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*R. W. Bro. the Duke of Devonshire, F.R.S.,
Provincial Grand Master of Derbyshire.*

The Province of Derbyshire.

WHATEVER the virtues of our forefathers may have been, it can hardly be contended that they possessed any monopoly of habits of order and regularity. There are far too many institutions in this country mourning the loss of all trace of their earlier records, and whose origin is for the most part the subject of mere conjecture and speculation. In some cases the researches of learned antiquarians have pierced the obscurity in which the early history of such societies was hidden, but there are others to whom the loss of ancient records has been quite irreparable. The members of an Order so deeply imbued with reverence for the past, as Freemasons, have suffered equally with the rest. The Province of Derbyshire, for instance, has been in existence since 1789; but, as a matter of fact, there are no minute books or official records of its proceedings known to be in existence prior to the year 1852. It would be neither possible nor profitable to waste time on an endeavour to allot the blame for this lamentable disappearance of old minute books, but the probable explanation is that, as death has removed their custodians, they fell into the hands of men who knew not Masonry, and were dropped, as so much waste-paper, into the dustbin, or helped to augment the glories of a November bonfire.

At one time or another efforts have been made by various members of the Order to throw a little light on the circumstances under which Freemasonry came to be established in Derbyshire. Amongst the foremost of these seekers after truth was the late Bro. Thomas Hall, a Past Master of the Tyrian Lodge, who prepared an interesting sketch of its career on the occasion of its centenary celebration in 1885. The Tyrian Lodge being far and away the oldest in the province, its history is to a great extent that of Freemasonry, so far as Derbyshire is concerned; but long before the Tyrian entered on its illustrious career Freemasonry was known and practised in Derbyshire under the ægis of a regular lodge. The charter of this lodge—originally numbered 104—dated back to September 14th, 1732, but even before its foundation there is every reason to believe that there were Freemasons in Derbyshire, but whether they met under any authorised banner or in a casual sort of way is a point concerning which there is absolutely no evidence to guide us. The lodge that was opened in 1732 met at the "Virgin's Inn," on the north side of the Market Place. It was afterwards removed to the "Royal Oak," on the opposite side of the Square, and continued to meet there until 1777, when it appears to have been struck off the roll of Grand Lodge for noncompliance with the rules. It had in the meantime changed its number, first to 92, then to 54, and finally to 45, by the lapse of other lodges.

The Tyrian Lodge—the sole remaining link with the Freemasonry of those days—was established in 1785, four years before the warrant for the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire was issued. The career of this splendid lodge has been in every respect worthy of its exalted position as the mother lodge of the province. There are many instances on record where it has given a lead to Masonic feeling throughout the county, and it has never failed to set a high standard for the example and guidance of the rest of the lodges. The esteem in which it is held, not only in the province, but in the Craft generally, was strikingly manifested on the occasion of its centenary in 1885, when Masons from all parts of the country assembled

to pay it honour. During the first four years of the existence of the Tyrian Lodge considerably over 100 members passed through its portals, and its rapid growth was no doubt responsible for the formation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire in 1789. The first Grand Master of the province was a Mason who had already attained a high position amongst the rulers of the Craft in the midlands. This was Bro. Thomas Boothby Parkins, afterwards first Lord Raneliffe, whose home was at Bunny Park, Notts, and who for six years had been Provincial Grand Master of that county. The same year that saw him installed Provincial Grand Master of Derbyshire also witnessed his elevation to a similar position in Rutland, whilst four years later he became Provincial Grand Master of Leicestershire. It is sometimes supposed that because Bro. Parkins ruled over so many counties the latter were joined together in one province. This idea is wholly erroneous. Derbyshire at that time enjoyed quite as full a measure of independence in



BRO. HAUGHTON CHARLES OKEOVER, P.J.G.W. (ENGLAND),
DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER.

the management of its affairs as it does to-day. It was never united with, nor did it form a part of, any other province. The functions of Bro. Parkins at that time were precisely what those of the Duke of Devonshire are at the present time. He took great interest in the affairs of the Order, and on his retirement in 1793 was succeeded by an equally zealous Mason, Bro. Sir John Borlase Warren. Sir John was also a Nottinghamshire Mason, and early in his Mastership he took part in the consecration of the Scarsdale Lodge at Chesterfield. This lodge flourished until 1838, when it was erased from the roll of Grand Lodge, to be revived twenty years later under the same title and to enter on a new lease of prosperity and power. There were no other developments during his régime, which lasted until 1801, when the province passed under the sway of Charles, third Earl of Harrington, a distinguished general in the King's army. This nobleman was therefore the first Derbyshire man who ruled over the province, and he was also the first occupant

of his exalted office who was not a pluralist. He held the reins until 1814, when William Spencer, sixth Duke of Devonshire, entered upon his long Mastership, which extended over a period of more than forty years. Exemplary as the Duke was in the discharge of all the duties and responsibilities of his high station, he certainly took less



BRO. A. WOODIWISS, P.D.G.D.C. (ENGLAND),
CHAIRMAN OF THE MASONIC HALL COMMITTEE.

interest in the affairs of Freemasonry than might have been expected. He commenced auspiciously with the consecration of the Royal Sussex lodge in 1817, but it was not until 1844 that another Masonic banner was unfurled in Derbyshire, the Mundy Grove Lodge being then formed at Shipley Gate. The Royal Sussex Lodge was an offshoot of the Tyrian, and met at Repton, a village which hundreds of years before had played its part as capital of the kingdom of Mercia, and in more recent times has become known as the seat of a great public school. As the personal interest of the Tyrian in its offspring declined, the lodge had a hard struggle for existence, and it was probably only saved from extinction by its timely removal to Winhill, Burton-on-Trent, since when it has enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity, and is known throughout the Craft by reason of its munificent support of the great Masonic Charities. There was another lodge of some historic interest which was founded at Buxton in the early part of the nineteenth century. This was the Derbyshire Lodge, which also met at Longnor, in Staffs., and was consecrated in 1810. It appears to have been reconstituted from a lodge numbered 165, which, founded in 1770, met at the "Ship," Long Lane, Borough. In its Derbyshire home it flourished until 1865, when it was erased from the roll. Two years later the Phoenix Lodge of St. Anne was founded, its title, of course, indicating that it rose from the ashes of its predecessor. The first Master of the Phoenix was Bro. Milward, a member of a well-known Derbyshire family, who had been connected with the old Derbyshire Lodge and possessed a wealth of information concerning local Freemasonry. At his death his records appear to have been lost—at all events, they were lost to Freemasonry. It is not quite clear what connection there was between the lodge that met at the "Ship" and the one that was reconstituted at Buxton in 1810, but there must have been some sort of affinity between them. This fact is

made clear by certain relics in possession of the Phoenix Lodge, which undoubtedly belonged to the brethren who met at the "Ship." These take the form of jugs bearing Masonic emblems, with the number 165, and part of the lodge furniture is said to have been procured from the same source. No doubt Bro. Milward's papers, had they been preserved, would have thrown a good deal of light on the precise connection between these ancient and modern representatives of Freemasonry.

The Masonic activities of the sixth Duke of Devonshire had so far relaxed by the year 1836 that he took the opportunity of appointing a Deputy. The first occupant of this office was Bro. Philip Gell, D.C.L., of Hopton Hall. A certain amount of historic interest attaches to the appointment of a member of this ancient Derbyshire family to a position in the Order, following as it did comparatively close on the Grand Mastership of a Stanhope. During the great struggle between Charles I. and Parliament the Gells and the Stanhopes espoused opposite sides, and to political enmity was added the deeper feelings of personal rivalry. An ancient chronicle tells us that when the forces of the Parliament, under Sir John Gell, captured the home of the Stanhopes at Elvaston, he pursued his malice "with such barbarism after Sir John Stanhope's death that, pretending to search for arms and plate, he came into the church and defaced the monument that cost six hundred pounds, breaking in the nose and other parts of it; he dug up a garden of flowers, the only delight of his widow, upon the same pretence; and thus wooed that widow, who was by all the world believed to be the most affectionate and prudent of women, deluded by his hypocrisies, to marry him, and found that was the utmost point to which he could carry his revenge, his future carriage making it apparent that he sought her for nothing else than to destroy the glory of her husband and his house."



BRO. PERCY WALLIS, PAST PROV. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN,
CHAIRMAN OF THE CHARITY COMMITTEE.

Bro. Gell remained in office until 1844, and was then succeeded by Bro. Charles Robert Colville, of Lullington Hall, Derbyshire, one of the most popular men in the county. He was for some years Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire, and was the father of the Major-General who recently came into collision with the War Office on his

return from South Africa. Bro. Colville's activity was unbounded, and during the twenty years that he practically ruled over the province Freemasonry made great strides. Fourteen years after his appointment there was a change in the Grand Mastership, the sixth Duke of Devonshire being succeeded by the then Marquis of Hartington, now eighth Duke of Devonshire. The Duke, who was installed on the 9th of May, 1858, has not taken the deepest interest in the welfare of the Craft, but the advantage to the Order of having the foremost man in the county at its head are sufficiently obvious. Only one Provincial Grand Master has held office longer than his grace, that being Lord Leigh. During his reign he has been most fortunate in having two able Deputies—Bro. Colville and Bro. Okeover. The latter brother represents a family that has been settled in the neighbourhood of Ashbourne for the best part of 1000 years, and his venerable figure is familiar to every Derbyshire Mason. His little speeches at the annual meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge are models of that simple, unadorned eloquence which goes straight to the heart, and are looked forward to by the brethren with a zest that would



BRO. WILLIAM NAYLOR, P.G.S.B. (ENGLAND),
PROV. GRAND SECRETARY.

scarcely be excited by the most studied efforts of oratory. On the occasion of the marriage of his daughter to Sir Andrew Walker, in 1887, there was a striking manifestation of the esteem and affection in which he is held by the brethren, the present to the bride from the Derbyshire Freemasons being one of the most magnificent of the many she received, from the Sovereign downwards.

When the Marquis of Hartington became Provincial Grand Master, in 1858, there were seven lodges in Derbyshire. Mention has already been made of the Tyrian, the Royal Sussex, the Mundy Grove, and the Scarsdale, but, in addition to these, the Devonshire had been founded at Glossop in 1853, the Peveril of the Peak at New Mills in 1885, and the Arboretum at Derby in 1857. The last-named lodge is now one of the most important in the Craft. Its membership is in excess of 100, and in all respects it maintains the best traditions of Freemasonry. In its early days it met at the Arboretum Hotel, within a stone's-throw of the Arboretum, from which it takes its name. Following the new Provincial Grand Master's appointment came a

a period of great Masonic activity. The Beaureper Lodge came into being at Belper in 1859, with Lord Hartington as its first Master; in the same year the Repose was formed



BRO. COX, A VETERAN DERBYSHIRE MASON.

at Derby for the special benefit of installed Masters, with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master at its head; in 1860 the St. Oswald at Ashbourne; in 1861 the Derwent at Wirksworth; and in 1864 the Royal Alfred at Alfreton. It was the Derwent Lodge, by the way, that witnessed the early Masonic career of Bro. J. M. McLeod, the well-known Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

Bro. Okeover's accession to the position of Deputy Provincial Grand Master saw this rate of progress considerably accelerated. The Hartington Lodge was consecrated in 1865, its first meetings being held at the orderly rooms of the Derbyshire Yeomanry Cavalry in St. Mary's Gate, Derby; in 1867 the Rutland came into existence at Ilkeston; in 1868 the Phoenix at Buxton; in 1870 the



THE MASONIC HALL, DERBY.

Okeover at Ripley; in 1874 the Arkwright at Matlock Bath; in 1877 the Buxton at Buxton; in 1878 the Carnarvon at Swadlincote; in 1883 the High Peak at Chapel-en-le-Frith; and in 1886 the Dorothy Vernon at Bakewell. The consecration of the last-named lodge took place in the ancient home of Dorothy Vernon at Haddon Hall, and was an occasion of great Masonic interest. Following this, there came in the following year the formation of the Fairfield Lodge at Long Eaton; of the Chantrey Lodge at Dore, near Sheffield, in 1890; of the Hardwicke at Chesterfield in 1891; of the Ecclesburne at Duffield in 1892; of St. Thomas's at Tibshelf in 1895; and, finally, of the Tutbury Castle Lodge at Hatton in 1897. There are thus at the present time twenty-seven

Masonic Hall in Gower Street, Derby. The foundation-stone of this building was laid by the Marquis of Hartington in 1874, and in 1875 it was formally opened. Among the more liberal contributors to the building fund were Lord Hartington, Bros. Colvile, Sir John Smith, Sir A. Woodiwiss, W. H. Marsden, Thomas Cox, and other members of the Craft. So great has been the advance in numbers since that time that the accommodation has proved quite insufficient to meet all the demands occasionally made upon it, and at the last meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge further extensions were decided upon at a cost approaching £1000. The ante-rooms are to be materially improved and the caretaker's house made more comfortable and commodious. The management of the hall is vested in trustees, of whom

C

ertificate issued by Lodge No. 104, which was Founded in 1732, **DERBY, A.D. 1732,**
and passed as No. 45, A.D., 1777.

*This is to Certify that the Bearer Hereof Wm. Sparke
is a Regular Registered Mason in our Lodge No 104
at the Royal Oak Inn in Derby and has Behaved
Himself as becomes a Worthy Brother of this Lodge
Given under our Hands and the Seal of the said
Lodge this 6th Day of May in the Year of our Lord
God 1766 and in the Year of Masonry 5766
Sam. Smith Master
Rich. Sutton Sen. Wardens
Henry Pratt Jun. Wardens
Attest the Wm. Sparke*

Presented to the **MYRIAN LODGE, No. 253,**

by Worshipful Brother Sir John Smith, P.M.S.G.W., Derbyshire, 1896.

Lodges on the roll of the province, and, roughly speaking, they may be said to contain 1400 members.

The meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge in its early days took place at various inns, most of which are now extinct. These included the "Bunch of Grapes" in the Market Place, the "George," the "King's Head," and the "Bell." On occasions of special importance the brethren met at the County Assembly Rooms in the Market Place, but, as the numbers continued to grow, the necessity of having a permanent hall, devoted exclusively to the requirements of the Craft, became manifest to every one who was in the remotest degree acquainted with the difficulties that periodically presented themselves. The outcome of this movement was the erection of the present

the present chairman is Bro. A. Woodiwiss, who, like his father before him, is a distinguished citizen of Derby and an active member of the Masonic body. He holds Past rank in Grand Lodge, and is also Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Masons of Derbyshire. During the present year, too, he is, for the second time in his life, filling the position of Mayor of Derby.

The Province of Derbyshire has always been noted for the liberality with which it has supported the great Masonic Charities, especially since they were organised on a sound and solid basis by the late Bro. G. T. Wright, and latterly by Bro. Percy Wallis. The devoted labours of the latter gentleman on behalf of the Charities entitle him to the grateful thanks of all who have their interests at heart, and

it is very largely due to his efforts that every candidate sent up from Derbyshire has so far been elected. The following statement showing the amounts sent up from the province to the three Masonic Institutions during the last eleven years speaks for itself :—

1891, £968 ...	1892, £1719 ...	1893, £1014
1894, £637 ...	1895, £555 ...	1896, £1642
1897, £478 ...	1898, £2440 ...	1899, £642
1900, £549 ...	1901, £877.	

flourishing. So far we have observed no perceptible lowering of the standard. Let us hope that the influence of the gentleman at the head of affairs may always be sufficient to arrest any such dangerous tendency. The province is fortunate in possessing a Secretary peculiarly well qualified for that important position. Bro. Naylor has now been in this office for twenty-eight years, and it is not too much to say that to his firm hand and sagacious counsel Derbyshire Freemasonry has been preserved from many a pitfall



HIS MAJESTY THE KING AT COMPTON HOUSE, EASTBOURNE.

This works out to a total of £11,521, giving an average slightly in excess of £1000 per annum.

Concerning the future of Freemasonry in Derbyshire, there is no ground for apprehension. The foundation upon which its prosperity has been built up in late years is too solid to lead one to suppose that it will readily crumble away. The only danger that threatens it, indeed, is that its abounding prosperity may ultimately lead to reaction and stagnation—a fate that has before now overtaken many institutions equally powerful and equally

and many a danger. That he may long be spared to guide the destinies of the province is the earnest hope of every Derbyshire Mason.

Our portraits also include that of a veteran Derbyshire Mason, Bro. Cox, who has been connected with the Craft for nearly fifty years, and who has locally shared in its labours and its honours. For twenty-five years he held the position of Provincial Grand Treasurer, and on his retirement was presented with an address and a purse containing 150 sovereigns.

Imperial Masonic Federation.

(COMMUNICATED.)

WE use the term Imperial in this article in a sense similar to that in which the term Sovereign is used when describing an independent Masonic jurisdiction. We are therefore proposing to discuss the possibility, or the advisability, of a union or federation under some authority, to be defined hereafter, of all those Sovereign Grand Lodges which have at various times emanated from, or—more correctly—severed themselves from, the mother Grand Lodge of England.

There are ninety-six Grand Lodges, or Masonic bodies, with recognised independent territorial rights and jurisdictions. Twenty-nine of these are in the Eastern Hemisphere and sixty-seven in the Western. Of the large number of fifty in the United States, however, very many are of small dimensions and membership, in one case less than a dozen lodges owing allegiance.

All these can be conveniently classified as follows :—There are sixty-seven which work in the English language.

Seventeen of this number owe political allegiance to King Edward VII. Twenty-nine others work in various European languages, ten of them Spanish. With these our present article has nothing to do.

Consider first of all the relationships existing between the seventeen Grand Lodges to be found in our dominions at home and abroad.

Nearly every one of these is the outcome of a successful rebellion. In nearly every case the history of its birth is one of discord and suspicion and defiance on the one hand and arbitrariness on the other. The recognition, tardily granted, has in many cases been too much like a bowing to the inevitable, rather than an act of grace. The new Grand Lodges have arrived at Masonic maturity, and exercised jurisdiction, in the full knowledge that every one of their members was, *ipso facto*, guilty of treason, and suspended from fraternal intercourse with English Masons, and therefore the final reception into court circles, as one might describe the act of recognition, has been somewhat like a victory after a hard fight. One result of all this has been that the several daughter Grand Lodges have at times failed to maintain an attitude entirely filial, and the mother Grand Lodge has at times not succeeded in exacting the deference which under other circumstances would have been natural.

Thanks to the statesmanlike propositions of Bro. Philbrick, when Grand Registrar, Masonic history will not furnish such unprofitable reading again. Those propositions, to be found at the end of the last edition of the Book of Constitutions, will be too well within the recollection of readers of this journal to need recapitulation. Suffice it to say they are epoch-making. They have removed an evil. But to render the circle of our Masonic duties complete, it is not sufficient to remove what is bad. We must substitute what is good.

The legislation referred to hardly goes far enough. It elevates the agitation for independence to the rank of a constitutional process, but that is all. Of course it is a great deal to have got rid of the expression "disloyal," which used to be applied to the malcontents. But we now need to formulate the principles which, as a general rule, should guide the process of recognition.

Under the new rules, when certain conditions have been complied with, recognition cannot be denied. But it is allied with certain restrictions, as for instance the conservation of the rights and privileges of such lodges as do not wish to sever their connection with the mother Grand Lodge. The concurrent jurisdiction, in one territory, of English, Scottish, and Irish Grand Lodges, practically competing with that of the newly-formed local Grand Lodge is another objectionable feature which requires careful thinking about. Then there are questions of Masonic extradition and other International and Imperial questions—speaking Masonically—which ought not to be left to chance solution dependent on the caprice of an official, or even of a board.

There is also the case, by no means rare, of Scottish, Irish, and English lodges, which have surrendered their original warrants, and have combined to form a new Grand Lodge, and which have then found some difficulty in agreeing upon an uniform procedure.

The manner in which Bro. Philbrick's proposals, modest as they were, were received by Grand Lodge was an indication that that august body had managed to get rid of the parochial mind with which it had previously approached such questions. Grand Lodge also, by inference, expressed its opinion that the more autonomy there was, the better for the interests of the Craft.

The Freemason and the lodge, in a district abroad, are subject to two conflicting ideas. The one is the feeling that local interests could be best looked after by a local government. The other is the sentiment of attachment to the mother country, which causes any possible severance to be regarded as painful. Why should these two feelings be antagonistic?

Let an Imperial Grand Lodge be created, which should provide a bond of union for all the seventeen English Grand Lodges and as many more as might be formed. Such a body would exercise jurisdiction confined to these. It would deal with International and Imperial questions only, and would not receive nor consider appeals involving the rights or privileges of either private lodges or private brethren.

We venture to think that one of the first results would be the disappearance from the English register of the various solitary lodges in different parts of the British Empire, whose repudiation of the local Grand Lodge creates so much friction. When adhesion to the governing body on the spot ceased to necessitate complete severance from other members of the Masonic family of Greater Britain, one of the last reasons for standing out would disappear.

Another result would be the multiplication of new Grand Lodges. There would probably be a Grand Lodge of India, for instance.

The Colonial Grand Lodges would be restrained from acts—such as invasion—likely to bring about unfriendly relations with one another.

There would be an absence of conflicting decisions. The broad lines of Masonic right and wrong would be clearly defined.

It will, however, be interesting to go somewhat into detail. Members of the Imperial Grand Lodge would naturally be elected delegates from all the Grand Lodges concerned. It has often been said, when objection has been raised to the exclusion of foreign brethren from Grand rank, that even if appointed, they could not come to meetings. But this is an excuse rather than a reason. There are always, at any given time, colonial brethren of distinction in London, and when the will exists, the way will be found.

The appointment of Imperial Grand Master of all Freemasons in the British Empire need not be discussed. Masonic loyalty and civil and political loyalty would go hand in hand.

Meetings need not be held more frequently than once a year. Questions to be decided would be applications for recognition and sanction of constitutions in the same manner in which by-laws receive sanction. Complaints made by one Grand Lodge against another would be determined. The apportionment of territory to conflicting Grand Lodges would be another duty. Isolated lodges would be placed under the jurisdiction nearest and most convenient for them, and in course of time the Grand Lodge of England would be able to confine her attention to the well being and ordering of her own house.

Let us conclude this article by quoting one of many anomalies at present existing. In the East Indies there are 149 English lodges, 36 Scottish, and 6 Irish, or 191 altogether. Including the Eastern Archipelago, there are 6 English districts. The Most Worshipful Grand Master of all Scottish Freemasonry in India, however, can warrant lodges in any one of these districts, as well as the Irish Grand Master.

These three Grand Lodges have had their ups and downs at each other's expense. Gould, vol. iii., p. 335, writes about the rise of Scottish Freemasonry in Bengal. For some cause or another English Freemasonry was dormant in 1846. Gould writes thus:—

"— Scottish Masonry presented such attractions that the strange sight was witnessed of English Masons deserting their mother lodges to such an extent that these fell into abeyance, in order that they might give their support to lodges newly-constituted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. In one case, indeed, a lodge (*Perseverance*) under England *went over bodily to the enemy.*"

The italics are ours, but the fact that he (Gould) should use such a phrase, even though in a playful sense, indicates a condition of things that could not exist under such a scheme as we have ventured to sketch.

Consecration of the Khartoum Lodge, No. 2877.

THE consecration of the above lodge took place at the Khartoum Palace on Thursday, the 19th December, and the ceremony was most impressively carried out by R.W. Bro. Major-General Sir Reginald Wingate, Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan, P.G.W., and D.G.M. of Egypt and the Sudan.

Secretary; Stack, S.D.; Ross-Johnson, J.D.; Franklin, Organist; and Coutts, I.G.

The Khartoum Lodge, it may be mentioned, is the first introduction of English Freemasonry into the Sudan. Its want had long been felt, for in this vast territory there are many members of the Craft who hold military and other



R.W. BRO. LORD KITCHENER OF KHARTOUM, PAST DISTRICT GRAND MASTER OF EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

There was a large and distinguished gathering, including Bros. Col. Sir Arthur Mackworth, Currie, MacNeill, Blanch, Said Bey Shoucair, P.M. (Egyptian Constitution), Shahin Bey Girgis, P.M. (Egyptian Constitution), and Captain Nesib Effendi Abcarius.

The officers appointed were as follows:—Bros. Bailey, P.M., W.M.; Sutherland, I.P.M.; Drage, S.W.; Stanton, J.W.; Friend, D. of C.; the Hon. A. Hore-Ruthven,

appointments, with hitherto no lodge nearer to them than Cairo, a distance of more than 1500 miles.

In 1899, with a view to ameliorating the situation, the various lodges throughout Egypt very generously came forward and took the opportunity of approaching the Grand Master on the subject of creating the appointment of a District Grand Master for Egypt and the Sudan, which it was seen would have beneficial effects for Egypt itself and

simultaneously admit of the extension of the Craft into the Sudan. These lodges were keenly alive to the fact that the most popular and influential Mason to suggest for the position of District Grand Master was R.W. Bro. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. On the resignation of Lord Kitchener, consequent on his appointment as Chief of the Staff of Lord Roberts in the Transvaal, the choice of his successor fell on the equally popular Sir Reginald Wingate, on whom the Grand Master had recently bestowed the Grand Lodge honour of P.G. Warden.

tion of W. Bro. Captain W. E. Bailey, was carried out in a manner which elicited warm expressions of commendation from all who were present. The Charity-bag when circulated produced a sum far in excess of the most sanguine expectations.

As soon as the ceremony was concluded the brethren repaired to a steamer, which was moored alongside the Palace, to convey them to the Grand Hotel, where a banquet was held, and the proceedings of the evening were enlivened by the presence of the Sudanese Military Band, which



R.W. BRO. SIR REGINALD WINGATE, DISTRICT GRAND MASTER OF EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.—(Photo Elite Portrait Co.)

At Cairo, on the 12th July last, the R.W. Brother was, under the provisions of his patent, duly invested and installed into his chair of District Grand Master of Egypt and the Sudan, the ceremony being most ably conducted by V.W. Bro. Raph Borg, C.M.G., British Consul.

The Khartoum Lodge was very tastefully arranged, and the ceremony of consecration, as well as that of the installa-

rendered a most excellent programme.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, Bro. Col. Sir Arthur Mackworth responding for "The Visitors."

The interest which is evinced in the Craft since the new lodge was consecrated is very considerable, and there seems every prospect of the number of Masons in the Sudan being largely augmented in a comparatively short time.

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The Multiplication of London Lodges.

FOR some years past the question of the rapid increase
 in the number of lodges, more especially within the
 Metropolitan area, has been exercising the minds of
 many members of the Craft who have the welfare of English
 Freemasonry at heart, and whose faith in its past traditions
 has led them to believe that the present rate of progress is
 inimical to the true principles of Freemasonry. A closer
 consideration of the subject, however, will, we think, dispel
 any such fears. It is quite true that lodges have multiplied,
 but seeing that in nearly every instance prosperity has
 accompanied such newly-created bodies, and that, as far as
 we have been able to learn, the existing lodges have suffered
 no diminution of membership, there remains little reason for
 questioning the action of the authorities on the ground of
 creating new lodges at the expense of those previously in
 existence. We have been at some pains to ascertain by
 enquiry from numerous lodges in London, taken at random
 from the lists, and the result has been to confirm the con-

viction we had previously arrived at, that the average
 membership of each lodge is fully maintained, that their
 financial position has not suffered, and that the social status
 of individual members is at least as high as in what some
 of our elder brethren are pleased to call the best days of
 the Craft.

We do not for a moment desire to argue that there
 should be no limit to the extension of Masonry in the
 Metropolis, but we are disposed to fix that limit at
 a point which would encircle every eligible candidate for
 its mysteries and privileges rather than to draw an arbitrary
 line marked only by figures and governed only by precedent.
 The point in dispute after all resolves itself into a simple
 question. Is Masonry a good thing, or is it not? If doubts
 as to this remain in the mind of any member of the Craft,
 by all means let us at least move cautiously and slowly, and, if
 need be, take steps to check its growth; but if we have full
 faith in its principles and its humanitarian and enlightening
 influences, let us possess the courage of our convictions and
 endeavour to promote and extend the sphere of usefulness
 so clearly marked out for it. The real danger to our Order,
 however, is not in the multiplication of lodges, but in the
 neglect of brethren to carry out seriously the injunctions
 imposed on them by Article 183 of the Book of Constitutions,
 which, although so well known, cannot too often be quoted:
 "Great discredit and injury having been brought upon our
 ancient and honourable Fraternity from admitting members
 and receiving candidates without due notice being given,
 and enquiry made into their characters and qualifications . . .
 it is declared to be specially incumbent on all members of
 lodges to see that particular attention is paid to these several
 points." It is in no light-hearted or perfunctory sense that
 this injunction should be taken. It was not incorporated
 in the laws of the Order merely as a pious opinion or an
 academic embellishment, but as a rule to be strictly and
 literally acted on, and it is not too much to say that on
 this depends the future welfare and influence of the Craft.
 In a city whose population numbers within the Masonic
 radius of ten miles from Freemasons' Hall upwards of five
 millions, the five hundred lodges at present in existence,
 with a membership approximately of 25,000, represents but
 a very tiny colony of Masons in this huge community, and
 there must of necessity be a vast number whose characters
 and qualifications would not only render them eligible, but
 whose presence amongst us would add strength and dignity
 to the Order.

In support of the views we have expressed, we have
 endeavoured to obtain some statistics which tend to show
 that the progress of Masonry in the metropolis during later
 years, although it has been rapid, has been of an entirely
 sound and healthy character. The establishment of what
 are termed class lodges, although at the first glance not
 appearing wholly to conform in theory to the principles of
 Masonry, have been in reality of incalculable benefit in
 bringing together those brethren whose community of
 interest and social status enable them to work together in
 brotherly love and in an atmosphere of neutrality which no
 other organisation can provide.

Another factor in London Masonry, which in the provinces
 only bears slightly on the situation, is the question of dual
 membership. Rule 149 enjoins "Masters and Wardens of a
 lodge to visit other lodges as often as they conveniently can,
 in order that the same usages and customs may be observed
 throughout the Craft, and a good understanding cultivated
 amongst Free-Masons." In place of visiting in the strictest
 sense of the word, we have—more especially in London—
 dual membership, which effects precisely the same objects.
 In this respect our system differs widely from that of
 many other Grand Bodies, especially in the United States,
 where in neither of the Grand Lodges is it permitted for a
 brother to be a member of more than one lodge. The
 relative merits of the two systems admit of considerable
 difference of opinion, it has a distinct bearing on the
 question of multiplication of lodges, which has lately become
 so marked a feature in Metropolitan Freemasonry, and we
 shall hope to return to the subject in a future article.



The Annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, which is to be held at Freemasons' Hall on the 7th of March next, will be presided over by the newly-appointed Prov. Grand Master for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Bro. Sir Augustus Webster, Bart. These Festivals have now become an interesting feature in London Masonry, and are looked forward to with much pleasure by all who are interested in the uniform and perfect rendering of our beautiful ritual.

Our hearty congratulations to Bro. Letchworth on his approaching marriage. There is no more popular or beloved brother than the Grand Secretary, and we are voicing the unanimous desire of the entire Craft when we wish him and the lady of his choice all happiness and prosperity in their married life. We believe the announcement in the papers was somewhat premature, as it is unlikely that the marriage will take place until the early part of May.

The St. Luke's Medical Lodge of Instruction has been formed by a committee appointed by the eight medical Masonic lodges for the use of medical brethren. Meetings will be held at the Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, on the first and third Mondays in every month, from October to May inclusive, at 8.45 p.m. The first meeting took place on January 20th. Bro. G. Rowell, 6, Cavendish Place, W., has undertaken the Secretaryship of the lodge.

Bro. James Graham, who was installed as Worshipful Master of the White Rose of York Lodge on January 3rd, was its first Senior Warden, having been designated to that office when the warrant was granted, just a year ago. The first W.M. was W. Bro. Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bart., P.G.D., but owing to his many official duties elsewhere, the real work of the lodge had fallen on the shoulders of the Senior Warden, who has performed them in a highly creditable manner.

Bro. Graham was initiated in the Holme Valley Lodge, No. 652, Holmfirth, in 1887. In 1892 he removed to London, but he not only retained his membership of the lodge, but for five years—until he had passed through the various offices to the Master's chair—he travelled from London to Huddersfield to attend the meetings every month during that period. He was first Senior Warden and second Worshipful Master of the Waltham Abbey Lodge, No. 2750, and at present holds the office of Senior Deacon in the St. James's Lodge, No. 1579, Enfield. The James Terry Lodge, No. 2372, Herts., also numbers him amongst its members as well as the St. James's Royal Arch Chapter, of which he is a P.Z. In the Province of Essex he is a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, as well as a Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer of Hertfordshire.

Bro. Graham's interest in the Charitable side of Masonry is on a par with his zeal for lodge work. He is a Vice-President both of the Benevolent Institution and Boys' School, as well as a Life Governor of the Girls' School, and has served fourteen Stewardships in all. It should not be omitted to mention that during his service as Senior Warden and Junior Warden of his mother lodge he endowed both chairs with votes for the Charities in perpetuity as he passed through them.

The quarterly meeting of subscribers to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys was held on the 10th January at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Charles E. Keyser, Past Grand Deacon, Patron and Treasurer of the Institution, in the chair, who reported on the progress being made with the extensive new Schools at Bushey. They were to have been handed over by the contractors on the 25th of September last, but unavoidable delays occurred, and by arrangements made with the builders the premises were to be complete by the 1st of June next. He could not now give definite information as to the opening, or as to who was to perform the ceremony, as it was not thought desirable that this should take place until all the pupils were in residence and the establishment was complete. The Court placed forty-nine candidates on the list for the election of the eighteen into the School on April 11th, and Bro. J. M. McLeod, the Secretary, reported that the Institution's income for 1901 was £31,022 19s. 8d., the highest in one year in the history of the Institution, with the exception of the Centenary, 1898. He also announced that Bro. Col. John Davis, A.D.C., Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, would preside in June at the next Festival.

W. Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Past Grand Warden, and Treasurer of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, presided on the 9th January at a quarterly court of subscribers to the Institution, at Freemasons' Hall, when it was announced that at the Festival on May 14th, R.W. Bro. the Earl of Lathom, Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire, would take the chair, and that the income of the Institution for 1901 was £33,616 11s. 3d. The year was the third record year in succession, both as regarded the amounts announced at the Festival of the School and the total receipts, which exceeded those of 1900 by upwards of £5500.

Bro. Captain W. Newnham Davis, whose portrait we have the pleasure of presenting to our readers, is a well-known figure in London journalistic circles. Like the illustrious Dr. Johnson before him, he often "takes a walk down Fleet Street," and he is not unknown at the office of a certain journal of sporting and humorous proclivities. Bro. Davis was initiated in Pietermaritzburg, in 1877, and is at present W.M. of the Grafton Lodge, No. 2347. He is also



BRO. CAPTAIN W. NEWNHAM DAVIS.

a member of the Studholme Lodge, No. 1591, and of the Studholme Royal Arch Chapter. In Knight Templary he is a member of "St. George's" and "St. Michael's" Preceptories, and in the Mark Degree fills the chair of Master of the United Service Lodge.

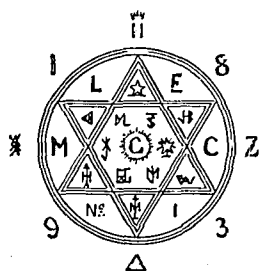
It is understood that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught will consent to be installed as Grand Master of the Mark Degree sometime during the month of June next, when His Royal Highness will probably be resident in London for the Coronation Festivities.

There was an exceptionally large gathering at the Masonic Hall, Newport, South Wales, on January 10th to witness the installation of Bro. Edwin J. Gabb as Worshipful Master of the Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1429, which ceremony was ably performed by W. Bro. H. J. Pillenger, P.M. At the subsequent banquet, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Charles Robert Lyne, in responding, as Grand Deacon, to the toast of "The Grand Officers," highly eulogised the Officers of Grand Lodge, and alluded to the presence of Bro. James Terry, who had, in the interests of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, travelled from London specially to be present.

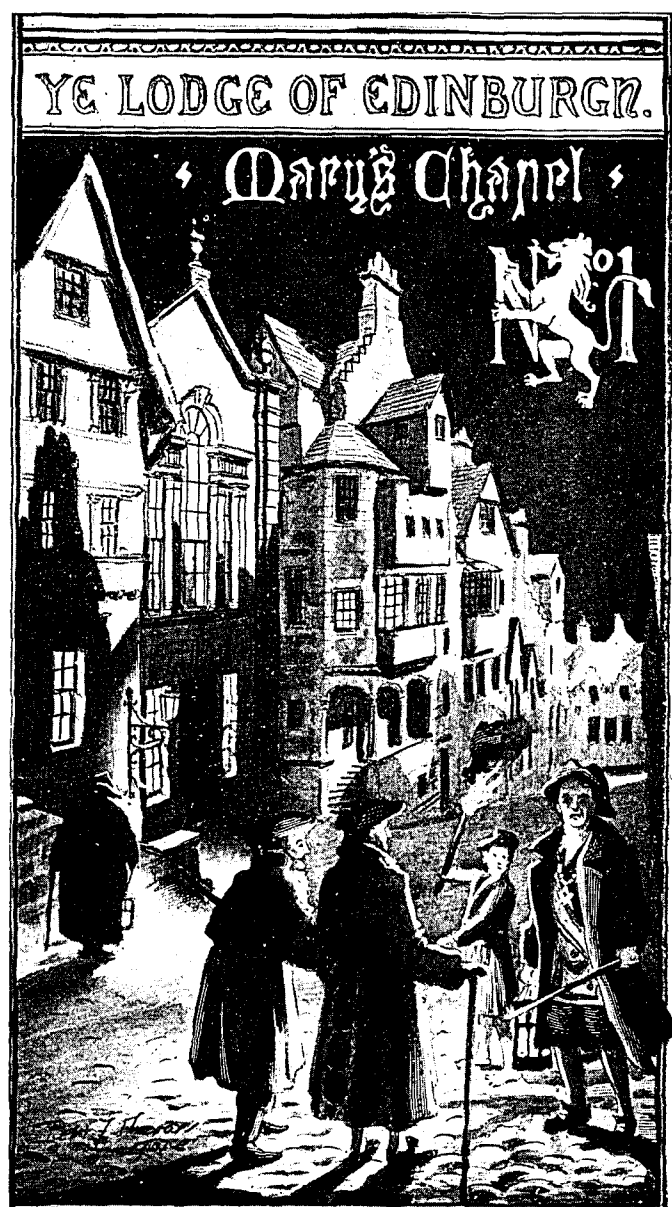
Bro. Taylor, in proposing the toast of "The Provincial Grand Master," made feeling allusion to the lamented death during the past year of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Lieut.-Colonel Charles Lyne, whom they had loved and revered, but congratulated the province on the appointment of W. Bro. H. Martyn Kennard, which was the best possible selection that could have been made, and much satisfaction was expressed at the continuation in the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Bro. Lt.-Col. C. R. Lyne, as preserving a much-valued connecting link between the late and the present ruler of the province. The other toasts were duly honoured, and Bro. Terry, in his reply, made his customary earnest appeal on behalf of the Benevolent Institution.

It is not generally known that there is in Paris at least one lodge which, although necessarily under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient of France, works according to the lines laid down by our Constitution. Its name is the Anglo-Saxon Lodge, and the membership is by no means inconsiderable. The Secretary of the lodge is none other than Bro. E. P. Denny, who was closely related to the late-lamented V.W. Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Chaplain, and Grand Superintendent for Suffolk.

At the last meeting of the Commemoration Lodge, No. 2663, held at the Holborn Restaurant, Bro. W. Clarke Saunders was presented with a handsome and costly Westminster chime clock in recognition of his services as Secretary, 1897 to 1901.



FRONT ELEVATION, FREEMASONS' HALL, EDINBURGH.



The above is a reproduction of the menu card which was specially designed for the last annual dinner, on St. John's Day, of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1. The designs are the work of the new lodge architect, Bro. R. F. Sherar. The principal sketch includes the original "Mary's Chapel," in Niddry's Wynd (from which the Lodge of Edinburgh derived its by-name), which was built by the Countess of Ross in 1504, and after being re-fronted was taken down in 1787 to make way for the South Bridge. This sketch shows Niddry's Wynd, towards the end of the 18th century, with a deputation on its way to the Hall on St. John's night. The smaller sketch shows the front elevation of the present hall premises, opened in 1893.

Amongst the many sons and daughters of members of the Craft present at the Juvenile Fancy Dress Ball at the Mansion House last month were the children of V.W. Bro. the Lord Mayor, P.G.T., and those of V.W. Bro. Sheriff Marshall, their clever costumes having all been singled out for special mention.

It is a matter of interest to the Craft, no less than to the medical profession, that the post of Consulting Surgeon and Surgeon-in-Chief of the French Hospital, vacant by the death of Bro. Sir William MacCormac, has been filled by the appointment of Bro. Edmund Owen, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital, who is a P.G. Deacon of England.

At the installation meeting of the Zetland Lodge, No. 561, Guisborough, on the 15th January, W. Bro. W. H. Harrison was duly inducted into the chair of King Solomon by Bro. W. J. Watson, P.M. After the appointment of the officers and the routine business had been transacted, the brethren dined together under the presidency of the Worshipful Master, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

R.W. Bro. his Grace the Duke of Portland, Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire, has recently presented a site in Sherwood Forest for the establishment of a fully-equipped sanatorium for combatting the disease of consumption. The interest taken in this subject by His Majesty the King is well known, and it is a matter for congratulation that he should be well supported by distinguished members of our Order.



The departure for South Africa of R.W. Bro. George Richards, District Grand Master for the Transvaal, on the 1st February, cannot but be regarded as a happy omen in connection with the resuscitation of Freemasonry in the affected districts in that country. Although none but the most optimistic will care to predict that the Craft can for a considerable time to come resume its normal aspect there, Bro. George Richards's presence will do not a little to assist the turn for the better which affairs are taking in South Africa. We learn that he will be the bearer of warrants for two new lodges in the Transvaal, which have been granted by the M.W. Grand Master.



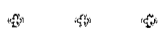
Bro. Hermann Klein, P.G. Org., whose trip to America was referred to in our last issue, has lost no time in transmitting home an account of his experiences. It is interesting to learn that our worthy brother was fortunate enough to have as his travelling companions Bro. J. P. Sousa, "the March King," and his band, and that his experiences were of a decidedly pleasant kind. "The bond of sympathy," writes Bro. Klein, "between Britain and America is stronger than it was when I visited this country six years ago, and for every man who then thought of an Englishman as a brother, there are now a hundred."



Imitation, it is said, is the sincerest form of flattery, and the "New Woman" of the United States may be congratulated on the tribute paid in this sense to the "mere man" by the establishment of the Order of the Eastern Star, which, as our readers are aware, is founded on Masonic lines, and is composed entirely of the gentler sex. Much encouragement and, in some cases, recognition is accorded to them, but our American brethren do not appear to be all of one mind in this matter, and the Grand Lodge of Kentucky has taken a firm stand in connection with the relations of the Eastern Star to Masonry.



The *American Tyler* is pleased to notice that the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, at its recent session, took a very sensible view of the relations of the Eastern Star to Masonry. A resolution was submitted providing that each subordinate lodge be requested by the Grand Lodge to establish within its jurisdiction a chapter of the Eastern Star of the ladies of Masonry. The resolution called forth a long discussion, and was finally referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. Past Grand Master J. Soule Smith, Chairman of this Committee, reported against the resolution. The Committee took the ground that the Grand Lodge could not assume jurisdiction over the Order of the Eastern Star. A sharp debate followed and when the vote was finally put, the report of the Committee was adopted and the resolution defeated by an overwhelming majority.

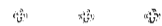


Our contemporary remarks that the action of the Grand Lodge was just what it should have been. No matter how friendly a grand body of Masonry may feel towards the Eastern Star, no matter how much it wishes to encourage it, it certainly has no right to seek to extend it by its official action, or to assume any jurisdiction over it whatever. The Eastern Star may be a very desirable auxiliary to Masonry, but it forms no part of it. Zealous brothers are sometimes apt to forget this, but it is, nevertheless, an unavoidable fact.

We imagine it will be a very long time before any supreme or subordinate body in this country will arrive at the stage of suggesting even that the Eastern Star "may be a desirable auxiliary to Masonry," but then we move so slowly in the old world and are apt to regard the injunction to suffer no innovation in the body of Masonry as a binding obligation on all loyal members of the Craft.



We have received several communications in response to our invitations to Secretaries of lodges to furnish us with items of Masonic interest for insertion in our columns, but not in time for the present number. In future issues we hope to devote a page or two to these matters, and in the meantime desire to point out that preference will be given to such communications as lend themselves to pictorial illustrations.



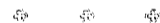
Bro. T. Harrison Roberts, P.M. 2502, whose notice of motion was, so to say, swallowed up in the general discussion on the subject of the Warden's service at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, is well known to the outside world as the editor and proprietor of *Illustrated Bits*, the popular penny weekly. His philanthropic services in the organisation of his Balaclava Fund are proofs of his benevolent spirit, and it is not unsafe to predict that the Craft has not yet seen the conclusion of Bro. Roberts' Masonic activities.



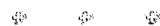
The inaugural meeting of the All Saints' Chapter of Improvement will take place at the Bow Vestry Hall, Bow Road, E., on Monday, the 3rd of February, at 6.30 p.m. The ceremony of exaltation will be rehearsed by E. Comp. T. Griffiths, P.Z., after which the companions will dine together at the "Bow Bells." Comp. F. Thornton, of 4, Park Terrace, Devons Road, E., has undertaken the duties of Secretary.



Bro. A. Smith, S.D. of the Coborn Lodge, No. 1804, who is leaving England to take up an important appointment in New Zealand in connection with the All British Pacific Telegraph Company, was the recipient of a gift from his brethren of a solid gold combination watch and sovereign box at a meeting held on Wednesday, the 15th of January. The presentation was made by the Worshipful Master, Bro. J. Butcher, who, in the name of the lodge, conveyed the hearty good wishes of the brethren for his success in his new sphere.



The manner in which the events of the moment are occasionally crystalized in the names of newly-warranted Freemasons' lodges (says the *Westminster Budget*), has escaped the notice of the historian, but it is curiously interesting nevertheless. In the course of 1900, for instance, among the many fresh lodges established under the warrant of the Grand Lodge of England, one called after Lord Roberts, was founded at Somerset, as well as the Alfred Milner Lodge at Muizenberg, both in South Africa, while the Cecil Rhodes Lodge at Bulawayo was a fruit of the previous year, as was the Lord Kitchener Lodge, at Greenwich. Victorious generals have been recognised in this fashion, indeed, for a century and a half. The Marquis of Granby so distinguished himself at the Battle of Minden in 1759, that he was made Commander-in-Chief, and in 1763, a Marquis of Granby Lodge was founded, which still exists.



Later in the eighteenth century a Nelson of the Nile Lodge attested at Batley the popular admiration for a naval hero, as a Wellington, warranted at Rye in 1814, did for that Military victor, while the Wolseley Lodge at Manchester in 1883, carried out the tradition, and honoured the late Commander-in-Chief very speedily after his success at Tel-el-Kebir. And not the least interesting of such crystallization is the Prince Frederick William Lodge, founded in

London in 1858, and in its name commemorating the marriage of the late Emperor Frederick to our own Princess Royal.

In South Africa there are many lodges that are named after distinguished persons, besides the three mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. The Charles Warren Lodge, Kimberley, was warranted in 1897, and the Henry B. Loch, at Beaconsfield, in 1890. The Richard Giddy Lodge, now over a quarter of a century old, commemorates an old Cape name at the Diamond Fields. The present District Grand Master of the Eastern Province is immortalised in the Charles Egan Lodge at Umtata, and the Charles Blakeway at Engcobo, is another example of naming after a person. The Carnarvon Lodge, Cape Town, commemorates a late Pro Grand Master, who opened the British Temple, while a lodge at Richmond, Natal, is also called after him. The Frere Lodge at Aliwal North, founded in 1885, recalls the name of a famous Governor, while there is a lodge of the same name, founded in 1880, at Riversdale, under the Netherlands Constitution. The Zetland, at Fort Beaufort, founded in 1852, was called after the Earl of Zetland, who was Grand Master at that time. The Alexandra at Somerset East, founded in 1875, might have been called after the present Queen Consort, if so it is the only lodge under the English Constitution in South Africa called after Royalty, for the Albany, at Graham's Town, founded in 1828, was doubtless named after the division in which it is situated. Of the three Scotch lodges in the Cape Peninsula, one is named after our late sailor Prince, the Royal Alfred, at Simon's Town, and another the Lorne, in Cape Town, after the Marquis of Lorne, the husband of the Princess Louise, while the Athol, at Kimberley, recalls the ducal family of that name, and the Thomas Gardner, at Klerksdorp, an old and much respected Cape Town Freemason.

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

NOW that the Christmas and New Year's Festivities are over, and the lodges have settled down into working order of the normal kind, the approaching Festivals of the Central Masonic Institutions begin to exercise the minds of all loyal Masons and to call forth in an increasing degree those principles of Charity which we are taught ever to associate with Freemasonry.

That these precepts have born fruit is exemplified by the steadily increasing annual contributions which the Secretaries of the respective Institutions are enabled to announce at each succeeding annual gathering, and we

sincerely trust that, notwithstanding some fears have been expressed that from various causes a check to this prosperity may be experienced in the coming year, we possess so much faith in the principles of the Order, and the charitable instincts of its members, that we have little fear of any retrograde movement in this respect.

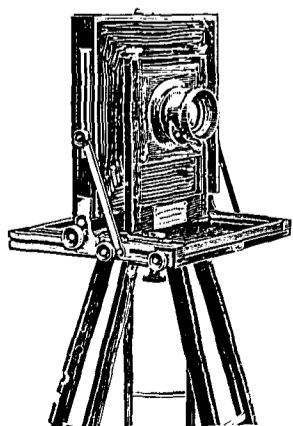
As regards the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, which is fixed for February the 26th, and which is to be presided over by the genial and popular Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, W. Bro. Sir Augustus F. Godson, M.P., the prospects, although not fully assured, are hopeful. The number of Stewards at the time of going to press had reached 491, which compares favourably with the previous year. Of this number the Chairman's province, although containing only fifteen lodges, sends over sixty. This is a splendid example of what may be done by earnest and concentrated effort, and should have its effect in stimulating the zeal of other centres of Masonic influence.

There is one feature about the Institution on whose behalf we plead, which should never be lost sight of, that the limitations to its usefulness are not bounded by the four walls of its buildings at Croydon; there is practically no limit to the number of annuitants whom it may shield from privation and want while a single needy and deserving applicant remains outside its benefits. The Craft cannot set itself a more worthy task than to endeavour by every means in its power to justify the recommendation of the committee who have investigated the various claims of the candidates, and have recommended them for election. At present, and for years past, the number of annuitants elected have fallen lamentably short of the applications, and it is pitiable to observe year after year the names of those whose sands of life are fast running out waiting wearily for the relief that would mean so much to them in their last days. We trust that the coming Festival will, in a more marked degree than any of its predecessors, give evidence on the part of the whole of the Craft that it has made up its mind to preserve from want those of its aged brethren and widows who have fallen by the way, and we look forward with much hopefulness to Bro. Terry announcing that the contributions have not only exceeded those of any previous normal year, but that the figures will indicate a resolve that the new century shall mark an epoch of increased activity and strenuous efforts in support of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

IMPORTANT.

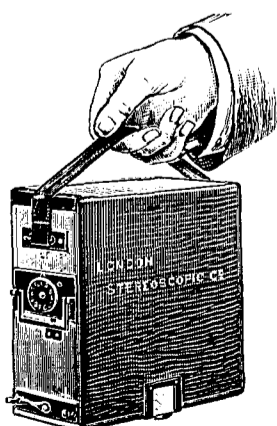
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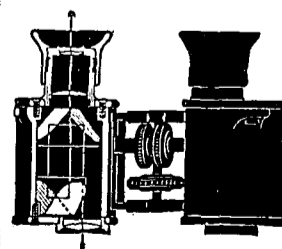
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Battle Abbey and its New Owner.

THERE can, we think, have been but few happenings which will have given greater satisfaction, no less to the general public than to the Craft, than the purchase of Battle Abbey by the esteemed Provincial Grand Master for Hants and the Isle of Wight, R.W. Bro. Sir Augustus Webster, Bart.

The sale of the famous abbey by auction, and the consequent prospect of its falling into the hands of the highest bidder, irrespective of any other qualification for ownership, was sufficient to create in the most indifferent of us feelings of regret. The purchase by Bro. Sir Augustus Webster has, however, removed all such misgivings and has

and to have shown a marked partiality for lands and buildings that had historic interest. Bodiam Castle, Robertsbridge Abbey, a Cistercian Monastery founded in the 12th century, and the house in St. James's Street, which is now Boodle's Club, were amongst the most noteworthy of his possessions.

The new owner of Battle Abbey, Bro. Sir Augustus F. E. Webster, Bart., is the eighth holder of the baronetcy, and is but thirty-seven years of age. A retired Captain of the Grenadier Guards, and a well-known member of the Guards' Club, he has, since the outbreak of the war, resumed duty with his former regiment. He married six years ago the only daughter of the late Henry Crossley, whose father was



BATTLE ABBEY.

also added another romantic episode to the history of the building, for Battle Abbey first came into the possession of the Webster family nearly two hundred years ago.

The event which the Abbey commemorates is too well known to need more than a brief allusion to the fact that the famous Battle of Hastings, in which 60,000 men were slain in one day, transferred the Crown of England to a new race of Sovereigns. The ruins of the Benedictine Monastery, which William the Conqueror dedicated to St. Martin of Bataille in fulfilment of his vow, should he gain the day, are still in existence, covering quite a square mile in extent. One, Gilmour was its first possessor; it was afterwards transferred to Sir Anthony Brown, and subsequently was sold by the sixth Viscount Montague to our distinguished brother's ancestor, Sir Thomas Webster.

He is said to have been a man of considerable learning,

one of three brothers who so developed their mills at Halifax that the firm of Crossleys still holds rank as the largest carpet manufacturers in the world.

Our distinguished brother was Senior Grand Deacon in 1897, and in October last was appointed Provincial Grand Master for Hants and the Isle of Wight, in succession to the late lamented Bro. Rt. Hon. W. W. B. Beach, M.P. He was also a founder and second deputy Master of the Household Brigade Lodge, of which the King was W.M. up to the time of his accession.

Bro. Sir Augustus Webster's personal popularity, no less than his Masonic attainments, render him eminently fitted for the position he has been called upon to hold, and a hope may be expressed that the brethren in the province in question will not altogether lose him as a resident in Hampshire in consequence of his acquisition of Battle Abbey.

Consecration of the Chingford Lodge, No. 2859.

A LARGE and representative gathering assembled at the Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford, on the 3rd of December, to take part in the consecration of the Chingford Lodge. In the absence of both the Provincial Grand Master and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the former caused by illness and the latter by another Masonic engagement, the duty fell on Bro. T. J. Ralling, Prov. Grand Secretary, who was ably assisted by other Provincial Grand officers. Bro. Ralling addressed the brethren on the object of the gathering, forcibly impressing on them the fact that the formation of a new lodge was a serious undertaking, and involved serious responsibilities, and pointing out that they should avoid the danger to which all lodges are liable, especially during their infancy, of desiring to add to its membership without due regard to the character of those who sought admission to it.

A thoughtful and highly instructive oration was delivered

by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, the Rev. E. F. Colnett, Chaplain of the Bagshaw Lodge, No. 1457.

At the conclusion of the consecration ceremony the first Master of the lodge, W. Bro. George R. Brown, was ably installed by W. Bro. Albert Lucking, P.G.P., Prov. G.D.C., and the new Master having invited W. Bro. Frederick Taylor, P.M. 2256, to act as I.P.M. for the year, the officers were invested as follows:—Bros. Sydney Fortescue, S.W.; J. Parkinson Watts, J.W.; S. C. Rhodes, Treas.; Charles T. Papworth, Sec.; Harry Bird, S.D.; George H. Pizey, J.D.; W. W. West, I.G.; K. M. Yeoman, D.C.; F. C. Gooding, Stwd.; and J. Ives, Tyler. The W.M. was elected to represent the lodge on the Essex Provincial Charity Committee.

Between seventy and eighty brethren afterwards dined together, under the presidency of the new W.M., fervent wishes being expressed by the after-dinner speakers for the welfare of the new lodge.

Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25.

THE installation meeting of the above lodge took place on Monday, January 6th, at Freemasons' Hall. A good assembly of brethren and visitors witnessed the very admirable manner in which W. Bro. Charles Lee, P.M., was installed into the chair of K.S. by Bro. S. Davis, P.M., the Wardens for the year being Bros. W. C. Elsdon, S.W., and H. Simon, J.W.



BRO. CHARLES LEE, W.M. (Photo Elite Portrait Co.)

The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to a banquet, which was enlivened both by music and song.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, that of "The Grand Officers" was given, and ably replied to by W. Bro. Notley, P.G. Swd. Br., who complimented the I.P.M., W. Bro. Davis, on the excellence of his work as Installing Master, and further said that he had been specially pleased at the kindly and courteous feeling evinced in the Robert Burns Lodge in having passed a brother from the Brixton Lodge.

In proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," the I.P.M. spoke of his sterling qualities as a Mason and a worker. He was sure he would be a credit to the lodge.

The Worshipful Master, in replying, thanked the brethren for the kindly feeling shown him. He had now reached the goal he had sought, and congratulated the lodge on being what he was pleased to call a "family lodge." There was no such thing as a "clique" in the Robert Burns Lodge, and he trusted there never would be.

The Worshipful Master next proposed the toast of "The Installing Master." All were proud of him. Although he had had a deal of trouble during the past year, still Bro. Davis had never failed in his duties to the Robert Burns Lodge. He had much pleasure in presenting him with the Past Master's jewel as a mark of love and appreciation from all the brethren.

The I.P.M., in reply, thanked the brethren for their kindness. His year of office had been a pleasure, and the jewel he had received would always remind him of the goodwill of the brethren.

"The Visitors" was responded to by W. Bro. J. King, P.M., P.P.G. Swd. Br., W. Bro. Garcia, W.M. of the Derby Allcroft Lodge, and W. Bro. Hellier, W.M. of the Eccleston Lodge, while Bro. Wilbur Gunn responded by singing a song which was much appreciated.

The toasts of "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Past Masters" was ably responded to by the Secretary, Bro. Harvey, and the D.C. Bro. Deacon, both of whom testified to the good fellowship evinced by all the brethren.

Altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent, and all were sorry to part when the Tyler's toast demanded the closing of the day.

Guildhall School of Music Lodge, No. 2454.

AT an emergency meeting of the Guildhall School of Music Lodge, No. 2454, held (by dispensation from Grand Lodge) at the Hotel Cecil on Wednesday, 1st January, the brethren of the Incorporated Society of Musicians were entertained. After the Worshipful Master, Bro. William Rogers, had initiated two gentlemen into Freemasonry, and raised two members, the brethren adjourned to an adjoining room, where they partook of a well-served banquet.

During the evening, Bro. Dr. W. H. Cummings, P.M., P.G. Organist, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, stated that, for some time past, many of the brethren of the Incorporated Society of Musicians had felt the want of a Masonic lodge in connection with that body, to bring the brethren into close brotherly communion. As a result, they had applied to Grand Lodge for a warrant, which he was pleased to say had been granted, and in a few weeks the lodge would be consecrated at the Holborn Restaurant, and called "The Incorporated Society of Musicians Lodge." It would be what is known as a summer lodge, and would meet at that place four times during the summer months on Saturday afternoons. He hoped that all the members of the Society who were Masons would join the new lodge, and he was pleased to state that they already had the names of five or six gentlemen for initiation, amongst the first of whom were Mr. Chadfield, the secretary, and Mr. A. T. Cummings (the Principal's son), the solicitor of the Society.

The amount collected in the Charity-box at the table, amounting to £3 10s., was sent by the lodge as a contribution towards the funds of the Orphanage connected with the Society by a few Masonic friends.

White Rose of York Lodge, No. 2840.

THE installation meeting of the above lodge took place on Friday, January 3rd, 1902, at the Holborn Restaurant, when W. Bro. James Graham, P.M. 652, 2750, P.P. Dep. G.D. of C. Essex, was installed as W.M. by W. Bro. Dobb. The first W.M. of this very successful lodge was W. Bro. Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bart., P.G.D., but owing to his many official duties elsewhere, the real work of the lodge had fallen on the shoulders of the S.W., W. Bro. Graham, who had performed them in a highly creditable manner.

This lodge is scarcely a year old, and was exclusively founded by Yorkshire brethren in London, among whom are many distinguished men in Masonry.

Before his installation as W.M., Bro. Graham gave a splendid sample of his work in his very able and impressive rendering of the Third Degree.

At the subsequent banquet, the toast of "The Grand Officers" was responded to by W. Bro. Terry, who thanked the brethren for the hearty way in which all had drank the same. He reminded the brethren that the Grand Officers, like all Englishmen, always did their duty, no matter where they might be placed.

W. Bro. Harrison, Chaplain, in proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," reminded the brethren that their W.M. of that evening had practically been Master of the Lodge since its commencement. They had a W.M. second to none, and he looked forward to a successful year under his guidance.

The Worshipful Master, replying, said that the occupation of the chair during the past year had been a labour of love, and he hoped it would so continue in the White Rose Lodge.

In proposing the toast of "The Installing Master," the Worshipful Master said that Bro. Dobb had performed his duties admirably.

W. Bro. Terry replied to the toast of "The Charities."

In giving the toast of "The Visitors," the Worshipful Master said he was pleased to number among his guests two brethren from his mother lodge in Yorkshire who had travelled from that county to honour him at his installation, an honour he felt very proud of, and thanked them for.

"The Treasurer and Secretary" and "The Past Masters" having been duly honoured, the happy evening was brought to a close with the Tyler's toast.

The St. Bride Lodge of Instruction.

THE inauguration meeting of the above lodge took place at the Hotel Cecil on the 4th of January, and was attended by nearly one hundred brethren. W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., installed W. Bro. John F. Roberts as Preceptor of the lodge.

A banquet was afterwards given, at which R.W. Bro. Sir Frank Green, Bart., P.G.W., W.M. of the St. Bride Lodge, presided. Several Masonic toasts were given, that of "The Lancastrian and St. Bride Regular Lodges" being proposed by W. Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G. Registrar, in which he spoke of the great good "class" lodges had done for Masonry.

Bro. Sir Frank Green, in giving the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement," spoke of the very masterly and sympathetic manner in which Bro. Sudlow had rendered the ritual, in reply to which Bro. Sudlow said he hailed this new lodge of instruction as another offshoot of the parent tree, and that he wished it every prosperity. He also most heartily congratulated the lodge in having appointed Bro. Roberts as its Preceptor, who, he might say, was splendidly equipped for the task he had undertaken, and he coupled his name with the toast of "The St. Bride Lodge of Instruction."

Bro. Roberts, in a very able reply, thanked Bro. Sudlow for his very kind remarks, and said it would be his endeavour that the lodge should be entitled to rank with the other first-class lodges of instruction; he also went on to speak of the very poor working of the metropolitan lodges generally as compared with those in the country—he gave one or two instances whereat he had been the witness of such, and wished that the eye of authority could be equally on the London as on the country lodges. In conclusion he suggested that lodges of instruction should be worked under authority.

A very entertaining musical programme, under the direction of Bro. G. C. Burry, P.P.G.O., Surrey, was also provided during the evening.

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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).

ALTHOUGH not published in the Grand Lodge Calendar, a register of the several lodges of instruction meeting in the metropolis was kept by the Grand Secretary. This register confirms the advertisement just quoted as to the early meetings of the lodge having been held at the *Red Lion*, Old Cavendish Street, and further informs us that its next abiding place was at the *Burlington Arms*, Old Burlington Street. Early in 1830 we find from the following Memorial, part of which is reproduced on the opposite page, that it was located at the *Blue Posts*, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, where it remained until March, 1836:—

“To H.R.H. The Duke of Sussex,
Most Worshipful Grand Master of Free & Accepted
Masons of England, &c., &c., &c., &c.

“We the undersigned being members of the lodge of instruction called the Emulation Lodge of Improvement meeting at the Blue Posts Charlotte Street Fitzroy Sqr, under the sanction of the Lodge of Hope since its commencement on the 2nd of October 1823 beg leave most respectfully to state that this lodge of instruction is for MMs only, always commencing with the lecture in the 3rd degree, and taking the other lectures in rotation as time will permit, and are worked according to the custom of the Grand Stewards Lodge, and since the commencement of the same there have joined between three & four hundred brethren, and that the number attending in the year 1827 was 795, in 1828—1109—in 1829—833—total 2735, making the average number for each night 18 for the last three years, but in consequence of the communication and command received from your Royal Highness on the last Quarterly Communication we are debarred from meeting and working as we have been accustomed to viz electing the WM and he appointing his officers for the next night of meeting, so that the brethren may have an opportunity of giving the section they are appointed to work due consideration previously to the night of meeting which is on every Friday. This Lodge of Instruction is circumstanced differently from any other in the Order, having only one of the members belonging to the lodge under whose sanction it is held and that one the WM who now comes amongst us. Having thus laid the statement and manner of working before your Royal Highness and having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, we are anxious to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the Art in a regular constitutional manner, and wishing to excite *emulation* amongst the younger brethren and to give such instruction that when they may have the honour to be appointed to any office or elected to the Chair, in a regular lodge they may be fully competent to discharge the important duties of the same with that correctness and regularity which is so essential to the well ruling and governing a lodge. We do therefore pray that your Royal Highness will be pleased to grant this lodge of instruction your especial license and authority so that we may meet and conduct the business of Masonry which we trust has been done for nearly seven years, and the undersigned as in duty will ever pray.”

The foregoing Memorial appears to have been prompted by a “Communication and Command” from the Grand Master at a meeting of the Grand Lodge on the 3rd March, 1830, but unfortunately we are left quite in the dark as to the nature of that Communication, the Grand Lodge Records of the date mentioned containing nothing appertaining to Lodges of Instruction; nor does the reply to the memorial, here appended, throw any light upon the matter. It is possible that the Memorial induced the Grand Master to

reconsider the subject, and that his command was intentionally omitted from the minutes. However that may be, the lodge appears to have gone on about the same as it had from its beginning, and, indeed, as it has ever since, with regard to the election of Master and the appointment of officers.

Reply to the memorial:—

“F. M. Hall,

“31st March, 1830.

“W. Brother,

“I have received the Commands of the M.W.G. Master, the Duke of Sussex, to state in reply to your Memorial for a Special Licence for the Lodge of Instruction at present attached to Lodge No. 7, that H.R. Highness does not feel himself at liberty to accede to the prayer of the Memorial.

“The Laws of the Grand Lodge relative to Lodges of Instruction proceed upon the principle of placing those meetings under the superintendence and control of a warranted Lodge; and which Lodge when it gives its sanction is made responsible for the correctness of proceeding in the Lodge of Instruction, the object of which is that the Grand Lodge may have a known responsible party in the event of irregularity—H.R. Highness fully concurring in opinion with the Grand Lodge on the propriety and even necessity for such a Law, cannot do any Act which would have a tendency to weaken its force. That part of the Law which gives to the M.W.G. Master authority to grant a



PETER WILLIAM GILKES, P.M.

Special Licence for a Lodge of Instruction, ought to be exercised only in cases of a very Special Nature where the application of an extraordinary remedy had become requisite, and such a case is not alleged in the Memorial.

We do therefore pray that Your Royal Highness will be pleased to grant this Lodge of Instruction your especial licence and Authority, so that we may meet and conduct the Business of Masonry in that regular manner, which we trust has been done for nearly Seven years. And the undersigned as in duty will ... ever pray.

Pyilkes W. M. of No. 7 J. W. for the night.

J. Mivart P. M. 152 & W. M. for the night —

Th. Gillam W. M. 367 J. M. for the night

John Dowley 152 & Treas. of this Lodge | Contrast P. M. 481 & Sec. of this Lodge

Wm. Langstaff P. M. 218 & J. D. | J. Allan J. D. 27. M. M. &

Thos. yestivell J. G. & W. M. of 299. | John Cox P. M. 11

Colville Brown P. M. 92

James Leggett J. M. of No. 11

E. Garner P. M. 299 & 401 | John Nelson N. 305

G. H. Peck P. M. 19

Thomas Parker 300

J. H. St. Paul P. M. 335

Hungerford Luthell 314

Sam. Manton Buggs P. M. No. 152. | W. Hainfeld P. M. N. 481.

Edw. W. Wington P. M. No. 481.

Signed in Open Lodge this 19th of March 1830.

"With every disposition therefore to yield to the wishes of the Brethren in all instances where that can be done without prejudice to the Craft, H.R. Highness is under the painful necessity of declining to comply with your present request.

"With Fraternal regard, I remain,

"Your Obedient Servant and faithful Brother,

"W. H. WHITE, G.S.

"The W. Bro. PETER GILKES

"and the other Members of the

"Lodge of Instruction, attached to No. 7."

Shortly after the receipt of the foregoing reply the Lodge transferred its allegiance to the Lodge of Unions. "On the 20th April, 1830, Bro. Wittington having been deputed by the 'Emulation Lodge of Improvement,' now held under the sanction of the 'Lodge of Hope,' No. 7, to solicit from the W. Master and Brethren of this Lodge, their sanction—Upon

supported by a great number of the Fraternity from different Lodges. Bro. Dowley was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. France, Secretary. They severally returned thanks. Bro. Quinton, of Lodge No. 2, Dublin, distinguished himself equally by an eloquent address as by the sweetness and delicacy with which he sang two songs, and the evening passed to the entire satisfaction of all present."

From the fact that no reference is made in this report to Masonic work, we may fairly assume that at this period the annual Festival was devoted more to harmony and conviviality than to serious business. The same volume contains a biographical sketch of the celebrated Masonic Instructor and worker, Peter Gilkes, whose portrait we present, and to whose zeal, ability, and fostering care, the early pre-eminence of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was largely due. A few extracts from his biography may not



TABLET TO THE MEMORY OF PETER WILLIAM GILKES IN ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.

a motion duly made by Bro. John Mivart, that this Lodge do in future give its sanction to the 'Emulation Lodge of Improvement,' held at this house. Seconded by Bro. Sheerman; carried unanimously." *

The *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* for 1834 contains the first report I have been able to find of a meeting of the Lodge. Under date October 3rd appears the following:—

"The anniversary of the Master Masons Lodge of Instruction, Charlotte Street, Rathbone Place, was celebrated this evening with even more than its usual eclat. Brother Dowley, W.M., in the Chair. Several members of the Lodge of Unions, No. 318, under whose sanction this Lodge of Instruction is held, attended to testify the pleasure they felt in its prosperity, and the high sense they entertained of its value and importance to the Craft. The Master was also

therefore be without interest to the present members of that Lodge.

"An honest man's the noblest work of God."

"Brother Peter William Gilkes was born on the 1st of May, 1765, in the neighbourhood of Carnaby Market, and baptised a Member of the Catholic church in the same year; he was named after the late Lord Petre, who had been an excellent friend to his family. . . . The funeral of a distinguished brother, whom the Craft honoured by a public procession, first directed his attention to Masonry; enquiry satisfied his mind of the utility and benevolent views of the Order, and he was initiated in the year 1786, at the age of twenty-one, in the British Lodge, now No. 8. Delighted with the science, he devoted his energies and time to qualify himself for those honours which Masonry holds out for the deserving. . . .

(To be Continued).

* Annals of the Lodge of Unions, No. 250, Reuben Robert Davis, P.M. London, 1885.