrated, on December 10th, the fiftieth anniversary of his initiation into Freemasonry. In honour of the occasion a special Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire Freemasons was convened, at which a handsome presentation was made to Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd.



The Incorporated Society of Musicians will hold its seventeenth Annual Conference at the Hotel Cecil, London, during the week ending January 4th, 1902, and a most elaborate and extensive programme has been arranged. The Lord Mayor will preside at the opening meeting at the Mansion House on Monday, 31st December, and meetings will take place daily, in some cases commencing as early as 10 a.m., when addresses will be delivered on a variety of subjects of interest to the musical profession. Entertainments have not been forgotten, and one special feature of this Conference will be the performance of seven new orchestral works, six of them by British composers. The series of meetings will terminate with a banquet in the Grand Hall. Bro. W. H. Cummings, Mus. Doc., P.G. Organist, is announced to preside at a lecture on Tuesday at 2.30 to be delivered by Miss Margaret O'Hea, R.I.A.M., on "Some Practical Results of the Modern School of Music," which should prove not the least interesting of the series. It is of interest to the Craft to note that it is in contemplation to petition the M.W. Grand Master to grant a warrant for a lodge in connection with this society.



This inauguration meeting of the St. Bride Lodge of Instruction, No. 2817, will be held at the Hotel Cecil on Saturday, January 4th, 1902, at 5.30 p.m. R.W. Bro. Sir Frank Green, Bart., P.G.W., W.M. of the St. Bride Lodge,

will preside, and W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., Senior Member of the Committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, will instal the Preceptor-Elect, W. Bro. John F. Roberts, as W.M. Future meetings will be held at the St. Bride Institute, Fleet Street, every Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock.



A considerable number of installations will be carried out during this month, and before our next issue appears a very large number of brethren will assume collars, and discharge duties quite new to them. As to the selection, the matter is one in which the Worshipful Master has but little choice. Assuming good behaviour, each collar is a question of promotion, and the Worshipful Master has, practically, only the choice of Inner Guard among his regular officers. As regards the officers themselves, they will pardon our drawing attention to one or two important points. What may be often passed over in a private brother is inexcusable in an officer. Punctuality and regularity are quite as essential as a knowledge of the work. Loyalty to the Master is absolutely necessary. No officer should ever be concerned in furthering expressions of discontent. If he feels such he should keep them to himself. Inattention to these points nearly always brings with it its own punishment in deferred promotion.



We cull the following account of the adventure of Bro. the Rev. Finley's regalia from the *Daily Mail*, for it is sufficiently extraordinary to justify attention in these columns:—"Among the foreign delegates to the convocation of Knights Templar of Illinois held at Chicago," stated our contemporary, "was the Rev. and very eminent Sir Knight Russell Finley, Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of England. When the reverend gentleman landed at New York, the Customs inspector discovered a handsome uniform and a dazzling regalia. He pronounced them to be dutiable, demanded exorbitant duty, and threatened to fine the owner for not declaring. Protests being in vain, the Grand Prior was obliged to leave his uniform and regalia at the Customs House, and go to Chicago without them. The newspapers denounced this barbarous and outrageous treatment. The *New York Times* said that Mr. Finley's wearing apparel should be immediately returned, and that it was to be hoped that the Secretary or Treasurer would tender a proper apology at the same time." The sequel to the story has not yet come to hand.

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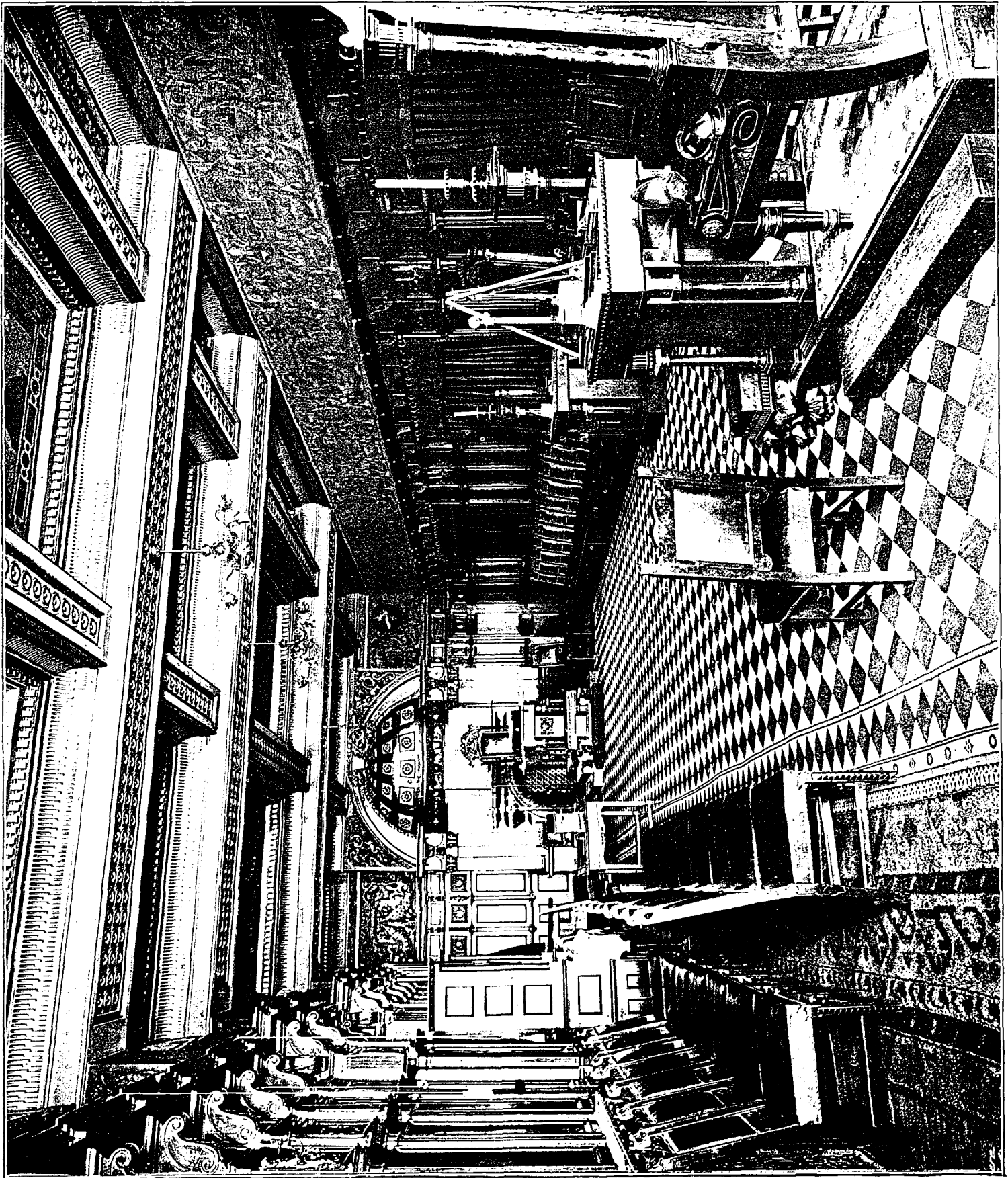
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THE early meeting places of London lodges has long been a subject of considerable interest to the Masonic student and historian, and we are largely indebted to such writers as Bros Hughan, Gould, Lane, and others for what knowledge we now possess of the buildings in which our brethren of the early days of the eighteenth century performed their rites and ceremonies. Time immemorial lodges there were before this, and it cannot be doubted that combinations of Freemasons existed centuries before the

with that of the London tavern, and the demand for improved lodge surroundings has been met in such a manner as to leave nothing to be desired in the way of comfort and adaptability to the requirements of the Craft.

No greater evidence of the vast strides Masonry has made in the Metropolis during the past few years can be adduced than the accommodation afforded in the magnificent Masonic temples in connection with the great hotels and public buildings that have sprung up in all directions. Among



THE MASONIC TEMPLE, HOTEL CECIL.

Grand Lodge came into existence in 1716, but when and where these old lodges were located cannot now be discovered. That the Lodge of Antiquity met at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Churchyard, in 1724, is beyond a doubt, and that other taverns of note at that period were almost solely the homes of the earlier lodges is equally beyond dispute.

It is a far cry from the Goose and Gridiron to the Hotel Cecil; but the evolution of the London lodge has kept pace

these the lodge room at the Hotel Cecil may be ranked amongst the first. It is of massive and imposing design. The whole of the walls are panelled in elaborately-carved oak, and although perhaps the entire effect strikes one as somewhat sombre, it is nevertheless admirably in keeping with the requirements of the Craft, and is largely used by various lodges and chapters.

The accompanying illustration gives an excellent idea of its style and proportions.

Death of Bro. Sir William MacCormac, Bart., K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.

THE medical profession, as well as the country generally, has sustained a severe loss by the sudden death of Sir William MacCormac, which took place on the 4th December. Sir William was born at Belfast in 1836. He graduated at the Queen's University of Ireland in 1858. During his college days he was an athlete of some note, and by his geniality and diligence gained very many friends. After an unusually active and brilliant term as a student he qualified at the Queen's University of Ireland, and in 1864 became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. From that time to his death his professional career has been one of almost unexampled success and brilliant achievements. It must be left to the medical press and his future biographer to describe in detail the work of his life, but we may refer to one or two episodes which appeal strongly to the national sentiment, and which exhibit the strength and earnestness of his character.

In the year 1870 the Franco - Prussian War broke out, and Sir William MacCormac threw up his appointment at Belfast to volunteer his services for the aid of the wounded French soldiers on the German frontier. The English surgeon was welcomed by the medical staff, but by the military authorities, still on the almost insanely ardent search for spies, he was requested to leave Metz and to retire to Chalons. During his short stay he had nevertheless seen a good deal of the practice in the Metz hospitals and was thus prepared for what he was to see anon. After some trouble with the authorities MacCormac succeeded in joining the Anglo - American

Ambulance, and was placed second in command, which position he shortly afterwards, on the return of Dr. Marion Sims to New York, changed for that of Surgeon-in-Chief. Within a few days of his joining this noble mission MacCormac and his companions were in the thick of the fray. Each day considerably more than a hundred major operations were performed, and MacCormac's share of these was more than would have fallen to him by lot, and he did very many such days' work before the war on the frontier practically terminated.

On his return to England MacCormac was elected assistant surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, in recognition of the unique surgical experiences through which he had just passed. With the affairs of this institution he maintained the closest con-

nection until the day of his death, and it is interesting to note that one of the last appearances of the great surgeon at a function not of a professional character was at St. Thomas's Hospital on the occasion of the consecration, on the 4th of November, of the Cheselden Lodge, which had been formed in connection with that institution. He had taken much interest in the arrangements, and it was hoped that he would for many years become more closely identified with the Craft than his busy professional life had hitherto permitted.

In July, 1898, Sir William MacCormac was summoned to attend the King, then Prince of Wales, who it will be

remembered, fractured his knee. His treatment resulted in a satisfactory union, and as a reward for his services he was made a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order.

In the next year the routine of his official and professional work was rudely broken into, and for the third time in his life he started for the seat of a bloody war to place his services at the disposal of the wounded. Soon after the outbreak of the South African War the Government determined to avail itself of the services of three civilian consultants, and in November, 1899, Sir William MacCormac left England for Cape Town, being shortly followed by Mr. G. H. Makins and Mr. (now Sir Frederick) Treves. On arriving at the Cape Sir William MacCormac lost no time in setting to work, beginning his experience of the campaign by visiting the General Hospital at Wynberg. From Cape Town he proceeded to Durban, thence to Pietermaritzburg and Frere.

He assisted in the care of the wounded after Colenso, and then, returning to Cape Town, accompanied Lord Roberts to the Modder River, and went on to Jacobsdal and Kimberley. He served four months as civilian consulting surgeon, returning to England at the beginning of May, 1900.

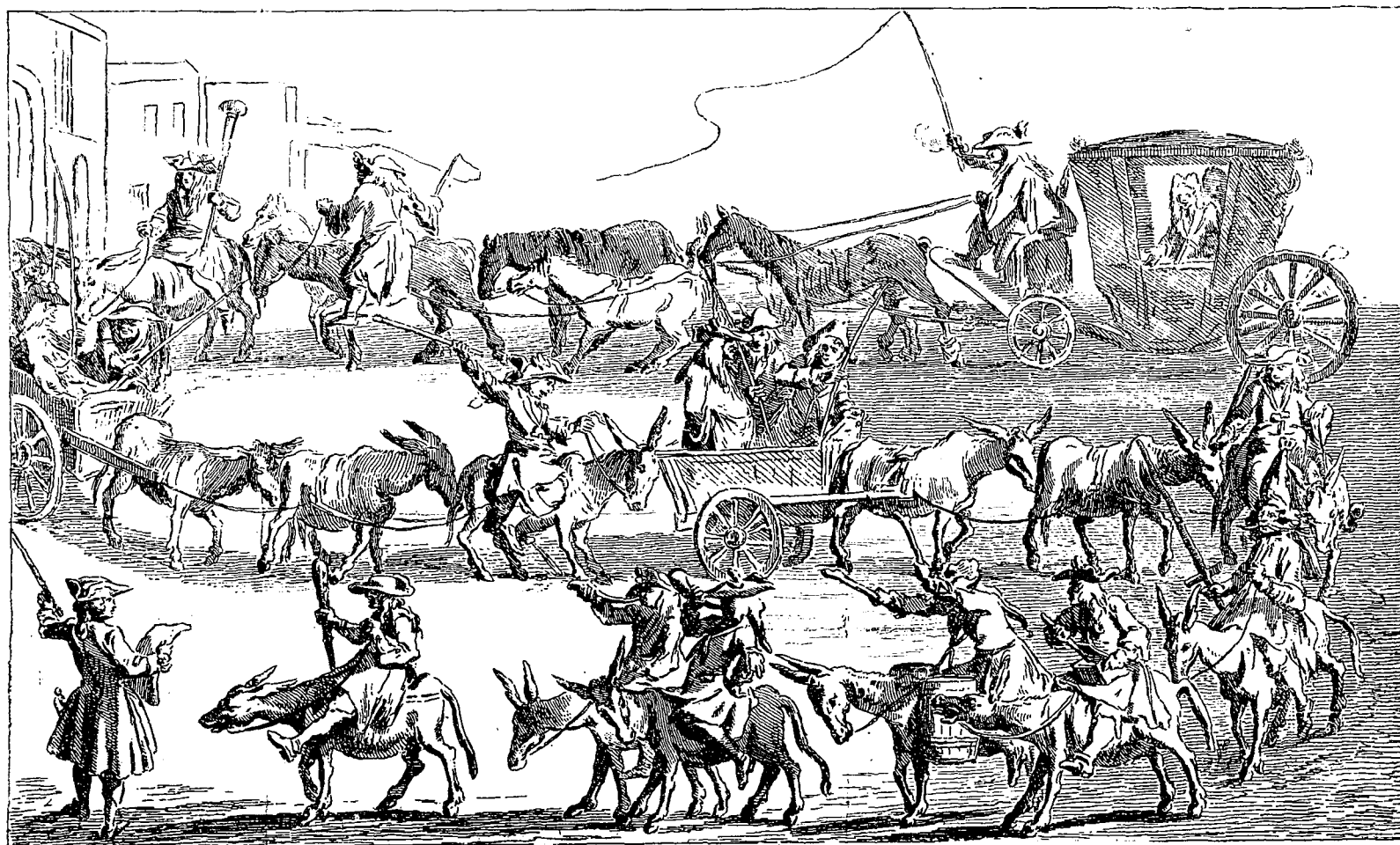
Bro. Sir William MacCormac had suffered for the last two or three months from insomnia, depression, and vague pains in the back, but his sudden death from cardiac failure has come as a great surprise to the medical profession. Only his intimate friends and medical advisers considered him to be in a serious state of health.

The funeral took place on Monday, December 9th, at Kensal Green Cemetery.



THE LATE BRO. SIR WILLIAM MACCORMAC.

Mock Mafonry: or the Grand Proceffion.



I.
PRAY vat be dis vine Show we gaze on?
O 'tis the Flower of all the Nation,
De Cavalcade of de Frée Mafon.
Doodle, doodle, do.

II.
And who be dofe who stride Jack Afs-a,
And blow de Cow-Horns as dey pals-a?
Dat Secret I no guels—alas-a.
Doodle, &c.

III.
Who be dofe who next 'em come-a,
With Butter Tubs, for Kettle Drum-a?
O dat's a Myftery too, Sirs—mum-a.
Doodle, &c.

IV.
Who's he with 'Cap and Sword so stern-a?
Modest Montgomery of Hibern-a,
Who guard de Lodge, and de Key who turn-a.
Doodle, &c.

V.
Vats he with Truncheon leads the Van-a!
By gar one portly proper Man-a.
Dats 'Jone's who marshals all de Train-a.
Doodle, &c.

VI.
Who dofe who ride in Carts and Six-a,
With fuch brave Nicknacks round der Necks-a?
Dey be de Stewards de Feast who fix-a.
Doodle, &c.

VII.
But who be dofe who next approach-a?
Lord vat fine Horfes draw der Coach-a!
O! de Grand Masters I dare vouch-a.
Doodle, &c.

VIII.
Now C-r-y, *Wh-i-b-a-d*, me intend-a
For, Thanks dis sage Advice to lend-a!
Ne'er break your *feft* to *lofe* your Friend-a.
Doodle, &c.

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[Price Sixpence.]

To the Antient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted MASONS, this Print is most humbly inscribed by their very humble Servants,

Esq; C—y, } Directors.
P. W—H—D,

FROM AN OLD PRINT IN POSSESSION OF BRO. E. DORLING, P.M., P.P.G. SECRETARY, SUFFOLK.

Freemasonry in Natal.

WE are pleased to learn that, notwithstanding the disturbing elements of the War, the Craft is steadily forging ahead in the Masonic district of Natal. The lodges—whose working was perforce suspended owing to the Boer occupation, during the earlier stages of the War, of the country in which they were situated—are now again in full swing, and it is satisfactory to hear that they manifest signs of healthy vitality and progress. Recently charters have been granted for two new lodges in this district, viz., the Basutoland Lodge, No. 2835, situated at Maseru, Basutoland, and the Stamford Hill Lodge, No. 2864, which finds its home at a suburb of Durban after which the lodge has been named. Owing to the enemy being still in evidence in the northern portion of the country, the Basutoland Lodge, although the charter was granted some time ago, has not yet been able to commence operations; but the Stamford Hill Lodge was successfully launched on its Masonic career on Tuesday, the 12th November last.

It may be of interest to our readers to know that, within comparatively recent years, the neighbourhood of Stamford Hill was composed of dense bush, inhabited by many varieties of wild animals; but, owing to the enterprise of the municipality of Durban, the bush has been cleared, roads made, and trams laid down; and where recently wild game found a lair, there have now arisen spacious villas and suburban residences, occupied by the well-to-do of the progressive port of Durban. As in all new communities, the want soon became evident of a place where the brethren of the mystic tie could meet together in Masonic friendship, and a charter was consequently applied for and granted.

The consecration service was conducted by the District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Wesley Francis, who was assisted by the following District Grand Officers:—Bro. S. Marriott, D.D.G.M.; Bro. W. O'Brien, D.S.G.W.; Bro. A. Elstob, D.J.G.W.; Bro. the Rev. T. Goodwin, D.G. Chaplain; Bro. S. H. James, D.G. Registrar; Bro. S. J.

Mason, D.G. Treasurer ; Bro. P. K. Francis, D.G.S.D. ; Bro. W. Simons, D.G.J.D. ; Bro. A. G. Knox, D.G. Superintendent of Works ; Bro. F. C. Loney, D.A.G.S. ; and Bro. A. N. Scott, D.G.P. At the conclusion of the consecration service Bro. the Rev. C. D. Tonkin was duly installed as the first W.M. by the D.D.G.M., Bro. S. Marriott, and Bros. J. Bird and R. C. Nutman were invested as S.W. and J.W. respectively.

In the evening the brethren, to the number of eighty, sat down to the customary banquet, which was presided over by the W.M., when, in addition to the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, "The Health and Prosperity of the New Lodge" was enthusiastically drunk.

It is always of interest to learn of the doings of the Craft at the outposts of the Empire, and we wish long life and success to the latest addition to our lodges in this far-off portion of His Majesty's dominions.

London Stone Chapter, No. 2536.

THE consecration of the London Stone Chapter, attached to the Staines Lodge, took place at Staines on Saturday, the 14th December. The ceremony was performed by the Grand Superintendent of Middlesex, the Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., assisted by Comps. J. Beresford Ryley, as H.; Rev. S. T. H. Saunders, as J.; and C. O. Burgess, as D.C. A large number of brethren, resident in and connected with the Province of Middlesex, were present, and the proceedings were completely successful.

At the banquet, which took place after the consecration, the chair was taken by the M.E.Z., who, in proposing "The Health of Lord George Hamilton," said they were not welcoming the Grand Superintendent to a mushroom town, but probably to one of the oldest in the kingdom. If history was to be believed, there stood a church, during the Saxon Heptarchy, on the site of the present parish church. King John slept in Staines the night before he signed the Magna Charter. A bridge had spanned the river there for many generations. It was recorded that Henry III. gave two oak trees from Windsor Forest for its repair; but above the antiquities which the town possessed, none were better known than the London Stone, which stood at the boundary of the counties of Middlesex and Bucks, and marked the jurisdiction possessed by the City of London over the river Thames prior to the formation of the Thames Conservancy Board. This Stone bore the date 1280, and it was probable that the present town took its name from it, *stana* being the Saxon for stone. They remembered with pleasure the last visit of his Lordship, when he consecrated the Staines Lodge, and had acted up to the advice he then gave as to the enrolment of members. This accounted for the smallness of the lodge, which only numbered thirty-two; but its working and its support of the Masonic Charities were known far and wide. It would be the aim of the new chapter to follow in the lodge's wake, and make it a credit to the Province of Middlesex and a pleasure to the Grand Superintendent, who had that day honoured them by personally consecrating the chapter.

His Lordship, in replying, expressed the pleasure it was to him to be present in his capacity as the head of the province. At one time he greatly feared that he would not be able to come, as an important Cabinet Council had been held that morning; but, by dispensing with that superfluous meal called lunch, he was able to be there. Following the line taken by his predecessor, he had decided not to recommend any petition for either lodge or chapter unless it filled a local want. The Staines Lodge had done this, and he had no doubt the chapter would do so too. He complimented the founders on their choice of a name. Having represented that division in Parliament for seventeen years, the London Stone was no new object to him. He trusted the chapter would be as strong as its emblem, and be as noticeable a boundary. He was particularly impressed by the decorations on the breasts of the founders, showing their zeal for Masonry, which must prove of advantage to the chapter.

Ionic Lodge, No. 227.

THE installation meeting of the above lodge took place at the Criterion, Piccadilly, on December 5th, in the presence of a numerous gathering of distinguished visitors and a large number of members. The out-going Master, Bro. Charles R. J. Evans, F.S.A., installed his successor, Bro. William H. Arber, P.M. 206, in a very dignified and impressive manner, which excited the admiration of the visitors. After the investiture of the officers the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet.

After the loyal and Masonic toasts had been disposed of, Bro. Evans, in proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," said nothing in Masonry had ever given him greater pleasure than installing his oldest and dearest friend into the chair of W.M. He congratulated Bro. Arber upon attaining the much coveted position of Master of such a grand old lodge. The toast was received most heartily.

The Worshipful Master, in reply, thanked the brethren for the encouraging manner they had received his toast. He should feel it his duty to follow the good example set him by his predecessors. He had good officers, and with their loyal support would try his hardest to prove a successful Master.



BRO. WILLIAM H. ARBER, W.M. (Photo Elite Portrait Co.)

The Worshipful Master then proposed the toast of "The Installing Master." He could, without flattery, declare that Bro. Evans, his old and respected friend, was one of those Masons who put their whole heart into their Masonic duties.

The I.P.M. thanked the W.M. for his kind words and the brethren for their appreciation of his efforts.

In proposing the toast of "The Visitors," the W.M. extended to them a hearty welcome.

It is interesting to note that this old lodge, which has an Athol warrant dated 1810, now consists principally of professional men. It was originally founded by mechanics, and although in common with the majority of warrants granted by the ancients it bears no name, it was doubtless called the Mechanical Lodge, No. 312, Woolwich, as that inscription appears on several of the officers' collar jewels, which are in excellent preservation, the figure of Mercury, which was the ancient emblem borne by the Deacons, being particularly fine. It was consecrated at Woolwich in 1810, removed to Old Charlton in 1825 (in which year it received its present name), from thence to the George and Vulture, Cornhill, in 1835; to the King's Head, Poultry, in 1851; to the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street, in 1854; and the Criterion, Piccadilly, in 1893.

History of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, *No. 256.*

(By Bro. HENRY SADLER, Sub-Librarian to the Grand Lodge of England).

HAVING undertaken the compilation of an historical sketch of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, I am of opinion that it would be advisable, before entering directly upon that subject, to offer a few brief remarks on the general history and condition of the Craft in the English Metropolis and the important events which immediately preceded the inauguration of this celebrated school of Masonic instruction.



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SUSSEX, GRAND MASTER, 1813-18

Down to the year 1813, and for about sixty years prior to that period, there were two Grand Lodges in London, each having many subordinate lodges under its jurisdiction in nearly every part of the civilized world. The older of these bodies was established in the year 1717, and has been variously designated "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England," "The Regular Grand Lodge," "The Modern Grand Lodge," and, later, "The Grand Lodge under the Prince of Wales," George, Prince of Wales, afterwards King George the Fourth, having been its Grand Master from 1790 to 1813.

The other Grand Lodge started in the year 1751 as a Grand Committee, which blossomed into a Grand Lodge two years later. This body was known as "The Grand Lodge of the Ancients," or, to give it its full description, "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons According to the Old Institutions." Its members were also designated "Athole Masons," because two Dukes of that name had presided over them as Grand Masters. For the sake of brevity and as a simple distinction these two Societies were, and still are, referred to by Masonic writers as "Ancients" and "Moderns," the "Ancients" being the organization of 1751, and the "Moderns" that of 1717.

At first sight this description of them naturally appears somewhat strange, but it can be explained in this way:

The regular Grand Lodge of 1717, although undoubtedly the elder as an organized body, had, for certain reasons, so

altered the ceremonies and deviated from the old customs of the Craft, that, according to their opponents of 1751, they had forfeited their right to the title of "Ancient," while they themselves, having preserved the traditional usages and ceremonies unaltered, were the real "Ancient" Masons, and no doubt there was a certain amount of truth in these allegations. A strong and bitter rivalry existed between the two Societies for many years, promoted and fostered, I regret to say, chiefly by some of the leading Masons on both sides. In fact, it was at first a struggle for absolute power and supremacy on the part of the Moderns—the older and possibly more respectable community—and for existence as an organization on the part of the Ancients, who were stigmatized by their rivals as seceders, schismatics, rebels, and even still more offensive terms were applied to them.

In the course of years the anger of these two rival societies became softened, they found that neither of them could gain the mastery, and as they became better acquainted they learned to respect each other, and, naturally so, for they were both animated by the same noble motive—the dissemination of the grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Owing to the exertions of some of the more enlightened members of both Grand Lodges, an Union, on terms mutually honourable, was finally consummated in the year 1813. Since this period, our Society has been known as the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

As may readily be gathered from the reason given for the names of "Ancients" and "Moderns" having been applied to the opposing factions, various discrepancies existed in their customs and ceremonies. It is of course quite impossible to even hint at the nature of those differences in



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, GRAND MASTER, 1813.

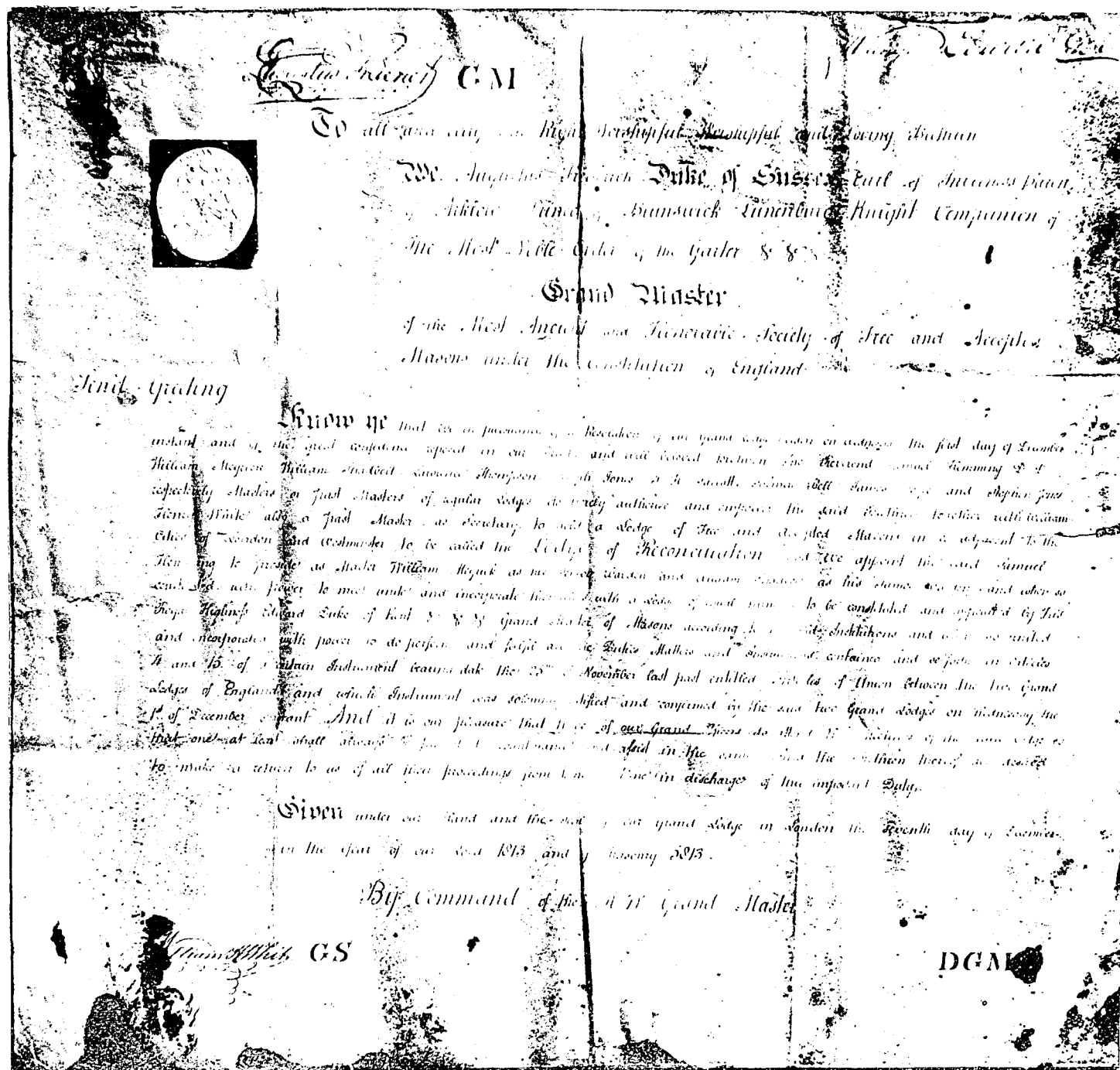
the columns of a public periodical, suffice it to say that they had given rise to much contention—and in order to ensure something like harmony in the future, it was essential that considerable tact and forbearance should be exercised. In

conformity therefore with the "Articles of Union," an equal number of brethren were selected from the two Fraternities for the purpose of effecting an uniformity of ritual, and arranging the future ceremonies of the Craft. Accordingly, a Warrant bearing date 7th December, 1813, signed by the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master of the "Moderns," and witnessed by the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the "Ancients," was issued for a lodge to be called the Lodge of Reconciliation, probably the only Masonic Warrant in existence bearing the sign manual of two Royal Grand Masters.

When the members of this lodge had agreed amongst themselves as to the ceremonies, numerous meetings were held for the purpose of instructing the Craft generally, and

arrangements made pursuant to the directions contained in the 4th and 5th Articles of the Act of Union. That it was not His Royal Highness's intention that any discussion should this day take place as to those arrangements, but that at the Quarterly Communication on the 5th of next month he should submit them for the opinion and sanction of the Grand Lodge, so that the Brethren might in the interim have an opportunity of giving them due consideration.

"The Officers and Members of the Lodge of Reconciliation then opened a Lodge in the First, Second, and Third Degrees successively, and exhibited the ceremonies of initiating, passing, and raising a Mason as proposed by them for general adoption and practice in the Craft.



WARRANT OF THE LODGE OF RECONCILIATION (Redacted facsimile).

those meetings were attended by brethren from all parts of the kingdom, amongst them being several who afterwards joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, including Edwards Harper, Grand Secretary, also Secretary of the Lodge of Reconciliation, and the celebrated Peter Gilkes, of whom more hereafter. No pains appear to have been spared in order to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, and it was not till the 20th May, 1816, that the ceremonies decided upon were rehearsed for the approval of the United Grand Lodge, as the following extracts from the records of that date will show:—

"The M.W. Grand Master stated that he had convened this special Grand Lodge that the Lodge of Reconciliation might exhibit and explain to the brethren the result of their

"These Ceremonies being ended, the Grand Lodge was closed in ample Form, with solemn prayer, and adjourned."

GRAND LODGE MINUTES 5TH JUNE, 1816.

"The Minutes of the Grand Lodge on the 20th May last, when the Ceremonies and Practices recommended by the Lodge of Reconciliation were exhibited and explained, were Read; and, alterations on two points, in the Third Degree, having been resolved upon, the several Ceremonies, &c., recommended were approved and confirmed."

It will thus be seen that in 1816, a particular method of opening and closing a lodge in the three Degrees, and of Initiating, Passing, and Raising was accepted and approved by the Grand Lodge, representing the whole of the English Fraternity.

In all probability assemblages of Masons for the purpose of mutual instruction were coeval with the formation of regular lodges meeting on stated days, but when the lodges met much more frequently than they do now, there was, as a matter of course, less need of general lodges of instruction.

An examination of the old lists of lodges will show that many of them formerly held fortnightly meetings, and some even more frequently; for instance, No. 163, of 1738, is advertised to meet on the first, second, and third Thursday, and to hold a Master's Lodge every Sunday; and, as I happen to have the minute book of the period before me, I can safely say that the lodge did so meet. No special legislation for instruction purposes seems to have been required until after the Union, when the ceremonies were re-arranged and promulgated throughout the English Fraternity, and lodges of instruction naturally became important factors in our Masonic system. I cannot find them mentioned in the Constitutions prior to 1819; but in this edition, regulations similar in substance to those now in force appear, and others have been added as circumstances required. Fifteen Lodges of Instruction are named in the Calendar for 1814 (issued in November, 1813), and the same number in that for 1815, after which years they appear to have been entirely omitted from the Calendar until 1841, when, under the heading of "Lodges of Instruction which have given notice of their meetings in conformity with the laws of the Grand Lodge," three only are named in London, although it is quite certain that many others were at this time in active and regular work. Ten years later the list includes twenty-nine, and others were added, increasing year by year, the last issue of the Calendar showing no less than 211 in the London district alone.

The first volume of the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, published in 1834, gives a list of twelve Lodges of Instruction in London, with the names of about twenty brethren who attended them for the purpose of imparting Masonic knowledge. At the head of this list stands the "Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Blue Posts, Charlotte Street, Rathbone Place; Friday, at 7 in the winter and 8 in the summer. Brothers Dowley, Cooper, Wilson, Pitt, &c."

Each of the lodges mentioned appear to have been attended by several of these old instructors, some of whose names are appended to more than one of the lodges. Unfortunately, the early records of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement are lost, but the list of members from its commencement is still preserved intact.

The periodical above-mentioned, for 1836 contains the following brief outline of its origin:—"About the year 1823 several Brethren considered that the Masonic lectures were not worked in Lodges upon a sufficiently regulated system, and that if those whose attainments as working Masons placed them as a prominent authority were to meet together and to work efficiently, they might be the means of effecting much improvement. They accordingly met, we believe, in Wardour Street, pursuant to a general notice in the public papers, which advertisement created a considerable sensation in the Craft. Some members of the Grand Stewards Lodge, hitherto the only authority for a recognised system, felt that it was necessary to watch the proceedings. Some Grand Officers, with Brother E. Harper, the Grand Secretary, also attended. The several chairs, from the Master to the Outer Guard, were all filled with the most practical and experienced Masons of the day; and we have the authority of a Grand Officer for stating, that never was there so perfect an illustration of the ceremonies and lectures ever before manifested. The visitors separated highly delighted; amongst them the lamented Peter Gilkes, who so highly approved of the proceedings, that in about twelve months afterwards he joined the lodge, and supported it until the time of his death.

"At first the object was confined to the delivering of lectures, but afterwards the ceremonies were introduced which gave great satisfaction. Gratified as we are to bear testimony to the value and importance of this Lodge, and satisfied as we are of its influence on the Craft, we must enter our caution to the leading members of it not to relax from the discipline so unremittently enforced by the institutors,

and which was especially observed by the late Peter Gilkes. We do not make this allusion without cause. Let the excellent Brethren to whose care the interests of the Lodge are unanimously confided, feel no diffidence in correcting the passing errors. They should remember that error may become practice unless early checked. And we further call upon the junior members to weigh with scrupulous care the language which the landmarks permit, and not to be too ready to alter, in the *slightest degree*, what is in itself so excellent."

In the absence of more definite information we may take the foregoing as a fairly accurate description of the proceedings at the inauguration of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, although it is to be regretted that the writer did not take the trouble to make himself more familiar with dates and details. There ought to have been no difficulty at the period when it was written, as the records of the lodge were then available, and no doubt many of those who took part in the opening proceedings were then living.

The minutes of the Lodge of Hope, No. 7 (now the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance) for the 27th of November, 1823, contain the following record:—"Agreed to sanction a Lodge of Instruction entitled the Lodge of Emulation, at present held at the Old Red Lion, Cavendish Street, meeting every Friday."

The trite saying that small beginnings have sometimes great results, was never better exemplified than in this curt and meagre record of the sponsorship of a lodge which has since attained world-wide celebrity, and whose influence on English Craft working is unparalleled.

The Register of Members shows that the lodge was established on the 2nd of October, 1823, and that the following brethren were the Founders of it:—

Name.	Old No.	Name of Lodge.	Present No.
Joseph Dennis	7	Hope	7
..... Sheppard	8	British	8
G. Taylor	8	"	8
Thomas Cant	11	Enoch	11
Wm. Neale	71	Constitutional	55
G. Margerison	71	"	55
John Darwin	71	"	55
Thomas Chamberlain	71	"	55
Thomas Lewis	92	Grenadiers	66
A. Westcott	152	Burlington	96
James Mivart	152	"	96
J. Bradford	299	St. James's Union	180
J. G. Braid	299	"	180
Wm. Edwards	299	"	180
F. Manton	299	"	180
John Smyth	299	"	180
Geo. Sergeant	299	"	180
..... Johnson	335	Percy	198
J. H. Wilson	335	"	198
E. S. Garner	481	Unions	256
E. Wittington	481	"	256
Wm. Harper	(Lodge unknown)
..... Jones	"

It will thus be seen that at least nine lodges were represented by the Founders, and that the St. James's Union Lodge and the Constitutional Lodge bear the palm in point of numbers. Both of these lodges have for many years past had their own lodges of instruction.

I am unable to find in the newspapers of the period any reference to the lodge during the first year of its existence or of its ever having met in Wardour Street.

Unfortunately, in some respects, Masonic journalism was a non-entity prior to 1834, and the public press was occasionally resorted to, not only for advertising Masonic meetings, but for the airing of Masonic grievances also.

The earliest mention of the lodge which I have been able to find in print is in *The Public Ledger* of October 11th, 1824, where, amongst other notifications of Masonic meetings, appears the following:—

"Friday—Emulation Lodge of Instruction, Red Lion, Old Cavendish-street."

This notice was continuous, and in the following month " (M.M. only) " was added.

(To be Continued).