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The Granting of Pensions.

BUT for the remark of our contemporary *The Freemason*, in connection with its quotation of certain expressions to which we gave utterance at the General Meeting of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, held on the 10th inst., we should most probably have refrained for some little while, and, at least, until a debate on the anticipated retirement of an officer of the Institution was imminent, from further discussing the question of pensions in this journal. When, however, it is suggested that "a study of unimportant details has made us (in the singular person) needlessly contentious," and that suggestion is coupled with the statement that "the question arising out of a recommendation of the Provisional Committee has nothing to do with the source of income from which the pension will be paid," we throw aside the reserve we had contemplated, and contest the dictum of our contemporary.

That there is no rule which forbids the practice of granting pensions is no argument whatever that such grants are unexceptionally in accordance with strict justice, or even with propriety; and the anticipations of well-salaried officers of institutions, supported by the voluntary contributions of any class or section of society, do not constitute a title thereto. If it has not been "so nominated in the bond," there is nothing to justify even those anticipations; and if they be indulged in, and in the result meet with disappointment, no blame can be attached to any other than the disappointed anticipator. If officials do not devote themselves to their appointed duties,—for the discharge of which they have been willing to accept, as a full return, whatever stipend or reward was at first agreed upon, and the increments thereto which generally accompany faithful service,—with all the energy and spirit, and it may be, with increased ability resulting from a more familiar acquaintance with the nature of the duties of their appointments, then they do not prove themselves the qualified persons they were presumed to be when they entered upon their engagements. The increased reward having kept pace

with the increased energy, spirit and ability, what further is there to constitute a claim for additional recompense? That a generous recognition of past service should accompany the termination of a more than ordinarily zealous, useful and honourable career must be generally admitted by all men and masons alike; and there are none likely to grudge the disposition of whatever funds can legally and with propriety be devoted to such a purpose. We contest the claim, but not the privilege. To be worthy of such recognition is one thing, to have a vested interest enforcing it is quite another. And here it is necessary to say that we are in the fullest agreement with those who consider that "a more than ordinarily zealous and useful career" in connection with our Boy's School is about to terminate; and we reiterate our statement that "it would be a disgrace to Freemasons to allow the official referred to to retire without some recognition of his services in the past," or, as our contemporary better puts it, to "cast him adrift like so much useless lumber." That must not be, and means should be found to prevent so great a scandal!

If there is funded property belonging to the Institution beyond the amount representing capital the interest of which would sufficiently provide for the existing engagements undertaken by the Governors of the Institution, such as are comprised in the proper maintenance of the buildings, the staff expenses, and the support of all the pupils now in the establishment until the periods of their respective discharges shall have arrived, then it may well be conceived a grant could be made in respect of which no objection might arise. But is there any such excess of necessary capital? We have reason to believe there is not, and that, on the contrary, sums, which for the present we need not specify, have been taken wrongly into account as yearly income, and will have to be dealt with in connection with capital account when re-arrangement is made by responsible auditors. Can the proposed grant, therefore, be charged on the funds of the Institution? We fear not; but if it can be, and if it is found agreeable to the Governors and Life Subscribers to make the grant, we are sure that no objection will be taken to the adoption of that course. As our contemporary says, though in a somewhat different sense, "there will be no difficulty about that, if the proposal is agreed to."

But when we come to consider that it is contemplated that the burden of the proposed pension should be borne by the income to be derived from future charitable contributions, we unhesitatingly repeat that we believe it is not in the power of the Committee to apply such subscriptions in the way of pensions; that the distinct purposes of the School in the maintenance, support, and education of those

on behalf of whom the contributions have been made, require all that is customarily obtained year by year; that there can be no right to increase liabilities beyond such purposes; and that, if persisted in, there are those who will most unwillingly, but we cannot say unjustifiably, ask questions in another place to the possible disadvantage of the Institution.

We trust this will be avoided, and, as we have before said, means be found for a grateful acknowledgement of noble efforts without involvement of interests which all true-hearted Masons,—and there should be no Freemasons otherwise than true-hearted in respect of our charities,—would regret should suffer from diversity of opinion.

That monies have been voted from each of the Institutions in former instances, and without the grants having been contested, will not, in the opinion of many brethren, make the present intended diversion of the charitable funds legal; and the case is not advanced, but, we are led to believe, rather hindered by the recapitulation of the particulars of certain allowances, which in point of value differ considerably from that now in question. It is not universally accepted that all those former grants were quite *en règle*, but they are of the past, and it would ill become any of us to import a consideration of the merits of the particular cases into the present disquisition. "Let the dead past bury its dead!" our care is for the future welfare of all the Institutions, and the avoidance of aught which would prevent our brethren from continuing to subscribe readily and liberally towards their support.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF UNITED GRAND LODGE.

THE business to be transacted in Grand Lodge on Wednesday next, the 4th September, is as follows: The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 5th June will be read and put for confirmation. It will be proposed by the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, M.W. Pro Grand Master, that an Address be presented by Grand Lodge to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master, on the auspicious occasion of the Marriage of his eldest Daughter, Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise of Wales, with His Grace the Duke of Fife, K.T., Provincial Grand Master of Banffshire, offering the most hearty congratulations and good wishes of its Members on the happy event. The Report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter will be presented. In it there are recommendations for the following Grants, viz. :—

A Brother of the Prudent Brethren Lodge, No. 145, London	£50	0	0
The Widow of a Brother of the Bute Lodge, No. 960, Cardiff	50	0	0
A Brother of the Lodge of Sincerity, No. 943, Norwich...	50	0	0
The Widow of a Brother of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 491, Jersey	50	0	0
A Brother of the Star Lodge, No. 1275, Greenwich	50	0	0

The following Report of the Board of General Purposes will be presented :—To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England. The Board have had under their consideration the price hitherto charged for the "Charity Jewel" permitted to be worn by Brethren who have served as Stewards for two or more of the three Masonic Institutions, and they have communicated with Mr. Spilling, who has for many years been authorised to supply them to the Craft on the Certificate of the Grand Secretary, in accordance with page 144 of the Book of Constitutions.

The Board have now to report that Mr. Spilling has, consequently, reduced the price of the Jewel from £2 10s., the present amount, to £2, Hall-marked. The material and workmanship to be as before.

The Board submit a Statement of the Grand Lodge Accounts, at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 16th day of August instant, showing a Balance in the Bank of England (Western Branch) of £5,744 12s. 3d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for Petty Cash £100, and for Servants' Wages £100, and Balance of Annual Allowance for Library £26 17s. 11d. (Signed) Thomas Fenn, President, Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C., 20th August, 1889.

An Appeal will be made by Bro. Samuel Adams



Roach, of the Hervey Lodge, No. 1788, Port of Spain, Trinidad, against a decision of the Colonial Board, upholding his exclusion by the Lodge for improper conduct.

List of Lodges for which Warrants have been granted by the M.W. Grand Master since the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge :—

- No. 2312—The London Irish Rifles Lodge, London.
- 2313—The Johannesburg Lodge, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2314—The El Dorado Lodge, Malmani, South Africa.
- 2315—The Royal Albert Lodge, Klerksdorp, South Africa.
- 2316—The Prince's Lodge, Liverpool (W.D.)
- 2317—The Bisley Lodge, Bisley, Surrey.
- 2318—The Lennox Browne Lodge, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
- 2319—The Scots Lodge, London.
- 2320—The St. Martin's Lodge, Castleton, near Manchester, Lanc. (E.D.)
- 2321—The Acacia Lodge, Bradford, Yorkshire (W.D.)
- 2322—The East Lancashire Centurion Lodge, Manchester, Lanc. (E.D.)
- 2323—The Bushey Hall Lodge, Bushey, Herts.
- 2324—The Horwick Lodge, Horwick, Lanc. (W.D.)
- 2325—The Rose of Lancaster Lodge, Southport, Lanc. (W.D.)
- 2326—The Wigan Lodge, Wigan, Lanc. (W.D.)

The Calendar Committee direct the attention of Masters of Lodges and Principals of Chapters to the necessity of communicating to the Grand Secretary any change in the day or place of meeting of Lodges or Chapters so soon as the resolution for effecting such change shall be confirmed.—Vide Book of Constitutions, Articles 162, 167, 168, 169, 170; Edition 1884.

"The Masonic Poet's Corner."
(Original and Selected.)

I'LL MEET THEM WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN.

BY BRO. JOHN FAWCETT SKELTON, P.M. 146 (Bolton), P.Z.

Tune—"I'll meet her when the sun goes down."—American.

THERE'S a nice little Lodge of Masons all,
As any in the town;
Number.....on England's roll,
And I seek it when the sun goes down.
All is there that the Brethren can desire,
Love and Freedom, without a frown,
With a pipe and a glass, and a tuneful choir;
So I seek it when the sun goes down.
Chorus—And it's oh! how I love
My masonic Brothers,
For they're better than all others;
Oh! how I love!
And I'll meet them when the sun goes down.

When the cares of the world-life worry me,
And I get me a crack on the crown,
Ah! then I think of the Lodge with glee,
And I seek it when the sun goes down.
Oh! the fun and the wisdom there combin'd,
Hath an old and a wide renown,
So soothing and sweet to my heart and mind,
So I seek it when the sun goes down.
Chorus—And it's oh! how I love, &c.

All the world and his wife may call me what
They please—either clever man, or clown;
But my lodge, for me, is the dearest spot,
And I seek it when the sun goes down.
I am happy when within its mystic walls,
For my sorrows all are flown:
'Tis the best and the merriest of Earthly halls,
So I seek it when the sun goes down.
Chorus—And it's oh! how I love, &c.

Written for THE MASONIC STAR.

Our Devonshire Brethren, with whom we are proud to be able to claim a birthright, will be interested in the following extract from the *Pall Mall Gazette* :—"At the second annual dinner of the 'Devonians in London' in March last, a desire was widely expressed that an entertainment to which ladies could be invited should be organized in the autumn. In accordance with that wish the executive committee of the "Devonians in London" have decided to hold a reception, concert, and ball at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, October 24th, and strenuous efforts are being made to ensure the success of the gathering. The arrangements are, of course, not yet complete, but Sir H. Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.P., who will probably be accompanied by Lady Northcote, has promised to preside at the reception, while Miss Marian McKenzie and Miss Ada Patterson, the distinguished contralto and soprano—both natives of Devon—have kindly consented to give their services at the concert, and the band of Her Majesty's Scots Guards, conducted by Mr. E. Holland, has been engaged to perform during the evening. Other arrangements of an interesting nature are pending, the desire being to make the proceedings as Devonian in their characteristics as possible, as at the dinner all Devonians who happen to be in London at the date named will be welcome. Communications should be addressed to the honorary secretary, Mr. John Martin, at 11, Thorngate-road, St. Peter's Park, W."