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*Bro. the Hon. A. J. Peacock,
 The Third and Present N.W. Grand Master of Victoria.*

Freemasonry in Victoria (Australia).

By R.W. BRO. W. F. LAMONBY, PAST DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

THE history of Freemasonry in the State of Victoria dates from the year 1839, only four years after John Batman, one of the pioneer colonists, proceeding in a ship's boat from Port Philip Bay, up the River Yarra, is credited with sagely observing, as he gazed on the verdant slopes where now stands the great City of Melbourne, "This is the



BRO. A. B. TEMPLEMAN,
THE PRESENT R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

place for a village." It has frequently and truly been said that one of the very first institutions following the foundation of a British settlement in any part of the world is a Masonic lodge, and so it came to pass in the year just mentioned when, too, in that part of the immense Continent of Australia, Charles Joseph Latrobe was gazetted Superintendent of Port Philip, subsequently to be known as the Colony, and now the State, of Victoria.

The Grand Lodge of England has the honour of planting Freemasonry in Victoria. From the minute books of the lodge, to be afterwards known as the premier lodge of the Victorian Constitution, I gathered many years ago that a meeting of Freemasons was convened and held in Melbourne on December 23rd, 1839, to consider and decide upon the formation of a lodge. No fewer than twenty-one brethren attended, a sufficient guarantee, if any were wanting, as to the ultimate success of the movement. It must also be borne in mind that the surroundings of the infant settlement, at that very early period of its history, were of the most primitive character. The description of the place, in fact, was picturesquely, yet faithfully, sketched by an old colonial chronicler, at the time of the jubilee of the colony in 1885, when he observed—

"The intelligent foreigner, sauntering down the well-paved streets of Melbourne, will hardly be able to realise that half a century ago the present fashionable promenade of Collins Street was marked by a line of gum tree stumps, deep ruts, and reservoirs of mud; that a piece of board, nailed to a tree, bore the inscription, *This is Bourke Street*; that a waggon and a team of horses were absolutely swallowed up in Elizabeth Street, and that at one time the settlers talked of using stilts! The site of the present Treasury was then a cabbage garden, and Emerald Hill (now the City of South Melbourne) a sheep walk."

It was not very long after this that the first Masonic lodge sprang into existence. A second preliminary meeting was held, with the result that a petition was signed by twenty-five brethren, and forwarded to R.W. Bro. George Robert Nicholls, Provincial Grand Master of Australasia, in Sydney, praying for the requisite authority to found a lodge. The three principal officers designated were:—Bros. George Brunswick Smythe, of St. Mary's Lodge, No. 76, London (now No. 63, and meeting at Freemasons' Hall), as W.M.; W. Meek, of Restoration Lodge, No. 128, Darlington (now No. 111), as S.W.; and Isaac Hinde, Tasmanian Lodge, No. 313, Hobart (an Irish lodge, I believe), as J.W. Next, on the 25th of March, 1840, we find the Australia Felix Lodge constituted and its first Master installed, as the minutes record, "according to the pristine usages of the Order." The consecrating officer was Bro. John Stephen, P.M. Lodge of Australia, No. 548, Sydney, afterwards No. 390, and now, as being the oldest lodge in New South Wales (in point of fact, seeing that it was warranted in 1828, the mother lodge of Australasia), No. 1 under the New South Wales Constitution, the Australia Felix Lodge now being in like manner No. 1 under the Victorian Constitution. At this first regular meeting of the new lodge eleven candidates were proposed for initiation, and eight brethren as joining members. The Grand Lodge warrant was dated April, 1841, under the title and order of the Lodge of Australia Felix, No. 697, which in 1863 was changed to No. 474.

Such in brief was the origin of Freemasonry in Victoria, and it goes without saying that the rapid rise of the Colony was consonant with the progress of the Craft, new lodges being founded in all directions. The Irish and Scottish Constitutions were not behindhand, as in 1843, the Earl of Fitzclarence, then Grand Master Mason of Scotland, warranted the Australasian Kilwinning Lodge, No. 337 (now No. 2, Victorian Constitution), whilst the same year an Irish



THE LATE BRO. SIR W. J. CLARKE, BART.,
THE FIRST M.W. GRAND MASTER.

lodge was opened under dispensation, entitled the Australia Felix Lodge of Hiram, and was warranted four years later by the Duke of Leinster as No. 349 (now No. 3, Victorian Constitution.)

The increase of lodges under the three British Constitutions in course of time necessitated consolidation, for the purposes of local administration, in the shape of Provincial and District Grand Lodges. The initiative in this direction was taken by the Scottish brethren, and in 1847 the first Provincial Grand Master was installed in the person of



BRO. THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY,
THE SECOND M.W. GRAND MASTER.

Bro. James Hunter Ross, who, however, was not particularly enthusiastic, seeing that eleven years passed over without a meeting being held. In the meantime Bro. Ross had resigned, and his successor was the Hon. William Clarke Haines, who died in 1866, and whose two immediate successors were Bros. Thomas Reid and A. K. Smith. On the death of the latter brother the Province was for some years without a ruler.

The Irish brethren were the next to start a Provincial Grand Lodge. More fortunate than their Scottish brethren, their first and only Provincial Grand Master, from 1854 to 1879, was Bro. John Thomas Smith, an initiate in the Lodge of Australia Felix in its opening year, several times Mayor of Melbourne, in fact, one of its most estimable citizens. Bro. Smith's lamented death in 1879 left the Irish Province without a head for two years.

It is singular that, although the first lodge opened in Victoria was warranted by the Grand Lodge of England, the brethren of that Constitution, much the stronger in numbers, nevertheless were the last to set up a Provincial Grand Lodge. It was in 1857 that R.W. Bro. the Hon. Capt. Clarke, Royal Engineers, a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Colony, Surveyor-General, and Minister for Public Lands, was appointed by the Earl of Zetland, and installed Provincial Grand Master. It need scarcely be explained that, although forty-four years have rolled on since our R.W. and gallant brother returned to England, he is still intimately associated with Victoria, as its Agent-General, and is popularly known far and wide in his green old age as General Sir Andrew Clarke, G.C.M.G. The second Provincial Grand Master—the designation subsequently altered to District Grand Master—was Bro. Capt. Standish, who held office twenty-one years, until his death in 1882. From this there was an interregnum of two years, the English Craft meanwhile being ruled by the late Bro. Dr. Horatio St. John Clarke, Deputy District Grand Master, and subsequently Past Grand Warden of England.

The next era in the history of the Masonic Craft in the colony was of a unique and highly interesting character. I refer to the appointment of a gentleman to rule the brethren

of the three constitutions, that is to say, as District Grand Master of Victoria under the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Scotland, also as Provincial Grand Master under the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The brother so distinguished was the late Sir William John Clarke, Bart., a native Australian, and the combination, unique and hitherto unheard of as it was, was the most fortunate stroke of policy ever conceived under like circumstances. Sir William Clarke had, in his younger days, been initiated in an Irish lodge in Tasmania, and it was appropriate that he should have been installed Provincial Grand Master under the Irish Constitution, some three years antecedent to his accepting the other two offices, which culminated in his induction as District Grand Master of the English and Scottish lodges in March, 1884. This was, up to then, the most imposing gathering of the Craft ever held in Victoria, and at this stage it is sufficient to say that, under the enthusiastic, genial, and beneficent rule of the new chief, Masonry increased with a rapidity, that can best be described as by "leaps and bounds."

Harking back a year, however, yet another phase of Victorian Masonry may be briefly alluded to in the shape of the foundation of an independent Grand Lodge of Victoria. Two attempts had been previously made in this direction without success, and, as regards the third effort, Sir William Clarke was, in the first instance, offered the position of M.W. Grand Master. He declined the honour, though, and some time after stated at a Masonic meeting in Ballarat, that he was averse to "cutting the painter" that bound Colonial Masonry to the old country, furthermore urging that the time for such a movement was premature. In the end, however, the promoters of the independent Grand Lodge carried their project into effect, and with the assistance of a few seceding Irish and Scotch lodges—not a single one of the eighty odd English lodges deserted the old standard—a Grand Lodge was inaugurated in 1883, on the basis that holds good in many parts of the United States, namely, that any three private lodges can form themselves into a Grand Lodge where no such supreme body actually exists. This Grand Lodge, like its older congener in New South Wales,



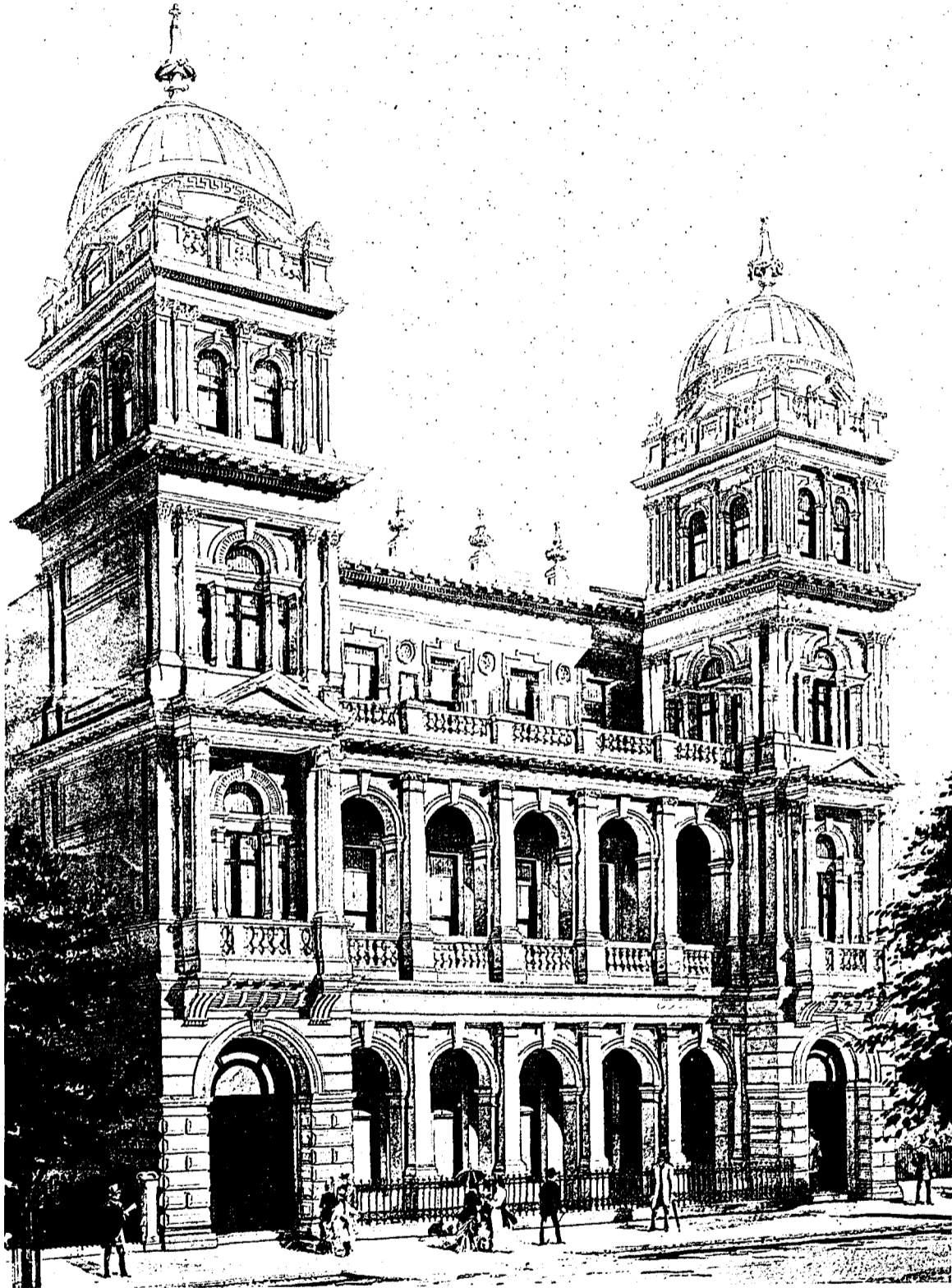
THE LATE BRO. GEORGE BAKER,
THE FIRST R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

was granted recognition by most of the American and Canadian Grand Lodges. On the other hand, the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as two or three of the oldest and strongest in the United States, refused to countenance Victoria, as they had hitherto similarly dealt with New South Wales, on the grounds that no Grand

Lodge can be considered constitutionally formed, or entitled to recognition as a regular and lawful Masonic body; unless the whole, or at least a great majority of the constituent lodges formerly working under Sister Constitutions, agree to throw in their lot with a new Grand Lodge.

This regrettable and undesirable state of affairs continued in Victorian Masonry for well on to five years, and the situation engendered, it may readily be imagined, a bitterness of feeling and personal rancour—frequently between old friends—that could scarcely be conceived at this end of

started in South Australia on the British basis, which, of course, was recognised at once, and now Victoria followed New South Wales in the happy consummation and the burying of the hatchet. The United Grand Lodge of Victoria started on its successful career with a total of one hundred and forty-one lodges, ninety-four of them hailing from the English, sixteen from the Irish, thirteen from the Scottish, and eighteen from the hitherto unrecognised Victorian Constitution. Two English lodges held aloof from the movement, namely, the Meridian Lodge of St.



MASONIC HALL, MELBOURNE.

the world. But an end to the *vendetta* was bound to come sooner or later, and the visit of the late Earl of Carnarvon—at that time M.W. Pro Grand Master of England—to Australia, fortunately paved the way to a happier *régime*. Beginning first with New South Wales and finishing with Victoria, the opposing Masonic elements in both Colonies, one in the year 1888 and the other the year following, consolidated their forces, and formed the United Grand Lodges of New South Wales and Victoria respectively, with Lord Carrington and Sir William Clarke as the first M.W.G. Masters. *En passant* a Grand Lodge had before this been

John, No. 729, of which Bro. Colonel Brownrigg, P.G.D., at that time Commandant of the Victorian Military forces, was W.M., and the Combermere Lodge, No. 752, both in Melbourne. The refusal of these two lodges to join the new body was in consonance with one of the conditions under which the Grand Lodge of England grants recognition to a Grand Lodge formed out of a body of its constituent lodges. The Meridian Lodge of St. John not long after joined the new Grand Lodge, but is now extinct; whilst the Combermere Lodge—warranted, by the bye, in 1858, and named after Viscount Combermere, the

then Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire, at the request of its first W.M., the late Bro. J. J. Moody, a Past Senior Grand Warden of that Province, and Town Clerk of Melbourne—still flourishes, its last return to England showing sixty-two subscribing members. It is true that at the outset a considerable amount of friction, ill-feeling, and trouble was



BRO. LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ANDREW CLARKE, G.C.M.G.,
THE FIRST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER, 1878.

engendered through the refusal of a strong minority of the Combermere members to become a Victorian lodge. As a matter of fact, the warrant was carried off by some of the seceders, but the business-like promptitude and practical common sense of Sir William Clarke brought about the instant restoration of the much-coveted document before any harm could be done to it, and that under the provisions of the then Article 219 of our Book of Constitutions. The action of Sir William Clarke was strictly in conformity with his instructions, notified to every lodge at the inception of the movement for a Grand Lodge, namely, "that on no account must any pressure be brought to bear on any member in this District." Up to the crucial point this incident was a reflex of the Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656, trouble in Sydney, and it must always be regretted that similar action was not taken by M.W. Bro. Lord Carrington, instead of leaving the matter in the hands of subordinates, in which case eleven years of unseemly strife, and the expenditure of hundreds of pounds in law costs, would have been prevented and avoided. It is pleasant to recall the fact that Sir William Clarke was, whilst Grand Master of Victoria, a subscribing member of the Combermere Lodge, as also his successor, Lord Brassey, whilst there are now brethren at one and the same time subscribing members of the Combermere Lodge and of lodges holding allegiance to the Victorian Constitution. Long may the *entente cordiale* continue!

The installation of Bro. Sir W. J. Clarke, Bart., as the first M.W. Grand Master of Victoria, in the Town Hall of Melbourne, on March 20th, 1889, will be remembered for many a day by those of the 3000 brethren still living who were fortunate enough to be present. The principal figure in the celebrations of the day was the Grand Master of New South Wales, who performed the ceremony of induction to the throne, whilst the address to the newly-installed Grand Master was delivered by another Grand Master, His Excellency Chief Justice Way, of South Australia, probably the most eloquent speaker in the "British Dominions beyond the Seas." From this time forth Sir William Clarke threw additional energy into Masonry, if it were possible for him to

do so, and he held office until 1896, when, on the appointment of Lord Brassey as Governor of the Colony, he resigned in his lordship's favour, but continued in harness as Pro Grand Master for one short year only, when his sudden death produced unbounded grief through the length and breadth of that country, of which he had been for so many years one of the brightest ornaments in every walk of life. He was born in Tasmania in 1831, and a patriotic Briton to his heart's core. One of the wealthiest men in Australia, his generous disposition found ample scope, and it would consume too much space to even partially recount his princely benefactions to science, patriotic movements, art, education, and above all, the sacred cause of charity, apart from the Craft of Masonry, which he loved so well. In short, to quote the poet Tennyson,

"He bore, without abuse,
The grand old name of gentleman."

Sir William Clarke was created a Baronet of the United Kingdom in 1882, he being the only Victorian who has been so honoured. During one of his frequent visits to England the honorary degree of LL.D. was also conferred upon him at Cambridge. Add to this, he was for many years a member of the Upper House of the Victorian Legislature. Only two years after Sir William Clarke's death the Grand Lodge of Victoria suffered another heavy loss in the decease of its R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Bro. George Baker, who had ably held that office from the very commencement, and, previous to the foundation of a Grand Lodge, had for many years been Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Irish Masons, at a critical time, moreover, when his characteristic firmness and tact were of great and infinite service. Bro. Baker was an old Irish Mason, he having been initiated in the Carlton Lodge (now No. 19, V.C.) as far back as 1861.

Sir William Clarke's successor as Pro Grand Master was Bro. the Hon. A. J. Peacock, M.L.A., now Premier of the Victorian State. On the return of Bro. Lord Brassey to England, M.W. Bro. Peacock was elected, and is still Grand Master. Though comparatively young in Masonry, the present head of the Victorian Craft has proved himself able,



BRO. JOHN BODIM, P.G.W., GRAND SECRETARY.

worthy, and a business man, and with competent executive officers to work and co-operate with him, the continued prosperity of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria is assured. This time last year the lodge roll numbered 184, covering 8312 subscribing members, whilst the total funds (including benevolence) reached £8658.

Masonry in Victoria, it would be almost superfluous to remark, has played its part in the erection of many "stately and superb edifices," especially in the capital city. Amongst them, from the year 1842 to 1885, may be enumerated the first Supreme Court, the first Prince's Bridge, the Melbourne Hospital, the Temperance Hall, the Benevolent Asylum, the Gasworks, the Western Markets, the Australian Church, and, last, but not least, the Freemasons' Homes (like our R.M.B.I. buildings at Croydon), and the imposing Freemasons' Hall and Club, heading this article, the corner stone of which was laid by Sir William Clarke in 1885. A project was started several years ago, having for its object the acquirement of the Melbourne Freemasons' Hall as a home for the Victorian Craft, similar to the headquarters of the English Craft in London; but the scheme was so strongly discountenanced by the country lodges, the great majority of which, as well as those in the suburbs, possess halls of their own, that it was eventually dropped.

It is interesting to note that the Constitutions of the Victorian Craft were founded on those of the Grand Lodge of England, with some important alterations. For instance, it is provided that an Installed Master of a recognised Constitution is eligible for the chair in a Victorian lodge. Again, every Grand Officer (Organist and Heralds excepted) must be an Installed Master. This is widely in contrast to our English custom, as the only Installed Master qualification in Grand Lodge is the Grand Registrar, whilst in Provinces and Districts the chief need not be an Installed Master, but his Deputy and Wardens must hold that rank. The latter dictum is strangely contradictory, when it is seen that the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens in Grand Lodge do not require to be Masters or Past Masters. In this connection the Victorian Craft, with less than one lodge to England's ten lodges, and consequently a most limited field in regard to qualified brethren, must be held to be consistently

marching with the times. But, to many people's minds, the most interesting part of the Victorian Book of Constitutions is the circumstance that the system of election and appointment to Grand Lodge and private lodge office is precisely on the lines of England, as was agreed when the laws were promulgated by vote of Grand Lodge. The pernicious system of touting for office, as it prevails all along the line in neighbouring Grand Lodges, is thus happily avoided in Victoria, the only elected officers, of course, being the Grand Master and Grand Treasurer. And it is provided that the enactment shall continue for all time.

There is a Grand Chapter of Victoria, on the same basis as our English system, also a Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the latter being separate and distinct from the Grand Lodge (Craft), though the Mark Degree is incorporated in the Royal Arch as a part of Craft Freemasonry. Singularly, while the Mark Grand Lodge includes the Ark Mariner, the Grand Lodge (Craft) does not recognise that degree. There has been for many years a Chapter of the Ancient and Accepted Rite working in Melbourne, under the Supreme Council of England, likewise a Preceptory of Knights Templar under the Great Priory of England. A so-called Great Priory of Victoria, embracing Preceptorates of Canadian origin, exists in Melbourne, but it is not a legitimate body, as declared by the Great Priory of England. The curious part of the business is the fact that the Great Priory of Canada, which chartered these preceptorates, practically renounced them, under remonstrance from England, succeeding which the said preceptorates formed themselves into a "Supreme Grand Priory of Victoria." There were some dozen years or so ago two conclaves of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine in Melbourne, but, in common with several others in New South Wales and New Zealand, they are practically extinct.

United Grand Lodge of England.

THE Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was held on the 5th March at Freemasons' Hall, the M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Earl Amherst, presiding. W. Bro. Lieut.-Colonel John Davis, A.D.C., Prov. Grand Master for Surrey, acted as Deputy Grand Master, and Bro. the Right Hon. Thomas F. Halsey, M.P., as Past Grand Master.

After the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication had been read by the Grand Secretary, the M.W. Pro Grand Master asked for a proposition for the office of Grand Master, which was responded to by Bro. Thomas Wakley, W.M. of the Cheselden Lodge, No. 2870, who, in a concise and effective speech, submitted the name of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught for re-election.

Bro. Major Badham said: As an Irishman, he deemed it a special pleasure and privilege to second the proposition. His Royal Highness, he said, was loved, esteemed, and respected by persons of every class.

The M.W. Pro Grand Master then declared His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught duly elected as Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year.

Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G. Reg., Acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, then proclaimed His Royal Highness as duly elected.

The Pro Grand Master then announced that as only one brother had been nominated for the office of Grand Treasurer, he declared W. Bro. Captain John Barlow duly elected.

The reports of the Board of Benevolence and of the Board of General Purposes having been respectively taken as read, the Grand Registrar, Bro. John Strachan, K.C., proceeded to move the motion which stood in his name to add to Rule 175 of the Book of Constitutions, the following provision:—

"175A. Should a member be four years in arrear, he shall thereupon cease to be a member of the lodge, and can only become a member again by regular proposition and ballot according to Rule 180. The lodge may require payment of the arrears as a condition precedent to election. This Rule shall not prevent a lodge proceeding against any of its members under Rule 210 for non-payment of contributions according to its bye-laws, for a shorter period than four years. When a brother ceases to be a member under this Rule, the fact shall be forthwith notified to the Grand Secretary, and, if the lodge be within a Province or District, also to the Provincial or District Grand Lodge. The provisions of Rule 211, 212, and 213, shall apply in each case, as if the brother had been excluded by vote."

Bro. Frank Richardson seconded the motion, and after some discussion, in which Bros. Nightingale, A. A. Frigout, A. G. Collins, and others took part, the suggestion previously thrown out by Bro. Strachan that the limit of time should be three years instead of four, was adopted, and the motion as amended was carried *nem. con.*

Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form.

Grand Mark Lodge.

THE Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was held on Tuesday, the 4th March, at Mark Masons' Hall. The M.W. Pro Grand Master the Earl of Euston presided. After the reading of the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication, Bro. John Strachan, K.C., who had been appointed to the office of Grand Registrar, was invested with the insignia of his rank.

The next business was the election of the M.W. Grand Master, and the grateful task fell to Bro. G. Phillips Parker, who, in a brief but effective speech, proposed His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to that office. The motion was seconded by Bro. Imre Kiralfy, and carried by acclamation.

Bro. Cousans, G.D.C., then proclaimed His Royal Highness as duly elected Most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year.

Bro. Major Henry Wright, acting for Bro. Hoblyn, then proposed Bro. George Ivey as Grand Treasurer for the

ensuing year. Bro. C. Phillips Parker seconded the motion, and the Pro Grand Master declared Bro. Ivey duly elected.

Some discussion, originated by Bro. Lamonty, arose in reference to the recognition by Grand Mark Lodge of the Ark Mariners Degree, in connection with the Grand Mark Lodge of Victoria, but after an explanation by the Grand Registrar, the subject was dropped.

Bro. Chas. Pulman drew attention to the case of a brother who had been deprived of his office as Grand Steward for non-payment of his proportion of the deficit of the Festival in June, 1901, and moved a resolution referring the matter back to the Board of General Purposes for reconsideration, but as there was no seconder the motion was dropped, and the report of the Board adopted.

The Pro Grand Master announced that the Duke of Connaught would be installed on June 3rd, at the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, at 3.30 p.m., and that all lodges and brethren would receive timely notice.

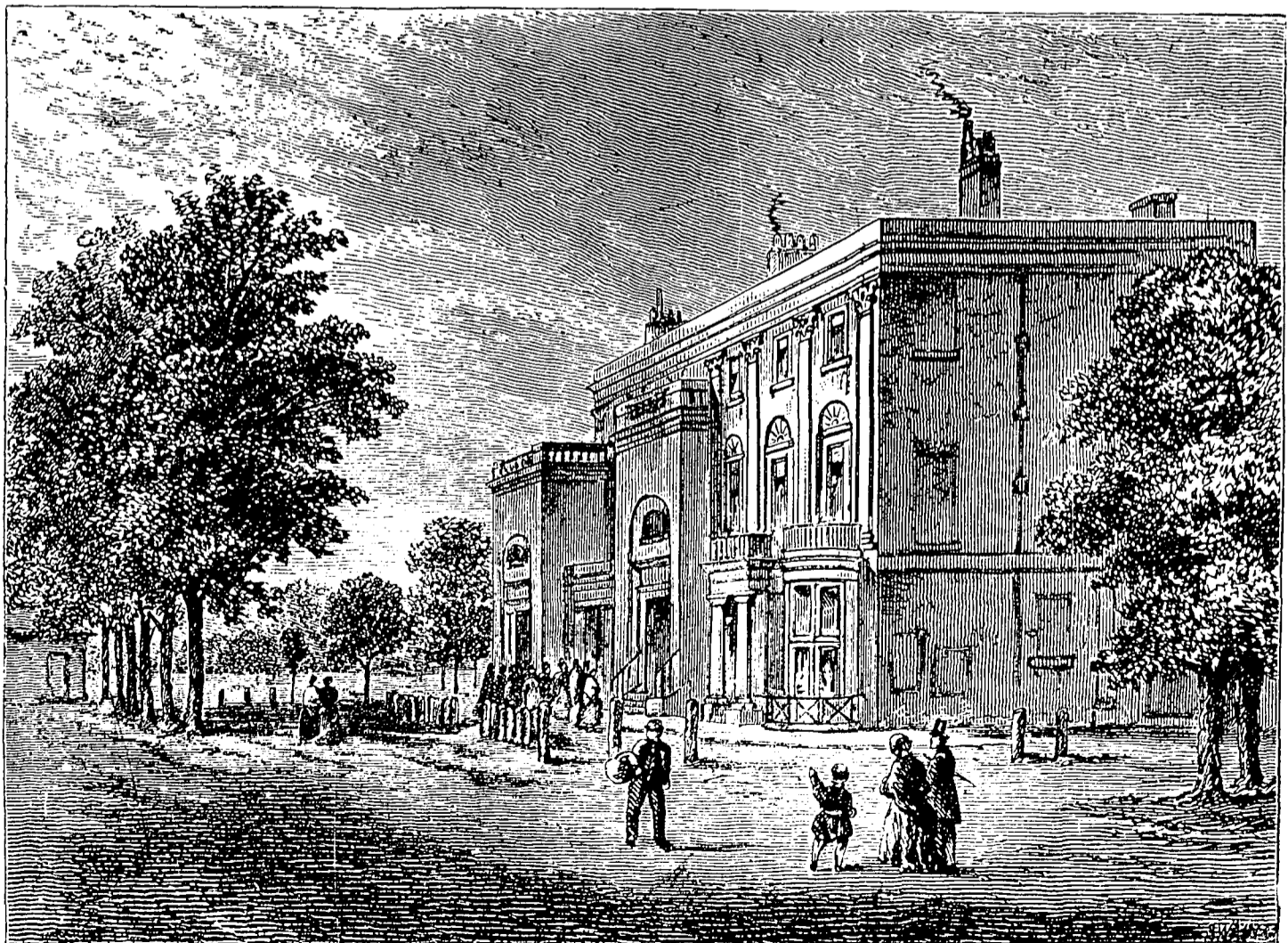
Grand Mark Lodge was then closed in ample form.

Installation Meeting of the Eyre Lodge, No. 2742.

THE fourth installation of this prosperous lodge was held on Tuesday, March 18th, at the Eyre Arms Hotel, St. John's Wood, in the presence of upwards of 100 brethren. After conferring the Second Degree on one of the members, the outgoing Master, W. Bro. J. D. Graham, P.M. 1550, installed the W.M. elect, W. Bro. Fred. Arnold, P.M. 1624 and 2550, P.P. Grand Supt. of Works, Hertfordshire,

into the chair, assisted by a numerous Board of Installed Masters, in a very dignified and impressive manner, W. Bro. James Stephens, P.D.G.D.C., acting as D. of C.

The new W.M. then initiated three candidates. A favourable balance sheet was presented and passed, after which the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to a well-served banquet.



THE "EYRE ARMS" IN 1820.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed and honoured.

In proposing the toast of "The Grand Officers," the W.M. coupled it with the name of Bro. James Stephens, P.D.G.D.C., who had done great service to the Eyre Lodge at and since its foundation.

Bro. Stephens, replying, felt certain he would be best consulting the wishes of the brethren if he responded briefly to the toast which had been proposed in such kindly terms by the W.M. His visit that night brought to his mind the active step he took with W. Bro. W. H. Bailey, P.G. Treasurer, in the formation of the lodge, and reminded him forcibly of one little event in connection therewith. After the petition had been presented he heard that it had not been very favourably received, but he saw the Grand Secretary who very courteously listened to his arguments in its favour and requested him to send him those reasons in writing. He did so, and should have liked the Grand Secretary to have been present that night to have witnessed the complete answer to all queries and doubts and clearly understand the necessity for the formation of the lodge. It was a matter of pride to him (Bro. Stephens), who was one of the Consecrating Officers, to note such success and progress, and conclusive evidence that it was likely to be maintained. When he heard that the W.M. elect desired him to be present and act as Director of Ceremonies he gladly consented. Having a warm corner in his heart for Bro. Fred. Arnold, he appreciated the opportunity of assisting him in the chair.

He was confident that the great expectations they all had of the W.M. and his work as Master would be realized. On behalf of the Grand Officers, he thanked them heartily for the toast.

The I.P.M., Bro. J. D. Graham, proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," assured the members they had a W.M. who was equal to any amount of work and would be a credit to the lodge. He was a founder, and had taken the keenest interest in its welfare, and had never missed a single meeting.

The Worshipful Master, replying, thanked the I.P.M. and W. Bro. James Stephens for the kind and encouraging remarks they had made about him, which were all too flattering. He would do his utmost to retain the confidence of the brethren who had placed him in that high position by not only doing his duty to maintain the position of the lodge, but by remaining a member after passing the chair, and he trusted for the whole of his life. He asked all the members to assist him in making a successful year of office.

"The Initiates" and other toasts followed.

Bro. Graham was presented with a Past Master's jewel in appreciation of his excellent services during the past year.

We reproduce from an old print the Eyre Arms as it appeared in 1820. On account of its very different surroundings few would recognise it as the Eyre Arms as it stands to-day, but it is to all intents and purposes the same structure, and an examination will demonstrate the fact that the alterations have been surprisingly few.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

THE Festival of the above, which annually attracts a vast concourse of the brethren, took place on the 8th of March, and proved, as usual, an imposing and interesting function. The lodge meeting was held in the beautiful Temple of Grand Lodge, and was opened with commendable punctuality at five o'clock. The chair of W.M. was taken by W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., senior member of the Committee, and the following Emulation workers filled the other offices:—Bros. George Rankin, W.M. 2813, Preceptor Kirby Lodge of Instruction, S.W.; J. F. Roberts, P.M. 2693, Preceptor St. Bride's Lodge of Instruction, J.W.; J. H. Jenks, P.M. 8, P.G.S., Preceptor London Rifle Brigade Lodge of Instruction, S.D.; Percy Sloper, W.M. 8, P.G.S., J.D.; and J. Collet Smith, W.M. 1965, I.G.

Shortly after the lodge was opened the procession of distinguished Grand Officers assembled to support the Chairman of the Festival, R.W. Bro. Sir Augustus Webster, Provincial Grand Master for Hants and the Isle of Wight, entered and took their seats upon the dais. The work of the evening was then proceeded with, consisting of the five Sections of the Second Lecture. The following brethren assisted the W.M.:—The 1st Section by Bro. A. M. Barnard, P.M. 1964; the 2nd Section by Bro. W. R. Bennett, P.M. 1965; the 3rd Section by Bro. H. A. D. Jowett, J.W. 1965; the 4th Section by Bro. J. H. Jenks, P.M. 8, P.G. Steward; and the 5th Section by Bro. T. W. Allsop, P.M. 88, P.P.G.D.C. Bucks., the rendering of which was acknowledged by experienced Masons to be unequalled.

At the conclusion, R.W. Bro. Sir Augustus Webster proposed a hearty vote of thanks to those brethren, and eulogised their magnificent work. This was seconded by V.W. Bro. the Rev. Sir Borrodaile Savory, and carried with acclamation.

W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, responding, remarked that tradition was a prominent feature in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and according to that tradition the five brethren who had worked the sections that night had to return their thanks for the vote so kindly proposed, as best they can, through the member of the Committee occupying the Master's chair. Such is the excellent work done in

what I may be permitted to call the Emulation Nurseries that the brethren taking the sections that night have felt it perhaps a somewhat more difficult task than usual. I think I may say that the kind words uttered by the proposer and seconder have proved to them they have well sustained the prestige of this old lodge. On their behalf he returned hearty thanks.

During the collection of the forms of application for membership, the W.M. said he took that opportunity of correcting a prevalent erroneous impression regarding the work in the lodge; he had heard it said that this was confined to a few. That was not so. The Committee welcome workers as well as listeners.

The lodge was then duly closed and the brethren adjourned to supper in the Great Hall of the Freemasons' Tavern under the presidency of Bro. Sir Augustus Webster.

After the usual loyal toasts were duly honoured, Bro. R. E. F. Lander, P.P.G.D. Herts, proposed the toast of "The Grand Officers" feelingly by referring to the losses they had sustained by death and welcoming the new comers, who now for the first time in that capacity honoured them with their presence.

V.W. Bro. Norman Lee, Chaplain to the Forces, Grand Chaplain, recently returned from the front, replying, regretted the absence of Lord Amherst. He thanked them both for their rendering of the work and for the hearty welcome always accorded to the Grand Officers.

V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Secretary, and Treasurer, proposed the toast of "The Chairman," which he felt sure would receive a warm and hearty reception as he had filled the post with so much dignity and kindness. He had quite recently seen him installed as R.W. Master of the province so long and ably presided over by the late respected Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P. He knew he could not fail to be impressed that evening as there were few more able exponents of our beautiful ritual than the Chairman himself.

Bro. Sir Augustus Webster, replying, cordially thanked the brethren for the reception of the toast so ably proposed by their Treasurer. It gave him the greatest pleasure, and he esteemed it a great compliment to have been asked at this,

the outset of his career, as Provincial Grand Master, to preside at their Festival, and one which he appreciated, as well as the feeling remarks about his predecessor, in whose steps he hoped worthily to follow. He had pleasure in proposing the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement," which for eighty years had handed down the ritual unaltered and unbroken, for which the Craft owed them a deep debt of gratitude. A good ritual was one of which the more a candidate could grasp the better Mason he would be, and that was the standard to keep before them.

W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., in reply, said: I believe I am only giving expression to a truism in stating that every member of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement derives a certain amount of satisfaction from belonging to this useful Institution, which has not only stood the test of eighty years, but has justified its existence and amply provided for every student of Masonic ritual—in fact, they had every reason to be proud of it. Naturally, in the course of so many years some changes have taken place in the work they were called upon to do. They all knew that the first mission of the lodge had been to promulgate the system of ritual arranged by the Lodge of Reconciliation in 1816. This difficult work was first undertaken by the celebrated Bro. Peter Gilkes of pious memory, and then passed into the hands of his pupils, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson and others. It was easy to conceive that in the early state of emulation accuracy had expanded but little; the first efforts were simple and crude, but the accuracy unobtainable in those early days was essential if a standard of work was to be set up and the object of the lodge carried out in its entirety. That great master of ritual, the late Bro. Thomas Fenn, did all in his power by precept and example to encourage absolute accuracy. The jewel worn by him (Bro. Sudlow) that night was presented to Bro. Fenn by the Emulation Lodge in 1863, forty years after the creation of the lodge and twenty years before Bro. Fenn asked him to take his place. He could venture to claim that accuracy was the special feature of the lodge to-day. Are we to think that because a standard has been set up and perfect accuracy acquired the mission of the lodge is at an end and that its usefulness is on the wane? No; absolutely no! Apart from the fact that the standard has to be maintained, it had a new sphere of usefulness, viz.: to act as a training school to Preceptors of lodges of instruction. Twenty years ago there was but one lodge of instruction teaching emulation work, of which he was the Preceptor, and Bro. J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C., the Secretary. Several lodges have since been started, all ruled over by experienced Craftsmen, and others were still wanted. He thanked the Chairman and Grand Officers for their support.

The five brethren who had worked the sections were then presented to Bro. Sir Augustus Webster, who congratulated each upon his proficiency.

V.W. Bro. Horton Smith, K.C., Deputy Grand Registrar, called upon to propose the toast of "The Lodge of Unions, No. 256," under whose sanction the Lodge of Improvement is held, observed that in his profession it used to be said that

anyone that made a speech without being paid for it committed a crime, but he had been called upon to propose the toast on account of his old association with the Lodge of Improvement, it being just forty years since he came up from Cambridge and worked his way into it, and from his experience of it he could say that the Lodge of Unions ought to be proud of such a daughter.

W. Bro. J. A. Farnfield, P.A.G.D.C., also replied.



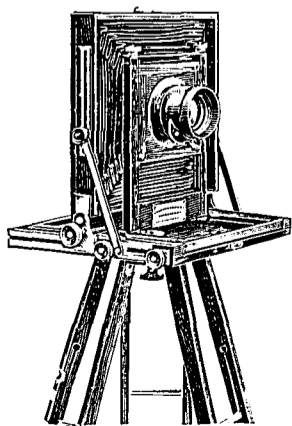
BRO. SIR AUGUSTUS WEBSTER.

W. Bro. J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C., proposing "The Secretary and Stewards," spoke of the self-denying labour that W. Bro. J. Russell, P.G. Std. Br., and the Stewards had bestowed upon the arrangements for the Festival and for their comfort.

W. Bro. J. Russell, P.G. Std. Br., the energetic Secretary of the lodge, replying, disclaimed any special meed of praise for himself, as he had been cheerfully and ably assisted by Bro. Lewis and several other brethren. On their behalf he thanked the members and visitors for their kind appreciation.

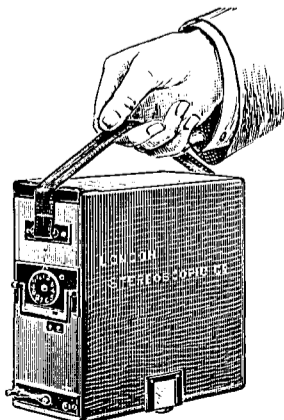
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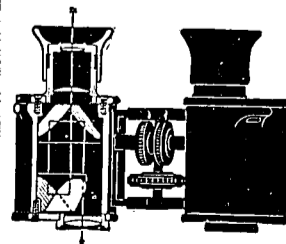
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Physical Disability.

OF late years the physical qualifications of candidates for the Degrees of Freemasonry have attracted a great deal of attention in the United States of America. Nor has the attention thus excited been unattended with controversy. The peaceful sway of the United Grand Lodge and the practical unanimity of the sister Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom leave the English brethren to the enjoyment of a Masonic atmosphere unclouded by even such amicable contention as has been going on across the Atlantic with regard to the Doctrine of Physical Qualifications. But the discussion is not without interest for Freemasons in the British Isles. In the first place, the arguments of the disputants are based on the clauses and provisions contained in the OLD CHARGES of British Freemasons. In the second place, the orthodox, or, at least, the more generally accepted theory and practice of our Transatlantic Brethren on this question are not such as seem to us to be altogether warranted by a candid examination of all the circumstances that should determine us in the selection of members. Again, we must remember that the majority of English-speaking Freemasons hail from the United States; that they reckon amongst them some of the ablest Masonic jurists that grace the English tongue; and that their zeal for Freemasonry is as unimpeachable as their ability. Hence, it is well that we should examine briefly how their position differs from ours on a question that may at any moment challenge similar attention on this side of the Atlantic.

On the one hand, the physical qualifications of candidates are held by our American brethren to be of such binding weight that they rank as an Ancient Landmark, not merely as a general law or constitutional regulation. It is laid down in so many words by the most eminent of American Masonic jurists, that the Ancient Landmarks prescribe that "a candidate must be without blemish, and have the full and proper use of his limbs; for a maimed man can do the Craft no good." And it is impossible to take up any report of the annual Communications of the various Grand Lodges of the United States without lighting upon some instance of a candidate being rejected for some trivial dismemberment, even for a missing finger-joint.

On the other hand, the Grand Lodge of England recognises no such physical Landmark, and throws on each individual lodge the responsibility of seeing that its candidates are fit to take their part in the work of the lodge, whether that work be symbolical or material. The law simply prescribes that the candidate must be a free man, of full age, and at the time of initiation in reputable circumstances.

Let us now see what are the grounds on which the leaders of Masonic thought in America rest their contention that a candidate must be "without blemish." Will it be believed that they repose solely on the customs and requirements of Operative Masons in a bygone condition of Society? We think we can fairly state the argument by the aid of the quotations we annex from the OLD CHARGES.

First in point of time comes the earliest of the prose versions, dating from the days when the OLD CHARGES had real weight and authority among the cathedral-builders of the 14th century. We use the late Bro. Speth's rendering: "The sixth article is this. That no master from covetousness or for gain shall accept an apprentice that is unprofitable; that is, having any maim (or defect), by reason of which he is incapable of doing a mason's proper work."

It would be inconsistent with our limits to trace the verbal changes and developments of this medieval article. Suffice it to say, that it duly appears, in one form or another, in Anderson's *Constitutions*, 1723; Pennell's *Dublin Constitutions*, 1730; and Dermott's *Ahiman Rezon*, 1756; the three prime sources whence all the Constitutions of all existing Grand Lodges have been derived. Most of the American Grand Lodges took their original Constitutions, directly or indirectly, from the last-named source, in which the article appeared in the following form:—"No master should take an apprentice that is not the son of honest parents, a perfect youth without maim or defect in his body, and capable of learning the mysteries of the art, that the lords (or founders) may be well served, and the Craft not despised. . . ."

It will be observed that in both these quotations, one standing at the head of the OLD CHARGES in point of antiquity, and the other inaugurating the system of independent American Grand Lodges four hundred years later, the nature of the defect, which was to operate as a bar, is plainly indicated. It was not every blemish that was to constitute a disability. It was a defect, in the words of the fourteenth century CHARGE, "by reason of which he [the entered apprentice] is incapable of doing a mason's proper work." Even in the days of Operative Masonry, minor bodily defects would not justify a master in refusing to take an otherwise strong and willing youth as an apprentice. In order to put this beyond doubt, the reason for the limitation is assigned. A standard is set up whereby each individual case is to be judged, instead of a general prohibition excluding every candidate save "a perfect youth."

Thus the argument for rigid adherence to a supposed Landmark among medieval Operative Masons falls to the ground. The defect was to be estimated in relation to the work to be done. Let us maintain the usages of our forefathers in the Craft, and ascertain in the case of each candidate how any defect from which he may suffer would affect the value of his work. The Speculative Freemason of to-day is no longer occupied in the construction of the magnificent piles of engineering Wisdom, pyramidal Strength, and architectural Beauty that exacted careful scrutiny into the physical capabilities of his ancestors in the Craft. The task of to-day is on a higher plane, and exacts correspondingly higher qualifications, but of a different nature. Let us appraise the physical qualifications according to the standard set up by the OLD CHARGES, and see to it that every candidate whom we admit to the Craft is fitted "to take his share in building up an edifice which shall display to full advantage the social, intellectual, and spiritual faculties with which it has pleased the Great Architect of the Universe to endow him."

Then, indeed, shall the Craft be not despised, as the quaint old Craftsman puts it.



Some weeks ago the Craft was startled by an announcement that the Grand Lodge of Italy had resolved that the Society should no longer be secret. Thereupon a vigorous protest arose, with the result that on the question being submitted to a vote of the Craft in Italy 11,588 supported the proposal, while 72,590 were in favour of maintaining the existing order of things.

The movement originated, it is said, through brethren of standing in the official world and in society in Rome, who find the profession of Masonry inconvenient and embarrassing when the Roman Catholic Church condemns it so fiercely, whereas if the meetings and the ritual were no longer secret this hostility would vanish. It was Clement XII. who first banned the Craft in 1738 on no other ground. People did not mind in those days. Francis I. of Austria became a Freemason just afterwards, though his wife, Maria Theresa, strongly protested.

Amongst the clerical upholders of the Craft there is no one who takes a higher place than the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch for Durham. A contemporary says:—"The 'ancient and loyal' City of Durham boasts of having amongst its residents the Reverend Henry Baker Tristram, LL.D., Canon of its grand old Cathedral and brother of the well-known Dr. Tristram, Chancellor of the Diocese of London. A distinguished ornament of the Low Church party, it has surprised many that he has not ere now graced the Episcopal Bench. A Tory of the old school, he is in his element in the thick of a political campaign, and in his capacity of Deputy Grand Master of Freemasonry for the Province of Durham, he is an enthusiast in the Craft, and thoroughly sinks the clerical element in the 'good-fellowship' of the fourth degree of the Order. He is, moreover, a traveller of European celebrity, and author of several delightful books of travel. Whatever he takes in hand, he puts into it his whole heart and soul."

The second annual festival of the London Rifle Brigade Lodge of Instruction, held recently at the Holborn Viaduct Hotel, was the occasion of some very interesting remarks by R.W. Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., P.G. Warden, who presided on the occasion. His reference to his experiences as a full private in the London Rifle Brigade were extremely amusing, for it appeared that he discharged all the duties of that position with his customary zeal except that he could not brush his own boots. He, however, made up for it by carrying extra water for the rations!

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, who replied to the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement," made his audience acquainted with the reward—a silver match-box, suitably engraved—which he offers to any member of a lodge of instruction who performs a ceremony without a slip. Bro. J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C., was happy in his response for "The Grand Officers," who, he said, amongst their multifarious duties, considered their presence at such gatherings as the one in question not the least interesting of their functions.

The principles of Freemasonry have in few places, we venture to assert, at any rate during the last half century, been put to a severer test than in South Africa during the present war, but that those principles have not failed to be upheld wherever possible has already been

many times placed on record. On the word of no less an authority than Bro. Dr. Conan Doyle, we have been told that it has often transpired that when the captors and the captured in warfare have found that a mutual Masonic bond existed between them, their relations have been more friendly and considerate the one to the other; the wounded man, if a Mason, has been more kindly treated; shedding of blood has ceased, if but for a time, while the mystic signs of Masonry were exchanged. Freemasonry is not a proselytising body, but, strong in its weakness in this respect, it may be said, without fear of exaggeration, to have lifted the principle of the universal brotherhood of man out of the mist of utopian theory or pious dogma into the sunshine of substantial fact and actual reality.



BRO. MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HENRY M. LESLIE RUNDLE.

Bro. Major-General Sir Henry McLeod Leslie Rundle, to give him his full name, who will shortly return to this country from South Africa, has not, during the heavy operations entailed in his command of the Eighth Division of the South African Field Force, allowed his Wardenship of the Grand Lodge of England to be in any degree a *sinicure*. It is related by a member of his personal staff that in the intervals which occurred between the gigantic treks which were necessary during the campaign in the Orange River Colony, the General whenever possible visited the lodge at Harrismith—the Southern Cross, No. 1778—and encouraged by his presence there the cause of Masonry in that necessarily distressed district.

Born in that county which owns Buller for its son, namely Devonshire, at Newton Abbot, General Rundle comes of parents connected with the Naval service, his father being a Naval Captain, and his mother the daughter of a Commander in the Navy. He was educated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and entered the Army in 1876. Four years later he was ordered to the Transvaal, when the—to us—most interesting juncture of his life was reached, for it was in the year 1880, that at the age of twenty-four, he was initiated into English Freemasonry in the Transvaal Lodge, No. 1747, at Pretoria. It was the year after, in 1881, as most of us will well remember, that the first Boer War broke out, and General, then Lieutenant Rundle, had his first experiences of our present antagonists.

Briefly the campaigns in which General Rundle has taken part, other than the one already mentioned, are the Zulu War of '79; Egyptian War, '82; Nile Expedition, '84-5; with the Soudan Frontier Field Force, 1885-7 and '89; with the Dongola Expeditionary Force '96; and the Khartoum Expedition of '98. Our distinguished brother was made Adjutant-General of the Egyptian Army and decorated for his services in Egypt and the Soudan. Indeed, it was in Egypt and the Soudan that General Rundle may be said to have won his spurs, promoted as he was to the rank of Major-General while engaged there. It is a fact, not unworthy of remark, that in the same year of his promotion to the rank of Major-General, he should have filled the chair of Senior Warden in the Grecia Lodge, No. 1105, and in the following year that of Worshipful Master in the Bulwer Lodge of Cairo, No. 1068.

The rank of Past Grand Warden of England, to which we have already referred, was conferred on the distinguished subject of this brief sketch on the occasion of his taking up the command, which has just terminated, of the Eighth Division. It was a Masonic honour which he deserved, no less on account of his attainments in the Craft, than by reason of the high and honourable position he occupies in the British Army.

At the risk of being thought platitudinous we would conclude by saying that so long as men highly placed in life justify so well the honours conferred on them as R.W. Bro. Major-General Leslie Rundle has done, the voice of democracy will continue to be rightly attuned to the present condition of society.

We have received the following communication from the writer of the note in our issue of July last in reference to the Masonic Boer prisoners at St. Helena, which we are very pleased to insert. It is dated from Deadwood Camp, St. Helena:—“A paragraph in my communication which appears in your July issue has been causing some feeling of annoyance to the family and friends of Mr. J. J. Raaff. The writer inadvertently, and without the slightest intention of suggesting anything unworthy in the actions of Mr. Raaff, said that he was a ‘refugee’ at Port Elizabeth. The facts are that Mr. Raaff was in Port Elizabeth on parole, sent there after the occupation of Johannesburg by Lord Roberts, and has since been transported to Bermuda as a prisoner of war. The writer will feel obliged by you publishing this correction, as the article has been, and still is, a matter of interest to the Fraternity here as also to others, such as Mr. Raaff’s sons. The term had evidently, then, not acquired the same significance that it now possesses.”

A Natal correspondent calls attention to a subject which he considers is having a very detrimental effect on the Order, especially in the Colonies. There are a number of men who were doubtless at one time Masons in good standing in the Old Country, but who have long ceased to be subscribing members, who manage to ingratiate themselves into local lodges without even producing either their Grand Lodge certificate, their clearance certificate, or any credentials whatever. In some cases a clearance certificate from a lodge, which they may have left many years ago, is tendered, but its value is discounted by the fact that in more than one instance they have been found to have been excluded from lodges they had subsequently joined. This, our correspondent rightly considers, is calculated to do much harm, and especially so to those who think that the life of a Mason should be on the lines of his obligation.

Much mischief may be worked by such men, who, presuming on their self-constituted re-habitation, offer themselves as joining members in other lodges, and in some cases go so far as to append their names to petitions for new lodges and chapters, but the responsibility for this

state of things rests wholly with the lodge which permits the requirements of the Constitutions to be set aside and ignored. It is somewhat difficult for the authorities at Grand Lodge to exercise at such a distance that check and control which the home lodges are subject to, although eventually the culprits may be detected. It is therefore the more incumbent on every individual member of a lodge to see that the brethren are not led away by specious statements, but that in every case the documents required by the rules of the Order are forthcoming when a visiting or joining brother is introduced at their meetings.

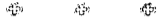
Bro. James Willing, whose installation as the first Master of the lodge bearing his name took place appropriately on the thirtieth anniversary of his initiation into Masonry, has an excellent record of strenuous Masonic work. Initiated in the Domatic Lodge, No. 177, on the 11th of March, 1872, he has continuously from that time devoted both time and means to the furtherance of the principles of the Order. There is scarcely a movement in connection with Freemasonry in the Metropolis during the last quarter of a century in which Bro. Willing has not taken an active part, not only in all the usual routine work of the numerous lodges of which he is a member, but in the management of the Charitable Institutions, as well as in the more prosaic but useful work of boards and committees. His first office was that of Secretary of his mother lodge, the Domatic, in which lodge he was W.M. in 1877. In 1874 he took part in founding the Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507, of which he was the first Master. He was also a founder and the first Master of the Royal Savoy Lodge in 1878; and the Cricklewood Lodge, No. 2361, in 1890, in which lodge he filled the chair for two successive years. The Strand Lodge, No. 1987, also mainly owed its existence to him, and he was elected W.M. in 1883 and the following year. In 1892 the St. Martin’s Lodge was established, with Bro. Willing as the first Junior Warden, his election to the chair taking place in 1895.



BRO. JAMES WILLING. — (Photo Elite Portrait Co.)

In Royal Arch Masonry and in the Mark Degree Bro. Willing has taken part in founding many chapters and lodges, as well as occupying the chairs respectively of First Principal and Worshipful Master. He has been a member of the Board of General Purposes for several years, as well as of the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and finds himself much at home as the genial President of the “Old Masonians.”

Bro. Willing, as well as other members of his family, takes the greatest interest in the Masonic Charities. He is a Vice-Patron of all three Institutions, and has served numerous Stewardships for each. We ought not to omit to mention that he served as a special Steward at the installation of the M.W. Grand Master in 1875, and at the great meetings at the Royal Albert Hall on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee.



The Anchor and Hope Lodge, No. 37, Bolton, is the oldest in Lancashire, and, in fact, the oldest in the provinces; it works under what is called a "deputation." This was practically a power of attorney to some local brother of eminence authorising him to constitute the lodge. There are only six known to exist in this country at present, that is as working documents. But for Athol lodges having got on to the lists and having appropriated the higher numbers, the Bolton number should be seventeen. A very well written history of the lodge was published in 1896 by Bros. Newton and Brockbank. From this it appears that from the date of constitution until now the lodge has met continuously in the same town, and possesses almost a complete set of records. The sesqui-centennial festival was held in 1882, and was one of the most successful Masonic functions ever held in Lancashire. Needless to say, a lodge with such traditions strives to live up to its reputation. *Noblesse oblige* and the work and everything in the lodge are of the highest standard.



The first ladies' festival in connection with the Royal Warrant Holders' Lodge, No. 2789, was held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, on Wednesday, the 12th March, under the presidency of Bro. T. B. Tipton, P.M. 2550, the Worshipful Master. A large number of brethren, with their lady friends, assembled, and were presented to the Worshipful Master and Mrs. Tipton by Bro. Tatton Sykes, P.M., Sec., acting as D. of C. The banquet was admirably served in the Great Hall, and the speeches were commendably few and short. The toast of "The Ladies and Visitors" was responded to by W. Carrington Smith, Esq., J.P., President of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association, who, in an eloquent and humorous speech, thanked the Worshipful Master and members of the lodge for their hospitality and entertainment. A very perfect and varied programme of music was rendered under the direction of Ashton's Royal Agency. We believe, from the success which attended this festival and the appreciation expressed by the ladies, that we shall be quite safe in prophesying that this will become an annual institution in this important lodge.

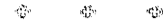


The Bournemouth Lodge of Instruction is to be congratulated not only on the zeal with which it promulgates the genuine tenets of the Order, but on adapting its organisation to the present day requirements of the brethren, by forming a Masonic Library and Museum in connection with it. In addition to rehearsing the ceremony of the various Degrees, the sections are worked, and original and selected papers are read by the members at the monthly meeting. The W.M. and officers are elected quarterly, and the present officers are: Preceptor, Bro. J. J. Brazier, P.P.S.G.D.; Secretary, Bro. W. Hawkinson; Librarian, Bro. E. R. Whitfield, M.A. Bro. Chas. H. Goater has designed and presented to the lodge a book plate.



At a meeting of Lodge Kelso, No. 58 (Scottish Constitution), to celebrate its 200th Anniversary, held on the 27th February, the Rev. W. J. Clark, P.G. Chaplain, made some interesting observations on the origin and history of this ancient lodge. He said the celebration of their second Centenary Anniversary was a function of which they might reasonably be proud. They could look back on a long line of Masters, about seventy in all, through a period of 200 years. Thus, in celebrating that unique event, not only did they say in the words of the old song, "Antiquity's pride we

have on our side," but they recorded the fact with grateful joy that Freemasonry had existed so long and so honourably in that town.

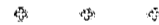


Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, G.C.B., D.C.L., is not only the grand old man of the Navy, but he is a Masonic veteran of the forties, having been initiated so long ago as 1849, just fifty-two years ago. His visit recently to Singapore was made the occasion of a Masonic celebra-

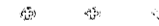


BRO. SIR HENRY KEPPEL, G.C.B.—(Photo Debenham, Coates).

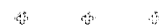
tion in his honour, and the brethren of Lodge Zetland in the East, in which lodge he was initiated, assembled to the number of over 150 to extend fraternal greetings to him. The minutes of the meeting at which Sir Henry Keppel was initiated were read, and the venerable Admiral was presented with an address, expressive of their pleasure which his visit to his mother lodge had given to the members, and congratulating him upon the long and useful life which it had pleased the Great Architect of the Universe to grant him, as well as the many honourable services he had been enabled to render to his country.



The address, which was signed by the principal officers of the lodge, was enclosed in a carved sandalwood box, bearing a plate with a suitable inscription. The Admiral received the address with evident gratification, and he afterwards thanked the lodge for their great and unexpected kindness, expressing his warm wishes for the prosperity of the lodge in future years.



In a letter from Cardinal Langeneux, Archbishop of Reims, to his subordinates, he complains that to be a Catholic to-day in France is enough to break a man's career, while the knock of Freemasonry is an open sesame to all doors. He calls the law of associations a Socialist victory, because the ordering of the liquidation of religious property is a decisive step toward the revision of fortunes. The power of Freemasonry, says the Cardinal, is sapping the country in its most popular incarnation—the army.



We pay little attention to the vapourings of such bigoted clerics as the Archbishop of Reims, but it would be an evil day for Freemasonry in England if even such a hostile community as the Catholic Church could suggest an alliance of the Craft in this country with any political or sectarian organisation. Long may we preserve our old traditions and landmarks!

Consecration of the Westminster City Council Lodge, No. 2882.

THE consecration of the above lodge took place at the Café Monico, on Monday, 3rd March, the ceremony being most impressively performed by V.W. Bro. E. Letchworth, Grand Secretary, assisted by the following Grand Officers:—Bros. H. Arthur Hunt, P.G. Supt. of Works, as S.W.; W. J. Crump, P.A.G.D.C. (Mayor of Islington), as J. W.; Frank Richardson, P.D.G. Reg., as D.C.; the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, P.G. Chaplain, as Chaplain; and J. H. Benn, P.M. (Mayor of Greenwich), as I.G. There was a very large and distinguished attendance, not only of Grand Officers, but also of well known members in municipal life of London, including, besides the two above mentioned Mayors, W. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Clifford Probyn, P.G.T., Mayor of Westminster, the Mayor of St. Pancras, and the Mayor of Hackney, &c.

At the banquet which followed, the Acting I.P.M., W. Bro. Col. Probyn, owing to the indisposition of R.W. Bro. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., who was forced to retire immediately upon the conclusion of the ceremony, acted as W.M., and in proposing the toast of "The Grand Officers," coupled with it the name of W. Bro. Lord Dungarvan, P.G.M. of Somerset, whose work, he said, both in Masonic and patriotic interests, was well known. Lord Dungarven had only lately returned from South Africa, where he was second in command of the South African Rough Riders.

Bro. Lord Dungarvan, in reply, paid a tribute to Bro. Colonel Probyn as a public man in the Metropolis, and expressed his conviction that he could be relied upon as a loyal supporter of the City of Westminster.

In proposing the toast of "The W.M.," the Acting W.M. said how much he, and he was sure all the brethren present, regretted his (the W.M.'s) absence at the banquet through a bad attack of laryngitis, and requested the Secretary to send a telegram trusting he would be soon restored to good health,

and congratulating him on his great pluck in attending at the ceremony under such adverse circumstances.

W. Bro. E. Letchworth, in replying to the toast of "The Consecrating Officers," deplored the absence of Bro. the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, owing to a prior engagement, and proposed the toast of "The Acting W.M.," who, he said, at a moment's notice had presided at the banquet, but he was always ready to discharge any duty he might be called upon to perform.

The Acting W.M., in responding, thought, he stated, the Grand Secretary had been a bit too laudatory in his remarks, but he had done his bit of time and passed through the Masonic mill, and he could honestly say he had come out not a bit the worse.

Bro. Louis Thomas, P.G.D. of C., and Bro. J. Easterbrook, whose names were coupled with the toast of "The Visitors," replied on their behalf.

The Acting W.M., in rising to propose the toast of "The Officers," said it had just been suggested to him to propose the toast of "The Municipal Mayors present," of whom there were four besides himself; and although not on the programme he had great pleasure in doing so, and wished them everything kind and good in this important year of office.

The Mayors of St. Pancras and Hackney responded, and the former remarked that it was the first time in his experience that such a toast had been given at a Masonic gathering. He appreciated it none the less, however. He would endeavour to emulate the example of the City of Westminster in having a local lodge of their own, and he was sure other Mayors who are Masons would follow suit.

The Acting W.M. then gave the toast of "The Officers," and said great credit was due, and the lodge was deeply indebted, to the Secretary, Bro. Bingham, for the excellent way in which he had performed his arduous task in connection with the formation of the lodge.

Bros. Bingham, Berkeley, and Watson also responded.

Consecration of the Willing Lodge, No. 2893.

NO. 2893 was added to the roll of lodges on Tuesday, the 11th of March. It was consecrated at the Tivoli Restaurant, Strand, by V.W. Bro. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Secretary, in his usual impressive manner, assisted by Bros. George Everett, P.G. Treasurer, as S.W.; James Stephens, P.D.G.D.C., as J.W.; the Rev. Herbert W. Turner, M.A., P.G.C., as Chaplain; Frank Richardson, P.D.G. Registrar, Acting G.D.C., as D.C.; and Thomas A. Bullock, P.G.S.B., as I.G.

V.W. Bro. the Rev. Herbert W. Turner, P.G. Chaplain, in the course of an eloquent and instructive oration, said that perhaps as the world grew older there was less need for that portion of the ceremony, but though times had changed, there was no change in the tenets of Freemasonry. There was still the ever-pervading foundation of the Craft, the solemnity of its work, and the unshakeable reverence for a true and beautiful religious life, exemplified by them in the constant use of the Sacred Word. This Word reminded them of the duties of the Craft in the realms of love and charity. These ought to be the distinguishing virtues of every member of this lodge and of every Freemason. In the matter of charity there appeared to him to be three classes, those who were willing to give and not able, those who were able and not willing, and those who were both willing and able, and he trusted all present would be found amongst the last, the grandest class.

Amongst the thirty-seven founders it will be observed there were many Grand Officers. W. Bro. James Willing, jun., is the first W.M., after whose father the lodge is named. Like his father, who has been a generous benefactor to the new lodge, Bro. Willing, jun., is a well-known and popular Freemason, and a generous friend of Masonic Charities. Having been installed in the chair he appointed his officers

as follows:—Bros. J. J. Chapman, Acting I.P.M.; T. V. Bowater, C.C., S.W.; W. H. Wilson, J.W.; the Rev. R. W. J. Smart, Chaplain; James Speller, Treasurer; R. H. McLeod, Secretary; A. A. Gilmer, S.D.; A. H. Maddocks, J.D.; H. Shirreff, I.G.; James Stephens, D.C.; C. J. Taylor, Organist; and J. A. Hare, J. O. Schuler and J. R. Hill, Stewards.

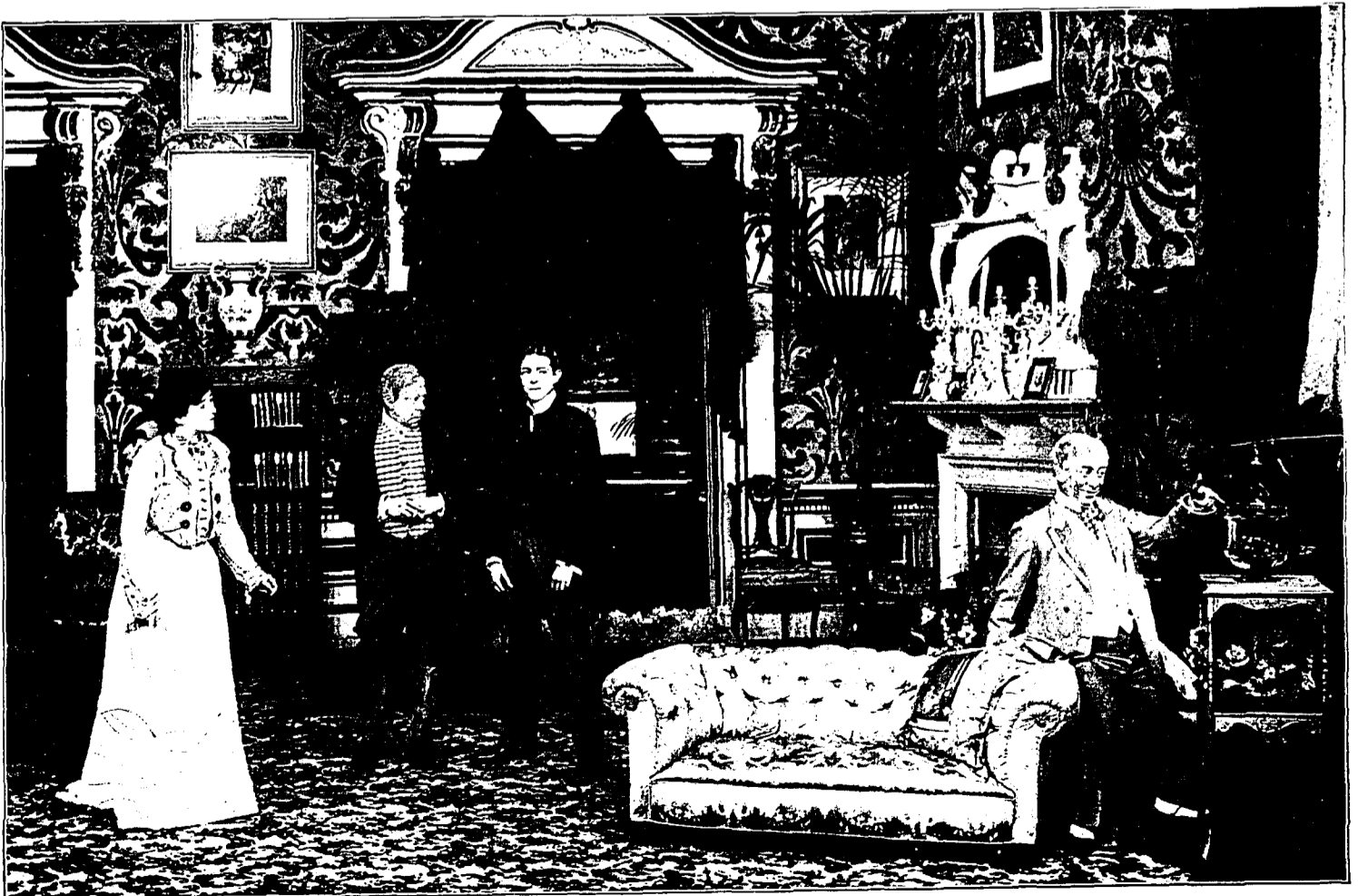
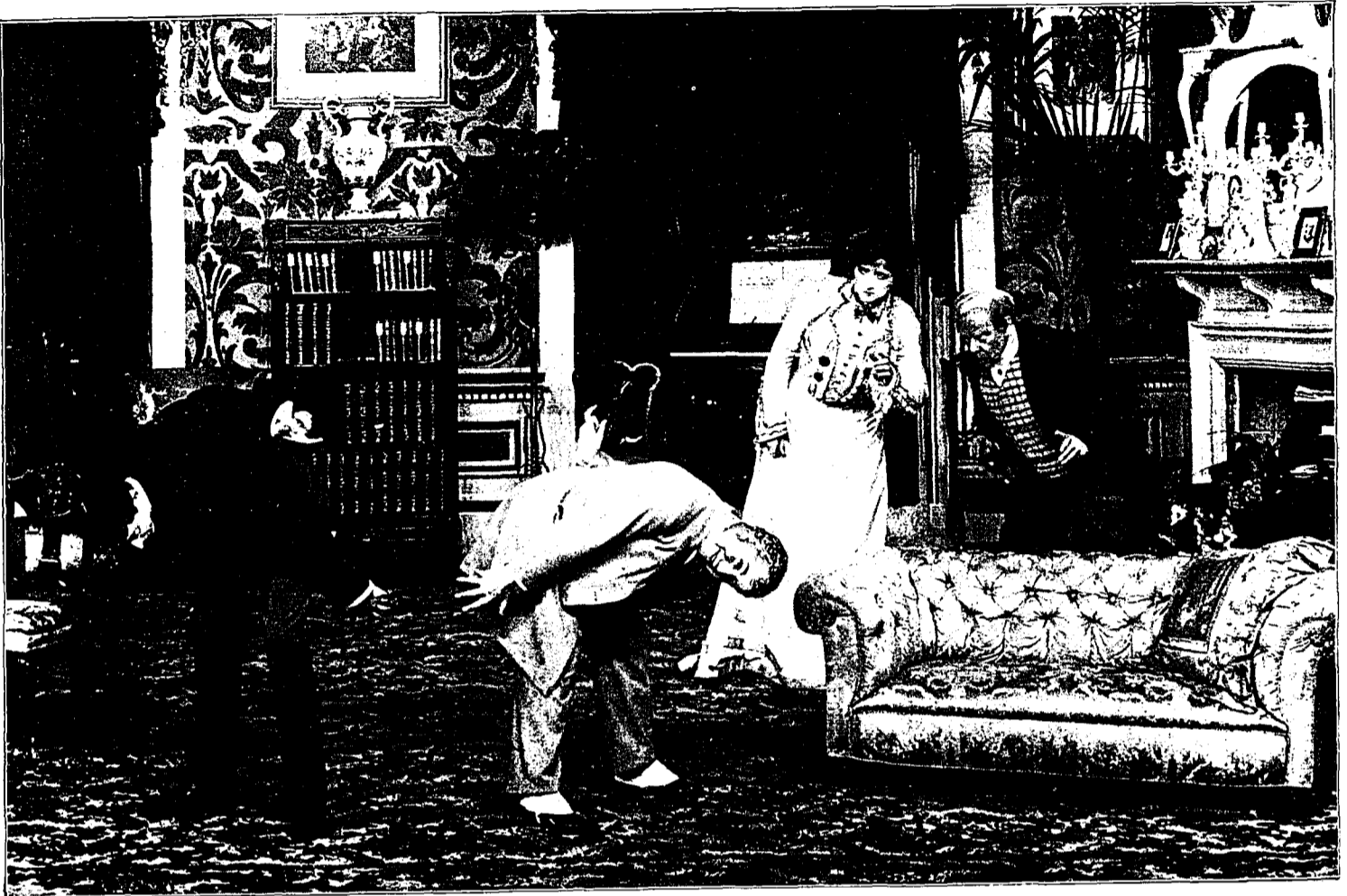
A long list of propositions for initiation and joining was read by the Secretary, after which the lodge tendered their hearty thanks to the Consecrating Officers, whom they also elected honorary members.

A banquet followed, and in proposing the toast of "The Consecrating Master," the W.M., in happy terms, referred to the approaching wedding of the Grand Secretary, and on behalf of the lodge presented him with a beautiful solid silver breakfast warmer.

The Grand Secretary made a feeling response, and concluded by proposing "The Health of the W.M.," the well-known, generous, and kindhearted Freemason. In appropriate terms he referred to the hearty and ever ready support of the W.M. to all the Masonic Charities, and prophesied for him a most prosperous and happy year of office.

The W.M., in the course of his reply, desired to say that his father—on whose eighty-fourth birthday the warrant of that lodge was signed—had taken a great interest in the foundation of the lodge, and had manifested that interest in a practical way, and he regretted that his advanced years alone prevented him from being with them then. The W.M. concluded an able speech by hoping that he, the officers, and brethren would find them firmer friends at the close of his year of office, if that were possible, than they were that day.

"Are you a Mason?"



SCENES IN THE POPULAR COMEDY NOW BEING PLAYED AT THE SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

Installation Meeting of the Yorick Lodge, No. 2771.

THE third installation meeting of this lodge took place on Tuesday, 18th March, in the Trocadero Restaurant, in the presence of a very large number of brethren and visitors, W. Bro. W. S. Penley, in a most impressive manner, installing his successor, W. Bro. Alexander Watson, P.P.G. Std. Br. Bucks., the well-known reciter and professor of elocution. The three addresses were rendered by the Installing Master in a manner which held the close attention of every brother present. Two interesting incidents are connected with this notable ceremony. Bro. Penley for some years had ceased to take an active interest in Freemasonry, but was induced to renew it, and became a founder and



BRO. ALEXANDER WATSON, W.M.—(Photo Press Studio).

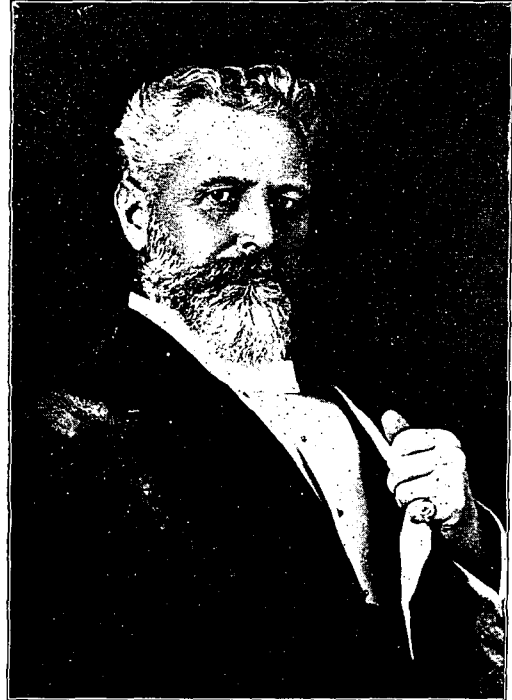
Senior Warden of the lodge. Owing to the illness of the first Master, W. Bro. Watson—at a few hours' notice—installed Bro. Penley as second W.M., the compliment being appropriately returned that afternoon.



BRO. W. S. PENLEY, I.P.M.—(Photo T. C. Turner & Co., Ltd.).

The W.M., in well-chosen words, appointed and invested his officers, making special reference to his appointment of Bro. Alderman F. Trehawke Davies as S.W., to whom, he said,

they owed so much at the founding of the lodge, and without whose able and ever courteous assistance as first Secretary, they would not have attained their present enviable position. The other officers were appointed and invested as follows:—Bros. E. Lockwood, J.W.; the Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair,



BRO. ALDERMAN F. TREHAWKE DAVIES, S.W.—(Photo Elliot & Fry).

D.D., P.G.C., Chaplain; Clarence Soumes, Treasurer; Stanley Pringle, Secretary; J. Bannister Howard, S.D.; George Robins, J.D.; E. R. Bartley Dennis, D.C.; James Chapman, I.G.; J. T. Murray, Organist; Duncan Tovey, F. T. Addyman, and A. J. Winter, Stewards.



BRO. E. LOCKWOOD, J.W.—(Photo Turner & Drinkwater).

The business of the lodge being concluded, the brethren dined in the handsome Empire Hall of the Restaurant. The company included W. Bros. Archdeacon Sinclair, P.G. Chaplain; E. Roehrich, D.G.D.C.; J. D. Langton, P. Dep. G.D.C.; J. E. Bowen, P.A.G.D.C.; T. A. Bullock, P.G.S.B.; James Terry, P.G.S.B.; the Rev. C. E. Roberts, P.P.G. Chaplain Bucks.; Luigi Lablache, Carl Hentschel, Bedford McNeill, Robert Manuel, and Lionel Rignold.

The musical programme was of a very high class, and was sustained by Mesdames Jessie Hotine and Blanche Gaston Murray, Bros. Edgar Barnes, Broughton Black, Mel. B. Spurr, Sidney Gandy, Duncan Tovey and Harrison Hill.

The W.M., in felicitous terms, proposed the usual toasts. For that of "The Officers of Grand Lodge," V.W. Bro. the Ven. Archdeacon of London responded. He said his conception of Freemasonry was that of perfect liberty and perfect fraternity, and he knew of no other home where these could be found in such perfect harmony.

W. Bro. Terry, in responding, thanked the Installing Master on behalf of all the Charities for his handsome contribution to their funds announced in the lodge that evening. He also thanked the brethren for following the excellent example in adding a like amount.

The toast of "The W.M." was proposed by Bro. Penley in a speech of considerable feeling and affection, expressing the pleasure it gave him to be present and to instal his friend in the chair he had just vacated. He humorously referred to his own installation, when he found it difficult to adequately fill the Master's chair, and was glad of the support and countenance of stalwart brethren on either side of him.

The W.M., in the course of an able response, said he did not feel a stranger in that chair, for during the past two years he had been frequently called upon to occupy it, but his position that night was somewhat different and he would endeavour to uphold the dignity of the chair, sustain the good fellowship of the brethren, and maintain the excellent work in the lodge. By a coincidence it was fifteen years ago that day since he was initiated into Freemasonry by an old and valued friend, whose hand in life he could no longer grip, who taught him lessons which he would never forget. He had never regretted the step he took at that time, and the lessons of that day could be applied then—use influence for

good, be a good example to each other, and ever act up to the precepts of the Craft.

In proposing the toast of "The Installing Master," the W.M. referred to the distinguished place that Bro. Penley occupied in Freemasonry, and the able manner in which he had discharged his duties during the preceding year, and it was no surprise to them that night to listen to his rendering of the ceremony, at once instinct with eloquence, feeling and beauty. He was a liberal benefactor to the Charities, and the Craft was to be congratulated on his return to active Freemasonry. In the name of the lodge he had great pleasure in pinning on his breast a Past Master's jewel as a slight token of their regard and affection.

Bro. Penley, in the course of an interesting reply, deprecated the kind things said of him. It had been his earnest endeavour during the past year to uphold the dignity of the chair. He had tried to do justice to the beautiful language he spoke, and tried to impress the brethren with its charm, cordiality, and dignity.

It is interesting to note here that Bro. Penley is Master designate of the Pen and Brush Lodge, just granted a warrant.

The W.M. proposed the toast of "The Officers" in very handsome terms, and congratulated himself on the efficient manner in which he would be supported.

The S.W., Bro. F. Trehawke Davies, the former able and energetic Secretary, thanked the W.M. on behalf of the officers, and promised that he would put the same energy into the work of that chair that he had done in the office just-vacated. He mentioned as another of the coincidences, that on the installation day twelve months hence, when he hoped to take a step higher, that he would celebrate his silver wedding.

Other toasts followed.

"In Praise of Friendship."

IT does not appear to be generally known that Freemasonry has the honour of claiming as one of its members the immortal and incomparable composer, Mozart, and our readers, we feel sure, will thank us for bringing under their notice a work by the great master, which was performed by a circle of friends under his own direction two days before his last illness. It is a Cantata upon the dedication of a Freemason's lodge in Vienna. It has now been arranged for *English-speaking Freemasons* by Bro. George C. Dusart, of the South Saxon Lodge, No. 311, and is published by Davis and Co., Arundel Street, Strand. Bro. Herbert Hodge has favoured us with the following notice of the work:—

This is a short and easy Masonic cantata for male voice chorus with tenor and bass solos and duets. The work commences with a martial chorus in three parts (two tenors and bass), in the key of C, bold and stirring in character, in the form of a march, and introducing a short trio. The music intended for the ceremony of initiation consists of a recitative for tenor, and an effective though simple duet for two tenors. This movement is followed by another recitative and aria for tenor, more extended in length, referring to the Fellow Craft Degree. The music for the Third Degree begins with a tenor and bass recitative, and after a rhythmical duet in triple time, "Hail the perfect Master Mason," in the key of F, in true Mozartian style, the cantata concludes by the first chorus being repeated.

This work, though so uncomplicated in construction, diatonic in style, and easy of performance, is the last finished composition of the famous Mozart, who was himself an earnest Mason, and attended the meetings of his lodge to within three weeks of his death.

For those who might desire orchestral accompaniment, instead of piano alone, the cantata is scored for the following instruments, viz., two violins, viola, violoncello, double bass, flute, two oboes, and two horns, and has the advantage of not requiring male altos, the highest part being written within the ordinary compass of the tenor voice.

"The Praise of Friendship" may be strongly recommended for ordinary lodge meetings, at which it would be heartily welcomed by reason of its tuneful attractiveness as well as for its moderate length; each number being complete in itself, a selection of various movements, if considered desirable, might be made without difficulty.

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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).

THE following extract from the minutes of the Lodge of Unions, No. 256, of the 21st of March, 1836, may not be without interest:—

“A letter with enclosures was read from Bro. S. B. Wilson, Secretary to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, meeting under the sanction of this Lodge, asking advice how to proceed on the subject matter therein contained, when Bro. Whitmore proposed that the same be referred to the Board of General Purposes for their advice on the subject—seconded by Bro. Clark, and carried unanimously.

“The W. Master stated that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, formerly held at the *Blue Posts*, Charlotte Street, is now held at the *Fitzroy Hotel*, Charlotte Street, on every Friday night, and that they are about to collect a sum of money for the purchase of Furniture, &c. Bro. Watkins proposed that £1 1s. be given from the Lodge towards such fund. Seconded by Bro. Whitmore, and carried unanimously.”*

The minutes of the Board of General Purposes of the 22nd March, 1836, furnish an explanation of the first paragraph quoted.

“A letter was read from Bro. William Farnfield, Secretary of the Lodge of Unions, No. 318, on the subject of certain proceedings of a Lodge of Instruction under sanction of that Lodge, called the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, relative to the conduct of Bro. George Claret, in sending printed papers, and a proposition for the expulsion of Bro. Claret from such Lodge of Instruction, and requesting the advice and opinion of this Board on the subject.

“It was resolved that the Lodge of Unions be informed that it is the opinion of this Board that if the Lodge conceives that Bro. George Claret has been guilty of any Masonic offence, a complaint should be preferred against him before the Board of General Purposes.”†

Stephen Barton Wilson, an architect of considerable celebrity, who was initiated in the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, on the 9th of June, 1830, joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in 1832, and for a short time as already shown, he discharged the duties of Secretary. Whether he directly succeeded Gilkes in the post of leader of that lodge is, as before stated, open to doubt, but there can be no question as to his having taken a prominent part in its affairs at an early period of his membership, for in 1836 he presided at the anniversary meeting, which we learn “was of a festive character; neither lecture nor ceremony were worked. Bro. S. B. Wilson was elected Treasurer, and Bro. Savage, Secretary.”‡

At the anniversary Festival in 1838, a valuable jewel, “unique in design and embracing some architectural references in allusion to his own profession,” was presented to him. This is the first occasion on which work is mentioned in the reports of the Festival. “A few sections of the first lecture were worked.”

Bro. Wilson’s fame as a consecrating and installing officer was not confined to the metropolis, many of the now flourishing lodges in the home counties having been consecrated by him.

In 1857, he was appointed Junior Grand Deacon, and at the Annual Festival of the lodge held at the Freemasons’ Tavern on the 29th of January, 1858, a valuable testimonial

* Annals of the Lodge of Unions, No. 256, by R. R. Davis, P.M.

† George Claret was a pedlar of rituals, described by the Grand Secretary as incorrect; he died in obscure poverty, I believe, about 1850.—H. S.

‡ *Freemasons’ Quarterly Review*, 1836.

was presented to him, consisting of a gold watch and chain, a complete suite of Grand Lodge clothing, with the jewel of his office, and a tea and coffee service of silver, which had been subscribed for chiefly by the members of the lodge.

This was doubtless the most numerously attended meeting of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement that had yet been held, nearly 300 sitting down to supper, under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. William F. Beadon, Past Junior Grand Warden, who had previously officiated as Master during the working of the sections of the first lecture in the lodge.

The W. Bro. John Havers, Past Grand Deacon (since appointed Past Grand Warden), prefaced the presentation by a lengthy but eloquent address, which elicited frequent applause from those who were privileged to listen to it. Bro. Havers, I may say, was a born orator, to whom it was a pleasure to listen, either in Grand Lodge or when pleading the cause of Charity at one of the festivals at which he sometimes presided.

His address on this occasion is replete with genuine Masonic sentiment and apt expression, which is doubtless the reason for its being printed verbatim in the *Freemasons’ Magazine*—a very rare proceeding in those days. As the journal mentioned is practically inaccessible to the general body of the Craft, and as, in my humble opinion, the speech is too good to be allowed to sink into oblivion, the editor of “THE MASONIC ILLUSTRATED” has kindly consented to its being here reproduced almost in its entirety.

“Bro. Havers then took the gavel, and said: ‘Right Worshipful Master and Brethren—When the Master in the chair entrusts his gavel to another, there usually follows one toast which is known to you all. On this occasion, however, we depart from that practice. I have been desired—and I assure you, brethren, I consider it a great honour to be so requested—to propose to you the health of one dear to all who are members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and equally dear to the Craft in general. My good friend on the left (Bro. Cooper) has, with justifiable pride, claimed him for Kent. I claim him not for Kent, I claim him not for the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, but for all Masonry. The labours of the working brethren of the lodge we have this evening all witnessed. Will you bear with me while I endeavour to trace the result of the exertions of a good and active Mason. You have all seen the amount of memory and brain-work which is required for working the several sections of each lecture. Well, then, just as we teach our children important principles of religion and morality in certain formulæ of words, the true meaning of which they do not at the time comprehend, but which, impressed upon the mind, become the nucleus or abiding place of future thoughts—so must young Masons be content to commit to memory certain forms of words, the full import of which they are hereafter to acquire. I do not insist that the ritual of Masonry should be regarded as the principle and essence of Masonry itself. A prayer-book is not a religion. But the ritual of Freemasonry contains the expression of the truth of those doctrines by which we profess to be guided, and those rules of life which we profess to practice. Masonry boasts of no books, no ponderous tomes, or carefully-writ parchments, containing the record of its ceremonies. Such as they are, they have been handed down to us by oral tradition, varying in their phraseology to suit the altered character of the language, but still possessing that quaint simplicity of diction which both attests their age and gives a peculiar charm to their delivery.’”

"These traditions, transmitted to us through many generations and through many mouths, would have varied much more, were it not that there have arisen at all times and seasons, and in regular succession, true and trusty men, who, by no election, by no canvas, but by the universal consent of their brethren, have been recognized as leaders and teachers. Among those teachers none have been found more true or more trusty than he in whose honour we are this evening assembled. It has been remarked that at the present day we possess but the traditionary remnant of what Masonry was in former times. In earlier days, in addition to its moral power, it also possessed great political and religious power. Here we have to deal with its moral power only, and the wonder is not that so much of it has been lost, but that so much remains.

"Instituted by the skilled artificers of old, in times of the most remote antiquity, when kings and princes presided over us and joined in the work, Masonry passed through a great and glorious career of peace and prosperity; since then, however, it has had to pass through many perils and contend with many difficulties. Attacked by base imitators, who, under the assumed name of Masons, carried out the wildest schemes of religious and political intrigue; wounded by the baser treachery of some of its own children, who endeavoured, for motives of unworthy gain, to expose its mysteries to the vulgar eye; menaced by tyranny, persecuted by bigotry, its lodges scattered but not dismayed, itself proscribed but not dishonoured, it still maintained its object; relying on its truth, it wins its way, folding in its embrace men of all climes and all tongues, and possessing within itself a tie nowhere to be found out of the pale of Masonry. It is not in the busy hum of cities, or by our own domestic firesides, that this tie is felt in its full strength. All the histories we have read go to show that in far distant lands and on mid-ocean it is—in times of danger, distress, and misery—that Masonry possesses a chord of sympathy which finds a responsive echo in the heart of every brother.

"In this country, accepting from our ancestors the ancient Degrees, we know no change in the form of Masonry. And here I would observe that the whole history of the Order shows that it has been in times of discord that the greatest changes and innovations have occurred, and that innovation has been most frequent under Masonic jurisdictions of the most recent origin. Here we have been content to abide by the ancient charges and landmarks, and therefore it is that we find the Grand Lodge of this country the arbiter and judge in all cases of doubt and difficulty. To whom is the glory of that high position to be ascribed?

"It is not alone to the patronage and the labours of the great and mighty. It is to the patient teaching of zealous and good Masons who have made it the work of their lives, and who, scattered throughout the country, have, in such lodges as the present, spread a knowledge of the true principles of the Craft among the brethren generally. They, I say, have been the means of raising Masonry in England to its present high position. As chiefest among the lodges of the world is the Grand Lodge of England, so, chiefest among the lodges of instruction, which have contributed to place her there, has been the labour of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement; and need I say that among the labourers of that lodge stands out in boldest relief the worthy brother whom we are delighted to honour this evening.

"As the master builder selects with patient care the stones which are to form the intended structure, animating, instructing, and guiding the workmen employed under him, so with equal diligence and zeal does our Master builder arrange, adapt, and preserve our ancient fabric, animating, guiding, and instructing the brethren; he, in fact, carries out in speculative Masonry all those duties of the master builder of old, and possesses, in an eminent degree, those qualifications we require in a Master. Of him I may truly say that he is "of good report, true, and trusty, and held in high estimation amongst the brethren and fellows." Thus have I endeavoured to trace

the advantage which may arise to the whole of the society from the labours of even a single individual.

"Bro. Wilson—in the name of this assembly of eminent and influential Masons—I beg your acceptance of these gifts, possessing in themselves a certain degree of intrinsic value, but still more valuable and honourable as carrying with them the expression of the kind will entertained towards you by your Masonic brethren. Gifts, I am well aware, may be in themselves but of small value, and yet be most valuable to the receiver, as showing the direction of the current of good will and approbation. To you the brethren of this lodge are greatly indebted—you they recognize as their leader and master. Educated, sir, as you have been in that profession to which Masonry is most allied, you have the skill to compare what is speculative to what is operative, and you have the ability to explain that comparison to your brethren.



JOHN HAVERS, PAST GRAND WARDEN,
Chairman of the Festival, November 26th, 1858.

"Following in the footsteps of your illustrious predecessor, you have voluntarily and disinterestedly laboured for the good of this lodge; you have skilfully executed the work; and you have, with no ordinary talent, maintained the great trust reposed in you; you have increased its value, and you have extended its usefulness. Hence our present meeting. To say that this is the only particular in which you have deserved well of your brethren, would be to do you scanty justice. You have ever practised those sublime lessons which you have taught here. As teacher in this important lodge, you have naturally acquired a great influence in the Craft. That influence you have used well, not to your own advantage, but to the advantage of the brethren. You have curbed the impetuosity of the young and inexperienced; you have been the adviser of those of more mature years; you ever studied—in support of order and of regularity—to maintain the authority both of the Master in the chair and of the Grand Master upon the throne.

"Rigid as a disciplinarian—and no man has succeeded in a great object who has not strictly enforced subordination—trusted and acknowledged as an authority, you found yourself the honoured member of many lodges, and the leader and teacher of this, the most important lodge of instruction in the world. By your labours here you have consecrated your name in our memory, and to future ages, as a benefactor to the Craft. Well and worthily have you been honoured by the Grand Master. Never was honour more worthily bestowed, and never was the bestowal of it hailed with greater satisfaction by the Craft.

"Brother Wilson, I have, in the observations I have addressed to the lodge and to you, refrained from using terms of fulsome praise or any expression which might be considered over-laudatory, feeling that I best consult the wishes of the brethren who have placed me here; and that anything more than the plain and honest truth would, so far from being grateful to your feelings, be annoying to one of your earnest, simple, and honourable disposition. Permit me, in the name of this meeting, to beg you to accept these gifts, and with them, to assure you that you possess that far greater reward, that which all good men covet—the respect, the approbation, and the affection of your brethren."

Although it is not quite clear that Stephen Barton Wilson directly followed Gilkes in the leadership, I am of opinion that as the older members dropped out he came to the front, and that within a few years of Gilkes's death he was the acknowledged leader, or President, of the lodge. There can be no doubt that he took an active interest in the affairs of the lodge from the period of his joining it, for in 1834 his name is mentioned amongst those who attended for the purpose of instructing their younger brethren; and, at the Annual Festival in 1837, a motion was "unanimously carried that a subscription should be opened for the purpose of presenting Bro. S. B. Wilson with a Masonic jewel, to mark the high sense entertained by the brethren for the great and valuable services rendered by him to the lodge."

Replying to a correspondent, the Editor of the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, 1838, says: "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement (now held at Evans' Hotel, Covent Garden) may be considered as a standard in working." Formerly, very few, if any, of the lodges of instruction worked the ceremony of installation of Master; and I am inclined to think that credit is due to Bro. Wilson for having introduced that ceremony as a portion of the regular programme in his favourite lodge, and also for having inaugurated the practice of doing some real Masonic work at the Annual Festivals. In the report of the Festival for 1841, the writer says: "We were much pleased to observe that one of the most important ceremonials of the Order, that of the installation of Master, was fixed to be practised on the first Friday in the months of November, December, January, and February. This intelligence will be gratefully welcomed by the Metropolitan and Provincial brethren, the latter more especially, as they will have an opportunity of witnessing the most correct mode of conducting this great Masonic duty."

In the report of the Festival of the following year reference is again made to the ceremony of installation, "which is here performed with the most scrupulous regard to correctness, and is, as may readily be conceived, very attractive. We were greatly delighted to find, at our last visit, that Bro. S. B. Wilson was sufficiently recovered to be able to conduct this important ritual with his accustomed zeal; and although the attendance was very numerous, our only surprise was that the Provincial Masters did not muster in greater strength." I may observe that from the year 1841 down to the present time this ceremony has been regularly practised during the winter months in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement; I do not imply that it was not worked even at an earlier period; on the contrary, I am inclined to the opinion that it was worked occasionally, probably for some years, before it was deemed advisable to introduce it as a part of the regular programme. It is quite certain, however, that from within fourteen years of the promulgation of the authorised ceremony of installation it has been constantly rehearsed under the eyes, as it were, of the lawfully constituted Masonic authorities.

Stephen Barton Wilson died on the 25th of April, 1866, and at the next meeting of Grand Lodge, on the 6th of June, "Bro. J. Cooper Foster, P.M. No. 162, pursuant to notice, moved—"That there be recorded on the minutes of Grand Lodge an expression of the feeling of the members, and especially of the younger brethren of the Craft, for the loss which Freemasonry has sustained by the death of its active, energetic, and esteemed Brother Stephen Barton Wilson,

who, by his untiring zeal and devotion to its interest, has done much towards inculcating the right principles of the Order, and who held the office of President of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for a period of thirty years, during which time he greatly increased the knowledge of Masonry, and won the esteem and respect of all his brother Masons." "That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of the late Stephen Barton Wilson." The motion was seconded by Bro. John Savage and carried unanimously."

Probably the oldest member of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement known to the writer was the late William Farnfield, Past Assistant Grand Secretary, who was initiated in the Lodge of Unions in 1825, and joined the "Emulation" the following year. He evinced a warm and active interest in the affairs of the lodge until advancing age compelled him to take a less prominent part in the esoteric concerns of the Craft generally, but up to within a few years of his death his well known and venerable figure was invariably found occupying the distinguished post of "father of the lodge" at its Annual Festivals. On his retirement from the Assistant Grand Secretaryship in 1866, of which office he was the first occupier, Bro. Farnfield had been forty-one years in the service of the Grand Lodge, consequently his knowledge of the ceremonies, customs, and laws of the Order must have been almost as extensive as that of his former colleague, W. H. White, Past Grand Secretary.

I avail myself of the present opportunity for recording my gratitude to Bro. William Farnfield for having been the first to offer me a helping hand towards the study of the history of the Craft, by presenting me with sundry volumes of Masonic literature which, he remarked, I might find useful at some future time, as indeed I have, and in all probability had it not been for that present of books this sketch would never have been written.



WILLIAM FARNFIELD, P.A.G. SECRETARY.

The Memorial addressed to the Grand Master on the subject of a special license is in his handwriting, as is also the copy of the reply thereto in the Letter Book. I am indebted to this worthy and distinguished brother for the slight knowledge I have of the early history and management of the "Emulation," and I much regret that at the period when I first began to interest myself in the lodge history his health was such that it was not deemed advisable to trouble him too much about the past or question him upon any subject likely to tax his memory, or doubtless I should have been the recipient of much valuable information, now lost beyond recovery.

(To be Continued).