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H I S T O R Y
OF
F R E E M A S O N R Y,

FROM THE YEAR 1829 TO THE
PRESENT TIME.

BY

THE REV. GEO: OLIVER, D.D.,

D.P.G.M. FOR LINCOLNSHIRE;

INCUMBENT OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH, WOLVERHAMPTON;
DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD
KENSINGTON; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY
OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

Viget, viresque acquirit eundo.—VING.



LONDON:

RICHARD SPENCER,

314, HIGH HOLBORN,

1841.

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PREFACE.

IN offering this small manual to the Masonic world, the Author is actuated by no other motive than to afford the noble Institution of Freemasonry the same advantages which are enjoyed by other sciences in an age of intellectual improvement and superior civilization. It has always been a popular argument against Freemasonry, that the proceedings of the Order have partaken of the mystery which, how excusable soever in its peculiar observances, is not to be tolerated when applied to its general transactions. This argument it has been the wish of all thinking Masons of the present day to neutralize. The intelligence of the age demands a liberal policy, which may encourage a spirit of free enquiry amongst those who are disposed to question the claims of our science to respect; at the same time that it may augment the resources of the Brethren, and enable them to render a satisfactory answer to those who may demand an account of the benefits which they derive from the practice of Freemasonry.

There cannot be a doubt but much of the prosperity of the Order has been owing to the Freemasons' Quarterly Review ; which, by offering a vehicle for recording its proceedings in every part of the globe, has introduced a spirit of emulation amongst the Lodges, to compete with each other in promoting the holy feelings of Brotherly Love and Charity. This invaluable record displays moral worth and active diligence wherever it is found to exist, and while any remissness in the Masonic authorities receives its proper stimulus ; a steady and regular discharge of duty produces applause. Hence the Craft is highly indebted to this Periodical, for the benefits it has conferred on the Institution ; and its prolonged existence forms a striking feature in the History of Freemasonry at the present momentous period. It gradually works its way amongst the Craft ; and the labours of its talented Editor are rewarded by the approbation of the Brethren. To this Periodical the Historian is indebted for his most valuable materials ; and the annals of Masonry, in its absence, would be meagre and uninteresting.

In the execution of this little work, the Author professes a strict independence of principle, and impartiality of action.

*Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri,
Quo me cunque rapit tempestas, deferor hospes.*

HOR.

Historical truth disclaims alike prejudice and partizanship ; and whatever opinions the Author may entertain as an individual Mason—he has endeavoured to preserve the strictest neutrality as an Annalist. How far he may have been successful will depend on the opinions of his readers. He has adhered most faithfully to that law of the Grand Lodge which prohibits the printing of any private transactions that require to be withheld from the public eye ; and has inserted no matter but what he has found in the printed Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge, or other sources equally available for the purposes of discussion and remark.

With this avowal, the work is committed to the judgment of the Craft ; and, it is hoped, will be found not altogether uninteresting, as a detail of Masonry in its most palmy and prosperous state.

WOLVERHAMPTON,

January, 1841.

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THE HISTORY

OF

FREEMASONRY.

CHAP. I.

History of Masonry from the Year 1829 to 1834.

IF we revert to the times when Freemasonry took a decided position amongst the Institutions of this country by the revival of the Grand Lodge in London, about the commencement of the eighteenth century, after the Ancient Grand Lodge at York had discontinued its meetings; and only four Lodges were to be found within the bills of mortality, we shall contemplate a fraternity constructed on a model different from the Freemasonry of our own times. The brethren of that day were proud of their knowledge—jealous of their privileges—and over sensitive lest the peculiar secrets of the Order should be exposed to the profane gaze of the vulgar. Hence in 1718, when the Grand Lodge promulgated an edict for the production of masonic papers and records, that the ancient usages and charges of masonry might be ascertained and restored; a powerful party, headed by Brother Nicholas Stone, one of the Grand Wardens under Inigo Jones, was arrayed against the measure. It

was considered, not merely an infringement on the privileges of the fraternity, but a dangerous expedient, affording a precedent for a multiplication of papers on this forbidden subject; and placing the customs and mysteries of the Institution at the mercy of those who opposed their principles, and turned their practice into ridicule. And when Dr. Anderson received instructions from the Grand Master to prepare a Book of Constitutions for the press, the adverse party took the alarm; and under a dread of public exposure, committed their manuscripts to the flames.

This occurred at a period when the people of England were unenlightened by education and science. A great moral revolution has been effected in our own times, by the spread of general knowledge; and the Institution of Freemasonry keeps pace with the onward march of social improvement. During the present century it has become so universally prevalent as to spread over the face of the whole earth. It has its seat amongst Princes; and is patronized by throned monarchs, and their chief nobility in every region under the canopy of heaven. In our own land, its Grand Master is also the patron of almost all the literary and scientific societies which shed a lustre on the present times. A century ago Freemasonry was but just emerging from the obscurity in which the ages of ignorance and bigotry had overwhelmed it. The veil had scarcely been removed in England; and in other parts of the globe it was little known, even by name; now it flourishes abundantly in every clime where there are men to practise it. A century ago scrupulous brethren knew so little of the true principles of the craft, as to destroy their manuscripts, lest the world should become acquainted with the nature and design of our association; now, we are anxious to shew the world the general prin-

principles of the Order; and for that purpose we have numerous publications on Freemasonry, whose existence has effected for it an universal respect amongst those who have not had the advantage of initiation into our mysteries, and we possess a well conducted periodical to record our proceedings; to show mankind the real tendency of our secrets; and to disseminate amongst the brethren a knowledge of the philosophy and science which are preserved in the institution.

A century ago Freemasonry had no permanent Charities, to lighten the sorrows of the destitute orphan, or to make the widow's heart sing for joy; now we have not only a fund of Benevolence for the distressed Mason or his widow; and Schools where the male and female orphans of our deceased Brethren are clothed, and fed, and instructed—where, to the comforts of this world, is added a knowledge of the preparation necessary to fit them for another and a better; but we have also a provision for the permanent relief of distresses occasioned by unmerited misfortune or old age; and an Asylum is projected, which, like the Hospitals of Chelsea and Greenwich, is intended to be a refuge from the storms of life to the worthy and upright Mason, whom misfortune may have reduced, or adversity deprived of a home in the winter of his life. A century ago, the philosophy of masonry was very imperfectly understood; now the Brethren emulate each other in literary pursuits; and thus the Lodges are elevated into schools for morality and science; where intelligent Masters dispense their instruction with ability and zeal; where the advance of moral and social improvement tends to enlighten the mind and soften the manners; and imparts to the well-taught Mason a decided advantage in the discharge of his duties as a member of civil society.

Such being the present state of feeling amongst a large and influential portion of the fraternity, its history assumes a character of unusual interest. It is no longer confined to the naked details of a few isolated facts and ceremonies, unaccompanied by commentary, and unembellished by investigations which may determine their propriety or impolicy, for the instruction of the future; but the historian may venture, in these times of liberality of sentiment and free discussion, to speculate on the legislation of the masonic authorities, without the dread of official censure on the one hand, or the private and more formidable reprehension of the fraternity on the other.

At the Quarterly Communication in March 1829, His Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness, Baron of Arklow, K. G., &c. &c., was unanimously re-elected Grand Master of Masons, and proclaimed and saluted according to ancient form.

In this year several important points of discipline were agitated amongst the Brethren, which claim a place in the History of the Craft. Much argument was used in the Provincial Lodges respecting the indiscriminate admission of members; and some places unfortunately exhibited great latitude in this particular, to the essential injury of the Order. Persons were initiated who found a difficulty even in raising the accustomed fee, and they soon became a burthen on the Charities. One general rule on this point ought to be punctually observed, as it is not the external but the internal qualifications of a man which masonry regards. None ought to be permitted to tread the holy ground of a Master's Lodge but the virtuous and the good; and these Brethren of a Lodge will certainly betray a most sacred trust, if any person who is deficient in the discharge of those duties which the conventional

usages of society require, in the character of a parent or child, friend or neighbour, magistrate or subject, be allowed to intrude into their society. The proposition of every candidate comes deliberately from some subscribing member, and it is a personal disgrace to himself, as well as an injury to the community, if he endeavours to introduce an improper person. The question is afterwards submitted to the vote of all the Brethren, after they have had full opportunity of enquiry, and no one ought to give his consent to such admission; for it is an act of treachery and unfaithfulness to the society at large: and the consequence would be most calamitous, if such a practice were universally adopted—and would stamp the Order with certain degradation in the estimation of mankind.

To promote the efficacy of Freemasonry, and to carry on its operations with vigour, it is necessary that the periodical payments be made with regularity and precision. This remark applies not only to private Lodges, but to the Grand Lodge by which the dignity of the Craft is supported, and its benefits displayed to the world. Its great charities are chiefly maintained by contributions and fees of honour, and the Fund of Benevolence, which derives its efficacy entirely from this source, thus realizes an average income amounting to more than £1000. a year. The Grand Lodge, therefore, is fully justified in the exercise of severity towards those Lodges which neglect to make their payments promptly, or continue to withhold the arrears of quarantage after repeated admonitions. In the spring of 1829 the Board of Finance having reported that several Lodges had neglected, for a long time past, to make their returns and remittances, pursuant to the laws of the craft, notwithstanding repeated applications had been made to them for that purpose: It was ordered that the said Lodges

be written to, requiring that their returns and payments be made by the undermentioned periods; in default thereof, that the Masters and Wardens of those Lodges neglecting, do shew cause, at the respective meetings, why their warrants should not be declared forfeited, and their Lodges erased, viz.

Those Lodges in England or the Channel Islands—at the Grand Lodge in June next—Those in the West Indies—at the Grand Lodge in September next—Those in the East Indies—at the Grand Lodge in September 1830.

The year 1829 was distinguished by the privilege which His Royal Highness graciously conferred on Past Grand Stewards, of wearing an honorary Jewel; and an appropriate design was submitted at the Quarterly Communication in September. The Grand Master stated, that he approved the design for a medal to be worn by Brethren who had served the office of Steward to both the Charities, viz. The Royal Freemasons' Female School, and the Masonic Institution for Clothing and Educating the Sons of deceased and indigent Freemasons, and that those Brethren, who had so served both stewardships, and are desirous of possessing the medal, must communicate their wish to His Royal Highness, through the Grand Secretary, on or before the 1st February next, that the numbers wanted may be ascertained, because the price to be charged for the medal must necessarily depend upon the numbers struck off; that is to say, the greater the number, the smaller will be the cost of each medal.

To render this honour the more conspicuous, the Grand Master remarked, that he had observed recently, some Brethren wearing jewels or medals designating their particular Lodges, such jewels not having been sanctioned by the Grand Lodge; which proceeding is contrary to the regulations of the Craft. His Royal Highness, however, refrained

from naming the individuals, in the hope that this notice would be sufficient to cause a discontinuance of the irregularity.

In the year 1830, our Royal Patron King George the Fourth died. Now according to the practice of old Masons, "Kings and other male sovereigns, when made Masons, are Grand Masters, by prerogative, during life; and appoint a deputy, or approve of his election, to preside over the Fraternity with the title and honours of Grand Master; but if the Sovereign is a female, or not a Brother, or a Junior under a Regent, not a Brother; or if the male Sovereign or the Regent, though a Brother, is negligent of the Craft; then the old Grand Officers may assemble the Grand Lodge in due form, to elect a Grand Master, to be annually re-chosen while it is mutually agreeable."

Accordingly at an especial Grand Lodge, holden 17th July 1830, the Grand Master addressed the Brethren on the great loss which the Craft had sustained by the decease of his late Majesty, King George the Fourth, who had so long and anxiously afforded his support and protection to the Order, first as Grand Master, and subsequently as Patron; and stated that he had ordered this Special Grand Lodge to be convened, for the purpose of considering an Address to be presented to his present Majesty, upon the melancholy event; at the same time to congratulate His Majesty upon his accession to the Throne, and to implore His Majesty's protection as Patron of the Craft.

His Royal Highness then read the draft of an Address, which he submitted for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, as follows:—

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Officers, and Brethren, of

the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England, with all humility and respect approach your Royal presence.

"We have a two-fold duty to perform—as loyal and obedient subjects of your Majesty, we are bound to express our heartfelt congratulations at the accession of your Majesty to the Throne of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; whilst, as Brethren of the Craft, we most humbly request your Majesty to accept our sincere condolence on the death of your Majesty's illustrious and immediate predecessor.

"By this afflicting event, your Majesty has been deprived of a beloved and affectionate Brother, and the members of our Fraternity have to deplore the loss of the Grand Patron of their Order, under whose auspices they had attained a height of prosperity hitherto unexampled in our Masonic annals.

"Most Gracious Sire,

"These are not the words of unmeaning adulation, but the genuine tribute of a faithful Brotherhood, from whose hearts the recollection of past favours can never be effaced.

"We are emboldened, perhaps, and encouraged in the further delivery of our sentiments by the gratifying consciousness that, among the most illustrious members of our Order, the name of your Majesty has, happily for us, long been enrolled; nor has your Majesty disdain'd to take, at various times, an active part in the more immediate concerns of the Fraternity.

"May we, then, in all humility, presume to solicit from your Majesty that same patronage of the Craft which our late revered Monarch was graciously pleased to bestow upon us?

"In the steadiness of our loyalty and affection towards your Majesty's person, we feel justly confident that we yield to none of your Majesty's subjects.

"We can appeal, in this respect, to your Majesty's intimate knowledge of our Masonic pursuits. We feel assured that a speculative enquiry into the customs of antiquity—into the origin and progress of every liberal and useful art, which constitutes the very essence of Masonry—will never, in your Majesty's opinion, disqualify the true Mason from being considered a good and virtuous member of society.

"In the public declaration of your Majesty's sentiments, we possess the surest pledge of that conduct which, under Providence, will continually lead to and effectually maintain the Peace and consequent Happiness of the whole community. Your Majesty has therein graciously referred to the circumstance of a life passed in the service of your country, in faithful obedience and entire subjection to your Sovereign. But, if a due submission to authority is the wisest preparation for the exercise of authority over others, then indeed we may look with confidence to the excellence of your Majesty's Rule, since, in the person of your Majesty, will be realized the saying of antiquity—'that he is best qualified to govern who has best known how to obey.'

"In conclusion, then, we venture once more, in all humility, to solicit your Majesty's gracious assent to the petitioning Prayer of our Fraternity; and nothing now remains for us but to implore the Great Architect of the Universe, the Author and Giver of all Good, that he may be pleased to bestow His choicest blessings on your Majesty's head, and to establish, in strength and righteousness, the Throne of your Kingdom."

To this address the following answer was returned by His Majesty's Secretary for the Home Department:—

"Whitehall, July 28, 1830.

"Sir,—I have the honour to inform your Royal Highness that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to signify his consent to be Patron of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

"I am, Sir,

"Your Royal Highness's dutiful and obedient Servant,

(Signed)

"ROBERT PEEL."

to "His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex."

Some confusion occurred at the Grand Festival held in March 1831, which induced His Royal Highness the Grand Master to exercise his authority for the purpose of preventing the recurrence of scenes which appeared to reflect discredit on the Order. A song was sung by one of the professional Glee Singers in the Ladies' Room, which was supposed to have a political bias, in consequence of which an interruption ensued, which discomposed the proceedings, and put a period to the harmony and good feeling which had always formed the leading characters of these meetings. No immediate notice was taken of the matter; but it formed the subject of future proceedings, which proclaimed the strict sense of justice and decorum which actuated His Royal Highness in discharging the duties attached to his high situation.

Freemasonry in the Provinces was progressing at this time with gradual but sure effect. The most gratifying intelligence was communicated periodi-

cally amongst the Brethren of Provincial Meetings, and important transactions of private Lodges, which, though not of sufficient weight to introduce into a general History of Masonry, yet shew the spirit by which the Brethren were actuated at this stirring period. Many Provincial Grand Masters, with their Deputies and Officers, evinced a zeal which did them honour; and eminent Masons in many of the Provinces exerted themselves to carry into effect the true principles of the Order, by inspiring their Lodges with a taste for the philosophy of the science, and a substitution of extended labour for extended refreshment.

At the quarterly communication of March 1831, the Grand Master stated to the Brethren that having learned it was the wish of the Masters of Lodges, that he should record his opinion on the proper Rule to be observed in the election and installation of the Master of a Lodge; His Royal Highness was pleased to declare that it was necessary, previous to such installation, that the minutes of the preceding Lodge should be read and confirmed; after which the usual ceremonies of swearing in and placing the W. Master in the chair were to be performed. Should the minutes not be confirmed, then the summons issued for the following regular meeting of the Lodge must set forth that the Brethren would proceed to elect a new Master, and on the confirmation of those minutes at the next ordinary Lodge-night, as provided in the Book of Constitutions, p. 57, sec. 2, the installation of the new Master might be legally performed.

The Board of General Purposes reported, at the Grand Lodge in June 1831, that a complaint having been preferred by the Lodge of Benevolence, against the Lodge No. 335, for having attached to the Petition of the Widow of a late Brother, a certificate that the deceased Brother had been twelve

years a subscribing member to that Lodge, while it appears from the Grand Lodge Books, that he has been only three years a member, the Master and Wardens of that Lodge were summoned to attend the Board with their books, which they accordingly did. Upon an inspection of the books, it appeared that the deceased Brother was initiated in the year 1800, that he paid two quarters from that date; and at subsequent periods, but very irregularly, he paid three years and three quarters more; making together four years and a quarter, the last of such payments being in 1812. The W. Master stated, in explanation, that upon referring to the books, when the petition was laid before the Lodge, it was found that the Brother had been initiated in 1800 and made his last payment in 1812, it was therefore concluded that he had been twelve years a member, and the certificate was signed accordingly. The Board, feeling that this proceeding manifested a great want of attention on the part of the Officers of the Lodge, calculated to mislead the Lodge of Benevolence; it was resolved, that the Master be severely reprimanded for this irregularity, and cautioned that his Lodge be more circumspect in future.

In September, His Royal Highness was requested to superintend the deposition of the foundation stone of a new building to be erected in Agar-street, Strand, and to be called the Charing Cross Hospital. This part of the metropolis is thickly peopled, and accidents on the River Thames are of frequent occurrence, with no similar institution within a convenient distance. The utility of such a charity being thus obvious, His Royal Highness graciously consented; and for this purpose opened a Grand Lodge in the Vestry Room, near the parish Church of Saint Martin's, Westminster; where he was attended by His Grace the Duke of Leinster, Grand Master of Ireland; Lord Dundas, D.G.M.; James

Agar, P.D.G.M.; Lord George Lennox, S.G.W.; Lord H. John Churchill, J.G.W.; Earl Ferrers, P.G.M. for Staffordshire; as well as all the Grand Officers Present and Past; several Provincial Grand Masters; and the Masters and Wardens of many private Lodges.

The procession was then formed, and moved in the following order, viz.

Police Officers.
 Military Band of Music.
 Two Tylers.

Grand Steward. } The Banner of the Grand Lodge. } Grand Steward.
 { The Wardens, Past Masters, and Masters of the several Lodges; }
 { according to Rank, Juniors walking first. }
 Officers of Grand Stewards' Lodge.

The Architect with the Plans.

Grand Steward. } A Cornucopia, with Corn, borne by the } Grand Steward.
 { Master of a Lodge. }
 { Two Ewers, with Wine and Oil, borne by }
 { the Master of a Lodge. }

Grand Organist.

G. Superintendant of Works. G. Director of Ceremonies.
 Past Grand Sword Bearers.

Past Grand Deacons.

Grand Deacons of the Year.

Grand Secretary, bearing Book of Constitutions on a Cushion.
 Grand Secretary, bearing the Plate with the Inscription for the Foundation Stone.

Grand Registrar, bearing the Great Seal.

Past Grand Treasurers.

Grand Treasurer, bearing a Phial, containing the Coins to be deposited in the Stone.

Past Grand Chaplains.

The Grand Chaplain, bearing the Sacred Law on a Cushion.
 Past Grand Wardens.

Past Provincial Grand Masters.

Provincial Grand Masters.

Past Deputy Grand Masters.

The Corinthian Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.

The Column of J.G.W., borne by the Master of a Lodge.

The Junior Grand Warden, with Plumb Rule.

The Doric Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.

The Column of S.G.W., borne by the Master of a Lodge.

The Senior Grand Warden, with Level.

The Deputy Grand Master, with the Square.

W. D. M. W. Grand Master of Ireland His Grace the Duke of LEANING, with the Malt, laid by the Grand Steward, Grand Master Sir Christopher Wren on laying the Foundation Stone of St. Paul's Cathedral. M. D. The Ionic Light, borne by the Master of the Lodge, Grand Steward. The Banner of H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, M. W. Grand Master. The Grand Sword Bearer. H. R. H. THE DUKE OF SUSSEX, GRAND MASTER. Two Grand Stewards. Grand Steward. The Standard of His Majesty King William the Fourth, Patron of the Order. Grand Steward. Two Grand Stewards. Grand Tyler. Stewards of the Hospital, with Wands. Vice-Patrons and Vice-Presidents. Stewards, with Wands. Trustees, Treasurers, Building Committee, and Officers. Stewards, with Wands. Governors and Subscribers. Stewards, with Wands. Beadles.

When the head of the procession arrived at the place where it was to halt, the Brethren divided to the right and left, and faced inwards, forming an avenue for the M. W. Grand Master to pass through, preceded by the Steward of the Grand Patron and the Grand Sword Bearer, and followed by His Royal Highness's Banner, the Ionic Light, the Grand Master of Ireland, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Officers, who took their respective situations on the platform. The Vice-Patrons of the Institution, the Vice-Presidents, and the Building Committee also took their places on the platform.

The stone was then raised, and, after the lower one was adjusted, the Grand Secretary read, aloud, the inscription engraven on the brass plate. The Grand Treasurer then deposited the phial containing the coins in the cavity of the lower stone, and the Grand Secretary placed the inscription plate over the mouth of the cavity. The cement was then placed on the upper face of the bottom stone, and

the Grand Master adjusted the same with a trowel handed to him for that purpose. After which the upper stone was lowered slowly, the band playing "Rule Britannia."

The Grand Master then proved the just position and form of the stone by the plumb, level, and square, which were successively delivered to him by the Junior and Senior Grand Wardens, and the Deputy Grand Master. Being satisfied in these particulars, His Royal Highness gave the stone three knocks with the mallet, which was delivered by His Grace the Duke of Leinster. The Cornucopia, containing the corn, and the Ewers, with the wine and oil, were then handed to His Royal Highness, who strewed the corn and poured the wine and oil over the stone, with the accustomed ceremonies. The Grand Master having inspected the plan of the intended building, delivered the same to the Architect, together with the several tools used in proving the position of the stone, and desired him to proceed, without loss of time, to the completion of the work in conformity with the plan.

The Stewards and Committee of the Hospital having erected a very extensive platform, and also seats for the accommodation of spectators, the ceremony was graced by the presence of many Ladies of Noble Families, and others of distinction, with a very numerous assemblage of Gentlemen.

Copy of the Inscription engraven on the Brass Plate deposited in the Stone.

In the Second Year of the Reign of His
Majesty King William IV.,
This First Stone
of the
Charing-Cross Hospital,
was laid in ample Masonic form,
on the 15th September, 1831,
by His Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick
DUKE OF SUSSEX, K. G., &c. &c. &c.

Grand Master of the Freemasons of England,
 and Patron of the Institution.
 Decimus Burton, Esq., Architect.
 Messrs. Howard and Nixon, Builders.

At the commencement of the year 1832, Sir John Soane, Grand Superintendent of Works, reported to the Grand Master that he had had the gratification to complete, by order of the Grand Lodge, the New Masonic Hall, as a temple to be devoted exclusively to Masonry. That, notwithstanding every attention to economy, consistent with the substantial erection of the building, the outlay had unavoidably been considerable. But, as an ardent lover of the fraternity, he was anxious to contribute his mite towards defraying the expense of a structure consecrated to the purposes of the Craft, and felt that he could not avail himself of a more appropriate time for so doing than the anniversary of the Grand Master's birth. And he accordingly enclosed a draft for £500. At the Quarterly Communication in March, therefore, it was unanimously resolved, that the Grand Lodge accepts with gratitude this munificent donation; and whilst tendering their thanks to Brother Sir John Soane, for this renewed manifestation of his liberality and zealous attachment to the Craft, the Grand Lodge cannot but record, with feelings of brotherly and affectionate regard, their esteem and approval of the skill and talent displayed by him in the progress and completion of the work.

The attention of the Craft about this time was directed by many Provincial Grand Masters, to the necessity and benefit which may be derived from attending to the authorized lectures at the stated Meetings of the Society, because it has been found by experience that where they are regularly delivered, a full attendance of the Brethren is always ensured. For this purpose they have been conve-

niently divided into sections and clauses, which may occasionally be entrusted to talented Brethren, at the will and pleasure, and under the direction of the W. Master. This is a practice which excites emulation, and produces industry amongst those who might otherwise be always indifferent. It encourages the timid Brethren to exercise and improve their dormant talent; and is frequently found to develop ability and zeal, which might have for ever remained undiscovered and unknown. To those who have witnessed the eagerness with which, even Brethren of ordinary abilities have listened to the Masonic lecture, and the edification which it has produced, this duty will need no recommendation. But as the practice of lecturing in the Provinces is very limited, it was thought not altogether useless to point out its constant and certain effects, that the Brethren might be induced to enter on it with spirit and alacrity.

In many of the Country Lodges the Fellow Craft's and Master Mason's Lectures are not frequently delivered, and it is to be feared that there are some which advance no farther than the simple qualification questions, or at most, the reasons for certain particulars in our ceremonies, which excite the curiosity and research of a newly-initiated Brother. If however the Brethren were to consider the variety of important subjects both in science and morals, history, tradition, and holy legend, which the complete course of the three degrees embraces; if they were to reflect on the sublime pathos of many insulated passages in them all; and possess any taste for the investigation of science, and its application to the improvement of the human heart, they would no longer delay giving up some portion of their leisure to the study and examination of the Masonic lectures; and it is a pursuit, that if they once fairly embarked in it, would prove a fund of

instruction and amusement which would amply repay their labour.

For want of a proper attention to this duty great numbers of Lodges had fallen into desuetude, and about this time surrendered their warrants. Others were erased from the books of the Grand Lodge for neglecting to make their periodical payments to the Fund of Benevolence, or to account for the fees for registering newly-initiated Brethren. Under these circumstances, it was thought necessary to re-arrange the numbers; and for this purpose notice was given at the Quarterly Communication in June 1832, by the Grand Secretary, that at the next Quarterly Communication, the list of Lodges, with the numbers altered accordingly and closed, would be submitted for the further order of the Grand Lodge. And it was accordingly ordered that the numbers of all the Lodges on the record of the Grand Lodge be brought forward in regular succession by filling up the numbers which are vacant, caused by the erasure of Lodges at various times.

It would be invidious to enumerate the active and intelligent Masons who, at this period, employed their time and exercised their talents to promote the efficiency of their respective Lodges, and by their laudable and untiring exertions, conferred honour and popularity on the Craft. The applause and satisfaction of their own minds constitute the highest praise, and the most valuable reward. Their services however were not overlooked by their Masonic companions; and during the present year, several testimonials were presented to meritorious Brethren; and amongst the rest a Past Master's Jewel to Brother Begbie, on retiring from the Chair of the Neptune Lodge, No. 22; and a valuable silver snuff-box to Brother Barnes, as an expression of the sense which was entertained by the Brethren

of his services as Honorary Secretary, at the Nore Excursion, for the benefit of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

At the Quarterly Communication in March 1833, the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Dundas, informed the Brethren that he was charged by the Duke of Sussex to present to the Grand Lodge a marble bust of his present Majesty King William the Fourth, the Patron of Masonry; and in the name of his Royal Highness to request their acceptance of it. And also to present three gilt silver trowels used by the Grand Master in laying the first stones of the London University, the Licensed Victuallers Asylum, and the Charing Cross Hospital. On which it was unanimously resolved, that the thanks of this Grand Lodge be offered to the M. W. Grand Master for these gracious gifts, which will ever be ranked amongst its most valued possessions, and furnish to the Brethren an additional proof of the constant regard manifested by His Royal Highness to the best interests of the Masonic fraternity. They will remain a perpetual memorial of the honors and protection conferred upon the fraternity by having the Sovereigns of the country for its patrons, and a Prince for its Grand Master; whose gifts establish the important truth that the peculiar duties of a Freemason will be best performed by endeavouring to follow his example; proving that every institution by which education may be promoted, want relieved, or calamity alleviated, may rely upon the active support and co-operation of the Grand Master of that order, whose characteristic principle is benevolence.

In this year a question of great importance was decided in Grand Lodge. The Board of General Purposes reported, that a complaint had been preferred by a Brother against a Lodge in the London district, alleging that he had been initiated

therein in the year 1817; but that the Lodge had omitted to register his name with the Grand Lodge, and consequently that he was unable to procure a Grand Lodge certificate. Upon examination of the books of the Lodge and its returns, it appeared that the complaint was correctly founded. In answer to this charge, the officers of the Lodge stated, that all the present members had joined since the period of the Brother's initiation, and that therefore they did not conceive that they were liable to the payment. The Grand Lodge however entertained a different view of the case; and it was resolved, that every Lodge is responsible for the payment of all register fees and dues which they had received, and that no lapse of time can exonerate a Lodge from such liability. The Board therefore ordered the payment of the register fees, which the Lodge paid accordingly.

In September 1833, His Royal Highness the Grand Master was graciously pleased to honour the Lodges at Nottingham with a visit; for which purpose a Grand Lodge being convened, was numerously attended by Brethren from the adjoining provinces of Lincoln, Leicester, Warwick, and Derby, from a sense of duty to His Royal Highness as well as anticipated gratification to themselves.

Present:

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK DUKE OF SUSSEX, K.G., &c. &c. &c. M.W.G.M., on the Throne.**
 R. W. Bro. Colonel Thomas Wildman, Prov. G. M. for Nottinghamshire, as D.G.M.
 V. W. Bro. W. F. N. Norton, Prov. S.G.W., as S.G.W.
 V. W. Bro. John Strong, Prov. J.G.W., as J.G.W.
 R. W. Bro. Right Hon. Lord Rancliff, Prov. G.M. for Leicestershire.
 R. W. Bro. Sir Frederick G. Fowke, Bart., P.S.G.W.
 R. W. Bro. Lord H. J. Spencer Churchill, P.S.G.W.
 V. W. Bro. I. M. B. Pigot, D. Prov. G.M. for Nottingham.
 V. W. Bro. William H. White, G.S.
 V. W. Bro. The Rev. Luke Jackson, Prov. G. Chaplain for Notts.

V. W. Bro. J. Smith Wright, Prov. G. Treasurer.
 V. W. Bro. Henry Percy, Prov. G. Registrar.
 V. W. Bro. Edward Percy, Prov. G. Secretary.
 W. Bro. Sansom, Prov. S.G.D.
 W. Bro. Ludham, Prov. J.G.D.
 W. Bro. James Fellows, Prov. G. Director of Ceremonies.
 W. Bro. Thomas Danks, Prov. G. Sword Bearer.
 W. Bro. Captain R. H. Pigot, R.N.G. Pursuivant.
 The Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of various Lodges.

At this Grand Lodge an address was presented to the Grand Master, by Colonel Wildman, as Deputy Grand Master, which stated, that "the Brethren gladly embraced the opportunity thus afforded them of expressing to His Royal Highness how deeply they appreciated that fraternal countenance and support, which, as members of the Craft, they have ever received from him. Being fully confident, that under the benefits of such influence and example, the mystic, ancient, and universally extended Order in which they had been enrolled, will not only in this province, but in every other under His Royal Highness's guidance and control, continue to maintain the exalted position it has already attained, and spread wider and wider those blessings which it is so well calculated to confer upon mankind."

To which address His Royal Highness was pleased to return the following answer:

R. W. Prov. Grand Master, Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Prov. Grand Wardens, and Brethren of the Prov. Grand Lodge of the County of Nottingham:—I accept with great pleasure your expressions of devotion to the Craft, and of attachment and confidence in me.

It is only upon the assurance of the existence of such feelings, that I can either expect to govern the fraternity, or hope to preserve that harmony so necessary to the respectability, the harmony, and the prosperity of our Society.

May the Great Architect of the Universe, under whose protection we are here assembled this day, bless all your undertakings, till time shall be no more.

From the Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge for the year 1833, we gather the gratifying

intelligence, that Freemasonry was improving in its finances, and that the Masonic Charities were unusually active; affording comfort and relief to the widow and orphan who were destitute of consolation from other sources; while the aged and distressed Freemason, who, through unavoidable misfortune, had been exposed to want, sickness, infirmity, and disease, found his heart cheered and his necessities supplied by the unostentatious bounty of those worthy Brethren who had shared in his prosperity, or who had united with him in happier days to trace wisdom, and to follow virtue upon the sacred floor of the Lodge. Various sums were voted to deserving objects by the Board of Benevolence; while the Provincial Grand Lodges were not backward in aiding the kind designs of private charity, to relieve the poor members of their respective bodies.

In all times, from the establishment of Freemasonry in its present form, the Craft has been so far identified with Operative Masonry, as to be requested to afford its assistance, at the ceremony of laying the foundation stones of public edifices. This distinction is tacitly conceded to the fraternity as a matter of courtesy if not of right. And it is a custom which has kept Freemasonry constantly before the public, as an institution of general utility connected with the usages and observances of social life. As a body the fraternity attract attention by the display which is indispensable on these occasions; and inspire respect by the order and decorum which characterize their general deportment. The rites of religion always forming a constituent part of the ceremonial, enlists the sympathies of thinking men in our behalf; and the association of prayer becomes indelibly linked with the formality of depositing the stone of foundation, in the mind of the most indifferent observer. In September 1833,

the first stone of Jamaica Street Bridge, at Glasgow, was laid with Masonic honours. The different Lodges which attended on that occasion, took the places assigned to them in the Cathedral at eleven o'clock, the Brethren being clothed in black with white stockings and gloves. Divine service was performed by the very Reverend Principal Macfarlen; the Anthems by Orme's Church Band; and Messrs. Lithgow's Vocal Band; after which the procession passed down the High Street, along the Trongate, and Argyle Street, down Jamaica Street, along Clyde Street, to the side of the Bridge, where the foot stone was levelled with solemn ceremonies.

From this period records are more abundant; and consequently our account of the progress of Freemasonry will be more diversified and satisfactory. The establishment of a periodical at the beginning of the year 1834, as a depository for Masonic information, has constituted an epoch, from which Freemasonry may date its most rapid and general advancement in the scale of social improvement. By bringing the Order more clearly before the public, its advantages, as a moral and scientific institution, have become better known, and more universally admitted. The attention of thinking men has been called to a consideration of its merits; and as they have been more evidently developed, the science has been more extensively admired. Complimentary tributes to worthy and meritorious Brethren, as well as frequent calls for countenance and assistance in consecrating the first stone of public buildings, are becoming of more constant occurrence, as will abundantly appear from the continuation of these annals. Such facts cannot fail to prove that Freemasonry occupies a higher station in popular esteem than it did a few years ago; and its success in the provinces speaks the language of approbation and gratitude.

CHAP. II.

History of the most remarkable events which occurred during the Years 1834 and 1835.

THIS period opened unpropitiously for the Craft, who received with feelings of the most poignant sorrow, the announcement that unfavorable symptoms of a grievous calamity had displayed themselves on the person of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, who, as Grand Master of Masons, had acquired the unfeigned affection of the Brethren of all ranks and degrees. They heard with regret that the sight of His Royal Highness was visibly declining; and fears were entertained that his vision would be wholly obscured. In his speech at the birth-day celebration, the subject was alluded to in a manner which excited the warmest and most heartfelt sympathy. His Royal Highness observed that "his health, although improved since he last met them, was not sufficiently re-established to admit of his attention to many general duties which devolved upon him as a public man; and that for the future he could hardly hope to be enabled to preside at any other assemblies than those of the Order, the interests of which were ever nearest his heart. His sight," he added, "was materially affected; but whether in Lodge, or in the solitude of his chamber, Masonry would ever receive his active and serious attention." An operation was contemplated, which prevented the usual attendance of His Royal Highness at the Anniversary Meetings of the Masonic Charities.

In reference to some irregularities which occurred in the Glee Room at a Grand Festival, as related in the preceding chapter, His Royal Highness thought it expedient to express his displeasure, that such occurrences might in future be avoided. To effect this purpose, he promulgated an order, stating that "as unpleasant circumstances have occasionally arisen by Brethren endeavouring to obtain admission into the Glee Room, on the days of the various Masonic Festivals, to hear the professional Brethren who are engaged to sing in the Ladies' room; and as these occurrences have tended to the detriment of the Craft, the Grand Master feels himself called upon to direct that in future the attendance of the professional gentlemen in that room should be dispensed with."

This order, not being perfectly understood, caused some confusion in the subsequent arrangements made by the Grand Stewards; and at a meeting of the Governors of the Boys' School, His Royal Highness condescended to explain his meaning more particularly, on the motion of Brother Lythgoe. He said that "the entertainments had gradually assumed the character of a concert in the Ladies' room; and declared that he acted from information, that at the Festival of 1831, there had been irregularities which could only be prevented by such measures as would effectually check their repetition; and that on the recent promulgation of his orders, he had personal proof that it was necessary to exercise the power with which he was invested. At the Boys' Festival, his orders only went to stop the concert in the Glee Room; and not to prevent those Brethren who had for a long period enjoyed the privilege of entrée from associating with the Ladies. That, therefore, he was not answerable for the conduct of others who had exceeded his directions, doubtless from a mis-con-

direction of them; although these directions were addressed to them in writing to prevent their being misunderstood."

About this time circumstances of a public nature transpired, which drew the attention of His Royal Highness to the subject of Masonic Registration, pursuant to an Act of Parliament passed in the 39th year of the Reign of Geo. III. cap. 79. It appears that great numbers of the Provincial Lodges had neglected to comply with the terms of protection named in that statute.* To remedy an evil which might operate unfavourably for the institution, the Grand Master, with that paternal care which he has always evinced for Freemasonry, and actuated, as he expressed himself at the Grand Festival of this year, by a desire to preserve a due obedience to the laws by which the order has been protected and supported; and to extend the respectability and high character of the Craft, addressed the following communication to the Masters of Lodges.

Freemasons' Hall, London, April 29th, 1834.

W. MASTER,

We are especially commanded by the M. W. Grand Master to direct that you will immediately upon receipt of this, register with the Clerk of the Peace for the County, Stewartry, Riding, Division, or place in which your Lodge is situated, a correct list of the members of your Lodge, with their titles, professions, trades, or business, and also their residences; in which return you are also to state the times and place of your meetings; and you will forthwith apprise us, for the Grand Master's information, when you have complied with this direction. In default of your so doing, your lodge will be liable to erasure.

For your guidance and instruction, a form of the return to be made to the Clerk of the Peace accompanies this.

By command of the M.W. Grand Master,

WILLIAM H. WHITE, }
EDW. HARPER, } G. S

A notice of a benevolent project for erecting and

* The forms and provisions of this Act may be found in the 14th and 15th Editions of Preston, p. 307.

endowing an Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons of good character, was promulgated in the July number of the Freemasons' Quarterly Review for 1834. The original sketch comprehended an union of the intended establishment with the existing charities or schools for the male and female orphans of Freemasons; and stated the requisite amount of capital at £5000. The conception was noble, but the plan was undigested; and subsequent experience has modified its details, and placed it on the basis of its own individual merits. The announcement however was received by the brethren with general approbation, as a project of benevolence, worthy the great and flourishing institution to which it was proposed to be attached, and to which it would look for exclusive support; and many professions of co-operation and assistance were publicly avowed from the Lodges, as well as from individual brethren.

The Brethren of the Strong Man Lodge, No. 54, celebrated their centenary at Putney, on the 3rd July, 1834. It is an event which very few Lodges are blessed with an opportunity of observing; and it is recorded to the honour of this Lodge, that during the whole of that period, its brethren have been faithful; the attendances regular, and the finances flourishing. After the cloth was drawn, the Worshipful Master, Brother G. W. Turner, addressed the brethren as follows.

"A century has elapsed since our Lodge was constituted. Death, the great destroyer, has, during that period, removed numbers of our Brethren from this mortal state of existence. The memory of the founders of our Lodge is entitled to our especial reverence, inasmuch as they were men who were considered by the Brethren of that age worthy depositories of our principles and privileges: those principles they have transmitted to us, unsullied by any dishonourable act, and those privileges we now enjoy, unimpaired by innovation. It is therefore, with the deepest feelings of respect and veneration, that I now call upon you to honour their memory with your approbation."

A number of silver medals which had been struck to commemorate the event, were distributed amongst such of the Brethren as had distinguished themselves by their zealous exertions as Masons and Members of the Strong Man Lodge, who received them with suitable acknowledgments; and wear them as a proud trophy of merit which will descend to their children, and probably be produced at the next centenary as memorials of the illustrious dead.

Several new Lodges were constituted in the Provinces during the year 1834, and two new Halls dedicated to Masonry; one at Dorchester by Brother W. Eliot, Esq., D.P.G.M. for Dorset; and the other at Tiverton, by Brother The Lord Viscount Ebrington, M.P., P.G.M. for Devonshire. These are events of great importance in estimating the progressive advance of the Order, and its moral influence in the hearts of its members.

An institution was formed in this year, which became, in a very brief period, of great importance as a medium of communication with the Grand Lodge. The Masters' and Past Masters' Club was embodied in December 1834 to insure a full attendance at the Quarterly Committees; and to facilitate the business of the Grand Lodge, by a previous discussion of important motions to be brought forward and disposed of there. In addition to the Masters and Past Masters of Private Lodges, Provincial Grand Masters are eligible for admission to this Club, which thus affords to the country Brethren an opportunity of Masonic intercourse that cannot fail to be mutually agreeable and beneficial. The institution became extremely useful, inasmuch as on all questions of importance the Provincial Brethren made a point of assembling for the purpose of discussion, and the interests of both thus become agreeably identified.

Freemasonry in the Provinces smoothly and

quietly pursued its unostentatious course at this period; augmenting its resources, and increasing in respectability and esteem. In the ceremonial of public works indeed, its aid was generally solicited to lend an appearance of form and seriousness to the proceedings. Schools and charities were instituted—and private benevolence cheered the hearts of the worthy distressed. Addresses were forwarded to the Masonic Authorities couched in elegant language; and the brethren cultivated a taste for philosophy and science. These are wholesome symptoms of a vigorous and flourishing institution; and the speeches at Provincial Meetings shew that the learning and talent of the united kingdom had been enlisted in behalf of this hallowed science. The appointments of our Provincial Grand Lodges assumed a correctness of detail which is unprecedented in the annals of English Freemasonry. Every officer appears in his proper clothing; and thus the science in its decorations, its ceremonial, and its philosophy, is without a rival.

At the annual Festival of the Palatine Lodge at Sunderland, December 29th, 1834, Sir Cuthbert Sharpe, Bart., Worshipful Master, in the chair, a very gratifying scene was presented. Immediately after dinner the Orphan Boys of Masons educated at the expence of the Lodge, were, according to custom, introduced and examined as to their progress in learning during the year, and gave most satisfactory proofs of the proficiency they had made. The Palatine Lodge has set a noble example, worthy the imitation of other Provincial Lodges; and a similar school attached to the principal Lodge in every county, would exhibit a moral lesson of Freemasonry which the public could not refuse to understand.

We close the occurrences of the year 1834, with a catalogue of the places where foundation stones were laid accompanied by Masonic honours; and of

public testimonials presented to deserving brethren, as an expression of gratitude for moral worth, and indefatigable exertion in the great cause of Freemasonry. Of the former there is only a single instance, which occurred in the month of June, when Brother W. Eliot, Esq., D.P.G.M. for Dorset, laid the foundation stone of an embankment at Weymouth, with the usual formalities. Of the latter it is recorded that in the month of January a splendid Masonic Jewel* was presented to Lord Durham, P.G.M. for Durham; in February two silver trowels to the members of the Lodge of Antiquity by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex; in June, a silver cup to Brother Coe, the founder of the Excursion to the Nore for the benefit of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, which has proved very beneficial to that establishment; and in December, a Royal Arch Jewel to Brother Fisher, of the Scientific Lodge, Cambridge.

The complaint of his Royal Highness the Grand Master was not sufficiently advanced at the April Quarterly Communication in 1835, to allow of an operation being performed, although he was unfortunately afflicted with a total loss of sight; and the Brethren received the intelligence that it was impossible for him to preside at that meeting, with unaffected sorrow. The Grand Master, however, consented to the humble request of the Brethren, that he would allow himself to be put in nomination for the ensuing year, as well-grounded hopes were entertained that a successful operation would

* This splendid testimonial was made by Brother Tate, of Regent Street. It is oval shaped, bordered with flowers in various tints of gold, of exquisite workmanship; and in the centre, on a blue enamel ground, is placed the square and compasses, with a star of five points in brilliants. The design is chaste and elegant, and the effect very striking. It bears the following inscription: "Presented to the Earl of Durham, Provincial Grand Master, by his grateful brethren, 21st January, 1834."

restore him to their wishes before the expiration of that period. His election was carried by acclamation. The Earl of Durham, D.G.M. officiated in his absence, and after dinner made an announcement that was received with loud and continued cheering. He said,

“ I congratulate you upon the very great advances which Freemasonry is making amongst all classes of men. In the metropolis it flourishes ; and the Provincial Brethren vie with those in London both in numbers and respectability. It appears to me to be our paramount duty to sustain and support Freemasonry ; not simply because it is founded upon charity, benevolence, and piety ; but because it enables men who are confessedly separated by religious differences or political dissention, conscientiously to meet in the calm serenity of an untroubled scene, whatever may be their creed or political bias. Freemasonry has, however, a still nobler aim—it associates the *poor* and the *rich* upon terms of perfect equality, without a violation of decorum, without offering the slightest interference with the regulations of well-organized society. Surely the prevalence of such principles must contribute to the prosperity of the country, by promoting general harmony, and uniting all classes in the strictest and closest bonds of concord.”

Some very extensive repairs, rendered necessary by the giving way of its foundation, had just been completed in the School House of the Royal Freemasons' Female Orphan School, at an expence amounting to more than two thousand pounds. To meet this heavy outlay, the Grand Master, by a public circular, called the attention of the various Chapters and Lodges, and also of the individual members to the subject ; relying with confidence that they will not suffer this excellent charity to decline from the effects of a misfortune, attended with serious expence, which was as unavoidable as it was necessary. The appeal was promptly answered. The Grand Lodge contributed £100 ; the Grand Chapter £50 ; and after the annual dinner the Brethren present subscribed £700. Brother Bond Cabbell gave fifty guineas, and many Private Lodges contributed liberally. In a word, the Masonic Institutions are nobly suppor-

ted; for it is impossible, in a society constituted on the principles of benevolence, that the cause of the Orphan can ever be abandoned. Subsequently a general subscription of the whole Craft was entered into for the purpose of making up the deficiency.

At a meeting of the friends and subscribers to the projected Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons, holden in the month of June 1835, the following resolutions were agreed to:

“That it is expedient to provide for the wants of the meritorious but aged and decayed Freemason, by the erection of an Asylum to receive him within its sanctuary.

“That this meeting having heard statements produced in evidence of the means possessed by the Craft at large; are fully satisfied with, and coincide therein, and pledge themselves to exert their utmost power in carrying the first resolution into practical effect.

“That this meeting receive with the warmest feelings of Masonic gratitude, the announcement from the Chairman, that the Right Honourable the Earl of Durham, D.G.M., has condescended to become one of the trustees; and the heartfelt thanks of this meeting are respectfully offered to his Lordship, for this mark of his solicitude, kindness, and protection.

“That the cordial thanks of the meeting are most especially due to William Willoughby Prescott, Esq., for his ready acquiescence with the request of the Chairman in being named as a Trustee.

“That the inaugural festival of the Asylum do take place on the 31st July, under the direction of a Board of Stewards.”

The centenary of the Grand Stewards' Lodge was celebrated in Freemasons' Hall in the month of December, the period of 100 years having elapsed since its actual constitution; although from time immemorial, it is understood to have existed as an association of the most liberal, talented, and influential Brethren of the Order. The Members evinced their sense of the interest and importance of the occasion, by assembling in great numbers; and the splendour of appearance exhibited in the Hall, when the announcement of visitors had ceased, can scarcely be imagined, as it formed one continued blaze of crimson silk. After dinner,

when proposing the health of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, the W. Master, Brother Giraud, gave an interesting outline of the details and proceedings of the Lodge since it was embedded in June 1735; and concluded with the following merited compliment to the Grand Master:

"I come to a distressing subject, in announcing that His Royal Highness has been compelled to decline our invitation this evening, on account of his want of sight. My Brethren, could he but have witnessed our devotion to his sway, our veneration for his character, our affection for his person, it might have cheered him in the continuance of those exalted duties, which, may it please the Great Architect, he may exercise for many years; it would convince him, that however all Lodges unite in respectful attachment, none exceeds the Grand Stewards' Lodge in those sentiments which form the Mason's pride, and become the Mason's hope."

In like manner the Old Union Lodge celebrated its centenary in this year; to commemorate which, the Grand Master graciously conferred on the Members, the privilege of wearing a centenary Jewel.

In Scotland, Freemasonry having recovered from the paralysis by which it had been overwhelmed under the pressure of political dissention, slowly progressed; and the meetings of the Brethren bore a character of solemnity and decency which afforded hopes of still greater prosperity. The Scotch are a literary and scientific people; and we do not therefore wonder that the institution of Freemasonry, which is devoted to these pursuits, should flourish and increase amongst them. Much anxiety was manifested to assimilate the practice of working, and conduct of the Lodges to the English custom. Nothing appeared wanting at this period but some public charity, some benevolent foundation, like the Orphan Societies of England and Ireland, to shew forth the practical working of the system; and to afford the Brethren an opportunity of displaying

the operation of Masonry in the heart, by the liberality of the hand, in contributing to relieve the distressed and destitute of their own fraternity. This deficiency was not unobserved by our Scottish Brethren, nor was the day far distant when the means were adopted of completing the triangle of benevolence with the two Grand Lodges of England and Ireland.

At the festival in December, that very venerable institution, the Lodge of Melrose, whose antiquity is only rivalled by that of the Mother Kilwinning in Ayrshire; both dating their origin from the building of their respective abbeys, by the bands of architectural Brethren who traversed the country towards the middle of the 12th century, renewed their annual ceremony of marching by the light of torches round the ruins of St. David's Pile. A band of music preceded the procession, playing solemn airs. Nothing could be more singular and impressive than the spectacle which here presented itself. The red glaring light of the flambeaux, as it flashed upon the pillars and projections of the ancient abbey, discovering the grotesque figures and faces of grinning monks, sculptured on the corbels and capitals of many a mouldering arch, contrasted strikingly with the deep mysterious gloom of the retiring aisles and cloisters, whose darkness indeed was ever and anon partially illuminated as the singular procession passed along. Every step which the Brethren trod, as they slowly advanced up the interior of the edifice, was upon hallowed dust. In the words of him whose name is linked with that of the place—

Beneath the lettered stones were laid
The ashes of their fathers dead;
From many a garnished niche around
Stern saints and tortured martyrs frowned.

During this year the Brethren in different parts of the kingdom were solicited to render their assistance to consecrate the ceremony of depositing the foundation stones of public buildings. In May the first stone of the Royal Victoria Arcade at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, was laid with Masonic solemnities by the Earl of Durham, D.G.M.; that of the Lander Pillar at Truro, in June, by V. P. Robinson, Esq., D.P.G.M. for Cornwall; and in September, that of a Monument to the memory of Sir John Malcolm, at Langholm, in Scotland, by Sir James Graham, P.G.M. for Cumberland.

Several testimonials to distinguished Brethren were presented during this year. In January a Silver Salver to Brother Captain Baldwin, of St. Patrick's Lodge, Dublin; in March, a Silver Snuff-box to Brother Philip Broadfoot, of the Lodge of Stability, London; in June, a Silver Salver to Brother James Deans, P.S.G.W., from the Grand Officers' Club; and in August, a Jewel of Gold to the Right Honourable Lord Monson, W.M., of the Surrey Lodge, Reigate; and a Massive Silver Candelabrum to William Williams, Esq., P.G.M. for Dorset.

CHAP. III.

History of Freemasonry in the Year 1836.

THE year 1836 opened with a bright prospect for Freemasonry. The debt of the Grand Lodge was liquidated; the Schools were prosperous; the general Fund of Benevolence was efficient; new Lodges were constituted in many of the Provinces; and, in a word, the institution flourished in all its details. At the Festival of the Boys' School, Bro: Lythgoe gave a cheering account. He said,

“a few years ago, thirty-five Boys only were educated, and the institution was in a state little short of bankruptcy; but by the liberality of the Brethren, and the zeal of the Committee, at the present moment the number of children is increased to fifty-five, while the funded stock has reached £5000.” After dinner the subscriptions exceeded 500 guineas.

The most gratifying intelligence reached us this year, that our holy science was progressing, and triumphing over the bigotry which threatened its existence in France. The superior classes of society had taken an interest in it, and extended to it their countenance and patronage. A Grand Lodge was formed, at the head of which was placed M. C. Fretéau de Peny, Pair de France, Lieutenant Grand Commander and Venerable. At a Grand Lodge holden at the beginning of the year, the Earl of Munster, Sir John Ross, and Major Payne appeared as visitors, and were received with great fraternal kindness and hospitality.

In the New World also Freemasonry was reviving, after a season of supineness on the one hand, and opposition and reproach on the other, which made it doubtful whether it would not sink to rise no more. The Grand Lodges in the different states were re-organized about this time, and the following manifesto was issued to the Lodges:

“That the faithful Members of the fraternity be exhorted to persevere in their fidelity; to observe the regular communications of their respective Lodges, and their prescribed modes of charity; to maintain peace and self-respect: to discountenance all irregular assemblies of Masons, and scrupulously to avoid connecting Freemasonry with any political controversies or speculations, being assured, notwithstanding statements to the contrary, which may be made for political effect, that the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is still in active existence, enjoying her Quarterly Meetings, superintending the affairs of the Craft, and through the Weekly Sessions of her Board of Relief, distributing the income of her little property to sick and needy Brethren, their widows and orphans—that

while she will sustain the Lodges under her jurisdiction by all proper means in her power, she is willing and desirous to receive immediately, the charters of all such as may wish to surrender them according to the conditions in such case made and provided."

In a communication to the Grand Lodge in the month of April 1836, His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex was graciously pleased to express his intention of removing the restriction which he had laid upon the Stewards, interdicting the admission of musical Brethren into the Glee Room; and the message was received with gratitude and joy.

The discussion in Parliament respecting the Irish constabulary force, assumed a character which was considered hostile to the existence of Freemasonry in that country; and fears were entertained lest the order should be included in the description of "secret or political societies" contained in that bill. To prevent any misconstruction therefore, the Duke of Leinster, Grand Master for Ireland, moved, "that Freemasons be exempted from taking the oath that they do not belong to any secret society." This clause was opposed by Lord Winchelsea and others, who expressed opinions on the tendency of Freemasonry, which are not borne out by fact. After an animated debate the clause was carried in the affirmative, and the science of Freemasonry was exempted from a test which would have materially impeded its progress in that country.* The Irish Grand Master by his conduct on this occasion, won golden opinions from his Breth-

* The following correspondence on this subject appears in Bell's Life: "Are Freemasons exempted from the necessity of complying with the same prescribed form of declaration as the Members of any other secret society, on, or previous to their accepting public office? A Freemason must take all the oaths and make all the declarations which must be taken or made by any other persons, but there are none directed against him as a Freemason. In respect of that particular character he takes none."

ven throughout the united kingdom; and received an unanimous vote of thanks from the Grand Lodge of England, at the recommendation of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex; which was splendidly engrossed on vellum, and verified by the signatures of Lords Dundas, Churchill, Scarborough, and Suffield. In like manner the thanks of the fraternity in Ireland were embodied in an Address, and presented to His Grace by the Officers of his own Grand Lodge.

On the 10th day of June in this year, the long-expected operation to remove the cataracts which had obscured the vision of His Royal Highness the Grand Master, was successfully performed by Mr. Alexander. It occupied about a quarter of an hour, and His Royal Highness underwent the operation with exemplary patience and fortitude; six days afterwards the following communication was made to the Royal Society:—

“Kensington Palace, June 16:

“GENTLEMEN,

“I have received the commands of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, to communicate to the Members of the Royal Society the result of the operation which was performed on Friday last by Mr. Alexander, on His Royal Highness's eyes. The cataracts were removed under the most favourable circumstances; the bandages were taken off on Tuesday morning, and, through the blessing of Providence, His Royal Highness is now able to see distinctly with both eyes. Trusting in God's continued mercy, His Royal Highness looks with confidence to the complete restoration of his sight; and he thus anticipates with pleasure the arrival of the 30th of next November, when His Royal Highness may be enabled again to take the chair at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society, and to discharge the duties which devolve on the President, especially those of distributing the various prizes awarded in the course of the year.

“I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

“Yours most faithfully,

“GEORGE ADAM BROWN.”

“To the Fellows of the Royal Society.”

The following sketch of the Grand Master may be acceptable to the distant Brethren who have not been favoured with an opportunity of seeing him. It is extracted from a work entitled

The Ambassador from the King of Oude to this country was initiated into Masonry in the Lodge of Friendship, at the Thatched House Tavern, on Thursday, the 14th April. His introduction into Masonry may have arisen from the present or late King of Oude having been made a Mason several years ago, as appears by the plate lately in the Grand Secretary's Office, but which has been removed into the Grand Master's Room. The young

"Random Recollections of the House of Lords." "His Royal Highness is a man of superior talents. It were to over-estimate his abilities to say he is a first-rate man; but no one can deny that his intellectual resources are far above mediocrity. The speeches he used to make some twelve or fifteen years since, both at public meetings and in the House, were as replete with eloquence, as they were remarkable for the ardent love of liberty which they breathed throughout. If there was nothing profound or original in them, neither, on the other hand, did they degenerate into dry commonplace. Whether they were heard delivered, or read in the newspapers, they at once gained the attention, and carried the auditor or reader on to the close, without ever flagging for a moment. He excels in putting obvious truths into a popular form. One of the principal attributes of his speeches is their simplicity. His style is always plain and perspicuous; he makes his views as clear to others as they are to his own mind. No one ever yet mistook the drift of his argument. His reasoning is always clear; it is more clear than forcible. He never takes his audience by storm; he wins them by the attractions of his manner. If you look in vain for any mighty burst of eloquence carrying you, as if by a resistless torrent, along with it, he never fails to lead you gently on with him in whatever direction he intends to go. His voice is clear and pleasant, but wants strength and flexibility. He never varies the key in which he begins; he is always audible. He is an easy and fluent speaker, never appearing in the least disconcerted, or hesitating a moment either for ideas or for suitable terms wherewith to express them. He seldom speaks long at a time, but there is as much matter in most cases, in what he says in ten minutes, as there is in what the majority of speakers would communicate in twenty. His extemporaneous resources are ample; he can speak with much effect on the impulse of the moment: indeed, his speeches are seldom prepared before hand.

"His literary and scientific attainments are great; with science especially, he is intimately conversant. Hence it is that he is President of several eminent scientific societies, and that his name is so often toasted at public dinners in connection with the various scientific institutions of England."

Persian princes, Zade Meerza, and his brother, sons of the King of Persia, were also initiated into Freemasonry in the Lodge of Friendship, on the 16th of June.

The Newstead Lodge at Nottingham, No. 55, held its centenary in the month of June. It still retains a strong list of Members, and the Brethren work well. There are few instances in the Provinces where a Lodge has sustained its duties so respectably as the Newstead Lodge; and the increase of Freemasonry in Nottingham, which now boasts of three Lodges, proves the position, that when Masonry is best known, it is most highly esteemed. The practical application of its doctrine, will always have the effect of causing it to be honoured by those whose approbation is of any value. If Freemasonry feed the hungry, and clothe the naked—if it relieve the distresses of the widow, and instruct the orphan in the duties of his station here, and the essentials for procuring happiness hereafter, when he shall have passed through the stormy paths of this life with moral credit and religious hope,—and all these laudable purposes are effected through the medium of our benevolent institutions—if the Brethren are blameless and irreproachable in their private conduct, and fulfil the royal law which bids them do to others as they would be done by;—if Masonry produce these blooming fruits, which all mankind commend, it is sure to be rewarded with universal approbation. The worthy and the good will eagerly embrace a system which produces so much practical benefit; and the Masonic Institution will be considered a public blessing to the community at large.

About this time considerable excitement manifested itself amongst the Fraternity in Ireland, in consequence of an order of the Grand Lodge, very properly issued in times of political excitement;

exhorting the Lodges to abstain from the use of public processions, under the penalty of censure, and in extreme cases of erasure.* Generally the injunction was obeyed; and the Brethren, on public days, attended their respective places of worship, without aprons, collars, or other insignia, and sermons were preached on masonic subjects without any political intermixture. A few instances of insubordination are recorded. Wilful Brethren, not having the true principles of Masonry operating in their hearts, suffered political feelings to incite them to disobedience; thus subjecting themselves to the censure of the Grand Lodge.

In this country of light hearts and merry faces, where the generous spirit of Freemasonry operates freely and beneficially, the science prospers, and is respected and beloved. The high spirited Brethren, shew their regard for the science by their actions, and charity is freely dispensed to the worthy distressed. Less than this could not be said of our hospitable friends and companions of the Green Isle, though it may be somewhat at variance with

* At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the following resolutions were put and carried unanimously:—

“Resolved,—That Masonic processions, though innocent and harmless in themselves, may, under particular circumstances, be imprudent and highly injurious to the general interests of the Order.

“Resolved,—That at a moment when all public processions are either prohibited by the law, or discountenanced by the constituted authorities, with which it is equally the desire and the principle of Freemasons to be in accordance and obedience, it is the opinion of the Grand Lodge, after mature deliberation, that the accustomed processions, on the approaching Festival of St. John, should be discontinued; and the Grand Lodge, therefore, require the Brethren of all Masonic Lodges, as they value the interests of Freemasonry, to forbear from all such processions.

“Resolved,—That if any Masonic Lodge should violate its duty, by disobedience of the foregoing command, it shall be punished with the highest punishment which the Grand Lodge can

the sober spirit of detail which ought to pervade an historical record ; but the honour and faith of the Irish character being infused into Freemasonry, as enriches the institution, and confers upon it additional dignity and worth in the eye of the world.

This year was distinguished by the initiation of three Persian princes Beeza Koolee Meerza, Nejeff, Koolee Meerza, and Timoor Meerza. They are grandsons of the late Futch Alle Shah, and children of Hoossein Allee Meerza, late Prince Governor of the Provinces of Tars, who was the fourth or fifth son of that monarch. Thus they are the first cousins of Mohammed Shah, who at present occupies the throne, and who is the son of Abbas Meerza, late Prince Royal of Persia. The Moolavee Ismael Khan was invested by his Royal Highness the Grand Master with the jewel and rank of a Past Grand Warden.

At a meeting of many influential Brethren, holden at Feeemasons' Hall, September 15, 1836, Brother R. T. Crucefix, M.D., J.G.D., in the chair ; it was Resolved, that "in testimony of grateful and respectful acknowledgment from the Members of the Masonic Fraternity to their Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex ; and to commemorate the benefits derived by the Craft from His Royal Highness's personal superintendence, unwearied attention, and judicious conduct, in the exercise of his high functions as Grand Master during a period of nearly twenty-five years ;" a masonic offering should be made to His Royal Highness, and a general subscription throughout the Craft be immediately entered into for that purpose. These resolutions were confirmed at a subsequent meeting, and a committee appointed to carry them into effect, consisting of all Grand Officers, and Masters of Lodges under the Constitution of

England, of which His Royal Highness is Grand Master.

In pursuance of these regulations, a circular was addressed to the Lodges by Brother S. C. Norris, Honorary Secretary, recommending the subject to the attention of Provincial Grand Masters, and Masters of Lodges, and the Brethren at large, and requesting their co-operation in an object so congenial to the feelings of the Masonic community. Subscriptions poured in from all quarters. One spirit appeared to animate the fraternity; and the Brethren emulated each other in their zeal to testify their affection and respect to their Princely Chief. The Provincial Grand Masters offered an example of activity in this noble strife, and it was followed by the Private Lodges with avidity and success.

From the scale on which the Committees were formed, it was anticipated that a magnificent trophy would be accomplished, alike worthy of a great Society to present, and of a Prince of the Blood Royal to accept; for contributions flowed in one continued stream.

A beneficial regeneration of the Craft was effected in Scotland, under the able rule of Lord Ramsay, who was elected to the Grand Master's Throne in the month of November, 1836; and at his installation entered into a statement of his views relative to Freemasonry. "Much might be gathered from the few but emphatic expressions which escaped from his Lordship on this occasion; the full elucidation and application of which he prudently reserved for a future opportunity. The real friends of Freemasonry, have abundant reason to congratulate themselves, and the Craft, on the choice of one who, from his high station, can so gracefully descend to those details, the right of ordering which keeps the wheels of state in motion." This appointment gave a new impulse to Freemasonry in

Scotland; and the new Grand Master being a distinguished practical Mason,* effected a great moral reformation amongst the Lodges. His lordship had paid such attention to the forms and ceremonies of Masonry, as to become a perfect adept in the details of all the degrees. He knew his duty, and determined to perform it faithfully. His example and activity proved a powerful excitement to the Masters of Lodges; and from the honourable feelings which minds truly noble always inspire, they emulated the zeal of their chief; and the Scottish Lodges became schools of morality and virtue.

A centenary was celebrated this year by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, to commemorate the honourable cession of the Hereditary Grand Mastership, by St. Clair of Roslyn. Great preparations were made for this solemnity, which was intended to be observed by the Fraternity throughout Scotland, as a grand and general jubilee. St. Andrew's day was the chosen period; and it was intended to dignify the occasion by a procession by torchlight. Above one thousand Brethren assembled to celebrate this memorable festival; and the following account of the effect which attended this nocturnal procession, will be gratifying to every masonic reader.

The word march being given and repeated along the whole line,

* The impulse which led to Lord Ramsay's initiation is thus related: As his Lordship some years ago was walking with his clerical tutor, a wretched beggar, apparently a foreigner, entreated his charity. The clergyman turned round to question the supplicant, and in a moment grasped his hand with the most cordial kindness. Lord Ramsay was surprised. The stranger was a Freemason; he was fed, clothed, and supplied by the generous Englishman with the means of transport to the coast of Syria, where he stated he originally came from. The circumstance made such an impression upon Lord Ramsay, that he determined to join an association so pregnant with good works. (Freemason's Quarterly Review, vol. 2. p. 68.)

The grand battalion of the Brethren of Peace moved forward as one body, preceded by the band of the Queen's Royal Lancers. Thus issuing from the portals of the Royal Exchange at Edinburgh, the head of the column was greeted with a loud huzza from the assembled multitude, which, as the rest advanced, gave place to a solemn and admiring silence. This attention and decorous conduct on the part of the spectators was flattering to the Craft, and is a proof of the great moral impression which the character of our glorious institution universally creates; whatever a few prejudiced and unfortunate individuals may say or think. Respect to the ancient free and accepted Fraternity of Masons was the sentiment expressed, on this occasion; and no other than a moral force could, in the absence of the military, have kept the crowd in such extraordinary order. The police employed undoubtedly did good service, particularly in repelling the tendency to pressure at the several turnings. But only look what a sight the High Street presents during the procession! Whoever has beheld Edina, with her cloud-capt towers and lofty mansions, rising from eight to ten stories in height—each individual stage of this Babel of buildings inhabited by whole hosts of families, of every kind and calling—may imagine the sublime effect of a multitude of torches, reflected with reddening glare upon the mighty sides of the spacious street which long has formed the pride of "Auld Reekie." Thousands of visages were visible from every tier of windows on either flank, from the lowest to the topmost habitable spot. It was a study for a lover of the picturesque—a scene of strange grandeur, not unworthy of the magic pencil of a Martin. We have witnessed the religious processions in the capitals of Catholicism, but we will aver that this transcended them all, even as a spectacle. On passing the front of the Theatre Royal, Brother Murray, the Manager, testified his fraternal attention by the exhibition of a brilliantly illuminated star over the portico of the house. Blue lights and rockets were discharged from Calton Hill, as the procession advanced up the Regent's Bridge, till at last, arriving at the Waterloo Hotel, the music divided right and left, and the Grand Masonic cortège marched into the great hall, which had been decorated and prepared for their reception."

Such a demonstration was worthy of Freemasonry, and conferred on it a respect in the opinion of the world. If Masonic processions be used at all in these days, they should be conducted on a principle of superior grandeur, regardless of expence; otherwise they will be esteemed as a vain and useless display, and tend rather to produce the degradation than the advancement of the Order.

During the year 1836 the number of foundation

stones laid with masonic solemnities was greatly increased, which is an evidence of the advancement of the science in public estimation. The respect usually displayed by the superior ranks of society; and the order and decorum observed by the crowds who assembled to witness the ceremony, contribute to form no unimportant estimate of general feeling towards the institution. In a rapid sketch of the transactions of this period, it will be impossible to do more than notice the instances where the Craft assembled for the above purpose. A description of each ceremonial would not only occupy too great a space, but would also constitute a tedious repetition of forms which every well instructed Brother perfectly understands. In May, the foot-stone of a Masonic Hall, at Christ Church, was layelled in the north-east by Brother Sir John Millbank, Bart., D.P.G.M.; of a National School at Nantwich, by Brother J. F. Maddock, Esq., D.P.G.M.; and of St. Botolph's Church, Colchester, by Brother John Round, Esq. In June, of a General Lunatic Asylum at Northampton, by the Right Honourable Earl Spencer; and of a new Bridge at Radcliffe, by Brother Bealey of that place. In July, of the Royal Victoria Arcade, at Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, by Brother the Earl of Durham, D.G.M.; of the Dunstanville Memorial, on the Hill of Karnbre, in Cornwall, by Brother V. P. Robinson, Esq., D.P.G.M.; and of a new Guildhall, at Penzance, by Brother Richard Pearce, P.G.S.W. for Cornwall. In October, of an Infirmary in Perth, by Brother Lord Kinnaird, P.G.M. for Scotland. In December, the D.G.M. and his Masons, assisted the Bishop of Ripon in laying the foundation stone of a new Church at Leeds; and at Warrington the Key-stone of a stupendous Bridge was set by Brother Le Gendre N. Starkie, Esq., D.P.G.M., with the usual solemnities.

The testimonials to deserving Brethren were also exceedingly numerous this year ; which is an evident proof of the superior zeal and activity by which the Fraternity have been distinguished ; and the record is as honourable to the donors as to the individuals whose Masonic exertions have been thus rewarded. In February, a costly tea service was presented to Brother the Reverend Sir W. Dunbar, Bart., of Stoke-upon-Trent. In May, a jewel to Brother R. H. Giraud, P.M. Grand Master's Lodge ; and a medal to Brother L. Chandler, P.M., St. Paul's Lodge, London. In June, a Jewel to Brother R. Mitchell, President of the Grand Stewards' Board ; another to Brother James Savage, Treasurer ; and a third to Brother J. R. Bulmer, Secretary to the same Board. In August, a silver Goblet to Brother Jacob Keyser, W. M. Royal Sussex Lodge, Bristol. In September, a silver Snuff Box to Brother John Whitworth, Lodge of Tranquillity, Newchurch, Rossendale ; and a silver Cup to Brother Aikenhead, Treasurer, Kilkenny Lodge, Ireland. A Past Master's Jewel to Brother Tenison, of "Fifty," Dublin, from the Brethren of Lodge 681. In October, a silver Candelabrum to Brother Captain Maher, W.M., 327, Taunton ; a silver Vase and Cover to Brother C. K. K. Tynte, Esq., P.G.M., Somerset ; a silver Medal to Brother Wm. Aitkin, of the Celtic Lodge, Edinburgh ; and a silver Tea Service to Brother Thos. Wright, Victoria Lodge, Dublin. In December, a silver Salver to Brother G. Goldsmith, Secretary, Watford Lodge ; and a gold Medal to Brother John Bigg, P.M., Moira Lodge, London.

CHAP. IV.

History of Freemasonry during the Year 1837.

DURING the past year, the Grand Master, whose services to the Craft have placed him in an elevated position in that sacred depository, the heart of every Brother, was afflicted, as we have already seen, with a visitation that deprived him of his accustomed enjoyments, and prevented his usual attendance on the duties of the Grand Lodge, which could not fail to suffer from his absence. It pleased the Almighty Disposer of events to deprive His Royal Highness of that precious blessing—his eye sight. This visitation was increased by a return of an asthmatic complaint under which he had suffered for many years, that prevented him from enjoying the greatest comfort bestowed on man—the luxury of resting on a bed. The Royal sufferer endured his pains and privations with exemplary fortitude and magnanimity; and even his afflictions added to the popularity that always attended him;* and in-

* Of which the following Address is an indisputable testimony:

“Dublin, 27th December, 1836.

“To His Royal Highness Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness, and Baron of Arklow, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Freemasons in England.

“The Address of the Right Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland.

“We, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Officers, and other Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, approach your Royal Highness with joy and exultation at the boon granted to the Masonic Craft, by the Great Architect of the Universe, at whose creative fiat all things first were made; who, in the glorious

increased the enthusiasm with which his reappearance in Grand Lodge, with renewed vision and

manifestation of his power, has again bestowed on your Royal Highness the light of this sublunary world, of which you were so long deprived.

"Ever mindful of the blessings dispensed by Him who said, 'let there be light, and there was light,' who has withdrawn the veil of darkness from your sightless orbs, as if it were His will the high decree should be kept perfect, and that your Royal Highness might be without blemish, and continue to inculcate the divine attributes of faith, hope, and charity, into the hearts of the mystic Craft, over whom you have so long presided with advantage to them and credit to your Royal Highness.

"We of the mystic Craft, in union with our British Brethren, rejoice that the Masonic Star of England has again arisen into noon-tide splendour, and that your Royal Highness can again behold the glorious light of day.

"That your Royal Highness may long continue to enjoy that blessing for the good of the Masonic Order, and the benefit of the nation, is the fervent prayer of your Royal Highness's Brethren in Ireland."

(Signed)

Copy of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex's Answer to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

"My Lord Duke, most worshipful and highly esteemed Brother—I hasten to express to you, as Grand Master of Ireland, and through your Grace to the Brethren who compose the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland, my sincere acknowledgments for the congratulatory Address with which you have marked and welcomed my restoration to the blessing of sight.

"Every true and faithful Mason must be ready at all times to bend before the chastening hand of the Almighty, as well as to adore and magnify his goodness and his mercy.

"During the progress of my disorder, my heart was cheered and my sufferings were alleviated through the divine favour, by the consoling attentions as well as by the kind sympathy of my friends, and now that the same gracious Providence has been pleased to remove the veil of affliction, and to bring me back to the enjoyment of life's choicest treasure, the happiness which I enjoy is increased in a tenfold proportion by the numerous and affectionate Addresses which I am proud to have received from those who were distant, as also from those who were near.

"And now, my Lord Duke, whilst the opportunity is thus favorably afforded me as a Brother of our ancient and venerable Order, I avail myself of it to communicate to your Grace, my

renovated health, was greeted at the celebration of his birth-day on the 27th January 1837, by a numerous and happy assemblage of Brethren; and what must have been still more gratifying to His Royal Highness, by the constellation of female rank and beauty which graced the galleries on that memorable occasion.

Long before the customary period for taking the chair, every place at the dining tables, which filled the Hall at Freemasons' Tavern, was occupied by the Craft; and by the time the illustrious guest arrived, there might be reckoned a greater profusion of Grand and Provincial Grand collars and decorations than we ever remembered to have seen at one time assembled.

On the entrance of their illustrious Grand Master, the Brethren testified by the most enthusiastic

entire satisfaction at hearing of the distinguished exertions which you had made in the last Session of Parliament during the progress of a Bill in which the interests of our Fraternity in Ireland were concerned. My unfortunate malady rendered me at that time wholly incapable of seconding, as I otherwise most gladly would have done, both by my voice and my vote, your zealous exertions; nor did any one more sincerely rejoice than myself at their proud success.

"In conclusion, I must further assure your Grace, that so long as I shall continue to preside, by the wishes of my Brethren, over the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons in England as their Grand Master, I shall always endeavour to promote, by every means in my power, the best understanding, as well as to cement and strengthen the bonds of affection between the respective Grand Lodges of our Fraternity, and among all our Brethren in the three-fold division of that mighty Empire which is placed under the dominion of our Gracious Sovereign, who is at once a Brother and the Patron of our Craft.

"That you, my Lord Duke, the Grand Master, together with all the Brethren under your rule and guidance, may long enjoy every earthly blessing which the Great Architect of the Universe can bestow, is the sincere wish and fervent prayer of

"Your Grace's

"Affectionate Brother and sincere Friend,

"(Signed) AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, G.M.M."

"Holkham, 16th Dec., 1836."

plaudits their gratification at his recovery, and public re-union with the craft; and he took his seat on the right of the chairman, evidently affected as well as gratified at the reception.

In announcing the toast, the chairman, C. J. K. Tynte, Esq., M. P. said that "he felt exceeding difficulty, from his incapacity to do justice to its merits. He perhaps might have been the better able to have fulfilled that duty, if he were not, in some measure, deterred from its full performance by the presence of the illustrious individual who was its object. He could, however, declare to their truly noble guest, that he felt, and was sure that every member of the Craft felt, the most unfeigned gratification at his presence. They had all prayed most earnestly for his recovery—they were now as deeply grateful that their prayers had been realized.

"The prayer of Masons, and of millions besides Masons, had been received with favour, and we have now to celebrate the anniversary of his birth-day; and may he long enjoy such meetings as this. There breathes not a Mason that ever can forget the benefits that he has conferred upon them. Let us remember that suffering by illness, he did not forget us—he was never deterred from furthering our interests. This is a theme on which, however, I must not dilate, because I feel that his noble and delicate feelings could not approve all that I could utter in my gratitude; and also if I continued any longer, I should delay your own expression of enthusiasm to the toast, which is to the health of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, M.W.G.M., and many many years of happiness to him."—(long and continued cheers.)

The Royal Duke rose, evidently affected by the reception he had experienced, and the recollection of previous seasons of festivity and masonic intercourse enjoyed in that Hall.

"I rise," said he, "under considerable emotion; and hope, if by any chance I should break down in my address, it may be attributed to the extreme sensibility by which I am agitated. There are such a variety of ideas forcing themselves upon my mind, that it is difficult for me to arrange and select them; and I must therefore take them as they present themselves, and follow them out as their tide may direct. Sensations of a conflicting nature blend together in my bosom—gratitude and regret, sorrow and enjoyment. In looking round upon this meeting, my first impression is that, in my own case, something like a miracle has been wrought—by the blessing of Providence my sight has been restored; and most deeply do I feel the debt of gratitude I owe to the Great Architect of the Universe for its restoration; and next to that Divine power, to the worthy instrument by whose immediate assistance the cure was wrought. Mine is, however, still

but a light obscure, the strength of which does not enable me to discern the form of any individual, of that part of our community who heighten the value of our proceedings by witnessing them from the galleries, and add to our happiness by their presence. This is a lesson to me, shewing me the value of what I have regained, but admonishing me not to look further than I ought. I am informed, there is hardly a lady in those galleries, who is not connected, by blood or sentiment, with some Brother Mason who is present. In this they evince their participation in our happiness and wishes. They come with us to the door of the Holy Temple; there they wait our return, and give us a cheerful and ready welcome when we join them again. Quite sure am I, after our Masonic meetings, we are not the less welcome. Turning to those by whom I am surrounded, I earnestly assure them that I feel most sensibly their kindness in meeting me here this day; many I know to their extreme inconvenience, and some have even left their beds to meet me with congratulation. I feel the compliment both as a Mason, and as a man. In reflecting on the occasion of this Fraternal meeting, I cannot forget that its peculiar feature is the celebration of my natal day, and that at my time of life, and in my situation, I should be warned that the sun is going down, and although I can look at it quietly, still it is a warning. And looking round upon those who are here assembled to greet me, and full as is the Hall, how many are the pleasant faces and warm hearts that have passed away from among us, since I last met the Craft on such an occasion, within the brief period of three years! Darkness overtook me, but the light is restored, and I again address you—to detail what my sufferings have been would be a long story. He who presides over all vouchsafed his protection to me; and this I tell you with thankfulness, that when the operation was performed, and the beautiful flood of light burst upon me, most forcibly was that emphatic expression of Holy Writ brought to my recollection, the instant I regained my sight—"And God said let there be light and there was light."—Nor will the first objects I beheld ever pass from my mind, they were the clouds and the sunshine; the sentiments they produced I will not attempt to describe, because it is indescribable. I feel that I am greeted by many kind faces; my calendar, however, reminds me that many a warm heart and happy face that almost ever presented itself, are not now here! That is painful to reflect upon; but they have met their reward above. I have now occupied the chair of Grand Master twenty-five years, and am arrived at that age when the recollection of sixty becomes lost in the encounters of sixty-five; but I feel, nevertheless, that my heart is as young, and as warm as ever; and as long as it retains your trust, your esteem, your confidence, and your affection, the last drop that flows from that heart shall be devoted and delegated to you. (Long continued cheers.) The worthy Brother who proposed my health said that, even in sickness I had not forsaken the interests of the Craft; but my regret was ever that I could not be more actively engaged in the service

of (Freemasonry); and most of all did I think that I could not
 and the M. W. G. M. for Ireland, the Duke of Leinster, one of the
 most active and honest of Masons, in his successful efforts to pre-
 vent a ban being placed on our Brethren in that country, whose
 loyalty is as undoubted as yours. You have always treated me
 with confidence and kindness—I think I may say that I never
 abused them, at least willingly I never did—to err is human—
 and whenever an error is known to be involuntary, it should always
 be excused. I have come amongst you with feelings of gratitude
 and intense anxiety; but they almost unman me. The departure
 of friends causes an awful blank; and so many other ideas press
 upon me—such as the remembrance of the great good that has
 been effected in this room; the spirit of intelligence that has
 therein advanced—by which vice has been prevented; and let me
 add also, that no social virtue has been neglected. The entrance
 into such a place where such principles reign, causes a holy sen-
 sation; which proves that good actions and good works are bless-
 ings flowing from the comprehensive examination of Masonry.
 May the Great Architect of the Universe instil into the heart of
 every Mason a deep sense of his might and mercy.

"I shall thus close my address to you, invoking His blessing
 upon you all—and when it shall come to your turn to be called
 away, may you feel that hope which every well-regulated mind can
 alone rely upon."

The impression made on the meeting was in
 perfect harmony with the address, and was mani-
 fested by the utmost attention, and with one or two
 exceptions, a marked avoidance of approbatory in-
 terruptions; and the departure of His Royal High-
 ness was marked by the same demonstrations of
 respect and attachment that greeted him on his
 entry.

In honour of this happy recovery, addresses were
 forwarded from the Craft in every part of the king-
 dom. The high respect and veneration in which
 the Royal Duke was held by the Fraternity, was
 now manifested by the universal exultation which
 prevailed amongst the Brethren, and the enthusi-
 astic expressions of joy with which his restoration
 to sight was hailed. Their confidence in his zeal,
 his talent, and his affection for the order, had never
 been questioned; but recent events had caused it
 to be proclaimed in language and in deeds, which

made an indelible impression on His Royal Highness's sensitive nature. Freemasonry had attained under his active superintendence, a dignified position, which commanded the respect of serious and thinking men amongst all classes of the community and his persevering care, throughout such a lengthened period of time, has become almost identified with its prosperity and reputation. The Brethren were not satisfied with a simple expression of their gratitude to the Almighty for his goodness in restoring their beloved ruler and chief, but a public testimonial was in progress, which ripened into a harvest, equally honourable to themselves, and to the royal object of their love and esteem.

At the March Quarterly Communication, a motion was made by Brother Lythgoe, materially affecting the principle of Art. vi. page 19 of the Constitutions. Brothers Philipe, Bell, Sangster, Mc Gillivray, and Crucefix, severally expressed their opinions against the proposed motion, which was ultimately withdrawn. Some other notices of motion were offered, but the time having elapsed, they could not be received; and it was intimated from the throne, that in future all notices of motion must come through the Committee of Masters. One of these notices was to the following effect: "That the state of the Funds of the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children be taken into consideration at the next Quarterly Communication, with a view that the financial difficulties of that Institution may be relieved by the Grand Lodge."

A Sub-Committee of the friends of the Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons, which was held early in the spring of this year, announced that the design was progressing favourably. The idea, at this period, appeared so full of benevolence and good-will to man, that it was eagerly patronized by the Fraternity in every part of the globe. In India

and South Africa appeals were made by the constituted authorities in its behalf; and at the Cape of Good Hope, the following circular was distributed amongst the Craft :

“ It having been proposed, by our Brethren in England, to erect and endow an Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons, a subscription has been opened, under the sanction of the Right W. Prov. Grand Master, for the voluntary contributions of South Africa, in aid of that desirable object. Subscriptions will be received by the Hon. J. B. Ebdon, and W. Gadney, Esq., Cape Town; and by W. M. Edye, Esq., Graham's Town. By order of the R. W. Prov. G. Master.”

In this year our Royal Patron King William IV. paid the debt of nature, after a brilliant Masonic career of half a century. He was initiated in the Prince George Lodge, No. 102, and raised to the third degree on the 13th of March 1786; and two years afterwards enrolled himself a Member of the Prince of Wales's Lodge. In 1790 His Royal Highness was constituted Patron of Royal Arch Masons, on the demise of the Duke of Cumberland, his Uncle; and in 1792 served the office of Junior Warden in the above Lodge; the Duke of York being Senior Warden; and the Prince of Wales, Worshipful Master. Later in life he succeeded to the Chair of the Lodge;* and when he ascended the Throne of these Realms, signified his gracious pleasure to become the Grand Patron of the Order. His Majesty contributed to the Masonic Schools, and other benevolent Institutions; and His Royal Consort, Queen Adelaide, liberally supported the Female Charity, of which she allowed herself to be nominated the Patroness. His Royal Highness the Grand Master, in a speech before the Grand Lodge, thus describes his Royal Brother's attachment to the Craft.

* See Preston's Illustrations, 14th and 15th editions, p. 416.

: "In the character of a Mason our noble King shone forth in splendour. Young and enthusiastic, when he first wore the Apprentice Apron, he has often declared that the moral impression made upon him at his initiation never could be effaced; and it may safely be affirmed, that the principles of our blessed Order, were so firmly fixed in his upright mind, that they tended to make clear what without them might have been difficult. As a Brother in Masonry, he acted as a faithful Craftsman; as a Master of his Lodge he protected its interests; and as Patron of the Order, he shed a lustre around it the more brilliant from: his private conduct, than from the regal splendour which emanated from the crown he wore."

The Grand Master moved an address of condolence to the Queen Dowager on this melancholy event; and of congratulation to Queen Victoria on her accession to the Throne. And after His Royal Highness had retired, Brother Crucefix moved, and Brother Moran seconded an address of condolence to the Grand Master, which was unanimously agreed to. Similar addresses were presented from the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland.

All this time the institutions for educating, clothing, and apprenticing the orphan children of indigent deceased Brethren, continued to flourish and increase; affording an unobjectionable evidence of the general tendency of Freemasonry, by the blessings which were conferred upon these destitute children, thus rescued from calamity and perhaps crime; and furnished with the means of securing and maintaining a position in society, that, even their parents, had they lived, would have been unable to effect. Some judicious arrangements, in behalf of these Schools, were made at the Quarterly Communication in June, at the earnest recommendation of the Grand Master, which received the sanction of the Grand Lodge.

A most interesting exhibition of the Children took place on the day when our beloved Queen attained her majority. They were assembled in the School-room to appear before the Governors,

and regaled with a collation of fruit, cakes, and wine. The Rev. Mr. Vane, and Dr. Cruikshank, addressed them in kind and affectionate language, directing their attention to the event which the Meeting was intended to commemorate. Altogether the scene was highly gratifying, and will be long remembered both by the children and their benefactors.

Our Hibernian Brethren, in Grand Lodge assembled, agreed on a resolution at the June Meeting, which, if it were adopted as a general rule on the election of Officers even in private Lodges, would operate for the benefit of the Craft. The regulation requires, as a test of fitness for office, some previous regularity of attendance, and provides, "that no Officer shall be approved of, who, having served a former office, shall be found not to have attended, either by person or proxy, four times, at least, in his half-year of office."

This regulation might be beneficially introduced into the By-Laws of all our Lodges, which can only be successful in their operation, by a strict regularity amongst the Brethren in the performance of every duty which their situation in the Lodge imposes. Hence no Brother should be admitted to an office, whether supreme or subordinate, until he has previously made himself acquainted with its duties; nor without he has shewn a promptitude and decision in his attendance on the stated Meetings of the Order. It is a regulation founded on the spirit of our constitutions, having reason for its basis, and the prosperity of the Lodge for its superstructure. If tried and experienced Brethren be placed in exalted offices, their example becomes influential to instruct the younger Members in the rules and ceremonies of Masonry, to display the details of office to the best advantage, and to guide the Brethren in the path of duty, both in the Lodge and in the World.

In the East and West Indies, Freemasonry appeared to be on the increase, and it is gratifying to quote the fact from the mouth of a Brother on the spot, Brother J.S. Morris, W.M. of the Lodge of Perfect Unanimity, No. 1, Calcutta, thus relates his experience.

It is now just four years since I was appointed to preside over the Lodge of Perfect Unanimity, No. 1.; and I cannot but regard, with equal pride and pleasure, the great and happy change which has, since that period, taken place in the condition of our Lodge, and in the state of Masonry in general at this Presidency. At that time, owing to some unaccountable cause, Masonry had fallen into disrepute. No. 1, was so thin in numbers, that we could hardly fill the several offices of the Lodge. The ranks of the Grand Lodge were proportionably reduced. Our communications with England had become irregular and unsatisfactory; our charitable subscriptions had decreased to such an extent, that it was with difficulty we could answer the most pressing calls of distress. In short the pure flame of Masonry languished, and must have expired altogether, had it not been for the unremitting exertions of three of the best Masons that ever lived, Bros. Lys and Macdonnell and our departed Bro. Gordon, whose merits deserve a more lasting memorial than my humble praise. How truly gratifying a contrast does the picture of the present moment present. Our Lodge is now equal in numbers, respectability, and intelligence, to any in the world; the Grand Lodge has been recruited from our ranks; our charitable funds have improved; and Masonry flourishes as prosperously as its most ardent admirer could desire."

After this declaration, let not the friends of Freemasonry despair under any circumstances, how adverse soever they may be. Zeal and assiduity on the part of the presiding Officers, judiciously used, will always be successful in stimulating the sluggish, and encouraging the meek; and the activity of a single talented Mason perseveringly exercised, will often restore the energy of a Lodge, which its fast friends have considered to be lost beyond redemption. The accounts from all quarters display abundant evidences of the increase of peace and good order amongst the fraternity; and also an augmented respect for the institution, in those

who have not yet had the advantage of initiation. Whether we look towards the North or the South, or extend our view from East to West, the prospect is equally satisfactory. The true spirit of Freemasonry is at work, and gratifying consequences will crown her labours.

The Quarterly Communication in December, being the first occasion of a new election of Grand Officers since the Grand Master's happy restoration to the light of Heaven; it was numerously attended, and Brother Moran moved the nomination of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, as most Worshipful Grand Master for the ensuing year. In doing so he said it would ill become him to endeavour to describe, in the manner they deserved, the Masonic virtues and urbane condescension of their present Grand Master. It had been said by a character of antiquity of one of the purest and most virtuous men of his day, when another attempted his eulogy—"why praise? Who has ever blamed?" If it was necessary any where to speak to the feelings of men, in order to induce their good wishes towards the Duke of Sussex, here, at least, in this Grand Lodge, such necessity could not exist.

Several discussions had taken place this year on the subject of the Laws of Masonry; some of which were described as useless, and others were not strictly observed. In the Freemasons' Quarterly Magazine, we find a very sound remark on one particular article of our constitutions; viz., "that no Brother shall speak twice to the same question, unless in explanation, or the mover in reply. Our attention has been called in a forcible manner, by several correspondents, to this article, which, in itself, is a clause very essential to the promotion of order; and its violation, or even the evasion of its spirit, has an inconvenient, if not

an unpleasant effect. There are many persons who would be well disposed, and even desirous of offering an opinion upon current questions, but are prevented by the time and attention of Grand Lodge being pre-occupied. We do not hesitate to say that the time of Grand Lodge is wasted whenever any deviation from the wholesome statute is permitted. Masonic Law embraces all that is necessary of a moral and equitable power; we want nothing more, and nothing wanting, would rather not have what does not agree with the spirit of our code."

To this it may be proper to add, that all interruptions by those who have already addressed a Lodge, are indecent towards the Brethren, and disrespectful towards the Worshipful Master. They substitute confusion for order, and not only prevent truth from being elicited, but tend to confuse the ideas; and thus prevent the Members from arriving at a just and beneficial conclusion.

The Grand Lodge began about this time, to entertain the idea of forming a Masonic Library. The notion is excellent, not merely because it will furnish the Brethren with the means of access to all Masonic publications, but as it forms an unequivocal expression, on the part of the rulers of the Craft, that the day is gone by which prohibits the use of the pen; and that the publication of works on Freemasonry, judiciously written, promises to be of great utility. By this means meritorious conduct is displayed and receives its recompense in the approbation of the Brethren; while indifference and neglect is roused and warmed into industry by the details of flourishing Lodges; and of the admiration of mental reward which are sure to attend the exercise of Masonic zeal and activity. This expression may be hailed by the Brethren with joy; because it precludes all prohibition against a public

discussion of the general principles of Masonry, provided the writer possess sufficient tact to steer clear of any innovation on our peculiar rites and ceremonies; and abstain from printing such private transactions of his Lodge, as it might be prudent to withhold.

A formal motion for pledging the Grand Lodge to the support of the Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons, pursuant to notice, was made by Dr. Crucefix, the Treasurer; the following communication from the Grand Master having been previously read:

Signed AUGUSTUS F.—, G.M.

"The Grand Master having learnt that the subject of the proposed Asylum for decayed Masons was to be brought forward again in Grand Lodge this evening, thinks it right to repeat the explanation which he made verbally to the Grand Lodge on that subject at a former period.

"On that occasion the Grand Master declared, as to the matter proposed, that he was not unfriendly; but in his situation as Grand Master, he could not at present give it the sanction of his name, and thus recommend it to the Grand Lodge and the Craft at large. That such assent could not be obtained from him until he was satisfied that such a sum had been collected, as would meet the expenses for the erection and furnishing the buildings which were proposed, as likewise give reasonable hope that some provision would be funded, which, with a little addition, might enable the inhabitants of those dwellings to maintain themselves without a severe fall upon the existing Funds of the Grand Lodge. That the Grand Lodge has already two public charities to support, and which it is our duty to secure from future wants, by making their permanent funds equal to their present expenditure. Such object being once obtained, it would facilitate the consideration and adoption of measures favourable to the new establishment proposed; but always with the express understanding of the conditions previously stated.

"The Grand Master is induced to make these observations with a view of warning the Brethren not to allow their good feelings to carry them away, and, by a hasty vote, peril the charitable Institutions already existing, and from which the Craft derives so much benefit.

"The Grand Master has further to remark, that the Brethren are annually called upon to furnish a certain number of Stewards to manage the dinners for these two establishments, which become very intricate and expensive, and would, therefore, be both impru-

dent and provident to impose an additional burden upon the Lodges by a call for a third Board of Stewards, on the formation of a new Institution, and the exertions of which Stewards, however great, could scarcely be expected to realize a collection of more than one-third the aggregate receipts at the Anniversary Meetings on behalf of the existing charities; and that mainly at the cost and loss of those two charities.

"The Grand Master has moreover to add, that although similar institutions may be formed in various parts of the continent, yet the same necessity cannot be pleaded for their existence in this country, because the many charitable foundations throughout England, to which the Brethren may have access, preclude the urgency of this appeal to their charitable exertions."

"Kensington Palace, 6th Dec., 1837."

Brother Crucefix then made a very pathetic appeal to the assembly in behalf of the aged objects of the proposed charity, which made an evident impression on the Brethren present. It was replied to by Brothers Lythgoe and Henderson, who expressed a fear lest the contemplated institution should inflict an injury on the existing charities. The latter observed, that "he did not feel himself called on to recommend the adoption of the motion in its present form; but if the worthy Brother would allow a little modification in the wording of the resolution, he had no doubt it would be carried by the Grand Lodge with that unanimity which he was satisfied was so anxiously looked for by the Brother who had brought the question forward."

Brother Crucefix immediately met the suggestion, by withdrawing his original motion, and with the concurrence of the seconder, immediately framed another; and not wishing to occupy the time of the Grand Lodge by a reply, the following resolution was put and carried unanimously!

"That this Grand Lodge recommend the contemplated Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons to the favourable consideration of the Craft."

The Resolution was unanimously confirmed at the subsequent Quarterly Communication in March.

This was a great point gained for the friends of

the projected Institution ; because it furnished an answer to that frequent enquiry of the Provincial Brethren, whether the measure had the sanction of the Masonic Authorities, or whether it was a mere private speculation ? From this period donations and subscriptions increased ; and the well-wishers of the charity enjoyed the pleasing anticipation, that the benevolent design would now be carried into a speedy and efficient operation. A list of the subscribers was published, and a code of regulations circulated amongst the Fraternity.

“ That it is expedient to provide for the wants of the meritorious, but aged and decayed Freemason, by the erection of an Asylum to receive him within its sanctuary.

“ That a donation of Fifty Guineas and upwards, shall render the donor eligible to be proposed as a Vice-President.

“ That a donation of Twenty Guineas, shall constitute a Life Governor.

“ That a donation of Ten Guineas shall constitute a Life Subscriber.

“ That Two Guineas annually constitute a Governor.

“ That One Guinea annually shall constitute a Subscriber.

“ That Fifty Guineas from a Lodge shall entitle it to the privilege of a Life Governor so long as the Lodge shall exist.

“ That Twenty Guineas from a Lodge shall entitle it to a like privilege for twenty-five years.

“ That Ten Guineas from a Lodge shall entitle it to the privilege of a Subscriber for fourteen years.

“ ADDRESS.—The object of the contemplated Asylum is simple—to provide that shelter and support, in his latter days, for the worthy aged and decayed Freemason, which nearly all other classes have already done for those connected with their happier hours, dependent on their benevolence.

“ It would be unnecessary to say any thing in support of such a charity, to a body with whom the exercise of that virtue, in its most boundless extent, is a primary obligation. Its friends and projectors utterly disclaim all idea of interference with the existing Masonic Charities, but they simply urge this as the crowning stone of the edifice, as the sacred ark in which those who have, in better times, contributed to the support of these two admirable Institutions, may themselves, should the dark hour of distress come, find refuge and succour.

“ While England abounds in Homes of Benevolence for the distressed, it appears a strange anomaly that the aged and decayed Freemason alone, is without this cheering prospect—an anomaly rendered more striking from the fact that no body of men has higher patronage, richer members, or more benevolent objects.”

During this period the Provinces were gaining strength by the appointment of efficient Provincial Grand Masters; and as their duties became more exemplified by practice, the Brethren increased in zeal, by the efficacy of their example. Activity on the part of the presiding Officers, always produces energy and emulation amongst the Members. In Oxfordshire for instance, the seat of learning and science, Freemasonry had previously made but a slow and partial progress, although the Brethren were not deficient in those requisites by which strength and consistency are to be acquired. But the absence of a master mind, invested with authority to fan the glowing embers into a flame, caused a general listlessness which rendered individual energy incapable of producing that reformation in the construction of the Lodges, which is the mark of a healthy moral state.

To remedy this defect, the Grand Master, with his usual tact, nominated to the office of P.G.M. for Oxford, one of the best and most influential Brethren of the Order, the D.G.M. of England, Lord John Churchill, who was installed in that city, and appointed his assistant officers with great judgment. In his Address after Installation, his Lordship made a few very useful observations, which some of his Brethren, who hold a similar office in other Provinces, would do well to treasure up in their minds. He said "that there existed no record whatever of any former meetings of the Grand Lodge, and that to prevent any excuse for further neglect, he should present them with the necessary books to enter their proceedings—without due order and regularity, continued his Lordship, little good can be effected; but with two such Lodges as are now existing in Oxford, I look forward with the greatest expectation. I have been bred in a service where the printed regulations are clearly

laid down, and any infraction of an Article contained in them has the penalty affixed, so that any one who offends, knows well what he will suffer. In like manner, the Book of Constitutions, points out the duties to be performed, and declares that a breach of moral conduct or discipline is to be considered a breach of masonic law. I have been pretty well drilled into duty at the Board of General Purposes, where I have sat for some years, and have very intently watched many cases of importance that have come before that meeting, so that I cannot plead ignorance of my duty; and among the directions which regulate the office of Provincial Grand Master I find these words:—‘The Provincial Grand Lodge of each Province is to be assembled by the P.G.M., or his Deputy, at least *once in every year* for business, &c.,’ so that I have no alternative but to obey. The orders do not simply intimate that the Provincial Grand Lodge *may* be assembled; but they declare it *is* to be assembled; and as I point out what my construction of the law is as regards myself, I do not hesitate to tell you that I fully expect you will use your best endeavours to prove expert and proficient Masons.”

The Brethren of the Humber Lodge, in Kingston-upon-Hull, held a Grand Dinner this year in honour of the majority of the Princess Victoria, and agreed to an address of congratulation on that event. It was also celebrated at Wakefield, by the Earl of Mexborough, P.G.M., and the Brethren of West Yorkshire, and many other places in England. In a word, the Provinces appear to have been at this period in a healthy and active state. And as time progressed, Freemasonry gathered strength, like a ball rolling along the deep snow on a soft and genial morning in the winter season.

The appointment of Lord Ramsay to the Presidency of the Order in Scotland, gave a favourable

impulse to Freemasonry in the north, and the pious sentiments which his Lordship addressed to the Brethren at his installation, infused a favourable anticipation of his future usefulness, which has been abundantly verified by facts. Our Scottish brethren being now impressed with that true principle of Masonic benevolence, that the connection with a Brother Mason, united by a common obligation and the practice of mutual observances, is not severed by death, if he leave behind him a family of destitute orphans, this year projected a Masonic Institution in Edinburgh for educating and advancing the prospects in life of the daughters of indigent and deceased Freemasons. In their preliminary address, they confess that "it has long been held as a matter of reproach against the Masonic Fraternity in Scotland, that while, in every part of the empire, provision is making for the education of the distressed poor, and the capitals of the sister kingdoms possess institutions exclusively belonging to the Craft, which are at once the pride and boast of the nation; the metropolis, though rich in other valuable institutions, possesses no establishment devoted exclusively to the benefit of the children of Freemasons; a society which, from the earliest period of antiquity, has stood pre-eminent for practical benevolence in every quarter of the civilized world." By the above establishment, therefore, they have nobly redeemed the character of Scottish masonry.

The Brethren of the north still further distinguished themselves during the present year, by holding a Grand Assembly at Glasgow, under the authority of the Lord Provost, the Honourable Mr. Mills, who was also Provincial Grand Master, to level the cornerstone of a monument to the memory of our talented and worthy Brother, Sir Walter Scott, Bart. who was initiated into Masonry in the

Lodge of St. David's, Edinburgh. As every thing connected with this distinguished individual is of interest to society at large, it will be necessary to go somewhat into detail on such a memorable occasion to Freemasonry. The Magistrates of Glasgow, Gorbals, Calton, and Anderton, were in attendance, as well as the entire élite of the country, and the Brethren of numerous Lodges, who were formed into a general procession, protected by troops of the 9th Lancers, and the 42nd regiment of foot, from the Court Hall to St. George's Square, the site of the intended column. The Brethren, clothed in full masonic costume, and decorated with official and honorary jewels, marched four abreast; each Lodge being preceded by a band of music, and recognised by its appropriate banner. The proceedings were conducted with extraordinary regularity. "When the Junior Lodge arrived at the entrance of St. George's Square it halted, and opened right and left, and so on with the other Lodges in succession, according to their seniority, in order to allow the Grand Lodge of Scotland to advance to the site of the monumental column. On arriving, the Grand Master proclaimed silence, and the Rev. Dr. McLeod mounted a temporary rostrum erected for the occasion, and offered up an eloquent and impressive prayer. After which the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone was completed, with the usual masonic benediction.

The Grand Master (the Lord Provost) caused the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary to deposit the papers and coins in the cavity of the stone, the band playing "Great Lights to shine," during which the stone was let down with three regular stops. The Grand Master, with the Sub-Grand Master, and Grand Wardens before them, then passed down to the stone, the Grand Master on the East, the Grand Wardens on the West, when the

Grand Master said, "Right Worshipful Sub-Grand Master, you will cause the various implements to be applied to the stone, in order that it may be laid in its bed according to the rules of architecture." The Sub-Grand Master having then ordered the Wardens to do their duty,

The usual interrogatories were made as follows:—

Grand Master.—"Right Worshipful Sub-Grand Master, what is the proper Jewel of your office?"

Answer.—"The Square."

"Have you applied the Square to those parts of the stone that should be square?" *Answer.*—

"I have Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty."

Grand Master.—"Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your office?" *Answer.*—"The Level."

"Have you applied the Level to the stone?" *Answer.*—"I have Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty."

Grand Master.—"Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your office?" *Answer.*—"The Plumb."

"Have you applied the Plumb to the several edges of the stone?" *Answer.*—"I have Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty."

The Grand Master then said, "Having full confidence of your skill in the Royal Art, it remains with me now to finish our work." He then gave three knocks on the stone, and said, "May this undertaking be conducted and completed by the Craftsmen according to the grand plan, in Peace, Love, and Harmony."—The music thereafter playing, "On, my dear Brethren," during which the cornucopia and cups, with the corn, wine and oil, were given to the Sub-Grand Master, and the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens. These they delivered to

the Grand Master, in turn, who spread the corn, the wine, and the oil on the stone, and pronounced the Grand Benediction—"May corn, wine, and oil and all the necessaries of life, abound among men throughout the world, and may the blessing of the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe be upon this undertaking, and may it be preserved to the latest ages, in order that it may promote the views for which this monument is to be erected." The Band then played the "Mason's Anthem," and the Grand Master returned to the platform. The music having ceased, the assembly was addressed by the P.G.M., who said,—

"Principal Macfarlane and Gentlemen. We have performed an act which, while it honours the dead, at the same time honours the living. By erecting a monument to departed genius, we leave to our posterity a tangible proof that the generations among whom Sir Walter Scott lived were in so far worthy of him, that they could appreciate his merit. We have been doing what, more perhaps than any other act, helps society forward in the road of social improvement. Every monument erected to a great and good man, is an ever fresh moral lesson to the public. We have been doing what tends to cement society—in all that concerns men—in the matters of public and domestic life—in the certainties of this world and the hopes of the next. There are, and in our nature there ever must be, a diversity of opinions and affections. Experience seems to teach, that in the society where these are most freely expressed—where men most freely emulate each other in endeavours to promote their favourite views—the greatest discoveries are made, and the greatest actions are performed. But rivalry and emulation alienate men and cultivate the less amiable passions. It is good, therefore, to seize on all those occasions which can re-unite us in that love which is one of the best attributes of our nature; and what occasion can there be so well fitted for this purpose, as when men of every creed and every opinion which divide society, unite in common homage to the memory of some distinguished fellow-citizen. Their common admiration teaches them that, however widely they may differ, they still have one common nature, and that their points of resemblance form exactly what is noblest about them. There could not be a mind more admirably constituted for producing this desirable effect, than that of the great man whose memory we meet to honour. Those of his works which will live with the nation's language, are not only stirring up strife; they are pictures of life, and all men gather, to derive enjoyment. Their dis-

tinguished features, are the power of noting and expressing the peculiarities of character, as well as the fertility of invention. We, from whose fire-sides—from the living inmates of whose domestic circles his characters were drawn—can feel and affect their identity with nature. We have sat at table with—we have shaken hands with—we have quarrelled and been friends with—His Dandie Dinmonts, his Cuddie Headriggs, and last, though not least, his Bailie Nicol Jarvie. There can be no testimony to the truth of his portraits so strong and credible as ours. But it is from those less familiar with his prototypes that testimony must be borne of the power and originality of his genius. It has been left to posterity to bear this testimony. Already his fame has been echoed back to us by distant lands, in which a differently constituted society judges as impartially of his merits as the latest posterity will be able to do. It must be pardoned us if we indulge in a feeling of self-gratulation, that, while every anxiety has been expressed to pay a tribute to the memory of Sir Walter Scott, Glasgow has been first to realize the honourable intention. He has deserved it at our hands—his heart and imagination were wedded to the old chivalrous times—and yet no man has delineated with a more graphic hand, the peculiarities of the founders of that state of society in which we of this country live—the originators of that self-reliance and persevering enterprize which has changed the face of the whole country around us, and which will change it to something nobler and better still. Gentlemen, I return my sincere acknowledgments to all who have assisted me in the discharge of this pleasing and important duty. To the Brethren of the Grand Lodge: to the Committee of Management: to the Members of the various Public Bodies who have favoured us with their company: to the whole of my Fellow Citizens, with whom solemnities like this draw closer the cords of love, first knit by more onerous, and therefore, more anxious ties: to all, this monument, when completed, must be an interesting object. To me it must be eminently so, from the gratifying recollections it will ever awaken in my mind.”

The very Rev. Principal Macfarlane, returned thanks in an appropriate speech; at the conclusion of which the band struck up the Mason's Anthem, and the Brethren moved off to their respective Lodge-rooms.

In other parts of Scotland the Brethren were equally active and zealous; and took a part in all public works. At Aberdeen the foundation stone of the Marischal College was laid with Masonic honours, by the Duke of Richmond. The Brethren of the Operative Lodge at Dundee assembled in

procession at Carnousie to open the Royal Victoria Railway. At Dumfries, the Provincial Lodges, to the number of twelve, under the direction of the D.P.G.M. were convened to assist at the ceremonial of laying the foundation stone of St. Mary's Church; and about the same time several Lodges assembled under the proper authorities, to lay the first stone of the new Harbour at Stotfield Point.

This year was also distinguished by an important petition from Western India, which shews the anxiety of our Colonial Brethren to augment the influence of Freemasonry in those distant provinces of the empire. The object of the petition was to induce His Royal Highness the Grand Master, to constitute a Grand Lodge for those parts, and appoint a District Grand Master, with power to nominate his Officers; and also Special Deputies for the more remote parts of the extensive province of North Western India; and to legislate generally for the benefit of Masonry there. This would undoubtedly be beneficial to Freemasonry, and lead to the most gratifying results; inasmuch as in the absence of competent authorities, the Brethren in situations remote from the Mother Lodge, are apt to relapse into apathy and indifference, from an apprehension that their proceedings might not be in strict accordance with the constitutions of the order; besides the disadvantage which arises from the want of an authorized leader, who is duly qualified to direct and influence the general affairs which unite the individual Lodges of a district with each other, and promote the unanimity of sentiment and action which is essential to the welfare and prosperity of any public institution. At a subsequent Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master announced, that in consideration of the above petition, it was his intention to place those Provinces under the care of

the Grand Registrar, with power to nominate a Deputy Grand Master, and other Officers, until His Royal Highness shall appoint his own immediate representative. The intelligence was received in India with the greatest satisfaction.

In the month of February, the D.P.G.M. for Dorset, laid the first stone of a new Guildhall at Weymouth, with Masonic honours, after an appropriate sermon by the Rev. Willoughby Brassey, P.G.C. In May a convocation of the Brethren was holden at Wakefield, by the Earl of Mexborough, P.G.M., for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the New Exchange in that populous and improving town; at Sidmouth the first stone of a new Pier was deposited in the name of the Princess Victoria, by the Rev. Dr. Carwithen, D.P.G.M. The Masons of Bath, although not solicited to assist in the ceremonial of laying the foundation stone of an obelisk intended to commemorate the day when the Princess attained her majority, determined, by a public dinner, to display their attachment to the reigning family, and as a demonstration of respect to that member of it who is heir apparent to the throne. In August the fraternity assembled at Northampton, to assist in levelling the foot stone of a new Church, in All Saints Parish, which was deposited by the Marquis of Northampton; and at Birmingham the same ceremony was performed at the commencement of Bishop Ryder's Church, by the Bishop of Worcester, and N. L. Torre, Esq. D.P.G.M. of free and accepted Masons for Warwickshire.

Several testimonials to meritorious Brethren distinguished this year. In January a snuff box was presented to Brother James Burns, L.L.D., F.R.S., P.G.M. for the Western Provinces of India; in March a silver tankard to Brother Provost Rutherford, of St. Andrew's Lodge, Scotland; in

April a silver vase to Brother Dr. Burns, previously to his departing for India; and a valuable watch and case to Brother Peter Thompson, of the Lodge of Instruction, London. In May a silver cup to Brother W. P. Norris, Grand Steward's Lodge; and a silver salver to Brother Eales White, of the Lodge of Unanimity, Taunton. In June a silver waiter and tea service to Brother Thomas Brutton, Stafford; and in December a silver cup to Brother Dr. James Rattray, Kilwinning Lodge, Glasgow; a silver medal to Brother the Rev. James Norval, St. Peter's Lodge, Montrose, and a silver snuff box to Brother M. H. Bracken, Masonic Lodge, 642, Montrose.

These details cannot fail to be gratifying to every lover of the ancient science. When we observe wealth, rank and talent combining to confer honour on an institution of universal benevolence; and "the great ones of the earth" clad in the badge of innocence, and united in the bond of friendship with worthy men in the inferior classes of society, to trace wisdom and to follow virtue; we no longer fear for the stability of this great and efficient scheme for promoting the interests of morality and science.

CHAP. V.

History of Freemasonry in the Year 1838.

In our historical notices of Freemasonry connected with the present times, it is necessary to record the progress of the science in every quarter of the globe. To confine our observations to our own country, would be to circumscribe the Order within very narrow limits, because Masonry is universal in its operation. And though it is freely admitted that its energies appear in superior activity amongst ourselves of the United Kingdom, yet its branches, spreading to distant parts of the globe, bud, and blossom, and display healthy tokens of an abundance of sound and wholesome fruit. To these our attention must be directed, as our feelings are highly interested in their behalf, because the pure principles of the Craft are observed to be gradually developing themselves in transactions, which combine great public and private usefulness. At the commencement of the year 1838, the Montego Bay Friendly Lodge, in Jamaica, distinguished itself by a public display of much interest to the community, and of essential benefit to the Lodge. At the annual inauguration of the Officers, a procession was formed to Church, and a sermon was preached by the Rev. Brother Lawson, for the benefit of the Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons; after which the sum of £50. was collected. The Brethren adjourned to dinner, and many benevolent

speeches were delivered ; while peace and harmony reigned throughout the entire proceedings. The day's entertainment, from the impressive, orderly, and correct performance of all the ceremonies and duties, must form a striking evidence to the inhabitants, of the benefits arising from Freemasonry ; as the Brethren subscribed liberally to further the objects of an Institution at so great a distance, that they could scarcely expect to participate in the advantages of its operation.

Such meetings as these, where sacred charity is blended with social mirth, and the mutual interchange of benevolent feelings ; do indeed shew Freemasonry in its true light, as an institution which fosters and improves the best affections of our nature ; and carries into active operation the favourite maxim of the wisest and most holy of beings—"do unto others as you would have them do to you."

The provinces in our own country shewed this year a considerable degree of activity. Grand meetings were holden in every part of the united kingdom, attended by the rich and talented, the nobility and clergy, as well as the more humble brethren who swell out our ranks by their numbers, respectability, and moral worth. In many instances processions were used, which bore a character of imposing splendour unknown to the fraternity fifty years ago. The great improvements which have taken place in the Masonic costume and appointments are highly judicious, and shew a disposition in our rulers to advance progressively with the times in display, as well as in science and benevolence. And in those instances where processions have been deemed necessary, the proceedings have borne an animated and decorous character, that clearly evinces the decided interest with which Freemasonry is regarded in the present day ; not only by the bre-

thren, but by those who profess to view our transactions with doubt, jealousy, or curiosity; and deliberate with themselves on the propriety and prudence of joining our ranks. There are indeed many uninitiated persons, who, while they outwardly affect to regard the order with indifference, actually take a very great interest in its proceedings, and watch our motions with a scrutinizing eye. To all such persons the activity of our Provincial Lodges, openly displayed, presents a favourable view of the craft; and as in most cases, the unimpeachable conduct of the brethren exemplifies their profession, we are at no loss to account for the rapid increase, both in numbers and respectability, which have strengthened and improved the Order in the present day.

It is quite clear that a great moral revolution has been effected in the public mind, respecting the science of Freemasonry. The mists of prejudice which floated before the eyes of our forefathers, and occasioned feelings and impressions unfavourable to the Craft, have been cleared away by the undisguised record of our social meetings; and suspicions which were formerly indulged against us, for want of Masonic information, which has been recently furnished freely, are no longer allowed to operate to our disadvantage. Hence those who regarded Freemasonry with feelings allied to horror and disgust, now look on it with indulgence; and many of its prejudiced opposers have joined its ranks; and laud the Institution which was once a stumbling block and an object of detestation. Such is the present influence of our noble Order. Let the Brethren be careful to defend the ancient landmarks, and to adorn the science by the practice of moral virtue; and soon Freemasonry will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

We have now arrived at an epoch in Masonry. The subscriptions were completed for presenting a trophy to the Grand Master, on his having occupied the throne of the Grand Lodge for a quarter of a century; a fact unexampled in the history of Masonry, and the offering being ready for presentation, the Brethren assembled numerously at Freemasons Hall, to celebrate the Grand Festival, at which the ceremony was to take place. Nearly five hundred Brethren were present. His Royal Highness occupied the throne, being in excellent health and spirits. When the routine business was disposed of, Lord John Churchill rose and expressed himself as follows:—

“I am quite incompetent to do justice to the toast which I am about to offer. I shall therefore content myself by proposing to you the health of our M.W.G.M., an individual whom no eulogy of mine can affect, and who has so kindly presided over us for a quarter of a century.”

His Lordship then read the following address of the Committee of the Masonic Offering:

“To His Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, K.G., &c., &c., &c., most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

Most Worshipful Sir,

“We, a Committee of the Brethren associated for the purpose of presenting a votive offering to their Grand Master, respectfully approach your Royal Highness to express the feelings, and to fulfil the wishes of the great body of Masons whom we represent.

“For them, Sir, and for ourselves, we fervently acknowledge the deep debt of gratitude due to your Royal Highness from the Craft of England. We do honour to ourselves in thus publicly proclaiming the truth and the boast, that the illustrious Prince, who, during the twenty-five years now rolled by, has ruled the order by its own free choice, has rendered to Masonry services unparalleled in its history.

“For the high social rank which the Fraternity now holds in this country—for the absolute exclusion from our peaceful temple of those divisions, religious and political, by which men are elsewhere distracted—for our increased and increasing prosperity we feel and we glory in the recollection how much we owe to your Royal Highness. The events of the last quarter of a century,

afford a bright example to other countries, and to future times, how perfectly, under a wise, benevolent, and zealous ruler, the freedom of our Institutions may consist with the preservation of union and discipline, the happiness of our Members, and the promotion of all those high interests which are the great objects of Freemasonry.

“In testimony of the deep sense which we and our Brother Subscribers entertain of the obligations which we owe, in common with every member of the Order, we pray your Royal Highness to be pleased to accept the work of art which is now before us. It will, we are persuaded, derive value in your Royal Highness's estimation, from the circumstance, that in this offering of gratitude, Masons of all ranks and in all countries have concurred. Towards this grateful object, contributions have spontaneously flowed from Brethren far and near; in Lodges, and as individuals, from the Provincial Grand Master to the entered Apprentice, from the British Isles to the farthest parts of the world. The sentiments which the Brethren entertain towards your Royal Highness, have proved to be as universal as the principles which they are taught to profess.

“To preserve some record of these sentiments, and the occasion and mode of their expression, we have embodied, in print, a statement of the circumstances attending this offering. And we further pray your Royal Highness to accept this copy of the little volume from which the future historian may learn how strong and how just are the feelings by which we are animated towards our illustrious Grand Master.

“Finally, and in the heartfelt consciousness that in this prayer every good Mason will unite, we supplicate the Great Architect of the universe, that the favours of Heaven may be continued to him who has so well deserved them; and that your Royal Highness may long live, in health and happiness, over a grateful and united Brotherhood.

“Freemasons' Hall, 25th April, A. L. 5842.”

The offering was raised upon an elevation behind the chair, and covered with a white cloth. The recess in which it was placed was hidden with purple cloth, and a vast body of light was thrown upon the spot. When his Lordship presented the little volume descriptive of the offering, to His Royal Highness, Brothers Crucefix and Norris, who supported the drapery, suddenly withdrew it, and the offering burst into view amidst general approbation. Lord John Churchill was much affected whilst reading the address, and the ho-

noured object of its acceptance betrayed considerable emotion. The Committee were ranged behind the chair so as to face the company. After the applause had subsided, His Royal Highness rose, and addressed the Brethren in the following words :

“ Brother R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Provincial Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge, and Brethren,—I rise under feelings of intense interest ; and, if I may use the expression, amidst a warfare of feelings, to utter my humble and sincere thanks for the kindness evinced to me on the present occasion. It is not the trifle that is offered, but the sensation it has produced, which affects me ; it is of a mingled nature, and consequently very difficult to express.

“ Surrounded by so many faces, seeing so many kind friends, and yet marking vacancies, crowded as the tables are, which cast a shade upon thought, it is impossible to feel very lively, or that I should express myself as I ought. You have kindly noticed the past period of twenty-five years—aye, to me twenty-five years of great anxiety—I have presided over you with fidelity, yet sometimes with feelings of oppression. Your kindness has given vigour, and I feel renovated : and from that kindness I have derived my confidence. In my career I have met with many and severe trials—trials to which human nature ought to be exposed, and which, as a Mason, it was my duty to bear up against. I have observed many a kind heart has been laid low, and my account must be rendered up. On the mercy of God I have ever relied, and in the rectitude of my conscience I shall lay down my head in peace. That is a subject which every morning a Mason ought to call to mind when he supplicates his Maker, and when he closes his eyes.

“ When the profane, who do not know our mysteries, are carried away by prejudice, and do not acknowledge the value of our Society, let them learn by our conduct, that a good Mason is a good moral man, and as such will not trifle with his obligation.

“ The principles of morality I am bound to enforce, and did I not, I should betray the confidence you repose in me. For myself, I want no compliment ; no favour. Deeply as I am indebted to the Brethren, yet I could not receive a compliment out of the fund of the Grand Lodge. Twice I have refused that compliment, because that is public property, to be appropriated to Masonic matters only, and it would be highly incorrect to encroach upon it in any other way ; and if one farthing of it be touched for any other purpose than that of charity, you would be wanting in your duty. The Brethren then listened to me and the matter dropped. I, however, stated, that if at some future period a spontaneous and united offer of a compliment, not taken from

the public fund, was decided upon, after twenty-five years of service, I should not object. The Duke of Sussex in accepting this offering, cannot be accused of robbing the Poor Mason of a single penny. Arriving at the twenty-sixth year of my Presidency, it is a warning to me how I am placed.

“My duty as your Grand Master is, to take care that no political or religious question intrudes itself, and had I thought that in presenting this tribute, any political feeling had influenced the Brethren, I can only say, that then the Grand Master would not have been gratified. Our object is unanimity, and we can find a centre of unanimity unknown elsewhere. I recollect twenty-five years ago, at a meeting in many respects similar to the present, a magnificent Jewel (by a voluntary vote,) was presented to Earl Moira previous to his journey to India. I had the honour to preside, and I remember the powerful and beautiful appeal which that excellent Brother made on the occasion. I am now sixty-six years of age—I say this without regret—the true Mason ought to think that the first day of his birth is but a step on his way to the final close of life. When I tell you that I have completed forty years of a masonic life—there may be older Masons—but that is a pretty good specimen of my attachment to the Order.

“In 1798 I entered masonry in a Lodge at Berlin, and there I served several offices, and as Warden was a representative of the Lodge in the Grand Lodge of England. I afterwards was acknowledged and received with the usual compliment paid to a member of the Royal family, by being appointed a Past Grand Warden. I again went abroad for three years, and on my return joined various Lodges; and upon the retirement of the Prince Regent, who became Patron of the Order, I was elected Grand Master. An epoch of considerable interest intervened, and I became charged, in 1813, with a most important mission—the union of the two London Societies. My excellent Brother, the Duke of Kent, accepted the title of Grand Master of the Athol Masons, as they were denominated; I was the Grand Master of those called the Prince of Wales's. In three months we carried the union of the two societies, and I had the happiness of presiding over the united Fraternity. This I consider to have been the happiest event of my life. It brought all Masons upon the level and square, and shewed the world at large, that the differences of common life did not exist in Masonry; and it shewed to Masons, that by a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, what great good might be effected.

“I have endeavoured all through my masonic career, to bring into Masonry the great fact, that from the highest to the lowest, all should feel convinced that the one could not exist without the other. Every Mason owes respect to the recognized institutions of society, and the higher his station, the more is required from him. The great power of Masonry is the example—the chain extends from the highest to the lowest, and if one link shall break, the whole is endangered.

“ I recommend to you order, regularity, and observance of masonic duties. If you differ with any Brother, never attribute sinister motives to him with whom you differ. These are principles, Brethren, which I hope to enforce; and many a time have I checked myself from too marked an expression, thinking that a Brother might not be aware of his position, and we have argued the matter in private. I trust in this, the twenty-fifth year of my Presidency, I may not be considered saying too much by declaring what I have always done. I am grateful for the kindness and affection hitherto shewn, and that my government, so far as it may be so/considered, is one of kindness and confidence. I once again enjoin observance of the laws, which are founded upon equity, and not special pleading. Equity is our principle—honour our guide.—I gave full scope to my feelings in Grand Lodge, and have forgotten all that passed, except those of good will with which I left it; and assure the Brethren, that as long as my services are at my own command, the Grand Lodge may claim them; but they shall be given honestly, fearlessly, and faithfully. Again, I sincerely thank the Brethren, and drink good health to all.”

His Royal Highness resumed his seat amidst the warmest exhibition of grateful feelings ever witnessed in Freemasons' Hall.

The Masonic offering was a Candelabrum, the base being about twenty-eight inches long by twenty-four inches broad; the greatest extent of the branches for the lights is three feet by two feet six inches; and the whole height is three feet seven inches. The principal feature of the design is a circular temple of architecture, formed by six columns of the Corinthian order, supporting an enriched dome, crowned by the figure of Apollo. On the frieze are represented the twelve signs of the Zodiac. In the interior of the temple, resting on a tessellated pavement, is seen the altar with the volume of the sacred law unfolded, and the square and compasses thereon. The temple is raised on a circular pedestal, which again rests on a square plinth or step; on the projecting angles of which are seated four figures emblematical of astronomy, geometry, sculpture and architecture. Astronomy is contemplating the heavens and holding in one hand a sextant, and in the other a telescope, her head crowned with stars as with a

diadem, five in number. Geometry is depicted as contemplating the globe, measuring its parts and ascertaining its proportions with the compasses; and the mystic triangle is marked on her pedestal correct. Sculpture is represented with the mallet and chissel, having just completed the bust of Socrates, emblematical of the devotion of the fine arts to the promotion of the moral virtues. Architecture is typified by the plan of a temple which she is unfolding to view. The whole of the temple, with its classical accompaniments, is placed on a superb base. From the angles spring four branches for lights, the cup to receive the lights being in the form of the lotus leaf. The whole may be used as a candelabrum when artificial light is required, or otherwise without the branches in its more simple form, without appearing imperfect. The base has on each of its four faces an ornamented panel. Three of these are enriched with historical tablets in low relief and the fourth contains the inscription, The frames of these tablets are ornamented with the olive, corn, and pomegranate, emblematical of those blessings of Providence which Masonry teaches us to diffuse and employ for the welfare of our fellow creatures. The tablet on the principal face represents the Union of the two Fraternities of English Freemasons, so happily accomplished by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex in conjunction with His Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent, in the year 1813. The two illustrious Grand Masters, surrounded by their respective Grand Officers and other Brethren, are represented as ratifying and completing the Act of Union; the instrument of which was forthwith deposited in the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of the Grand Edifice of Union. The all-seeing Eye of Providence is represented as casting its refulgent rays on the deed. The tablet to the left of the above represents

Solomon receiving from his father King David, the plan of the temple to be erected at Jerusalem, according to the instructions which the Almighty had communicated to him in a vision. The third tablet represents the temple completed, and King Solomon in the act of dedicating it to God's holy service. The fourth tablet contains the inscription, which is as follows :—

TO
 HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
 PRINCE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK
 DUKE OF SUSSEX, K.G.,
 &c. &c. &c.
 IN COMMEMORATION OF COMPLETING
 TWENTY-FIVE YEARS
 GRAND MASTER OF ENGLISH FREEMASONS,
 FROM HIS AFFECTIONATE BRETHERN.
 1838. *

A grand masonic fête was this year given in Dublin by the brethren of St. Patrick's Lodge, No. 50, to upwards of a thousand of the élite of that city, including the Viceroy, and her Excellency the Countess of Mulgrave and suite, who arrived at the Rotunda, where the entertainment was given, in six carriages, escorted by the 8th Hussars; and were received by Past Masters Baldwin, Tenison, Wright, and Fitton; and a procession was formed to conduct the vice-regal party to the throne room. The apartments for dancing and refreshments were beautifully decorated with masonic banners and devices; and brilliantly illuminated with or molu lustres, disposed with great taste and magnificence. The band of the Royal Fusileers, in full uniform, was in attendance. When the doors were opened, the throng of carriages commenced setting down their company in Cavendish Row, where a covered

* The above description has been extracted from the published Pamphlet of the proceedings.

canopy curtained with light blue moreen and carpeted with scarlet, had been erected for their reception.

When the rooms were filled, the scene was very gay and imposing. The radiant array of white and blue plumage; the exquisitely wrought dresses of every tint and hue, which varied taste could suggest; the sparkling of diamonds, and eyes still brighter, flashing from the countless beauties whose presence graced this gorgeous assembly, combined with the various military uniforms, and the costly insignia of the brethren, rich in "the grandeur and glory of jewelled gold," tended to heighten the effect and throw a pleasing variety over a scene which looked like a fairy festival in an eastern romance.

The members appeared in the new uniform of the lodge No. 50. The coat black, velvet collar and cuffs, lined in the skirts and breast with white satin; the button silver, having on it in raised characters, the square and compasses surmounting the letters *S. P. L.* (St. Patrick's Lodge) and underneath the figures, 50. The brethren not departing from the cherished principles of Freemasonry, but on the contrary being anxious to promote employment amongst the impoverished weavers, appeared in tabinet or poplin vests of various colours, for the most part embroidered in gold or silver of the most elaborate workmanship. The Brethren of 50 being the hosts, in order to distinguish them from those enrolled under other warrants, wore rosettes of blue satin ribbon on their right arms.

The vice-regal party promenaded during the intervals of dancing; when an orchestral band, which was also in attendance, performed a *melange*, consisting of selections from Rossini's Guillaume Tell, the Overture of Tancredi, Mozart's la Nozze di Figaro, and other pieces of an equally popular description.

The banquet was conducted on a principle of unusual splendour, regardless of expence; and accommodations were made for a thousand persons. The Throne for the Master was placed on a platform one foot above the level of the chief table, and covered with crimson cloth. At the back were the lodge banners crosswise, supporting a canopy of blue velvet, trimmed with gold bullion, &c. The figure of St. Patrick was emblazoned in the centre of the frieze, which was conspicuously surrounded by the rose, thistle, and shamrock; descending from the proscenium, which was supported by allegorical figures, was a radiating star of seven points, in the centre of which, in royal purple, were the initials *V. R.* most beautifully emblazoned, and presenting a complete *chef-d'œuvre* of art. In the centre table, was a marble bust of the Queen, canopied with exotics, and surrounded with masonic and mythological devices, arches of confectionary, and *pieces montees* of burnished gold. The utmost order and regularity prevailed on this memorable occasion; and the most beautiful remark of Lord Mulgrave, after his health had been proposed by the W. M., merits the notice of every Free and Accepted Mason. His Excellency rose and said,

“He certainly must plead guilty to the charge of not being a member of the time-honoured Order of Masonry. I regret,” he added, “that I am obliged to admit this; my only consolation, and it is a great one, is, that I suffer under this defect in common with the entire of that part of the creation which is generally admitted to approach nearest to perfection; and no Irishman can venture to pronounce that to be a great error which is committed by all those lovely ladies around, whom it would be high treason against the laws of gallantry to deny to be faultless.”

Having already exceeded the space which, in a brief and general history of the Craft, can be appropriated to the proceedings of an individual lodge, we close our account of this most gratifying display. But it reflects credit to Freemasonry in general,

and to the Members of "Fifty" in particular, to have thus succeeded in uniting the honours of masonry and hospitality, by assembling together, under the masonic banner, not merely "the high and lofty ones of the earth," but also, as Bro. Ellis, who officiated as Chairman on this interesting occasion, very felicitously observed, in proposing the concluding toast,

"A lovely band of ladies, culled from the garden of Irish beauty, and conducted by our fair and noble guest, the Countess of Mulgrave. To attempt a description of the leader, or of the band, were alike futile. To paint in words the bright eyes, the lips steeped in loveliness, and the golden hair in whose flowing locks love has this night spread a thousand nets, is altogether impossible, unless I were that favoured fairy who spoke pearls; and to express our feelings towards the possessors of those beauties is equally impossible, unless my lips were touched with fire. To Her Excellency, and to that lovely band, we owe every sentiment of pleasure and delight which we have this night experienced. They have spread happiness on every side around them—they have poured upon our festival the rosy light of beauty, and have made our Banquet-hall (like the sea whence Venus sprang) to teem with all the graces. To say that Her Excellency's virtues and accomplishments render her worthy to be the leader of that band of beauty, is as high a compliment as can be paid, in my opinion, to any body; and yet not more than truth; and to declare that we desire to see Her Excellency often filling that distinguished station, is only to give utterance to a sentiment which is swelling at the heart, and bursting to the lips of every Brother of the Order."

The annual festival of the Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons was celebrated in the month of June, and numerous attended. Bro. Alderman Thomas Wood in the chair; who, in the course of the evening, advocated the wants and distresses of his aged Brethren with equal ability and zeal. He met every objection with deliberate argument and unanswerable fact; and in a speech of great extent and power, pleaded the sacred cause of charity with such overwhelming effect, that the subscriptions exceeded £800.

Communications of great importance were sub-

mitted to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, at the July meeting, from the Grand Lodges of Scotland, New York, and Virginia, praying for the establishment of a friendly intercourse between the Brethren of all the respective countries; which being referred to a Committee, it was resolved, that a friendly communication between the several Grand Lodges is most desirable, inasmuch as it will promote that good feeling and paternal intercourse which is to be advocated among the Craft all over the globe, and will operate to a considerable extent in checking impropriety; as by mutual exposure of such cowans and bad masons as have been excluded from the Craft, for their improprieties in other Grand Lodges, imposition on the charitable and true Mason will be checked; exclusive of saving the Craft from the contamination which they must suffer by association with such excluded Masons.

In like manner, during the following year, Brother Hebler, of the Grand Lodge of Berlin, and Brother Burmester, of the Grand Lodge of Hamburgh, were respectively introduced as representatives of those Grand Lodges in the Grand Lodge of England; and, by the appointment of His Royal Highness the Grand Master, took their seats as Past Senior Grand Wardens; and Brother J. Peter Esser was delegated, with the same rank, to represent the Grand Lodge of England in the Grand Royal York Lodge of Berlin.

Such a friendly intercourse amongst the great bodies of Masons in every nation and province, would be most beneficial, for the order is universal. It gives a preference to no country or people; regards neither colour, language, nor climate; but proceeds in its sober course, on the broad principle of that general relationship which exists amongst all people as the children of a common parent, and the creatures of a benevolent God; and stretches out

its arms of love to all mankind without respect of persons, because all the world are brethren.

This year the "New Temple," Freemasons' Hall, was altered, enlarged and beautified, under the superintendence of Brother Philip Hardwicke, Esq. Grand Superintendent of Works. On removing some portion of the roof of the New Temple, the timbers were found so affected with the dry-rot as to render it necessary to take off the entire roof, and renew it in a more substantial manner. It is the opinion of the architect, that had this examination been delayed, the structure itself would not have lasted four years longer; so subtle and so destructive is the dry-rot, that from the wood-work it affects gradually the bricks and even stone, in the very heart of which it is often found. It has the character of a "mushroom" in the rapidity of its growth with that of the mildew in its destructive effect. Whatever difference of opinion may exist on the propriety of incurring the expence, necessity appeared to sanction the policy of a complete restoration of the Temple. From the effect of this improvement the Brethren are furnished with ample accommodation at the Quarterly Committees of the Craft, and the Convocations of the Supreme Chapter of the Royal Arch. It is better adapted for hearing; and the display of Grand Officers on the elevated platform is a sight cheering and imposing to the Brethren beneath.

At the close of the year 1838 some symptoms of an organized opposition to the establishment of the projected Asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons began to appear. At the Grand Lodge in December, a communication was made from His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in which, as we have already seen, he expressed a fear that this institution would touch on the existing charities. Many excellent and worthy Brethren entertained

the same apprehension, thinking that an object, how meritorious soever it might be, would be purchased at too dear a rate, if attended with jeopardy to establishments whose benefits have been tested by experience. An absolute good in possession being considered of greater value, than another in prospect. It will be seen that these incipient fears ripened into discord between the parties; which has become matter of deep regret to the moderate portion of both; inasmuch as such differences amongst the fraternity create great scandal, and weaken the bonds by which its hold on public sympathy is cemented and confirmed. Freemasonry is a system of peace, order, and harmony. The elements of dispute and division are not found in any of its institutes. The Brethren meet on the level and part on the square. The utmost extent of fraternal affection which can subsist between man and man, is expected to be displayed amongst the Brethren of our order in a Mason's Lodge. It is enjoined equally in the ancient Charges, the Constitutions, and the Lectures; and the world at large, amidst all their cavils and objections on other points, are inclined to give us credit for our brotherly love.

The Brethren localized in Sidney have constituted themselves into Lodges; and even in this remote quarter of the globe, the reports are most gratifying. This year the Masonic body presented an address to Sir Richard Bourke, K.C.B. the Governor, on his departure from New South Wales, which was graciously received; and in his reply, the Governor bears testimony to the praise-worthy manner in which the Craft was conducted in the colony. "To your Society," he said, "I am a stranger, except by the knowledge I possess of the charitable and peaceful conduct which has distinguished its members in this colony. Your public processions have

been orderly and well conducted. Your intercourse amongst yourselves, I am happy to learn, is conciliatory and friendly in a high degree; and wishing you a continuance of the happiness and harmony that prevails amongst you, I sincerely reciprocate your kind expressions of good will and regard."

The foundation stones accompanied by Masonic honours and formalities are not numerous in this year. A few instances however may be put on record to shew that the Fraternity were not entirely unemployed. The first stone of a Light House, at Gibraltar, was laid in the month of April by his Excellency Major General Sir Alexander Woodford, K.C.B., assisted by Brother The Rev. Dr. Burrow, P.G.M. In June the same assistance was rendered at the commencement of a series of bridges and viaducts on the line of the Glasgow and Ayr Railway, by Brother George Johnson, Esq., G.M., of Kilwinning Lodge, and P.G.M. for Ayrshire; accompanied along the line by a Masonic procession, and crowds of spectators in every rank of life; which produced a singular and imposing effect. In August the foot stones of St. George's Chapel and St. John's Church, Staly Bridge and Dunkinfield, in Lancashire, were levelled by Lord Combermere, P.G.M. for Cheshire; and at Sabden, near Whalley, in the same county, by Le Gendre N. Starkie, P.G.M.; at Forres in Scotland, of a new Court House and Public Offices, by the D.P.G.M. Brother John Hoyes, Esq., late Speaker of the House of Assembly, Grenada; of the Glasgow Railway, and a Cotton Mill at Greenock, by the D.P.G.M., Brother Adam M. Leish, Esq., Provost of Greenock.

At the close of this chapter it is our pleasing duty to record the names of those Brethren whom the Craft have delighted to honour by testimonials expressive of their esteem. In March, a Past Master's Jewel was presented to Bro. W. Loyd

Thomas, Salisbury Lodge, Waltham Cross ; and a Silver Cup to Bro. C. Gibson, Pomfret Lodge, Northampton. In May, a Silver Etruscan Vase to Bro. Barnett Isaacs, Friendly Lodge, Montego Bay, Jamaica ; and in September, a Silver Cup and Salver to Bro. Wm. Stephenson, St. George's Lodge, Grenada.

CHAP. VI.

History of Freemasonry in the Year 1839.

The best evidence that can be adduced of the interest which Freemasonry is assuming amongst all ranks and descriptions of men, is found in the gratifying fact, that the nobility and gentry are not only leaders of the Grand and Provincial Grand Lodges ; but in every Province are devoting their time, and talents, and influence, to the extension of the Craft, by a regular attendance on the stated meetings of Private Lodges, and a free participation in their offices. And these constitute the best preparation for the highest honours Masonry can bestow. The Right Hon. Lord Southampton fills the Senior Warden's chair in the Lodge of Fidelity, Towcester ; the Earl of Aboyne holds the same situation in the Lodge of St. Peter, in the City of Peterborough, and is W. M. of the Aboyne Lodge, in Scotland ; the Right Hon. Lord Monson is W. M. of the Surrey Lodge, Reigate ; Sir Edw. Brackenbury fills the same office in the Shakespere Lodge, at Spilsby ; and Sir Cuthbert Sharpe, Bart.

in the Palatine Lodge, Sunderland; Sir Edward French Bromehead, Bart. is Senior Warden of the Witham Lodge, in the City of Lincoln, of which Colonel Sibthorpe is a Past Master, having actually occupied the chair of the Lodge; the Hon. G. Fitzwalt Butler is the Senior Deacon of St. Patrick's Lodge, Dublin. In the Lodge of St. Brandon, W. Justin O'Driscoll, Esq. is W. M.; and Captain Corrigan and Dr. Waters are the Wardens.*

These are among the triumphs of Freemasonry. They confer dignity on the Craft, and reflect honour on the noble individuals who thus condescend to assume the Masonic apron, and assist their more humble Brethren in promoting the interests of virtue and science. At a Masonic Festival held at Clones, Bro. Tenison, Barrister-at-law, an active and intelligent Mason, made an announcement, which shews that in Ireland, as in our own country, the science is openly patronized and practised by wealthy and educated men. He observed that,

"The higher orders and well-informed classes were coming forward to seek the honours of Masonry; why? Because they were convinced that it did not contain anything derogatory to the dignity of a gentleman, unworthy the acceptance of a free citizen;

* The Duke of Wellington, when Colonel in the 33rd Regiment of Foot, was initiated into Freemasonry in Lodge 494, which was at that time held in the Castle of Dangan, County Meath; the late Earl of Mornington, his Grace's father, being W. M. at the time. He was duly passed, after the usual examination; and in the phraseology of the Lodge, entered at the southern gate, and afterwards raised. The following Brethren, being members, were present: many of them, in the words of the Irish bard, "have been famous in story."

Bro. Sir James Somerville,
Bart.
— Sir Benj. Chapman, Bart.
— Ham. Georges, M.P.
— Delvin, late Earl of Westmeath
— Robt. Uniacke, M.P.
— Richd. Boyle, M.P.
— John Pomeroy

Bro. Willm. Forster
— George Lowther, M.P.
— Earl Mornington
— Marquess Wellesley
— F. North, Earl of Guildford
— Robt. Perceval
— Robt. Waller
— Richd. Leslie
— Arthur Wellesley

contrary to the conscientious scruples of a believing Christian, or opposed to that allegiance which was due to our Sovereign Lady the Queen. But, on the other hand, that its ordinances and discipline had been productive of the happy effects of cementing in personal friendship, people of different creeds and countries, and uniting in the sacred sympathies of social life, those who, in their distracted land, would otherwise be divided through the discordant materials of politics or party. Yes, Sir," continued the eloquent Bro., "persons of property and intelligence are now pressing forward to assist in the resuscitation of Provincial Lodges, encouraged by the hope of doing good, regardless of the supineness of mere nominal Masons, and despising the hostility of those, who, unbound by

Honour's sacred tie, the law of kings ;
 The noble mind's distinguishing perfection ;
 That aids and strengthens virtue where it meets her,
 And imitates her actions where she is not

would crumble in the dust a fabric built for the shelter of infant destitution and aged decay ; and which presents a common centre, where all can associate without being disturbed by the difference of opinion."

This representation is exceedingly gratifying, because it illustrates the general principle that Freemasonry is rapidly advancing into that kind of notice and publicity, which, while it is thus placed on a level with the highest and best esteemed institutions that are devoted to science, will raise it above them all by its union with charity and practical benevolence. A great increase took place about this time, in the Provincial Lodges, amongst the Clergy ; who appear to have been impressed with a favourable opinion of the Order, by the fact, that numerous other admissions were effected by the recommendation of their example. It is not one of the least honourable circumstances, in our view of the Freemasonry of these times, that in every Province many Brethren in holy orders, are actively employed in purifying its details and disseminating its principles upon a sound religious basis ; and the efficacy of their co-operation has become visible, in the moral ascendancy which the science acquires and maintains, wherever their influence is exerted in its behalf.

Amongst the Clerical Brethren may be enumerated the following dignitaries: The Archbishop of Canterbury; the Bishops of Kildare and Elphin; the Archdeacon of Down; the Rev. Sir Wm Dunbar, Bart.; the Rev. Doctors Chalmers, Baird, Carwithen, Brown, Ritchie, Flynn, Burrow, senior, Wall, Humphrey, Oliver, and many others; not to mention the venerated names of Doctors Hemming, Barry, Coghlan, and other worthies deceased, which will be long remembered with honour. It is indeed impossible to enumerate all the Clergy who do honour to the Craft, and are at this time improving it by their effective patronage. They abound in every Province of the United Kingdom; and stand forth nobly in this holy cause. Should a reason be demanded for this, it is supplied in the nature of the institution, which is founded on the knowledge and acknowledgment of a God; and the superstructure is a beautiful combination of morality, science, and universal benevolence. The true philosophy of Masonry is embodied in its lectures; which are a mine of gold and precious stones; and the industrious and learned Mason who takes the trouble to search for them, will find himself enriched with the stores of knowledge there deposited; for Masonry is a system of morality, which, though veiled in allegory, is illustrated by symbols, which he may readily understand. The great excellence of our allegorical system consists in the happy distribution of history, science, morals, and metaphysics, in the lectures of the three degrees. The plan is so judicious that it is always attended with complete success. The candidate is first taught the elementary principles of the science in a few qualification questions, which prepare the mind for the communication of that perfect system of morality which is contained in the first lecture. He is then passed on to the second degree, where he is furnished with a view of

science, together with certain traditions, which are the necessary preliminaries to a full revelation of our history and antiquities, doctrines and legends, rites and usages, developed in the several sections of the third lecture.

Thus it appears that the science of Freemasonry teaches its candidates, after they have professed their belief in the being of a God, and their reliance on him for protection in times of difficulty and danger—to be good men and true—to rule and govern their passions, and to keep a tongue of good report; it teaches them the theological and cardinal virtues; it exhorts them to practise the principle point of the Order, and to circumscribe their actions by the point within a circle;—it draws their attention to secrecy, fidelity, and obedience, and endeavours to imprint upon their minds the sacred dictates of virtue, honour and mercy. These are accounted preparatory steps, and of indispensable attainment before the newly-initiated Brethren are entrusted with the mysteries of scientific knowledge. Thus trained to the practice of virtue in the school of morality; they are introduced into the walks of science; for it is necessary to become expert fellow crafts, before the true mysteries—the antiquities, the historical legends, and landmarks of the order, are finally communicated to them. These are the reasons why our learned Brethren in holy orders, are so frequently found amongst the Patrons and supporters of Freemasonry. They are triumphant and unanswerable, because they prove that Freemasonry has a tendency to improve the morals of mankind; and that hence its practice will materially assist the clerical Brother in the discharge of his professional duties.*

* In Belgium the same liberality of sentiment does not prevail; and Freemasonry appears to have fallen into terrible disrepute. One particular proceeding of the dignitaries of the church rather

In the Spring of 1839, the Pro-Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, who had been an active and zealous officer, and had conferred essential benefits on the Craft, paid the debt of nature somewhat suddenly. In commemoration of his services, the Grand Master ordered that the fraternity throughout England should be placed in mourning for six months. The mourning to be worn by Brethren individually was directed to be as follows.

Grand Officers, Present and Past. Three rosettes of black crape on the badges; the collar suspending the jewel to be completely covered with crape, but the jewel to be uncovered.

Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and other Officers of Lodges. Three crape rosettes on the badge, and one at the point of the collar just above the jewel.

All other Master Masons. Three black crape rosettes on the badge.

Fellow Crafts and entered Apprentices. Two black crape rosettes at the lower part of the badge.

The deceased nobleman was a true specimen of what "a good and worthy Mason" ought to be. He was benevolent and condescending, without the least taint of vanity or worldly pride; and hence universally respected and beloved by the fraternity. His natural sweetness of temper made an indelible impression on every heart; and his amiable manners produced a quiet influence which he exercised for the general benefit of the Craft at large. He had been a Mason about forty years; and was succeeded in his high office by the Earl of Durham.

A considerable sum of money having been subscribed towards the proposed Asylum for Aged and Decayed Freemasons, it was resolved by the general committee, that from and after the 31st of July in the present year, "an amount equal at least to the

astonishes us. "The Belgium pastors have proscribed the institution, and are so pregnant with spiritual horror, that they have desired the poor not even to receive alms from a Freemason. Such self-denial as this, and we may regard it as such, could scarcely have been expected." (Sunday Times, February 4, 1838.)

interest on the sums invested, shall be applied out of the current collections of the year, by way of annuities, among destitute and deserving Brethren in London and the Provinces."

"That the annuities be Ten Pounds each; and that six only of such annuities be granted for the first twelve months.

"That if a sufficient number of candidates, so located, apply for the benefits of this Institution, at the first Election, the six annuities already determined shall be thus allotted:—three in the provinces, and three in the metropolis.

"That every Donor or Subscriber of one guinea be entitled to one vote during a year, and so on in proportion for every additional guinea.

"That an annual Governor (or regular Subscriber of two guineas per annum) be entitled to three votes.

"That every Life Subscriber (or Donor of ten guineas) be entitled to two votes.

"That every Life Governor (or Donor of twenty guineas) be entitled to four votes, and two votes for every additional ten guineas.

"That every Governor, Subscriber, or Donor may vote by proxy; such proxy being a Subscriber; and that for every single vote the Subscriber may be entitled to, he shall have as many votes as there are vacancies, which may be given to one candidate, or distributed at pleasure.

"That all proxy papers be numbered, signed by the Secretary, and forwarded by post; and that no second proxy paper be issued without the concurrence of the Chairman on the day of election.

"That subscriptions declared and paid on the day of election, shall entitle the parties to vote.

"That no Subscriber in arrear shall be entitled to vote at any election, until such arrear be paid.

"That in cases of equality of votes at any general meeting, the Chairman shall be entitled to a second or casting vote."

Thus the Institution was brought into actual operation; although its establishment did not enjoy the approval of a section of the Craft in London; while the Provincial Lodges, as well in the sister countries and the colonies as in England, who saw nothing in the measure but its benefits, recorded their approbation in great numbers. At the Festival in April, His Royal Highness delivered some sentiments, in reference probably to the difference of opinion on this great question, which are as princely as they are Masonic, and do honour equally to the head and the heart. He observed that—

"The confidence reciprocated between the Brethren and himself, under circumstances of the most varying character, might be fairly considered as reflecting mutual credit, and being indicative of mutual affection. If he had experienced any difficulty in the performance of his duty, or if his intentions and motives had on any occasion been misconstrued or misunderstood, he could assure those who heard him, that he had always had the best interests of the Order at heart, and had entertained no other wish than their advancement. Man, like the different countries he inhabited, varied in some respects from his fellow men. Men of perfect similarity of idea were never found. No two places in the world were entirely alike, nor could the views of any two persons on the same subject be expected to be in perfect accordance. It was not just, therefore, that fault should be attributed on either side, because of a trifling difference of opinion, when there existed an identity of purpose, and that identity of purpose tended to the performance of something beneficial to society. One man might be exceedingly bland, another might be exceedingly blunt, yet both might be equally honest; by his intention each should be tried, and not by the contrast that might exist in manner or conversation. And satisfied that the intention was correct, no difference of opinion should be permitted to militate against the harmony of feeling by which Freemasons should ever be bound together."

These sentiments are worthy of being recorded, because they are the language of an open and unsuspecting nature; and show, without any disguise, the pure system of benevolence and good will which Freemasonry recommends and enforces upon the prince as well as the commoner, because he is equally a man.

The pecuniary affairs of the Asylum thus flourishing, and the provinces thus pouring in the streams of their bounty into its funds, unalloyed prosperity might be expected to follow. Unfortunately this was not the case; and however irksome the task, the historian is bound to record circumstances with truth and fidelity, which occur within the compass of his undertaking, however they may be at variance with his own feelings and opinions. The opposition gathered strength, and assumed a form of determined hostility. Placards of a violent character were privately circulated amongst the

Brethren, which were repelled in language equally strong, and a breach between the two parties appeared inevitable. Moderate men in both were grieved at the unfavourable prospect, because the great principle of Freemasonry, Brotherly Love, could not fail to suffer in the contest.

At this period of the dispute, if some influential Masons on the spot, had formed themselves into a Lodge of Mediation, the differences might have been compromised without any sacrifice of principle, by a trifling adjustment of the details; and the Craft have been spared the melancholy exhibition which sprang out of these unhappy divisions. There can be no doubt but the abstract design of an Asylum, attached to our benevolent institution, as a permanent retreat for age and decrepitude amongst those worthy brethren who have enjoyed the sweets of life, and have become the victims of unmerited calamity—enjoyed the approbation and confidence of the whole Craft. It was a noble and philanthropic idea; and should not be allowed to sustain defeat by any difference of opinion respecting its mode of operation. The duty of the historian, however, is, not to speculate on probabilities, but to record facts. A communication was made from His Royal Highness the Grand Master, bearing date August 26th, 1839, which will explain the causes of the hostility which was arrayed against the Institution.

AUGUSTUS F., GRAND MASTER.

“Gentlemen and Brothers,

“Having received from Brother Crucefix, a note communicating to me various resolutions which had been passed at different meetings, by several Brethren who have at heart the establishment of some Institution calculated to relieve decayed and aged Masons, I feel it incumbent upon me to repeat the statement which I first made upon that subject, at the Grand Festival in the present year. On that occasion I stated, that as to an Asylum or a building, I could not, and never would lend either the sanction of my name, or any pecuniary assistance, inasmuch as I was convinced that it would be a useless expenditure—a waste of

money, without the slightest chance of any profitable or beneficial result therefrom; but that if such project were given up, and then the Brethren were disposed to form a plan for granting annuities, which were to be taken solely from the interest of monies collected, and not break in upon the capital, that to such a proposition I would listen.

"Since that time, a proposition was made to me to receive a deputation on the subject, which I left unanswered, in consequence of seeing a circular which the Committee had in the interim circulated, and which had misrepresented the statement I have here made, without any communication to me.

"In the paper now communicated to me, it is stated, 'the sum of £2,000. shall be the nucleus of a fund, for the erection of an Asylum.'

"This, I have no hesitation in saying, is completely at variance with my statement.

"From the whole tenor of the paper, it is clear, the same disposition and inclination on the part of some individuals, as to the erection of an Asylum, still remains. Now without imputing motives to any one, there can be no doubt the Craft will be misled, in supposing that I have given a silent consent to such a plan, which I am equally determined as before to resist; therefore, unless it is clearly understood that the intention of erecting an Asylum is totally abandoned, I feel myself under the necessity of declining any communication upon the subject.

"I hope this will be deemed a fair answer to the application made to me; and as such, I wish it to be communicated to those Brethren who framed the Resolutions upon which the request of an interview with me has been grounded, and which I consequently decline; but to shew that this determination has been taken in conformity with those opinions which have actuated the whole of my conduct in this transaction, I will further add, that until next April, if it please God to spare my life, I will take no further step; but should the Brethren at that time have made no advance in the matter, I shall think myself at liberty to state my own plan, when I have no doubt the Brethren will see which is the most feasible, and when I shall call upon the Fraternity for that assistance which I have never found them unwilling to afford, when useful objects are proposed for their consideration.

"Southwick Park, Fareham, Aug. 26, 1839."

"To Brothers—R. T. Crucefix, J. C. Bell,
J. C. Mc Mullen, and Z. Watkins."

Thus it appears that His Royal Highness, with his usual benevolence of character, was favourable to the principle of granting annuities to poor and deserving Brethren, but declined to extend the influence of his sanction to a building for the residence of the annuitants; because he considered it

an useless expenditure of capital. And it must be confessed that the same feeling was entertained by some of the warmest friends to the new **CHARITY**. At the Committee of Masters, the following notice of motion was put on record:—

To alter the existing mode of distributing the Fund of Masonic Benevolence; and to propose, instead thereof, a resolution affirming that it is just and expedient that three-fourths of the available funds of the Grand Lodge be distributed, on the **Asylum** principle, to poor and deserving Masons and their widows, and the remainder applied to such individual cases of emergency as may require particular relief.

If the Grand Lodge should affirm the foregoing resolution, the M. W. G. Master will be respectfully solicited to point out the best mode of carrying into effect the practical operation of the principle adopted.

The question to be considered now was, How the two opinions were to be reconciled. The building appears to have constituted the only stumbling block in the way of mutual accommodation. The sum of £2000 had been subscribed chiefly for the purpose of an edifice; and the Asylum Committee had to consider how they could, in good faith, apply this money to any other purpose. It was a dilemma full of difficulty. The Committee appeared desirous of meeting and silencing all objections by any measures short of a renunciation of the principle; and therefore came to a resolution that, under the circumstances, it would be expedient to postpone the erection of an Asylum, until the sum of £7000, clear of the sum of £2000, shall have been raised; and in the intermediate time, the interest of all the funded property shall be applied to the purpose of annuities.

This concession, which approaches very nearly to an abandonment of the principle, it was hoped would lead to a mutual compromise. But unfortunately, this desirable object was defeated by the exercise of private jealousy, which brought on a

great public disaster. At a special meeting of the Governors, holden on the 13th November, an anonymous printed paper, of violent character, was circulated amongst the Members present, by Bro. W. Jackson, of the Caveac Lodge, No. 205, which gave rise to a severe altercation; in the course of which, certain expressions were imputed to Brother Alderman Wood and Brother J. Lee Stevens, which were supposed to reflect on the conduct of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in his character of G. M. of Masons; and these, being formally repeated to the Board of General Purposes, the two offending Brethren, with Dr. Crucefix, the Chairman of the Meeting, were arraigned, and after a full examination into the charges, the three principal projectors and supporters of the proposed Asylum were suspended from all their Masonic functions. Bro. Alderman Thomas Wood and Dr. Crucefix for six months, and Bro. J. Lee Stevens for three months. Against this decision the parties put in notices of appeal to the Grand Lodge.

About this time an alteration was made in the Masonic Boards, which it was conceived would tend to accelerate the despatch of business. By the direction of the Grand Lodge, the Board of General Purposes and Finance were united. The new board to consist of eleven members, nominated by the Grand Master, and fourteen by the Grand Lodge, of which latter number seven may be Past Masters.

Much inconvenience having arisen in Grand Lodge from the late attendance of the Officers, it was thought expedient to legislate on the subject. A motion was made and seconded, that the four stated in the summons, shall be the time to commence masonic business.

In the discussion of this question, it was argued that late hours are sure to be attended with great disadvantages. Either the business of the Lodge

will be hurried over in a slovenly and indecent manner—or the hour of closing specified in the By-Laws will be exceeded—both of which it is desirable to avoid. If there be an initiation, the ceremony will either be imperfectly performed, and the candidate permitted to retire to his own home, and his own reflections, with very unworthy notions of the dignity and usefulness of the Craft;—or, if the latter alternative be adopted, he will be detained beyond his usual hour of rest, and imbibe an opinion unfavourable to the morality of the Institution. In either case his first impressions will not be likely to produce in his mind such a love and veneration for Masonry as will prompt him to pursue its investigations with freedom, fervency, and zeal, by which alone pleasure and profit can mutually result.

These evils, it was urged, would be avoided, were the Masters and Wardens to be firm and determined on this point; and always, under whatever circumstances, to open their Lodges, and commence their Masonic business, at the exact hour mentioned in the summons; assured that if they persevere in the punctual performance of this duty, they will excite regularity in the Brethren, and the consequences will be, that their families, and the world at large, will laud an Institution which produces such fruits of regularity and sound discipline;—their lodges will increase in numbers and reputation, and through their instrumentality Freemasonry will secure a triumphant ascendancy, and excite general admiration and respect. Such being the feeling of the Members present, the motion was carried by a majority of one; but unfortunately at the subsequent Grand Lodge the confirmation was rejected by a majority of three. The doctrine of the necessity of early hours however was established; and the P. G. Master's thought it of sufficient importance to notice in their charges to the brethren; and in some Provinces, the Lodges, having had

their attention called to the subject from authority, saw at once the benefit of the measure, and introduced it into practice.

The following circular was forwarded to the several Town Lodges in September 1839; and it contains a judicious regulation, which we are surprised did not occur at a much earlier period. It will, for the future, prevent the confusion which has sometimes occurred by the accidental admission of unqualified persons into the Grand Lodge, whose right of entree has been questioned by one party and defended by another, to the delay and frequent postponement of business much more important.

“W. Master,—I am commanded by the M. W. Grand Master, to require that you will, on or before Tuesday the 26th day of November next, make out and forward to me, according to the annexed form, a return of the names of the Masters and Wardens, and also of all other subscribing Members of your Lodge, who are of the rank of Past Master, and who, as such, claims a right to sit and vote in the Grand Lodge, specifying, against each Past Master's name, whether the Brother served the office of Master in your Lodge, or in some other; and if in another, the name and number of the Lodge, and the year in which he filled the chair.

“By command of the M. W. Grand Master
“W. H. White, G. S.

“Freemason's Hall, Sept. 20, 1839.”

“A return of Subscribing Members to the No. being the Master, Wardens, and Past Masters, who claim a right to sit and vote in the United Grand Lodge, made out pursuant to the Order of the M. W. Grand Master.

Names of Brethren claiming to sit in the Grand Lodge.	Rank.	Name & number of the Lodges in which they served as Master.	Date when in the Chair.
	W. M.		
	S. W.		
	J. W.		
	P. M.		
	P. M.		
	P. M.		
	P. M.		

“I hereby certify that the above is a correct return.
(Signed)

W. M.”

If this requisition be strictly enforced, and the rule extended to the Provinces, the introduction of improper persons will be attended with so much difficulty, that few attempts will be made to encroach on this high privilege; because detection and disgrace are almost certain to follow.

An Act of Parliament passed in this session for preventing the administering and taking of unlawful oaths in Ireland; and a special clause was inserted to exempt Freemasons from the penalties of the Act; provided—

“That this exemption shall not extend to any such Society or Lodge, unless two of the members composing the same shall testify upon oath, which oath any Justice of the Peace, or other Magistrate, is hereby empowered to administer, that such Society or Lodge has, before the passing of this Act, been usually held; or if so formed after the passing of this Act, has been so formed under the denomination of a Lodge of Freemasons, or Society of Friendly Brothers of the said Order, and in conformity to the rules prevailing among the Societies or Lodges of Freemasons, or of such Societies of such Friendly Brothers in this Kingdom, which certificate, duly attested by the Magistrates before whom the same shall be sworn, and subscribed by the persons so certifying, shall, within the space of two calendar months after the passing of this Act, or within the space of two calendar months after such formation of such Society or Lodge as aforesaid, be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for the County, Riding, Division, Shire, or Place, where such Society or Lodge hath been usually held, or shall be so formed; provided also, that this exemption shall not extend to any such Society or Lodge, unless the name or denomination thereof, and the usual place or places, and the time or times of its meetings, and the names and descriptions of all and every the members thereof, be registered with such Clerk of the Peace as aforesaid, within such two months, and also on or before the 25th day of March in every succeeding year, while this Act shall continue in force.”

In October a centenary festival was celebrated by the Brethren of the Grenadier's Lodge, No. 79. Nothing can be more gratifying, we should conceive, to the Members of a Lodge, than a solemnity of this peculiar character. In the present instance, “one unusual feature was displayed, in the zealous and untiring exertions of a family of Masons, who

For upwards of fifty years, have either been Treasurer or Secretary of this, their mother Lodge. Those important offices are now united, in the person of their estimable member Brother Neate, P. M." Several speeches were delivered, and the meeting passed off with harmony and general satisfaction.

A ceremony of a very imposing nature took place at Sunderland, while His Royal Highness the Grand Master was on a visit to the Earl of Durham; and it will be necessary to deviate in this instance from our accustomed practice, for the purpose of giving a brief description of the observances which were used in depositing the foundation stone of the Athenæum in that flourishing town, under the Grand Master's personal superintendence. His Royal Highness had consented to perform the ceremony; and in the expectation of so great an honour, the inhabitants devoted the 12th of November to the sole purposes of enjoyment. The cares of business were thrown aside; the shops were closed; banners streamed from the upper windows of the principal dwellings; and the vessels in the harbour were decked out in their gayest flags, streamers, and garlands of every colour. As it was understood that the ceremonies were to be conducted masonically by the first Freemason in the world, the public interest became unbounded. Strangers flocked in from all quarters, till the streets were blocked up with a dense mass of people, and the houses were thronged at the windows, balconies, and roofs, till the streets through which the royal cortege was expected to pass presented an animated picture of life and motion. In the midst of this excitement, the expected Visitor arrived.

About mid-day his Royal Highness and his suite were received at the gate by a guard of honour, composed of the 98th regiment of foot; and as he alighted from his carriage, the band struck up the

national Anthem, and the people uttered the most enthusiastic cheers. Proceeding to the Exchange, an Address was presented by the Mayor and Corporation, to which His Royal Highness most graciously replied; and then retired to the Phoenix Lodge-room, whence a splendid procession issued, in which His Royal Highness took his place as Grand Master of England.

At the site of the intended building a triumphal arch was erected, and a flight of steps covered with carpetting, led down to the spot where the stone was to be deposited.

When His Royal Highness had descended the steps which led to the foundation, and taken a position convenient for the part he was to perform in the ceremony, the stone, the two parts of which had been temporarily clamped together, was removed from its place, and as it remained suspended in the air, the Grand Chaplain offered up a brief and suitable prayer. The builder then handed the cement to His Royal Highness, who spread and adjusted it with a silver trowel provided for the occasion; this done, the stone was lowered to its place, the temporary clamps removed, and the upper portion again raised. The Grand Secretary then read the inscription, which was as follows:—

"Hujus Edificii, Deo bene juvante, ingenuis studiis atque artibus dicati, et complurium oppidum Sunderland juxta mare inclementium impensis extracti, hunc primum lapidem posuit Illustrissimus Princeps Augustus Fredericus, Dux Saxe, Prid. Id. Novembris, A.D. M.D.CCC.XXXIX."

This finished, the Grand Treasurer presented to the Grand Master the phial containing the medals and coins;* and these having been deposited by

* "How much valuable and useful information of the actual existing state of arts and knowledge," says a modern writer, "at any period, might be transmitted to posterity in a distinct, tangible, and imperishable form, if, instead of the absurd and useless appo-

His Royal Highness in the hollow formed in the stone; the cavity was covered over with the brass plate upon which the inscription was engraven. The upper portion of the stone was then covered, the band playing the national Anthem. His Royal Highness then proceeded to prove the just position and form of the stone by the plumb, level, and square, which were successively handed to him by the Junior and Senior Grand Wardens, and the Deputy Grand Master. Being satisfied in these respects, His Royal Highness gave the stone three knocks with the mallet, which was handed to him by the Pro Grand Master. He then said, "May the Great Architect of the Universe grant a blessing on this foundation-stone which we have now laid, and by His Providence enable us to finish every other work which may be undertaken for the benefit and advantage of this city." The cornucopia, containing the corn, and the two ewers with the wine and oil, were then handed to His Royal Highness, who scattered the corn and poured the wine and oil upon the stone, with the accustomed ceremonies. He then again said, "May the all-bounteous Author of nature grant an abundance of corn, wine, and oil, with all other necessaries, conveniences, and comforts, to this city; and may the same Providence preside over and preserve it from ruin and decay to the latest posterity."

The Architect then exhibited the plan of the building to His Royal Highness, who, after an attentive examination of it, thus addressed him:

"In place of the exhibition of a few coins and medals under the foundations of buildings, specimens of ingenious implements, or condensed statements of scientific truths, or processes in arts and manufactures, were substituted! Will books infallibly preserve to a remote posterity all that we may desire posterity would wish to know? And may not a useless ceremony be thus transformed into an act of enrolment in a perpetual archive of what we most prize, and acknowledge to be most valuable?"

"Mr. Architect.—The foundation stone of the Athenæum, planned in much wisdom by you, being now laid, and these implements having been applied to it by me, and approved of; and should them to you, in full confidence that, as a skilful and faithful workman, you will use them in such a manner that the building may stand in order, harmony, and beauty; and, being perfected in strength, will answer every purpose for which it is intended, to your credit, and to the honour of those who have selected you.

Before His Royal Highness retired, the Mayor (Dr. Brown), as Chairman of the Building Committee, came forward, and presented him with the following Address:—

May it please your Royal Highness,—We, the Committee and Subscribers to the Athenæum, approach your Royal Highness with feelings of deep gratitude, for the kindness and consideration displayed in the ready acquiescence in our request, that the foundation of the first considerable tribute paid by the town of Sunderland to Literature and Science, should be laid by your Royal Highness. We were encouraged to make the request by the consideration that your Royal Highness's attachment to Science and Literature, and individual success in their cultivation, had ever led you to be the munificent and enlightened Patron of every Institution in the Island, within your knowledge, calculated to promote their progress and diffusion; and we hoped that our projected establishment would form no exception to this rule, but would be ushered into the world under the auspices of your august name. In this we hope we have not been disappointed. As a true descendant of that illustrious and patriotic house which is hallowed in the thoughts and feelings of every Englishman, because associated with all that is most sacred with his liberties, and most valuable in his civilization, your Royal Highness has in this instance, as in many others, shewn that the prosperity of your native land is the cherished object of your heart. Commerce and the useful Arts are unquestionably the basis of our national prosperity; but your Royal Highness has manifested a familiar acquaintance with the fact, that the continuance of this prosperity must, in the present state of society, depend upon our progress in the higher departments of Science; that, without their aid, England will no longer be in the van of the productive industry of the world, but must be content to follow in the wake of her rivals. We conclude by praying that your Royal Highness may enjoy all the peace and happiness which this world can afford, for the remainder of your days, and, at their close, derive space from the reflection of a life spent, as that of your Royal Highness has been, in promoting the instruction and happiness of your fellow creatures.

The Address, having been read and presented in

the usual manner. His Royal Highness replied as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Committee, and Subscribers to the Academy. It is with pleasure I find myself occupied with you this day, in laying the foundation stone of a building dedicated to Literature and Science, being well assured that the cultivation of these will materially contribute to the advancement of arts, manufactures, and commerce. While ever anxious to assist the industrious classes in obtaining useful information, it has been equally my constant and earnest desire to impress upon those who tread in the higher walks of life, the absolute necessity for a similar exertion on their part, in order to keep pace with the general improvement, and thus secure to themselves their proper station in society. It is, indeed, must be the man who, in these days, flatters himself that truth can be concealed for any length of time; such an attempt would not only fail, but the consequences would be fatal, since it would tend to the disorganization of every well regulated community; while the diffusion of knowledge produces the most beneficial results, as by it the industrious classes are led to value the proficiency of their superiors in science, and esteem them for such improvement. With these sentiments, Gentlemen, you will readily believe me when I assure you that I acceded, with great pleasure, to your request of laying the foundation stone of this Institution, and fervently pray that the work we have so prosperously begun, may be as successfully completed, and that the Royal city of Sunderland may ever be hailed as affording encouragement and protection to science."

The Members of the Committee were then severally presented to His Royal Highness, who again congratulated them upon this undertaking, expressing his conviction that such institutions afforded the best means of keeping society together.

The whole of this part of the day's business having been thus completed, His Royal Highness, addressing the assemblage which was about to prepare for the return of the procession, said— "There is one duty I have still to perform. Upon such occasions as these we should never lose sight of the illustrious Lady who presides over this country. We have placed her effigy beneath this stone. I hope her memory will be borne down to posterity with the virtues she deserves. I propose, therefore,

that we should say 'God bless the Queen!' with three times three."

The proposition was received with the utmost enthusiasm, and responded to with cheers that awakened many distant echoes. After this expression of loyalty, the procession returned to the Phoenix Lodge in the same order as it set out.

Several other foundations were laid during this year with Masonic honours, which it will be sufficient to enumerate. That of a monument at Elgin, in memory of the Duke of Gordon, by Bro. James Petrie, Esq.; of a Viaduct in the London and Brighton Railway, by Bro. Folkland; of St. John's Church at Edinburgh, and of the Mariner's Church at Leith, by Bro. the Right Hon. Sir James Forrest, G. M.; of Rocester Bridge, by Bro. the Earl of Shrewsbury; of a Wet Dock at Montrose, by Bro. Patrick Ackley, Esq., D. G. M.; and of Saint Thomas's Church, Lancaster, by Bro. E. D. Salisbury, Esq.

The number of testimonials to merit increase, as we advance nearer to our own times. In January a Jewel was presented to Bro. G. Warriner, Hon. Sec. to the Ball, for masonic charities; in April, a masonic Jewel to Bro. Moses, Lodge of Peace and Harmony, Dover; in May, a Silver Salver and a Jewel to Bro. the Rev. Charles Woodward, British Lodge, London; and a Jewel to Bro. the Rev. W. Garwithen, Lodge of Union, Chudleigh; in August, a Silver Salver to Bro. D. M. Folkard, Royal Clarence Lodge, Brighton; and a Silver Salver to Bro. W. J. Tenison, Esq. Barrister-at-law, Lodge 216, Ireland; in September, a Silver Snuff-box to Bro. James Entwisle, Bolton-le-Moors; in October, a Service of Plate to Bro. C. J. K. Tynte, M. P., P. G. M. for Monmouth; in November, a Silver Salver to Bro. the Rev. Dr. Oliver, D. P. G. M., Witham Lodge, Lincoln; and a Gold Watch to

Bro. James Wilson, Nelson Dodge, Newry, Ireland; and in December, a Past Master's Jewel to Bro. Charles, late W.M. of the Lodge of Amity, No. 200. These testimonials form a decisive proof of the great cordiality which subsists between the brethren and their authorised rulers, and display Freemasonry in a light which is calculated to excite general admiration.

CHAP. VII.

History of Freemasonry in the Year 1840.

This year commenced with some judicious measures which were intruded to give consistency to the Order by a general digest and improval of its laws. It had long been seen that some revisal of the Constitutions was necessary; for, though originally drawn up with great wisdom and care, cases were of constant occurrence for which no provision appeared in that code; and the Brethren were often placed in a dilemma, from which even the Grand Lodge did not possess the power to extricate or assist them. One of these cases had just arisen, in the resignation of Bro. Key as a member of the Board of Management. The Grand Lodge did not feel empowered to accept the tender, because the Laws of Masonry had not provided for such a contingency. The announcement of an intended revision of the Constitutions was received in the provinces with apathy, although it was admitted that some judicious alterations were necessary. The

intended measure does not appear to have created much interest amongst the Country brethren, for the private Lodges generally made no communication to the Grand Lodge on the subject; nor were any public meetings of the Craft convened to express an opinion, or to resolve on any steps for the coming parties to a declaration of either satisfaction or remonstrance. The announcement passed away unopposed, and the alterations were ultimately agreed to without the concurrence or disapprobation of the Provincial authorities.

At the Committee of Masters in February, the Report of the Committee of Laws was read, declaring that they had carefully revised the alterations and additions that had from time to time been made, and recommended particularly the repeal of Article I; p. 18. And that after Article III, p. 19, there should be an Article introduced, to the effect that no Brother should claim to enter Grand Lodge until his name and appointment should be returned to the Grand Secretary's Office. The Committee recommended that the re-publication of the Constitutions be delayed for the present.

Bro. Stevens then recorded the following notices of amendment, as Amendments in the Book of Constitutions—

Under the head, 'Grand Master,' instead of Article 1, to substitute the following:—

"The Grand Master shall not be applied to on any business concerning Masons or Masonry, but through the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, or, if within a Provincial district, through a Provincial Grand Master, or his Deputy."

Under the head, 'Provincial Grand Master,' to insert the following:—

"Any Provincial Grand Master who shall neglect to hold, or cause a Provincial Grand Lodge to be held, in his district, for two consecutive years, shall be considered to have vacated his office." Also:—

"No Provincial Grand Master shall be entitled to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Master, unless he shall have held at least

two Provincial Grand Meetings, within this district, during the term of office, and made the word "Grand Secretary," instead of the word "the Grand Secretary," to be appointed by the Grand Lodge, on the day of his installation," in Article I, page 27, to substitute the following:

"-Xc. the Quarterly communication, in December, the Grand Lodge shall nominate not less than two, and not exceeding three of its members, as Candidates for the office of Grand Secretary, one of whom to be selected by the Grand Master, and appointed by him on the day of his installation. But as long as the duties of the office can be performed by the present very worthy Grand Secretary, he may be, from time to time, appointed by the Grand Master, on the day of his installation, without such previous nomination."

Bro. Warriner, on the part of Bro. Henderson, gave notice of motion, that the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, in relation to the repeal of Article I, page 18, and the new Article, to follow Article III, page 19, do pass as law.

A fancy dress ball is annually celebrated by this Lodge at Cork, for the benefit of the Male and Female Orphan Asylum. In the present year it was conducted on a scale of superior splendour, and was attended by the nobility and gentry from many miles round; and the military and naval officers assembled in great numbers. The opening of the ball was attended by a ceremony of great interest. The Master, Wardens, and Members of the First Lodge of Ireland, covered with their various medals, ornaments, and jewels, emblematic of their Ancient Craft, having on their collars, aprons, and decorations of the Royal Arch and Knights Templar, marched in procession to the top of the room; the Scots Greys playing the favourite air, "The Freemasons' March." On arriving at the end of the room the Master took the chair, and the Senior and Junior Wardens sat either side. The Members of the Lodge then formed a circle, and the Master, having saluted the company with all the honours, dancing immediately commenced. The amusements were kept up with great spirit till five o'clock in the morning, when the company separated, highly de-

lighted with their treat. The ball realized for the charity, after all expenses were paid, upwards of two hundred pounds.

The zeal and loyalty of the Craft were strongly excited and displayed in the summer of this year, by an attempt to assassinate the Queen and her royal Consort. The Ancient Charges declare, that "Masonry has ever flourished in times of peace, and been always injured by war, bloodshed, and confusion, so that kings and princes, in every age, have been much disposed to encourage the Craftsmen on account of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby they practically answer the cavils of their adversaries, and promote the honour of the Fraternity." And never was this precept more satisfactorily exemplified than on the present occasion. Addresses of congratulation on the providential escape of these royal personages were transmitted from every part of the United Kingdom. All public bodies, in every department of life, promptly performed this pleasing duty; nor were the Freemasons backward in shewing their loyalty and affection for the Sovereign. An especial Grand Lodge was convened for this purpose on the 21st of June, His Royal Highness the Grand Master being on the Throne, when suitable Addresses to Her Majesty, and to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, were unanimously adopted; as well as resolutions of sympathy to His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland pursued the same course; which was also followed by many Provincial and Private Lodges.

Much angry feeling prevailed amongst the Brethren about this time, on account of the suspension of Brethren Ald. Thomas Wood, Dr. Crucefix, and J. Lee Stevens; all of whom, by their activity and zeal, have rendered essential service to Masonry.

The appeal of these brethren from the decision of the Board of General Purposes, was brought before the Grand Lodge at the June Quarterly Communication, His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex on the Throne. Bro. Ald. Wood's case was first heard; in the course of which he repeated the declaration which he had made before the Board, viz:

"I assure the M. W. Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge, that I do not retain any recollection of having used the expression imputed to me, or any others which can be considered disrespectful to the Grand Master. I have to express great regret, that anything I may have said should have been so construed. I spoke at the Meeting under great excitement and irritation, occasioned by circumstances which unhappily occurred on that day; and it is possible that I might have used expressions, although I have no recollection of them, which may have been understood in a sense which was not intended. If so, I very much regret it, because it was the farthest from my wish to speak discourteously of His Royal Highness, for whom personally I entertain the highest respect. With this statement I shall withdraw my appeal, and leave my case entirely in the hands of the Grand Lodge."

At the suggestion of His Royal Highness, it was then moved, seconded, and resolved unanimously:—

"That the W. Bro. Ald. Thos. Wood be immediately reinstated in all his masonic functions and privileges."

Bro. J. Lee Stevens was then called on, who addressed the Grand Lodge at considerable length, for the purpose of shewing why he found it impossible to avoid pressing his appeal; and having cleared this point, he proceeded to read copies of the protests which he had deposited with the Board of General Purposes; and added, "I will now, M. W. Grand Master, proceed with the evidence taken before the Board." The question was then discussed, whether that evidence could be repeated in Grand Lodge, and it occupied a considerable space of time to determine whether such a course was consistent with its usages and practice. It was ultimately decided in the negative; on which Bro. Stevens de-

lined proceeding with his appeals, and the sentence of the Board was confirmed. Bro. Crucefix being called, was met by the sentence that his appeal was informal, and consequently it could not be entertained by the Grand Lodge, and that therefore his suspension would, of necessity, be confirmed.

Much discussion arose amongst the Brethren in various parts of the country respecting these proceedings. The Grand Lodge, in its Circular, states the facts as follow:—

Brothers Wood and Stevens lodged with the Grand Secretary to be laid before the Grand Lodge, appeals against the decision of the Board, in which they respectively stated the ground of such appeals, in conformity with the laws of the Grand Lodge, pp. 101 and 102. Bro. Crucefix also lodged an appeal, in which, however, he did not set forth any ground on which he appealed. Bro. Crucefix's appeal was objected to, on the ground that it was not in conformity with requisites in the Book of Constitutions, p. 102, a question not involving any legal principle, but standing solely on the ground of Masonic law, which expressly required that the appeal must state the specific grievance complained of. Bro. Crucefix admitted the omission of such specification, but addressed the Grand Master, declaring that he had never used language derogatory to the M. W. Grand Master, (of which he was) not accused, and on which his sentence was not founded, and on his attempting to discuss the evidence, he was told that the decision in the preceding case precluded that course.

To this statement Dr. Crucefix replied,—

I did not admit the omission of such specification, neither did I attempt to discuss the evidence.

With regard to the first of these statements, I aver that all that is required by the law, is to state the grievance of which I complain, and until I can be satisfied that the particular grievances and the ground of objection are one and the same thing, I must believe that my appeal was regular.

The real point, however, is, whether I did state the grievance of which I complained. I was charged with having taken the chair at a public meeting, where it was alleged that certain words were used disrespectful to the Duke of Sussex, without calling the brethren who used them to order. I denied that such words were used, and it was proved they were not, and yet I was suspended from my masonic functions and privileges for six months. Is this no grievance?

"My grounds of appeal might be various; for instance, if the Board might have no jurisdiction in the matter; a majority might have come prepared to pass sentence without hearing evidence; a majority might, as they did, pass sentence contrary to the evidence; the sentence might have been disproportionate to the offence. These, and many more, might be reasons for objecting to the sentence; but the real, the only grievance was, the sentence itself, which I had just received, and against which I appealed."

Dr. Crucefix subsequently published the proceedings of the Grand Lodge in the *Freemason's Quarterly Review*, for which alleged offence he was again cited before a Board of General Purposes, to be holden at Freemasons' Hall, on the 18th July, to answer the new charges which would then and there be preferred against him. This summons Dr. Crucefix refused to obey; stating, that "Having given up all membership in English Craft Masonry, I deny the power of the Board of General Purposes to call me to account in any way whatever; and I therefore decline, upon this ground, attending on that Board, as summoned by a letter from the Grand Secretary, under date of the 11th instant; and as peremptorily summoned, by a second letter, from the same party, under date of the 18th inst."

Out of these proceedings, great diversity of opinion has unhappily arisen. All Masons agree in that fundamental principle of the Society, that the Grand Master must be supported; not only because his talents, zeal, and long servitude, merit the gratitude and veneration of the Craft, but because such support constitutes the hinge on which the prosperity of Freemasonry turns. But it is urged that the dignity of the Grand Master is best displayed in the unity of the brethren; and a doubt exists whether the late prosecutions will have a tendency to cherish and promote that most desirable virtue. Great numbers of brethren, both in London and the Provinces, thought the measure harsh, and were of

opinion that the punishment exceeded the offence ; while, on the other hand, it was argued by a party, no less numerous, that a regard for discipline made occasional instances of severity necessary, as an example to others who might be inclined to question the supremacy of the Grand Lodge, and its power to punish offences committed within its jurisdiction. Some Brethren thought it strange that Dr. Crucefix, being in the chair when it was alleged that Bro. Add. Wood used expressions of disparagement to the Grand Master, should be punished for omitting to call that brother to order, after Bro. Wood had been acquitted of using the words imputed to him ; while, on the other hand, it was answered, that if he was pronounced guiltless, Bro. Stevens was convicted, which circumstance was sufficient to justify the Grand Lodge in its confirmation of the sentence which had been pronounced by the Board of General Purposes on Bro. Crucefix.

In a word, the opinions on all the points connected with this most unpropitious affair, were conflicting and unsatisfactory. Three of the London Lodges passed a public vote of thanks and sympathy to Dr. Crucefix, and a general subscription is now in progress amongst the Fraternity at large, to present him with a permanent testimonial of their esteem. The suspension of the three Brethren by the Board occurred on the 10th March. On the 25th of the same month, Dr. Crucefix was re-elected Treasurer to the Asylum ; and on the 30th April, they were all elected on the House Committee, by the Governors of the Female Charity, at one of the largest meetings on record, Bro. Bond Cabbell being in the chair ; who also presided over the Board of General Purposes when they were suspended from their masonic privileges ; and at the ensuing ballot for Auditors, Dr. Crucefix appeared

at the head of the list. At the Committee Meetings of May and June, the same Bro. was called to the chair.

Happily, for the best interests of the Craft, a true masonic feeling finally manifested itself in all the parties to this unfortunate dispute. At an Especial Grand Lodge, holden at Freemasons' Hall, on the 30th of October, Dr. Crucefix offered an apology for having written and published a letter, which was offensive to His Royal Highness the Grand Master, and also for having published the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of June last in the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, contrary to the ancient charges and constitutions of the Craft; and stated, that "as during his masonic career it had been his study to conduct himself as an useful and deserving, and also as a true and approved brother, obedient to the Boards, and other Authorities of the Craft; he could not but regret that he had been betrayed, by circumstances, into causing the publication to be issued." This apology being accepted, it was resolved, that the Grand Lodge should proceed no further in the matter.

The Fifth Anniversary of the Asylum was held at Freemasons' Tavern, in the month of June, Bro. the Hon. Henry Fitzroy, M.P. being chairman on the occasion; who, in the course of the evening, lamented the unfortunate opposition which the Institution had to encounter. In proposing the health of the Queen Dowager, the Hon. Chairman said:—

"The next toast he had to propose, was the name of an illustrious lady, whose name never appeared in public except as associated with some act of benevolence, or work of charity. Whether that charity was proved by affording means for providing additional instruction to the rising generation, or whether by putting her hand in her pocket, to relieve the meanest subject in the land, it was the same—an appeal was never made to her, but that appeal was sure to be answered in the most liberal and gracious manner. A few

days since, at the request of some of his brethren, by whom he was now surrounded, he had taken the liberty, through Lord Howe, to lay before Her Majesty the Queen Dowager the claims of this charity, and to ask for it Her Majesty's countenance and protection, by the smallest donation, which, by its example, would be productive of the most beneficial results. He was induced to do this, not only from a knowledge of Her Majesty's charitable disposition, but also from a knowledge of the fact that her late consort, King William the Fourth, was a brother of the Craft. He had, on these two grounds, felt that it was not unlikely that Her Majesty would listen to the request, and the result shewed that he was not mistaken in his anticipation, for Lord Howe had forwarded to him, (the chairman) in Her Majesty's name, the liberal donation of £20., expressing also Her Majesty's most gracious wishes for the welfare of the Institution.

The Hon. Chairman's advocacy of the Asylum was peculiarly happy. He observed, that,

“There was an impression existing in the minds of some of their Brethren, although a very erroneous impression, that the advocacy of a new charity would tend to deprive the other charities of those revenues which have hitherto flowed into their aid; but he (the chairman) did not believe that such would be the case. Lord Durham had himself said, in a memorable speech of his, that the exercise of charity, and the practice of benevolence, should be as wide and general among Masons, as the principle of admission was comprehensive. He knew that the heart of a Mason was ever open to the cry of distress, and that there was no Institution which should be once proved beneficial to his fellow man, that he would not go out of his way to support. But while all objects of christian charity had claims upon his sympathies, there were some objects which more immediately called them into action; and although youth and manhood had their sufferings, what could be a more distressing picture than destitute and indigent old age? Let them picture to themselves a man, who, possessed of every virtue, after toiling up hill through a long, virtuous, righteous, and industrious life, and practising the sublime precepts of their Craft, suddenly deprived of every comfort, and even necessity, in old age. Behold him destitute of every support at a time when he most required it! Behold their destitute and indigent Brother, with no brotherly hand to smooth his passage down the rugged hill of life, and say whether this was a picture which any Brother of the Craft could look upon coolly. Was this picture overcharged? Was it not, a very short time since, that such was the fate of a Brother, who had often graced that room with his presence? Let them, however, celebrate the eternal honour of those who had rescued the Craft from the stigma of being the only body which had not made a provision for old age. The prayer of gratitude would not return empty handed on those who had begun this work!

They would be tenfold rewarded by the recollection, in the last dark vision of life, that they had rescued their Brother from a state of wretchedness and poverty, which would cast at least one ray of brightness over the sad scene. Charity, he had said, was the key-stone on which the Craft was raised. The Craft was founded on one of the two great Commandments, "Love thy neighbour as thyself;" and it was the bounden duty of every member of it to think of their aged and destitute Brethren. Asylums had been provided for the young, but was that a reason why they should not make provision for the old; and endeavour to furnish support and consolation to those who, in the day of prosperity, had liberally contributed to their friends in want and distress—for those who had arrived at that dark and gloomy state of human life, so beautifully described in the Sacred Books? When "the years shall draw nigh in which I shall say I have no pleasure in them; when the sun, and the light, and the moon, and the stars, are darkened, and the clouds return not after the rain—when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men bow themselves—when they shall be afraid of that which is nigh, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond-tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail, because 'Man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.' Much had already been done, but much still remained to be done. He (the Hon. Chairman) feared not the opposition which they might meet with—he feared not any opposition nor lukewarmness without—he feared not any opposition within—for he could not feel that any Mason who had taken one step in the Craft could say that they (the promoters of the Asylum) were not acting on the very spirit and constitution of Masonry, when they were providing an Asylum for those who had been their worthy Brothers."

The subscriptions at this meeting amounted to about seven hundred pounds.

About this time Freemasonry lost one of its most active and valuable members, in the death of the Pro-Grand Master, the Earl of Durham, who departed this life, somewhat suddenly, at Cowes, in the Isle of Wight. His Lordship was attended by a local physician, who did not consider him in immediate danger; and the sad crisis which followed was but little anticipated by his family; by whom, however, the deceased nobleman had the consolation of being surrounded in his dying hour.

His Lordship's masonic career was long and brilliant. He was appointed, by the Duke of Sussex, to the office of P. G. M. for Durham, in 1818, and

succeeded to the Deputy and Pro-Grand Mastership of Masons for England; and discharged the weighty duties of all these offices with universal satisfaction and applause. The sense of duty and propriety which ever actuated our noble Brother, was thus expressed by himself, when the Brethren in the province of Durham presented his Lordship with a splendid Masonic Jewel, "as a token of their fraternal consideration for his constant attention, and personal kindness to the Craft; and to mark the high sense of gratitude they entertained for his dignified and zealous discharge of the important duties of Provincial Grand Master." On this occasion, his Lordship said,—“I have ever felt it my duty to support and encourage the principles and practice of Freemasonry, because it powerfully developes all social and benevolent affections;—because it mitigates without, and annihilates within, the virulence of political and theological controversy;—because it affords the only neutral ground on which all ranks and classes can meet in perfect equality, and associate without degradation or mortification, whether for the purposes of moral instruction, or of social intercourse.”

In this distinguished and noble Brother, the Free and Accepted Mason lost a sincere friend, and the Order a strenuous and consistent defender. In every department of the Craft where his services were in requisition, the benefits conferred by his zeal and assiduity were evident and lasting. His presidency was characterized by mildness and good humour, which found its way to every heart; while his authority was asserted with a firmness and tact which no one cared to question, because every display of power was accompanied by a suavity which won over the affections even of those who were justly exposed to his censure. The esteem of the Fraternity in the Provinces over which he presided

has not expended itself in mere expressions of sympathy and regret, or in addresses of condolence to his inconsolable widow ; but, at a meeting, held in Newcastle, to promote the erection of a monument to his memory, upwards of £4,000. were subscribed for that purpose, which sum has been since increased, by contributions from every part of the country.

He was interred in the family vault at Chester-le-Street. More than three hundred of the brethren attended the funeral, and the carriages of his relatives and friends amounted to 175. The number of persons in carriages would probably be about 450 ; and there were hundreds who walked the whole way alongside. The distance between Lambton Castle and Chester-le-Street is two miles and a half ; and some idea of the length of the procession may be formed from the fact, that the tenantry on horseback had reached Chester before the last of the carriages had left the Castle. The whole length of the road, on each side, was thronged with persons, and the street, windows, house-tops, wherever, in short, a coign of vantage could be found, was covered with spectators. Black flags were hung out from the beautiful spire of the church, and from several of the private houses ; and the number of persons gathered in the town and immediate neighbourhood, has been estimated at from 30,000 to 50,000.

To express its sense of the irreparable loss of this great Freemason, the Grand Lodge, anxious that every testimony of respect should be paid to the memory of the deceased noble and exalted Brother, ordered that its members, and those of every subordinate Lodge, should be placed in mourning for six months.

Whilst these affairs occupied the attention of the Fraternity in our own island, intelligence was re-

ceived from India, that the appointment of Provincial Grand Masters for the different districts had been attended with a very beneficial effect to Freemasonry. New Lodges were constituted, and initiations became numerous and frequent. Dr. Grant, Dr. Burnes, Major Macdonald, Major-General Lindsay, Robert Neave and other eminent Brethren, were placed in offices of trust, and they have done ample justice to their appointment. The accounts of their proceedings are most gratifying, and the Brethren in that distant part of the globe sustain the reputation of Freemasonry in a manner which excites the astonishment of the natives, who cannot be persuaded but the Masons are members of an unholy league with some forbidden power.* A temple for the meetings of the Craft is in contemplation, to which schools and dwellings are to be attached, for the gratuitous education and maintenance of the children of indigent brethren, and orphans; and a Fund of Benevolence is proposed for the general relief of worthy and distressed Freemasons.

It is to the honour of Freemasonry that a man of Sir Walter Scott's talents and genius had such an affection for the Craft, that he spent, as he himself

* An amusing anecdote is related in the *Freemasons' Review* for 1839. "The lower order of the Hindoos being at a loss to comprehend the occasion of the Freemasons' meetings, conceived their mysteries are expounded by dancing gestures, and likening them to their own natches, they style the Freemasons' ceremonial as the 'Chumera ka natch,' the leather dance, in reference to the apron. They also consider that 'magic' is practised by them, and they term the Lodge building 'Jadoo Gurh,' Sorcery or Magic-house. Lately, a punkah-puller, who was squatting outside the banquetting-room of a Lodge, was observed to become gradually sleepy over his duty, to the manifest inconvenience of the Brethren, and the punkah at length was still. One of the Brethren left the room, and found the lazy puller fast asleep. A sharp touch with the rope aroused the sleeper, who, suddenly awakened, and seeing the Brother in his full paraphernalia, his dream was over; bewildered and alarmed, he screamed out, 'Jadoo Gurh! Jadoo Gurh!' and vanished. No consideration could ever induce him to repeat his visit to the portals of the Sorcery-house."

often testified, many of his most delightful hours within the walls of the Lodge, in the enjoyment of

“ The feast of reason, and the flow of soul ;”

and it is equally to the honour of the Masonic body, that its members have been amongst the foremost to confer posthumous honours on the memory of a Great Light, which gladdens mankind by its appearance, only at long and distant intervals. Our annals include a Wolsey, a Locke, an Ashmole, a Newton, and a Wren; they also include,—and there are many brethren living who have had the happiness to sit in a Lodge with him,—a Scott. The hidden recesses of the human heart were laid bare before his scrutinizing eye, and his graphic fancy conveyed impressions to the mind, which, once planted there, could never be eradicated. We have already seen one Grand Masonic Meeting, to erect a trophy to his memory; and his grateful countrymen were again assembled, in the month of August in the present year, to lay the first stone of a Metropolitan Monument, which is designed to convey to posterity the gratitude that was felt towards this great and good man, for the countless benefits which mankind have derived from his immortal works. The solemnity was, in its principal details, masonic; but it was also attended, as Sir William Rae observed, “ by a countless host of all parties, all ranks, and all ages, with a fair proportion of the lovely and the beautiful, who came forward, as with one impulse, to exhibit their admiration and regard for the memory of their distinguished countryman, whose fame has stretched to the utmost bounds of the habitable globe—who has extended the fame of his native country—whether he portrayed the character of her kings, of her ancient nobles, or painted the simple manners of

her simple cottagers, of his own day. In all of these efforts, he alike applied himself to attest his own sense of genuine patriotism, and to advance the cause of virtue and morality."

This splendid and interesting ceremony, which was anticipated with great anxiety for many weeks, by all classes of the inhabitants, took place under the most favourable circumstances. During the forenoon the city exhibited a constant bustle to and fro, which indicated, even to the most listless stranger, that something unusual was on the tapis. About one o'clock, the shops throughout the line of procession began to shut, and continued so during the day. At one o'clock the Masonic body assembled in the quadrangle of the College, where they were marshalled by their respective officers; and never, on any former occasion in the annals of the city, did the Masonic Brethren turn out in such imposing numbers. It is calculated that 1,500 brethren took a part in the ceremonial of the day. This procession began to move from the College-square about a quarter past two o'clock, preceded by a strong body of the Edinburgh police, in uniform, and the band of the Queen's Bays; the rear being similarly brought up, the band of the 29th Foot taking their station in that part of the procession. A squadron of the Bays lined the streets.

Previous to the procession leaving the quadrangle, the Right Worshipful Master and Wardens of the Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, waited upon the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and, in the name of the ancient Lodge, over which they presided, presented his Lordship with an elegant Silver Trowel.

The M. W. Grand Master was pleased to accept the same, and took the opportunity of thanking the brethren of that Lodge for the uniform kindness he had received from them since his initiation into the

mysteries of Light, and at the same time begged to thank such of the office-bearers of the Grand Lodge as were present, for the support he had received from them on all occasions.

A few minutes before three o'clock, the Grand Lodge, and other masonic bodies, took their stations on the eastern gallery, the Lord Provost, the Right Hon. Sir James Forrest, of Comiston, Bart. taking his place in front, as Grand Master Mason of Scotland; supported on the right by the Earl of Rothes, Deputy Grand Master; and the Earl of Stair, Acting Past Grand Master. The office-bearers of the Grand Lodge were the following:—

Substitute Grand Master,—	Sir Thos. D. Lauder, Bart.
Senior Grand Warden,—	Admiral Sir D. Milne, G. C. B.
Acting Junior Warden,—	D. Anderson, Esq. of St. Germain's.
Acting Grand Treasurer,—	H. D. Inglis, Esq. W. S.
Grand Secretary - -	W. A. Laurie, Esq. W. S.
Grand Clerk - - -	John Maitland, Esq.
Grand Bard - - -	R. Gilfillan, Esq.
Senior Deacon - - -	J. Graham, Esq.
Acting Junior Deacon -	Sir James Spittal.
Grand Chaplain - -	Rev. Alex. Stewart, of Douglas.
Grand Jeweller - -	W. Cunningham, Esq.
Architect of Monument	G. W. Kemp.
Sculptor - - - - -	John Steell.

The Masonic procession had a most imposing appearance, and the beautiful uniform of the Celtic Lodge in particular, attracted much attention. The Brethren present included Deputations from Lodges in all parts of Scotland. After an eloquent and appropriate prayer, offered up by the Rev. Alexander Stewart, the Grand Chaplain, the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone commenced with the usual Masonic rites; the Grand Master using the silver trowel above mentioned. During the ceremony the band played, with great taste, and solemn expression, the *Sicilian Mariner's Hymn*.

In the foundation stone were deposited a glass jar, and a plate containing the following inscription,

besides a plate with the names of the office-bearers of the Grand Lodge, &c.

This Graven Plate,
Deposited in the Base of a Votive Building,
On the fifteenth day of August, in the year of Christ, 1840;
And never likely to see the light again,
Till all the surrounding structures are crumbled to dust
By the decay of time, or by human or elemental violence,
May then testify to a distant posterity, that his Countrymen
began on that day
To raise an Effigy and Architectural Monument
TO THE MEMORY OF SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.,
Whose admirable Writings were then allowed
To have given more delight, and suggested
better feeling,
To a larger class of Readers, in every rank of Society,
Than those of any other Author, with the exception
of Shakspeare alone,
And which were therefore thought likely to be remembered
Long after the act of gratitude
On the part of the first generation of his Admirers
Should be forgotten.
He was born at Edinburgh, 15th August, 1771; and died at
Abbotsford, 21st September, 1832.

The Foundation of the Monument was laid by the
Right Hon. Sir James Forrest, of Comiston, Bart. Lord Provost
of Edinburgh, and

GRAND MASTER MASON OF SCOTLAND,
The Sub-Committee, in charge of the Work, being
The Right Hon. Sir William Rae, of St. Catherine's, Bart.;
Dr. Thomas Hope, Professor of Chemistry;
George Forbes, Esq. Treasurer;
Thomas Thompson, Esq. Advocate; and
William Burn, Esq. Architect;
With the aid and advice of
The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Melville;
James Skene, Esq. of Rubislaw, Secretary;
George M. Kemp, Architect;
John Steell, Sculptor;

In the fourth year of the Reign of Queen Victoria the First.

When the stone was lowered, and the ceremony completed, the band struck up the lively air of
" 'Tis good to be merry and wise,—'tis good to be
honest and true," which was succeeded by three loud
and hearty cheers.

The next, and truly appropriate air, was the good old tune of "The Masons' Anthem," which the Grand Master, Dignitaries, and all the Brethren present, accompanied with the accustomed joyous action.

The Lord Provost then addressed Sir William Rae and the Committee as follows:—

"Having had the honour of being placed at the head of the Order of Freemasonry in Scotland, it has fallen to my lot to take a part in the proceedings of this day, and to lay this Foundation Stone. Other, shall I say, imperishable monuments, which himself has raised, will, no doubt, transmit to posterity the fame of Walter Scott. This, however, which we hope to erect, will record a nation's admiration, and a nation's gratitude. Scotland claims him as particularly her own. This city was his birth-place; here his youth—here his professional life was spent—here was seen the first development of that genius which was afterwards found capable of such mighty achievements. I congratulate you, sir, and the other gentlemen of the Committee, on the event of this day. You have at last witnessed the commencement of the work which has been so long the object of your anxiety and solicitude. By the labour of several years, and the most mature deliberation, which you could exercise, you have been able to devise the plan of an edifice, appropriate and noble, worthy of the occasion, worthy of him in whose honour it is to be raised, and worthy of the artist of whose genius it is the fruit. By your exertions also, such a sum has been raised as warrants you to begin and carry on the building; and I am confident that if more shall be required to complete the plan which the architect first suggested, your countrymen will not be backward in furnishing the necessary means. The site appears most suitable, on one of the greatest thoroughfares, the daily resort of the population, surrounded by our romantic localities, which his pen so often delighted to describe. To you, sir, and to many around you, this day will call up many grateful recollections. You will remember those qualities which formed him to be the delight of society, and which knit him in lasting bonds of affection with many tried and faithful friends. It would be, I feel, a presumptuous, as happily it is an unnecessary task, to delineate here the merits and character of this illustrious man. He threw around his name a bright lustre, and his country shared in his renown; to Scott and to Scotland the eyes of the civilized world were directed. Strangers from all countries visited him when living, and they still look with eager curiosity to the place of his residence—they view with interest every thing connected with his name. How diversified were his talents! Inspired with the most enthusiastic admiration of our ancient national poetry, and of the manners and chivalry of former times, how did he create a new era

in our literature, and dazzle us with the brilliancy and the faithfulness of his pictures of the times that had passed away? When sated with the fame of his poetry, he was not inactive, but entered on a new path, and with rich profusion poured forth in endless succession his stories of knowledge of the human heart, and delineated with his powerful pen, the manners and the characters of former generations. If his life had been prolonged, it is not unnatural to suppose that, from some delightful sketches which he gave, he might have added to his fame that of excellence in historical composition. It is with pleasure we have met on this occasion to perform the duty to which we have been called. This was the birth-day of Scott—this the anniversary of a day when a British Sovereign revisited our long-deserted palaces—this, an extraordinary day in the calendar, was also the birth-day of Napoleon. The Masonic body have had much satisfaction in doing honour to this day, for, to his other claims, he added that of a Brother; he was a zealous, a true-hearted Mason; his name was enrolled in one of our Lodges; they had been also charmed with his society; they counted it an honour that he had been enrolled among them. I beg to thank the Committee for the readiness with which they acceded to my proposal of the Grand Lodge; and I rejoice to think that the whole ceremony, grand and imposing, has been conducted in a way worthy of the occasion."

Sir W. Rae then addressed the assembly at great length, after which the band was requested to play the national air, "Rule Britannia," and that being followed by a salute of seven guns from the Royal Artillery, the procession moved off in reverse order, to their respective destinations, and dispersed.

In the evening, the members and friends of the Celtic Lodge dined together in the Calton Convening Room, R. W. M. Donaldson in the chair, supported by R. W. Lawrie, Grand Secretary; R. Gilfillan, Grand Bard; Mr. Kemp, Architect; Mr. Dick, of the Albion; Mr M'Leod, Mr. Ballantyne, and other members of the Scott Committee, &c. &c. Deputations were also present from the Lodges of St. John's, Peebles; St. Mungo's, Glasgow; and Perth. About a hundred sat down to an excellent dinner, during which, and throughout the evening, the company were entertained with appropriate airs from a select band. Mr. Lawrie, in a neat speech, proposed "The Poets of Scotland,"

coupled with the names of Brothers Gilfillan and Ballantyne, then present. Bro. Gilfillan returned thanks, and "craved a bumper to the memory of him whose fame they were that day celebrating,—Sir Walter Scott,—a man who had shed a lustre over his country, that not only made those of other nations enquirers about 'the land of mountain and of flood,' but had made them become pilgrims to the spots which his genius had rendered immortal. And when we looked at the splendours of our city, this day, lit up with sunshine, falling upon landscapes the most lovely that could be beheld, we ought not to forget that this city—'our own romantic town,' was the birth-place of the mighty Minstrel, and in whose localities those works were planned and penned, which men of all nations had declared to be imperishable." The toast was drunk in silence, but three cheers were given to the fame of the Novelist and Bard. The evening was enlivened by several excellent songs, and, after a cup of thanks to Bro. Donaldson, for his labours throughout all the details of the ceremony of this day, as well as his social qualities as chairman, the meeting separated at eleven o'clock, having spent a delightful and highly intellectual evening.

An important question was mooted in the present year, which still remains undecided, viz., whether the practice of Freemasonry in the army be consistent with the observance of such a state of military discipline as is required among soldiers in the active service of their country? The question is new, because many regiments have had Lodges attached to them from time immemorial; but while equal surprise and regret have been expressed that such an objection should be raised in the nineteenth century, when Masonry is in its most palmy state, we frankly confess that we are rather inclined to hail the discussion of any general argument which may be urged

against the Craft; because an impartial investigation of its principles cannot fail to end triumphantly. The case was this:—The 38th regiment, stationed in Limerick, having had a Masonic warrant, No. 441, of the Registry of Ireland, in the regiment for the last fifty years, although it being some time since the Brethren met as a Lodge, through the exertions of their Colonel (Piper), who was the W.M. while in India, they revived the Lodge; and having got the Brethren of the Ancient Limerick Lodge to assist, the Master and Officers were installed on the 23rd June. The circumstance, having been inserted in a Limerick paper, came under the notice of Sir Edward Blakeney, who immediately wrote to know if such a transaction occurred amongst the officers and men of the 38th; and being answered, that they considered, while the 42nd, 79th, 4th Dragoons, and several other regiments, had Masonic Lodges attached to them, and particularly as they were under the special protection of the law, inasmuch as when all other Secret Societies were prohibited, a special exception was made to Masonry, they could not see any breach of military discipline; but, notwithstanding all these, and other arguments, being used, Sir Edward ordered them to return the warrant at once, and cease to meet as Masons.

Sir Edward Blakeney is an officer of high and unblemished reputation, and every act of his bears the sanction of authority. It is clear, that in the opinion of this gallant Commander, the practice of Freemasonry is inconsistent with the due subordination which the service requires from those gentlemen who hold Her Majesty's commission. In this point of view it may be safely pronounced, that Sir Edward Blakeney is sincere, and actuated by a strict sense of what he considers to be a paramount duty attached to the high station of trust in which he has been placed by the favour of his monarch.

The zeal thus displayed by this distinguished Officer, is, however, unfortunately, a zeal without knowledge. Freemasonry is a system in which subordination is, if possible, more strictly enforced than in the army. How stringent soever may be the details of military discipline, the discipline of Freemasonry is equally severe. The ancient charges provide, that the Officers of a Lodge, supreme and subordinate, are to be obeyed in their respective stations, with all humility, reverence, love, and alacrity. The Master, in the chair, is as despotic in his power, as the Colonel of a regiment; and if Masons meet in the Lodge on the level, so do the Officers at their mess; and in each case, though a system of equality is observed, so far as regards social intercourse, the distinctions of rank are carefully observed, and the courtesies due to each officer marked by a code of honour, which no one can violate with impunity.

Again,—the ancient charges and regulations of Masonry lay it down as an axiom, that “a Mason is a peaceable subject to the civil powers, wherever he resides or works; and is never to be concerned in plots or conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior magistrates.” And, “though all Masons are as brethren upon the level, yet Masonry takes no honours from a man that he had before.” It directs the brethren to “cultivate brotherly love, the foundation and cape-stone, the cement and glory, of this ancient fraternity; to avoid all wrangling and quarrelling, all slander and backbiting, not permitting others to slander any honest brother; but defending his character, and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with their honour and safety, and no farther. That all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time.”

Thus kept within compass by laws of very ancient date, society can have nothing to fear from the practice of Freemasonry. The proceedings of the fraternity have been tested by the experience of ages ; and the monarchs of every free country have extended their patronage to it, as an institution of peace and unity, whose tenets may improve the mind and humanize the heart ; but cannot, by any possibility, be perverted to sanction the designs of sedition, insubordination to lawful authority, or any conspiracy which may endanger the security of the throne, or affect the liberty of the people.

It would be difficult to conjecture in what respect the service would be benefitted by the exclusion of Freemasonry. Would the soldier be more zealous to execute the commands of his superior Officers if he were unacquainted with the obligations of Freemasonry ? Would he be more strict in the performance of military discipline, or more punctual in the discharge of his usual and social duties ? If this were capable of proof, the decision of Sir Edward Blakeney would doubtless be correct. But the principles of Masonry tend to inculcate a different result. A Mason is bound, by his tenure, not only to yield obedience to his lawful superiors—not only to rule and govern his passions, to keep a tongue of good report, and to practise secrecy, (a most estimable virtue in a soldier during the arduous period of actual service,) but he is also enjoined to act in every capacity according to the dictates of reason and religion, to cultivate harmony, to maintain charity, and to live in unity and brotherly love. Now what is there in all this which is unfavourable to the existence of military discipline ?

But the subject will admit of a still more extended reference ; for Freemasonry does not rest its claims to public esteem on the existence of negative benefits. It is believed, that instead of the service

being deteriorated by an association with our noble Order, it would derive essential advantages from such a connexion. In the details of warlike operations, who could be more safely entrusted to undertake a difficult and hazardous expedition than those who have taken the vow of fraternity?—than those who are solemnly pledged to the practice, not only of secrecy, but of fortitude, and prudence, and justice?—than those who are bound to support each other in weal and in woe, in prosperity and adversity; and to stand by each other to the death? Such men are capable of any enterprize. They form the strength of the army. They are the Nisi and Euryali of the host; and the most implicit confidence may be placed in their good faith, attended with a perfect assurance that it will never be violated. Life may be sacrificed, but Masonic virtue cannot be moved.

Nulla meis sine te quæretur gloria rebus,
 Seu pacem, seu bella geram : tibi maxima rerum,
 Verborumque fides. Æn. IX. 277.

A writer in the *Naval and Military Gazette* has stated the subject in another, but equally lucid point of view. He says, "I must confess myself unable to comprehend the object of this most arbitrary proceeding on the part of Sir Edward Blakeney, and shall feel obliged if you will throw some light on it, and state what it is, connected with Freemasonry, that has led Sir Edward Blakeney thus to condemn it as an improper Society for military men to belong to. If he can shew that its introduction into the army has been in any way subversive of good order and military discipline, the question is of course settled; but I must remark, that if any such objection does exist, it is strange that it has never been stated until now; and that it altogether escaped the notice of the following general Officers, who were, to the full, as anxious to maintain strict discipline in the

British army, as the gallant Commander of the Forces in Ireland:—His Royal Highness the Duke of York, the late Duke of Richmond, Earl of Harrington, Marquis of Hastings, Earl of Donoughmore, Sir John Stuart, Sir John Doyle, Lord Combermere, (who was present lately when his son, an Officer in the 7th Hussars, was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry,) and many others, living and dead, were all members of the Masonic Brotherhood, which Sir Edward Blakeney has taken upon himself to denounce as dangerous and hostile to the well being of the army. Did Sir Edward Blakeney ever hear that the 46th fought less gallantly at Dominica, in 1805, because opposed to a body of French, consisting for the most part of Freemasons, although there was at the time a regimental Masonic Lodge in the 46th? or can he shew, in the whole army, regiments which have uniformly maintained a higher character for strict discipline, good conduct, and bravery in the field, than the following regiments, (which I name from memory):—1st Dragoons, 28th, 29th, 38th, 42nd, 46th, 71st, 79th, and 88th, to each of which there is, or was lately, a Masonic Lodge attached?"

There is much truth in this argument; and we hope that Sir Edward Blakeney will take it into his most serious consideration; for although, from the operation of this prohibitory measure, we do not entertain the slightest apprehension for the welfare of Freemasonry, yet we hope, for the satisfaction of his own mind, this gallant Officer will procure admission into the Craft, that he may experience, in his own person, the stability of that bond of Masonic union, which cements the chain of brotherly love, and would constitute the most efficient bulwark to his authority, if put into active exercise, in all the regiments under his command.

A splendid token of respect was this year pre-

sented by the Brethren at Bombay to Bro. Dr. Burnes, P.G.M. for the Western Provinces of India, consisting of three massive Silver Pillars, representing the three most noble orders of Architecture, surmounted by the figures Faith, Hope, and Charity, and each bearing on its pedestal an appropriate device. On the first side, the following inscription :—

“ This Pillar, along with two others, representing the three most noble orders of Architecture, was, on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, A. L. 5838, unanimously voted by the Brethren of the Lodge Perseverance, of Bombay, 546, to their Right Worshipful Master, Brother JAMES BURNES, LL.D., F.R.S., K.G.O., and P.G.M. for Western India, as a token of their fraternal affection, and to mark their deepfelt regard for his brotherly conduct to themselves, as well as their high sense of his brilliant and successful efforts in the cause of Charity, Friendship, and Love to all men.”

“ On the second side—The Armorial Bearings of Bro. Burnes.

“ On the third side—The Arms of the Lodge Perseverance, being the square and compass encircled by a ribband, containing the name and number of the Lodge.

“ On the fourth side—A suitable Masonic Device, differing in each Pillar, and applicable to three degrees of St. John’s Masonry.”

Several other testimonials have graced the present year. A Gold Box was presented to Bro. G. W. Creighton, Esq. Barrister-at-law, Leicester Lodge, Ireland; and a superb Silver Vase and Cover to Bro. G. J. Baldwin, Esq., of “ Fifty,” Dublin; a Past Master’s Jewel to Bro. Molineux, P.G.D. of Ceremonies, Lodge of Sincerity, Liverpool; a Silver Epergne and Candelabrum to Bro. Cuff, late of Freemasons’ Tavern; a Silver Dinner Service to Bro. Sir Herbert Compton, P.G.M. for the Coast of Coromandel; and a Gold Watch and Silver-chased Casket to Bro. Ribbans, of Birmingham.

The numerous testimonials to deserving Brethren which have been recorded in the annals of the last ten years, from the Grand Master down to the Secretary of a Private Lodge, form a powerful evidence of the benefits which have been accomplished within that period, by the united effects of zeal and

assiduity. No one can minutely investigate the science of Freemasonry without becoming wiser and better. The charm operates imperceptibly upon the heart, and, as its details become familiarized to the recollection, the avidity for further information increases, and the studious Brother soon arrives at the summit of the Ladder, and receives his reward, as well in the secret consciousness of mental improvement, as in the public approbation of his Masonic companions.

Several Foundation Stones were laid this year, with Masonic honours, which it would be unnecessary to describe, as the ceremonials bear a striking resemblance to each other. In March, this solemnity was performed at Heckmondwike, by the Right Hon. Bro. Lord Mexborough, P.G.M. West Yorkshire, in levelling the foot stone of a Blanket Hall; in May, of a Bridge across the Leven, in Scotland, by Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Rothes, P.G.M. for Fife; of a new Church, at Thornhill, in Scotland, by the W.M. of St. John's Lodge in that Town; of a Corn Exchange, at Wakefield, by the above-named active and talented P.G.M. for West Yorkshire, Lord Mexborough; in June, of Queen's Hospital at Birmingham, by Bro. the Right Hon. Earl Howe, P. Senior Grand Warden, and of a Public Monument to the Memory of Bro. Trevor Correy, Esq., K.T. and K.M., at Newry, by the Rev. Dr. Campbell. In all these instances, where Masonry has been brought into requisition, in the way of public solemnities, it is evident that the Craft is held in high esteem, and considered an indispensable adjunct to consecrate the details of ceremonial observances, and to convey weight and authority to events, which are in themselves of peculiar importance to the parties immediately interested, as well as to the community at large, in whose neighbourhood the improvements take place.

A general view of the present state of Freemasonry will form a proper conclusion of our labours. In our own country it has assumed a commanding position, which combines strength, stability, and usefulness. The judicious application of its benevolent funds have given it a character for consistency, in the union of profession and practice, which has placed it on a proud elevation amongst the Institutions of the country, and invested it with the patronage of the wise, the talented, and the wealthy. Princes, peers, and prelates, have not thought it beneath their dignity to bestow the advantage of their influence and example in promoting its charitable purposes; nor has the aristocracy of talent been withheld from the graver researches into its history, literature, and science. It provides for the destitute, it trains up the rising generation to virtue and usefulness, the orphan's wants are not disregarded, nor do the widow's tears flow in vain. The argument so often used at the beginning of the present century, that Freemasonry is behind the times, that the exclusive and secret character of Freemasonry is not in accordance with the spirit of the age, that while other sciences are progressing with great rapidity, Freemasonry remains stationary, and makes no advances whatever,—cannot apply to the Society as it is practised now. We need only take a deliberate view of the present state of the Order, compared with its exclusive tendency at that period, to be convinced that the argument is erroneous.

Freemasonry holds on a progressive and improving course; and it is a question whether the science does not advance at least as rapidly as any other individual institution in this country, where literary societies are so abundant. If we consider the highly respectable character of our Grand and Prov. Grand Lodges, composed as they are, of noble and talented Brothers, we shall see that this opinion is very

generally entertained amongst the Craft. Nay, at the present moment, there exists—not in this or that province merely, but throughout the whole Masonic community—an intense excitement respecting the philosophy of Masonry, which is daily spreading and increasing, under the influence of literary characters who have enrolled their names amongst us. To those who regard the Lodge merely as a bacchanalian meeting, Freemasonry is still behind the times. But to that noble band, who consider Freemasonry as it really is, an engine to enlighten the mind, and disseminate science and morals through every department of life, it is not only equal with the times, but it soars beyond the narrow and selfish pursuits of bigotry and superstition, and opens the arms of benevolence to embrace, in one wide and universal bond, the fraternity of every clime, every religion, and every grade of political feeling.

In the sister kingdoms, the science presents an aspect equally favourable, and its Lodges flourish under the patronage of nobility, who attend the meetings, and, by their personal example, enforce those beneficent regulations which distinguish the proceedings of Freemasonry, and raise it above the level of ordinary Societies where men associate themselves together for benevolent or scientific purposes. The stately banquet—the fancy ball—the procession by torch-light—all serve the purposes of sacred charity; and thus Freemasonry, in both branches of the United Kingdom, while it contributes to the amusement and gratification of the rich, sheds its blessings on the poor and needy. The details of the Order are conducted with a magnificence worthy of a great and noble Institution, displaying its honours in the stately halls of the prince's palace, as well as in the secluded retreat of tyled Lodges. Is the loyalty of Freemasonry ques-

tioned? The answer is ready. It is patronized and conducted by those who have the greatest stake in the country, and with whom disloyalty would generate loss of honour, wealth, and distinction. The grand pillar of Masonry contributes to the support of our civil and social establishments, connecting the Order with all that is dear to the heart in our altars and our homes. The state, during the period which these sheets are intended to illustrate, has recognised the faithful character, and confiding loyalty of Irish Masonry, and conferred the privilege of exemption from penalties which attach to others who have not had the advantage of initiation into its mysteries.

Freemasonry has had obstacles to contend against in the South of Europe, which have materially curtailed its operation, and retarded its progress. A jealousy has been entertained against the existence of Secret Societies of every description, because it is well known, that in the Lodges of the Illuminati, dangerous principles were inculcated, to which the revolution in France, and all its attendant evils and miseries, have been attributed;* and the terrors inspired by the Vheme Gerichte left behind a lasting and unfavourable impression. In Germany, however, while the scenes which were enacted on its own soil, alarmed the rest of Europe, Freemasonry has been cultivated with great assiduity and success; and this is almost the only continental nation where its principles have been tolerated. Here its details are conducted with superior splendour. Superb halls have been erected for the periodical meetings of its members; and their appointments and decorations are on a scale of profuse magnificence, which yield only to the grandeur of a royal palace. In their processions, stately cano-

* Vid. Preston 14th and 15 Edit. p. 293.

pies of satin, velvet, fine linen, and gold, of all the Masonic colours, borne over the persons of the Grand Masters, and the presiding Officers of every Private Lodge; the Ark of the Covenant veiled from profane eyes by a crimson velvet pall, fringed and tasselled with silver; the silken banners laced and fringed with gold and bullion; and the flowing robes of the Grand Officers, all combine to render them a scene of grave and pompous display, that command and secure respect and veneration. The ceremonies to be used on all public occasions are prescribed in writing, on the authority of "the Great Master," and they contain matters of importance which might be profitably introduced into English Masonry.

In India, the science languished from the time of the Marquis of Hastings' Vice-royalty, until a very recent period. The accounts which we now receive from that part of the Empire are highly gratifying. The spirit of Masonry is busily at work, and the Brethren appear to be, one and all, actuated by an earnest desire to augment the resources of the Craft, and to atone for their former supineness, by a zealous discharge of every Masonic duty. The authorities have been strengthened by the Grand Lodge of England, and the machinery is now in full and efficient operation. New Lodges spring up in the most distant provinces, and the Brethren increase in numbers and respectability. Actuated by the purest motives of mutual aid, and mutual enjoyment, our Indian Brethren use their masonry to confer sterling benefits on mankind, by making it conducive to the practice of morality. It is indeed the true object of every Institution to induce men to perform their social and civil duties more perfectly, and this appears to be the aim and end of Masonry in the East. Even the convivialities of the Society are accompanied by the exercise of benevolence, and hence its increasing reputation will be hailed and

blessed in that widely-extended principality, as one of the means by which the civilization of its native population will be ultimately accomplished.

In America, Freemasonry has received an impulse from Great Britain, which has revived the spirits of its friends; who, a few years ago, entertained apprehensions for its existence. Masonry equally dislikes a republic and a despotism, and flourishes most under the sway of a mild and gentle monarchy. Each State in the New World has its Grand Lodge, and none are superior to the rest. Hence there exists a diversity of usages, which operate unfavourably to the general spread of the science, by that want of unanimity and authority which are essential to its prosperity. On the whole, however, Freemasonry at the present period is progressing, and the establishment of one General Grand Lodge, which should be invested with supreme power to legislate for the benefit of the provinces, would afford a consistency that could not operate otherwise than favourably for the Craft.

Freemasonry is springing up in our colonies, and promises well. To our Brethren in these distant regions we wish health and prosperity, assured that the practice of our mysteries cannot fail, while it reminds them of their native country, to be a solace and comfort under any privations which may spring from a change of habit and social enjoyments. In Canada and the West Indies the Lodges are numerous, but the Brethren are not sufficiently on the alert. From the Cape of Good Hope* and Sydney,

* The following interesting account of Dutch Masonry at the Cape of Good Hope, is given in the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* for December, 1838:—"In Table Valley, in a beautiful grove, stands the Dutch Lodge, consisting of two elegant buildings; one (the Temple) appropriated entirely to the mysteries of the Craft. It contains a very spacious and elegantly-adorned hall, something resembling Freemasons' Hall in London. In this room it is customary, on the death of a Brother, to invite the friends of the de-

the accounts are more gratifying, and the few Lodges under our banner, dispersed over Europe, viz. at Gibraltar, the Canary Islands, Malta, Corfu, &c., are occasionally at work, but they are too distant and detached from the Masonic body to produce any remarkable fruits.

Royal Arch Masonry in our own country has recently undergone some revision, which promises to effect a permanent good. Complaints have been common amongst the Fraternity that the Chapters are indifferently attended, and the companions of the Order appear to be in want of some powerful stimulus which might operate to remove this defect. The ceremonies of exaltation, as well as the Lectures, have been remodelled, and the Constitutions improved, but the root of the evil still remains.

ceased. The Lodge is assembled and the orator delivers an address, in which he sets forth the merits of the departed Brother. This is considered a mark of great respect towards the memory of the deceased. In this building are also rooms set apart for each Degree, and containing every requisite for each. The other building, separate from the former, consists of an elegant suite of banquetting room, committee rooms, and apartments for the housekeeper. From the walls of the banquetting room are suspended portraits of the different Grand Masters and Past Masters. In this room, which is capable of accommodating from five to seven hundred guests, our Dutch Brethren give frequent entertainments to the fair sex, thus permitting the gentler portion of the human race to participate, if not in the mysteries, at least in the sweets of Freemasonry. In this Lodge there is a fund, amounting to several thousand pounds, from which the son of any member, (indeed we believe any Mason,) wishing to complete his education in Europe, but whose circumstances will not admit of it, on forwarding an application to the Lodge, will, under certain regulations, be allowed an annual sum to enable him to carry out his intentions. On the return of the individual to the colony, and after having established himself in his profession, the sums received from the Lodge are repaid. There is also a school supported by the Lodge, for the instruction of the children of Masons. Our correspondent states that, some time ago, a letter was forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Holland, conveying the request of the Cape Masons to be relieved from their allegiance, as it was their intention to frame a constitution for their own government, and appoint their Grand Master."

The proper remedy has not been applied. If Royal Arch Masonry be expected to flourish according to its merits—if it be desirable that this sublime Degree should come into general and efficient practice—it must be the result of a process which has not yet been adopted. Sumptuary laws will fail, because they do not touch the heart; and regulations for the enforcement of discipline will not induce men to give up their time to a system, which, however sublime in its principles, or magnificent in its details, is accompanied by a machinery too cumbersome for the effect which it actually produces. It is the inclination which must be biassed. Something is wanting in the details which may infuse into the mind a desire of knowledge, and an emulation to excel. Until this is supplied, the Chapters will still be unattended, and Royal Arch Masonry occupy a subordinate rank in the estimation of the Fraternity.

Thus have we toiled, with zeal and anxiety, through the History of Freemasonry for the last ten years, and a period more replete with incident and general benefits to the Order, does not exist throughout the long extent of its diversified annals. Questions of vast importance have arisen, which it is the duty of the historian to discuss with impartiality and truth. The course, when the chief actors in these matters are living, and some of them his own personal friends, is difficult. Prejudice will at times intrude to cloud the judgment, and paint passing occurrences in colours which may not bear the test of strict examination. It is hoped, however, that the charge of wilful misrepresentation will not attach to us in our view of the chief occurrences of this eventful period. We have dismissed all extraneous considerations, and endeavoured to steer our bark by the compass of veracity. And the record will display our benevolent institutions in their full activity, which constitute the fair blossoms of the Order, and

display it before the public as an establishment of universal charity, founded upon the steadfast basis of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, surmounted by the Cardinal, and crowned by the Theological virtues.

We now take a fraternal leave of our readers, with a sincere and hearty wish that the next decennial period may add as many laurels to Freemasonry as that which is passed. Thus will it be placed on a proud elevation, at the head of the Scientific and Charitable Establishments which grace and ornament our country.

THE END.

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