

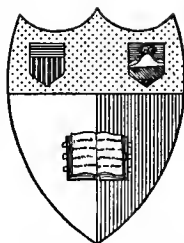
FRENCH PRISONERS' LODGES.

JOHN T. THORP.

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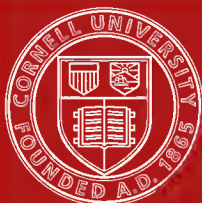
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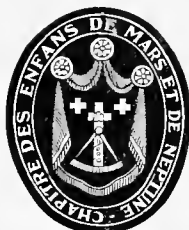
PLATE I.



ABERGAVENNY.



ABERGAVENNY.



ABERGAVENNY.



ASHBURTON.



ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.



LEEK.



VITTORIA.



WINCANTON.

SEALS and STAMPS
USED IN THE
FRENCH PRISONERS' LODGES.

FRENCH PRISONERS' LODGES.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF

Twenty-six Lodges and Chapters

OF

FREEMASONS,

ESTABLISHED AND CONDUCTED

BY

FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR

IN

ENGLAND AND ELSEWHERE,

BETWEEN 1756 AND 1814.

ILLUSTRATED BY EIGHTEEN PLATES, CONSISTING OF
FAC-SIMILES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, SEALS, &c.

By JOHN T. THORP,

P.M. 523 and 2429; P.P.S.G.W. of Leicestershire and Rutland;
Hon. Mem. of Lodges No. 50, 1391 and 2433.

*Author of "Fifty Years' Records of the 'John of Gaunt' Lodge, No. 523";
"Annals of the Chapter of 'Fortitude,' No. 279"; "Memorials of Lodge
No. 91 Antients"; "The Early History of the 'Knights of Malta'
Lodge, No. 50," &c., &c.*

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D.Y.

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To

His Dear Friend and Brother

William James Hughan,

P.E.C.D. of the Grand Lodge of England,

In Grateful Recognition

of Valuable Assistance and Direction

in Masonic Study and Research,

freely rendered upon many occasions,

These Pages

are

Most Fraternally Dedicated

by

The Author.

Leicester,

1900.

Preface.

THE existence of Freemasons' Lodges amongst French Prisoners of War has long been known to the reading Members of the Fraternity. Ranging over a period of about sixty years, they were established from time to time in many parts of Great Britain, for wherever a large number of prisoners were collected together, there would probably be sufficient Freemasons amongst them to open and work a Lodge.

A considerable number of these Prisoners' Lodges were established by the French soldiers and sailors captured during the Napoleonic wars, and confined in Great Britain, in British Colonies or in towns temporarily occupied by the British forces.

At that time Freemasonry was exceedingly popular in the French army, many Regiments having Lodges attached to them, it was therefore only natural, that during their enforced idleness, the Freemasons amongst the prisoners should seek to relieve the monotony of their existence, by devoting some portion of their time to the working of the Masonic ceremonies in Lodges established by themselves.

Many Masonic writers have recorded the existence of these French Prisoners' Lodges, and have given

some few particulars of one and another of them, but no attempt has hitherto been made to gather up all the scattered details, and place them together on permanent record.

A diligent search conducted by me for some years past, has resulted in the discovery of many of these Lodges hitherto unknown, and although the information obtained, and recorded in the following pages is of an extremely fragmentary character, it may prove of interest to some, and serve as a basis for further investigation and enquiry.

There were doubtless many more Lodges and Chapters established than the twenty-six here recorded, it may therefore be confidently expected that in course of time the list will be considerably increased.

With one exception, the Certificates represented in the various Plates are entirely drawn by hand with ink and sepia, and the excellence of their design and execution, especially those issued by the Lodges at Abergavenny, Leek and Valleyfield, bears witness to the skill as well as to the patience of some of the French Masons.

Amongst the Members of the Masonic Brotherhood to whom thanks for valuable assistance are especially due, and hereby gratefully tendered, are Brothers William James Hughan of Torquay, Henry Sadler of London, Frederick Gardner of Abergavenny, James C. Hogg of Kelso, William Hart of Melrose, Frederick J. W. Crowe of Torquay, B. Weddell of Selkirk, John Sharland of Tiverton and Reginald R. Hutchings of Wincanton.

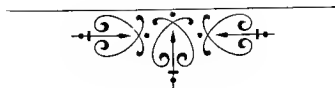
Many interesting details have also been taken from Brother R. F. Gould's invaluable "History of Freemasonry," from the pages of "The Freemason"

and other works, all of which are also gratefully acknowledged.

The readiness with which the owners of the various documents have lent them for reproduction should also be placed on record.

Conscious of the many faults and imperfections of this little work, I appeal to the Fraternity for their kind consideration and indulgence.

J. T. T.



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Introduction.

FROM the year 1740 to 1815 Great Britain and France were almost constantly at war with one another. The conflict raged in Europe, Asia, Africa and America, the victory in most cases remaining with the British. In consequence of these successes a vast number of prisoners fell into the hands of the British commanders, who shipped them over in detachments to England, where they were treated more or less harshly as prisoners of war.

Large numbers of these unfortunate men were imprisoned in England in 1746, 1756, 1759 and 1779. In 1759 no less than 11,000 were located at Knowle, near Bristol, where they suffered much from want of food and clothing.* But by far the greater number were brought over during the Revolutionary wars of 1797 to 1814, for it is computed that between 1803 and the signing of the Treaty of Paris in May, 1814, upwards of 122,000 French soldiers and sailors were sent over to England, many of whom had been taken prisoners during the Peninsular War. Of this vast number, about 17,000 were either exchanged for Englishmen of corresponding rank who were prisoners in France,† or were invalided home, over 10,000 died in

* *Vide* "Notes and Queries," 8th S., XI., p. 453.

† Mons. Ott was the resident French Agent in London for the exchange of prisoners in the year 1800. (*Vide* Alison's "History of Europe," 1854 Edit., Vol. V., p. 52.)

prison, several hundreds of the commissioned officers broke their parole and escaped from the country, but the vast majority remained in captivity until Napoleon's exile to Elba gave temporary peace to Europe.* It is stated, that between April 11th, 1814, and August 27th of the same year, no less than 67,000 of the French prisoners were sent back to their native land by the English authorities.†

The common soldiers and sailors were mostly confined in huge barracks or prisons, situated in different parts of the country, in some cases, as at Dartmoor and Perth, especially erected for the purpose. Thus 4,000 were imprisoned at Forton near Portsmouth, 5,000 at Portchester, 7,000 at Perth, 6,000 in Dartmoor prison,‡ 6,000 in the Norman Cross Barracks near Peterborough§ 9,000 on board prison hulks in Portsmouth harbour, and several thousands at Weedon Barracks in Northamptonshire, whilst the remainder were distributed over the country, almost every town, possessing accommodation for the purpose, having its complement.||

The Officers, and those civilians who were entitled to rank as gentlemen, were allowed to reside "on parole" within assigned limits and on certain conditions. They were located mostly in the smaller provincial towns, and being in many cases men of rank and education, "were

* Partly taken from an article on "Prisoners of War," in Chambers' Journal, 1854, Vol. I., p. 330.

† From Toone's "Chronological Record," quoted in "Notes and Queries," August, 1897.

‡ According to Alison ("History of Europe," 1854 Edition, Vol. IX., p. 61), 20,000 were at Dartmoor in the year 1812.

§ The French Bishop of Moulins voluntarily took up his abode near this prison, in order to minister to the spiritual needs of the prisoners. (*Vide* "Notes and Queries," 8th S., IX., p. 289, and X., p. 197.)

|| Partly taken from an article on "Prisoners of War," in Chambers' Journal, 1854, Vol. I., p. 330. Also *vide* Howell's "History of the Phoenix Lodge," p. 66.

esteemed for their polite and agreeable manners, and were received in all public assemblies with high consideration and a courteous welcome."* As already stated, several hundreds broke their parole and escaped.

The general conditions of their detention were probably made as little irksome as possible, and a great deal of consideration was shewn them in many ways, but in spite of this, the simple fact of their being under restraint must have been exceedingly galling to so proud a race. That many remained in England after peace was declared is well known, and proves that in some cases at least their captivity had been neither severe nor unpleasant.

The following are some of the towns in which the French prisoners were located:—Abergavenny, Ashburton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Bandon, Basingstoke, Bedale, Bideford, Boroughbridge, Bristol, Carlisle, Carnarvon, Chatham, Chepstow, Chesterfield, Derby, Dover, Edinburgh, Falmouth, Fareham, Hawick, Kelso, Knaresborough, Launceston, Leeds, Leek, Leicester, Melrose, Montrose, Northampton, Okehampton, Peebles, Pembroke, Penrith, Penryn, Perth, Peterborough, Petersfield, Plymouth, Pontefract, Portchester, Portsmouth, Redruth, Richmond, Sanquhar, Selkirk, Sissinghurst, Tavistock, Tiverton, Tynemouth, Wakefield, Wantage, Wincanton, Winchester, Wisbech and York. There is no doubt that many other towns besides the foregoing had their complement, either temporarily or permanently.

According to Sir Archibald Alison, the historian, the French authorities never remitted one farthing for the maintenance of this host of prisoners, but left

* *Vide* Thompson's "History of Leicester," 1876 Edit., p. 169.

them either "to starve or be a burden on the British Government, which, on the contrary, regularly remitted the whole cost of the support of the English captives in France, to the imperial authorities."*

At this time—1797 to 1814—Freemasonry was as popular in the French,† as it was in the British army, it is not surprising to find, therefore, that amongst the thousands of French officers who were brought to England from time to time as Prisoners of War, there were a great number of Freemasons. The members of the English Craft seem to have done their utmost to alleviate the distress of these French Brethren, as many old Lodge minute-books record sums of money subscribed for their relief, and upon one occasion the Grand Lodge of England voted a substantial amount, for the benefit of a French Naval Commander, a prisoner of war "on parole" at Launceston.‡

One officer of high rank, passed most of his captivity as an honored guest of the Duke of Devonshire, at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, and on subsequently visiting the Duke after the conclusion of the war, is said to have declared, that the happiest period of his life was when he was a prisoner "on parole" in England.§

Bro. Burnes, a Magistrate and Master of a Lodge at Montrose, took the responsibility of removing some

* *Vide* Alison's "History of Europe," 1854 Edit., Vol. IX., p. 61.

† The first Lodge in the French Army was "La Parfaite Union," constituted in 1759, and by the year 1787, seventy-six Lodges under the Grand Orient of France had already been warranted in various Regiments. (*Vide* Gould's "History of Freemasonry," Chap. XXX., p. 408.)

‡ Book of Constitutions, 1767, p. 273.

§ *Vide* "Prisoners of War," in Chambers' Journal, 1854, Vol. I., p. 330.

French prisoners from the local jail to his own house, because they were Masons ; this Brother was the father of Sir Alexander Burnes, the famous Asiatic traveller, and of Dr. James Burnes, Provincial Grand Master of Bombay (Scotch Constitution) in 1836.*

In September, 1842, Bro. T. H. Hall, Grand Registrar of the Grand Lodge of England, was present at a Meeting of the Grand Orient of France in Paris, on which occasion, a Mason named Bessin expressed to him the recollection of benefits received from English members of the Craft, when a prisoner of war in England.†

That the Freemasons amongst the prisoners were received as visitors at Masonic meetings in England, Scotland and Ireland, the minutes of Lodges at Leicester, Winchester, Bandon, Selkirk, Hawick, Melrose, Redruth and other towns amply testify, and in many cases there is no doubt they became Joining Members of these local Lodges.

In those towns, however, where no Lodge existed, or where there were sufficient Freemasons amongst the prisoners to open and work a Lodge by themselves, they seem frequently to have established one of their own, conducting the business and ceremonial in their own language and according to the French system, and into which from time to time they admitted their fellow-prisoners by initiation. Most, probably the great majority, of these Lodges were held without any warrant or authority whatever, and although they are believed to have generally confined themselves to the admission of their own countrymen, there is no doubt,

* *Vide* "Freemasons' Magazine," 1862, Vol. II., p. 329.

† *Vide* "Freemasons' Quarterly Review," 1843, p. 324.

that in some cases they initiated, or accepted as Joining Members, natives of the towns in which they had established their Lodges.

The perusal of the minute-books,—for they doubtless kept such—and other records of these Prisoners' Lodges, would prove exceedingly interesting, could they be obtained, for Bro. R. F. Gould, in his "History of Freemasonry" (Chap. XXX., p. 407), refers to the existence, in the archives of the Grand Orient of France, of a number of documents formerly belonging to these Lodges, which contain very valuable information. After repeated applications made in recent years to inspect these records, the French Masonic authorities at length declared, that they had no knowledge whatever of any such documents, but promised to communicate any information on the subject, which a classification of the archives, then in progress, might bring to light. This promise still remains unfulfilled, so that it must be taken for granted that nothing has been discovered.

But although the authorities of the Grand Orient of France withhold any information they may possess, it will nevertheless be useful to place on record all the details that have been collected, together with photographs and descriptions of some of their relics, before they are lost or destroyed. It is with this object in view, that the following pages have been prepared, and in the hope that they will prove interesting and acceptable to English Freemasons.



Basingstoke. Petersfield.

1756.

1758.

Leeds.

1759-1763.

PROBABLY the earliest reference to Freemasons among the French prisoners in Great Britain, is contained in the records of the "Antient Boyne" Lodge, No. 84 Bandon, into which Lodge nine French officers, located there as prisoners of war, were admitted as Joining Members in 1746 and 1747.*

But the earliest account of the formation of Lodges among the prisoners themselves, is contained in a Report made to the Grand Lodge of England, early in the year 1761, by the Master of a Lodge which had just been constituted at Leeds. The account is as follows:—†

"Some time since being informed of some French "brethren (that are here in this town amongst the "prisoners of war) having formed a Lodge, some of us "went to visit them in order to examine their manner "of working; and upon our inquiring of them what "authority they had to work, or at least to make

* *Vide* Bro. W. J. Chetwode Crawley's "Notes on Irish Freemasonry," in *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*," Vol. IX., p. 7.

† *Vide* "Freemason," 1886, p. 556. (An Article by Bro. W. J. Hugan.)

“Masons, we observed they were not Constituted, as it
 “appears by the following account, which they related
 “to us, viz. :—That some time before the War was
 “declared there were some of our Brethren command-
 “ing French ships that were taken and carried to
 “Halifax, in Nova Scotia; being arrived there, they
 “made themselves known to some of our Brethren that
 “reside there, who introduced them to their Lodge, of
 “which Bro. Charles Lawrens, Governor of that Place,
 “was then Master. Sometime after, they were brought
 “here in England, and Quartered at Basingstoke, where,
 “finding themselves a competent Number, they formed
 “a Lodge; making you at the same time their due
 “submissions, which was about the latter end of the
 “year 1756, and to which you answered, they said, that
 “if they chosed to have their Lodge constituted, it
 “would cost them such a sum; but their not being
 “fixed in England in any place, and even not knowing
 “how long their stay wou’d be in England, did not
 “permit them to be at the expence of having their
 “Lodge properly constituted; however, they continued
 “working and to make Masons.—About Eighteen
 “months after, Part of them were removed from Bas-
 “ingstoke and ordered to Petersfield: These finding
 “themselves a sufficient Number, formed a Lodge there,
 “and presented you, they said, their due submissions
 “for the same, which was about the beginning of the
 “year 1758; but they never had an answer to them.—
 “Notwithstanding that, thinking, they said, that by
 “your silence you approved their work, they continued
 “working and making Masons untill the middle of the
 “year 1759, that they were again changed of Quarters,
 “as were also those remaining at Basingstoke, and
 “ordered to different Places, viz., some were sent to

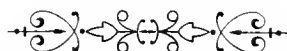
“Darby, others to Pontefract, others here in this town
 “(Leeds), and others were exchanged and sent to
 “France, those that are in this Place, being part of
 “those that remained at Basingstoke and part of those
 “that were made at Petersfield, formed a Lodge about
 “the latter end of the year 1759, and have worked and
 “made Masons untill the present time: This is what
 “they have told us upon our asking them if they were
 “Constituted, and which we have thought proper and
 “our duty to acquaint you with, that you may not be
 “ignorant of what passes in this Place; the more so,
 “because we find that they don’t work with good
 “harmony amongst themselves, for we hear that it is
 “four months since that the Master of that french
 “Lodge and his two Wardens fell out, upon which they
 “parted.—The two Wardens with their Secretary formed
 “a Lodge by themselves, which they held at the Turks
 “head; and the Master with the rest of the Members
 “formed another at the Talbot. Our Bro: Bastide and
 “other Brethren being acquainted with their Quarrel,
 “used their utmost endeavours to reconcile them; but
 “to no purpose; for neither of them wou’d come to any
 “reassociation, but exclude one another from each of
 “their Lodges; so that nothing but animosity has
 “reigned amongst them since; making Masons in spite
 “of one another in such a Manner, that Masonry suffers
 “much by their proceedings. And we have proofs as
 “those at the Turks Head have made people Masons
 “whom we wou’d not have for many good reasons.”

The differences between the French Brethren at Leeds
 were subsequently settled, and a complete reconciliation
 effected. Previous to their quitting the country at the
 peace in 1763, (the Seven Years’ War was terminated

by the Treaty of Paris, signed February 10th, 1763) they returned their thanks to the Brethren of the "Talbot" Lodge in a very elegant writing out name of all the French Brother Visitors, this was answered in no less elegant manner by Bro. Thos. Wolrich, out name of all the Brethren of this Lodge. The French visitors are

Brother Frederick Pain,
 „ Odon la Porte,
 „ François du Prée,
 „ François Fournett,
 „ Etienne la Porte,
 „ Dominique Mazet.

These Lodges at Basingstoke, Petersfield and Leeds, seem to have been established and worked without any proper authority, and are believed to be the earliest of the French Prisoners' Lodges in England, of which any record remains. It is probable that they did not confine themselves to admitting their own countrymen, but initiated Englishmen also, which led to the complaint of the Leeds Brethren in the foregoing Report.



Y o r k .

1762.

IN the year 1762 a Warrant was granted by the Grand Lodge of All England, to a number of French prisoners of war at York.

The following account of this Lodge appears in the Records :—*

“No. 1. Anno Secundo. Brother Drake, G.M.

“*On* the 10th. day of June 1762 a constitution or warrant was granted unto the following Brethren, French Prisoners of War on their Parol (viz.) Du Fresne, Le Pettier, Julian Vilfort, Pierre Le Villaine, Louis Bruslé, and Francis Le Grand, *Thereby* enabling them and others to open and continue to hold a Lodge at the sign of the Punch Bowl in Stonegate in the City of York and to make New Brethren as from time to time occasion might require, *Prohibiting* nevertheless them and their successors from making anyone a Brother who shall be a subject of Great Britain or Ireland, *which said Lodge* was accordingly opened and held on the said 10th. day of June and to be continued regularly on the second Thursday in every month or oftener if occasion shall require.”

* *Vide* Gould's "History of Freemasonry," Chap. XVIII., p. 418.

It is quite possible that the "prohibition" contained in the foregoing extract, was due to the admission of Englishmen into the Leeds Lodge already referred to, and which the York Grand Lodge was anxious to prevent.

This French Prisoners' Lodge at York could only have had a very short life, as eight months after the date of the Warrant, peace was proclaimed, and the Brethren were free to return to their native land, a privilege of which they no doubt availed themselves.

The foregoing fragments of records contain all the information that is available at the present time, relative to the French Prisoners' Lodges which existed in England during the eighteenth century. It is almost certain that other similar Lodges were established in different parts of the country, particulars of which, as well as further details of those already mentioned, it is to be hoped may yet be discovered.



Berlin.

“De la Fidélité.”

(Fidelity.)

1758.

IN the year 1758 the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes (zu den drei Weltkugeln) in Berlin, granted a Warrant for a French Lodge to meet in that city—without the right of initiating—to Gabriel de Lernaïs, a French prisoner residing there on parole.*

This Lodge, which was distinguished by the name of “Fidelity,” most probably consisted exclusively of French prisoners. It is not known how long it continued to hold its Meetings, but it no doubt died out at the termination of the Seven Years’ War in 1763, if not earlier.

This Lodge, and the one at Magdeburg, particulars of which follow, are the only ones in Germany, of which any trace has been discovered, but in all probability many more were established by the French prisoners in that country, the existence of which unfortunately cannot be ascertained at the present time, although information may possibly still be obtained by renewed search and enquiry.



* *Vide* Gould's “History of Freemasonry,” Chap. XXVII., p. 243.

Magdeburg.

“Parfaite Union.”

(Perfect Unity.)

1761.

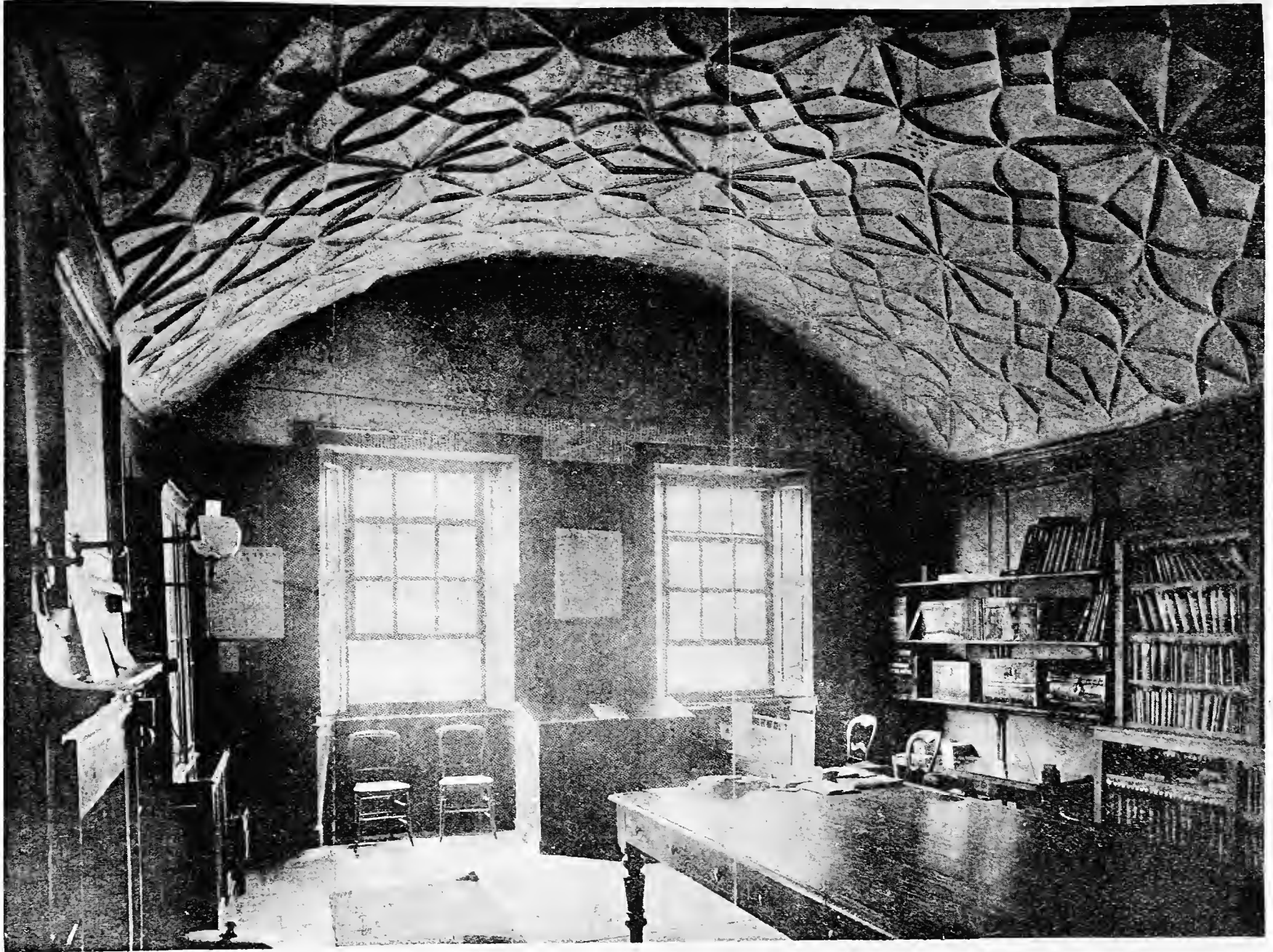
A NUMBER of French prisoners of war were confined in this Prussian fortress from the year 1757 onwards, and many of them became members of the local Lodge “de la Félicité,” established there in the year 1761.*

In the same year the prisoners formed a Lodge there among themselves, which they named “Parfaite Union,” but no information beyond the bare fact of its existence can now be obtained.†



* *Vide* “Abbildungen Freimaurerischer Denkmünzen und Medaillen,” Vol. I., p. 141.

† *Vide* Gould’s “History of Freemasonry,” Chap. XXX, p. 406.



ABERGAVENNY.—Interior of Lodge-Room.

(*Vide* page 27.)

Abergavenny. (Mon.)*

“Enfants de Mars et de Neptune.”

(Children of Mars and Neptune.)

1813-1814.

IN the second decade of the present century, a number of French prisoners of war, at one time upwards of two hundred, were located at Abergavenny in Monmouthshire; they consisted of soldiers and sailors, a few of them being officers.

The “rank and file” are believed to have been lodged in a room in the old Castle, and in several large barns, whilst the officers, who were “on parole,” occupied private rooms in different parts of the town.

Amongst these prisoners were sufficient Freemasons to establish and work a Lodge, under the appropriate name of “Enfants de Mars et de Neptune.” Tradition points to a large room in Monk Street, about one hundred yards from the old Priory Church of St. Mary, as the place where the Lodge was held; the room has a very handsome arched ceiling, and also served as a mess-room for the French officers.† It is now used as a solicitor’s office.

It is quite impossible to fix the year when this Lodge was established, but its existence in 1813 and

* Some of the details of this Lodge have been kindly supplied by Bro. F. Gardner, the worthy Secretary of the “Philanthropic” Lodge, No. 818 Abergavenny.

† *Vide* Plate II.

1814 is proved by the date of four Certificates, issued by the Lodge to its members, which together with other Masonic relics belonging to the same Brethren, have come down to the present time.

These Certificates are splendid specimens of penmanship, the designs, which in three cases are very elaborate, being most beautifully drawn by hand. They are as follows:—

1. Craft Certificate to Benj. Plummer, dated July 20, 1813.
2. Rose Croix Certificate to G. Laudy, dated Nov. 23, 1813.
3. Craft Certificate to Thos. Richards, dated Dec. 22, 1813.
4. Rose Croix Certificate to Thos. Richards, dated April 20, 1814.

They are all in an excellent state of preservation, the Seals in three cases being intact, and are most interesting as well as curious documents. All bear, amongst other signatures, that of De Grasse Tilly, a very noted Mason, who brought from America, and established in France in the year 1804, the Ancient and Accepted Rite of the 33rd Degree. A short account of this famous man may prove interesting.

Alexandre François Auguste de Grasse Tilly was born at Versailles in the year 1766. His father was the celebrated Admiral de Grasse,* who was defeated and taken prisoner by the English Admiral Rodney, in a naval engagement off the Island of Dominica in the West Indies, on April 12th, 1782.

* *Vide* Gould's "History of Freemasonry," Chap. XXIV., pp. 124-5.

He was initiated early in life in the Scots Mother-Lodge of the Social Contract (*du Contrat Social*), Paris,* and resided for some years in North America and the West Indies, being at one time a landed proprietor in the Island of St. Domingo.†

While resident in America he received the high degrees of Freemasonry,‡ and as early as 1791 was Grand Inspector of the rite of Perfection in St. Domingo.§

On February 21st, 1802, the Supreme Council at Charleston granted him "a patent certifying that he "possessed the degrees up to Sovereign Grand Inspector General; that he was a member of the Supreme "Council of the 33rd degree, and Grand Commander "for life of the Supreme Council in the French West "India Islands, giving him power to constitute, establish, direct, and inspect all Lodges, Chapters, Councils, "Colleges, and Consistories of the Royal and Military "Order of Ancient and Modern Freemasonry over the "surface of two hemispheres."||

He proceeded to St. Domingo and organised there a Supreme Council of the 33rd degree for St. Domingo and the French West India Islands. This Supreme Council had only a brief existence, for in the latter part of 1802, the negroes revolted for the second time against the French dominion, and by the close of 1803 they were masters of the island. De Grasse Tilly and other prominent members of the Supreme Council fled to France, and on September 22nd, 1804, established in

* *Vide* Gould's "History of Freemasonry," Chap. XXIV., p. 125.

† *Ibid.*, p. 124.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 124.

§ *Vide* Rebold's "Histoire des Trois Grandes Loges," p. 96.

|| *Vide* Carson's "History of the A. and A. Scottish Rite," in the American Appendix to Gould's "History of Freemasonry," p. 641.

Paris a Supreme Council for France, of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33rd and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite,* De Grasse Tilly occupying the position of Sovereign Grand Commander.

The Grand Orient of France, alarmed at the establishment and success of this rival Masonic authority, hurriedly concluded a treaty of peace with De Grasse Tilly, by which the Supreme Council claimed to control all the degrees from the 19th to the 33rd inclusive.† De Grasse Tilly at the same time was elected one of the "Représentants Particuliers" of the Grand Master, in virtue of which his name appeared for some years in the list of the officers of the Grand Orient,‡ although he resigned his office as Sovereign Grand Commander in favour of Prince Cambacérès in the year 1806.§

During the Napoleonic wars, De Grasse Tilly held the rank at one time of "Chef d'état-major" in the French Army operating in Italy,|| and was subsequently employed as Captain of horse with the French troops in Spain, founding at Madrid on July 4th, 1811, a Supreme Council for Spain of the 33rd degree.¶

Probably soon after this,** the exact date is not known, he was taken prisoner by the British troops, and sent to England as prisoner of war. The four

* *Vide* Carson's "History of the A. and A. Scottish Rite," in the American Appendix of Gould's "History of Freemasonry," p. 641.

† *Ibid.*, p. 643.

‡ *Vide* Gould's "History of Freemasonry," Chap. XXV., p. 167.

§ *Ibid.*, Chap. XXIV., p. 130.

|| *Vide* Rebold's "Histoire des Trois Grandes Loges," p. 473.

¶ *Vide* "Acta Latomorum," Vol. I., p. 250.

** Bro. G. W. Speth says, "*circa* 1809-10" ("Freemason," 1886, p. 511).—Rebold says he was "held as prisoner for a long time" ("Histoire," p. 472), and Bro. Carson states "prisoner of war for many years" ("History of the A. and A. Scottish Rite," p. 649).

Abergavenny Certificates are evidence that he was interned in that town from July 20th, 1813, until April 20th, 1814. The three earliest in date are signed "De Grasse Tilly, 33^{me}," and the latest "Le C^{te} De Grasse, 33^{me}," all the signatures being, without doubt, in the same hand-writing.*

Towards the end of the year 1814† or beginning of 1815 De Grasse Tilly returned to France, and found his whole system in confusion. He immediately set about its reorganisation, "but before he could arrange matters to his satisfaction, he was compelled to leave Paris in 1816, it is said, to avoid being arrested for "debt,"‡ and did not return until early in 1818. During his absence matters had not improved, but he still hoped to heal all the differences and place affairs upon a satisfactory footing. His efforts were, however, all in vain, there was a division in the Supreme Council, part of the members under Count Lallemand retiring, and establishing a new Supreme Council in opposition. De Grasse Tilly finding his authority gone, resigned his office of Sovereign Grand Commander for the second time, Count Decazes being elected to that office in September, 1818.§

Soon after this "he disappeared from public view "and was heard of no more; when and where he "died is not known."||

* Certificates of the A. and A. Rite in the Leicester Collection, dated June 3rd, 1816, and December 22nd, 1818, are also signed by him as "Le C^{te} De Grasse."

† *Vide* Gould's "History of Freemasonry," Chap. XXV., p. 171.

‡ *Ibid.*, Chap. XXIV., p. 130.

§ *Vide* Rebold's "Histoire des Trois Grandes Loges," pp. 474-5.

|| *Vide* Carson's "History of the A. and A. Scottish Rite," p. 650.

The earliest in date of the four Abergavenny Certificates was granted to Brother Benjamin Plummer, a Joining Member of the Lodge. It is a parchment document, 16 inches by 14 inches, and was exhibited by Bro. W. J. Hughan at the Shanklin Masonic Exhibition in the year 1886. It subsequently came into the possession of the writer, and was presented by him to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the "Philanthropic" Lodge, No. 818 Abergavenny. It now hangs, a treasured relic, upon the walls of their Lodge-room.

The design of this Certificate is a copy of one of the ordinary engraved French types of a century ago. It is very similar to that of Richards (*vide* Plate IV.) but much inferior to it in execution. French Certificates of that period, although much more varied in design than those issued by the Grand Lodge of England, have however certain characteristics which are common to most. At the head is generally depicted a clouded canopy, containing representations of the Sun, Moon and Stars, together with an irradiated Triangle. On either side of the Certificate is a lofty Pillar, with capital, that on the sinister side bearing the letter "B" and that on the dexter side the letter "J." At the foot, ascended by three, five or seven steps, is a platform of squares, upon which are spread the Working Tools and other Masonic emblems. Figures of Minerva, Justice, Truth, as well as Faith, Hope and Charity, are also frequently represented. There are, of course, very many exceptions to this general rule.

The following is a transcript of the document :—

A.: L.: G.:

D.: G.: A.: D.: L'U.:

La R.: \square des Enfants de Mars & de Neptune, régulièrement constituée à L'o.: D'Abergavenny, (Montmouthshire) Angleterre, A T.: LL.: MM.: RR.: sur la surface du globe, Union, force, salut.

Nous MM.: assemblés dans un lieu très éclairé, ou regnent le silence & la paix, certifions que le T.: c.: f.: Benjamin Plummer, Super-Intendant Grand Commandeur de l'ordre des chevaliers du temple &c. pour la principauté de Galles, sous le patronnage de sa Hauteuse Royale le duc de Kent, et ex-premier Grand Surveillant de la francmaçonnerie acceptée en Angleterre, selon l'ancienne constitution, Né le 10 Octobre 1771 à Shepton Mallet, comté de Somerset, actuellement résident à Londres, profession Agent commercial, Ex-membre de la loge française établie à Wincanton (Somerset) sous le nom de la Paix Désirée, a été affilié dans notre loge, Qu'il a travaillé parmi nous avec ferveur & constance, & s'est mérité

The right worshipful Lodge, held at Abergavenny, Monmouthshire in England, dedicated to St. John of Scotland, of free and accepted MM.: according to the old and new constitutions, held under the sanction of the G.: O.: of France, under the title of Enfants de Mars & de Neptune, to all free accepted lawful M.: all over the World, Union, Strength, Salvation.

We free, accepted lawful MM. do hereby certify that Br.: Benjamin Plummer, superintendant grand commander of the order of Knights Templars &c. for the principality of Wales, under the patronage of his royal highness, the duke of Kent, and past senior grand Warden of the free and accepted masons in England, according to the old Constitution, (his grace the Duke of Athold;) — Born the 10th Day of October 1771 in the town of Shepton Mallett, county of Somerset, and at this time resident in London, (profession) commercial agent, — late member of the French lodge under the title of

par sa conduite notre estime & notre attachement. Nous le recommandons à la bienveillance de tt.: nn.: ff.: promettant le même accueil à TT.: ff.: qui se présenteront de leur part.

Fait en □ à l'or.: D'Abergavenny le 20^{me} Jour du 5^{me} mois de l'an de la v.: l.: 5813.

Le Vén.: en Exercice.

Le 1^{er} Surv.: *De Grasse-Tilly.*

E. Deprêche.

33^{me}

R.: C.:

Pasquier.

R.: C.: 1^{er} Exp.:

A.: Le Berlon.

R.: C.:

Arch^t.

Scellé et Timbré par nous

Garde des Sceaux. No. 26.

G. Laudy.

desired peace, held at Wincamton County of Somerset, has been affiliated in our lodge. That he has behaved in every respect as a true and faithful br.: and has proved himself worthy of our friendship, and brotherly love. Promising the same kind welcome to every lawful brother who may come from your part, we beg you to give him Joy, Satisfaction and assistance.

Given under our hand and seal, this 20th of the 5th month A.: L.: 5813.

V. Vauchoir.

R.: C.:

Le 2^{me} Surv.:

Ormir du Médie.

K.: H.: 30.:

Lampo.

31.: G Inq^t.

L'orat.:

Solomiac.

Ch.: d'or.:

Par Mandem^t de la R.: □.:

l'hospitalier.

St. Martin.

R.: C.:

Menard.

Se

M.:

(In left margin : Ne varietur.

B. Plummer.)

In the foregoing transcript the original spelling is retained, and it is a matter for surprise that there should be so few errors. The reference to "St. John of Scotland" is interesting, and it will be noticed that the English portion is not an exact translation of the French. There are some other peculiarities to which attention should also be directed, as they are not generally seen on English Certificates. Thus, the date and place of birth, together with the profession of the recipient, are given ;—the French Masonic date is used, "20th day of the 5th month," corresponding to July 20th, the year with the French Masons commencing with the month of March ;—and the Certificate is signed, as was customary in France at that time, by all the Officers and by some, if not all, of the ordinary members of the Lodge. Some of the Officers, such as the Orator, Expert, Keeper of the Seals, Archivist and Hospitaller, bear names quite unknown in English Masonry, but it is very possible that the work of these Brethren, is carried out under the English Constitution by the Chaplain, Deacons, Secretary and Almoner.

Brother Plummer appears to have been the twenty-sixth member registered in the Lodge, that number being used by the "Garde des Sceaux."

Benjamin Plummer, to whom this Certificate was granted, was a very distinguished Mason, his Masonic career being as follows :—*

He was initiated in the "Royal Athelstan" Lodge, No. 10 (now 19) "Antients," London, on June 4th, 1798.

* Partly taken from a communication by Bro. H. Sadler to "The Freemason," 1886, p. 511.

He presided over the Lodge as Master, resigning his membership in 1805. He re-joined in 1809, and paid to December, 1818.

He was appointed Grand Sword Bearer of the "Antients" Grand Lodge in 1804, Junior Grand Warden in 1805, and Senior Grand Warden in 1806.

At the Union in 1814 he was appointed Past Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England, and was present at the Meeting of the Grand Lodge held March 8th, 1815.

He joined the French Prisoners' Lodge "Paix Désirée" at Wincanton, his Certificate being dated November 22nd, 1810.

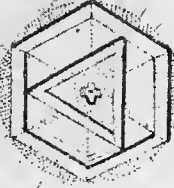
He also joined the "Royal Naval" Lodge, No. 57 (now 59) "Moderns," London, in 1811, and the French Prisoners' Lodge "Enfants de Mars et de Neptune" at Abergavenny, his Certificate of Membership in the latter Lodge being dated July 20th, 1813.

On October 2nd, 1799, he was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree under the "Antients," and in 1812 joined the same Order under the "Moderns."

He held the office of Superintendent Grand Commander of Knights Templar for Wales in 1813, occupied the post of Grand Expert of England under H.R.H. the Duke of Kent in 1814, and was a member of the "Baldwyn" Encampment at Bristol, his Certificate, dated 1816, being in the writer's collection.

On two of his Certificates Bro. Plummer is described as "Commercial Agent," and his membership of so many Lodges and Chapters may be accounted for by the fact, that he was either an agent for, or a dealer in, Masonic clothing and paraphernalia. In the accounts of the *first* "Philanthropic" Lodge, No. 658

777
 A. L. G. D. G. A. D. L.



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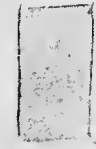
Notes d'un membre Français Auguste De France Jilly. Souvenir d'un Correspondant. Remarque
est bien pour la France. N.° 1. a. 2. Représentant. Particularités du Grand Maître au S. P. de France. S. P. 18.

For Quorum, Thirti

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

3m. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840

Donne A. W. de Hoguenes
55-57 Correspondants au 23. November 1843.
Monsieur le Comte de La Roche de Meudon



Dr. George S. Sully

Dr. George S. Zilly

Lebourg:
R. #

[illegible]

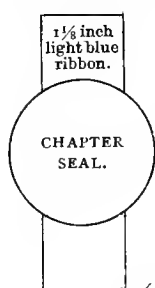
Aug. 7. Sat. " Camp 31. "

"Gaspard Laudy Commissaire des Guerres, né le
 "8 Juillet 1768 à Lunéville, département de la Meurthe,
 "Reconnu instruit dans les trois hauts Grades précé-
 "dents, après avoir jugé en outre de sa capacité par
 "une scrupuleuse information de sa conduite Maçon^{que}
 "et de ses mœurs, nous avons déclaré et déclarons le
 "T.: C.: F.: Gaspard Laudy être élevé au Grade de
 "Ch^{er} de L'Aigle Parfait et S^m P.: M.: L.: sous le
 "Titre de R.: C.: d'heredon, parir, par lui, jouir
 "de toutes les Prérrogatives attachées à ce grade
 "respectable sur toute la Surface de la Terre.

"A ces causes, nous lui avons délivré le présent Bref
 "auquel foi doit être ajoutée pour lui servir et valoir
 "en tant que de besoin ; et pour éviter toute surprise
 "nous l'avons fait accepter et signer par lui T.: Ch.:
 "et P.: F.: Gaspard Laudy.

"BÉNI soit celui qui le Reconnaitra, l'honorera et
 "le soulagera dans ses besoins et qu'elle félicité pour
 "nous à ce prix si désirable, de pouvoir souvent nous
 "acquiter d'obligations aussi sacrées et aussi flatteuses
 "pour un P.: M.:

"DONNÉ A L'O^t d'Abergavenny (Montmouthshire
 "Angleterre) le 30 du 9^e Mois nommé Tisri 5574 cor-
 "respondant au 23 Novembre 1813.



De Grasse Tilly.

Dubourg.

33^{me}

R.: +

Le G^d Inq^r Sub^{ue}

E. Pascal de St. Juery.

Lampo.

31^{me} G.: I.:

31^e

Galopin.

R.: C.:

(In left margin : "Accepté le Présent Bref.

G. Laudy.)

[TRANSLATION.]

“ We Alexandre François Auguste De Grasse Tilly
 “ Honorary Sovereign Grand Commander *ad vitam*
 “ for France &c. &c. &c. Deputy Grand Master of the
 “ Grand Orient of France, &c. &c. &c.

“ FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY.

“ On account of the zeal and eagerness to proceed
 “ to the perfect point of Masonry shewn by our Very
 “ Worshipful and Perfect Brother Gaspard Laudy, war
 “ commissary, born July 8th, 1768 at Luneville depart-
 “ ment of the Meurthe, already well versed in the three
 “ preceding high degrees, and after having fully tested
 “ his suitability by a thorough enquiry into his Masonic
 “ conduct and general behaviour, we hereby declare
 “ the Very Dear Brother Gaspard Laudy exalted to the
 “ degree of Knight of the Eagle, Perfect and Sovereign
 “ Prince Freemason, under the title of Rose Croix of
 “ Heredom, in order that he may enjoy all the preroga-
 “ tives belonging to this worshipful degree throughout
 “ the world.

“ For this purpose, we have granted him the present
 “ Certificate, which must be faithfully recognised so as
 “ to be of service to him in case of need, and to pre-
 “ vent any misuse thereof, we have caused this Certificate
 “ to be signed by our Very Dear and Perfect Brother
 “ Gaspard Laudy.

“ Blessed be he who shall receive, honor and assist
 “ him in case of need, and what pleasure for us, in
 “ return, to repay frequently an obligation so sacred
 “ and flattering for a Prince Mason.

“ Given at the Orient of Abergavenny, (Monmouth-
 “ shire England) the 30th day of the 9th month called
 “ Tisri 5574, corresponding to November 23rd, 1813.”

The Brother—Gaspard Laudy—to whom this Certificate was granted, returned to France at the conclusion of the war, and subsequently joined the Paris Lodge “Des Philonomes,” the following endorsement appearing on the back of the Certificate:—

“Le huitième jour du onzième mois 5827, la L.:
“des Philonomes a affilié à ses travaux le f.: Laudy
“(Gaspard).

“*A. Louvet.*

“par Mand^t de L.: L.: Secrét^e g^{al}

“ <i>Russie.</i>	<i>Paila.</i>	<i>Bompard.</i>	<i>Marisceaux.</i>
“M.: “or.:	R x.: “or.:	V.: off.: du G.: o.: de f.:	S.:P.:R.:+ 2 ^{me} surv.:

*Bazot.**

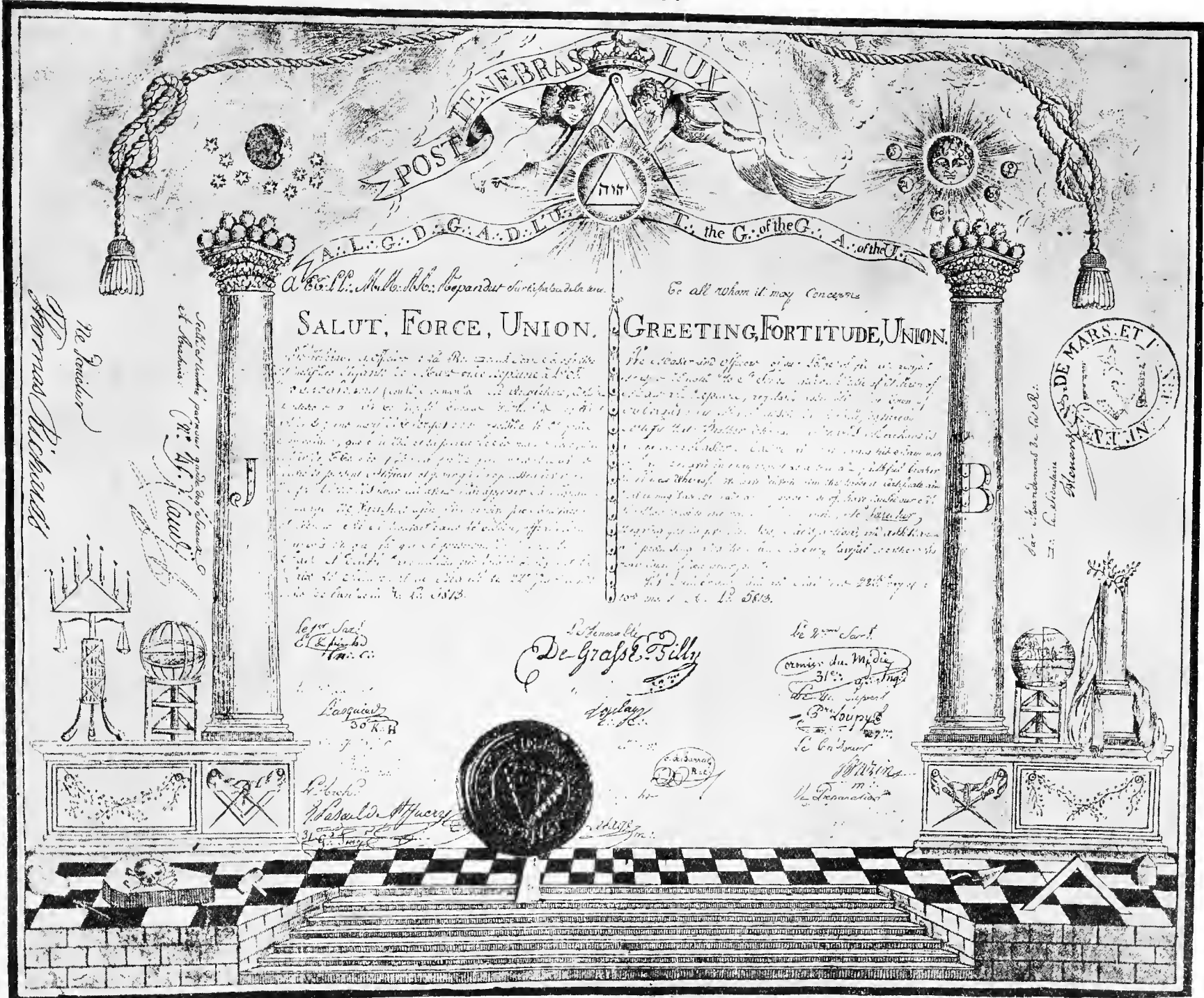
off.: du g.: o.: *J. Vignal.*
33^{me} R+.”

(The Lodge “des Philonomes” has accepted as a Joining Member Bro. Gaspard Laudy, on the 8th day of the 11th month 5827.)

From this endorsement it is quite evident, that the French Masonic authorities recognised the validity of these Prisoners’ Lodge Certificates.

The pair of Certificates, Craft and Rose Croix, granted to Thomas Richards are very curious and interesting; they are both beautifully executed by hand, and exceedingly well preserved. This Brother, who is described as a Merchant, and a native of Abergavenny, was only a Joining Member of the French Lodge. He was initiated in Lodge No. 144 “Antients,”

* E. F. Bazot was a distinguished French author, and was made an Officer of the Grand Orient of France in 1826.



Merthyr Tydvil, (now the "Loyal Cambrian" Lodge, No. 110), on August 3rd, 1813, taking his subsequent degrees in September and November of the same year; he was therefore a Master Mason before he joined the French Lodge, the "10th month" of his Certificate corresponding with the month of December.

The Craft Certificate, which shews that Richards was No. 45 on the Lodge Register, is very similar in design to Plummer's, previously described, but much superior to it in excellence of penmanship. It is a parchment document, wholly executed by hand, 17½ inches by 14 inches in size, and has the Seal intact, enclosed in a tin box. It is signed by fourteen members, amongst whom are the following Officers, in addition to those whose signatures are affixed to Plummer's Certificate, viz.: Master of the Ceremonies, Inner Guard (Le garde des portes), and Tyler (Le préparateur). The following is a transcript of the document :—*

POST TENEBRAS LUX.

A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L'U.:

A TT.: LL.: MM.: RR.: Répandus
sur la surface de la terre.

SALUT, FORCE, UNION.

Nous Vénérable et officiers de
la R.: □.: St Jean sous le
titre distinctif des Enfants de
Mars et de Neptune à L'O^t.
d'Abergavenny (Comté de Montmouth)
en Angleterre, certifions et attestons
que le T.: Ch.: f.: Thomas Richards

T.: the G.: of the G.: A.: of the U.:

To all whom it may concern.

GREETING, FORTITUDE, UNION.

We Master and officers of our Lodge of
free and accepted Masons, dedicated
to St. John, under the title of Children
of Mars and Neptune, regularly as-
sembled in the Town of Abergavenny
Montmouthshire in England; do hereby
certify that Brother Thomas Richards Mer-

* *Vide* Plate IV. The original belongs to the private collection of the writer.

négociant agé de 39 ans natif d'Abergavenny, possède le 3^e grade symbolique, que son zèle et la pureté de ses mœurs l'ont faits chérir de T.T.: ses ff.:; en foi de quoi nous lui avons délivré le présent Certificat et pour qu'il ne puisse servir qu'au dit f.: Richards nous lui avons fait apposer sa signature en marge *ne varietur*, afin qu'il reçoive joie satisfaction et secours s'il se trouvait dans le besoin, offrant le même retour à chaque f.: qui se présentera de votre part.

Fait et délivré dans un lieu éclairé ou regnent la Paix, le Silence et la Charité le 22^e jour du 10^{me} mois de l'an de la V.: L.: 5813.

chant is a Regular Master Mason and that during his stay with us has Behaved in every respect as a true and faithful brother. In Witness whereof, we have delivered him the present Certificate and that it might not Be made an improper use of, have caused our said Brother to write his name in the margin, *Ne varietur*, Begging you to give him Joy, satisfaction and assistance and promising to do the same to every lawful Brother who may come from your part.

Given under our hand and seal this 22th day of the 10th month A.: L.: 5813.

Le 1^{er} Surt
E. Deprinche.
R.: C.:

Le 1^{er} Expert.
Pasquier.
30^{me}.
K.: H.:

L'hospitalier.
Aignerot.
S.: P.: R.: C.:

L'Arch^e
E. Pascal de St. Juery.
31^{eme} g^d Inq^r

Le Vénérable.
De Grasse-Tilly.
33^{me}.

L'orateur.
Loulay.
r.: c.:

Le M^{tre} des Cérém^{ies}.
c.: de Barral.
R.: C.:

Le garde des portes.
Lesage.
M.:

Le 2^{eme} Surt
Ormier du Médic.
31^e g^d Inq^r

Le 2^e Expert.
Pré Loupy.
27^{me}.

Le Trésorier.
Bazin.
M.:

Le Préparateur.
Mivaut.
M.:



In right margin: Par Mandement de la R.:
□.: Le Secrétaire. *Menard.* S^{re}
M.:

In left margin: Scellé et timbré par nous garde des Sceaux
et Archives. (No. 45). *G. Laudy.*

Ne Varietur.
Thomas Richards.

The Seal* is of red wax, two inches in diameter, affixed to narrow light blue ribbon, and enclosed in a tin box; the device on the Seal is a "Circle enclosing an equilateral triangle," the name of the Lodge "Enfans de Mars et de Neptune" being on the circle. The Lodge Stamp in red ink is placed in the left margin of the Certificate.

Richards' Rose Croix Certificate, a parchment document $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches, is very different in design from the one granted to Gaspard Laudy, previously described. At the top and bottom of the document are a number of hieroglyphics, of which it is now quite impossible to give the meaning, and it is signed by fifteen members of the Chapter. It would appear from the Certificate that the degree was conferred upon Richards in the Abergavenny Chapter, on the Register of which he stands as No. 39, and it is very probable that this was among the last, if not the very last, issued by the Chapter, as within forty days—on May 30th, 1814—the treaty of peace was signed at Paris, and the French prisoners were free to return to their native land.

The following is a transcript of this Rose Croix Certificate:—†

* *Vide* Frontispiece.

† *Vide* Plate V. The original belongs to the private collection of the writer.

A. : L. : G. : D. : G. : A. : D. : L'U. :

Sⁱⁿ Chap. des Enfans de Mars & de Neptune à l'Ost d'Abergavenny (Montmouthshire, Angleterre) régulièrement constitué sous les Auspices du Sⁱⁿ Chap. et du grand directoire des rites réussis et acceptés de France à TT. : LL. : SS. : PP. : MM. : LL. : connus sur la surface du Globe.

SALUT, UNION, PAIX, ÉGALITÉ.

Nous SS. : PP. : MM. : LL. : RR. : CC. : convoqués et assemblés dans un lieu où regnent la Foi, l'Espérance et la Charité ; vu le zèle et l'empressement pour parvenir au grade et point parfait de la M^{ie} du T. : C. : et P. : F. : Thomas Richard Négociant Né à Abergavenny (Montmouthshire) Reconnu instruit dans les trois hauts Grades précédents, après avoir jugé en outre de sa capacité par une scrupuleuse Information de sa conduite Maçon^{ne} et de ses mœurs tant en □. : qu'au dehors ; nous d'un commun accord soussignés avons déclaré et déclarons le T. : C. : F. : Richard être membre de notre Sⁱⁿ Chap. et Ch^{er} de l'Aigle Parfait et Sⁱⁿ P. : M. : L. : sous le titre de R. : C. : d'Herdon ; pour lui jouir de toutes les prérogatives attachées à ce grade respectable sur toute la surface de la Terre.

A ces causes nous lui avons délivré le présent Bref, auquel foi doit être ajoutée pour lui servir et valoir en tant que de besoin et pour éviter toute surprise nous l'avons fait accepter et signer par lui T. : Ch. : et P. : F. : Richard.

We Free Accep. : Sⁱⁿ P. : MM. : R. : C. : Summoned and assembled in a place Wherein reign Faith, Hope and Charity ; seeing the Zeal and eagerness that our most D^r and P. : B. : Thomas Richard Merchand born at Abergavenny (Montmouthshire) has to attain the degree and perfect point of masonry he being acknowledged by us to be instructed in the three precedent degrees, having besides judged of his abilities by a scrutinised enquiry of his masonic conduct and moral parts both within and without the □. : We whose names are hereunder written have declared and do hereby unanimously declare our M. : D. : B. : Thomas Ricard to be a member of our Sⁱⁿ Ch. : Knight of the Perfect Eagle and Free accep. : Sⁱⁿ P. : M. : under the Title of R. : +. : of Herdon, that he may enjoy all the prerogatives attached to that respectable degree all over the world.

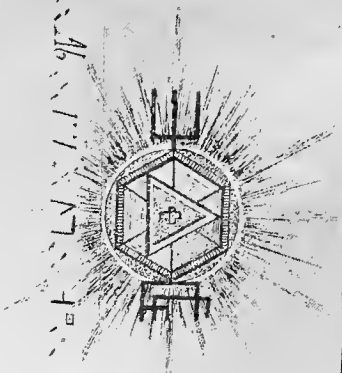
With regard to the said causes, we have delivered unto his own hand the present certificate to which Faith must be added so as to be of service and validity to him in all needful cases, and to avoid all kind of surprise or that an improper use may be made

三三三

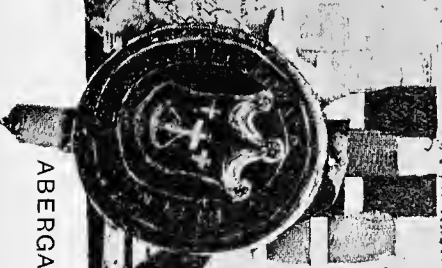
ALGDADIU

□

「レ」



LITV 46.11.17.1
 M^{au}
 Aberg.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Béni soit celui qui le reconnaîtra, l'honorera et le soulagera dans ses besoins et quelle félicité pour nous à ce prix si désirable de pouvoir souvent nous acquitter d'obligations aussi sacrées et aussi flatteuses pour un P.: M.: L.:

Donné à l'O^t d'Abergavenny le 20^e Jour du 2^e Mois M^{ne} l'An de la V.: L.: 5814.

of it; we have caused this certificate to be accepted and signed by our M.: D.: B.: Thomas Richard.

Blessed be he who shall accept honour and assist him in his Wants and What a felicity for us at so desirable a price to be often able of acquitting ourselves in obligations so sacred and flattering for a free P.:M.:

Given under our hand and seal at the O^t of Abergavenny this 20th day of the 2th Month 5814.

De Varoncourt.

I.: S.: en Exercice.

Le G.: Arch.:

le 2^e Surv^t.

32^{me} M.: C.: I.: G.:

E. Pascal de St. Juery.

Maret.

Loulay.

31^e g^d inq.:

S.: P.: R.: C.:

r.: c.:

le G^d 1^{er} Surv^t.

G^d Orateur.

G.: M.: des C.:

2^e Exp^t.

Ormier du Médie.

Lampo.

De Maucombe.

Pr^e Loupy.

31^e g.: I^r.

J. J. Samson.

31^e G.: Inq^r.

S.: P.: R.: C.:

27^e.

31^{me} G.: I^r.

1^{er} Exp^t.

Pasquier.

30^{me} K.: H.:

Le représentant particulier
du G^d M^e au G^d O^t de
France dans son G^d Chap^{tre}
et Sⁱⁿ G^d Commandeur
honoraire ad vitam.

G^d Trés^r.

Surat.

R.: C.:

G^d Hosp.:

Aignerot.

r.: c.:

Le C^{te} De Grasse.

33^{me}

Par mandement du Sⁱⁿ Chap.:

Le g.: Sec^{re} G^{al}.

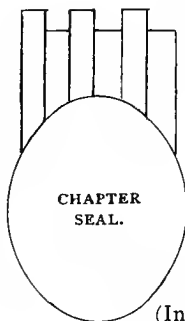
F. Billotin.

S.: P.: R.: C.:

Scellé et timbré par
nous (No. 39.)

Bolairtin.

S.: p.: R.: c.:



(In left margin : Accepté le présent Bref.
Tho^s Richards.)

The Seal* on this Certificate is of red wax, contained in an oval tin box $2\frac{1}{4}$ by 2 inches, and suspended by six narrow ribbons of the following colours, viz.: white, light blue, black, scarlet, dark green and crimson. In the centre are a cross, compasses and sector, surrounded by the words "Chapitre des Enfants de Mars et de Neptune."

During the years 1812-1814 there was no Lodge on the English Register in the town of Abergavenny, but some of the residents had already been initiated in Lodges established in the adjoining towns of Pontypool and Merthyr Tydvil. Many of these Brethren seem to have joined the French Prisoners' Lodge, while it is confidently asserted that others were initiated in that Lodge.

At the conclusion of peace in May, 1814, the French prisoners were at liberty to return home, of which privilege no doubt the majority availed themselves. The English members of the Lodge, eleven in number, immediately formed themselves into a Lodge of Instruction, to meet weekly at "The King's Head" Inn, until, as their minutes of July 22nd, 1814, state, "a dispensation or a Dormant Warrant could be procured."

A Petition to the United Grand Lodge of England was accordingly prepared, being signed by ten Abergavenny Brethren, recommended by Lodges 175 Merthyr Tydvil and 195 Pontypool, and supported by the Provincial Grand Master of Monmouthshire, Col. Harnage. The Petitioners nominated the Rev. James Ashe Gabb, as the first Master, James

* *Vide* Frontispiece.

Jones, Gentleman, as the first Senior Warden, and Thomas Richards, Gentleman, as the first Junior Warden. The Petition was endorsed "The parties are all known to Bro. Plummer, who will vouch for their respectability."

On December 27th, 1814, a Dispensation to meet for twelve months was granted to the Petitioners, and under this they met for about six months, the Minutes of their Meetings being still preserved. In these Minutes, under date of June 9th, 1815, the following entry occurs :—

"The Rev^d Charles Powell was transferred from a "Modern Mason in the French Lodge to an Ancient "in this, and regularly initiated in the first second and "third Degrees of Masonry, and admitted a Member "of this Lodge."

It would seem from this extract, that the Reverend Brother had been initiated in the French Lodge according to the French system, but that Lodge not being recognised by the Grand Lodge of England, it was necessary that he should take his degrees again on joining the English Lodge. The reason for the second batch of degrees being "Antient," may be found in the fact, that all the other Brethren had been "made" in "Antients" Lodges. No fees seem to have been charged for the re-initiation.

The Lodge was duly consecrated on June 12th 1815, as the "Philanthropic" Lodge, No. 658, by Bros. Benj. Plummer, P.G.W. of England, and F. C. Husenbeth, Dep. Prov. G.M. of Bristol. The Vicar of the town, Rev. William Powell,* was installed as the

* This Brother was still living in the year 1862, being then nearly a century old. (*Vide* "Freemasons' Magazine," August, 1862, p. 92.)

first Master, Bro. Thomas Richards being appointed Senior Deacon, and not Junior Warden as nominated in the Petition. The Lodge had only a brief existence, having been erased in 1828.

Down to the year 1860, two Brethren were still living in Abergavenny, who claimed to have been initiated in the French Prisoners' Lodge, so that if it were a rule with these French Masons not to initiate Englishmen in their Lodges, the rule was certainly broken in the case of Abergavenny. This information is obtained from an old resident Mason of the town, who had frequent conversation with the two Brethren referred to, on the subject of the old French Lodge.

The *present* "Philanthropic" Lodge, No. 818 Abergavenny, has still in its possession some old collars*—blue, with broad silver lace—which were worn by the Officers in the French Prisoners' Lodge, also a number of swords,* used in their Rose Croix ceremony. Besides these, there hangs upon the wall of the present Lodge-room, an emblematical wood-carving, the meaning of which is not quite clear. These are all undoubtedly relics left behind by the French prisoners, about whose life in Abergavenny a great many interesting details are still traditionally reported. The Rev. William Powell, previously referred to, was a sincere friend to the prisoners, who were indebted to him for very many acts of kindness and consideration.



* *Vide* Plate VI.

PLATE VI.



ABERGAVENNY.—Collar and Swords.

(*Vide* page 48.)

Ashburton (Devon.)

“Des Amis Réunis.”

(Re-united Friends.)

1810-1814. (?)

A CERTIFICATE granted to an initiate of this Lodge, is the only record of its existence that has been discovered up to the present time. Unfortunately, although the document is signed and sealed, it is not dated, but it was, in all probability, issued between the years 1810 and 1814.

This interesting document, the design of which is roughly drawn by hand on parchment, is 17 inches by 14 inches in size, and is entirely in the French language. As a general rule, these Prisoners' Lodge Certificates were wholly written in French when, as in this case, they were issued to a French Brother, shewing clearly that they were intended to be used in French Lodges only. But whenever they were granted to an Englishman, as in the case of Plummer and Richards of the Abergavenny Lodge, they were made out both in French and English, that they might serve as recommendations in both French and English Lodges. An exception, in the case of the Wincanton Lodge, will be referred to later.

Although unfortunately somewhat faded, the Certificate is in an excellent state of preservation, the

large red wax Seal,* in an oval tin box $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 2 inches, attached to the document by a narrow light blue ribbon, being particularly fine.

The recipient, Paul Carcenac, appears to have taken the two first degrees only, while the letter "C" appended to four of the signatures, denotes that these Brethren also had only attained the similar rank of Fellow-Craft (Compagnon).

It will be noticed, that in this Certificate the recipient is obligated to affiliate himself to some regularly warranted French Lodge, immediately on his return to his native land, thus recognising the Lodge at Ashburton as an irregular or temporary one only.

A transcript and rough translation of the document follow :—†

" A LA G.: DU. G.: A.: DE L'U.:

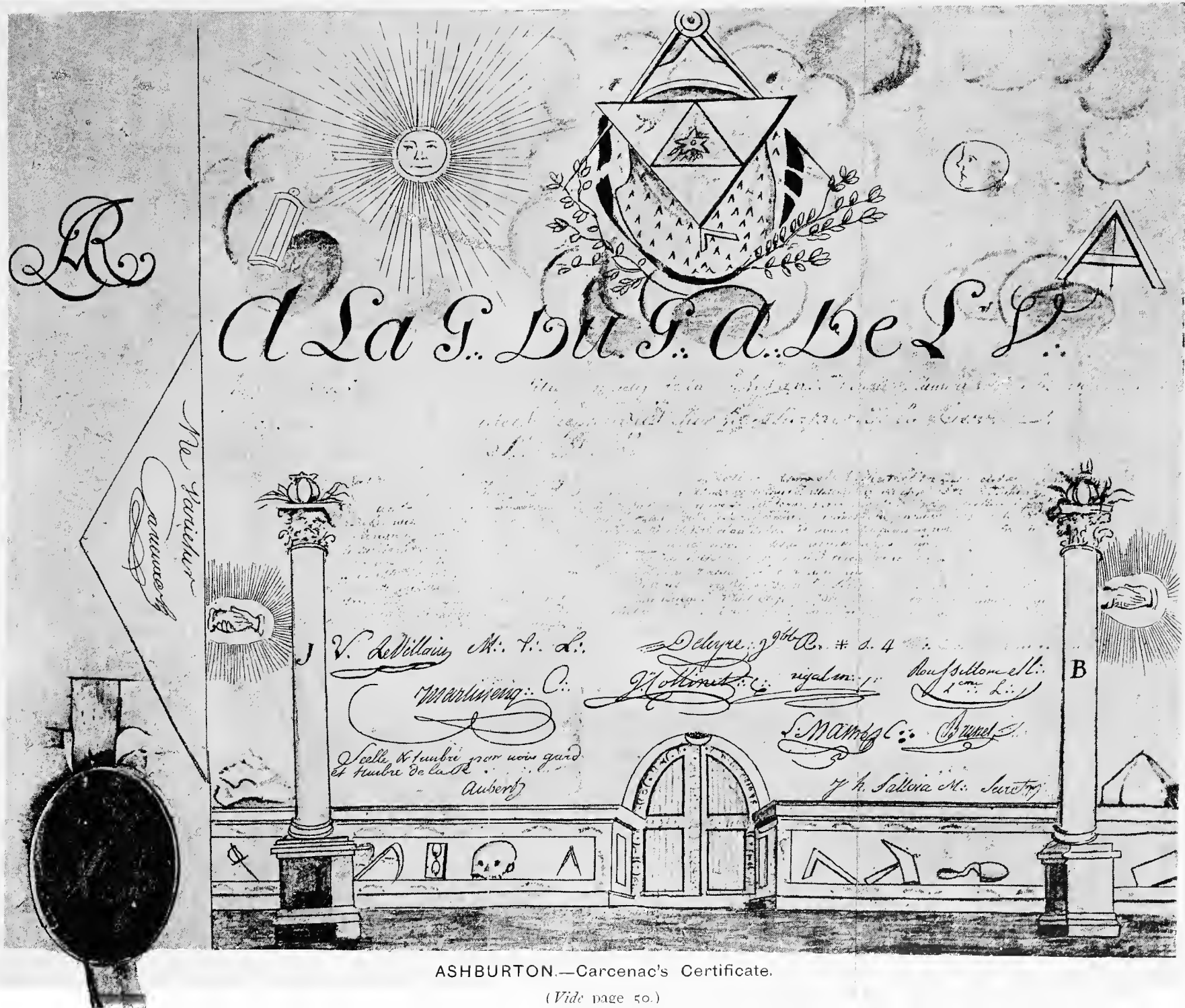
" L.: T.: R.: L.: S.: J.: sous le titre distinctif de
 " la L.: Des amis réunis séante à L'o.: d'Ashburton
 " en Angleterre à Tous les Maçons réguliers répandus
 " sur la surface de la Terre.

" S.: F.: U.:

" Nous vénérable, Officiers dignitaires et membres
 " de la T.: R.: L.: S.: J.: sous le titre distinctif de
 " la L.: Des amis réunis séante à L'o.: d'Ashburton
 " en Angleterre, certifions & attestons à toutes les

* *Vide* Frontispiece.

† *Vide* Plate VII. The original belongs to the private collection of the writer.



ASHBURTON.—Carcenac's Certificate.

(*Vide* page 50.)

[TRANSLATION.]

“TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT
“ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

“The very worshipful Lodge of St. John, under the
“distinctive name of United Friends, at the Orient of
“Ashburton, England, to all regular Masons spread
“over the surface of the earth.

“GREETING. FORTITUDE. UNITY.

“We Master, Officers and members of the very
“worshipful Lodge of St. John, under the distinctive
“title of the Lodge of United Friends, at the Orient
“of Ashburton, England, certify and attest to all
“regular Lodges and to all regular Masons spread
“over the surface of the earth, that our very dear
“Brother Paul Carcenac, assistant commissary, is a
“member of our worshipful Lodge, that he has received
“the two first degrees of Masonry, Apprentice and
“Fellowcraft, and has worked amongst us to the entire
“satisfaction of all the Master-Masons. We therefore
“pray all Brethren and all worshipful Lodges in the
“Universe to receive and admit him as such after
“the usual proof, and obtain for him such assistance
“as he needs, offering to reciprocate in similar circum-
“stances, and obtaining a promise from him that he
“will affiliate himself as soon as possible after his
“return to France, to a regular Lodge, duly recognised
“by the Grand Orient of France. In witness whereof,
“we have delivered to him the present certificate,
“signed by us, countersigned by our Secretary, and
“sealed with the Seal of our worshipful Lodge—and
“in order that it may not be used by any other

“Brother except the said Paul Carcenac, we have
 “caused him to place his signature in the margin,
 “Ne Varietur.

“Delivered in Lodge, regularly assembled, the 29th
 “day of the 8th month of the year of the True
 “Light.”

It is very unfortunate that no further details of this Lodge are forthcoming, and it would also be interesting to know during what years and for how long the prisoners were located at Ashburton, in order that the date of the Lodge could be approximately determined. Enquiries in the town and neighbourhood, however, have resulted in nothing, even the presence of French prisoners there being entirely absent from local tradition.



Ashby = de = la = Bouch.

“Vrais Amis de l’Ordre.”

(True Friends of the Order.)

1810 : 1811.

A NUMBER of French prisoners of war resided in this Leicestershire town from the year 1804 until the peace of 1814. The first detachment, consisting of forty-two officers, arrived on September 26th, 1804, others soon followed, until they reached a total of two hundred. Most of them were officers of the Army or Navy, but there were also amongst them about thirty civilians, probably “merchants” seized by the authorities, in retaliation for similar seizures in France by Napoleon. The officers were allowed ten shillings and sixpence, and the civilians seven shillings and sixpence a week for their maintenance, which was paid to them by a Mr. Farnell on behalf of the British Government. They were, as usual in such cases, “on parole,” and were allowed to walk a mile in any direction outside the town, their favourite walk being what is now called “the Mount Walk.” During the ten years these prisoners were in Ashby, some of them escaped, others were exchanged for English officers imprisoned in France, but the places of those who

left were always soon filled, and the full number of two hundred kept up. They lodged in private houses in the town, and according to the registers of Ashby Parish Church, ten weddings took place between French officers and residents in Ashby from 1806 to June 1st, 1814. Some of the prisoners died, and were buried in the Parish Church-yard, *e.g.*, Etienne Lenon on November 2nd, 1806, François Rabin on April 15th, 1807, and Xavier Mandelier on October 19th, 1808. At least two duels with fatal results are also recorded as having been fought amongst them, the victims being Capt. Colvin and Mons. Denegres, the latter being killed on December 6th, 1808.*

Two Lodges, to one of which a Rose Croix Chapter was attached, were opened and worked during the residence of the prisoners at Ashby, but whether they were working contemporaneously, it is impossible now to ascertain.

The earlier of these two Lodges, "Vrais Amis de l'Ordre," (True Friends of the Order) was working in the year 1810, but when it was started, and when discontinued, is not now known. There is a tradition in Ashby, that the French officers celebrated its constitution by a Ball, to which a number of the inhabitants were invited, the hosts presenting to each of their fair guests, two pairs of white kid gloves, one pair long and the other short.

Two Certificates, issued by the members of this Lodge, are still in existence, one for the Craft degrees, the other for the degree of Knight of the East

* Many of these details are taken from an Article by Rev. Canon Denton, in Andrews' "Bygone Leicestershire"

(Chevalier d'Orient) conferred in a Rose Croix Chapter attached to the same Lodge. These documents are in excellent preservation, both having oval Seals* in tin boxes still attached to them. They are entirely in manuscript, and as usual with French Lodge Certificates, are signed by the Officers and members of the Lodge. One peculiarity about these two Certificates, is the fact, that they declare the Lodge to be under the protection of Lord Moira, the Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England,† whose seat of Donington Park was in the immediate neighbourhood of Ashby. It may fairly be assumed, that the protection of Lord Moira would only be granted, on the understanding that none but Frenchmen should be admitted members of the Lodge, and as far as is known, no Englishman was ever received into its ranks.

The Craft Certificate is as follows :—‡

“ A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L'U.:

“ Au Nom et sous les Auspices du G.: Or.: de
“ France.

“ Et sous la protection immédiate de sa seigneurie
“ le T.: P.: T.: Ill.: et T.: R.: F.: Lord Moira, agissant
“ comme G.: Maître de toutes les LL.: Régulières du
“ Royaume de la Grande Bretagne.

“ Nous Ven.: Sur.: Offic.: et Membres de la R.: L.:
“ Régulièrement Constituée par les français prisonniers

* *Vide* Frontispiece.

† Not “of Great Britain,” as stated in the documents.

‡ *Vide* Plate VIII.

A. L. F. D. G. A. D. Su.

Qu'Hommes sous les auspices du G. Ar. de France.

1. Sous la protection immédiate de sa Seigneurie les Co. L. G. III. et Co. R. F. Lord.
e Moira, agissant comme G. Maître de toutes les L. L. Régulières du Royaume de la Grande Bretagne.

[illegible]

UNION

prosperité

Salut

April 29

[illegible]

Deutsches Institut für die Geschichte der Deutschen in Amerika

[Handwritten notes and signatures in various languages, including French and English, covering the bottom half of the page.]



“de Guerre sur parole à l'o.: D'Ashby de la Zouch
 “Comté de Leicester en Angleterre sous le T.: D.:
 “des Vrais Amis de L'Ordre. A Tous les Maçons
 “Répandus sur la Globe.

“UNION. PROSPÉRITÉ. SALUT.

“APRÈS avoir éprouvé qu'il en était digne Nous
 “avons admis aux Grades D'app.: Maç.: Comp.: et
 “Maitre le T.: C.: F.: Louis Jean natif de Rouen,
 “Département de la Seine Inférieure, âgé de Trente
 “neuf ans, sous Lieutenant à la 11^{ème} demi Brigade
 “d'infanterie légère, et a fin de le mettre a même de
 “faire de plus grands progrès dans les Vertus en lui
 “facilitant l'entrée des LL.: ou elles se pratiquent
 “nous l'avons muni de cette planche signée de nous
 “et contresignée par lui Ne Varietur par laquelle nous
 “prions tous les FF.: MM.: à qui il la présentera de
 “secourir ce F.: dans le besoin et de lui faire l'accueil
 “fraternel que nous reservons à ceux qui nous vien-
 “dront de leur part, lui enjoignant de la faire en-
 “régistrer en s'affiliant à une L.: Régulière de L'o.:
 “où il choisira son domicile, ce à quoi il s'est engagé
 “sur sa parole Maç.:.

“Délivré à L'O.: d'Ashby de la Zouch en la séance
 “du 19^{ème} Jour du 9^{ème} Mois de l'Année Maçon.: 5810.

“Le Vénérable. *De Marconnay* : S.: P.: R.: +.: ;
 “M.: du S.: Ch.: de St.: Jean du Désert, O.: de
 “Valenciennes.

“Le 1^{er} Surv^t *Adrien* ; Ch.: d'or.:.

“*Bouvard* ; Ch.: d'o.: 2^d Surv.: de la Loge des Vrais
 “amis de l'ordre.

“L^s *Pitacke* ; ch.: D'or.:.

“*ffournier* ; Ora.: ch.: D'or.:.

“*Süffert* ; Ch.: D'or.:.

" *Baudiau* ; ch. : D'or. :

" *Metry* ; M. :

" *Fontaine* ; ch. : D'or. :

" *de Zboinski* ; E. : S. :

" *D. Pierre* , E. : S. :

" *Sapard* ; ch. : d'or. :

" *Gardin* ; E. : S. :

" *Fr. de Castel* ; Ch. : G. : E. : Ec. :

" *Juliard* ; m. : eccos. :

" *Cognet* ; G. : C^{dr} du T. : 27^D ; P^{sse} M. : ; Memb. : du

" Souv. : Chap. : G^{al} de France. Memb. : fond. :

" de la R. : L. : de la Régularité Or. : de Lyon.

" Memb. : fond. : et Orat. : de la R. : L. : Les

" Élevés de Themis Or. : d'Anvers.

" *Bailleul* ; Ecc. :

" *Dier* ; Ch. : d'o. :

" *Ferassin* ; C. : G. : E. :

" *Segoins* ; M. :

" *Lepage* ; ch. : d'or. :

" *Rouet* ; M. :

" *Royers* ; G. : E. : Ecc. :

" Pour le f. : *F. N. Burdet*. S. : P. : R. : +. : ; Ch^r Pⁿ ;

" M. : de la L. : de Tarente du 1^{er} rg^t d'Inf^{ie} Légère ;

" Dig^{re} de la L. : de l'Union du 1^{er} rg^t Polonais ;

" M. : de plus. : LL. : du G. : O. : de Naples ;

" Vén^{ble} de la R. : L. : de la Bonne Union O. : de

" Northampton, en Angleterre ; M. : honor. : de

" la RL. : des Vrais Amis de l'Ordre, O. : d'Ash-

" by de la Zouch, en Angleterre. *De Marconnay*.

" R. : +. : V. : "

(In left margin : " Scellé et timbré par nous garde
" des sceau et timbre et Arch. : *Antoine*.
" ch. : d'or. : ")

(In left margin : " Ne Varietur. *L. Jean*. ")

(In right margin : " Enrég^e sous le N^e 14 par nous
" Secrét. : *Picard*. ch. : d'or. : ")

[TRANSLATION.]

“ TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT
“ ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

“ In the Name and under the Auspices of the Grand
“ Orient of France.

“ And under the immediate protection of his Lord-
“ ship, the very powerful, very illustrious and very
“ worshipful Brother Lord Moira, Acting Grand Mas-
“ ter of all the Regular Lodges of the Kingdom of
“ Great Britain.

“ We, the Master, Wardens, Officers and Members
“ of the Worshipful Lodge, regularly constituted by
“ the French Prisoners of War on Parole at the Orient
“ of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in the County of Leicester,
“ England, under the title of ‘The True Friends of
“ the Order.’ To all Masons spread over the Globe.

“ UNITY. PROSPERITY. GREETING.

“ After having proved him to be worthy, we have
“ admitted to the degrees of E.A., F.C. and M., the
“ very dear Brother Louis Jean, native of Rouen, De-
“ partment of the Seine Inferieure, age thirty-nine
“ years, Sub-Lieutenant in the 11th half-brigade of
“ Light Infantry; and in order to enable him to make
“ still greater progress in Virtue by facilitating his
“ admission into any Lodges wherever held, we have
“ furnished him with this Certificate, signed by us,
“ and countersigned by him ‘Ne Varietur,’ by which
“ we pray all Brother Masons to whom he may pre-
“ sent it, to succour this Brother in his need, and to

“give him that fraternal welcome which we accord
 “to all those who come to us from them, enjoining
 “him to have it registered on affiliating himself to a
 “regular Lodge in the District where he may choose
 “his domicile, and to which he has bound himself by
 “his Masonic word.

“Given at the Orient of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, at the
 “Meeting held on the 19th day of the 9th month of
 “the Masonic year 5810.”

The Rose Croix Certificate is in favour of the same
 Brother, and is as follows :—*

“A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L’U.:

“Au Nom et sous les Auspices du G.: Or.: de
 “France. Et sous la protection immédiate de sa
 “Seigneurie le T.: P.: T.: Ill.: et T.: R.: F.: Lord
 “Moira agissant comme G.: Maître de toutes les LL.:
 “régulières du Royaume de la Grande Bretagne.

“A Tous les Maçons Réguliers Répandus sur le
 “Globe.

“UNION. PROSPÉRITÉ. SALUT.

“NOUS soussignés SS.: PP.: RR.: CC.: en vertu des
 “pouvoirs attachés aux sublimes grades que nous pos-
 “sédons, et assistés des TT.: CC.: et TT.: RR.: FF.:
 “soussignés également élevés à des grades éminens,
 “désirant récompenser le zèle, l’activité, les talens et les
 “vertus Maçon.: déployés par le T.: C.: F.: Louis Jean
 “natif de Rouen, département de la Seine Inférieure

* *Vide* Plate IX.

A. L. F. D. P. A. D. S. U.

O Mon Voin Et sous les auspices du G. Orr. de France

Et sous la protection immédiate de sa Seigneurie le G. L. Co. Ill. et Co. R. de F. Lord Moira
agissant comme M. Maître de toutes les V. requièrent du Roy pour le Roy de la Grande Bretagne.

et tous les Maçons Réguliers Répandus sur le Globe
union prosperité santé

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

“agé de Trente neuf ans, sous Lieutenant à la 11^{ème}
 “demi Brigade d’infanterie légère, dans les travaux de
 “la R.: L.: des Vrais Amis de l’Ordre, régulièrement
 “constituée par les Maçons français prisonniers de
 “guerre à l’o.: d’Ashby de la Zouch en Angleterre, et
 “dans les vues de contribuer de tout notre pouvoir à
 “donner chaque jour un nouveau lustre à l’ordre auguste
 “nous avons la faveur d’appartenir, avons en raison de
 “l’impossibilité de communiquer, soit avec le Grand
 “Or.: soit avec aucun autre Chapitre Régulier de
 “France, conféré au sus dit F.: Jean le grade de Ch.:
 “d’or.:, l’invitant particulièrement à se faire régulariser
 “en cette qualité aussitôt que possible, après sa rentrée
 “en France, ce a quoi il s’est engagé sur sa foi Maçon.:
 “Prions en conséquence celui des SS.: Chap.: où il sera
 “dans le cas de se présenter pour faire légaliser le grade
 “à lui par nous conféré, de vouloir bien approuver et
 “confirmer cette promotion, et de faire au dit F.:
 “l’accueil favorable et distingué que nous réservons à
 “tous les vrais ff.: qui, comme lui, possèdent les plus
 “rares qualités et les plus éminentes vertus. En foi de
 “quoi nous lui avons délivré le présent auquel nous
 “avons pour plus d’authenticité fait apposer les sceau et
 “timbre de la R.: L.: des Vrais Amis de l’Ordre, et
 “pour éviter toute surprise, avons au dit F.: Jean fait,
 “en notre présence apposer sa signature en marge Ne
 “Varietur, supplions le G.: A.: D.: L’U.: de l’avoir
 “toujours en sa sainte garde.

“Fait à L’O.: d’Ashby de la Zouch en Angleterre le
 “23^{ème} Jour du 12 Mois de l’an de la V.: L.: 5810 (Style
 “Vulgaire le 23 Février 1811.)

“*De Marconnay* ; S.: P.: R.: +.: ; M.: du S.: Ch.:
 “de St.: Jean du Désert, O.: de Valenciennes ;

"Vén^{ble} de la R.: L.: des Vrais Amis de l'ordre,
 "O.: d'Ashby-de-la-Zouch en Angleterre.

"*L^s Pitacke* ; ch.: D'or.:

"*Fontaine* ; ch.: D'or.:

"*Süffert* ; Ch.: D'or.:

"*Bouvard* ; Ch.: d'o.: 2^e Surv.: de la Loge des Vrais
 "Amis de l'ordre.

"*ffournier* ; Ora.: ch.: d'or.:

"*Sapard* ; Ch.: D'or.:

"*Lepage* , ch.: D'or.:

"*Cognet* ; G.: C.: du T.: 27.: P^{sse} M^e ; Memb.: du
 "Souv.: Ch.: G^{al} de France. Memb.: fond.: de la
 "R.: L.: de la Régularité Or.: de Lyon. Memb.:
 "fondat.: et Orat.: de la R.: L.: des Élèves de
 "Themis Or.: d'Anvers.

"*Baudiau* ; ch.: d'or.:

"*Dier* ; Ch.: d'o.:

"*Adrien* ; ch.: d'or.: 1^{er} Surv. de la R.: □ des vrais
 "amis de l'ordre, or.: d'Ashby de la Zouch en
 "Angleterre.

"*Picard* ; ch.: d'or.:

"Pour le f.: *F.: N.: Burdet* S.: P.: R.: +.: Ch^r Pⁿ ;
 "M.: de la L.: de Tarente du 1^{er} rg^t d'Infie lg^{re} ;
 "Dig^{re} de la L.: de l'Union du 1^{er} rg^t Polonais ;
 "M.: de plus.: LL.: du G.: O.: de Naples ;
 "Vén^{ble} de la R.: L.: de la Bonne Union O.: de
 "Northampton en Angleterre ; M.: honor.: de la
 "R.: L.: des Vrais Amis de l'Ordre, Or.: d'Ashby
 "de la Zouch en Angleterre. *De Marconnay*.
 "R.: +.: V.:

(In left margin: "Scellé et timbré par nous garde
 "des Sceau timbre et Arch.: *Antoine*. ch.: d'or.:)

(In left margin: "Ne Varietur. *L. Jean*.)

[TRANSLATION.]

“ TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT
“ ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

“ In the name and under the auspices of the Grand
“ Orient of France.

“ And under the immediate protection of his Lord-
“ ship, the very powerful, very illustrious and very
“ worshipful Brother Lord Moira, Acting Grand Master
“ of all the regular Lodges of the Kingdom of Great
“ Britain.

“ To all Regular Masons spread over the Globe.

“ UNITY. PROSPERITY. GREETING.

“ WE the undersigned Sovereign Princes Rose Croix,
“ by virtue of the powers belonging to the sublime
“ degrees which we possess, and assisted by the very
“ dear and very worshipful Brothers undersigned equally
“ exalted to the high degrees, wishing to reward the
“ zeal, activity, talents and Masonic virtues displayed by
“ the very dear Brother Louis Jean, native of Rouen,
“ Department of the Seine Inferieure, age thirty-nine
“ years, Sub-Lieutenant in the 11th half-brigade of
“ Light Infantry, in the work of the Lodge of ‘True
“ Friends of the Order,’ regularly constituted by French
“ Masons, prisoners of war, at the Orient of Ashby-de-
“ la-Zouch, England, and with a desire to contribute,
“ to the utmost of our power, to shed each day new
“ lustre upon the august Order to which we have the
“ privilege to belong, have, in consequence of the
“ impossibility of communicating either with the Grand
“ Orient, or with any regular Chapter of France, con-
“ ferred upon the said Brother Jean the rank of

“‘Chevalier d’orient,’ requesting him particularly to
 “have himself properly registered in this degree as
 “soon as possible after his return to France, to which
 “he has bound himself by his Masonic oath. We
 “therefore pray those Sovereign Chapters where he
 “may present himself, to have the rank which we
 “have conferred upon him legalised, to approve and
 “confirm this promotion, and to accord to the said
 “Brother a favorable and honorable reception, such as
 “we accord to all true Brethren, who, like him, possess
 “the rarest qualities and most eminent virtues. In
 “token of which we have delivered these presents, to
 “which for greater security we have added the Seal and
 “Stamp of the Worshipful Lodge ‘True Friends of the
 “Order,’ and to prevent its misuse, we have required the
 “said Brother Jean to place his signature ‘Ne Varietur’
 “in our presence in the margin, supplicating the Great
 “Architect of the Universe to have him always in His
 “holy keeping.

“Done at the Orient of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, England,
 “the 23rd day of the 12th month of the year of the
 “True Light 5810.” (Common style, February 23rd,
 1811.)

Several of the Brethren whose signatures appear on
 these Certificates, were Masons of high rank, notably
 Bro. Burdet, an Honorary Member, Cognet who signs
 as Past Master, and De Marconnay the Worshipful
 Master ; it is not surprising, therefore, that they should
 seek to beguile the weary hours of their captivity, by
 associating together and working those ceremonies in
 which they had been interested in happier times.

It is probable that the Lodge had not been long
 established, when Bro. Jean was admitted, inasmuch as

on his Craft Certificate he is registered as No. 14. There is no means of ascertaining of how many members the Lodge or Chapter consisted, or how long they continued to work, but in the minutes of St. John's Lodge (now No. 279), Leicester, the visit is recorded on May 5th, 1813, of Bro. Kgrist Justin, "member of a French Lodge at Ashby-de-la-Zouch."

It will be noticed that the recipient binds himself to join similar Masonic bodies on his return to France, and there is little doubt that the authorities of the Grand Orient of France recognised the validity of these provisional Certificates, and permitted the affiliation of those who held them, to regular French Lodges.

The Brother, Louis Jean, to whom these Certificates were granted, was a member of a respectable family of landed proprietors at Rouen. Where he was taken prisoner, and in what year he arrived in Ashby is not known, but the Parish Church Registers show that he was married there in 1809.*

He was one of the first of the prisoners to be exchanged, and went with his young wife to his native city, where they lived until peace was declared in 1814, when his wife strongly importuned him to go back with her to Ashby, which at length he consented to do. He converted the proceeds of his property into diamonds,

* Extract from the Marriage Registers of the Parish Church of Ashby-de-la-Zouch:—

"Lewis Jean French Prisoner of War in this Parish and Elizabeth
 "Edwards of this Parish were married in this Church by Banns,
 "this Fifth Day of June in the year One Thousand Eight
 "Hundred and Nine by me

"William McDouall. Vicar.

"This Marriage was solemnized { *Jean.*
 "between us { *Elizabeth X Edwards, her mark.*

"In the presence of { *Robelet.*
 { *Jane X Anderton, her mark."*

on the sale of which, in London, he had to make a heavy sacrifice. They resided at Ashby for some years, Louis Jean being greatly esteemed, and there a daughter was born. Later on, they returned to Rouen, where, after twenty-two years, Louis Jean died, leaving his widow and daughter in greatly reduced circumstances, owing to his mother, during his absence in England, believing him to be dead, having left the whole of the family property to her daughter, who dying young, bequeathed it to her affianced lover. Louis Jean's daughter, not long before her father's death, had married a young man named H——, an Englishman by birth, but brought up in France, who soon died, leaving his widow with three young children. The two widows and the children left France, and took up their abode in England, where Mrs. H—— did her best to provide for their wants by teaching French and by fine needlework. Mrs. Jean died in 1867, having been childish and helpless for seven years, yet so sensitive and retiring was her daughter, that she never sought for assistance in her sad condition, but struggled on, toiling day by day, to maintain her family. Mrs. H——, who is over eighty years of age, is now an inmate of a Hospital in a Midland town, where it is to be hoped she will have a peaceful ending to a troubled life.*



* Partly taken from an Article by the late Bro. W. Kelly, in the "Freemason," 1886, p. 627.

Ashby-de-la-Bouch.

“De la Justice et de l’Union.”

(Justice and Unity.)

1814.

LATE in the year 1813, or early in 1814, several French officers arrived in Ashby, who had been taken prisoners at Pampeluna in the north of Spain, which fortress, after a siege of three months, had surrendered to Wellington’s troops in October, 1813. They brought much money with them, part of the vast treasure carried away in their retreat to Pampeluna, after the disastrous defeat at Vittoria in the previous June. This money was concealed in the soles of their boots and in the collars and cuffs of their coats, and was no doubt very useful in ekeing out the weekly allowance made to them by the British Government. One of them also brought a dog with him, which was said to be the only one which had survived the siege.*

The only evidence of the existence of the Lodge “De la Justice et de l’Union,” is contained in an endorsement on the back of a French Certificate, issued in 1812 to one of the above-mentioned Pampeluna prisoners, by the members of a French Military

* Partly taken from Andrews’ “Bygone Leicestershire,” p. 233.

Lodge held in the town of Vittoria.* This Certificate is a parchment document, wholly in French, 17½ inches by 14½ inches, and is printed from an engraved plate, the design being of an ordinary French type. The text of the Certificate is as follows :—

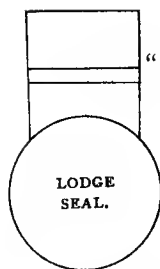
“A LA GLOIRE DU G.: A.: DE L'U.:

“A Tous les Maçons réguliers répandus sur la surface de la Terre.

“SALUT. FORCE. UNION.

“Nous Vénérable et Officiers de la R.: □ des Amis
 “Réunis de St. Joseph, à l'Orient de Vitoria (Espagne),
 “régulièrement constituée en 5811, certifions et attes-
 “tons que le T.: C.: F.: *Grivaut (Antoine)* est Membre
 “de notre R.: At.:, qu'il possède *les trois* grades maçon-
 “niques, et qu'il a travaillé parmi nous avec zèle et
 “assiduité: c'est pourquoi nous prions tous ceux qui
 “sont à prier de le reconnaître comme bon et légitime
 “Maçon, et de l'admettre comme tel à leurs travaux,
 “de lui prêter aide et assistance en cas de besoin,
 “comme nous nous y sommes obligés nous-mêmes; et
 “pour que le présent Certificat ne puisse servir qu'au dit
 “F.: *Grivaut (Antoine)*, nous lui avons fait apposer sa
 “signature en marge ne varietur. Délivré en loge,
 “régulièrement assemblée, d'un lieu très-éclairé, où
 “règnent la paix, l'union et la charité, le 9^e jour du
 “6^{ème} mois de l'an de la V.: L.: 5812, répondant au
 “9 Aout 1812.

* “Les Amis Réunis de Saint-Joseph,” established in Vittoria in 1811. (*Vide* Rebold's “Histoire des Trois Grandes Loges,” p. 120.) The Certificate belongs to the Leicester Freemasons' Hall Collection.



“*Col. D’Ordan.* *L. J. Herman.* *Menou.*
 “S.: P.: R.: +. 2^e surv.: T^{re} v.: T.: 1^{er} S.:

“*Pallissier.* *Bagnere.*
 “2^{me} E.: l’hr.

“Scellé et Timbré par nous Par mand^t de la R.: L
 “Gardes des Sceaux et Timbre *Bergeron.*
 “de la R.: L.: Secrétaire.
 “*Vidalot.*”

(Signed in dexter margin: “*Ne Varietur. Grivaut.*”)

The Seal—unfortunately damaged—is of red wax, and is contained in a circular tin box two inches in diameter, attached to the document by light blue ribbon.

[TRANSLATION.]

“TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT
 “ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

“To all regular Masons throughout the World.

“GREETING. FORTITUDE. UNITY.

“We Master and Officers of the Worshipful Lodge
 “‘United Friends of St. Joseph,’ regularly constituted
 “at Vittoria (Spain) in 5811, certify and declare that our
 “very dear Brother Antoine Grivaut is a member of our
 “Worshipful Lodge, that he has taken the first three
 “degrees of Masonry, and has worked amongst us with
 “zeal and assiduity: we therefore pray all those whom
 “it may concern, to receive him as a true and regular
 “Mason, to admit him as such to their ceremonies, and
 “to aid and assist him in case of need, as we on our
 “part engage to do; and in order that the present

"Certificate may alone be of service to the said Brother Antoine Grivaut, we have caused him to sign his name in the margin—ne varietur. Delivered in Lodge, regularly assembled, in an enlightened place, where peace, unity and charity reign, the 9th day of the 6th month of the year of the True Light 5812, "corresponding to August 9th, 1812."

Within ten months of the granting of this Certificate, the French troops were disastrously beaten by the British under Wellington at the battle of Vittoria (June 21st, 1813). The town was stormed with great slaughter, while many prisoners and much material of war fell into the hands of the victors. Some of those who escaped took refuge in the fortresses of Pampeluna and San Sebastian, both of which were subsequently captured by the British troops.*

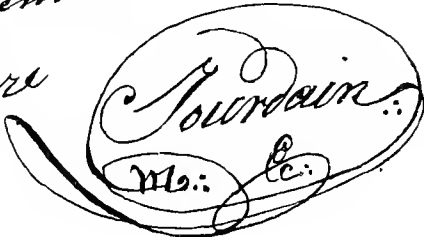
Among those who escaped to Pampeluna and afterwards surrendered, was this Brother Antoine Grivaut, who was sent, probably with many others, as prisoner of war to England, and in April, 1814, was residing "on parole" in Ashby-de-la-Zouch. This information is obtained from an endorsement on the back of the Certificate just described, and is as follows:—†

* Amongst the spoils taken after one of the battles of this campaign, was the Masonic Diploma of Marshal Soult. This document was presented in the year 1823 to "St. Nathalan's" Lodge, Tullichin-Mar, Aberdeenshire, very possibly by some Highland veteran returned from the wars. It remained in the possession of the Lodge until the year 1850, when by the mediation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, it was returned to the Marshal through the hands of the Marquis of Normanby, British Ambassador at Paris. The Marshal's letter of acknowledgment, when received, was ordered to be sent to the "St. Nathalan's" Lodge, and the preservation of that document should prove a far more valuable memorial of a distinguished Brother, than the unwarranted possession of a plundered parchment. Marshal Soult died a few days after the Diploma was returned to him. ("Freemasons' Quarterly Review," 1851, p. 183, and "Freemasons' Magazine," 1861, Vol. I., p. 329.)

† *Vide* Plate X.

PLATE X.

Vu & Affilié
 à la R.: □. De la
 Justice & de L'union
 le 1^{er} jour du 2^e mois de la
 V.: L.: 5814 et a travaillé avec
 tout le tel possible jusqu'à ce jour,
 Or.: d. Ashby de la Zouch le 3^e jour
 du 4^e mois de la 9.: L.: 5814.
 Par mandement de la R.: □
 Le Secrétaire



ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

Endorsement on Grivaut's Certificate.

(Vide page 71.)

“Vu & affilier à la R.: □.: de la Justice & de
 “L’union le 1^{er} jour du 2^e mois de la V.: L.: 5814
 “et a travaillé avec tout le zèle possible jusqu’a ce jour.

“Or.: d’Ashby de la Zouch le 3^e jour du 4^e mois
 “de la V.: L.: 5814.

“Par mandement de la R.: □

“Le Secrétaire. *Jourdain.*

“M.: Ec.:”

[TRANSLATION.]

“Seen for the purpose of affiliation in the W. Lodge
 “‘Justice and Unity,’ the 1st day of the 2nd month
 “of the True Light 5814, and has worked with all
 “possible zeal up to this day.

“Orient of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the 3rd day of the
 “4th month of the True Light 5814.”

Peace having been established between England and France by the Treaty of Paris in May, 1814, it is very probable that this endorsement was added just prior to Bro. Grivaut’s return home, in order to indicate his Masonic career and his zeal for the Craft, a custom very general in France at that time.

A further endorsement appears on the Certificate as follows:—

“Vu par nous chefs des hommes éclairés à L’or.:
 “de St. Servan, le 30^e jour du 8^e mois de L’an de
 “La V.: L.: 5816.

“2^e Surv.:

Le V.:

1^{er} Surv.:

“*B. Eymenthorn.* (?)

Sire.

Merlin.

“R.: +.:

R.: +.:

“Par mandement de la □

“*I. Martin.*

“Sec.:”

[TRANSLATION.]

“Seen by us, Officers of the ‘Enlightened Men,’ at
 “the Orient of St. Servan, the 30th day of the 8th
 “month of the year of the True Light 5816.”

From this second endorsement it will be seen that Bro. Grivaut arrived safely in his native land and visited a Lodge at St. Servan, near St. Malo, in the year 1816, after which nothing further is known of his Masonic career.

Before leaving Ashby-de-la-Zouch for their beloved France, the French Masons who had been located there, disposed of their Lodge furniture to some English Brethren, who contemplated establishing a Lodge at Repton in Derbyshire. Bro. G. Mugliston—an Ashby man—one of the petitioners for the Repton Lodge, and subsequently its first Worshipful Master, in forwarding the petition to the Grand Lodge on July 13th, 1815, wrote as follows:—“We have also
 “Furniture for the Lodge now ready at Ashby-de-
 “la-Zouch, the same which the French prisoners had
 “when there.”*

The Warrant for the Repton Lodge—the “Royal Sussex,” No. 690 (now No. 353)—was not granted until September, 1817, from which date until the year 1869, the Lodge continued to meet regularly in that town. In the latter year it was removed from Repton to Winshill, a suburb of Burton-on-Trent, where it still meets.

* Minutes of “Royal Sussex” Lodge, September 24th, 1817.

The furniture of the old Prisoners' Lodge, which is still in use, consists of three Pedestals (for the Master and Wardens) and a Canopy for the Master's Chair. The Canopy, which is dome-like, is supported by two pillars, one on each side; it is partly enclosed by curtains, and the Sun, Moon and Stars are painted at the back. The Pedestals are of plain deal, ornamented respectively with the Square and Compasses, Level and Plumb-rule. There is also a painted Tracing-cloth, dated 1812, about five feet by three feet, representing on one side the emblems of the E.A. and F.C. degrees, and on the other side those of the M.M. degree. This Tracing-cloth is also a relic of the French Prisoners' Lodge. The old furniture is very much prized by the Brethren of the "Royal Sussex" Lodge, on account of its very interesting associations; it has been recently renovated, especial care, however, being taken that it should still retain its ancient peculiarities.



Chepstow. (Mon.)

THERE is a tradition amongst Monmouthshire Masons that a Lodge was established and worked by the French Prisoners of War in Chepstow, in the early part of the present century. Numerous enquiries, however, have not resulted in the acquisition of any details of the Lodge, although the tradition is probably well founded.



Kelso.

1810 : 1814.

IN common with many other of the border towns, Kelso received its complement of French prisoners of war, amongst whom were several Masons.

The following extract is taken from Bro. W. F. Vernon's "History of Freemasonry in the Province of Roxburgh, Peebles and Selkirkshires, &c.," (p. 131) under the heading of the Kelso Lodge, No. 58:—

"On the Anniversary of St. Andrew, 1810, the Lodge "was favoured with a visit from several French officers "(prisoners of war) at present resident in Kelso.— "The Rt. Wor. in addressing them, expressed the "wishes of himself and the Brethren to do everything "in their power to promote their comfort and happi- "ness, after which he proposed the healths of the "Brethren, who were strangers in a foreign land, "which was drank with enthusiastic applause. These "prisoners resided in Kelso on parole from the month "of November, 1810, till June, 1814, when, upon the "conclusion of the general peace, they were liberated. "As many as 230 were at one time located in Kelso, "and there is frequent mention of their appearance "at the meetings, when the harmony was greatly in- "creased by the polite manners and the vocal powers "of our French Brethren.—In 1811, on the 22nd of "June, one of the officers, by name Jean Laurent "Bogue, was entered an Apprentice."

It would seem from the foregoing extract, that the French Brethren did not establish and work a Lodge in Kelso, but were content with visiting the local Lodge from time to time,—evidence of which appears in a curious parchment document, still preserved in the archives of the Kelso Lodge.

This MS., 22 inches by 18 inches, contains a Declaration, which by order of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, was required to be signed by every visitor to the Lodge. This Declaration occupies four lines along the whole length of the parchment, and is as follows :—*

“I Solemnly Swear by God, and as I shall answer
 “to God at the Great Day of Judgement, that I was
 “duly entered an Apprentice Mason within the Lodge
 “adhibited to my Subscription ; and I further solemnly
 “swear, by the Oath I now take and the Oath that
 “I took, when I was so made a Mason, that I shall
 “never reveal any of the Secrets of Masonry which I
 “may see or hear in consequence of being admitted
 “a visiting Brother in this Lodge of Kelso, except
 “to a true Brother. So help me God.”

Below this Declaration are three columns of signatures, many of them being dated and witnessed by one or more members of the Lodge, the earliest date being November 20th, 1804. The first column contains the signatures of twenty-six visitors, the second nineteen, and the third twenty-four. On the back of the parchment are more signatures, the last being dated December 27th, 1830.

* *Vide* Plate XI.

Among the twenty-four signatures in the third column, are those of fifteen French prisoners, residing on parole in Kelso; they are as follows:—

NOVEMBER 30TH, 1810.

“H^t Daguet. . S^t Sebastien.

“J. Vallin. . Brest. élu de Sulli à L’orient de ^x ×

“L^s Bortinot, des arts & l’amitié .

“Larminat, M.: S^t Frédéric, orient de Boulogne.

* “Anglade, M.: L’o.: de Wantage, Cœurs Unis.

* “A. Fabre, M.: L’o.: de Wantage, Cœurs unis.:.

* “François, M.: L’o. de Wantage cœurs Unis.:.”

MARCH 24TH, 1811.

“Rochon. M.: mars et minerve O. . du 5^e B^{on} de
“Sapeurs.

“Jean Schott, mars et minerve — ? — ? —

“P. Joubert, L.: de L’union parfaite de la Rochelle.”

DECEMBER 27TH, 1811.

† “René de Lausière, M. les Enfans de Mars à L’O. .
“de Tiverton.

† “Pierre Eulalie Pasquereau, M. les enfans de Mars
“à l’O.: de Tiverton.

“Jean Regard, C.: S. . de la L \square la Zélée à l’o.:
“de Bayonne.

“Ch. Arney, M.: M. Les Enfants de Mars & Thè-
“mis à L’O.: de La Basse Terre Ile Guadeloupe.

† “Julien Marteville, les Enfans de Mars à L’orient de
“Tiverton. C.:.”

* *Vide* under the heading of Wantage.

† *Vide* under the heading of Tiverton.

The foregoing list of signatures contains references to two Lodges established and worked by the French prisoners of war in England, viz. :—

“Cœurs Unis” at Wantage, and
“Enfants de Mars” at Tiverton.

Reference is made to both these Lodges on subsequent pages.

Seven of the Brethren whose names are included in the list—Daguet, Vallin, Bortinot, Larminat, Anglade, Fabre and Rochon—visited the “Lodge of Economy” No. 88 (now 76) Winchester, on November 17th, 1810, whilst passing through that town, probably from Wantage, *en route* to Portsmouth, to be embarked for Scotland.*

Not only at Kelso and Winchester, but wherever the French prisoners visited Lodges of English Masons, they were universally received with fraternal affection, and hospitably entertained. Many references to such visits may be found in the records of old Lodges in different parts of the country.



* *Vide* “Extracts from the Minute Books of the . . . Lodge of Economy,” T. Stopher, p. 4.

Leek.

“De l’Amitié.”

(Friendship.)

1810.

A LODGE and Chapter seem to have been working contemporaneously in Leek, among the French prisoners residing in that town in the early part of the present century.

Beyond the bare fact of some prisoners having been there “on parole,” nothing now seems to be known as to their number, the date of their arrival or the length of their stay.

In the fine collection of Certificates belonging to Bro. F. J. W. Crowe of Torquay, is one issued by the Chapter “De l’Amitié” (Friendship), which was working among the French prisoners in Leek in the year 1810. This document was granted to an officer of the 84th Regiment on his receiving the degree of Chevalier d’Orient (Knight of the East), the last but one of the seven degrees recognised at that time by the Grand Orient of France.*

The document is a most interesting one. The design, which is rather uncommon, being excellently

* The seven degrees were :—1. Apprentice. 2. Fellow Craft. 3. Master Mason. 4. Elect. 5. Scotch Master. 6. Knight of the East. 7. Rose Croix

drawn by hand on parchment, 19¾ inches by 15 inches in size. It is in very good condition, the Seal* of red wax in a tin box being also intact.

As in the case of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Lodge, already referred to, the Leek Brethren claimed that their Lodge was held under the especial sanction of Lord Moira, at that time the Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.

The claim is, no doubt, a just one, but it is more than probable that his lordship would stipulate beforehand, that none but French prisoners should be received as members of the Lodge.

The following are transcript and rough translation of the Certificate :—†

“ A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L’U.:

“ A tous les Maçons réguliers répandus sur la sur-
“ face de la Terre.

“ SALUT, FORCE, UNION.

“ Nous Vén.: et Off.: de la R.: L ☐.: Chap.:
“ Française de S^t Jean sous le Titre distinctif de L’amitié
“ à L’Orient de Leek en Angleterre duement constituée
“ sous les auspices du rit français, et régulièrement
“ legalisé par l’aménité maçon.: en Angleterre, en
“ vertu des pleins pouvoirs nous délégués par sa Seig-
“ neurie le T.: Ill. et T.: R.: F.: Le lord Moira

* *Vide* Frontispiece. The Seal is attached to the document by eight narrow ribbons, two each black, blue, green and red.

† *Vide* Plate XII. The original belongs to Bro. F. J. W. Crowe’s collection.



LEEK.—Pinguet's Certificate.

(Vide page 80.)

"représentant du G.: Ort.: M.: en Angleterre, Certi-
 "fions et attestons que nous avons conféré au très
 "C. F Simon Charles Victor Pinguet agé de 41 ans,
 "natif de Montagne, Dep^t. de L'Orne Chef de B^m
 "au 84^e Reg^t Le grade S.: de Ch.: d'Or.: Pour le
 "récompenser du zèle & de la constance qu'il n'a
 "cessé de manifester en nous aidant dans les Travaux
 "de cette R.: L □.: Priant tous les Vén.: des L □.:
 "auxquelles il se présentera de l'accueillir avec les
 "honneurs du grade dont il est revêtu. Fait et délivré
 "dans un lieu tres éclairé le 10^e Jour du 10^e mois
 "de l'An de la Vraie Lumière 5810.

"Le Vénérable. *Allaire.*
 Chev. d'or.:

"Charles Leclerc. Chev.: d'o. . 2^e surv.: ch. D'or.: p.: S.:
 "ch.: D'o.:

"Dupuy.
 "S.: P.: R.: + *Hardoüin.*
 "Ch.: d'or^t Or.:

"Scellé et Timbré par *Dickerins.* Par Mandement
 "nous Garde de Sceaux chev.: d'o.: de la R.: L □.:
 "et Timbre. *Monneret.*
 "*Aignier.* chev.: d'o.:
 "Chev. D'or.:

(In dexter margin: "Ne Varietur.
 "Pinguet.")

[TRANSLATION.]

"We Master and Officers of the Worshipful French
 "Lodge and Chapter of St. John held at Leek in
 "England under the distinctive title of 'Friendship,'
 "duly constituted under the authority of the French

“rite, regularly legalised by the kindness of the Eng-
 “lish Masons, and by virtue of the full power delegated
 “to us by his Lordship the Very Illustrious and Very
 “Worshipful Brother Lord Moira representing the
 “Grand Lodge of England, certify and attest that we
 “have conferred upon our very dear Brother Simon
 “Charles Victor Pinguet, age 41 years, native of Mon-
 “tagne, Dept. de l’Orne, Major in the 84th Regt.,
 “the degree of Knight of the East as a reward for
 “the zeal and constancy which he has always ex-
 “hibited in conducting the work of this Worshipful
 “Lodge, requesting the Master of every Lodge at
 “which he shall present himself, to receive him with
 “all the honours due to the rank to which he has
 “attained. Done and delivered in a place of light
 “the 10th day of the 10th month of the year of the
 “True Light 5810.”



Leek.

“Réunion Désirée.”

(Desired Reunion.)

1811.

MANY of the Prisoners' Lodges referred to in these pages, bore names which were more or less in general use in France at the time. The title “Children of Mars and Neptune” was quite a common one for military and naval Lodges, while “United Friends,” “Friends of the Order,” “Justice and Unity,” “Friendship,” “Benevolence,” “Fidelity,” “Unity” and “United Hearts” were frequently used by French Masons, and may have been a renewal of the names of the Lodges to which some of the *détenus* formerly belonged. But some few of the names adopted by the French prisoners, of which the Leek Lodge had one, are full of sad significance. Thus such names as “Misfortune,” “The Unfortunate Ones,” “Friends in Captivity,” “Desired Reunion” and “Desired Peace” are an evident reflection of the sad and sorrowful feelings of the Brethren, and bear witness to their eager longing for a speedy termination to their captivity.

At the back of the Certificate issued by the Chapter “De l'Amitié” of Leek, is an endorsement which records the existence of a Lodge also worked by the French prisoners there, under the title of “Réunion Désirée” (Desired Reunion).

It is quite clear that these two Masonic bodies were distinct and separate, inasmuch as they had different Brethren as Master and Secretary. It is also evident that the Brethren belonging to each were on very good terms, for the endorsement records the visit of a member of the Chapter of "Friendship" to the Lodge of "Desired Reunion." This practice of endorsing on their Certificates particulars of visits paid by Brethren to Sister-Lodges, was very common amongst French Masons at that time, and tends to make old French Certificates exceedingly interesting. Many very valuable and curious specimens are in the Leicester Collection.

The endorsement is as follows:—*

"Vu à la R.: L ☐.:
 "de la Réunion Désirée
 "à l'or.: de Leek le 7.: jour du
 "8^e Mois de l'an Mac^{que} 5811.

"Le V^{ble} S.: P.: R.: +.:.

"*Brunet.*

"Par Mand :

"*Béguiny.* S^e.

"ch.: d'or.:."

("Seen at the W. Lodge of 'Desired Reunion' at
 "Leek on the 7th day of the 8th month of the year
 "of Masonry 5811.")

Nothing further is known of this Lodge.

* *Vide* Plate XIII.

PLATE XIII.

Vu à la R.: L.:
 de la Réunion Désirée
 à l'or.: de Leek, le 7.^e jour du
 8.^e Mois de l'an Mac.: 5811.

S.^{ble}. V.: S.: P.: R.: +.:

Brumet.

Par mand.^t
 Beguiny, S.:
 ch.: d'or.^t

LEEK.

Endorsement on Pinguet's Certificate.

(Vide page 84.)



Malta.*

“*Les Amis en Captivité.*”

(*Friends in Captivity.*)

1812-1820.

SUBSEQUENT to the occupation of the Island of Malta by the British in the year 1800, a Lodge was established there, by the French prisoners of war, in connection with the Grand Orient of Marseilles. The members of this Lodge were not well selected, and after suffering much, the few who remained when the war was over, petitioned for, and obtained, an English Warrant for a permanent Lodge. This was No. 716 “*Les Amis en Captivité*” (*Friends in Captivity*), which was the name originally adopted by the French prisoners. This Warrant was dated October 6th, 1819, and the Lodge continued to appear in the official List of Lodges until 1824, although it never made any returns to the English Grand Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master of Malta, Bro. Waller Rodwell Wright, found it necessary to allow them to work in the Italian language, and according to the ritual to which alone they were accustomed, but insisted on their observing the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England.

* This account is taken principally from “*The History of Freemasonry in the District of Malta,*” by Bro. A. M. Broadley ; London, 1880.

Four parchment Certificates of this Lodge, most noteworthy specimens of Masonic designs and elegant calligraphy, were in existence as late as the year 1880, and are probably still preserved in the archives of one of the Malta Lodges.

The first is dated October 25th, 1812, and is entirely in the French language. The Lodge is described as "The Worshipful Lodge of St. John, under the distinctive name of *Les Amis en Captivité*," and was held at *Città Vecchia*, the former capital of the island, a small town about six miles from Valletta. This document attests that Bro. Ignatius Vidal had duly taken the Third Degree. It is signed by sixteen Brethren, two of the signatures being followed by Masonic marks, and a wax Seal is attached to it by a blue ribbon. At the time this Certificate was issued, Bro. H. Aubin was Hon. W.M., Bro. Vardier, W.M., Bro. Danesmil, S.W., and Bro. Lombard, J.W. On the reverse of this document is an endorsement, dated December 20th, 1812, declaring that the "Sovereign Princes of the Valley of Toulon" had conferred on the same Brother the 18th degree of the A. and A. Scottish Rite, the endorsement being signed by Bros. P. Pensa and H. Aubin.

The second document is dated March 16th, 1814, and is also in French. It attests that Bro. Nicholas Ataglioti had been perfected a S.P. Rose Croix and Knight of St. Andrew in the Lodge "*Parfaite Union*" (Perfect Unity). It bears a beautiful oval Seal, about three inches long by two inches broad, attached to it by a red ribbon bordered with black. Around the edge of the Seal are the words "*L.: Scozzeze della Perfetta Unione l'O. di Malta*," while upon an elaborate shield in the centre are depicted the Square and Compasses and other Masonic working-tools. The body from which this

document emanated, was probably a Chapter attached to the Lodge "Les Amis en Captivité," the M.W.S. at the time being Pietro Pensa, whose name appears on the Certificate already described.

The third Certificate is dated May 11th, 1816, and attests in the French language the possession of the Third Degree by the same Nicholas Ataglioti. It was issued by the Lodge "Les Amis en Captivité," and the design is an elaborate drawing in water-colours of the columns of the Temple, surmounted by the sun, moon and stars. The Seal is circular, attached to the document by a blue ribbon, and is inscribed "L.: Amis en Captivité Or. Ile de Malthe, 36 Deg: de Lat:". In the centre of the Seal is a Triangle, having the Ark of the Covenant in the middle surmounted by the All-seeing Eye, with a Square and Compasses extended at its base; the Triangle is surrounded by a Circle, from which seven points, forming a Star, extend towards the circumference of the Seal, between each of which points is a five-pointed Star. The document is signed by L. Nani, W.M., Jean André Roediger, S.W., and J. A. Hochkofter, J.W.

The fourth Certificate was issued as late as September 25th, 1820, and certifies that Bro. Ignatius André Vidal had filled, with honour to himself, the offices of D. of C. and J.W. in the Lodge "Les Amis en Captivité." It is of small dimensions and very beautifully executed. The document is surrounded by a border of acacia, having in the centre of the upper portion an All-seeing Eye, with a branch of lilies on one side and of acacia on the other. The Seal, which is similar to the one belonging to the third Certificate, is attached to the document by a red ribbon edged with green, and covered with green stars. The

Certificate is signed by R. Stevens and twelve other members of the Lodge, four of whom, including the W.M., describe themselves as "Knights of the Temple and Malta." It is quite clear, by the W.M. being an Englishman, that this document was issued after the French prisoners had returned to their native land, and the Lodge was being carried on by permanent residents.

How long, and with what success, the Lodge "Les Amis en Captivité" continued to work is not known, but as already stated, it was erased from the Grand Lodge List in 1823.



Melrose.

“La Bienfaisance.”

(Benevolence.)

1813.

UNLIKE the custom in some other border towns, such as Peebles and Selkirk, the French prisoners located in Melrose had a regular Lodge of their own, under the distinctive name of “Bienfaisance” (Benevolence). For this purpose the Melrose Brethren allowed them the use of their Lodge-room, where the ceremonies were conducted in their own way and in their own language, whilst they fraternized with the local Brethren upon many festive occasions.

The following excerpt is taken from the Minute-book of the Lodge of Melrose (now No. 1²) under date of September 25th, 1813:—

“The Inhabitants of Melrose having requested that
 “the building of the cistern of the well in contemplation
 “should be laid by the Lodge with the usual Solemnities,
 “the Master ordered a meeting of the Brethren for that
 “purpose; the French Brethren of the Lodge of St.
 “John, under the distinctive appellation of ‘Benevolence,’
 “instituted by the French prisoners of war on parole
 “here, were invited to attend, which the Master, Office-
 “bearers and many of the Brethren accordingly did.
 “The procession proceeded from the Lodge, and walked

“round the Cross, where they formed a circle round
 “the foundation of the well; the first stone was then
 “laid with the accustomed ceremonies, and the Master
 “addressed a few words of congratulation to the
 “Brethren, upon the occasion of their Meeting. The
 “Brethren then returned to the Lodge and spent the
 “afternoon and evening with the harmony and con-
 “viviality that characterise the Craft, and which were
 “so suitable to the occasion.”

Before departing to their homes at the conclusion of the war, the French Brethren drew up a Memorial, which was signed by upwards of twenty of them, expressive of their gratitude, for the fraternal manner in which they had uniformly been treated by the Brethren of the Lodge of Melrose. This document is said to be carefully preserved amongst the many others of interest belonging to this good old Lodge.

Many attempts have been made to obtain the loan, or a copy, of this document, but without success. This is very unfortunate, inasmuch as particulars of other Prisoners' Lodges might possibly be obtained therefrom—as in the case of the Kelso MS.—for it was a custom with Brethren to append to their signatures the name and location of their Mother-lodge. It is to be feared that the document is no longer in the archives of the Melrose Lodge, as there can be no reason why its contents should not be published for the information of the Masonic fraternity.



Northampton.

“La Bonne Union.”

(Unity.)

1810.

THE existence of this Lodge is only known from the fact, that the Master of the Lodge, in 1810, was an Honorary Member of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Lodge “Vrais amis de L’ordre,” and his name, in that capacity, appears on the two Certificates of Bro. Louis Jean described under the heading of that Lodge.

The Master of the Northampton Lodge, Bro. F. N. Burdet, seems to have been a Mason of considerable experience and high rank, being described as “Sovereign “Prince Rose Croix—Prussian Knight—Member of “Lodge ‘de Tarente’ in the 1st Regt. of Light “Infantry—Officer of the Lodge ‘de l’Union’ in the “1st Polish Regiment—Member of several Lodges “under the Grand Orient of Naples—Master of the “W. Lodge ‘de la Bonne Union,’ Orient of Northamp- “ton in England—Honorary Member of the W. Lodge “‘des Vrais Amis de l’Ordre,’ Orient of Ashby-de-la- “Zouch in England.”

There are no traditions in Northampton of a French Prisoners’ Lodge, but the father-in-law of the late Bro. Butler Wilkins, D. Prov. G.M., is said to have been initiated in a Lodge of Polish refugees, which was

working in Northampton in the early part of the present century, and the apron he wore in that Lodge, a curious engraved "Finch" specimen, is still in existence.

It is just possible that this was the French Prisoners' Lodge, as Bro. Burdet alluded to above was an Officer in a Lodge attached to a Polish regiment, and a great many Poles who joined the French army were amongst the prisoners of war in England.



Plymouth.

“Amis Réunis.”

(Re-united Friends.)

1809.

EARLY in the present century a large number of French prisoners of war were confined in the Mill Prison, Plymouth. This prison was built especially for the purpose of accommodating the French, Spanish and American prisoners, upon land expressly given to the country for the purpose by the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., as the owner of the Duchy of Cornwall. The prison was very large, for at times as many as 8,000 to 10,000 were located there. During the Crimean War it was occupied by large numbers of Russian prisoners, and is now used as military barracks.

The French prisoners confined in the prison in the year 1809 comprised a number of Freemasons, who conducted a Lodge there under the name of “Amis Réunis,” but beyond the bare fact of its existence nothing is known.

That such a Lodge was in active operation in 1809 is proved by an endorsement on a Certificate, issued in 1797 by the Lodge “Réunion Désirée” (Desired Re-union) established by the Gd. Orient of France at Port au Prince, Island of St. Domingo, in the year 1783.*

* *Vide* Rebold's “Histoire des Trois Grandes Loges,” p. 76.

This Certificate is a parchment document, 13 inches by 10 inches, wholly written in French; it is in excellent preservation, but the Seal is wanting.

As below is a copy of this interesting Certificate * :—

“POST. TENEBRAS. LUX.

“A la Gloire du Grand Architecte de L'Univers.:

“Sous les Auspices du Sérénissime Grand Maître.:

“D'un Lieu éclairé ou Regnent L'Union, Le Silence,
 “& La Charité, L'an de la Vraie Lumière 5797, et le
 “27^{ème} jour du 10^{ème} Mois Maç^{que} *La R.: L.: St. Jean*
 “*de Jerusalem* Régulièrement Constituée à L'O.: du Port
 “au Prince, Isle St. Domingo, sous le Titre distinctif de la
 “Réunion Désirée.

“A Toutes LL.: RR.: LL.: Régulières, répandues
 “sur la surface du Globe.:

“SALUT.: FORCE.: UNION.:

“Nous Vénérable, 1^{er} & 2^d Surveillants, OO^{iers} DD^{res}
 “Maçons de tous grades, décorés de tous les honneurs &
 “Régulièrement & Fraternellement assemblés sous le
 “point géométrique connus des seuls Vrais Maçons,
 “Certifions & Attestons que le T.: C.: F.: François
 “Lescamela, habitant de St. Domingue a été reçu
 “Apprenti Compagnon & Maître; qu'il a depuis été
 “nommé Garde des Sceau, Timbre & Archives de notre
 “R.: L.: pour l'année suivante. Vu les preuves qu'il nous
 “a constamment donné de la pureté de ses Moeurs, de
 “sa Charité envers le prochain, de son amitié pour ses

* This Certificate belongs to the private collection of the writer.

“Frères & sa persévérance à nos Mystères ; Nous lui
 “avons délivré le présent Certificat, revêtu des Timbre &
 “Sceau de notre Architecture, sous lequel il a signé
 “en notre présence pour éviter toutes surprises, afin
 “qu’il Reçoive de tous les Vrais Maçons, Joie, Satis-
 “faction & bon accueil, offrant même retour à chaque
 “F.: qui se présentera sous même caution & même
 “Titre.:

“Fait et délivré à l’orient de Port-au-Prince, Signé de
 “nous & contresigné de notre F.: Secrétaire pour avoir
 “plein et entier Effet après confrontation de la signature
 “du dit Frère.:

“Scellé & Timbré par nous *Mongin.* *Leclerc.* R.: +.:
 “Garde des Sceau Timbre & Archives M^{tre} en T.: G.: V^{ble} P.: S.:
 “de la R.: L.: *ad-hoc.* *Hub. Denoirbainoir.* Par Mandement de la
 “*I. Park.* R.: +.: 2^{me} S.: R.: L.: de la Réunion Désirée.
 “Scellé par nous *Saladin J^e.* R.: +.: *Marvands.* *Collignon.*
 “*Toirac.* M.: des C.: M.: Sec^{re}
 “G^e de s.: *Moreau de Lisle.* *Carré.* R.: +.: *Vachez.*
 “m.: f.: o.: hospitalier. M.:
 “*Sarugue.* *Merceron.* *Saladin aîné.*
 “ora.: adj.: M.: en t.: grade. *Gerinett.*
 “R.: +.: trésorier. G^e de T^{re}
 “*L. Haranedur.* *Pr^e Prazoux.*
 “M.: 1^r Exp^t. M^e. En tout Grade. *Laboriez.*
 “S.: E.:”

(In dexter margin: “ne varietur
 “*Lescamela.*”)

[TRANSLATION.]

“TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT
“ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

“Under the auspices of the Most Illustrious Grand
“Master.

“From an enlightened place, where reign Unity,
“Silence and Charity, in the year of the True Light
“5797, and the 27th. day of the 10th. Masonic Month.

“The W. Lodge of St. John of Jerusalem, regularly
“constituted at Port au Prince, Island of St. Domingo,
“under the distinctive title of ‘Desired Re-union.’

“To All Regular Worshipful Lodges throughout the
“World.

“HEALTH. STRENGTH. UNITY.

“We Master, Wardens, Officers and Masons of every
“degree, adorned with all our honors, regularly and
“fraternally assembled on the geometrical point known
“only to True Masons, certify and declare that our
“very dear Brother François Lescamela, a resident in
“St. Domingo, has received the degrees of Apprentice,
“Companion and Master; that he has also been
“appointed Keeper of the Seal, Stamp and Archives
“of our W. Lodge for the ensuing year. On account
“of the constant proofs that he has given of the
“purity of his life, his charity to his neighbour, his
“friendship for the Brethren, and his perseverance in
“our mysteries, we have delivered to him the present
“Certificate, sealed with the Seal and Stamp of our
“Lodge, under which he has signed his name in our
“presence to prevent any misuse of it, in order that

“he may receive from all True Masons Joy, Satisfaction
 “and Welcome, offering the same to every Brother
 “who may present himself to us with the same caution
 “and the same title.

“Done and delivered at the Lodge at Port au
 “Prince, signed by us, and countersigned by the
 “Secretary, to have full effect after comparison of the
 “signature of the said Brother.”

On the back of the Certificate are four endorsements, which record visits paid to various Lodges by the owner.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT.

“Vu à la R.: L.: des vrais amis réunis régulièrement
 “assemblée à l'or.: du Mole de St Nicolas le 12^{ème} Jour
 “du 8^{ème} Mois M.: de l'an de la V.: L.: 5798 et de
 “l'Ere vulgaire le 20^{ème} Vendemiaire an 7^e de la
 “République française Une & Indivisible.

“Par Mandement de la R.: L.:

“*Lafitte Jeune.*

“Sec^{re}”

[TRANSLATION.]

“Inspected at the W. Lodge of ‘True Friends
 “Re-united’ regularly assembled at the Mole de St.
 “Nicolas, the 12th. day of the 8th. Masonic month
 “of the year of the True Light 5798, and in the vulgar
 “era, the 20th. Vendemiaire of the 7th. year of the
 “French Republic, one and indivisible.”

The Mole of St. Nicholas is a small place in the extreme North-west of the Island of St. Domingo, and was frequently mentioned as a telegraph-station during the late Spanish-American war.

SECOND ENDORSEMENT.

“Vu Par La R.: L.: De La Parfaite Egalité Sceaaté
 “à l’O.: du Port de Paix De L’Ere vulgaire le 16^{me}
 “frimaire an 7^{me} de la R^{que} f^aise une & ind. & le 6^{me} du
 “9^{me} m.: m.: L.: D.: L.: V.: L.: 5798.

“Par mandement

“*J. Martin.*

“Sec^e

“M.: El.: de 15.”

[TRANSLATION.]

“Inspected by the W. Lodge of ‘Perfect Equality’
 “established at Port de Paix, in the vulgar era the 16th.
 “of Frimaire of the 7th. year of the French Republic
 “one and indivisible, and the 6th. of the 9th. Masonic
 “month of the year of the True Light 5798.”

Port de Paix is a small town on the North-west coast
 of the Island of St. Domingo.

THIRD ENDORSEMENT.

“Vu par la R.: L.: française La Candeur en instance
 “pour ses constitutions auprès du G.: O.: de Pensilvanie
 “à l’or.: de la Nouvelle Orleans le 9^e Jour du 6^{eme} M.:
 “M^{que} 5801.

“Olssen.

“Sec^e.”

[TRANSLATION.]

“Inspected by the W. French Lodge of ‘Candour,’
 “working by constitution from the Grand Orient of
 “Pennsylvania at New Orleans the 9th. day of the 6th.
 “Masonic month 5801.”

PLATE XIV.

J'ai
 à la P.
 les amis
 Reunis à l'v. de
 mill-prison, Plymouth
 de 4^e jour du 4^e mois
 de l'an de la R. L. 5809.
 séance tenante.
 par Mandement de la P.
 Sec.
 Le Maire
 mi.

PLYMOUTH.—Endorsement on Lescamela's Certificate.

(Vide page 99.)

Louisiana, of which New Orleans is the principal town, belonged to the French from 1800 to 1803, being sold to the United States of America in the latter year.

The Charter for the Lodge of "Candour" was granted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in May, 1801, and was surrendered in the following March.*

FOURTH ENDORSEMENT.†

"Vu à la R.: ☐ les amis Réunis à L'o de Mill-prison,
 "Plymouth le 4^e Jour du 4^e Mois de l'an de la V.: L.:
 "5809. Séance tenante.

"*Brousse*. V^e

" + ∴

"s. c. i ∴

"par Mandement de la R.: ☐

"*Le Maire*. m.:.

"Sec^{re}"

[TRANSLATION.]

"Inspected at the Lodge of 'Re-united Friends'
 "held at the Mill Prison, Plymouth, the 4th. day of
 "the 4th. month of the Year of the True Light 5809—
 "in open meeting."

This last Endorsement is the most important and interesting of the four, for it records the active existence of the Lodge "Amis Réunis" in the Mill Prison at Plymouth in 1809. Of the other Prisoners' Lodges mentioned in these pages, there is no absolutely

* *Vide* Gould's "History of Freemasonry; American Appendix," p. 471.

† *Vide* Plate XIV.

authentic information where they were held, but in this case there is no doubt of the fact, and it is a matter for surprise, that under the strict rules of prison life—probably much more strict than usual in the case of prisoners of war—the authorities allowed a Lodge to be held among the men committed to their charge.

It would be highly interesting to know if the governor or warders of the prison were members of the Craft, and in such case, if any of them were members of the Lodge or attended its Meetings as visitors. In spite, however, of numerous enquiries on the spot, no information whatever has been obtained, nor is anything further known of Bro. François Lescamela.



Sanguhar. (Dumfries.)

“*La Paix Désirée.*”

(Desired Peace.)

1812-1813.

OF this Lodge very little is known beyond the bare fact of its existence, which is proved by the following two items in a Sale Catalogue of French Masonic Books, &c., issued in 1863, and which were stated to have belonged to the library of one of the principal Lodges in Paris.

The list is entitled :

“Catalogue d’une précieuse collection de livres
“anciens, manuscrits et imprimés, de documents ori-
“ginaux, etc., sur Les Francs-Maçons dont
“la vente se fera Vendredi 27 mars 1863, et jours
“suivants Paris. Librairie Tross 1863..”

As below are transcript and translation of the items referred to:—

“No. 43.—Mémoire historique de la formation de la
“R.: □.: La paix désirée, à l’O.: de Sanguhar, en
“Ecosse, par des officiers français, prisonniers de guerre,
“et procès-verbaux des délibérations, depuis le 13 juin
“1812 jusqu’au 14 octobre 1813. In-fol., cart.—Manu-
“scrit important, rempli de timbres et de signatures.”

[TRANSLATION.]

“Historical account of the formation of the W. Lodge of ‘Desired Peace’ at Sanquhar in Scotland, “by French officers, prisoners of war, and particulars “of the Meetings from June 13th., 1812, to October “14th., 1813. Folio. Boards. An important manuscript, full of stamps and signatures.”

“No. 1041.—Règlements de la R.: ☐ de S. Jean, “sous le titre distinctif de la Paix-Désirée, à l’O.: de “Sanguhar, en Ecosse. In-fol., br.—Manuscript daté “de 1812.”

[TRANSLATION.]

“Regulations of the W. Lodge of St. John, under “the distinctive title of ‘Desired Peace’ at Sanquhar, “Scotland. Folio. Brochure. The manuscript is “dated 1812.”

It appears from these two items that the Lodge was established in June, 1812, and held its last Meeting on October 14th. of the following year. The cause of the discontinuance is not known, but it was probably due to the removal of some of its members to another town, as the authorities seldom allowed the French officers to remain in one place for any length of time. The object of these frequent removals, was doubtless to prevent them concerting measures for escaping to their own country. It is indeed quite possible, that the Sanquhar Lodge itself was founded by some members of another Lodge of the same name, which was held at Wincanton in 1810, of which particulars are given on a subsequent page.

It is very unfortunate that the present whereabouts of the two books referred to cannot be ascertained, but all attempts to trace them have hitherto been unsuccessful.

One thing, however, is quite clear, that the Lodges held by these French prisoners were not merely casual Meetings, but were held regularly. They were properly conducted, with regularly-appointed officers, and governed by a code of by-laws especially prepared for the Lodge, and their proceedings were duly recorded in a minute-book kept for the purpose.



Gelfirk.

1813-1814.

BETWEEN the years 1811 and 1814 ninety-three French prisoners of war were located in this border town, all of whom had been officers or surgeons in Napoleon's army. They lodged with householders in the town, and being "on parole" were allowed to walk in the country one mile in any direction, measured from the milestone near the centre of the town. They usually walked eastwards towards Bridgelands, a tall bush in the hedge by the way marking the limit of their walk. The Government allowance for their support was administered by a Mr. Scott, an officer of the Inland Revenue who lived in the Kirkwynd, and was rather a notable man in his day. Much of their time was spent in fishing and arranging dramatic entertainments, some of the plays of Corneille and Molière being acted with much spirit. A few of them were employed by the better class of townspeople, in giving instruction in French to their children, whilst those who had been military surgeons were always ready to show their skill in their own line, and were gratified by being asked to be present at any surgical operation.

Amongst these prisoners there were many Freemasons, who from time to time visited St. John's Lodge, No. 32 Selkirk, no less than thirty-five names of French Masons being recorded as visitors in the books of the Lodge.

On March 9th, 1812, it was resolved by the Brethren of the Selkirk Lodge, that on account of the favour done by some of the French Brethren, they should be enrolled as Honorary Members of the Lodge, the names of twenty-three of the French prisoners being thus added to the Lodge Roll.

As was the case at the neighbouring town of Melrose, the French Masons at Selkirk formed themselves into a Lodge, and conducted the Masonic ceremonies in their own language, the Brethren of the local St. John's Lodge allowing them the use of their room and furniture, and being present as visitors at the Meetings. Unfortunately the name adopted by the French Brethren for their Lodge cannot be ascertained.

The Minutes of St. John's Lodge, No. 32 Selkirk, record as follows :—

“January 13th, 1813. The Lodge being constituted by the French brethren, they admitted Matthew Greive an apprentice Freemason.”

“February 2nd, 1814. The Lodge met, and the French brethren admitted Nicholas Chardanel an apprentice mason to assist John Currie in the officer-ship (Tyler) at the meetings of the French brethren.”

The following names of French prisoners are recorded on different dates as visitors to the Scotch Lodge at Selkirk, many of whom would no doubt be officers or members of the French Lodge :—

1811.

Lieut. Wilhelm von Tieman (Hanoverian Cavalry).
 Fred. Barran de Lyhirsdorf.

1812.

Elie Maufras.
 Bernard Dubosc.
 Pierre Etienne Laurent.
 Joseph Mangan.
 Joseph Clement de Villeneuve.
 Louis Arnaud.
 Charles Antoine Leforsonnez.
 Henri Catalâa.
 Vincent Simonet.
 Jean B^{te} Passemont.
 Jean François Verron.
 Jacques Manciet.
 Gerard Fouiegrives.
 Lieut. Froissart.
 Lieut. Belleval.
 Lieut. Guitaud.
 M. Salmier.
 Lieut. Nicolas Citron.
 Lieut. Jean Baptiste Joseph Legray.
 Amand Gillaev.
 Jean Bertrand St. Lary.
 Charles de Corbèe.
 Richard Harlant.
 Pierre le Coq.

1813.

Louis Jacques Pierre Gavain.
 Antoine St. Michel.
 Charles Breton.

Simon Timon.

Jacques M. Pat-Veillon.

Nicolas Chardanel.

Antoine Condamine.

Jean Louis Joseph Revaux.

John Schendhutor.



Tiverton.

“Enfants de Mars.”

(Children of Mars.)

A NUMBER of French prisoners of war, most of whom were officers in the Navy, were billeted in the small Devonshire town of Tiverton in the early part of the present century. It is not known in what year they first arrived in the town, but some of them were certainly detained there until the Peace of 1814. Being “on parole,” they were lodged in private houses in different parts of the town, but subject to the usual restrictions, being prohibited from walking more than one mile in any direction from the centre of the town, and having to report themselves daily to the local authorities. Many of them were men of rank and education, and were treated with much consideration and kindness by the inhabitants.

That a Lodge “Enfants de Mars” was opened and worked at Tiverton, by the Freemasons amongst the prisoners located there in the year 1811 or earlier, is evidenced by the signatures on the Kelso MS. previously referred to,* of three Brethren who had been

* *Vide* p. 77.

“made” in the former town, and who, on December 27th, 1811, paid a fraternal visit to the Kelso Lodge. The three Brethren were

René de Lausière. M.: les Enfants de Mars à L'O.: de Tiverton.

Pierre Eulalie Pasquereau. M.: les enfans de Mars à l'O.: de Tiverton.

Julien Marteville. Les Enfants de Mars à L'orient de Tiverton. C.:

These three Masons, the last of whom had only attained the rank of Fellow Craft (C. = Compagnon), were no doubt initiated in the Lodge at Tiverton, as it was a general custom to append the name of their Mother-lodge when signing the Register, on the occasion of a visit to another Lodge.

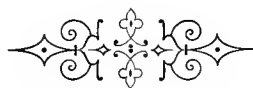
In what year the Lodge was first opened at Tiverton is not known, but there is little doubt that it existed for some years. The first and only Master is said to have been Alexander De la Motte, whose character and great linguistic knowledge procured for him, whilst still a prisoner, the appointment of Teacher of Languages at Blundell's School. He continued to hold the appointment after the conclusion of peace, settled permanently in Tiverton, built himself a house there, and died at a good old age, much esteemed and respected by all the inhabitants of the town. He left two sons, both of whom took good positions, but have long since left the neighbourhood.

The Lodge is believed to have consisted of ten or a dozen Masons, who met weekly in a room in Castle-street (then called Frog-street), until two of the prisoners

escaping, the Meetings were prohibited by the town authorities and more stringent rules rigidly enforced.

The Tyler of the Lodge, Rivron by name, who came as a servant with one of the officers, also remained in Tiverton after the conclusion of the war, and earned a living at his old trade of slipper-maker, renting a small cottage in a court off Barrington-street.

Many interesting particulars of this Lodge will be found in Bro. Sharland's "Freemasonry in Tiverton," published in 1899, from which some of the details here given were obtained.



Valleyfield. (Midlothian.)

“I’Infortune.”

(Misfortune.)

1813.

VALLEYFIELD, where this Lodge was held, is a suburb of Penicuik, a small burgh situate on the left bank of the river North Esk, about ten miles south of Edinburgh.

In the immediate neighbourhood are three large paper mills, of which the Valleyfield Mill is by far the largest. Its nucleus was built in 1709 by Mr. Anderson, printer to Queen Anne, or by his widow. In 1779 it passed by purchase into the hands of the Cowan firm, in whose possession it has remained down to the present time.

In the year 1810 this mill was fitted up by the Government for the reception of 6,000 French prisoners of war, a neighbouring mill, now the Esk paper mill, but then a cotton factory, being at the same time converted into barracks for 1,500 soldiers.

Penicuik became in consequence active and stirring, and although considerably enriched by this influx of the military, the town suffered much damage in the moral tone of its people.

The Masons amongst the prisoners located there established a Lodge amongst themselves, to which

they gave the significant name of "Misfortune," a Certificate issued in the year 1813 to a member of the Lodge being still in existence.

This document is of parchment, 14 inches by 12¾ inches in size, and is in an excellent state of preservation. The design is of an ordinary French type, with the figure of Minerva at the foot. It is entirely drawn by hand in ink and sepia, and bears witness to the skill and patience of some French military Mason, whose name even is not known. Unfortunately the Seal is missing.

A transcript and rough translation of this Certificate follow :—*

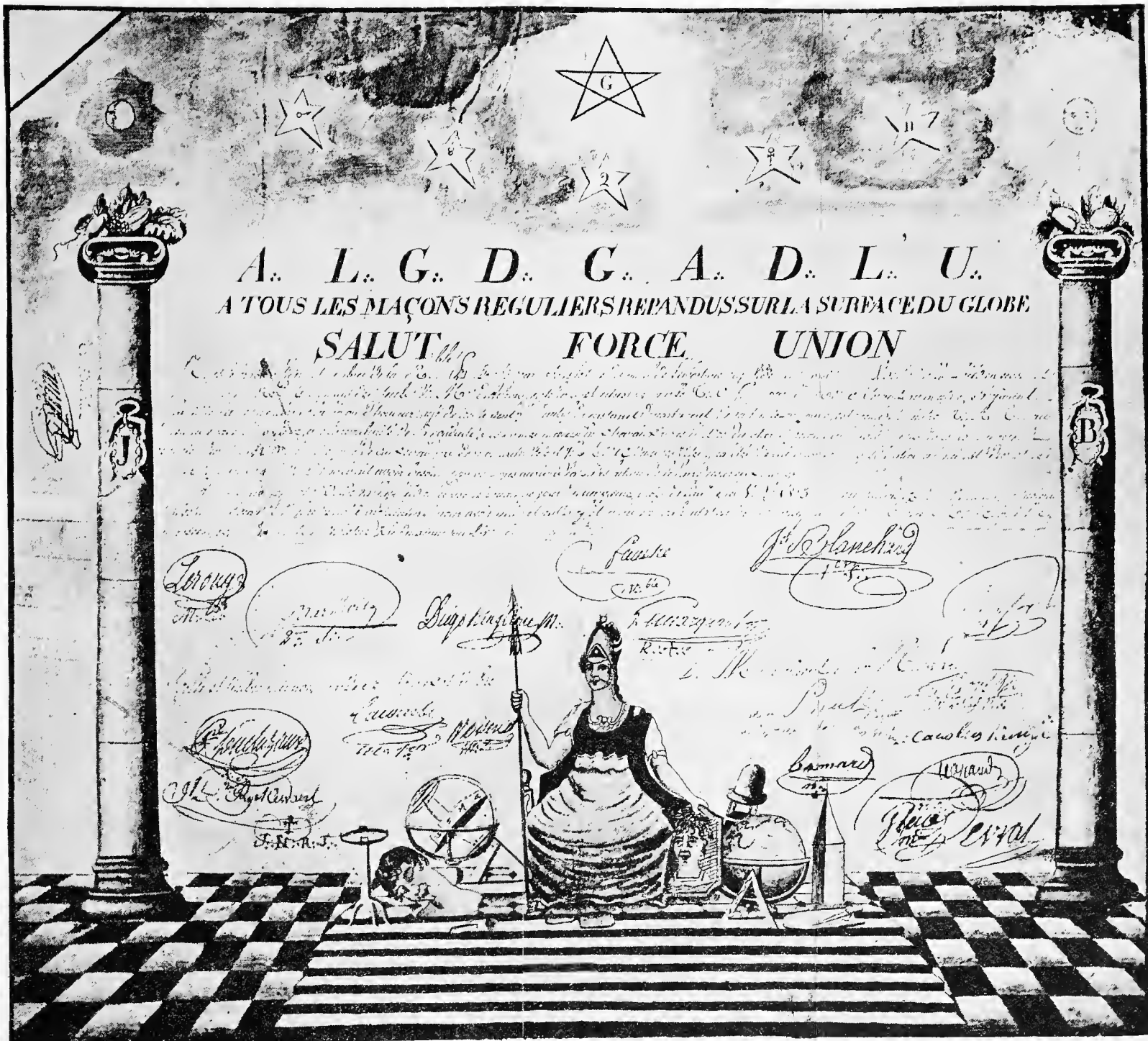
"A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L.:U.:

"A Tous Les Maçons Réguliers Répandus Sur La Surface Du Globe.

"SALUT. FORCE. UNION.

"Nous vénérable officiers et membres de la R^{ble}
 "L □.: de St. Jean sous le titre distinctif de l'infortune,
 "régulièrement constituée à L'o.: de Valley-feild en
 "écosse et assemblée par les N.: M.: connus des seuls
 "V.: M.: déclarons certifions et attestons que le
 "T.: C.: F.: Martin Meric, Sergent au quatrième
 "régiment d'infanterie légère, membre de la légion
 "d'honneur, agé de trente sept ans, natif de Castanet
 "département de la haute-garonne, est membre de
 "notre R.: A.: T.: au troisième grade symbolique. Que
 "la régularité de sa conduite, ses bonnes mœurs aux
 "travaux nous l'ont rendu cher et recommandable.
 "Prions tous les maçons réguliers, tant des O.O.: de

* *Vide* Plate XV. The original belongs to the fine collection of Bro. Fred. J. W. Crowe, of Torquay.



“france que de ceux étrangers de reconnaître le dit f.
 “Merici dans les dites qualités, de lui accorder la con-
 “sideration que lui est due et lui prêter tous les secours
 “dont il pourrait avoir besoin, comme nous aurions la
 “satisfaction de le faire pour eux mêmes.

“Fait et délivré en notre O.: de valley-feild en écosse
 “le deuxième jour du neuvième mois de l’an de la
 “V.: L.: 5813 et de l’ère vulgaire. Signé de nous,
 “contresigné et revêtu du sceau et timbre de notre
 “architecture pour avoir plein et entier effet après la
 “confrontation de la signature du dit Martin Merici
 “qu’il a apposée devant nous Ne Varietur le deuxième
 “octobre mil huit cent treize.

<i>Lerouge.</i>	<i>Faussié.</i>	<i>J. Blanchard.</i>
“M.: E.:	V.: ^{ble} .	1 ^{er} S.:
“ <i>Barthon.</i>	<i>Diego Maglioni.</i>	<i>Leforce.</i>
“2 ^{me} S.:	M.:	M.:
	“ <i>Lemarquant.</i>	
	“R.: +.:	

“Scellé et timbré par nous
 “garde des Sceaux et timbre.

	“ <i>Laurube.</i>	
“ <i>S. Ducluzeaux.</i>	M.: t ^{er} .	Par Mandement de
“M.: s.:	<i>Voisend.</i>	la R.: L □.:
	“M.: <i>Mens.</i>	
	“ <i>Jean Schutt.</i>	L ^e . 67 ^e Reg ^t M.:
“ <i>J. P. Ryckewaert.</i>		
“+ <i>Cannard.</i>	<i>Carolus Kemze.</i>	
“I.: N.: R.: I.:	M.:	
	“ <i>Narand.</i>	
“ <i>G. Louis.</i>	<i>Devral.</i>	M.: O.:
“M.: <i>M.</i>	M.:	

(In left margin : “Ne Varietur

“*Merici.*

“M.:”)

[TRANSLATION.]

“We, Worshipful Master, Officers and Members of
 “the W. Lodge of St. John regularly constituted under
 “the name of ‘Misfortune’ at Valleyfield, Scotland,
 “and assembled by the Masonic Numbers known only
 “to true Masons, declare, certify and attest, that the
 “very dear Brother Martin Meric, serjeant in the 4th.
 “regiment of light infantry, a member of the legion of
 “honour, age thirty-seven years, native of Castanet
 “in the Dept. of the Haute Garonne, is a member of
 “our W. Lodge in the third degree of symbolic
 “Masonry. That the regularity of his conduct and
 “his good manners during our labours have made him
 “dear to us and worthy of recommendation. We
 “therefore pray all regular Masons, both of French
 “and foreign Lodges, to receive the said Brother Meric
 “in the said degrees, to give him all the consideration
 “that is due to him, and to render him all the assist-
 “ance which he may need, as we should be pleased
 “to do for them.

“Done and delivered in our Lodge at Valleyfield,
 “Scotland, the second day of the ninth month of the
 “year of the True Light 5813. Signed by us, counter-
 “signed and completed with the Seal and Stamp of
 “our Lodge, to take due and full effect after the com-
 “parison of the signature of the said Martin Meric,
 “which he has signed in our presence, ‘Ne Varietur,’
 “this second day of October, one thousand eight
 “hundred and thirteen.”

The French prisoners remained at Valleyfield until
 the termination of the war in 1814, the reversion of
 the mills from their warlike occupancy to the manu-

facture of paper being hailed with joy by the inhabitants, and celebrated by a general illumination.

On a spot in the grounds of Valleyfield where upwards of three hundred of the prisoners were interred, stands a neat chaste monument from a design by Hamilton, with the following inscriptions:—*

“THE MORTAL REMAINS OF

“309 PRISONERS OF WAR,

“WHO DIED IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD

“BETWEEN 21ST. MARCH, 1811, AND 26TH. JULY, 1814,

“ARE INTERRED NEAR THIS SPOT.

“GRATA QUIES PATRIÆ; SED ET OMNES TERRA SEPULCHRUM.

“CERTAIN INHABITANTS OF THIS PARISH, DESIRING

“TO REMEMBER THAT ALL MEN ARE

“BRETHREN, CAUSED THIS MONUMENT TO

“BE ERECTED IN THE YEAR 1830.

“NÉS POUR BÉNIR LES VŒUX DE VIEILLISSANTES MÈRES

“PAR LE SORT APPELÉS

“À DEVENIR AMANTS, AIMÉS, EPOUX ET PÈRES

“ILS SONT MORTS EXILÉS.”



* Some of the foregoing details are taken from the “Gazetteer of Scotland.”

Vittoria. (Spain.)

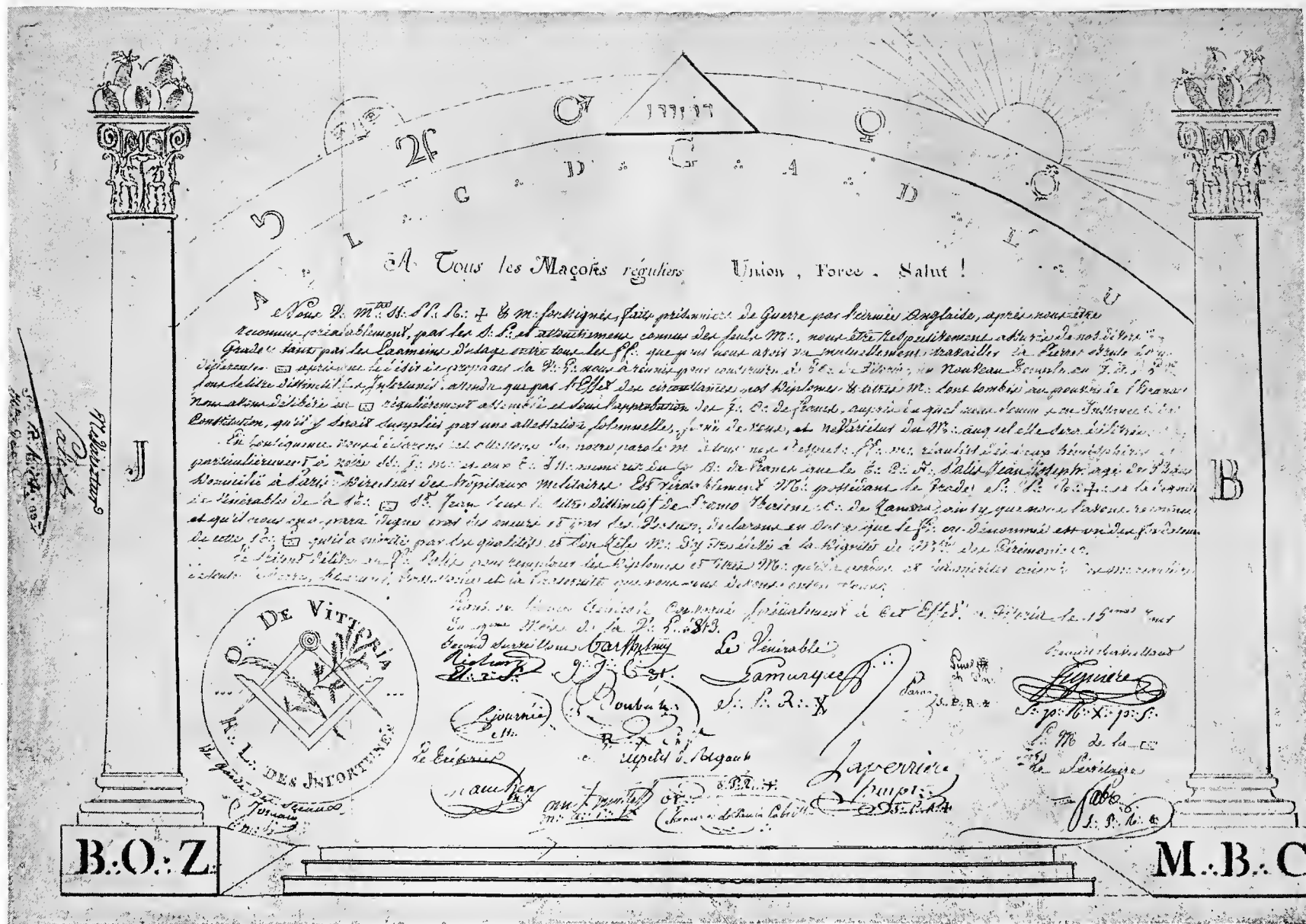
“Des Infortunés.”

(The Unfortunate Ones.)

1813.

THIS Lodge, although not belonging to the French Prisoners' Lodges in Great Britain, is included because the town of Vittoria was at the time held by the British army, and to place on record a description of the very interesting Masonic Certificate, issued by the Lodge.

By the Battle of Vittoria, a town situated in the north-east corner of Spain, the French cause in that country received a very severe blow from which it never recovered. This town had been one of the principal dépôts of the French army from the year 1808, and their disastrous defeat there on June 21st, 1813, by the Duke of Wellington, gave to the British army an immense number of prisoners, as well as a large quantity of war material. The soldiers and others attached to the French army were forwarded in batches to England from time to time as prisoners of war, but a great many still remained in Vittoria up to the end of the year 1813.



Some of these prisoners who were Masons, appear to have established a Lodge there in the month of November, 1813, under the appropriate title of "Des Infortunés" (the Unfortunate Ones), and to have issued Certificates to the founders to replace those which, with all other documents, had no doubt been taken from them by the British military authorities. The Master of this Lodge was Lamarque, a name famous in French military annals.

One of these Certificates has recently come to light. It is an exceedingly interesting document of thick white paper, 17½ inches by 11½ inches, the design, which is quite a simple one, being wholly drawn by hand. The Stamp at the bottom dexter corner is also drawn by hand, and the whole document bears evidences of its provisional character. It has been well preserved, every word being still distinctly legible.

As below are transcript and translation of the Certificate.*

"A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L.: U.:

"A Tous les Maçons réguliers. Union, Force, Salut !

"Nous V.: M^{tre} SS.: PP.: R.: + & M.: soussignés
 "faits prisonniers de Guerre par l'armée Anglaise, après
 "nous être reconnus préalablement, par les S.: P.: et
 "attouchemens connus des seuls M.:, nous être re-
 "spectivement assurés de nos divers Grades, tant par les

* *Vide* Plate XVI. The original belongs to the private collection of the writer.

“ Exameins d’usage entre tous les ff.: que pour nous
 “ avoir vu mutuellement travailler la Pierre Brute dans
 “ différentes ☐ après que le désir de propager sa V.: L.:
 “ nous à réunis pour construire à L’o.: de Vitoria, un
 “ Nouveau Temple au G. A. de L’U. sous le titre dis-
 “ tinctif des Infortunés, attendu que par l’Effet des
 “ circonstances nos Diplomes & titres M.: sont tombés
 “ au pouvoir de l’Etranger nous avons délibéré en ☐
 “ régulièrement assemblé et sous l’approbation du
 “ G.: O.: de France, auprès duquel nous sommes en
 “ Instances de Constitution, qu’il y serait supplier par
 “ une attestation solemnelle, signé de nous, et ne Varie-
 “ tur du M.: auquel elle sera délivrée.

“ En Conséquence nous déclarons et attestons sur
 “ notre parole m.: à tous nos Respect.: ff.: m.: réguliers
 “ des deux hémisphères et particulièrement à notre SS.:
 “ G.: M.: et aux T.: Ill.: membres du G.: O.: de France
 “ que le T.: C.: F.: Palis, Jean Joseph, âgé de 52 ans
 “ Domicilié à Paris Directeur des hôpitaux militaires Est
 “ véritablement M.: possédant le Grade S.: P.: R.: +.:
 “ et la dignité de Vénérable de la R.: ☐ St. Jean sous le
 “ titre distinctif de Franco Iberiene O.: de Zamora,
 “ ainsy que nous l’avons reconnu et qu’il nous en à paru
 “ digne par ses mœurs et par ses Vertus ; déclarons en
 “ outre que le f.: y dénommé est un des fondateurs de
 “ cette R.: L. ☐ qu’il a mérité par ses qualités et son
 “ Zèle m.: d’y être élevé à la Dignité de M^{tre} des Céré-
 “ monies.

“ Le Présent délivré au f.: Palis pour remplacer les
 “ Diplomes et titres M.: qu’il a perdus et lui mériter
 “ auprès des M.: réguliers de toute la Terre, l’accueil,
 “ l’assistance et la fraternité que nous nous devons entre
 “ nous.

[TRANSLATION.]

“ TO THE GLORY OF THE GREAT
 “ ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

“ To all Regular Masons. Unity, Strength, Greeting.

“ We Worshipful Master, Sovereign Princes Rose
 “ Croix and Master Masons, whose names are sub-
 “ scribed below, taken prisoners of war by the English
 “ army, having previously acknowledged one another
 “ by the Signs, Words and Grips known only to
 “ Masons, and whose degrees have been severally
 “ proved both by the usual examination, and by
 “ mutual working on the Rough Ashlar in different
 “ Lodges, having a desire to propagate the True Light,
 “ have united to erect a new Temple at Vittoria, to
 “ the Great Architect of the Universe, under the
 “ name of ‘The Unfortunate Ones.’ Because by force
 “ of circumstances our Diplomas and Masonic Vouchers
 “ have fallen into the hands of strangers, we have
 “ determined in regular Lodge assembled, and with
 “ the approbation of the Grand Orient of France,
 “ whom we have petitioned for a Constitution, that a
 “ Certificate shall be supplied, duly signed by us,
 “ and the Ne Varietur of the Master Mason to whom
 “ it may be delivered.

“ We therefore declare upon our word as Masons,
 “ to all regular Brethren throughout the two hemi-
 “ spheres, and especially to our Supreme Grand Master
 “ and Very Illustrious Brethren of the Grand Orient
 “ of France, that our very dear Brother John Joseph
 “ Palis, age 52 years, domiciled in Paris, Superin-
 “ tendent of Military Hospitals, is a Master Mason,

“having taken the degree of Sovereign Prince Rose
 “Croix, and attained to the dignity of Master of the
 “Lodge of St. John, known by the name of Franco
 “Iberiene, Orient of Zamora, also that we have ac-
 “knowledged him as such, as he seemed to be a
 “worthy Mason both in manners and virtues, and
 “declare further, that the said Brother is one of the
 “founders of this worshipful Lodge, and has earned
 “by his good qualities and Masonic zeal, the honor
 “of being appointed Master of the Ceremonies therein.

“The present Certificate is delivered to Bro. Palis
 “to replace the Diplomas and Masonic Vouchers that
 “he has lost, and deserves from all regular Masons
 “throughout the world, recognition, assistance and
 “fraternal welcome as is customary amongst us.

“Signed in General Assembly, especially convened
 “for the purpose, at Vittoria, the 15th, Day of the
 “9th, Month of the True Light 5813.”



How long this Lodge continued to hold its Meet-
 ings at Vittoria, or of how many members it consisted,
 are details about which it is now quite impossible to
 obtain any information. The Peace of May, 1814,
 however, would certainly dissolve the Lodge, and en-
 able the members to return to their respective homes.



Wantage. (Berks.)

“Cœurs Unis.”

(United Hearts.)

ABOUT the year 1810 a Lodge of this name was open and working in this small Berkshire town, among the French prisoners of war located there. They were quartered in some large barns which have long since been pulled down, and the only traces left in the district of their sojourn, are some silver forks, which were made by them, and are now in the possession of a Berkshire Mason. There are also one or two old paupers in the workhouse, who proudly boast of being descendants of the “Frenchies.”

The existence of the Lodge held by the prisoners at Wantage, is ascertained from three signatures in the Kelso MS.*

“Anglade, M.: L’o.: de Wantage, Cœurs Unis.

“A. Fabre, M.: L’o.: de Wantage, Cœurs unis.:

“François, M.: L’o.: de Wantage, cœurs Unis.:”

On November 17th, 1810, seven Freemasons, prisoners of war, visited the Lodge of Economy, No. 88

* *Vide* p. 77.

(now 76) Winchester, when passing through that town, *en route* to Portsmouth, to be embarked for Scotland.* Three of these were the Brethren above mentioned, the remaining four being

“H^t. Daguet.: S^t. Sebastien.

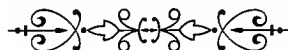
“J. Vallin.: B^xrest. élu de Sulli à L’orient de x

“L^s. Bortinot, des arts & l’amitié.:.

“Larminat, M.: S^t. Frédéric, orient de Boulogne.”

It is very probable that these four were also members of the “Cœurs Unis” at Wantage, and were being removed with other prisoners from that place to Scotland, Winchester being in the direct line of march between that town and Portsmouth, where they were to be embarked. The reason that the Wantage Lodge is not appended to the last four names, is probably due to the fact, that they were not initiates of the Lodge, and preferred, according to the general custom, to add the names of the Lodges to which they originally belonged.

On November 30th, 1810, the seven Brethren above named had already reached their destination at Kelso, and together visited the Scotch Lodge in that town, as recorded under the heading of “Kelso.”



* *Vide* “Extracts from the Minute Books of the . . . Lodge of Economy,” T. Stopher, p. 4.

Wincanton. (Somerset.)

“*La Paix Désirée.*”

(Desired Peace.)

1810.

IN March, 1806, a large number of French prisoners of war arrived in this town. There were about two hundred in all, General Rochambeau being amongst them.

This General was a son of Marshal Rochambeau, who commanded the French under Lafayette in the American War of Independence. In the year 1802 he was sent with an army of 15,000 men to St. Domingo in the West Indies, to assist in putting down a rebellion against the French dominion in that Island. He landed on November 2nd, and within a month was compelled to surrender to the black general Dessalines, being allowed however to return with his troops to France. War having in the meantime broken out between Great Britain and France, Rochambeau and all his vessels were captured and carried as prisoners to England.*

* *Vide* Cassell's "Illustrated History of England," Vol. VI., p. 207.

Of the Lodge "La Paix Désirée," two Certificates are still in existence, both of which are printed on parchment from an engraved plate by Clewitt, printer, Wincanton.

This is the only Prisoners' Lodge, as far as is known, in which an engraved plate was used for Certificates. In every other case these documents were entirely written and drawn by hand, some of the designs, especially those represented on Plates IV., XII. and XV., being splendid specimens of penmanship. It may be assumed therefore, either that the members expected to require a large number of these forms, or that they had no Mason amongst them, who was competent to execute these documents to their satisfaction.

The two Certificates are $15\frac{1}{4}$ inches by 15 inches in size, and were granted to Englishmen, one being a Joining Member, and the other an Initiate. The same forms, in which both French and English are used, served no doubt for the French members also, which is quite an exception, all other Certificates hitherto traced, being made out in the French language only, when intended for French Masons.

The earlier of the two documents was granted to Bro. Benjamin Plummer,* who was a distinguished Officer of the "Atholl" Grand Lodge of England. It is dated November 22nd, 1810, and as usual with all French Certificates, is signed by all the Officers and members of the Lodge, in this case fifteen in number.

As below is a transcript of this Certificate.†

* Particulars of Plummer's Masonic career ^{are} given on pages 35-6.

† *Vide* Plate XVII. The original is in the Collection belonging to the Grand Lodge of England.

A LA G.: DU G.: A.: DE L'U.:

AU NOM ET SOUS LES
AUSPICES DU G.: O.:
DE FRANCE,

A tous Maçons dispersés sur la
surface du Globe,

SALUT, FORCE, UNION.

NOUS, VÉNÉRABLE ET OFFI-
CIERS de la R.: L.: de St. Jean,
sous le titre distinctif de La paix
désirée, régulièrement en instance à
L'O.: de Wincanton, en Angleterre,
et assemblés par les NN.: M.: connus
des V.: M.: CERTIFIONS, que le
T.: C.: F.: *Benjamin Plummer, agent
commercial, (ex-premier grand Surv.
du G.: O.: d'Angleterre)* âgé de 39
ans, natif de *Shepton-mallet Comté de
Somerset*, est membre de notre R.:
ATT.: au *Troisième* Grade symbolique,
que la Régularité de sa conduite, ses
bonnes mœurs, et son exactitude aux
Travaux, nous l'ont rendu cher et
recommandable : Prions tous les
Maçons réguliers, tant des OO.: de
France, que de ceux étrangers, de
reconnaître ledit F.: *Plummer* dans
la dite qualité, de lui accorder la con-
sidération qui lui est due et de lui
porter tous les secours dont il pourrait
avoir besoin, comme nous aurions la

IN THE NAME & UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE GRAND
LODGE OF FRANCE,

To all Men enlightened on the
surface of the Earth,

GREETING.

WE THE MASTER, WARDENS
& MEMBERS of the Worshipful Lodge
La Paix Désirée regularly assembled
in the East of Wincanton in England ;
DO HEREBY CERTIFY that our
Worthy Brother *Benjamin Plummer*,
*commercial agent, (Past Senior grand
warden of the grand lodge of Eng-
land)* aged 39 Years, born at *Shepton
Mallet County of Somerset* who has
signed his Name in the Margin hereof,
is a *Master* Mason in this our Lodge,
of a good Report, beloved and es-
teemed amongst us : as such we
earnestly recommend him to the
brotherly Benevolence of all Free
and Accepted Masons, & request
them to protect and admit our said
Brother *Plummer* into all Regular
Lodges throughout the whole Uni-
verse, pledging a grateful return for
the kindness shewn to him.

IN TESTIMONY whereof we have
hereunto subscribed our Names and

A la G.: du G.:

AU NOM ET SOUS LES AUSPICES DU G. O. O.
DE FRANCE.



A.: de L'U.

IN THE NAME & UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE GRAND LODGE OF FRANCE.

A tous Maçons dispersés sur la surface du Globe.

To all Men enlightened on the surface of the Earth,

Salut, Force, Union.

Greeting.

NOUS, VENERABLE ET OFFICIERS de la R. L. de St. Jean, du le
ntre distinctif de La paix désirée, régulièrement en instance a L'O. de Wincanton, en
Angleterre, et assembles par les NN. M. connus des V. M. CERTIFIONS, que le
T. C. F. Benjamin Plummer agent commercial, de la R. L. de St. Jean, de la R. L. de
Grade symbolique, que la Régularité de son comportement, et son
attachement aux Tracés, nous l'ont rendu digne et recommandable. Nous, V. M.,
de France, que de son caractère, de sa conduite, de sa vie, de son
dans la qualité, de lui accorder la considération qui lui est due et de lui porter tous les secours
dont il pourrait avoir besoin, comme nous aurions la satisfaction de le faire pour eux-mêmes.
EN FOI de quoi nous lui avons accordé le présent Certificat.

FAIT et DELIVRE en Logo, le 22^{me} J. du 9^{me} M. de l'an de la V. L. 5810
(ère vulgaire, le 22 Novembre 1810) signé de nous, contre-signé de notre Secrétaire, et
revenu des Seaux et Timbre de notre Architecture, pour avoir son plein et entier effet, après
la confrontation de la signature du dit F. qu'il a apposée devant nous.

WE THE MASTER, WARDENS & MEMBERS of the Worshipping Lodge
La Paix Désirée regularly assembled in the East of Wincanton, in England; DO HER-
EBY CERTIFY that our Worthy Brother Benjamin Plummer, commercial agent, of the
R. L. de St. Jean, de la R. L. de St. Jean, de la R. L. de St. Jean, de la R. L. de St. Jean,
Deposed on the 22nd of the 9th Month, who has signed his Name in the Margin
herof, is a true & lawful Mason in this our Lodge, of a good Report, beloved and esteemed
by all the Brethren, who recommend him to the brotherly Benevolence of all Free
and Accepted Masons, & those who are in power and admit our said Brother Plummer
into all Regular Lodges throughout the whole Universe, pledging a grateful return for the
Kindness shown to him.

IN TESTIMONY whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names and affixed the
Seal of our Lodge, this 22nd Day of the 9th Month A.L. 5810 and 11 November 22nd
A.D. 1810.

Le V. M.
torquerville P. Meunier
F. G. A. F.

Le 1^{er} Surv.
MORILLON
19



Par mandement de la R. L.
Le secrétaire M. A. Gaudin

Le 1^{er} Surv.
F. Gaudin
G. Gaudin
G. Gaudin

Fancy R. Gaudin

Gaudin

satisfaction de le faire pour eux-mêmes.

EN FOI de quoi nous lui avons accordé le présent Certificat.

FAIT et DÉLIVRÉ en Loge, le 22^{ème} J.: du 9^{ème} M.: de l'an de la V.: L.: 5810 (ère vulgaire, le 22 Novembre 1810) signé de nous, contre-signé de notre Secrétaire, et revêtu des Sceau et Timbre de notre Architecture, pour avoir son plein et entier effet, après la confrontation de la signature du dit F.: qu'il a apposée devant nous.

affixed the Seal of our Lodge, this 22nd. Day of the 9th. Month, A.L.: 5810 and November 22nd. A.D.: 1810.

Le V.:

E. Huguet.

M.:

Tocqueville.

Ch. d'or.

A. Meuzon.

S.: P.: R.: +.:

Le 2nd Surv.:

Evin.

ch.: d'or.:

Le 1^{er} Surv.:

Marcinat.

M.: 1^{er} S.:

P. D.

F. Hacquet.

M.: El.:

Francinot.

ch.: d'or.:

Par mandement de
la R.: L.:

Le secrétaire.

M. A. Giraud.

Ecc.:

E. Rouget.

Duchemin.

Adj.: au Secrét. M.:

Scellé et Timbré par
nous Garde des sceau et
timbre.

Frianessnon.

Elu.:

Navailler.

El.:

Silhouette.

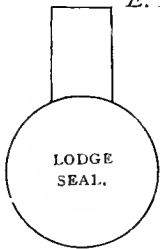
M.:

Farcy.

M.:

(Countersigned on dexter side: "Ne varietur. B. Plummer.")

(Countersigned on sinister side: "Vu par L'Orateur, *Reinaud. ch.: d'or.:*")



The Seal of red wax is placed on three narrow ribbons, white, red and light blue, the last-named at the top. No device can now be seen on the Seal, in consequence of its damaged condition.

An Apron, worn in this Lodge in 1810 by Bro. Duchemin, whose signature appears on the above Certificate, is still preserved by his son, who resides in the North of England. He visited Wincanton a few years ago, and the Apron was then photographed. It is a very handsome Apron of silk, with the usual devices painted thereon.*

The second existing Certificate issued by this Lodge is precisely the same as the one of Plummer's already transcribed. It is dated December 20th, 1810, and was granted to Harry Cooper, age 23 years, born at Wincanton, and described as a cabinet-maker and joiner (Marchand Ebéniste). The present owner of the Certificate, Bro. R. R. Hutchings, of Wincanton, has always understood that Cooper was initiated in the Lodge. The document is not signed by the recipient, but bears the signatures of the following nine members of the Lodge at the foot:—

"Le V.: *Tocqueville.* ch^{er} d'or.:

"Le 1^{ier} Surv.: *Rouget.*

"Le 2nd Surv.: *Fleury.*

"Le secrétaire. *M. A. Giraud.* Ecc.:

"Garde des Sceau et Timbre. *Frianessnon.* Elu.:

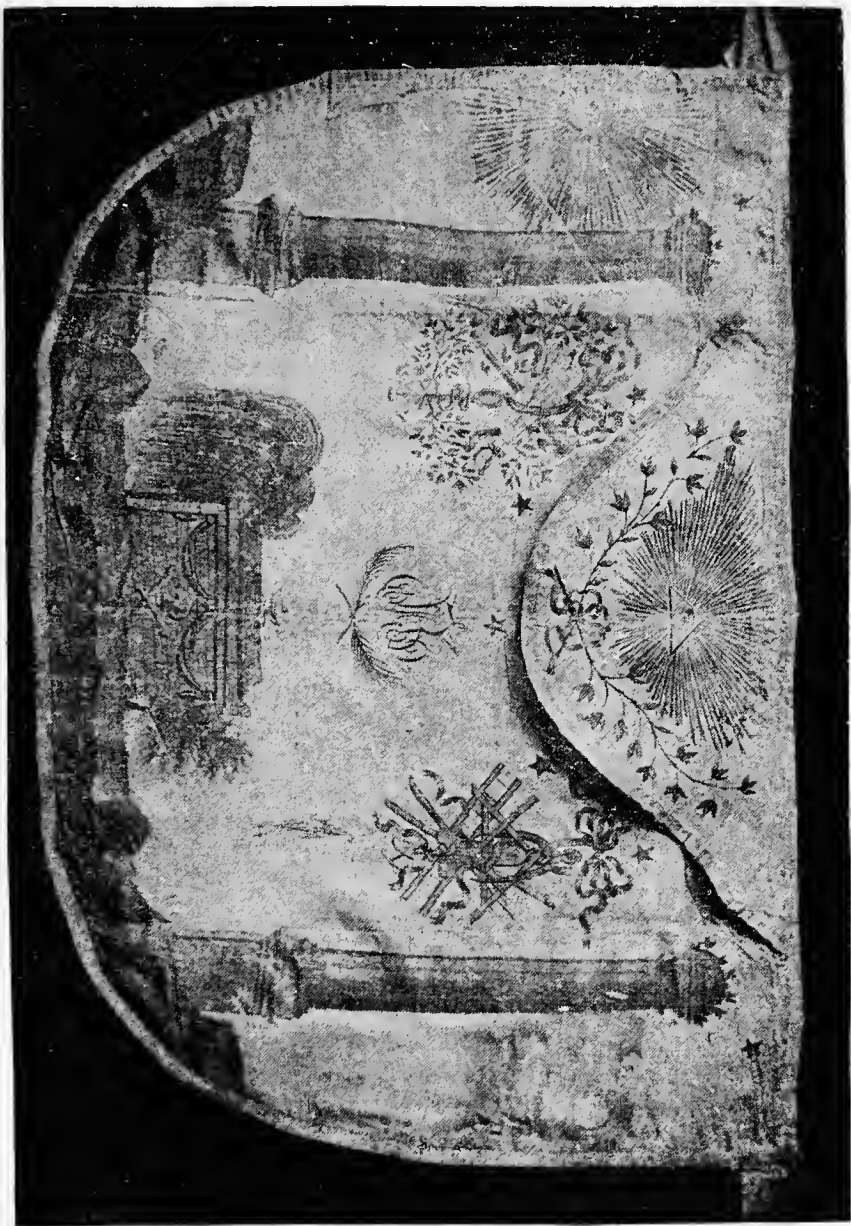
"L'Orateur. *E. Huguet.* El.:

"*Racaudy.* M.:

"*Violet.* el.:

"*Remliner.* M.:"

* *Vide* Plate XVIII.



There is a very fine circular red wax Seal* on blue ribbon, enclosed in a tin box two inches in diameter attached to this document. The device consists of two branches of olive enclosing a triangle, in which is an all-seeing eye irradiated, the words "La Paix Désirée" being placed along two sides of the triangle.

It is quite impossible to ascertain of how many members this Lodge consisted, or how long it continued to work, but when the French Brethren were suddenly called away from Wincanton, they left owing a good many hundred pounds to the tradesmen of the town.



* *Vide* Frontispiece.

British Prisoners of War in France.

AFTER dealing, as fully as circumstances permit, with the Lodges established by French Prisoners of War in Great Britain and elsewhere, it will perhaps not be considered out of place to refer very briefly to the number and treatment of the British Prisoners of War in France at the same period.

It might naturally be expected that, considering the enormous number of French prisoners in Great Britain, there must have been a very large number of British prisoners in France. The exact number of these is however not known, or at any rate cannot be ascertained now, but it is believed they did not exceed a total of 25,000, many of whom were non-combatants, having been travellers and temporary residents in France, who were most unjustifiably arrested and detained by the express orders of Napoleon.* Some of them were admitted to parole, as with the French prisoners in Great Britain, but all were located in fortified towns, to reduce to a minimum their chances of escape. A fund was raised in England by public subscription for the benefit of these British prisoners,

* For particulars of this high-handed proceeding, *vide* Alison's "History of Europe," 1854 edit., Vol. V., pp. 277-8.

and in a Circular* soliciting donations to this fund, it is stated that a large number of them were imprisoned in the northern fortresses of Verdun, Valenciennes, Arras, Givet, Sarre Libre and Bitche.†

Amongst these British prisoners there was, most probably, a considerable number of Freemasons, as many of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the British army were members of the Craft at that time, but there is only one instance on record of a Lodge being held amongst them during their detention. This was Lodge No. 183 "Antients," which was established in the 9th Regiment of Foot in the year 1803. Two years later a detachment of this regiment, including the head-quarters and staff, was wrecked on the French coast near Calais. They were captured and confined as prisoners of war in the fortress of Valenciennes until the year 1814.‡ During the whole of this period the Lodge seems to have met regularly—in 1806 in a room at No. 7, Rue Cordon, subsequently at the "Pavilion of Liberty," and in 1812 in the Rue de Bobineau.§ The minutes of these Meetings are still in existence.

* A copy of this Circular is preserved in the Leicester Freemasons' Hall Library.

† Interesting details of the life of the British prisoners in France will be found in a Book entitled "Letters from France written in the years 1803-4, including a particular account of Verdun and the situation of the British captives in that city," by James Forbes, fronts., 2 vols., 8vo., 1806; also in a work, of which the second edition, in two volumes, was published in London in 1810, called "A Picture of Verdun, or the English detained in France, from the Portfolio of a Détenu."

‡ *Vide* Gould's "Military Lodges," p. 145.

§ *Vide* Lane's "Masonic Records," p. 139.

Many prominent Masons of high rank were, at one time or another, prisoners in the hands of the French ; two may be mentioned here, although a long list could be compiled. Lord Rawdon, afterwards Earl of Moira and Marquess of Hastings, Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England from 1790 to 1813, was captured by the French man-of-war *Glorieuse* when returning invalided from America in the year 1782, and conveyed as a prisoner of war to the fortress of Brest, but was soon exchanged.* Lt. Gen. Sir Chas. J. Napier, G.C.B., when Major of the 50th Regiment of Foot, was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Corunna, in 1806 ; he was subsequently allowed to go to England on parole, where he found his friends actually mourning him as dead and administering his effects.†

For the relief of the poorer Brethren amongst the British prisoners, a considerable sum of money was collected by the Freemasons of England. The Treasurers' accounts and Minute-books of many old Lodges indicate the generous support accorded to this fund by members of the Craft generally, and at the Annual Festivals of Provincial Grand Lodges, as well as private Lodges, the Tyler's Toast "To all poor and distressed Masons," doubtless often stimulated the charity of the Brethren. In the year 1808, at a Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland, the Brethren went in procession to church, when a collection was made "for those poor brethren confined

* *Vide* Gould's "Military Lodges," p. 172.

† *Vide* Knight's Cyclopædia, 2nd Sup., 1858, p. 445.

in French prisons."* A diligent search amongst old Lodge records would bring to light many similar instances of support.

Numerous cases are also on record where prisoners, who had the good fortune to be Freemasons, were relieved and assisted by their French Brethren, while in many other cases their treatment was rendered less harsh by the representations or by the direct influence of French Masons.



From a perusal of the foregoing pages it will be seen, how in many ways the influence of Freemasonry was exerted for the benefit of the prisoners of war, and how the establishment of Lodges amongst them tended to relieve the tedious monotony of their lives.

Alike in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and France, the best efforts of the Fraternity seem to have been constantly directed, to alleviating the hardships and privations incident to a prolonged captivity; and there is little doubt that many a prisoner had good cause to rejoice over his membership of the Craft.

Indeed the history of every war of modern times, is full of instances of help and assistance rendered to one another by Brethren in the opposing forces, and every true Mason must rejoice to know that the tenets, principles and lessons inculcated in the Lodges have been exemplified in daily life, that the Craft has been able, on so many occasions, to soften some of the

* *Vide* Strachan's "Northumbrian Masonry," p. 106.

asperities of warfare, to subdue some of the passions aroused by the battle, to turn aside the fatal blow, and transform an apparently bloodthirsty enemy into a friend and a brother.

May this benign influence of Freemasonry grow and extend more and more as the years roll round, till the time come, foreshadowed by the Mason-poet, when

“—man to man, the world o’er,
Shall brithers be—”



Abergavenny, erased in 1828, the following entry appears in June, 1815, the month in which the Lodge was consecrated: "Paid Brother Plummer's Bill for belts £14. 0. 0." It is impossible to say definitely what this item refers to, but the "belts" were in all probability the "officers' collars" for the new Lodge, which, if supplied with metal jewels, would be worth the sum named. Plummer's admission to two of the French Prisoners' Lodges may have been due to his assistance in the formation and furnishing of the same.

The next Abergavenny Certificate in point of date, was granted to Gaspard Laudy, on his being installed a member of the Rose Croix Chapter held amongst the French prisoners in the year 1813. It is a very different document from Plummer's, being entirely in French, and issued by the direct authority of De Grasse Tilly. It is written on parchment, 11¾ inches by 14 inches, and is entirely in manuscript, even the Seal being drawn by hand on a piece of paper.

The following is a verbatim copy:—*

"A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: L.V.:

"Nous Alexandre François Auguste De Grasse Tilly, "Souverain Grand Commandeur honoraire ad vitam "pour la France, & & Représentant particulier "du Grand Maître au G.: O.: de France & &

"FOI, ESPÉRANCE, CHARITÉ.

"Vu le Zèle et l'empressement pour parvevenir au "Grade et point parfait de la M^{re} du T.: R.: et P.: F.:

* *Vide* Plate III. The original belongs to the private collection of the writer.

