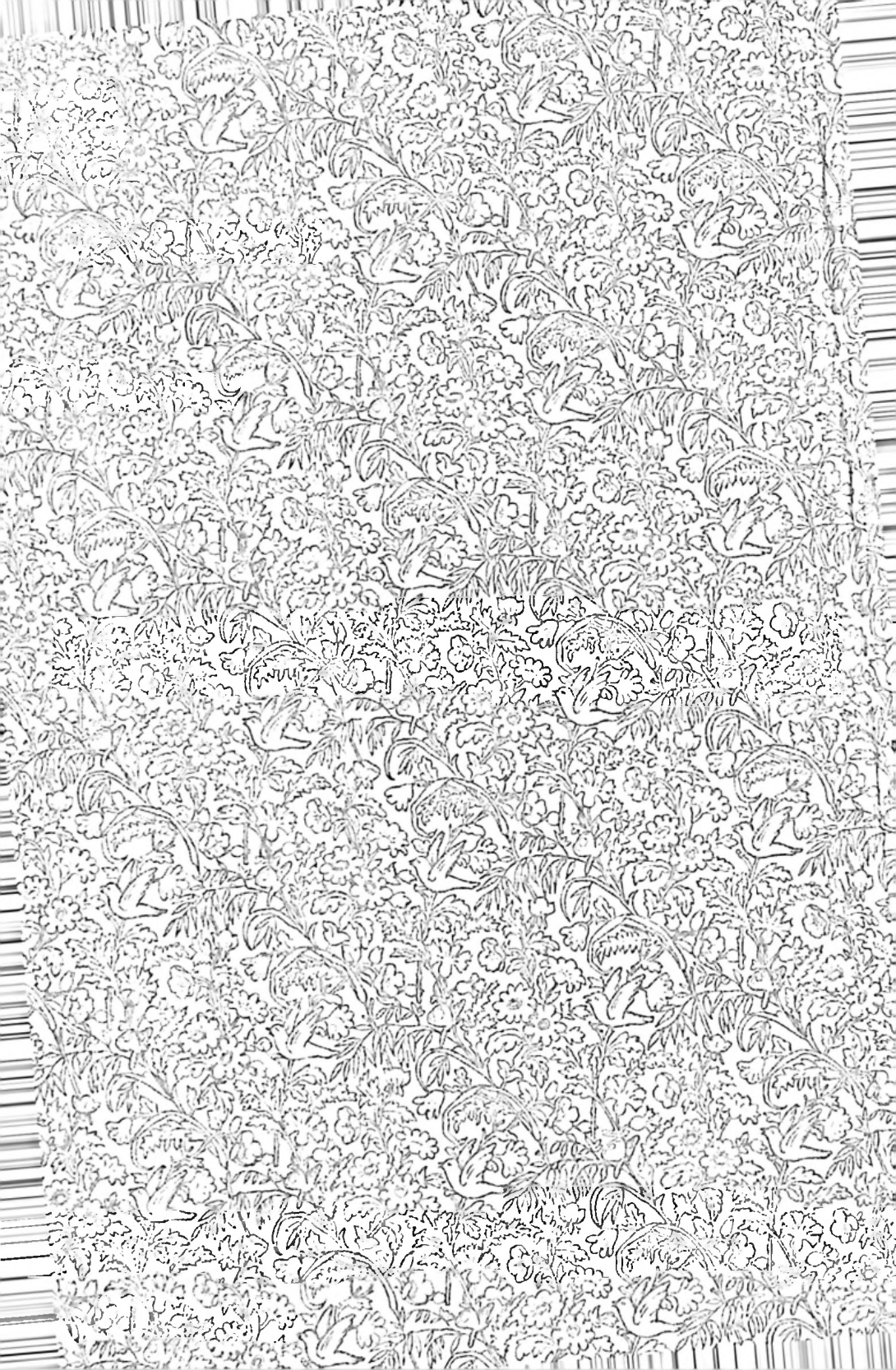
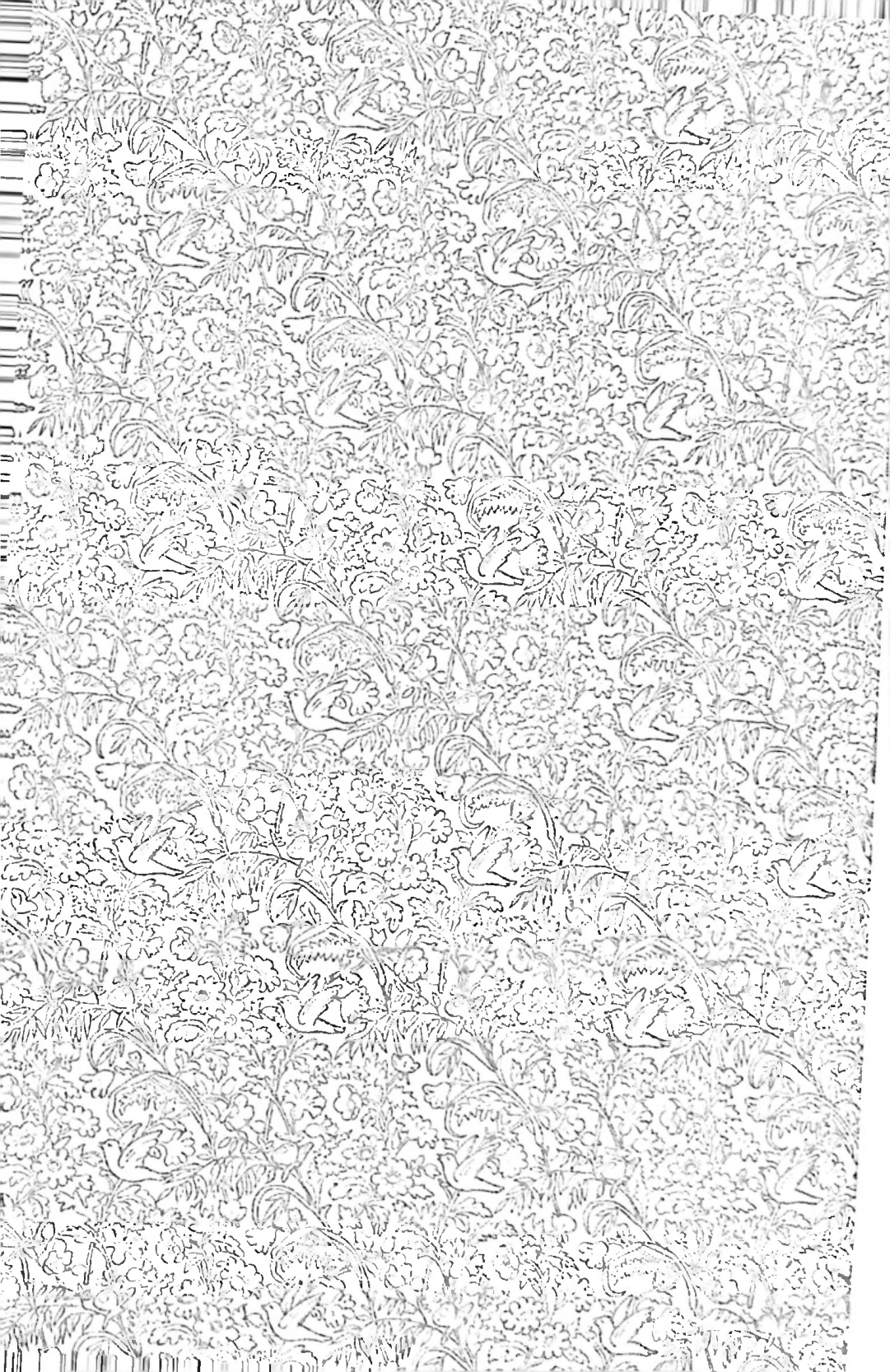


*ILLUSTRATED HISTORY*  
*OF THE*  
*EMULATION LODGE*  
*OF IMPROVEMENT.*

---

*HENRY SADLER.*







Compliment of

L. M. Lincoln

Chicago, July 13<sup>th</sup> 1904



To

The Worshipful Brother,  
Robert Clay Sudlow,

Senior Member of the Committee of the Emulation Lodge of  
Improvement,

Past Master of the Bank of England Lodge, No. 263,

The Eastes Lodge, No. 1965, and

The Jubilee Masters' Lodge, No. 2712,

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

of the

United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and  
Accepted Masons of England.

In Appreciation of his Masonic Abilities,

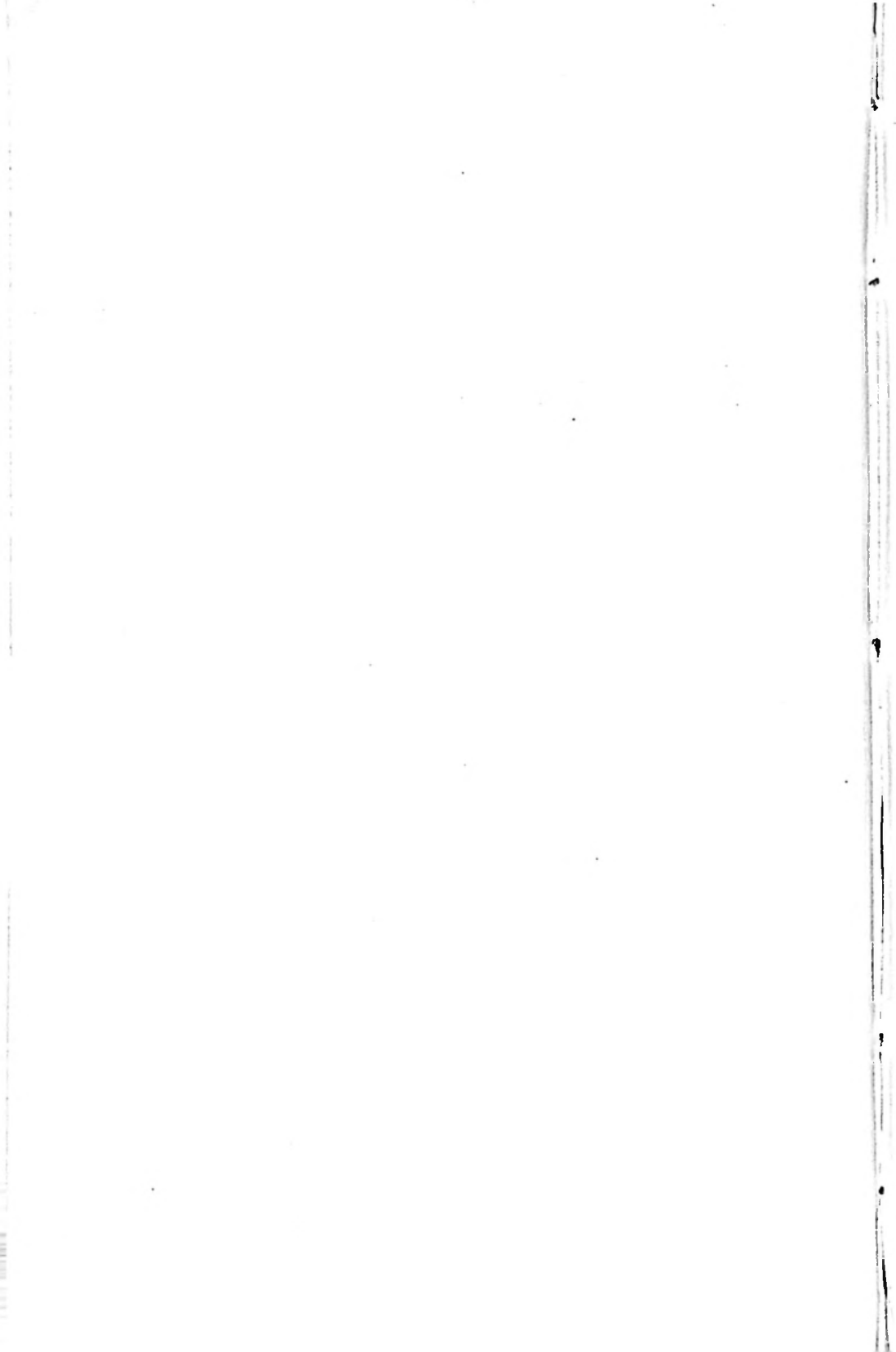
and in acknowledgement of his zeal in disseminating

The Principles and Practice of Freemasonry.

This Volume

is

Respectfully and Fraternaly Dedicated.





W. BRO. ROBERT CLAY SUDLOW, P.A.G.D.C.

---

OF the many eminent Masons mentioned in these pages, we make bold to say none have a larger circle of friends and admirers than the distinguished brother whose name heads this page. We propose, therefore, in concluding our labours, to present our readers with a brief sketch of his Masonic services, especially in relation to Craft and Royal Arch Masonry.

In the first place it is but fair to state that he is a liberal contributor to the charities of the Order. We have already shown that Bro. Sudlow's fame as a capable and energetic teacher of the ritual of Masonry is by no means confined to the Metropolis of England, and the following extract from a letter written by the District Grand Secretary of Queensland, W. Bro. H. Courtenay Luck, P.A.G.D.C., shows that it extends to one of the most distant of our colonies:—

“Compliments to Bro. Sudlow on his well-earned promotion. Toowong has opened the first Lodge of Instruction in Queensland. It is founded on what I observed in, and the rules I got from, ‘Emulation,’ and has caught on muchly.”

Bro. Sudlow was initiated in 1877 in the East Surrey Lodge of Concord, No. 463, Croydon. In 1879 he assisted in founding the Clapham Lodge, No. 1818. He joined the Bank of England Lodge, No. 263, in 1881, and was elected and re-elected W.M. in 1885 and 1886, and elected Treasurer in 1895. In 1882 he was a Founder and first W.M. of the Eastes Lodge, No. 1965, Bromley, Kent, and elected

Treasurer in 1884. For his services in connection with this Lodge he was appointed Prov. S.G.D. Kent. Joined the Jubilee Masters Lodge in 1902, and was installed Master of that Lodge on the 20th March, 1903. He has been also recently elected a member of the Galen (Chemists') Lodge, No. 2394. In 1883 he was exalted in the Royal Middlesex Chapter, No. 1194, Hampton Court, and was elected M.E.Z. in 1886, being in the course of the same year invested as Prov. G. Scribe N. In 1887 he joined the Old King's Arms Chapter, No. 28, was elected Z. in 1889 and Treasurer in 1902; was a Founder and first Z. of the Columbia Chapter in 1897. In 1890 he was appointed Grand Standard Bearer in Grand Lodge and Dep. Grand Director of Ceremonies in Grand Chapter, and in 1900 was promoted to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. He has been advanced to the Mark Degree in Hiram Lodge, No. 13, served as Master in 1890, and is P.P.G.M.O. Middlesex and Surrey. In the Order of the Temple Bro. (we apologise) Sir Knight Sudlow was a Founder of King Edward VIIth Preceptory, and is E.P. Elect.

Bro. Sudlow is an Honorary Member of the following regular Lodges as well as of numerous Lodges of Instruction:—Lodge of Unions, No. 256; Lodge of Progress, No. 1768; Clapham Lodge, No. 1818; Columbia Lodge, No. 2397; Pickwick Lodge, No. 2467; National Artillery Lodge, No. 2578; Hygeia Lodge, No. 2664; Playgoers' Lodge, No. 2705; Foster Gough Lodge, No. 2706; Aldersbrook Lodge, No. 2841; Bridge Trust Lodge, No. 2878; Holden Lodge, No. 2946.

From the 27th December, 1878, the date of his joining, to February 27th, 1903, the subject of this sketch has made 775 attendances at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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I ACCEPT it as a great compliment to have been invited to write an introduction to this History. And yet, while it is delightful to me to be thus associated with this permanent record of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, I cannot think that a preface is really necessary. Certainly nothing can be added to make the "History" more complete, for to the readers of its pages (and I hope they will be numbered by the thousand) it will be evident that Bro. Sadler has spared no pains to ensure their being put in possession of every event of interest in connection with the Lodge during the eighty years of its existence. And what a reputation it has built up in the course of this extended period! To-day "Emulation" is known throughout the length and breadth of the Masonic world, and its system of ritual accepted as a standard of working.

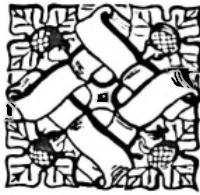
Surely this is at once an example of the survival of the fittest and a testimony to the care which the members of the Lodge of Reconciliation brought to bear upon the important work they were commissioned to carry out.

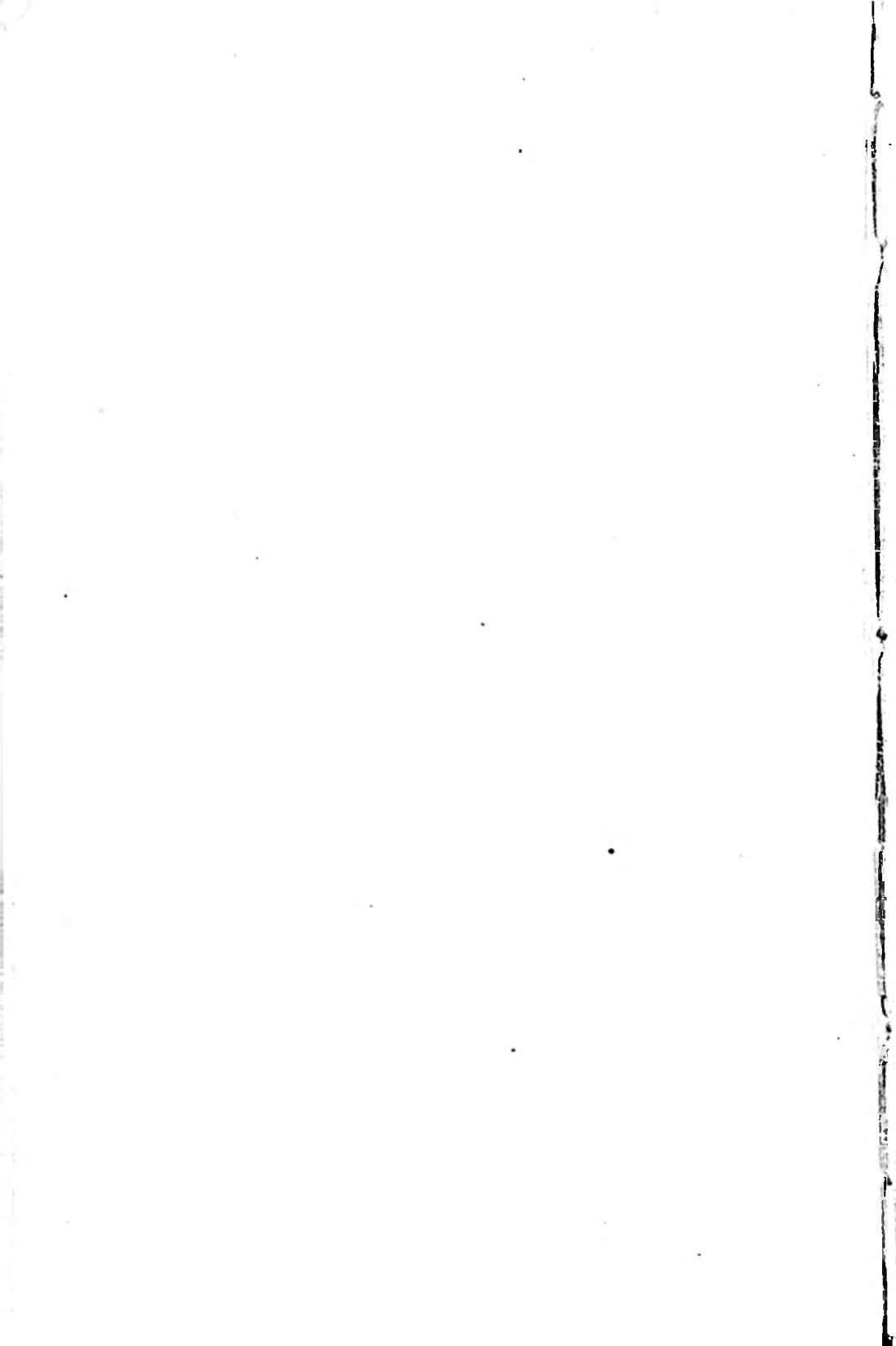
It is, I think, interesting to note that the "personal element" introduced from the very first into the government of the Lodge has been sustained to the present time without any intermission, while on the other hand no

change in the "personality" has in the slightest degree checked or interfered with the success or progress of the Lodge as an Institution. May it always happen—as in the past, so in the future—that when the need arises a Mason will be found able and willing to take the helm.

As an "Emulation" enthusiast I cannot but rejoice that its "History" has been written and that the task fell into the competent hands of Bro. Sadler, who, apart from his well-known ability as an author, was the man of all others to deal with it successfully because, having been in personal touch with many of the pioneers of the Lodge, he can write authoritatively of those things which he has both seen and heard. May his work be the means of making "Emulation" still more widely known and appreciated.

R. CLAY SUDLOW.







HISTORY  
OF THE  
Emulation Lodge of Improvement,

No. 256.

---

CHAPTER I.

HAVING undertaken the compilation of an historical sketch of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, we are of opinion that it would be advisable, before entering directly upon that subject, to offer a few brief remarks on the general history and condition of the Craft in the English Metropolis and the important events which immediately preceded the inauguration of this celebrated school of Masonic instruction.

Down to the year 1813, and for about sixty years prior to that period, there were two Grand Lodges in London, each having many subordinate lodges under its jurisdiction in nearly every part of the civilized world. The older of these bodies was established in the year 1717, and has been variously designated "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England," "The Regular Grand Lodge," "The Modern Grand Lodge," and, later, "The Grand Lodge under the Prince of Wales," George, Prince of Wales, afterwards King George the Fourth, having been its Grand Master from 1790 to 1813.

The other Grand Lodge started in the year 1751 as a Grand Committee, which blossomed into a Grand Lodge two years later. This body was known as "The Grand Lodge of the Ancients," or, to give it its full description, "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons According to the Old

Institutions." Its members were also designated "Athole Masons," because two Dukes of that name had presided over them as Grand Masters. For the sake of brevity and as a simple distinction these two Societies were, and still are, referred to by Masonic writers as "Ancients" and "Moderns," the "Ancients" being the organization of 1751, and the "Moderns" that of 1717.

At first sight this description of them naturally appears somewhat strange, but it can be explained in this way :

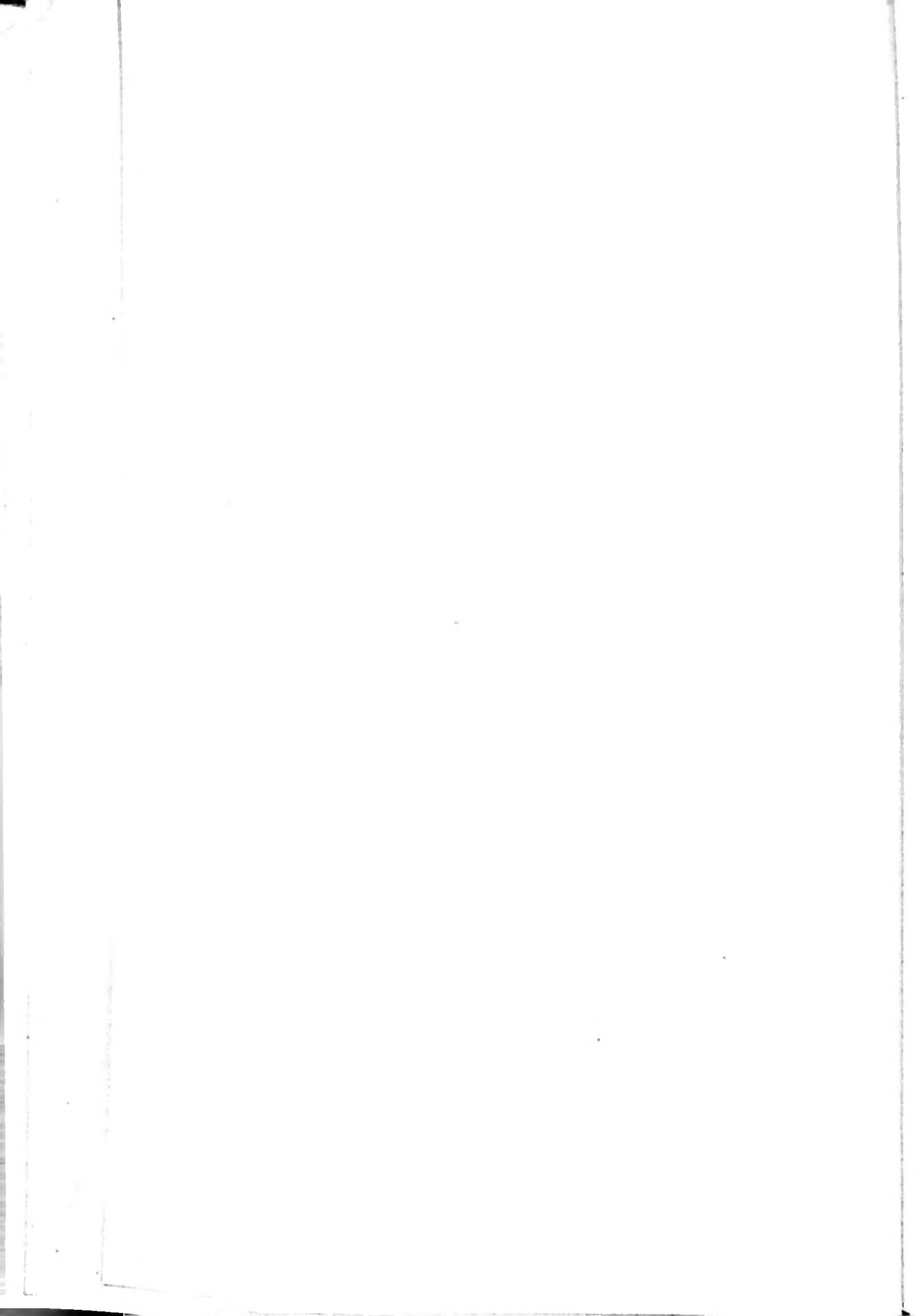
The regular Grand Lodge of 1717, although undoubtedly the elder as an organized body, had, for certain reasons, so altered the ceremonies and deviated from the old customs of the Craft, that, according to their opponents of 1751, they have forfeited their right to the title of "Ancient," while they themselves, having preserved the traditional usages and ceremonies unaltered, were the real "Ancient" Masons, and no doubt there was a certain amount of truth in these allegations. A strong and bitter rivalry existed between the two Societies for many years, promoted and fostered, I regret to say, chiefly by some of the leading Masons on both sides. In fact, it was at first a struggle for absolute power and supremacy on the part of the Moderns—the older and possibly more respectable community—and for existence as an organization on the part of the Ancients, who were stigmatized by their rivals as seceders, schismatics, rebels, and even still more offensive terms were applied to them.

In the course of years the anger of these two rival societies became softened, they found that neither of them could gain the mastery, and as they became better acquainted they learned to respect each other, and, naturally so, for they were both animated by the same noble motive—the dissemination of the grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Owing to the exertions of some of the more enlightened members of both Grand Lodges, an Union, on terms mutually honourable, was finally consummated in the year 1813. Since this period, our Society has been known as



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT. GRAND MASTER, 1813.



the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

As may readily be gathered from the reason given for the names of "Ancients" and "Moderns" having been applied to the opposing factions, various discrepancies existed in their customs and ceremonies. It is of course quite impossible to even hint at the nature of those differences in these columns, suffice it to say that they had given rise to much contention—and in order to ensure something like harmony in the future, it was essential that considerable tact and forbearance should be exercised. In conformity therefore with the "Articles of Union," an equal number of brethren were selected from the two Fraternities for the purpose of effecting an uniformity of ritual, and arranging the future ceremonies of the Craft. Accordingly, a Warrant bearing date 7th December, 1813, signed by the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master of the "Moderns," and witnessed by the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the "Antients," was issued for a lodge to be called the Lodge of Reconciliation, probably the only Masonic Warrant in existence bearing the sign manual of two Royal Grand Masters.

When the members of this lodge had agreed amongst themselves as to the ceremonies, numerous meetings were held for the purpose of instructing the Craft generally, and those meetings were attended by brethren from all parts of the kingdom, amongst them being several who afterwards joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, including Edwards Harper, Grand Secretary, also Secretary of the Lodge of Reconciliation, and the celebrated Peter Gilkes, of whom more hereafter. No pains appear to have been spared in order to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, and it was not till the 20th May, 1816, that the ceremonies decided upon were rehearsed for the approval of the United Grand Lodge, as the following extracts from the records of that date will show:—

"The M.W. Grand Master stated that he had convened

this special Grand Lodge that the Lodge of Reconciliation might exhibit and explain to the brethren the result of their arrangements made pursuant to the directions contained in the 4th and 5th Articles of the Act of Union. That it was not His Royal Highness's intention that any discussion should this day take place as to those arrangements, but that at the Quarterly Communication on the 5th of next month he should submit them for the opinion and sanction of the Grand Lodge, so that the Brethren might in the interim have an opportunity of giving them due consideration.

"The Officers and Members of the Lodge of Reconciliation then opened a Lodge in the First, Second, and Third Degrees successively, and exhibited the ceremonies of initiating, passing, and raising a Mason as proposed by them for general adoption and practice in the Craft.

"These Ceremonies being ended, the Grand Lodge was closed in ample Form, with solemn prayer, and adjourned."

#### GRAND LODGE MINUTES 5TH JUNE, 1816.

"The Minutes of the Grand Lodge on the 20th May last, when the Ceremonies and Practices recommended by the Lodge of Reconciliation were exhibited and explained, were Read; and, alterations on two points, in the Third Degree, having been resolved upon, the several Ceremonies, &c., recommended were approved and confirmed."

It will thus be seen that in 1816, a particular method of opening and closing a lodge in the three Degrees, and of Initiating, Passing, and Raising was accepted and approved by the Grand Lodge, representing the whole of the English Fraternity.

In all probability assemblages of Masons for the purpose of mutual instruction were coeval with the formation of regular lodges meeting on stated days, but when the lodges met much more frequently than they do now, there was, as a matter of course, less need of general lodges of instruction.

An examination of the old lists of lodges will show that

many of them formerly held fortnightly meetings, and some even more frequently; for instance, No, 163, of 1738, is advertised to meet on the first, second, and third Thursday, and to hold a Master's Lodge every Sunday; and the minute book of the period shews that the lodge did so meet. No special legislation for instruction purposes seems to have been required until after the Union, when the ceremonies were re-arranged and promulgated throughout the English Fraternity, and lodges of instruction naturally became important factors in our Masonic system. They are not mentioned in the Constitutions prior to 1819; but in this edition, regulations similar in substance to those now in force appear, and others have been added as circumstances required. Fifteen Lodges of Instruction are named in the Calendar for 1814 (issued in November, 1813), and the same number in that for 1815, after which years they appear to have been entirely omitted from the Calendar until 1841, when, under the heading of "Lodges of Instruction which have given notice of their meetings in conformity with the laws of the Grand Lodge," three only are named in London, although it is quite certain that many others were at this time in active and regular work. Ten years later the list includes twenty-nine, and others were added, increasing year by year, the last issue of the Calendar showing no less than 211 in the London district alone.

The first volume of the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, published in 1834, gives a list of twelve Lodges of Instruction in London, with the names of about twenty brethren who attended them for the purpose of imparting Masonic knowledge. At the head of this list stands the "Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Blue Posts, Charlotte Street, Rathbone Place; Friday, at 7 in the winter and 8 in the summer. Brothers Dowley, Cooper, Wilson, Pitt, &c."

Each of the lodges mentioned appear to have been attended by several of these old instructors, some of whose names are appended to more than one of the lodges. Unfortunately, the early records of the Emulation Lodge of

Improvement are lost, but the list of members from its commencement is still preserved intact.

The periodical above-mentioned for 1836 contains the following brief outline of its origin :—“About the year 1823 several Brethren considered that the Masonic lectures were not worked in Lodges upon a sufficiently regulated system, and that if those whose attainments as working Masons placed them as a prominent authority were to meet together and to work efficiently, they might be the means of effecting much improvement. They accordingly met, we believe, in Wardour Street, pursuant to a general notice in the public papers, which advertisement created a considerable sensation in the Craft. Some members of the Grand Stewards Lodge, hitherto the only authority for a recognised system, felt that it was necessary to watch the proceedings. Some Grand Officers, with Brother E. Harper, the Grand Secretary, also attended. The several chairs, from the Master to the Outer Guard, were all filled with the most practical and experienced Masons of the day ; and we have the authority of a Grand Officer for stating, that never was there so perfect an illustration of the ceremonies and lectures ever before manifested. The visitors separated highly delighted ; amongst them the lamented Peter Gilkes, who so highly approved of the proceedings, that in about twelve months afterwards he joined the lodge, and supported it until the time of his death.

“At first the object was confined to the delivering of lectures, but afterwards the ceremonies were introduced which gave great satisfaction. Gratified as we are to bear testimony to the value and importance of this Lodge, and satisfied as we are of its influence on the Craft, we must enter our caution to the leading members of it not to relax from the discipline so unremittingly enforced by the institutors, and which was especially observed by the late Peter Gilkes. We do not make this allusion without cause. Let the excellent Brethren to whose care the interests of the lodge are unanimously confided, feel no diffidence in correcting the passing errors. They should remember that error may





H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SUSSEX, GRAND MASTER. 1813-43.



become practice unless early checked. And we further call upon the junior members to weigh with scrupulous care the language which the landmarks permit, and not to be too ready to alter, in the *slightest degree*, what is in itself so excellent."

In the absence of more definite information we may take the foregoing as a fairly accurate description of the proceedings at the inauguration of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, although it is to be regretted that the writer did not take the trouble to make himself more familiar with dates and details. There ought to have been no difficulty at the period when it was written, as the records of the lodge were then available, and no doubt many of those who took part in the opening proceedings were then living.

The minutes of the Lodge of Hope, No. 7 (now the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance), for the 27th of November, 1823, contain the following record:—"Agreed to sanction a Lodge of Instruction entitled the Lodge of Emulation, at present held at the Old Red Lion, Cavendish Street, meeting every Friday."

The trite saying that small beginnings have sometimes great results, was never better exemplified than in this curt and meagre record of the sponsorship of a lodge which has since attained world-wide celebrity, and whose influence on English Craft working is unparalleled.

The Register of Members shows that the lodge was established on the 2nd of October, 1823, and that the following brethren were the Founders of it:—

Name.	Old No.	Name of Lodge.	Present No.
Joseph Dennis ... ..	7	Hope ... ..	7
..... Sheppard ... ..	8	British ... ..	8
G. Taylor ... ..	8	" ... ..	8
Thomas Cant ... ..	11	Enoch ... ..	11
Wm. Neale ... ..	71	Constitutional ... ..	55
G. Margerison ... ..	71	" ... ..	55
John Darwin ... ..	71	" ... ..	55
Thomas Chamberlain ... ..	71	" ... ..	55

Name.	Old No.	Name of Lodge.	Present No.
Thomas Lewis ... ..	92	Grenadiers ... ..	66
A. Westcott ... ..	152	Burlington ... ..	96
James Mivart ... ..	152	" ... ..	96
J. Bradford ... ..	299	St. James's Union ... ..	180
J. G. Braid ... ..	299	" " ... ..	180
Wm. Edwards ... ..	299	" " ... ..	180
F. Manton ... ..	299	" " ... ..	180
John Smyth ... ..	299	" " ... ..	180
Geo. Sergeant ... ..	299	" " ... ..	180
..... Johnson ... ..	335	Percy ... ..	198
J. H. Wilson ... ..	335	" ... ..	198
E. S. Garner ... ..	481	Unions ... ..	256
E. Wittington ... ..	481	" ... ..	256
Wm. Harper ... ..	—	(Lodge unknown) ... ..	—
..... Jones ... ..	—	" " ... ..	—

It will thus be seen that at least nine lodges were represented by the Founders, and that the St. James's Union Lodge and the Constitutional Lodge bear the palm in point of numbers. Both of these lodges have for many years past had their own lodges of instruction.

We are unable to find in the newspapers of the period any reference to the lodge during the first year of its existence or of its ever having met in Wardour Street.

Unfortunately, in some respects, Masonic journalism was a non-entity prior to 1834, and the public press was occasionally resorted to, not only for advertising Masonic meetings, but for the airing of Masonic grievances also.

The earliest mention of the lodge which we have been able to find in print is in *The Public Ledger* of October 11th, 1824, where, amongst other notifications of Masonic meetings, appears the following :—

"Friday—Emulation Lodge of Instruction, Red Lion, Old Cavendish-street."

This notice was continuous, and in the following month "(M.M. only)" was added.

Although not published in the Grand Lodge Calendar, a register of the several lodges of instruction meeting in

the metropolis was kept by the Grand Secretary. This register confirms the advertisement just quoted as to the early meetings of the lodge having been held at the *Red Lion*, Old Cavendish Street, and further informs us that its next abiding place was at the *Burlington Arms*, Old Burlington Street. Early in 1830 we find from the following Memorial, that it was located at the *Blue Posts*, Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, where it remained until March, 1836 :—

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

“ We the undersigned being members of the lodge of instruction called the Emulation Lodge of Improvement meeting at the Blue Posts Charlotte Street Fitzroy Sqr, under the sanction of the Lodge of Hope since its commencement on the 2nd of October 1823 beg leave most respectfully to state that this lodge of instruction is for M.Ms. only, always commencing with the lecture in the 3rd degree, and taking the other lectures in rotation as time will permit, and are worked according to the custom of the Grand Stewards Lodge, and since the commencement of the same there have joined between three & four hundred brethren, and that the number attending in the year 1827 was 795, in 1828—1109—in 1829—833—total 2735, making the average number for each night 18 for the last three years, but in consequence of the communication and command received from your Royal Highness on the last Quarterly Communication we are bebarred from meeting and working as we have been accustomed to viz electing the W.M. and he appointing his officers for the next night of meeting, so that the brethren may have an opportunity of giving the section they are appointed to work due consideration previously to the night of meeting which is on every Friday. This Lodge of Instruction is circumstanced differently from any other in the Order, having only one of the members belonging to the lodge under whose sanction it is held and that one the W.M. who now comes amongst us.

Having thus laid the statement and manner of working before your Royal Highness and having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, we are anxious to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the Art in a regular constitutional manner, and wishing to excite *emulation* amongst the younger brethren and to give such instruction that when they may have the honour to be appointed to any office or elected to the Chair, in a regular lodge they may be fully competent to discharge the important duties of the same with that correctness and regularity which is so essential to the well ruling and governing a lodge. We do therefore pray that your Royal Highness will be pleased to grant this lodge of instruction your especial license and authority so that we may meet and conduct the business of Masonry which we trust has been done for nearly seven years, and the undersigned as in duty will ever pray."

The foregoing Memorial appears to have been prompted by a "Communication and Command" from the Grand Master at a meeting of the Grand Lodge on the 3rd March, 1830, but unfortunately we are left quite in the dark as to the nature of that Communication, the Grand Lodge Records of the date mentioned containing nothing appertaining to Lodges of Instruction; nor does the reply to the memorial, here appended, throw any light upon the matter. It is possible that the Memorial induced the Grand Master to reconsider the subject, and that his command was intentionally omitted from the minutes. However that may be, the lodge appears to have gone on about the same as it had from its beginning, and, indeed, as it has ever since, with regard to the election of Master and the appointment of officers.

Reply to the memorial :—

" F. M. Hall,

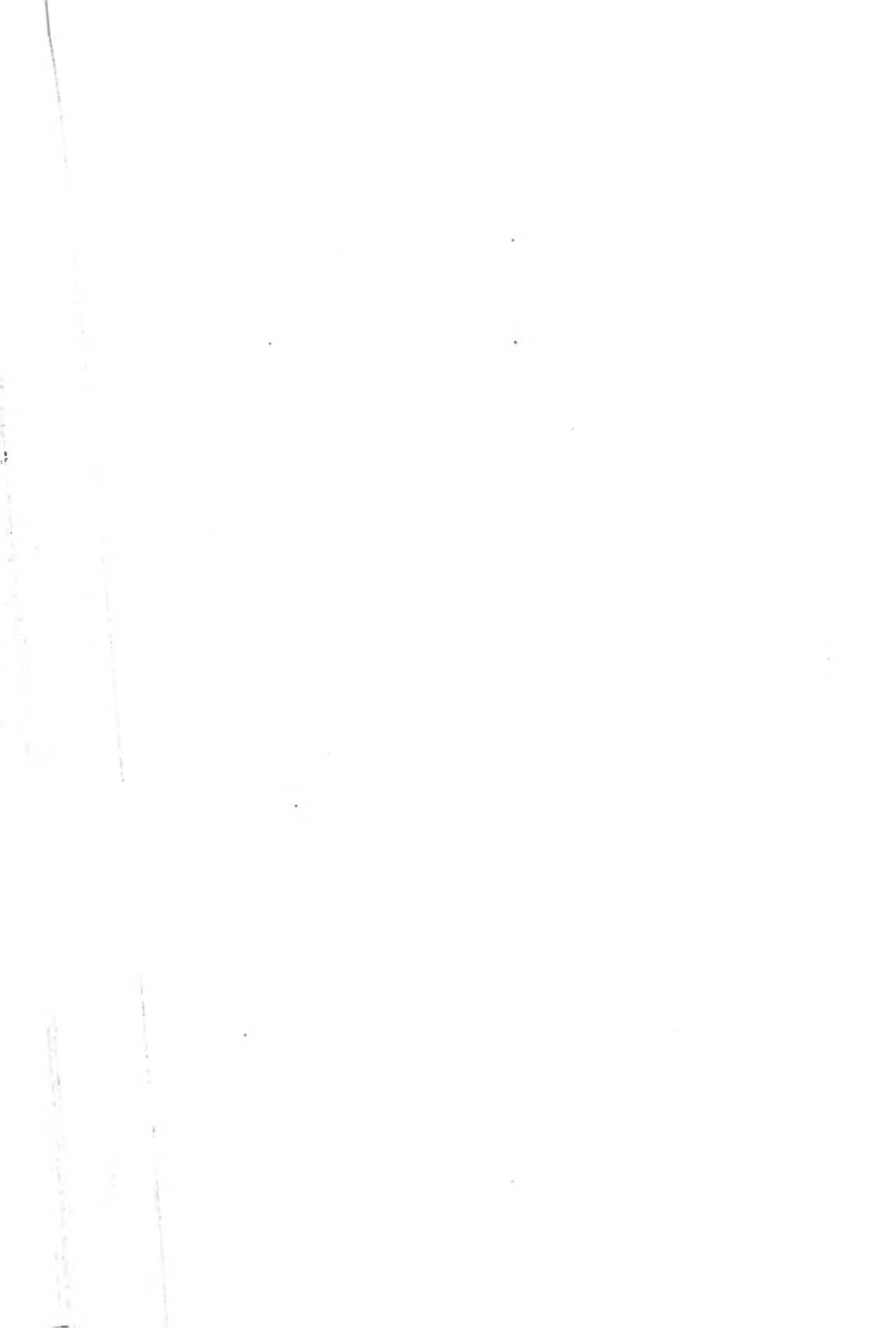
" 31st March, 1830.

" W. Brother,

" I have received the Commands of the M.W.G. Master, the Duke of Sussex, to state in reply to your Memorial for



PETER WILLIAM GILKES, P.M.,  
A CELEBRATED MASON INSTRUCTOR.





a Special Licence for the Lodge of Instruction at present attached to Lodge No. 7, that H.R. Highness does not feel himself at liberty to accede to the prayer of the Memorial.

“The Laws of the Grand Lodge relative to Lodges of Instruction proceed upon the principle of placing those meetings under the superintendence and control of a warranted Lodge; and which Lodge when it gives its sanction is made responsible for the correctness of proceeding in the Lodge of Instruction, the object of which is that the Grand Lodge may have a known responsible party in the event of irregularity—H.R. Highness fully concurring in opinion with the Grand Lodge on the propriety and even necessity for such a Law, cannot do any Act which would have a tendency to weaken its force. That part of the Law which gives to the M.W.G. Master authority to grant a Special Licence for a Lodge of Instruction, ought to be exercised only in cases of a very Special Nature where the application of an extraordinary remedy had become requisite, and such a case is not alleged in the Memorial.

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

“With Fraternal regard, I remain,

“Your Obedient Servant and faithful Brother,

“W. H. WHITE, G.S.

“The W. Bro. PETER GILKES

“and the other Members of the

“Lodge of Instruction, attached to No. 7.”

Shortly after the receipt of the foregoing reply the Lodge transferred its allegiance to the Lodge of Unions. “On the 20th April, 1830, Bro. Wittington having been deputed by the ‘Emulation Lodge of Improvement,’ now held under the sanction of the ‘Lodge of Hope,’ No. 7, to solicit from the W. Master and Brethren of this Lodge, their sanction—Upon a motion duly made by Bro. John Mivart, that this Lodge do in future give its sanction to the ‘Emulation Lodge of

Improvement,' held at this house. Seconded by Bro. Sheerman ; carried unanimously." \*

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

"The anniversary of the Master Masons Lodge of Instruction, Charlotte Street, Rathbone Place, was celebrated this evening with even more than its usual eclat. Brother Dowley, W.M., in the Chair. Several members of the Lodge of Unions, No. 318, under whose sanction this Lodge of Instruction is held, attended to testify the pleasure they felt in its prosperity, and the high sense they entertained of its value and importance to the Craft. The Master was also supported by a great number of the Fraternity from different Lodges. Bro. Dowley was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. France, Secretary. They severally returned thanks. Bro. Quinton, of Lodge No. 2, Dublin, distinguished himself equally by an eloquent address as by the sweetness and delicacy with which he sang two songs, and the evening passed to the entire satisfaction of all present."

From the fact that no reference is made in this report to Masonic work, we may fairly assume that at this period the annual Festival was devoted more to harmony and conviviality than to serious business. The same volume contains a biographical sketch of the celebrated Masonic Instructor and worker, Peter Gilkes, to whose zeal, ability, and fostering care, the early pre-eminence of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was largely due. A few extracts from his biography may not therefore be without interest to the present members of that lodge.

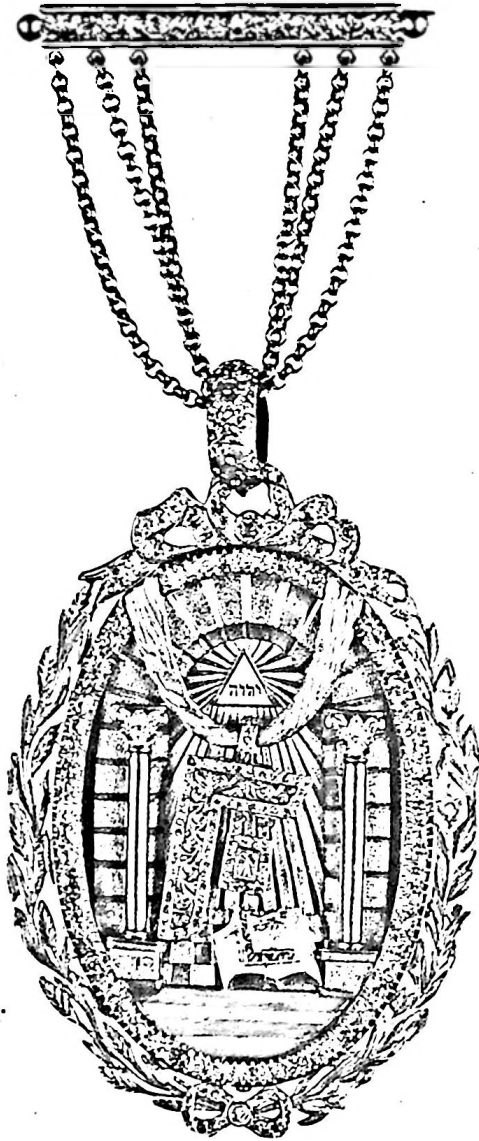
"An honest man's the noblest work of God."

"Brother Peter William Gilkes was born on the 1st of May, 1765, in the neighbourhood of Carnaby Market, and baptised a Member of the Catholic church in the same

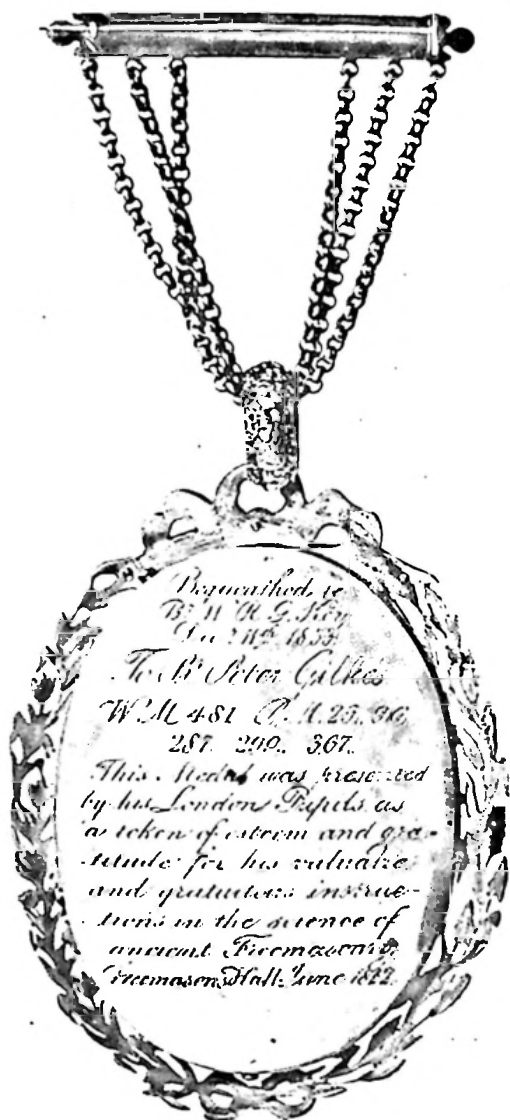
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\* Annals of the Lodge of Unions, No. 256, Reuben Robert Davis, P.M. London, 1885.





P.M.'S JEWEL PRESENTED TO PETER GILKES IN 1822. (*Obverse*)



P.M.'S JEWEL: PRESENTED TO PETER GILKES IN 1822. (Reverse.)



year; he was named after the late Lord Petre, who had been an excellent friend to his family. . . . The funeral of a distinguished brother, whom the Craft honoured by a public procession, first directed his attention to Masonry; enquiry satisfied his mind of the utility and benevolent views of the Order, and he was initiated in the year 1786, at the age of twenty-one, in the British Lodge, now No. 8. Delighted with the science, he devoted his energies and time to qualify himself for those honours which Masonry holds out for the deserving. . . .

“The Lodge of Unity, now 82, satisfied with his attainments and general conduct, first elected him their Master. He filled successively the chairs of 23, 188, 201, 211, 318, 259, and 7, several times each, and died the Worshipful Master of the St. Michael’s Lodge, No. 255. For the last 16 years of his life, he was a distinguished member of the Board of Benevolence, to qualify himself for which he, during that period, annually filled the chair of a lodge, and discharged its arduous duties. . . .

“The difficulties Bro. Gilkes had encountered in perfecting himself in Masonry made him resolve to teach gratuitously such brethren as were disposed to attend him every day from one o’clock till the time to attend some lodge or other, where his evenings were generally spent; he was always ready to receive them for this purpose, and even made several journies into Lincolnshire, Cambridge, and Norfolk, refusing all remuneration further than the mere expenses of his visit. . . .

“He was in a manner something Johnsonian in regard to Masonry—no advantage could be taken of him in lodge—he would not allow the slightest deviation in *word, manner, or matter* to please the most learned, or the most accomplished in other subjects; we have observed him correct many men of rank and influence for deviations from the standard of Masonic illustration, and who, to their credit, acknowledged the reproof with all the courtesy which became their allegiance to the Craft. . . .

"In his youth he must have been an extremely powerful man, for when in his 67th year, on his return from the Blackfriars Lodge, he was attacked in Lincoln's Inn Fields by four men, three of whom he knocked down ; he generally carried a cook's knife to defend himself with in case of attack ; but, fortunately, he had left it at home on the night of the attack.

"Although universally held in esteem amongst Masons, his conduct was always characterised by good sense ; he never aspired beyond his station in life, *and declined the honour of an office in the Grand Lodge*, because he considered that his circumstances in life were not equal to the appointment."

By favour of the Percy Lodge, No. 198, we are enabled to present to our readers an illustration of the handsome Past Master's jewel, designed by Bro. John Harris, of Tracing Board fame, subscribed for in 1822 by some of the London pupils of Peter Gilkes, by whom it was bequeathed to his friend, executor, and favourite pupil, Bro. W. R. G. Key. The jewel, which is profusely embellished with diamonds, is said to have cost one hundred guineas, and in 1834 Bro. Key applied for, and obtained, the Grand Master's sanction for wearing it at all Masonic meetings. In 1871, Bro. Key, an old member, and for many years Secretary, of the Percy Lodge, being in needy circumstances offered to dispose of the jewel to that lodge for the sum of one hundred pounds. After mature deliberation it was agreed by the members to pay Bro. Key, in advance, an annuity for the remainder of his life, on condition of his surrendering the jewel to the lodge, and in default of such payment "the said jewel to revert to him and again become his property." These conditions having been faithfully observed, on the death of Bro. Key in 1873, the jewel became the property of the Percy Lodge.

Peter Gilkes died on the 11th, and was buried on the 19th December, 1833, in St. James's Churchyard, Piccadilly.

The highest tribute of respect to departed merit was amply offered in the number as well as by the character of a larger





BOOK-PLATE OR CARD OF THE LATE PETER GILKES, P.M.

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concourse of the Fraternity than were probably ever congregated at any Masonic meeting, whether of a public nature or upon any occasion of festivity." In the following year (1834), a Committee was appointed to collect subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a monument to his memory. As may readily be imagined, the many admirers of the departed brother soon enabled the Committee to carry out their wishes, and a most appropriate and handsome tablet, the gratuitous design of his friend and pupil, the late Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G.D., was placed on one of the pillars in the South aisle of the above-named church, where it can still be seen by anyone who cares to inspect it. No doubt the foregoing will sufficiently evince the esteem in which this worthy brother was held by the Fraternity in London, forming, however, but a very small portion of the well-merited encomiums bestowed upon him; indeed, we question whether any single individual, either before his time or since, has attained to such distinction as a Masonic instructor. Gifted with an extraordinary memory, he seemed to have come to the front at a period when his peculiar qualifications were most in demand, and consequently fully appreciated. The following extracts from letters written by the two Grand Secretaries who were members of the Lodge of Reconciliation, will sufficiently indicate the official estimate of his character and abilities:—

"Freemasons' Hall,

"Aug. 6, 1818.

"In referring you to Bro. Gilkes, I mentioned he would instruct you in the correct method adopted since the Union; it is quite useless to enquire of me 'which is correct'? More I cannot say in this mode of communication.

"I am, Sir and Bro., &c., &c.,

"E. HARPER, G.S.

"The Lodge 498, Shrewsbury."

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"F.M. Hall, 6th Sept., 1843.

"In reply to yr letter of the 5th instant, enquiring whether

any alterations have been made in the Ceremonies of Initiation, &c., since the late P. Gilkes was in the Country ; I beg to say (without knowing at what period that visit took place) that no alterations have been made since the G. Lo. formally approved and decided on them in the year 1816. Br. Gilkes was fully Master of all the Ceremonies, and, I believe, most strictly observed them.

"I remain,

"W. Master,

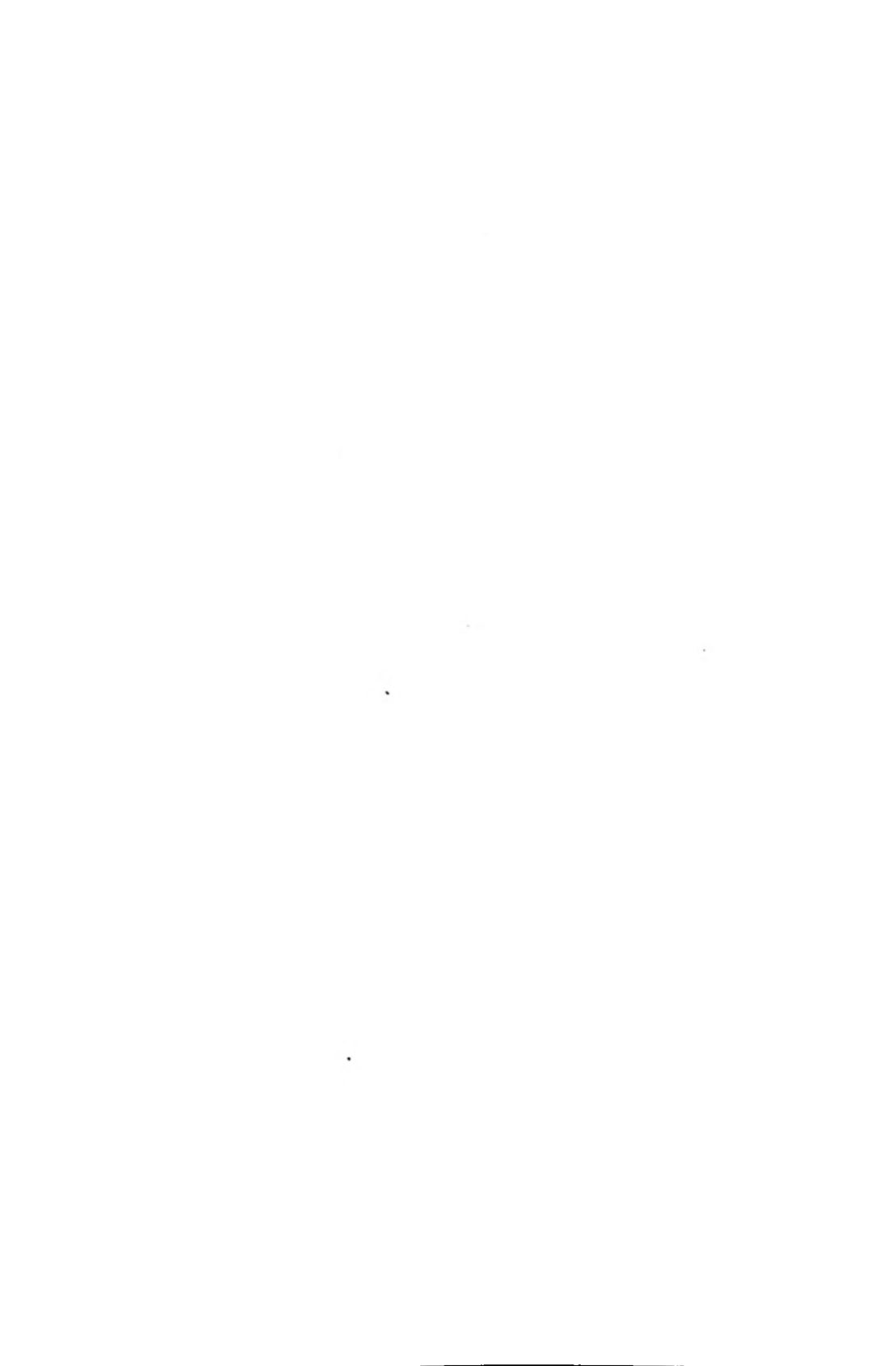
"Yours fraternally,

"W. H. WHITE, G.S.


"Lodge 523, Kidderminster."

We cannot well close our remarks on the career of Bro. Gilkes without adverting to his connection with the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, of which lodge he is frequently designated the "Founder." This is obviously incorrect, as he did not join the lodge until about eighteen months after it was established, and is the person referred to in the Memorial of 1830, which bears his own signature, as "the W.M. who now comes amongst us." We have somewhere read that so far from approving of the plan on which it was established, he at first strongly objected to it, on the ground that a lodge of instruction restricted to M.M.'s, and working the lectures only, on a new system, could not succeed ; he, however, had reason to alter his opinion, for in May, 1825, he joined the lodge, and continued an active member of it for the remainder of his life, thus showing that prejudice was *not* one of his failings.

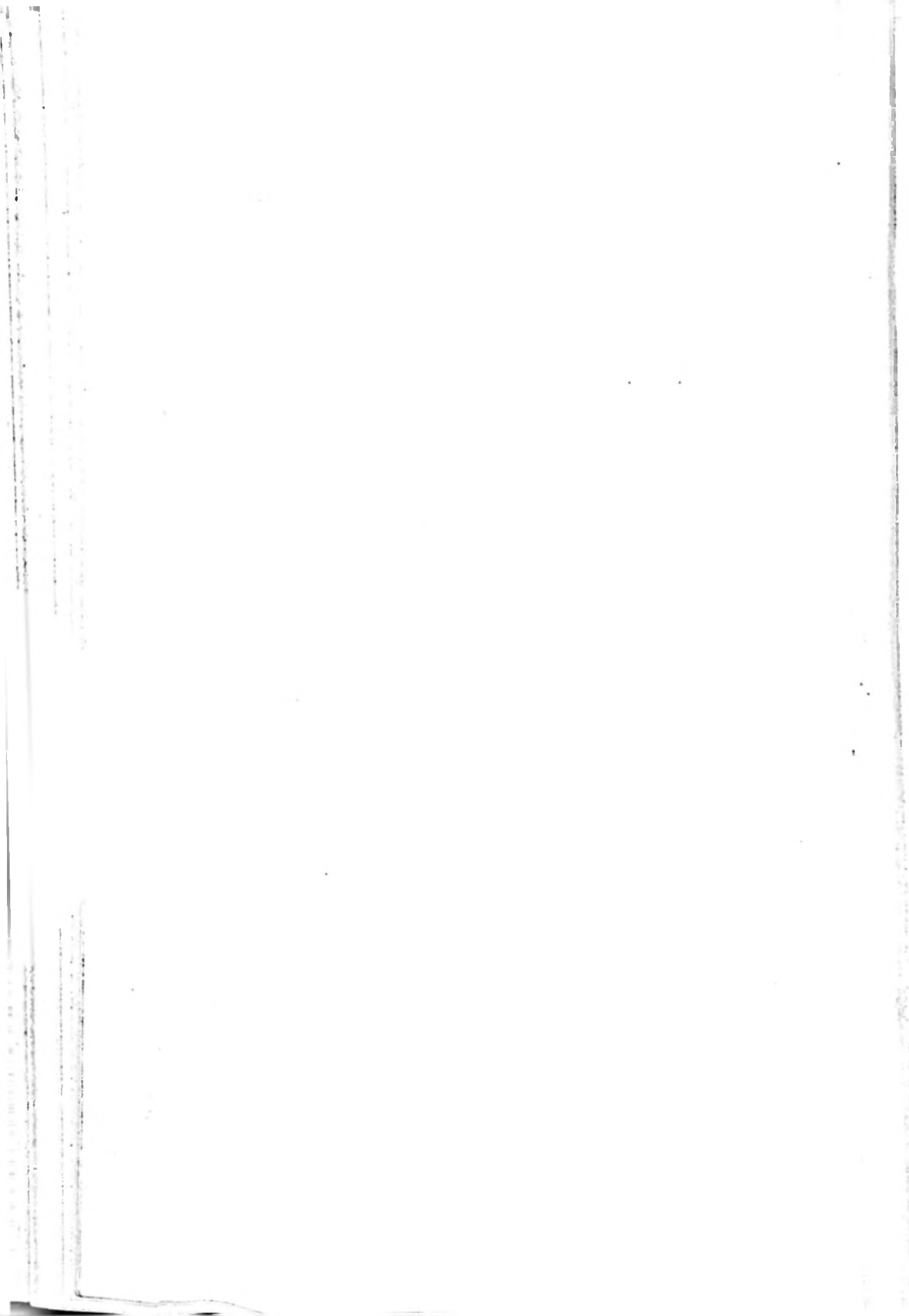
It will readily be conceived that so remarkable a character would be long remembered in the lodge with which he had so strongly identified himself, and, up to a comparatively recent period, "The pious memory of the late Peter Gilkes" was the first toast given at the Annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. His admirers and pupils were numerous, and, although familiar with the names of many whose merits we should like to notice, we think it better,






 SACRED  
 TO THE MEMORY OF  
 BROTHER PETER WILLIAM GILKES, F.M.  
 A ZEALOUS WIFE AND DISTINGUISHED FRIEND  
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 1834  
 IN THE 60<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE  
  
 THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED BY SEVERAL OF THE BRETHREN  
 OF THE MASONIC ORDER TO COMMEMORATE  
 THEIR HIGH ESTIMATION OF THE CHARACTER AND TALENTS  
 OF THEIR DEPARTED FRIEND  
 1834.

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





under the circumstances, to confine our remarks to those who have been personally known to us, and with whose abilities the brethren of the present generation are best acquainted. According to Masonic tradition, the designer of the monument to Peter Gilkes succeeded him in the leadership of his favourite lodge of instruction. We are somewhat doubtful on this point, as there were much older and more experienced brethren intimately associated with the lodge for several years after Gilkes' time, as the following paragraph from a report of the Anniversary Festival in 1835 will show :—

“The meeting was, in particular, marked by the presence of the three leading lecturers on Masonry, upon whom, by general consent as it were, the mantle of ‘Peter Gilkes’ may be said to have fallen. We feel an honest pride in our association with Brothers Dowley, Cooper, and S. B. Wilson and entertain so high an opinion of their value to the Society that we take the liberty of making as public as we can their well-earned character for intelligence, grounded upon a careful adherence to the landmarks of the Order, for the strict observance of our laws and regulations, and still more for the modesty with which they receive the homage so readily offered to their merits as individuals.”

From the fact of the names of Bros. Dowley, Cooper, and S. B. Wilson being mentioned conjointly as successors of Peter Gilkes in the guidance of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, we think it probable that the lodge was then conducted in a similar manner to that in vogue in the present day, *i.e.*, by a Committee selected by the members from amongst the most experienced of the brethren that attend the weekly meetings.

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

“A letter with enclosures was read from Bro. S. B. Wilson, Secretary to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, meeting under the sanction of this Lodge, asking advice how to proceed on the subject matter therein contained, when Bro.

Whitmore proposed that the same be referred to the Board of General Purposes for their advice on the subject—seconded by Bro. Clark, and carried unanimously.

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

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

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

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

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

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



STEPHEN BARTON WILSON, P.G. DEACON.



## CHAPTER II.

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

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

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

In 1857, he was appointed Junior Grand Deacon, and at the Annual Festival of the lodge held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 29th of January, 1858, a valuable testimonial was presented to him, consisting of a gold watch and chain, a complete suite of Grand Lodge clothing, with the jewel

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\* *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, 1836.

of his office, and a tea and coffee service of silver, which had been subscribed for chiefly by the members of the lodge.

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

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

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

“Bro. Havers then took the gavel, and said: ‘Right Worshipful Master and Brethren—When the Master in the chair entrusts his gavel to another, there usually follows one toast which is known to you all. On this occasion, however, we depart from that practice. I have been desired—and I assure you, brethren, I consider it a great honour to be so requested—to propose to you the health of one dear to all who are members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and equally dear to the Craft in general. My good friend on the left (Bro. Cooper) has, with justifiable pride, claimed him for Kent. I claim him not for Kent, I claim him not for the

Emulation Lodge of Improvement, but for all Masonry. The labours of the working brethren of the lodge we have this evening all witnessed. Will you bear with me while I endeavour to trace the result of the exertions of a good and active Mason. You have all seen the amount of memory and brain-work which is required for working the several sections of each lecture. Well, then, just as we teach our children important principles of religion and morality in certain formulæ of words, the true meaning of which they do not at the time comprehend, but which, impressed upon the mind, become the nucleus or abiding place of future thoughts—so must young Masons be content to commit to memory certain forms of words, the full import of which they are hereafter to acquire. I do not insist that the ritual of Masonry should be regarded as the principle and essence of Masonry itself. A prayer-book is not a religion. But the ritual of Freemasonry contains the expression of the truth of those doctrines by which we profess to be guided, and those rules of life which we profess to practice. Masonry boasts of no books, no ponderous tomes, or carefully-writ parchments, containing the record of its ceremonies. Such as they are, they have been handed down to us by oral tradition, varying in their phraseology to suit the altered character of the language, but still possessing that quaint simplicity of diction which both attests their age and gives a peculiar charm to their delivery.

“These traditions, transmitted to us through many generations and through many mouths, would have varied much more, were it not that there have arisen at all times and seasons, and in regular succession, true and trusty men, who, by no election, by no canvas, but by the universal consent of their brethren, have been recognized as leaders and teachers. Among those teachers none have been found more true or more trusty than he in whose honour we are this evening assembled. It has been remarked that at the present day we possess but the traditionary remnant of what Masonry was in former times. In earlier days, in

addition to its moral power, it also possessed great political and religious power. Here we have to deal with its moral power only, and the wonder is not that so much of it has been lost, but that so much remains.

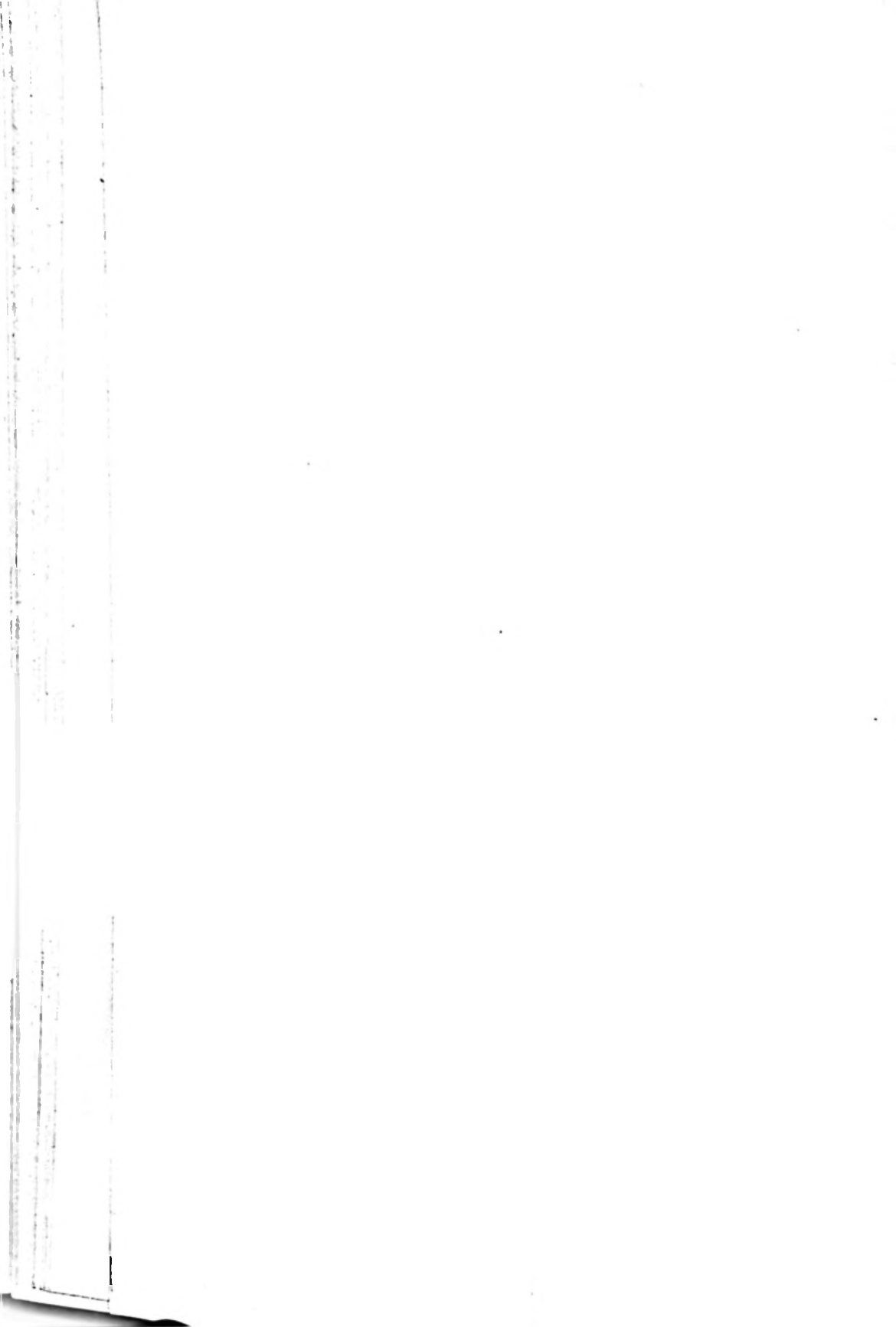
“Instituted by the skilled artificers of old, in times of the most remote antiquity, when kings and princes presided over us and joined in the work, Masonry passed through a great and glorious career of peace and prosperity ; since then, however, it has had to pass through many perils and contend with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

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





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



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

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

“Bro. Wilson—in the name of this assembly of eminent and influential Masons—I beg your acceptance of these gifts, possessing in themselves a certain degree of intrinsic value, but still more valuable and honourable as carrying with them the expression of the kind will entertained towards you by your Masonic brethren. Gifts, I am well aware, may be in themselves but of small value, and yet be most valuable to the receiver, as showing the direction of the current of good will and approbation. To you the

brethren of this lodge are greatly indebted—you they recognize as their leader and master. Educated, sir, as you have been in that profession to which Masonry is most allied, you have the skill to compare what is speculative to what is operative, and you have the ability to explain that comparison to your brethren.

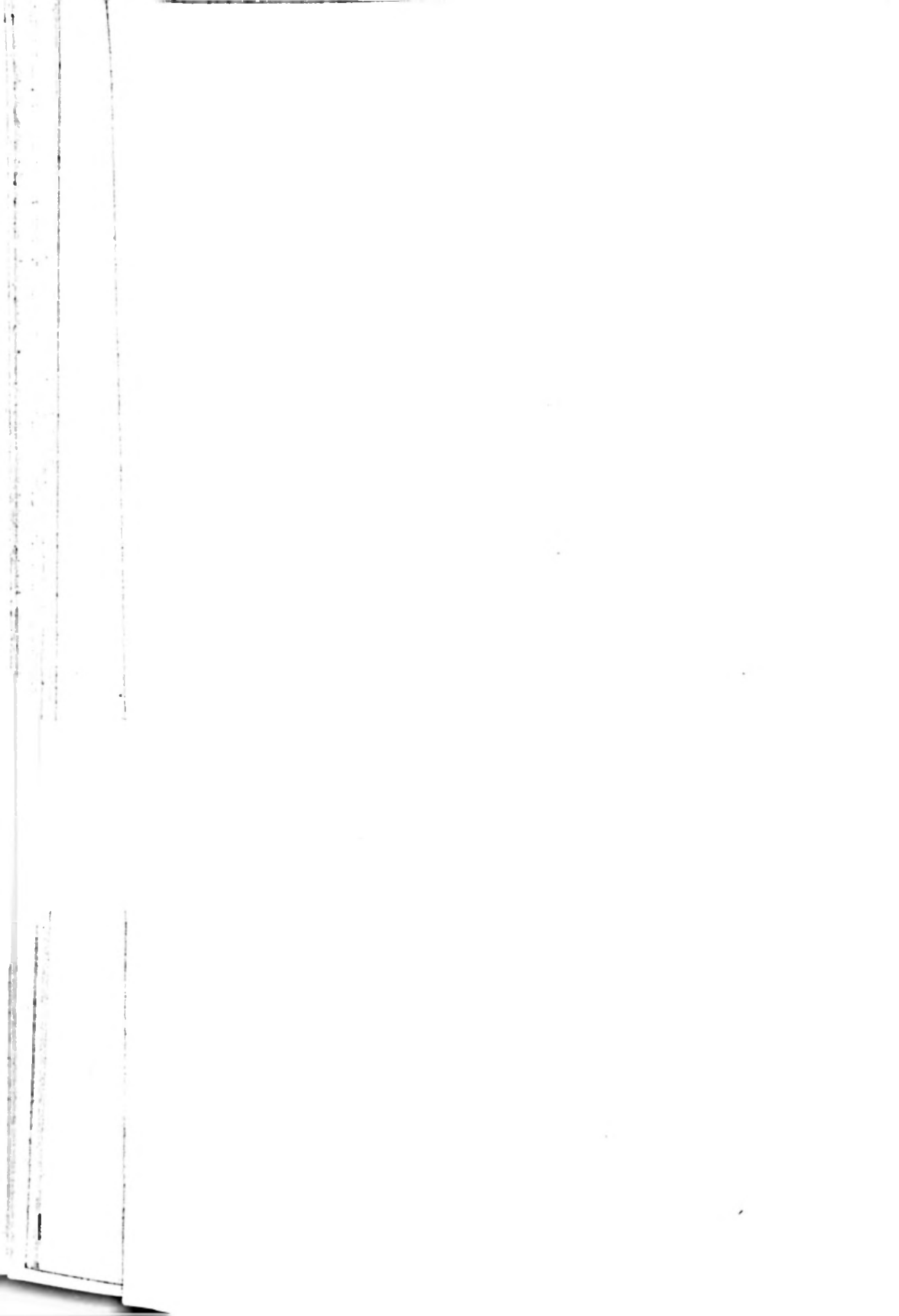
“Following in the footsteps of your illustrious predecessor, you have voluntarily and disinterestedly laboured for the good of this lodge; you have skilfully executed the work; and you have, with no ordinary talent, maintained the great trust reposed in you; you have increased its value, and you have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

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

“Brother Wilson, I have, in the observations I have addressed to the lodge and to you, refrained from using



WILLIAM FARNFIELD, P.A.G. SECRETARY.



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

Although it is not quite clear that Stephen Barton Wilson directly followed Gilkes in the leadership, we are of opinion that as the older members dropped out he came to the front, and that within a few years of Gilkes's death he was the acknowledged leader, or President, of the lodge. In 1834 his name is mentioned amongst those who attended for the purpose of instructing their younger brethren ; and, at the Annual Festival in 1837, a motion was “unanimously carried that a subscription should be opened for the purpose of presenting Bro. S. B. Wilson with a Masonic jewel, to mark the high sense entertained by the brethren for the great and valuable services rendered by him to the lodge.”

Replying to a correspondent, the Editor of *The Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, 1838, says : “The Emulation Lodge of Improvement (now held at Evans' Hotel, Covent Garden) may be considered as a standard in working.” Formerly, very few, if any, of the lodges of instruction worked the ceremony of installation of Master ; and we are inclined to think that credit is due to Bro. Wilson for having introduced that ceremony as a portion of the regular programme in his favourite lodge, and also for having inaugurated the practice of doing some real Masonic work at the Annual Festivals. In the report of the Festival for 1841, the writer says : “We were much pleased to observe that one of the most important ceremonials of the Order, that of the installation of Master, was fixed to be practised

on the first Friday in the months of November, December, January, and February. This intelligence will be gratefully welcomed by the Metropolitan and Provincial brethren, the latter more especially, as they will have an opportunity of witnessing the most correct mode of conducting this great Masonic duty."

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

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



Order, and who held the office of President of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for a period of thirty years, during which time he greatly increased the knowledge of Masonry, and won the esteem and respect of all his brother Masons.' 'That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of the late Stephen Barton Wilson.' 'The motion was seconded by Bro. John Savage and carried unanimously.'

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

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

The Memorial addressed to the Grand Master on the subject of a special license is in his handwriting, as is also the copy of the reply thereto in the Letter Book. We are indebted to this worthy and distinguished brother for the slight knowledge we have of the early history and manage-

ment of the "Emulation," and we much regret that at the period when we first began to take an interest in the lodge history his health was such that it was not deemed advisable to trouble him too much about the past or question him upon any subject likely to tax his memory, or doubtless we should have been the recipient of much valuable information, now lost beyond recovery.

On more than one occasion he referred somewhat regretfully to the discontinuance of an old custom which had formerly been strictly adhered to—that of having a plain supper at the conclusion of the lodge work, at which the Master for the evening presided, with the several officers in their respective positions.

At these gatherings the customary toasts were given and responded to, thus familiarizing the aspirants to office with the usages and ceremonial of the banquet table as well as the more serious business of the lodge room. It seems to us that this old practice is not unworthy of the consideration of the present leaders of the "Emulation."

Bro. Farnfield was for many years Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. He died on the 27th of February, 1876, having been fifty years a member of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

At the Anniversary of the lodge on the 7th of October, 1836, the new pedestals, which are described as "chaste and well made," were used for the first time.

The Festival for 1838 was held on the 5th of October, and is thus referred to in *The Freemasons' Quarterly Review* for December of that year:—

"The anniversary of this Lodge of Instruction was, as usual, observed with even more than its usual *eclat*, occasioned by the attendance of Bro. Peter Thomson and some of his excellent friends. The Grand Secretary, Bro. White, was also present, with many visitors.

"Bro. Crucifix, as W.M., in the chair. The re-election of Bros. S. B. Wilson and Savage, as Treasurer and Secretary, was unanimous. The W.M., in addressing Bro. Wilson on



ROBERT T. CRUCEFIX, M.D., F.G.D.,  
P.M. OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND LODGE,  
*Chairman of the Festival October 5th, 1838.*



the subject of the presentation which had just been made to him, observed that he envied the feelings with which Bro. Wilson must naturally accept the jewel, which was offered as a memorial, by the members, of his superior qualifications in the Art and Science of Masonry."

The President for this evening was the proprietor and editor of the journal so often quoted in these columns, to whom we are chiefly indebted, as members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, for what knowledge we have of its early history. When, in 1834, he published the first real Masonic journal in England, he met with the strongest opposition from head-quarters, but he was not easily daunted, and by tact and perseverance overcame all obstacles, with the result that the Craft in the United Kingdom, as well as in the colonies, has a source of information relating to Masonry in many cases unattainable elsewhere. He was, as is evinced by his frequent and laudatory references to the "Emulation," which he joined in 1831, one of its warmest supporters, and continued his encouragement and support, both by voice and pen, until his decease in 1850. To do adequate justice to his memory and Masonic achievements would require far too much space for these columns. A sketch of his biography was begun in *The Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, shortly after his decease, by one of his most valued and intimate friends—John Lane, D.C.L., who, himself, passed away the same year, without having completed his sketch. The work was then taken up by the celebrated Dr. George Oliver, who certainly did ample justice to the subject in a series of articles well worthy of perusal.

Dr. Crucefix was initiated in the Burlington Lodge (now No. 96) in 1829; in the following year he joined the Bank of England Lodge, of which lodge he became Master in 1832. In 1838 he attained the same position in his mother lodge. It is unnecessary to mention all the other Masonic bodies with which he was actively connected; he seems to have been an enthusiast of the warmest kind and to have taken every Degree within his reach, besides being an

honorary member of several lodges and chapters in Scotland and Ireland.

In 1836 he was appointed Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of England, and Grand Standard Bearer in Grand Chapter. He was the chief promoter and founder of the asylum for aged Masons, and evinced the warmest interest in the Schools of the Order. There is, however, one phase of his character which his biographers seem to have overlooked; he was a great lover of books, and the first to make a serious effort towards establishing a library under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of England; he gave practical effect to his desires by presenting to the library the first six volumes of his journal handsomely bound in calf, which volumes we are safe in saying are much more frequently used than any other works in the library.

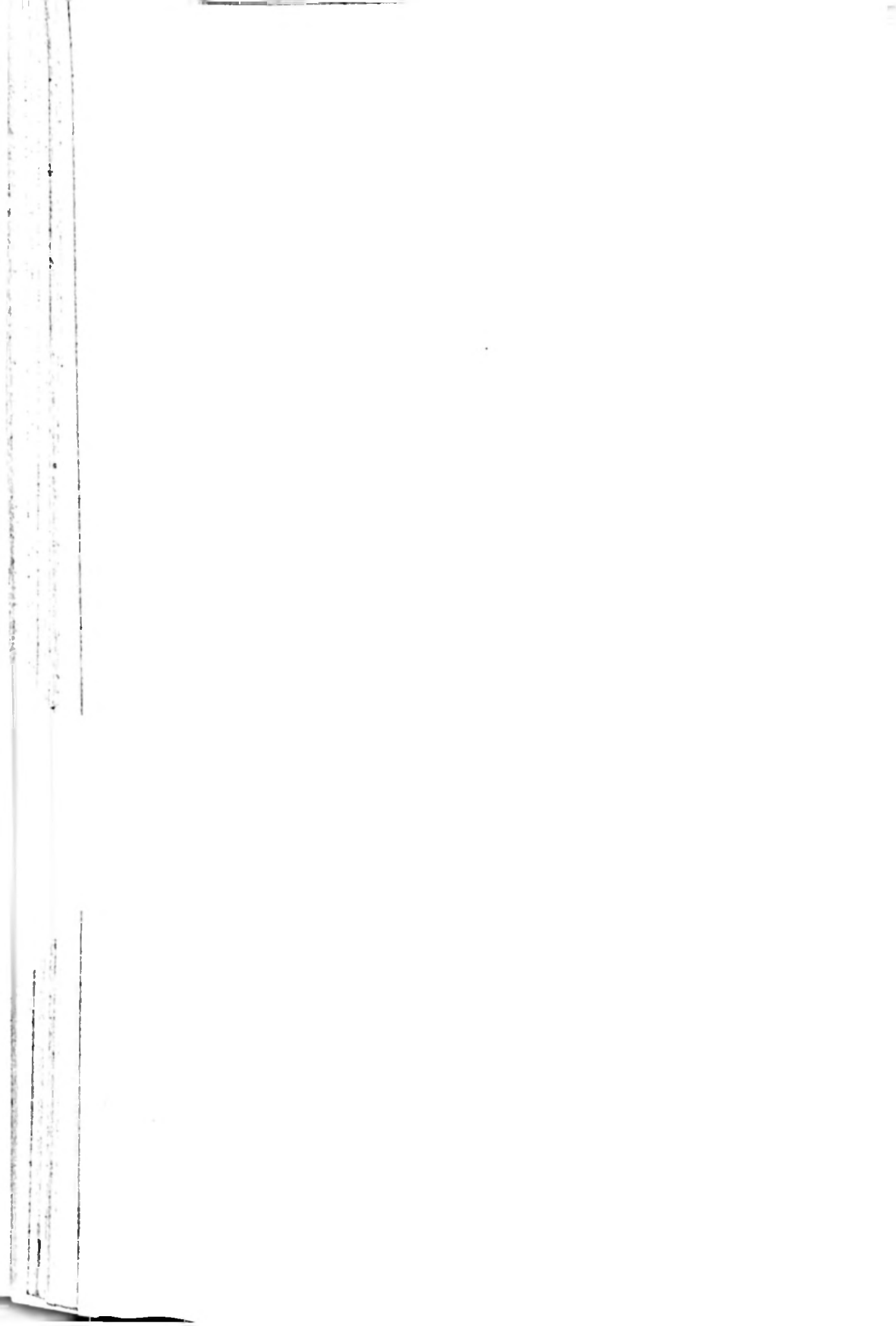
The estimation in which he was held by those who knew him personally cannot be better evinced than by the following motion passed at the first meeting of the Bank of England Lodge after his decease:—

“Resolved: That the Brethren of this Lodge, deeply sensible of the irreparable loss they have sustained in the death of their beloved Brother and revered P.M., Dr. Robert Thomas Crucefix, are anxious to give expression to their grateful admiration of his varied talents, his unbounded philanthropy, his active benevolence, and practical brotherly love, and to record their feelings of affectionate regard for one who was endeared to all who knew him by his amiable disposition, and by the social virtues which adorned his private life—whose loss they sincerely deplore, whose memory they affectionately reverence, and whose name they would not ‘willingly let die.’

“That in paying the last tribute of respect to the memory of their departed Brother, they forbear to speak of his practical skill and ability, his consummate knowledge, and unrivalled attainments in Freemasonry, because they consider it a privilege and a duty, appertaining only to the Craft at large, to do honour to his public character as a Mason; they



JOHN WHITMORE. P.M. OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND LODGE,  
*Chairman of the Festival, October 6th, 1837.*





cannot, however, refrain from expressing their feelings of gratification and pride that the name of their revered Brother will be transmitted to posterity by a monument worthy of the Freemason and the man—the Asylum for Worthy, Aged, and Decayed Freemasons, and that this noble Institution, founded by his benevolent exertions, will perpetuate the memory of his eloquent, unceasing, and heartfelt advocacy of the cause of Masonic Charity.”

“Resolved : That a copy of the foregoing resolution be written on vellum, be framed and glazed, and suspended in the Lodge at all future meetings of the Brethren, in the hope that the respect thus shown to the memory of a good man may influence all who read it to reverence his virtues and emulate his example.”

For the three rare portraits of Past Masters of the Bank of England Lodge, we are indebted, in the first place, to that lodge (always an ardent supporter of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement), and secondly to the skill of Mr. Harold W. Lane, who kindly photographed them from the series of beautifully executed portraits of its Past Masters in the lodge album, painted in water colours by Edwin Dalton Smith, himself a Past Master of the lodge and a member of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

*The Freemasons' Quarterly Review* for September, 1839, contains the following :—“Master Masons' Lodge of Improvement at Brother Evans's Grand Hotel, Covent Garden, has, as usual, remained open all the summer, thereby continuing its sphere of utility when nearly all other lodges have closed. The Anniversary will be held on the first Friday in October, which will doubtless be well attended on that evening. The election of Treasurer and Secretary will take place, and the sessional arrangements will be made. The great service which the lodge has rendered the Craft is felt and appreciated by the London and Provincial Brethren.”

The same journal for December following thus comments on the removal of the lodge to *The Freemasons' Tavern*, “At length this Lodge of Instruction—formerly, *par excellence*,

termed 'Peter Gilkes' Master Mason's Lodge'—has made a stout march to *the Tavern*, and there is much promise in the removal. On the first night, as was expected, the meeting was crowded, and the brethren were compelled to adjourn to the "Crown" Room, where the first lecture was most ably worked and the business conducted in the very first style. Amongst those present were several Provincial Brethren Brother Key sat as Master; Brothers Graham and Warriner as Wardens. Brothers S. B. Wilson, Savage, and many other "operatives" were among the throng. Having now reached a topmost height as regards locality, we must admit that the next removal of this Lodge should be to some quarters of its own, and then, indeed, it would set an example; and what a progress it would make in good order and excellent propriety! Think upon this hint, good friends."

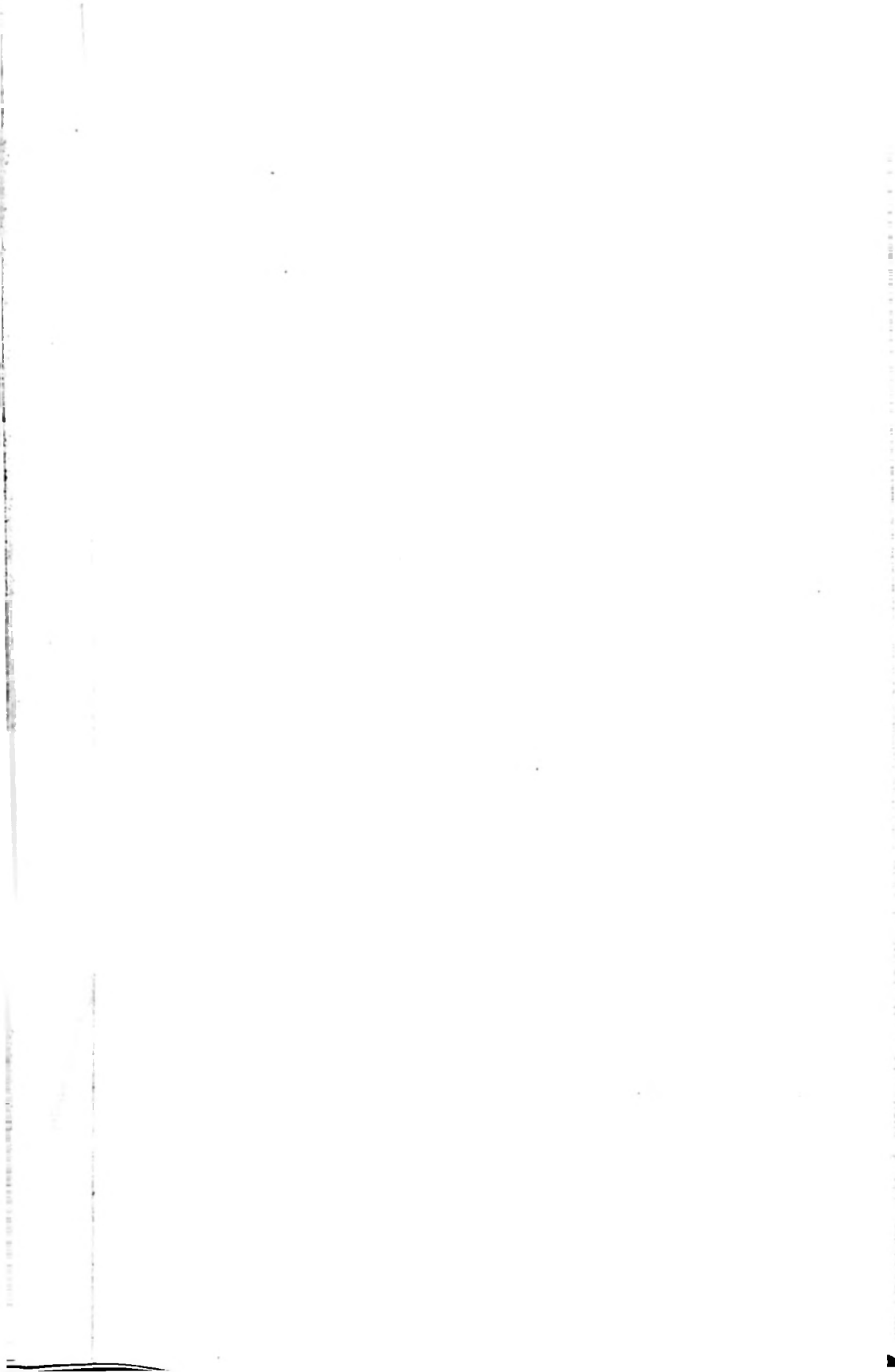
It will thus be seen that for upwards of sixty years the Emulation Lodge of Improvement has held its meetings on the Grand Lodge premises, thereby furnishing conclusive evidence of the regularity of its proceedings and the correctness of its method of working the ceremonies and lectures of the Craft.

In order to avoid repetition, the reader will please to understand that all further quotations, down to 1859, when the existing written records of the lodge begin, are from *The Freemasons' Quarterly Review* or its successor, *The Freemasons' Magazine*, unless otherwise stated, and that these journals only reported the annual Festivals of the lodge.

At the annual Festival on the 2nd of October, 1840, Bro. John Savage "was presented with a very handsome jewel, which had been subscribed for by the brethren to mark their sense of his kind and efficient services as secretary for several years. Br. S. B. Wilson was elected treasurer, and Br. Richard Daly, of the British Lodge, No. 8, succeeded Br. Savage in the office of Secretary." From the year 1841 to 1844 nothing calling for notice relating to the lodge appears in the only Masonic journal of the period, save that in 1842 the editor says: "Every meeting of this lodge adds to its importance. Intelligence and discipline are promoted, and



ZACHARIAH WATKINS, P.M. OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND LODGE.  
*Chairman of the Festival, October 2nd, 1840.*



we are happy to observe that provincial and foreign Brethren profit by the opportunity afforded them to witness the *purest* working of our Order."

In 1844 the Anniversary Festival was held on the second Friday in November instead of the first Friday in October as heretofore. We have editorial authority for stating that on this occasion many excellent addresses were given, including one from Bro. Crew (Secretary of the Girls' School), who also delighted the party with several songs during the evening; but, as neither speeches nor songs were reported, their nature and quality must be left to the reader's imagination.

In 1845 we are told that "a committee has been formed to select from among talented competitors an improvement in Tracing Boards. Bro. Harris has been the successful candidate, and from the sample we have seen, the selection is very creditable to the committee."

At the Festival held on the 14th of November following, the new Tracing Boards were produced, "and were submitted to a very close and critical inspection, and Bro. Harris was deservedly complimented on his success."

A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. S. B. Wilson and the other members of the committee for their great attention to the subject.

On the 17th of March, 1848, a banquet was held, the occasion being the presentation of a testimonial, consisting of a service of plate, to Bro. John Savage, Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes, a former Secretary of the lodge, and one of its most earnest and regular supporters. Although this testimonial was not restricted to the members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, as a mark of respect to the recipient it was decided that the presentation should be made under the auspices of that lodge.

Several highly eulogistic speeches were made by the distinguished brethren present, but as they were mostly of a personal character we have not deemed it advisable to reprint them.

Early in this year (1848) the Masons of Birmingham applied to the "Emulation" to depute some eminent authority in their body to visit them and adjust the differences that existed in their working. To this request the lodge promptly responded by deputing Bro. William Honey, P.M. of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, a pupil of Peter Gilkes, to offer his services; which offer was gladly accepted, and after about two months' tuition he pronounced certain of his pupils as being qualified to impart instruction, and also furnished evidence of their competency by working the several lectures and ceremonies with their assistance in the various Birmingham lodges.

In 1849 we have a full report of the annual Festival, on the 16th of November, of "this, the most celebrated Lodge of Instruction in the Craft," and the editor refers in terms of wonderment to the unusually large number of brethren who attended, "in all between *fifty and sixty*." Bro. R. Daly presided as W.M. On this occasion a handsome and valuable testimonial was presented by Bro. S. B. Wilson, on behalf of the members, to Bro. Joseph William Mountain, P.M. 318, in acknowledgment of his services as Secretary during six consecutive years.

The testimonial comprised "a richly embossed gold Secretary's jewel, and a splendidly chased tea service."

In the course of the evening several songs by Bros. Honey, Spencer, Marriott, and Whitmore contributed to the enjoyment of the brethren. The lodge work at this meeting is not named in the report, but it was probably some of the sections.

## CHAPTER III.

IN 1850 the Festival was held on the 29th of November. The W. Bro. John Hervey presided on this occasion, and was supported by R.W. Bro. John Fawcett, P.G.M. for Durham, R.W. Bro. W. F. Beadon, P.G.W., and many other distinguished members of the Craft, to the number of about seventy. The business of the evening was to have been the first Tracing Board, but owing to the indisposition of Bro. S. B. Wilson, who was unable to attend, the W.M. worked the third ceremony "in his usual impressive manner." The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, after which the customary toasts were given and duly responded to ; but as the speeches, or such portions of them as appear in the report, were of a personal character, containing no reference to the history of the lodge, they may well be omitted here.

The Festival for 1851 was held on the 18th of November, and was presided over by the R.W. Bro. Beadon, P.G. Warden, who had officiated as S.W. at the preceding Festival. He was supported by the R.W. Bro. Rowland G. Alston, P.G.W., and upwards of ninety other brethren.

The lodge having been opened in the Three Degrees, "Bro. S. B. Wilson gave the first Tracing Board in his usual clear and impressive manner, to the great delight of all present. In the various addresses in connection with the toasts of the evening, the presiding officer and Br. Alston expressed their great satisfaction with the accuracy manifested in the working of the lodge, as also their due appreciation of the important benefits it had already conferred, and was constantly conferring on the Craft."

In 1852 the Festival was held on the 29th of November, but unfortunately we are quite in the dark as to what was done and who presided, as the report of the meeting was received too late for publication.

The Festival for 1853 was held on the 29th of November, when the sections of the First Lecture were worked, S. B. Wilson in the chair. An unprecedented number of visitors were proposed as members. Upwards of 150 brethren sat down to the banquet presided over by the Treasurer of the lodge, John Hervey, who, in response to the toast of his health, "regretted that the chair was not more ably filled, and stated that, in the absence of the brother who was to have presided over them, he had been most unexpectedly called on to fill his place."

On this occasion, "A very massive silver teapot was presented to Br. W. H. Absolon," of the Mount Moriah Lodge, who had recently vacated the office of Secretary of the "Emulation" on his removal to a country residence.

In 1854 the Festival was held on the 30th of November, when the sections of the Second and Third Lectures were worked, Bro. Beadon, P.G.W., in the chair, assisted by S. B. Wilson.

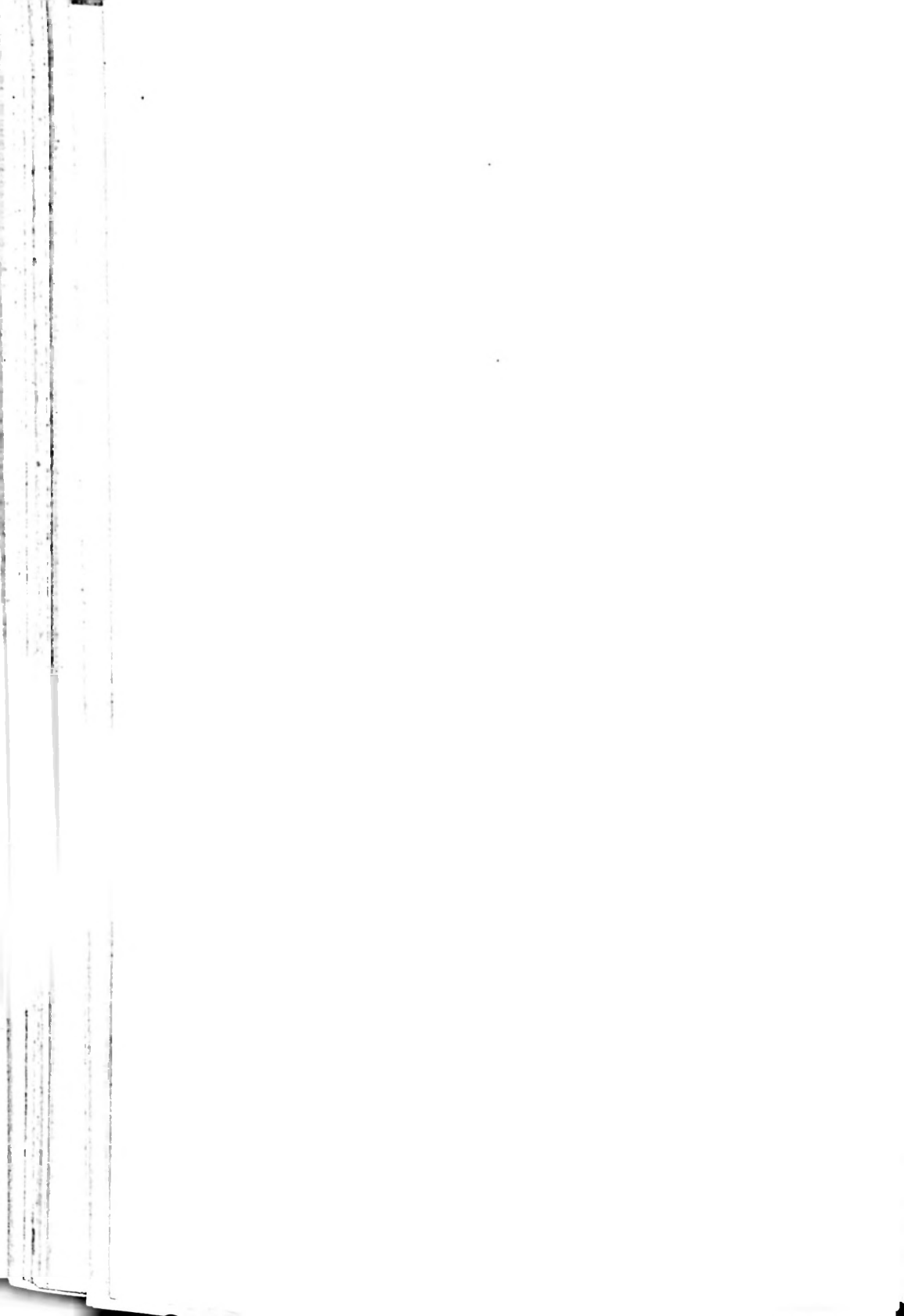
The Masonic business of the evening being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, after which the usual preliminary toasts were given. The Chairman then, in a most eloquent and effective speech, introduced "The health of Bro. Hervey, S.G.D.," at the same time producing a splendid chronometer watch and gold chain, the result of the subscriptions of the members in testimony of his extreme kindness to the brethren generally, his untiring assiduity to the interests of the lodge, and as a mark of appreciation of his seven years' service as Treasurer.

In concluding his report of this meeting, the editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine* ventures into the realms of prophecy, and his prediction has been since amply verified. He says: "We should be wanting in duty if, before closing this short report, did we not make some allusion to the very excellent





JOHN SAVAGE, P.G. DEACON,  
*Chairman of the Festivals in 1841, 1846, 1859.*



arrangements of the Stewards ; the whole affair was certainly a credit to them as well as to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and it is not to be wondered at, if such attraction and such entertainment are offered to the Craft, that the lodge is so well supported, and takes the distinguished position it so well deserves. Indeed, if matters proceed thus, we shall not be surprised to find in a few years that the Grand Festival itself is not better nor more numerously attended than the annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement."

Those who attend both the festivals mentioned can bear testimony to the fulfilment of this prognostication ; indeed, the attendances at the "Emulation Festival" have for many years past far outnumbered the attendances of brethren at an ordinary Grand Festival.

The Festival for 1855 was held on the 30th of November, Herbert Lloyd, S.G.D., in the chair of W.M. The sections of the First Lecture were worked by S. B. Wilson, assisted by Bros. Luis Artús, S. B. Wilson, jun., Watson, Palmer, Absolon, Binckes, and Hervey.

The claims upon the pockets of the members seem to have been pretty frequent, for at this meeting a jewel was presented to Bro. Martin Palmer, who had served the office of Secretary for a few years.

The Festival for 1856 was held on the 28th of November, W. F. Beadon, P.G. Warden, in the chair, S. B. Wilson acting as Past Master. The last named brother "gave the explanation of the first Tracing Board in a most able and impressive manner ; and, in order to relieve the proceedings from the charge of monotony, Bro. Wilson called on several of the brethren for the different illustrations. This arrangement produced a happy effect, and appeared to give satisfaction to everyone."

Nearly 200 brethren sat down to the banquet.

In proposing "The health of her Majesty the Queen," Bro. Beadon said "that although that illustrious lady was the daughter of a Mason she was not as yet the mother of one. He hoped and trusted that she might live to see

some of her posterity preside over the Grand Lodge of England."

For the portrait here reproduced we are greatly indebted to William Vansittart Beadon, Esq., son of the late R.W. Bro. W. F. Beadon, and to the W. Bro. Henry Lovegrove, Past Grand Sword Bearer, who kindly interested himself in procuring the portrait for publication in this book.

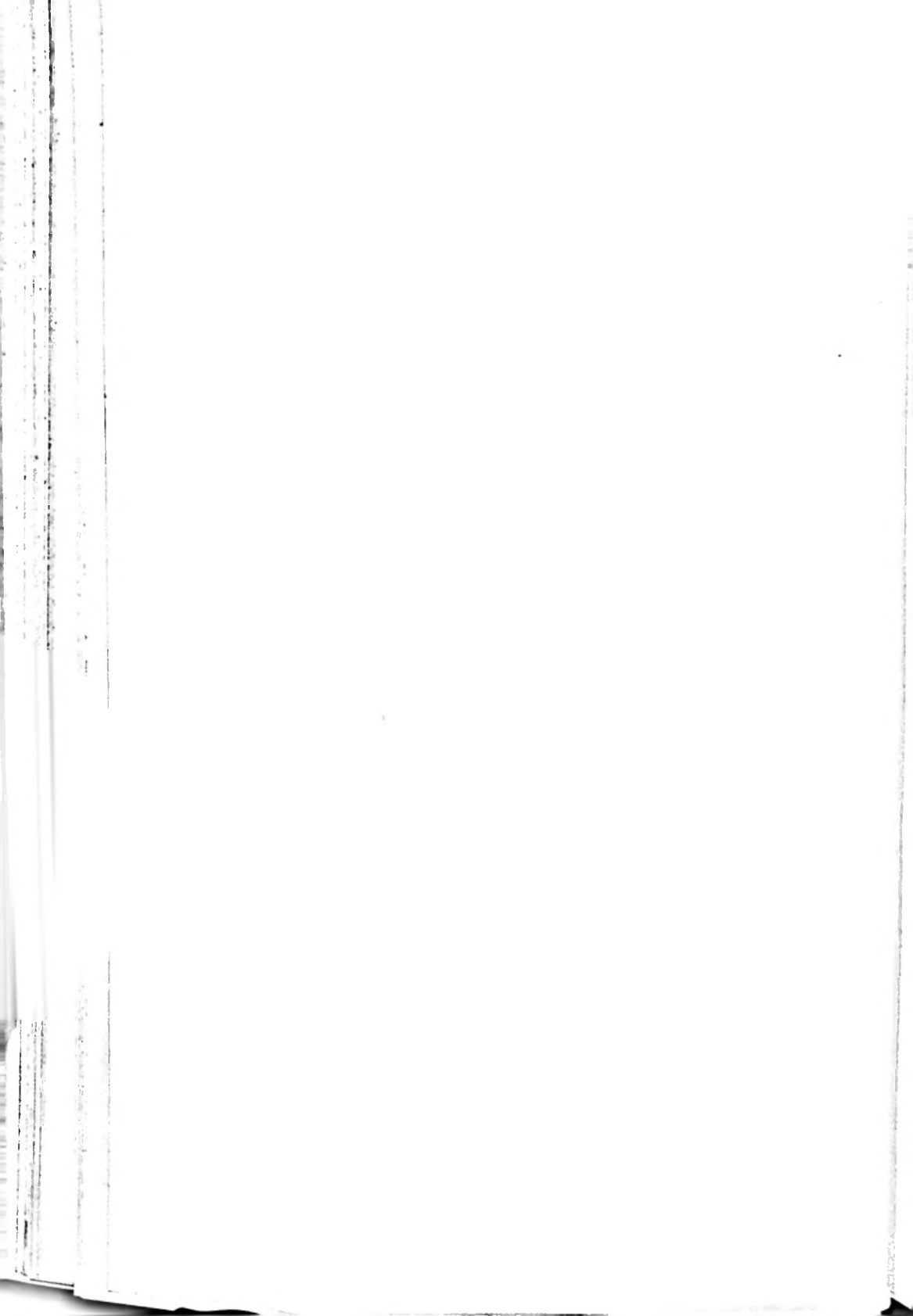
The subject of this sketch was born in 1808 and was initiated in 1828, in the Scientific Lodge, Cambridge, while at St. John's College. In 1832 he joined the Bedford Lodge, London, and was a founder of the Beadon Lodge, constituted in 1853, now No. 619; he also joined several other celebrated London Lodges as well as the Apollo University Lodge at Oxford. In 1846 he joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and was for several years a regular attendant and an assiduous worker thereat. In 1849 he was appointed Junr. Grand Warden and Principal Grand Sojr., subsequently filling the office of G.S.N. for several years. At his death, in 1862, he held the important position of Senior Magistrate at Marlborough Street Police Court, having previously served in a similar capacity at Hammersmith and Wandsworth. Bro. Beadon was not only an accomplished craftsman but was an earnest and liberal supporter of our several charities at a period when those institutions were badly in need of all the help that could be given them.

The Festival for 1857 was postponed till January 29th, 1858, in order to allow of more time for the completion of the valuable testimonial then being made for presentation to Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson. A brief summary of the proceedings at this Festival is included in the biographical sketch relating to the distinguished brother just mentioned, which appears on page 19 and following.

The Festival for 1858 was held at the usual time on the last Friday in November, being the only occasion on which two "Emulation Festivals" were held in the same year. John Havers, P.G.D., presided as W.M. both in the lodge and at the banquet. He was supported by S. B. Wilson, P.G.D.,



**WILLIAM FREDERICK BEADON, P.G. WARDEN,**  
*Chairman of the Festivals in 1851, 1854, 1856 1858.*



an unusually large number of the principal Grand Officers, and about 200 other members of the Craft. "Three sections of the Second Lecture were worked by Bro. Fenn, S.W. (his first public appearance as a section worker), Bro. Dolman, J.W., and Bro. Taylor, I.G.," the questions being put by Bro. Wilson, who sat as P.M. The speeches at this meeting, such of them as were reported, were of a very superior order and quite out of the usual category of after-dinner oratory, especially those of the presiding officer and the R.W. Thomas H. Hall, Prov. G. Master for Cambridgeshire, who responded for the Grand Officers and also proposed the health of the chairman.

That worthy brother, noted for his eloquence and learning, seems to have excelled himself in proposing the toast of the evening—"Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement"—in what was probably the longest and most eloquent address ever delivered in that lodge, although, judging from the heartiness and frequency of the applause, we question whether any brother who heard it deemed it too long. We much regret that limited space precludes the reproduction of lengthy speeches in these pages; but those who may desire to peruse them in their entirety, or as reported, will find them in the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror* for the 1st of December, 1858. Meanwhile, on the principle that "half a loaf is better than no bread," we venture to offer a few passages from the chairman's speech in proposing *the* toast of the evening, which *excerpla* may fairly serve as a sample of the whole; although where all is good, selection is somewhat difficult:—

"In proposing the toast of 'Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement,' the Chairman said, to tell you that in this Lodge Masonry is taught in all its purity, would be to tell you that which has been repeatedly told you by abler and older Masons than myself. To tell you that this Lodge of Instruction, not only by its labours this evening, but by its constant labours, and by the admirable manner in which the duties are performed, is entitled not only to the gratitude of

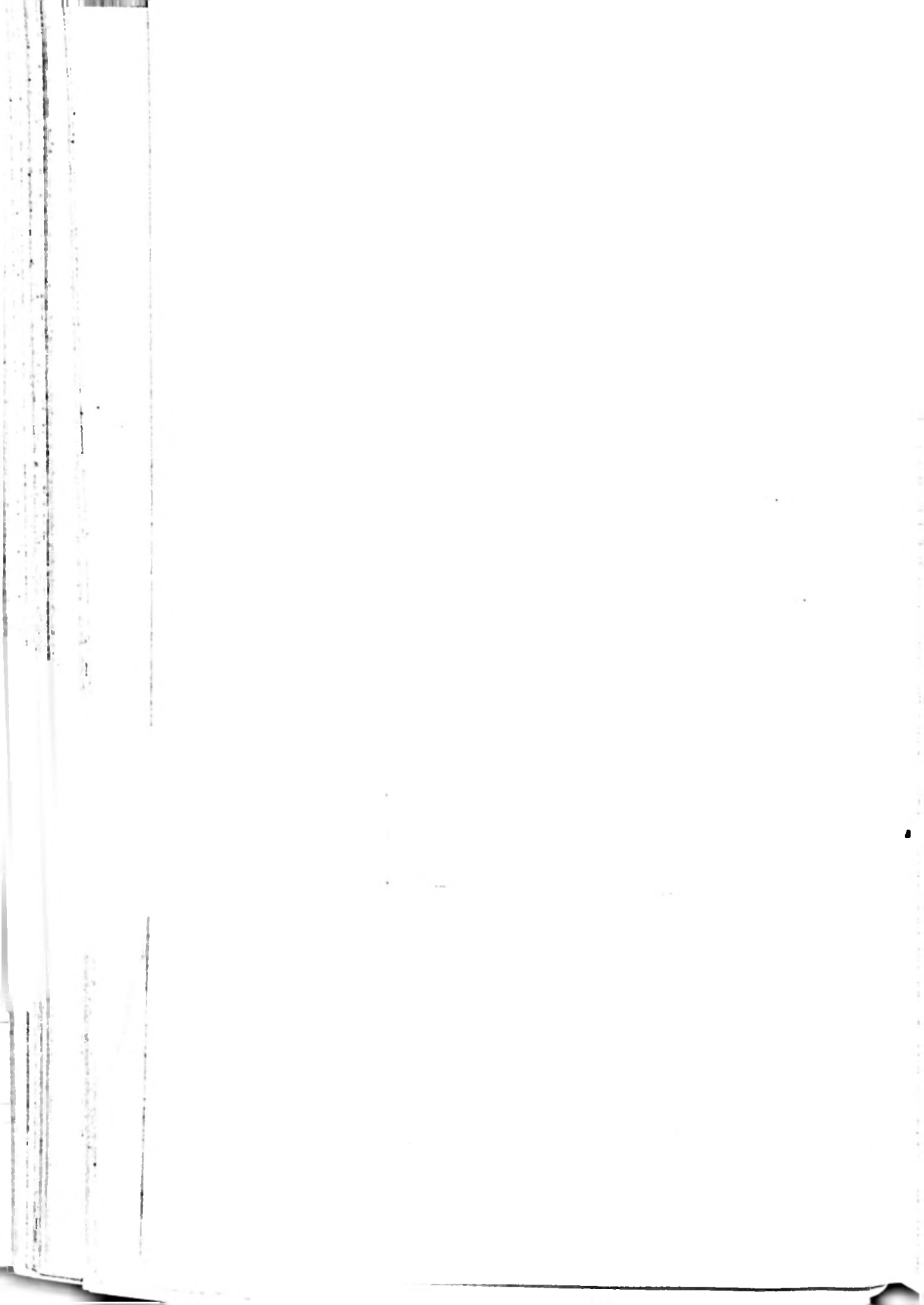
every one present, but to the gratitude of every Brother wherever English Masonry is known and taught, would be but to reiterate a thrice told tale. Rather let me, and I trust I shall not be deemed too bold in the attempt, endeavour to add my mite to the instruction of the evening, and addressing myself chiefly to my younger Brethren, but incidentally to all, endeavour to show how the precepts taught in this Lodge may be carried out in the every day conduct of our Masonic work. No object can be more laudable than the ambition on the part of young Masons to become perfect in the ritual ; it is the stepping stone to Masonic excellence, for without it they are nothing ; but if we confine ourselves to that, and that only, ours will be but *lip* Masonry at best. We have higher and more important duties to perform towards ourselves, towards the institution, and towards the world in general.

“We owe it to ourselves to endeavour to enforce by example, as well as by precept, those glorious principles which are nowhere more clearly inculcated than in our beautiful lectures, and nowhere more forcibly impressed than in the working of our ceremonies ; to surrender each one his individual interests to the welfare of the many ; to labour each one in his peculiar vocation to promote, not his own advantage, but that of the institution of which we are all members ; without this, vain are the precepts of Masonry—vain will be the labours of our teachers . . . . .  
First and foremost, then, let us be careful of those whom we introduce into our ranks. Let us not introduce any man who is not likely either to confer additional honour, or at least help us to maintain our already deservedly high character. And here I would observe that too much care and discrimination cannot be observed in the admission of new members ; for there is too much reason to believe that in some Lodges men are admitted into Masonry, whose sole object is not that of ‘rendering themselves more extensively serviceable to their fellow creatures.’ Nothing can be more subversive of the true interests of Masonry than the





JOHN M. HERVEY, GRAND SECRETARY, 1868-80.  
*Treasurer of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, 1847-1880.*



supposition that it can degenerate into a mere benefit society.

“Let no one suppose that he either is or ought to be an uninterested member, or that he is without the power of contributing his share to the general welfare. All may help, and Masonry has a claim on the services of all her sons. Besides being a zealous brother in his Lodge, assiduous in attending to his duties there—besides being a supporter of our charities—each may find his place on one of the many committees of those charities, in our Boards, or in our Grand Lodge—each may find a place according to his disposition, his leisure, and his power. Let no one imagine that this great institution can be left to go on its way without the assistance of the many who can and may, and ought to help it. Each one, I say, has his part to fulfil, and the humblest labourer may contribute his quota to the general good.

“I have already said that no man can have a higher appreciation of the excellencies and advantages of Masonry than I have. I behold in it one of the most strange and striking brotherhoods which ever existed. I see it possessing a power ‘to open new fountains in the human heart,’ possessed by no other institution. I see it support, and nobly support, its vast and varied charities, I see it generally united and brotherly in its internal union. I behold in it a means of bringing together and uniting in one happy communion men of all kindreds and tongues, of every diversity of religious and political feeling—linking generations each to each in the bonds of the purest and most disinterested friendship. Seeing all these things, and proud as every man must be of such an institution, I should like to see it do more, and identify itself now, as it did of old, in some degree with the prosecution of scientific and intellectual research. Masons of old were not less charitable, as far as their means permitted, nor were they less united than ourselves, and they did much for science.

“They identified themselves with it; indeed, they were the leaders of one particular branch, and that the

earliest and the most useful. Masonry, first a religious mystery, afterwards became a scientific and social union. Neglected and almost forgotten, it at length appeared again as a charitable and social institution. May it be reserved for us to regain for it its former high position. I trust the day is not far distant when Masonry shall take an immense stride—when private Lodges shall devote a portion of their time to the study of the arts and sciences—when men shall once more seek our temples as a means of advancement in knowledge—when the parent body, with a local habitation worthy of its name, shall encourage the study of those liberal arts which lie within its peculiar province. As the first step in this direction, I hail with peculiar pleasure and delight the prospect which appears to be opening before us. I long to see a library established within these walls. I trust that one of the objects to be carried out in that library will be the delivery of lectures on scientific subjects connected especially with our institution. I should like to see its walls adorned not only with the interesting relics of antiquity, its shelves enriched with the works of the learned of all ages, but I should like to see it adorned also with the busts and statues, the portraits and reminiscences of the great, the good, the noble—fitting testimonials to those who have distinguished themselves by their acquirements in science, or by their devotion to our Order. Why should not our children and our children's children see perpetuated in lasting marble, or in faithful portraiture, the lineaments of those who have laboured worthily and well in our cause? By the side of Wren and Jones should stand the noble and the great, a Sussex or a Moira, and by them again, the humbler, but not less useful, labourers in the Craft. Why should not our children gaze on their features and see what manner of men were they who taught and led in days gone by? Why should not a Gilkes or a Wilson occupy with the great, side by side, a fitting place? As in life, so in memory, side by side, in Masonic equality, the noble and the learned, the great and the good—just tribute to their labour, just memorial to their worth.”

The earliest written records of the lodge now available begin on the 18th of February, 1859, all previous minute books having mysteriously disappeared during the rebuilding of the Freemasons' Tavern in 1867-68.

Judging from the minutes of this meeting the lodge appears to have been in a flourishing condition, there being twenty-five members and three visitors present, while the cash account shows a balance of £34 1s. brought forward in favour of the lodge, and with £1 9s. dues collected on that evening, making a total of £35 10s. The leaders of the lodge evidently did not believe in allowing the funds to unduly accumulate and thus place temptation in the way of the Treasurer, for a sum of £20 10s. was deducted from the above-named for the Charities, "pursuant to the vote of the lodge on the 24th of December last."

The lodge appears to have been then worked and conducted on much the same lines as in the present day, viz., opened in the three degrees, ceremony worked, minutes read, ballots taken, new members proposed, sections worked Master and officers for next week appointed, work named and lodge closed.

This was the usual routine of each meeting, the minutes containing nothing of moment until October the 7th, the annual election night, when we learn that Bro. John Hervey was re-elected Treasurer and Bro. Luis Artús, Secretary for the ensuing year. Bro. S. B. Wilson, jun., and Bro. George Barrett were re-elected as members of the permanent committee in addition to the President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

On the 28th of October it was resolved "that in consequence of the hall being engaged on the 25th of November, the Annual Festival (for 1859) be held on the 9th of December, and that Bro. Savage be asked to take the chair, the lodge having been informed by Bro. Hervey that the health of Bro. Beadon precluded his compliance with the request of the lodge to preside on that occasion.

On the 4th of November it was resolved, on the motion



of Bro. Hervey, seconded by Bro. S. B. Wilson, that the sum of five pounds be placed at the disposal of the Stewards towards defraying the expenses of the next Annual Festival. At the following meeting it was proposed and carried that special invitations to the Festival be sent to Bros. John Havers, William Gray Clarke (Grand Secretary), William Farnfield (Assistant Grand Secretary), Henry Muggeridge, R. W. Jennings (G.D.C.), and Francis Roxburgh (Grand Registrar).

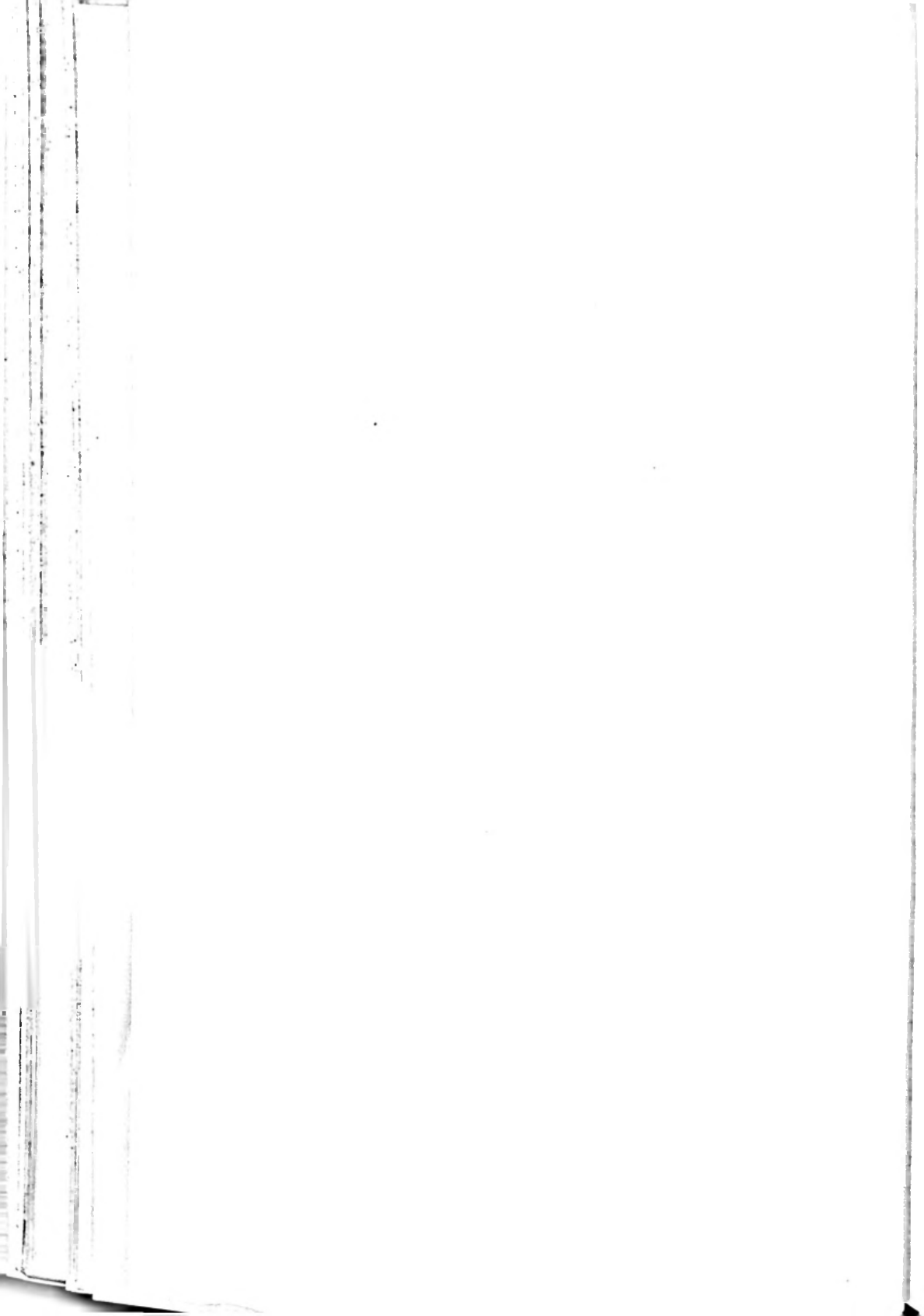
On the 18th of November "A circular letter was read from the Grand Secretary cautioning the brethren against holding communication with certain spurious Masons using certificates issued by a lodge calling itself, 'The Reformed Masonic Order of Memphis, or Rite of the Grand Lodge of Philadelphes.'"

The Festival on the 9th of December, 1859, was held in the Temple, designed by Sir John Soane (for the meetings of the Grand Lodge), which was demolished in 1867 prior to the rebuilding of the Freemasons' Tavern. The work in the lodge marked a new departure, S. B. Wilson having undertaken the ceremonies of consecration and installation, this being the first occasion on which those functions were performed either at the "Emulation" or, in all likelihood, at any other lodge of instruction in London.

Many Grand Officers, in addition to those specially invited, attended the meeting, several of whom took part in the ceremony of consecration, thus conducing to the realistic character of the proceedings. The Grand Secretary read the petition and warrant, "and the customary oration was most admirably delivered by Bro. Thomas Fenn, who officiated as Grand Chaplain (probably his first appearance in that character). Bro. Charles Edward Horsley, Grand Organist, presided at the organ, and was assisted by Bro. Donald King and several other celebrated vocalists. Bro. Wilson installed Bro. John Savage in the chair, who appointed the various officers and addressed them on their respective duties."



HENRY BROWSE, P.G. DEACON.  
*Chairman of the Festival, October 7th, 1842.*



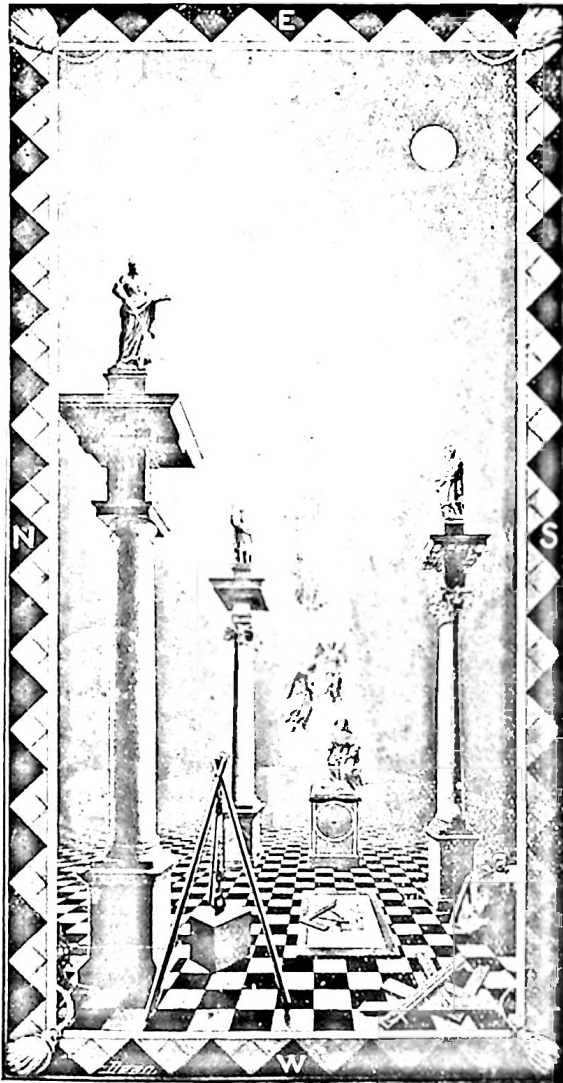


In perusing these Festival speeches we look in vain for any allusion to the early history of this justly celebrated Lodge of Improvement, an omission much to be regretted, and for which I am unable to find valid excuse. As before stated, S. B. Wilson joined the lodge in 1832, and the chairman of the evening joined only four years later, while Bro. William Farnfield had been a member longer than either of the last named brethren, and at that period scarcely ever missed a festival meeting, although it must be acknowledged that he very seldom indulged in speech making. It is but reasonable to conclude that these as well as other brethren had some knowledge of the working of the lodge in the earlier and most interesting period of its career.

On this occasion the speeches, both in proposing and responding to the various toasts, were well worth listening to, but of not sufficient general interest to justify their reproduction at length. We will, therefore, restrict ourselves to transcribing the remarks of the W. Bro. Frederick Slight, J.G.D., who proposed the toast of "The Chairman," and also that brother's response thereto, as printed in the *Fremasons' Magazine* of December 7th, 1859. Bro. Slight having responded to the toast of "The Grand Officers," again rose and said: "The Worshipful Master having entrusted him with his gavel, he had to ask them to join him in a toast which he was sure would be generally acceptable—'The health of the Worshipful Master,' and with it he would couple, 'Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.' With regard to the Worshipful Master it was difficult to speak of him in his presence as he might desire, but Bro. John Savage was so well known to them all as to render it unnecessary that he should say anything in recommendation of the toast. With regard to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement he held it in high esteem. As to its teachings, he was indebted for what little knowledge he had of the ceremonies, and he wished all Masons desirous of advancing in the Craft could attend that lodge, as he was sure they would derive benefit from the manner in which it was worked and conducted. No one

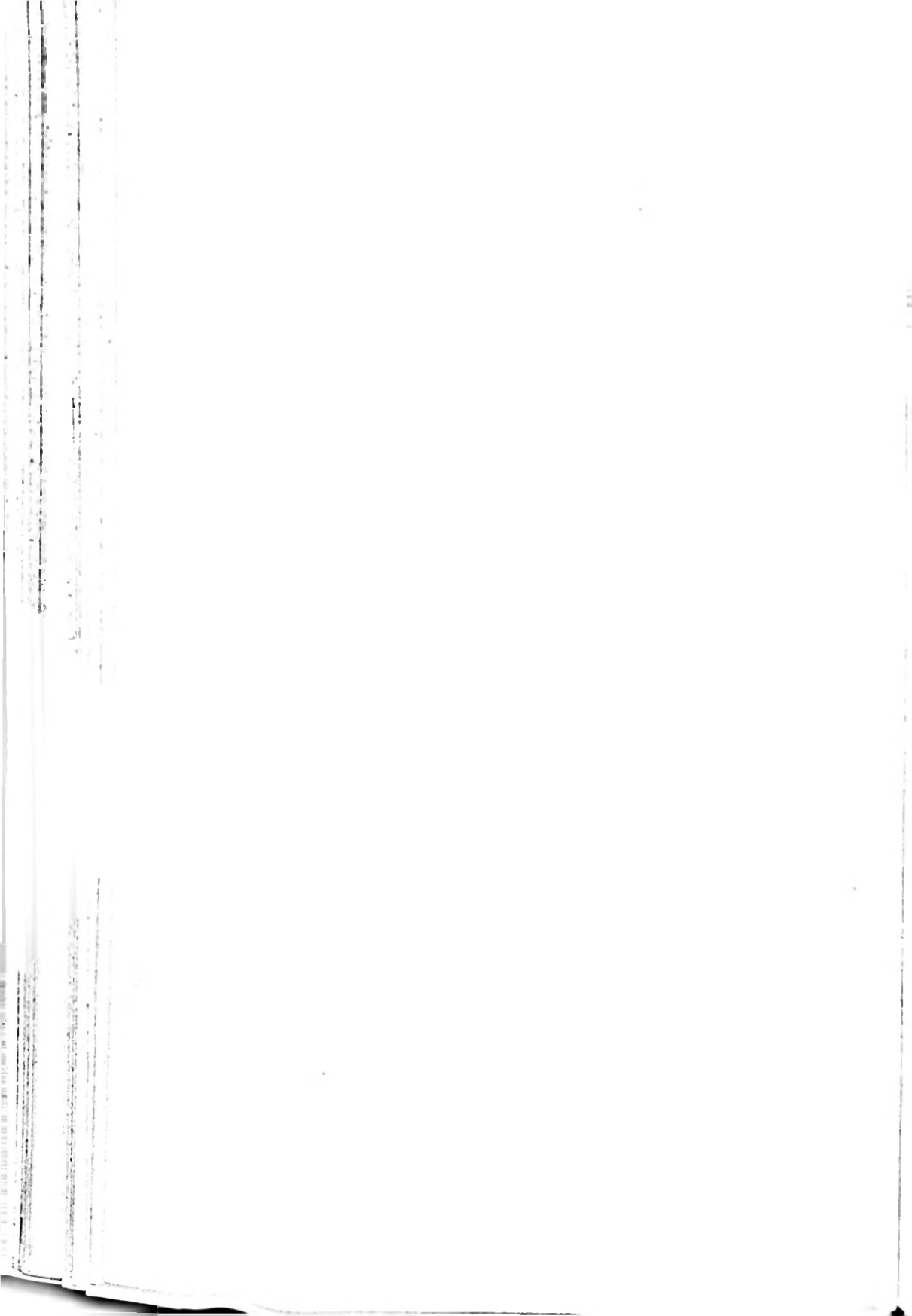
could fully appreciate the beauties of the Craft unless they had the opportunity of observing how ably and efficiently the ceremonies and lectures were always worked in that lodge. Here he was reminded that in closing the lodge that evening they had omitted to return their sincere thanks, as he was sure all desired to do, to Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, for the very able manner in which he had discharged the duties of the lodge that evening, and he trusted that there were those present who would convey to that brother the assurance that the omission was purely accidental, and that it was noticed with regret after the closing of the lodge. He trusted that the lodge would long continue to flourish as one of the best, if not the best, lodge of instruction in the metropolis, and that they would join with him in cordially drinking to the health of Bro. Savage, S.G.D. of England, and prosperity to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement."

Bro. Savage said : "Most cordially do I thank you for the reception which you have given to the toast so kindly proposed by my friend, Bro. Slight. I assure you that my attachment to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement is undiminished, and I look back with the most pleasing recollection to my connection with it, for I am under a deep debt of gratitude to it. It was here I first learned the rudiments of Freemasonry, and was induced to make myself proficient in the mysteries of the Order. I was so gratified twenty-four years ago, when I saw our esteemed friend, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, as we saw him to-night, most ably superintending the work of the Lodge, and the other officers performing their duties ; and when I saw my old friend, Bro. Pike, go through the ceremony of raising, I was so struck with the working of the Lodge that I said to myself, 'Why cannot I, too, become a working Mason?' From that and from the kind assistance of Bro. Wilson, I learned a little of the working of Freemasonry, and was able, after a few years, to give instruction to others in my turn. Therefore it is that I say I am under a deep debt to this Lodge, and I never think of it except with the kindest



*Approved by the Committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, No. 338  
S. Wilson, Chairman, 16<sup>th</sup> May 1865*

"EMULATION" TRACING BOARD, FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAWING.



feelings, for it was there I found the most pleasant way of spending many a Friday evening. I am delighted to see that it is so well supported, and that there are so many here animated by a warm desire for its prosperity. I am gratified by the support you have rendered to me in the chair this evening, and I receive it as a compliment to myself, for I know that in the warmth of your feelings you cordially welcome me, although for some time past an absentee from your weekly meetings."

The omission referred to at the Festival was promptly rectified at the next meeting of the lodge, December 16th, a vote of thanks being unanimously passed to Bro. S. B. Wilson for the able and eloquent manner in which he had performed the ceremonies of consecration and installation, "also to Bro. Thomas Fenn for his kindness in taking the Grand Chaplain's work at a very short notice." On the motion of Bro. Wilson a vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Bassett Smith for his munificent present of two columns for use at the last Festival.

February 3rd, 1860. "Bro. Harris having submitted to the Brethren the original drawings for the Tracing Boards painted by him and now used in this Lodge, with a view to their being purchased by the Lodge, it was proposed by Bro. Pike, seconded by Bro. Levinson, and carried unanimously, that the matter be referred to the Committee to consider the expediency of the Lodge becoming the possessors of them."

February 17th. "Bro. S. B. Wilson reported to the lodge that the permanent Committee had decided to recommend to the Lodge the purchase of the original drawings; it was proposed, seconded, and carried, that the sum of five guineas be offered to Bro. Harris for the drawings of the Tracing Boards with the copyright."

Bro. Harris having declined to accept the sum offered, he not having contemplated the disposal of the copyright, the subject was referred back to the Committee for reconsideration. On the 13th of April it was decided to purchase

the drawings for five guineas, "the Treasurer giving an assurance to Bro. Harris that the Lodge do not purchase them with any view to publishing them; or allow them to be published during the life of Bro. Harris or that of his wife."

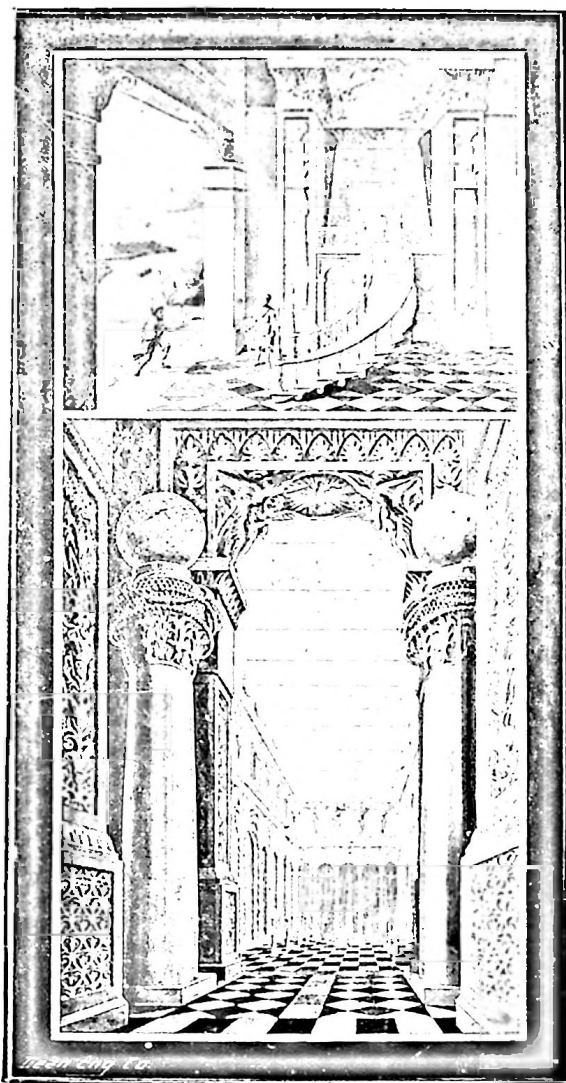
The reduced copies here displayed were photographed from the original drawings in possession of the lodge.

At this meeting it was resolved, on the motion of Bro. Fenn, that the meetings of the lodge be held at seven o'clock throughout the year, instead of eight during the summer as heretofore. On the 28th September, S. B. Wilson, jun., and James Pike were unanimously elected as members of the permanent Committee, in addition to the President, Treasurer, and Secretary. At the following meeting, John Hervey was re-elected Treasurer, and Luis Artús, Secretary.

The Annual Festival was held on the 30th of November, S. B. Wilson, W. Master, sixty-two members and twenty-nine visitors being present. The fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh sections of the First Lecture and the second and fourth sections of the Second Lecture were worked, but the names of the workers are not recorded. Ten brethren having been proposed to become members, the lodge was closed and the company adjourned to supper under the presidency of the R.W. Thomas H. Hall, Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire. The proceedings were reported at considerable length in the *Freemasons' Magazine* of December 8th, but as the speeches contain nothing of historical import, they may well be omitted here.

On the 21st of December "It was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously that the thanks of this Lodge to Bro. Thomas Fenn, J.W. Cadogan Lodge, No. 188, be recorded on the minutes for his munificent gift of a Bible and cushion to the Lodge, and that he be requested to write his name therein as donor, with the date on which the presentation was made."

On the 5th of April, 1861, a letter was read from Bro. Artús to Bro. Fenn, in which he tendered his resignation as Secretary and apologised to the brethren for his recent



*Approved by the Committee of the Emulation Socy. of Improvement. 4:318  
S. B. Wilson Chairman 16<sup>th</sup> May 1865*

"EMULATION" TRACING BOARD, FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAWING.





neglect of his duties, expressing a doubt as to his being able to attend on Friday evening for some weeks to come.

"Bro. S. B. Wilson expressed his regret that the Lodge should be deprived of the valuable services of Bro. Artús. He called the attention of the brethren to the able manner in which Bro. Artús had discharged the duties of Secretary for a period of five years and a half, and gave notice of his intention, at some future meeting of the Lodge, to propose that a testimonial be presented to him." The resignation of Bro. Artús was accepted with regret, and his letter was ordered to be entered on the minutes of the lodge.

"Bro. Fenn was requested to undertake the duties of Secretary until the next usual period of election in October next."

Bro. Artús had not attended the lodge regularly for several months, the weekly minutes having been written by various brethren, but chiefly by Bro. Fenn.

On the 10th of May a letter was read from the Hon. Secretary of "The City of London Freemasons' Club," to the purport that the committee of the said club had deputed certain brethren to attend the lodge and explain the objects and present position of the club.

The deputation, consisting of F. J. Sharp, W.M. of the Eastern Star Lodge; E. D. Rogers, P.M. of the Kent Lodge; and C. Southall, J.W. of the Temple Lodge, explained the nature of the proposed club and solicited the co-operation of the brethren.

"Bro. S. B. Wilson approved of the objects of the club, but did not consider the deputation had given sufficient details of the proposed scheme to enable him to recommend it to the favourable consideration of the lodge."

In the minutes of the 12th of July an unusual incident is recorded, affording indisputable evidence of the zeal of the committee in those days to uphold the good working of the lodge.

"After some discussion on the working of the W.M. on the previous Friday evening, it was proposed, seconded, and

carried unanimously, that the usual words 'ably worked' should be erased, and the words 'gone through' substituted. The minutes of the last lodge, with this alteration, were then unanimously confirmed."

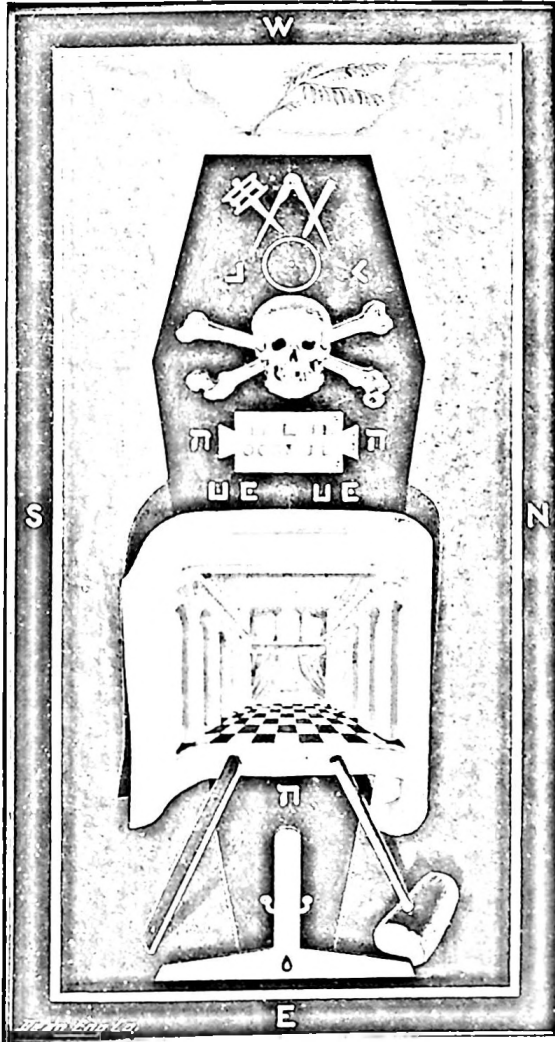
On the 26th July it is recorded that : "The Committee of General Purposes having, in accordance with the notice of motion given by Bro. S. B. Wilson on the 5th instant, taken into consideration the rescinding of By Law No. 5, and reported favourably thereon, Bro. J. Pike proposed, Bro. Murton seconded, and it was carried unanimously, that the said By Law No. 5 be from this time rescinded."

The following is the By-Law referred to : "That any brother accepting the office of Master and not attending to discharge his duties within a quarter of an hour after the time appointed for opening the Lodge shall pay a fine of two shillings and sixpence in aid of the general fund unless a written excuse shall be received from him within the time last named."

Another unusual event occurred on the 16th of August, which is thus recorded : "A sufficient number of Brethren not being present to form a Lodge, the meeting stood adjourned until Friday in the ensuing week." So far as we have been able to learn, this is the only instance of the kind in the annals of the lodge, the brethren therefore who attended on that memorable occasion deserve honourable mention. They were Bros. Pike, Murton, Daly, and Rice, the Tyler.

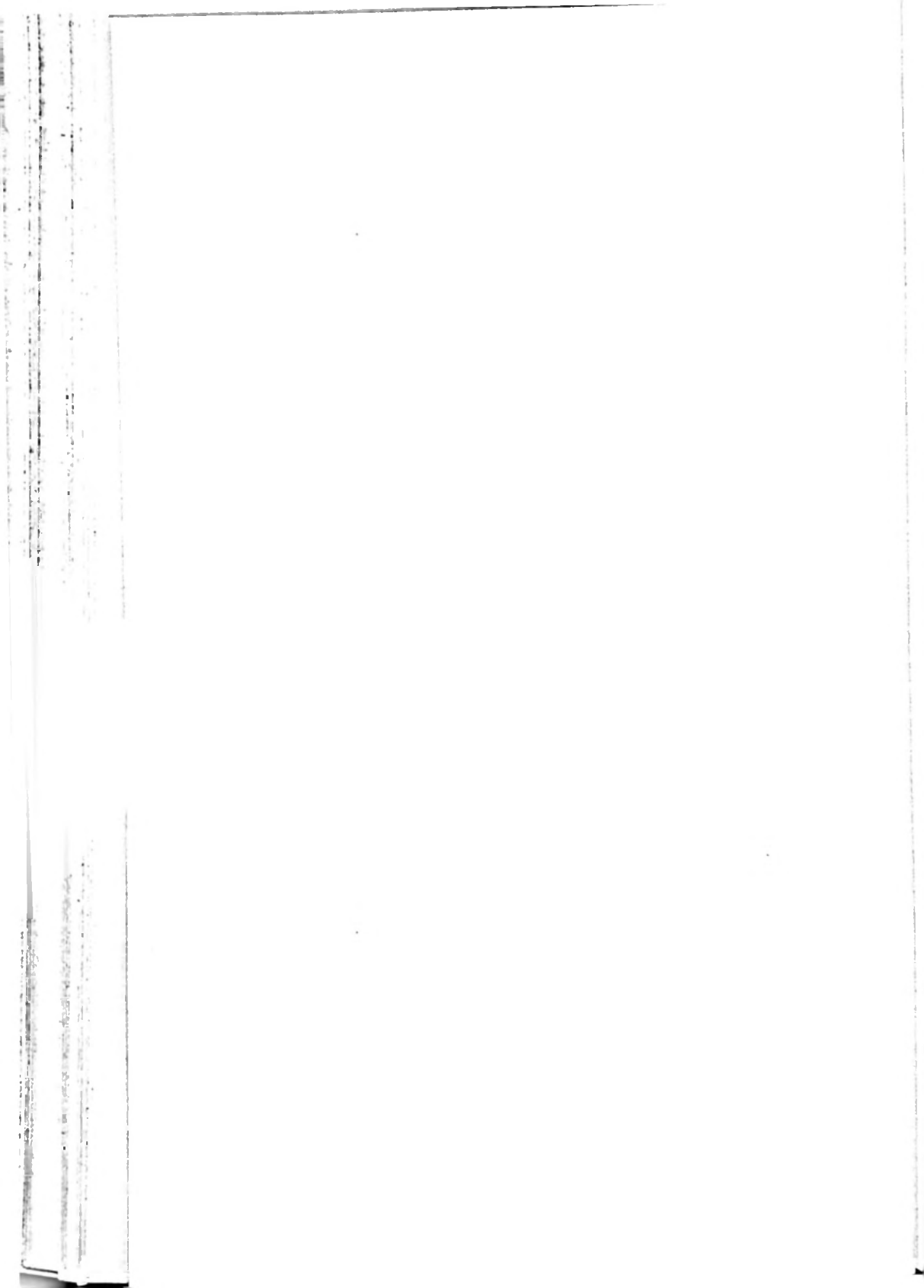
On the 27th of September the Committee of the previous year was re-elected, and on the 4th of October Bros. Hervey and Fenn were elected Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. At the same meeting a vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Artús for the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of Secretary.

On the 1st of November the R.W. Bro. Viscount Holmesdale, P.G. Master for Kent, visited the lodge, and was proposed to become a member by S. B. Wilson, which proposition, it is scarcely necessary to add, was carried



*Approved by the Committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, No. 38  
J. B. Wilson, Chairman 16<sup>th</sup> May 1865*

"EMULATION" TRACING BOARD. FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAWING.



unanimously, or that the ballot at the next meeting was in the affirmative.

On the 22nd November "A letter was read from the Grand Secretary informing the Lodge that the Board of General Purposes had granted them the gratuitous use of the Hall and Temple for their Annual Festival on the 29th inst. A vote of thanks to the Board of General Purposes was ordered to be recorded on the minutes."

At the same meeting a sum of five guineas was voted towards the cost of a jewel to be presented to Bro. Artús, the late Secretary.

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## CHAPTER IV.

THE Festival for 1861, held on the 29th of November, was a distinct success in point of numbers, eighty-six members who wrote their names plain enough to be read by the Secretary, and five others whose names, he states, were illegible, together with upwards of 100 visitors, being present.

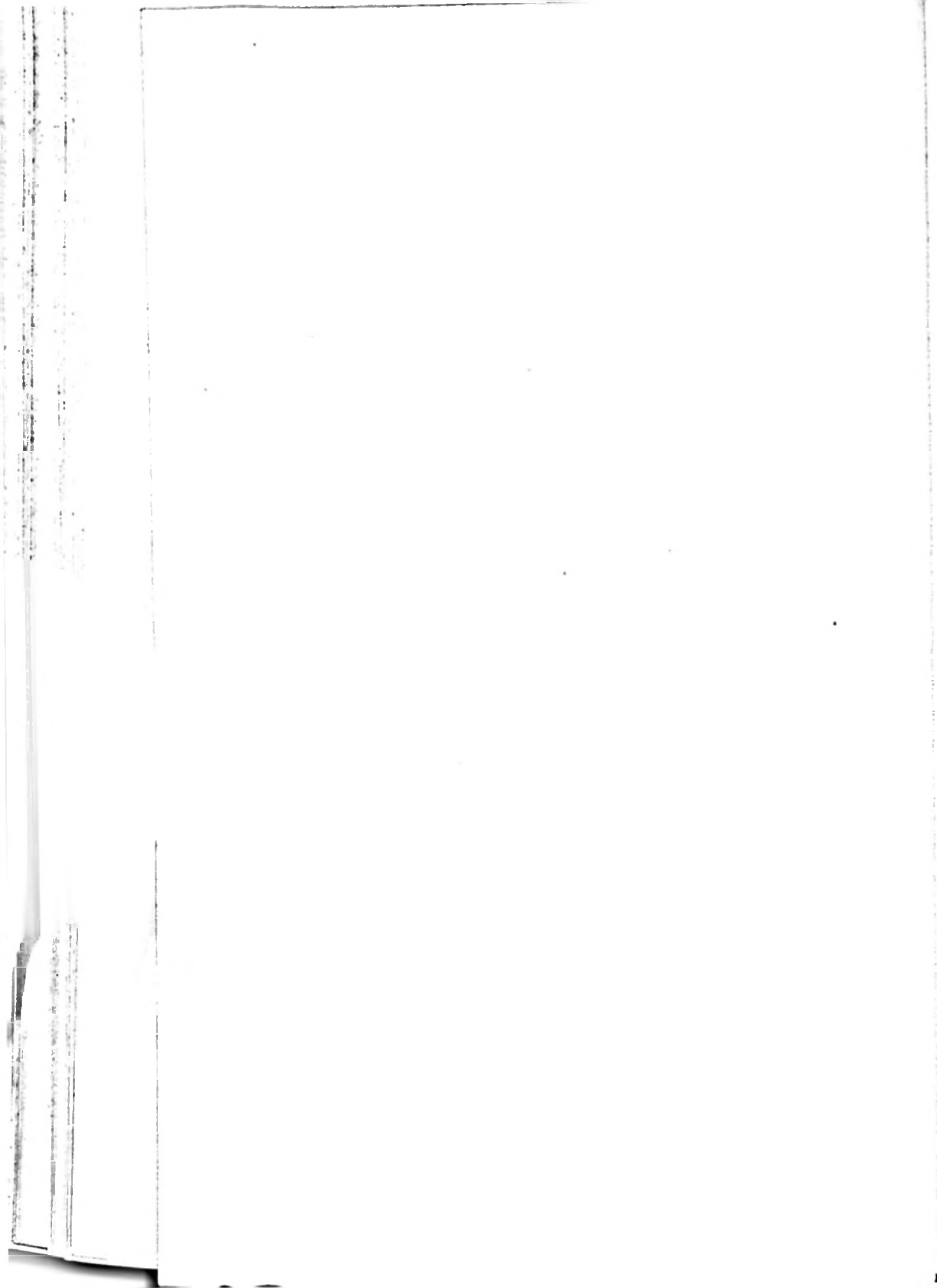
S. B. Wilson worked the second, third, fourth, and fifth sections of the Second Lecture and the third section of the Third Lecture, assisted by the following brethren:—Charles A. Murton, F. Dollman, Thomas Fenn, Henry Empson, and Frederick Mead.

Twenty-five brethren having been proposed as members, the usual vote of thanks was passed to the workers, as well as a special vote to Bro. Richard Spencer for his handsome present of a box of working tools, with the name of the lodge engraved thereon.

Viscount Holmesdale had intended to preside at the banquet, but owing to the death of a relative his lordship was unable to be present, and his place was taken, almost at the last moment, by Richard W. Jennings, Past Grand Director of Ceremonies, subsequently appointed Past Grand Warden. In consequence of the late hour at which the lodge had been opened (nearly eight o'clock) the speeches at the table were necessarily brief, as usual the lion's share of praise falling upon the indefatigable S. B. Wilson.



RICHARD W. JENNINGS. PAST GRAND WARDEN.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1861.*





A handsome Past Secretary's jewel was presented to Bro. Luis Artús, who, in responding to a special toast of his health, thanked the brethren most warmly for their great kindness, and expressed a hope that he might ever continue worthy of their esteem and regard.

As several brethren "enlivened the proceedings by their vocal exertions," we may take it for granted that this was rather "a late sitting."

At the next meeting of the lodge, on the 6th of December, the Secretary was directed "to write to the W.M. of the Lodge of Unions, apologising for the inadvertent omission of the usual toast to that lodge at the late Festival."

This resolution was fully carried out by Bro. Fenn (who took the responsibility for the omission upon himself, it being his first Festival as Secretary) in a way that gave every satisfaction to the members of the parent lodge, the W.M. writing a very agreeable and brotherly reply, both the apology and acceptance thereof being duly recorded on the minutes of the lodge.

On the 31st of January, 1862, "It was proposed by Bro. J. Hervey, seconded by Bro. J. Pike, and carried unanimously, that the pair of globes offered by Bro. Fenn be accepted, and that the very cordial thanks of the lodge to Bro. Fenn, for his kind present, be recorded on the minutes."

On the 25th of April the committee reported the death of Bro. William Rice, who had been Tyler of the lodge for many years, and recommended the election of Bro. John Daly in his place. The recommendation was adopted and Bro. Daly was thereupon invested.

"It was proposed by Bro. Fenn, seconded by Bro. Wilson, and carried unanimously, that the regret of the Lodge at the death of Bro. Rice, and an acknowledgment of his faithful services during a period of . . . . years, be recorded on the minutes."

Bro. Rice was a Past Master of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, and joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in 1833.

We have no means of ascertaining how long he had held

the office of Tyler, but he probably worked as a member of the lodge before being appointed to that office. He was a pre-union Mason, having been initiated as far back as March, 1813, in No. 350, Jersey.

His successor was a Past Master of the Zetland Lodge, No. 511, and a protegee of Stephen Barton Wilson. He joined the "Emulation" in 1859, and was a diligent worker in the lodge until his appointment as Tyler; he seldom missed a meeting, and was one of the notable three who attended on the 16th of August, 1861, when the lodge was not opened for want of a sufficient number of members.

Bro. Daly was thoroughly conversant in the ceremonies and sections according to the "Emulation" system, and occasionally worked them at other lodges of instruction, when the richness of his brogue and his elocutionary gestures never failed to rivet the attention of the audience. The writer was indebted to Bro. Daly for much of his knowledge of the "Emulation working," but he sometimes finds it difficult to forgive him for not having taken greater care of the old minute books of the lodge.

On the 30th of May the lodge was attended by forty-three members and seventeen visitors, including most of the leading London Masons of the day. The occasion of this unusual gathering being the reading by Bro. Dollman of an essay by S. B. Wilson, on "The Necessity of Maintaining the Ancient Landmarks of the Order, The Incompatibility of Innovation, and The Rise, Progress, and Design of our Lectures."

On a motion by Bro. John Havers, J.G.W., seconded by J. L. Evans, S.G.D., a vote of thanks was passed to Bro. S. B. Wilson for his interesting essay.

This essay was printed in the *Freemasons' Magazine* for June 7th, 1862. With regard to the latter part of the title, "The Rise, Progress, and Design of our Lectures," I find that the venerable essayist derived his ideas to a considerable extent from the writings of William Preston and Dr. Oliver, both of whom, in dealing with historical Masonry, drew too liberally on their imagination to be perfectly reliable.

On the 3rd of October the permanent officers and committee were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year.

The annual Festival was held on the 28th of November, when part of the Second and the whole of the Third Lectures were worked by S. B. Wilson, assisted by the following brethren :—F. Mead, No. 275 ; C. A. Murton, P.M. No. 7 ; T. Fenn, W.M. No. 188 ; W. Hollingworth, No. 76 ; and J. R. Thomson, W.M. No. 1008. Eighty-six members and 106 visitors were present ; twenty-nine of the latter were proposed to become members.

The usual vote of thanks to the workers having been passed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, presided over by J. Rankin Stebbing, Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes, who was supported by many Grand Officers and other distinguished members of the Order. A full report of the proceedings appears in the *Freemasons' Magazine* of December 6th, 1862. This report contains no mention of singing ; we may therefore assume that, on this occasion, vocal harmony was dispensed with.

On the 27th of February, 1863, " Bro. Fenn read an essay by Bro. S. B. Wilson on the different answers to the question—'In this Country, Freemasons' Lodges being usually held, etc.'"

This essay was printed in pamphlet form in 1864, for private distribution, as "No. 4." Any profit, after the expenses of publication, was to have been equally divided between the Girls' and Boys' Institutions.

On the 2nd of October Bro. Fenn, who had been absent from the lodge for several months, "stated that, from the circumstances of his residing in the country, he was unable to continue his duties as Secretary of the Lodge, and tendered his resignation."

"Resolved—That it is with extreme regret that this Lodge accepts the retirement of Brother Thomas Fenn from the office of Secretary, and hereby express their unanimous approbation of the zeal he has exhibited in the discharge of his duties, and the essential services he has rendered to the

Lodge. That the customary jewel be presented to him on his retirement, and in order to further evince the high sense they entertain of his zeal and ability, and the interest he has shown for the welfare of Freemasonry in general, that this resolution be entered on the minutes of the Lodge."

Bro. C. A. Murton (who had performed the Secretarial duties during the absence of Bro. Fenn) was unanimously elected Secretary for the ensuing year.

Bro. Hervey was re-elected Treasurer, and Bros. S. B. Wilson, J. Pike, and T. Fenn were elected to serve on the Committee of General Purposes.

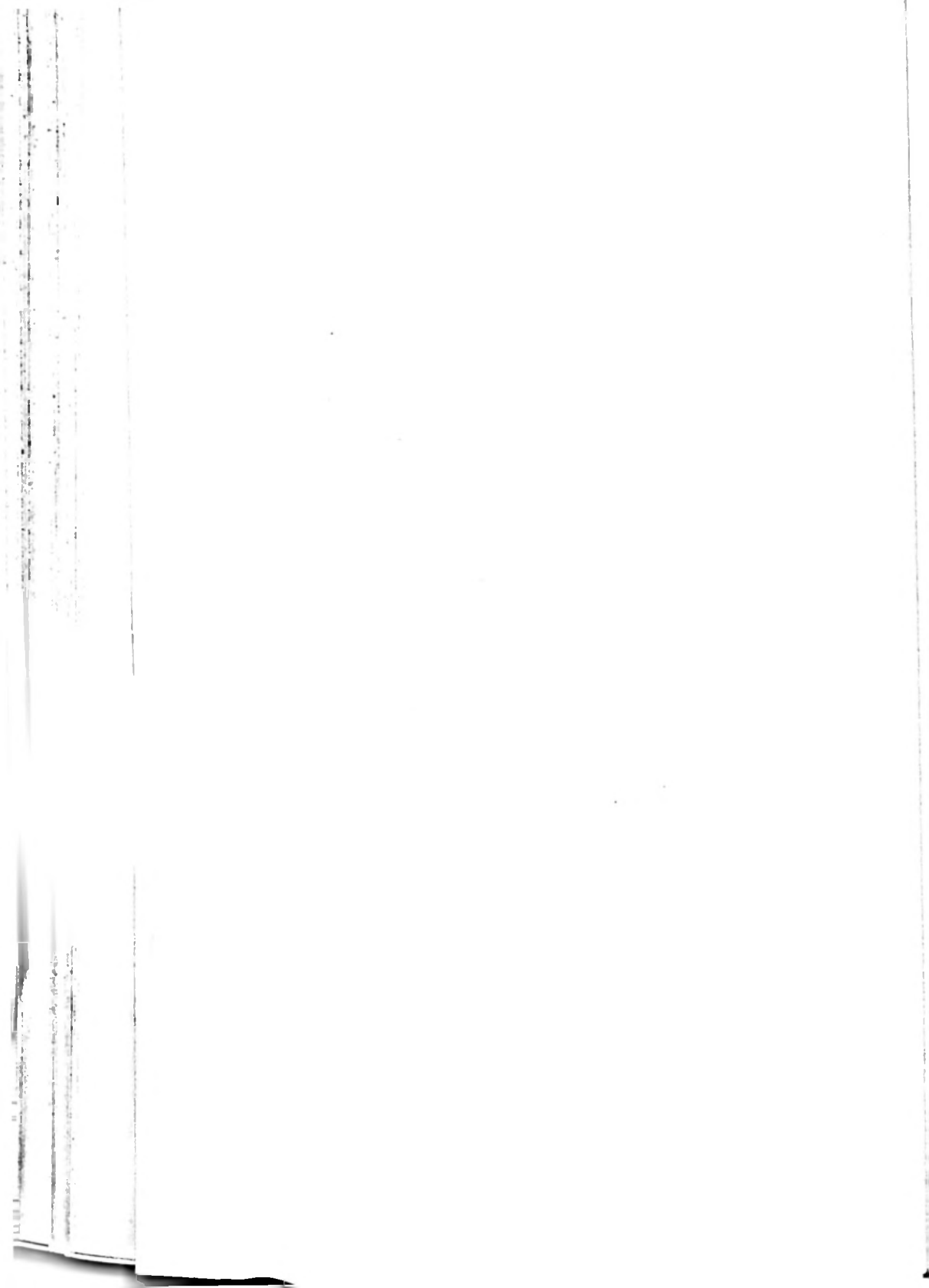
1863. The Annual Festival was held on the 27th of November, when the First Lecture was worked by S. B. Wilson, assisted by Bros. Robert Grey, S.W. ; W. C. Bacon, J.W. ; W. Hollingworth, S.D. ; W. E. Jeffreys, J.D. ; C. A. Murton, Sec. ; F. Binckes, I.G. ; and F. Mead.

Eighty-eight members, 106 visitors, and eleven invited guests, attended the meeting. Thirty-one propositions for joining having been received, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, under the presidency of Æneas J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar.

The Worshipful Master, in proposing the toast, "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement and its able President and Preceptor, Bro. Wilson," said : They all knew that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was looked up to as an exemplar of working, not only in London, but throughout the country. He understood that the lodge had been in existence upwards of forty years, and of that period Bro. Wilson had presided over it for nearly thirty years. The Emulation Lodge of Improvement had been established with the view of preserving and inculcating one system of working amongst the Craft, and no brother had worked more zealously to that end than its able and talented President. They all knew the excellent qualities of Bro. Wilson, and he must be allowed to express a hope that he might be spared for many years to preside over the lodge and direct their studies. From what they had seen, however, of Bro.



J. LLEWELLYN EVANS, PRES. BOARD OF GEN. PURPOSES, 1862-75.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1864.*



Wilson's pupils they must be satisfied that when, full of years and honours, he was removed from amongst them there would not be wanting fitting successors to keep up the prestige and honour of the lodge, and preserve the landmarks and purity of their working.

Bro. Wilson, who was prevented speaking for some time by the applause, returned thanks to the W.M. and the brethren for the manner in which they had been pleased to propose and respond to the toast. He could only say in reply that he felt bound by his obligations to convey, as best he could, any knowledge he possessed to brethren seeking instruction. The W.M. had been pleased to refer to the lengthened period his humble services had been given to the Craft. It was true that it was nearly thirty years since he became the president of that lodge, having succeeded that excellent Mason, Bro. Peter Gilkes, who died in 1833. He felt great gratification in being allowed to preside over the lodge, and he was obliged to the Lodge of Unions for having given their sanction and support to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. He trusted, nay, he believed, that the way in which the Lodge of Instruction had worked had met with the approbation of the parent lodge, and he felt that if it had not, their sanction to its working would have been withdrawn. He was proud of the officers of the lodge and of the brethren who assisted him in the working, and he felt that the time was fast approaching when he must give up the presidency of the lodge to younger and abler hands; but whilst he was amongst them he should continue to do his best to merit their approbation.

The W. Master having asked Bro. Fenn, the late Secretary of the lodge, to step forward, said that, in addition to their other qualities, they were not ungrateful for services rendered by the brethren. It was very seldom, however, that they had to show their gratitude to a brother who so well deserved it as Bro. Fenn, their late Secretary. Bro. Fenn had most ably fulfilled his duties not only as Secretary, but at all times and upon all occasions he was prepared and able

efficiently to fill any position in the lodge which might be required—from the Inner Guard upwards. The W.M. then proceeded to present Bro. Fenn with a very handsome jewel, bearing an appropriate inscription, assuring him that it was the free gift of the members, to mark their esteem for him as a brother and a diligent worker, and he (the W.M.) felt assured that it could not have been placed on the breast of a more able or worthy Mason.

Bro. Fenn, who was loudly cheered, said he could not sufficiently thank them for the compliment they had been pleased to pay him. He could assure them that he had not resigned his office of Secretary without regret, but it had been an act of necessity rather than choice, owing to a change of residence, which rendered it inconvenient for him to attend with that regularity he had hitherto done. He felt the less regret, however, as he knew that in his successor, Bro. Murton, they would have a most able and zealous Secretary. He accepted the elegant jewel with which they had presented him with diffidence, feeling that he had discharged the duties of Secretary for too short a period to merit so handsome a reward. He was gratified, however, if by the discharge of his duties he had obtained the esteem of the brethren; and though retiring from the office of Secretary he should be always happy to render any service in his power to the lodge, in which he was proud to feel he had made some valuable and sincere friendships, and in which he had spent many very pleasant hours amongst the brethren.

The toast of "The Chairman" was then given by Bro. J. Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes, who remarked that he (Bro. Evans) was one of the oldest members of the lodge, having been a pupil of Peter Gilkes, and was glad to see its continued prosperity.

"The W. Master said he had considerable difficulty in returning thanks for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and responded to. He was always most anxious efficiently to discharge his duties to the Craft at all times and in all seasons, feeling that no one had a right to





AENEAS J. MCINTYRE, GRAND REGISTRAR,  
*Chairman of the Festivals in 1863, 1866, and 1874.*



undertake office without being prepared properly and conscientiously to discharge its duties. In all lodges, everything should be done with exactitude and precision, and in none did they find their business better carried out than in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and those who were not prepared fully to discharge their duties had better keep outside the Craft. He felt it a high honour to be allowed to preside over their annual festival, and was most gratified by their kindness towards him. He trusted he might be able to meet them for many years to come, and be a witness of their increased and increasing prosperity.

The toast of the parent lodge came next in rotation, followed by that of "Prosperity to the Sister Lodge of Instruction, the Stability," coupled with the name of Bro. Henry Muggeridge, its excellent Preceptor.

The toast of "The Sister Lodge of Instruction" was invariably given at every Festival of the "Emulation" until the year 1880, when the veteran Bro. Muggeridge, by reason of age and bodily infirmities, had been compelled to refrain from active participation in the working of the Craft, and also to relinquish his Preceptorship, and there being no representative of the "Stability" present, the toast was then omitted, and has not since been resumed.

It has been stated that the "Emulation" and "Stability" were called "Sister Lodges of Instruction," because at one time they were the only two Lodges of Instruction in London. This is obviously incorrect, as at no period since 1823 have the Lodges of Instruction been reduced to two.

A more probable reason for their being so designated is because they were looked upon as the principal Lodges of Instruction, and while representing two distinct systems of working—differing merely in form, both acknowledged to be equally correct—they worked in the same sphere of usefulness with the utmost harmony, the leaders on both sides being seldom absent from the Annual Festivals, which were frequently presided over by the same Grand Officers.

On the 11th of December a vote of thanks was passed to

Bro. T. Fenn for the presentation to the lodge of a set of gavels.

1864. The Festival for 1864 was held on the 25th of November, when portions of the second and third lectures were worked by S. B. Wilson, assisted by Bros. C. A. Murton, A. A. Richards, E. Woodman, T. Fenn, G. Powell, and J. Pike.

There were present on this occasion eleven invited guests, eighty-four members, and eighty-three visitors, forty of whom were elected members of the lodge at the following meeting. The banquet was ably presided over by John Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes, who was supported by the Grand Registrar, the Grand Secretary, and many other distinguished brethren. In the course of the evening, Bro. Elton Woollams, of the "Old Concord Lodge," delighted the company with some choice pieces of vocal music.

1865. The year 1865 marks an important epoch in the history of the "Emulation Lodge of Improvement," as well as in that of London Masonry generally. Hitherto the metropolis of England had been without a proper Masonic building in which the lodges and chapters could assemble, the meetings being held from time immemorial at various houses of public entertainment, the Freemasons' Tavern having the largest share of patronage.

In this respect London was, and is still, far behind many provincial towns, very few of which but have accommodation for the Craft, quite independent of tavern influences. With a view to remedy this omission the Grand Lodge had purchased certain house property adjoining the tavern, and on the 27th of April, 1864, the late Earl of Zetland, Grand Master, laid the foundation-stone of the new buildings. Owing in a great measure to the active supervision of a skilled committee, headed by the veteran John Havers, some of the new rooms were ready for use early in the ensuing year, the fact being brought to the notice of the "Emulation" at its weekly meeting on the 17th of March, when the following notice of motion was given by S. B. Wilson:—"That the

Committee for General Purposes be empowered to negotiate with the Building Committee of Freemasons' Hall for the future place of meeting of the Lodge and of the expenses attending the same.

At the meeting on the 28th of April, John Havers, P.G.W., presided, and having opened the lodge in the "Dalhousie" room, "stated that he had conceived that it would be most appropriate that the first meeting in the new building should be that of the 'Emulation Lodge of Improvement,' he, therefore, by the desire of Bro. S. B. Wilson, the President of the Lodge, had taken the Chair for that purpose."

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Havers for his services in connection with the building committee, "and for his urbanity and kindness in presiding over this Lodge on the present occasion at the opening, and in commemoration of the inauguration of the Building for Masonic purposes."

Bro. Havers, having acknowledged the vote of thanks, "stated that he had to preside at the Festival of the 'Stability Lodge of Instruction,' he therefore requested Bro. Murton to take the Chair."

The 16th and 23rd of June witnessed an unusual event, which is thus recorded in the minutes. "There being no brother present qualified to work the appointed sections they were omitted."

Three brethren from Scotland and one from Ireland attended the lodge on the 14th of July, on which occasion it was decided that "Brethren under the Scotch and Irish Constitutions are exempt from visitors' fees."

On the 10th of November a new set of collars was presented by Bro. A. J. Pritchard, the W. Master, who received the thanks of the lodge for his gift.

The Festival was held on the 24th of November, the work being a part of the first lecture by the President, assisted by H. E. Francis, P.M. No. 108; T. Fenn, A.G.D.C.; G. Powell, W.M. No. 142; and A. A. Richards, W.M. No. 8. John Rankin Stebbing, P.G.D., a member of the Building

Committee, presided at the banquet, which, in the absence of a printed report, we may assume to have been of the usual character.

On this occasion the attendance of members and visitors appears to have been less numerous than had been customary of late, there being but 68 of the former and 56 of the latter, with nine invited guests, making a total of 133 present. Only sixteen new members were proposed.

1866. On the 4th of May the death of Stephen Barton Wilson was reported to the lodge, and it was thereupon resolved "that the ceremony and lecture appointed for the evening should be deferred until the next meeting."

"After an address from Bro. J. Savage, J.G.D., in allusion to the great loss sustained by the Craft in general and this Lodge of Improvement in particular by the demise of our late brother, the following resolution was proposed by Bro. James Pike, P.M. No. 66, seconded by Bro. T. Fenn, and carried unanimously:—

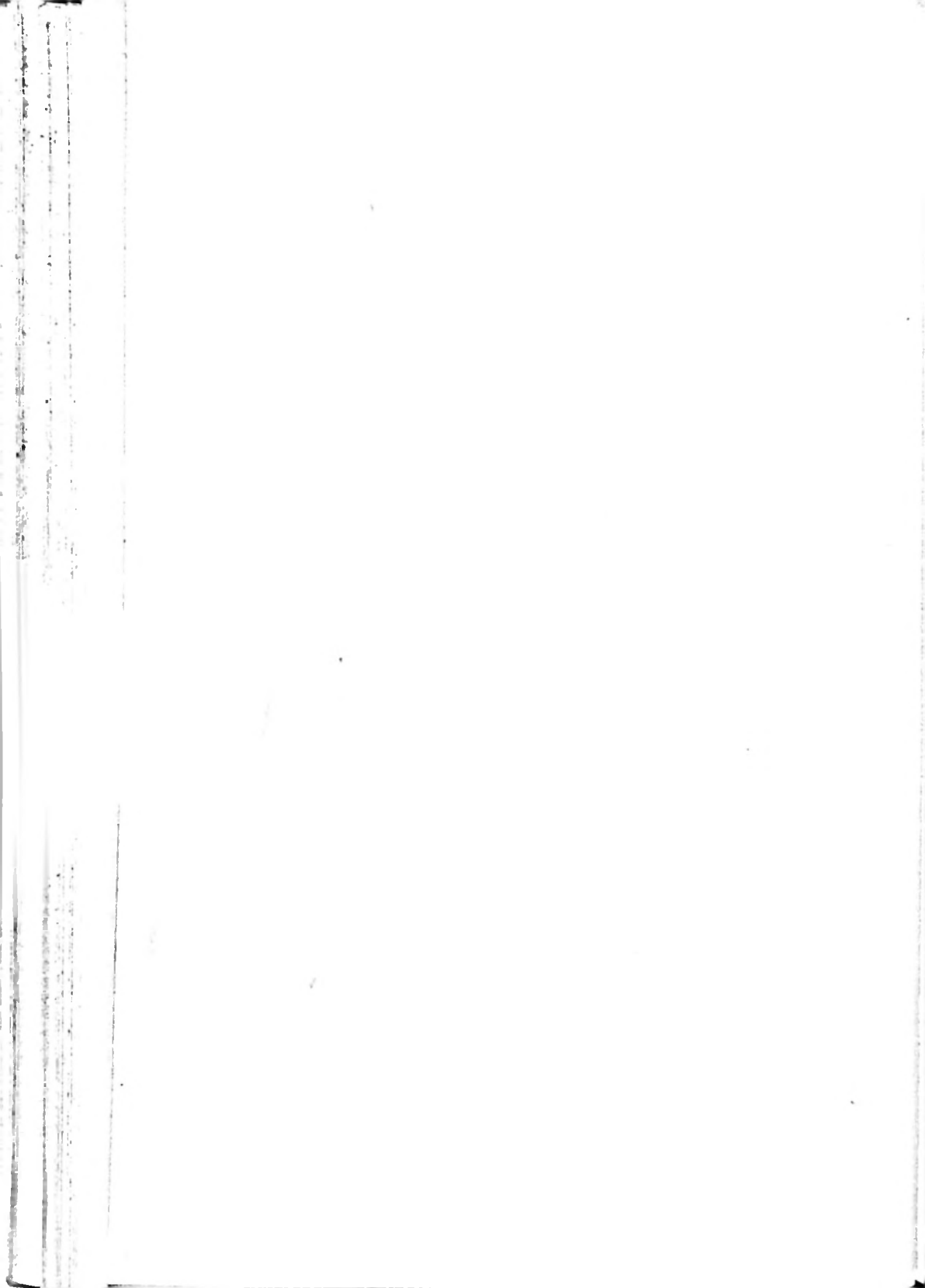
"The Committee and members of the 'Emulation Lodge of Improvement' have received the intelligence of the death of their late President, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, with profound regret, and while deploring the loss of a brother so eminently useful in the Craft, desire to record their deep sense and high appreciation of those great Masonic attainments, which, for more than thirty years, he has so generously devoted to advance the character and interests of Freemasonry in general and the 'Emulation Lodge of Improvement' in particular, the members of which have ever found in him a cheerful instructor, a kind friend, and a practical exponent of the great principles of the Order.

A vote of sympathy and condolence with the family of the late Bro. Wilson terminated the proceedings of the evening.

The Festival for this year was held on the 23rd of November, a week earlier than usual, consequent upon the hall being engaged on the 30th for the Festival of St. Andrew.



J. RANKIN STEBBING. PAST GRAND DEACON,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1862.*





Bro. James Pike occupied the chair in the lodge, and the second lecture was worked by the following brethren, viz. :— G. Powell, A. A. Richards, J. Steward, A. J. Rucker, and A. J. Pritchard. There were present sixty-seven members, seven invited guests, and sixty visitors, twenty-five of whom joined the lodge. The W. Bro. Æneas J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, presided at the banquet.

The proceedings at the Festivals from 1865 to 1869 were not reported in the *Freemasons' Magazine*.

1867. Nothing requiring special notice appears in the minutes of this year prior to the Annual Festival held on the 29th of November, John Hervey being in the chair of W. Master. The lodge work consisted of the explanation of the Second Tracing Board by Thomas Fenn, and the sections of the third lecture by Bros. H. P. J. Dumas, W.M. No. 99 ; I. C. Dowsing, No. 108 ; and J. A. Rucker, S.D. No. 66. Eighty-four members and seventy-three visitors were present, twenty-five of whom joined the lodge. The minutes contain no mention of "Invited Guests."

The R.W. Bro. Victor A. Williamson, Past Junior Grand Warden, presided at the banquet.

1868. We learn from the lodge minutes of the 31st of January, that "It was proposed by Br. C. W. Powell, seconded by Br. Pike, and carried unanimously, that should the S. Warden decline to take the Chair, it be referred to the Committee to consider whether the election be not then open to any member of the Lodge without reference to the Junior Officers."

For a long period there had been placed on the Secretary's table, at the weekly meetings, a box for the reception of contributions for the furniture fund. The contributors, however, were few, and for many years the amount remained at about the same level, and was carried forward in the minutes of each meeting until the 21st of February, when "It was resolved that the amount standing to the credit of the Furniture Fund (£2 16s) be merged in the General Fund."

On the 3rd of July, "Bro. Pike stated that Bro. Hervey had been twenty-four years Treasurer of the Lodge, that knowing how much he was esteemed by the brethren, he had no doubt he would be elected for the twenty-fifth time in October next, and suggested the propriety of presenting him with a suitable Testimonial at the next Annual Festival to mark the brethren's appreciation of his valuable services."

Bro. Pike's suggestion was readily adopted, and a committee immediately appointed to carry it into effect.

On the 21st of August, "the hearty congratulations of the Lodge" were given to Bro. Hervey on his appointment to the important office of Grand Secretary.

The loss of the old minute books was brought to the notice of the Lodge on the 30th of October, and it was resolved to offer a reward of Five Guineas for their recovery.

The Festival this year was held on the 27th of November, when the First Lecture was worked by James Pike, assisted by Bros. H. W. Lindus, T. Cochrane, J. A. Rucker, J. A. Berger, A. Green, I. C. Dowsing, and A. A. Richards; 101 members and 91 visitors were present. Twenty-three propositions for membership having been made, the Lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to the "Banquet, at which Lord Eliot, Past Senior Grand Warden, presided." In the course of the evening a Testimonial was presented to John Hervey, consisting of a silver tea and coffee service and gold pencil case.

1869. In the minutes of the 5th of March we find the following:—"A request having been made by Bro. R. R. Nelson, P.G. Secretary for West Yorkshire, on the part of several Brethren of that Province that the Three Degrees should be worked on Friday evening, the 12th inst., it was proposed by Bro. J. Pike, seconded by Bro. J. A. Rucker, and carried unanimously, that Bro. J. Hervey, Treasurer, be requested to take the chair and appoint his officers for that occasion."



VICTOR A. WILLIAMSON, C.M.G., PAST GRAND WARDEN.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1867.*



“Bro. Hervey appointed Bros. A. A. Richards, S.W.; F. Hockley, J.W.; J. A. Rucker, S.D.; A. Green, J.D.; and I. C. Dowsing, I.G.; and, in deference to the wish expressed by the Brethren of West Yorkshire, announced that the Three Ceremonies would be worked.”

In consequence of the foregoing announcement, a goodly number of members and visitors attended the following meeting in the hope of witnessing the three degrees worked by the Grand Secretary, but “previously to the opening of the Lodge, the W.M. stated that in consequence of the Bradford election taking place this day, the Brethren at whose request the Three Degrees were appointed to be worked had been obliged to return to Yorkshire, and that he had been desired to express their regret at the circumstance, and to apologize on their behalf to the members of the Lodge for their non-attendance.”

Bro. C. A. Murton sat as W.M. at the Festival meeting on the 26th of November, when the Second Lecture was worked by Bros. Thomas Fenn, J. F. Huggins, H. V. Crassweller, H. W. Lindus, and J. A. Rucker. Ninety-six members and seventy-two visitors were present; twenty-eight of the latter were proposed for ballot at the next meeting.

The R.W. Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., Provincial Grand Master for Berks. and Bucks., presided at the banquet.

On the 31st of December, “It was proposed by Br. Pike and carried unanimously, that a Committee be formed for the purpose of presenting a Testimonial to Br. C. A. Murton in acknowledgement of his services as Secretary for the past seven years, and of his devotion, both of his time and personal attention, to the Lodge and its many members.”

The members present, who were most regular in their attendance, at once volunteered to form a committee (with power to add to their number) for carrying into effect the foregoing proposition. The committee was considerably increased at subsequent meetings of the Lodge.

1870. On January 7th it was proposed by Bro. Murton

and carried, that the three brass candlesticks which had been submitted for the approval of the members should be purchased of Bro. R. Spencer for the sum of £25.

On the 4th of February the compiler of this history had the good fortune to be elected a member of the Lodge.

The 6th of May witnessed the last attendance of the veteran brother, James Pike, who had joined the Lodge in 1833, and until within a few days of his decease had been constant in his attendance at, and most assiduous for its welfare and progress.

It is recorded on the 20th May that "Bro. J. Hervey announced the decease of Bro. James Pike, which occurred on the 14th instant, and proposed that the Ceremony and Lecture appointed for the evening should be deferred until the next meeting, as a mark of respect to his memory."

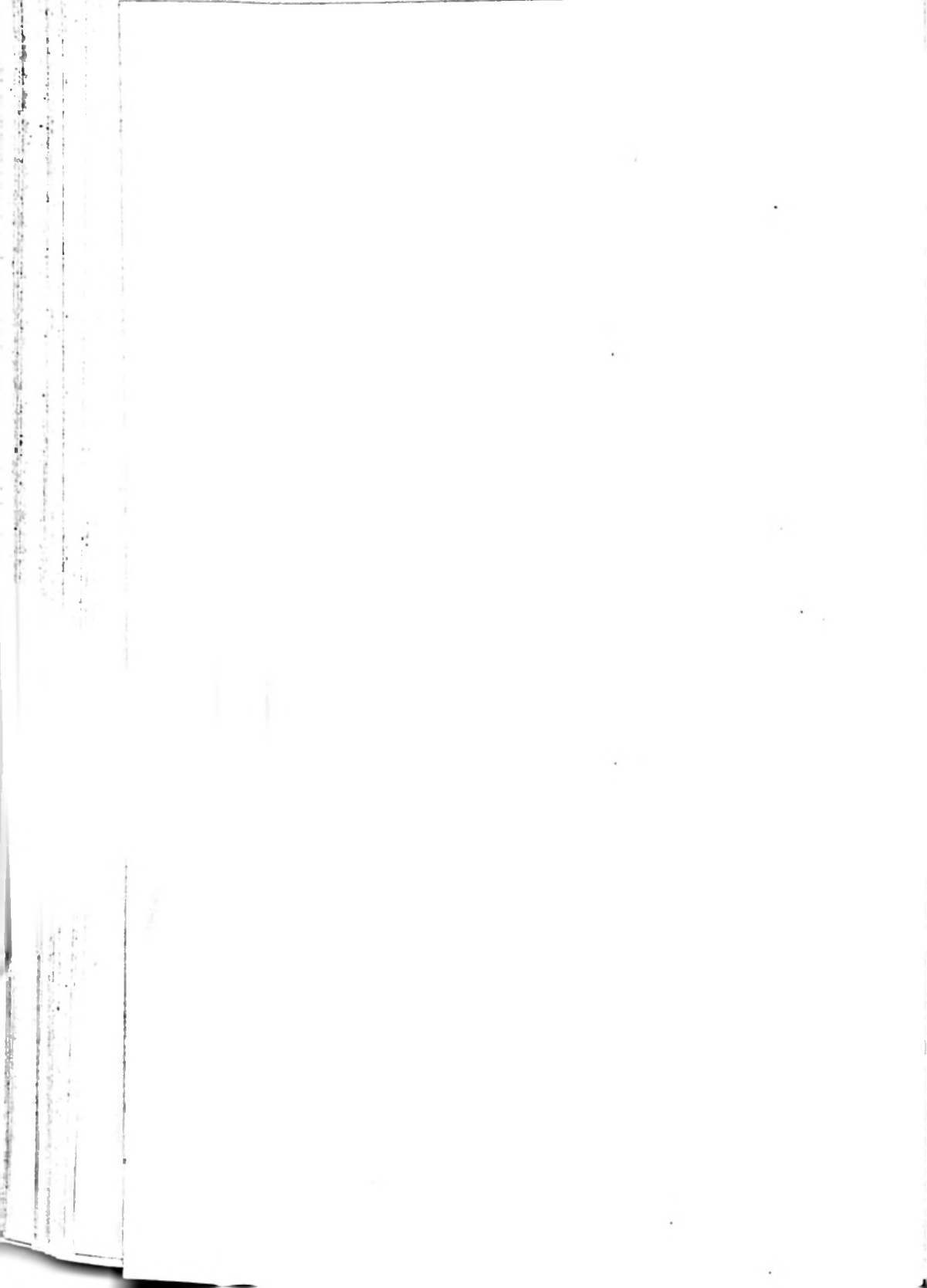
A vote of condolence and sympathy with the widow and family of the deceased was passed.

Bro. James Pike was a member of the Grenadiers' Lodge, No. 66, in which Lodge he was initiated in January, 1833.

On the 12th of April following he joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and, in all probability, he made more attendances at the Lodge than anyone, either during his time or subsequently, not excepting the indefatigable Wilson. His name is mentioned in the early reports of the Festivals, and as far back as 1840 he is referred to as one of the leaders in the Lodge. A notable feature in this connection is the regular attendance of many of the old members, long after they had perfected themselves in the ceremonies and lectures, for no other purpose than that of instructing others. It is with peculiar pleasure that we note the survival of this very laudable practice down to the present day. The earliest attendance book now in possession of the Lodge was begun on the 7th of August, 1857, from which date until his decease we find that Bro. Pike has a record of 582 attendances, while his colleague and fellow worker, S. B. Wilson, from the same date to the 22nd of December, 1865—his last appearance at the Lodge—made 292 attendances. As senior



JAMES PIKE, P.M. OF THE GRENADIERS LODGE, No. 66,  
*A Member of the Committee.*





member, he naturally succeeded Wilson in the leadership of the Lodge, although the office of President was discontinued at the death of that brother; hence, apart from his having been for many years a member of the Committee of General Purposes, Bro. Pike does not appear to have held any permanent office in the Lodge, which is probably the reason he did not receive the usual Testimonial.

On the 24th of June Bro. Thomas Fenn resumed his attendance at the weekly meetings, and was appointed Junior Warden for the following Friday.

A sum of Five Guineas was voted on the 2nd of September, towards the Murton Testimonial. On the 4th of November the following proposition by Bro. Murton was carried unanimously:—"That in order to ensure correctness in the work, and to prevent unnecessary interruptions, it is expedient that the Past Master's chair be occupied by a member of the committee, who shall act as Preceptor for the evening." Previous to the passing of this resolution, the Past Master's chair had been occupied by the brother who had filled the Master's chair on the preceding lodge night, but in the absence of such brother, one of the committee took his place.

The Annual Festival was held on the 25th of November, when five sections of the First Lecture were worked by Bro. John Hervey, as W.M., assisted by Bros. T. W. Boord, H. V. Crassweller, A. Green, H. W. Lindus, and J. A. Rucker, there being 105 members and 78 visitors present on this occasion.

Thirty-six brethren having been proposed for joining, the company adjourned to the banquet, at which Bro. Horace Lloyd, Q.C., Senior Grand Deacon, presided. In the course of the evening the chairman presented to the Secretary, C. A. Murton, a Secretary's Jewel, voted from the funds of the lodge, for his services as Secretary for seven years, and a silver Epergne as a testimonial, subscribed for by the members as a mark of their esteem.

Bro. Murton was deservedly popular in the Lodge, and, in

the absence of any other member of the Committee, always acted as Preceptor, frequently eliciting the admiration of the brethren by his readiness to correct and instruct the officers, even while engaged in his secretarial duties.

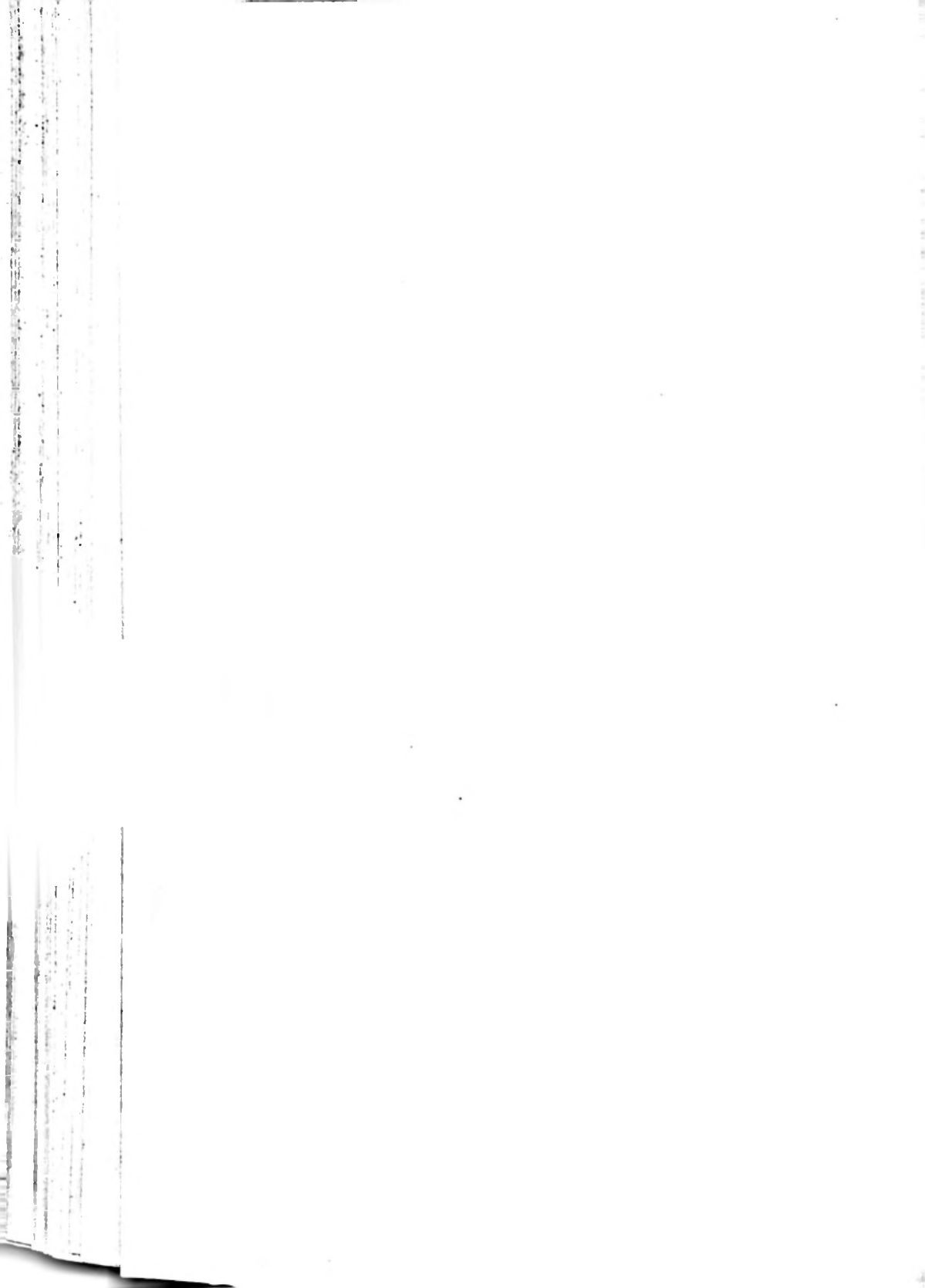
1871. On the 31st of March the decease of Bro. John Daly, who had acted as Tyler for a number of years, was reported to the lodge by Bro. Hervey, and an expression of regret was ordered to be recorded on the minutes.

It was resolved: "that Bro. Daly, Junr., be appointed Tyler *pro tem.*, and that the Committee be requested to enquire and report to the brethren as to a fit candidate for the office." April the 21st: Bro. Fenn gave notice of motion to make certain alterations in the By-Laws. One of the alterations proposed was an addition to By-Law 4, which had for a number of years read as follows: "That no Brother shall be eligible to be elected to the Office of Master unless he is fully acquainted with the method of opening and closing the Lodge in the three Degrees and of working the Ceremony intended for the occasion on which he is to preside, agreeably to the recognised system of this Lodge." Bro. Fenn proposed to add the following: "That this By-Law be read by the Secretary at each meeting, immediately before the election of Master."

In those days it was a common practice for brethren to repeatedly work through the subordinate offices up to that of Senior Warden, and then retire, declining election to the office of Master on account of their inability to comply with the fourth By-Law. Occasionally, however, it happened that a brother, endued with more zeal than discretion, or being ignorant of what was expected of him as a Master of the Lodge, allowed himself to be elected to the chair, much to the regret of the committee and the members generally. Hence the proposed addition was obviously intended to prevent such occurrences, or, at all events, to render them less frequent, and no doubt it had the desired effect. Strange to say, when brought before the Lodge on the 12th of May as a recommendation of the Committee, the addition was



LORD ELIOT (AFTERWARDS EARL OF ST. GERMANS), P.S.G.W.,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1868.*



strongly opposed by two of the most regular attendants, and an amendment was moved that it be omitted; the original motion was, however, carried by a considerable majority.

The Annual Festival was held on the 24th of November, Bro. Fenn as W.M., who worked the Second Lecture, assisted by J. F. Huggins, J. A. Rucker, T. E. Hardy, J. Steward, and A. Green. There were present on this occasion 90 members and 85 visitors, besides several invited guests. Thirty-one brethren were proposed as members and duly elected at the following meeting.

The Grand Treasurer, Samuel Tomkins, presided at the banquet in the absence of Sir Francis Burdett, Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex, who was prevented from attending in consequence of a domestic affliction. This meeting was not reported.

On December the 15th, it was "Proposed by Bro. Hervey, seconded by Bro. Fenn, and carried unanimously, that the sum of Ten Pounds be given from the funds of the Lodge towards the subscription for the relief of three of the daughters of the late Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson."

About this period certain printed books purporting to contain "Emulation working" were prominently brought to the notice of the Masonic fraternity, thereby leading to the inference that they really emanated from the lodge. We have, however, no hesitation in stating, without fear of contradiction, that neither at that time nor at any other period has the lodge or any member of its Committees sanctioned such publications or assisted in their circulation. As a matter of fact, they were got up and published for the mere purpose of gain by certain London booksellers.



## CHAPTER V.

FROM 1872 TO 1884.

1872. Nothing of importance is recorded in the minutes of this year beyond a change in the office of Secretary, Bro. Alfred Green, of Lodge No. 7, being elected to that post vacated by Bro. C. A. Murton, who was elected on the Committee.

The Annual Festival was held on the 29th of November, John Hervey in the chair of W.M., when part of the First Lecture was worked by the following :—J. F. Huggins, No. 18; G. E. Wainwright, No. 370; W. Smallpiece, No. 1395; H. Wood, No. 1159; and J. A. Rucker, No. 66. The members present numbered 112, and the visitors 70, besides several distinguished brethren who were invited as guests of the Lodge.

The usual vote of thanks to the workers of the sections was passed on the proposition of Lord Tenterden, C.B., Senior Grand Warden, who subsequently presided at the banquet.



*Yours sincerely & fraternally*  
*Tenterden*

LORD TENTERDEN, PROV. G.M. ESSEX.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1872.*





Thirty brethren were proposed to become members, all of whom were elected at the next meeting of the Lodge.

A brief notice of the meeting appears in *The Freemason* of December 14th, wherein the writer comments on the workers. "The earnest delivery, and the elocutionary ability of these brethren were most marked, and richly deserved the enthusiastic applause with which their efforts were received."

1873. A most unusual event, which is probably quite unique in the annals of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, is recorded in the minutes of the 14th of March, namely, the rejection of a brother on the ballot. The incident is the more remarkable as the brother in question was a member of a very celebrated Lodge, and had been proposed and seconded at the previous meeting by two of the most prominent members of the Committee. As a matter of course, no reason was assigned for this extraordinary action, but from certain remarks overheard in the ante-room by the writer, he concluded that the objection was purely personal and not of a nature to justify the rejection of a brother who was at the same time deemed eligible for membership by one of the oldest and most reputable lodges in London.

On the 2nd of May, "It was proposed by C. A. Murton, seconded by Erasmus Wilson, and carried unanimously, that the Tracing Boards be lent to the Grand Lodge for the purpose of being copied." At the following meeting the death of the Earl of Zetland, Past Grand Master, was announced, and it was resolved "That an expression of deep regret be recorded on the Minutes for the serious loss the Craft have sustained thereby."

May the 30th: "Bro. J. Hervey alluded to an innovation which had recently been adopted in this Lodge, viz., of applauding brethren who assist in the work, and remarked that although such demonstrations were made at the Annual Festivals, and could not easily be prevented, yet it was not desirable for such a custom to prevail at the ordinary

meetings, and he suggested that it should be discontinued."

The Annual Festival was held on the 28th of November, John Hervey presiding as W.M., who worked the Second Lecture, assisted by Bros. William Smallpiece, James Muzio, Erasmus Wilson, G. E. Wainwright, and Thomas Fenn. There were present 102 members, 71 visitors, and several invited guests. Twenty-eight propositions for membership having been received, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, at which Lieut.-Col. Francis Burdett, Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex, presided.

On the 5th of December a vote of thanks was passed to Bro. C. A. Swinburne for presenting to the Lodge a set of collars for the officers.

1874. Nothing is recorded in the minutes during the year 1874 beyond the usual routine work of the Lodge. Bros. T. Fenn, C. A. Murton, and A. A. Richards were re-elected on the Committee, and Bros. John Hervey and Alfred Green continued in the offices of Treasurer and Secretary. Bro. Henry Sadler; P.M. of No. 147, was elected Tyler.

The Annual Festival was held on the 27th of November, and was even better attended than the preceding year, 119 members and 90 visitors being present, 52 of whom were proposed to become members.

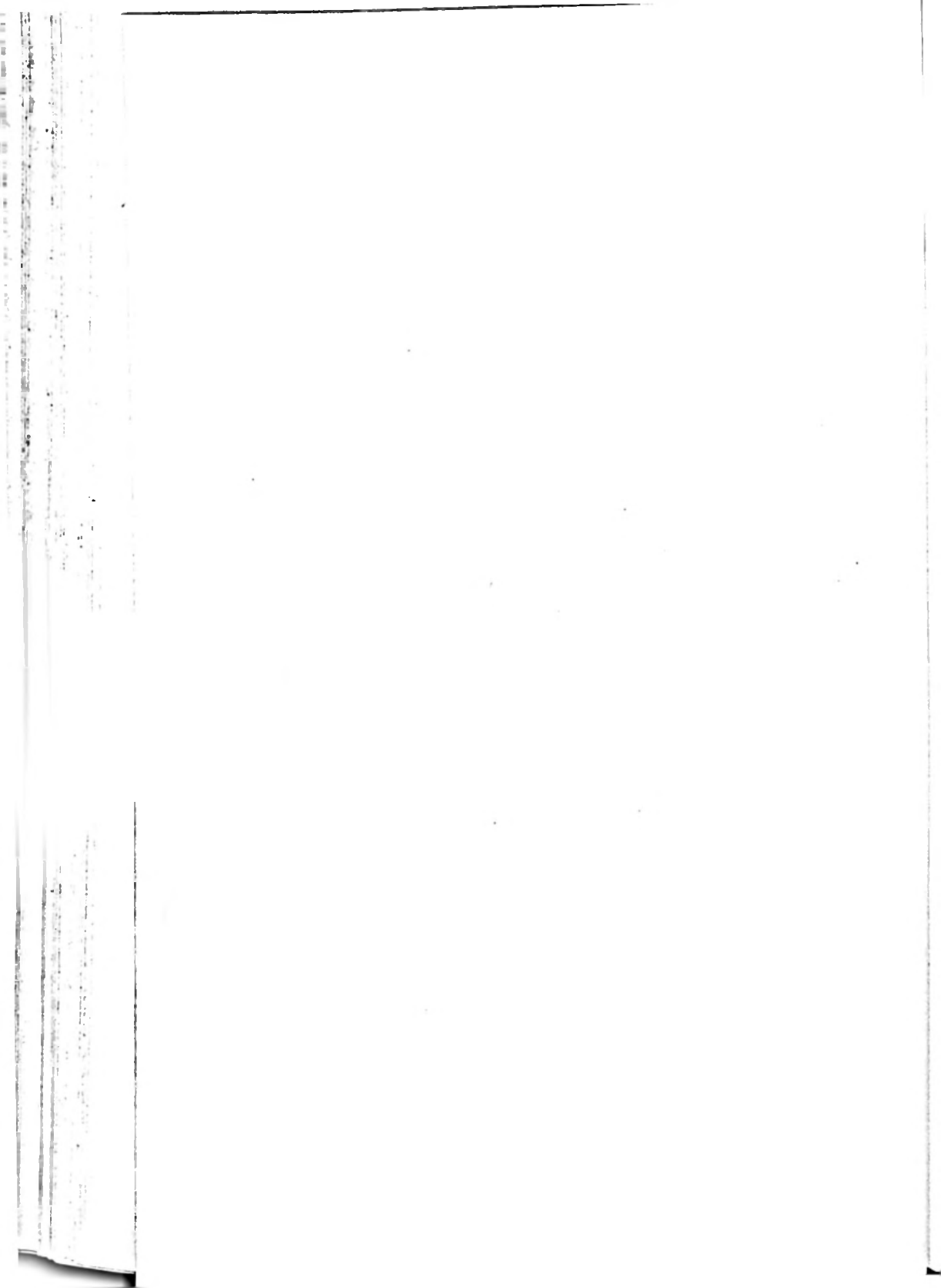
Bro. Thomas Fenn presided in the Lodge and conducted the work arranged for the occasion, which was the last four sections of the First Lecture and the three sections of the Third Lecture, in which he was ably assisted by Bros. J. F. Huggins, P.M. No. 18; H. T. Wood, S.W. No. 1159; G. E. Eachus, W.M. No. 33; H. Bishop, J.W. No. 66; Erasmus Wilson, J.W. No. 2; Montague Gosset, P.M. No. 66; and W. Smallpiece, P.M. No. 1395.

Æneas J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, presided at the banquet, and was supported by a considerable number of Grand Officers and old members of the Lodge.

In the course of the evening several good speeches were delivered, but as they appear in print in the Masonic papers of the following week we can well dispense with them here.



ALFRED GREEN,  
P.M. OF THE ROYAL YORK LODGE OF PERSEVERANCE, No. 7.  
*Secretary of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, 1872-1875.*



1875. The Committee was re-elected and also the Treasurer, this being his twenty-ninth election to that office. William Smallpiece was elected Secretary on the retirement of Bro. Green owing to indifferent health. The thanks of the Lodge and a jewel value Five Guineas were voted to him in appreciation of his services as Secretary during the past three years.

On the 22nd of October, "Bro. T. Fenn having announced to the brethren the great loss the Lodge had sustained by the death of the late Secretary, Bro. A. Green, moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Bro. G. E. Eachus, and carried unanimously: 'That a vote of condolence with the Widow and Family of the late Secretary, Bro. Alfred Green, be communicated to them by the Secretary, assuring them of the deep sympathy of the Lodge with them in their affliction and their high appreciation of his amiable character and Masonic acquirements.'"

Alfred Green was initiated in 1865 in the Lodge of Love and Honour, No. 285, Shepton Mallet, and joined the "Emulation" the following year; he was a constant attendant thereat until his retirement from the Secretaryship. In 1868 he joined the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, No. 7, and was elected Master in 1873. Although a young Mason, comparatively speaking, he had made his mark in London Masonry as an accurate and fluent worker of both ceremonies and sections, while his gentle and pleasing demeanour had won the esteem and affection of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

The present writer will always remember him with feelings of gratitude, as he was mainly prompted to join the "Emulation" by hearing Bro. Green's masterly and eloquent rendering of a section or two at another Lodge of Instruction.

On the 29th of October the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That the Five Guineas voted by the Lodge for a jewel for Bro. A. Green be supplemented by an additional Five Guineas and applied to the purchase of a Life-Governorship of the Girls' School, and presented by the

Lodge to Mrs. Green in affectionate remembrance of the services rendered to the Lodge by her late husband."

As an example of the strictness of the "Emulation" leaders at this period, the following may be cited:—"On the 12th November, the ballot for a brother, who had been proposed at the previous meeting, was postponed for want of proof of his having visited the Lodge." Early in the following year the brother visited the Lodge, was again proposed, and duly elected a member.

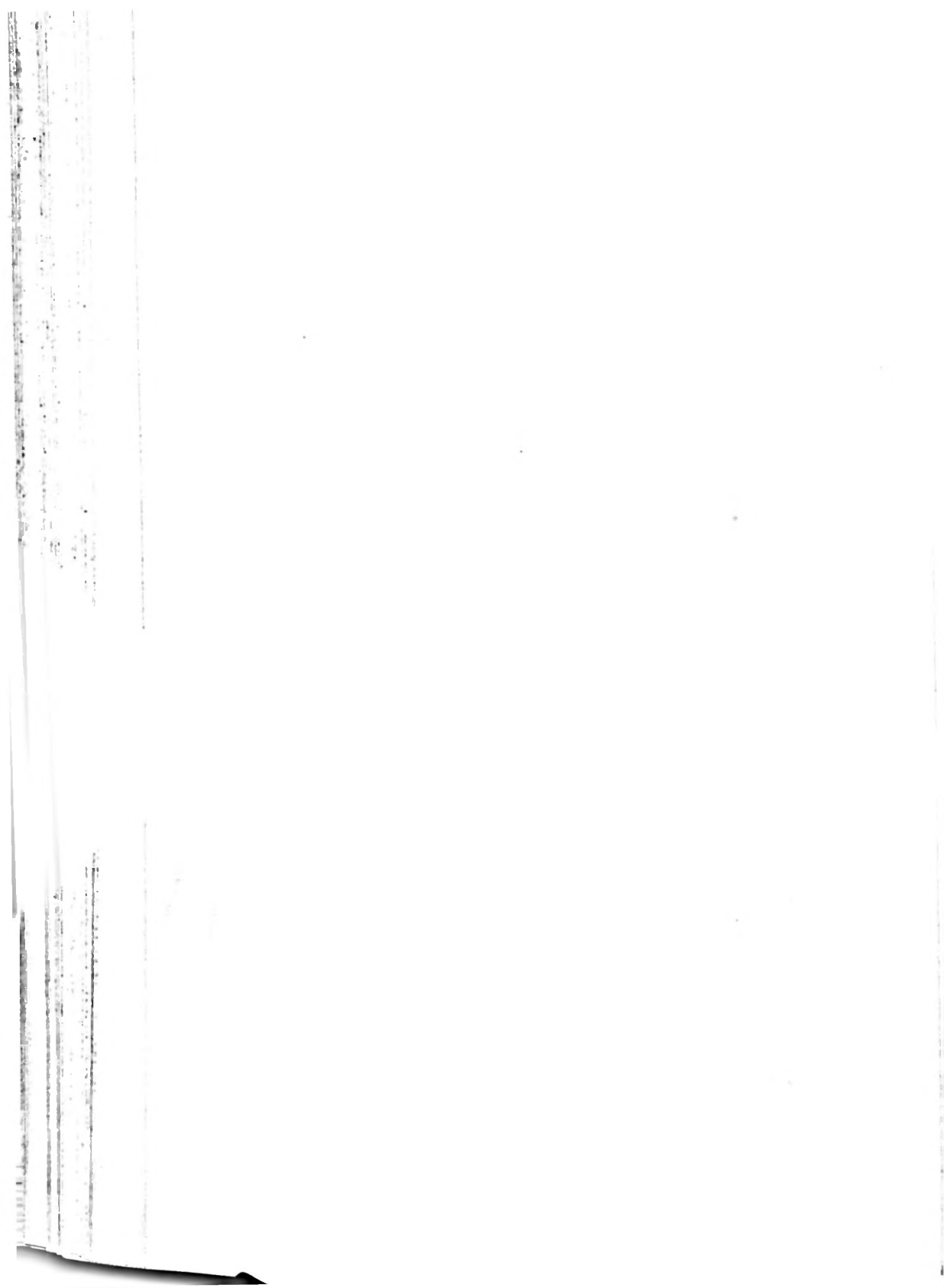
The Annual Festival for 1875 was held on the 26th of November, Thomas Fenn in the chair, who was assisted in working the Second Lecture by Bros. H. T. Wood, H. Bishop, H. J. P. Dumas, J. A. Rucker, and G. B. Brodie. About 250 brethren were present, forty-five of whom joined the Lodge. Sir John B. Monckton, President of the Board of General Purposes, presided at the banquet, the proceedings at which were briefly reported in *The Freemason* of the 11th December, the speeches being omitted for want of space. At the meeting on December 3rd, "The Secretary read a letter from the Treasurer to Mrs. Green, the widow of the late Secretary, which, with her reply, was ordered to be inserted in the minutes." This order was obeyed literally by the Secretary, a pressed copy of the Treasurer's letter and Mrs. Green's reply thereto being inserted in the minute book by the aid of paste.

1876. The Committee and permanent officials were continued, and it may be assumed that they were re-elected each succeeding year in their respective offices until further notice. On the motion of Bro. T. Fenn on the 20th October, it was agreed to work the Installation ceremony on the first and third Fridays in the Winter months, instead of on the first Friday only as had hitherto been customary.

The Festival for this year was held on the 24th November, which date may not inaptly be described as a *real letter day* in the history of the Lodge, not alone because of the unprecedented number that attended, but for several other reasons set forth in the following summary of the



SAMUEL TOMKINS, GRAND TREASURER, 1852-78.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1871.*





proceedings, which appeared in *The Freemason* of December 2nd, the same journal containing also a lengthy report of the business and the various speeches, which we regret that for want of space we are unable to reproduce :—

“The Annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, which was held in the Grand Lodge Hall on Friday week, was presided over by the M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, supported by the Earl of Limerick, the Earl of Donoughmore, forty of the most distinguished Grand Officers, Present and Past, and nearly 600 members of the Craft. One of the most interesting features connected with the meeting was the presentation of a silver inkstand to our worthy and distinguished Grand Secretary, who has acted as Treasurer of the Emulation Lodge for thirty years. The admirable remarks of Lord Carnarvon, cheered as they were by the large assemblage, must have been peculiarly gratifying to Bro. Hervey, and we will add, that there is no Brother in our Order who more truly deserves the regard and attachment and respect of all who know him. The sections were worked by eight Past Grand Officers, who were in past years active members of the lodge, and it was universally admitted that on no former occasion was the work so correctly and so admirably delivered. The sanction and support thus given to this celebrated lodge of improvement by the Pro Grand Master and other leading members of Grand Lodge undoubtedly places it at the head of all Lodges of Instruction, and goes far to authorize its mode of working as the model which should be universally adopted. This distinguished lodge has for some years—under the highest patronage—been extending its influence, and we trust it may ultimately be the means of establishing a uniformity of working throughout the Craft. We say all this, not dogmatically, as we are quite aware that a good deal may be said on archæological grounds for the existence of slight discrepancies of independent rituals, and we by no means forget the services of instructors like our Bro.

Muggeridge, who vary a little from the admirable system of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. But we feel warranted in asserting that the Emulation working may well be adopted now as the general expression of the ritual and ceremonial of our English Craft."

The foregoing article, although in the main fairly correct, is not quite accurate. We are bound, therefore, to record the fact that Bro. Hervey opened and presided over the Lodge, except for a few minutes when the gavel was handed to the Pro Grand Master for the purpose of making the presentation referred to, and that the minutes of the meeting denote an attendance of about 400, instead of nearly 600, as stated. The Stewards numbered 75, including 43 Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers, by whose united subscriptions the Testimonial was purchased.

The Earl of Carnarvon was Colonial Secretary, and was prevented by public business from attending until after the Lodge had been opened and the work for the evening begun; the same cause necessitating his withdrawal when the formal presentation had been made.

All the offices for the evening, except that of Secretary, were filled by Past Grand Officers, the sections being worked by the following brethren :—

#### FIRST LECTURE.

4th Section	by	W. Bro.	J. C. Parkinson,	P.G.D.
5th	"	"	"	C. A. Murton, P.G.D.
6th	"	"	"	C. C. Dumas, P.A.G.D.C.
7th	"	"	"	J. A. Rucker, P.G.D.

#### SECOND LECTURE.

2nd Section	by	W. Bro.	R. Grey,	P.G.D.
3rd	"	"	"	H. J. P. Dumas, P.G.D.
4th	"	"	"	Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B.
5th	"	"	"	T. Fenn, P.G.D.

The usual vote of thanks to the working brethren having been passed, 49 propositions for joining were handed in and the Lodge was closed.



THE EARL OF LIMERICK, PROV. G. MASTER, BRISTOL,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1876.*



The Earl of Limerick, Provincial Grand Master for Bristol, presided at the banquet.

The Testimonial, which is emblematic of Masonry, was designed by the late John Gibson, Grand Superintendent of Works, 1878-1882. Bro. Hervey bequeathed it to his friend and successor in the Treasurership, Bro. Thomas Fenn, who kindly lent it for the use of the M.W. Grand Master at the Jubilee Meeting in 1887. On the 4th of June, 1890, Bro. Fenn presented it to the Grand Lodge. It was also used by the M.W. Grand Master in signing an address to Her late Majesty at the Diamond Jubilee Meeting held at the Royal Albert Hall in 1897. The inkstand is of silver with gold enrichments, supported by a sexangular plinth of green malachite, the whole resting on a circular base of white marble encased in ebony, to which is affixed three silver plates with engraved inscriptions.

1877. On the 26th of January the following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously:—"That the Lodge desire to express their sincere sympathy with Bro. Fenn and Mrs. Fenn in the sad bereavement they had sustained in the death by drowning of their eldest son, and that the Treasurer be requested to communicate this resolution to Bro. Fenn."

Bro. Fenn's acknowledgement of this vote of sympathy was duly pasted in the minute book by the Secretary at the following meeting.

The Festival was held on the 23rd of November, the chair of W.M. being occupied by Bro. C. A. Murton, who was supported by 109 members and 97 visitors, 36 of whom were proposed for membership and duly elected at the following meeting. The sections of the Second Lecture were worked by Bros. W. A. Dawson, F. R. Spaul, E. G. Tattershall, W. S. Lee, and W. G. Kentish. The Earl of Donoughmore Past Senior Grand Warden, presided at the banquet.

1878. The first item out of the usual routine work is found in the minutes of the 6th of September, and is of a sorrowful nature; it is as follows:—"It was proposed by

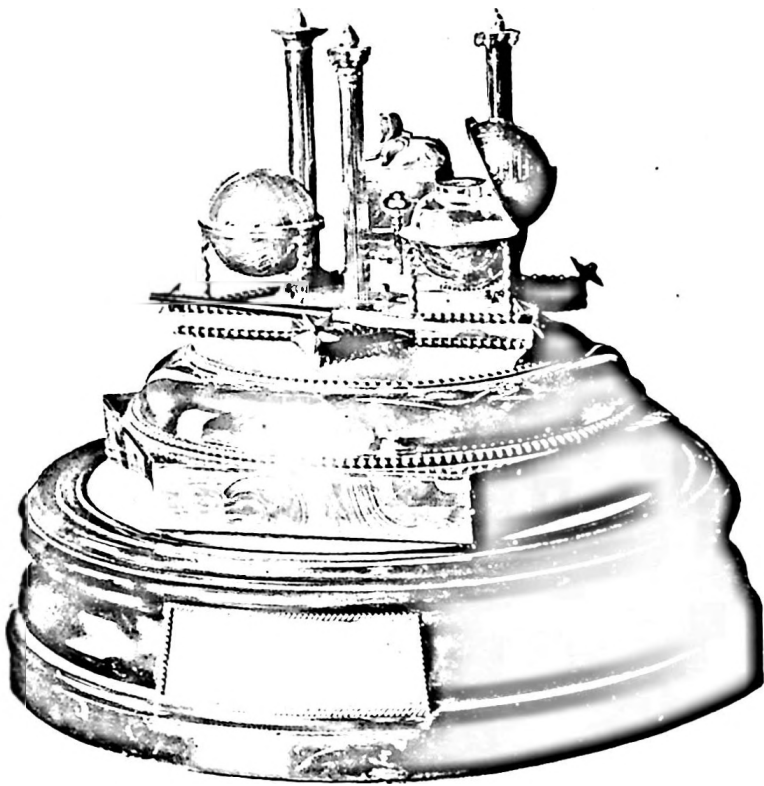
Bro. W. A. Dawson, seconded by Bro. F. R. Spaul, and carried unanimously, 'That the Lodge desires to express its deep sense of the great loss it has sustained by the melancholy death by drowning of Bro. Craven Proctor Cobham, who was one of the passengers on the 'Princess Alice' steamer which was wrecked in the river Thames on the 3rd instant.'

Bro. Cobham was a Past Master of the Leigh Lodge, No. 957, and had been a regular attendant at the "Emulation" for several years. A similar vote was passed at the next meeting with reference to Bro. Charles Jardine, of St. George's Lodge, No. 140, who also lost his life in this dreadful catastrophe, when upwards of 600 perished while returning from a pleasure trip, and when many of them were actually within sight of their homes.

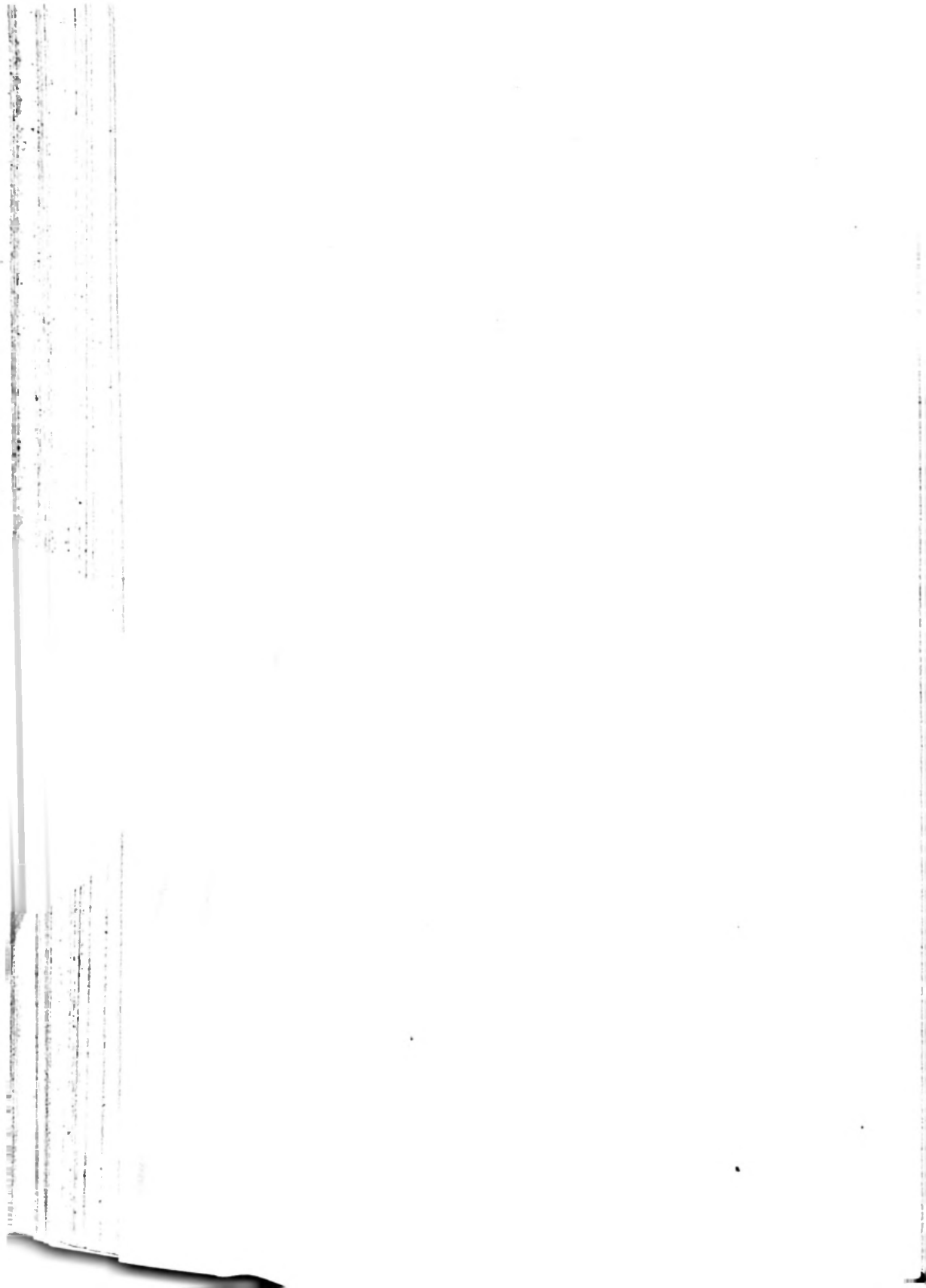
The Festival was held on the 29th of November, Thomas Fenn, W.M., who, with the assistance of the following brethren, worked the First Lecture:—A. C. Spaul, G. C. Pulsford, A. D. Renshaw, E. Hornblower, E. G. Tattershall, F. R. Spaul, and W. A. Dawson. Total attendance 180, being somewhat smaller than that of the previous Festival. Thirty-five propositions were received for joining members. At the conclusion of the business, the Chairman for the festive proceedings, Lord Henniker, Senior Grand Warden, evinced his fitness for that post by taking the Master's Chair and closing the Lodge in the three degrees.

The 27th of December saw the admission to membership of a brother whose name has become as familiar in Masonry as a household word, and will long be remembered in connection with the Lodge as one of its most able, earnest, and kindly Preceptors—Bro. Robert Clay Sudlow, of whom we shall probably have something more to say later on.

1879. Nothing of importance is recorded in the minutes of this year prior to the Festival on the 28th of November, when Bro. C. A. Murton occupied the Master's Chair and put the questions of the Second Lecture to the following brethren:—F. R. Spaul, W. S. Lee, Albert Escott, G. C. Pulsford, and Albert Marvin.



INKSTAND PRESENTED TO JOHN M. HERVEY BY  
THE STEWARDS FOR THE "EMULATION" FESTIVAL IN 1876.





Bro. Thomas Fenn proposed and Bro. Æ. J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, seconded the following resolution, which was supported by Bro. Murton and carried unanimously :—

“The members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement at their Anniversary Meeting have heard with deep regret that their much respected brother, John Hervey, who has held the office of Treasurer of the Lodge for upwards of thirty years, in consequence of serious illness, has deemed it necessary to resign the office of Grand Secretary, the duties of which he has discharged with such eminent ability and conscientious zeal, and so greatly to the advantage and satisfaction to the Craft. They desire to record on their minutes their sincere sympathy with Bro. Hervey in his affliction, and they trust they may indulge in the hope that a release from the anxieties of his office may so far conduce to his restoration to health as to enable him in his retirement to enjoy the quiet and repose he has so well earned. They fervently hope that the G.A.O.T.U. may grant him yet many years of peaceful life to enjoy the society of his brother Masons with whom he has been so long associated, and who, one and all, entertain towards him the most sincere esteem and affection.”

There were present 134 members and 91 visitors; 34 propositions for membership were received.

Lord Kensington, Senior Grand Warden, presided at the banquet. In the course of the evening several interesting speeches were made, notably those of Bros. McIntyre, Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, and Bro. Fenn. The last named, in proposing the toast of the “Sister Lodge of Instruction,” the Stability, alluded regretfully to the absence, through failing health, of its esteemed President, Bro. Henry Muggeridge, who had for so many years been a welcome guest at the “Emulation” Festivals. This was the last occasion on which the toast of “The Sister Lodge of Instruction” was given at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

1880. In the minutes of the 23rd of January it is recorded that “Bro. R. R. Davis, on behalf of the Lodge

of Unions, presented to the Lodge their first Minute Book, which had been discovered amongst the Books of the Lodge of Unions."

A vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes to the Lodge of Unions for their much valued presentation.

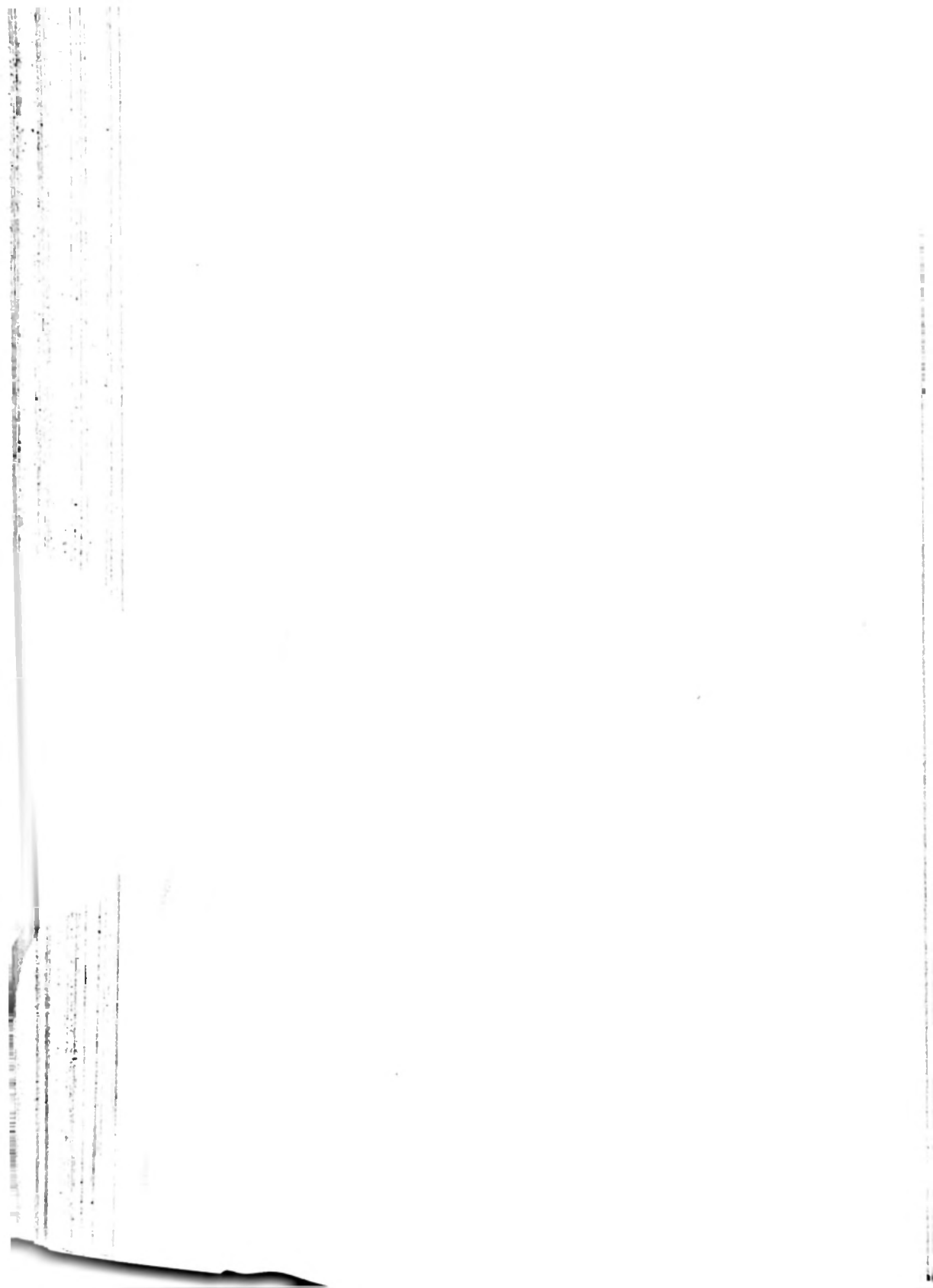
The discovery of this precious treasure naturally created considerable jubilation amongst the older members, and there would have been good reason for it had the book been what it was represented to be. When, however, it was handed to the writer after the Lodge was closed he did what neither the givers nor receivers appear to have done—examined it—with the result that he felt compelled, reluctantly, he admits, to inform the Secretary at the next meeting that in his opinion the book in question had never belonged to the "Emulation," for this Lodge was founded in 1823, while the Lodge of Instruction to which the book belonged was established in 1818, under sanction of the British Lodge, No. 8, the title being the United Lodge of Perseverance. The book was filled up, the last meeting therein recorded being held on the 26th of September, 1821, although the list of members shows that the Lodge was working in 1822.

However, as the vote of thanks had been passed and entered on the minutes, it was deemed advisable not to re-open the matter. We have since learned that this Lodge of Instruction was meeting in December, 1824, on Tuesday evenings, at the *Two Chairmen*, Davies Street, Berkeley Square, whither it had removed from the *Swan*, Mount Street, in 1821, when at the same time the "Emulation" was holding its meetings on Friday evenings, at the *Red Lion*, Old Cavendish Street.

We have reason for thinking that the United Lodge of Perseverance ceased working shortly after 1824. Although unable to accept the statement that this old book is a portion of the lost records of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, the writer attaches considerable importance to it from the



THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE, PAST SENIOR G. WARDEN,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1877.*



fact of some of the Founders and other brethren mentioned therein, who subsequently joined the lodge, including the celebrated Peter Gilkes, also became Founders or joining members of the "Emulation," thus leading to the natural conclusion that the system of work in both lodges was probably identical, and thereby reducing the gap from the ending of the labours of the Lodge of Reconciliation, in June, 1816, to the opening of the "Emulation" by five years and a half, or leaving only eighteen months between the two events.

On the 9th of July, "Bro. Fenn, after a feeling allusion to the death of our respected Treasurer, Bro. Hervey, moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Bro. C. A. Murton, and carried unanimously":—

"The members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement have heard with sincere regret of the death of their Treasurer, Bro. John Hervey, and they desire to record in their minutes their deep sense of the loss they have thereby sustained, and their grateful acknowledgement of the services he has rendered to the Lodge as its Treasurer for nearly thirty three years, and by his earnest endeavours during that long period to maintain its efficiency and promote its prosperity. They desire likewise to express their high appreciation of his amiable disposition and uniformly courteous manner, and of his efforts, at all times, to maintain harmony and good fellowship amongst all members of the Craft."

On the 24th of September, Bros. C. A. Murton, P.G.D., A. A. Richards, and Robert Grey, P.G.D., were elected members of the Committee of General Purposes, and at the following meeting Bro. Fenn was elected Treasurer.

At the Festival on the 26th of November Bro. Fenn presided as W.M. The second Section of the First Lecture was worked by Bro. C. Lowther Kemp, and the third by Bro. R. C. Sudlow. The First Tracing Board was ably explained by Bro. Fenn, the Illustrations being given by G. W. Armstrong, H. Bué, J. F. Hoddinott, and W. H. Johnston; 138 members and 126 visitors were present. Forty-four propositions for joining were received at the

conclusion of the work. Sir Walter W. Burrell, Bart., Prov. Grand Master for Sussex, presided at the banquet and subsequent proceedings.

1881. At the meeting of the Lodge on the 11th of February it was resolved "That the sum of Twenty Guineas be given from the funds of the Lodge to the Hervey Memorial Fund," and at the next meeting on the 18th Bro. Fenn proposed that the above named sum should be paid when the subscription amounted to £1000, which proposition was carried unanimously, but at a subsequent meeting the restriction as to the time of payment was rescinded, it being in contemplation to publish a list of the subscriptions, and it was deemed desirable that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement should head that list; the money was therefore ordered to be paid immediately.

"The John Hervey Memorial Fund" was originated by the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, No. 7 (Bro. Hervey's Mother Lodge), the Lodge of Unions, No. 256, which he joined soon after his initiation in 1844, and the Emulation Lodge of Improvement (the last named being the largest contributor), with the object of giving consolatory gratuities to the two highest on the poll of the unsuccessful candidates, both male and female, at each annual election of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The amount collected was duly invested in Government Stock and the dividends utilized in accordance with the wishes and intentions of the promoters.

At the annual election of Officers, Bro. William A. Dawson was elected on the Committee of General Purposes in the room of Bro. Robert Grey, the remaining Officers being re-elected for another year. The Festival was held on the 25th of November, Bro. Thomas Fenn in the chair. The Second Lecture was worked by the W. Master, assisted by Bros. J. W. Jones, J.D. No. 5; J. Truman Tanqueray, No. 1768; J. H. Davidson, No. 1820; C. Lowther Kemp, No. 63; and S. W. Shaw, S.D. No. 709. About 130 members and 96 visitors attended, 42 of the latter being proposed for ballot, and duly elected at the following meeting.



W. ALFRED DAWSON, P.A.G.D.C.,  
*Member of the Committee, 1881-1890.*

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The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Sir J. Whitaker Ellis, Bart., Junior Grand Warden, presided at the banquet.

1882. On the 3rd of February was announced the death of Bro. Montague Gosset, P.M. of 66, a much respected member, who had been most constant in his attendance for nearly fifteen years, and the usual vote of sympathy and condolence with his family together with the reply thereto were ordered to be recorded on the minutes.

Nothing else of sufficient importance to merit reproduction appears in the records of this year prior to the festival, unless we mention that the Lodge was honoured (?) by the visit of a certain William R. Davis, a half-caste brother from India, who subsequently masqueraded at Masonic gatherings, especially at banquets, as an Afghan Prince, until the imposture was exposed and his real name and character made known, the ultimate result being compulsory retirement from public life for a period of eighteen months.

The Festival was held, as usual, on the last Friday in November, Bro. Fenn again filling the Chair of W. Master, and working the Sections of the First Lecture, assisted by Bros. J. Gordon Langton, I.G. No. 96; H. Bué, S.D. No. 1820; A. Fyson, No. 1768; J. Truman Tanqueray, S.D. No. 1965; W. G. Kentish, W.M. No. 1293; R. A. Zeederberg; and R. Clay Sudlow, W.M. No. 1965.

The attendance on this occasion appears to have been considerably smaller than it had been in recent years, numbering only 201 all told. Only 18 brethren were proposed for joining. The Rev. Ambrose W. Hall, M.A., Past Grand Chaplain, presided over the subsequent proceedings.

1883. Several important changes were made during this year. Bro. Charles A. Murton, P.G. Deacon, after 26 years of zealous work on behalf of the Lodge, signified his desire to retire from the Committee, and a cordial vote of thanks to him was recorded on the minutes for the valuable services he had rendered to the Lodge for so many years.

Bro. Robert Clay Sudlow was elected a member of the Committee in the place of Bro. Murton, thus commencing

that long and active career of usefulness in the leadership of the Lodge, the value of which, to his younger brethren, cannot possibly be over-estimated.

Bro. William Smallpeice also resigned the office of Secretary, after having served the Lodge in that capacity for eight years, during which period he was rarely absent from his post at the weekly meetings, and as the Lodge then met all the year round, the office of Secretary entailed considerably more labour than it does in the present day.

Bro. Smallpeice received the thanks of the Lodge for his services as Secretary, but no mention is made of the presentation of a jewel, as had invariably been the case with former Secretaries. On the 5th of October Bro. Francis R. Spaul, P.M. of No. 1768, was elected Secretary for the ensuing year.

From time immemorial the Tyler's fee had been Three Shillings each meeting; on the 16th of November, on the motion of the Treasurer, and by the recommendation of the Committee, it was increased to Five Shillings, a change of some slight interest to one individual.

A disastrous fire having occurred on the 3rd of May, which partially destroyed the Grand old Hall, it was in course of restoration at the period of the Annual Festival, consequently the brethren assembled in the "Crown" room at the *Freemasons' Tavern* for the lodge business. The sale of tickets had necessarily been restricted owing to limited accommodation, the number present therefore was unusually small, only amounting to 169, including 71 visitors, 32 of whom were proposed to become members.

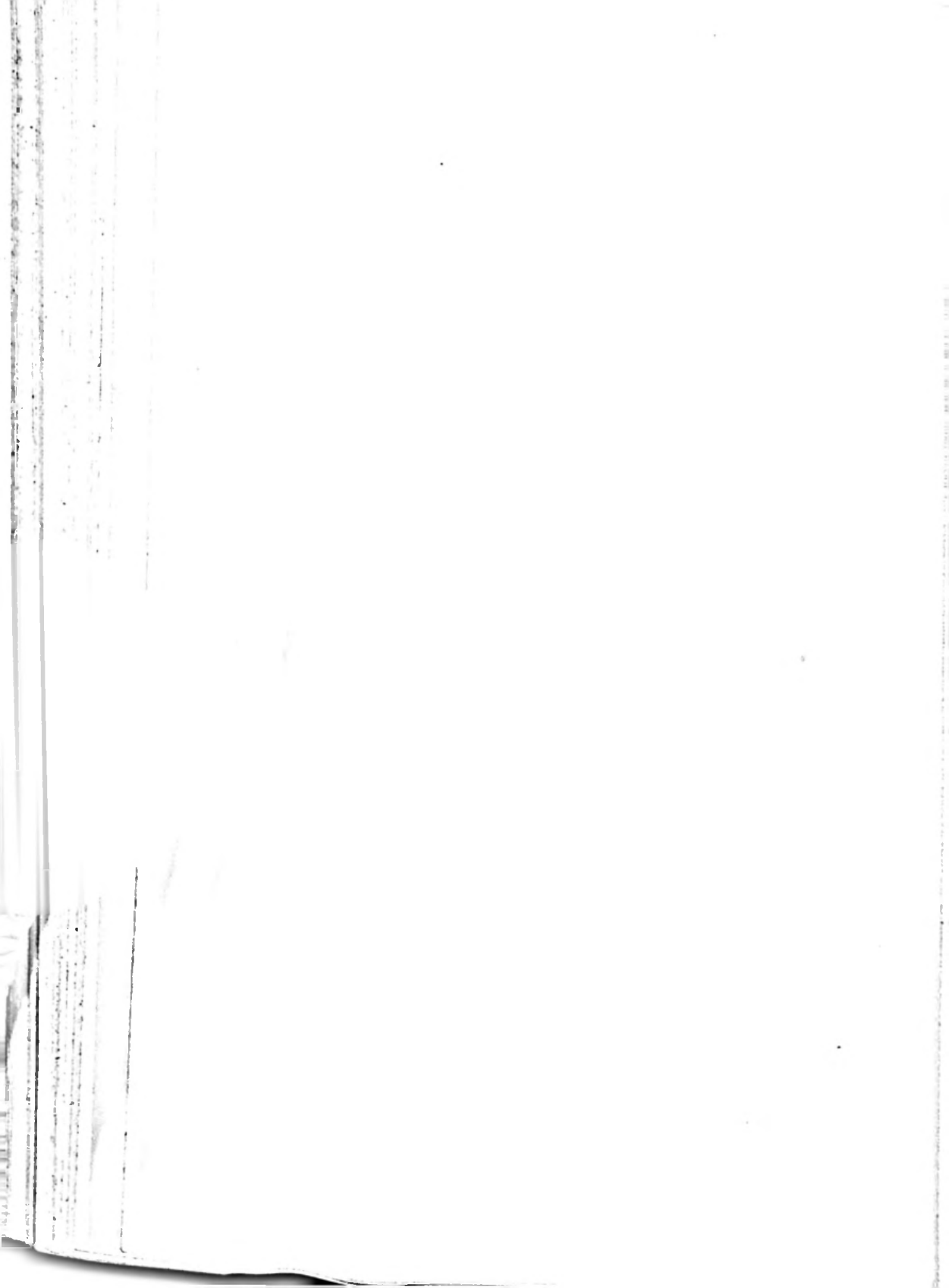
Bro. Thomas Fenn presided in the Lodge, with Bros. R. C. Sudlow and W. A. Dawson as Wardens.

The Second Lecture was worked by the following brethren:—Bros. F. T. Bennett, No. 211; J. T. Tanqueray, S.W. No. 1965; Albert Marvin, W.M. No. 1768; J. J. Black, No. 1564; and G. F. Marshall, No. 96.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Prinsep, District Grand Master for Bengal, presided at the banquet. In the course of the evening



LORD HENNIKER, P.S.G.W., PROV. G. MASTER SUFFOLK,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1878.*



several lengthy speeches were delivered, some of which, at all events from the writer's point of view, might have been curtailed with advantage, especially so to those brethren living out of town.

We cull the following from the address of Bro. J. C. Parkinson, Past Grand Deacon, in proposing the toast of the "Working Officers of the Evening," as being worthy of perusal and preservation :—

"Speaking as an old working officer of the Lodge, as a Mason of 25 years' standing, and as a member of this Lodge for more than 20 years, it gave him profound gratification to be able to congratulate the brethren present and the Craft at large upon the unimpaired efficiency of this great Masonic Institution. And looking back on that lapse of time to which he had referred, it seemed to him on anniversaries of that sort that it was fair to himself, and fair to those by whom he was surrounded, fair to those to whom they might hope in some sort to give an example, or at all events to point a moral, to ask oneself what was the outcome of the long period, of the great absorption of time and of other forms of expenditure—what was the outcome of 25 years of Masonic life? First, Masonic life taught minutely and intimately the advantages and the working of constitutional government. Secondly, it enabled the brother who entered the Craft to at once feel the enormous advantage of association—the great boon of rubbing shoulders with his fellows, of ascertaining where he was, and what he was, in his own little world, perhaps of lessening his self-esteem, or of increasing his confidence. Thirdly, it gave the inestimable boon of all the reverence and knowledge of one of the most beautiful rituals that had ever been created since language was formed.

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He would ask them to picture to themselves a youth or young man belonging to no public school, having the advantage of no university education, belonging to no powerful family, having no strong connections and few friends ; such a man entering a Masonic Lodge, from the moment of becoming

a Master Mason and knowing his brethren, from that moment that friendless young man had opportunities which would have been denied him by the circumstances of life, and become a possessor of those great advantages which his fellows in the struggle of life had from family, education, or other circumstances. In that sense Masons were deeply indebted to their Order for a training and education which fitted them in a great measure for the battle of life. Coming to the last point—the great advantage of maintaining pure and unsullied that beautiful ritual which had been handed down to them, and which he prized and cherished as one of his most valued privileges—they all knew one of the greatest of living orators owed much of his power over his fellow citizens to his close and intimate study of the Sacred Volume. Next to that Sacred Volume, as a mere matter of literary style—and he put it no higher—next to the Sacred Volume and the English Prayer Book he knew of no ritual and no variety of language in which the English tongue was set before them so purely or grandly. As a mere study of style for a man who had a taste for literary exercises, there could be no better study than the stately ritual of Freemasonry. In the race and work of life, in the trials which beset us all, in the hours of temptation, whether in prosperity or adversity, there were times when the word in season came in, and the language they had learned in the Masonic Lodge, though we might not have thought of the application of it when we heard it, had come home to us, and it would come home to the youngest brother, whether in trials or success. There was no more powerful teaching or stronger appeal to the human heart than in our Masonic ritual. The brethren, the working officers of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, were the conservators of that magnificent ritual. Long might it be preserved by them and their successors, and might the principles and tenets of Freemasonry, which they had all been taught, be transmitted pure and unsullied through these brethren and those whom they had taught from generation to generation.”

The year 1884 may be described as uneventful,

nothing appearing in the minutes of the Lodge beyond the records of the ordinary weekly meetings, the Committee and permanent officers being all re-elected for another year.

The Festival was held on the 29th of November, in the Grand Hall, and was presided over by Bro. Thomas Fenn, as W.M., who, since the preceding Festival, had been promoted to the distinguished office of President of the Board of General Purposes. The Wardens' chairs were occupied by Bros. Sudlow and Dawson.

The First Lecture was worked by the W. Master, assisted by Bros. W. Hicklin, W.M. No. 1261; G. L. Kennaby, D.C. No. 1420; N. Goodwin, No. 1768; H. Pritchard, S.D. No. 1415; J. J. Black, S.D. No. 1564; and A. C. A. Higerty, No. 1714.

At the conclusion of the business "A letter was read from Bro. Alderman R. N. Fowler, M.P., J.G. Warden, who was to have taken the Chair, expressing his regret that he was prevented from attending," and Bro. Fenn announced that Bro. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Registrar, had kindly consented to act in his stead. The attendance of members and visitors was considerably in excess of the previous festival, 235 being present, including 24 joining members.

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## CHAPTER VI.

FROM 1885 TO 1892.

1885. No change was made this year in either the Committee or executive officers. Bro. John W. Freeman, P.M. of No. 147, was elected Tyler on the retirement of Bro. Henry Sadler.

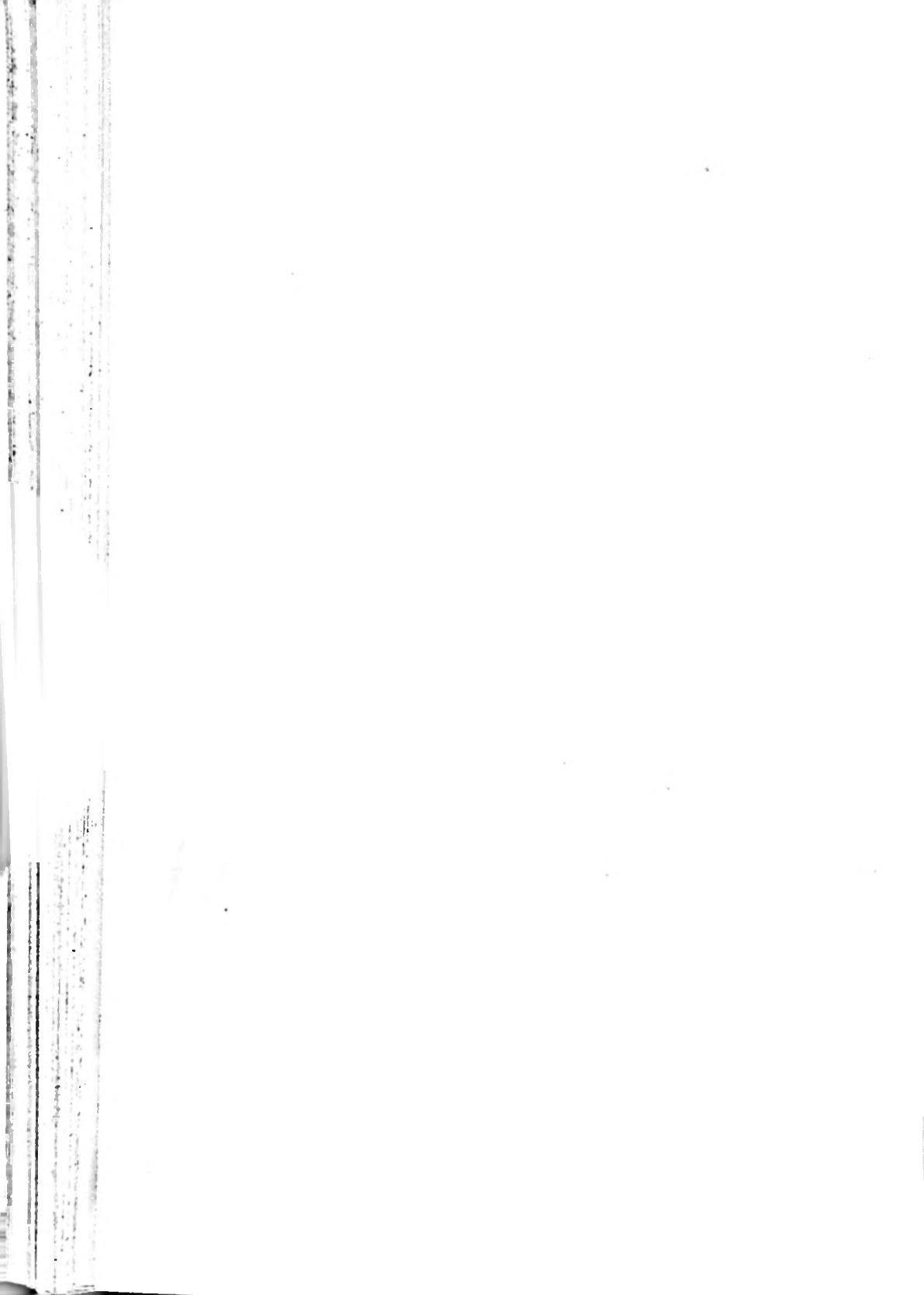
On the 6th of November, the following resolution was proposed by Bro. Thomas Fenn, seconded by Bro. W. A. Dawson, and carried unanimously:—

"That the Treasurer be empowered to pay over from the funds of the Lodge to the Trustees of the 'John Hervey Memorial Fund' a sum not exceeding £8 os. od., for the purpose of bringing up the amount of that Fund so as to enable the Trustees to purchase £1000 Stock in the New Three per Cents." The Festival was postponed to the last Friday in February, 1886, probably on the recommendation of the Committee, as I find no mention of such postponement in the minutes of the Lodge.





THE MARQUESS OF HERTFORD, PAST S.G. WARDEN,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1886.*



1886. The Festival was held on the 26th of February, and was fairly well attended, 219 being present, including a number of Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers, who were invited as guests of the Lodge. Bro. Thomas Fenn presided over the Lodge, with Bros. Sudlow and Dawson as Wardens. The Second Lecture was worked by the following brethren:—C. Bassano, P.M. No. 66; A. Marvin, P.M. No. 1768; A. Gibbings, W.M. No. 63; C. W. A. Trollope, W.M. No. 1826; and J. E. Hunt, W.M. No. 1768; 50 propositions for membership were received. The Marquess of Hertford, Senior Grand Warden, presided at the banquet table.

On the 14th of May "It was proposed by Bro. Thomas Fenn, seconded by Bro. F. R. Spaul, and carried, that the sum of Ten Pounds be given from the funds of the Lodge, Five Pounds to the third highest unsuccessful Candidate for election on the 21st of May, 1886, to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, and the remaining Five Pounds to the third highest unsuccessful female Candidate." It will be remembered that the first and second unsuccessful Candidates benefitted by the Hervey Memorial Fund.

On the 11th of June it was resolved that By-Law 15 be altered so as to include the first Friday in April as one of the nights on which the ceremony of Installation should be worked.

On the 18th of June a letter from Bro. James Terry, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, was read, acknowledging the receipt of the before mentioned grants, in which the writer says: "I need hardly say how much this gift was appreciated by the recipients, coming so unexpectedly to them and alleviating, to some extent, the feeling of disappointment at their non success." The letter was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

An unusually large number of brethren attended the Lodge on the 2nd of July, 44 members and 12 visitors being present, a majority of the latter being from the Colonies and sister jurisdictions. Many others were expected

to have attended, but, owing to some misunderstanding as to the hour of meeting, they failed to put in an appearance until too late. It was for the instruction and enlightenment of the visitors that a departure was made from the ordinary routine work of the weekly meetings. The ceremonies of the three degrees were worked by Bros. A. A. Richards, W. A. Dawson, and Thomas Fenn respectively.

On the 24th of September Bro. A. A. Richards retired from the Committee, and proposed that the vacancy caused thereby should be filled up by Bro. F. R. Spaul, which was carried, and a vote of thanks was ordered to be entered on the minutes to Bro. Richards for the many services he has rendered to the Lodge during the 27 years he had been a member of it. Bro. Richards had been a member of the Committee for a period of twenty years.

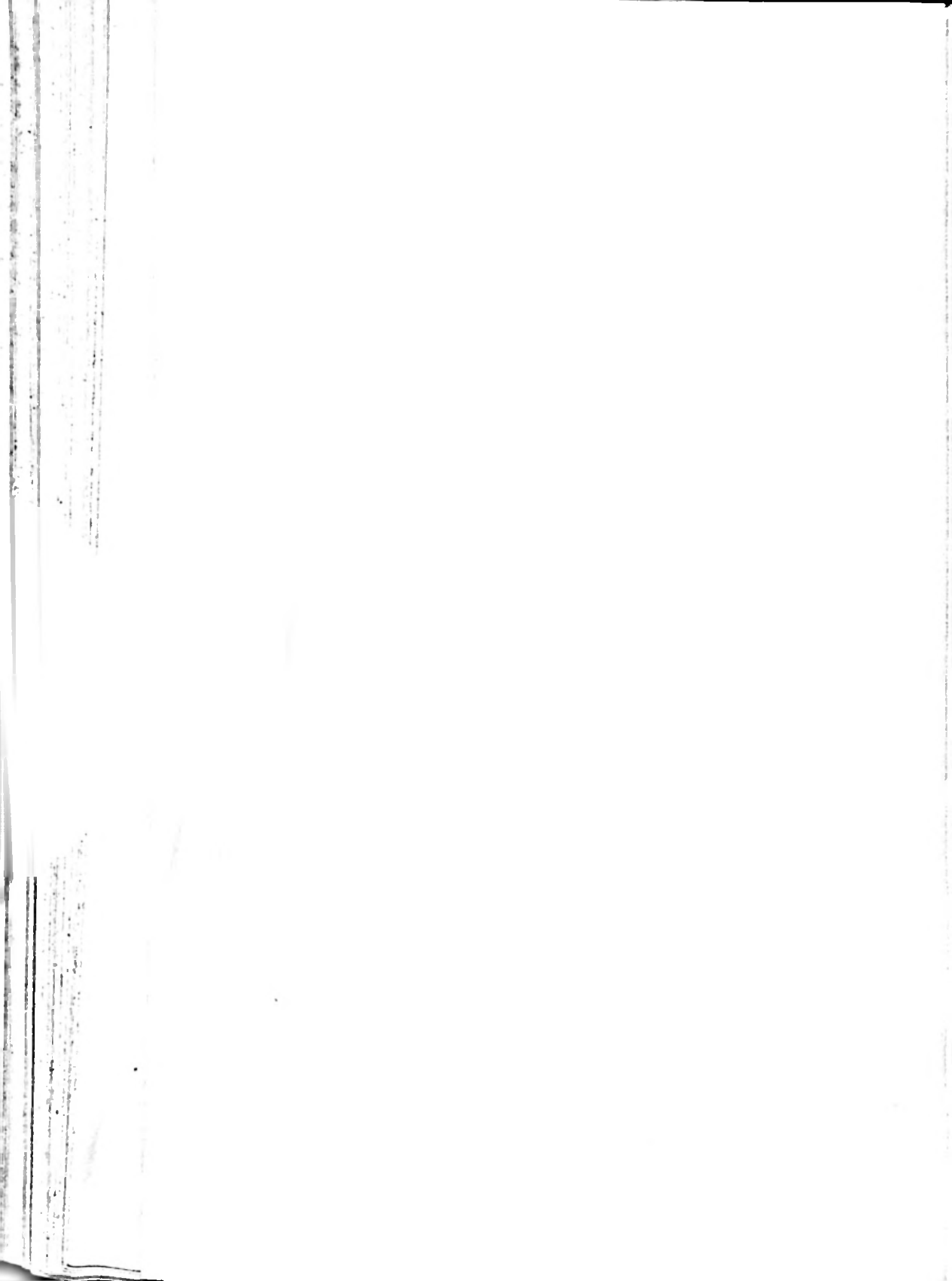
On this occasion the Lodge was honoured by the presence of four distinguished brethren from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, headed by Bro. W. J. Chetwode Crawley, LL.D., who was proposed for membership and duly elected. John W. Jones, St. Geo. and Corner Stone Lodge, No. 5, was elected Secretary on the 1st of October.

At the meeting on the 12th of November Bro. Fenn proposed several alterations in the By-Laws, amounting, indeed, to a general revision, the purport of which was to discontinue the meetings during the months of July, August, and September, and to alter the day of the election of the executive officers and the Committee of General Purposes from the last Friday in September and the first Friday in October to the first Friday in January of each year. These alterations being approved by the Committee, the By-Laws were ordered to be reprinted in conformity therewith.

1887. The 21st of January witnessed a strong muster of "Emulation" members, no less than 65, with 36 visitors, being present; nearly half of the latter were proposed as joining members. The reason for this unusual gathering was that the Third Annual Festival of the Gavel Club was to be held after the Lodge work was ended.



WILLIAM GEORGE KENTISH, P.G. STD. BEARER,  
*Secretary from 1888 to 1895.*



This club was formed in 1884, by members of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, with the object of providing refreshment, combined with amusement, for those brethren who, being members, had attended the working of the Lodge the same evening. At these gatherings harmony and good-fellowship reigned supreme and a jocular practice of fining each other to the extent of one penny for various offences, real or imaginary, mostly the latter, resulted in considerable sums finding their way into the coffers of the Masonic Charities in the course of the year.

The Annual Festival was held on the 25th of February, and, as usual, was well attended, there being upwards of 240 present. The work was the Sections of the First Lecture by Bro. Fenn as W.M., and Bros. C. W. Blaxland, J.D. No. 709; G. L. Kennaby, S.W. No. 1420; W. H. Kirby, No. 1965; H. Pritchard, W.M. No. 1415; W. S. Lee, W.M. No. 1768; A. Combes, I.G. No. 1471; and C. W. A. Trollope, P.M. No. 1826.

Thirty-eight propositions for membership were received, including that of the Chairman of the evening, the Earl of Milltown, Past Senior Grand Warden.

On the 15th of April the sum of Ten Pounds was voted for the third highest unsuccessful candidates for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the same as last year, and as this vote appears to have been regularly passed each subsequent year no further mention of it need be made.

1888. A change in the Secretaryship was made in January this year, consequent upon the retirement of Bro. J. W. Jones, owing to his inability to give that constant attention to the duties which he felt to be incumbent on all holders of the important office of Secretary of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. Bro. William G. Kentish, P.M. of No. 1293 and W.M. of No. 1768, was elected Secretary, the Committee, Treasurer, and Tyler being re-elected.

On the 27th of January a resolution was carried to the purport that the Lodge in future should be opened at Six o'clock instead of at Seven as heretofore.

A presentation of a Perfect Ashlar, with tackle, sheer legs, and a triangular platform for the same from Bro. Henry Sadler, is recorded in the minutes of the 17th February.

The sheers were made of a portion of the original fittings of the Freemasons' Hall or Grand Lodge Room, now known as the Temple, and the platform is from the old roof of the Guildhall of the City of London. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Sadler for "his very interesting present, and a brass plate was ordered to be affixed thereto with an inscription recording the particulars of the presentation."

At the Annual Festival, on the 24th of February, Bro. Thomas Fenn presided as W. Master, having as his Wardens Bros. R. C. Sudlow and C. A. Murton, P.G.D. The work was the Second Lecture, by Bros. Charles E. Cassal, J. J. Black, W. S. Lee, C. W. A. Trollope, and J. E. Terry. Total number present 262. Fifty propositions for new members were received.

Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., Past Grand Warden, resided at the banquet and subsequent proceedings with characteristic geniality.

On the motion of Bro. Fenn, it was proposed to alter the wording of By-Law 14 so as to enable the Installation to be worked on the first and third Fridays throughout the session, which alteration having been approved by the Committee, was sanctioned by the Lodge on the 2nd of November.

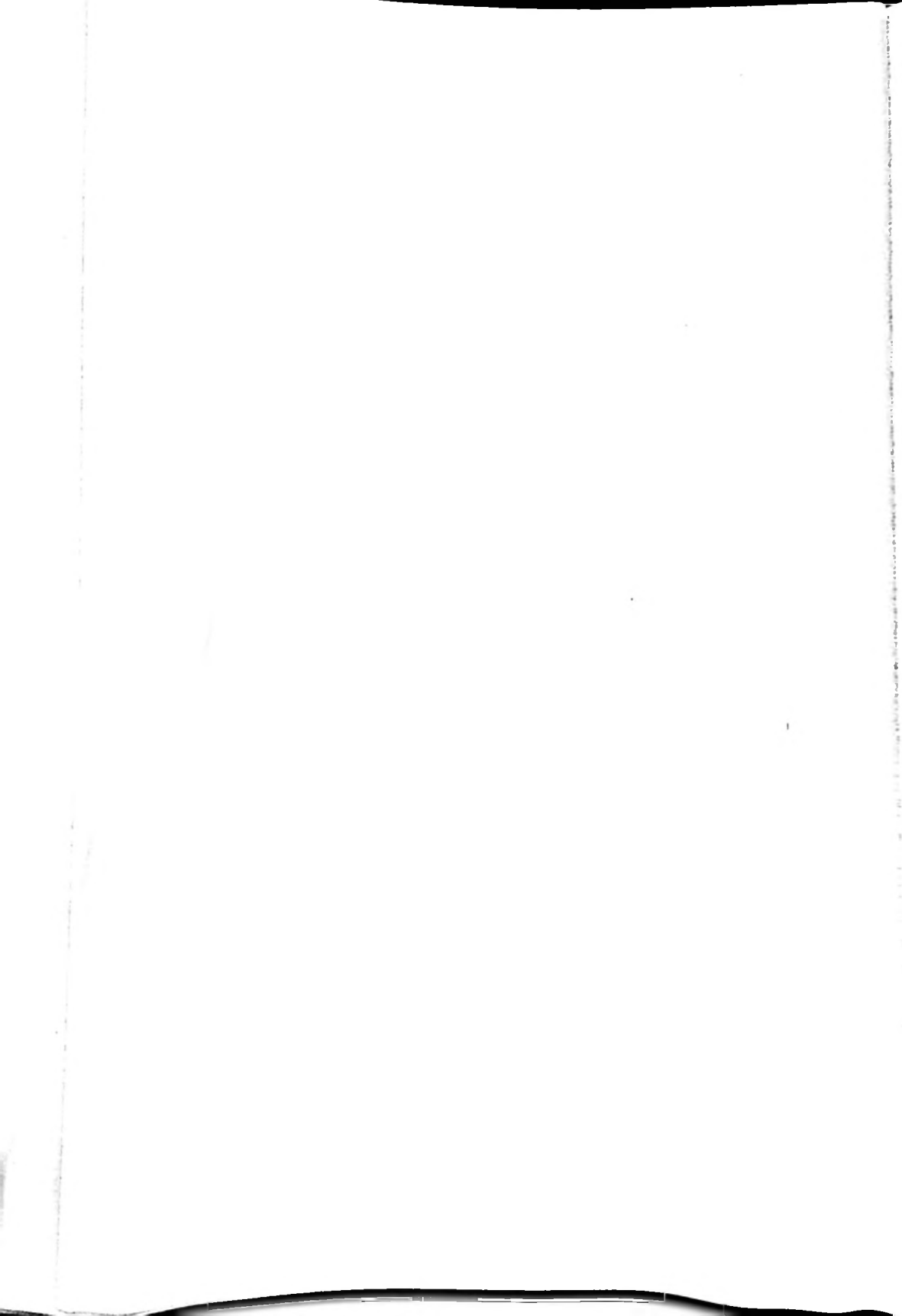
1889. The Committee and executive officers were all re-elected on the 4th of January.

On the 15th of February, Bro. Fenn proposed "that an additional sum of Ten Guineas be voted from the Funds of the Lodge to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, in compliment to the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Euston, Prov. G. Master of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, who had kindly consented to preside at the Annual Festival of the Lodge to be held on the 22nd inst., and who was also the Chairman for the approaching Festival of the R. M. B. Institution." The proposition was seconded by Bro. Sudlow and carried unanimously.





REV. AMBROSE WILLIAM HALL, M.A., P.G. CHAPLAIN,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1882.*



The Annual Festival was undoubtedly a great success, and appears to have been the fore-runner of what may fitly be described as the gigantic gatherings of more recent years. Upwards of 270, including 34 Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers, were present. Bro. Fenn occupied the chair, with Bros. R. C. Sudlow and J. J. Black as Wardens.

The First Lecture was worked by the W. Master, assisted by the following brethren :—

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1st Section | by Bro. C. E. Cassall, S.D. 1415.                                    |
| 2nd         | ” ” A. C. A. Higerty, P.M. 1044, &c.                                 |
| 3rd         | ” ” W. H. Kirby, J.D. 1965.  |
| 4th         | ” ” J. J. Black (in the absence of Bro.<br>W. A. Dawson, P.M. 1768). |
| 5th         | ” ” Robt. Clay Sudlow, P.M. 263, &c.                                 |
| 6th         | ” ” W. P. Reynolds, J.W. 7.  |
| 7th         | ” ” C. W. A. Trollope, P.M. 1826.                                    |

At the conclusion of the work, 70 propositions for joining members were handed in, being the largest number yet received at one meeting.

The Earl of Euston, in responding to the toast of his health as Chairman, said : “ When he got the invitation from Bro. Fenn to preside that evening he felt he was being paid one of the highest compliments the Craft could pay him ; he, who had only just begun his career as a Mason, felt highly honoured by being asked to preside at the festival of a lodge whose work was copied throughout the kingdom of Great Britain and the Colonies. That night he had seen how perfect that work was, and he should wish that every province under the United Grand Lodge of England should send year by year some brother to attend regularly at the meetings of that lodge, so that the working of every lodge in England should be alike and perfect ; that there should be no fancy provincial fashions ; that there should be no office done this way in one town and that way in another ; but that all should work alike, and take the Emulation of Improvement as a pattern. He only wished, if it could be arranged, that something of the kind should be done, because

he thought if the work was to be done, it should be done as they did it—thoroughly well. It was very often very hard to get people out of old ways, and into new ; but right was right, and he only wanted the Emulation Lodge of Improvement to back him up, and he would put his foot down on the first opportunity.”

At the meeting of the Lodge on the 29th of March, Bro. Fenn said he desired to repair an omission : “ Bro. F. R. Spaul had served the office of Secretary of this Lodge for upwards of five years, and throughout that period had discharged the duties thereof in the most assiduous manner, and to the complete satisfaction of the Brethren of the Lodge. It had always been the custom when a Brother had so served that office, on his retirement, to present him with a Jewel. Bro. Fenn expressed his regret that this proposal had not been made at the right time, but he had now much pleasure in proposing that a Jewel of the usual value be presented to Bro. F. R. Spaul in recognition of his valuable services as Secretary. The proposition, having been seconded by Bro. W. A. Dawson in a few appropriate remarks, was put to the vote and carried unanimously.”

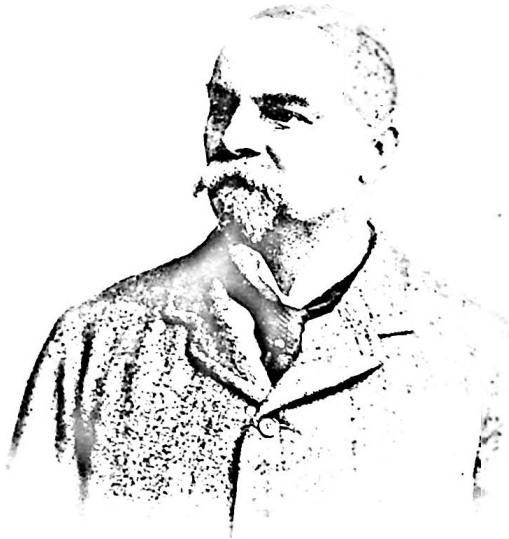
1890. No change was made this year in the Committee or executive officers. The Festival records on the 28th of February show a still further increase in the number of attendances, upward of 380 members and visitors being present, including 32 Present and Past Grand Officers. Bro. Thomas Fenn occupied the Chair of W. Master, with Bros. R. C. Sudlow and F. T. Rushton as Wardens.

The Second Lecture was worked, the brethren who assisted Bro. Fenn being :—

- |             |    |                    |                  |
|-------------|----|--------------------|------------------|
| 1st Section | by | Bro. H. Pritchard, | P.M. 1415.       |
| 2nd         | ”  | ” J. J. Black,     | P.M., Sec. 1564. |
| 3rd         | ”  | ” G. W. Bullen,    | J.D. 1768.       |
| 4th         | ”  | ” R. C. Sudlow,    | P.M. 263, 1965.  |
| 5th         | ”  | ” W. P. Reynolds,  | S.W. 7.          |

The number of visitors proposed for joining was 95.

The Lord Mayor was to have presided at the supper, but



LORD CREMORNE (NOW EARL OF DARTRY), P.S.G.W.,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1891.*



as his lordship had not recovered from his recent illness, his place was taken by Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W.

From the several toasts and responses we select the following as an appropriate example :—

“ Bro. Robert Grey, P.G.D., President of the Board of Benevolence, proposed ‘The Working Officers of the Lodge,’ and said he could speak with some little confidence on the toast, and as he was sitting in the lodge room it crossed his mind that on a memorable occasion where they tried to do their duty, and to pay respect to one who was well beloved in that Lodge as he was throughout the length and breadth of the Craft, Bro. John Hervey, the Grand Officers worked that beautiful lecture that had been heard that evening. Around him he saw three or four of those Grand Officers who joined in that work. The present Grand Secretary, Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, was unable to be present that night through illness, but he took a great interest in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. At none of the festivals of the Lodge that had taken place had the work been better done than it had been that evening. They knew to whom this was primarily due, the brother who had presided in Lodge. Under Bro. Fenn’s guidance the officers had given the brethren the intellectual treat that had been presented that evening. They had shown themselves apt pupils, apt adaptors of that art of perfection that had been committed to them by Bro. Fenn. He coupled that toast with the name of Bro. Sudlow, a brother who was no longer a student but a Master of the art, one who had that night shown that he could, at short notice, both with willingness and ability, fill a gap and give that beautiful section of the orders of architecture which the brethren had so thoroughly enjoyed.

“ Bro. Robert Clay Sudlow, P.M. 263 and 1965, P. Prov. G.D. Kent, in response, said, as the mouthpiece of the officers of the Lodge, he rose at once to express their thanks for the toast which had just been given, and also for the compliment that had been passed on the work of the night.

It was no light task to undertake a Section at those festivals, and the officers were very proud indeed to think that the prestige of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement had not suffered at their hands. It was not easy to understand how it was that so many Masons who took pains to make themselves more or less perfect in the working of their beautiful ceremonies neglected altogether the study of their equally beautiful Lectures. He ventured to hope that the spirit of emulation was abroad that night, and that many among their followers would feel themselves called upon to make—he was going to say—a daily advancement, but, considering that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement met only on the Friday, he would alter a little the usual phraseology, and say, make a weekly advancement in Masonic knowledge in the direction he had indicated.”

A notable feature on this occasion was the introduction of music while the brethren were assembling and after the Lodge was closed.

Bro. J. H. Maunder played some excellent voluntaries on the Grand Lodge organ.

At the meeting of the Lodge on the 2nd of May, Bro. Thomas Fenn presented to Bro. Frank R. Spaul, on behalf of the members, a very beautiful Jewel, which had been specially made from the design of Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, Grand Secretary, for which Bro. Spaul returned his sincere thanks.

1891. The executive officers were again re-elected, as was also the Committee, with the exception of Bro. W. A. Dawson, whose professional engagements frequently necessitating his residence abroad and thus preventing his attendance at either the Lodge or Committee meetings, it was deemed advisable to select another brother in his place. Bro. Frederick T. Rushton, Past Grand Steward, P.M. of the British Lodge, No. 8, who had been a member of the Lodge for the last fifteen years, was elected to the post.

The Festival on the 27th of February was attended by upwards of 400 brethren, including 38 Present and Past.





SIR WALTER W. BURRELL, BART. PROV. G.M. SUSSEX.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1880.*



Grand Officers. The worthy Bro. Thomas Fenn again acting as W. Master, having as Wardens Bros. R. C. Sudlow, G. Std. Bearer, and F. T. Rushton, Past Grand Steward.

The First Lecture was worked by the following brethren :—

- |             |                         |                               |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Section | by Bro. J. C. Mortimer, | 1044.                         |
| 2nd         | „                       | W. H. Kirby, S.W. 1965.       |
| 3rd         | „                       | J. Pullmann, W.M. 8.          |
| 4th         | „                       | W. P. Reynolds, W.M. 7.       |
| 5th         | „                       | J. J. Black, P.M., Sec. 1564. |
| 6th         | „                       | T. C. Martin, S.D. 1768.      |
| 7th         | „                       | C. W. A. Trollope, P.M. 1826. |

The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to supper at Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of Lord Cremorne, Past Senior Grand Warden. On account of the large hall not affording sufficient space for the great gathering, a supplemental supper was provided under the chairmanship of Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, G. Std. Br., in the drawing room.

The noble Chairman was by no means a novice at the "Emulation working," having joined the Lodge in 1880 and frequently attended the weekly meetings when learning his duties as an officer of his Lodge. In briefly responding to the toast of his health, he gratefully acknowledged the very valuable assistance he had received thereby. When proposing the toast of "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement" his lordship, speaking from personal knowledge of the subject, was very happy in his introductory remarks, a few of which we venture to repeat :—

"Of course there were plenty of other institutions of that nature, and probably they might fairly justify their existence and influence, but the position of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was a peculiar one, and it stood out apart from other institutions of a similar character ; for that Lodge not only instructed, it did more—it gave a tone to the whole Masonic ritual ; it was accepted as a standard for ceremony, and in these days, when Masonry was spreading and

spreading every day, the necessity for one central standard to which all ceremonial could be referred, it was obviously all the more necessary. It was essential to guard against additions which were unnecessary, against mutilation and improper deviation ; it was necessary for the maintenance not only of words, but of forms and ceremonies, and in both those matters the Emulation Lodge of Improvement fulfilled a great duty to the Craft at large under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England to begin with, and in some degree he believed of foreign Constitutions as well."

In responding to the toast, Bro. Fenn said : Bro. Lord Cremorne and Brethren—It has been the custom for some years past for the brother who has the honour of responding to this toast to give a short history of the Lodge, and our reasons for claiming the highest authority for the ritual that it teaches, but I have been asked to change the subject this evening, and as the Emulation work has become so general, and its pre-eminence is now almost universally acknowledged, it does seem unnecessary to repeat the oft-told tale. But as I believe I am expected to say something respecting our Lodge, I do not know that I can do better than avail myself of this opportunity to answer the question which has often been put to us, " Why we work the lectures on these occasions and not the ceremonies ? "

Formerly the sections were occasionally worked in private lodges, but whether it be from the increase of ceremonial duties, whether it be from indifference or some other cause, the lectures have apparently been relegated to lodges of instruction, and the work in private lodges seems now generally confined to the ceremonies. The brethren have therefore so many opportunities of hearing these ceremonies that we doubt if a repetition of them on these nights would prove sufficient attraction to bring together so large a gathering as we desire to see. But a brother newly-admitted into our mysteries naturally feels some degree of curiosity to learn more of the meaning and design of the various ceremonies through which

he has passed. He has heard that Freemasonry is a peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols, but when he seeks an explanation of those symbols, when he asks why he was required to do this or that, or the meaning of any particular part of the ceremonies, he is told that he must go to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement and hear the lectures, where he will have all these matters fully explained.

On these occasions he may possibly hear for the first time that Masonic Charity, in its true and extended sense, is to envy not our neighbour ; to believe not a tale reported to his prejudice ; to forgive the injuries of men ; and endeavour to blot them from our recollection ; not only to relieve the distressed (which is a duty incumbent on all men), but to soothe the unhappy, sympathise in their misfortunes, compassionate their miseries, and restore peace to their troubled minds ; and that to communicate happiness to others is the truest and surest source of happiness to ourselves.

We are taught in these lectures that in the Masonic interpretation of brotherly love is comprised that grand principle of universality which is one of the peculiar and distinguishing features of our Institution, which embraces in its fraternal arms the high and low, the rich and poor, and men of every country, whatever may be their religious or political opinions. We are here told that to be a good Freemason is to lead an upright life, to be scrupulously honourable in all his dealings, to look down with scorn and contempt on meanness and deception as something that is beneath him, to render to every man his just due, and that without distinction, whether he be his equal or his servant. And while maintaining and practising impartial justice, to exercise to the fullest extent that Divine attribute, mercy, even as he hopes for mercy hereafter himself. These lectures, in fact, expatiate on that grand system of morality shadowed forth in our ceremonies, that firm and enduring foundation of our glorious Masonic edifice, which has enabled

it to stand the test of ages, to survive the wreck of mighty empires, and resist the destroying hand of time. Opinions may alter, manners change, creeds rise and fall, but the moral law, the foundation of Masonry, is graven on the tablets of eternity.

To preserve, in their integrity, our lectures which embody these sublime truths, and to hand them down to their successors as they have received them from those who have gone before, is one of the duties of the Committee whom I have the honour to represent, and in thanking you, in their names, for the compliment you have paid them I can safely assure you that they are deeply sensible of the responsibility which this trust imposes upon them. For my own part I am now only a consulting member of the Committee, but while such brethren as Bro. Sudlow, who, I am pleased to see, has received the honour of the purple since we last met; Bro. Frank Spaul, our late Secretary, who has done such good service for the Lodge, and whose absence to-night from a severe accident we must all deplore; Bro. Kentish, our present indefatigable Secretary, to whom the success of this great gathering is mainly due; and Bro. Rushton, who has lately been elected on the Committee in consideration of his efficiency and zeal for the interests of the Lodge—while such brethren are intrusted with that duty, we may rest assured that it will be faithfully and earnestly discharged.

While the brethren were assembling and dispersing, Bro. J. H. Maunder played a selection on the organ of the Grand Lodge.

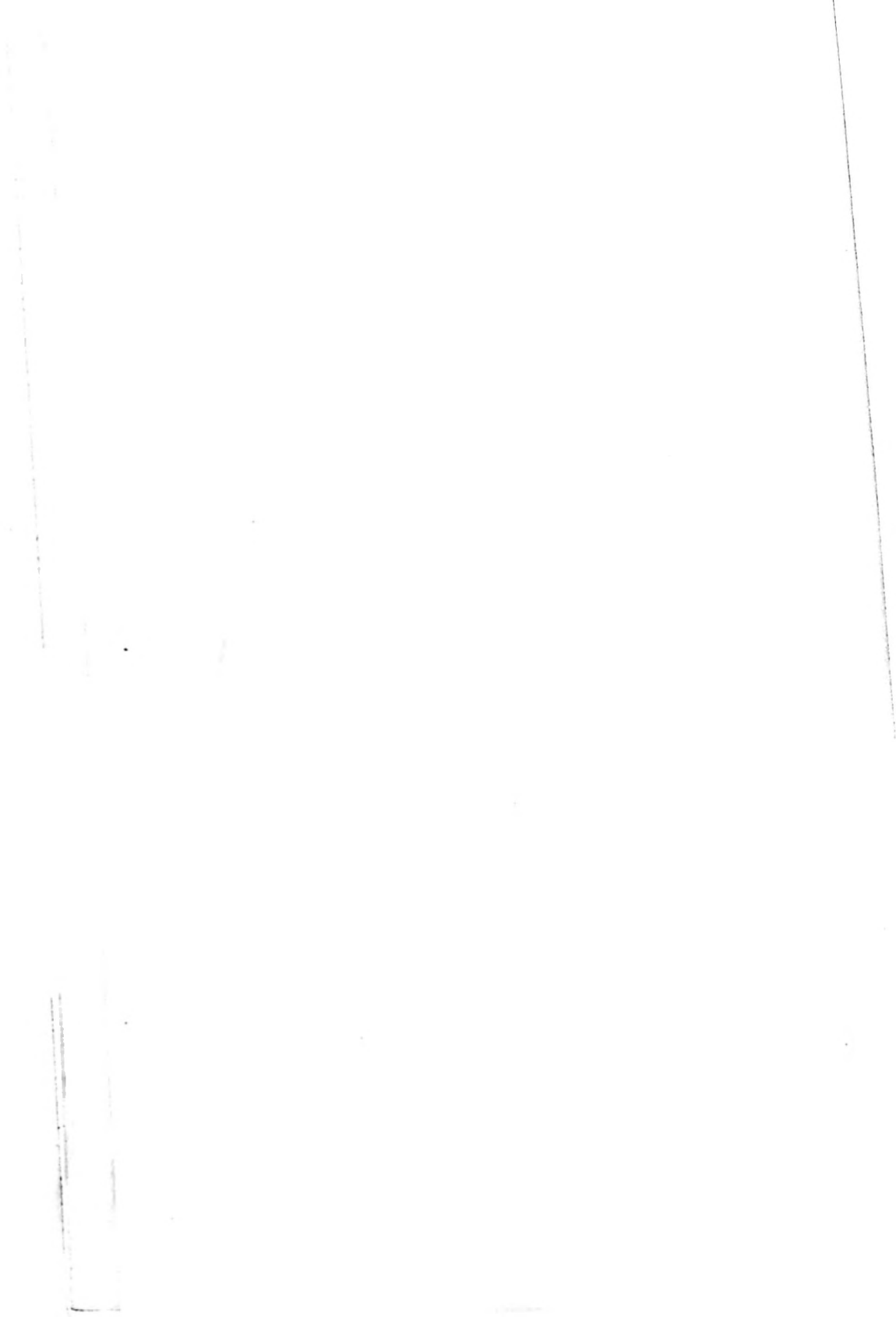
1892. The Committee and executive officers were unanimously re-elected to their respective positions.

At the Festival on the 26th of February, Bro. Thomas Fenn again presided as Worshipful Master, having Bro. R. C. Sudlow as I.P.M., Bros. W. H. Kirby and F. T. Rushton as Wardens.

The Second Lecture was worked by the W.M. and the following brethren :—



COL. SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, BART., PROV. G. MASTER, MIDDLESEX,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1873.*





1st Section	by	Bro. H. Pritchard.
2nd	„	„ J. C. Mortimer.
3rd	„	„ W. H. Kirby.
4th	„	„ J. J. Black.
5th	„	„ W. P. Reynolds.

About 375 members and visitors attended, 37 of whom were distinguished by the purple of Grand Lodge. A record number of propositions for joining were received, no less than 121, the candidates being all elected at the following meeting.

At the conclusion of the labours of the evening Bro. Fenn informed the brethren that Viscount Dungarvan, P.G.M. Somersetshire, who was to have presided at the supper, was regretfully compelled through illness to be absent; but that Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., had kindly consented to fill the vacancy caused by his lordship's absence.

On this occasion, Bro. Edward Cutler, Q.C., Grand Organist, favoured the Lodge by an appropriate performance on the organ while the brethren were assembling, and also at the closing of the Lodge.

The genial Chairman, in proposing the first toast of the evening, set an example of brevity which the speakers who followed him might well have imitated.

“The Queen who's the pride of us all, and the Craft that we practise and love.”

## CHAPTER VII.

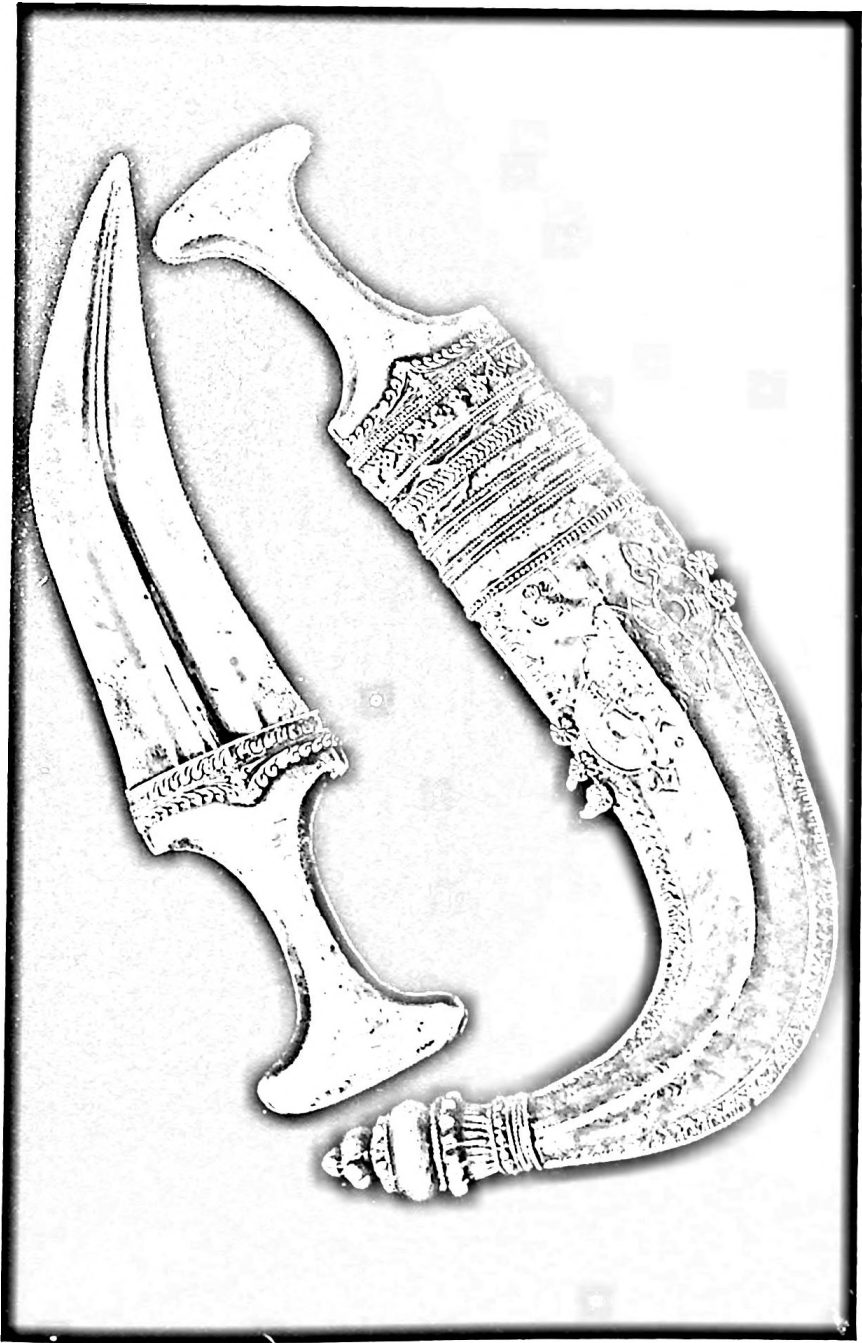
1893. No alteration was made this year in the Committee nor the executive officers.

On the 3rd of February, "Bro. Henry S. Wellcome offered for the Lodge's acceptance, in token of his appreciation of the great services the Lodge had rendered to the Craft in general and to himself in particular, a most handsome and curious Abyssinian poniard mounted in silver.

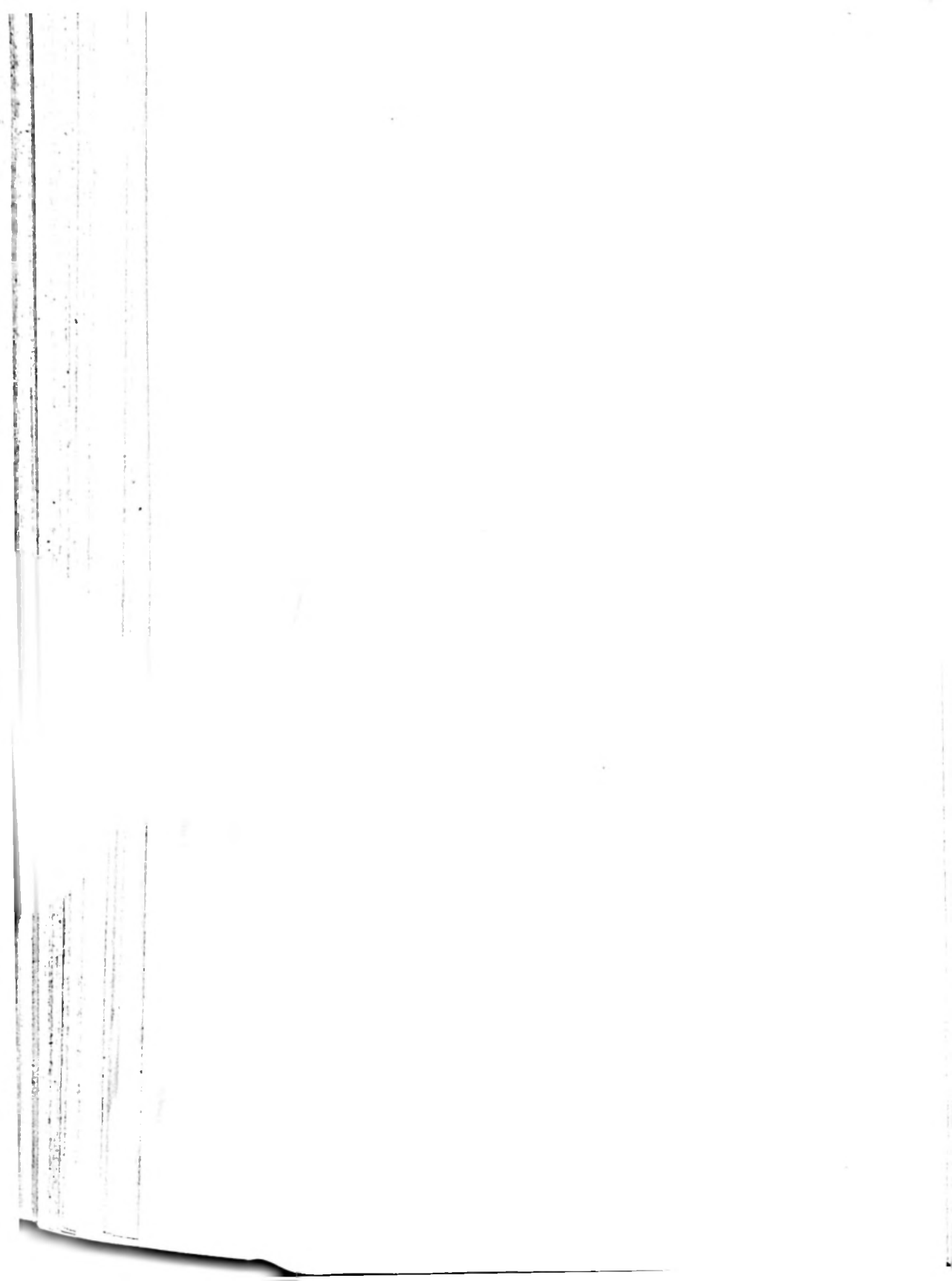
"In accepting the gift on behalf of the Lodge, Bro. Sudlow expressed his thanks for this token of Bro. Wellcome's devotion to Masonry generally, and moved that the best thanks of the Lodge be given to Bro. Wellcome for his handsome presentation.

"This was seconded by Bro. F. T. Rushton, and carried unanimously."

This antique poniard was obtained from a noble Abyssinian chieftain, and is a fine example of design and workmanship of native armourers and silversmiths. Masonically it reminds us of the traditions of the association of an ancient Sovereign of Ethiopia with King Solomon. The weapon is believed to be typical of the poniards used at the period of the building of the Temple.



ABYSSINIAN PONIARD AND SHEATH.  
PRESENTED BY HENRY S. WELLCOME, P.M. No. 3.



The Festival was held on the 24th of February, when upwards of 400 brethren, including 44 Grand and Past Grand Officers, attended.

The veteran Bro. Thomas Fenn presided as W. Master, being the last occasion on which he filled that exalted position in the Lodge.

Bro. R. C. Sudlow sat as I.P.M., Bros. W. H. Kirby and F. T. Rushton filling the Wardens' chairs. The brethren who assisted the W. Master in working the First Lecture were Bros. Temple C. Martin, D. D. West, Henry Pritchard, J. C. Mortimer, J. J. Black, W. P. Reynolds, and W. G. Kentish; 102 brethren were proposed for joining and subsequently elected members.

The R.W. Bro. William Wither B. Beach presided at the banquet table in the large Hall, and Bro. R. C. Sudlow in the overflow room.

Bro. Edward Cutler, Q.C., Grand Organist, with his customary kindness and well-known ability, undertook the musical portion of the programme. We believe that Bro. Cutler has officiated in like manner at every subsequent Festival down to the present time, with one exception, when the Lodge was indebted to Bro. J. H. Maunder.

We find no mention in the minutes of the repeated and gratuitous services so freely rendered by these talented brethren, probably owing to the extra work devolving upon the Secretary, but we venture to suggest that official recognition in the shape of a vote of thanks, either on the Festival night or at a subsequent meeting, would doubtless be appreciated.

The preceding toasts having been given and responded to, the Chairman proposed that of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement," coupled with the name of Bro. Thomas Fenn. We have been compelled by want of space, sometimes reluctantly, to omit several good Masonic speeches; others, although possessing more or less merit as oratorical efforts, have been omitted because they have no bearing on the

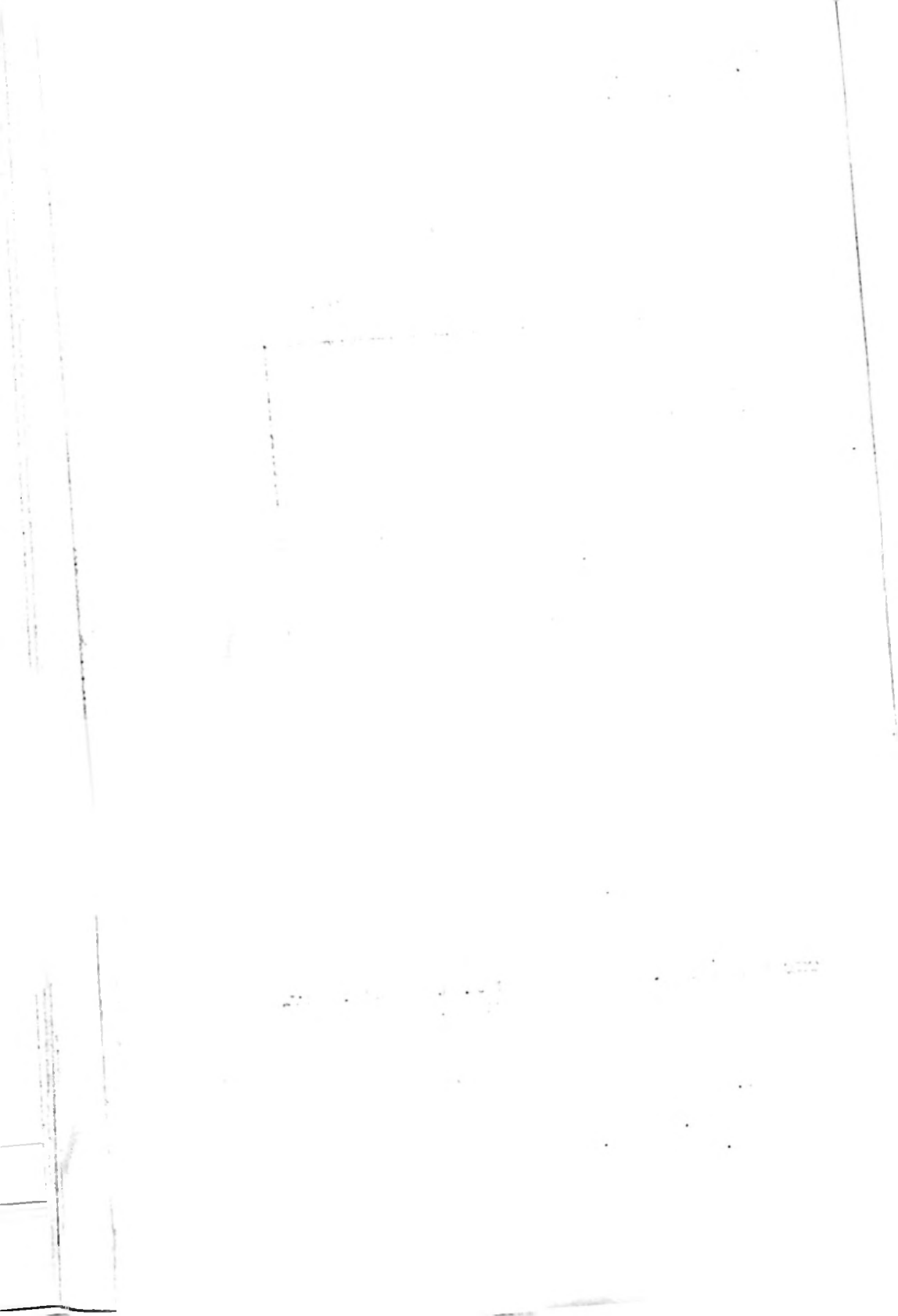
history or working of the Lodge, but as this was the last occasion on which Bro. Fenn addressed the Emulation Lodge of Improvement at any length, no apology will be needed for reproducing in its entirety his latest effort in support of his favourite Lodge. Much of the information therein has already appeared in these pages, notably the two very important letters referring to the Masonic qualifications of Peter Gilkes, yet in view of the peculiar circumstances under which the address was delivered, and the rapt attention with which it was received, the writer would feel himself guilty of something like sacrilege were he to attempt to mutilate or subject it to alteration.

We are greatly indebted to the *Freemason* of March the 4th, 1893, for having found space for what, to the best of the writer's recollection, is a full report.

Bro. Thos. Fenn, in replying to the toast, said: R.W. Bro. in the chair,—In former years it was the custom for the brother, whose duty it was to respond to this toast, to give an account of the origin of this Lodge of Improvement and some justification for our claiming that the ritual it teaches is that which received the authority of Grand Lodge after the Union, and which was ordered to be used throughout the Craft. I have had the honour of representing the Committee on these occasions for some years, and I followed the custom up to three years ago, when I was advised to discontinue it on the ground that the reputation of this Lodge was so firmly established, and the excellence of its work was so generally recognised, that a repetition of the story was unnecessary. I am, however, this evening about to revert to the old custom for two reasons, first, because I have been asked to do so by a provincial brother, present here to-night, who is desirous of introducing our mode of working into his province, and wishes to be armed with the means of combating opposition, and secondly, because, while I have a retraction to make, I have a new story to tell, and some further proofs, in support of our claim, to bring under your notice, which, to my mind, are incontestable.



THE HON. SIR HENRY T. PRINSEP, DIST. G. MASTER, BENGAL,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1883.*





I must premise that at the Union of the two rival Grand Lodges in 1813 the method of working the ceremonies was found to differ materially, and it became necessary that a uniform system should be agreed to, which would be acceptable to both parties, and which could, without sacrifice of principle, be universally adopted. In accordance, therefore, with a special provision in the Articles of Union, a warrant was issued for the formation of the "Lodge of Reconciliation," to consist of an equal number of so-called "Moderns" and "Ancients" under the presidency of Bro. Rev. Dr. Samuel Hemming. The duty assigned to this Lodge was to construct from the elements of both systems a ritual which should receive the sanction and authority of the United Grand Lodge.

Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, as many of you doubtless recollect, used to relate that the work was interrupted by Dr. Hemming becoming afflicted with mental incapacity, that it was left by him uncompleted; that the Duke of Sussex appointed Bro. Williams (the compiler of the new Book of Constitutions adopted at the Union) to carry on the work; that Bro. Williams undertook to do so, on the condition of his being permitted to start *de novo* from the same elements; that the work thus completed by Bro. Williams, was approved by Grand Lodge; and that Bro. Peter Gilkes became the acknowledged teacher of this work.

Now comes my retraction. I have frequently repeated this narrative on Bro. Wilson's authority, but I have now good reason to doubt its authenticity, so far at least as relates to the ceremonies. The minutes of the Lodge of Reconciliation tell us very little, not one word of the ritual agreed upon being permitted to be written; but there is a record of the names of the members, and of those who attended, and also of its labours having been completed in 1816. And we find in the written minutes of Grand Lodge of that year that the ceremonies were rehearsed by members of the Lodge of Reconciliation at two special meetings of Grand Lodge, presided over by the Duke of Sussex,

and were, after some few alterations, approved and adopted, and that a vote of thanks was given to Bro. Hemming, so that there can be no doubt that it was Dr. Hemming's work that was adopted, and not Bro. Williams's. It is also on record that Dr. Hemming constantly attended Grand Lodge until 1821, frequently acting as S.W., so that his mental incapacity must have occurred long after the ritual was settled.

Some light has been thrown on the story by a letter from Bro. Broadfoot, which our indefatigable Sub-Librarian, Bro. Henry Sadler, has brought to light, a copy of which he was good enough to send me two days ago. Bro. Broadfoot was one of the members of the Lodge of Reconciliation, and the founder of the Stability Lodge of Instruction, and it is clear from this letter that the story must have referred to the lectures which were not settled for some time afterwards, for he says Bro. Hemming, after arranging the first lecture, could not be induced to go on with the second and third, and his mind after some time becoming enfeebled, he (Bro. Broadfoot) was obliged to arrange them himself. These were not our lectures, but those practised at the Lodge of Stability. This is corroborated by the fact that Bro. Peter Gilkes, in 1819, brought a complaint before the Board of General Purposes against Philip Broadfoot and others for working unauthorised lectures.

The Emulation Lodge of Improvement was founded in 1823, and was shortly after joined by many eminent working Masons who had been members of the Lodge of Reconciliation or had attended its meetings, notably Bro. Edwards Harper, Grand Secretary, who had acted as Secretary to the Lodge of Reconciliation, and Bro. Peter Gilkes, who had attained the highest eminence as an instructor, and who afterwards became Preceptor of this Lodge, and continued to hold that office until his death in 1833. He was succeeded by his friend and pupil, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, who presided over the Lodge until his death in 1866. It was from him many now living received

their instruction in Masonry, and we have frequently heard him say, and he has repeated it from this place, that while admitting having made a few additions to the lectures, he had made no alteration whatever in the ritual taught him by Bro. Gilkes, which he always told him was the exact work of the Lodge of Reconciliation which he had been authorized by that Lodge to teach. That Bro. Gilkes was so authorized, I can now give you the further proofs with which I have recently become acquainted. They consist of two letters only, but they appear to me to settle the question without a doubt. I must tell you that at the Union two Grand Secretaries were appointed, one of whom had been Grand Secretary of the "Modern," and the other of the "Ancient" Grand Lodge. Bro. W. H. White was one, and Bro. Edwards Harper the other, the former acted as Treasurer, and the latter as Secretary of the Lodge of Reconciliation, and attended all its meetings. The first letter is to be found in Bro. Sadler's "Notes on the Ceremony of Installation," a book which specially commends itself to all who are interested in this Lodge. It is from Bro. White, and is dated in 1843.

He says, "In reply to your letter enquiring whether any alterations have been made in the ceremonies of initiation, &c., since the late Peter Gilkes was in the country, I beg to say (without knowing at what period that visit took place) that no alterations have been made since the Grand Lodge formally approved and decided on them in the year 1816. Bro. Gilkes was fully Master of all the ceremonies, and, I believe, most strictly observed them." The next letter I found in an interesting history of Freemasonry in Shropshire by Bro. Graham, and it is, perhaps, more conclusive than Bro. White's, having been written as far back as 1818, two years after the Lodge of Reconciliation had completed its labours. It is from Bro. Edwards Harper, who was, you will bear in mind, not only Grand Secretary, but Secretary of the Lodge of Reconciliation; he says . . . . "In referring you to Bro. Gilkes, I

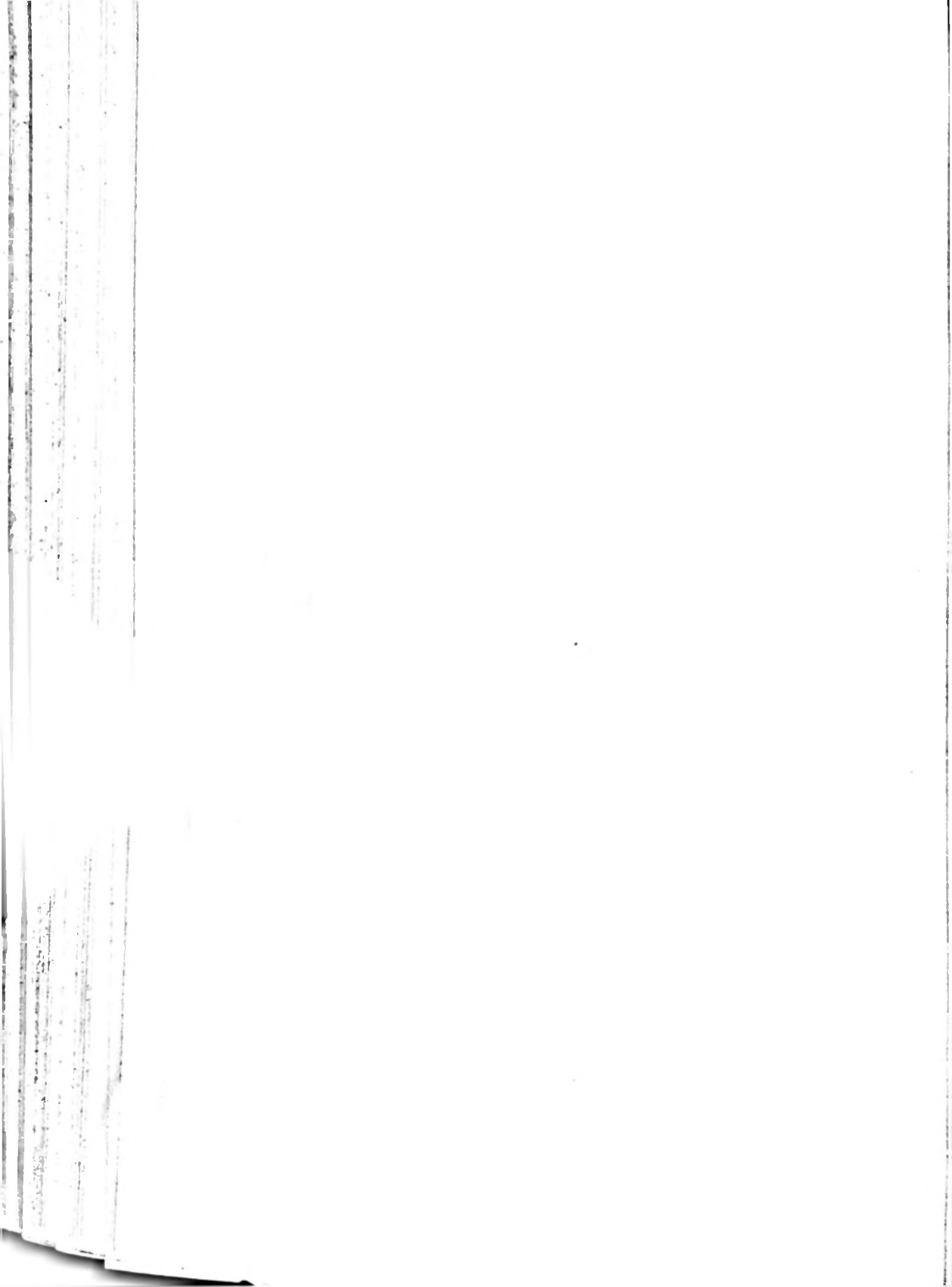
mentioned he would instruct you in the correct method adopted since the Union. It is quite useless to enquire of *me* 'which is correct?'; more I cannot say by this mode of communication."

You will observe that the oral tradition by which the ritual reaches the present generation from the Lodge of Reconciliation comes through only Bro. Gilkes and Bro. Wilson, many of Bro. Wilson's pupils being still alive. It is important to bear in mind that these two brethren were both possessed of a remarkably retentive memory; that they were in constant communication with each other, and were continuously engaged in working and teaching in the same Lodge and in the presence of each other, so that it is impossible to believe they could have varied the work by inadvertence. Having therefore established the authority of Bro. Peter Gilkes, I submit we have proved our case. It is a characteristic of Freemasonry which is perhaps worthy of note, because it does not seem to exist, at least to the same extent, in any other institution that at all times and in regular succession men have been found who, without unseemly canvas, have been noiselessly selected by their fellows, and as if by general consent recognised as leaders—men who, in this Lodge week after week and year after year, out of pure love of Masonry, give up their time to its teaching without remuneration or the expectation of reward, save only that of the approval at these annual gatherings of the distinguished Grand Officers and eminent leaders in the Craft who are wont to honour us with their presence and support.

For myself, I have no longer the right to pose as one of the Committee, having for some years ceased by reason of my many Masonic engagements and my increasing years to take any other part than that of a consulting member, but in returning you thanks in the name of the Committee for your cordial reception of this toast, I may, I am sure, say that they feel greatly gratified at seeing themselves supported by so large a number of Grand Officers this evening, and their gratification is enhanced by being



THOMAS FENN, PAST GRAND DEACON (1873).  
PAST GRAND WARDEN (1896).



presided over by one of the oldest, of the ablest, of the most popular, aye ! I will add with a certainty of an echo from the hearts of you all, one of the most beloved of our Provincial Grand Masters. I am sure that Bro. Sudlow and the other active members of the Committee are fully sensible of their responsibility for the maintenance in its integrity of the great trust to which they have succeeded, and that they highly appreciate your good wishes as a recognition of their past, and as an incentive to future exertions."

No doubt a certain amount of curiosity will naturally be felt as to the result of the complaint referred to by Bro. Fenn as having been made in 1819 "against Philip Broadfoot and others for working unauthorised Lectures." As a matter of fact Gilkes' name does not appear in the records of the Board of General Purposes as one of the complainants on that occasion. He had previously brought the matter before the Grand Lodge, but whether, in so doing, he made a specific charge against anyone does not appear. In the Grand Secretary's notes, or rough minutes of proceedings, at a Quarterly Communication on the 2nd of June, 1819, we find the following: "Bro. Gilkes addressed the Grand Lodge, and moved that a Committee be appointed to investigate the manner in which the Lectures of Masonry are now worked. And the question being put thereon it passed in the negative."

From another source we learn that had the foregoing motion been carried, Bro. Gilkes was prepared to move the following: "That a new Lecture lately promulgated among the Craft be suspended till the decision of the Committee be reported."

The subject was brought before the Board of General Purposes on the 28th of the same month, in the form of a "Complaint by Bros. J. Wheeler, Master of No. 3; J. H. Goldsworthy, P.M. No. 3; W. Bellonie, Master of No. 349; J. G. Godwin, Master of No. 499; and J. George, Master of No. 96; against Philip Broadfoot, of No. 381, for presiding at various General Lodges of Instruction, and there working

Lectures contrary to the stipulations of the Act of Union, they never having been in use in either branch of the Fraternity previous to the Union and not having received any sanction from the Grand Lodge, the Complainants therefore requested the Board to take such measures as they might think necessary to put a stop to such proceedings." A similar complaint was read at the same meeting from Bro. C. Kewley of No. 301, and others, against Broadfoot, Satterly, and McEvoy. Both complainants and defendants were all, more or less, celebrated as workers and lecturers in Masonry, several of the former being personal friends of Peter Gilkes, and two, Wheeler and Godwin, being members of the Board, as was also one of the defendants, Bro. Thomas Satterly, of No. 308.

The parties were summoned to attend a Special Meeting of the Board on the 12th of July, when the case was carefully and judiciously considered, the result being reported to the Grand Lodge on the 1st September, 1819.

In the report of the Board the charges and allegations of the two parties of complainants are treated as one complaint generally, and after reciting at length the charges made, the substance of which has already been given, the Board had passed the following Resolution :—

"That the Board are of opinion that the charges stated in the said Memorials are not made out, although they must at the same time state their deliberate judgment that no Individuals have any right to make a new Lecture and promulgate the same to the Craft as authorized without receiving the authority of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge for such Lecture, but they also feel that the Individuals complained of had no improper motives. They cannot but regret that any Brothers should have been induced to sign charges in regard to this matter who admitted they were not themselves present or ever heard the Lectures.

"Under all the circumstances which have come to their knowledge, the Board are of opinion that the Lecture complained of should not be further promulgated in any General





THE EARL OF EUSTON, PROV. GRAND MASTER, NORTHS. & HUNTS.,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1889.*



Lodge of Instruction at this time, and that the Grand Lodge be requested at the meeting in December to adopt measures in order to have Lectures established for the three Degrees under the sanction of the Craft." "On a motion duly made it was Resolved, That the Resolution of the last Grand Lodge relating to the appointment of a Committee to consider the Lectures renders it unnecessary to adopt the present recommendation of the Board of General Purposes." It will thus be seen that the Grand Lodge, having declined to appoint a Committee for investigation and also to adopt the report of the Board, had left the affair in *statu quo ante bellum*. An effort was made, on the confirmation of the Minutes, at the next Quarterly Communication on the 1st of December, to rescind the resolution last quoted; the minutes were, however, confirmed, and a solution of the difficulty was attempted by the Duke of Sussex.

"The M.W. Grand Master then addressed the Brethren on the subject of the Lectures; when he stated that it was his Opinion that so long as the Master of any Lodge observed exactly the Land-Marks of the Craft, he was at liberty to give the Lectures in the Language best suited to the Character of the Lodge over which he presided. That, however, no Person was permitted to practise as an Itinerant Lecturer to other Lodges, which was decidedly against the Rules and Regulations of the Craft. And that Brethren of different Lodges convening themselves for the Purpose of a Lecture, without a regular Warrant or other Sanction from the Grand Master, were likewise guilty of a Dereliction of their Duty towards the Grand Lodge; and which, of course, if known, would be noticed and proceeded against accordingly. But that any Master of a Lodge, on visiting another Lodge, and approving of the Lectures delivered therein, is at Liberty to promulgate the same from the Chair in his own Lodge, provided he has previously perfected himself in the Instructions of the Master in the aforesaid Lodge."

"The Grand Lodge concurring in the Opinion thus delivered by the M.W. Grand Master, requested His Royal

Highness to permit the same to stand recorded on the minutes of this day's proceedings, to which His Royal Highness acceded."

The decision given by the Duke of Sussex seems to have answered fairly well down to the present time, and it will explain why the Stability Lodge of Instruction Lectures have since been considered as orthodox as those of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

It will doubtless be remembered that Bro. Fenn, in what he described as his "retractation," delivered at the Festival in 1893, stated that the Lectures complained of as being worked at various Lodges of Instruction by Broadfoot and his disciples without authority, were arranged by Dr. Hemming and Broadfoot himself, and that Dr. Hemming had nothing whatever to do with the Emulation Lectures.

In support of this statement and to put the matter beyond the shadow of a doubt, we may here remark that in his examination before the Board of General Purposes, Broadfoot, in reply to the question, "Did you learn the Lecture in a Lodge?" said: "I heard it in a Lodge at Hampton Court, and learned it from the Brother who then worked it." Now the only Lodge at Hampton Court at this period was the Lodge of Harmony, of which Dr. Hemming was a member and for several years Master.

One of the witnesses stated that Broadfoot's Lectures contained certain clauses in the different Sections.

We will now return to the old minute book of the Lodge of Perseverance, already referred to as having been presented to the "Emulation" in 1880.

This Lodge was established on the 26th of January, 1818, and appears to have been formed chiefly for the purpose of working the Lectures, as, according to tradition, was the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. The only ceremony mentioned in the By-Laws is that of Initiation, which was to be worked on the Second Monday in the month. A probable reason being that the brethren generally were not sufficiently acquainted with the new mode of working the ceremonies

sanctioned by Grand Lodge only eighteen months previously, as to enable them to make the ceremonial work a part of their regular programme.

On the 31st of March, 1818, Peter Gilkes visited the Lodge and was elected a member of it. At this meeting "The Lodge was opened in the three Degrees, and the Ceremony of Raising to the 3rd Degree most ably gone through." This being the first occasion on which either of the ceremonies had been rehearsed in the Lodge, a reasonable inference would be that if Gilkes did not actually do the work it was done under his direction, although the Master's Chair was filled by a celebrated Past Master of that period, viz., Edward Whittington, a member of the Lodge of Unions and several other well-known lodges, one of the chief promoters of this Lodge of Instruction and subsequently a Founder of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, whose Masonic attainments are said to have been scarcely inferior to those of Peter Gilkes himself.

At the next meeting on the 7th of April, the ceremony of Initiation was worked, Bro. Whittington in the Chair.

On the 20th of April, 1819, the Lodge was visited and joined by Bro. James McEvoy of No. 287, one of the defendants in the case of Wheeler and others against Broadfoot, Satterly and McEvoy, two months later. On the 18th of May, 1819, the Lodge was joined by Bro. Charles Kewley, one of the complainants in the aforesaid case. Bro. McEvoy appears to have only attended one meeting after his election, viz., on the 25th of May, when he was appointed J.W. for the ensuing meeting in October, the Lodge having agreed to close during the Summer months.

On the 5th of October the Lodge was opened and the first and third Lectures are said to have been "ably worked." Br. McEvoy was not present, but, at the close of the work, Bro. Symons, of the Percy Lodge, "*proposed that the Lectures, as heretofore worked in this Lodge, be continued, which was duly seconded by Br. Wilson (a founder of the 'Emulation'), and unanimously approved.*" This incident seems to suggest that

an attempt had been made to introduce Lectures *not as* "heretofore worked in this Lodge," and that in consequence of the action of the Board of General Purposes during the recess, or of some other influence, the brethren had decided to revert to the older system.

On the 21st of March, 1820, another of the complainants against Broadfoot, in the person of John Murphy, of No. 287, formerly of No. 100, joined the Lodge of Instruction.

Peter Gilkes was present at two meetings in 1818, at one in 1820, and at three in 1821. On the 3rd of May in the year last named, it was proposed by Bro. Wilson, and seconded by Bro. Crease, "*That the Ancient Lectures, and the Ceremonies of Initiation, Passing, and Raising, as confirm'd by the Grand Lodge of England, be strictly adhered to in this Lodge, which was put and carried unanimously.*" The proceedings of 130 meetings are briefly recorded in this book, at only thirteen of which were either of the three ceremonies rehearsed. The Masters were elected and the Wardens appointed for the term of one month, so that from the beginning of the book in 1818 to the ending on the 25th of September, 1821, only thirteen brethren are named as having occupied the Master's chair at the weekly meetings, nine of whom subsequently joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and of this number six were Founders of that Lodge, thus forming a strong chain of connection between the two Lodges. We consider that nothing further need here be said on this subject, it being quite out of the range of possibilities that these hard headed old veterans would have consented to any change in their mode of working either of Ceremonies or Lectures except at the bidding of some lawfully constituted authority.

For how long a period the Lectures as now worked at the "Emulation" have been in vogue it is impossible to state definitely, but we have every reason for believing that they are almost identical with the Lectures worked in the Perseverance Lodge of Instruction, which were described as "Antient" in 1821, and they certainly bear a striking



THE EARL OF MILLTOWN, K.P. P.G.W.,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1887.*





resemblance to Lectures known to have been in use about 1798.

In a report of a meeting of the Stability Lodge of Instruction, held on the 28th of April, 1837, on the occasion of a Presentation to Bro. Peter Thomson, Broadfoot's successor in the Preceptorship of that Lodge, when the first Lecture was worked, the writer says, "It should be observed that the Lectures, although differing in language from what are usually delivered in the Grand Stewards', and at the Master Masons Lodge of Instruction in Charlotte Street (The 'Emulation') are excellently arranged, and are, we believe, chiefly compilations from those formerly delivered by the late Dr. Hemming, one of the most accomplished Masons of his day."

The Lectures here referred to as then worked at the Grand Stewards' Lodge were probably the "Prestonian" Lectures, formerly worked in the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, William Preston's favourite Lodge. We find it somewhat difficult to account for the introduction of William Williams into the history of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, especially in view of the fact that he was never a member of that Lodge, nor, so far as we can ascertain, did he ever attend its meetings. There can be no doubt that Williams was something more even than "a *shining* light" in the Freemasonry of his day, but henceforth we may safely acquit him of any participation in the affairs of the "Emulation" or its mode of working, although his Masonic qualification might have amply justified such participation. He was one of the members of the Lodge of Reconciliation appointed in December, 1814, to fill up the vacancies that had occurred in that Lodge since its formation, and it is on record that, as Provincial Grand Master for Dorset, he explained, to his constituents, at a meeting held at Blandford on the 27th of August, 1816, the new mode of initiation prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

Were we writing his biography, very much might be said of his Masonic services, which, as early as March, 1816, were

most warmly acknowledged by a vote of thanks in Grand Lodge, and also on at least two subsequent occasions. Notwithstanding a most careful research we are unable to find in contemporary records or correspondence any mention of his having been specially appointed to revise the Lectures or ceremonies. The writer of his obituary in 1839 makes no reference to such an appointment, nor can we find any such allusion prior to 1878, when a statement similar in substance to that made by the late Thomas Fenn appears in *Kenning's Masonic Cyclopaedia*, but to the best of our knowledge in no other book. We are strongly of opinion, therefore, that this story should be deemed a "Masonic fiction," and as such should be classed with several other statements, equally unsupported by evidence, by irresponsible writers, having reference to the origin of our Lectures.

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SIR EDWARD LETCHWORTH, F.S.A., GRAND SECRETARY.  
*Treasurer of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Chairman of the Festival in 1894.*



## CHAPTER VIII.

1894. The Committee and executive officers were all re-elected on the 5th of January. The Annual Festival was held on the 23rd of February, R. Clay Sudlow, Past Grand Standard Bearer, presiding as W.M., for the first time at one of these important functions. He was ably assisted in working the Second Lecture by Bros. Henry S. Wellcome, W. H. Kirby, Charles Lewis, J. J. Black, and S. G. Budd. About 450 members and visitors attended, 29 of whom were distinguished by the purple of Grand Lodge.

At the conclusion of the working,

Bro. Fenn, P.B.G.P., said that he had permission, in the enforced absence of Bro. Pope, to propose a vote of thanks to the working officers of the lodge, for the admirable manner in which they had discharged their duties. Having filled the chair, now so worthily occupied by his successor, Bro. Sudlow, for many years past, he (Bro. Fenn) was perhaps better able to testify to the absolute correctness of the work they had heard than most of the brethren present, and every brother must have been gratified by the able and eloquent manner in which the Sections had been delivered. He was sure they must all be pleased to see Bro. Sudlow occupying the place to which he was justly entitled. For many years

he had done what used to be his (Bro. Fenn's) work in the Lodge, and he had long felt that the brother who presided week after week throughout the year should have the honour of presiding over the Lodge on these great occasions. Indeed, he should have given it up long ago had not Bro. Sudlow himself urged him not to do so. He now felt quite unable to undergo the fatigue and excitement of the after-supper speech, and being now in his 74th year, he thought it quite time that he gave up the work to his younger brethren. In doing so it was a great satisfaction to him to feel assured that the Lodge with which he had been so closely connected for a period of 38 years, and in which he had—so to speak—spent the greater part of his Masonic life, was now in such capable and willing hands.

Eighty-five propositions for membership were handed in, the brethren being all duly elected at the following meeting. Samuel Pope, Q.C., P.G. Deacon, had intended to preside at the banquet, but was prevented at almost the last moment by serious illness, and Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, kindly consented to take his place.

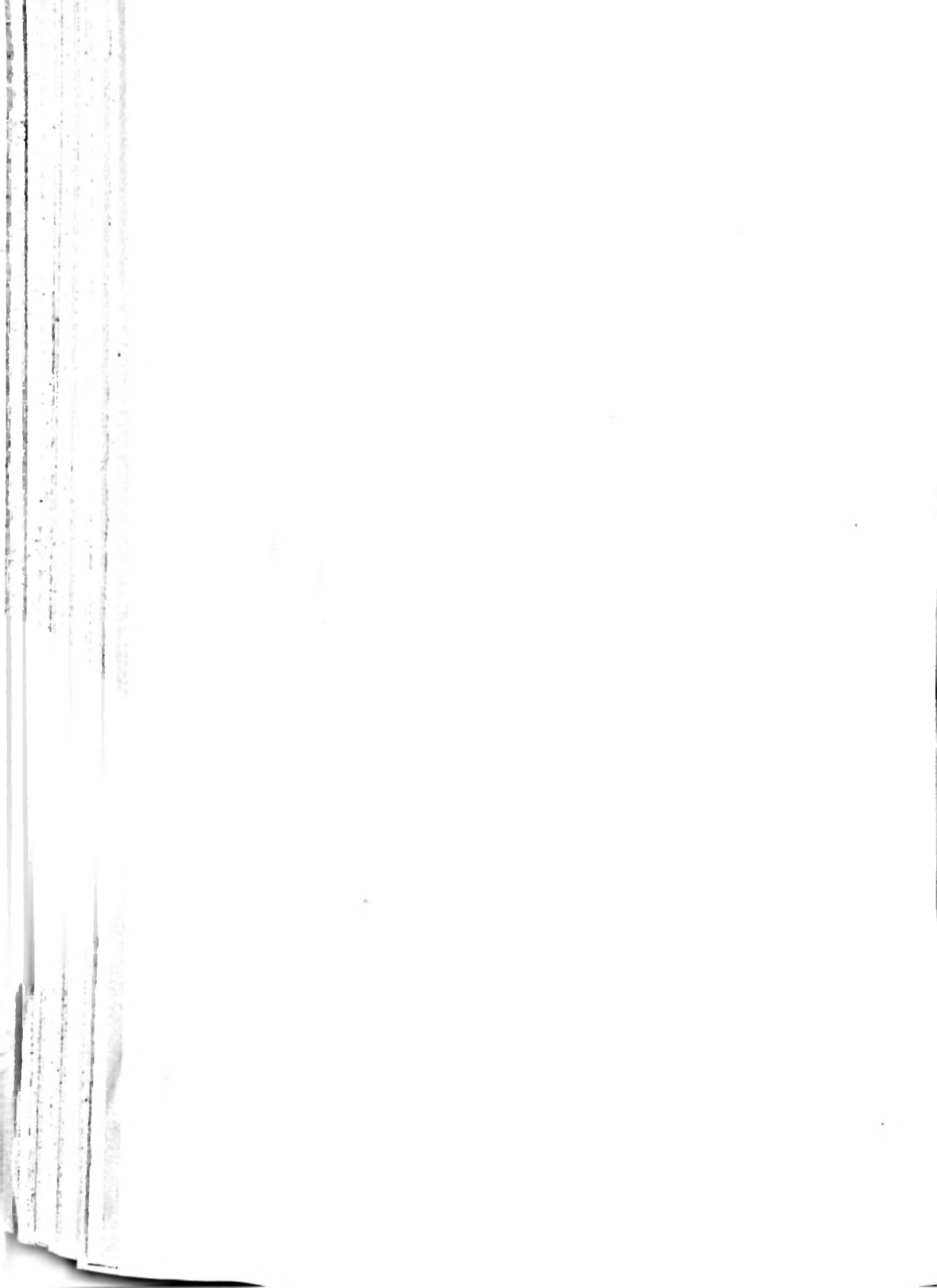
In proposing the toast, "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement," the Chairman gave a brief description of the history of the Lodge and named several eminent brethren who had been members of it, concluding his remarks as follows—"The records of Grand Lodge conclusively proved that this Emulation Lodge of Improvement was looked upon as the standard of Masonic perfection. Its past career had been prosperous and brilliant, not only with reference to advancing Masonic knowledge, but also as regarded its liberal response to the Masonic Charities. All the brethren would join with him in wishing that the good work done in the past by the Lodge might be continued for many years and that the Lodge might prosper."

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, in replying to the toast, said: "We must all regret the absence of one who has been with us for so many years; indeed, the Emulation Lodge of Improvement Festival scarcely seems to be itself without Bro. Fenn. For



*Reginald Hanson.*

SIR REGINALD HANSON, BART., M.P., PAST GRAND WARDEN.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1888.*





I don't know how many years this toast has been associated with the name of our Treasurer and chief ; and it is only because he preferred not to take the position that he has occupied on these occasions for so long that I have the honour to respond—an honour, brethren, that I need hardly say I very highly appreciate. In view of the fact which has been mentioned by our Chairman that this Lodge has been in existence for over 70 years it is most gratifying to find that its influence is still extending, that its weekly meetings are always numerously attended, and that its Festivals are still a great success. The splendid gathering of to-night, brethren, is in itself a proof that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement occupies a very important place in the confidence and good will of the Craft. Probably no one in this Lodge would desire to see a uniformity of ritual adopted even if that were attainable ; on the other hand I believe every one will agree that a standard working is absolutely essential—a standard that shall be fixed, unaltering, and unalterable—and such a standard Emulation provides. As an Emulation enthusiast I would go further and I would say that it is *the* standard. I may give you, brethren, an example, and a very interesting one, of the vitality with which the system recognised by this Lodge is adhered to. A brother who is probably present with us to-night joined this Lodge in the year 1863. Between that time and 1867, when he left the Lodge, because he was going abroad, he thoroughly mastered the various ceremonies and many of the Sections. He remained away for the space of 26 years, only rejoining this Lodge last year. As you can easily imagine, when he returned to us there was not a single face he knew, but the working was precisely the same, and though he knew no one, not even the Past Master who was acting as Preceptor, yet he was at once at home with the work which was being carried on, and he is now one of our most exemplary and regular workers. Brethren, this is the first time I have been associated with this toast, the first time I have represented at our Festivals the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. I have already spoken of the honour of that

position, but it brings with it, as you will easily understand, a very great responsibility. I am glad to say that I do not share that responsibility alone—that is to say, I share it with my colleagues, Bro. Spaul and Bro. Rushton. The knowledge that we possess of the traditions of this Lodge we have received from Bros. Fenn, Murton, and Richards. We look upon the trust delivered to us by those brethren as very important indeed—a very sacred one—and, speaking for myself, and I am sure, speaking in the name of my colleagues, I may say that that trust shall be most faithfully, most honourably, and most religiously preserved.

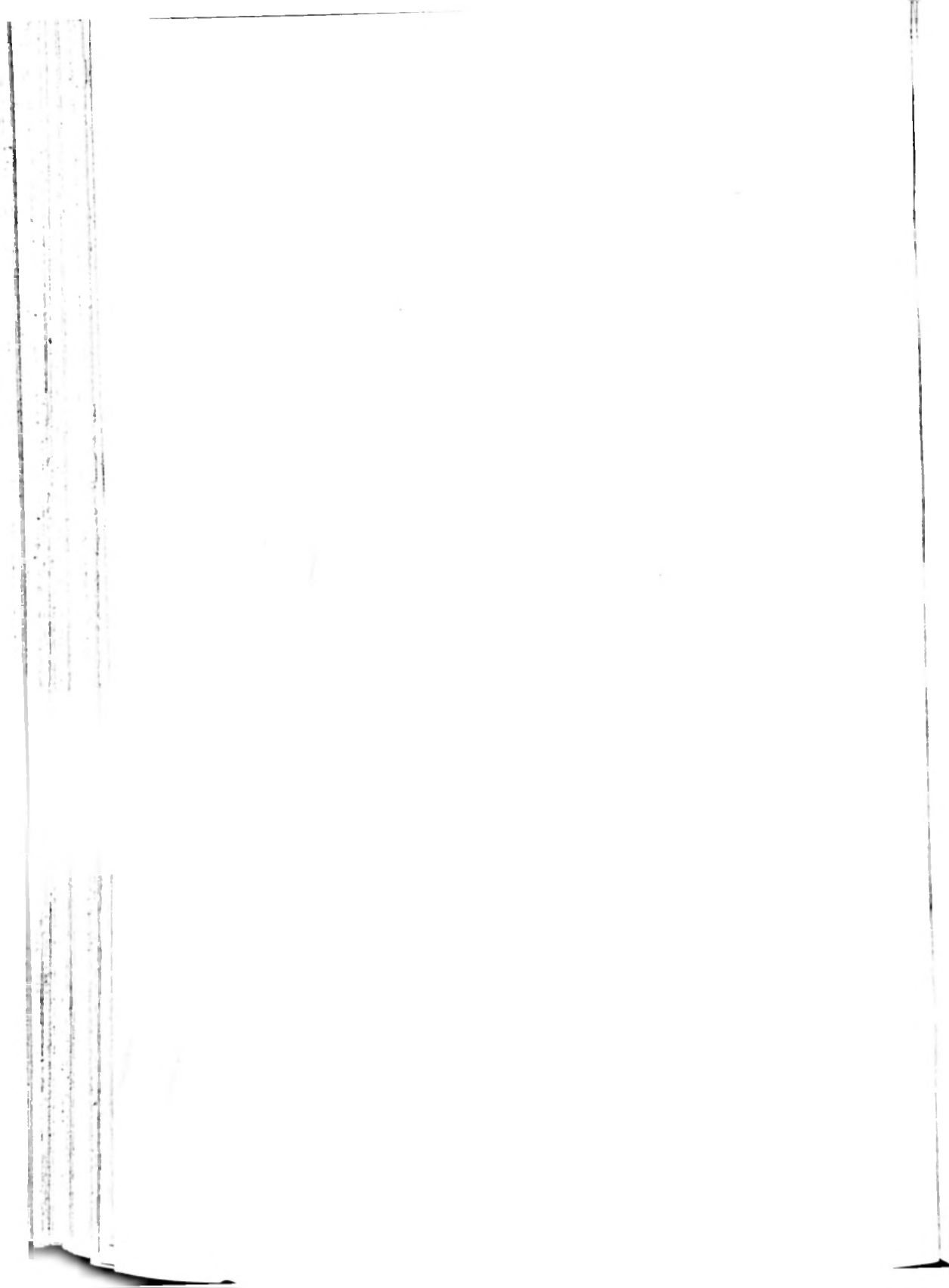
The records for this year contain nothing further requiring special mention in these pages.

1895. The opening of the year 1895 witnessed several important changes in the executive of the Lodge. At a numerously attended meeting on the 4th of January, 58 members and visitors being present, Bro. R. Clay Sudlow announced Bro. Thomas Fenn's resignation of the office of Treasurer, and alluded to the immense services that distinguished brother had rendered this Lodge during a period of nearly 38 years. Time would not allow him to enumerate those services, nor was it necessary that he should do so, but he was sure every member of the Lodge would realize the loss it had sustained. It followed, as a matter of course, that it was necessary to appoint a successor to Bro. Fenn in the office of Treasurer, and he (Bro. Sudlow) felt happy in being able to announce that another very distinguished brother, well known to most Freemasons, the V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, had signified his willingness to accept the office. It gave him, therefore, now great pleasure to propose that brother for the Treasurership. Bro. F. T. Rushton seconded the proposition, which was formally put to the Lodge and carried by acclamation.

Bro. Francis R. Spaul being in indifferent health retired from the Committee of General Purposes, and was succeeded thereon by Bro. William G. Kentish, who



SIR JOHN B. MONCKTON, P.G. WARDEN.  
*Chairman of the Festivals in 1875, 1890, 1892.*



relinquished the office of Secretary after seven years' service, and Bro. Joseph Russell, P.G. Steward, P.M. of the British Lodge, No. 8, was elected in his place. On the 11th of January Bro. Sudlow gave notice that at the next meeting of the Lodge he should move "that a sum not exceeding Ten Pounds be voted from the Funds of the Lodge to defray the cost of a suitable Address to be presented to the V.W. Bro. Thomas Fenn, Past President of the Board of General Purposes, as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the members and of their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him to the Lodge." This motion was unanimously agreed to on the 18th of January.

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

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

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

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

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow acknowledged the compliment, and said it had been a matter of anxiety to the working brethren

to maintain the prestige of the Lodge for correct working. For himself he must say he was very grateful to them.

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

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

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

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

“DEAR BRO. RUSSELL,

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

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

“On looking back over the long period of my connection with the Lodge alluded to in the Address, I am impressed with the conviction that I owe far more to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement than it owes to me. It is to that Lodge I owe my love of Masonry and my devotion to its interests, and, as a consequence, my advancement and all the Honours that have been conferred upon me during my somewhat active

and varied Masonic career. It is from that Lodge, Masonically speaking, I have derived my 'infant nurture,' and to it I feel, and ever shall feel, 'an indissoluble attachment.'

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

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

"I remain,

"Yours very truly and fraternally,

"THOS. FENN."

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

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

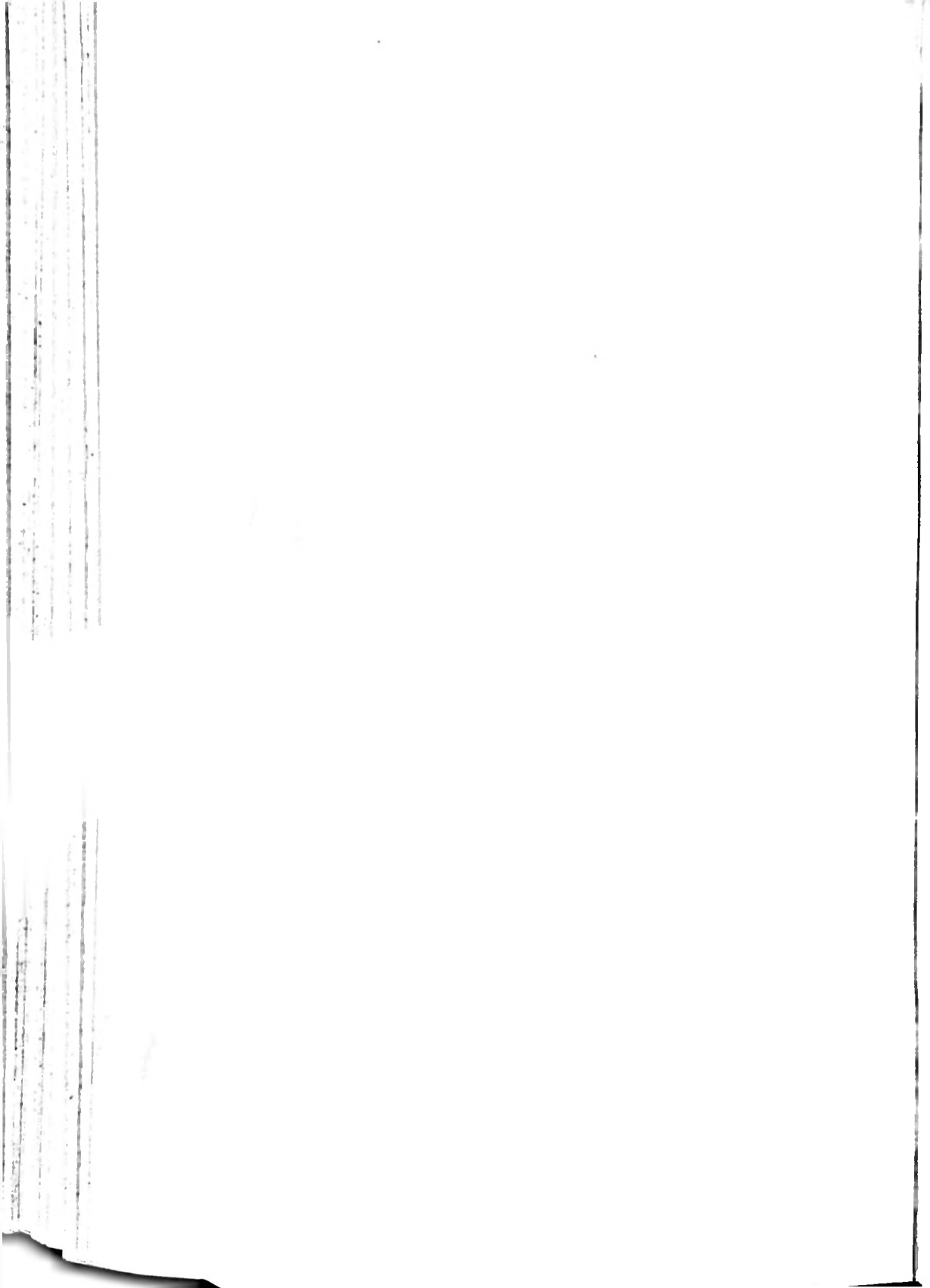
At the same meeting, "the V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, on behalf of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, addressed Bro. W. G. Kentish, alluding in eloquent terms to the great services rendered by him during his seven years' tenure of the office of Secretary, and to the systematic ability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

"The Grand Secretary concluded by begging Bro.





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



Kentish's acceptance of a Jewel and an Illuminated Address offered to him by a large number of the members of the Lodge, as a small testimony of their appreciation of his work, and of their Brotherly Love and high regard for one who had endeared himself to all his brethren and thoroughly carries out the True and Eternal Principles of Masonry."

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Second Lecture was worked by Bros. Major R. L. S.

Badham, No. 21; D. D. West, P.M. No. 108; A. M. Barnard, S.W. No. 1964; Charles Lewis, W.M. No. 2508; and S. G. Budd, W.M. No. 1818.

At the conclusion of the Lecture, the usual vote of thanks to the workers was proposed by the R.W. Lord Skelmersdale, P.G. Warden, seconded by the V.W. F. A. Philbrick, Grand Registrar, and suitably responded to by the W. Master, who took occasion to explain the general scope and aim of the Lodge. The names of 74 brethren desirous of membership having been handed to the Secretary, the Lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, at which the R.W. Lord Skelmersdale ably presided. The after-dinner oratory throws no new light on the history of the Lodge and, as the proceedings are fully reported in the Masonic Press of the period, they need not be repeated in these pages.

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

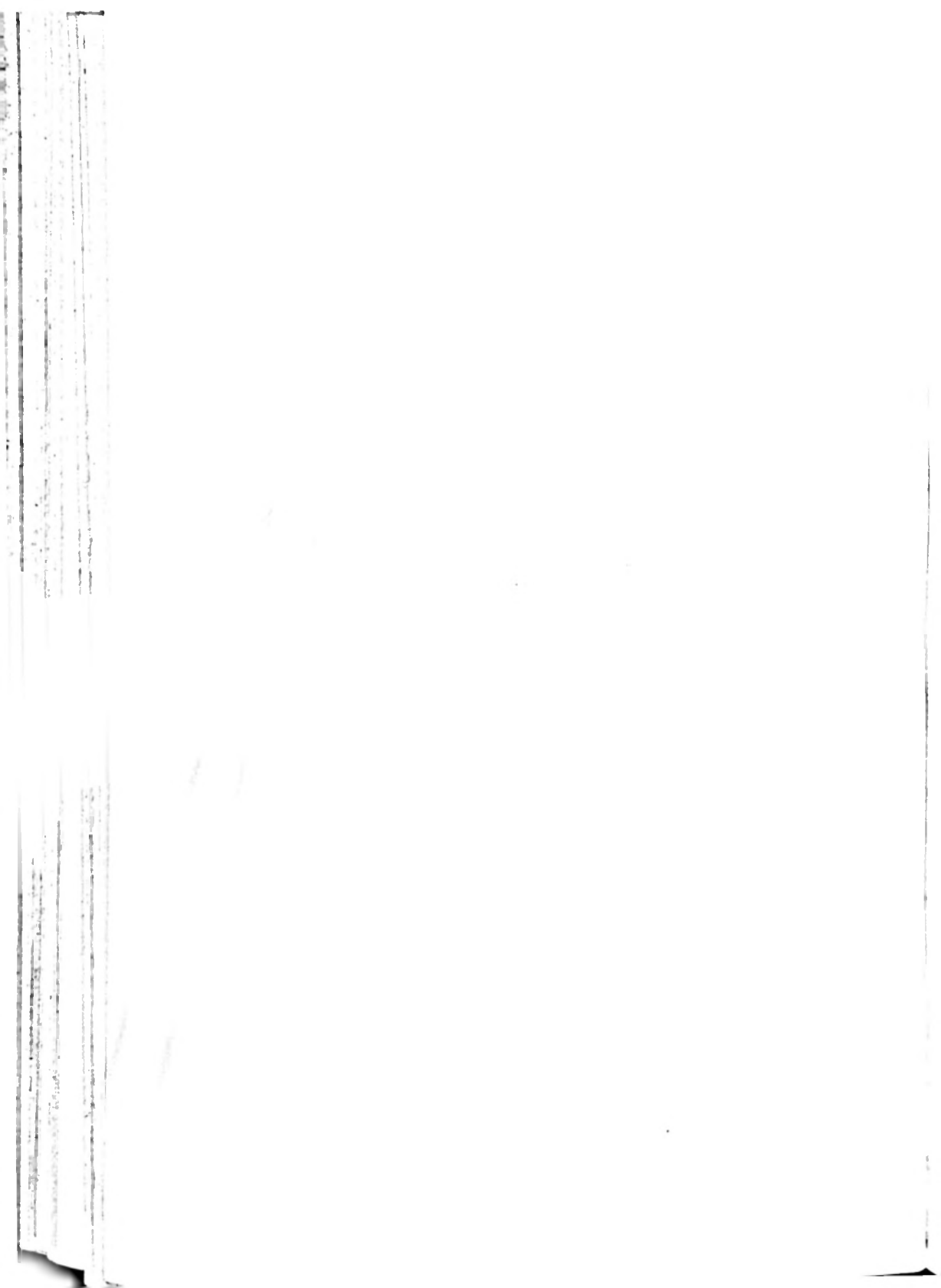
1897. No change was made this year in the Committee and executive of the Lodge. The Annual Festival, held on the 26th February, was probably the largest gathering of the kind that had ever been held. According to the printed report, between 500 and 600 brethren were present, but as the minutes of the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

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

The First Lecture was worked as follows:—1st Section by Bro. the Rev. C. W. Servanté, No. 1768; 2nd by Bro.



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



D. D. West, P.M. No. 108; 3rd by Bro. G. R. H. Clark, No. 1965; 4th by Bro. Wm. R. Bennett, W.M. No. 1965; 5th by Bro. Chas. Lewis, P.M. No. 2508; 6th by Bro. A. M. Barnard, W.M. No. 1964; and 7th by Bro. F. Baden Fuller, No. 1494.

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

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

of the Lodge, but he knew a good deal, and he tried to educate himself ; he was dealing, not with their history, not with what they had done in the past, but with what they were doing in the present and what they would do in the future, that is to say, that they would prove a still greater factor in the working and prosperity of the Lodges on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, in acknowledging the toast, said : R.W. Bro. in the Chair and Brethren,—That my name has been coupled with this toast instead of the name of our Treasurer is due entirely to his courtesy in desiring that I should enjoy that privilege as the oldest member now on the Committee. It therefore devolves upon me to give expression to our thanks for the cordiality with which you have received the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement." When you remember that in the very nature of things it is impossible for us to bring out of our treasury anything in the way of novelty, that our work alternates year by year between the First and Second Lectures, the question very naturally arises,—Why is it that the interest in these functions is so fully maintained ?

It is true that we always have a very distinguished Mason to preside over us, and we are particularly fortunate in our Chairman this evening. It is also true that we are usually favoured with the presence of a large number of Grand Officers, and very highly we appreciate their continued encouragement and support. But we must look further for an explanation of these splendid gatherings, and I venture to think that it is found in the fascination that Masonry possesses for those who have given any thought at all to its grand principles and teachings, and in the exceptional opportunities which these festivals afford of listening to the enunciation of those principles in the beautiful language of our lectures. And, brethren, if our festivals are successful, the same remark certainly applies to our weekly meetings. It is becoming more and more widely recognised, the immense advantage there is in first of all becoming qualified for the



work, then passing through the various offices in this Lodge. I really do not know of anything so useful to a Masonic student who has thoroughly studied the ritual in one or other of the lodges of instruction teaching our system, than to go through a finishing course at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

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

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

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

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

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

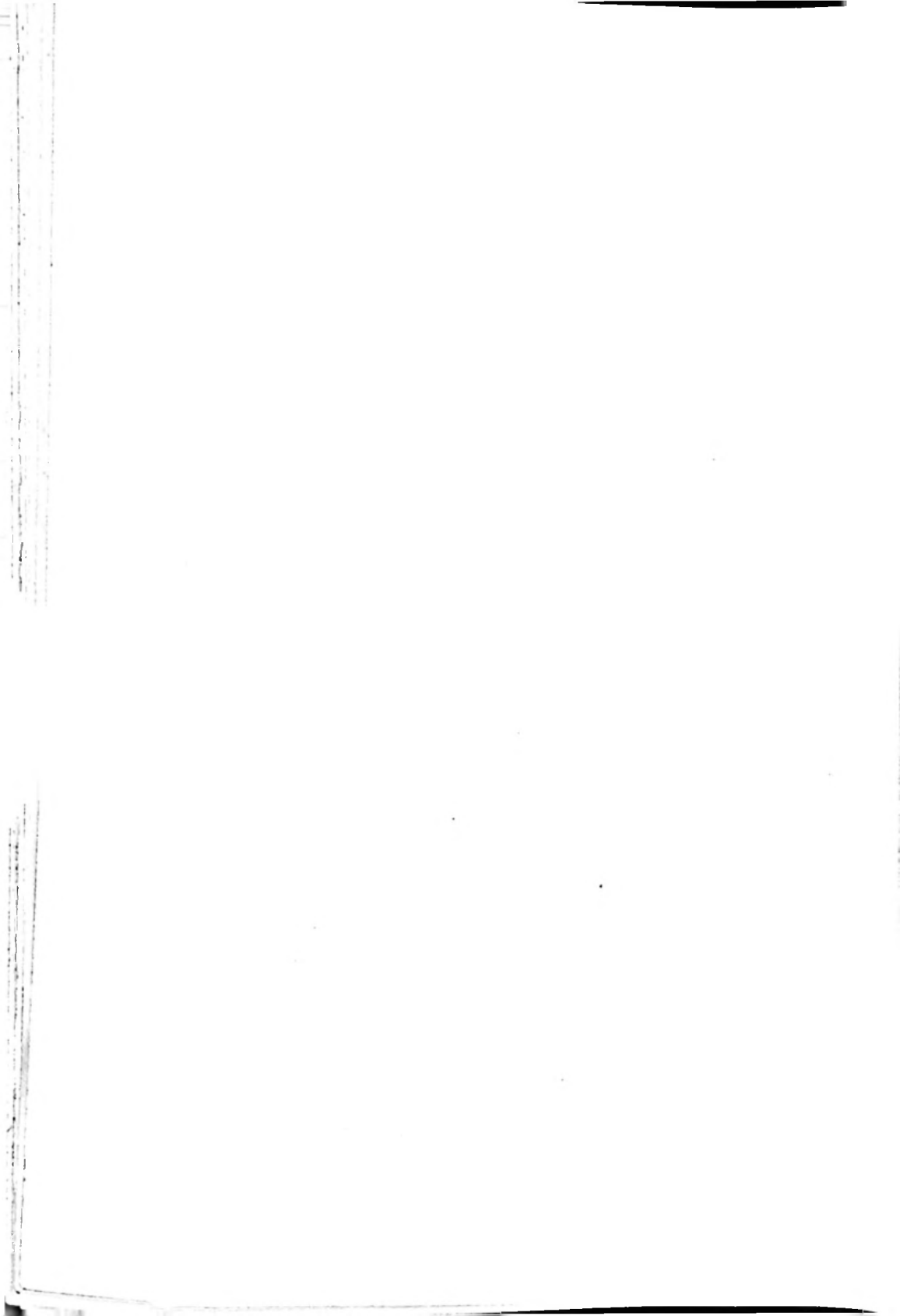
About 340 brethren attended the Lodge in the Grand Hall, nearly all of whom remained to the banquet, under the presidency of the V.W. Bro. R. D. M. Littler, Q.C., Past Dep. Grand Registrar. The post-prandial oratory, it need hardly be said, was of the usual complimentary character, and is fully reported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

On the 7th of October a vote of Sympathy and Condolence was passed to the widow and family of the late Bro. Charles A. Murton, P.G.D., for many years Secretary of the Lodge, who had been called away during the Summer recess.

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THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH. PROV. G.M. STAFFORDSHIRE.  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1899.*





## CHAPTER IX.

1899. The Committee and executive officers were again re-elected on the 7th of January. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow presided as W. Master at the Annual Festival on the 24th of February, having Bro. Rushton as I.P.M., with Bros. Charles Lewis and Major Badham as Wardens. He was ably assisted in working the First Lecture by the following members, viz.:—

1st Section	by Bro. J. Collett Smith.
2nd	„ „ D. D. West.
3rd	„ „ J. F. Roberts.
4th	„ „ W. R. Bennett.
5th	„ „ Charles Lewis.
6th	„ „ G. R. H. Clark.
7th	„ „ T. W. Allsop.

About 400 brethren attended the meeting, 103 of whom were proposed as joining members. The Earl of Dartmouth, Prov. Grand Master for Staffordshire, made an excellent

chairman at the banquet, and was loyally supported by his Deputy, Lieut.-Col. John A. Bindley, P.G.D., and many other distinguished members of the Craft.

The noble chairman was peculiarly happy in his mode of dealing with the various toasts that fell to his share, and it is with much regret that we are precluded, by considerations of space, from giving more than a very brief extract from his reply to the toast of his health and his remarks in proposing Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement: "I am aware that from my youthfulness in Freemasonry no doubt many of my friends would be a little surprised to find me occupying the place that I do to-night as President of the annual gathering of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. Probably many of you may be acquainted with the opera played some years ago of 'The Grand Duchess.' There was in that opera a character named Fritz, who, having rendered some service to the Grand Duchess, was offered a reward; but that reward—to the surprise of everybody—which he selected was the post of a village schoolmaster. It was pointed out to him that he was unable to read, and he said, 'That is the very reason why I want to be a schoolmaster; I want to learn.' Brethren, it is to a certain extent for that reason that I occupy the post I am trying to fill to-night, and I am bound to own that I have learned a very great deal if I can remember only half of what I have heard. But it seems to me that Freemasons generally when anybody renders some little service are apt to look at those services through very strong binocular glasses; they try to make those services look as big as possible; and if there is a failure the glasses are reversed, and they look through them at the other end and see them as small as possible. That is a comfort to you in going through life, and I can say of Freemasonry that I have always received a kind and courteous consideration, and that, however undeserved it may be, is at any rate most gratifying to the individual. Before I sit down I have a very pleasant duty to perform, and that is to propose another important toast. I under-

stand, brethren, that there are something over 100 new members—probationer members—who have sent in their names to-night. I may be allowed to say that I am one of those members, and as I have every hope that the result of the ballot may not be altogether unsatisfactory, I take this opportunity, which will probably be denied me as a member of the Lodge, to propose hearty success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. I have been favoured by Bro. Letchworth with some facts connected with the Lodge, which, though familiar to some of you, may be new to others. In the ritual and work of Freemasonry carried on throughout the country there must be a sort of head, a Court of Appeal. To be of any value that Court of Appeal must have antiquity ; it must have ability ; and it must have the confidence of the brethren generally. I think the Emulation Lodge of Improvement answers those requirements. . . . One might think I was in some little difficulty because I have to call upon some brother to return thanks to this toast, but I feel you will agree with me that there is very little difficulty about such a selection, because if there is a man whom the Emulation Lodge would wish to return thanks for them they will agree that Bro. Sudlow is the right man. I am glad to find that that suggestion is so unanimously endorsed, and I am proud to own that all this evening, beautiful as the work was, I have been forcibly reminded of the lines of the poet—

“ And still they gaz'd and still the wonder grew

That one small head could carry all he knew.” •

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, in responding, said : “ R.W. Brother in the Chair and Brethren,—If the continued success of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement depended upon the measure of kindness and goodwill with which this toast was proposed by his lordship, or upon the heartiness and cordiality with which it was received by this splendid gathering of Masons, then, indeed,

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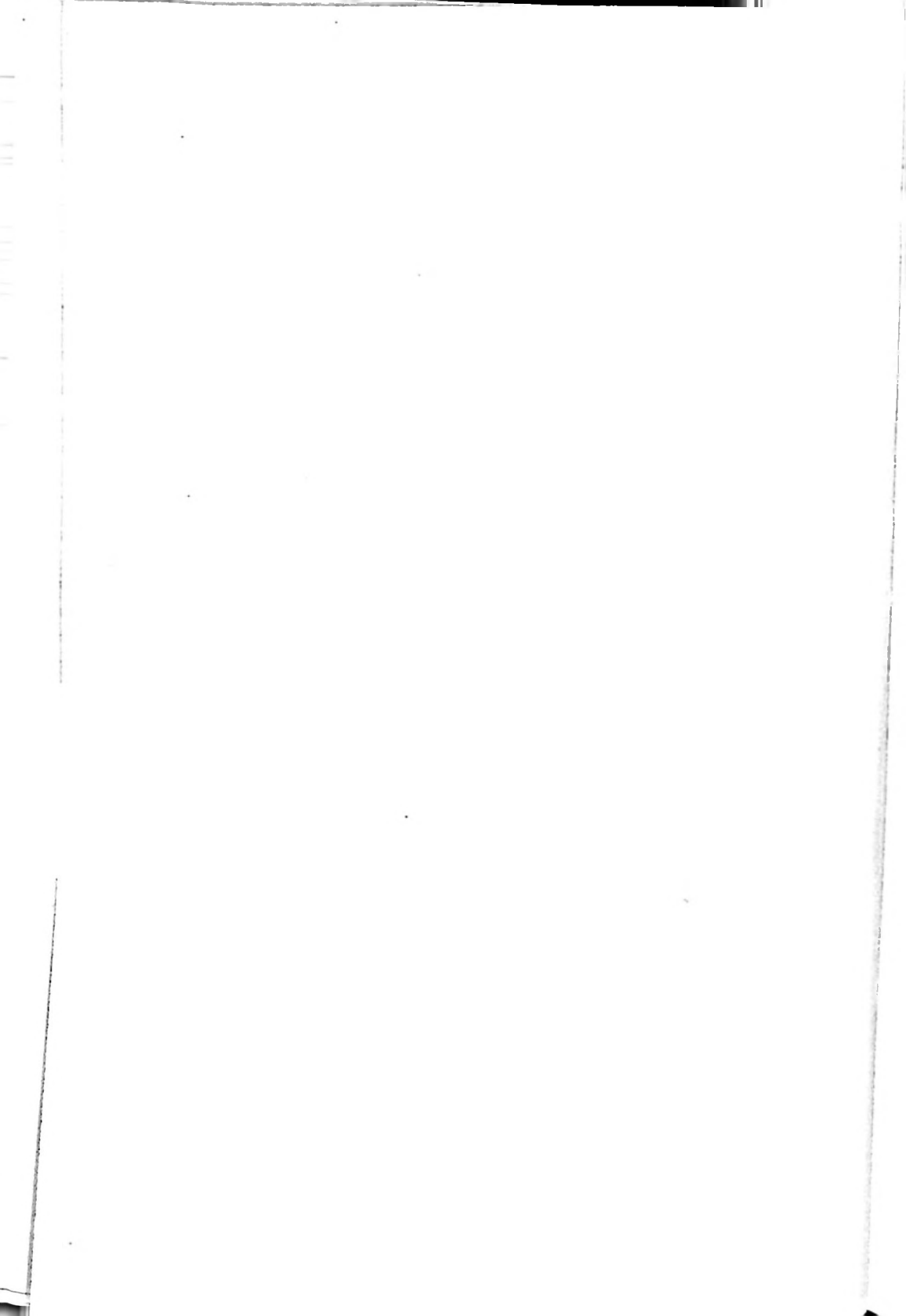
• GOLDSMITH'S *Village Schoolmaster*.

that success is already assured. Certain it is that the members of the Committee upon whom the work of the Lodge devolves should feel greatly encouraged in their labour of love—labour more arduous and exacting than is generally supposed. It may not prove uninteresting if I to-night mention, and in a very few words deal with, a criticism that now and again is given expression to in connection with our mode of conducting the business of the Lodge. You might reasonably imagine, in view of the fact that this Lodge has been in existence for nearly 80 years, and that absolutely no material change has been made in its aims or in its methods during this long period, that nothing like criticism would have a place. But, as I have already hinted, such is not quite the case; our critics say that the Past Masters of the Lodge—and I believe I am considered the greatest culprit—are unnecessarily severe in requiring absolute perfection in the working of our ceremonies; they do not recognise, in other words, the necessity of our interrupting a brother in his work if the mistake made is a trivial one. Now, let me say at once if this were an ordinary Lodge of Instruction, or even a regular Lodge, I should cordially agree with and heartily endorse the criticism. It is not necessary—and in many cases it is impossible—in a Lodge of Instruction to correct every verbal slip, and in a regular Lodge nothing, in my opinion, can be more unfortunate than to hear, as one often does, corrections given to the W.M. Surely it is inadvisable to say a word unless the mistake is a serious one, and likely, if uncorrected, to lead to disaster. Interruptions at once suggest to the candidate, for whom after all the ceremony is being performed, that the speech of the Master is not altogether out of the abundance of his heart, and the impression which might otherwise be secured is to a very great extent lost. But applied to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement the criticism is not a just one, and for this reason: It must always be borne in mind that our system of working, adopted and approved by the United Grand Lodge soon





HIS HONOUR JUDGE PHILBRICK, K.C., P.G.W.,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1884.*



after the union, is virtually a standard, and if a standard is to be of any real value, it must be absolutely unaltered and unalterable. I will not, brethren, press this point, because I am quite sure it will be at once conceded. It therefore behoves the Past Masters of this Lodge to guard most jealously this system of working from any change, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that while we maintain the traditions of this Lodge, while we are faithful to the very important trust committed to our care, we at the same time are very helpful to every brother who comes to our meetings."

1900. No change was made this year in the Committee or the executive officers. The Annual Festival on the 2nd of March was, we believe, a record meeting, upwards of 500 brethren being present, 112 of whom were proposed as members. A probable reason for this large gathering may be found in the fact that the Earl of Warwick, Dep. Grand Master, had consented to preside at the banquet, but almost at the last moment was prevented by illness, and his place was ably filled by Lt.-Col. A. R. Mark Lockwood, M.P., Past S.G. Deacon, his Lordship's Deputy in the Province of Essex. The sections of the Second Lecture were worked by Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, as W. Master, Bro. W. G. Kentish acting as I.P.M., and Bros. Charles Lewis and George Rankin as Wardens. The following brethren answered the questions in the various sections:—

- 1st by Bro. J. H. Jenks, I.P.M. No. 8, P.G. Steward.
- 2nd " " W. R. Bennett, P.M. No. 1965.
- 3rd " " Major R. L. S. Badham, No. 21.
- 4th " " Charles Lewis, P.M. No. 1706, P.P.G.D. Essex.
- 5th " " T. W. Allsop, P.M. No. 88, P.P.G.D.C. Bucks.

At the close of the work Bro. Col. Lockwood, who said it was the first time he had witnessed the working of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the brethren who had worked the sections.

The motion was seconded by Bro. Thomas Fenn, P.G.W., who said that having formerly occupied the position held

that evening by Bro. Sudlow he might perhaps be allowed to be a judge of the work, and in that capacity he could say that during his long experience he did not recollect having seen the work done more perfectly. Every word of it came back to him ; it was absolutely correct.

The motion was unanimously carried, and Bro. Sudlow briefly acknowledged it.

After the closing of the Lodge the brethren adjourned to supper. The number was so large that in addition to the Great Hall of Freemasons' Tavern, the Crown Room had to be utilised for the accommodation of the company.

The usual toasts having been given and responded to in due order, the V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, Treasurer of the Lodge, proposed "The Chairman." Whether as a soldier, a legislator, a sportsman, or a Mason, Col. Lockwood had won the esteem and respect of those who had been fortunate enough to be brought in contact with him, and on behalf of the Committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, he tendered his warmest thanks to him for presiding that evening.

Col. Lockwood warmly thanked the brethren for their cordial reception, and then proceeded to the toast of "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement," prefacing his remarks by a sympathetic allusion to the illness of the Earl of Warwick and expressing a hope that his lordship might soon return to our shores completely restored to health.

Then followed a brief sketch of the history of the Lodge, with which our readers are doubtless familiar, and a reference to the munificent support given by it to the charities of the Order.

The Chairman included in his remarks a dissertation on Secret Societies, and their doings in bygone days, which, though undoubtedly interesting, forms no part of our history, and concluded as follows :—But what was the end of all these societies ? They perished and fell away ; and for this reason—the principles they worked on were wrong ; they

were principles of bloodshed and of working against the laws of the land ; while Masonry—a great guild founded on principles of religion and virtue—remained, and ever would remain, as long as she followed her present course, a great instrument for good in the world. It was only when men were initiated and began to know the work Masonry carried on that they fully appreciated the duties of Freemasonry. Long might that Craft flourish, long continue to increase, and, intimately connected with it, long might the Emulation Lodge of Improvement continue to flourish and to set the standard of excellent working.

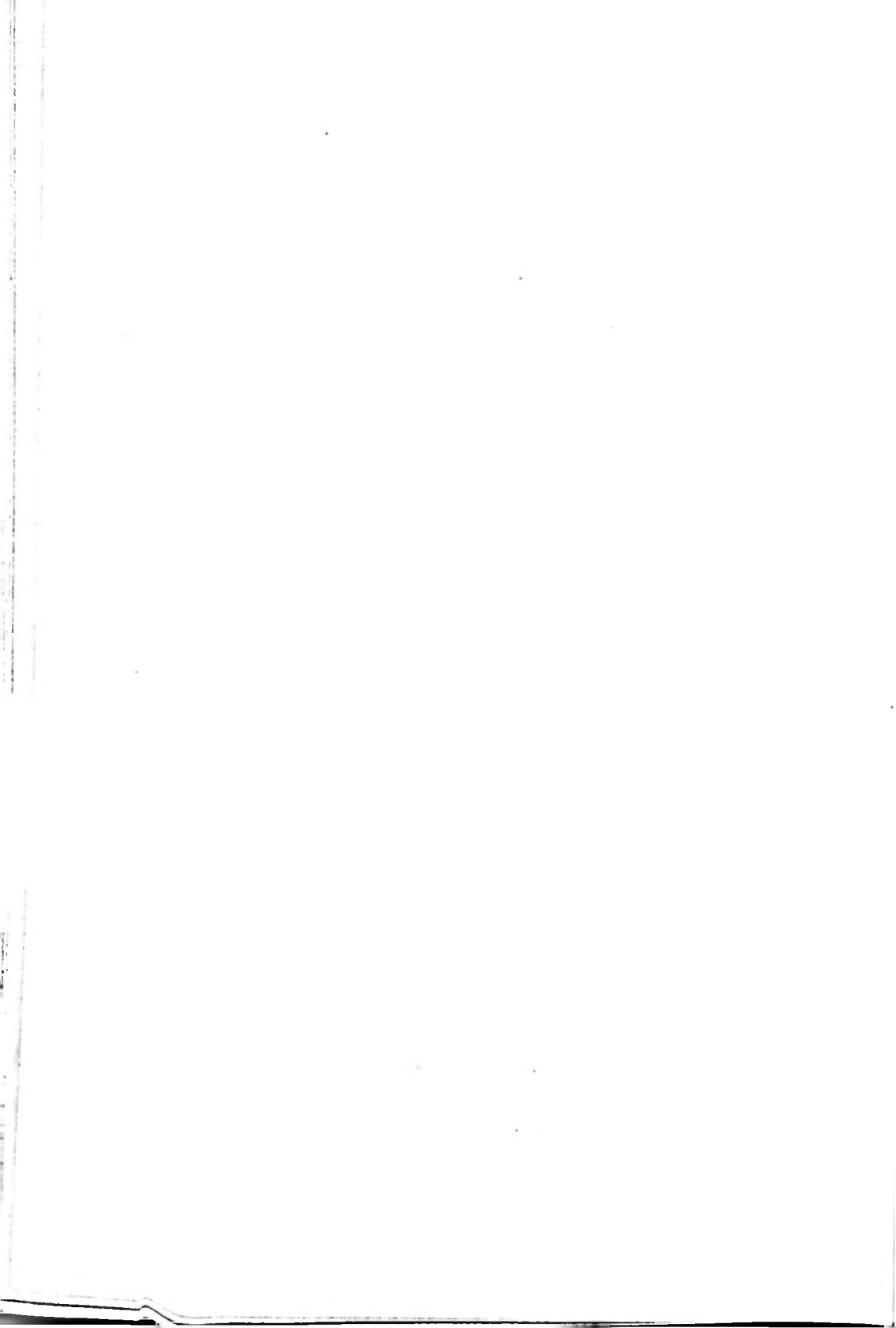
Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br., in acknowledging the toast, said :—“Inasmuch as this year is in a sense an exceptional year, it seems to me that it may not be inopportune to review the present position of the lodge, particularly as the result cannot but be agreeable to the well-wishers—and they are many—of this institution. To begin with—we were to have had as our Chairman this evening the Deputy Grand Master of England. For a long series of years these festivals have been presided over by Masons of very exalted rank ; but so far as I know in the history of the lodge this is the first time the position of Chairman has been accepted by the Deputy Grand Master. I should like to take this opportunity of repeating the thanks so eloquently given by our brother Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, to Col. Lockwood for his extreme kindness in coming among us this evening. You may perhaps remember that in the lodge room I stated that the funds of the lodge, after paying the working expenses, were given to the three Masonic Charities. By the courtesy of the Secretaries of those Institutions, I am able to tell you that from the founding of the lodge in 1823 we have paid over to the Old People, to the Girls, and to the Boys a total sum of £1634—which gives an average of over 20 guineas for every year that the lodge has been in existence. It is also interesting to note that for the first 55 years, that is to say, from 1823 to 1878, our average annual contribution was £13 ; for the 21 years

from 1878 to 1899, our average annual contribution has reached £43. I cannot but think that those figures must be eminently satisfactory, as they indicate that we get stronger as we grow older. . . . I would like to say just one word to the brethren who have passed in their names to-night as joining members. Don't let the accuracy of working to which I have alluded deter you from coming among us; rather let it be an incentive to attend every one of the weekly meetings. That accuracy will be extremely helpful to you. If you know our system and desire to enter into the work it will give you an ideal to which you can aspire. If on the other hand you prefer simply to listen and to watch, you will learn how the work, not only of the Master, but of every inferior office should be done, exactly how every little detail ought to be carried out. Brethren, when the 21st century shall come round let me express the hope that the brother who stands in my place and responds to the toast of 'The Emulation Lodge of Improvement,' so ably proposed from the chair, so cordially received by this grand assembly, will be able to speak of as satisfactory a condition of things as I have put before you to-night."

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THE EARL OF LATHOM, PROV. G.M. WEST LANCASHIRE,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1896.*







## CHAPTER X.

1901. January 4th, being the day appointed for the election of executive officers, the Treasurer and Secretary were re-appointed to their respective posts for another year. Bros. W. G. Kentish and F. T. Rushton retired from the Committee of Management, Bros. Charles Lewis, P.M. No. 2508, P.P.G. Deacon of Essex, and R. E. F. Lander, P.M. No. 2086, being chosen to fill the vacancies. A vote of thanks to the retiring members for their past services was ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Lodge. On the 25th of January an expression of sorrow and regret, on the part of the brethren, at the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, was recorded on the minutes.

At the weekly meeting on the 8th February "Bro. P.M. R. E. F. Lander referred to the great calamity which had befallen the Lodge and Masonry generally by the sudden decease of Bro. Thomas Fenn, P.G.W., and moved that our

deepest sense of sorrow and sympathy be inscribed on the minutes of the Lodge. This was seconded by Bro. J. Collett Smith, W.M., and on its being carried, the Secretary was desired so to record it." Bro. Fenn's last attendance at the Lodge was at the Annual Festival in 1900. His death on the 2nd of February, 1901, was most tragic in its suddenness, as on that day he was a spectator, from a window of his club, of the funeral procession of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and a few hours later was himself summoned from our midst.

The Annual Festival on the 1st of March was very numerously attended, about 500 brethren being present in the Grand Hall, doubtless influenced to some extent by a desire to support the Earl of Warwick, Deputy Grand Master of England, who had kindly consented to preside at the festive board.

The lodge offices were filled as follows : Bros. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br., W.M. ; Chas. Lewis, I.P.M. ; Geo. Rankin, S.W. ; D. D. West, J.W. ; J. H. Jenks, S.D. ; T. W. Allsop, J.D. ; and J. Collett Smith, I.G.

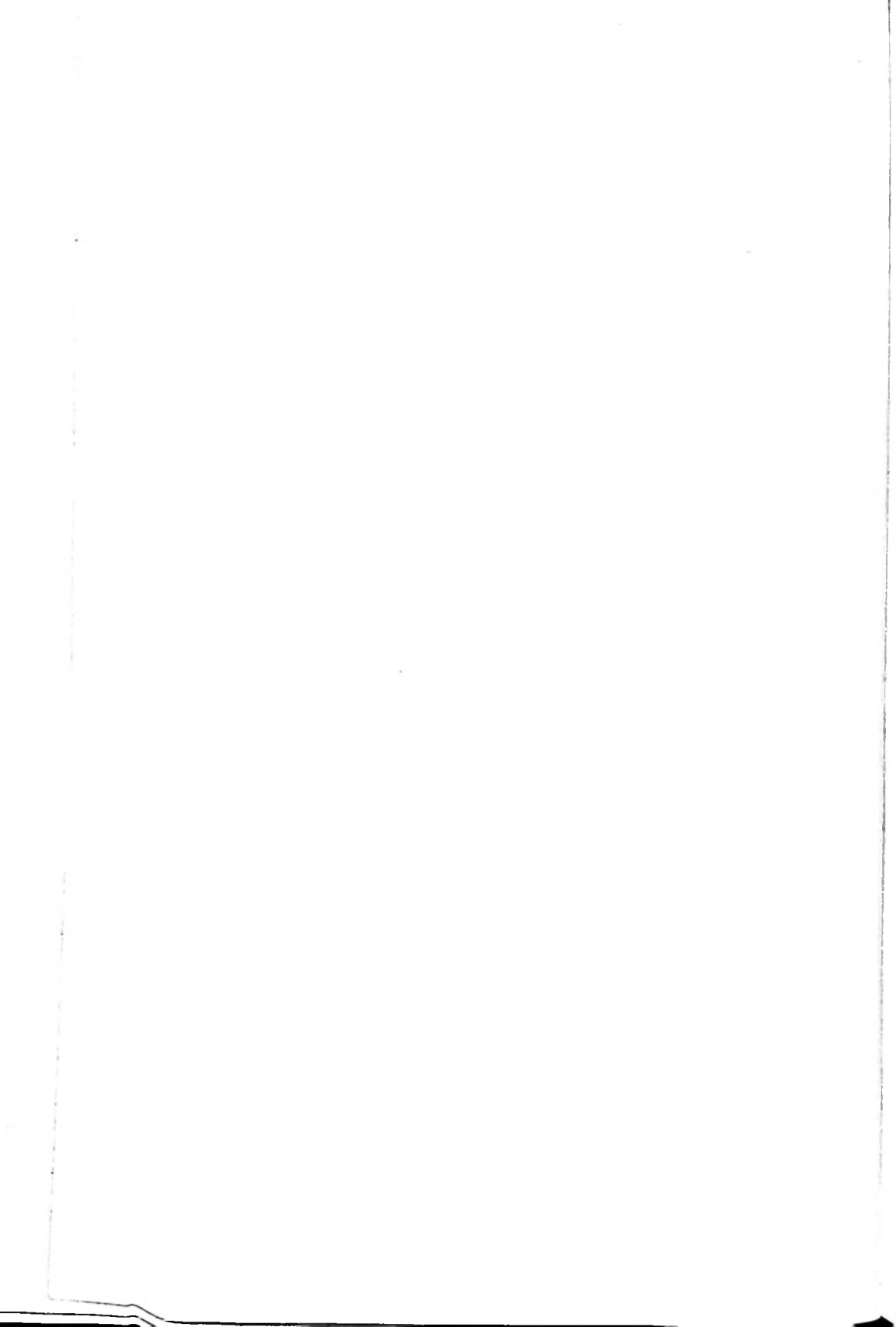
The work was the First Lecture, performed in the following order : 1st Section by Bros. G. R. H. Clark ; 2nd, by J. F. Roberts ; 3rd, by M. V. Cassal ; 4th, by J. H. Jenks ; 5th, by T. W. Allsop ; 6th, by J. Collett Smith ; and 7th, by W. R. Bennett.

At the close of the work, the Earl of Warwick bore testimony to the grace and skill with which it had been accomplished, and remarked that Lodge 1965 should be proud of the distinction that it could contribute no fewer than three of its brethren (Bros. G. R. H. Clark, W.M., J. Collett Smith, and W. R. Bennett, P.M.) to assist in the grand intellectual treat they had listened to ; and he proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the whole of the workers for providing them with that magnificent entertainment. Bro. Judge Philbrick, K.C., P.G.W., seconded the vote in unqualified terms of approbation.

Before the Lodge was closed, a list of 102 names of



THE EARL OF WARWICK, PAST DEP. G. MASTER,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1901.*



proposed joining members, headed by that of the noble Chairman, was handed in to the Secretary.

That the proceedings in the banquet hall, under the able guidance of the genial and popular Dep. G. Master, were of the most enthusiastic character, goes without saying.

The V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, G. Sec., in proposing the toast of "The President of the Evening," said at that time last year they were looking forward to the pleasure of being presided over by their Chairman, the Prov. Grand Master of Essex. Circumstances beyond his control, unfortunately, prevented his being with them; but he was sure they would all remember how good a substitute they found in Bro. Col. Mark Lockwood, their Deputy Grand Master's personal friend. He felt sure that he was only expressing the feelings of all present when he tendered to Lord Warwick their warmest thanks for the great honour he had done them in presiding there that evening. As had already been stated, it was the first occasion on which the Deputy Grand Master of England had presided over one of their festivals; but he trusted it would not be the last, and he invited them to join with him in drinking health and long life to his lordship.

The toast was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and the noble Chairman having briefly but warmly responded for himself personally, concluded his remarks by referring to Masonic matters in the Province of Essex: "I have the good fortune to preside over a province which I have seen increasing in numbers and in importance by leaps and bounds. On my left is one who, in my early days of office, was to me as a real right hand. I refer to Bro. Philbrick; and what success I have achieved in Masonry in Essex I attribute entirely to the sound judgment and able manner in which he performed his duties and educated me in the path which it has been my privilege to follow ever since. Masonry has vastly increased its sway since the beginning of the period of which I speak, not only in Essex, but throughout the kingdom, so that at the present moment we have something

like 200,000 Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Master, and every year, I am told, we have no fewer than 50 new lodges springing into existence. (Applause.) That must be regarded as a very satisfactory state of things, for it shows that Freemasonry is not on the downward path, but very much on the upward incline."

The toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement" was responded to by Bro. Sudlow, who, in referring to the continued prosperity of the Lodge, said: "I think that it is generally understood and recognised why the Emulation Lodge of Improvement occupies such a strong position. It is simply because there is a very genuine need for an institution of this kind, and that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement exactly and fully meets that need. It is quite true that the number of Lodges of Instruction increases year by year, and we rejoice that it is so, because there is less excuse for any brother accepting office without knowing his duties. Yet, excellent though these Lodges of Instruction are, and worthy of the warmest support that can be accorded to them, there is undoubtedly a tendency, as years go by, and as Preceptor succeeds Preceptor, towards differences and variations in points of detail. If there were no recognised standard of ritual, these variations might in time develop into a very grave matter. It is in this particular connection that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement demonstrates its value. It not only provides a system which absolutely never varies, but a system that has the stamp of authority so that it may be taken as the standard with which other systems may be compared, and by which, if thought necessary, those systems may be corrected. If, therefore, the Emulation Lodge of Improvement occupies this unique position, it is essential that the brethren who are members of the Past Masters' Committee should be men who may be implicitly relied upon to be faithful to the sacred trust committed to them. And, inasmuch as some important changes have been made quite recently in the *personnel* of the Committee, I hope you will allow me, very briefly, to refer to those changes. We have,

unfortunately, lost the services of Bro. Kentish and Bro. Rushton—in the one case from pressure of other duties, and in the other from very serious indisposition. For a great number of years Bros. Kentish and Rushton have afforded the most valuable assistance in the conduct of this Lodge, and it was with the very greatest regret that the Committee received the resignation of these two brethren. But I will pass on to speak a word or two with regard to the two brethren who have been elected to fill their places, Bro. Charles Lewis and Bro. Lander. They are old students of the Emulation system, and I am able to testify that they have completely mastered that system, so that they are deserving of the utmost confidence at the hands of every brother who attends our regular meetings. They know the unalterable nature of our system; and they know that upon one particular member of the Committee rests the responsibility for the teaching of our system. You have heard from our departed Bro. Fenn that four brethren have, since the foundation of the Lodge in 1823, accepted this supreme responsibility. You know, brethren, their names—Bro. Peter Gilkes, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, Bro. Thomas Fenn, and myself. If this Festival had only been held on the 1st of February, instead of the 1st of March, I should have been able to say, as I had hoped to do to-night, that two of those four brethren are present with you. Instead of welcoming Bro. Fenn, as we have been accustomed to do at these Festivals, we are to-day called upon to mourn his loss; and I venture to say that it is impossible to exaggerate the greatness of that loss to Masonry. You know that for the greater part of his Masonic career he was intimately connected with the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. For thirty-eight years he was an active officer in this Lodge—first as Secretary, then as principal member of the Past Masters' Committee, and, lastly, as Treasurer. I think, brethren, it will interest you to know that only a week or two before our brother's call to the Grand Lodge above, we were speaking together about the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and

he expressed his satisfaction at the renewal of the promise I made to him that, so long as health and memory are preserved to me, I would retain my post in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, where he himself placed me in 1883."

On the 4th of October, Bro. Sudlow announced to the brethren that he was wearing a jewel that had been presented by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement to the late Bro. Thomas Fenn, on his retiring from the office of Secretary of the Lodge in 1863. Having been presented with this jewel by the executors of the deceased brother, he intended wearing it at all meetings of the Lodge as a mark of his high appreciation of the original owner, hoping that this practice might be continued by his successors.

At the same meeting, on the motion of Bro. Charles Lewis, seconded by Bro. Lander, a hearty vote of congratulation was passed to Bro. Sudlow on his promotion to the rank of Past A.G. Director of Ceremonies. Bro. Sudlow proposed, and Bro. Lewis seconded, a similar vote to Bro. Joseph Russell, Secretary, on his appointment to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer.

Bros. Sudlow and Russell suitably responded ; the latter warmly acknowledged the gift of his Grand Lodge clothing, hoping that for many years he might worthily represent the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, to which he owed his preferment.

The executors of Bro. Fenn presented also to the Grand Lodge museum the handsome jewel, set with brilliants, voted to him by the Grand Lodge on his retirement from the office of President of the Board of General Purposes, after having served in that important post from 1884 to 1894.

1902. The Committee and executive were all re-elected to their several posts.

At the meeting held on February 21st, Bro. Sudlow, on behalf of the Lodge, congratulated the V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, on his approaching marriage, begging his acceptance of a silver cigar cabinet, subscribed for by some of the members as a small token of their regard.





SIR AUGUSTUS WEBSTER, BART., PROV. G. MASTER,  
HANTS. & ISLE OF WIGHT,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1902.*



Bro. Letchworth gratefully acknowledged the present.

The Annual Festival was held on the 7th of March. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, as usual, presided as W.M., with Bros. Charles Lewis, as I.P.M. ; George Rankin, Preceptor of the Kirby Lodge of Instruction, as S.W. ; and J. F. Roberts, Preceptor of the St. Bride Lodge of Instruction, as J.W.

The work was the Second Lecture. The 1st Section was given by Bro. A. M. Barnard, P.M. No. 1964 ; the 2nd by Bro. W. R. Bennett, P.M. No. 1965 ; the 3rd by Bro. H. A. D. Jowett, J.W. No. 1965 ; the 4th by Bro. J. H. Jenks, P.M. No. 8, P.G. Stwd. ; and the 5th by Bro. T. W. Allsop, P.M. No. 88, P.P.G.D.C. Bucks.

The work, it is almost needless to say, was perfect, being given not only with accuracy, but with a depth of feeling and masterly elocution which showed that the working brethren appreciated the importance of the solemn ceremonies which illustrate Freemasonry

At the conclusion of the work,

Bro. Sir Augustus Webster proposed a vote of thanks to the five brethren, who had so ably and admirably assisted the W.M. in the work of the evening. It had never hitherto been his lot to witness what he might be allowed to call so very great a Masonic treat.

Bro. the Rev. Sir Borradaile Savory, G.C., seconded the vote, which was unanimously carried by the brethren, and suitably responded to by Br. Sudlow.

On this occasion the Committee, after mature deliberation, had seen fit to make a considerable change in the arrangements for the Festival. In the writer's earliest recollection of Emulation Festivals, every member paid one shilling and visitors one shilling and sixpence for admission to the working, the price of a supper ticket being half-a-crown in addition ; it was therefore quite optional whether a brother remained after the Lodge was closed. Some years ago, however, the price of the tickets was increased to five shillings, including admission to the work, for members as

well as visitors. This answered fairly well for a time, but it being utterly impossible to comfortably provide for the many hundreds who desired to partake of refreshment after labour, the Committee determined to issue two kinds of tickets, one for the work only at two shillings, and the other as usual for the work and the dinner, which had the expected result of enabling the brethren to dine together in one room and under one chairman, instead of having recourse to overflow rooms, as had been the case for several years past. This change was generally acknowledged to be a decided improvement, for although the Grand Hall was, as usual, filled by an enthusiastic and appreciative audience, the banquet, presided over by Sir Augustus Webster, Bart., Provincial Grand Master for Hants and Isle of Wight, was partaken of with comparative comfort.

The usual preliminary toasts having been disposed of, the Grand Secretary proposed the health of the Chairman of the Festival, and tendered the thanks of the Committee and the brethren generally for the honour he had done them in presiding over them that evening.

Sir Augustus Webster warmly acknowledged the compliment paid him and proceeded to propose the next toast, that of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement." He said: "It was very gratifying indeed to him that he should be asked to preside this evening over a Lodge founded seventy-nine years ago—a Lodge to which the whole Craft under the English Constitution owed the deepest debt of gratitude. For many years the ritual had been handed down pure and unsullied exactly as it was to-day, and to those brethren to whom the ritual had been so handed down, a deep debt of gratitude was due. It was not only the rulers of the Craft to whom this applied, but even to the Entered Apprentices. Many brethren worked up the ceremonies without studying the Lectures, and when this was the case, innovations would, of necessity, creep in. The more a candidate might be impressed by the first three ceremonies by their being carefully rendered, the more likely

he was to be a good Mason, and a good Mason could not be a bad man. The Emulation system, and the manner in which it was handed down, was unalterable; it was never varied, and it provided a standard of work—he spoke for himself and as a ruler in the Craft—which should always be adhered to in the provinces as well as in the metropolis. He begged to propose the toast of ‘The Emulation Lodge of Improvement,’ and might it for many generations continue to do its most useful work as it had done in the past.”

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., in reply, said: Right W. Brother Chairman and brethren, I believe that I am only giving expression to a truism when I say that every member of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement derives a certain amount of satisfaction from belonging to this important and useful Institution. It has stood successfully the test of nearly eighty years, and throughout the whole of that period it has not only justified its existence, but it has kept in touch with, and has amply provided for every requirement of the student of Masonic ritual. . . . I think we may venture to claim that accuracy is the special feature of the Lodge to-day, indeed, absolute perfection in this respect has been attained by not a few. Perhaps, for the information of some of the younger brethren, I may say that the apotheosis of an absolutely correct working of a ceremony in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement is a silver match-box, upon which is recorded the success achieved; and so frequently nowadays is that distinction won that the giver may yet live to find himself in the Bankruptcy Court. Are we then, brethren, to think that because a standard has been set up, and because accuracy has been attained the mission of this Lodge is at an end, or that its usefulness is on the wane? Brethren, I say absolutely, no. Apart altogether from the fact that the standard has to be maintained, I think I can suggest an additional field of usefulness for “Emulation,” namely, in the training of brethren to act as Preceptors of Lodges of Instruction. Twenty years ago, brethren, so far as I know, there was only one Lodge of Instruction teaching the

Emulation system. Of that particular Lodge I was the Preceptor, and Bro. Langton, who is with us to-night at the Grand Officers' table, was the Secretary. Since that time, brethren, several Lodges have been started, each of them, I am glad to say, ruled over by experienced Craftsmen, well able to carry that Lodge on to success. But we do want, I believe, other Lodges of Instruction teaching the Emulation system, and if they are to be useful they must be presided over by competent brethren, who, above everything else, have acquired absolute accuracy, not only as regards words, but as regards every little detail. Now, that, I venture to say, can only be acquired in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

The silver match-box, or certificate, above referred to, is the gift of Bro. Sudlow to every brother not on the Committee, who presides over the Lodge and performs the Master's work with perfect accuracy, unassisted by the Preceptor for the evening. A record of the circumstance is engraved thereon, as well as any subsequent successes of a similar character which the recipient may be fortunate enough to achieve. The idea, which is probably unique, emanated from Bro. Sudlow about six years ago, and, notwithstanding the difficulties which his pupils have to surmount, he has had the gratification of handing to them no less than sixteen of these tangible mementos of industry and perseverance.

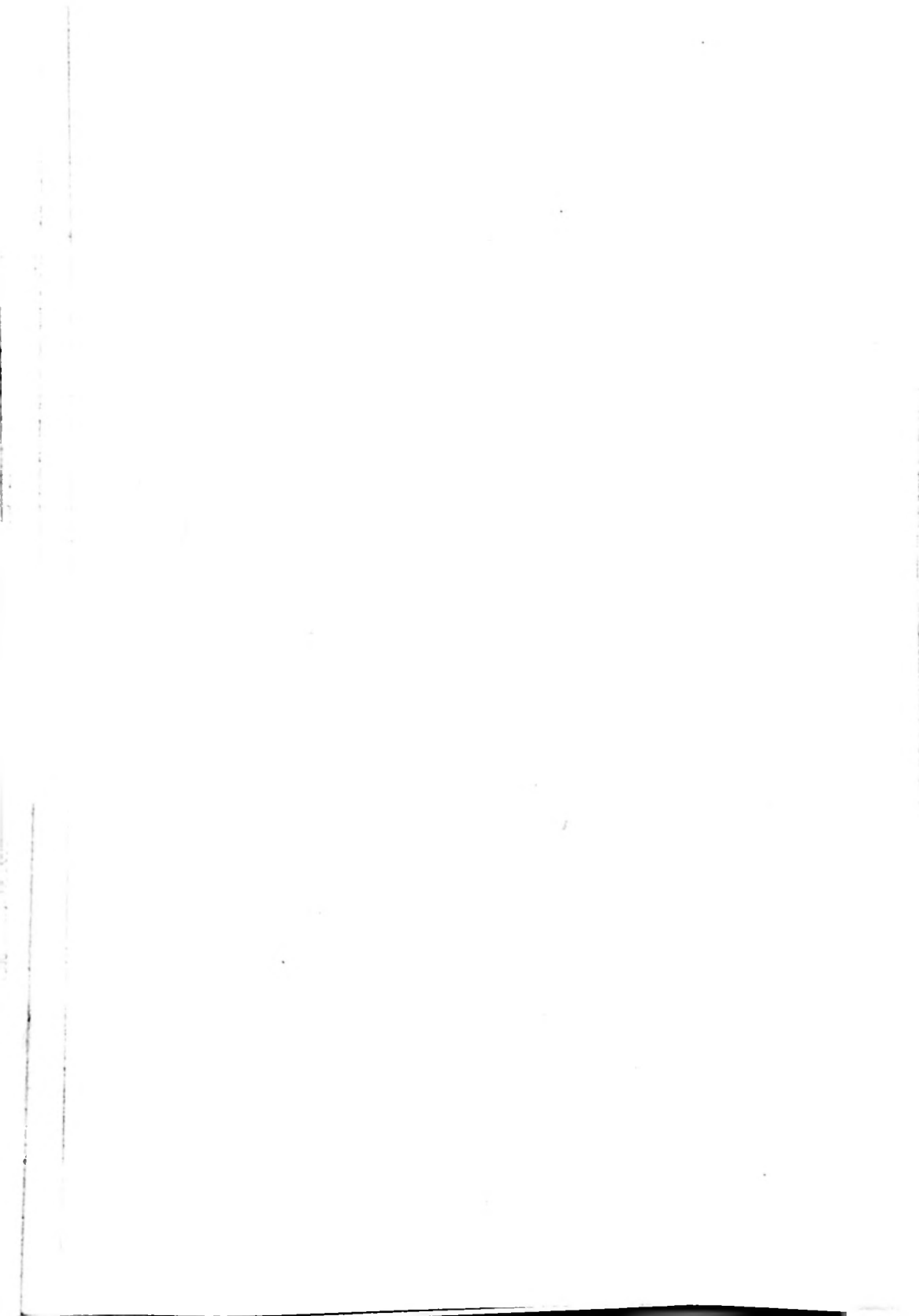
1903. No change was made this year in the Committee and executive officers. The Annual Festival held on the 27th of February was attended by about 450 brethren. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., presided as W.M., and was supported by Bro. Charles Lewis, as I.P.M.; Bros. George Rankin, W.M. No. 2397, as S.W.; and D. D. West, W.M. No. 2818, as J.W.

The work was the First Lecture by Bros. Oliver Notcutt, J. F. Roberts, Algernon L. Collins, W. R. Bennett, J. H. Jenks, R. L. Devonshire, and T. W. Allsop.

At the close of the work, the R.W. Bro. Lord Barnard,



LT.-GEN. JOHN WIMBURN LAURIE, C.B., M.P., P.G.W.,  
PROV. GRAND MASTER SOUTH WALES, W.D.,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1897.*





Prov. Grand Master for Durham, proposed a vote of thanks to the brethren who had so ably discharged their duties. His lordship said it had been with a feeling of profound admiration that he had listened to the lecture which had just been concluded, and the marvellous eloquence of the recitation, the very earnest reverence, and the great skill which the brethren who answered the questions had shown in the Seven Sections, he thought, must have appealed to every brother who heard them. He felt confident that the repetition of the ritual and the eloquence of its great teachers could not but seriously advance the Order. He only wished that opportunity could be given for these lectures to be delivered more frequently than they were, and that arrangements could be made for London brethren to deliver them in the country. In his own province he knew very many exceedingly regretted they had not an opportunity of obtaining the instruction and information he had listened to that night. Personally he congratulated the working brethren on their skill and ability. He did not think it necessary to say more at present, but he moved a very hearty vote of thanks to all the brethren who had been good enough to enlighten the company in the very excellent way that had been witnessed.

R.W. Bro. George Richards, District Grand Master of the Transvaal, seconded, and the motion was carried amidst universal applause.

Bro. Sudlow responded on behalf of the working brethren, and concluded his remarks by inviting those who were not already members to avail themselves of the present opportunity for so doing.

Before the Lodge was closed, 93 new members, including the noble chairman of the Festival, were proposed for ballot at the next meeting.

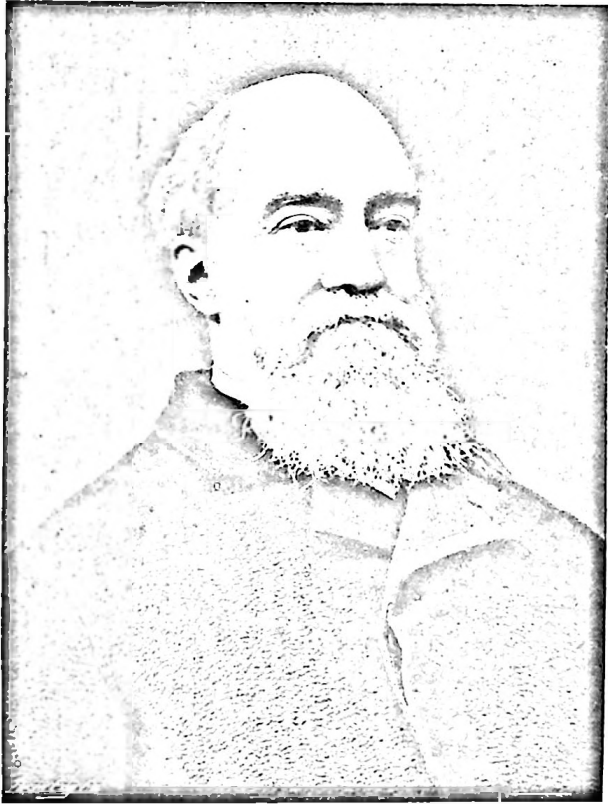
The Banquet in the adjoining hall was attended by about 250 brethren, including many distinguished Grand Officers.

The first two toasts on the list having been given by Lord Barnard, Bro. Charles Lewis proposed that of "The

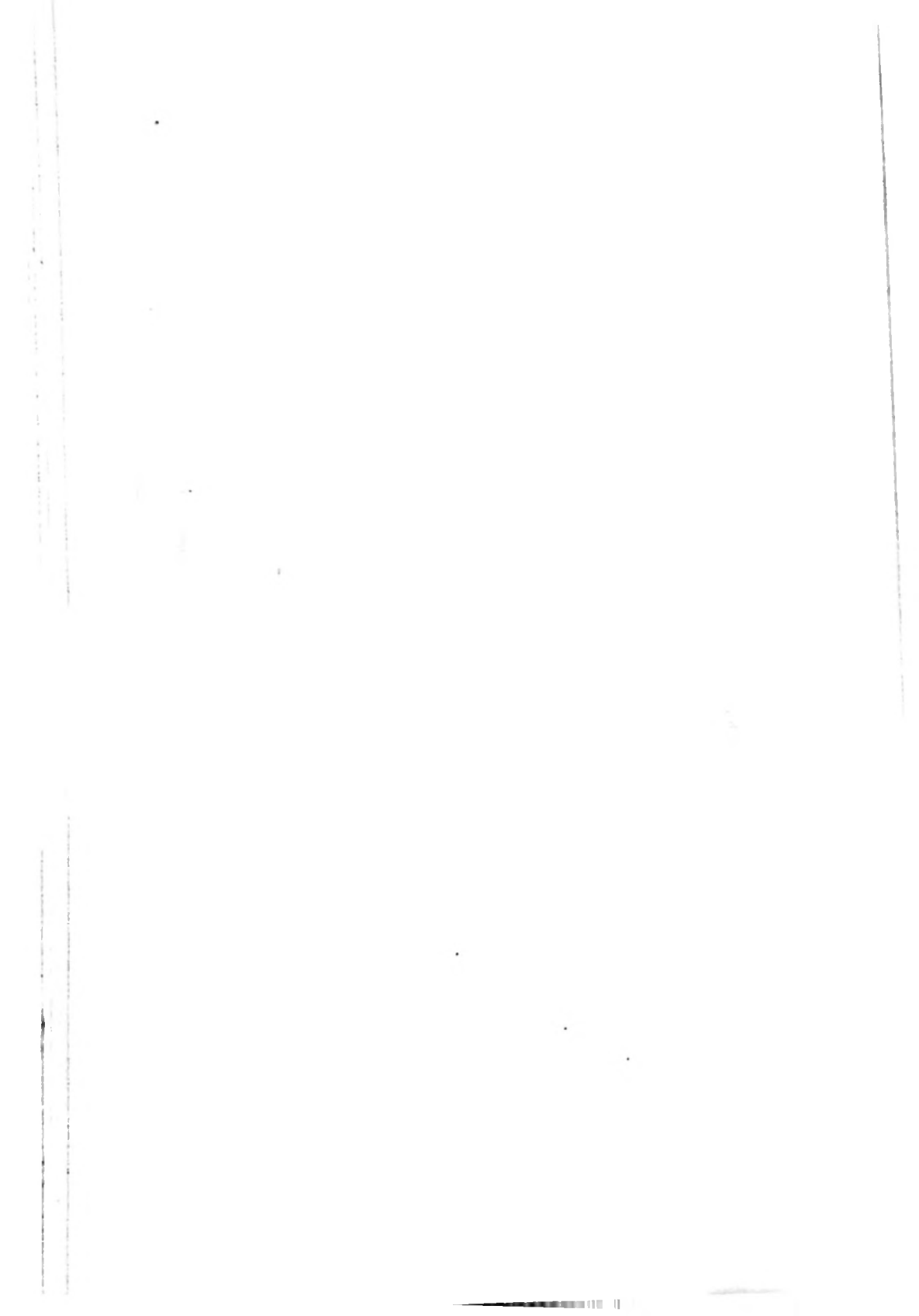
Grand Officers," to which the R.W. Bro. George Richards, Dist. Grand Master of the Transvaal, responded.

Bro. Sir E. Letchworth said it was his privilege, as Treasurer of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, to propose the next toast, and it was a privilege of which he availed himself with the very greatest pleasure; in the first place, because it was one which required no speech to secure for the toast a favourable reception, and, in the next place, because the subject of it was one which could not fail to receive the heartiest welcome. The toast was "The Health of the distinguished brother who had done them the honour of presiding over their festival that evening." They were all probably aware that Lord Barnard was not only a Past Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge of England, but that he presided over one of the most important provinces in the North of England, the members of every lodge of which were most devoted to him. His lordship had discharged his duties that evening with that geniality and ability which were so characteristic of him, and on behalf of the Committee of this lodge he begged to tender his warmest thanks to Lord Barnard for the great honour he had done the brethren by presiding over them.

Lord Barnard, in reply, said: No thanks, he considered, were due to him for presiding that evening; on the contrary, the gratitude ought to be on his part to the Grand Secretary and the brethren for giving him the opportunity of attending the most interesting among the many interesting Masonic functions he had ever been at. When the invitation came to him he determined, if it was possible, to use every effort to avail himself of the opportunity which every Mason ought to avail himself of if he got the chance, because he felt very strongly—and he knew a great many other brethren in the Craft felt it too—that the primary object to be aimed at by all true Masons was perfection of ritual. He attached the greatest importance to that object, and in the exalted position in the Craft he had the honour to hold in the important Province of Durham, he had always done his best to insist



WITHAM M. BYWATER, P.G.S.B.  
*Joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in 1847.*



on the ritual being carried out in the best possible manner. After this visit, he should go back to his district and try more than ever before to encourage his brethren as much as he could to emulate the example he had had set before him that evening. He regretted, as he had already intimated in the Lodge, that those opportunities were not more common than they were. . . . Living, as he and some others did, some 250 miles from London, it was impossible that they should take that part in London ceremonial that they would like ; but now and then, in some of the districts slight variations of ritual did creep in. Some said that provided the sense was maintained the actual form of words was not important, but he did not altogether agree with that, because he felt it might lead to a deviation from the ancient land-marks of the Order, and, therefore, it was of the utmost use to the Craft in general that an institution like the Emulation Lodge of Improvement should exist. He only wished there were many others in different parts of the country. His own Masonic career had been an uneventful one, but it had been a long one ; he had been initiated in the Apollo University Lodge, Oxford, No. 357, when he was eighteen years of age ; his father having been a Mason before him was an inducement. Since then he had been some time in and out of the Craft. When he went to the North of England, he took it up more keenly than ever, and he did not regret it. Not only himself, but two brothers, both University men, were in Masonry, one in the Isaac Newton Lodge, No. 859, Cambridge, the other in the Apollo, Oxford. His son would come of age this year, and he hoped he would become a Mason. He believed the continuity of Masonry in families was of great value, and to keep up Masonic traditions in a family prevented the danger of their being lost or changed. Also it tended to consolidate local and family feeling in a way that nothing else could do. He was perfectly confident that the Mason who began his Masonic career as a Lewis was a more enthusiastic Mason than a brother who had not had that opportunity. He was permitted now, before he sat

down, to propose, on behalf of himself and all others who had the great privilege of attending, "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement," and most heartily and cordially did he present it to the notice of the brethren. He coupled with the toast the name of their most capable and esteemed Master, Bro. Sudlow.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, acknowledging the toast, said: Right Worshipful Chairman and brethren, I need hardly say how very highly I appreciate the honour again conferred upon me of responding to the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement," and, in doing so, I would like, first of all, to thank Lord Barnard for the extremely kind way in which he has commended this toast to your approval. I would also like to thank the Grand Officers and the brethren assembled here in such goodly numbers for coming to celebrate with the Committee the virtual completion of eighty years of active work; work, I venture to say, fraught with the greatest possible benefit throughout the whole of that period to the Craft. To whom, brethren, on an occasion such as this, do our thoughts naturally turn? To whom is the Craft really indebted for the teaching of this Lodge? Surely, brethren, to those who, at the invitation of the Grand Lodge in 1813, gathered together the various and varying systems of ritual, digested, arranged, and brought them into a regular system—a system practised, I am glad to say, by most Lodges in the present day; a system that, I submit, cannot be bettered by any improvements. It will not be out of place, then, brethren, to-night, to pay a tribute of respect and admiration to that Grand Lodge for its Wisdom in deciding to institute a standard of ritual, and to those brethren of the Lodge of Reconciliation for the Strength and the Beauty of the fabric they then raised from probably very crude materials. It is curious, brethren, and interesting to notice how the truth of the adage, that history repeats itself, has been exemplified in the annals of this Lodge. I will give you two instances only, but those of you who are reading the very ably written series of articles on the History of the



WILLIAM HONEY, P.M. OF THE ROYAL ATHELSTAN LODGE, No. 16.  
*A celebrated "Emulation" worker and Masonic Instructor.*





Emulation Lodge of Improvement, by Bro. Sadler, appearing now in *THE MASONIC ILLUSTRATED*, will easily be able to find others. It appears that in 1848 the Masons of Birmingham approached this Lodge with a request that an expert might be deputed to visit them and bring their working into harmony with the Emulation Lodge system. The request was granted, and Bro. Honey, a pupil of Bro. Peter Gilkes, was commissioned to carry out the work. In the course of years, differences in the working began to creep in, and as these differences grew and multiplied, the Masons of Birmingham in 1891 again approached the Emulation Lodge of Improvement and invited an expert from that Lodge to again put them right. The expert on this second occasion was Bro. Sudlow, a pupil of Bro. Thomas Fenn. The next instance, brethren, is no less singular. In 1840, Bro. Richard Daly was elected Secretary of this Lodge. He was a member of the British Lodge, No. 8. To-day, in our Bro. Russell, we have not only one of the most genial, but one of the most devoted Secretaries this Lodge ever possessed. Moreover, he is a Past Master of the British Lodge, No. 8. This is an age of record making and record breaking, and I confess that I have a very great ambition to make a record in some way in connection with this Lodge; but it is by no means easy. My twenty years' service as senior Past Master fades almost into insignificance in comparison with the achievements of more than one of my predecessors. Still, I do not propose to give up entirely all hope. Granted a continuance of health and of memory, I may yet see the fulfilment of my desire; but even, brethren, if that may not be, the future of this Lodge is absolutely safe in the hands of my colleagues, Bro. Lewis and Bro. Lander; they are masters of the ritual, and they are profoundly impressed with the importance and with the sacredness of the trust reposed in them as members of the Committee. Moreover, should vacancies occur in the course of time in the Committee, I am glad to say that at present there are not a few members of this Lodge competent to fill those vacancies.

That being so, I look forward with every confidence to, we will say, twenty years' time, when the Lodge will be celebrating its centenary, and I say that then it will be found as strong, as useful, and as high in the estimation of the Craft as it is to-day.

Bro. Charles Edward Keyser, P.G.D., in proposing "The Lodge of Unions, No. 256," under the warrant of which the Emulation Lodge of Improvement works, said they were all deeply grateful for being able to come, year after year, and hear the estimable working of the Lodge, and all being either Provincial or London Masons, they should all be grateful to the Lodge of Unions for doing what it had done in promoting the success of the Lodge of Improvement. As a P.M. and Treasurer of the Lodge of Unions, they all remembered the late Bro. John Farnfield, one of the best friends of the Craft, whom they loved to hear responding to the toast, and whom they also loved for the work he did for the Charitable and Educational Masonic Institutions.

Bro. Geo. Booth Heming, P.M. and Treasurer of No. 256, replying, said the brethren of the Lodge of Unions took it as a great honour to be on the list of toasts of the evening, and he thought it was a still greater honour for them to be associated with and to work under the same charter as the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, a Lodge which not only maintained the dignity of the Craft, but raised the standard of working in the ritual, and, furthermore, it created a genuine enthusiasm in the hearts of all its members. He spoke with the greatest confidence, because he was a pupil for many years under the able preceptorship of Bro. Sudlow. The name of Bro. Farnfield had been mentioned. It was very kind of Bro. Keyser to bring forward the name of that brother, whom they regretted day by day and hour by hour. They felt that they had lost a great friend and a great Mason. He felt in taking Bro. Farnfield's position he was a poor substitute for such a Master as he was in the Craft.

Bro. W. G. Kentish, Past G. St. Br., proposed "The Secretary and Stewards," and said it would ill become the

company to pass over this toast which recognised the labours that resulted in such a magnificent gathering that evening. He spoke very feelingly about this, having been Bro. Russell's predecessor, and he knew exactly what enormous work such a meeting as this entailed. As every one recognised this labour, there was no necessity for him to say more.

Bro. Joseph Russell, Past G. St. Br., said, on behalf of the Stewards and himself, he begged to tender his own very hearty thanks for the kind reception given to the toast. As his worthy predecessor had said, it was an enormous work, but that work was sweetened by being keenly appreciated. The appreciation one always found from the Stewards and the Committee encouraged them to go on from year to year. He, therefore, thanked them for saying the work was so thoroughly and ably done.

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GROWTH AND MEMBERSHIP  
OF THE  
EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.

Having brought the history of the Lodge down to the close of the last Festival, thus showing an unbroken record of eighty years of successful work, we purpose presenting a few facts culled from the Lodge Register bearing on its growth and membership during that period. From the 2nd of October, 1823, to the end of that year, were entered on the Register, including the Founders, 46 members. In 1833, 58 brethren joined. There appears to have been a falling off in 1843, only 44 having joined during that year. The year 1853 evinces a marked increase in numbers, 85 new members being enrolled, and in 1863 82 were added to the Roll.

Thus far the Lodge Register or List of Members. We have now arrived on firmer ground, when the whole of the Lodge records are available, and are enabled to furnish the following facts:—

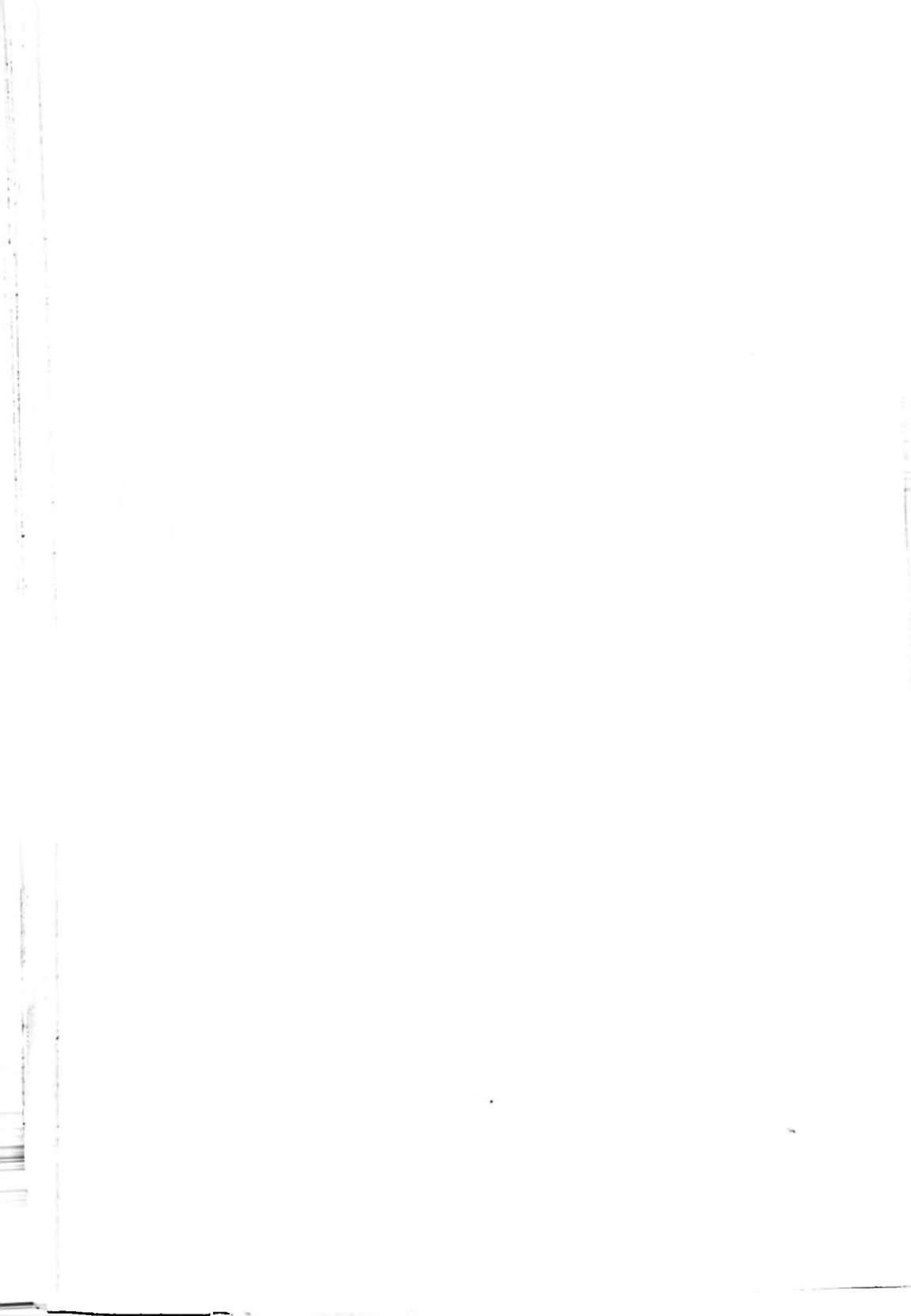
In 1870,	at 51 meetings,	attendances	1296,	joinings	105
" 1880	" 51	"	"	1788	" 127
" 1890	" 37	"	"	1430	" 173
" 1900	" 38	"	"	1809	" 200

These figures speak for themselves and will doubtless be deemed ample evidence of the continued growth and popularity of the Lodge. During the years last quoted the Craft has certainly grown enormously, and general Lodges of Instruction, especially in the metropolis, appear to have increased in proportion, not a few of them emanating either directly or indirectly from the Emulation Lodge of Improvement; these, however, will be dealt with hereafter.

In the course of conversation at various times the writer has been asked: What Lodge of Instruction is considered to



LT.-COL. A. R. MARK LOCKWOOD, M.P., PROV. G.M. ESSEX,  
*Chairman of the Festival in 1900.*



belong to the Grand Lodge? To the ordinary English Mason this enquiry may appear somewhat strange, but in view of the fact that our sister jurisdiction, Ireland, has a Grand Lodge of Instruction, and that most, if not all, of the Grand Lodges in the United States of America and our Colonies and dependencies have either a Grand Lecturer, or a Ritual Committee whose chief business is to supervise the esoteric working, the question will not be at all singular. The practice of Grand Lodges supervising the work of their subordinate Lodges is by no means of modern growth or adaptation, for we learn from our official records of the ancient régime that so far back as 2nd September, 1752, it was resolved "That this Grand Committee shall be formed immediately into a working Lodge of Master Masons, in order to hear a Lecture from the Grand Secretary, Laurence Dermott. The Lodge was opened in Antient form of Grand Lodge, and every part of real Freemasonry was traced and explained, except the Royal Arch." Next in order we have the *Nine Excellent Masters*, familiarly known as "The Nine Worthies," instituted by the same body about 1792, who were elected annually to assist the Grand officers in visiting the Lodges, in order "that the general uniformity of Ancient Masonry may be preserved and handed down unchanged to posterity."

We are particularly fortunate in having seven out of the nine massive silver medals or official badges of these distinguished old Craftsmen in the Grand Lodge Museum; the other two, we have reason to believe, were never given up by their last holders.

Then we have the Lodge of Promulgation instituted by Warrant from the Grand Master of the regular Grand Lodge of England in 1809, for the purpose of paving the way to an union of the rival Societies, which was happily effected in 1813, and was immediately followed by the Lodge of Reconciliation previously referred to in these pages. In 1827 a "Board of Installed Masters" was Warranted by the Grand Master for the purpose of revising and definitely settling the

ceremony of Installation.\* Later still, in 1835, we have an authorized Chapter of Promulgation for the purpose of disseminating the recently revised ritual of the Royal Arch, with a view "to establish a uniformity of practice and working throughout the Order." It will thus be seen that from a very early period the Ruling Masonic Powers have evinced a keen interest in the esoteric working of their subordinates. When, in response to the foregoing enquiry, we state that the Grand Lodge of England has now no special or officially recognized Lodge of Instruction we have occasionally been asked: What Lodge of Instruction is most favoured by the Grand Officers? We unhesitatingly answer: The Emulation Lodge of Improvement! This statement is not based on personal knowledge alone but is fully confirmed by the register of members and oral tradition. Indeed from the very foundation of the Lodge it seems to have been warmly supported by the Grand officers generally and its mode of working commended and quoted as authentic by every Grand Secretary who has served the Grand Lodge of England since that event.

The Register of Members being the oldest of the records now in possession of the Lodge is consequently of great importance, but its value, we venture to think, is much diminished by the fact of its not being entirely original.

For about fifteen years from the commencement—October, 1823—the names of the members all appear in one handwriting, we believe that of Stephen Barton Wilson, and were evidently copied from an original List, since lost or destroyed. Unfortunately the copyist omitted the Christian names of many of the brethren, although careful in recording their Lodges and the date of their joining, hence it is somewhat difficult to identify the earlier members. The following list of brethren therefore who, either before membership of the "Emulation," or subsequently, have attained to the "Purple"

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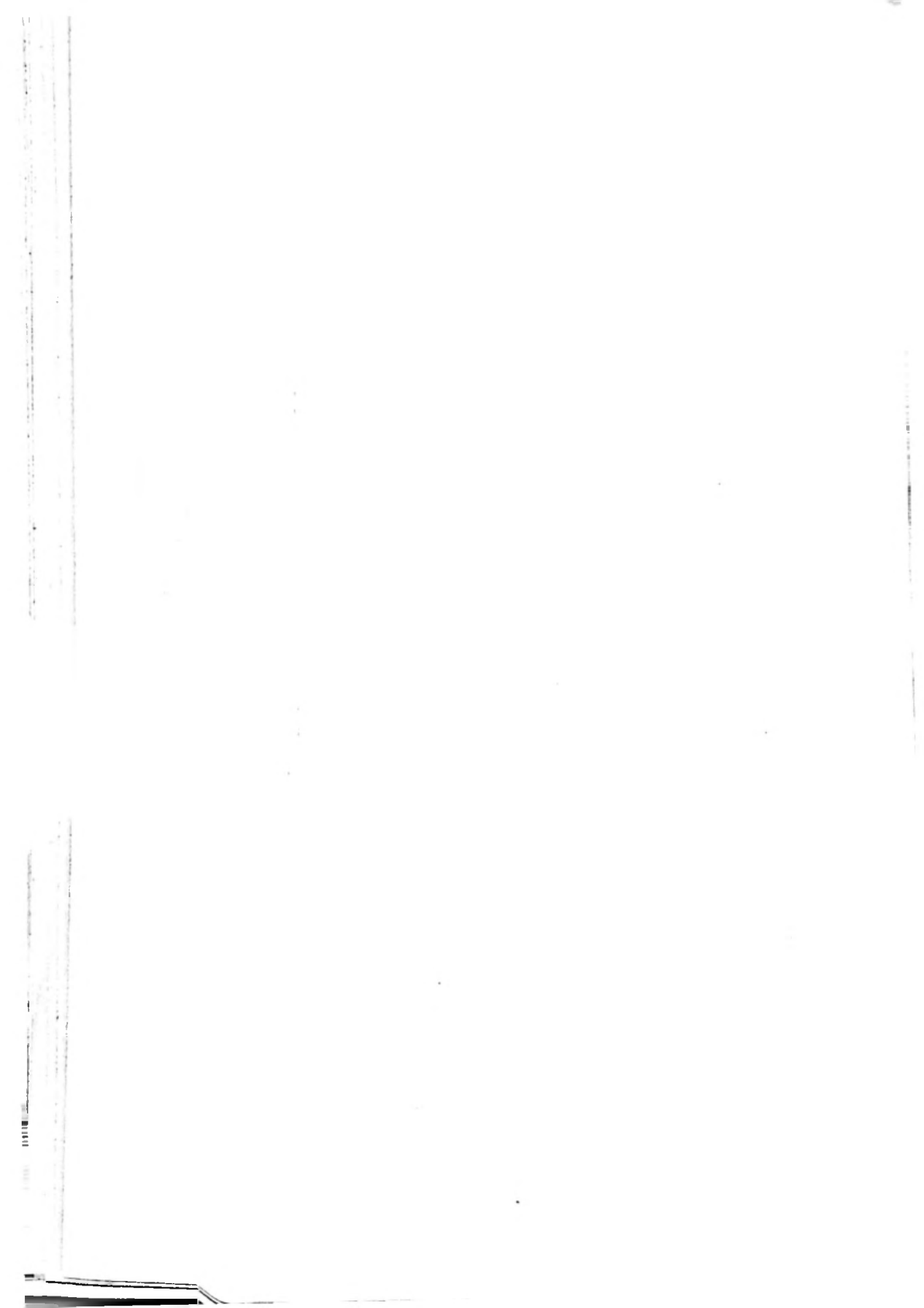
\* See "Notes on the Ceremony of Installation." George Kenning & Son.  
1889.





*Albert W. Woods*  
P. S. W. S. D. C.

SIR ALBERT W. WOODS, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., (Garter).  
*From a Photograph taken in his 88th year by the Elite Portrait Co.*



of Grand Lodge may safely be deemed to be numerically understated, as in our examination of the Register we have discarded all doubtful names, only quoting those whose identity is clearly established. As will be seen, the list is too long for the individual names to be given in these pages, we must therefore content ourselves with indicating the Masonic standing of the various brethren in the Grand Lodge:—

Pro Grand Master ... ..	1
Deputy Grand Master ... ..	1
Prov. and District Grand Masters ... ..	36
Grand Wardens ... ..	33
Grand Chaplains ... ..	21
Grand Treasurers ... ..	11
*Grand Registrar ... ..	1
Deputy Grand Registrars ... ..	6
*Presidents of Board of G. Purposes ... ..	3
Grand Secretaries ... ..	7
*President of Board of Benevolence ... ..	1
Grand Deacons ... ..	127
Grand Superintendents of Works ... ..	10
Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies ... ..	17
Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies ... ..	54
Grand Sword Bearers ... ..	46
Deputy Grand Sword Bearers ... ..	5
Grand Standard Bearers ... ..	29
Grand Organists ... ..	9
Assistant Grand Secretaries ... ..	3
Grand Pursuivants ... ..	28
Grand Tyler ... ..	1

450

In some instances the brethren, probably in order to make sure of their membership, have joined the Lodge

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\* Several of these brethren, having been promoted on their retirement from the above offices, are included with the Grand Wardens, as is also the present Grand Director of Ceremonies.

twice, and one enthusiast even three times, of course at considerable intervals, but having regard for the Lodge funds we refrain from mentioning their names, only one instance being known to the writer of the joining fee having been refunded, and that was in the case of a brother who had been rejected on the ballot.

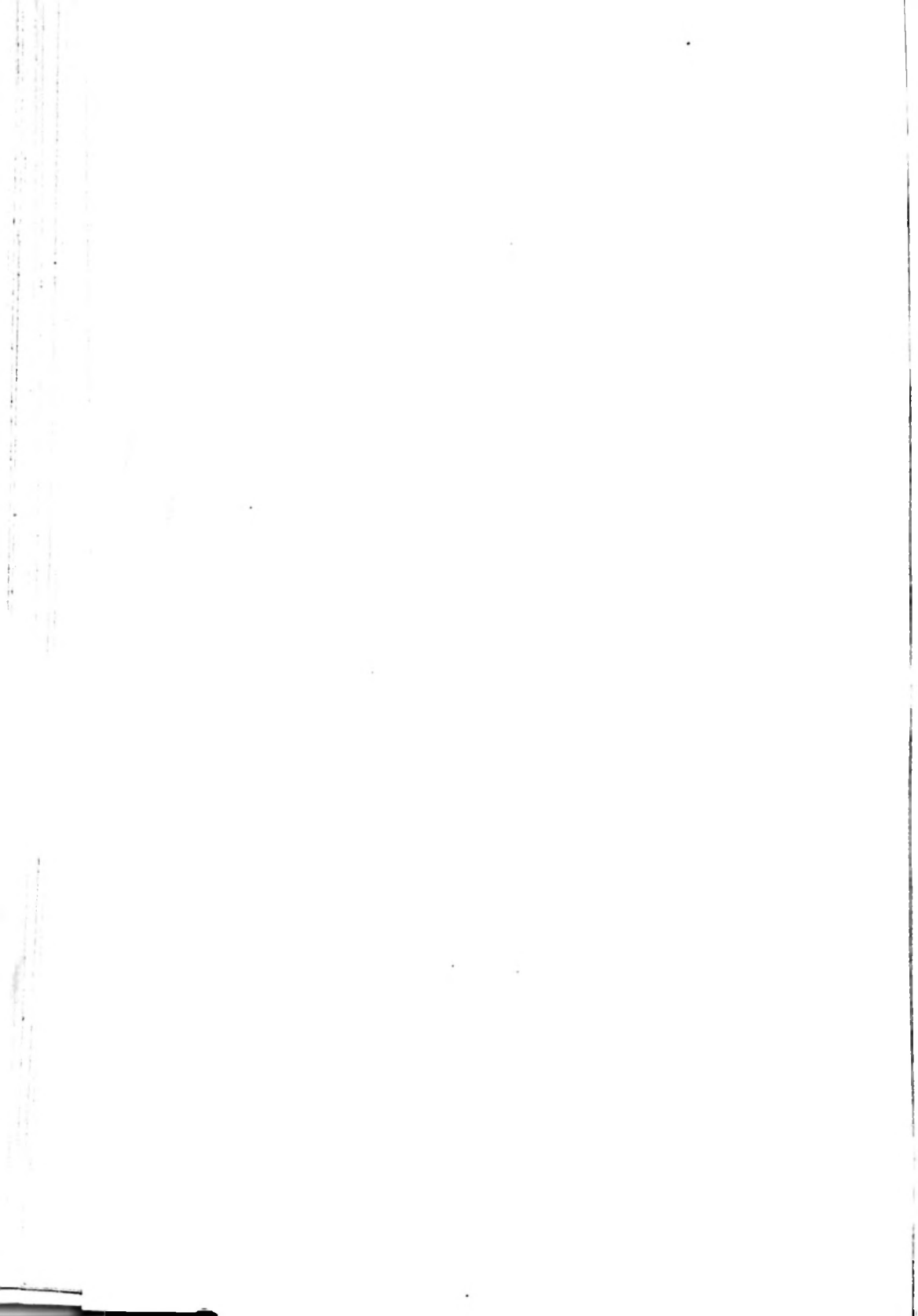
Of the large number of Grand Officers whose names appear on the register of the "Emulation" many have been members for a long period, indeed three now living can claim a membership of over half a century. They are Charles W. C. Hutton, Past Grand Deacon, ex-Sheriff of London and Middlesex, whose membership dates from 3rd July, 1846, Witham M. Bywater, Past Grand Sword Bearer, who joined 29th January, 1847, and Sir Albert W. Woods, K.C.B., Garter King of Arms, Past Grand Warden, and Grand Director of Ceremonies, who joined 1st February, 1850. We have reason to believe that these brethren are the oldest surviving members, as they certainly are, in the list of Grand Officers.

Bros. C. W. C. Hutton and Sir Albert Woods have passed away since the above was written.

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CHARLES W. C. HUTTON, P.G.D., EX-SHERIFF OF LONDON AND  
MIDDLESEX.  
*Joined the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in 1846.*



BRANCHES AND OFFSHOOTS  
OF THE  
EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.

It is somewhat difficult to furnish definite information as to the various Lodges of Instruction that have emanated directly or indirectly from the "Emulation" and adopted its mode of working, as the minutes of the Lodge contain no reference whatever to the subject.

The earliest printed mention of such an event that has come under our notice is in the shape of the following advertisement in the Masonic Record of Western India for 1866:—

"EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT  
(under sanction of Lodge '*Truth*,' No. 944) meets at  
Freemasons' Hall, Baboola Tank, on the 2nd SATURDAY of  
each month, at 8 P.M. Lectures and Ceremonies regularly  
worked."

The same volume contains a report of the proceedings at the first regular meeting on the 20th March, 1866. We are, however, indebted to the W. Bro. Isaac Mann Shields, P.G.D., the historian of Freemasonry in Western India, for the following interesting particulars. So far back as January, 1864, Lodge Concord, No. 757, gave its sanction to the establishment of a Lodge of Instruction to be called "The Emulation Lodge of Instruction," open to all Masons. The entrance fee was fixed at three rupees, and the monthly subscription at one rupee.

This Lodge was so successful that the members most interested in its career determined to convert it into a regular Lodge, a Warrant being eventually granted by the Earl of Zetland under the designation of Lodge Emulation, No. 1100.

The Instruction Lodge being thus merged into a regular body it appears to have lapsed, and at the regular meeting of

Lodge "Truth," No. 944, held on 5th March, 1866, "sanction was accorded to the formation of a Lodge of Instruction, to be called 'The Emulation Lodge of Improvement.'"

The only other reference to be found in the minutes is as follows :—"At a meeting of the Lodge of Improvement held on 21st November, 1866, Bro. Henry H. Avron, President, the whole of the fifteen sections of the lectures and the explanation of the Tracing Boards in the three degrees of Craft Masonry were worked, probably for the first time in India. The District Grand Master and Officers of the District Grand Lodge, and a large number of brethren from sister Lodges, attended on the occasion."

This Lodge appears to have lapsed about 1872.

In 1882 "The Calcutta Emulation Lodge of Improvement," No. 218, was established. The formation of the Lodge is thus referred to as an important event by the District Grand Master of Bengal, in his address to the District Grand Lodge on the 24th of June, 1882. "Masonry in Calcutta has, I am glad to announce, recently received a great stimulus owing to the establishment of a Lodge of Instruction attached to the Lodge of True Friendship. The well known skill, experience, and energy of the excellent Brother, who has taken the lead in this matter and directs the Lodge, has already shewn good results, and I confidently expect that the benefits which will arise from his labours will be universally admitted, and be the best evidence of his services to the Craft in Calcutta."

The subject of this well deserved eulogium is the W. Bro. Thomas Jones, Past G. Deacon and Past Deputy Dist. Grand Master of Bengal, who has served also many other offices in that important Eastern Province during an eminently active Masonic career of nearly forty years.

In referring to the remarks of his chief on the above mentioned occasion, Bro. Jones said: "I wish to sink all individuality as far as possible in this matter, but I am glad of this opportunity of saying a word about the 'Emulation Lodge of Improvement.' It is not necessary that I should



detain you long, and I will only say that it comprises already among its members representatives of all the Lodges assembled here, and that it has been established on the model of, and on the same basis as, the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in London."

Bro. Jones may be justly credited with having been practically the creator of the "Calcutta Emulation." He served the Lodge as its Preceptor during the first ten years of its existence, with the exception of one year, when he was on leave in England. In 1892, on his retirement from official life in India, he was succeeded in the preceptorship by the W. Bro. Alexander B. Westerhout, Past Dist. Grand Warden, one of the Founders of the Lodge and a well known exponent of our ritual and ceremonies, who, we believe, filled the office till 1899, and was then followed by the present Preceptor, W. Bro. H. M. Rustomjee, P.G. Deacon, Dist. Grand Secretary, who had ably discharged the duties of Secretary of the Lodge of Improvement for many years. No better evidence of the firmness of its foundation and the zeal and ability of its promoters and subsequent officers, can be adduced than the fact of the Lodge being still in active and useful work after an unbroken existence of upwards of thirty years, notwithstanding the mutability incidental to Masonry in India, with its several Masonic jurisdictions and consequent various modes of performing the ceremonies.

It has from the first been most warmly supported by the Dist. Grand Masters and the other officials of the District Grand Lodge, and has thus been enabled to greatly improve the esoteric working of the Craft in Bengal, more especially in the Calcutta Lodges.

Thanks to the energy and liberality of its Preceptors it has quite a respectable little Masonic Library attached to it.

Long may it flourish !

#### THE LANGTON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

The first Lodge of Instruction in London of whose connection with the "Emulation" we have any definite knowledge

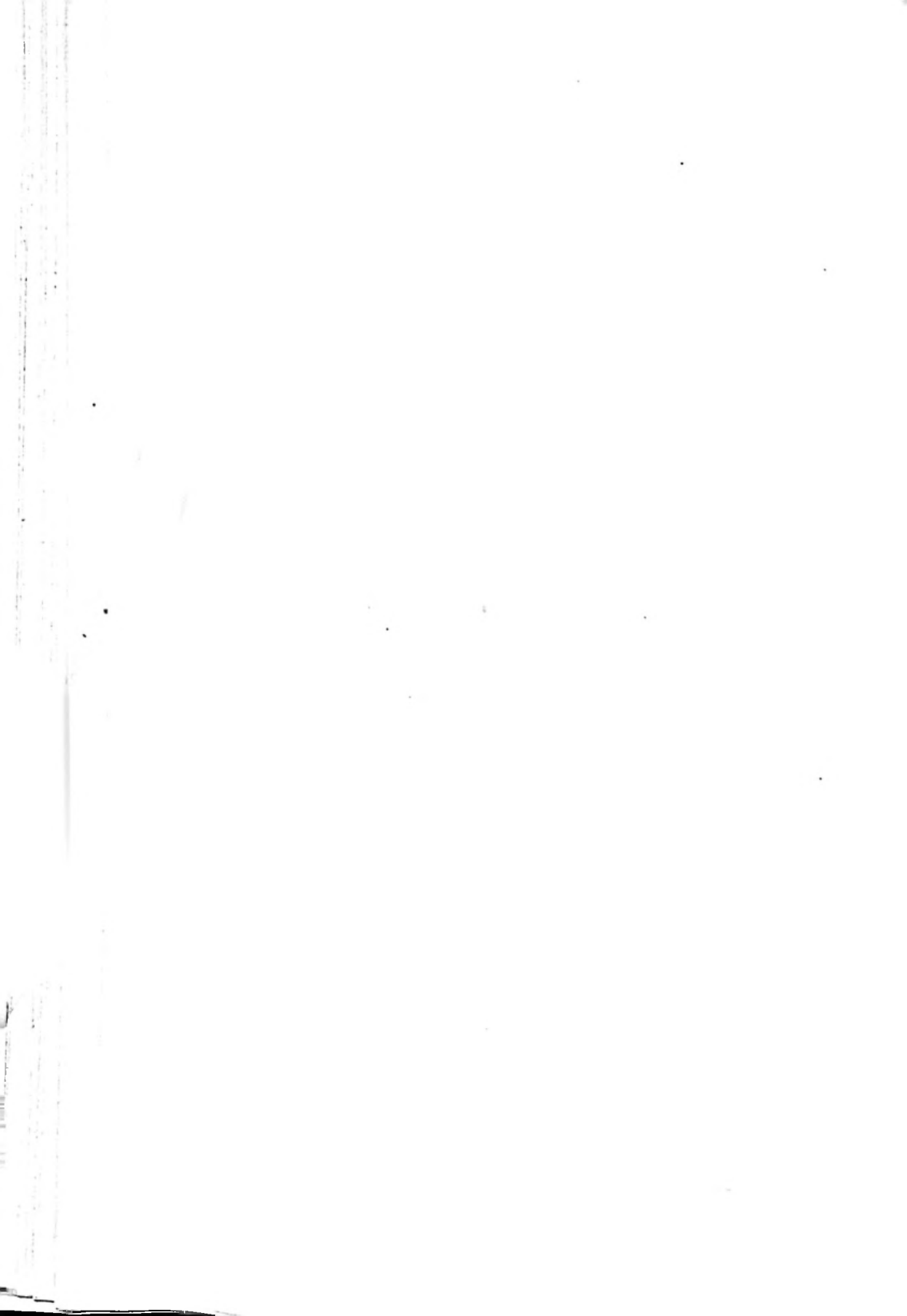
is the "Langton," No. 1673. We believe this Lodge of Instruction was originally established under the sanction of the Lodge of Felicity, No. 58, at No. 101, Queen Victoria Street, the premises of the London Masonic Club, which was opened with great promise of success on the 26th of July, 1876, by Lord Skelmersdale, then Deputy Grand Master; but not meeting with the support which its founders had expected it was dissolved in 1881. The first meeting of the Lodge of Instruction was held on the 13th of November, 1876, when it was resolved (we think inadvisably) that it should bear the name of the club where it was held and from which it had emanated. Like many other institutions "The London Masonic Club of Instruction" had its early struggles and differences, the latter arising chiefly on points of ritual and ceremonial, the Lodge not having decided upon any particular system of work. The first brother elected to the post of Preceptor was an enthusiastic, but comparatively young, Mason, who, however, was not conversant with the "Emulation" working, and as several of the members who attended the weekly meetings were, the result may easily be imagined.

On the 22nd of October, 1877, Bro. William Smallpiece, Secretary of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, was elected to the preceptorship, from which event may be dated the formal adoption of "Emulation" working.

The early minutes of the Lodge not being available we are compelled to rely on the Masonic press for much of our information. Judging from the printed reports a fair amount of success attended Bro. Smallpiece's efforts for several years. The mother Lodge, however, objected to the publication of the proceedings of the Club of Instruction, and after formally protesting, eventually withdrew its sanction in January, 1881. Its next public appearance was under the name it now bears, having obtained the sanction of the Langton Lodge, No. 1673, a Lodge founded in 1877 at the London Masonic Club by some of the promoters of that institution.



CHAS. A. MURTON, P.G. DEACON.  
*Secretary, and Member of the Committee.*



On the 10th of March, 1881, a meeting of the Langton Lodge of Instruction was held at the *Mansion House Station Restaurant*, when Bro. R. Clay Sudlow was unanimously elected Preceptor. Bro. Sudlow had already attained distinction as an able and careful worker in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and the knowledge of the abilities there displayed prompted the writer, when consulted as to the preceptorship of the Langton Lodge, to mention his name as the most suitable brother of his acquaintance to fill the post. Never having undertaken so important an office, Br. Sudlow, with that natural diffidence which invariably betokens real merit, and being then but a young Mason, hesitated, expressing some doubt as to his own ability, but at the suggestion of the writer he eventually consented, with the result that the Lodge felt itself strong enough to hold a festival on the 3rd of November following. Several prominent members of the "Emulation" attended this memorable gathering, including Bro. Thomas Fenn, who performed the Ceremony of Installation. Bro. A. W. Duret was elected Assistant Preceptor, to act in that capacity in the absence of Bro. Sudlow.

At the next festival, held on December 13th, 1882, Bro. Sudlow presided as Master, and with the assistance of other well-known Craftsmen, worked the Sections of the first Lecture. Bro. Thomas Fenn, in the absence of Bro. Charles A. Murton, presided at the dinner. In proposing the toast, "Success to the Langton Lodge of Instruction," the chairman said he was present at the first festival, and the work had been so fully carried out that evening that he felt the success was assured. Let them hope that it would be continued; and so long as it was under the able management of Bro. Sudlow he had no doubt that it *would* be continued. The work was so strictly in accord with that of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, that he could not but look upon it as a very useful branch of that important institution.

In 1883, Bro. Sudlow retired from the preceptorship, having been elected on the Committee of the "Emulation."

He was succeeded by Bro. J. T. Tanqueray, who, in 1885, gave place to Bro. Hugh Marcus Hobbs, who filled the post of Preceptor most ably for several years, until declining health necessitated his virtual retirement from active Masonic work. Bro. George F. Marshall, P.M. No. 69, was next elected to the post of honour and responsibility, having already served several years as joint Preceptor with Bro. Hobbs. Although no longer officially connected with the Lodge, Bro. Sudlow continued to evince a warm interest in its welfare, very seldom missing a festival meeting, and taking an active part in the proceedings thereat.

At the Annual Festival held on the 4th of January, 1890, Bro. J. D. Langton presided, and in proposing the toast of "The Emulation Lodge of Improvement," observed that the Langton Lodge of Instruction was proud to do what it could to prepare brethren for that higher Lodge of Instruction—the Emulation—and while it continued to work on the lines laid down—viz., meeting on the Thursday previous to the Friday on which the Emulation met, and working the same ceremonies performed at the latter Lodge on the following night—they hoped to be of some small service to those desirous of taking part in the work at that justly celebrated Masonic finishing school.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, in response, said he should never regret that he really dated the commencement of his Masonic career to his introduction to the Langton Lodge of Instruction. He well remembered that a brother, who was now a Grand Officer, having spoken to him of a Lodge of Instruction for Emulation working, and asked him if he would take it up. He consented, was accepted as its Preceptor, and for a long time they all worked very happily together. The Lodge was now in splendid hands, being under a Committee of Preceptors, numbering amongst them Bros. Hobbs, Burne, and Marshall, and it would therefore be unnecessary for him to refer to their ability to impart Masonic knowledge. Until the present moment that Lodge of Instruction occupied quite a unique position, being the only Lodge really carrying out

the working of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. He had to tell them that they would have to look after their laurels, because a warrant had just been issued for another Lodge of Instruction under the control of Bro. Henry Sadler, the Grand Tyler and Sub-Librarian, who was one of the old Emulation workers. That Lodge was to meet on a Thursday to work the ceremonies as they did in the Langton Lodge of Instruction, and was intended to meet the requirements of brethren who were unable to attend until a later period of the evening.

The chairman for this evening, whose name the Lodge bears, was the first initiate in the mother Lodge, and one of the most earnest supporters of the Lodge of Instruction, having for many years filled the post of Secretary, and occasionally presiding at its Festivals. We believe that the Grand Officer referred to by Bro. Sudlow was Bro. Henri Bué, Past Grand Standard Bearer, an "Emulation" worker, and one of the pillars of the Langton Lodge of Instruction in its early stages.

In 1885 the Lodge was removed from the *Mansion House Station Restaurant* to the *White Hart* in Abchurch Lane, where it continued for many years, afterwards meeting at "The Eastcheap," E.C., and eventually removing to its present quarters. His Honour Judge Philbrick, Past Grand Warden, has evinced a strong interest in the welfare of this Lodge of Instruction, and has frequently presided over its Annual Festivals. In recognition of his services, and possibly with a view to future favours, he has been elected to the now somewhat unique position of President of the Lodge, and Bro. Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., to that of Vice-President.

At the Annual Festival on the 26th of March last, the Ceremony of Passing and part of the first Lecture was the work of the evening, the former by the Preceptor, the latter being conducted by Bro. Sudlow, who subsequently presided at the banquet. The Lodge is now held at *Simpson's Restaurant*, Bird-in-Hand Court, Cheapside, on Thursday evenings (except during the months of May, June, July,

August and September), from 5.30 to 7 o'clock, for ceremonies only. In addition to the two Presidents the executive officers are Bros. Charles H. Green, P.M. No. 1851, Treasurer; Herbert Owen Bell, W.M. No. 1964, Secretary; Edward P. Debenham, P.P. Grand Registrar, Hertfordshire, Preceptor; and the following members of the Committee:— Arthur M. Barnard, P.M. No. 1964; Frederick W. Levy, P.M. No. 1261; and Charles B. C. Hancock, No. 28.

The Annual Subscription is Five Shillings, and Visitors' fee, Sixpence.

#### THE WANDSWORTH LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, NO. 1044.

This Lodge of Instruction was originally founded in 1866 at the Freemasons' Hotel, New Wandsworth, by a number of brethren hailing from the New Wandsworth Lodge, No. 1044, the principal amongst them being Bro. Henry Wilson, P.M. of the Domatic Lodge, No. 177, a member of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and the first Master of the New Wandsworth Lodge. The Lodge appears to have worked under various Preceptors until March, 1881, when, for some unexplained reason it ceased meeting until June, 1882. At this period it was resuscitated chiefly by the exertions of Bros. Alexander C. A. Higerty of the Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1714, and James G. Carter, P.M. of No. 1044, both members of "Emulation." The first-named brother accepted the dual offices of Secretary and Co-Preceptor with Bro. Carter. Since its resuscitation the Lodge has met regularly and made considerable progress, both in utility and membership. Bro. Higerty, to whom we are indebted for the information relating to this Lodge, states that the first Festival was attended by sixteen brethren only, but at the second Festival the number had increased to eighty, and has since been as high as 300. Several of the principal members of the "Emulation" have presided at its Festivals, including Bros. Sudlow and Richards. The Lodge appears to be governed in a manner similar to that in vogue at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, viz., by a Committee of



Preceptors, comprising Bros. Alexander C. A. Higerty, P.M. of Nos. 1044, 1714, 2437, and 2697; Alexander Moorhead, P.M. of No. 2697 (Secretary); and Harry Hudson, P.M. of the Lodge of Faith, No. 141; the office of Treasurer being filled by Bro. Charles Welch, P.M. of No. 141. Three other members are also elected annually, the whole forming a Committee for General Purposes. The Lodge has been held for many years at its present quarters, St. Mark's Schools, Battersea Rise, and meets at eight o'clock on Tuesday evenings throughout the year, the Lectures as well as Ceremonies being worked.

The fees although merely nominal, being one shilling for joining and three pence each attendance, yet, with an average of 30 at each meeting, they amount to a considerable sum in the course of the year. Whenever the funds will admit, ballots for Life Subscriberships to the Masonic Institutions are participated in by those members who have attended at least 25 meetings during the preceding year.

Several Lodges of Instruction and at least two regular Lodges have emanated directly or indirectly from this Lodge of Instruction, notably the Downshire Lodge, No. 2437, and the St. Michael-le-Querne Lodge, No. 2697.

#### THE LODGE OF PROGRESS, No. 1768.

The following brief sketch is kindly supplied by Bro. W. Alfred Dawson, P.A.G.D.C. :—

Amongst the off-shoots of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, the Lodge of Progress may be mentioned as being entirely built from materials provided by that excellent Institution.

In 1878 some of the most regular and proficient Masons attending "Emulation" applied for a Warrant for a new Lodge, their object being to create a Lodge in which the work would be carried out in strict conformity with what they had been taught at "Emulation," and the funds of which should be mostly devoted to charitable purposes.

The Lodge of Progress was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall on the 17th October, 1878, by the late V.W. Bro. John Hervey, G.S., assisted by the late Bros. Charles A. Murton, P.G.D., as S.W., and Thomas Fenn, P.G.D., as J.W., all three being then members of the Committee of "Emulation," and subsequently becoming Honorary Members of "Progress."

The first officers of the Lodge were Bros. W. Alfred Dawson, W.M.; Francis R. Spaul, S.W.; Alfred C. Spaul, J.W.; Elias Legg, Treasurer; Edward Hornblower, Secretary; Edward G. Tattershall, S.D.; Armand W. Duret, J.D.; Thomas W. Ockenden, I.G.; Albert Marvin, D.C.; William G. Kentish, Steward; and Henry Sadler, Tyler, Bro. Sadler at that time being the Tyler of "Emulation."

The object of the Founders has, so far, been very successfully attained. With but few exceptions, all past and present officers have been masters of their work according to the "Emulation" system. For many years, one or more of them worked sections at the Annual Festivals; indeed, on one occasion five of the seven sections worked were given by members of the Lodge of Progress.

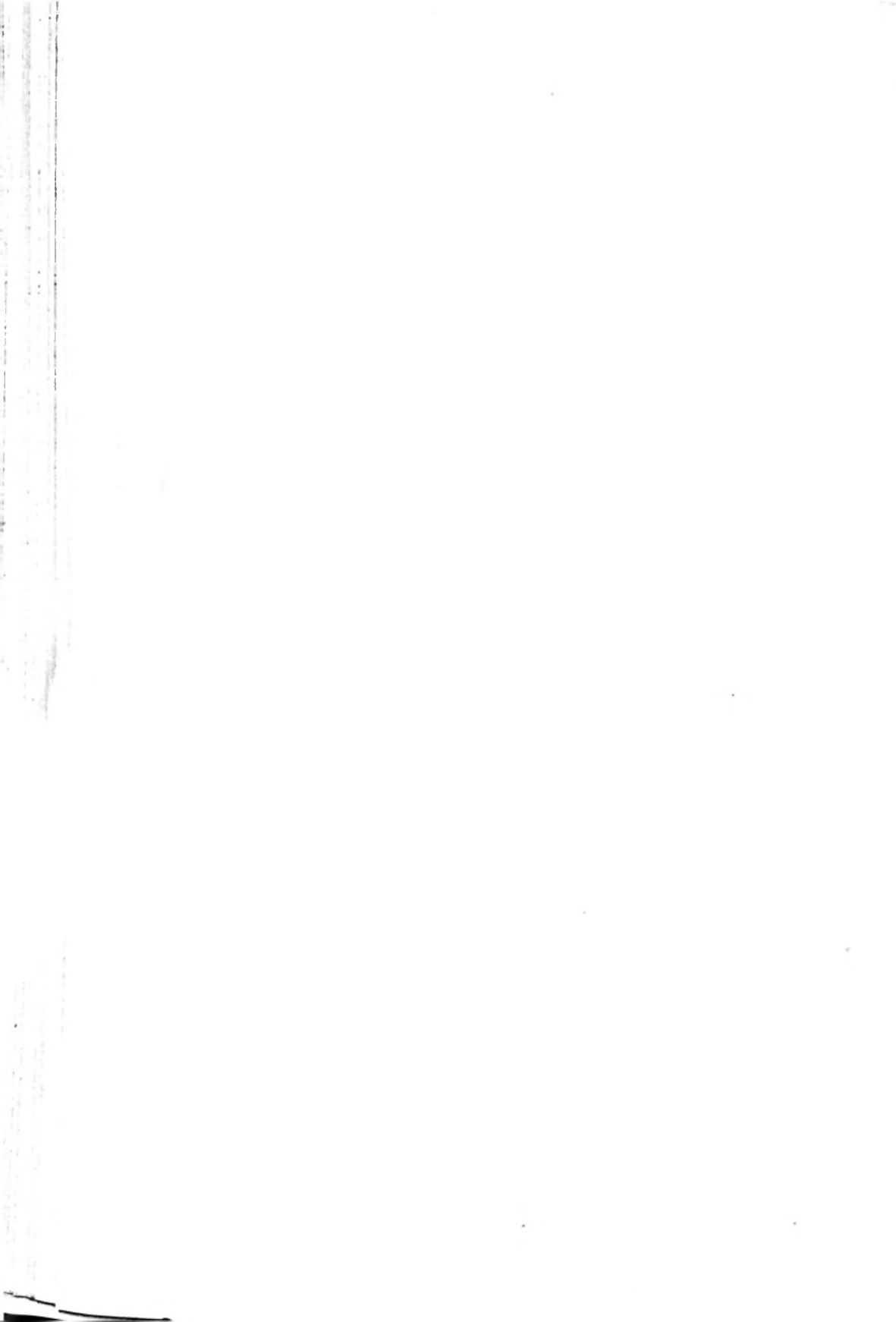
The Masonic Charities have been well supported, as regularly each year one or other of them has received a donation from the Lodge funds, and also from individual members. A Benevolent Fund has also been established, out of which substantial relief has been given in special cases.

As the Lodge funds are not used to provide refreshment for the members, a supper club has been formed, to which any member of the Lodge may belong, if so minded. It provides a simple meal after each Lodge meeting, and intending candidates are invited, so that members may become acquainted with them before their names are put up for ballot. An installation banquet is held each year, and only those members who attend it contribute to its cost.

The connection between "Progress" and "Emulation" has been, and is still, very close. Shortly after Bro. Thomas Fenn became Treasurer of "Emulation," on Bro. John



FRANCIS R. SPAUL, P.M. Nos. 1124 & 1768.  
*Secretary of the Emulation Lodge, of Improvement, 1883-86.*



Hervey's death, Bro. W. Alfred Dawson was elected on the Committee of "Emulation" and filled the place vacated by Bro. Fenn. Later, Bros. Francis R. Spaul and William G. Kentish were successively its Secretary for many years, and most of the members of the Committee of "Emulation" have been Honorary Members of "Progress."

Bro. Fenn always took a very great interest in the Lodge of Progress. He visited it frequently, and has been heard to declare that no regular Lodge rendered the "Emulation" working more accurately.

It is satisfactory to record that although the initiation and joining fees are above the average, and that all possible care is taken in the selection of candidates, the active members of the Lodge now number about forty, including seven of the original Founders. Equally gratifying is it to be able to state that the funds of the Lodge are in a most flourishing condition.

The following is a list of the present officers and Honorary Members:—Frank A. Nash, W.M.; Major Allan Smith, I.P.M.; F. J. Rebman, S.W.; G. F. Emery, J.W.; the Rev. C. W. Servanté, P.M., Chaplain; W. A. Dawson, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., Treasurer; W. G. Kentish, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., Secretary; C. F. Froot, S.D.; E. J. Steegmann, J.D.; J. E. Beggs, I.G.; A. W. Duret, P.M., P.D.G.S.B., D.C.; A. Fyson, P.M., Steward; the Rev. G. F. Irwin, Assistant Steward; G. C. Harpour, Organist; and J. W. Freeman, Tyler. Honorary Members: Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary; R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C.; A. A. Richards, P.G. Steward; F. T. Rushton, P.G. Steward; F. R. Spaul, P.M., P.P.G. Registrar Salop; and Joseph Russell, P.G. Std. Br.

#### THE KIRBY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 263.

We believe the above named Lodge of Instruction was the first, not only to emanate directly from the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, but to have been started on strictly "Emulation" lines and under its auspices. It is the

Lodge of Instruction referred to by Bro. Sudlow at the festival of the Langton Lodge of Instruction in 1890, previously quoted. The writer having in December, 1889, been asked to assist in forming a Lodge of Instruction consented, on the conditions that the work was to be strictly "Emulation," and that neither drinking nor smoking should be permitted during business.

Several preliminary meetings were held at *Tupp's Restaurant*, in Tottenham Court Road, when it was decided to form a Lodge of Instruction under the name of the "Clarence," and the present writer was asked to take the preceptorship, but declined on the ground of his inability to attend regularly. He, however, promised to endeavour to secure a competent Preceptor, also the sanction of a regular Lodge and to attend the meetings as often as possible. Having been for some years out of touch with the "Emulation" workers he had recourse to Bro. Sudlow, who suggested Bro. William Henry Kirby of the Eastes Lodge, No. 1965, for Preceptor, and the Bank of England Lodge, No. 263, of which he, Bro. Sudlow, was a member, as a likely Lodge to give its sanction. Accordingly, in response to an application, a formal Warrant, dated December 12th, 1889, was issued by the W. Master of the Bank of England Lodge to Bro. Henry Sadler, authorizing the holding of "The Clarence Lodge of Instruction" weekly at No. 8, Tottenham Court Road. This Warrant was read at a meeting of the new Lodge of Instruction on December 19th, when a vote of thanks was passed to the Bank of England Lodge, and also to "Bro. Sadler for his kindness and ability in conducting the business of the evening, and for the important services he has rendered in connection with the formation of this Lodge of Instruction." Several members of the Bank of England Lodge subsequently joined the Lodge of Instruction, and were amongst its most regular attendants. Bro. Kirby justified to the fullest extent the selection of Bro. Sudlow by proving himself a most efficient Preceptor. He was



JOSEPH RUSSELL, P.G.S., P.G. STD. BEARER,  
*Secretary of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.*





seldom absent from the weekly meetings which were held all the year round, and when he was unable to be present, his post for the first two or three years was invariably filled by the writer or by Bro. Sudlow, so that the Lodge was then, as indeed it has been ever since, in close touch with the "Emulation," a majority of its members, certainly all its workers, regularly attending that Lodge. Indeed the "Clarence" soon came to be looked upon as a sort of preparatory school for the older Lodge, the business being so arranged that the "Clarence" did the same work on Thursday evenings as was done at the "Emulation" on the following Friday.

In October, 1891, the Lodge was removed to a private room at No. 1A, Fitzroy Square, and in January, 1893, it was particularly fortunate in securing a home on very reasonable conditions at the Midland Grand Hotel.

In September, 1895, the members generally received a severe shock owing to the lamentable death of the Preceptor, in consequence of an explosion of gas at his private residence.

On the 1st of October following, Bro. Charles Lewis was elected Preceptor and Bro. D. D. West Assistant Preceptor.

In order to perpetuate the name of one who had endeared himself to all with whom he had been associated, it was resolved on the 15th October that henceforth the Lodge should be known as "The Kirby Lodge of Instruction."

At a Regular meeting of the Bank of England Lodge on the 14th of November, 1895, permission was given to change the name of the Lodge of Instruction in conformity with the foregoing resolution. A committee was appointed to consider the question of erecting a memorial to the late Preceptor, for which purpose a sum of money was raised by a small subscription amongst the members, which was largely augmented by a very liberal contribution from the Treasurer of the Lodge, Bro. Henry S. Wellcome, P.M. of the Lodge

of Fidelity, No. 3, who also furnished a design for the proposed memorial, with the result that on the 6th of November, 1897, a massive Masonic monument of unmistakable solidity and of noble simplicity, was unveiled in the cemetery at High Wycombe, over the grave of the late Bro. Kirby, by the V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary.

On the 25th of January, 1898, Bro. Charles Lewis retired from the preceptorship, and proposed as his successor Bro. George Rankin, who was accordingly elected.

The "Kirby" may fairly be considered as one of the most successful Lodges of Instruction in London, second only to the "Emulation" itself. It has always been peculiarly fortunate in the selection of its Preceptors and executive officers, brethren who have not only been remarkable for their Masonic knowledge and their ability for imparting that knowledge to others, but also for the energy and tact which they have invariably displayed in the conduct of the business of the Lodge. A complete outfit of furniture and jewels was presented by members of the Lodge, chiefly by the founders, including a handsome set of tracing boards by Sir John Blundell Maple.

Bro. Charles E. Bulling, of the Great Northern Lodge, was the first Treasurer, and in January, 1893, he was succeeded by the present holder of the office—Bro. Henry S. Wellcome, P.M. of the Lodge of Fidelity No. 3. The office of Secretary was at first filled by Bro. William Freemantle, "Jersey" Lodge, No. 2163, who, finding it inconvenient to attend the Lodge regularly, retired from the Secretaryship in December, 1890, when Bro. William Baker, "Pegasus" Lodge, No. 2205, was chosen as his successor. Bro. Baker most ably discharged the onerous duties of the office, single handed, till January, 1898, when Bro. Frank W. Ward, of Lodges Nos. 31 and 2508, was appointed to assist him. In December, 1900, Bro. Baker retired from the Secretaryship and was succeeded by his assistant, Bro. F. W. Ward.

The Lodge has on its roll nearly 1000 members, and the



HENRY SADLER, GRAND TYLER, AND SUB-LIBRARIAN OF THE  
GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.



average attendance of brethren, for some years past, at the weekly meetings has been about 22. In connection with the Lodge there is a Masonic Charities Association whereby the brethren by a weekly subscription of not less than one shilling are enabled to acquire Life Governorships of the various Charitable Institutions of the Order.

Further substantial aid is also given to these Institutions through the Lodge contributions, those members who have attended at least twenty meetings during the current year being permitted to participate in a ballot for Life Subscriberships as the funds will allow.

The Lodge now meets at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, every Tuesday evening at 7.30. The joining fee is two shillings, which sum includes the visiting fee for the evening. The contribution of members is sixpence each attendance. The visiting fee for a brother who does not join the Lodge is one shilling. Managing Committee: Bros. George Rankin, P.M. 2397, 2508, 2818, Preceptor; D. D. West, P.M. 108, 2818; W. R. Bennett, P.M. 1965, 2705, 2397, 2712, 2818; A. M. Barnard, P.M. 1964, 2818; and J. H. Jenks, P.G.S., P.M. 8, 263, 2712, 2818. Treasurer: Bro. H. S. Wellcome, P.M. 3, 2397. Secretaries: Bros. F. W. Ward, 31, P.M. 2508, and H. Billingham, 2508. Curator: Bro. V. Codina Langlin, P.M. 2458.

Eleven successful Annual Festivals have been held of the Kirby Lodge of Instruction, presided over by the following eminent brethren:—In 1890, 1891 and 1893, R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D. Ceremonies; 1894, Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, P.G.W. and P.G. Treasurer (No Festival meeting in 1895 on account of the death of Bro. Kirby); 1896, Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary; 1897, Charles Edward Keyser, P.G. Deacon; 1898, Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair, P.G. Chaplain; 1899, Sir Forrest Fulton, K.C., P. Dep. G. Registrar; 1900, Harry Manfield, P.G. Treasurer; 1901, Sir John B. Monckton, P.G. Warden; 1902, Sir Horace Brooks Marshall, P.G. Treasurer.

From this Lodge of Instruction has sprung the "Kirby"

Lodge, No. 2818, constituted 9th July, 1900. This Lodge bids fair to become as great a success on the roll of regular Lodges as has its progenitor on that of Lodges of Instruction. The ceremonies of consecration and installation were performed by the Grand Secretary, the Founders all being active members of the "Kirby" Lodge of Instruction, headed by Sir Forrest Fulton as first Worshipful Master, W. R. Bennett consented to act as I.P.M., but found little scope for his abilities in that capacity, the Worshipful Master doing his own work and very seldom being absent from his post. George Rankin, Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, was the first Senior Warden ; W. H. Oldham, Junior Warden ; F. T. Rushton, Treasurer ; D. D. West, Secretary ; J. M. Payne, S. Deacon ; H. Wakerell, J.D. ; Arthur Slee, I.G. ; Charles Lewis, D.C. ; John Curran, Organist ; Albert G. Wedmore and H. R. Appleton, Stewards. Bro. Rankin was duly installed in the Master's chair by his predecessor on the 5th of October, 1901.

The Founders of this Lodge wisely followed the good example set them by the Lodge of Progress, the 7th By-law being the following :—"No refreshments are to be supplied to the Members out of the funds of the Lodge." A proper performance of the ceremonies and due support of the Charitable Institutions are considered of more importance than sumptuous banquets. The brethren, however, are not entirely unmindful of creature comforts, nor do they send their guests empty away : they believe in moderate refreshment after labour, a plain repast being provided for all who can, or care to, remain.

The present officers of the Lodge are David D. West, W. Master ; James M. Payne, S.W. ; Henry Wakerell, J.W. ; William R. Bennett, Treasurer ; George J. V. Rankin, Secretary ; Arthur Slee, S.D. ; Albert G. Wedmore, J.D. ; Arthur M. Barnard, P.M. No. 1964, I.G. ; Thomas W. Allsop, P.P.G.D.C. Bucks., D.C. ; Morris B. Evans, P.G.S., and Reginald Hughes, P.P.G. Deacon, Herts, Stewards.

September to May, and the meetings average one a week, a list of which is compiled at the beginning of each year. The working, needless to say, is strictly in accord with "Emulation." The members are recruited from the three Lodges in the town and various Lodges surrounding, with a goodly sprinkling of brethren from the adjoining Province of Hampshire.

A peculiar feature of this Lodge is that there are two series of meetings; those held on Tuesday being in every detail precisely similar to the meetings of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

At the Friday meetings one part of the evening is devoted to general instruction, and the other to the practice of elocution and rehearsals of portions of ceremonies for the benefit of the officers of particular Lodges.

The Annual Festivals are invariably successful and have generally been presided over by a Grand Officer of high rank, the last three Provincial Grand Masters of Surrey, and the late Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire, on two occasions, having so honoured the Lodge.

In the earlier days the late Bro. Richard Eve, P.G. Treasurer, also frequently presided over its Festivals, at which we find the names of Bros. Robert F. Gould, P.G. Deacon, and R. Clay Sudlow, as occasional visitors.

The first Secretary of the Lodge was Bro. Thomas Aitken, P.M. of No. 382, who rendered great assistance to Bro. Black in firmly establishing the Lodge on a sound basis.

Although not so closely connected with the Emulation Lodge of Improvement as are its more recent metropolitan off-shoots, the By-Laws we find are in many respects similar, and where differences exist they have been found necessary in order to meet the requirements incidental to a Provincial Lodge of Instruction. There can be no doubt that Bro. Black, by his Masonic skill and assiduity, has rendered valuable service to the Craft during the fifteen years of his preceptorship.

**LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, NO. 1962.**

The W. Bro. John H. Jenks, P.G. Steward, P.M. No. 8, Preceptor, has kindly furnished the following statistics :—

This Lodge of Instruction was founded by resolution of the London Rifle Brigade Lodge in April, 1900, and is indebted to that Lodge for nearly the whole of its furniture. It was inaugurated on the 4th of October, 1900, by the W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D. Ceremonies, who worked the Installation Ceremony.

**STATISTICS 1900-1901.**

The Lodge was held at the Clarence Hotel, Aldersgate Street, on Thursday evenings at 7.45, from 1st October to 31st May ; 72 members on the Register ; 32 meetings during the session ; average weekly attendance, 11. First Annual Festival 18th April, 1901. President, W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow. The third Lecture was worked ; number present, 60. The Ceremonies consecutively worked on following Thursdays, with occasionally a Section and the Installation Ceremony.

It need hardly be stated that the mode of working is in strict conformity with the system in vogue at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, at which the Preceptor was for many years a regular attendant, as also at the Kirby Lodge of Instruction.

**STATISTICS 1901-1902.**

Place of meeting, Holborn Viaduct Hotel, on Wednesday evenings at 6.30, from 1st October to 30th June ; 119 members on the Register ; 36 meetings during the session ; average weekly attendance, 15. Second Annual Festival, 29th January, 1902. President, Rt. W. Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., P.G.W. Work—Initiation Ceremony, and Charge and Sections 1 and 5 of the First Lecture ; numbers present, 88.

It is believed that this is the first occasion when a ceremony was worked at a Festival of any Lodge of



Instruction working under Emulation auspices, the custom previously being to work a Lecture.

Printed programmes of work were started and the first half of the evening always devoted to working the Ceremony on the programme of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for the following Friday. The second part to the Lectures or the Installation Ceremony.

We learn from the by-laws that, following the example of its sister, the Kirby Lodge of Instruction, the practice of disposing of the surplus funds of the lodge in aid of the Masonic Charities by ballot, open to those members who have attended at least fifteen meetings during the current year, is in vogue here.

#### STATISTICS 1902-1903.

194 members on the Register; 37 meetings during the session; average weekly attendance, 19. Third Annual Festival, 4th February, 1903. President, V. Wor. Bro. The Rev. F. Bethune N. Norman-Lee, Chaplain to the Forces, P.G. Chaplain. The Ceremony of Passing and the 2nd and 5th Sections of the Second Lecture were worked. Numbers present, 128. The place of meeting and arrangement of the work was the same as last year. The Managing Committee and executive officers are: Bros. John H. Jenks, P.Gd. Steward, P.M. 8, *Preceptor*; Robert S. Chandler, W.M. 1962; David D. West, P.M. 108; Algernon L. Collins, J.W. 1460; Joseph H. Crickmay, J.W. 1962; William M. Ward, 1962; William H. Latham, P.M. 1962, *Treasurer*; Leon V. Walker, P.M. 1962, *Secretary*; Charles Folliott, 1962, *Assistant Secretary*. Average attendances do not include Festivals or inaugural meeting.

The Lodge of Instruction was started principally for members of the mother Lodge, but other members are now in a large majority. At the end of last session the numbers were: London Rifle Brigade Lodge, 42; Lodge of Honor and Generosity, 11; British Lodge, 10; other Lodges, 131.

We are of opinion that the foregoing figures are unique, for never before in our experience of Lodges of Instruction has so large a measure of support been given by a mother Lodge to its offspring in so brief a period.

ST. BRIDE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 2817.

The birth of this, the latest off-shoot of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, was celebrated with much *éclat* at the Hotel Cecil on the 4th January, 1902.

The following brethren worked the inaugural ceremony, that of installing Bro. John F. Roberts, the Preceptor elect : Bros. R. Clay Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C. ; Charles Lewis, P.P.G.D. Essex ; Robert E. F. Lander, P.P.G.D. Herts ; William G. Kentish, P.G. Std. B. ; Edward P. Debenham, Preceptor of the Langton Lodge of Instruction ; George Rankin, Preceptor of the Kirby Lodge of Instruction ; and John H. Jenks, P.G.S., Preceptor of the London Rifle Brigade Lodge of Instruction, the other brethren being members of the committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

There was an attendance of close on a hundred Founders and visitors, including the following : Bros. Ald. Sir Frank Green, Bart., P.G.W., W.M. of the St. Bride Lodge, who presided at the banquet ; Ald. H. B. Marshall, Sheriff of London, Grand Treasurer ; Ald. W. Vaughan Morgan, P.G.T. ; John Strachan, K.C., G. Registrar ; Frank Richardson, P.D.G. Registrar ; J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C. ; J. Russell, P.G. Std. B. ; and Henry Sadler, G. Tyler.

The parent Lodge, from which it derives its name and sanction, having been in existence only about 18 months, probably did not deem itself strong enough to support a Lodge of Instruction by its own membership, therefore enlisted the aid of Lancastrian Lodge, No. 2528, and it was from these two Lodges that a majority of the 76 Founders hailed.

As may be readily anticipated, a most successful year of work followed this enthusiastic Inauguration, the average

Honorary Members: Sir Edward Letchworth, G. Secretary; Rev. Canon Brownrigg, P.G. Chaplain; Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, Bart., P.G. Warden; Frank Richardson, P. Dep. G. Registrar; Charles E. Keyser, P.G. Deacon; Richard Clowes, P.G. Std. Bearer; Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler.

#### THE GENERAL LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 587.

We are indebted to Bro. Arthur W. Adams, P.P.S.G.W. Warwickshire, for the following:—

This Lodge of Instruction was founded at Birmingham about 1848 by the members of the St. Paul's Lodge, No. 43, one of the four Lodges then existing in that city. In 1851 the Howe Lodge, No. 587, was consecrated, and shortly after that year we find that this Lodge of Instruction was working under its sanction, as it does still.

The form of ritual taught in the Lodge has been always that of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, London. It was received in the first place from Bros. Honey and Vernon, members of that Lodge, who paid a visit of several weeks' duration to Birmingham in 1848.

The first Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction was Bro. Isaac H. Bedford, P.P.S.G.W., P.M. Nos. 43, 587, 739, from whom the Bedford Lodge, No. 925, consecrated in 1862, takes its name. He was succeeded by an excellent and successful teacher, Bro. John Pursall, P.P.G.S.W., P.M. Nos. 74, 1163, who held the office of Preceptor till his death in the early part of 1890. Bro. Pursall received great assistance during his preceptorship from Bro. Thomas Hawkins, P.P.S.G.W., P.M. No. 468, a most earnest exponent of our ritual. In May, 1890, the vacant post was entrusted to the present Preceptor, Bro. Arthur W. Adams, P.P.S.G.W. Warwickshire, P.M. 1644.

The Lodge of Instruction has had a somewhat chequered career. At times its members have been few in number, and it has had a severe struggle to continue its existence. At other times it has been in a very satisfactory and prosperous

condition. It is, we are happy to state, at the present moment in a more flourishing position than ever before.

When Bro. Adams was first appointed Preceptor it was thought desirable by the then Dep. P.G.M., W. Bro. James T. Collins, P.G.S.B. England, that the teaching of the Lodge should be thoroughly revised. In order to effect this object, in 1891 W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow was invited to attend a meeting of the Lodge and act as Preceptor during the rehearsal of nearly the whole of the ritual. He also paid a similar visit in 1892. It is admitted by old Masons that in the course of 40 years or so many errors had arisen in the ritual as taught here, and many unauthorised additions had been made to it. These, it is needless to say, were objected to by Bro. Sudlow. The brethren who knew the Lodge in its early days willingly acknowledged that the alterations suggested by Bro. Sudlow all tended to bring the ritual back to the form taught 30 or 40 years before.

Since 1892 Bro. Sudlow has paid several visits to Birmingham, in order to remove from our teaching anything inconsistent with Emulation working. We now pride ourselves on the accuracy and perfectness of our work, and we venture to think that our ritual differs in no respect from that of the Lodge from which we derive it.

The Lodge meets every Friday night throughout the year, except on Good Friday and during the months of July and August, at 5.15 and 7.15—that is to say, the work appointed for the day is rehearsed twice each evening. The early meeting was introduced a few years ago owing to the great increase in the number of the members of the Lodge. At the present time our members number 140, nearly all of whom are Worshipful Masters or officers. We draw members from at least 25 Lodges, that is from nearly all the local Lodges. The consequence of this is that the Emulation ritual alone prevails in Birmingham.

The present success of the Lodge is due to two causes. In the first place the local Masonic authorities take very great interest in its fortunes. Among these authorities we would

mention particularly as earnest supporters of the Lodge, W. Bro. George Beech, P.G. Std. Br. England, the present Dep. P.G. Master, and W. Bro. Francis G. Swinden, the energetic P.G. Secretary. In the second place the Preceptor has been aided in the management of the Lodge by a series of excellent and business-like Secretaries, not the least earnest or least enthusiastic of all of them being the present Secretary, Bro. William Henderson, Machen Lodge, No. 1782.

We learn, with satisfaction, from an excellent code of by-laws, the brevity and simplicity of which are highly commendable, that this Lodge of Instruction follows closely the lines of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. A Committee of Management is elected annually, of which all Preceptors of other Lodges who have joined this Lodge are ex-officio members, and that every brother appointed to preside over the Lodge is expected to be fully qualified for the post he is to fill.

We trust that the Lodge may have a long and useful career.

#### THE ST. JAMES' LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, NO. 482.

W. Bro. Frank Hughes, P. Prov. G. Registrar of Staffs. Secretary and Preceptor, has been good enough to furnish the following particulars :—

This Lodge of Instruction was established at the end of 1890, about the time that W. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow came down to Staffordshire to supervise the working of the Ceremonies.

W. Bro. Josiah F. Pepper, P.D.G.D.C., one of the Past Masters selected to work a Ceremony on that occasion, was elected the first Preceptor, which position he still occupies. W. Bro. William Lister was elected to assist him in 1896, and W. Bro. Frank Hughes, who has also been Secretary since 1891, in 1900.

Meetings are held on 2nd and 4th Mondays, from September to May, inclusive, at the Masonic Rooms, Wretham

Road,\* Handsworth, Staffs., the home of the Mother Lodge, but membership is not in any way restricted to No. 482.

The Lectures as well as the Ceremonies are worked and the Annual Festivals of the Lodge have more than a local reputation, in large measure owing to the kindly interest of W. Bro. Sudlow, who has been present on several occasions, and in the interim kept in touch with the doings of the Lodge, of which he is an Honorary Member.

At the Festival in 1900, the late W. Bro. G. W. Speth gave his address on "The Development of the Masonic Ritual."

That the charitable side of Masonry is not lost sight of is evidenced by the considerable sums voted to the great Masonic Institutions and the local funds from time to time.

The "Emulation" system of government has also been adopted, the present officers being: Committee—W. Bros. Josiah F. Pepper, P.D.G.D.C., P.M. 482, P.P.G.W.; William Lister, P.M. 482, P.P.G.R.; Frank Hughes, P.M. 482, Prov. G.R.; Edward Booth, P.M. 482; Lincoln C. Lamsdale, I.P.M. 482. Treasurer—W. Bro. P. H. Whitehead, P.M. 482. Secretaries—W. Bro. Frank Hughes, P.M. 2878; and Bro. William E. Oakley, No. 482.

#### WOKING EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT FOR M.Ms., No. 1395.

This Lodge was founded in April, 1888, chiefly by the exertions of Bro. John J. Black, P.M. and Secretary of No. 1564 (an old "Emulation" worker), who during the whole period of its existence has been its Preceptor.

The Treasurer of the Lodge is Bro. Arthur H. Bowles, P.G. Deacon, and the Secretary is Bro. Douglas C. Robinson, S.D. No. 108. The Lodge is held at the Masonic Hall, Woking, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 o'clock, from

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\* In May, 1903, the Handsworth Masonic Rooms were burnt out, but they are now in course of restoration.

attendance at the weekly meetings being about 18. The membership having increased to 160 it was decided to celebrate the success of the Lodge by a Festival, which eventually took place at the Holborn Restaurant on the 31st of March last, about 200 brethren being present. The ceremony of initiation and charge were rehearsed by Bros. Oliver Notcutt, as W.M.; A. V. Hunt, as S.W.; W. B. Sansom, as J.W.; E. S. Jarvis, as S.D.; Ernest Jukes, as J.D.; and A. Ashbee, as I.G. The First and Seventh Sections of the First Lecture were worked by Bros. F. G. Barnes and Joseph R. Hosker respectively, Bro. John F. Roberts, P.M. 2650, Preceptor, as W.M. Subsequently the Preceptor announced that the average attendance at the weekly meetings during the current year had been 26.

Having had the good fortune to be present on the occasion, we can safely say that we have never received a greater Masonic treat nor passed a more enjoyable evening.

The whole of the work was admirably done and apparently to the entire satisfaction of a numerous and critical audience. We trust it may be the forerunner of many similar gatherings. Bro. R. Clay Sudlow presided at the banquet, the proceedings at which were enlivened by an excellent programme of music.

The practice of balloting for the surplus funds of the Lodge in aid of the Masonic Charities prevails here as it does in the several other Lodges of Instruction emanating from the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

The Lodge holds its meetings at St. Bride Foundation Institute, Bride Lane, on Wednesday evenings, at 5.30, from 1st October to 30th June. The members of the committee of management are:—W. Bros. John F. Roberts, P.M. 2650 and 2693, Preceptor; Frank C. Buxton, W.M. 2528; Alfred W. Letts, W.M. 2817; Charles J. Drummond, P.M. 2817; Joseph R. Hosker, P.M. 2528; Robert E. F. Lander, P.M. 2545, P.P.G.D. Herts. Treasurer—Bro. John W. Soppitt, Secretary 2528. Secretary—Bro. Oliver Notcutt, J.W. 2936, J.D. 2920, 2817. Honorary Members—W. Bros. R. Clay

Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C. ; Joseph Russell, P.G. Standard Bearer ; Charles Lewis, P.P.G.D. Essex ; Robert E. F. Lander, P.P.G.D. Herts ; Edward P. Debenham, Preceptor, Langton Lodge of Instruction ; George J. V. Rankin, Preceptor, Kirby Lodge of Instruction ; and John H. Jenks, Preceptor, London Rifle Brigade Lodge of Instruction.

TREASURERS AND SECRETARIES OF THE EMULATION LODGE  
OF IMPROVEMENT.

Owing to the absence of the early records of the Lodge we are unable to vouch for the complete accuracy of the following list, particularly as regards the earlier dates and names, which must be taken approximately or as near as we can get to the actual dates of appointment :—

TREASURERS.

- 1830-35 John Dowley, P.M. Burlington Lodge, No. 96.  
 1836-40 Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G. Deacon.  
 1841-46 Treasurer not mentioned in Masonic journals,  
 but we have reason for thinking that S. B.  
 Wilson continued in office.  
 1847-80 John M. Hervey, P.G.D. Grand Secretary.  
 1880-1900 Thomas Fenn, P.G. Warden, &c.  
 1900- Sir Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., P.G.D., Grand  
 Secretary.

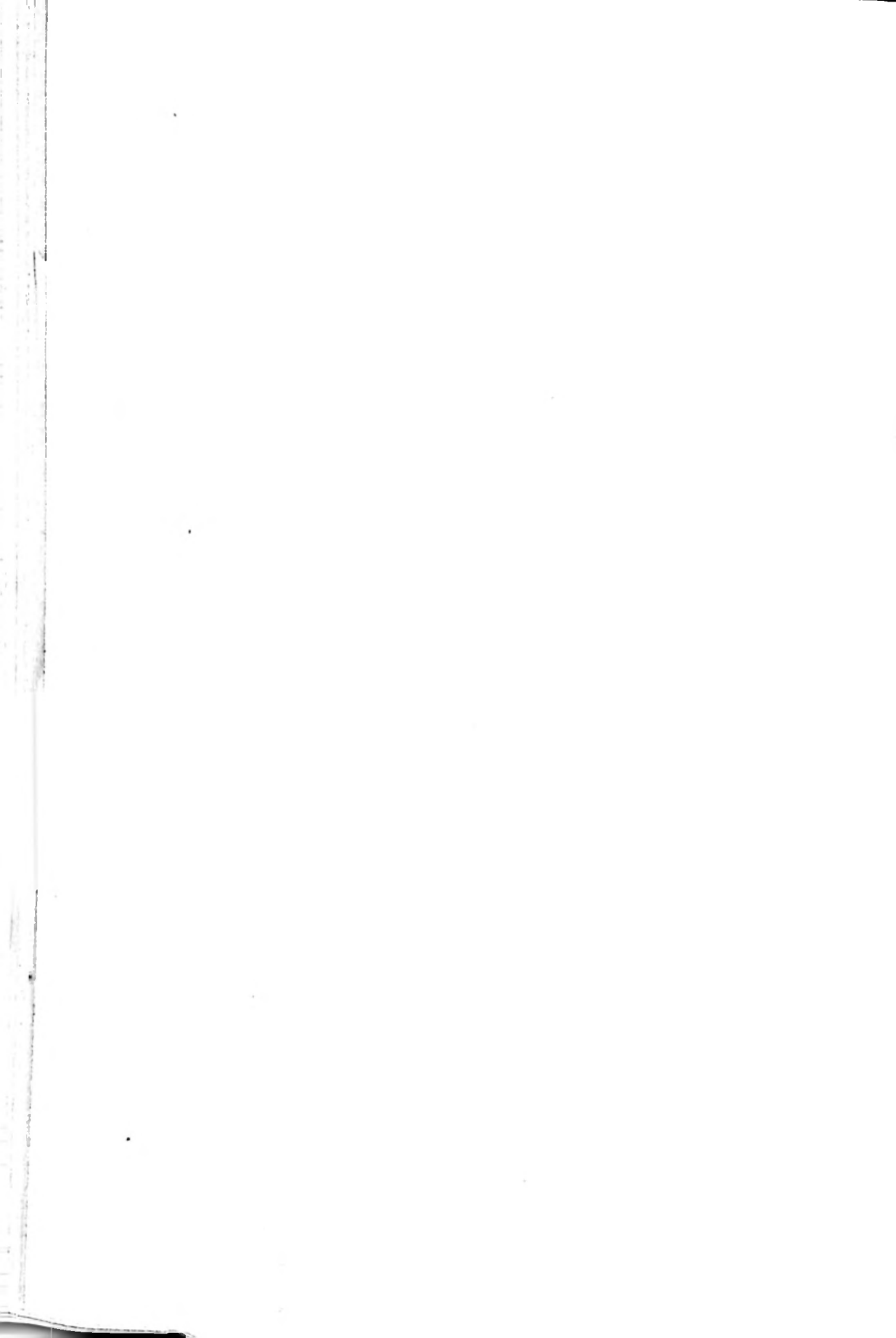
SECRETARIES.

- 1830 Edward Coultart, Lodge of Unions, No. 256.  
 1833-35 Thomas France, Lodge of Unity, No. 183.  
 1835-36 Stephen Barton Wilson, P.G. Deacon.  
 1836-39 John Savage, P.G. Deacon.  
 1840-44 Richard Daly, P.M. British Lodge, No. 8.  
 1844-49 J. W. Mountain, P.M. Lodge of Unions, No. 256.





MARTIN PALMER, P.M. OF THE ROYAL ATHELSTAN LODGE, No. 19.  
*Secretary of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, 1853-56.*



- 1849-53 W. H. Absolon, P.M. Mount Moriah Lodge,  
No. 34.  
1853-56 Martin Palmer, P.M. R. Athelstan Lodge, No. 19.  
1856-61 Luis Artús, P.M. Mount Moriah Lodge, No. 34.  
1861-63 Thomas Fenn, P.G. Warden, &c.  
1863-72 Charles A. Murton, P.G. Deacon.  
1872-75 Alfred Green, P.M. R.Y. Lodge of Perseverance,  
No. 7.  
1875-83 William Smallpiece, P.M. Weyside Lodge,  
No. 1395.  
1883-86 Francis R. Spaul, P.M. Lodge of Progress,  
No. 1768.  
1886-87 John W. Jones, P.M. St. George and Corner  
Stone Lodge, No. 5.  
1888-95 William G. Kentish, P.G. Stand. Bearer.  
1895 Joseph Russell, P.G. Stand. Bearer.

#### DONATIONS TO THE MASONIC CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

It is usual in most Lodges of Instruction, upon the election of members, for the presiding officer to state that the whole of the funds are devoted to the Masonic Charities after the necessary expences of the Lodge are defrayed. Although this formula is not observed at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, the surplus funds have been disposed of in the manner indicated for many years past. In comparison with the expenditure of ordinary Lodges of Instruction, the "necessary expences" of this Lodge are somewhat heavy, as apart from incidental expences, the rent for the Lodge room and the Tyler's fee alone amount to fifteen shillings each meeting. We fancy that very few, if any, of the metropolitan Lodges of Instruction would have any trouble as to the disposal of their surplus funds if their weekly expences amounted to half the above named sum.

In order that our readers may gain an idea of the good they may do by a regular attendance at "Emulation," we append a statement of the total amount contributed (errors excepted) to our Charitable Institutions by that Lodge since

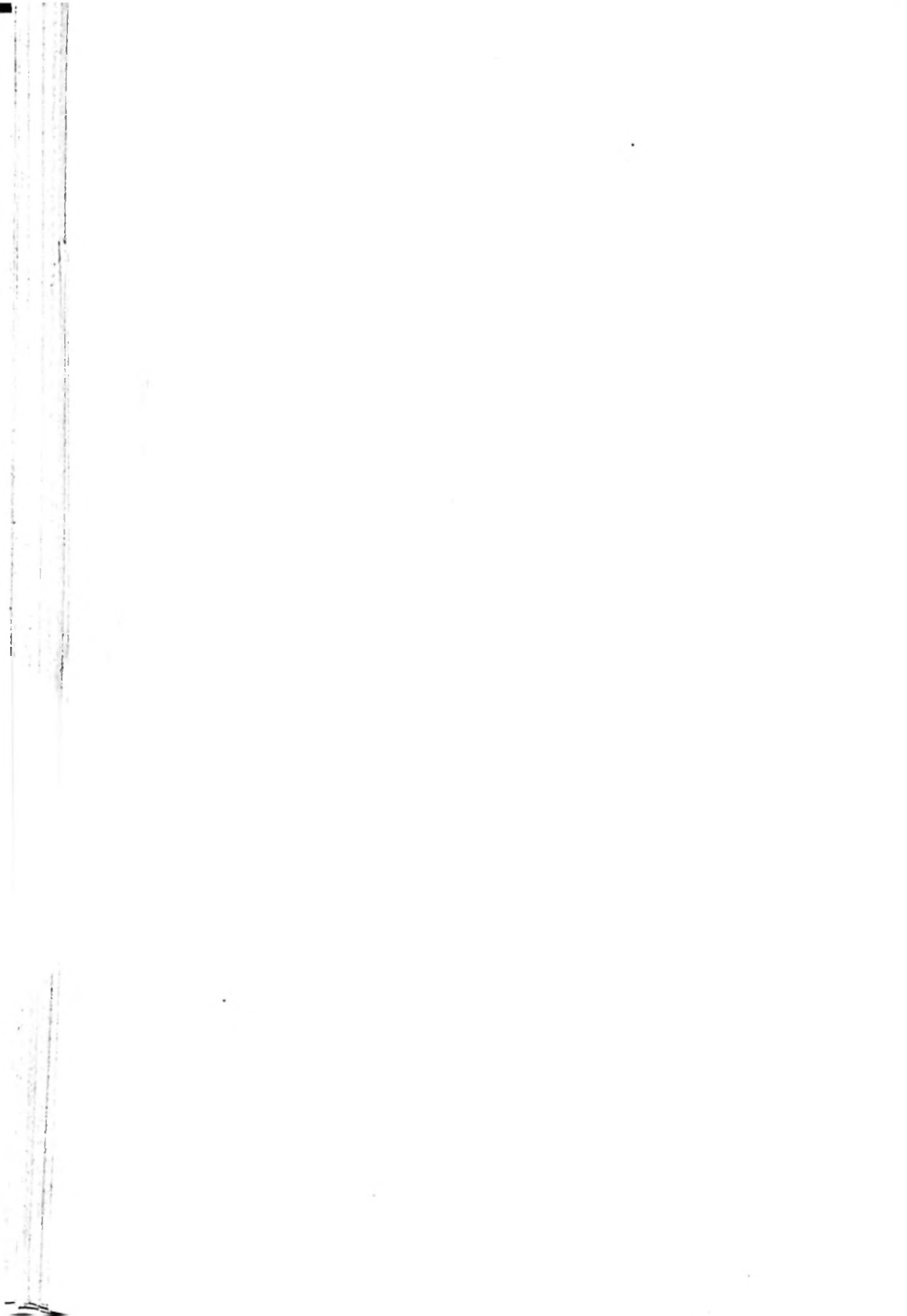
its foundation, although it is but fair to state that nearly all the donations have been made during the last 45 years.

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls ...	£588	0	0
"    "    "    "    Boys ...	588	0	0
"    "    Benevolent Institution...	797	10	0
To unsuccessful Candidates at Elections of R.M.B.I. ... ..	180	0	0
To the John Hervey Memorial for the benefit of unsuccessful Candi- dates, Male and Female ... ..	21	0	0
	<u>£2,174</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>





JOHN W. FREEMAN, P.M. No. 147.  
*Tyler of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.*



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