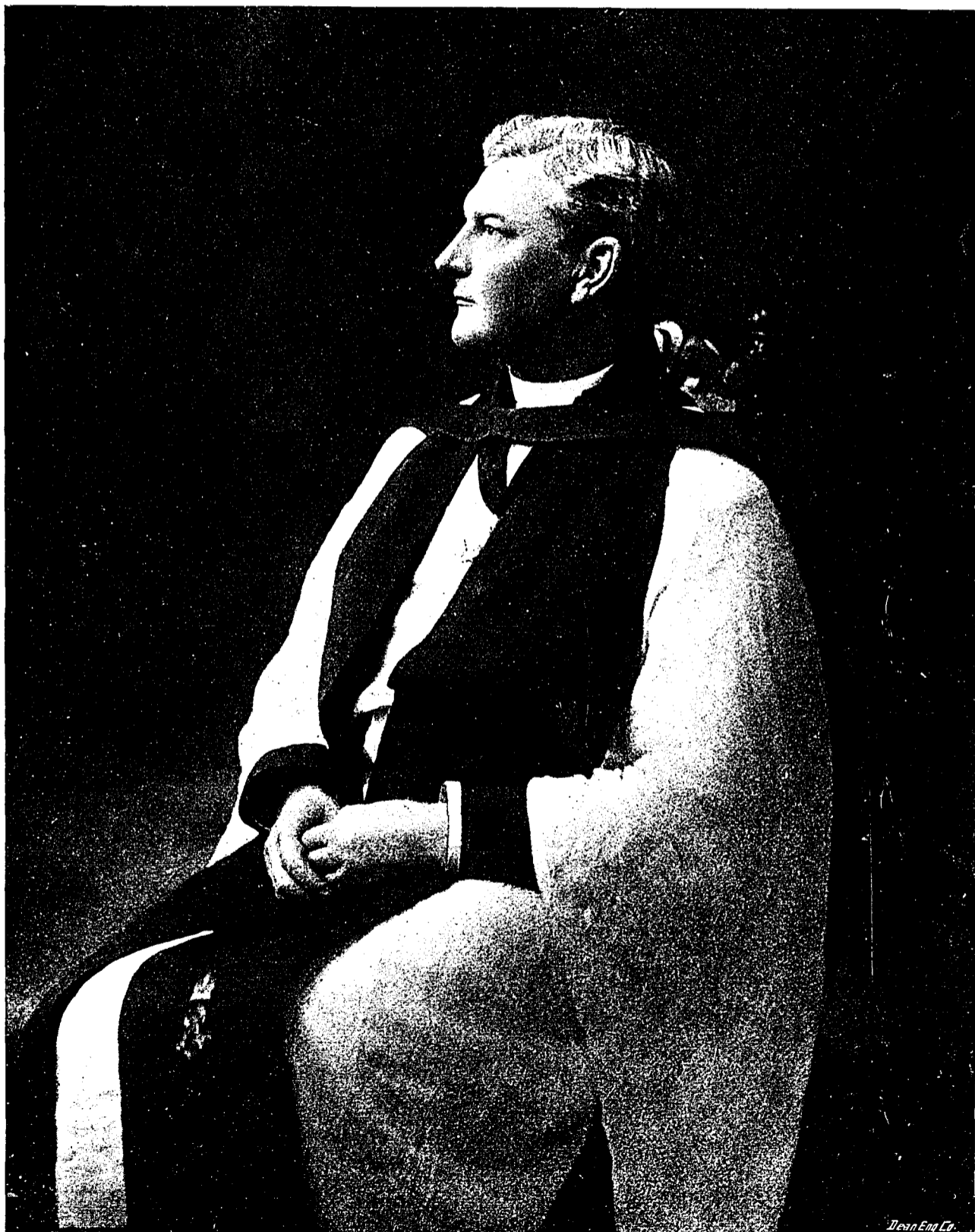


THE
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*V.W. Bro. William Macdonald Sinclair, D.D.,
 Archdeacon of London, Past Grand Chaplain.*

The Board of Benevolence.

THE existence of a charity fund under different appellations and varied methods of administration has been coterminous with the existence of Grand Lodge itself from its establishment in 1717. From the first, the needs of poor and distressed brethren have been considered and relief afforded. It is true that during the eighteenth century and for a long period after there was no approach to the large figures with which we are now familiar, but the printed proceedings of the quarterly communications during that period give particulars of the collection and disposal of monies, which were probably as generous in proportion to the means of the donors and the needs of the applicants as the contributions of to-day. Taking an extract at random, we find under date February 17th, 1770, the following entry:—“Contributions from Lodges to the ‘General Fund of Charity,’ £161 6s. od.” The Report for the quarter ending September, 1782, contains the following statement of disbursements:—“Paid, carrying out quarterly communications’ accounts, other letters and postages, 19s.; Printing, £14 17s. od.; Light gold and silver (an item often figuring in the accounts), 5s. 1d.; Grand Secretary’s Bill,



BRO. CLABON, P.G.D.

£16 os. 5d.; Clerk (one year’s salary), £20 os. od.; while payments are recorded to eight brethren of £5 each. Total, £92 1s. 6d.”—a somewhat heavy charge it must be confessed in comparison with the £40 actually devoted to the purposes of the fund, and in strong contrast with the method at present adopted, which charges all expenses of administration to the general fund, thus allowing the whole of the receipts from members’ “quarterages” to be disposed of in grants.

Meetings of the Committee, or Lodge of Benevolence, for the distribution and application of the Charitable Fund, were held monthly from the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, composed in the first instance of twelve members of Lodges (within the Bills of Mortality) and three Grand Officers, an arrangement which gave place in 1815 to a Lodge, or Board, consisting of thirty-six Masters of London Lodges within the London district, three members of the Grand Stewards’ Lodge, and nine Grand Officers, of which one was to act as President.

In 1837 a Sub-Committee of Charity entitled the Weekly Lodge of Benevolence was established, but lasted for a short time only, and at a Quarterly Communication held in the

ensuing December it was resolved, on the motion of Dr. Crucifix, “That this Grand Lodge recommend the contemplated Asylum for the worthy aged and decayed Freemasons to the favourable consideration of the Craft.” The establishment of the Royal Masonic Institution for Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons speedily followed.



BRO. JOSHUA NUNN, P.G. SWD. BR.

The Lodge of Benevolence, however, continued to perform its beneficent work, and in 1869 the fund had increased to such an extent that a proposition was brought before Grand Lodge by Bro. Clabon, P.G.D., on behalf of the committee, to divert a portion of the surplus annually to



BRO. ROBERT GREY, P.G.D.

the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls and to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. Bro. Clabon argued that if the surplus went on accumulating at the rate of £1800 or £2000 a year, he calculated at the end of the century there would be a fund of £100,000, and he desired to do some good with it then. He expressed a fear that such a large

fund would tempt people to enter Masonry and be productive of mischief, a fear which is not altogether absent from the minds of the brethren of the present day. Grand Lodge, however, came to the conclusion that it was not desirable to apply a fund which had been created for the relief of necessitous Freemasons and their widows to any other purpose, and events proved the wisdom of this decision. At the end of the century it was found that notwithstanding great care had been exercised in the distribution of the fund, the demands for relief had so largely increased with the increase in the number of Freemasons that the accumulated fund had only reached about £50,000, just one-half the amount which had been predicted by Bro. Clabon.

In 1870, the annual income had reached £5000 a year, and important alterations in the rules were made, giving both the Board and the Grand Master powers to grant larger sums to applicants without reference to Grand Lodge, as well as more clearly defining the various rules in force at the time.

Up to this period the Lodge of Benevolence as it was then called, had been presided over by a Grand Officer specially summoned for each meeting to act as Master, as well as two Grand Officers to act as Wardens, but it became



BRO. JAMES H. MATTHEWS, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD.

evident that this system had outgrown the needs of the time, and that the decisions on points of law or order of the different brethren who from time to time were called upon to act as Master, given as they were on the spur of the moment without time to consider the construction of the Constitutions, were not unfrequently inconsistent with each other.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in March, 1870, a resolution was submitted to Grand Lodge, and unanimously carried, that in future a President or Master should be appointed by the Grand Master, and that a Senior and Junior Vice-President should be annually elected by Grand Lodge. This arrangement has proved to be an eminently practicable one, and has largely contributed to the efficient working of the Board.

Bro. Clabon was appointed the first President under the new arrangement, and continued to act in that capacity until his death, when he was succeeded by Bro. Joshua Nunn. On the death of Bro. Nunn in 1886, Bro. Robert Grey, P.G. D., was appointed with the newly created Grand rank of "President of the Board of Benevolence," a position he continued to occupy with distinguished ability and unwearied devotion to the duties of the office for a period of ten years, and on his

retirement was promoted to the rank of Past Grand Warden. Bro. J. H. Matthews was appointed in 1896, bringing with him that business acumen and knowledge of men and things acquired in the well-known firm of Grindley and Co., Bankers and Indian Agents, of which he is the head, together with those qualities of sympathy and tact which are so necessary in such a position, and his occupancy of the chair has



BRO. DAVID D. MERCER, P.G. STD. BR. (Photo Elite Portrait Co.)

been exceptionally successful. Sums averaging a total of nearly £1000 a month are disbursed to deserving applicants, and the whole work of the Board is, under his direction, carried out efficiently and in a manner that reflects the highest credit on all concerned.



BRO. HENRY GARROD, P.G. PURST.

In this connection we should not omit to mention that the onerous duties of Senior and Junior Vice-President have been respectively carried out with marked ability and devotion by Bros. David D. Mercer, P.G. Std. Br., and Henry Garrod, P.G. Purst., whose long experience and ripe judgment are of the greatest value to this important section of Masonic work.

The Lodge of St. Andrew, Boston, U.S.A.

ONE of the most remarkable Lodges in the United States of America, with its thousands of Lodges, and nearly a million of members, is that of *St. Andrew*, of Boston, Massachusetts.

Precisely when it originated is not known, but the founders assembled in the noted "Green Dragon Tavern," Boston, from 1752, and possibly before. Probably the brethren were originally "made" in Scotland, but wherever they hailed from, their Masonic origin, or they themselves, do not appear to have suited the members of the *St. John's* Lodge, of the same City, which was the first authorized for any part of America (so far as we know) by the Premier Grand Lodge of England, which was in the year 1733.

Notwithstanding their repeated application, "they were refused admittance into the regular Lodges in Boston," and having had the advantage of a visit, in 1754, from a Brother James Logan, P.M., and a member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the brethren decided to petition that venerable Body for a Charter. This they did accordingly, and the application was agreed in open Grand Lodge, 21st May, 1759, was noted in the books of that Grand Lodge, 30th Nov., 1756, and yet did not reach Boston until 1760.

The assemblies of the Lodge went on (warrant or no warrant), in the interim; but finally the regularity as well as the Masonic character of the petitioners was admitted. The "*St. John's* Grand Lodge" (Boston), objected to this invasion of their preserves; but at that time the very restricted regulations as to Masonic Jurisdiction and lawful Territory did not prevail, hence the brethren of Lodge *St. Andrew* disregarded all such objections, and were privileged to receive as members some of the wisest and best of that great country.

In 1764, the brethren purchased the old historic Tavern, with the remainder of the Estate, thus obtaining a very valuable property, and gave them such a status, that nothing could shake their foundations as a Craft Institution which had come to stay. New buildings were subsequently erected.

In 1761, the *St. John's* Grand Lodge prohibited all who acknowledged their rule from visiting the "so called Scotts'

Masons in Boston, not being regularly constituted in the opinion of this Grand Lodge." This interdict was duly reported to the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Lord Aberdour, who signed the Charter, had retired from the chair; but the Earl of Elgin and Kincardin, the then M.W.G.M., replied to the effect that he did not dispute the authority of the R.W. Bro. Jeremiah Gridley, in all North America, over all Lodges, "who held of the Grand Lodge of England," and in like manner he claimed the jurisdiction of the R.W. Bro. Colonel John Young, over these Lodges chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in the same Territory. "These Com-

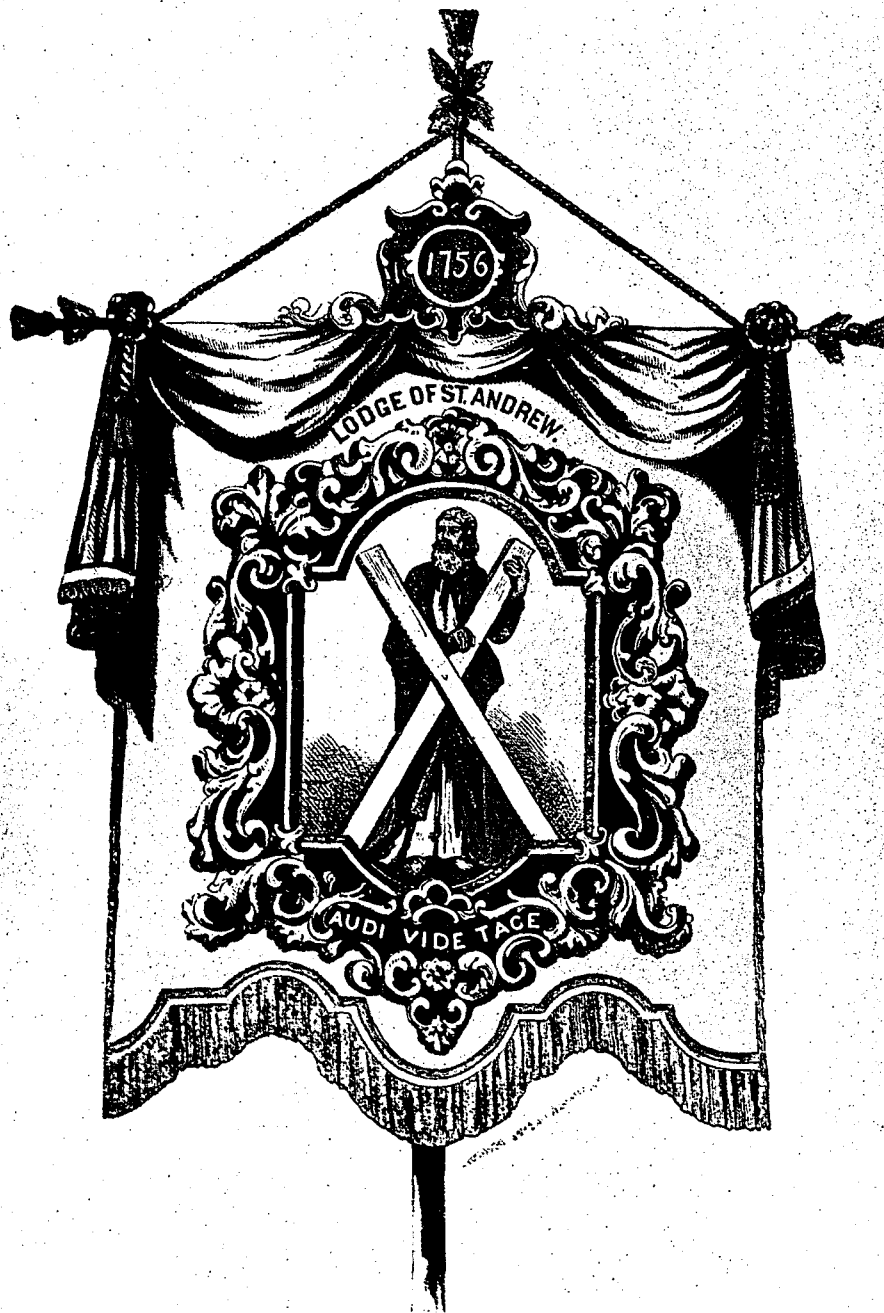
missions, when rightly understood" (he declared) "can not clash or interfere with each other."

In 1766, the "olive branch" was held out to the original Grand Lodge and its members, but their overtures were most coldly and unkindly declined; the "bad spirit" being all on the one side. All attempts to promote Masonic intercourse between the two organizations having failed, the Lodge of *St. Andrew*, with the assistance of three Military Lodges then in the City, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland for the appointment of the revered General Joseph Warren as Prov. Grand Master. The prayer was answered as desired, and the Prov. Grand Lodge was constituted at the old "Green Dragon" in 1769.

The "Tyrian" Lodge, Gloucester, and the celebrated "Massachusetts Lodge," Boston, were formed in the following year, and still another in 1772 at Newbury Port. In 1777 the brethren

struck out for themselves by establishing their own Massachusetts Grand Lodge, "free and independent in its government and official authority of any other Grand Lodge, or Grand Master in the universe," being the first of its kind so constituted. The Lodge of *St. Andrew* did not see matters in the same light, and renewed its allegiance to its Mother Grand Lodge.

In 1792, the *St. John's* Grand Lodge and that of the "Massachusetts" united, the support of the "*St. Andrew*" not being obtained until 1809, and then only after consultation with the Scottish Authorities, so all things should be done "decently and in order." From that time unanimity has prevailed, and at the present time, the United Grand Lodge



THE BANNER OF LODGE ST. ANDREW.

of Massachusetts is one of the largest and most influential organizations in North America.

A word or two as to the Warrant. The Scottish Grand Secretary, Bro. Alexr. Dougall, was not noted, I should say, for his clerical accuracy, or his successors were far behind in their duties, for some Warrants during his occupancy of that office failed to be registered. The "Kilwinning" *Port Royal* Crosse Lodge, State of Virginia, chartered by the G.M. in 1755, and duly authorized and signed by the officials, is not noted in the Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, 1836 and 1848, which have the List of Lodges to date of issue, and others are in the same condition formed in that State.

Lodge St. Andrew is said to have been numbered 81, and another for Blandford, Virginia, bore 82 of the same year, while the famous Lodge at Fredericksburg, of 1758, is not noted in the Scottish Register at all, though the original Warrant is still preserved.

I hope some day to refer to the histories of these two Lodges of this worthy trio. The Centenary of the distinguished Lodge of St. Andrew was celebrated Nov. 29th, 1856, with all the Ceremony and Rejoicing possible, and on Dec. 28th, 1869, the Centennial Observance of the Inauguration of General Warren as Prov. G.M. of Mass. was also commemorated, the proceedings being on a most extensive scale. Best of all a Memorial Volume was published in 1870, dealing with these two great events and the extraordinary career of the Lodge.

The work is of a most sumptuous, interesting, and valuable character, only five hundred copies being published; the style and beauty of the work generally has never been surpassed by any other record of an old Lodge with such a grand History.

W. J. HUGHAN.



THE JEWEL OF LODGE ST. ANDREW.

Empire Lodge, No. 2108.

Initiation of the Japanese Minister, Viscount Hayashi, D.C.L., LL.D.

OF the many important meetings recently held under the banner of the Empire Lodge probably the initiation of Viscount Hayashi, the first native of Japan to be introduced into Freemasonry in England, will be remembered as not the least noteworthy. The ceremony was admirably performed by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Sidney F. Isitt, assisted by Bro. Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary.

Amongst the distinguished brethren present were noticed Bros. Colonel Malet de Carteret, P.G. Master of Jersey; General J. Wimburn Laurie, M.P., P.G. Master of South Wales (Western Division), P.G. Master of Nova Scotia; George Richards, D.G. Master of the Transvaal; Hamon Le Strange, P.G. Master of Norfolk; Viscount Templetown, P.G.W., S.G.W. of Ireland; J. D. G. Dalrymple Woodhead, Substitute Grand Master Mason of Scotland; the Rev. Canon Quennell, G. Chaplain; the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, P.G. Chaplain; the Very Rev. the Dean of Battle, P.G. Chaplain; John Morland, D.P.G. Master of Berkshire; Sir Horace Tozer, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for Queensland; R. Horton Smith, K.C., P.G. Registrar; R. Loveland Loveland, K.C., President Board of Gen. Purps.; Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary; Sir Arthur Trendell, C.M.G., P.D.G.D.C., Treasurer; Sir George Truscott and Sir Thomas Brooke-Hitching, Sheriffs of London; Daniel Mayer, P.G.D.; and many other Grand Officers and brethren.

The subsequent banquet was partaken of by about 150 brethren.

In submitting the toast of "The Grand Officers," the Worshipful Master announced that a letter had been received from Earl Amherst expressing deep regret at his inability to

be present. He would propose the toast in the words once used by a Past Master—"The less said about the Grand Officers the better," but he would ask the brethren to put the happiest construction on the sentence that evening.

In reply, Bro. Colonel Malet de Carteret, P.G. Master of Jersey, said that amongst others he would like to mention the Grand Secretary, the President of the Board of General Purposes, and the Grand Chaplains, as examples of Grand Officers whose work was no sinecure. He could say with regard to the initiate of the evening, from experience of life in Japan, that there were no more charming people than the Japanese.

Bro. Sir Arthur Trendell, C.M.G., P.A.G.D.C., Treasurer, next proposed the toast of "The Sister and District Grand Lodges." It was not, he said, the first opportunity which he had had of greeting at the Empire Lodge Bro. General Laurie and the representatives of the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland. They had also the gratification of again welcoming Bro. George Richards, who had but recently returned from the Transvaal. It had been, he thought, a particular pleasure to the brethren he had named—whom he would ask to respond to the toast—to be present that evening at the initiation of a cultured representative of a friendly power.

Bro. General Laurie, P.G. Master of South Wales, and P.G. Master of Nova Scotia, in responding, reminded the brethren that he had been with them at the consecration of the lodge. He thought that their work as well as their responsibilities had increased since then. The Empire Lodge had become the recognised host of visitors to

England from foreign countries. In the House of Commons, from which he had just come, the complaint had been made that the country did not take the trouble to become acquainted with the people to whom they sent their representatives in different parts of the world. Where the House of Commons had failed the Empire Lodge had stepped in, and he thought that a national duty had been fulfilled by them in what had taken place that evening.



BRO. VISCOUNT HAYASHI.

Bro. Viscount Templetown, P.G.W., and S.G.W. of Ireland, who responded for "The Grand Lodge of Ireland," said that he responded for the loyal portion of that country, who were not to be surpassed in loyalty by any other people in the world. He could testify to the pleasure he had felt at witnessing the ceremony of the evening.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland was represented by Bro. J. D. G. Dalrymple Woodhead, who expressed his deep sense of indebtedness to them for giving them the opportunity of

being present. He was glad to be able to say that the Grand Lodge of Scotland was never in a more prosperous condition than at present; their charities were more flourishing, their income was better, and they were not ashamed to imitate their sister Grand Lodge of England in all that made for the prosperity of Masonry.

Bro. George Richards, D.G. Master of the Transvaal, wished for a Masonic megaphone in order that his voice might carry further, when he said that the initiation of the Japanese Ambassador into Freemasonry had forged another link in the chain which bound their Empire. He was reminded that on his recent visit to Johannesburg he had seen there two commercial representatives of Japan, who had asserted that not the least of the blessings attendant on peace was the ability of the Johannesburgers to trade direct with Japan and so secure a rapid return to wealth and prosperity. It was such healthy egotism which ensured the progress of the Japanese nation.

The toast of "The Worshipful Master" was proposed by Bro. Franz Deutsch, I.P.M.

In returning thanks, Bro. S. F. Isitt remarked that it was the first occasion on which he had performed the initiation ceremony, and he was not unnaturally nervous over his work on the occasion, but he should endeavour to carry out to the best of his ability the responsible duties which fell to the Master of so important a lodge.

The Worshipful Master next proposed "The Health of the Initiates." That toast had in the past been regarded as the chief one of the evening, much more so was it so on the present occasion. Although in the lodge he could only recognise in his Excellency the Japanese Ambassador a man and a Mason, he might be permitted at the banquet to refer to their distinguished brother in his political capacity. He would carry their minds back to the time when Japan became the ally of England. Both parties in the State had been desirous of that happy consummation which had been brought about by the united efforts of Liberal and Conservative governments, and when the alliance had been accomplished it had been equally welcomed by Japan. The delicate negotiations of that time had been in the hands of the initiate of the evening, Bro. Viscount Hayashi. On behalf of the Empire Lodge he desired to say how great a privilege they felt it to be to have been selected as the lodge in which his Excellency had chosen to be initiated into Freemasonry.

In reply, Bro. his Excellency Viscount Hayashi thanked the brethren for the cordial remarks which had been extended to him, and for the complimentary manner in which his country had been alluded to by the brethren. Their sentiments were cordially reciprocated by the Japanese, and he hoped the events of that evening would not fail to result in even more intimate relations being established between their respective countries.

The proceedings terminated after "The Health of the Visitors" and "The Officers of the Lodge" had been proposed and responded to, the musical arrangements being under the admirable conduct of Bros. Squire and Schoenberger, the Organists of the lodge.

Installation Meeting of the Drury Lane Lodge, No. 2127.

THE installation meeting of this highly popular lodge was held at the Hotel Cecil on Tuesday, February 10th, and was, as usual, very largely attended, upwards of 200 members and visitors being present, the company including a numerous array of Grand Officers. The retiring Worshipful Master, Bro. Luigi Lablache, was unfortunately not present in consequence of ill-health, but his duties as Installing Master were ably performed by Bro. Harry Nicholls, P.M., while Bro. J. H. Barnes, P.M., as ably performed the ceremony of initiation of three candidates.

The Worshipful Master elect, Bro. A. G. Neville, is the son of the distinguished actor, Bro. Henry Neville, and immediately on his induction into the chair at once gave a taste of his quality and of his inherited elocutionary powers by the perfect manner in which he gave the addresses to his officers on their investiture and generally conducted the business of the chair.

The neophyte who may have the good fortune to be introduced into Freemasonry during Bro. Neville's year of office will most certainly hear the beautiful

and impressive ceremony rendered in the most faultless and perfect manner, and Bro. Neville may be safely trusted to maintain the traditions and high standard of this famous lodge.

At the banquet which followed, the Worshipful Master, in proposing the toasts, was commendably brief, but none the less effective.

The toast of "The King, Protector of the Order," was enthusiastically received and, as might be expected, the singing of the National Anthem was most effective.

The toast of "The Grand Officers" was responded to by Bro. Sir Henry Isaacs, P.G.W. and a Past Master of the lodge, in his best vein of humor. He concluded by saying that he was proud to be a member of Grand Lodge, and it was a pleasure to be attached to a body of legislators when those for whom they legislated did not grumble and find fault.

Bro. Barlow, Grand Treasurer, and Bro. James Fernandez, P.A.G.D.C., also responded.

In proposing the toast of "The Charities," the Worshipful Master remarked that if any brother wished more fully to know the work of the Craft, he knew of no better way than by a visit to one of their Institutions. They would all remain as corner stones to the good work fulfilled by the united efforts of the Craft, and when they were all "no more" he trusted the good work would still be carried on.

The toast was acknowledged by Bro. J. M. McLeod, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, who paid a tribute to the charitable instincts displayed by the new Worshipful Master, and trusted he would continue in the career of good work he had started on. Although more particularly interested in one Institution, he was ready to plead the cause of the others, and in view of the approaching Festival of the Benevolent Institution, he appealed to their generosity on behalf of that fund in order that old and distressed Masons might go to their graves blessing the day when they entered the Craft.

Bro. J. H. Barnes, as acting I.P.M., proposed the toast of "The Worshipful Master." He said that had they more time he could spend a lot of it in eulogising Bro. Neville. He (the speaker) well remembered the pride and joy he felt when two years ago he sat in that chair. He remembered the additional pleasure he felt in being elected Master of that lodge. Therefore he could easily understand the feelings of anybody else in the same position. They were nothing in that lodge if they did not have a human moment; and they had a very human moment that night. They had in their P.M.—their good old friend, Bro. Henry Neville—one who had initiated their present Master—and who had been present at a previous initiation long before. He thought they would all understand that under those circumstances there were two very happy hearts that night. A loving,

lovable son of a loving, lovable father, was presiding over them for the ensuing year, and he (the speaker) wished him long life, health, and happiness to enjoy it and many years after. He was not going to wish him a successful year of office, because that would be to write themselves down idiots. They in Drury Lane Lodge knew a good thing when they saw it, and that he would have a successful year the members themselves could vouch for. He wished him a happy year of office; a successful one was absolutely ensured.

The Worshipful Master, in response, thanked the brethren in hearty terms for the way they had received the toast, and Bro. Barnes for the kind way he had proposed it. At the time when he was initiated by his father—and he was a perfect Worshipful Master—it seemed to him that embodied in the Order was a religion; that there was a power in that religion, in that simple faith to work for all good; and this was what commended Masonry so strongly to him. It was a proud position to occupy the chair in that lodge, and he could assure them that he would endeavour to do his work so as to merit their approbation.

The Worshipful Master then gave "The I.P.M. and Past Masters," and in referring to Bro. Lablache's illness said there was every reason to believe that he would soon be with them again. He coupled with the toast the names of Bros. Henry Neville, Oscar Barrett, Harry Nicholls Gerald, Maxwell, and J. H. Barnes.

Bro. Neville, in a moving speech, said he felt bound to make somewhat of a paternal response, for he certainly felt so happy that words failed to express the gratification of his heart. When the present Worshipful Master was quite a little "lewis," he was very desirous of becoming a Mason, and as soon as he came of age he was initiated in his father's dear old lodge—Drury Lane. He could assure the brethren that it gave him great delight to see his son occupying the chair which would lead



BRO. A. G. NEVILLE.

him to the distinction of having his name placed with those of such an illustrious character on the banner of the lodge given for that purpose. Everything in his life had been good, it had been a perfectly honourable, upright, and blameless life, a life without a lie, cheat, or fraud of any kind, and that in his (the speaker's) opinion should be the sort of man to be a Mason.

To the toast of "The Visitors," Bro. Manuel, Preceptor of the Logic Club of Instruction, replied, and he said that the Drury Lane Installation was one of the happiest times that visitors had in their experience. They had only to look at the memories, the associations, and history that clustered round its name, to know that it had much to commend it to their consideration.

Bro. Barnes and Bro. Maxwell also replied.

Other toasts followed, and the brethren whose professional engagements permitted them to remain, spent the remainder of the evening listening to some excellent music rendered by members of the lodge and others.

Installation Meeting of the Westbourne Lodge, No. 733.

THE installation meeting of this popular lodge was held at the Holborn Restaurant, on Thursday, February 19th, when the outgoing Master, Bro. H. H. Bagnall, installed his successor, Bro. Edward Thomas, into the Master's chair. The ceremony was rendered with impressive dignity. The Worshipful Master invested his officers as follows:—Bros. F. Beesley, S.W.; C. Halston, J.W.; J. Welford, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., Treasurer; S. R. Walker, P.M., Secretary; G. T. Meek, S.D.; E. J. White, J.D.; W. Recknell, I.G.; C. A. Cottebrune, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., D.C.; F. Chidley, A.D.C.; A. C. Hawkins, Organist; E. Young and H. Morton, Stewards; and S. Ellis, Tyler.



BRO. EDWARD THOMAS.

At the banquet which followed, the speeches were brief. The usual loyal toasts were duly given and honoured.

In proposing the toast of "The Grand Officers," the Worshipful Master said the Westbourne Lodge was proud to have two such veteran Grand Officers among their members as Bros. C. A. Cottebrune and J. Welford, and hoped that they would live for many years to continue their valuable services to the Westbourne Lodge.

Bro. Cottebrune, P.G. Std. Br., said he had much pleasure in responding. He felt it a great honour to be their oldest Past Master and a Past Grand Officer. Forty-five years ago he had been a founder of the lodge, and occupied the position now held by their Worshipful Master. He had worked with many of the old Past Masters to establish the

lodge on a firm basis, and others were now carrying on that work. He could look back to the time when the usual refreshment of the lodge after labour consisted of bread and cheese and beer, but still they were happy in spite of their economy. He was proud that the lodge had continued its prosperous career, which he hoped would go on for many years, although he, being eighty-one years of age, could not hope to respond to that toast for many more years.

Bro. J. Welford, P.G. Std. Br., endorsed the remarks made by his old friend, and trusted that they would together be able to attend many more installation meetings of the Westbourne Lodge.

The I.P.M., Bro. H. H. Bagnall, proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," felt it a particular pleasure that that task devolved upon him as they were old friends, and had run in harness together for some years. The Worshipful Master had proved in the lodge of instruction that he was a most capable worker, and he could promise him that he would have what he well deserved, the undivided support of the brethren. It was the earnest wish of all the members that he would have a prosperous year of office.

The Worshipful Master, in reply, thanked the brethren for the cordial reception they had given to the toast, and assured them that nothing should be wanting on his part to continue the good work of the lodge, in which endeavour he knew he would receive the support of the Past Masters. He submitted to them the toast of "The Installing Master, Bro. H. H. Bagnall," and had great pleasure in presenting him, on behalf of the lodge, with a Past Master's jewel.

The I.P.M., in response, thanked the brethren who had so loyally supported him during his year of office, and for the handsome Past Master's jewel they had presented him with. He was glad he had given them satisfaction, and it had always been his endeavour to act up to the spirit of the Craft.

The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bros. Grice, T. Mason, and W. O. Welford. They congratulated the Worshipful Master upon the high office to which he had attained, and offered their sincere sympathy in the sorrow which a family bereavement was weighing upon him that night.

The toast of "The Past Masters" was replied to by Bro. J. Welford, who looked back with pleasure to the time when he occupied the chair of Worshipful Master, twenty-two years ago, and Bro. A. Arrowsmith who had experienced considerable pleasure that evening in seeing installed into the chair of the lodge a brother who had been one of his initiates when he had been Master, and who, like others whom he had initiated, had brought honour upon themselves by the manner in which they had fulfilled the duties of any office they had held. He trusted the Worshipful Master would attain even greater success than that of his predecessors.

Bro. S. R. Walker, the indefatigable Secretary, also replied in his usual humorous vein.

The toast of "The Officers" was duly given and responded to, and the Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

Installation Meeting of the Savage Club Lodge, No. 2190.

THE installation meeting of the above lodge took place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, on February 3rd, when a large number of Grand Officers and distinguished brethren were present. Bro. R. Bowdler Sharpe,

LL.D., was installed as Worshipful Master, and the following officers were invested for the year:—Bros. Edward Peacock, I.P.M.; Hugh Moss, S.W.; Herbert Johnson, J.W.; Raymond Tucker, P.M. 1899, Treasurer; F. H. Cheeswright, P.M.

907, Secretary; Crandon D. Gill, S.D.; Walter Rowley, J.D.; Frederick Bingham, I.G.; Lovett King, Organist; Walter J. Ebbetts, P.M., D.C.; Holmes Kingston, Rob Sauber, P. N. Hasluck, Robb Harwood, Stewards; and G. F. Swan, Tyler.

The brethren then adjourned to the Freemasons' Tavern, where a banquet was provided.



BRO. B. BOWDLER SHARPE.

The toast of "The King" having been duly honoured, that of "The Grand Officers" followed, and was responded to by Bro. the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, P.G.C., and Bro. Archdeacon Sinclair, P.G.C., the latter remarking that all Grand Officers were glad to be at the board of the Savage Club Lodge, wherein he recognised the home of science, literature and art.

Bro. E. Peacock, I.P.M., in giving the toast of "The Worshipful Master," said he recognised in Bro. Bowdler Sharpe a brother who he knew would continue the high traditions of the lodge; he was a distinguished man of science and yet a modest brother; he had been the means of adding to the national collection some 50,000 different species of birds, and he felt sure it would not be long before he would receive some appropriate award. He considered the lodge was to be congratulated in having so distinguished a brother at its head.

The Worshipful Master, in replying, stated that no more interesting moment in a man's life occurs than to find himself installed in the chair of his mother lodge. He also said that the flattering terms in which the I.P.M. had been pleased to speak of him contained some substratum of truth, but the quiet work of an officer of the British Museum did not affect the world at large very much. He gave some reminiscences of his early experiences, when, although misfortune had often overtaken him, he had never allowed it to upset him or alter his determination; he, therefore, looked back with feelings of anything but regret to the day when he was initiated. The Worshipful Master then proceeded to give the toast of "The Installing Master and Past Masters of the Lodge," and spoke of the beautiful way in which the I.P.M. had done his work, and it was with feelings of great pleasure that he then pinned on his breast a Past Master's jewel.

The I.P.M. replied, and very warmly thanked the brethren for the jewel.

Bro. W. E. Chapman, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., in responding, said he trusted the year dawning upon the lodge would be one of the brightest as yet on record.

Bro. W. J. Fisher, P.M., in a speech of some little length, regretted the unquestionable (although he was glad to say slow) diminishing strength of the lodge, and hoped the

brethren would do all in their power to keep up its numerical standard; he went on to speak in eulogistic terms of Bro. Chapman, who they were all glad to see back again in the lodge after having taken such an active part in the siege of Kimberley, and he was happy to announce that he had just received a communication from the War Office, in which they intimated that together with about half a score other war correspondents, the name of Bro. Chapman had been selected as one of the recipients for the South African medal in recognition of his valued service.

The toast of "The Visitors" was most ably responded to by Bro. J. E. Bowen, D.P.G.M. Bucks, and the Worshipful Masters of the Gallery and Eccentric Lodges.

The toast of "The Officers" and the Tyler's toast followed, bringing a most successful evening—which was enlivened by an enjoyable entertainment given by the prominent artiste brethren of the lodge—to a close.

Death of Bro. Sir Terence O'Brien, K.C.M.G. P.S.D.

WE regret to record the death of Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir Terence O'Brien, K.C.M.G., P.G.D., Governor of Newfoundland from 1888 to 1895, previously to which he was Governor of Heligoland. He was educated at Sandhurst and entered the Army without purchase, consequent on passing necessary examination of R.M.C. Much of his early life was spent in India, where he held important appointments, and served from first to last during the mutiny as D.A. Quarter-Master-General to a column in the field, and was mentioned in despatches. Bro. O'Brien was one of those selected for Past Grand rank on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee in 1887, when he was invested as Past Grand Deacon. Since his return from Newfoundland in 1895, he has taken a very active interest in Freemasonry, and his genial presence and kindly humour will long be missed from London Masonic circles.



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What Use is It?

THIS is a question which is often asked by the non-Mason when at a loss to understand the enthusiasm with which the Freemason pursues his craft. Moreover, it is a question which sometimes the Freemason finds recurring to himself, long after it has been asked. It is also a question which it is eminently desirable that he should be able to answer.

Not only for his own satisfaction, and to prove to himself that his time and money and talent are being profitably expended, but there can be no reason why the world at large should not receive some small enlightenment on the subject. We may not canvass. Nothing more un-Masonic can be conceived. But on the other hand we can not expect persons to become candidates for our mysteries, knowing absolutely nothing of what they may be pledging themselves to, or what benefit they are to derive from membership of the Order.

Such information as the candidate acquires previous to his actual reception is of the negative type. He is told that nothing will be required of him incompatible with the due discharge of his civil or religious duties. His proposer has probably told him, in reply to a very probable query, that the Order is not a friendly or benefit society. And with this he generally has to be content, and he enters the Order full of curiosity.

A not uncommon result of this is that as soon as the curiosity is satisfied, indifference succeeds, or, if not indifference, the social side of our proceedings acquires undue prominence. This is a striking feature of Indian Freemasonry. The Hindu is very powerfully influenced by this motive, and when he finds that our meetings are not, as he possibly thought, a revival of the Eleusinian mysteries his interest flags.

It is worth, then, considering if there is not some way of explaining what the Order is, and at the same time abstaining from infraction of the landmarks.

In the first place, Freemasons are a body of men who have entered into certain guarantees of conduct, which, if duly observed, will help to make them better citizens and better members of society. The basis of progress in any enterprise, good or bad, is co-operation, and therefore it really makes for the good of any state in which Freemasons congregate, that there should be wealthy, powerful and well organized combinations, pledged to discountenance any proposal that has for its object the subversion of the good order of society, and pledged to honour and obey the laws of whatever state that may at any given period afford them the protection of those laws.

Whether for good or evil, these are days of big organizations, of syndicates and of trusts, all of which have come into existence in obedience to the principle that discipline and combination will always prevail in the long run, but whereas such enterprises are too often formed with the object of extinguishing rivalry, in Freemasonry we see the strongest and most influential and most numerous organization the world has ever seen, humanly speaking, all of whose members are pledged to help those of their number who have fallen, and to uphold their good name in their absence as well as in their presence. We protect them in all their lawful undertakings, we find them friends, and thus we provide society with the germ of progress and development.

Our next description of the Order is a more personal one, and may possibly answer the query as to whether it is worth all the expense that it entails. To be a Freemason means that a man is solvent, in good standing with a very influential section of the community, and actuated by motive which, until the contrary is proved, do him credit. And a certain amount of education is presupposed. The stay-at-home brother may not appreciate altogether what this means, but the brother on his travels has many opportunities of finding it out if he be so disposed. The brother who has gone to a far off land to seek employment, has, if he care to use it, in his character of a Freemason, the clearest evidence that he is respectable, and, even if down on his luck, that he is not a loafer. And both he and any other brother who finds himself settling down among strangers, need not be very long without friends, who will further his designs to the best of their ability.

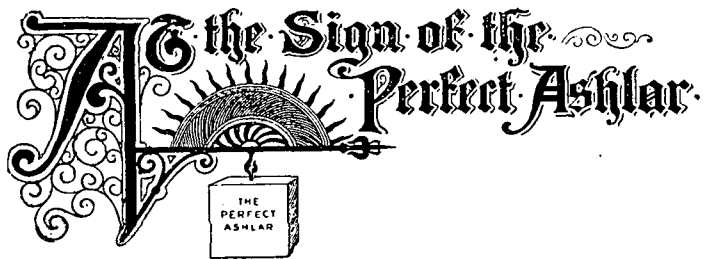
Whilst Freemasons as such have absolutely nothing to do with politics, still it is impossible for any one to study our legends and traditions without acquiring some reverence and respect for men and things of time past, and he will become to that extent, and in a sense quite outside any political significance, a conservative. The highest genius is that which extracts the most out of existing materials, and thus our first gift to the neophyte is that which was God's first gift to his new formed world, and the first words addressed to the new made Mason are the very words which clothe the first recorded utterance of the Almighty. If there is any virtue in age, Freemasonry has it, for our principles are as old, and unchanging, and as durable, as the throne of T.G.A.O.T.U. himself. The Freemason never excites himself

with the feverish desire of being "up-to-date" that seems to excite the rest of the world. With all its progress and with all its up-to-datedness, the world has never been able to get beyond the great principles so dear to Freemasons, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

In his immortal work, Bishop Butler, when endeavouring to prove the truths of religion by natural and commonsense methods, employs what has been called the argument of probability. This means that inasmuch as the greatest men of all ages, men capable of making original research, and men of the most illustrious character, have valued the consolations of religion, lesser mortals need not be ashamed to do the same.

This method of argument has especial value as applied to our Order. We number very illustrious names on our rolls, men eminent in science and literature, men who have shone in diplomacy, men whose names are revered all the world over, not only dreamers and mystics, but also men of colossal business instinct. If the principles of the Order have been accepted by such as these, and admitted to have added a new interest and value to life, then meaner humanity may well feel less hesitation. What is good enough for those whom we revere and for whose wisdom we feel respect, may well suffice for us.

And last of all, there are few human interests that the Order can not in some measure gratify. To begin with the lowest, even our wives admit (and profess to deplore) our social side. Literary and antiquarian brethren find congenial employment in studying our traditions and antient charges. Philanthropy and religion pervade our lodges. All that is best in human nature is appealed to, and no one has gone wrong because of his membership of our Order. If there are those among us who have strayed, it is in spite of, not because of the Craft.



There is no more familiar figure in London Masonic circles than that of the Venerable Archdeacon Sinclair, Past Grand Chaplain, and at whatever function he may be assisting—whether at the consecration of a new lodge or at an installation meeting—no one, be he a dignitary of the Church or other prominent public man in other walks of life, is more heartily welcomed. English Freemasonry is probably alone amongst the European States in attracting to itself the whole-hearted support and countenance of the Clergy. Not only is the Church represented in almost every lodge in the country, but the names of many of our most distinguished prelates will be found on the roll of Grand Lodge Officers. What this means to the Craft is probably not fully realised, but to our minds its value cannot be over estimated.

Archdeacon Sinclair, whose portrait we give on our front page, comes of a notable Scotch family, which has done good suit and service to Church and Country during the course of 800 years of a somewhat stormy existence in the northern part of the Kingdom, and on the walls of the Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral, where the Archdeacon resides, and which was built by Sir Christopher Wren, will be found numerous portraits of his ancestors and many pictorial memories of by-gone days. Among the pictures may be noticed one of the Archdeacon's father as a child of four years (by Raeburn). Another, a very benignant head (by Raeburn) of his grandfather, the Right Hon. Sir John Sinclair, the philanthropist, statistician, and agriculturist of the reign of George III., who founded the first Board of Agriculture. Other pictures by Sir Thomas Lawrence

Phillips, R.A. Two courtly Sinclairs of George I.'s time, in wigs and armour (by Kneller), and a portrait of the Archdeacon himself in his stall at the Cathedral, and a splendid collection of rare old engravings. The house itself, of course, belongs to the Cathedral, and is a typical old Queen Anne structure. It is wainscotted nearly throughout with wood, the lower rooms entirely with wood, and there is much carving from the school of Grindling Gibbons, and a handsome staircase.

The Archdeacon is a tremendous worker, and in his hands the Archdeaconal office loses nothing, either of dignity or energy, and in the opinion of a writer in the *Quiver*, to whom we are indebted for much of the information we are able to give our readers, there is no harder working man in England than the Archdeacon of London.

Dr. Sinclair was initiated in the Jerusalem Lodge, No. 197, and afterwards joined the Universal Lodge, No. 181, of which he was Worshipful Master in 1894, being appointed Grand Chaplain in the same year, and in 1899 founded the Cathedral Lodge, No. 2741, which is mainly composed of those associated in the work of the Cathedral, the musical element perhaps predominating.

The Archdeacon, as we have before remarked, has taken part in the consecration of many of the lodges which during the past few years have been established in the metropolis, and his orations on such occasions have been models of what such deliveries should be. Should his talents and strenuous work on behalf of the Church bring him further preferment, no section of friends and admirers would more sincerely rejoice than his brethren of the Masonic Order.

It has been a matter of surprise for some years past that in view of the fact that the Board of Grand Stewards have individually to provide for the invariably large deficit which occurs after every Annual Festival, that the dinner tickets should be issued at so low a price as fifteen shillings, and the reason is doubtless to be found in the natural disinclination to disturb an arrangement which has existed for nearly a century. We hear, however, that at last a change is to be made which will bring the dinner fee somewhat nearer the actual cost, and that the charge will be raised to one guinea.

The charge of fifteen shillings for a ticket for the Annual Festival was first made in 1813, when the union took place, the Stewards paying the difference between the actual cost of the dinner and the amount realised by the tickets, and in that year it appears that each member of the Board of Stewards deposited £35 in the hands of the Treasurer to provide for the deficiency. A Board of Stewards was formed in 1814. The tickets on that occasion were issued at one guinea each, and the Stewards incurred no liability, the deficit, which amounted to £105 14s. 6d., being made good by a vote of Grand Lodge. The following year a deposit of £20 was required, and the cost of the dinner ticket again lowered to fifteen shillings, at which figure it has ever since remained.

Notwithstanding the decision of the Grand Registrar with regard to the necessity for Masonic lodges meeting in unlicensed premises to be registered as clubs, many people are of opinion that such a course is unnecessary, as the features of a club in the ordinary sense of the word are non-existent. Thus the Sunderland borough magistrates, after considering the question, have decided that no registration is necessary in the case of a Masonic lodge. The same opinion has been expressed by the authorities at Grimsby. Lord Lathom, speaking recently at Liverpool, said he thought in many cases it was quite unnecessary to register, but as Masons they were pledged to be law-abiding subjects, and for that reason alone he would counsel all lodges to come within the law and register themselves as clubs.

The Darlington magistrates were waited upon by a deputation of Freemasons to inquire whether they need register the local lodges as clubs under the new Licensing Act. The magistrates gave it as their opinion that there was no need for registration, such registration not being contemplated by the Act.

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On the 6th February an application was made at the Licensing Sessions at Newington for an ordinary licence for the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road. It was stated that the hall was the resort of most of the Masonic lodges in the district, and was the home of the South London Choral Association. The new Licensing Act made it compulsory for Masonic lodges either to meet on licensed premises or to be registered as clubs. The lodges were not inclined to adopt the latter course, and therefore if the licence was not granted they would find headquarters at licensed premises, which would probably not be nearly so desirable.

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The application was supported by the vicar of Camberwell, the vicar of St. James's, and a number of other clergymen, including the Rev. H. B. Chapman, the vicar of St. Luke's, who wrote: "I quite recognize how this has been forced upon you by the new Act as to the registration of clubs, and I should much regret to see the Masonic lodges driven away to other resorts where drinking facilities would be distinctly increased." Opposition was offered by a neighbouring licensed victualler, who, it was stated, would lose £500 or £600 if the licence was granted, and the Bench decided to refuse the application.

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A meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on the 5th February, Bro. the Hon. C. M. Ramsay, Depute Grand Master, presiding over a large attendance of the brethren. Before entering on the business of the meeting, the Grand Master referred to the loss which Freemasonry had sustained by the death of Bro. Murray Lyon, the former Grand Secretary, and moved that they minute an expression of their sense of the value of his services to the Craft, and of condolence with his family. It was intimated that Lord Blythswood had, on account of ill-health, resigned the Provincial Grand Mastership of Renfrewshire East, and Grand Committee resolved to record their appreciation of the services he had rendered to Scottish Freemasonry during the past thirty-six years, not only as Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, but also as Grand Master Mason of Scotland. Bro. Major F. W. Allan, of Glasgow, was unanimously appointed Lord Blythswood's successor.

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The report of the auditor on the accounts for the year to the 27th November last showed that the funds and estate belonging to the Grand Lodge amounted to £50,412 2s. 8d.; the fund of Scottish Masonic Benevolence to £8374 11s.; and the Annuity Fund to £33,274 3s. 7d., of which £30,075 6s. 2d. was capital and the remainder income. A tabular statement, submitted by the Grand Secretary, showed that the total number of entrants recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge from the year 1800 to 1902, was 295,333, being an average annual registration of 2867 in the 103 years embraced in the return. In the first year of last century 1906 brethren were enrolled, while last year the number was 11,495, an increase of nearly 2000 on the previous year. During the quarter grants amounting to £237 13s. 6d. were made from the Benevolent Fund, and the Annuity Board report showed that the number of annuitants was 155, and the value of the annuities £1600.

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The promotion of Bro. Alfred Spencer to be Deputy Provincial Grand Master, rendered the office of Provincial Grand Secretary vacant, and Earl Amherst has appointed Bro. Samuel Robert Macartney, whose legal education and experience eminently fit him for it. Although only initiated in the Lodge of Freedom, No. 77, in 1894, he has made rapid progress in Freemasonry.

He joined Erasmus Wilson Lodge, No. 1464, in 1897, was J.W. of the lodge in the same year, and served the office of Master in 1898. He undertook the duties of Secretary in 1900, an office which he still holds, and in the following year Earl Amherst gave him a Steward's collar in the province. At the request of his Lordship he became Editor of the



BRO. S. R. MACARTNEY.

Kent Manual in 1902, and in the same year was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Deacon. He was exalted in High Cross Royal Arch Chapter, No. 829, in 1898, and is now Scribe N. He is a member of the Gordon Mark Lodge, No. 364, and has been proposed as a candidate in the Rose Croix and Knight Templary Degrees. He is a Life Governor of the three Institutions.

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Since our last issue the death has taken place of Bro. David Murray Lyon, who for nearly a quarter of a century filled the office of Grand Secretary of Scottish Freemasons. Bro. Murray Lyon, who had reached the advanced age of eighty-three years, had for long been in weak health, and his death from general debility was not unexpected. He joined the Masonic Craft forty-seven years ago, having been initiated in Ayr St. Paul Lodge in 1856. About seven years later he became a member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with which he retained his connection until his death. He had been for long a recognised authority on all matters connected with Freemasonry, and in 1877 he was elected, by a large majority of votes, to the office of Grand Secretary, from which he retired about two years ago, on account of failing health, and, in recognition of his services, was granted a retiring allowance of his full salary of £600 a year.

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Under Bro. Murray Lyon's management, the affairs of the Grand Lodge prospered greatly. When he was appointed Secretary, these were in great disorder, and there was a debt resting upon the Grand Lodge of £20,000, which, largely through his exertions and business capacity, had been converted at the time of his resignation into a credit balance of £80,000. The year before his appointment the number of members initiated was 3578, and in his last year of office 7608 were admitted.

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Bro. Murray Lyon did considerable literary work, not only in connection with Freemasonry, but also dealing with the antiquities of Ayrshire, and, for his labours in the latter field, he was elected a corresponding member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. It was as a Masonic author,

however, that he achieved most distinction in the domain of literature, and his contributions always carried with them the weight of authority. His "History of the Mother Lodge, Kilwinning," which he set up with his own hands in the printing office where he was employed, was translated into several foreign languages, while his "History of the Old Lodge at Thornhill" found a large circle of readers.



His greatest literary work, however, and that by which he will be best remembered, is his "History of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1," which was published in 1873, under the patronage of the then Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Order. The value of this publication is not confined to the local lodge which gives it its title. It is a book of universal interest to members of the Craft, for it not only contains a detailed account of the venerable Lodge, No. 1, the tercentenary of whose earliest records was celebrated three years ago, but it also includes an account of the rise and progress of Freemasonry, and a fund of information concerning other Scottish lodges. All through his connection with the Grand Lodge, Bro. Murray Lyon was a familiar figure in Masonic circles, and his genial presence will be much missed by the brethren. As head of the executive staff of the Grand Lodge, he rendered long and faithful services, the value of which the members of the Craft were not slow to appreciate.



The *Mallet*, whose contributions to the Masonic column of the *Glasgow Evening News* have been such a prominent feature for so many years, has the following interesting note in a recent issue:—"The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland," of date 1836—the first issued for the use of subordinate lodges—is by no means a book of every day use. A copy, procured by Bro. Peter Macdonald, P.M. of 219, whose mind has an archaeological tendency, is in good preservation; and, having been favoured with a perusal, I have found it most interesting reading. Many of the laws, of course, are obsolete, and it is no use as a guide now. It is interesting to note from the introduction that to Scotland belongs the honour of introducing Freemasonry into the Kingdoms of Denmark and Sweden, both of which have been prominently before the Grand Lodges of the world recently. The lodge raised to the dignity of the Grand Lodge of Denmark (says the 'Recorder' of 1836) was erected in 1743, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, while the first lodge in Sweden was erected at Stockholm in the year 1754 under the same authority."



A very successful festival of the London Rifle Brigade Lodge of Instruction was held at the Holborn Viaduct Hotel on the 4th February, Bro. the Rev. F. Bethune Norman Lee, Chaplain to the Forces, P.G.C., presiding. Before the banquet the ceremony of passing was ably rehearsed by Bro. H. A. Davidson, J.D. of the lodge, and the three sections of the Second Lecture worked by Bro. T. H. Jenks, P.M. 8, and other brethren. During the banquet, Bro. Jenks, in response to the toast of "Prosperity to the London Rifle Brigade Lodge of Instruction," gave a short sketch of the history of the lodge, which, although hardly four years old, appeared to be in a very flourishing condition, and gave promise of being amongst the best in the metropolis.



On the 20th February Bro. Henry George, P.P.G.W., assisted by Bros. S. Pegler, P.M.; the Rev. H. T. Hayman, P.P.G.C. of Notts; and the Rev. Bing, of Nottingham, performed the ceremony of dedicating a new Masonic Hall at Worksop, built for the brethren of the Pelham Lodge, No. 939. The old quarters were in Newcastle Avenue, but were found to be inadequate for the requirements of the Craft, and the new building, which is in Newcastle Street, is a most commodious and handsomely appointed structure. There were a number of visiting brethren present at the ceremony from Retford, Mansfield, and elsewhere, who, together with the brethren of the Pelham Lodge, subsequently dined at the Golden Ball Hotel.

Liverpool, recognised as the English "Metropolis of Wales" with regard to population and commercial enterprise, may also claim to be a centre of enthusiasm and activity with respect to the Masonic Order, as in all the lodges of the city and district there is a very large proportion of the brethren who hail from the Principality, and whose presence is a power in not only directing the actual working of the "mystic craft," but in giving substantial aid and active labour to the development of the three great charities in the Province of West Lancashire—the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution (instituted for the tuition and maintenance of children of deceased Freemasons), the Hamer Benevolent Institution, and the Alpass Benevolent Institution (which meets the financial wants of widows of former members of the Order).



A good many years ago the Ancient Briton Lodge, No. 1675, was established for the purpose of giving membership to natives of the "Land of the Leek," but the extension of this provision for purely Masonic purposes has been found necessary. Accordingly the usual steps for the consecration of a new lodge for the convenience of Welsh brethren were taken some time ago, and the result of a successful application for a charter was shown in a significant light on the 20th February at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, in connection with the consecration of the St. David's Lodge, No. 2950 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England. The gathering of brethren of varied ranks on the occasion was the largest which has taken place at the city headquarters of the Order for a long time, clearly indicating that the "St. David" is likely to maintain prosperity in the best interests of the Craft.



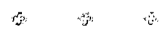
The annual meeting of the Court of Governors of the Alpass Benevolent Institution of West Lancashire was held on the 25th February at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, under the chairmanship of Bro. W. Goodacre, Prov. G. Sec. It was resolved to continue the annual grants to all present annuitants and extend the benefit of the charity to three applicants, thus making the number seventy participants now deriving help from the charity, at a cost of £1260 per annum. It was reported that the interest from investments last year (£9500) was £339, and that the contributions from lodges and chapters were £772. Bros. G. A. Harradon, P.G.D., was re-elected Treasurer; G. Barclay, P.M., Honorary Secretary; and T. Smith, P.M., Honorary Solicitor.



Bro. J. Spiers, the Secretary for Queensland of the Correspondence Circle of Lodge Quatuor Coronati, writes from Toowoomba as follows:—"I have taken a special interest in the portrait of His Highness the Maharajah of Cooch-Bihar, Past Grand Warden, published in your issue of October last. I have in my possession the regalia jewel of another distinguished Indian Mason, who attained the rank of Past Grand Warden in 1836, as the following inscription on the obverse of the jewel shows:—"In virtue of a vote of Grand Lodge. Presented by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, K.G., M.W. Grand Master, to His Excellency the Moolavee Mahomed Ismael Kahn, a distinguished Master Mason of the Lodge of Friendship, No. 6, 7th September, A.D. 1836, A.L. 5836, A. HEG 1251," with the Arabic letter *sin* under the Mahomedan date.



"It appears this brother was an Ambassador from the King of Oude to the Court of St. James, but what became of him after his departure from England I have been unable to discover. How his jewel found its way to this State is a mystery, as it is difficult to understand a Prince parting with a souvenir of this kind.



"The following is an extract from Grand Lodge minutes: 'At a Quarterly Communication . . . on Wednesday, the 7th September, 1836, His Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, M.W. Grand Master,

on the throne. . . . The M.W. Grand Master then, in an eloquent and impressive address, communicated to Bro. the Moolavee Mahomed Ismael Khan the resolution of the last Quarterly Communication, conferring upon His Excellency the rank of a Past Grand Warden, and concluded by investing him with the appropriate jewel and clothing. This distinguished brother having made his acknowledgments for the honour conferred upon him, took his seat as a member of the Grand Lodge.'



"If any of your very numerous readers, especially Indian Masons, can give me some information with reference to this brother I shall be glad.

"J. SPIERS."



The Bishop of New York has been giving his opinion, in response to a request from the *American Tyler*, on the idea of training young men for Masonry. He writes:—"The answer to your question as to an order of Masonic juniors depends really upon another question, 'How far do Masons themselves propose to take Masonry seriously?' In one sense, as a mutual benefit association, I suppose all of them do. But if Masonry was no more than that, there are other and more modern orders that can do that work nearly, if not quite, so well.



"Masonry, however, is, in my view of it, a great deal more than a mutual benefit association. In one sense, wild and extravagant as the words may sound, it is the most remarkable and altogether unique institution on earth. Will you tell me of any other that girdles the world with its fellowship and gathers all races and the most ancient religions, as well as our own, into its brotherhood? Will you tell me of any other that is as old or older; more brilliant in its history; more honoured in its constituency; more picturesque in its traditions? To-day it lies in the hand of the modern man, largely an unused tool, capable of great achievements for God, for country, for mankind, but doing very little. For one, I believe that circumstances may easily arise, when, the highest and most sacred of all freedoms being threatened in this land, Masonry may be its most powerful defender, unifying all minds and commanding our best citizenship.



"Under such circumstances, fellowship in it should be regarded, more and more, as a sacred privilege, for which our best youth should be trained, and to which they should be advanced step by step, through preparatory forms and degrees. These need invade, in no wise, the inner sanctity of Masonry. They could easily be adapted from ancient customs of knighthood and chivalry, analogous to those of Masonry, but quite distinct from it; and progress in them could be conditioned upon intelligence, character, high purpose—the things, in one word, that make our best manhood.



"This is, briefly, what I had in mind. I have articulated no detailed mechanism; and have neither prepared, nor indeed contemplated, any special scheme. In an address at Concord, N.H., not long ago, I made some reference to the value of such a plan, and that was all. If it were to find any sympathy in the minds of others, I must, pressed as I am by many burdens, leave it to them to mature. But one thing is certain. Great orders, like great armies, must bethink themselves of the training of their reinforcements."



Bishop Potter's suggestion is, it seems, being seriously considered by the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, as the following extract from the report of the proceedings at its last meeting will show:—"M.W. Bro. Robert M. Caruthers stated that the Grand Secretary had prepared a ritual, consisting of two degrees, for an order to be confined to the

sons and brothers of Master Masons between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one; that he and other Masons had seen the ritual and were favourably impressed with the possibilities which it presented in giving our sons and brothers better lessons in life than are ordinarily at hand, at the same time preparing the mind for the Masonic degrees, and therefore he moved: 'That a committee be appointed by the incoming Grand Master to investigate the ritual and report at the next grand annual communication. Carried.'



Our contemporary goes on to remark that "such an order as this plan contemplates would be, if properly conducted and safeguarded, a most excellent institution, with wonderful powers for the improvement of young men at the age when they most need such influences as Masonry can throw around them. It would, moreover, undoubtedly tend to make better men and better Masons of those who enter our portals. Should it, however, be so abused as to be regarded as a sure stepping-stone into the Fraternity, its purpose would fail utterly. The theory is, in our opinion, a splendid one; whether or not its practical application can be made perfect is a question which only a trial of the scheme, perhaps, can decide. If the plan is tried in North Dakota, the Masons of the country will, we are sure, watch for its success with the keenest interest."



An American paper of recent date has the following interesting item about a brother who took his time in becoming a Master Mason:—"After waiting thirty-six years from the taking of his first Degree, a candidate took his third yesterday afternoon in Illinois Lodge, one of the Masonic lodges of the city. He took the Entered Apprentice Degree three dozen years ago, and it took him thirty-five years to make up his mind to take the Second Degree, which he did last year. Then he wasted another year and yesterday took the third, becoming after more than a third of a century a Master Mason." When a man enjoys being an Entered Apprentice as much as this brother seems to have done, he should be permitted to continue as one. His interest in Masonry is hardly sufficiently keen to make him a valued member of the Craft.



Bro. Sir F. Dixon Hartland, M.P., P.G. Deacon, is so popular amongst the Thames Conservators that he has been elected Chairman of the Court for the ninth year in succession.

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Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

UNDER the Chairmanship of the Earl of Stradbroke, Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk, the Annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution on the 25th February proved a great success. This is especially gratifying from the fact that the responsibility of organisation and executive management fell to the lot of the newly appointed Secretary, Bro. P. Colville Smith, whose succession to the veteran Bro. James Terry has only been a matter of months. Thanks to the generous efforts of the Craft in general, and perhaps a special effort on the part of the new Secretary's many personal friends, the record announcement of last year, which the most sanguine supporter of the Institution hardly dared to hope to approach, was in reality exceeded by about £400.

The gathering at Freemasons' Tavern was a large and enthusiastic one. The chair was supported by many influential members of the Craft, amongst others, Bros. Sir Augustus Godson, Bart., M.P. (the Chairman of last years successful Festival); Major Woodall, P.G. Treasurer; Col. Clifford Probyn, P.G. Treasurer; Sir E. Letchworth, Grand

Secretary; Frank Richardson, P.G. Registrar; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; and a company of some 700 brethren and ladies.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "Success to the Institution," entered into an interesting history of its rise and progress, describing the incalculable benefits it had for more than half a century conferred on deserving brethren, as well as the widows of those who had fallen by the way and who needed the succour and help of those who had been more fortunate in battling with the world.

In the course of the evening the Secretary, Bro. P. Colville Smith, P.G.D., announced that with 426 Stewards from London and 310 from the provinces, a total of £25,305 4s. had been subscribed, the sum being made up by £12,966 7s. from London and £12,338 17s. from the provinces. This sum exceeded the amount realised at the Festival of 1902 by nearly £400. The Chairman's Province of Suffolk contributed £1514, Oxfordshire came next with £939, Surrey with £742, Kent with £703, Middlesex with £696, Cornwall sent £753, Essex £635, and Sussex £605.

Installation of Lord Stanley, M.P., as Provincial Grand Superintendent for East Lancashire.

THERE was a large gathering of members of the Royal Arch at the Empress Hall, Bolton, on Saturday the 21st February, when Lord Stanley, M.P., Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, was installed as Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons in that province. The office has been vacant since the death, some three years ago, of the late Colonel Starkie, for although Lord Stanley was appointed as his successor, his absence abroad and his Parliamentary duties rendered his earlier installation impossible. The companions of the Order in East Lancashire displayed much interest in the ceremony, which the majority of those present saw for the first time, some thirty years having elapsed since the appointment of Colonel Starkie. The principal part on Saturday was taken by Comp. Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Scribe E., who was assisted by Comps. Captain Beswicke-Royds, Buckley Carr, F. Richardson, Acting G.D.C., and others. Other members of Grand Chapter present were Comps. Capt. J. Barlow, N. A. Earle, C. D. Cheetham, J. Kenyon, P. Colville Smith, and James Newton. The general attendance numbered more than 300.

Comp. Sir E. Letchworth said he was present as the humble representative of the Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons, the Duke of Connaught, to undertake the agreeable duty of installing the new Superintendent whom His Royal Highness had appointed. Some three years ago the province sustained a serious loss in the death of one who, for nearly thirty years, had reigned over it, and who had won the esteem, respect, and, indeed, the love of every Mason in East Lancashire. The memory of the late Colonel Starkie would always be cherished. Owing to unavoidable circumstances the appointment of his successor was delayed for some time, but in the meantime Captain Beswicke-Royds had ruled over the province, with credit to himself and also to Freemasonry. East Lancashire was now to be congratulated on the appointment to the office of the distinguished nobleman who filled the office of Provincial Grand Master.

Lord Stanley was then introduced into the hall, and with the usual ceremonies placed in the chair.

In expressing his thanks Lord Stanley said it would be his endeavour, as long as he held the office, to discharge the duties attached to it not only in the letter but in the spirit. Masonry, to use a colloquialism, had obtained a hold in the world and on mankind in general which, perhaps, in the dim days of the past few could have thought it would do. There were no parts of the globe to which one could go without being brought into contact with Freemasons and their work. To give a small example from one's own experience, the last Masonic meeting he was asked to attend was to see the Grand Master, the Duke of Connaught, instal Lord Kitchener as head of the Masonic world in India. Masonry would continue, and could only continue, so long as it was kept pure and above any possible suspicion. Into his hands that day had been committed the honour of Royal Arch Masonry in East Lancashire, and he trusted it would be safely guarded.

The accounts of the province, which showed a satisfactory balance, were submitted and passed.

On the motion of Comp. Goulburn, P.G.T., seconded by Comp. C. D. Cheetham, Comp. T. Murphy, Concord Chapter, No. 37, Bolton, was elected Prov. Grand Treasurer.

Lord Stanley afterwards invested the Provincial Grand Officers for the year.

Upon the motion of Comp. C. D. Cheetham, seconded by Comp. J. Booth, a grant of ten guineas was voted to the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution. After an invitation to hold the next annual meeting at Rochdale had been accepted, the Provincial Grand Chapter was closed.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association, Bro. Thos. B. Tipton was unanimously elected President for the ensuing year. This is an Association composed of nearly 700 of the leading tradesmen of the kingdom, formed for the protection of those having the privilege of supplying different kinds of goods for the use of His Majesty the King and members of the Royal Family.

The Wrekin Lodge, No. 2883.

THE first installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Hotel Cecil, on Wednesday, January 28th, in the presence of a large and representative gathering of brethren, when Bro. C. E. Birch, P.M., P.P.J.G.W. Herts, was installed as Worshipful Master, who then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. A. Middleton Rickards, S.W.; E. J. Gittins, P.M. 179, P.P.G.S.B. Herts, J.W.; the Hon. and Rev. G. H. F. Vane, Chaplain; J. H. Redman, P.M. 262, P.P.G.W. Shropshire, Treasurer; C. R. Valentine, P.M., Secretary; T. M. Vaughan, S.D.; E. Eaton, J.D.; F. H. Dayus, I.G.; G. Darlington, P.M. 2421, D.C.; T. Jukes and S. Withers, Stewards.

The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the Victoria Hall to a banquet.

In proposing the toast of "The Grand Officers," the Worshipful Master mentioned that they were honoured with the presence of several Grand Officers, and coupled with the toast the names of Bros. Godson, P.G.D.; Dr. J. Beresford Ryley, P.D.G.D.C.; and J. J. Thomas, P.G. Std. Br., all of whom returned thanks.

The toast of "The Provincial Grand Officers" was replied to by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Shropshire, Bro. R. J. Venables, P.A.G.D.C.

The I.P.M., Bro. Lord Barnard, P.G.W., in proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," said he was sure the brethren knew how much the prosperity of the lodge was due to the Worshipful Master.

The Worshipful Master, in replying, stated that the most difficult task he had yet performed was to reply adequately

to the toast given so flatteringly by the I.P.M., and trusted at the termination of his year of office he would be received with the same acclamation. He then proposed the toast of "The I.P.M.," and said he was afraid he could not find words in which to give the full appreciation by the brethren of the services rendered and the honour Bro. Lord Barnard had conferred on them, and he presented his lordship with a Past Master's jewel as a small token of their deep gratitude.

The I.P.M., in responding, mentioned that his feelings would not allow him to prepare any set speech, and he was afraid if he had it would not have done justice to the toast, but he was most honestly and sincerely grateful for the very kind manner in which it had been proposed and received. He extremely regretted that in his position of Provincial Grand Master of Durham he had not been able to devote as much time as he could have wished to the Wrekin Lodge. The beautiful jewel they had presented to him would be always in his keeping, and he looked upon it with great affection; before being seated, however, he wished to give a toast to the brother who had so ably performed the duties of Installing Master, Bro. Benson, who had also done an immense deal for the good of the lodge.

Bro. Benson, in replying, said really no credit was due to him, it was due to the other brethren, who had done so much for the lodge.

The Worshipful Master then proposed the toast of "The Visitors," to which Bro. Ingpen, K.C., suitably responded.

"The Initiates," "The Officers," and the Tyler's toast brought a very successful gathering to a close.

"Our Brother's Bed."

THE report on the working of "Our Brother's Bed" in the Free Home for the Dying, 29, North Side, Clapham Common, shows how useful it is to those who have broken down on the way, and the great amount of good for our fellow creatures that can be done for a small subscription with careful management.



A VIEW OF THE HOME.

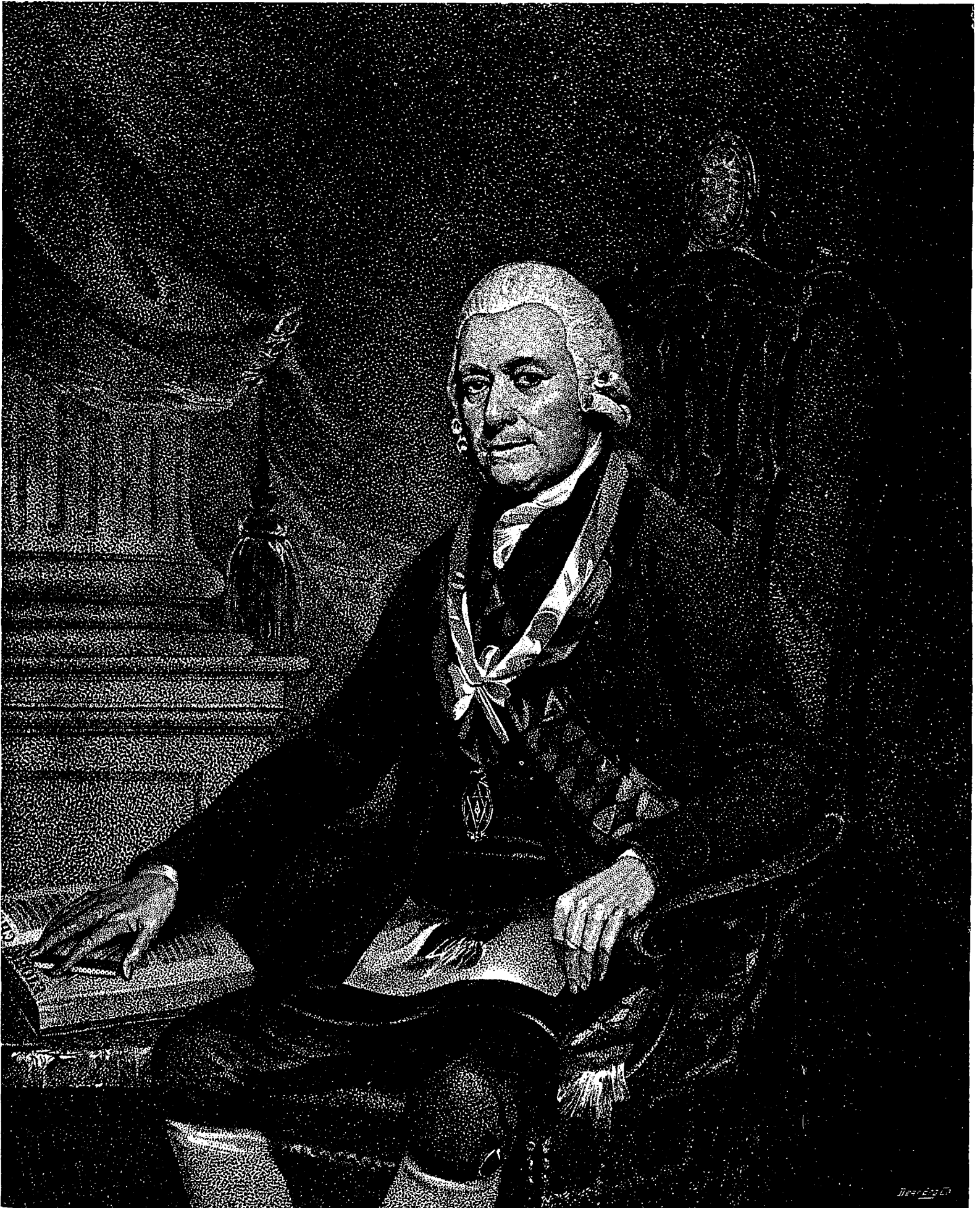
The first and only patient in 1896 hailed from the West Country, a civil engineer, once in a very good position. He was found by a clergyman in Westminster in a most pitiable condition, discharged as incurable from a hospital, absolutely friendless and penniless. He showed his gratitude for the kindness shown him by leaving his Masonic apron, which he

had always treasured, to the Home, in which it now hangs. The West Country lodges responded nobly to the call made on them. The next patient was a fine old soldier belonging to the Irish Constitution, who lingered for many months before death relieved his sufferings—a terrible case of cancer in the face. And so the work has gone on, quietly and unostentatiously, and the report now before us tells of the recent cases, which are admitted on the certificate of a doctor that the patient is dying.

The report shows that since its institution nearly 700 Masonic bodies have contributed to its support, many of them being regular subscribers of the small sum asked. It has been suggested to found a bed for women, near relatives of Freemasons, several of whom, suffering from consumption or internal complaints, having been cared for in their last days surrounded by every comfort which loving hearts can provide. It speaks well for the Home that of the almoners who have from time to time visited it, all have made contributions. Visitors are always welcome during the regulation hours, and would be well repaid for their short journey by rail or tram by seeing for themselves the cheerfulness of the patients and the fine old house once inhabited by Sir Charles Barry, looking on to the Common, and having a large garden, which in the summer

months is much appreciated by those able to be moved into it.

Bro. George Cowell, P.G.D., is the Treasurer of "The Bed," and Bro. Captain Portlock Dadson acts as Honorary Secretary for another year, the Bankers being the National Bank, Charing Cross; the Bankers of the Free Home itself are Messrs. Hoare, 37, Fleet Street.



Richard Linnecar, R.W.M. of the Lodge of Unanimity, No. 202, Wakefield.

Painted by H. Singleton.

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History of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, *No. 256.—(Continued).*

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

1895. The opening of the year 1895 witnessed several important changes in the executive of the Lodge. At a numerously attended meeting on the 4th of January, 58 members and visitors being present, Bro. R. Clay Sudlow announced Bro. Thomas Fenn's resignation of the office of Treasurer, and alluded to the immense services that distinguished brother had rendered this Lodge during a period of nearly 38 years. Time would not allow him to enumerate those services, nor was it necessary that he should do so, but he was sure every member of the Lodge would realize the loss it had sustained. It followed, as a matter of



W. W. B. BEACH, M.P.,
PROV. GRAND MASTER FOR HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT,
Chairman of the Festival in 1893.

course, that it was necessary to appoint a successor to Bro. Fenn in the office of Treasurer, and he (Bro. Sudlow) felt happy in being able to announce that another very distinguished brother, well known to most Freemasons, the V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, had signified his willingness to accept the office. It gave him, therefore, now great pleasure to propose that brother for the Treasurership. Bro. F. T. Rushton seconded the proposition, which was formally put to the Lodge and carried by acclamation.

Bro. Francis R. Spaul being in indifferent health retired from the Committee of General Purposes, and was succeeded thereon by Bro. William G. Kentish, who relinquished the office of Secretary after seven years' service, and Bro. Joseph Russell, P.G. Steward, P.M. of the British Lodge, No. 8, was elected in his place. On the 11th of January Bro. Sudlow gave notice that at the next meeting of the Lodge he should move "that a sum not exceeding Ten Pounds be voted from the Funds of the Lodge to defray the cost of a suitable Address to be presented to the V.W. Bro. Thomas Fenn, Past President of the Board of General Purposes, as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the members and of their appreciation of the

valuable services rendered by him to the Lodge." This motion was unanimously agreed to on the 18th of January.

The Annual Festival was held on the 22nd of February, W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow in the chair of W.M.; W. Bro. Frederick T. Rushton, P.G. Steward, acting as I.P.M.; and Bros. W. H. Kirby and W. P. Fuller sat as Wardens.

The First Lecture was worked as follows: 1st Section by Bro. M. B. Evans, S.D. 8; 2nd Section by Bro. D. D. West, W.M. No. 108; 3rd Section by Bro. E. P. Debenham, P.M. No. 1479, P.P.G. Reg. Herts (in place of Bro. H. S. Wellcome, P.M. No. 3, and W.M. No. 2397, absent through illness); 4th Section by Bro. S. G. Budd, S.W. No. 1818; 5th Section by Bro. W. H. Kirby, P.M., Sec. No. 1965; 6th Section by Bro. Charles Lewis, S.W. No. 2508; and the 7th Section by Bro. J. C. Mortimer, No. 889. All the work was excellently performed.

Bro. Viscount Dungarvan proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the working brethren. He said he had long taken a great interest in Freemasonry, but that night he had for the first time experienced what the charms of Masonry really were.

Bro. C. E. Keyser seconded the motion, remarking that though all the brethren present were workers in the Craft they had had an especial treat that night, and that they would go away with a better knowledge of the work than they had before.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow acknowledged the compliment, and said it had been a matter of anxiety to the working brethren to maintain the prestige of the Lodge for correct working. For himself he must say he was very grateful to them.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to supper, under the presidency of Viscount Dungarvan, Prov. G. Master for Somerset. As usual the meeting was largely attended, and resulted in the acquisition of about fifty new members. In proposing the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement," the Chairman said it would be presumptuous in such a Mason as he was to dwell on the Masonic history of those he saw around him; but at the same time he might say he had learned, perhaps not so long ago, that which most of the brethren knew, that for more than 70 years the Emulation Lodge of Improvement had expounded to the Freemasons of England the true ritual of Freemasonry. Nothing was perfect under the sun; but as nearly perfect as mortals possibly could be were those brethren who had performed the work that night. They had achieved a great success. He knew that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was very liberal to the Charities, as doubtless next week would find. But apart from that, that Lodge was one whose fame, when he mentioned the names of Bros. Peter Gilkes, Stephen Barton Wilson, Charles Murton, A. A. Richards, Thomas Fenn, and last but not least, Bro. Sudlow, would be handed down from generation to generation, and he was sure they would accord the toast a hearty welcome. They had had that evening food of two kinds—food for the mind and food for the body, and both foods had been of the very best, and he asked the brethren to give the toast a most hearty welcome.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, in responding to the toast, adverted at considerable length to the recent changes in the executive of the Lodge, paying a high tribute to those brethren who had retired from the positions they had held for so many years, and concluded by saying: "He understood that some disappointment was caused to their Provincial Brethren last year because he made no reference to them when speaking of the influence exerted by that Lodge. It was a fact that the Emulation system was being rapidly adopted by the

Provinces. It was no unusual thing for Provincial Preceptors to be present at the meetings of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, with the view of studying and making themselves perfect in the ritual and competent to teach it in their Lodges in the Provinces. Moreover, the committee frequently got letters from abroad—in fact, he might say literally that 'From Greenland's Icy Mountains to India's Coral Strand' they received requests for information as to the Lodge's teaching on this or that point of Masonic ritual and procedure. One word more, and he had done. They were encouraged very much by the presence, in spite of the prevailing epidemic, of so many Grand Officers and so large an assemblage of brethren, and they felt sure that if they adhered faithfully to their trust, if they maintained—absolutely unaltered—the traditions which had come down to them they should certainly have a continuance of the success which had characterised that Lodge from its very foundation."

On the 10th of May the following letter from Bro. Thomas Fenn was read by the Secretary and ordered to be entered on the minutes:—

"DEAR BRO. RUSSELL,

"I beg that you will convey to the Brethren of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement my grateful thanks for their kind and fraternal Address on my resignation of the office of Treasurer.

"I shall value it always, not only for its artistic merits, but as a proof of the fraternal regard of my Brethren, which it affords me the greatest gratification to believe I carry with me into my retirement.

"On looking back over the long period of my connection with the Lodge alluded to in the Address, I am impressed with the conviction that I owe far more to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement than it owes to me. It is to that Lodge I owe my love of Masonry and my devotion to its interests, and, as a consequence, my advancement and all the Honours that have been conferred upon me during my somewhat active and varied Masonic career. It is from that Lodge, Masonically speaking, I have derived my 'infant nurture,' and to it I feel, and ever shall feel, 'an indissoluble attachment.'

"It is a great consolation to me to know that I have left the Lodge in the hands of very worthy and thoroughly competent Brethren, and in the confident belief that the teaching which has been handed down to them by their predecessors will be rigidly maintained and transmitted pure and unsullied to their successors.

"Permit me to add, to you personally, my thanks for the kind expressions in your letter which heralded the arrival of the Address.

"I remain,

"Yours very truly and fraternally,

"THOS. FENN."

At the meeting of the Lodge on the 7th of June a vote of sympathy and condolence to Bro. Thomas Fenn on the death of his wife was proposed by Bro. Sudlow, seconded by Bro. Rushton, and carried unanimously.

On the 28th of June a letter from Bro. Fenn in acknowledgment of the vote of sympathy was read by the Secretary and duly entered on the minutes.

At the same meeting, "the V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, on behalf of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, addressed Bro. W. G. Kentish, alluding in eloquent terms to the great services rendered by him during his seven years' tenure of the office of Secretary, and to the systematic ability and marked courtesy displayed by him in conducting its varied duties, also eulogising the manner in which Bro. Kentish had developed and organized the Annual Festivals, the effect of which had been, not only to render them a conspicuous success, but had contributed so largely to create an interest in the Craft generally, as to the aims and scope of the work undertaken by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

"The Grand Secretary concluded by begging Bro. Kentish's acceptance of a Jewel and an Illuminated Address offered to him by a large number of the members of the Lodge, as a small testimony of their appreciation of his work,

and of their Brotherly Love and high regard for one who had endeared himself to all his brethren and thoroughly carries out the True and Eternal Principles of Masonry."

"Bro. W. G. Kentish, with evident emotion, acknowledged the Presentation made to him, referred to his long and happy connection with the Lodge, and to the aid and encouragement he had received during his Masonic career. It had been his pleasure and privilege to be able to devote much of his time to Masonic work and organization. For this he had always felt amply rewarded by the appreciation shewn, for his labors, by the brethren, and the enduring friendships he had formed, which, but for Masonry, might never have been. Bro. Kentish concluded by thanking the brethren most heartily for their gifts, which, while life lasted, he should ever treasure amongst his most precious heirlooms, and as a happy reminder of those glorious days of service under the banner of the G.A. of the Universe."

On the 4th of October Bro. Sudlow proposed, and Bro. Rushton seconded, a Vote of Sympathy and Condolence to the Widow of the late Bro. W. H. Kirby, a very promising and much esteemed brother who had recently lost his life owing to an explosion of gas at his residence. It is hardly necessary to add that this vote was carried unanimously.

On the 18th of the same month a letter from Mrs. Kirby was read, acknowledging the Vote of Sympathy.

1896. The Committee and Executive Officers were re-elected on the 3rd of January.

The Annual Festival was held on the 28th of February, W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow presiding as W.M.; W. Bro. F. T. Rushton, P.G. Steward, acting as I.P.M.; and Bros. Charles Lewis and E. P. Debenham, as Wardens.

About 370 brethren, including many Grand Officers, were present.

The Second Lecture was worked by Bros. Major R. L. S. Badham, No. 21; D. D. West, P.M. No. 108; A. M. Barnard, S.W. No. 1964; Charles Lewis, W.M. No. 2508; and S. G. Budd, W.M. No. 1818.



VISCOUNT DUNGARVAN, PROV. GRAND MASTER FOR SOMERSET,
Chairman of the Festival in 1895.

At the conclusion of the Lecture, the usual vote of thanks to the workers was proposed by the R.W. Lord Skelmersdale, P.G. Warden, seconded by the V.W. F. A. Philbrick, Grand Registrar, and suitably responded to by the W. Master, who took occasion to explain the general scope and aim of the Lodge. The names of 74 brethren desirous of membership having been handed to the Secretary, the Lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, at which the R.W. Lord Skelmersdale ably presided. The after-dinner

oratory throws no new light on the history of the Lodge and, as the proceedings are fully reported in the Masonic Press of the period, they need not be repeated in these pages.

At the weekly meeting on the 13th of March, "Bro. Sudlow, saying he felt sure he was only giving voice to the sentiments of all the members present in expressing the heartfelt regret with which they had heard of the severe accident that had befallen their esteemed Secretary, moved 'That the Lodge desires to express its sincere sympathy with Bro. Russell, and their earnest hope that the G.A. of the Universe would speedily restore him to his wonted health and strength.' This was seconded by Bro. F. T. Rushton and unanimously carried."

1897. No change was made this year in the Committee and executive of the Lodge. The Annual Festival, held on the 26th February, was probably the largest gathering of the kind that had ever been held. According to the printed report, between 500 and 600 brethren were present, but as the minutes of the meeting show a total of 463, we prefer the latter estimate.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow presided as W. Master, with Bro. F. T. Rushton as I.P.M. and Bros. Charles Lewis and Major R. L. S. Badham as Wardens.

The First Lecture was worked as follows:—1st Section by Bro. the Rev. C. W. Servanté, No. 1768; 2nd by Bro. D. D. West, P.M. No. 108; 3rd by Bro. G. R. H. Clark, No. 1965; 4th by Bro. Wm. R. Bennett, W.M. No. 1965; 5th by Bro. Chas. Lewis, P.M. No. 2508; 6th by Bro. A. M. Barnard, W.M. No. 1964; and 7th by Bro. F. Baden Fuller, No. 1494.

The R.W. Bro. Lieut.-Gen. John Wimburn Laurie, P.G.W., Past Grand Master of Nova Scotia, Provincial Grand Master for South Wales (Western Division), most efficiently presided at the banquet in the large dining Hall.

In proposing the toast, "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement," the Chairman said, that Lodge was one of the great factors in the progress of English Masonry, which was seen by the work done, he would not say in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement alone, but which had been done very largely by the influence of that Lodge. He had had a feeling in the past, that he never wanted to hear word-for-word repetition. He had never seen it until that night, but as soon as he had seen the work of that Lodge, he saw there was a great deal in teaching the work word-for-word, because there was no question about it. He would take the eighty odd Lodges in the jurisdiction he had presided over. There he advised them not to restrict themselves to one single use of words, but to express what they meant. It was all very well; the Master and Wardens first did it correctly, but the next lot took up what they thought their predecessors meant, and so on; others took up the same line, and in fifteen years he found it was hard to keep them to the point; they wandered away from it. There was a great deal in the "Emulation" system, and he thought they were on the right track in being so rigidly particular in the precise use of words as they were. Following out that idea, he only hoped they would continue to show the same intense interest in the Lodge, in the first place as a pattern Lodge to the whole jurisdiction, and that they would continue to influence the whole of the Lodges as they were largely interested in influencing them that day. He could not go into the history of the Lodge, but he knew a good deal, and he tried to educate himself; he was dealing, not with their history, not with what they had done in the past, but with what they were doing in the present and what they would do in the future, that is to say, that they would prove a still greater factor in the working and prosperity of the Lodges on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, in acknowledging the toast, said: R.W. Bro. in the Chair and Brethren,—That my name has been coupled with this toast instead of the name of our Treasurer is due entirely to his courtesy in desiring that I should enjoy that privilege as the oldest member now on the Committee. It therefore devolves upon me to give expression to our thanks for the cordiality with which you have received the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement."

When you remember that in the very nature of things it is impossible for us to bring out of our treasury anything in the way of novelty, that our work alternates year by year between the First and Second Lectures, the question very naturally arises,—Why is it that the interest in these functions is so fully maintained?

It is true that we always have a very distinguished Mason to preside over us, and we are particularly fortunate in our Chairman this evening. It is also true that we are usually favoured with the presence of a large number of Grand Officers, and very highly we appreciate their continued encouragement and support. But we must look further for an explanation of these splendid gatherings, and I venture to think that it is found in the fascination that Masonry possesses for those who have given any thought at all to its grand principles and teachings, and in the exceptional opportunities which these festivals afford of listening to the enunciation of those principles in the beautiful language of our lectures. And, brethren, if our festivals are successful, the same remark certainly applies to our weekly meetings. It is becoming more and more widely recognised, the immense advantage there is in first of all becoming qualified for the work, then passing through the various offices in this Lodge. I really do not know of anything so useful to a Masonic student who has thoroughly studied the ritual in one or other of the lodges of instruction teaching our system, than to go through a finishing course at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

A Mason who has done that successfully may with every confidence undertake the duties of any office which he may be called upon to perform in his Lodge. Brethren, in my student days Bro. Fenn invariably occupied the Past Master's chair, and it was nothing short of an ordeal to essay any work under the keen eye and ear of that great Master; and although the pupil has been the Past Master for now 14 years, I am not sure that he has altogether lost the feeling of awe inspired by that distinguished brother whom we are so very glad to welcome among us to-night. I am told, brethren, that this ordeal is not less severe in the present day, and I am very glad if such be the case, because, on the one hand, the examination, so to speak, would be of no real benefit unless it be a very stiff one, and, on the other hand, if laxity were to creep in, the present Committee would not be worthily fulfilling the very responsible trust that has been committed to them—a trust, brethren, that they hope to preserve absolutely intact until the time comes when they must hand that trust over to their successors.

At the weekly meeting on the 18th of June a vote of congratulation was passed to Bro. W. G. Kentish on the well deserved honour of his appointment to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer, which vote was warmly acknowledged by Bro. Kentish in a letter, read to the Lodge at its next meeting, and duly entered in the minutes.

1898. The Committee and executive officers were all re-elected to their several posts on the 7th of January. The Annual Festival was held on the 25th of February, Bro. R. Clay Sudlow presiding as W. Master, with Bro. F. T. Rushton as I.P.M. and Bros. Charles Lewis and D. D. West as Wardens.

The Sections of the Second Lecture were worked as follows:—

- 1st Section by Bro. A. D. Kennaby, No. 1965.
- 2nd " " W. R. Bennett, P.M. No. 1965.
- 3rd " " R. E. F. Lander, W.M. No. 2086.
- 4th " " C. Lewis, P.M. No. 2508.
- 5th " " T. W. Allsop, P.M. No. 88.

About 340 brethren attended the Lodge in the Grand Hall, nearly all of whom remained to the banquet, under the presidency of the V.W. Bro. R. D. M. Littler, Q.C., Past Dep. Grand Registrar. The post-prandial oratory, it need hardly be said, was of the usual complimentary character, and is fully reported in the Masonic press. Seventy-five names were handed to the Secretary, including that of the Chairman, as candidates for joining the Lodge.

(To be Continued).