



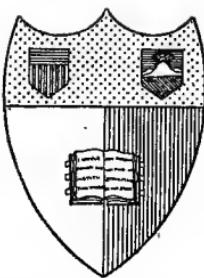
History of
FREEMASONRY,
IN THE
Province of Shropshire.



A. GRAHAM.



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SIR OFFLEY WAKEMAN, BART.,
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF SHROPSHIRE.

A

HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY

IN THE

PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE,

AND OF

THE SALOPIAN LODGE, 262,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY BRO. W. J. HUGHAN,

PAST GRAND DEACON OF ENGLAND,

BY

ALEXANDER GRAHAM, J.D., 262.

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— 1892.

D. J.

DR. J.

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PREFACE.

My original intention was to write only the history of my Mother Lodge, the "Salopian," No. 262. From time to time, however, during the course of my investigations, much information about the Craft in the Province came to hand, and I have thought it best, while, in the main, preserving my original intention, to incorporate this information in its present shape.

I cannot hope to have avoided making many mistakes, and much that ought to be included may be found wanting; for such blemishes I can only ask the indulgence of my readers on the ground of my inexperience, and from the fact that I was traversing an almost unknown country, with few landmarks to guide me on my way.

I gladly take this opportunity of tendering to the many brethren, too numerous to mention separately by name, who have assisted me in my task, my most sincere thanks for their kindness and courtesy; without their valuable help even the measure of success I have achieved would have been impossible. Out of my large band of helpers I must content myself with naming and specifically thanking three. To Bro. W. J. Hughau, I, in common with all Masonic Students, owe a debt of gratitude which it is impossible to repay. His great knowledge, always at the service of the veriest tyro in Masonic work, has, I hope, enabled me to steer clear of gross errors, whilst his kind advice has in many respects lightened my labours. The introduction he has so kindly written for me adds greatly to the value of my book, and will, I am sure, be much appreciated. He desires me to add to the information therein contained the result of his inquiries with

respect to the "Operative Lodge," No. 184, mentioned on page 149 of my book. The Lodge in question was the "Operative Lodge," Dumfries, Warranted on 5th Feb., 1776, and now No. 140.

To Bro. H. Sadler, Grand Tyler of England, I am indebted for much reliable and valuable information ; his services, notwithstanding the many calls upon his time, were always placed most ungrudgingly at my disposal for purposes of reference to the authorities in the Grand Lodge Library.

To Bro. Wyndham Deedes, I.P.M., 262, I also tender my grateful acknowledgment of the sympathy and help he so kindly and constantly gave ; without it I might have abandoned a task which seemed beyond my powers.

A. GRAHAM.

DOGPOLE CHAMBERS,

SHREWSBURY,

APRIL 17TH, 1892.



INTRODUCTION.

The precise origin of Provincial Grand Lodges has not yet been elucidated; for the evidence of the Rev. James Anderson, important as it is, is neither exact nor complete, if the "Returns" of Chester Lodges are to be trusted, of the year 1725.

It has been the custom to accept Dr. Anderson's account in the "Book of Constitutions, A.D. 1738, without question, wherein we read that "on 10 May, 1727, Inchiquin Grand Master granted a Deputation to Hugh Warburton, Esq., to be Provincial Grand Master of North Wales at Chester," and that "on 24 June, 1727, to Sir Edward Mansel, Bart. to be Provincial Grand Master of South Wales at Caermarthen."

These are the earliest appointments of the kind noted in that volume; immediately followed by "Lovel, Grand Master granted a Deputation to Sir Edward Matthews to be Provincial Grand Master of Shropshire."

Singular to state, however, on looking through the Minute Book of the Grand Lodge of England, which begins in 1723, I found to my surprise, that the name of "Col. Fra Columbine, Provincial Grand Master" was not only returned in that form by the Old Lodge, meeting at the "Sun," Chester, in 1725, but is entered accordingly in the Records of Grand Lodge, as also the names of his Deputy and two Wardens, the J.G.W. being "Cap. Hugh Warburton," whose appointment as Prov. G. M in 1727 has already been noted.

A letter also was read to the Grand Lodge later on, dated 15th April, 1727, signed by the then Prov. G. M., (Captain Warburton); his Deputy being the same as his predecessor had in 1725, but two new Prov. G. Wardens being mentioned. This brother signed as Prov. G. M., though prior to the date of the first appointment cited by Anderson, which is certainly remarkable, there being thus two Prov. G. Masters before the period noted in the "Book of Constitutions," published by authority.* Subsequent issues of the Laws of the Grand Lodge, such as 1756, and 1767 are less reliable on these points than the 2nd edition of 1738.

In the Official Calendar there are no Prov. G. Masters recorded for Durham between 1734 and 1787, but the Minute Books of the "Industry" Lodge, No. 48, Gateshead, (so Bro. W. Logan, P.P.G.R.O. informs me) contain the names of nine brethren from 1747 to 1763, who held that office for Durham, all P.M.'s of that Lodge; and under 1781 it is stated that in accordance with the Charter of 1734 "authorizing us to appoint a Provincial Grand Master, we have elected our Worshipful Master, David Richardson to that most Honble. Office during his life." The change in 1788 was brought about by the spirited action of the "Marquis of Granby" Lodge, supported by the other Lodges in the Province.

Nothing has transpired to invalidate the claim of Shropshire to be considered the premier Province of England, though, as Bro. Graham states, we are left in the dark as to what use was made of the privilege; and during a portion of the time, at least, there was not even a single Lodge to give the Prov. G.M. any work to do. A Prov. G.M. without any Lodges was an experience even of later times as considerable latitude prevailed as to such matters down to the end of last century.

Soon after the formation of the Grand Lodge of England (the first organization of its kind in the world), the Grand Master

* Vide "Freemason," June 12, 1886, Article on "Early Chester Masonry," by Bro. H. Sadler, and another by W. J. Hughan, entitled "A Curious Fraud."

began to regularize Lodges by “Constituting” them, but not by Warrants, as subsequently. The first of these, apparently, and still on the Roll, was the present No. 6, the “Lodge of Friendship,” London, duly constituted on 17th Jan., 1721. A few years later, Lodges were started in the Provinces, and by 1736, when a Lodge was opened at Shrewsbury on 16th April—the first in Shropshire,—in many Counties of England numbers of Lodges were at work, and the Craft was rapidly extending abroad.

For some reason or other, Freemasonry did not flourish in Salop, as in most other Provinces ; and hence this Lodge of 1736, had but a fitful existence, finally expiring in 1768. In the first edition of the Official Engraved List for 1736, No. 142, Shrewsbury (without day of meeting, or date of Constitution) numbered 142, and the last on the Roll, is duly inserted. This unique little gem is owned by my old friend, Bro. E. T. Carson, of Cincinnati, U.S.A., who has had it reproduced, by my desire, and thus kindly gratifying many of his attached brethren.

The advent of the Salopian Lodge, No. 262, and the revival of the Provincial Grand Lodge, occurred in the same decade of last century ; the Shropshire Craft having secured a permanent footing about the year 1788.

The particulars of Masonic activity during the first portion of this period, especially in connection with the zealous Brother, Major Charles Shirreff, have been most interestingly narrated by Bro. Graham, who has done justice to the subject, and left nothing more to be said.

It will be well to remember, however, that whilst there are different views as to the origin of the “Great Schism,” there is no question as to the year when the rival Grand Lodge in London started.

The “Ancients” formed their organization in 1751, and on uniting with the “Moderns,” in 1813, all rivalry and separate establishments were happily ended.

Prior to this date, when the blessed Union was consummated, the Royal Arch Degree was recognized and worked by the "Ancient" Lodges without distinct Warrants, but the "Moderns" had an independent Grand Chapter to control that ceremony, there being separate Chapters with special Charters and quite a different set of numbers. The first Chapters formed under such auspices, not officially, but practically, recognised by the regular Brethren, was in 1769, and, at the time of the Union, there were some 150 of these subordinates under the wing of the Supreme Grand Chapter, located mostly in the country, but many were in a very comatose state.

Preliminaries for the union of the two Grand Chapters—"Moderns" and "Ancients"—were arranged on Nov. 30th, 1813, and on March 18th, 1817, the "United Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England," was formally constituted.

The only Chapter in Shropshire, with a separate Warrant, prior to the Union, was No. 118, "Agenorians," Bridgnorth; doubtless promoted by the members of the "Lodge of Industry," No 578, and was formed in 1801. It was taken under the protection of that Lodge, in due course, and became No. 597, retaining the same name as previously, but collapsed when the Lodge did.

Notwithstanding the publication of the Royal Arch Regulations of 1823, and later editions, many Companions continued to work the ceremony without any lawful authority, just as the members of the "Salopian" Lodge (No. 262,) as recorded by Bro. Graham; some by virtue of the Warrants granted under the old regime, and others without even a shadow of justification.

The Charter for No. 262 (then 328) was agreed to on 17th May, 1843, M.E. Comp. The Earl of Zetland, Pro. G.Z., being in the Chair. Soon after, the Chapter paid the fees for its Constitution (five guineas) and £11 12s. 6d. for eight certificates and twenty-two exaltations, so the Companions began well. No returns were made between 1844 and 1855, when the sum of

£1 7s. 6d. was paid, and, in 1858-9, twelve Companions were registered and £9 10s. 0d. remitted, another payment being made in 1862-3 of £1 15s. 0d. Since then its progress has been steady, if not brilliant.

Bro. Graham has managed to obtain so many facts concerning Freemasonry in Shropshire, and, moreover, has arranged them so well, that he has left nothing for me to do; so that my Introduction is of necessity both brief and bald. I most warmly congratulate him on his successful debut, as the historian of his Province, and especially of his Lodge, No. 262. Beyond question his work is both valuable and readable, its importance being such as to abundantly justify its publication, and the Records thus preserved are of special interest to a large circle of Masonic Students far beyond the confines of Shropshire.

W. J. HUGHAN.

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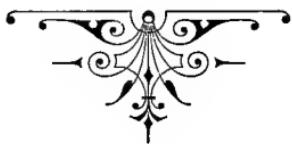
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THE SEAL OF THE PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE.

THE
HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY
IN THE
PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE.

I have no intention of attempting to write a complete history of the Province of Shropshire. The materials necessary for the successful compilation of such a work, even if I possessed the special knowledge and ability requisite to use them properly, are not in my possession. Indeed, so far as I can ascertain, such materials, except with reference to comparatively recent times, are non-existent. None of the minute-books of any of the Lodges founded in this County during the last century are now available for reference, with the single exception of those belonging to the Salopian Lodge, 262.⁽¹⁾ Any knowledge of these Lodges must therefore be chiefly derived from Grand Lodge records, which are meagre in the extreme, and consist mainly, until the re-establishment of the Register of Members in 1768, of the mere dates of the foundation and formal erasure of the several Lodges, together with a list of their several places of meeting. It is evident that such information, accurate though it be, can tell us nothing of lodge life, and give us little but the dry bones of the real history of the Province.

The entire loss of the old lodge records necessarily involves also the loss of all knowledge of Provincial Grand Lodge Meetings, if any were in fact held; for, Provincial Grand Lodges being in early times held only in Craft Lodges, it is to the records of the latter we must look, and look in vain, for information about Provincial transactions.

(1) Some of those belonging to the Old Lodge of Industry at Bridgnorth are supposed to be in existence, but cannot yet be produced. A

The obscurity that wraps up as with a veil the history of the Craft in the Province during the last century extends also to the first half of the present century, though not, perhaps, to such a marked degree. The records of the two Shrewsbury Lodges, dating from 1788 and 1815 respectively,⁽¹⁾ cover between them this entire period (in no instance is there a hiatus in the minutes of both Lodges at the same time) and, as details of the Provincial history are slightly and occasionally noticed therein, some little light is thereby cast upon the general darkness. At best however, this light is but a flickering ray.

I am however, convinced that Masonry, did not until about the year 1850 find a very secure footing in this County, and the complete annals of the Province in the last Century, and the early years of the present Century, if they ever are or can be written, would, in my opinion, show little of interest to the Craft in general. The Shropshire Lodges appear to have been throughout this period composed mainly of brethren of low social standing, who were content to discharge their Masonic duties quietly and unostentatiously, their path lying for the most part far aside, from the stream of conflict between "Ancients" and "Modernes,"⁽²⁾ which was then the most notable feature of Masonic history. I must therefore necessarily content myself with such a slight outline of the history of the Province as the materials before me supply, and express the hope that it will prove sufficiently interesting to Salopian Masons to warrant its being written.

The office of Provincial Grand Master was first created in the year 1726, and five years later, as is recorded by the Freemason's Calendar, Sir Edward Matthews was appointed to that dignity over the Province of Shropshire. Who Sir Edward Matthews was I have been unable to discover. His name does not appear in any of the "Histories of Shropshire," and he does

(1) The Salopian Lodge of Charity 117, founded in 1810, did not settle in Shrewsbury till 1815, so that its earlier minutes do not apply to Shropshire.

(2) A short sketch of the origin of these rival bodies, to which constant reference is hereafter made, will be found in the Salopian Lodge history under the year 1813, and should be read at once by those who are unacquainted with its details.

not seem to have been a member of any of our Shropshire County families. For five years he could have had no duties to discharge as the first lodge in the Province was not founded till 1736. It is impossible to say for what length of time he remained in office, but assuming that he did so until the date of the next recorded appointment, he must have had at one time two lodges under his jurisdiction, the one at Shrewsbury already referred to as founded in 1736, and the other founded in 1744 at Oswestry. Of these Lodges we know nothing except the dates of their foundation, and their places of meeting ; and there is no reason to suppose that their existence was in any way due to the exertions of the P.G.M.

It seems, on the contrary, far more probable that they were due to the presence of Brethren from Chester, in which city Masonry was early established on a firm basis, and which, as a Province, was the first in England to possess a Provincial Grand Master. It is also not improbable that some of the travelling bands of masons mentioned in Dr. Plot's Natural History of Staffordshire had early crossed the border into Shropshire. The following extract taken from the Much Wenlock Church Register, and included in the report of the Historical M.S.S. Commission, seems to relate to a member of such a band.

“Walter Hancox, freemason, was buried the 16 day of
“September [1599]. This man was a very skilfull man in the
“art of Masonry, in settinge of plottes for buildinges and
“performinge of the same, engravinge in alebaster and other
“stone or playster, and in divers other giftes that belong to that
“art, as dothe appeare by his workes whiche may be seene
“in divers partes of England and Walles, most sompteouse
“buildings, most stately tombes, most curyous pictures. And to
“conclude in all workes he tooke in hand he hathe left behinde him
“longe lastinge monuments of skilfull workmanship, and besides
“these qualityes, he had others which passed these, he was a most
“honest man, devout and zelouse in religion, pittifull to the poore,
“and had the love and good-will of all his honeste neighbours.”

I must not be understood as asserting that Hancox was a speculative mason. I use the passage merely to show that the elements out of which speculative masonry developed, were, at an early date, present in Shropshire as well as in the bordering counties.

Whatever may have been the chief factor in the foundation of the early Shropshire Lodges, it is abundantly evident that the period of their existence was but short, that they never were established on a secure foundation, and that there is no trace of a Provincial Grand Lodge in the modern sense of the phrase under the rule of Sir Edward Matthews, or for many years afterwards.

The next name in the list of Provincial Grand Masters contained in the Freemasons' Calendar is that of George Durant (1774-1779). In the year 1753 it would, however, appear that Lord Carysfort, then Grand Master, appointed Sir Robert de Cornwall, Provincial Grand Master for the Counties of Worcester, Gloucester, Salop, Monmouth, and Hereford. Commenting on this appointment, especially with reference to the County of Gloucester, Bro. Sadler in his most interesting work "Thomas Dunckerley, his Life, Labours, and Letters," remarks,⁽¹⁾ that "Sir Robert was one of the more ornamental than useful sort, a merely nominal head of the Craft in the County, selected probably from motives of friendship, rather than from any special qualification for the post. With the exception of having attended a meeting of the Grand Lodge when his patron was present,⁽²⁾ the records throw no light on whatever services he may have rendered to the Craft to merit this great distinction. The Book of Constitutions, published in 1767, contains a list of all the Provincial Grand Masters that had been appointed since the office was created (1726). This list was revised in 1769 with a view of printing the names of such as were still in existence, with the List of Lodges for 1770. Those who had not already

(1) Pages 198-199.

(2) Held at the Devil Tavern, Temple Bar, Nov. 23rd, 1753.

been superseded, were accordingly written to by the Grand Secretary, to ascertain whether they were dead or alive. He apparently acted under instructions, for against the name of Sir Robert de Cornwall is written ‘Take no notice of him.’ It is not therefore a matter of surprise that the name of this highly favoured brother should not be found in ‘A List of the present acting Provincial Grand Masters’ for 1770, nor does it appear in any subsequent list.” His name is, however, now inserted in the Freemason’s Calendar as P.G.M. for Gloucester, Hereford, Monmouth, and Worcester, and also for North Wales, and its omission from the list of P.G.M.’s for Shropshire I cannot account for. If it is properly included in the former lists, it ought also to be in the latter. Durant seems to have been of the same stamp as Sir Robert de Cornwall, and the remarks applied by Bro. Sadler to the latter might with equal justice be applied to the former, so far at all events as Shropshire Masonry is concerned. His jurisdiction, even if he exercised all that rightly belonged to his office, only extended over a nameless Lodge in Shrewsbury, 227, which was extinct in 1775, and the Lodge of Friendship at Bridgnorth, 413, which ceased to work before 1783, its number in that year being 322. He was a member of that old Shropshire family, which until quite recently had its seat at Tong Castle, near Shifnal, and was Member of Parliament for Evesham in Worcester in or about the year 1777.⁽¹⁾ A few facts about his Masonic career are also known. He was a member of the Somerset House Lodge No. 4,⁽²⁾ prior to 1768, and was Grand Steward from May 1773 to May 1774, but he never attended Grand Lodge as a P.G.M., nor paid his fee on his appointment to that office. Except as above stated I do not think his name occurs in the records of the Craft, and his services to Shropshire Masonry may be considered as absolutely nil. We have no evidence that he was ever even a member of a Shropshire Lodge. From the fact that Shropshire is not mentioned as a Province in the Book of Constitutions published in 1784, it may be inferred

(1) Hulbert’s History of Shrewsbury, Appendix p. 17.

(2) The junior of the four Lodges which united in 1717 to found the premier Grand Lodge of the world.

that on the death or resignation of Durant, in 1779, no fresh appointment to the office of P.G.M. was made. Such an appointment would in fact have been almost objectless, as Masonry was then practically extinct in the County. From 1783-1785 not a single Lodge was in existence. The latter year may be taken as the date of the revival of the Craft in the Province. The chief actor in the revival, was a half-pay officer named Major Charles Shirreff, who in 1784 had retired from active service, and settled down at Whitchurch.

A considerable number of his letters are still in existence, and from them some interesting information can be extracted. Some of them are quoted⁽¹⁾ by Bro. Sadler in his "Masonic Facts and Fictions," for the purpose of showing that letters intended for one of the rival Grand Lodges "Ancient and Modern," often got into the possession of the wrong faction, and were answered by the actual recipients as if the writers really belonged to their Constitution. These letters are most valuable for our purpose as they deal with Shropshire Masonry, but of such of them as are quoted by Bro. Sadler, I propose only to give a summary; The first was addressed to Dr. Robert Bath, No. 399, Oxford Street, London, and is dated the 23rd April, 1785. It begins by stating that the writer was "An Antient Mason of 27 years standing," had "been Master of sev'l Lodges, and constituted one in the Island of Jersey," and not finding in Shropshire or Cheshire a Grand Lodge from whom he could obtain a deputation to constitute a Lodge in Whitchurch, he wished to know the expense of obtaining one in London, and also desired to be put into communication with the Grand Secretary. In a postscript he adds "Please to remember that I keep up to Antient Masonry and will adhere to none other." His next letter, addressed to "The Secretary of the Grand Lodge of London," was evidently enclosed under cover to Dr. Bath, and was by him handed to the Grand Secretary of the "Moderns" instead of to the Grand Secretary of the "Antients," for whom it

(1) At pages 150-155.

was doubtless intended. It is dated the 1st May, 1785, and reiterates his desire to form a Lodge at Whitchurch, though he "did not purpose working in the lower degrees of Masonry any more" after having retired from the Army. The next letter, dated the 27th June, 1785, is addressed to Mr. William White, Free Masons Hall, Great Queen Street, Lincolns Inn Fields, London, then the Grand Secretary of the "Moderns." It contains chiefly the writer's proofs of his being an "Antient" Mason. Curious though it may seem, some understanding was eventually arrived at between the "Antient" Mason, and the Grand Secretary of the "Moderns," for the Warrant for a Lodge at Whitchurch was ultimately granted to Major Shirreff. The delay of nearly seven months before the matter was finally completed, was, however, a great source of annoyance to him. Having arrived at the "Ne plus ultra" or 25th degree, as he himself repeatedly tells us, and "holding also a patent from the King of Prussia, through one of the Deputy Grand Inspectors in North America," he considered that more prompt attention should have been paid by Grand Lodge to any expression of his wishes, and this annoyance finds frequent expression in his letters. He had also a rather warm dispute with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Chester over a trifling mistake. Having obtained the promise of the Warrant from Grand Lodge, he wrote to Sir Robert Cotton, P.G.M. for that Province for his assistance in constituting the Lodge. This, so far as I can understand the matter, was regarded by the Provincial Grand Secretary of Chester, as an application for a Warrant, but he was speedily undeceived by Major Shirreff, who promptly asserted his independence of all authority except that of Grand Lodge. The Whitchurch Lodge was eventually constituted on the 15th November, 1785, and on the 17th of the same month the old soldier wrote to Mr. White as follows:—"On the 15th Inst., with the assistance of three Masters from Chester and two besides myself here,⁽¹⁾ I opened the Lodge in the usual way, and

(1) In another letter he had stated that the only Mason besides himself in Whitchurch was a Fellow Craft. This was probably his Junior Warden Wm. L. Brookes who had been initiated whilst resident at the University of Cambridge at the age of 13 years.

haveing one above the number that can constitute; it was accordingly done and named the Whitchurch Lodge No. 1, to be held at the White Lion Inn, in s'd town. * * * Agreeable to your desire I now send you a list of the Members that compose the Body, viz., C. Shirreff, Master; Revd. Francis Henry Egerton, S.W.; Wm. L. Brookes, J.W.; Arthur Blaney, S.D.; Wm. Turner, J.D.; James Turner Meakin, Stew'd; Revd. Godfrey Wooley, Treasurer; Revd. John Collier, Secretary; Peter Newton and Richard Bentley, Tylers."

Of Shirreff's methods of work in the Lodge thus created, we know nothing. Bro. Sadler remarks that "whether he continued to 'work in the Antient way' or became modernized in his old age is not quite clear. I have carefully read his numerous letters, and they do not indicate any change in this respect, indeed I am inclined to believe that he was hardly the sort of person to be easily convinced that he had been wrong during the whole of his Masonic career." In December, 1785, he again wrote to White, "I have the pleasure to acquaint you that every one seems determined to observe the Antient Custom of Masonry," "This," says Bro. Sadler, "coupled with the appointment of Deacons, seems to support my idea that he did not alter his mode of working." The early customs of my own Lodge No. 262, to which I shall hereafter have occasion to refer,⁽¹⁾ and the adoption of which was doubtless due to a great extent to his influence, will, I think, materially strengthen the evidence upon this point, and show that Bro. Sadler's conclusion is probably correct.

Having thus founded a lodge, Shirreff's next step was to obtain the re-establishment of Shropshire as a Province, and he at once intimated his intention of applying for the post of P.G.M. "provided," as he puts it, "it is within the reach of my Finances." As however, his income was at this time only 2/6 per diem, being that of a half-pay officer, it was evident he

(1) See Salopian Lodge History for the year 1788.

could not undertake the expenses of such an office, and eventually he relinquished his intention in favour of his Senior Warden, as we shall presently see.

The rest of Major Shirreff's correspondence with the Grand Secretary has, I believe, never been either published or quoted from, and I venture here to extract from it all passages that may interest Salopians. These extracts are of considerable length, but they convey information not to be otherwise obtained, and I believe they will afford in themselves a truer picture of the man and his work in the Province than any history I could concoct from them would present. I regret that much of interest must be omitted. Major Shirreff was accustomed to write freely of his knowledge of the so called "Higher Degrees," and the superiority of his method of imparting that knowledge; his letters, too, show that he succeeded in infecting the Grand Secretary and other prominent Masons in London with his ideas upon this subject; but such topics lie outside the scope of my present purpose, and cannot now be dealt with. It is evident that he was a constant sufferer from rheumatism and gout, and the length and legibility of his numerous epistles, are, considering the difficulties with which he had to contend, amazing. They are all dated from "Whitchurch in Shropshire," and are addressed to William White, the Grand Secretary.

* * * *

1.

31st October, 1785.

"I shall observe the same Rules in this Lodge as I always did to admit none but Gentlemen, and as this is the first instance of one ever known here, in all probability as I will not admit the 2nd class, they may form a Body, if so I hope their Warrent will express that they are to Look on our Lodge as the Head, &c., &c."

* * *

This letter of course refers to the Whitchurch Lodge, which at this date had not been constituted. As will be seen hereafter another Lodge was subsequently founded in Whitchurch

by Major Shirreff, and the implied superiority of the Lodge first in date, has an important bearing on the question hereafter discussed—Was there or was there not a real Provincial Grand Lodge in Shropshire during any part of the last century?

* * *

2.

30th November, 1785.

"The prospects I have in Establishing a Lodge of Respectability in this Town gives me pleasure, as I am the Founder of it, and as none of Its present members know nothing of its Progress ; and wishing that they should find what I have said is by no means to arrogate to myself any Merit but is my Due, you will much oblige me to Let me know for their guidance what respect is Customary to be shown to the Founder of a Lodge : and the Past Master : as I do not mean always to be a Hack ; and at the same time when I resign the Chair, I do not give up my authority in that Lodge, being in the Superior Degrees which they have not attain'd to, I beg you will according to the English Constitution draw this Line, as I have some who have been made in France, and as that Nation are too fond of intriguing, their making of masons was not altogether to my way of thinking."

* * *

From a letter dated the 17th December, 1785, we learn that five initiations had taken in the Whitchurch Lodge within a month of its being constituted. The names of the candidates were—Samuel Hodson, Peter Gregory, John Gregory, James Simpson, and Charles Gibbons. George Watson, who had been initiated at Chester, joined the lodge in the following month.

* * *

3.

6th February, 1786.

"My S.W. the Revd. Mr. Egerton, son of the Bishop of Durham's, and our Rector here left us on the 3rd Inst., and from the Conversation that pass'd between us respecting the Fraternity, altho' he knows but very Little of it, yet as he will be advis'd by me, and appoint me his D.G.Mr., I have advis'd him as he is known to Ld. Effingham, to get appointed for the County, he being a man of family & fortune it will be the means of promoteing the Craft in this County, and wherein that is concern'd I always Yield, and especiailly so when the person who fills the Chair, is ready to receive advice, in this case it is of Little moment who is in it, further on my own part I have never fill'd any chair yet as a Mason, that I found any one Could talk to me ; but his auswer was ready for him."

The recommendation contained in this letter was promptly attended to as the Revd. F. H. Egerton was duly appointed P.G.M. for Shropshire shortly afterwards, and was installed by Shirreff in August, as we learn from the following extract.

* * *

4.

1st Octr., 1786.

"On my return I forwarded your letter to the Wynnstay Lodge agreeable to your address, and wrote the Mastr. two letters myself: but not a Line in answer to any one of them, which makes me Conelude they have Either Ceased to meet, or Else removed the lodge out of this County. The Revd Mr. Egerton I had the Honour of Installing him our P.G.M. on the 10th of Angust, who appointed me his Deputy; this was Inserted in this County's & also in Chester papers for the Guidance of those Concern'd. As yet I have heard nothing from the Brethren at Bridgnorth, now under the displeasure of the Gd. Lodge; I should be happy they would put it iu my power throug you to Effect a Reconciliation."

* * *

The Wynnstay, was a Lodge at Oswestry, first founded in 1785, but not, so far as I can ascertain, originally established in Shropshire. Some further account of it will be found in connection with an extract from a later letter dated 2nd Febry., 1789. With respect to the Bridgnorth Lodge, I conclude that the displeasure of Grand Lodge here referred to, arose from its neglect to furnish its proper yearly returns. It is stated by Bro. Lane to have been erased in 1783, yet it is curious, if that statement be correct, to find the Grand Secretary writing to its Master in 1786. Probably the Lodge ceased to work in 1783, and its erasure was ante-dated to suit that fact. The letter of the 2nd Febry., 1789, already referred to, shows that Shirreff was still in communication with the Grand Secretary about it in that year. The succeeding extracts refer principally to the Salopian Lodge.

5.

2nd June, 1788.

"I have just received a letter from the Revd. Bro. Egerton, inclosing me a petition from several persons at Shrewsbury praying him as P.G.M. for the County to grant them a Warrant; as some Information

is further Necessary previous to Its being made out, have accordingly written to them at Shrewsbury to be particular in answering my Letter, in the Interim will be much Oblig'd to you if you will be pleas'd to make out for me a Rough Form how these P.G. Warts. are made out, Leaving the Blanks to fill up, against I have the pleasure of seeing you, which will be soon after the 12th Inst., as I Leave this on that day for Town, and any other Information you can give me for the Conduet of P.G. Lodges, be so kind as to minute them down for me." * * *

6.

1st July, 1788.

"I am now to acquaint you that in Consequence of my writeing to Shrewsbury the intended Master with two of the Officers of the new Lodge to be Formed waited on me, and I have granted him a Dispensation to act &c. till their Warrent of Constitution is made out, which that you may be enabled to do, I transmit you the following particnlars about it, viz.—Their Petition for a Wart. was dated 13th May last. William Neal, Master; Thomas Barkley, Senr. Warden; William Cotton, (1) Junr. Warden; John Beck, Tresr.; John Brackley Prichard, Secty.; John Hall, Senr. Deacon; Edward Inis, (2) Junr. Deacon; and Michael Kavanagh, Tyler. The Lodge to be called the Salopian Lodge No. 1, and to be held at the sign of the Fox, in the town of Shrewsbury, County of Salop, and their time of meeting to be on the first Tuesday in every month. As I expect Revd. Mr. Egerton here very shortly, I beg you will have the Warrent made out in the same form as that of ours here for No. 1 Whitchurch, & send it as soon as you can, that I may have it ready for the P.G. Mr. to sign on his joining us, as his stay will not be long here; where it is to be sign'd mark with your Pencil, & in your note please inform me whether any one is to sign it besides the P.G. P. (*sic*) as he means to sign it himself. * * * When you make out this Warrent, I hope you will give it the No. as you said you would. I want a neat Lodge Bible about 2 gu., or a little more, and such a Book of Constitutions as you sent to the Barry Lodge, both books to be bound alike, and Embellished in a Decent Manner. I beg leave to observe to you that the Form at the beginning of the Wart. may run thus (instead of We Francis Henry Egerton as Mr. Sweetenborg's copy is) We the Revd. Francis Henry Egerton, &c., &c., &c., P.G. Mr. for the County of Salop, & so on &c.

* * *

From the copy of the Warrant given in Appendix A, it will be seen that the P.G.M. never signed it. Shirreff, however, signed it both as D.P.G.M. and also as P.G. Secretary. The number was not given to the Lodge until some time afterwards. The Barry Lodge is again mentioned in these letters, a short account of it will be found in the Salopian Lodge History under the year 1788.

(1) This should be Cotton, but it is correctly spelled in the Warrant.

(2) Also spelled in this manner in the Warrant; the name really is "Innys."

* * *

7.

30th July, 1788.

"This is to request you will have made for me six white collars & send them address'd to me here. When finish'd they are intended for the Salopian Lodge. I am in hopes this may catch you in time to send them with the Bible &c., but the Warrent I do not care how soon you sent it for reasons already told you, & the Expense Attending the whole I shall take proper Steps to have you repaid."

* * *

8.

16th August, 1788.

"I rec'd yours of the 5th Inst , and in a few days after the Paper Parcel safe & in good order, and as I was to see the Master and some of the Officers of the Lodge on the 14th (our Lodge Night) was my reason for not answering y'r favor sooner ; they came as expected, and I presented them with their Bible, &c., they were much pleas'd with everything sent, & particularly desired me to return you their kind thanks, and that they were much oblig'd to you. I have set them agoing, & doubt not they will be a most Respectable Lodge ; & I purpose as D.P.G.M. now and then to visit them and to see how they come on. You signified to me in a former Ler. the expense of a Wt. would be £4 14s. 6d. * * * and our P.G.M. Wt. says that for every Wt. of Constitution we grant we shall send to the G.T. of the Society in London £5 5s. 0d. I apprehend this is a mistake by half-a gu. too much, however, agreeable to the sum Specified in the P.G.M. Wt. I now remit you for the purposes therein mention'd five guineas⁽¹⁾ & also to repay your acc't £4 2s. 8d., making the sum of £9 7s. 8d. as above mention'd. * * * Masonry I have much at Heart, and I am in hopes ere long to send you a list of names for a fresh Wt. I shall ever be happy in promoting the Welfare of the Society, and I may venture to tell you, there is but few on the List (Considering Situations) That's done more for its prosperity than I have. * * *

* * *

9.

17th Sep., 1788.

"I am just return'd from visiting the Barry and Salopian Lodges, and it gives me much Satisfaction to inform you I approve of there (*sic*) Conduct in all respects, the Latter Lodge has as yet rec'd no Quaterly (*sic*) Communication, and I again request you will give me the No. of their Lodge."

* * *

(1) The Salopian Lodge duly repaid the D.P.G.M. five guineas for the Warrant, so that the mistake, if any, was never rectified. The £4 2s. 8d. was for the Bible, &c., purchased for the Lodge as mentioned in an earlier letter.

10.

2nd Febr., 1789.

"I observe what you say ab't D.P.G.M. Jewell amounting to ab't 30/- which I shall leave intirely to your Taste as far as two Guineas will go, & a proper Ribbon to wear with it, if I am within Compass for a Neat one so far good, but I shall not mind a few shillings more, as I think I can't be turn'd out of office (unless I act not in character), is my motive for being at this Expence willing to add to the Dignity of Masonry all in my power. Every Inquiry has been made by me Respecting the Lodge held in Oswestry ; none I am told has been held there for some years past, the Wynnstay Lodge No. 324 formerly did Assemble there have left this county, & I am inform'd meet in Wales, so that is not in our District ; the Lodge No. 322, formerly held at Bridgnorth (now erased) have heard nothing of them, & I now acquaint you that there are no more Lodges held to my knowledge in this district than you have already been inform'd of by me. * * * in all probability more Lodges will soon be in this County, & it is my intentions to do the business as concisely as possible, so that the Craft shall flourish, and the orders of the Grand Lodge punctually observ'd, & if the Lodges are once made acquainted from yon that in all business of Masonry must come to you through us, this matter will be Adjusted to the Satisfaction of us both. I with pleasure inform you that another Lodge is agoing to be fix'd here w'ch is approv'd of by the P.G. Mr., it will Cost me much trouble, as I must Constantly attend (they being Young in the business) to act as Mr. is my reason for now desiring you will Leave a space for one to be inserted by us whenever we can find one that is fit for the office, but as I shall keep them close at it, hope shortly to Effect it, as I spare no pains for the good of Masonry—there petition to us was dated on 25th Decr. Last. Officers to wit—

..... Master (this for us to fill up).

JOHN PERRY, S.W., age 34. Profession—Waiter.	
WALTER THOMAS, J.W., do. 24	„ Clock & Watch Maker
BENJAMIN LAKIN, Treasr. do. 34	„ Cabinet Maker.
WILLIAM DODD, Secty., do. 30	„ Grocer.
JOHN BROOKES, S.D., do. 27	„ Shoemaker.
JOHN HINTON, J.D., do. 24	„ Shoemaker.
PETER WRIGHT, Tyler, do. 43	„ Inn Holder.

The Lodge to be called the Egerton Lodge No. 2 at Whitchurch, to be held in this Town at the sign of the Ccach & Horses, & to assemble on the last Monday in each Month, so that you will please make out the Wart. Sevl. others will join us in a few days, haveing Granted leave for that purpose * * * P.S. In order to bring a Bror. on to fill the chair as soon as possible, its my intention, that myself or one of our Past Mr. do always attend them when they meet for to adjust the business, w'ch will not be long in doing, as two of the members were Master Masons in Chester, and are now Remov'd to this town to reside."

* * *

It is somewhat curious to observe that none of the officers of the Egerton Lodge mentioned in this letter were registered in Grand Lodge.

As will be seen hereafter Shirreff miscalculated the length of his tenure of the office of D.P.G.M., so that his purchase of the jewel mentioned in this letter proved a bad investment. The Wynnstay Lodge appears to have been founded at Wynnstay, in Denbighshire, in 1771, by the grandfather of the late R.W.P.G.M., and to have removed to Oswestry in 1785, without the knowledge of Grand Lodge. If Shirreff's account of its movements be correct, it seems to have returned over the border into Wales shortly afterwards, such removal being likewise without permission. Its erasure is dated 1789, and probably took place as an immediate consequence of this letter. The case of the Bridgnorth Lodge, called the Lodge of Friendship, has been already referred to in connection with Shirreff's fourth letter. The establishment of the Egerton Lodge, brought the number of Lodges in the Province at this date up to three, not including the Barry Lodge, a military Lodge in the 34th Regiment, then stationed at Shrewsbury. The usual Book of Constitutions, Bible, Collars, and other lodge requisites, were purchased by Shirreff from the Grand Secretary for the Egerton Lodge.

11.

June 2^d, 1789.

"I am just return'd from visiting my friends (at Newport, Shefnall, Wellington, Shrewsbury, Ellesmere, Wrexham, and Namptwich) * * * being in hopes Ere Long to receive Applications to set 3 or 4 more Lodges agoing, so you will see Masonry I have much at heart as well abroad as at home. * * * I have dated the Wart. the day of their Petition, viz., 1st Janry., 1789, and appointed their officers as follows—Bro. Walter Thomas to be Master, Bro. Robt. Barrow Jones, S.W., and Bro. Benjamin Lakin J.W. * * * I inspected the Lodges when in Shrewsbury, & found everything going on Right. The Ensuing Festival of St. John being our Triennial return, that Masons generally observe in the Country, Its my intentions that the Lodges in this County do attend me on that day, in order to proceed to Church and Dine together. The Barry Lodge on acct. of the militia being Embodied are remov'd from Shrewsbury, wh'ch prevents them from attending us, and I am inform'd they mean to apply for leave to go in procession on their Return. As the day will have been observ'd agreeable to Antient Custom, I shall not be fond of bringing up new Precedents, but should they apply, refer them to the P.G.M. & give him my opinion, for I think going too often in procession looks more like Parade, &c., therefore once in three years is sufficient. I hope you will agree with me." * * * * *

The Warrant here referred to was that of the Egerton Lodge. The 34th Regiment in which the Barry Lodge was

formed, was moved to Oswestry from Shrewsbury during the training of the militia; the same thing took place in 1788, as may be seen from the files of the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* (June 28th. 1788). The Salopian Lodge History for 1789 contains a fuller account of the procession thus arranged by Shirreff. The inclusion of Wrexham and Nantwich in the list of visits paid by the D.P.G.M. is a proof that he had indeed "Masonry much at heart," for those towns lie outside the Province of Shropshire. Shortly after that date, viz., in 1793, a Lodge, No. 520, was founded at Nantwich, which survives to the present day, and is now No. 293 on the roll. Another Lodge was also constituted in the same town in 1794, No. 543, but it did not long survive, and in 1810 its warrant was assigned to a Lodge in the Cornwall Militia, with the new number 618. No lodge was founded in Wrexham exactly at this period, but in 1802 the Warrant of the Lodge of Peace and Good Neighbourhood, 548, originally constituted at Wynnstay, in Denbighshire (1795),⁽¹⁾ was re-issued to a Lodge in that town. Curiously enough in the year 1810 the Warrant thus re-issued to a Wrexham Lodge, was assigned to a Lodge at Truro, with the new number 620. This re-issuing and assignment of warrants of extinct Lodges, will be considered more fully at a future page in connection with the history of the Lodge of the Marches 611, and the Salopian Lodge of Charity 117. It may be sufficient here to notice that the re-issues of the Warrants above referred to, were different from the examples of similar practices to be noted in connection with the last mentioned Lodges, inasmuch as new numbers were given to the new Lodges, the Warrants were retained by Grand Lodge, and fresh ones were issued containing recitals referring to the old Lodges. The advantage of this method was that full fees, as for the constitution of a new Lodge, were exacted in each instance. I am informed by Bro. H. Claud Lisle, Secretary of the Nantwich Lodge 293, that, unfortunately, the first minute book of that Lodge is not now in existence, so that we cannot definitely ascertain if Shirreff took any active part in its foundation.

(1) This Lodge must not be confounded with the older one founded in the same place in 1771, removed to Oswestry in 1785, and erased in 1789 as before mentioned.

12.

In this letter the Grand Secretary is asked for information on three doubtful points.

6th July, 1789.

- "1st Myself as founder of the Lo. & of Course P.M., whether or not in the absence of the Mr. as P.M. & all P.M. have not a Right to the Chair & to do the business in Preference to the S.W. as it but too often happens they are Ignorant and know not how to Conduct matters, & for P.M. to be Govern'd by Novices appears to me not Masonic.
- 2nd—In my official Capacity as D.P.G.M. have I not a Right to the Chair when I chuse it on any meeting of Masons to open and close the Lo. & to do the business, but particularly so in the Lo. I am a P.M. & member of.
- 3rd—Whenever the Lo. meet & the Mr. is present and the P.G.M. or his Depty. are there, & do not chuse to take the Chair that Evg. should not the M. previous to opening & Closeing pay the Compt. to the Gd. Mr. or Depty. to know their pleasure, this was the mode I ever saw in America. I wish to do right, & what is now mention to you & Bro. H. is in confidence. Last Saturday I initiated Sir Richd. Hill ; John Hill, Esqre. ; Revd. Brian Hill ; & Mr. John Hill, Junr. who join'd our body as Members, the Latter being rather under Age, a Dispensation was granted for his Introduction ; at the Proper time you shall have a Regular Acc't of all our proceedings & balances &c. from our Lodges sent you." * * *

The ideas of Major Shirreff as to the conduct of Lodge business seem to have been peculiar. With respect to his first question, he was clearly in the wrong, as the point seems to have been expressly provided for on page 395 of the Constitutions of 1784. Bro. H. here referred to was James Heseltine, G.S. till 1784, and S.G.W. and G.T. in the following year. He seems to have been especially struck with Shirreff's "ne plus ultra" notions. John Hill was M.P. for Shrewsbury at this time, and W.M. of the Egerton Lodge in the following year.

13.

26th Septr., 1789.

- * * * * * "On the 14th Inst. a Petition from Sevl. Brethren at Wellington to the Revd. Francis Henry Egerton, P.G.M., praying for a Warrent &c. was approv'd of by him, so that you will be pleased to have a Warrent drawnt out Nominateing Bro. Thomas Jukes Collier, Master ; Bro. William Emery, S. W. ; and Bro. Richard Phillips, J. W., thereof to be named the Wrekin Lodge, And to meet on the last Friday in each Month previous to the full Moon at the Talbot Inn, in the Town of Wellington County of Salop. There are a number of Candidates to join them, and I doubt not they will be a good Society, and at the

usual time I shall send you a particular Acc't of them with all arrears &c. from every Lodge in the County. * * * Please put the No. of the Lodge to the Wart., and I hope this will be in time to insert the New Lodge in the next F.M. Kalendal for the ensuing year. We have had no Quarterly Communication for a long while—the Wart. may be dated, if you think proper, on the 4th Inst., the day they made application." * * *

The usual order for a neat Bible and neat Book of Constitutions, and six white collars follows in due course; the D.P.G.M. seems to have regarded the furnishing of the Lodge as part of his official duty. As in the case of the Egerton Lodge already noticed, the names of the first officers of the Wrekin Lodge were not registered in Grand Lodge.

14.

21st Decr., 1789.

"I rec'd your faveur of the 24th Octr. in Answer to which am to Acquaint you, that as soon after the 28th Inst., It is in my power, I will Collect from the dift. Ledges there arrears to that Period, & transmit you a regular Acc't. & send you an order for the Cash as usnal. * * * The Wait. &c. for the Wellington Lodge, I beg may be forwarded as soon as possible, that the P.G.M. may sign it previous to his leaving us abt. the Middle of next month. * * * This morning I sent you off by waggon for the blossoms Inn, Lawrence Lane address'd for you as this le'r. a turkey kill'd yesterday, it is in Its feathers & undrawn; hope it will get safe and prove acceptable to your good woman. * * * You will much oblige us to send three proper candles for the Lodge, and the price, which I will repay you with thanks."

15.

14th Septr., 1790.

* * * "I have the pleasure to inform you that Masonry flourishes in this County, and that all disputes with the S. Lodge are happily terminated, and the Different Bodies assembled at Shrewsbury on the 31st Angt., went in procession to Church, din'd together, 88 of us, Clos'd the Lodge at 6 o'clock, & I was off directly after for Home; everything was conducted to give satisfaction, and would have been completely so had it not been for the Officiousness of a Brother, whom I was Obliged to call to order several times; he was a visitor & the most troublesome one I ever had to manage, the Brethren tho't I was too mild with him, but Lenity I think at all times is best. He is by his own Acc't. a very great Mason, now Master of three Lodges, and S.W. of a fourth Lodge in London, & pretends to have a thorough knowledge of you & my worthy Bre. Hesseltine, & I am since inform'd he disapproves of my Conduct, & means to relate it to you, if se, you will know the Man, and that is my reason for not Announcing his Name in this, in hopes he may think better of it; he talks much of his power, and if Justice is not done him, he can have you & I turn'd out of office; this is just intended for your Information,

that should this Genins heave in sight, you may be prepar'd to answer him, for had he had his desert, it would have been to quit ns, not above 5, if so many, in the room but would have been glad of it, but taking him altogether to be not right in his head, I tho't it best to act as I did, for he had such an opinion of himself plainly indicated to me I could not reform him, and happy was your friend when he quitted him. In due time you shall have sent you by me the returns of the Difft. Lodges & the Cash from each, &c. I beg to know whether you have done anything respecting our Lodge chairs. Mr. Egerton I expect soon to be with us." * * *

Some further account of this great meeting at Shrewsbury will be found in the Salopian Lodge History for 1790. Nothing in connection with the dispute with the S(alopian) Lodge appears upon its minute books, but we learn its nature from a letter of the P.G.M. dated the 5th July, 1790, which has been preserved in Grand Lodge. It appears that in Febry. the Salopian Lodge applied for a Dispensation to walk in procession on St. John's Day. This was refused by the P.G.M. as it would have interfered with the other Lodges in the county. Thereupon the Lodge appealed to Grand Lodge. The issue of that appeal we do not know, but evidently some compromise was arrived at, for the Lodge did not go in procession on St. John's Day, though they had previously advertised their intention so to do, but joined with the other Lodges in the county in the procession of the 31st August, to which Major Shirreff's letter refers. Egerton's letter is too long to be quoted here, but in appealing to the Grand Secretary for advice, he shows a large mindedness and sense of fairness very different from the more arbitrary spirit of his Deputy.

16.

11th Jan., 1791.

* * * * "Should anything happen to prevent my recg. their accounts (wch. I can't think will be the case) so as not to be in time for their Insertion in the next Q.C., I beg you will for the Whitechurch Lodge Insert for Registg. Fees 5/- ; Grand Charity, two guineas ; & for the Cumberland School one guinea (which I request you'll pay to the Secty. of that Society) for the Egerton Lodge Registering Fees £1 2s. 6d. & for the Grand Charity, half-a-guinea. * * * The name you wish to know—shall inform you, but it must rest with your self, I take him to be a very Eccentric Man. Look at your Alphabet in the 7th Degree, and observe the follg.—will tell you his name (here follows the name in cypher.) * * * Two letters have pass'd between me & Captain Bridgewaters at Ludlow, wanting the

P.G.M. to let him act under the Old Wart. Granted to the Sion Lodge in 1772, in New York, & sign'd Peter Middleton, Esqre., D.P.G.M., under Sir John Johnson, Bart., P.G.M. My answer is as there is no one Bro. but himself present belonging to that Lodge, he can't act as an Individual by that Wart., & of course a new one is Necessary for the Establishing of one in Ludlow, w'ch he seems to Acquiesce in, so that I expect shortly to send to you on their business. Harmony at present prevails among the Lodges, & I shall do all in my power for its Continuance."

* * *

The name given in this letter in cypher is evidently that of the "Officious Brother" mentioned in the previous letter. I cannot interpret the cypher of the 7th or any other degree, but I believe the person referred to was Thomas Dunckerley, of whom I will have something further to say hereafter in connection with the resignation of the D.P.G.M.

The expectation of founding a Lodge at Ludlow was never realized by Shirreff, as no Lodge was constituted there until the year 1805.

17.

29th June, 1791.

* * * * * "The P.G.M. has made me acquainted that His Patent is made out for four more Counties, which he Names, and offers to appoint me as His Deputy to Eaeoh on Condition of Vacateing it, in either or all of the counties of Stafford, Flint, Denbigh, & Montgomery, in case he should think it expedient or Necessary to appoint a Deputy. who shall be Resident in the County for wch. he is D.P.G.Mr.—My answer—" Well knowing that much ease as well as pleasure must accrue to the P.G.M. provided his choice of an Assistant to act in the above mentioned Counties turn'd out favourable was my only motive for Tendering you my services 'Till such time as you can meet with Deputy Provincial Gd. Masters to your Approbation, that will Discharge their Duty as such, agreeable to the Book of Constitutions in each County. I am willing to act as such, and shall always be happy to have it in my power to render anything you undertake Propitious." The Last Q.C. I recd. from you and sent off to the Diff't. Lodges in the County were dated Feby., 1791, so that those in Arrear will I hope E're long with my Books Heave in sight." * * *

Egerton is stated in the Free Masons Calendar to have been appointed P.G.M. for the County of Stafford in the year 1786. As I have now in my possession a letter from him dated

the 13th April, 1791, addressed to the Grand Secretary, in which he states that he would "consider it as an honor and an obligation to be appointed Provincial Grand Master" for the four counties mentioned in Shirreff's letter, it is clear that the Calendar has ante-dated his appointment by at least five years.

18.

27th Octr., 1791.

" My last to you bears date 22nd ultimo. Acknowledging the receipt of my Books and the Q.C. and I then acquainted you that I had by the P.G.M. desire forwarded a Circular Ler. to the Lichfield, Wolverhampton, and Denbigh Lodges, dated 12th Septr., but no answer as yet come to either of them w'ch I am surpris'd at." * * *

This letter is interesting as showing the strength of the Craft in two of the new Counties committed to the care of the P.G.M. for Shropshire. None of these Lodges written to by Shirreff have survived to the present time.

19.

22nd April, 1792.

" Yesterday I forwarded a Petition to the Revd. Mr. Egerton from one Bro. Innys a member of the Salopian Lo. Setting forth his unhappy Situation w'ch was corroborated by the Mr. Wards., & most of the members Craving relief from the Gd. Lo. previous to which he wrote me for the Necessary Mode of Application my answr. was through the P.G.M. for the County & from him to the G. L., instead of which it seems as if No. 525 did not wish to have anything to do with the P.G.M. or his Depty., as they have address'd his Petition to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, & I have given them to understand for want of the Necessary Formalities, I should not be surpris'd if it was returned back to be corrected, had they sent it in time as they might have done Mr. Egerton was here present; & then it would have been settled by him. Our Last Regular Lodge being on the 5th Inst. and the Ensuing St. John's day being the Triennial return for the Brethren to go in procession to Church, the P.G.M. being present gave his Consent, & as he will not be here on that day the whole will Lay upon me, and there being at present no l.G. Lodge as yet appointed I beg for the satisfaction of myself, as there are many opinions, & I wish to act right, whether there being no P.G.L. it is not still in my power to Summons the Masters and Officers of the Diff't. Lo. in the County to attend me as D.P.G.M. to Church on that day, & if I am not to nominate whose is to Preach. * * * * The last thing I want to know is the Order of Précendency in the Procession to & from Ch. * * Lately I had an acct. from the Denbigh Lodge by a friend of mine that they had sent there arrears, so that when I receive them you shall hear from me, as for the Wolverhampton Lodge I have never heard from them yet in Answer to many Lers. I wrote to them but this must be settled by the P.G.M." * * * *

The Petition of Bro. Innys was, notwithstanding the want of the "Necessary Formalities," successful; his case is fully treated of in the Salopian Lodge History. The procession here referred to never took place, but it is curious to note how much importance our brethren of long ago attached to the successful carrying out of such ceremonies. This letter is especially valuable for the reference it makes to the non-existence of a Provincial Grand Lodge.

* * *

20.

22nd Septr., 1792.

" My best wishes to my friend Bror. Heseltine, I am glad to find he is much better, there is such good pickings, as also Tit-bits in the eating way, & good Liquors to moisten the Clay, in the Vicinity of Doctor's Commons that I am not surpris'd at Esquire Gout Calling on him and I shculd be fearful he would visit also my friend the G.S. was there many Gd. Feast days in the Year. I know this gentleman well and when any signs of his calling appears, I drink a Glass of Genuine Wine which drives him from the Head, and Stomach into the feet, where ho takes up his abode, and then iu a Little while he is off." * * * *

This extract is hardly of Masonic interest, but the cure for the Gout mentioned in it is probably unique, and is, like the present of the Turkey, inserted to complete, as far as possible, the picture of the D.P.G.M. as a man.

21.

1st June, 1793.

" I wrote you on the 10th of April last for a Warrant for the Friendly Brothers to Hold a Lodge at Newcastle, & on the 19th ultimo I reminded you about it, & my now again doing it is in Consequence of my receiveing a Ler. from them this morning, wishing me to attend for to Constitute their Lodge on Wednesday 5th Instant, but not having recd. their Warrant this cannot be done, and have accordingly signified the same to them, and I again beg you will be pleas'd to forward it to me. In my letter of the 19th May I made you acquainted of my visit to the Lodges in Staffordshire." * * * *

This letter of the 19th May is not in my possession, so that I cannot give any information, as I would wish to do, about this visit to Staffordshire.

22.

11th June, 1793.

* * * * * "As matters have turn'd out which I am persuaded was owing to your kind interference it was judged Right in you not to deliver my Ler. to Bror. D. and from what you relate I am satisfied, it is never my intentions to wound the feelings of any Man Especially one in Years, but when complaints are prefer'd which Affects me, you must join with me, that it is reasonable for me to vindicate myself in such cases."

* * *

I imagine this letter refers to the old quarrel between Shirreff and Dunckerley, but at best this can only be a matter of conjecture.

23.

3rd Jan., 1795.

"I am much oblig'd to you for your very kind favour of the 28th Nov., and am sorry to find by your Ler. that there is no remedying the Evil I complain of & that any Power should be plac'd in the hands of any One who cares not a farthing for Masonry, this I know for a fact, and I now shall observe the Old Maxim vizt.—Meddle with Dirt & it will stick to your fingers—as I have now done with him for ever. * * * As Mr. E. gave it as his opinion that I had not in general given Satisfaction to the Lodges under his Jurisdiction without specifying from whence Originated any Complaint, for my own Jnstification I wrote each of them a Ler. dated 10th Novr. last, from No. 414 and No. 434 their answers have been very satisfactory, but very much so from our own Lodge No. 388 : who dined together on St. John's day and I had been Master for two years together, & was for giving up the Chair, but they would not Listen to it, but re-elected me Mr. for this year, & order'd my Ler. & their Sentiments on it, to be recorded in the Lodge Books—the other Lodges have not as yet taken any notice of my Ler. which surprises me. * * * You may depend upon it, so long as the Present person acts, Masonry will dwindle, for he is despised by us all. * * * There was a Wart. wanted for a Lodge at Tam-worth in Staffordshire and another at Holywell in Flintshire, what he has done abt. it I know not, & as for a Deputy he will find it a difficult matter to find one after his treatment of me." * * *

This letter indicates a serious quarrel between the P.G.M. and his Deputy, and one which was never made up. Four or five other subsequent letters of Shirreff carry the matter no further, and we have no definite knowledge of the cause of the dispute. One thing is clear, that Shirreff took the action of the P.G.M. in dismissing him from his office of Deputy with a very bad grace, and, from the Chair of the Whitchurch Lodge, did his best to prove his independence of the P.G.M. by communicating directly with the Grand Lodge about matters which, whilst

Deputy, he had always instructed the Lodges to communicate through the Provincial Officials. If I might hazard a suggestion, I would say that most probably this dispute arose from Shirreff's continued practice of "Ancient" Customs in Lodges established under the "Modern" constitution. If I am correct in supposing that the "Officious Brother" mentioned in his fifteenth letter was Thomas Dunckerley, this theory attains a higher degree of probability. Dunckerley, commonly believed to have been an illegitimate son of George II., was an ardent and enthusiastic adherent of the "Moderna," and was undoubtedly possessed of considerable influence in their Grand Lodge Councils.⁽¹⁾ He was in 1790 P.G.M. for Hereford, as well as several other of the Western Counties, and his presence in Shrewsbury in that year was a not improbable event, as Provincial Grand Lodges, in early times, were often attended by Lodges not within their jurisdiction. His officiousness probably consisted of protests against some of Shirreff's "Ancient" methods of working, and these protests if carried to Grand Lodge as was threatened, would in due course have led to Egerton's interference with his Deputy. From Shirreff's 22nd letter, written in June, 1793, it is evident that the occurrences of 1790 had by no means been forgiven or forgotten, and it is easily to be imagined that the dispute continued until the following year, and so the quarrel with Dunckerley led directly to the quarrel with Egerton. The discontinuance of the appointment of Deacons as Officers of 262 from the year 1791, and the cessation of the practice of installing the W.M. of the same Lodge from the year 1793 until the Union, raises a strong presumption that Egerton was at this period interfering with his Deputy, and converting his "Ancient" method of working into conformity with the practices of the "Modern" Grand Lodge. From the character of the man, and knowing from his letters the poor opinion he held of Egerton's Masonic knowledge, we can readily believe that Shirreff would have highly resented any interference with his work, and any exhibition

(1) The rank of Past Senior Grand Warden was granted to him in 1786, "in grateful testimony of the high sense the Grand Lodge entertains of his zealous and indefatigable exertions."

of such resentment would inevitably have resulted in his dismissal from Office. His principles were too deeply rooted to allow of his making any modifications in what he conceived to be the right mode of conducting the business of the Craft, so that the only alternative open to him was retirement. He became a Subscribing Member of the Salopian Lodge in 1794, and in December of the same year letters were read in that Lodge from both Egerton and himself. These letters had probably reference to the dispute between them, but no certainty on the point is possible, and, so far as I know, this is the last occasion on which Shirreff's name is mentioned in any record of the Craft in the Province. We can only suppose that the deposed Deputy went into voluntary exile, unwilling to be ruled where once he had been practically supreme, and lived in solitude, pouring forth gloomy prognostications for the future of Masonry. If he was spared for a few years longer by his joint enemies the rheumatism and "Esquire Gout," he must have seen the extinction of the Wrekin Lodge at Wellington in 1798, and of the two Whitchurch Lodges almost immediately afterwards, and mourned over the obliteration of these monuments of his Masonic career. The very fact of their premature decay speaks eloquently of the loss his absence had entailed upon them, and must have done much to soothe his ruffled vanity, by confirming his opinion of his own importance.

The two Whitchurch Lodges, 348 and 445, the Wynnstay Lodge, 548, and the Lodge at Newcastle, in Stafford, 523, referred to in Shirreff's letters, were all erased from the roll of Lodges for refusing or neglecting to contribute to the Liquidation Fund levied by Grand Lodge for the purpose of paying off the large debt incurred in building and making alterations to the Free-mason's Hall, in London. We may safely assume that if Shirreff had still been a ruling spirit in these Lodges his knowledge of the power of Grand Lodge, and of the results likely to follow from gross disobedience to its orders, would have prevented such refusal or neglect being persisted in.

It may not be out of place if I here attempt briefly to sketch the character of the man who was, as I have said, mainly responsible for the revival of Masonry in Shropshire. As his letters give us nearly all the information we possess about that interesting event, so also do they contain all our knowledge of the man ; yet in them I believe he has unconsciously, and yet unmistakeably, revealed to us his own personality. As I read that revelation, he seems to have been earnest, painstaking, indefatigable ; not devoid of a certain dry sense of humour ; inclined rather to magnify his own office, and fully self-conscious of his own dignity and of the value of his own services. A certain amount of intolerance for the opinions of others and of hastiness of temper seems to have entered into his composition. Somewhat of a Martinet too we guess him to have been, a consequence probably of his early military training ; but in the main he must be acknowledged to have been a true and good Mason, and his name should be carefully and gratefully remembered by Shropshire Lodges. He was not the man, having once put his hand to the plough, to look back. Having laid the foundations of his work securely, he spared no effort to ensure that the building to arise thereon should be a worthy one. Four Lodges, as I have been able to show, directly owed their constitution to his efforts, (1) and though of these 262 has alone escaped the vicissitudes of time, and prolonged its existence down to the present day, yet he must nevertheless be credited with having widely diffused the principles of the Order through the County, and paved the way for the success it attained about the middle of the present century. That his immediate personal success was not greater, and the results of his work more striking, I attribute solely to the fact that his tenure of Office was short. His retirement from the post of D.P.G.M. in 1795 caused the abandonment of much of the good work he had begun to do, and had looked forward to finishing. Had he retained Office for a few years longer I believe he would have reaped the fruit of the seed he had sowed so industriously, and rejoiced over the foundation of Lodges in all

(1) 1 Whitchurch No. 1.—(2) Salopian.—(3) Whitchurch No. 2 —(4) Wrekin.

our chief Shropshire Towns. The impetus his efforts had given to Masonic Work continued even after his retirement, and the establishment of the Lodge of Industry in Bridgnorth in 1799, and of the Mercian Lodge in Ludlow in 1805, may in many ways be regarded as the result of his endeavour "to Spread the Light."

Turning from the Deputy to the P.G.M., we find that Egerton is given in the Freemasons Calendar as having held office from 1786 to 1819. He may be considered as the first real Provincial Grand Master of Shropshire, and did really attend for some years to the duties of his office, though not, in my opinion, for quite so long a period as he is credited with in the Calendar. He was, as we have seen, son of the then Bishop of Durham, and also Provincial Grand Master of the Counties of Stafford, Flint, Denbigh, and Montgomery. In the year 1786 he also applied for the post of P.G.M. of the County of Durham. He seems to have regarded his application as certain of success, as in his letter he suggests the method in which his Patent was to be drawn up. In spite of his confidence, however, the post was in the following year bestowed elsewhere. From this letter we also learn that he was "Prebendary of the Fourth Stall in the Cathedral of Durham, Domestic Chaplain to John by Divine Providence Lord Bishop of Durham, and Rector of Whitchurch, Shropshire, cum Marybury"; he was also entitled to write the letters M.A. and F.R.S. after his name. He attended Grand Lodge more than once.

It is not a very easy question to decide whether or not Egerton was ever at the head of a real Provincial Grand Lodge of Shropshire. In the first place it may be noticed that though Shirreff in his fifth letter speaks of the method of conducting P.G. Lodges, and asks for information thereon from the Grand Secretary, yet but one of his subsequent letters contains any reference to the subject, and this expressly states that in the year it was written (1793) there was no P.G. Lodge. Again, it is evident from a study of the carefully kept Treasurer's accounts

of the Salopian Lodge, that no fees were ever paid by that Lodge to a Provincial Grand Lodge until late in the present century. It is, however, unwise to judge past days by the light of present customs, and the absence of the payment of any such fees is far from being conclusive evidence of the non-existence of a P.G. Lodge.

The only Officers of Provincial rank that I can trace before the year 1819 are (1)—the P.G.M. ; (2)—the D.P.G.M. ; and (3)—Bro. John Collier P.G. Chaplain. The duties of P.G. Secretary were evidently discharged by Major Shirreff when D.P.G.M., but after 1795 both these posts filled by him remained vacant. It is exceedingly improbable that other Provincial Officers could have existed without their names and respective ranks appearing in the Minute books of the Salopian Lodge. The only occasions between 1788 and 1819 on which Provincial Grand Lodges or anything of their nature were held, were at Whitchurch on the Festival of St. John the Baptist in 1789, and at Shrewsbury on the same Festival in the following year. Apart from Shirreff's statement in 1793 that there was then no P.G. Lodge in existence, it is quite evident from his letters, and from the Minute books of the Salopian Lodge, that attendance on these occasions was regarded as a celebration of a festival, and as a mark of respect to the D.P.G.M., and not as a participation in Provincial Grand Lodge proceedings. The advertisement of the festival in 1790, contained in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* for August 20th in that year, also shows that the only business intended to be done was to walk in procession to Church, hear a sermon by the P.G. Chaplain, and then dine together. It seems therefore perfectly certain that no Provincial Grand Lodge ever existed under the presidency of Egerton, yet the fact remains that the words "P.G. Lodge" occasionally occur in the minutes of the Salopian Lodge, and some explanation of this difficulty seems necessary. For instance, what is the meaning of a minute dated the 1st Decr., 1795, which records the name of "John Hill, Esqre., M.P., Provl. G. Lodge" as a Visitor ? I believe that the

difficulty can be solved by a comparison of the account given by the Secretary of the Salopian Lodge of the Festival in 1790, with the account of the same event contained in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of the 3rd Septr. in that year.

The Lodge Secretary gives the names of the Lodges represented on that occasion as (1) Whitchurch, (2) Salopian, (3) Egerton, and (4) Wrekin—the Chronicle on the other hand gives the following list (1) Provincial, (2) Egerton, (3) Salopian, and (4) Wellington. In order to make these lists correspond, as the Wrekin was the Wellington Lodge, the Whitchurch and Provincial Lodges must be considered as identical. I believe that in popular estimation they then were so. The P.G.M. and his Deputy chiefly attended the Whitchurch Lodge No. 1, and their presence caused this Lodge to be regarded as the centre of Masonry in the Province. Such was clearly Shirreff's opinion when in his first letter he speaks of the dependence of the Egerton Lodge (Whitchurch No. 2) on his own Lodge (Whitchurch No. 1). It is no wonder then that it was sometimes inaccurately called the P.G. Lodge, by those who spoke or wrote ignorantly or unthinkingly. John Hill, M.P. was, we know, Master of the Egerton Lodge in the year 1790, though not registered in Grand Lodge as a member of that Lodge, but, as I believe, he was the same person as John Hill stated in Shirreff's 12th letter to have been initiated by him in the Whitchurch No. 1 Lodge, I conclude he was also a member of the senior Lodge, and so the entry of his name in the manner under consideration is explained. Similarly, "Bro. John Collier, Pro. G. Chaplain," was merely the Chaplain of the Whitchurch Lodge No. 1.

Though I have been forced to the conclusion that at this period there was no Provincial Grand Lodge of Shropshire, yet it is evident that there was at first a careful personal supervision of the Lodges by the D.P.G.M., which continued until the dispute in 1795; and the P.G.M., apart from Shirreff's letters, can be shown, by the minutes of the Salopian Lodge, to have granted Dispensations, remitted fees to Grand Lodge, and generally to

have interested himself in the proper discharge of his duties. But this unhappy quarrel entirely changed the aspect of affairs. After the beginning of 1795 the Salopian Lodge began to consult Grand Lodge directly, and Communications from Grand Lodge previously sent through the D.P.G.M., were now sent straight to the private Lodges. Egerton no longer seems to have taken much interest in the Province, his absences from Shropshire referred to in Shirreff's letters became more frequent, until at last they were continuous. A dispensation for the initiation of Henry Bowdler in the Salopian Lodge in 1798, and an application to Grand Lodge in 1800 for relief for a poor member of the Egerton Lodge, are the last pieces of Masonic work I can place to his credit. From the former year I believe the Province was practically without a head, the immediate consequence being, as already noticed, the extinction of three out of the four existing Lodges.

From 1798 to 1817 Egerton's name does not appear in the books of the Salopian Lodge. On Decr. 29th in the latter year it is recorded that a proposal was made "that the Secretary write to Grand Lodge, and request that a Provincial Grand Master be appointed instead of the Revd. F. H. Egerton, who has been absent many years."

It is, perhaps, worth noting, that the ceremony of laying the first stone of the Column, erected in honour of Lord Hill, in 1814, was carried out entirely by the Salopian Lodge, and it is most improbable that this, the greatest Masonic ceremony ever performed in this County, would have been left in the hands of a private Lodge, if a Provincial Grand Lodge had been in working order, or if a P.G.M. had been anywhere available.

A further proof, though I think one is hardly needed, of the absence of all Provincial authority at this period, will be found in the fact that, in the year 1817, the Minute books of the Salopian Lodge of Charity, now 117, were evidently sent direct to Grand Lodge for inspection, as notes appear at the bottom of many pages signed "Edward Harper, Grand Secretary," giving

directions for the future avoidance of irregularities there detected. I, therefore, conclude that for the last 20 years of his tenure of office as indicated by the Calendar, Egerton was a nominal and not an active P.G. Master. The extent of his work is sufficiently indicated by what has been already said; of his personality we know nothing, as his letters are for the most part colourless and devoid of character.

Before I notice the appointment of the next Provincial Grand Master, it may be well to review the strength of the Craft in the Province between the years 1795 and 1815, especially as neither Egerton nor his Deputy seem to have had any direct influence on its retrogression and subsequent progression during that period. In 1795 there were four Lodges in Shropshire. These were (1) Salopian, (2) Whitchurch, No. 1, (3) Egerton, Whitchurch, No. 2, (4) Wrekin, Wellington. In the year 1798 the last named Lodge became extinct, but in the following year the Lodge of Industry, Bridgnorth, was founded. In 1801, as we have already seen, the two Whitchurch Lodges were erased, and only two Lodges remained in the whole County. To these, in the year 1805, the Mercian Lodge, Ludlow, was added, and, in 1815, the number was further increased to four when the Salopian Lodge of Charity, 117, after its many wanderings as a Military Lodge, settled down in Shrewsbury. I do not now propose to break the continuity of my narrative by stating what is known about any of these Lodges. It will suffice if I here indicate where that information will be found. The history of the two Shrewsbury Lodges will be found in the pages allotted thereto respectively in a subsequent part of this work, that of the Lodge of Industry, Bridgnorth, and of the Agenorian Chapter that worked with it, is noticed in connection with the present Bridgnorth Lodge, The Castle, 1621; that of the Mercian Lodge in connection with the Lodge of the Marches, Ludlow, 611. Of the two Whitchurch Lodges I know nothing further than is stated in the previous pages.⁽¹⁾

(1) The names of their respective members, as registered in Grand Lodge, will be found with the history of the Lodge of St. Alkmund, 2311, hereafter given.

The four Lodges which were active in the year 1815 continued working until after the death of the Provincial Grand Master next appointed. This was the Hon. Henry Grey Bennett, who probably owed his appointment, which, according to the Calendar, dates from 1819, to the fact that he was M.P. for Shrewsbury. He represented the Borough in 1806, lost his seat in 1807, and was again elected in 1811, 1812, 1819, and 1820. He did not contest the seat in the year 1826, and as his tenure of Office as P.G.M. seems to have ceased in that year, I conclude that he died about this period. The Minute book of the Salopian Lodge for the year 1824 clearly shows that he was not installed in Office before 1825, and I believe this ceremony was in fact never performed. The only occasions upon which, so far as I know, he performed any of the duties of his high station were in 1820, when he presented an address to King George IV. from the Salopian Lodge, and in the same year when he granted a dispensation for the initiation of Sir A. V. Corbet, Bart., in the same Lodge. No formal mention is made of a Provincial Grand Lodge, or of Provincial Grand Officers, during his term of Office. There is, however, a letter, in other respects valueless, preserved by chance amongst the debris of papers accumulated by successive Secretaries of 262, which is worthy of notice. It is dated December 11th, 1842, and was written by Bro. Sir A. V. Corbet to Bro. S. Wood. After accepting an invitation, the writer signs himself as "A. V. Corbet, D.P.G.M." For whom he was Deputy, or when he was appointed to that Office, I cannot say, but as there was no P.G.M. from the year 1826 to 1852, it seems evident that he must have been appointed by Bennett before 1826, and still continued to use the title when it had lost all meaning by the death or resignation of the P.G.M. in that year.

After 1826 the Province remained for a quarter of a century without even a nominal head. This, in my opinion, was due entirely to the remissness of the Grand Lodge Officials, as the Lodges in the Province seem to have been quite alive to the disadvantages entailed upon them by the non-appointment of a P.G.M.

In October, 1827, the Salopian Lodge determined to present a petition on the subject to Grand Lodge, and though no trace of it can be found in Freemason's Hall, it was, nevertheless, I believe, forwarded in due course.⁽¹⁾ In the following year the same Lodge again considered the subject, and caused letters to be written to the other Lodges in the County asking for their co-operation in an attempt to get the vacant post filled up. The co-operation of the Mercian Lodge could not have been obtained, as it became extinct in this very year, having displayed no vitality for a considerable period. Whether the other Lodges in the Province acted in the matter or not, it is clear that the attempt met with no success, and as about this period the Salopian Lodge reached the least flourishing part of its existence, we find no further mention of the subject until 1840. In September of that year the Anchor of Hope Lodge, Woore, No. 644, founded in 1836, with the enthusiasm commonly found in young Lodges, started an agitation with the same object in view, but without result. In May, 1843, a deputation was sent by the Salopian Lodge to Bro. Sir Andrew Vincent Corbet, Bart., soliciting him to accept the office which had been so long vacant. At first he seems to have been disposed to accept the invitation of his Mother Lodge, but ultimately changed his mind, and, even after he had been actually appointed by the G.M., returned his patent and declined to act. On the 11th of November a letter to the Salopian Lodge was written by him giving amongst other reasons for his change of intention his inability to undertake the expenses attending the office. It will thus be readily acknowledged that his name should not be included, as it is, in the list of the P.G. Masters of Shropshire contained in the Freemasons' Calendar.

No further notice of the subject is taken by the Secretary of 262 until the 13th December, 1847, upon which date we find the following minute:—"Proposed by Bro. Onions that the W.M. of the Lodge do communicate with the other two Lodges in this County to request their co-operation in applying to Grand Lodge to have a Provincial Grand Lodge established for this County, which was seconded by Bro. John Carline, and the same to be

(1) Bro. Sadler, who very kindly made the requisite searches for me, suggests that the petition was probably forwarded from Grand Lodge to the Grand Master, and was never returned by him.

placed under the care of the Grand Registrar of England,⁽¹⁾ which was carried unanimously." This effort was also doomed to failure like many that preceded it. The entry is, however, interesting from the reference to "the other two Lodges in the County," clearly implying that Shropshire then contained but three Lodges in all. One of "the other two Lodges" was clearly the Salopian of Charity, 117, but the second is not so easily identified. Three other Lodges in the County had in this year a nominal existence, viz., The Lodge of Industry, Bridgnorth; the Anchor and Hope Lodge, Woore; and the Roden Lodge, Wem, which latter Lodge had been founded in the previous year. Of these the two former were not formally erased from the list until 1853, but as no names of members were registered in Grand Lodge after 1840, I conclude that in 1847 they were practically extinct. Grand Lodge does not contain any record of the work of the Roden Lodge, if any in fact took place, and the only payment ever made on its behalf was for founders fees; still as it started in 1846, and for some little time sent visitors to 262, it may be assumed that this was the other Lodge referred to in the above minute.

Another interval of more than three years elapsed before we find the Lodges again stirring in the matter. On the 10th Feby., 1851, a written communication was ordered to be sent to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn for the purpose of ascertaining whether he would accept the office of P.G.M. for this County. On the 8th Decr., Sir Watkin gave an intimation through Bro. Dynock that he would gladly do so. The appointment was accordingly made in due course by the Grand Master the Earl of Zetland, who however thought it right to join North Wales and Shropshire into one Province. From what has been already said it will I think be clear that there were only two real Lodges at this time in Shropshire (262 and 117), and as North Wales only possessed a like number,⁽²⁾ the duties of the post were not at first more than could be reasonably managed in one Province.

(1) Alexander Dobie (1846—1857.)

(2) St. David's, Bangor, then 540, now 384; founded 1827.

St. Cybi, Holyhead, then Hibernia 869, now 597, founded 1851.

With the advent of the year 1852 closes one of the darkest decades in the history of Shropshire Masonry. The two Shrewsbury Lodges alone continued to work throughout the period, and nothing but the illegality of the attempt prevented the existence of the Salopian Lodge of Charity being merged in that of the Salopian Lodge. The two Lodges had actually amalgamated under the Warrant of the latter Lodge in 1851, but were obliged by the regulations of the order to separate again, or return the Warrant of 117 to Grand Lodge. The separation was accordingly promptly effected, and the lapse of time has shown the wisdom of that course. Shrewsbury affords an ample field for the operations of both Lodges. But one sign of vitality appears during the period of which I am writing, namely the foundation, in the year 1843, of the Salopian Chapter, 262, but of this subject I will take no further notice now, a separate page being hereafter devoted to its consideration.⁽¹⁾

The installation of Sir Watkin took place on the 9th of March, 1852, in the Lodge room at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury. The event had for some time been looked forward to with great delight and interest by the Craft generally in the Province, and the ceremony was numerously attended. The Installing Master was Bro. The Right Hon^{ble}. Lord Combermere, the Hero of Bhurtpore, and R.W.P.G.M. for Chester, who was specially deputed by the Grand Master to perform the Ceremony.

After the Installation, addresses from both the Shropshire and Welsh Lodges were presented to the R.W.P.G.M. That presented by the former begins:—

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,

“We the Brethren of the Salopian Lodges Nos. 135 (now 117), 328 (now 262), 398 (Bridgnorth), 644 (Woore), and 765 (Wem), offer our sincere congratulations on your elevation to the distinguished position you now occupy, &c., &c.”

(1) See under title “The Salopian Chapter,” and of Salopian Lodge History for the year 1843.

A study of the signatures appended to this address shows that not a single member of the Bridgnorth or Woore Lodges signed his name ; and only two belonging to the Wem Lodge did so. This bears out my assumption that these lodges had then ceased working. One of the two signatures from Wem is that of John Bishton Minor, P.M., 765 ; in the Minute book of 262, on the 23rd Decr., 1846, we find that Charles Fred Barker, a visitor, was described as W.M. of the Roden Lodge 765 ; it therefore seems that the Lodge must have prolonged an active existence for some little time, as it had at all events two Masters.

Returning to the subject of this address, it may be noticed that many signatures thereto are followed by the number 875, being that of the St. John's Lodge, Wellington, a Lodge not then in existence. This was rendered possible as the engrossment of the address was not ready for presentation on the Installation day, and was not in fact delivered until after the Consecration of this Lodge, which will be shortly noticed.

The first D.P.G.M. of the new Province, was Bro. the Revd. E. H. Dymock ; the first P.G. Secretary Bro. Chas. Wigan, of Ruabon ; and the first P.G. Treasurer, Bro. J. P. White. The last named brother continued to hold the same office until the separation of the Province in 1885, and was with the exception of Bro. H. T. Wace, then appointed P.G.S. of W., and Bro. J. W. Towers, then appointed P.G.P., the only one of the 16 Provincial Grand Officers appointed in 1852 who lived to see that event. Bro. Wace is now the sole survivor. Of these 15 officers, 10 were members of the Salopian Lodge.

On the 17th May, 1852, the Provincial Grand Officers journeyed to Admaston to consecrate the St. John's Lodge, but as the Warrant did not arrive in time, the Ceremony had to be postponed until June 16th, upon which day it was duly performed. Bro. J. W. Towers is stated in the Provincial Minute book to have been the Master installed upon this occasion. Bro. Towers lived until the present year (1891), and died deeply regretted by

all who knew him. The brethren signalled the first visit of the R.W.P.G.M. to their Lodge by meeting him at the Station and conducting him in procession to the Lodge Room. It is evident from the Minute books of 262 that the officers of the St. John's Lodge had prepared themselves for office by constantly attending the meetings of the former Lodge, of which they were nearly all members. The number was changed from 875 to 601 in 1863.

The next Lodge placed on the roll of the Province was the Lodge of the Marches, Ludlow, 887, which became 611 in 1863. The date of this ceremony was the 13th July, 1853. The Consecrating Officer was the W.P. Grand Chaplain, Bro. Guise, and the Master installed was Bro. Bach.

On the 26th October in the same year a proposal was made, in a P.G. Lodge held at Shrewsbury, by Bro. H. T. Wace, that a subscription should be raised for erecting Almshouses for decayed Masons or their widows; it was, however, ultimately allowed to drop. On the same day Bro. Sir. A. V. Corbet, Bart., was appointed P.G.S.W., but he only held office for one year; the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers then appointed remained in office for two years,⁽¹⁾ a custom always maintained until recent times.

On August 8th, 1854, the Segontium Lodge, Carnarvon, 881 (now 606) was consecrated, and in the following year, the Charter for the Eytton Chapter, working in connection with the Lodge of St. John, Wellington, was granted.

On May 23rd, 1857, a return was asked for by Grand Lodge of the number of P.G. Lodges held in each Province during the past ten years, specifying those in which the P.G.M. presided in person. The answer of the P.G. Sec'y. for Shropshire is worth recording—"That the R.W.P.G.M. was installed on the 9th of March, 1852, since which he had held five P.G. Lodges, and that he had presided in each and every of them, viz.:—

(1) Certain exceptions occur through deaths from time to time.

- 6th September, 1852, at Bangor.
26th October, 1853, at Shrewsbury.
8th August, 1854, at Carnarvon.
28th August, 1855, at Admaston.
• 6th August, 1856, at Holyhead."

This return did not contain the three P.G. Lodges held for the purpose of consecrating Craft Lodges, at all of which the R.W.P.G.M. was present.

In 1857 the Lodge of St. John was removed from Admaston to Wellington.

The P.G. Lodge minute book contains no record of the Consecration of the Lodge of St. Tudno, Llandudno, 755, which seems to have taken place on July 23rd, 1858.

The R. W. the Grand Secretary of England, Brother W^m. Henry White, on Jan^{ry}. 14th, 1861, presented to the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Wales and Shropshire, a magnificent sword. This gift was most gratefully accepted, and a special minute of acknowledgment was made by order of the R.W.P.G.M. Bro. J. P. White, the Pro. G. Treas. was nephew to Bro. W^m. Hy. White, and presented the sword in the name of his Uncle. The sword has two plates upon with engraved inscriptions. The larger of these records the gift to the Province as above mentioned, the other, which is very much worn, reads thus :—

Royal Arch
Constitutional
Sols

The Constitutional Sols were a secret convivial Society, in no respect Masonic, established about the year 1780.

On Jan. 13th, 1862, a special meeting of the P.G. Lodge was held in Shrewsbury for the purpose of proposing an Address of Condolence with Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of the lamented death of H.R.H. The Prince Consort. This

meeting was numerously attended, and a loyal and affectionate address was prepared, and subsequently presented.

On Feb. 25th, 1864, Sir Watkin held a P.G. Lodge at Wynnstay to commemorate the rebuilding of his mansion. On this occasion invitations were issued to every subscribing member of the Lodges in the Province, and a large party assembled, and were entertained in a princely manner.⁽¹⁾

The Welshpool Lodge, The Royal Oak, 998, was consecrated on March 31st of the same year, Bro. Goldsboro being the first W.M.

In the following year the P.G. Lodge, under the direction of the R.W.P.G.M., assisted at the ceremony of laying the corner stone of Trinity Church, Llandudno.

In the year 1866 three Lodges were consecrated, viz.:—The Anglesea Lodge, Llangefni, 1113; The Lodge of St. Oswald, Oswestry, 1124; and the Lodge of St. Milburga, Ironbridge, 1120. In the same year the Segontium Lodge, Carnarvon, was ordered to be erased by the Board of General Purposes, for not forwarding its returns since 1863. This Lodge is still on the roll, although no notice is taken in the P.G. Lodge proceedings of pardon for its offence being granted.

On the 24th of October, 1867, The Royal Denbigh Lodge, Denbigh, 1143, was consecrated, and on the following day the Freemasons' Hall, at Llandudno, was formerly opened by the R.W.P.G.M. attended by his Officers.

The Provincial Grand Lodge held at Wellington, on the 24th of April, 1868, was the first not presided over in person by Sir Watkin since he assumed office in 1852. He was then in attendance upon H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, at Carnarvon Castle, and so could not attend to his Masonic duties. At this Lodge Provincial Grand Lodge jewels were voted to Bro. J. P. White, P.G., Treas^r. and Bro. Charles Wigan, P.G., Secty. for their long and valuable services.

(1) See History of The Salopian Lodge for 1864.

On Nov. 1st, 1869, the R.W.P.G.M. laid the Foundation Stone of the Oswestry Cottage Hospital, under the banner of the Lodge of St. Oswald, 1124, under the history of which Lodge further particulars of this interesting event are given.

The Square and Compass Lodge, Wrexham, 1336, was duly consecrated on the 14th of March, 1871 ; the P.G. Officers on this occasion were ably assisted by Bro. Willoughby, of Birkenhead. A very large number of Brethren from the neighbouring Provinces attended the Ceremony, during which Bro. John Lewis was installed Master of the Lodge. He set to work in real earnest, as on the 30th of May a dispensation for initiating nine candidates in one evening had to be procured.

The first meeting of the Bala Lodge, 1369, was held under dispensation early in January, 1872 ; a further dispensation was granted on the 6th of Feby., to enable the W.M. to initiate 12 candidates in one evening ; and on the 3rd of May the Lodge was properly consecrated.

Hitherto it had been usual to hold all Provincial Grand Lodges in Craft Lodges, which were duly opened by their own officers before the arrival of the R.W.P.G.M. and his officers. About this time, however, I believe, Sir Watkin, acting on the principle that the less cannot contain the greater, began to hold his Provincial Grand Lodge quite separate and distinct from Craft Lodges, in the manner to which we are now accustomed.

The handsome donation of 50 guineas was in 1873 voted by the P.G. Lodge to each of the three great Masonic Charities. In June of the same year, at a Provincial Grand Lodge of Emergency, The Fitzalan Lodge, Oswestry, 1432, was consecrated. Bro. W. J. Wallace, the W.M. elect, was duly installed by Bro. T. W. J. Goldsboro, P.P.G.S.W. In this year also Bro. W. H. Spaull, P.A.G.D. of C. was appointed P.G.S., and has continued ever since to discharge the onerous duties of that office in the most able and energetic manner. It is to his kindness and courtesy that I owe my ability to present these extracts from the Provincial Grand Lodge Books since the year 1852.

Shortly afterwards, Bro. Dymock, who had been D.P.G.M. for over 20 years, resigned that office on account of ill-health, and in the following year Bro. J. R. Ormsby Gore (afterwards Lord Harlech) P.M. 1124, was appointed to the post thus left vacant.

The next Lodge placed on the roll of the Province was the Sir Watkin, Mold, 1477. Its foundation had been under discussion for many years, and was at last happily consummated on the 26th Feby. 1874. Bro. Goldsboro again acted as Consecrating Officer, and Bro. Platt, P.P.G.S.W. Cheshire, installed Bro. Salmon, P.M., 425, the W.M. elect.

The St. Eleth Lodge, Amlwch, 1488, and the Madoc Lodge, Portmadoc, 1509, were also consecrated in this year ; Bro. Goldsboro in each case performing the Ceremony. In this year, too, the by-laws of the Province were revised, and the Charitable Association founded.

Four lodges were added to the strength of the Province in 1876 ; these were the Llanidloes Lodge, 1582 ; the Cedewain Lodge, Newtown, 1594 ; the Castle Lodge, Bridgnorth, 1621 ; and the Clive Lodge, Market Drayton, 1575. The R.W.P.G.M. was present at the consecration of each of these Lodges ; the Ceremony in each case being performed by Bro. Goldsboro. It may be noticed that though the Clive Lodge had obtained its Warrant before any of the other three, its consecration was last in point of date. In this year the D.P.G.M. Lord Harlech died, and Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., was appointed in his stead.

On the 3rd August, 1877, The Caradoc Lodge, Rhyl, 1674, was consecrated by Bro. W. H. Spaull, P.G.S. ; Bro. Goldsboro, the officer generally performing that ceremony, having died in January. On the 12th Sep^r. following, the P.G. Lodge voted £50 to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, and on the same day the Corbet Lodge, Towyn, 1583, was consecrated by Bro. Spaull.

In this year (1877) Sir Watkin completed a period of 25 years rule over the Province, and to commemorate this event he was presented with an address bound in an illuminated album. A presentation for this Province to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, at Wood Green, was also arranged to be purchased by subscription, and called the "Sir Watkin Presentation." The subscription reached the handsome sum of £589 11s. 9d. At the same time, the sum of 100 guineas was paid out of the P.G. Lodge funds to make the P.G.M. a Vice Patron in perpetuity of the same Institution ; £50 was also voted to the Girls School, and a similar sum to the Goldsboro Memorial.

The "Sir Watkin Presentation," purchased for 500 guineas, gave the R.W.P.G.M. for North Wales and Shropshire the right from time to time, during the lifetime of H.R.H. the Princess Beatrice, to nominate one boy to the Institution, whenever a vacancy should occur, and in order to perpetuate this right, a policy on the life of H.R.H. for £525 was taken out, the premiums on which are still paid by the Province of North Wales, as will be seen hereafter.

In 1880 the Province voted 30 guineas towards the purchase of a Bishop's Throne for the newly restored Cathedral in Bangor, in which town the Royal Leek Lodge, 1849, was consecrated shortly afterwards. This year, too, saw the commencement of the present custom of an annual instead of a biennial appointment of Provincial Grand Officers.

The Audley Lodge, Newport, 1876, was consecrated by the R.W.P.G.M. assisted by Bro. W. H. Spaull, on 20th May, 1881. In 1882, the D.P.G.M., Bro. Bulkeley Hughes, died, and our present R.W.P.G.M., Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., was appointed in his stead to the vacant office ; the Province also by a second donation of 50 guineas completed the Vice Patronage of the Girls' School ; and the Masonic Hall at Bangor was dedicated. The Mawddach Lodge, Barmouth, 1988, was consecrated by the D.P.G.M. on the 6th March, 1883 ; Sir Watkin was

unable through serious illness to be present, but was sufficiently recovered to attend the P.G. Lodge held at Ludlow in June. The Barmouth Lodge was the last established in the old joint Province.

On August the 23rd, 1883, the W.D.P.G.M., Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., attended by the P.G. Officers, went to Wynnstay and presented a Turquoise and Diamond Jewel from the Masons of the Province to Miss L. A. Williams Wynn, on the occasion of her marriage with Mr. Herbert Lloyd Watkin Williams Wynn, and, in the January following, Sir Offley Wakeman was himself presented with a handsome clock on the occasion of his own marriage.

On the 9th of March, 1885, Sir Watkin died, an event deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of knowing him personally, or the honour of working under him Masonically. His death is too recent to render any attempt at eulogising his work necessary ; his merits are known to and appreciated by a far wider circle than I expect to reach in writing this sketch. Yet this much I must say, that to him mainly is due the wonderful progress made by the Craft in the Province during the past forty years. His high social station, his uniform kindness, his genial disposition, and especially his unwearying industry, influenced all around him to respect and honour the Brotherhood of which he was so bright an ornament, and stimulated his Brethren in the Craft to renewed activity in upholding the true principles of their profession, and in extending the sphere of its operations. He was descended from a Masonic family ; his grandfather was Grand Warden in the years 1770 and 1771, and acted as President of the Board of Grand Stewards in the former year. He was initiated in the Province of Cheshire, and was W.M. of the Cestrian Lodge, 425, in the year 1851. This Lodge then counted amongst its active members many distinguished men, including—Lord Combermere, Lord Chief Justice Jervis, and Mr. Welsby, Recorder of Chester. He joined the Salopian Lodge, 262, in the year 1852, and was exalted on April 4th,

1853, in the Chapter connected with what was then the Lodge of Fidelity of Birkenhead, 701. In 1859 he was appointed Provincial Grand Superintendent of the joint Province. In all respects he worthily upheld the Masonic traditions of his family, and leaves behind him a nephew, his successor in his title and estates, who has always evinced considerable interest in Masonic work, and now holds the rank of P.P.G.W. Twenty-four Lodges in all came into existence in the joint Province during his reign, eight of these being in Shropshire, and he was, with two exceptions, present at the Consecration of all these Lodges. On the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren, in St. Paul's Cathedral, this inscription is placed—"Si queris monumentum, Circumspice"—so to my Brother Masons I say that in the prosperity they now enjoy, they may trace the work of him that is gone, and find the best and most enduring monument to his memory. The great extension of the Craft required that on his death the Provinces of North Wales and Shropshire should be again separated. This was accordingly done, and his name will stand alone to all time as the sole P.G.M. of the joint Province. It is fitting that it should be so, and that his name alone should be associated with the work he himself performed.

Our present R.W.P.G.M., Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., was installed on Oct. 22nd., 1885, by Bro. Colonel Shadwell Clerke, G.S., in the Lodge Room, at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, in the presence of a large gathering of distinguished Masons. On the following day Lord Harlech was installed R.W.P.G.M. of the Province of North Wales.

Bro. Sir Offley Wakeman was initiated in the Churchill Lodge, 478, in the year 1871, was appointed Provincial Grand Secretary of Oxfordshire in 1872, and, in 1878, was elected to fill both the chair of W.M. in his Lodge, and that of S.W. in his Provincial Grand Lodge. In 1882, as already noticed, he became D.P.G.M. of North Wales and Shropshire.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in making an equitable division of the assets of the joint Province. Eventually the matter was suitably arranged by a Committee appointed for the purpose. The right of nominating a boy under the provisions of the "Sir Watkin Presentation Fund" was to be exercised alternately by the new Provinces during the life of the Princess Beatrice, and to prevent the perpetuation of such alternate nomination, another policy on the life of H.R.H. was taken out for an amount equal to that of the existing policy. One of these policies will ultimately secure to each Province the benefit of a right of nomination of one boy in perpetuity. The Patronage of the Institutions for Boys and Girls was divided as evenly as possible, regard being had to the number of Lodges in each Province. The presentation sword given as before mentioned by Bro. W. H. White, was allotted to Shropshire; the banners of the joint Province and a smaller sword in its possession, to North Wales. A gold snuff box,⁽¹⁾ formerly presented to Bro. W. H. White by the Duke of Sussex, when G.M., and which was then the property of the joint Province, was given to Bro. J. P. White in recognition of his long service as P.G. Treasurer. The balance of the funds then in hand after discharging all liabilities, was presented to the P.G. Secretary, as a token of esteem from the brethren for the energy displayed by him in promoting the well-being of Masonry in the Province during his 13 years of office.

After the Installation of the R.W.P.G.M., Sir Offley Wakeman, he was presented by the D.P.G.M., on behalf of the Lodges, with a handsome Album containing the following address, with the names of all members of the Lodges appended.

"To Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Shropshire."

(1) For the ultimate fate of this snuff box, see History of the Salopian Lodge for the year 1890.

"It having pleased the Most Worshipful Grand Master to divide the old Province of North Wales and Shropshire, We, the members of the Lodges in the new Province of Shropshire, beg to express our gratification that the choice of His Royal Highness should have fallen upon you as our Provincial Grand Master, and we offer you our sincere and fraternal congratulations on the auspicious event of to-day, feeling sure that it is but the precursor of the increase and good of Freeinasonry in your province. The zeal you have displayed in pursuing the objects of our organization from the period of your initiation into the privileges and mysteries of the Craft, we cannot but remember with satisfaction ; and we are deeply imbued with the conviction that the interests of our truly noble Order will be materially advanced under your guidance, while those who are unconnected with us by the ties of brotherhood, will be satisfied from the position you hold in your native county, that there is nothing in our principles inconsistent with true patriotism, active charity, pure religion, permanent order, and every social and domestic virtue.

We pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may spare you to govern us for many years, and that the Lodges under your rule may flourish and increase."

Subsequent events have fully justified the language of this address, and the prayer with which it closes, may be repeated now with equal sincerity.

Shortly after the Province was established, we find the Brethren attempting to get a Masonic Hall built in Shrewsbury, but their efforts only succeeded in adding another to the long list of Committees which have from time to time been appointed, only to fail, for that object.

Bro. R. A. Craig, P.M., 262, who was the first to hold the office of Standard Bearcr in the new Province, presented to the Provincial Grand Lodge on his retirement from office, a handsome Silk Banner, bearing the Arms of the Province. His kindness was suitably acknowledged by the Lodge.

On January 11th, 1886, The R.W.P.G.M., assisted by Bro. W. H. Spaull, P.G., Secty., and Bro. Warren Thompson, consecrated the Brownlow Lodge, Ellesmere, 2131, upon which occasion Bro. E. M. Prevost was installed as W.M.

In the following year the Provincial Grand Lodge entered on its minutes an expression of devoted loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her reaching the Jubilee year of her reign. In May of the same year the R.W.P.G.M. presided as Chairman at the Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. On this occasion the Province contributed the sum of £1054 18s. 0d. to the "A" Fund.

In March, 1888, Bro. J. P. White was compelled by failing health to resign the office of P.G. Treasurer, which he had held continuously for 36 years. In the History of his Mother Lodge, 262, at a subsequent page, further reference is made to the great services rendered by Bro. White to the Craft.

In the same year it was found that the debt incurred on the separation of the old joint Province was too large to be liquidated by the surplus income of the new Province, unless payment were spread over a great number of years. The Lodges were, therefore, invited to contribute, pro rata according to the number of their subscribing members, to discharge this liability. The sum thus raised placed the finances of the Province once more upon a satisfactory footing.

At a P.G. Lodge held at Ironbridge, on Sep. 18th, 1888, Bro. W. H. Spaull was presented a full dress suit of Grand Lodge clothing, a case containing an undress suit of the same clothing, and a receipt for the fee of honour payable on his appointment to the office of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, as a mark of the esteem of the Brethren of the Province for the way in which he had conducted the business of the Province.

On June 6th, 1889, the Lodge of St. Alkmund, Whitchurch, 2311, was consecrated by the R.W.P.G.M., assisted by

the P.G. Secretary. Since that date no addition to the roll of Lodges has been made ; but Shropshire, with its twelve Lodges, continues slowly and yet surely to grow in Masonic strength, and to do its share in the beneficent work of Charity—the distinguishing characteristic of the tenets of the Craft.

In conclusion, I can only express the earnest wish that the present prosperity and harmony may long continue, and that if any spirit of rivalry be present in our midst, it may only be in the effort to further the principles of Masonry, and to cultivate that true fraternal union which gives real strength to all Masonic endeavour.



LIST OF EXISTING LODGES

IN THE

P R O V I N C E O F S H R O P S H I R E .

Date of Warrant.	Original Number.	Title.	Present Place of Meeting.	Locality.	Numbers as altered at various dates.			
					1792	1814	1832	1863
1 1788	M. 525	Salopian	Music Hall	Shrewsbury	434	498	328	262
2 1810	A. 153	Salopian of Charity	Music Hall	Shrewsbury	186	186	135	117
3 1852	875	St. John's	Charlton Arms	Wellington	...	...	...	601
4 1853	887	Lodge of the Marches	Masonic Hall	Ludlow	...	...	...	611
5 1866	1120	St. Milburga...	Whartage Assembly Room	Ironbridge	...	...	...	1120
6 1866	1124	St. Oswald	Wynnstay Arms	Oswestry	...	...	...	1124
7 1873	1432	Fitzalan	Wynnstay Arms	Oswestry	...	...	...	1432
8 1875	1575	Clive	Corbet Arms	Market Drayton	...	...	...	1575
9 1876	1621	Castle	Crown Hotel	Bridgnorth	...	...	...	1621
10 1881	1896	Andley	Victoria Hotel	Newport	...	...	...	1896
11 1885	2131	Brownlow	Town Hall	Elesmere	...	...	...	2131
12 1889	2311	St. Alkmund's	Fox & Goose Hotel	Whitchurch	...	...	...	2311

No. 2—Obtained the number of a defunct lodge founded in the 13th Regt. by the Ancient Grand Lodge in 1768. At first attached to the Regiment of Shropshire Militia, it changed its warrant for a Civil one, and took its present name in 1820, having settled down in Shrewsbury in 1815, when the Regiment was disbanded after Waterloo.

No. 3—Originally founded at Admaston.

EXISTING CHAPTERS

IN THE

PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE.

No.	Name.	Locality.	Date of Charter.
262	Salopian ..	Shrewsbury ..	1843
601	Eyton ..	Wellington ..	1855

EXTINCT CHAPTER

IN THE

PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE.

Numbers.	Name.	Locality.	Date of Charter.	Erased.
1801	1818	1832	Circa 1801	
118	597	398	Agenorian ... Bridgnorth ... Confirmed 1818	Circa 1853

LIST OF EXTINCT LODGES IN THE PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE.

No.	Date of Warrant	No.	Title.	Original Place of Meeting.	Locality.	Numbers as altered at various periods.					Ancient or Modern	Erased in or before.	
						1740	1756	1770	1792	1814	1832		
1	1736	142		Fountain Inn	Shrewsbury	128	78	..	..	..	..	M	1755
2	1756	78	...	Green Man Inn	Shrewsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1768
3	1744	119		Masons Arms	Oswestry	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1754
4	1759	76		—	Shrewsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	A	(a)
5	1762	280		Fox Inn	Shrewsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1774
6	1767	147		Crown Inn	Shrewsbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	A	(b)
7	1771	413	Friendship	Hand & Bottle	Bridgnorth	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1783
8	1785	478	No. 1	White Lion	Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1801
9	1785	324	Wynnstay	Bowling Green	Oswestry	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1789
10	1789	536	Egerton	Coach & Horses	Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1801
11	1789	548	Wrekin	Talbot Inn	Wellington	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1798
12	1799	578	Industry	Hand & Bottle	Bridgnorth	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1853
13	1805	485	Mercian	Angel Inn	Ludlow	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1832
14	1836	644	Anchor & Hope	Swan Hotel	Wooore	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1853
15	1846	765	Roden	High Street	Wem	...	...	...	...	...	...	M	1859

This list is compiled chiefly from Lane's "Masonic Records 1717-1886," and his "Handy Book to the Lists of Lodges."

No. 2—was No. 1 reinstated.

No. 6—Warrant re-issued to Lodge in 3rd Royal Lancashire Militia, which obtained a Civil Warrant in 1828, and is now the Lodge of

Unanimity, Preston, 113.

No. 9—This lodge was originally constituted in 1771 at Wynnstay in Denbighshire, the home of Sir W. W. Wyn-

No. 10—Only eighteen names registered in Grand Lodge after 1840.

No. 12—No names registered in Grand Lodge after 1840.

No. 13—This lodge was originally constituted as the Silurian 576, at the Sun Inn, Kingtong, Herefordshire, and was one of the last consti-

tuted by Thomas Dunckerley, the illegitimate son of George II., who did so much for the Craft in the South & West of England.

No. 14—No names registered in Grand Lodge after 1840.

Recorded are for founders fees.

(a)—almost at once.

(b)—shortly afterwards.

No. 3—The number 119 was transferred from a London Lodge, The Sun, founded in 1758.

No. 8—Fifty names registered in Grand Lodge.

No. 11—Only eleven names registered in Grand Lodge.

No. 12—No names registered in Grand Lodge after 1840.

No. 13—This lodge was originally constituted as the Silurian 576, at the Sun Inn, Kingtong, Herefordshire, and was one of the last consti-

tuted by Thomas Dunckerley, the illegitimate son of George II., who did so much for the Craft in the South & West of England.

No. 14—No names registered in Grand Lodge after 1840.

Recorded are for founders fees.

(a)—almost at once.

(b)—shortly afterwards.

LIST OF PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS
OF THE
PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS:

SIR EDWARD MATTHEWS, 1731—?
SIR ROBERT DE CORNWALL, 1754—?
GEORGE DURANT, 1774—1779.
HON. & REV. F. HY. EGERTON (398), 1786—1819 (?1800 circa).
HON. HENRY GREY BENNETT, M.P., 1819—1826.
SIR W. WATKIN WYNN, BART. (262), 1852—1885.
SIR OFFLEY WAKEMAN, BART. (262), 1885—.

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS:

MAJOR CHARLES SHIRREFF (388-262), 1786—1795.
SIR ANDREW VINCENT CORBET, BART. (262), 1823 (circa)—1852.
REV. E. H. DYMOCK (262), 1852—1873.
J. R. ORMSBY-GORE (Lord Harlech) (1124), 1874—1876.
W. BULKELEY HUGHES, M.P. (606), 1877—1882.
SIR OFFLEY WAKEMAN, BART. (262), 1882—1885.
ROWLAND G. VENABLES (611-1124), 1885—.

PROVINCIAL GRAND TREASURERS:

JOSHUA PUGH WHITE (262), 1852—1888.
VINCENT CORBET LEGH CRUMP (117), 1888—.

PROVINCIAL GRAND SECRETARIES:

MAJOR CHARLES SHIRREFF (388-262), 1786—1795.
CHARLES WIGAN (425), 1852—1872.
W. H. SPAULL (1124), 1872—.

	PROVINCIAL GRAND SENIOR WARDENS. —	PROVINCIAL GRAND JUNIOR WARDENS. —	PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPLAINS. —
1852-3	William James Clement, 262	John Nigel Heathcote, 262-117	{ Revd. G. C. Guise, 262
1853-4-5	{ Sir A. V. Corbet, Bart., 262 (John Leche Rowland, 262-117	{ John Leche Rowland, 262-601	Revd. P. G. Bentley, 262
1855-6-7	Thomas C. Eyton, 262-601	Samuel Wood, 262	{ Revd. P. G. Bentley, 262
1857-8-9	William Anslow, 262	W. H. Bayley, 262	{ Revd. P. G. Bentley, 262
1859-60-1	William Brightwell, 262	John Francis, 384	{ Revd. J. Hinton Bluck, 262
1861-2-3	John Preece	William Burr, 262	{ Revd. G. C. Guise, 262
1864-5	J. L. Randal, 262-117-601	J. C. Fourdrinier, 1113	{ Revd. Hugh Morgan, 1674
1866-7-8	Rev. T. W. Goldsboro, 262	E. B. Cunnah, 597	{ Revd. Riou G. Benson, 262
1868-9-70	W. Bulkeley Hughes, 606	Revd. W. B. H. B. Owen, 262	{ Revd. W. Jellicorse, 262
1871-2-3	R. V. Williams	J. C. Wynn Edwards, 1143	{ Revd. Riou G. Benson, 262
1873-4	Charles G. Wingfield, 262	T. C. Roden, 755	{ Revd. J. M. Edwards
1874-5-6	John Peters, 597	Willian Blakeway, 262	{ Revd. P. G. Bentley, 262
1876-7	George Owen, 1124	J. Salmon, 1477	{ Revd. G. W. Fisher, 262
1878-9	E. M. Wakeman, 262		{ Revd. P. G. Bentley, 262
1879-80	Algernon Potts, 1477	J. H. Redman, 262	{ Revd. — Brooke Revd. P. G. Bentley, 262 Revd. James Hook
			{ Revd. H. L. Taylor, 1336 Revd. J. S. Boucher, 606 [601 Revd. A. J. Von Straubenzee

FREEMASONRY IN

PROVINCIAL GRAND SENIOR WARDENS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND JUNIOR WARDENS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPLAINS.
1880-1 John Bodenham, 1575	Henry Platt, 1549	{Revd. H. Lloyd, 1488
1881-2 Ephraim Wood, 1124	John Davies, 1143	{Revd. W. Davies, 1124
1882-3 J. P. White, 262	Edwyn Andrew, 262	[Revd. A. A. J. Von Straubenzee
1883-4 R. Roberts, 1509	Edward Smith, 1336	{Revd. C. R. Gordon, 1896
1884-5 R. G. Venables, 611-1124	R. Buckley Williams, 998	{Revd. Hugh Thomas, 1849
1885-6 J. E. Brooks, 611	W. E. Harding, 262	{Revd. C. R. Gordon, 1896
1886-7 Stanley Leighton, 1124	W. L. Southwell, 1621	{Revd. W. H. Williams, 1143
1887-8 Col. G. G. Warren, 1575	Tom Collins, 1896	{Revd. Robert Jackson, 1896
1888-9 Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., 1124	E. C. Peele, 262	{Revd. J. Lewis, 1509
1889-90 Roff King, 601	John Avery, 262	{Revd. W. Humphreys, 611
1890-1 Kyn G. Salter, 2131	T. Whitefoot, Junr., 1621	{Revd. J. B. Meredith, 1124
1891-2 C. W. Wickstead, 611	Sir C. B. H. Soame, Bart., 601	{Revd. B. Rising, 1896
		{Revd. H. K. Southwell, 2131
		{Revd. J. T. W. Claridge, 1120
		{Revd. J. T. W. Claridge, 1120
		{Revd. R. Lucas, 1621
		{Revd. R. Lucas, 1621
		{Revd. R. Trevor Owen, 1124
		{Revd. R. Trevor Owen, 1124
		{Revd. G. M. Ashdown, 262
		{Revd. G. M. Ashdown, 262
		{Revd. H. Dunkin, 1124

PROVINCIAL GRAND REGISTRARS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND SENIOR DEACONS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND JUNIOR DEACONS.
1852-3 Thomas Onions, 262-117	R. Pritchard, 384	J. Stevenson, 384
1853-4-5 George Marriott	William Brightwell, 262	John Broughall, 262
1855-6-7 Henry Bloxam, 262	William Burr, 262	J. Evans, 601
1857-8-9 John Broughall, 262	William E. Curtis, 611	W. H. Emerson
1859-60-1	Isaac Knowles, 601	— Swansborough
1861-2-3 Charles Chandler	William Howlett	George Felton
1864-5	Rev. W. B. H. B. Owen, 262	Charles G. Wingfield, 262
1866-7-8	W. Bulkeley Hughes, 606	R. C. Mellor "
1868-9-70	Charles Oakley, 262	William H. Hill, 1124
1871-2-3	Edward Tipton, 262	Bryce Smith, 117-1120
1873-4	Edward H. Hankey, 117	E. C. Peele, 262
1874-5-6	C. R. W. Tottenham, 1369	R. de la Poer Beresford, 1432
1876-7	R. J. Sisson, 1143	John Thomas, 1432
1878-9	Col. G. G. Warren, 1575	J. O. Bury, 1336
1879-80	J. Stokes, 1621	H. Shepard, 601
1880-1	Henry Charles Clarke, 262	W. J. Morris, 159
1881-2	Alfred C. Spaul, 1124	Rowland Milington, 601
1882-3	Richard Lewis, 117	Evan Williams, 384
1883-4	Charles J. Owen, 1336	W. Putman, 611
1884-5	F. R. Spaul, 1124	W. L. Southwell, 1621-262
1885-6	Vincent C. L. Crump, 117	J. H. Williams, 611
1886-7	Robert A. Craig, 262	Charles Drew, 1432
1887-8	J. H. Cooksey, 1621	H. E. Roberts, 1621
1888-9	E. A. Hicks, 601	

FREEMASONRY IN

PROVINCIAL GRAND REGISTRARS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND SENIOR DEACONS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND JUNIOR DEACONS.
1889-90 H. G. U. Elliott, 1896	—	—
1890-1 Thomas Roberts, 611	William Belton, 117	S. Bennion, 1575
1891-2 H. R. Giles, 2131	W. Aylmer Lewis, 1124	Major T. C. Bird, 1896
	P. M. Berkeley, 262	J. H. Parsons, 1124
PROVINCIAL GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS OF WORKS.		
1852-3 Henry T. Wace, 262	J. L. Rowland, 262-117	PROVINCIAL GRAND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES.
1853-4-5 W. Kennedy, 384	{ Thomas C. Eytom, 262 Benjamin Churchill, 262	Samuel Wood, 262
1855-6-7 William Patchett, 262	H. Evett, 601	{ Benjamin Churchill, 262 John L. Randal, 262-117
1857-8-9 John L. Randal, 262-117	Isaac Knowles, 601	Rev. D. G. Mytton, 262
1859-60-1 " " "	John Barber, 601	Rev. W. B. H. Bulkeley
1861-2-3 1864-5 Philip Newman, 611	Rev. W. Elliot, 262	Owen, Robert Farrant
1866-7-8 W. B. Hayley, 601	J. D. Love Jones Parry, 384	Edward Burd, 117-262
1868-9-70 Thomas B. Brown	S. J. Fellows, 601	Edward Tipton, 262
1871-2-3 Henry Woerner, 1120	George Owen, 1124	John H. Slaney, 601
1873-4 G. L. Woodley, 755	F. Fletcher, 117	William Powell, 611
1874-5-6 A. Walker, 1124	Ephraim Wood, 1124	P. H. Evans, 117
1876-7 W. L. Banks, 755	" "	W. Colleender, 1582
1878-9 William Low, 1336	" "	R. T. Phillips, 1488
1879-80 A. McMillan, 384	" "	W. Spraggon, 117
1880-1 R. J. Davids, 606	" "	J. C. W. Lister, 1120

PROVINCIAL GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS OF WORKS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES.	PROVINCIAL GRAND DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES.	PROVINCIAL GRAND ASSISTANT IN DIRECTORS OF CEREMONIES.
Roff King, 601	W. H. Foulkes, 1674	E. Smith, 1336	E. J. Chitty, 1621
W. Aston, 1432	"	F. R. Spaull, 1124	F. H. V. Grosholz, 1583
T. Coxhead, 1674	T. Warren Thompson, 117	E. J. Webb, 601	John Ginders, 1575
W. J. Lovegrove, 1988	Thomas Whitefoot, Junr., 1621	Tom Machin, 1120	A. T. Akroyd, 1431-2131
T. James, 1896	"	Herbert Major, 117	J. P. Cartwright, 1124
John Blockley, 117	"	William Adams, 117	William Adams, 117
James Vine, 117	Tom Machin, 1120	Henry Bloxam, 262	Henry Bloxam, 262
Arthur Lowcock, 262	"	"	"
A. S. Townsend, 117	John Broughall, 262	"	"
W. J. Ogg, 2131	J. W. Towers, 601	"	"
A. E. Lloyd Oswell, 262	William Anslow, 262-601	Henry Hayden, 606	"
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PROVINCIAL GRAND STANDARD BEARERS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND SWORD BEARERS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND ORGANISTS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND ORGANISTS.
George Gordon, 262	John Broughall, 262	Robert Forrest, 262	Robert Forrest, 262
H. Shaw, 117	J. W. Towers, 601	"	"
R. Lewis, 117	William Anslow, 262-601	"	"
—	J. Turner	"	"
—	— Jones	"	"
—	— Jones	"	"
—	— Stewart	"	"
—	J. Hooper	"	"
Charles Oakley, 262	Rowland Millington, 601	Robert Humphreys	Robert Humphreys
Rowland Millington, 601	Robert Humphreys	"	"
J. Hathawaye, 384	J. D. Harries, 262	J. B. Boucher, 262-117	J. B. Boucher, 262-117

PROVINCIAL GRAND STANDARD BEARERS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND SWORD BEARERS.	PROVINCIAL GRAND ORGANISTS.
1874-5-6 W. L. Banks, 755	J. Salmon, 1477 J. B. Bagnall, 117 J. L. Griffiths, 597 J. Corbett, 1477 J. Danily, 998 Donald Cameron, 384 C. H. Rees, 606 T. Warren Thompson, 117	J. B. Boucher, 262-117 Rowland Rogers, 384 T. Wrigley, 1674 James Stuart, 1896 F. C. Watkins, 1674
1876-7 1878-9 1879-80 1880-1 1881-2 1882-3 1883-4 W. Jarvis, 384	J. Bagnall, 117 — — — — — — —	J. B. Boucher, 262-117 Rowland Rogers, 384 T. Wrigley, 1674 James Stuart, 1896 F. C. Watkins, 1674
1884-5 { Cornelius Davies, 606 George Stevenson, 1120 Robert A. Craig, 262 { G. J. Morgan, 1124	James Lloyd, 597	A. T. Akroyd, 1432-2131
1885-6 { J. H. Cooksey, 1621 J. Jenks, 1120	John Smith, 601	John Sewell, 1621
1886-7 1887-8 (E. A. Hicks, 601	John Millington, 601	William Belton, 117
1888-9 { L. A. Manning, 1124 (H. G. U. Elliot, 1896	Fred. Cox, 611	“
1889-90 { William Westcott, 1621 (Major T. C. Bird, 1896	F. Chubb, 1120	Horace Southwell, 1621
1890-1 { A. S. Trevor, 1621 (T. J. Barnett, 1120	A. B. Deakin, 117	“
1891-2 { C. Lewis, 1896 (Arthur Exham, 1575	F. A. Bird, 1896	J. A. Bratton, 262

PROVINCIAL GRAND PURSUIVANT.	PROVINCIAL GRAND PURSUIVANT.	PROVINCIAL GRAND ASSISTANT PURSUIVANT.
1852-3 J. W. Towers, 601	1889-90 W. Aylmer Lewis, 1432	John Machin, 1120
1853-4-5 George Gordon, 262	1890-1 W. E. Sharp, 611	William Norton, 611
1855-6-7 John Beech, 601	1891-2 R. McBean, 611	Thomas Ginders, 1575
1857-8-9 J. R. Pickering, 117		John Avery, 262
1859-60-1 R. Nicolls, 262		J. P. Cartwright, 1124
1861-2-3 H. Atkin, 117		A. E. Lloyd Oswell, 262
1864-5 William Stanway, 117	1885-6 R. Brayne, 1432	A. Nelson, 1432
1866-7-8 W. A. Darbishire, 384	1886-7 James Vine, 117	
1868-9-70 John H. Slaney, 601	1887-8 J. H. Parsons, 1432	
1871-2-3 David P. Owen, 998	1888-9 A. S. Townsend, 117	
1873-4 H. Shepard, 601	1889-90 W. J. Ogg, 2131	
1874-5-6 F. Parmeter, 1369	1890-1 P. M. Berkeley, 262	
1876-7 R. Lloyd Williams, 1143	1891-2 T. P. Deakin, 117	
1878-9 J. H. Redman, 262		
1879-80 J. C. W. Lister, 1120		
1880-1 W. P. Elliott, 597		
1881-2 Richard Lewis, 117		
1882-3 Evan Williams, 1113		
1883-4 John Kitto, 1582		
1884-5 W. Simms, 1621		
1885-6 L. E. Wollstein, 1120		
1886-7 Charles Drew, 1432	1885-6-7 J. B. Hide	
1887-8 Arthur Lowcock, 262	1887-8-9-90 George Bonner, 1124, 1432	
1888-9 T. J. Barnett, 1120	1890-1-2 John Ruscoe, 601	

PROVINCIAL GRAND TYLERS.
 { Edward Mallard, 262
 William Cureton, 262

No list of the Auditors,
 either of the Treasurer's
 Accounts, or of the Minute
 Books of the Lodges, have
 been inserted, as the Brethren
 who have from time to
 time held such offices have
 invariably held higher offices
 in some previous year.

PROVINCIAL GRAND STEWARDS.

	1852-3.		1866-7-8.
B. Churchill,	262	William Thomas	
Isaac Taylor,	262	1868-9-70.	
	1853-4-5.	Richard Belliss,	601
W. H. Nicolls,	262	Wm. Blakeway,	262
W. J. Beech,	601	Edward Pryce	
John Francis,	606	Arthur Britton,	601
Wm. Williams,	606		1871-2-3.
Wm. Patchett,	262	Thomas Rutter	
Wm. Anslow,	601	Askew Roberts,	1124
	1855-6-7.	Frederick Cox,	611
W. H. Bayley,	262		1873-4.
John Aronson		Ephraim Wood,	1124
Wm. Thomas,	384	W. Patchett,	262
R. Pritchard		H. Newman,	262
John Francis,	606	E. C. Peele,	262
R. M. Williams,	606	P. H. Evans,	117
	1857-8-9.		1874-5-6.
W. Stokes		R. T. Phillips,	1488
S. Blandford		Wm. Collender,	1582
John Barker,	601	R. J. Sisson,	1143
Edward Lewis,	1336	R. de la P. Beresford,	1432
H. A. Jones,	262	Alfred Marston,	611
E. Jeffreys		C. H. Rees,	606
	1859-60-1.		1876-7.
C. G. Wingfield,	262	John Thomas,	1124
W. B. Hayley,	601	F. Britton,	1594
— Webb		W. Low,	1336
— Preece		J. Stokes,	1621
George Felton		R. T. Phillips,	1488
— Thomas		E. Andrew,	262
	1861-2-3.		1878-9.
W. F. Chapman		J. C. W. Lister,	1120
H. E. Sullivan		J. O. Bury,	1336
	1864-5.	A. McMillan,	384
J. Minor Kilvert,	611	John Corbett,	1477
John Lloyd,	611	Wm. Spraggon,	117
W. T. Middle (Salop)		Wm. Burton,	1336-1124
	1866-7-8.		1879-80.
George Owen,	1124	H. C. Clarke,	262
Jasper More,	262	J. Adams,	601
Thomas B. Brown		H. Shepard,	601
Edward Pryce		J. S. Davies,	998
George Brown,	998	J. Treweek,	1488

PROVINCIAL GRAND STEWARDS.

1880-1.	
John Davies, 1143	1886-7.
Donald Cameron, 384	T. P. Deakin, 117
W. J. Morris, 1509	Wm. Belton, 117
E. Smith, 1336	A. Marston, 611
D. E. Kirkly, 1583	T. Pratt, 1621
Roff King, 601	J. H. Parsons, 1432
1881-2.	B. Bastow, 1575
Thomas Roberts, 611	1887-8.
R. Roberts, 1509	L. A. Manning, 1124
E. Williams, 1113	A. S. Townsend, 117
Dainty Hollins, 755	H. E. Roberts, 1621
E. J. Chitty, 1621	H. G. U. Elliott, 1896
W. Aston, 1432	T. J. Barnett, 1120
1882-3.	J. England, 1432
R. Roberts, 1509	1888-9.
T. Warren Thompson, 117	Herbert Major, 117
T. Coxhead, 1674	Wm. Westcott, 1621
J. Cowen, 1336	W. J. Ogg, 2131
F. R. Spaull, 1124	F. Chubb, 1120
W. E. Stuart, 262	Samuel Bennion, 1575
1883-4.	T. C. Bird, 1896
E. Robinson, 998	1889-90.
W. J. Lovegrove, 1988	C. Lewis, 1896
W. Putman, 611	W. E. Sharp, 611
T. Rought Jones, 1575	A. S. Trevor, 1621
F. H. V. Grosholz, 1583	Kyffin G. Salter, 2131
1884-5.	Tom Machin, 1120
C. K. Benson, 1336	A. B. Deakin, 117
R. Owen Jones, 1369	1890-1.
V. C. L. Crump, 117	Wm. Adams, 117
Wm. Lloyd, 1143	R. McBean, 611
T. A. Forster, 1694	A. Nelson, 1432
E. W. Keatinge, 1674	A. Exham, 1575
1885-6.	H. R. Giles, 2131
John Blockley, 117	F. A. Bird, 1896
T. Whitefoot, Junr., 1621	1891-2.
John Smith, 601	Benjamin Blower, 117
J. H. Williams, 611	Wyndham Deedes, 262
John Ginders, 1575	Thomas Allen, 1120
Charles Drew, 1432	T. Bromwich, 1621
	C. E. Baddeley, 1896
	— Woodford, 1575

Note.—From 1852-1885 the Province included both North Wales and Shropshire. Many Brethren in the above lists belonged to more than one Lodge—as far as possible, I have tried to credit each Brother to that Lodge in which he was in office at the time of his appointment. Absolute accuracy in the earlier names and numbers cannot be guaranteed, as the Provincial Minute Book is in places very incomplete, and no other reliable source of information is attainable.

THE LODGE OF
ST. ALKMUND, WHITCHURCH, No. 2311.

The past history of the Craft in Whitchurch has been fully dealt with in the previous pages in connection with the work of Major Shirreff in the closing years of the last century. That history was then practically identical with the history of the Province, and now, after an interval of 90 years, during which nothing could be recorded, its closing page may be written with bright anguries for a successful future.

The Lodge of St. Alkmund was founded in 1889, its warrant being dated April 18th in that year. Its Consecration, by the R.W.P.G.M. Bro. Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., took place on June 6th, the Installing Officer on that occasion being the W.P.D.G.M. Bro. Rowland Venables, P.A.G.D. of C.

The establishment of the Lodge was largely due to the efforts of some zealous brethren of the Salopian Lodge of Charity, 117. Of its sixteen founders no less than nine were members of that Lodge, and its first three Masters were all Past Masters of the same Lodge. Since its foundation it has rapidly gained ground, and has already attained a most honourable position in the Charity Returns. It now numbers nearly 30 subscribing members. Bro. Sir Watkin Wynn, Bart., P.P.G.W., the nephew of the late R.W.P.G.M., was one of the founders.

I believe I am correct in stating that at the close of the year 1892 the Lodge will be strong enough in every way to stand, as it is intended that it should do, without any extraneous assistance, and conduct its Masonic work in a thoroughly efficient

way. Its short list of W.M.'s given below, contains names which are a sure guarantee that the instruction received by the youngest Lodge in the Province, has been, and will be, most careful and accurate.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1889-90—Vincent Corbet Legh Crump, P.M., 117, P.G. Treasurer.
 1890-91—William Belton, P.M., 117, P.P.G.S.D.
 1891.92—William Adams, P.M., 117, P.G.A.D. of C.
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GRAND LODGE REGISTER OF MEMBERS OF THE WHITCHURCH LODGE, No. 388 (erased 1801.)

Name.	Age	Profession.	Residence	When Made	Joined
Charles Shirreff	48	Major in Army	Whitchurch		15,11,85
Rev. F. H. Egerton	28	Clerk	"		"
W. L. Brookes	34	Esq.	"		"
R. Bentley	33	Gardener	"	15,11,85	
P. Newton	39	Innholder	"	"	
John Collier	26	Clerk	"		"
Godfrey Wolley	25	Clerk	"		"
Arthur Blaney	25	Surgeon	"		"
William Turner	33	Architect	"		"
John Dodd	33	Esqre.	Leicester	"	
Thomas Sandford	21	Esqre.	of Sandford	"	
J. T. Meakin	37	Surgeon	Whitchurch	17,11,85	
Samuel Hodson	27	Draper	"	24,11,85	
Peter Gregory	46	Attorney	"	15,12,85	
John Gregory	22	Do.	"	"	
James Simpson	51	Excise Officer	"	"	
Charles Gibbons	28	Attorney	Namptwich	"	
George Watson	42	Do.	Whitchurch		14,1,86
Thos. Pigot	32	Esqre.	Wollerton	2,2,86	
Henry Salmon	54	Clerk	Audlam	15,3,86	
Henry J. Raynett	23	Army		28,3,86	
T. P. D. Salmon	24	Clerk	Oxford	"	
Jas. Warren	25	Attorney	Drayton		3,4,86

Name.	Age.	Profession.	Residence	When Made.	Joined
William Wickstead	29	Barrister	London	3,4,86	
Samuel Marshall	27	Army		23,6,86	
Lord Kilmorrey					
Joseph Beddow	45	Grocer & Iron-monger		20,2,87	
John Beck	27	do.		8,3,87	
John Kempster	40	Grocer		6,6,87	
Joseph Langford	22	Clerk		13,5,88	
Thos. Jones					
John Gerrard					
T. J. Collier	25	Grocer	Whitchurch	18,6,89	
Sir Richard Hill	55	Baronet	"	4,7,89	
John Hill	48	Esqre.	"	"	
Rev. Brian Hill	33	Clerk	"	"	
John Hill, Junr.	20	Esqre.	"	"	
Rev. W. Judgson		Clerk		1,10,89	
Edward Seagar	45	Iron Merchant		1,11,90	
Richard Wingfield	39	Gentleman		14,3,91	
Charles Walker	22	Clerk		25,6,91	
Phi Tonnereau	43	Esqre.		"	
Richard Thomas	20	Gardener		5,10,91	
William Kent	39	Clerk		"	
Owen Roberts	32	Esqre.		30,8,92	
Wm. Hill Watson	45	Attorney	Whitchurch	17,6,93	
Samuel Lowe	22	"	"	22,2,98	
William Collier	24	"	"	6,10,98	
Richard Crosse	21		"	12,10,99	
Richard Grant			Drayton	3,4,1800	

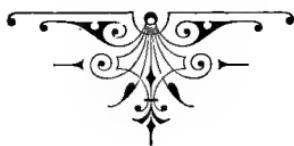
GRAND LODGE REGISTER OF MEMBERS

OF THE

EGERTON LODGE, WHITCHURCH, No. 445 (erased 1801.)

Name.	Age.	Profession.	Residence	When Made.	Joined
William Challnor	45	Plaisterer	Whitchurch	17,3,89	
Robert B. Jones	27	Stationer	"	"	
John Manning	29	Cordwainer	"	1,4,89	
Thos. Penlington	36	Farmer	"	19,6,89	
Thos. Hinton	28	Butcher	"	30,11,89	

Name.	Age.	Profession	Residence	When Made.	Joined
Thos. Wilson	45	Butcher	Whitchurch	28,12,1789	
Thos. Casewell	33	Watchm'k'r	"	6,12,90	
John Edwards	23	Currier	"	28,7,90	
Samuel Driver	38	Staymaker	"	17,11,90	
John Morris	35	Painter	"	16,12,90	
Samuel Cross	20	Waiter			27,12,90
Samuel Hotchkees	37	Clerk	"	6,1,92	
John Pearson	28	Farmer	"	"	
William Kirby	27	Musician		24,7,92	
John Reese	36	Attorney		6,12,92	
John Willet	38	Innkeeper		"	
John Grant	54	Writer		27,12,92	
Edward Jones	35	Clerk	"	4,9,93	



THE BROWNLOW LODGE, ELLESMORE, 2131.

Ellesmere was one of the towns visited by Shirreff in the last century in his capacity of D.P.G.M. for the Province of Shropshire. He did not, however, succeed in establishing a Lodge there, and until the last few years the Brethren of that town have been obliged to join Lodges at a distance. On the 12th of December, 1885, a Warrant was issued for the foundation of the Brownlow Lodge. It was consecrated on the 11th of January following, by the R.W.P.G.M. Bro. Sir Offley Wakeman, the ceremony being performed in the Town Hall. The first founders were Bro. E. W. Prevost, A. T. Akroyd, and W. J. Ogg. The Brownlow was the first Lodge warranted in this Province after its separation from North Wales. Bro. H. R. Giles was the first initiate, and can thus claim to be the first W.M., who was the first initiate of the first consecrated Lodge in the new Province. It now numbers 21 members, and seems to be gradually but surely gaining ground.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1886—Edward William Prevost.
- 1887—Arthur Thomas Akroyd, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
- 1888—Walter John Ogg, P.P.G.S. of W.
- 1889—Kyffin George Salter, P.P.G.S.W.
- 1890—Henry Richard Giles, P.G.R.
- 1891—Arthur John Prince Child

THE AUDLEY LODGE, NEWPORT, 1896.

This was the last Lodge founded in Shropshire before its erection into a separate Province. The Warrant is dated February 15th, 1881, and the Lodge was consecrated on May 20th in the same year by the R.W.P.G.M. Bro. Sir Watkin' Wynn, assisted by Bro. W. H. Spaul, P.G. Sec.

At a lodge held on September 26th, 1882, an address of congratulation was presented to Bro. W. Masefield, Grand Std. Bro., P.D.P.G.M., Worcestershire, who was a native of Newport, and an honorary member of the Lodge. At the close of the business a banquet was, by a curious coincidence, held in the very house in which the venerable guest of the Lodge had been born 82 years previously. There are now more than 30 subscribing members on its roll.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1881—John Bodenham, P.P.G.W., P.P.G. Treas., Staffs.
- 1882—John Bodenham.
- 1883—R. T. Masefield.
- 1884—Rev. C. R. Gordon, P.P.G.C.
- 1885—Thomas James, P.P.G.S. of W.
- 1886—Tom Collins, P.P.G.J.W.
- 1887—H. G. U. Elliott, P.P.G.R.
- 1888—T. C. Bird, P.P.G.J.D.
- 1889—Charles Lewis, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1890—F. A. Bird, P.P.G. Sword Bearer
- 1891—C. E. Baddeley, P.G. Steward.

This list gives the year of installation of the various Past Masters.

THE CASTLE LODGE, BRIDGNORTH, 1621.

The Castle Lodge has had three predecessors in Bridgnorth. The first of these was a nameless "Ancient" Lodge founded in 1767. It met at the Crown Inn, Low Town, and was numbered 147. It apparently existed for a very short period, as there are no records in Grand Lodge except for the year of its foundation. The fate of its Warrant is told in the notes placed at the end of the preceding list of extinct Lodges in the Province. A second Lodge, the Lodge of Friendship, meeting at the Hand and Bottle Inn, and numbered 413 on the roll of the "Modern" Grand Lodge, was founded in 1771. It was erased in 1783, its number in 1780 having been altered to 321, and in 1781 to 322. The Lodge of Industry, founded in 1799, is the third Lodge referred to. It originally met at the Hand and Bottle Inn, but in 1800 removed to the Raven Inn, where it continued to meet during the remainder of its existence. Its original number on the "Modern" roll was 578; at the Union it became 597, and in 1832 this number was again changed to 398. It was erased in 1853, though, as no names were registered in Grand Lodge after 1840, it had doubtless ceased working some time before the former date. Its formal erasure was due, we may readily believe, to the reports made to Grand Lodge by the Officers of the then newly constituted Province of North Wales and Shropshire.

The records of this Lodge would be particularly valuable if they could be recovered, but unfortunately the clue to their whereabouts cannot at present be followed up. Some of the and other Masonic possessions of the Lodge are however still in existence, and are now in the custody of the Castle Lodge.

These relics consist of—

1. The Charter, dated March 4th, 1818, for a Royal Arch Chapter to be called “the Agenorion Chapter,” working in connection with the Lodge of Industry, 597, and to hold its first meeting on March 29th in the same year.

This Chapter had undoubtedly been working from about the year 1801 under the wing of the Grand Chapter, unofficially promoted by the “Modern” Grand Lodge prior to the Union. The Charter in question was, therefore, probably only one of confirmation (though it certainly is not expressed to be such) granted in 1818 by the United Grand Chapter⁽¹⁾ established in 1817. The Companions named in it are Thomas Southorn, Edward Parry, Thomas Devey, Richard Baker, Richard Holmes, John Nicholas, William Page, Richard Dukes, and Edward Page, Junr., all of whom were duly registered members of the Agenorion Chapter before 1816, except John Nicolas and Edward Page, Junr., against whose names there is no date in the Grand Chapter Register, and whose exaltation, judging by the sequence of dates, may have taken place at any time between 1816-1818. Fifty-two names in all are upon this Register. Amongst them will be found the names of three members of the Salopian Lodge, viz.:—Benjamin Partridge,⁽²⁾ John Jenks, and John Jaundrel (or Jandrel), and two of the Salopian Lodge of Charity, viz.:—William Dodd and Robert Powis.⁽³⁾ The last name was registered in the year 1836, so that the Chapter probably ceased working a year or two before the Lodge of Industry. Its number in 1801 was 118, but after the establishment of the United Grand Chapter, in accordance with the rules of that Institution, it took the number of the Lodge to which it was attached. The Charter is in capital preservation, being framed and covered with glass.

(1) See Salopian Lodge History for 1817.

(2) See Salopian Lodge History for 1792.

(3) See History of Salopian Lodge of Charity infra.

2. A large Portrait, in oils, of Bro. Richard Baker (Barker in the Grand Chapter Register, 1815) arranged in both Royal Arch and Craft clothing, including the collar and jewel of a W.M.
3. A very small Royal Arch Pedestal with the letters S.K.I., H.K.T., and H.A.B. arranged as a monogram.
4. A crimson silk banner on which are emblazoned the twelve Ensigns or Bearings of the Twelve Tribes of Israel as used in a R.A. Chapter.
5. Three Crowns evidently intended for the three Principals of the Chapter. They seem not to have been worn, but placed on pedestals near the chairs of the Principals.
6. A very handsome Cavalry Sword, with the following inscriptions:—On one side—“To the Lodge of Industry, No. 578, Bridgnorth, 1799.” On the other side—“A token of remembrance from the Brethren of the 21st Regt. Light Dragoons,” and on the back edge—“Quarter Masters Simms, Sharpley, Hurst, Hackete, Whiteaker.”⁽¹⁾ It is now used by the Tyler of the Castle Lodge.
7. A large China Punch-bowl, decorated with many Masonic emblems, including the letter G in the centre of a blazing star; two columns or pillars surmounted by globes; the square pavement; the sun, crescent moon, and seven stars; an ear of corn near a fall of water; the Volume of the Sacred Law; the square and compasses, level, square, plumb rule; a semi-circular protractor, &c., &c.

There is nothing upon the bowl to indicate that it was the property of the Lodge of Industry, except representations of two bee-hives, with the bees depicted busily at work, symbolically referring to the Lodge as the home of Industry.

(1) See Salopian Lodge History for the year 1800.

8. A very curious gallows-looking framework for raising, by means of pulleys, the perfect ashlar. The pulleys are inscribed "Lodge of Industry," and the ashlar is fitted up so as to illustrate the principle of the lewis.
9. Various working tools, gavels, heavy maul, transparency, collar jewel of the W.M., &c., &c. The working tools are more fitted for an operative than a speculative Lodge; the level is about four feet wide by three feet high, and the other tools are made in proportion.
10. A portion of the back of the Chair of the W.M. representing the Sun, and a circular board depicting the Crescent Moon and Seven Stars, in gold, on a dark blue ground.

The only reminiscence of the working of the Lodge of Industry that I have been able to recover from the memory of living brethren is in relation to the working of the third degree. Bro. T. Whitefoot, Senr. asserts, that, in the olden time, a very impressive portion of that ceremony, my readers will know to what I refer, was worked with an adherence to reality which Modern Masons do not imitate. From the list of members appended it will be seen that 33 candidates were initiated in the year of its foundation—a good start for a Lodge dating from the last century. After the extinction of this Lodge, Bridgnorth remained without a Lodge until the year 1876. On Aug. 25th in that year, the Castle Lodge was consecrated by Bro. Goldsboro, its Warrant being dated May 30th. On that occasion Bro. Joseph Stokes was installed as W.M. Since its foundation the Lodge has had a quiet but useful existence; it now numbers about thirty subscribing members, and is conspicuous in its devotion to the cause of charity. Its musical ritual is exceedingly well done, much of its efficiency in this respect being due to the loving care bestowed upon it by Bro. J. Sewell, P.P.G.O.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1876-7—Joseph Stokes, P.P.G.R. (Worcester.)
 1877-8—Edward Jones Chitney, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
 1878-9—Horace B. Southwell, P.P.G.O.
 1879-80—Abraham Colles.
 1880-1—Thomas Pratt, P.P.G. Std. B.
 1881-2—William Simms, P.P.G.P.
 1882-3—Edmund M. Southwell.
 1883-4—Thomas Whitefoot, Junr., P.P.G.J.W.
 1884-5—W. Lascelles Southwell, P.P.G.J.W.
 1885-6—James Hughes Cooksey, P.P.G.R.
 1886-7—Henry E. Roberts, P.P.G.J.D.
 1887-8—William Westcott, P.P.G. Std. B.
 1888-9—Alfred S. Trevor, P.P.G. Std. B.
 1889-90—Rev. Reginald T. H. Lucas, P.P.G.C.
 1890-1—Thomas Bromwich, P.G. Steward.
 1891-2—William Thomas Smith.

GRAND LODGE REGISTER OF MEMBERS

OF THE

LODGE OF INDUSTRY, BRIDGNORTH, No. 578

(erased 1853.)

Name.	Age.	Business or Profession.	Residence	When Made	Joined
Richard Holmes				1799	
William Hall				,	
Thomas Thomson		Surgeon's Mate	21st Regt.	,	
John Pearce		Currier		,	
Henry Veritrice		Stationer		,	
Josiah Garthide		Lieutenant	21st Regt.	,	
William Simms		Quarter-Master	,	,	
Richard Bagley		Innkeeper		,	
John Gibson				,	
Whitaker		Sergt. Major	21st Regt.	,	
Thomas Wilkinson		Quarter Master	,	,	

Name.	Age	Profession.	Residence.	When Made.	Joined
William Hackett		Quarter-Master	21st Regt.	1799	
William Blades		Lieutenant	"	"	
John Hartley	27	Serjeant	"	"	
William Evrey	31	Corporal	"	"	
William Sharpley	23	Quarter-Master	"	"	
Edward Williams		Sadler	Bridgnorth	"	
William Page	29	Taylor	"	"	
Joseph Bangham	45	Innkeeper		"	
William Lewis	23	Attorney		"	
James Hamson	27	Serjeant	21st Regt.	"	
Thomas Southorn		Pipemaker		"	
William Smith	58	Comedian		"	
— Adams	25	Serjeant	21st Regt.	"	
Edward Bowen		Farmer		"	
Thomas Hirst		Quarter-Master	21st Regt.	"	
Edward Parry	37	Attorney		"	
Edward Darke	25	Officer Excise		2,3,99	
William Edwards	44	Farmer		24,8,99	
Richard Elcock	22	Attorney		"	
John Morris					
Bennett	35	Malster		28,9,99	
Francis Davis	46	Whitesmith		"	
Joseph Steward	22	Farmer		23,11,99	
George Pitt	43	"		"	
Samuel Roden	39	Brickmaker	Broseley		
J. Holmes	31	"	"		
James Griffiths	30	Attorney	"		
William Harts-					
horne	33	Clockmaker	"		
John Hardwick	36	Farmer	Burcott		
John Christopher					
Kiffernsteen	27	Serjeant	53rd Regt.	9,5,1803	
John Fletcher	22	Surgeon	Bridgnorth	6,6,1803	
Thomas Parker	26	Tinman	Broseley	8,8,1803	
Cornelius Wheeler	33	Watchmaker	Bridgnorth	30,1,1804	
Isaiah John Guest	28	Mercer	Broseley	30,4,1804	
James Cureton	53	Gardener	Bridgnorth	17,6,1805	
Matthias Crowther	25	Miller	"	24,6,1805	
Edward Stephens	24	Painter	"	14,10,1805	
Thomas Milner	23	Farmer	Eardington	15,4, ?1806 or 1807	
Samuel Goasnall	40	"	Upper Arley	24,6,1807	
Thomas Bean	33	"	Harley	24,8,1807	
Edward Pearce	33	Baker	Bridgnorth	6,2,1809	
Thomas Devey	42	Attorney	"	24,6,1809	

Name.	Age	Profession.	Residence.	When Made.	Joined
George Lewis	29	Mercer, &c.	Broseley	28,8,1809	
William Nock	28	Attorney	"	28,11,1809	
George Hartshorn	44	Victualler	"	25,12,1809	
John Nicholas	33	Brazier	Bridgnorth	3,2,1806	
John Daniel	39	Farmer	Woodlands	4,8,1806	
Samuel Holloway	35	Cooper	Billingsley	30,9,1806	
Thomas Wardell	40	Excise Officer	Bridgnorth	27,10,1806	
William Bright	25	Grocer	Broseley	25,12,1809	
William Pearce	35	Potter	Binthall	"	
Thomas Roberts	32	Mercer, &c.	Broseley	"	
Richard Gwynn	48	Shoemaker	Bridgnorth	12,11,10	
George Gwynn	40	Chandler	"	"	
John Brown	26	Druggist	"	11,3,11	
Richard Corbet					
Cooper					11,3,11
Thomas Jenkins	37	Architect	Apley Park	9,4,11	
Benjamin Turner	44	Innkeeper	Billingsley	13,5,11	
John Dallow	38	Carpenter	Deuxhill	10,6,11	
Rev. George Hugh					
Hazlewood	42	Clerk	Bridgnorth	24,6,11	
John Boulton	28	Lieutenant R.N.	"	5,8,11	
John Longmore	29	Hatter	"	3,2,12	
Thomas Nock	51	Innkeeper	"	"	
William Hardwick	40	Attorney	"		2,3,12
Charles Gabert	36	Gentleman	Apley Park		1,6,12
William Rudge	54	Brewer	"		
Samuel Reynolds	42	Innkeeper	Bridgnorth		
James Brampton	26	Surgeon	"	21,12,12	
Nathum Blacker	45	Major	"	13,1,13	
Benjamin Partridge		Book-keeper	"		
Richard Dukes		Victualler	"		
Robert Pearce			"		
Thomas Higgs			"		
James Newton	23	Yeoman	Apley Park	15,2,13	
Joseph Bennett	36	Servant	"	17,3,13	
Rev. Chas. C.					
Whitmore	26	Clerk	Stockton	4,6,13	
Richard Baker	31	Esquire	Bridgnorth	3,7,13	
Thomas Boulton	32	Esquire	"	3,7,13	
Thomas Whitmore	31	Esquire, M.P.	Apley Park	23,7,13	
Robert Heighway	43	Yeoman	Stockton	16,8,13	
Thomas Nevitt	42	Barge Owner	Bridgnorth	21,8,13	
Wm. Beech Howell	46	Plumber, &c.	"	13,9,13	
Richard Phillips	40	Farmer	Astley	11,10,13	
			Abbots		

Name.	Age	Profession.	Residence.	When Made.	Joined
Peter Charlton	32	Gardener	Apley Park	1,8,14	
Peter Scahill	32	Landscape Gardener	"	"	
Thomas Crumpton	36	Gentleman	Astley Abbots	28,11,14	
George Littleford	41	Farmer	"	23,12,14	
William Stokes		Gentleman	Whitemere, Salop	30,1,15	
Richard Weaver	40	Farmer		18,3,15	
Samuel Holloway		Innkeeper	Billingsley		
Samuel Rowden		Brickmaker	Broseley	1816	
David Pritchard	27	Gentleman	Bridgnorth	9,4,17	
Matthias Crowther		Innkeeper	"	11,5,17	
John Parks		"	"	"	
William Scott		Excise Officer	"	6,3,20	
Robert Jenkins		Hatter	"	29,5,20	
Edmund Steward	31	Farmer	Billingsley	8,5,20	
Henry Pagett	30	Miller	Stockton	25,9,20	
William Dallewy		Gentleman	Chelton	18,8,21	
Stanley Crowther	32	Plumber&Glazier	Bridgnorth	4,4,25	
Thomas Glase	36	Watchmaker	"	6,6,25	
John White	21	Gentleman	Kindleford	1,8,25	
Benjamin Lloyd	30	Gentleman	Bridgnorth	30,1,26	
William Barrey	25	Plasterer	Hunley, Co. Stafford	4,2,28	
William Ball Elton	26	"	"	"	
John Thomas			City of Cov- entry		
Ragley	28	Jeweller		6,3,28	
James Long	36	Currier	Broseley	5,30	
John Williams		Sadler	Bridgnorth	15,8,34	
John Kynaston	34	Innkeeper	"	4,1,31	
Richard Paget					
Drinkwater	21	Merchant	Shrewsbury	30,5,36	

GRAND CHAPTER REGISTER

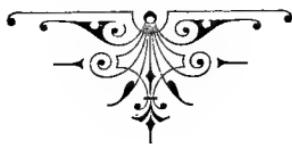
OF THE

MEMBERS OF THE AGENORIAN CHAPTER, No. 118
(erased 1853).

Members' Names	Age.	Exalted or Admitted.	Lodge	Title, Profession, &c.
Partridge, Benjamin		1801		Bookseller
Southern, Thomas				Pipe Maker
Hardsman, William				Paper Maker
Dark, Edward				Agent
Jenks, John	29	12,8,1802		Currier
Bennett, John	35	15,9 ,,		Malster
Nunns, John				Gentleman
Williams, Edward	45	10,9,1801		Saddler
Parry, Edward	40	" ,		Attorney
Bangham, Joseph	43	" ,		Innkeeper
Page, William	30	12,8,1802		Tailor
Hornblower, John	25	" ,		Iron Master
Dukes, Richard	33	15,9 ,,		Innkeeper
Hall, William	35	" ,		"
Taylor, William	55	9,10 ,,		Gentleman
Bagley, Richard	45	" ,		Innkeeper
Jandrell, John	36	" ,		Schoolmaster
Holmes, Richard		1803		P.S.
Higgs, Thomas	37	7,1,1803		Barge Owner
Williams, John	40	" ,		Clerk
Lewis, William	24	21,5 ,,		Attorney
Cox, James	41	" ,		Innkeeper
Pearce, John	24	24,9 ,,		Currier
Fletcher, John	22	29,12 ,,		Surgeon
Hallen, George	40	4,2,1804		Innkeeper
William				
Guest, Isaiah	30	28,12,1806		Mercer
Hartshorn, William	36	" ,		Watchmaker
Griffiths, James	33	" ,		Attorney
Marshall, John	49	27,12,1807		Gentleman
Daniel, John	38	27,12,1808		Farmer
Barker, Ried., Esq.	38	20,6,1815		Gent., Bridgnorth
Boulton, Thomas	36	" ,		" , "
Devey, Thos., Esq.	42	" ,		" , "
Hardwick, William	38	" ,		" , "
Blacker, Latham	46	7,8 ,,		Esqre. , "
Jenkins, Thomas	44	5,9 ,,		Architect, Apley Park

NEW REGISTER (from 1818).

Members' Names	Age.	Exalted or Admitted.	Lodge.	Title, Profession, &c.
Nicholas, John				
Page, Edward, Jun.				
Reynolds, Samuel		29,1,1819		
Pritchard, David		25,10	"	
Hazlewood, Rev. George Hugh		17,1,1820		
Russell, John		19,11,1827	526	
Crowther, Stanley			597	
Lloyd, Benjamin		7,1,1828	"	
Brown, John			"	
Glase, Thomas		5,10	"	
Dallewy, William			"	
Powis, Robert	49	12,2,1843	135	Innkeeper
Dodd, William	41	"	"	Painter
Hollyoak, Henry	26	5,1,1836	435	Captain
Law, Paul	35	"	"	Innkeeper
Williams, John	49	"	398	Saddler



THE CLIVE LODGE, MARKET DRAYTON, 1575.

This Lodge, which takes its name from the great Shropshire hero Lord Clive, was warranted on October 23rd, 1875. The names of its founders, given upon the Warrant, are George Gordon Warren, John Tayleur, John Bodenham, William Henry Harding, Thomas Rought Jones, Frederick Charles Cockagne, and John Bell Unsworth. Bro. Warren was installed as its first Master by Bro. J. Loxdale Warren. It now contains about 16 subscribing members.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1876-7—George Gordon Warren, P.M., 726-887.
1877-8— , P.P.G.R. Staff, P.P.G.S.W.
1878-9—John Bodenham, P.M., 1896, P.P.G.S.W., P.P.G.
Treas. Staff.
1879-80—Jabez C. Jones.
1880-1—Samuel Bennion, P.P.G.J.D.
1881-2—Thomas Rought Jones, P.P.G. Steward.
1882-3—George Lashmour.
1883-4—John Ginders, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
1884-5—Thomas E. Chritley.
1885-6—Benjamin Bastow, P.P.G. Steward.
1886-7—Thomas Ginders, P.P.G.A.P.
1887-8—Joseph Gouldbourne.
1888-9—Frederick C. Woodforde.
1889-90—Arthur F. E. Exham, P.P.G. Steward.
1890-91— , P.G. Standard B.

The list of names registered in Grand Lodge as belonging to the extinct Anchor and Hope Lodge, Woore, is placed next, as being probably of greater interest to the Brethren from Market Drayton than to those hailing from any other part of the Province.

GRAND LODGE REGISTER
OF THE
MEMBERS OF THE ANCHOR & HOPE LODGE, WOORE,
No. 644 (erased 1853.)

Members Names	Age.	Business or Profession.	Residence.	When Made Masons.
John Bromfield	W.M.			
James Foden	S.W.			
James Barratt	J.W.			
Wm. Preston				
Bradbury				
Henry Wittington				
Henry Church				
Moody				
Thomas Barratt				
William Crutchley				
James Clark				
Richard Morris	23	Carpenter	Madely	8,2,1838
James Broomhall	40	Ground Bailiff	"	"
Richard Clough	33	Farmer	Woore	24,1,1839
Richard Benbow	44	"	Dorrington	"
George Hopwood	42	"	Ashley	20,6 "
Richard Stanway	58	"	Knighton	25,7 "
Ralph Challioneer	35	"	Hunsterston	"
Daniel Hewitt	24	Draper	Woore	"
Wm. Horatio Pankhurst	27	Manufactur'r	Hanley	"
William Machin	29	Attorney	"	"
Thomas Keay	46	Farmer	Oakley	19,12,1839
Thomas Bromfield	30	Butcher	Wybunbury	16,4,1840
Thomas Wooley	39	Gardener	Oakley	9,7,1840

FITZALAN LODGE, OSWESTRY, No. 1432.

This, the junior Lodge in Oswestry, was warranted on April 5th, 1873, and consecrated on June 21st in the same year, Bro. Goldsboro, P.P.G.S.W. was the Consecrating Officer. The names of the brethren mentioned on the warrant are J. W. Wallace, Alexander Walker, Robert de la Poer Beresford, J. Ralph Ormsby Gore (afterwards Lord Harlech), George Owen, and John Ward, but Bros. Edward Bremner Smith and Samuel Hazlit had a very considerable share in its foundation. It now possesses 26 subscribing members. On August 4th, 1876, a Petition for a Chapter was approved by the P.G. Lodge, but nothing further seems to have been done in the matter. About the year 1880 a Lodge of Instruction met in connection with the Lodge, but it is now practically defunct.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1873-4—John Winfield Wallace.
- 1874-5—Robert de la Poer Beresford, P.P.G.J.D.
- 1875-6—Edward Bremner Smith.
- 1876-7—Samuel Hazlit.
- 1877-8—David Vaughan.
- 1878-9—William Aston, P.P.G.S. of W.
- 1879-80—John B. Murless.
- 1880-1—William Griffiths.
- 1881-2—John Maclardy, P.P.G.S.D.
- 1882-3—Richard Brayne, P.P.G.A.S.
- 1883-4—John Thomas Whitridge.
- 1884-5—James Henry Parsons, P.G.J.D.
- 1885-6—Charles Drew, P.P.G.J.D.
- 1886-7—James England, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1887-8—Arthur Thomas Akroyd, P.P.G.O.
- 1888-9—William Aylmer Lewis, P.P.G.S.D.
- 1889-90—Alexander Nelson, P.P.G.A.P.
- 1890-1—James Henry Parsons, P.G.J.D.

THE LODGE OF ST. OSWALD, OSWESTRY, 1124.

As I have already noticed there were two Lodges founded in Oswestry in the last century—one in 1744, which met at the Masons' Arms, and lasted for about ten years, its number throughout that period being 119—the other, originally founded in 1771 at Wynnstay, and called by that name, was removed to Oswestry in 1785, and only survived for a few years, its number being 324. As the name denotes, this latter Lodge was founded at the residence of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., in Denbighshire, but all records of its existence, if any were in fact preserved, were destroyed in the great fire in 1858. After its extinction, Oswestry remained without a Lodge until the year 1866, when the Lodge of St. Oswald was founded. Its first meeting was held by dispensation, on Oct. 1st, when J. R. Ormsby Gore, Esq., M.P., the first Lord Harlech, was proposed as a member, and on Nov. 5th it was duly consecrated by Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., R.W.P.G.M., assisted by Bro. Goldsboro.

Amongst the founders who are still alive will be found the names of Bro. Lord E. H. Hill Trevor, of Brynkinalt, and Bro. W. H. Spaull, now for many years past P.G. Sec. The Lodge was presented by the R.W.P.G.M. with the three antique chairs and six candlesticks formerly used by the old Wynnstay Lodge, and it thus possesses relics of the past many years older than those belonging to any other Lodge in the Province.

On Nov. 1st, 1869, the R.W.P.G.M. under the banner of the Lodge, laid the foundation stone of the Oswestry Cottage Hospital, which has since proved itself to be a most useful Public Institution—Bro. W. H. Spaull was the Architect. The ceremony was most impressive, and during its course the following

hymn, specially composed for the occasion by the Rev. W. Walsham How, now Bishop of Wakefield, was sung by the Choir.

TUNE—*Jam Lucis.*

O Thou, thro' suffering perfect made,
On Whom the bitter Cross was laid,
In hours of sickness, grief, or pain,
No sufferer turns to Thee in vain.

The halt, the maim'd, the sick, the blind,
Sought not in vain Thy tendance kind :
Now in Thy poor Thyself we see,
And minister thro' them to Thee.

O loving Saviour, Thou canst cure,
The pains and woes Thou didst endure :
To Thee this house, Physician Great,
In lowly faith we dedicate.

O heal the bruised heart within,
O save our souls, all sick with sin :
Give life and health in bounteous store,
That we may praise Thee evermore.

So Mote it be.

A Special Masonic Edition of the Oswestry Advertizer, dated Nov. 1st, 1869, contains a full report of the proceedings, and may be consulted for further information.

In the year 1872, the R.W.P.G.M. built a Lodge Room, attached to the Wynnstay Arms Hotel, for the use of the Lodge, and in this room it has since continued to meet.

The Lodge possesses an old and interesting print dedicated to the Grand Lodge of England by Bro. Jeffreys, representing the "Distinguishing Characteristic of Masonry—Charity exerted on proper objects." A copy of this print is reproduced in the left hand panel of the certificate of thanks given by the Committee of the Girls School to the Stewards at its festivals. Its subject is Ruspin, the founder of that School, leading one child by the hand, and followed by many others.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1866-7—William Henry Hill, P.P.G.J.D.
- 1867-8—George Owen, P.P.G.S.W.
- 1868-9—Captain J. Hamer.
- 1869-70—E. Elias.
- 1870-1—W. H. Spaull, P.G. Sec.
- 1871-2—R. J. Ormsby Gore, M.P., P.P.D.G.M.
- 1872-3—John Ward.
- 1873-4—Ephraim Wood, P.P.G.S.W.
- 1874-5—Alexander Walker, P.P.G.S. of W.
- 1875-6—John Thomas, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1876-7—William Burton, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1877-8—H. C. Corfield.
- 1878-9—Rev. A. L. Taylor, P.P.G.C.
- 1879-80—F. Chaplin.
- 1880-1—Stanley Leighton, M.P., P.P.G.S.W.
- 1881-2—F. R. Spaull, P.P.G.R.
- 1882-3—R. G. Venables, D.P.G.M., P.A.G.D. of C. (Eng.)
- 1883-4—A. C. Spaull, P.P.G.R.
- 1884-5—George J. Morgan, P.P.G. Std. B.
- 1885-6—L. A. Manning, P.P.G. Std. B.
- 1886-7—Henry Morris.
- 1887-8—Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., P.P.G.S.W.
- 1888-9—J. P. Cartwright, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
- 1889-90—Rev. J. B. Meredith, P.P.G.C.
- 1890-1—Rev. Henry Dunkin, P.G.C.

THE LODGE OF ST. MILBURGA, IRONBRIDGE,

No. 1120.

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This Lodge was warranted on June 5th, 1866, held its first meeting on September 11th, and was consecrated on Nov. 27th in the same year. Bro. Goldsboro, P.P.G.W., performed the Ceremony of Consecration. Its first W.M., Bro. Bryce Smith, who is still living, had been W.M. of the Salopian Lodge of Charity in the previous year, and was one of the founders of the Shrewsbury Lodge of Instruction in 1862. In 1890 it numbered 33 subscribing members.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1866-7—Bryce Smith, P.P.G.J.D.
- 1867-8—Henry Woolner, P.P.G.S. of W.
- 1868-9—James Procter.
- 1869-70—Alexander Grant.
- 1870-1—F. G. Yates.
- 1871-2—James Bates.
- 1872-3—Robert Anslow.
- 1873-4—Thomas G. Thursfield.
- 1874-5—Edward Lawrence.
- 1875-6—John Machin, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
- 1876-7—J. C. W. Lister, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
- 1877-8—Sir C. B. H. Soame, Bart., P.G.J.W.
- 1878-9—Thomas Morgan.
- 1879-80—James Smart, P.P.G.O.
- 1880-1—Matthew Garbett.
- 1881-2—George Stevenson, P.P.G. Std. B.
- 1882-3—William Taylor.
- 1883-4—Henry Stubbs.
- 1884-5—Louis E. Wollstein, P.P.G.S.D.
- 1885-6—John Jenks, P.P.G. Std. B.
- 1886-7—Thomas J. Barnett, P.P.G. Std. B.
- 1888-9—Frederick Chubb, P.P.G. Swd. B.
- 1889-90—Tom Machin, P.G.D. of C.
- 1890-1—Rev. J. T. W. Claridge, P.P.G.C.
- 1891-2—Thomas Allen, P.G. Steward.

THE LODGE OF THE MARCHES, LUDLOW, 611.

In the year 1791, a Lodge was warranted by Thomas Dunckerley, at Kington, in Herefordshire, of which county he was then P.G.M. It was called the Silurian Lodge, 576, but this number was in the following year altered to 485. It originally met at the Sun Inn, but subsequently removed to the King's Head. Its first Master was Charles James, who in 1791 visited the Salopian Lodge, and was then described as W.M. of the Kinton Lodge. The names of 35 members only appear on the Grand Lodge Register, the last of these being registered in 1796, in which year also the last payment to Grand Lodge was made. Its subsequent fate is described in the following passages taken from "A History of Kington, by a Member of the Mechanics Institute of Kington." "This Lodge continued in existence till the year 1800, and then separated, and divided the cash among the brethren; the Lodge furniture was sold in the year 1804 by the Treasurer to a person in Ludlow for the sum of twenty-two pounds and ten shillings." A List of the Officers given by the same writer, shows that Lodges under the care of Dunckerley followed the usual practice of the "Moderns," and did not appoint Deacons. In the same year that the Silurian Lodge was founded, we know that Shirreff, then D.P.G.M. for Shropshire, was in correspondence with a Captain Bridgewaters about the foundation of a Lodge at Ludlow. The project was however abandoned, and I know of no reference to Masonry in that town till the year 1805. There can be little doubt, however, that the purchase of the jewels and furniture of the Silurian Lodge before alluded to, was made in contemplation of the foundation of the Mercian Lodge in Ludlow, which took place in that year. At all events it is a fact that these articles passed immediately into the possession of the new Lodge. In addition, the warrant of the defunct Lodge was transferred to the Mercian

Lodge. This practice of transferring warrants, instead of issuing new ones was a consequence of a statute, passed in 1799, directed against secret societies. Existing Lodges of Freemasons were specially exempted from its operation, but the act was construed as prohibiting the foundation of new ones. To evade this Law, both Grand Lodges were accustomed to issue transfers of the warrants of extinct Lodges to brethren desirous of forming fresh ones, and such transfers were supposed to legalise the existence of the new Lodges. It is evident that such transfers implied no necessary connection between the two bodies; indeed it rarely happens that so close a connection can be traced as in the case under examination. In addition to possessing the same warrant, jewels, and furniture, the two Lodges had at least one member in common, in the person of the Rev. John Thomas, of Lucton. The Mercian Lodge met at the Angel Inn; its number, 485, derived from the Silurian Lodge, was, at the Union in 1813, changed to 528. The Grand Lodge Register shows a total of 27 names registered. Its active existence terminated shortly after 1826, though it was not formerly erased till 1832. Towards the close of its career of active existence, its list of members was very small, and there is a tradition in the Lodge of the Marches, that its members resolved not to initiate another candidate. At all events it seems that the Lodge deliberately put an end to its own existence, as, in a book containing its by-laws, an entry was made in the year 1864, apparently on the authority of Bro. G. Anderson, that it was *dissolved* on the 21st October, 1828. Bro. G. Anderson was a member of the Mercian Lodge, and he with three other members, namely—J. Griffiths, B. Urwick, and H. Whittall, was alive in the year 1853. Through their instrumentality, the warrant, jewels, and furniture of the Silurian and Mercian Lodges were preserved, but unfortunately their care did not extend to the records, which are entirely lost, with the exception of the book of by-laws before referred to. This book contains nothing particularly worthy of notice, though it is justly prized by the members of the Lodge of the Marches, in whose possession it now is, as an heirloom of their Masonic predecessors in Ludlow.

The last mentioned Lodge was founded in the year 1853, probably as a consequence of the great revival of the Craft experienced in this Province upon the appointment of Sir Watkin W. Wynn to the post of P.G.M., stimulated by the knowledge of the existence of the jewels and furniture of the old Lodges. These interesting relics of antiquity, now used by the Lodge of the Marches, are as follows—3 chairs, 3 pedestals, 3 mauls, 3 candlesticks, the collar jewels of the W.M., S.W., J.W., Treasurer, and Secretary, an old Master Mason's apron, printed from an engraved plate, and a large Past Master's Jewel set with brilliants, presented to Bro. J. B. Morris, of the Mercian Lodge, in 1815. In addition, the Lodge has been recently presented by the Rev. H. Brown with a handsome glass goblet, made for the Silurian Lodge in 1791. The name of the Lodge of the Marches is, of course, derived from the old name for those districts on the borders of Wales, of which Ludlow was the centre, where rapine and civil brawls between Welsh and English formerly held full sway. Its original number was 887, altered in 1863 to 611. The Golden Lion Hotel was its first home; it was consecrated on the 13th of June, 1853, by Bro. Guise (262), Pro. G.C., in the presence of the P.G.M. and his Deputy the Rev. E. H. Dymock. The occasion was regarded by the whole town as an important function, as we read that the P.G.M. "arrived by special train amidst the firing of cannon, and the ringing of the bells of St. Laurence Church." One of the first acts of the brethren was to elect all members of the late Mercian Lodge members of their new Lodge, upon payment only of Grand Lodge fees. Whether these old members had anything to do with the foundation of the Lodge of the Marches cannot now be ascertained, but as a body they probably had not. Since its foundation this Lodge has continued to prosper, and now possesses more subscribing members than any Lodge in the Province; it is honourably known for its large subscriptions to the cause of Charity, and for the success of its Masonic festivities. It has also, I imagine, succeeded in establishing a record in this era of records, inasmuch as at the P.G. Lodge held in Ludlow in September of the present year (1891),

no less than 31 of its members were present. It may, perhaps, not be out of place, if I here acknowledge, with the deepest gratitude, the kindness of Bro. T. J. Salwey in allowing me to peruse and make extracts from his M.S. History of his Mother Lodge, which will, I sincerely hope, some day assume the more permanent form which it assuredly deserves.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1853—J. Bach.
- 1854—W. M. Beddoes.
- 1855—J. B. James.
- 1856—J. B. James.
- 1857—W. E. Curtis, P.P.G.S.D.
- 1858—W. E. Curtis.
- 1859—P. Newman, P.P.G.S. of W.
- 1860—W. Jellicorse.
- 1861—W. M. Beddoes.
- 1862—W. M. Beddoes.
- 1863—P. Newman, P.P.G.S. of W.
- 1864—W. C. Johnson.
- 1865—W. C. Johnson.
- 1866—F. Cox, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1867—W. Powell, P.P.G. Std. B.
- 1868—J. M. Kilvert, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1869—E. J. Partridge.
- 1870—W. Powell, P.P.G. Std. B.
- 1871—F. Cox, P.P.G. Swd. B.
- 1872—H. Jones.
- 1873—Alfred Marston, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1874—Alfred Marston.
- 1875—J. Peacock.
- 1876—C. J. Bowles.
- 1877—J. P. Challoner.
- 1878—J. Roberts, P.P.G.R.
- 1879—T. Roberts.
- 1880—R. Cross.
- 1881—J. H. Williams, P.P.G.J.D.
- 1882—W. Putman, P.P.G.S.D.
- 1883—J. E. Brooks, P.P.G.S.W.
- 1884—W. Norton, P.P.G A.P.
- 1885—Arthur Marston, P.P.G S D.
- 1886—R. G. Venables, D.P.G.M.
- 1887—R. G. Venables, P.A.G.D. of C. (Eng.)
- 1888—W. E. Sharp, P.P.G. P.
- 1889—R. McBean, P.P.G. Steward.
- 1890—R. McBean, P G.P.
- 1891—C. W. Wicksted, P.G.S.W.

GRAND LODGE REGISTER
OF THE
MEMBERS OF THE MERCIAN LODGE, LUDLOW, 528
(erased 1832.)

Date of Initiation.	Age	Name.	Profession.	Residence.
		Morris, B. Jno.	Attorney	Ludlow
		Wellings, Edward	"	"
		Lloyd, Henry	"	"
		Russell, Richard	"	"
		Griffiths, Thomas	Bookseller	"
		Acton, Samuel	Glover	"
1805, Nov. 5th	26	Anderson, George	Attorney	"
1806, Nov. 26th		Rogers, Edward	Esquire	"
1807, Nov. 10th	23	Urwick, Benjamin	Tanner	"
		Davies, James	Glover	"
1810, Nov. 6th	29	Meyrick, Thomas	Dancing Master	"
1812, Dec. 15th	23	Whittal, Henry	Druggist	"
" "	26	Greenhouse, John	Currier	"
" "	25	Wakefield, Richard	Surgeon	"
1813		Whitney, William	Innholder	"
1813, Jan. 12th	22	Thomas, John	Currier	"
1813, April 13th	25	Wellings, Henry	Bank Clerk	"
1813, June 8th	27	Wellings, Thomas	Woolstapler	"
1815, Jan. 24th	27	Price, James	Mercer	Hay, Brecknockshire
	32	Cooke, John	Farmer	Brampton Brian
	26	Massey, Jonathan	Gentleman	Ludlow
		Bryan, William	Woolstapler	Spode
1818, Dec.		Bryan, Richard	"	Long Road, Radnorshire
" "		Dansey, Geo. Henry	Gentleman	Ludlow, from 29, London
1820, June 24th		Harley, Edward	Lord	Brampton Brian, from 711, Oxford
1821, June 30th	26	Dansey, Ed. Collins	Lieut. R.N.	Ludlow
1821, Sept. 24th	22	Griffiths, Thomas	Stationer	"

This Register was commenced in 1813 and does not contain some names that were entered in the earlier Register kept between 1805 and 1813.

LODGE OF ST. JOHN, WELLINGTON, 601.

After the extinction of the old Wrekin Lodge in 1798, the district around Wellington remained in a state of Masonic darkness till the year 1852. In that year the Lodge of St. John was established at Admaston, its founders being almost all members of one or other of the Shrewsbury Lodges. Its warrant is dated the 27th April, and the brethren mentioned therein are—J. W. Towers, H. Evett, Henry Lewis, Robert P. Weston, W. Patchett, William Field, and John Broughall. Reference has been already made to its consecration, and the installation of Bro. Towers as its first Master. In the minute book of the Lodge Bro. Goode is stated to have been the first to occupy the chair, and I cannot account for the discrepancy between this account and that given by the Provincial Grand Lodge Minute book. The contradictory statements are both precise and definite. As, however, the consecration of the Lodge was delayed by the non-arrival of the Warrant from May 17th, the day originally fixed, until June 16th, I think we may conclude that Bro. Goode was installed on the former and Bro. Towers on the latter date, the Provincial Grand Officers being present on both occasions. The correctness of the appended list of past masters must depend in part on this conclusion being accurate. In 1857 owing to a dispute with the caterer, the Lodge was removed to Wellington, where it has ever since remained. In the early history of the Lodge two of its members were most conspicuously identified with its prosperity. I allude to Bros. T. C. Eyton and William Anslow. The former presented the Lodge with a Cairngorm Snuff Box, which is almost unique, the pebble being of almost abnormal size. The services of Bro. Anslow to the Lodge were considerable, amongst them I may mention that he acted as Installing Master for 10 successive years, from 1857-1867. The

brethren were not ungrateful for his efforts, and, after his death, placed in the church of All Saints, Wellington, two memorial windows, one on each side of the chancel, in commemoration of their regard for him. These windows are of stained glass, bearing respectively life size figures of St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist. On the pedestal on which these figures are depicted as standing, the following words are placed in stained glass—"To the Glory of God, and in memory of William Anslow of Eyton." A brass plate at the foot of each window bears this inscription—"To the memory of William Anslow of Eyton this and the corresponding window on the other side of the Chancel were presented to the Parish Church by his brother Freemasons and other friends in affectionate remembrance, and as a token of their respect and esteem. Born 24th Octr. 1825, departed this life 23rd Octr., 1867." In later days Bro. Rowland Millington, who has now been Secretary of the Lodge for more than quarter of a century, has done good and useful work. Some years ago he was presented by the Lodge with an exceedingly handsome clock, as a token of gratitude. The Banner of the Lodge bears upon it an oil painting of St. John, copied from one of the memorial windows above mentioned—the silver letters and miniature working tools with which it is adorned, were the work of the donor, Bro. Roff King, during the year 1877 in which he filled the Chair. The Lodge is now one of the smallest in the Province, and it is a matter of regret, that the Brethren, inheriting as they do traditions of good work, should not seek more vigorously to increase its strength.

LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1852—B. W. Goode.
- 1853—J. W. Towers, P.P.G. Swd. B.
- 1854—T. C. Eyton, P.P.G.S.W. .
- 1855—H. Evett, P.P.G.D. of C.
- 1856—William Anslow, P.P.G. Swd. B.
- 1857—Isaac Knowles, P.P.G.S.D.
- 1858—R. G. Belliss, P.P.G. Steward.

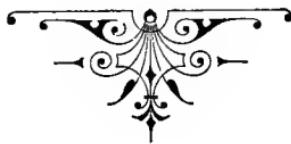
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- 1859—William Howlet.
1860—J. Barber, P.P.G.D, of C.
1861—T. C. Eyton, P.P.G.S.W.
1862—W. B. Hayley, P.P.G.S. of W.
1863—John Hooper.
1864—J. L. Randal, P.P.G.S.W.
1865—Rowland Millington, P.P.G.J.D.
1866—S. J. Fellows, P.P.G.D. of C.
1867—A. R. Britton, P.P.G.S.
1868—J. H. Slaney, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
1869—E. Bagaley.
1870—W. Dallow.
1871—A. Taylor.
1872—H. Shepard, P.P.G.J.D.
1873—E. J. Webb, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
1874—F. B. Higgison.
1875—R. J. Acton.
1876—John Adams, P.P.G. Steward.
1877—Roff King, P.P.G.S.W.
1878—J. Brookes.
1879—Rev. A. J. Von Straubenzee, P.P.G.C.
1880—J. Greene.
1881—J. R. Poole.
1882—J. Millington, P.P.G. Swd. B.
1883—W. T. Parkins.
1884—J. Smith, P.P.G. Swd. B.
1885—Rowland Millington, P.P.G.J.D.
1886—E. R. Millington.
1887—E. A. Hicks, P.P.G.R.
1888—E. A. Hicks, P.P.G.R.
1889—Roff King, P.P.G.S.W.
1890—H. Shepard, P.P.G.J.D.
1891—R. J. Acton.

GRAND LODGE REGISTER

OF THE

WREKIN LODGE, WELLINTON, 445 (erased 1798.)

Name.	Age.	Profession.	Residence.	When Initiated
Henry Y. Carter	30	Surgeon	Wellington	5,1,1790
John Riddings	26	Innkeeper	"	"
Frederick Riddings	21	Gentleman	"	18,1,90
Thomas Webb	24	Innkeeper	"	26,2,90
William Webb	38	"	"	"
Richard D. Phillips	22	Attorney	"	10,8,90
George Collier	21	"	"	21,8,90
Edmund Nash	29	"	"	27,9,90
Thomas Jones	21	Surgeon	"	"
Robert Meek	21	Mercer	"	22,10,90
William Davis	30	Gentleman	"	15,7,91



THE EYTON CHAPTER, WELLINGTON, 601.

This Chapter was established soon after the foundation of the Lodge of St. John, its Charter being dated the 1st August, 1855. It was at first composed almost entirely of members of that Lodge and of the Salopian Lodge; the latter of whom joined for the purpose of getting it into good working order. After the foundation of the Lodge of St. Milburga, 1120, its recruits were however largely drawn from Ironbridge. After the first few years of its existence it was for a considerable period somewhat irregular in its meetings. Blanks occur in its Minute books from October, 1861 to April, 1863; from January, 1866 to July, 1867; from January, 1868 to October, 1869; and from October, 1870 to January, 1873. The list of its P.Z's is therefore for several years incomplete. During this period the Chapter was greatly indebted to the services of Companion Bristow, of Dudley, who filled the principal chair during the performance of nearly all the ceremonies. These services were suitably acknowledged by the presentation to Companion Bristow of a very valuable gold snuff box. From about the year 1877, however, the Chapter seems to have taken a fresh lease of life, and from that time its meetings have been regularly held, and its ceremonies carried through without any extraneous assistance. It now numbers about 20 subscribing members.

P.Z's

- 1855-6—G. Marriott.
- 1856-7—W. Brightwell.
- 1858 —T. C. Eyton.
- 1859 —W. Anslow.
- 1860 —R. G. Belliss.

- 1861—J. L. Randal.
1862—
1863—
1864—W. Anslow.
1865—H. Evett.
1866—W. B. Hayley.
1867—
1868—J. Barber.
1869—
1870—R. Millington.
1871—
1872—
1873—R. Millington.
1874—R. Millington.
1875—J. Barber.
1876—J. H. Slaney.
1877—H. Shepard.
1878—J. Bodenham.
1879—R. Anslow.
1880—R. Jackson.
1881—Roff King.
1882—Sir C. B. H. Soame, Bart.
1883—Rev. A. J. Von Straubenzee.
1884—J. C. W. Lister.
1885—W. T. Parkins.
1886—J. Smart.
1887—E. A. Hicks,
1888—T. Machin.
1889—H. Shepard.
1890—J. C. W. Lister.
1891—T. C. Bird.

THE SALOPIAN LODGE OF CHARITY, 117.

On February 8th, 1768, a Warrant was granted by the "Atholl" or "Ancient" Grand Lodge, for the formation of a Lodge numbered 153 in the 13th Regiment of Foot. No returns were made from this Lodge to Grand Lodge after 1776, and it then, doubtless, became extinct. In the year 1809 a meeting of several brethren in the Regiment of the Shropshire Militia, then stationed at Eastbourne, was held for the purpose of establishing a Lodge in that Regiment. A Warrant was eventually granted on March 22nd, 1810, by the "Ancient" Grand Lodge, the number given to the new Lodge (153) being that of the extinct Lodge in the 13th Regiment. Upon this identity of numbers has been founded the theory that there was some connection between the old and the new Lodge, and that the latter was in somewhat the continuation of the former. No such connection, in my opinion, ever existed; at all events it certainly cannot be proved. The fact appears to be that this grant of an old Lodge number to a new Lodge, is only another instance of the various devices invented by both the rival Grand Lodges to evade the provisions of the Act directed against Secret Societies. In my outline of the history of the Lodge of the Marches, 611, I have pointed out the scope of that statute, and have shown that a transfer by endorsement of the Warrant of a defunct Lodge, was one of these devices. In the case under consideration we see another artifice which was sometimes adopted, viz., the grant of a *new* Warrant bearing an old number, "the latent ('.) powers of extinct Lodges being revived for entirely new and distinct organizations."⁽¹⁾ A study of the Warrant granted as above mentioned, and of the minute books of the Lodge then created, shows that they contain not the slightest reference to the older

(1) Lane's Handy Book to the List of Lodges, p. 113.

Military Body, on the contrary they are in themselves sufficient evidence of the creation of an absolutely new Lodge. As a proof of my statement in this respect I here give the first entry in the minute book verbatim.

“East Bourne, 2nd Oct., 1809.

At A Friendly Meeting of Brothers of Ancient Free-Masonry—
The Following Brothers signed their Names With the following
sums Opposite Each, and agree to Meet Once a Fortnight from
this Date to subscribe Each Regularly to raise a sum
sufficient to Obtain a warrant to hold a Lodge in the Shropshire
Regiment of Militia, viz.”—(Here follows the names of 20
brethren, with various sums after their names)

I may add that the fact that No. 153, the old Military Lodge in 13th Regt., was continued on the Roll of the Atholl Grand Lodge until the present century, is no proof of the continued existence of the Lodge beyond the period of its last return in 1776. Numerous instances could be quoted of Lodges, undoubtedly defunct, whose numbers were similarly retained on the roll. Grand Lodge supervision was in former days far from being close or exhaustive. In the year 1811 the Lodge had a seal engraved with this motto round it—“The Salopian Lodge of Charity.”—This name it has ever since retained. In the year 1813, after the Union, its number was changed to 186, and it then passed under the same Grand Lodge jurisdiction as the Salopian Lodge 262. In the history of the latter Lodge I have shown the method in which the numbers on the Registers of the respective Grand Lodges were dealt with at the Union. I need here only remark that the precedence on the roll of its own Grand Lodge gained by the Salopian Lodge of Charity in 1810, by the grant of a low number to which it was not entitled by its age, was in 1814 preserved and continued on the roll of the United Grand Lodge, and it is now 145 places higher than 262, though 22 years junior to that Lodge. In the Constitutions for 1734 it is laid down that “The Precedency of Lodges is grounded on the Seniority of their Constitution.” That equitable principle is violated in the case of 117 and 262, as well as in numerous

instances elsewhere throughout the kingdom. Nothing but the extreme exigencies of the case at the beginning of the present century, through parliamentary interference, could have justified such unfairness to the older Lodges: In the Province, however, the age of a Lodge as recorded in the books of the Province, and not its number, gives precedence, and so in the roll of Provincial Lodges the Salopian Lodge of Charity ranks after 262, as the second senior Lodge. Between the years 1810-15 the Lodge followed the Regiment in which it was founded, and records of meetings in Gosport, Stonehouse, Ennis, Limerick, and Dublin still exist. One effect of this visit of the Lodge to Ireland was that the members became infected with a leaning towards Knights' Templarism, then much in vogue amongst our Irish Military brethren. "This order, then known as 'Black Masonry,' was propagated, to a large extent, through Charters issued by the 'High Knights' Templars of Ireland,'—a body of Freemasons in Dublin, who were constituted by Mother Kilwinning (Scotland) in 1779, for the practice of the Craft Degrees."⁽¹⁾ In 1813 application was made to the Mother Lodge to authorize the transfer of a 'Black Warrant' from Knights of the Temple and of Malta, in the Westmeath Militia, to brethren in the same degree serving in the Shropshire Militia. But the Lodge of Kilwinning (Scotland), in reply to the 'Sir Knights' of the latter regiment, repudiated the existence of any maternal tie between herself and any Society of Masonic Knighthood, and confessed her inability to 'communicate upon Mason business farther than the Three Steps.' The minute books do not contain the slightest allusion to this application, or to the Order referred to, and it is probable that the return of the Lodge to England speedily banished all desire for further information in this direction.

After its wanderings the Lodge finally settled down in Shrewsbury in 1815, doubtless owing to the disembodiment of

(1) Gould's History, vol. iii., p. 44 and note.
Lyon History of Mother Kilwinning (Freemasons Magazine, Feb. 16th, 1865, p. 114).

the Militia after Waterloo, and the consequent return of its members to their native county. Between 1816-1819 it continued the practice, persisted in since its constitution, of initiating civilians. Being a Military Lodge, such a practice was distinctly illegal, and drew upon the Lodge the scrutiny of Grand Lodge.⁽¹⁾ The offence was forgiven in due course, and in 1820 (June 23) the Lodge exchanged its Military Warrant for a civil one.

The minutes from April 14th, 1819 to January 27th, 1830 are missing, but the Register of Initiations during that period is still in existence, and Grand Lodge records show beyond all doubt that the Lodge continued working as usual. In 1832 its number, 186, was at the general re-numbering of the Lodges altered to 135.

The practice of "Passing the Chair," which is explained in the Salopian Lodge History⁽²⁾ was frequently adopted by the Salopian Lodge of Charity. At the Union it was declared to be no longer necessary as a preliminary to exaltation in the Royal Arch, but an instance occurs in this Lodge so late as 27th December, 1836, upon which occasion "Bros. Drinkwater, Owen, and Pool passed the Chair," and paid a fee of 5/- for doing so. This persistence in an old custom, affords an excellent example of the conservative tendencies of the members of a Lodge, unwilling to abandon practices, however unnecessary, which had been in vogue amongst their Masonic Ancestors. It is doubtful whether or not these brethren "passed the chair" for the purpose of being exalted; most probably they did not. The only Chapter then in the Province was one in connection with the Lodge of Industry in Bridgnorth, of which they are not registered as members in Grand Chapter. The members of 135 were, however, clearly aware of its existence, and sometimes availed themselves of the opportunities that existence afforded them, as may be seen from the following minute—"Monday, Jan. 6th, 1834, A committee assembled at Bro. Curton's (?Cureton) con-

(1) See Salopian Lodge History for year 1819.

(2) See year 1790; where the nature of the ceremony is indicated.

cerning some brothers going to Bridgnorth to be exalted, the Brethren pressant agreead that our W. Master Dodd should be Lent £4 from the fund of the Lodge and to Pay it back When Called for." Bros. Dodd and Powis, the latter of whom was also a member of 135, were exalted together on Feb. 12th in the same year, and their names are registered in Grand Chapter. There is no other mention of the Royal Arch in the minute books, and the Lodge seems to have taken no part in the foundation of the present Chapter in Shrewsbury, attached to 262 in the year 1843. The next event worthy of note was the amalgamation of the Lodge with 262, in the year 1851. This subject has been treated fully in connection with the latter Lodge, and need not here be further considered.

On Nov. 6th, 1862, a Lodge of Instruction was established under the auspices and direction of the Lodge. Its founders were Thomas Phillips, W.M., 135, Bryce Smith, 135, Edward Burd, J.W., 135-328, William Stanway, S.W., 135-328, Richard Lewis, P.M., 135, Richard Nicchols, W.M., 328. Of these Bros. Bryce Smith, E. Burd, and Richard Lewis, of Wrexham, are still alive. It was originally called the Wynnstay Lodge of Instruction—Wynnstay being the residence of the R.W.P.G.M. This word was dropped from the title of the Lodge in the year 1887, shortly after the division of the Province. The Lodge is now available for both the Shrewsbury Lodges, but still remains entirely under the management of 117. The W.M.'s of the two Lodges generally take the chair on alternate days of meeting and rehearse the ceremonies to be performed in their respective Lodges. A series of able and diligent Directors of Ceremonies have kept the working of the Lodge at a high state of perfection, and its influence has been most marked in promoting the efficiency of Lodge ceremonial in Shrewsbury. Bro. T. P. Deakin, P.M. is the present D. of C, and in his hands the Lodge traditions of careful and accurate work are fully maintained. It would be a matter of congratulation if his views as to the Lodge being one of Instruction rather than of Rehearsal could in the future

obtain the practical expression which they undoubtedly deserve. The number 135 was changed to 117 in 1863, since which date no re-numbering of the Lodges has taken place. Shropshire Masons will cordially admit, that the Salopian Lodge of Charity has always taken its proper place in all that concerns the Craft in the Province ; it has for years been in a most flourishing state, and now possesses about 45 subscribing members. Not the least of its good works has been the foundation of the Whitchurch Lodge in 1889, thus reflecting back, as it were, the “Light,” which, just a century before, had shone from that town to illuminate the darkness of Shrewsbury.

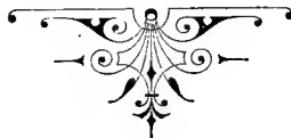
LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1810—James Mansfield.
1811 { James Mansfield.
 { Thomas Baugh.
 { John Cheese.
1812—John Cheese.
1813—John Price.
1814—John Dibbin.
1815—John Dibbin.
1816 { Robert Taylor.
 { Richard Pritchard.
1817 { Richard Pritchard.
 { James Mansfield.
1818—James Mansfield.
1819—James Mansfield.
1820-1829—No Records.
1830—Patrick Kean.
1831—Richard C. Hughes.
1832—James Mansfield.
1833—William Dodd.
1834—William Dodd.
1835—John Humphreys.
1836—Samuel Lea.
1837—Samuel Lea.
1838—Evan Owen.

-
- 1839—Evan Owen.
1840—George Maxon.
1841—Richard P. Drinkwater.
1842—Joseph Sharrod.
1843—George Maxon.
1844—Thomas Onions, P.P.G.R.
1845—Thomas Onions, P.P.G.R.
1846—George Maxon.
1847—Richard P. Drinkwater (never acted).
1848—Thomas Onions, P.P.G.R.
1849—John Leche Rowland, P.P.G.S.W.
1850—John Watton.
1851—John Nigel Heathcote, P.P.G.J.W.
1852—John Leche Rowland ? (No record, being year of amalgamation.)
1853—William Patchett, P.P.G.S. of W.
1854—Thomas Onions, P.P.G.R.
1855—Joshua Pugh White, P.P.G.S.W.
1856—James R. Pickering, P.P.G.P.
1857—Joshua Pugh White, P.P.G.S.W.
1858—Henry Atkin, P.P.G.P.
1859—Richard Lewis, P.P.G. Std. B.
1860—Richard Lewis, P.P.G. Std. B.
1861—John Lawrence Randal, P.P.G.S.W.
1862—Thomas Phillips.
1863—William Stanway, P.P.G.P.
1864—Edward Burd, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
1865—Bryce Smith, P.P.G.J.D.
1866—Charles Fleet.
1867—Francis Fletcher, P.P.G.D. of C.
1868—Edward H. Hankey, P.P.G.R.
1869—John Evans.
1870—Joseph Cresswell.
1871—Philip H. Evans, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
1872—Horatio M. Jones.
1873—Edward H. Hankey, P.P.G.R.

- 1874—John Bishop Boucher, P.P.G.O.
1875—John Briscoe Bagnall, P.P.G. Swd. B.
1876—John Briscoe Bagnall, P.P.G. Swd. B.
1877—William Spraggon, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
1878—William B. Morris.
1879—Thomas Warren Thompson, P.P.G.D. of C.
1880—William E. Litt.
1881—Vincent Corbet Legh Crump, P.G. Treas.
1882—James Vine, P.P.G.S. of W.
1883—John Blockley, P.P.G.S. of W.
1884—Thomas Pidduck Deakin, P.G. Assistant Sec.
1885—Thomas Challoner Royle, P.P.G. Swd. B.
1886—William Belton, P.P.G.S.D.
1887—A. Silver Townsend, P.P.G.S. of W.
1888—Herbert Major, P.P.G.A.D. of C.
1889—Alfred B. Deakin, P.P.G. Swd. B.
1890—William Adams, P.G.A.D. of C.
1891—Benjamin Blower, P.G. Steward.
1892—William Baxter.

I have done my best to render this list accurate, but, owing to minute book irregularities, I cannot guarantee the absolute correctness of some of the earlier names.



HISTORY OF THE SALOPIAN LODGE, 262.

SECTION I. (1788—1813).

The Salopian Lodge can only claim to have attained an eminently respectable age. Nothing in connection with its history is a matter of speculation, as is so often the case with respect to Lodges boasting of their antiquity. Its origin, constitution, and progress are faithfully recorded in its own minute books, which have, except for one short period of five years, been, in the main, carefully kept since the date of its foundation, and form the chief source from which my information has been derived. I propose to let these minute books, as far as possible, tell their own story, and for that purpose copious extracts from them will be given, such explanations and additions only being inserted as will make them intelligible. I have also thought it best to place these extracts in proper chronological order, so that a glance at the margin of each page will show the year to which my remarks are intended to apply.

The Warrant of the Lodge, of which an exact copy 1788. is given in Appendix A, is dated the 13th day of May, 1788. It constituted certain brethren, namely, William Neale, Thomas Barkley, William Cottom, John Beck, John Brackley Prichard, John Hall, and other brethren residing in or near the town of Shrewsbury, into a regular Lodge, under the title of the Salopian Lodge, No. 1, to be opened at a House known by the sign of the Fox. William Neale was appointed W.M., Thomas Barkley, S.W., and William Cottom, J.W. The Rev. Francis Henry Egerton was then P.G.M. for Shropshire, Major Charles Shirreff being his Deputy, and it was the latter who procured the Warrant for the Lodge. It will be noticed from a perusal of the Warrant that it was issued by the authority

of the P.G.M., though never actually signed by him, and the Salopian Lodge, like many others, especially in 1788. Yorkshire, has never possessed any full Warrant from Grand Lodge. Bro. John Beck was a Banker and Wine Merchant, and Bro. Cottom was Landlord of the Trumpet' Inn, but with these two exceptions nothing certain appears to be known of the founders, their history, or occupations. Various conjectures will however be found opposite their names in the full list of members contained in Appendix D, such conjectures having been made in the manner hereafter indicated.

The minute of the first recorded Lodge runs as follows :—

“ By virtue of a Dispensation from the P.G.M. for Shropshire, A Lodge of Free and accepted Masons was held at the Fox Inn, in Shrewsbury, 3rd July, 1788.

PRESENT.

William Neale, Master.

Thomas Barkley, Senior Warden.

William Cottom, Junior Warden.

John Beck, Treasurer.

John Brackley Prichard, Secretary.

John Hall, Senior Deacon.

Edward Innys, Junior Deacon.

Michael Kavanah, Tyler.

MEMBERS.

Alexander Keate

VISITORS.

Bro. Fitzsimmons, Master ; Bro. Thornton, & Bro. Cockburn, Officers ; & Bro. Narcesso, Members of Barry Lodge. Bro. John Gellion from Chester, & Bro. William Cartwright.

PROCEEDINGS.

Bro. E. T. Smith was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Resolved—That a Code of Bye Laws be prepared for the good Rule and Government of this Lodge.”

This resolution was speedily carried into effect, as a code

of by-laws was submitted to the Lodge on August 20th, 1788. and being then approved of, they were ordered to be copied in the Minute Book, and signed by the Members. On an examination of the names appended in pursuance of this order, it will be seen that many brethren must have disregarded it. Even the name of Bro. Smith who had just been raised, is conspicuous by its absence, but this is probably explained by the fact that he was in the Royal Navy, and evidently left Shrewsbury soon after he was raised, as his name never appears again in the minutes. A copy of these by-laws will be found in Appendix C, and from them considerable knowledge of the managements of the Lodge is derived. Its meetings were held at the Fox Inn, on the first Tuesday in every month in the year. In the winter months the Brethren met at 6 o'clock, and remained together till 9, whilst in the summer months these hours were 8 and 10 respectively. It was specially forbidden that any brother should remain in the Lodge Room after 11 p.m., under a penalty of 2s. 6d. for each offence. The Officers, amongst whom it must be especially noticed were included Deacons, were elected on the lodge night preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist (Dec. 27th), upon which day they entered upon their respective offices. It is curious to note that the two Wardens were elected by the Lodge, and not chosen by the Master. On the other hand, the Master had the power of appointing Committees to enquire into any necessary business, a power which has recently been thought to have lapsed by disuse. There is a delicate euphemism contained in the by-law which provides that the Master shall fine any brother who shall enter the Lodge disguised in liquor in the sum of one shilling and order him to depart the Lodge. No record exists of the Master being obliged to use the authority thus confided to his hands. The expense of holding a Lodge of Emergency was borne by the person for whose benefit it was called. Passings and raisings were intended to be performed only in such Lodges, and the candidates were liable for the necessary outlay. The election of members was by petition, followed by a proposal in open lodge, and an approval

by ballot as at present. Unanimity was, however, necessary, as a single black bean was sufficient to exclude any proposed candidate. The fee payable on initiation was £2 15s. 0d., which included 5s. for registration in Grand Lodge, 2s. 6d. for the Lodge Secretary, and 1s. 6d. for the Tyler. A further sum of half-a-guinea was payable on the performance of each of the ceremonies of passing and raising. From the Treasurer's accounts we find that for at least 5 years, the Hon. (?) Secretary received this fee of 2s. 6d. as a matter of course. The subscription of members was 1s. a month for the funds of the Lodge, and 1s. 6d. a night for refreshments; these payments were collected monthly. Visitors were always required to pay the subscription of 1s. 6d. for refreshments, and also the sum of 1s. to the funds of the Lodge, unless they were subscribers to some other Lodge. This seems to the present generation of Masons a curious way of exercising that peculiarly Masonic Virtue Hospitality, but it is certain that the custom was then a widely diffused one, and not by any means confined to Shrewsbury. It may be partly explained by the fact that special invitations to visiting Brethren were in those days rare, the usual method of invitation being by advertisement in the local journals. It can be easily understood that Brethren accepting such an invitation might fairly be expected to pay their own expenses. In addition it may be remarked that the same visitor's name is often found recorded for several successive lodges, so that it would appear that the visitors were generally Masons who did not belong to any other Lodge, or who were detained in the town for some considerable length of time, and not brethren from a distance attending for one Lodge only. It seems only just that those of the former class should pay as much as regular subscribers, while those of the latter class were protected by a clause in the same by-law, which provided that a person visiting the Lodge should be admitted the first night free of expense.

The account given by the Secretary of the formal Constitution of the Lodge, is contained in the minute of "a Lodge

of Emergence held on the 10th Septr., 1788." It records
1788. that "after dining together in perfect harmony the Deputy Provincial Grand (*sic*) produced and had read the Warrant for constituting this Lodge, he then installed Bro. Neal Worshipfull and the rest of his Officers. He delivered a most excellent charge upon the occasion, in which the duties of a Mason were forcibly expressed, and the beauties and utility of Masonry were finely exemplified and most judiciously explained." Another account of the same Ceremony is contained in the Shrewsbury Chronicle of Sep. 19th, it is as follows—"We hear that last week the New Salopian Lodge of Free Masons was regularly constituted, and the officers installed at the Fox Inn in this town, by Major Charles Shirreff, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for this County; when an excellent dinner was provided, and the afternoon spent with that sober hilarity, and with that edifying conversation which becomes and should always distinguish Free and Accepted Masons from men of dissolute and disorderly manners."

Of Major Shirreff I have already said much in the previous part of this work in connection with the Province of Shropshire, but of his special influence upon the Salopian Lodge in particular, some further details must be given. I believe that his influence was mainly responsible for a somewhat anomalous feature in the early history of the Lodge. Constituted, as it was, under the "Moderns," it appears to have at first regularly adopted as an ordinary part of its system, three of the features which mainly distinguished "Ancient" from "Modern" Lodges. These are (1) the appointment of Deacons (2) the regular Installation of the W.M., and (3) the careful observance of both the Festivals of St. John (in June and December). Deacons were by no means unknown under the "Modern" Constitution; a few lodges might be mentioned which possessed them in 1788, and in one instance they existed in a "Modern" Lodge as early as 1734. Nevertheless the recognized opinion of Masonic Writers seems to be that under the "Modern" system they were not deemed *essential*, whereas

in "Ancient" Lodges they were invariably appointed. The fact that by a resolution of the Lodge in 1788, the year 1791 the office of Deacon was abolished, would seem to indicate a return to stricter conformity to the usages of "Modern" Lodges. With regard to the regular practice of Installation, I may, without going deeply into the question, quote from Bro. Sadler's "Masonic Facts and Fictions" the following passage,⁽¹⁾ which refers to the year 1810—"It is therefore perfectly clear," he says, "that the "Moderns" had, certainly for many years, dispensed with the ceremony of Installation, while their rivals had kept up the old custom in this respect, as will be seen by a reference to the extracts from their records." As there is ample evidence that the Salopian Lodge from its foundation until the year 1793 observed this ceremony, I am, I think, justified in regarding the practice as a proof of the theory I am advocating. In the year 1810, "The Special Lodge of Promulgation," created for "the purpose of ascertaining and promulgating the Ancient Land Marks of the Craft," passed a resolution "that it appears to this Lodge, that the Ceremony of Installation of Masters of Lodges is one of the two Landmarks of the Craft, and ought to be observed." From the date of this resolution, the Ceremony has been duly observed by all Lodges. A very similar remark may be made about the observance of the Festivals, which were never regarded with as much veneration by the "Moderns" as by the "Ancients," or celebrated with the same punctiliousness. It is true such observance was not a necessary part of any form or ceremony, still its neglect by the "Moderns" was an innovation on established usage, which was never permitted by the Salopian Lodge. This whole question might be discussed at much greater length if space allowed, but I hope sufficient has been said to make my proposition clear, and also to show that the inference drawn by Bro. Sadler from a perusal of Shirreff's letters, that he never became "Modernized" in his old age, can be more fully established by a perusal of the records of my own Lodge.

(1) at page 101.

The number of the Lodge in 1788 was 525. The **1788.** Fox Inn was situate on the site of the building now known as the Working Men's Hall. It had a fine open courtyard in front of it, to which there were two ways of approach; the one from Princess Street, the other from College Hill; it had, however, no frontage on either of these streets. The Landlord was Bro. James Trehearn, who was initiated in 1788. He seems to have been an excellent caterer, as we find many votes of thanks passed to him by the Lodge. In permitting him to be a member, a breach of the Constitutions was made, for it was there provided that "No Master of a public house or tavern shall be a member of any lodge held at his house."⁽¹⁾

The Lodge, having been formally constituted, lost no time in getting to work. In the first six months of its existence there are records of 22 lodges having been held, 9 of which are described as "Lodges of Emergence," and 14 initiations, and a total of 39 ceremonies were performed. These figures go far to show that the Brethren spared no effort to increase the strength of the Lodge. Degenerate Shrewsbury Masons of the present day, unaccustomed to many ceremonies, would shrink from the prospect of a night's work such as our Masonic Ancestors often went through. Thus, on July 4th, there were three separate initiations; on Septr. 8th, and again on Octr. 9th each of the three degrees was worked through; on November 11th there were four initiations; and on Nov. 18th four passings and a raising took place. Rapidity was also a feature of the Lodge work in this year. Thus, three brethren, passed on Nov. 11th, were raised seven days afterwards. In the Book of Constitutions to which the Lodge was then subject, and which was published in 1784, there seems to be no express law upon the point, and a duplication of ceremonies was not illegal, except in the case of making and raising, which, without a dispensation, could not be performed on the same evening upon the same candidate. In the

(1) Constitutions 1784 Art. ix., p. 308.

Constitutions of 1815, it was, however, provided, that no candidate should receive a degree at a **1788.** less interval than one month from receiving a former degree. A rigid adherence to constitutions and by-laws was often forgotten in early times. For example, we read in a minute dated Sep. 11th, that "The Rev. George Holland was proposed a candidate for Masonry, and being approved, had the honour of being initiated by the Deputy Provincial Grand." If such a high official in the Craft as Bro. Shirreff could thus tacitly sanction the violation of the 20th by-law, which provided that the ballot was not to be taken till the lodge night next after that upon which the proposal was made, it is little wonder that the lesser officers should not have hesitated to follow his example. It may be, however, that in this particular instance the act of irregularity noted carried with it its own dispensation, as it was committed by the D.P.G.M., who could have given a dispensation if necessary. Though lax in some respects, in others Bro. Neale sufficiently upheld and vindicated the authority of the Chair; on Nov. 4th, for instance, it is recorded that he fined two brethren for non-attendance. There is a curious entry under the same date which runs as follows—"This Evening much to the honour of the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, the difference subsisting between them was finally settled." We are left in the dark as to the cause of this difference, and if and how far the Lodge acted as Mediator between the parties to it.

On the Feast of St. John the Evangelist we find this entry—"Visited the Barry Lodge at Bro. Cottoms, when they returned and spent an hour with us." This visit was paid to the Trumpet Inn, and is an unique event in the Lodge history. It will be remembered that the Master and some of the brethren of the Barry Lodge were present at the opening meeting of the Salopian Lodge. The Barry Lodge could not be identified at first with any known Lodge, and considerable difficulty was experienced in accounting for its presence in Shrewsbury. However, on searching the files of the Shrewsbury Chronicle, the following

entry was found recorded on June 28th, 1789—"On 1788. Tuesday last, being the Anniversary of St. John the Baptist, a body of Freemasons in the 34th regiment (with a number of very respectable Brothers of this town) walked in solemn procession, attended by a band of music, from the Lodge room at the Trumpet Inn, Mardol, to St. Alkmund's Church." This at once indicated that the "Barry" was a Military Lodge in the 34th regiment, and as such it will be found recorded in the list contained in Bro. Gould's History of Freemasonry.⁽¹⁾ In addition to the giving and receiving of Hospitality, the Brethren also practised another great Masonic virtue, namely Charity. On Dec. 23rd we find they voted three guineas for "the charitable purpose of buying coals for the poor of the town," and that sum was accordingly paid to the Mayor.

It is noticeable that many candidates proposed and duly approved by ballot, never came forward for initiation. It must not therefore be supposed that the Lodge, even in its infancy, thankfully received the name of any candidate submitted for approval. In this year two candidates were rejected—One of these, Thomas Gray, Junr., was black beaned on June 11th, but apparently in no way discomfited by this rebuff, he succeeded in getting initiated in some other lodge, and on Oct. 25th was accepted by 525 as a joining Brother. From the Register in Grand Lodge it is evident that Bro. Gray was made in the Barry Lodge. Bros. T. Bassett and W. Bourlay were also initiated in the same Lodge.

The average attendance of members during the year was 12, and the greatest number present on any occasion was 19. Very little information is to be found in the minute books as to the social position of the members, such details as are available have been inserted in Appendix D, which is a complete list of all the members since the foundation of the Lodge. In some instances the statements contained in this list are conjectural, being inserted in consequence of entries on the credit side of

(1) vol. iii, p. 400.

the Treasurer's account. As an example the name of Bro. S. Harwood may be cited. On December 2nd, 1788. 1788, he appears to have been paid a bill of £1 3s. 6d. for stationery supplied to the Lodge, and he is accordingly described in the list as a stationer. This method of arriving at conclusions is obviously apt to lead to inaccuracy, and has been used very sparingly. In other instances the Grand Lodge Register gives us the only information we possess.

The Treasurer's Account Book shows that the relief of distressed brethren was carefully looked after. Before the close of the year we find five distinct entries of sums paid out of the Lodge funds for that purpose. The W.M. appears to have made some of these payments on his own responsibility and in his own discretion, and afterwards to have recovered the sums paid from the Treasurer. The Lodge had then no Charity Representative. From the same book the following may be quoted :—

	£	s.	d.
Warrant from the P.G. Lodge ...	...	5	5
Bible, Book of Constitutions, & Collars	4	6	6
Bro. Hall for Covering a Bible and Hire of a Horse ...	...	0	6
Liquor at the Constitution of the Lodge	7	13	0
Bro. Barclay 1 doz. New Aprons	...	1	1

In the History of the Province I have endeavoured to prove that there was no real P.G. Lodge at this time. Shirreff's letters show that this sum of £5 5s. 0d. was duly transmitted to Grand Lodge. My readers must from the third entry draw their own conclusions as to Bro. Hall's social standing, I must confess I feel unable to assist them. He is stated in the minute book to have been a Draper. The aprons worn at this period consisted of a plain white lambs skin, and were provided by the Lodge for its members. At the close of the year the Lodge consisted of 32 members, of these the names of Loxdale and Lloyd are familiar to all Salopians, and Richard Dansey was the Great Grandfather of the present Sir Richard Dansey Green Price, Bart.

Bro. Neale was again elected W.M. in this year, and 1789. the Lodge continued to grow in numbers, and to perform its work most energetically. In all 27 lodges were held, 9 of these being Lodges of Emergency ; 15 initiations, and 38 ceremonies were performed. Many apparent irregularities may be noticed in the minute books. Thus it is recorded that William Evans, Wythen Evans, John Lewis, and William Bowley were duly passed on various dates, although no record of their respective initiations was ever made ; similarly, no account is given of the passing of Richard Jenkins, although the Secretary notes both his initiation and raising. The Treasurer's books, however, shows that these apparent irregularities only appear through the defaults of the Secretary. All the proper fees were paid for the ceremonies omitted to be noticed by him, and there can be no doubt they were properly performed. Bro. Secretary, if somewhat negligent, was not allowed to go entirely unpunished, for he records on August 7th that he was fined for non-attendance, a similar fate having overtaken two other members earlier in the year. The Lodge at this time began its subscription of £5 5s. 0d. per annum to the Salop Infirmary, an Institution which was founded about 1745, and which was the second of its kind in England to begin the charitable work of relieving the sufferings of the poor, that at Winchester alone having a prior origin—a second subscription of the same amount was voted on December 28th, but it is evident that this was intended for the following year. The Treasurer gives the Lodge credit for the sum of £1 11s. 6d thus.—“Received from the Committee Half the Amonnt of a Subscription for the Poor last winter.” This return of money given in charity was, to say the least of it unusual, and it may be supposed that the distress which induced the Brethren to vote 3 guineas in the previous year must have been greatly exaggerated. The Shrewsbury Chronicle contains no traces of any special hardship or poverty existing at this period. In May it was proposed and agreed that “this Lodge attend the Provincial Grand Master at Whitchurch next St. John’s Day, and that Major Shirreff be desired to acquaint him

with our intentions." No further notice is taken of the matter by the Secretary, the Treasurer, however, 1789. takes credit for the following payments :—

June 23rd, Cleaning Sword for Wt'Ch.	0	3	0
July 7th, Expense of Bro. Innys, and the Tyler to Wt'Ch.	...	...	1 0 0

from which we may conclude that the Lodge went to Whitchurch in Masonic State. Bro. Innys was in very reduced circumstances, which will account for this payment of his expenses. A considerable sum of money was early in this year expended on the purchase of "jewills," and also in procuring glasses and decanters. A small quantity of the glass then bought is, I think, still in the possession of the Lodge ; at all events there is some in existence which has engraved upon it the No. 525, and, as the Lodge changed its number in 1792, the glass in question must be at least 100 years old. Three other entries in the Treasurer's books may here be noticed, they are :—

March 17th—Lost by light money	...	0	2	0	
May 31st—Bro. Green for 6 pairs of gloves	0	12	0
Septr. 1st—A box for a transparency		0	6	6	

From the second of these entries I conclude the Lodge provided the Brethren with gloves as well as aprons. I am not quite clear what the real functions of a transparency were, but Bro. Hughan in answer to my inquiries suggests that it was probably required for the 3rd degree, the star (lighted) being a great feature of that ceremony in years gone by.

Merit seems to have been promptly recognised in olden times, as we find Bro. Warren became Secretary on the day he was passed. There can be little doubt that such an appointment could not do much to promote the efficient working of the Lodge affairs, and the recently adopted practice, at present followed in the Salopian Lodge, of only appointing a P.M. to that office, seems a sound and judicious one.

It is apparent in this year, as in the previous one, that
1789. many accepted candidates were never initiated, as we find the Secretary ordered to write to them threatening the forfeiture of their deposit money unless they appeared in due course. Major Shirreff in a passage in one of his letters which I have not previously quoted, suggests that the Candidates held back for fear of the "marking irons." How much of truth there was in the suggestion I cannot pretend to say.

On December 23rd a Committee meeting was held to settle the arrangements for celebrating the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. The resolutions adopted by this Committee throw a good deal of light on the subject of the banquets then indulged in, and may be quoted in extenso without much comment.

It was resolved—

- "That it is the opinion of this Committee that the sum of five shillings be paid by every Brother who shall attend on that day."
- "That every Absentee shall pay 2 shillings & 6d."
- "That Bro. Trehearn shall be ordered to provide a Dinner for Thirty at two shillings each, and that all Liquors be paid for besides, that the Dinner be directed to be on the Table at 2 o'clock."
- "That the Secretary be ordered to issue Summons to all the Members on the 24th giving notice to meet at 12 o'clock in order that there may be time for the installation of the new Officers."
- "That the Steward be requested to attend early and collect the five shillings as each member arrives."
- "That an advertisement be inserted in the Shrewsbury paper that the Brethren of the Salopian Lodge intend to celebrate the Festival at the Fox on Monday the 28th inst. requesting the Company of Visiting Brethren."
- "That the Steward call for the Bill of the Dinner as soon as the Cloth shall be taken away, and pay for the Liquors as they are brought in, and inform the Master when the money collected for the day shall be nearly expended."

The paper alluded to in these resolutions was the still flourishing Shrewsbury Chronicle, to which I have already referred. It was established in 1772, sixteen years before the Lodge came into existence. A Copy of the advertisement follows:—

"FREE MASONRY."

Dec. 25th, 1789. "The Brethren of the Salopian **1789.** Lodge meet to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist at Brother Trehearn's, the Fox Inn, at 12 o'clock on Monday the 28th day of December, when the Company of Visiting Brethren will be esteemed a favour."

"Dinner on the table at 2 o'clock."

No visitors seem to have responded to this invitation, but 32 members of the Lodge attended.

Once more the election of Bro. Neale as W.M. is recorded. It is, perhaps, needless to remark that the **1790.** election of the same W.M. for three successive years is now forbidden by the Constitutions. The average attendance in this year exceeded 18, and work continued very plentiful, as a total of 28 ceremonies performed clearly shows. The Secretary again unjustly credits the Lodge with apparently irregular proceedings, but once more the accurate figures of the Treasurer's accounts correct the impressions gathered from a perusal of the minutes, and once more judgment followed hard upon the offence, as the Secretary was shortly afterwards again fined for non-attendance. That hard-working official apparently tried to get an Assistant Secretary appointed, but the Lodge reserved the question for future consideration, the opportunity for which, if it ever came, was not taken advantage of.

An example of strictness is worthy of notice, especially as it would now hardly be followed as a precedent. I refer to the case of Bro Kyffin, who was black-beaned in October, but who was re-balloted for in November and then elected, the reason given being that "some members had voted on the previous occasion whose subscriptions were in arrears."

By virtue of a Dispensation from the P.G.M. the Brethren took part in a great procession on the Festival of St. John the

Baptist. The entry relative to this event is a very
1790. important one, as it shows the strength of Masonry in
the province at this date ; it is as follows :—

“The Festival of St. John the Baptist was celebrated on Tuesday,
August, 31st, 1790. PRESENT.

Bro. Charles Shirreff, D.P.G.M.

Officers & Brethren of the Whitchurch Lodge.

Bro. Thomas Loxdale, Esqre., Master.⁽¹⁾

Officers and Brethren of the Salopian Lodge.

Bro. John Hill, Esqre., Master.

Officers & Brethren of the Egerton Lodge.

Bro. Collier, Master.

Officers & Brethren of the Wrekin Lodge.

Bro. Grant, Master of 344.

Bro. Geo. Collier, P.G. Chaplain.

and many other Visiting Brethren.

The Lodges proceeded from the Lodge Room at 11 o'clock in procession to St. Mary's Church, where after hearing Divine Service and a Sermon on the occasion, they returned to the Town Hall to dinner, and the evening was spent in Harmony and Conviviality.”

The intention to hold this procession was advertised in the Chronicle in the following terms :—

Aug. 20th. “FREE MASONRY.”

“A dispensation having been granted by the P.G.M. for the County of Salop to the Salopian Lodge for celebrating the past festival of St. John the Baptist on Tuesday, the 31st August, the brethren of the different Lodges in the County *are desired to attend the D.P.G.M.* at the Lodge Room at 10 o'clock in the morning, from thence to walk in procession to St. Mary's Church, attended by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, and afterwards to dine at the Town Hall when the Company of every visiting brother will be highly esteemed.

By order of the P.G.M.,

CHARLES SHIRREFF, D.P.G.M.”

(1) Bro. Neale had just resigned.

The account given by the same paper in its issue of September 3rd is:—"On Tuesday last a very numerous **1790.** and respectable body of Free and Accepted Masons belonging to the *Provincial Egerton Salopian and Wellington Lodges* of this County, assembled at the Fox Inn at this town, from whence they went in procession in their respective uniforms, adorned with the jewels and insignia of the order, preceded by a band of Music to St. Mary's Church." The banquet, we further learn from the same source, was conducted with "that harmony and decorum which always adorn the character of Masons."

In the Provincial History I have already indicated the importance of a comparison of these accounts. I may, perhaps, repeat here the conclusions at which I then arrived. These are 1st—that this was not a meeting of a Provincial Grand Lodge, and 2ndly—that the Whitchurch Lodge No. 1 was in common estimation regarded as a Provincial Grand Lodge, and that in fact no real Provincial Grand Lodge was then in existence. No. 344 was not a Shropshire Lodge; at this date 344 on the English Register was the Merchants Lodge, hailing from Liverpool. Bro. Grant was probably only a casual visitor. It is curious that Bro. Sadler, who kindly made the requisite search for me in Grand Lodge, cannot find the name of Grant on the register of the members of the Merchants Lodge. It may, therefore, be that 344 was some Lodge on the Irish or Scotch Register, and not an English Lodge at all. The procession was evidently carried out with considerable pomp, as the Treasurer paid £3 18s. 6d. for the band alone. The sermon preached by Bro. Collier was greatly appreciated, and he was invited by the Lodge to get it printed, or else favour them with a copy for that purpose. Eventually, as we shall see later on, he acceded to this request.

I have already noticed the resignation of Bro. Neale. He was undoubtedly a good and enthusiastic, if somewhat quarrelsome Mason. The Minute referring to his resignation of office reads thus—"After an elegant address from the Right Worshipful

Master, he resigned the Chair, which he had filled with 1790. so much honour and credit to himself and profit to the Lodge, and appointed and installed Bro. Loxdale Master, instituted Bro. Lloyd into the office of Senior Warden, and proper charges were given on the occasion." That his ability and industry were considerable is evident by the progress the Lodge had made under his fostering care ; and that his efforts were appreciated by the Lodge is seen from a minute dated May 10th, which records that "After a most excellent charge delivered by the Right Worshipful Master to Bros. R. Jones and Bowley, who had been raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons last lodge night, he gave an extraordinary fine lecture on the 3rd degree of Masonry, and afterwards one on the first, when the Lodge was closed in Peace and Harmony."

On October 5th the Lodge Room was put in mourning for the late Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland. A hatchment was ordered to be prepared, and inquiries were addressed to the P.G.M., "asking if it was necessary to observe any particular ceremony on the occasion."

A curious event took place on December 27th—On that day Bro. Loxdale resigned the Chair, and Bro. Barkley was elected unanimously in his place, and was duly installed ; he then immediately resigned office, and Bro. Loxdale was re-elected Master, and was installed in proper form. This is the only instance of 'Passing the Chair,' viz. of obtaining the rank of P.M. without having served the office of W.M., recorded in the annals of the Lodge. The rank of Installed Master, then regarded as a degree, was considered to be a necessary qualification for exaltation in the Royal Arch, and the fiction of 'Passing the Chair' was invented to enable an ordinary Master Mason to be exalted before he had presided over a Lodge as Master. The use of this fiction was at the date of the Union in 1813 declared to be no longer necessary, and any Master Mason can now be exalted. The custom, however, in some Lodges continued until a

much later period. "In Nos. 37 and 42 it lasted until 1846 and 1850 respectively."⁽¹⁾ I have found no trace of the Royal Arch being worked in Shrewsbury before the year 1797, and I therefore conclude that Bro. Barkley must, unless he was receiving a mere honorary degree, have passed the Chair with a view to exaltation in some other part of England. In the minute books of 117 many instances of several Brethren 'Passing the Chair' on the same evening may be found, but this was at a time 20 years later than the period of which I am writing.

The initial impetus now began to lose its force. Only 16 lodges were held during the year ; the average attendance was lowered to 15, and the number of ceremonies to 9. Considerable pecuniary difficulty was also felt, and in consequence the subscription to the Salop Infirmary was reduced to 3 guineas, and an application for aid from the Humane Society was refused. Subscriptions in arrear were closely looked after, suppers were discontinued for five nights, and strict economy generally enforced. These measures were successful, and at the end of the year, notwithstanding considerable outlay on distressed Brethren, the Treasurer had a balance of £12 17s. 10d. in his hands. On Feb. 1st., a Quarterly Communication was received notifying the election of H.R.H. George, Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., to the office of Grand Master ; he had been initiated in 1787. It is curious to note how the words "Quarterly Communication" early changed their meaning. Originally they implied that personal communication or intercourse which the Masters and Wardens of the Lodge were expected to keep up with the officers of Grand Lodge, and the quarterly meetings of Grand Lodge were called Quarterly Communications.⁽¹⁾ In 1791 we see that the words had come to mean the quarterly letter from Grand Lodge to the Lodges subordinate to it.

(1) Gould's History of Freemasonry, vol. ii., p. 460.

(2) Book of Constitutions 1784 at p. 206.

From the Minutes of Feb. 1st and March 1st we find
1791. that Bro. Collier was anxious about the proceeds of the
sale of his Sermon, preached in the previous year, and
which had been printed by the Lodge. The Secretary was
accordingly "ordered to make out an account of the Sermons sold
and remit the money due." This is only one instance amongst
many which might be quoted from the records, of the eagerness
with which the Brethren purchased printed Sermons. Our tastes at
the present day differ somewhat from those of by-gone generations.

Two other entries on March 1st are worth noting. The first records a resolution "that the Lodge will not take upon them to decide upon the misunderstanding which arose between Bros. Neale and Hall, and that the Secretary write to Bro Hall to attend as usual." This, Bro. Hall, with true Masonic Spirit, at first refused to do, as his enmity still existed. However, the matter was ultimately disposed of, for on August 2nd we find it "Resolved that Bro. Hall be excused paying his arrears for the past six months, his absence being occasioned by a disagreement between him and another worthy Brother, which is now amicably settled." The other entry referred to is as follows:—"Resolved that in future the Lodge be formed with the Wardens in the West, agreeable to the usage of the Grand Lodge—that the Office of Deacon be abolished and Stewards appointed in their stead." Upon this it may be remarked that the Lodge was misinformed as to the proper position of the Wardens. At this time Grand Lodge followed the usage of the present day, though at a much earlier date I believe the Wardens were found in the West. "In different rites the positions of these officers vary. In the York and American rites, the Senior Warden sits in the West and the Junior in the South. In the French and Scottish rites, both Wardens sit in the West, the Senior in the North West and the Junior in the South West."⁽¹⁾ This latter position is that shown upon an old Apron found in Ireland, which is described by Bro. D. R. Clark, F.S.A. in the Journal of the Quatuor Coronatorum.⁽²⁾

(1) Mackey's Encyclopædia.

(2) Vol. iv., part 1, p. 56.

The abolition of Deacons, when once established as regular Lodge officers, is very curious. Bro. Shirreff's 1791. views upon the change would be most interesting, if we could ascertain what they were. I have already suggested that it was probably a re-action towards "Modern" customs, caused by his excessive tendencies in favour of "Ancient" usages.

In this year we first hear of a Lodge of Instruction established in connection with the Lodge. It obtained the use of the old lodge jewels for its meetings, which were held every Tuesday Evening at the Trumpet Inn. I do not think it existed for any great length of time, as it is never mentioned again, and the minutes from time to time make it perfectly clear that this was only the first of a long series of attempts to establish such an institution.

Bro. Neale appears to have left Shrewsbury about this time, as we find the Lodge recommending him to the notice of Sir Robert Cotton, P.G M. for Cheshire, in whose neighbourhood he went to reside. His name is never again mentioned by the Secretary, but his change of residence does not seem to have brought him prosperity, for I find shortly afterwards, from the columns of the Shrewsbury Chronicle, that he became bankrupt.

On December 6th a letter was read in Lodge from "the author of Freemasonry for the Ladies." It would be interesting to see the work in question, but the Lodge apparently did not think so, as it refused to purchase a copy. There can be little doubt, I think, that the full title of the work in question was, "The Use and Abuse of Freemasonry; a Work of the greatest utility to the Brethren of the Society, to mankind in general, and to the Ladies in Particular." The author was Captain George Smith, who in 1783 failed to obtain the sanction of Grand Lodge for its publication.⁽¹⁾

A present of some candles to the Lodge by Bro. Beck may be noted, as also of a crane by Bro. Taylor. Candles, then the only illuminants, formed a very heavy item in the Lodge expenditure.

(1) Gould, vol. ii., p. 470.

In October the thanks of the Lodge were ordered to be
1791. sent to "Bro. Sketchley, of Birmingham, for his polite
attention to them in sending the acct. of the late Grand
procession at Hereford." The Lodge there was called the
Palladium, and still exists, its number being 120. It was
founded in 1762. I have no details of the Grand Procession to
supply ; but "Bro. Sketchley" was, I think, Bro. Schichley, who
in the year 1794 struck, in Birmingham, a Masonic token to
celebrate the election of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as Grand
Master.⁽¹⁾ A copy of this interesting token is now in the possession
of Bro. A. E. Lloyd Oswell, P.M. Forty members and visitors
sat down to dinner on St. John's Day in December, the Secretary's
only remark on the subject is that "the Evening was spent in
harmony and due decorum."

The average attendance in the year 1792 was only 12,
1792. and only 8 Ceremonies were performed. Three of these
ceremonies were performed in one evening upon Bro.
Partridge, whose case is deserving of some further notice. He
was a visitor, without any protest being made, at the February
lodge, but when his name was mentioned in September as a
joining brother, it was decided, as he was a member under the
"Antient Constitution," he could not become a member of a
Modern Lodge without undergoing re-initiation. He was
accordingly balloted for as an ordinary candidate, and being
accepted, was initiated, passed, and raised the same evening.
Bro. William Ford who was also a "Member of the Ancient
Constitution" was rejected when proposed under similar circum-
stances. Bro. Gould remarks⁽²⁾—"Undue stress has been laid
upon the custom which prevailed under the two Grand Lodges
of England of requiring brethren who had already graduated
under one system, to go through the ceremonies a second time
under the other. The fees for registration may have been at the
bottom of the whole affair, and in each case, as the admission of

(1) Hughan's Masonic Register, p. 30.

(2) History of Freemasonry, vol. ii., p. 461.

brethren from the rival camp in the capacity of visitors—until a comparatively late period—plainly 1792. indicates, a remaking was more a protest against the *regularity* than the *validity* of the degree to which the postulant had previously been admitted.” A converse re-making may be noted in the records of 117, which was, as we know, until the Union, an “Ancient” Lodge. Under date Jan. 9th, 1811, we read that “Mr. John Beer, Sergt. was proposed to be *ancinized*”; the Secretary, we may conclude, meant to say “*ancientized*,” if such a word may be coined for the occasion.

The Chair during the entire year was filled by the Senior Warden, Bro. Jones, as Bro. Barkley, who had been elected Master, resigned that office on Jan. 3rd.

The Lodge exercised a great amount of caution in the initiation of a Serving Brother. His note of hand for £3 7s. 0d. was required from him before the Ceremony was performed, in case “he quitted Bro. Trehearn’s (the Caterer) services before 3 years.” This was evidently to prevent the possibility of a gratuitous initiation, which might have taken place if the Brother in question had suddenly ceased to serve the Lodge.

In the previous year the Lodge appears to have lent a Bro. Johnston, who was not a member, the sum of £8 10s. 4d., and to have taken from him his notes of hand for that amount. Bro. Johnston was evidently in poor circumstances, as in this year a Committee appointed to deal with his business, accepted from his sureties “half the money due upon the notes in full satisfaction to the Lodge.” The minute then continues—“but the notes should remain in the possession of the Lodge, in order to enable the persons to whom the same are made payable, to recover the money from Johnston, and reimburse the sureties what money they should pay.”

The appointment of a Committee of Charity about this period, is worth noticing. Hitherto the W.M. seems to have been the principal almoner, except in cases where relief was voted to specific Brethren in open Lodge.

At this time, too, occurs the first mention of the
1792. "Cumberland Society for the Support and education of
Female children, daughters of Masons," called afterwards the "Royal Cumberland Free Masons School," and now the well-known Masonic Institution for Girls. The Lodge determined to support its funds by collecting 5/- from every initiate, but with considerable caution added, "provided the Lodge shall have the privilege with other Lodges to recommend proper objects for this Charity." The School was founded in 1788, and took its original name from the Duke of Cumberland, the Grand Master of the "Moderna."

The by-laws were now revised ; a copy is preserved in the Minute Book, but only three changes need be mentioned.—These are (1) that the choice of a Secretary and of the Wardens was now placed in the hands of the W.M., subject, however, to the approval of the Lodge—(2) that a single fee of £3 3s. 0d. was to be paid for initiation, no subsequent charge being made for the other ceremonies—and (3) that all polls and ballots were to be taken by the Junior Warden. The last mentioned alteration was doubtless due to the abolition of the office of Deacon, which has been already noticed.

The next entry that calls for notice relates to one of the saddest events that a Mason has ever to deal with.—"Bro. John ——, lately admitted a member of the Lodge, having conducted himself improperly, and having defrauded several members of the Lodge of money, and otherwise degraded the character of a Mason.—It was therefore unanimously resolved that the sd. John ——be expelled the Lodge, and his name be erased from the list of Members."

The number of the Lodge, owing to a general re-numbering, now became 434.

Some members of the Lodge now appear to have
1793. become anxious for a more frequent change of officers,
but a proposal to elect them half-yearly was ultimately

negatived. Funds were very plentiful, so that it was proposed to reduce the yearly subscription of 30/- 1793. (2/6 a month, 1/- being for the Lodge funds, and 1/6 for the expenses of the night) to 20/- The Brethren appear to have been delighted with the prospect, as they adopted a resolution to that effect at four successive meetings. Even this reduction, when carried out, failed to empty the Treasurer's coffers; at the end of the year we find he had a balance of £25 in hand, part of which was employed "in encouraging the production of, and becoming subscribers to the Freemasons Magazine."

At a Lodge of Emergency held on Nov. 20th the sum of 5 guineas was voted to the "relief of the British Troops then in Flanders." This was in the time of the younger Pitt, when British troops, under the Duke of York, was sent to support the coalition of Russia, Austria, Saxony, Sardinia, and Spain, against France, then distracted by Civil War, under the Revolutionary Government. The whole country seems to have taken part in the effort to assist our army. A public meeting in that behalf was held in Shrewsbury in November, and from the Chronicle we learn that another was held at Bridgnorth, "to supply the 53rd or Shropshire Regiment with 500 waiscoats as a tribute to the courage and bravery which that regiment had lately shown at Nieuport." In the following year, when the situation of the Allies was critical, the Earl of Moira was sent out with a reinforcement of 10,000 men, and after one of the most brilliant and extraordinary marches in history, succeeded in effecting a junction with the Duke of York, then nearly surrounded by forces much superior in number to those under his command. The genius of Napoleon ultimately proved more than a match for the Allies, who suffered great privations in their ineffectual efforts to oppose him.

A good part of the Treasurer's Accounts for the year is taken up by details in connection with the death and burial of Bro. Innys, who, almost since the foundation of the Lodge, had

been in receipt of relief—his rent being paid for him,
1793. and pecuniary aid constantly given. He was buried at the expense of the Lodge, the bills amounting to £10 3s. 11d.; the Brethren attending the funeral, however, provided their own bands and gloves. The Lodge appears to have seized all his effects, and sold them by auction amongst the members. A total of £19 19s. 6½d. was thus received, the details of each Brother's purchase being fully set out. There seems to have been some dispute about the rent due by Bro. Innys, as a minute of April 15th records that “The Right Worshipful Master declared his entire disapprobation of a charge contained in Mr. Bickerton's bill against the late Mr. Innys, and also declared that Mr. Bickerton never made any such demand in the lifetime of Bro. Innys. It was therefore unanimously “Resolved that the sd. charge of £1 11s. 0d. in the said bill be disallowed.” The whole history of Bro. Innys supplies an excellent instance of the exercise of the brotherly love inculcated by the Craft, and also of the close attention then devoted by the Lodge to the affairs of its members.

In another part of the same Accounts is the item £5 6s. 2d. “Cash paid for soldgers clothing,” while on the other side of the account appears “By cash recd. by Br. Steward of Sundry Br. for soldiers cloathing £4 0s. 0d.” This transaction has reference, I suppose, to the relief voted for the troops in Flanders. The 5 guineas voted out of the funds of the Lodge, seems to have been partly defrayed by private subscription amongst the members, and its value in clothes duly forwarded to the Seat of War.

This was a very quiet year in the history of the Lodge;
1794. in many instances the minutes of the meetings held only record the names of the Brethren present. Bro. Shirreff, D.P.G.M., now joined the Lodge as an honorary member. We find a trace of his quarrel with the P.G.M. in the fact that the Lodge forwarded a subscription of one guinea to the General Fund of Charity through the latter, and not through his Deputy, as in former years.

The Treasurer records on June 26th having received 5/- for the first seven numbers of the Free-masons' Magazine," but its published price does not appear. Bro. Secretary seems to have been in a hurry on Dec. 29th as his only remark is "The Lodge spent in Harmony, &c."

The question of arrears was again seriously considered in this year, and Grand Lodge was written to 1795. for advice upon the subject. An absent P.G.M. and a discredited Deputy, left the Lodge no other source of information to apply to. A Committee of Charity was again appointed, but on this occasion it received very definite instructions as to its mode of action—"It is ordered that when any person shall apply in that situation (viz. distressed) one or more of the Committee shall examine him, and if he or they discover him to be a true brother, they give an order to the treasurer for such relief as shall be by them thought necessary, and that no brother be relieved out of the Fund of the Lodge by any other means."

On April 7th a letter was read from Bro. Bourlay charging Bro. Trehearn with ill-usage, and a lodge was summoned to inquire into the matter, which accordingly met in July. The minute runs:—"The Lodge this night assembled having heard Bro. Bourlay's charge against Bro. Trehearn, and also Bro. Trehearn's defence thereto, and having heard the evidence of Bro. Jones who was present at the affray between Bro. Bourlay and Bro. Trehearn, do adjudge that Bro. Trehearn did not conduct himself as a Brother Mason towards Brother Bourlay, and therefore the Lodge doth order that Bro. Trehearn shall and do make a concession to Bro. Bourlay in the Lodge Room for his misbehaviour, which was accordingly done." One cannot help wondering from whence the Lodge conceived it had received its jurisdiction to make such an order, or what would have been the consequences of disobedience to it.

On August 4th a letter was read from Sir Robert Cotton, P.G.M. for Cheshire, recommending to the notice of the Lodge

"A Chronological and Brief History of the French Revolution," by Bro. Talma. Bro. Talma was a visitor on this occasion, but the Lodge does not appear to have bought a copy of the work in question.

In November the Lodge was invited to the Consecration of the Royal Edward Lodge. This was the Leominster Lodge, which became extinct sometime before 1832. There is now, however, a Lodge of the same name (No. 892) in the same town, which was founded in 1861. Bro. Jones, the Treasurer, died during his year of office. The Brethren attended the funeral, and refreshed themselves very liberally at the expense of the Lodge.

Bro. Thomas Gray, Junr., applied for relief, but as his name had some time before been erased for non-payment of his subscription, his application was refused. Bro. Carline, W.M., seems to have had a frugal mind, as he proposed "that all visitors in future should pay 2/6, and also that only the sum of money arising from the subscribing members be expended on the lodge night, any extra expense to be paid by the members present." These propositions were ultimately adopted, and twelve months later we find the second of them ordered to be strictly enforced. Some such arrangement was evidently necessary, as the Lodge was clearly going down hill, and not nearly so prosperous as formerly. The average attendance during the year only reached 11, and only one initiation took place.

In March we find the Lodge at conflict with its printer.
1797. "The Lodge unanimously agreed that Mr. Wood be paid for advertising the Festival of St. John once only, it appearing to the Lodge that Mr. Wood had made a wilful mistake in inserting the advertisement before the date—by advertising the festival on the 18th Dec., and dating the same the 25th."

The ordering of two columns for the use of the Wardens, leaves us in doubt whether or not the Lodge had previously been destitute of these articles of furniture.

Once again, after a long interval, we hear of Bro. Johnston's notes of hand. A Committee was now 1797. appointed to interview him on the subject. The result of this interview is evident from an inspection of the Treasurer's Book as we find in it an entry dated August as follows—"Bro. Johnston 10/- in the pound on his notes of hand £3 5s. 0d." This sum was not half of the £8 10s. 4d. previously stated to have been lent, but I cannot account for the discrepancy. The Lodge apparently never paid over this sum of £3 5s. 0d. to Bro. Johnston's sureties, which assuredly ought to have been done in pursuance of the agreement made with Bro. Johnston in 1792. Perhaps we may assume that Bro. Johnston's circumstances had now materially improved, and that he himself reimbursed his sureties for the payments made by them on his behalf.

Two Brethren in prison, recommended to the notice of the Lodge by the Egerton Lodge, were "found on enquiry not to be proper objects" of charity. It is interesting to note that at this period prison discipline allowed relief to be administered to the prisoners from outside sources. In the Chronicle of Dec. 19th the following curious advertisement occurs:—"The prisoners in the County Goal return their hearty thanks to a Gentleman Farmer for his annual donation to be laid out in beef and plum pudding for their dinner on Christmas Day."

The Festival of St. John was celebrated as usual, but the Secretary's only remark thereon is—"The Evening conducted in the best manner."

Henry Bowdler, aged only 17 years, was initiated in March, by virtue of a Dispensation from the P.G.M. 1798. (Egerton). The petition presented by Bro. Bowdler was for some reason put upon the minutes. From the subjoined copy it will be seen that it was practically identical with the form in use at the present day. "I Henry Bowdler of my own free-will, unbiassed by friends or uninfluenced by mercenary motives, do freely and voluntary (*sic*) offer myself a candidate for

ye mistiry of free masonry, it's soly from the favourable
1798. oppinion I have of the Institution makes me solicit to
become a Brother, if I should therefore be happy
enough to be accepted, I am determined to chearfully conform to
all the Rules Customs and Regulations of the Society. Witness
my Hand this first day of March, 1798.

HENRY BOWDLER."

The dispensation was in the form of a letter to Bro. Geo. Bowdler, the father of the Candidate—

"Sir—I have this morning received your letter forwarded from Whitchurch ; and by the first, in hopes this may arrive in time, I forward my permission as P.G.M. to make your son a Mason tho' under age, in case the Lodge chuse to elect him. If a regular dispensation should be necessary, I shall order you to be acquainted therewith. I beg leave to present my respects to the Shrewsbury Lodge,

Duke of Bridgewater

and am Sir

Cleveland Court,

yr. obedt. hble. Servt.,

5 March 1798

FRANCIS H. EGERTON."

Under the address was written these words—"The Postmaster at Salop is desired to order this to be delivered on Tuesday Evg. 6th March."

The certificate given to Bro. Bowdler was "signed by the Master and Wardens &c.," and is in the form of a letter addressed to him ; apparently this was deemed sufficient.

The minute of July 10th has a curt quaintness about it worth noticing, it is :—"Nothing particular occur'd."

Bro. Gray, whose name had been erased from the roll of the Lodge members, applied for a Certificate, which was refused ; he made several attempts in succeeding years to melt the Lodge into acquiesence with his wishes in this respect, but without success.

The Brethren appeared to think that they had had enough of Sermons in their previous experiences, as 1798. they now resolved not to send any answer to "a letter from Mr. Perfect of Malling with proposals for the Sermons by the Rev. Jethro Inwood, B.A."

Up to this date the number of Brethren admitted was about 90. Amongst the names of old Salopians we find the following—John Beck, Thomas Loxdale, Samuel Meire, William Heighway, John Carline, William Clement (the father of W. J. Clement, the late well-known Shrewsbury Surgeon), and James Sandford.

From this year until 1813 the downward course of the Lodge continued almost without a break. Only 10 1799. lodges were held, with an average attendance of 9 members; twice, the orthodox number to form a complete lodge was only obtained by the presence of visitors. No ceremonies of any description were performed; no lodges were held in January, February, or July; and the minutes contain no records of business transacted until December. In that month we find a Committee was appointed "to take into consideration the state of our finance and other urgent Busines's. Also our continuance of one guinea Subn. to the Grand Lodge Fund of Charity." Part of this business was certainly urgent, as the Treasurer only had 2/7 in hand at the end of the year.

The pecuniary difficulties mentioned in the preceding year caused the subscription to be again raised to 1800. 30/- per annum. Even this measure was ineffectual to prevent the existence of a deficit of £4 8s. 4d. on this year's accounts. About this time the 21st Dragoons seems to have been quartered in Shrewsbury, having come there from Bridgnorth. Four members of the Regiment joined the Lodge; they had been made in the Lodge of Industry 578, founded in Bridgnorth in the previous year. As a consequence, perhaps, of this influx of Bridgnorth Masons, the intercourse between the

Salopian Lodge and the Lodge of Industry was of a 1800. most friendly character, and mutual invitations passed between them. The members of the former Lodge attended a procession at Bridgnorth in their private capacity, and the Bridgnorth Lodge came to Shrewsbury to celebrate the Festival of St. John. The minutes also from time to time contain the names of casual visitors from Bridgnorth.

In February the Secretary notes the levy by Grand Lodge of a poll tax of 2/- per member. This tax was established in 1799 to pay off the debt on the Freemasons' Hall, which had greatly increased. Stringent regulations were made for the erasure of lodges not paying it, and in consequence many, including two Shropshire Lodges, were struck off the roll; it was exacted every year till 1810.

An instance occurs in this year of a matter which has not been previously noted, but which was then usual and continued so for many years. It appears to have been considered that the passing or raising of a brother could only take place after a proposition to that effect had been duly made and carried. The W.M. does not seem to have then had that discretion in such matters which he now exercises.

The minute of Augt. 5th discloses the first sign of the dissatisfaction of the Lodge at their accommodation at the Fox. "It was ordered that the ill-treatment of the Lodge by Bro. Trehearn should be inquired into." Accordingly in October the Lodge gave notice of its intention to move to other quarters.

The new home of the Lodge was in the Trumpet Inn, 1801. kept by Bro. Cottom, its first Junior Warden. The Trumpet was situate in Hill's Lane, Mardol. The change does not seem to have been at all successful.

In March a Bro. who wished to join the Lodge was black beaned, but in May another ballot was taken, as some of the members thought there was an error in the former one, and upon this occasion he was duly elected.

In June Bro. Clement was elected W.M. Why this election took place is not disclosed. Bro. Bassett, **1801.** who was W.M. in the first half of the year, also presided over the majority of Lodges held during the remainder of the year, but he is always described thus—"Bro. Bassett *as* W.M." Bro. Clement never took the chair at this, or any other, period.

In August the Lodge was invited to attend a P.G. Lodge at Hereford. A grand procession was in contemplation to go to Divine Service. The Ceremony was in honour of the birthday of the Royal Grand Master, afterwards George IV.

A Bro. Finch of Canterbury in this year honoured the Lodge with the first of a long series of letters with "proposals for publishing by subscription a Masonic Key, price 3/6, containing upwards of 500 different allusions and explanations (*sic*) relative to the Masonic Order, which contains full one third more than what is practised in either Ancient or Modern Lodges." The Lodge declined to subscribe, and it acted wisely in so doing. Finch was a Masonic impostor of an unusually brazen and pertinacious type. One of his works was the creation in Ireland of a fancy degree called the Order of Philippi.

In December occurs the first mention of the "Masonic Society's Fund for the relief of the Sick." This, I imagine, was the "Masonic Benefit Society," which was started in 1799 upon the same basis as all other Benefit Societies, but probably did not survive the Union in 1813.

The average attendance was again lowered, it now only reached 8 ; on three separate occasions only five members were present. Bro. Trehearn of the Fox seems to have borne no lasting animosity on account of the Lodge having left his house, as his name once more appears in the list of Members.

Ten ceremonies performed in this year recall the memories of non-flourishing days gone by, and four **1802.** raisings in one night must have kept the Lodge fully

employed. It is rather curious that Bro. Hitchcock,
1802. one of the new initiates, should have been elected
Secretary in December, his fitness for that post must
have been to a great extent a matter of faith.

As an instance of the close attention paid by the Lodge to the affairs of its members, the case of Bro. Carswell may be mentioned. For some time the Brethren had been greatly concerned about his non-attendance to his Masonic duties. The Secretary was ordered to visit him, and when that official reported at the next meeting that he had visited Bro. Carswell but could not see him, the Tyler was sent to him during lodge hours. The Tyler announced that he "found him particularly engaged, but would certainly attend next Lodge night." This promise was not kept, and the Brethren then appear to have looked upon the matter as hopeless, and did not worry Bro. Carswell any further.

The late Treasurer was requested in December "to pay immediately what money was due to the Lodge." He declared it not to be in his power to do so, "but would certainly pay it by the end of January next." The amount was £8 1s. 2d., and, so far as I can ascertain, no repayment was ever made.

The entries this year are purely formal, and do not
1803. require any notice. The only business recorded outside
the ordinary routine, is that the Tyler was admonished
for neglect of duty.

The Lodge was invited on August 13th to another
1804. procession at Hereford, but does not seem to have
accepted the invitation. The attendance of Brethren
at lodge was very small, and no business is recorded on several
dates. A letter from a Bro. Pullen was answered, "inclosing his
imaginary Notes" (? Notis). What this minute refers to I have
been unable to discover.

In September, the Mercian Lodge, Ludlow, founded in this year, invited the Lodge to join in their procession, but an answer was sent "stating the impossibility of attending as a Lodge." In return for this invitation, the Salopian Lodge wrote a letter to the Mercian Lodge "stating the necessity of well considering the custom of relieving Brethren in distress, and that caution is necessary to prevent being the dupes of impostors." The former Lodge had twice in the previous year refused assistance to applicants, as they were not fit objects of Charity, so that this letter of advice to the younger Lodge was by no means superfluous or unnecessary.

The lodges in these years were regularly held, but little interest seems to have been taken in Masonic work by the great majority of members. The average attendance was very small, and only two ceremonies were performed in the whole period. A rather quaint minute on Nov. 2nd, 1807, records that a proposition to erase the names of members in arrear with their subscriptions, "was generally seconded but particularly by Bro. Bassett." In July 1808 another invitation from Ludlow was received, another procession having been arranged for in that town.

Once more the Secretary records the expulsion of a member "in consequence of his irregular behaviour." The brother in question was Junior Warden, and was actually present in the lodge at the time the resolution expelling him was carried. The Brethren appear to have been desirous of acting very strictly in the matter, as the Secretary was ordered to report it to Grand Lodge, and the minute was signed by the W.M. The practice of confirming the minutes had not then been invented, or at all events had not yet been introduced into the Salopian Lodge, and this is only an isolated instance of such a custom, not the beginning of a regular habit of so doing.

The small attendance of members, which had now **1810-11** continued for some years, induced the Lodge to hold its meetings quarterly instead of monthly. The day of meeting was also changed from Tuesday to Monday, although no alteration was made in the by-laws. To get a larger number of Brethren together, a circular letter of invitation was sent to all Masons resident near Shrewsbury, but no effect was produced. Only three visitors appeared during the entire year 1810, and none in 1811. In the former year the total amount received by the Treasurer, including Subscriptions to the banquets, only reached the sum of £6 13s. 6d. This may account for the "inability of the Lodge to subscribe anything towards the relief of the British prisoners in France."

In December, 1811 the celebration of the Festival of St. John was postponed to Jan. 1st, 1812, owing to the election of a Member of Parliament for the Borough of Shrewsbury. The member then elected was The Hon. H. G. Bennet, afterwards Provincial Grand Master.

On Jan. 1st is the first recorded instance of the **1812.** Lodge holding its banquet in the evening. The hour was 7 o'clock, and the price of the tickets 2/6 each.

In December Grand Lodge requested a subscription towards a Masonic jewel to be presented to the Right Honble. the Earl of Moira. The answer of the Lodge was a refusal, couched in the following terms :—"As we are not subscribers to the Charity Fund, it would not be proper to subscribe, our Lodge being small." The Earl of Moira, afterwards the Marquis of Hastings, was then the Acting Grand Master, and was about to proceed to India as Governor General of that Colony. The jewel was duly presented to him, no less a sum than £1000 being spent in purchasing it. I cannot attempt to give any account of his life, interesting though it be; both as a soldier and a Mason it was full of work well done. I may, however, state that to his

influence is commonly ascribed the exemption of the Society from the provisions of 39 Geo. III. c. 99, **1812**. which was intended to suppress all Secret Societies. Had his efforts been unsuccessful in this respect, the Craft could not have continued to exist as a legal institution.

Another instance occurs this year of the custom of attending the funeral of a deceased brother. The expenses for refreshments were, however, on this occasion only 6/-

Owing to Bro. Cottom leaving the Trumpet, the Lodge had to seek a new home, and removed to the **1813**. Britannia Inn. There it remained but one year, and held only four meetings. No record of any change of officers exists, and I believe that from 1812 to 1814 inclusive, the brethren appointed in the former year remained unaltered in their respective posts.

This year was a most eventful one in the history of the Craft in England, as in it the Union between the rival Grand Lodges was effected. The great impetus given to the prosperity of the Masonic Order by this happy event cannot be over-estimated. Immediately it was consummated, the Craft, formerly divided and distracted by internal dissensions, acquired a greatly extended influence and reputation. New Lodges sprang up in every direction, and the old Lodges found the number of their members increasing rapidly. An increased public knowledge of and sympathy with Masonic work, produced renewed efforts to spread the "Light," on the part of its guardians. That success crowned those efforts is a matter of notoriety. The story of the Union is so well-known, that any attempt to relate it here may seem superfluous, but as it forms a most important page in the history of any last century Lodge, a short account is appended.

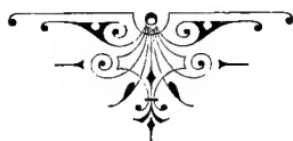
The Grand Lodge of England, established at the memorable meeting of the members of the Four Old Lodges, held in London in 1717, held, until the year 1739, undisputed

sway over all the Lodges in England, with the single
1813. exception of that belonging to the York Masons. This Body had been established in the City of York for a very long period of time and was in 1725 acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of England to be independent of its jurisdiction. Thereupon it assumed the title of the Grand Lodge of *All* England, which it retained until its collapse in 1792. Its efforts were always practically confined to Yorkshire and Lancashire. In the year 1739 the Grand Lodge of England proceeded to "consider a complaint against certain brethren suspected of being concerned in an irregular making of Masons," and ultimately ordered that "the laws be strictly put in execution against all brethren who should, for the future, countenance, connive, or assist at any irregular makings." The supposed consequences of this order are very forcibly put in a note by Bro. Northouck, the Editor of the Book of Constitutions, 1784, appended to the report of the proceedings of Grand Lodge above quoted. He says:—"The Grand Lodge justly considered such proceedings as an infringement on the original laws, an encroachment on the privileges, and an imposition on the Charitable fund of the Society. It was therefore resolved to discountenance those assemblies, and to enforce the laws against all brethren who were aiding or assisting in the clandestine reception of any person into Masonry at any of these illegal conventions. This irritated the brethren who had incurred the censure of the Grand Lodge, who, instead of returning to their duty, and renouncing their error, persisted in their contumacy, and openly refused to pay allegiance to the Grand Master, or obedience to the mandates of the Grand Lodge. In contempt of the Ancient and established laws of the Order, they set up a power independent; and, taking advantage of the inexperience of their associates, insisted that they had an equal authority with the Grand Lodge to make, pass, and raise Masons. At this time no private Lodge had the power of passing or raising Masons, nor could any brother be advanced to either of these degrees but in the Grand Lodge, with the unanimous consent and approbation of all the brethren in communication

assembled. Under a fictitious sanction of the Ancient York Constitution they presumed to claim the right of **1813.** Constituting Lodges. Some brethren at York continued indeed to act under their original constitution, notwithstanding the revival of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 ; but the irregular Masons in London never received any patronage from them. The Ancient York Masons were confined to one Lodge, which is still extant, but consists of very few members, and will probably soon be altogether annihilated. This illegal and unconstitutional claim obliged the regular Masons to adopt new measures to detect these impostors, and debar them and their abettors from the countenance and protection of Regular Lodges. To accomplish this purpose more effectually, some variations were made in the established forms, which afforded a subterfuge, at which the refractory brethren readily grasped. They now assumed the appellation of "Ancient Masons," proclaimed themselves enemies to all innovations, insisted that they preserved the ancient usages of the Order, and that the regular Masons, on whom they conferred the title of "Modern Masons," had adopted new measures illegal and unconstitutional ; thus by a new species of deceit and imposition, they endeavoured to support an existence, using the necessary precautions taken by Grand Lodge to detect them, as a ground for a novel and ridiculous distinction of Ancient and Modern Masons. This artifice strengthened their party to some degree ; the uninformed were caught by the deception, and in order to procure further support to their assumed authority, they also determined to interrupt the regular mode of succession of Grand Master by electing a chief ruler under that designation, and other officers under the title of Grand Officers, appointed from their own lodge ; convinced that the most probable means for establishing their opposition, would be by liberally conferring honours on their votaries to secure their allegiance, and induce others to join them. They framed a Code of Laws for their government, issued patents for new Lodges, and exacted certain fees of constitution, from which they hoped to raise a fund sufficient to support their power. They so

far succeeded in their new plan as to be acknowledged 1813. by many; some gentlemen of family and fortune entered among them, and even many regular Masons were so unacquainted with their origin, or the laws of the Society as to attend their Lodges, and give a tacit sanction to their proceedings—of late years, however, they have not been so successful.” Such is the account of the origin of the Great Schism which has been, until comparatively recent times, received as Gospel. It is, however, important to note that it is derived from “Modern” sources, and like all other productions of party writers, was written rather to run down the opposite faction, than to present a true view of the real facts of the case. Bro. Gould, whose opinion is worthy of all respect, considers that in the period of neglect and misrule which the Craft suffered from during the time Lord Byron was Grand Master (1747-1752), and in the summary erasures of numerous Lodges for non-attendance at the Quarterly Communications and non-payment to the Fund of Charity, we find the true causes of the Schism. Another recent writer (Bro. Sadler) considers that there is no evidence yet brought to light, which would justify him in believing that any considerable number of the so called Ancients, ever owed allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. His “Masonic Facts and Fictions” is an elaborate and able attempt to prove that the generally received account of the origin of the Schism, is the greatest of all Masonic fictions. His theory, so far as it can be presented in a few words, is this:—that there were always in existence, from 1717, certain Lodges which never owned allegiance to the Grand Lodge founded in that year; that chiefly through Irish influences these Lodges maintained the old landmarks intact in their struggles with the Society element introduced into the Craft at the beginning of the last century—and that from them ultimately developed the Grand Lodge of England according to Old Institutions, viz. the “Ancient” Grand Lodge. Whatever may have been its true origin, this Grand Lodge undoubtedly continued to grow in strength. In 1813 it counted 260 Lodges under its banner, at which date its older

rival held sway over 386. In the early years of the present century efforts were made to put an end to the existing conflict between the two bodies; and, in 1813, when the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., was Grand Master, and his brother, the Duke of Sussex, was Deputy Grand Master of the "Moderns," and another brother, the Duke of Kent, was Grand Master of the "Ancients," these efforts were at length crowned with complete success. Chiefly by a judicious exercise of their undoubted influence, the Royal brothers caused to be drawn up Articles of Union, which were ratified on Dec. 8th. A Lodge of Reconciliation, consisting of members of both Grand Lodges, met to settle uniformity of ritual and practice, and, on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the Articles were duly signed and sealed. An absolute equality between the former enemies was agreed upon, and all unhappy disputes were forgotten, and their annoyance forgiven. The precedence of the Lodges was settled by lot, in which the first advantage fell to the Ancients, and their Grand Masters Lodge No. 1 Ancients became No. 1 on the roll of the United Grand Lodge. No. 1 "Moderns," the Lodge of Antiquity was placed No. 2 on the same roll; No. 2 "Ancients" and No. 2 "Moderns" were placed No. 3 and 4 respectively, and this process was continued, the "Ancients" and "Moderns" taking alternate places, until the rolls of both were exhausted. Hence it was that the Shropshire Lodge which was No. 434 in 1792 became No. 498 in 1814.



SECTION II. (1814-1832).

The Salopian Lodge certainly shared in a full **1814.** measure in the growing prosperity of the Craft. No less than 18 initiations took place in this year. Bro. Richard Phillips, the W.M. elected at the close of the year, was also Mayor of Shrewsbury, and it seems probable that his position in the town was partly responsible for this sudden influx of candidates. In June the Lodge removed to the Unicorn Inn, at the bottom of the Wyle Cop, but remained there only a few nights, and then again changed its home to the Raven and Bell Yard Inn, situate at the top of the same street. The Unicorn has during the year 1891 been well restored, and is now a good example of the old "Black & White," style so common in this County.

Early in the year the Lodge relieved a "Bro. Mons De Largen," a French Officer prisoner of war in great distress; a strange contrast this to the refusal in 1811 to assist our own countrymen, prisoners of war in France. The contrast is doubtless explained by the altered state of the Lodge Finances.

I have now to record the most important public event in which the Lodge ever took any prominent part. On Dec. 27th a Lodge was held at the Town Hall, Shrewsbury, "for the purpose of forming a procession, under a dispensation from H.R.H. The Duke of Sussex, G.M., to go and lay the first stone of the Column intended to be erected in honour of the Right Honble. Rowland Lord Hill, K.C.B." The Bridgnorth Lodge attended as a Lodge, and including Visitors, more than 50 Masons were present at this ceremony. The following account of it is taken from the Shrewsbury Chronicle.

"On Tuesday the ceremony of laying the first stone of the Column, to be erected in honour of Lord Hill, was performed according to Masonic rule, by the Salopian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the auspices of their R.W. Master, our respected Chief Magistrate, Richard Phillips, Esq., assisted by the brethren from other Lodges. The Salopian Lodge and the Deputies from other Lodges, assembled at the Town Hall at 11 o'clock, whence they proceeded decorated with the various insignia of their different Orders, and accompanied by a band of Music to the place of the intended Memorial; where having arrived, they thrice marched round in solemn procession, and on the Master of the Salopian Lodge coming the third time opposite to the stone appropriated for the formal operation, they halted."

1814.

The Rev. Bro. James Matthews, Chaplain to the Lodge, then advanced to the platform, and delivered himself of a lengthy prayer. This prayer is too long to be quoted here, but it seems to have been a remarkable one to have been used on any Masonic occasion, as it contained frequent references to the Second Person of the Holy Trinity—and concluded with the Lord's Prayer. After the Prayer was finished, the W.M. laid the stone, and then coming forward he addressed the Architect thus:—

"Sir, As Master of the Work, I salute you, but as a Mason I greet you most heartily! May God the Divine Architect of the Universe bless your Work! May he endue you with those great blessings he was pleased to bestow on our three original Grand Masters! May he give you wisdom to continue, strength to support, and beauty to adorn this our intended work! May he grant you health, wealth, and prosperity during its whole progress, and permit you to see a complete finish, or what we Masonically term it—the net completely thrown over it."

To this complimentary effusion Bro. Straphen (a member of the Salopian Lodge), the Master of the Work, replied as follows:—

"Right Worshipful Master, Senior, and Junior Wardens, Brethren All—I have to return you my most sincere and hearty thanks for the honour you have done me this day; for the confidence you repose in me on this occasion; for presenting me with this scroll, the jewels, the tools of an operative Master; hoping by conforming to these, and a strict observance of the rules of Masonry, I shall acquit myself in that department, and with the Divine Aid of the Great Architect of the Universe and the assistance of the Brethren, I shall be enabled to complete this intended structure, so as to prove an honour to the Craft, as well as a lasting Memorial in honour of our Shropshire Hero, Lord Hill."

After the inscription had been read by Bro. Bassett, the W.M. then addressed the Lodges again:—

1814. "Brethren, This is the only honour that we as Masons can publicly confer upon our Noble Warrior. We have other honours to bestow, but, owing to the strictness of our Order, these honours must be given within the walls of our Lodge. With your permission we will return thither, and with your kind assistance perform the honours which his Lordship so richly merits from the heart and hand of every true Mason." "The band then played God Save the King ; the first verse of the National Air was sung in full chorus ; after which three times three cheers to the honour of the Shropshire Hero concluded the ceremony. The Brethren then returned in procession to the Town Hall. In the evening the festival of St. John was celebrated in their new Lodge Room at the Raven and Bell with that spirit of harmony so peculiar to Masonic Institutions."

The inscription placed upon the Column was as follows—

"The first stone was laid by Richard Phillips, Esqre., Mayor of Shrewsbury, and Master of the Salopian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, assisted by the Chaplain, Wardens, the Brethren of this, and Deputies from other Lodges upon the 27th day of December in the year of our Lord 1814, and in the year of Masonry 5814, being the Festival of St. John. The funds for this beautiful memorial, in honour of splendid talent and private worth were furnished by a public subscription raised chiefly by the inhabitants of this town and County of Salop."

Amongst minor details in connection with this event I may mention that the stone, thus laid by Bro. Phillips, weighed 4½ tons, and measured 11ft. 3in. long, by 3ft. broad, and 2ft. high. Bro. John Carline, a very well-known member of the Lodge, obtained third prize for his design in the competition arranged for securing suitable plans for the erection of the Memorial. The Lodges paid £4 10s. 0d. for the band which headed the procession, and also paid for having the bells of the Abbey Church and St. Chad's rung, besides giving a liberal fee to the "Workmen at the Column." Fifty-one sat down to dinner in the evening, and the bill for refreshments was sufficiently large to show us that the Lodge dealt out hospitality with no niggardly hand. Lord Hill was not, so far as I can ascertain, a member of any Shropshire Lodge, but the allusion in one speech of Bro. Phillips to those honours which could only be conferred upon him within the walls of the Lodge, seems to indicate that he was a member of the Craft.

In February Lord Hill called on Bro. Phillips, and
1815. asked him to thank the members of the Lodge for the honour they had done him in attending in Masonic

form to lay the first stone of the Column. Bro. Phillips must have died shortly afterwards, as in August the 1815. Lodge appeared in mourning for him. He was the only Master of the Lodge who died during his year of office. Commenting on his death, the Chronicle of July 21st remarked that—"He died whilst Mayor, an office in which he exerted himself with unwearied diligence, and for the public benefit."

An attempt was made in this year to obtain the services of Bro. Sir John Hill, Bart., who had lately joined the Lodge, to act as Master. His reply is, perhaps, worth recording—

Hawkstone,

15th December, 1815.

"Mr. Bowley, I am much obliged to you and other good friends and Brother Masons, for the hint given, that I might probably be honour'd with a high situation in your most respectable Lodge at Shrewsbury, but as I now find that at my time of life (tho' blessed with better health than most are when in the 76th year), it will not be probable that I shall be able to attend to the duties as I ought to do. Indeed was it not for this impediment I should think myself very improper to undertake anything of the sort, for altho' having regularly attended for about three years, to our late R.W. Master at Whitchurch, Major Shirreff, and having been admitted a Master, want of practice would make me a very unfit person to undertake any office in a Society to which I ever shall retain a most sincere Brotherlike regard."

I presume the words "having been admitted a Master," refer to the time when the writer filled the chair of the Egerton (Whitchurch No. 2) Lodge. The title "Right" prefixed to the words "Worshipful Master" was discontinued at the Union, but from this letter, as well as from the Lodge minutes, we see that it was, as might reasonably be expected, still used for several years in the Country.

A fit of economy led the Lodge to discontinue suppers during the summer months, and also to arrange "that no spirits should be allowed at the expense of the Lodge" during the same period.

This was a very busy year; 20 Lodges were held, and 28 Ceremonies performed. Four raisings 1816. were carried out on two separate occasions.

On May 9th it was proposed "that a procession should 1816. be made on the 24th of June to lay the last stone of the Column," and the Secretary was instructed to write to Grand Lodge for a dispensation, and also to the Chester, Bridgnorth, and Ludlow Lodges, inviting them to attend. The dispensation was duly obtained, but the minute book does not record whether or not this procession took place. Its silence upon the point leads me to believe that the Ceremony was abandoned, and this belief is confirmed by the only account of the matter contained in the Chronicle, which records that "The last stone of Lord Hill's Column, erected near this town, was laid on Tuesday 18th, being the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo." A public ceremony would probably have received more notice from a local paper than is contained in the passage quoted. The top stone of the Column could, I imagine, be laid with greater ease and safety by Operative than by Speculative Masons, and considerations of personal risk may have conduced to the absence of Members of the Lodge. The Salopian Lodge does not seem at this period to have realized that the Salopian Lodge of Charity had settled down in Shrewsbury in the previous year, or the invitation above referred to would have been extended to its members. The first mention of the latter Lodge in the minute books of the former occurs in 1819.

Suppers were again discontinued during the Summer months, but in this year this abstinence on the part of the brethren was partially compensated for by the unanimous vote that "A proper quantity of spirits be allowed."

The Lodge now again moved; this time it found a home at the Crown, which was then kept by Edward Jones, who was at once initiated, and made a member of the Lodge. It is worth noting that this removal was voted for in a lodge summoned especially to consider the subject, and that none but Master Masons were allowed to attend. In later years the practice of excluding E.A.'s and F.C.'s from a participation in Lodge

proceedings was referred to as "an old established custom." This is the first occasion upon which I can find **1816.** this custom was adopted, and there is no evidence to be found in the minute books, that either previously or subsequently to this date such a custom passed into a common practice.

New by-laws were passed, and an inventory of the Lodge furniture was made in this year, but no copy of either has been preserved. One new by-law, which was enacted at this time, provided that fines should be paid by every brother absent from the Lodge of Instruction, or on a regular Lodge night, or from a Lodge of Emergency, but it was, I think, speedily allowed to be forgotten.

A letter was received in September from Grand Lodge (?Grand Chapter) proposing to the members **1817.** of the Lodge to have a Chapter of the Royal Arch.

A very short time before this letter was written, the two Grand Chapters, which had formerly existed under the patronage of the rival Grand Lodges, had effected a Union, and the United Grand Chapter of England was evidently endeavouring to secure as many dependent Chapters as possible. No chapter was formed in Shrewsbury at this time, though, as will be seen hereafter,⁽¹⁾ the Brethren of 262 were undoubtedly surreptitiously yet innocently working the Royal Arch at this very period, without any proper charter or authority for that purpose. Such working was, however, not carried out in the Craft Lodge, as was frequently the case in "Ancient" Lodges before the Union.

The office of Deacon was now quietly re-established, without any resolution upon the subject. This was only natural, as the office was at the Union recognized by the United Grand Lodge to be a useful and necessary one.

In this year the name of Bro. Thomas Slater is recorded as a visitor from the "Operative Lodge of St. John 184."

(1) See History of Salopian Chapter.

In Bro. Hughan's Masonic Register I find that No. 184
1817. was at this date the Lodge of St. Albans, Birmingham,
but I cannot ascertain if this was the Lodge of which
Bro. Slater was a member. The existence of a truly operative
Lodge so late as 1817 must, I think, be doubtful.

Bro. Horsman, formerly a member of the Lodge, now
rejoined it, and was accepted as a member without a ballot—a
strange piece of irregularity.

About this time the Lodge began to feel indignant at
1818. the long continued absence of the Rev. F. H. Egerton,
P.G.M., from the Province, and wrote to Grand Lodge
upon the subject, requesting that a new appointment should be
made.

In response to a circular from Grand Lodge asking if any
alterations were thought desirable in the Laws and Regulations
of the Craft, a reply was sent that in the opinion of the Lodge
the Registering (10/6) and Certificate (6/6) fees, were too high.
This question of the amount of the Registering fees had been for
some time a sore point with the Lodge, and the Grand Secretary
had to write many times upon the subject, as the Brethren
practically refused to pay them to the Lodge, which was,
nevertheless, held liable for them by Grand Lodge. In June
three members, and in July one resigned sooner than pay them,
though it may be said to their credit that two years later they
rejoined the Lodge, and then paid what was required without a
murmur. One of the letters from Grand Lodge was pasted into
a blank page of the Book of Constitutions (1815), and so has
been preserved. An extract from it will show that relations
were getting rather strained.

London,

Freemasons' Hall,

"Sir and Bro.,

August, 1818.

After the numerous letters which have been written in respect of the
Salopian Lodge I did not expect to be under the necessity of addressing you
again on the same subject. The language contained in your letter is such as

I would not chuse for your sakes to lay before the Board of Finance. It begins by stating 'The *demand made* by the G.L. **1818.** against the Salopian Lodge &c.' and which according to your own showing is only the just dues and contributions payable by the Lodge and which has been too long withheld * * * * In referring you to Bro. Gilkes I mentioned he would instruct you in the correct method adopted since the Union, it is quite useless to enquire of me 'which is correct,' more I cannot say by this mode of Communication."

I am, Sir and Bro.,

very faithfully yours,

ED. HARPER, G.S.

The last sentence of this letter, though not referring to the subject for which the letter is primarily quoted, is most interesting. It evidently refers to some change in ritual, or those other matters which cannot be written of, which were settled by the Lodge of Reconciliation after the Union, but which had not yet in the Country Lodges been stereotyped in practice. In September the Secretary shortly records—"Received two letters from Grand Lodge respecting fees, which business is now finally settled." The settlement was of course made by the Lodge paying in full what was due. The actual transfer of a great part of the money due was however avoided, as the Treasurer stopped out of it the sum of £5 granted to Bro. Quick out of the General Fund of Benevolence. The passing of a Bro. Sinclair, who never was a member of the Lodge, is rather curious and irregular, especially as it seems to have been done without any communication with his Mother Lodge (No. 28). In May the following minute was written—"The W.M. having stated to the Lodge that some brother had informed Mr. P— that he was black beaned ; and also that information had been given to the wife of a brother respecting business that had been transacted in the Lodge, the S.W. proposed that the W.M. be requested to inquire into it." This proposition was agreed to, but the result of the inquiry is not recorded. Let us hope it will prove a warning to the married members of the Lodge, and teach them discretion. The initiation fee was twice raised in this year, first to 3½ guineas, and afterwards to £4.

In February the Secretary was ordered to write to **1819.** Grand Lodge "to know whether the Lodge No. 186 of the Shropshire Militia had a right to initiate persons who were not military men, and also if they had a right to admit persons who had been rejected by another Lodge." This is the first mention of 186, now 117, contained in the minutes. Grand Lodge investigated the subject thoroughly, and a report on the matter was made to it by the Board of General Purposes. A portion of this report is contained in the Quarterly Communication for June, and is as follows :—

"That a complaint had been preferred against a Military Lodge for initiating individuals who were not of the Military profession ; that, upon inquiry into the case, it appeared that the Lodge had acted under the mistaken notion, that as the Corps to which their Lodge was attached was stationary, the Laws relative to Military Lodges were not applicable to them. The Laws of the Grand Lodge relative to Military Lodges being general, and prohibiting them from initiating any person who does not belong to the Military profession, the Lodge was informed that though it was stationary, it could not initiate a civilian ; but inasmuch as the Lodge had acted under a mistaken notion, and not with any intention to disregard the laws, the Board recommended that no further proceeding should be taken against the Lodge on this occasion."

In the following year 117 changed its Warrant for a Civil one.

In May one brother complained that another had traduced his character, and the Lodge decided to inquire into the matter. It was found, however, that the evidence of non-Masons, who could not attend in open Lodge, would be required, and so the matter was allowed to drop.

A journey to London was evidently considered a serious matter in the early days of which I am writing—so much so, that a Lodge of Emergency was held to initiate a person about to proceed there on urgent business. From Owen and Blakeway's History of Shrewsbury we learn that in 1822 the journey by Coach which had formerly taken 22 hours, was then reduced to 18, and that 7 coaches ran every day. Incidentally it may be mentioned that coaches then ran daily from Shrewsbury to Chester, Hereford, Welshpool, and Newtown ; and others, 13 in number, to Manchester, Worcester, Aberystwith, Holyhead, and Birmingham.

On Feb. 7th the Lodge drew up an address of condolence to King George IV. upon the death of his father and of congratulation to him upon his own accession to the Throne. It is of considerable length, and couched in language of extreme loyalty and affection. It is, however, chiefly interesting from the fact that it was presented to His Majesty by the new Provincial Grand Master, The Honble. Henry Grey Bennett, whose name for the first time appears on the books of the Salopian Lodge. George IV. had been Grand Master, while Prince of Wales, from 1787 to 1813, and, when he resigned that office in the latter year, took the title of Grand Patron, which he retained after his accession to the Throne. In due course an answer to the address, signed "Sidmouth," was received by the Lodge, and informed them that "His Majesty had been pleased to receive the same in the most gracious manner."

In March a resolution was passed "that in future no brother shall be allowed to vote in any ballot in this Lodge, who is not a master mason and a subscriber thereto." This resolution was an attempt to establish some legal foundation for the exercise of the "old established custom," said, at a subsequent date, to have force in the Lodge. It shows that the previous instance already noticed was an irregular proceeding on the part of the Master Masons, as there was then no by-law or resolution authorising the exclusion of brethren in the lower degrees from a participation in Lodge business.

In July the Lodge sent a subscription to the Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity, No. 20, held at Chatham, to assist in replacing the regalia of that Lodge which had been burnt. This Lodge was founded in 1723; its original number on the "Modern" roll was 10, but at the Union it became 20, and still retains that number.

Under dispensation from the P.G.M., dated Dec. 27th, Andrew Vincent Corbet, of Acton Reynald, though under age, was initiated on the following day. He was the father of the

late Baronet of the same name, and was apparently, 1820. sometime before 1826, appointed D.P.G.M. by the Honble. H. G. Bennett, P.G.M. He was a most enthusiastic mason, and, even in his old age, constantly attended the Installation Ceremony in December.

In this year the Lodge invested in a painted cloth representing the Seven Liberal Arts, and ordered the Transparency to be completed. This was the beginning of an attempt to make the furniture of the Lodge more complete. In the following year we find that new pillars were ordered for the Wardens, "a Mosaic pavement, Tesselated border and Blazing Star" were supplied, and, in 1822, "a Statuary Marble Pedestal" was added at a cost of six guineas. This last article might have been expected to have resisted the ravages of time, especially as an oak case to store it in was provided, bnt it is not now in the possession of the Lodge.

In March the brethren agreed "that in future no 1821. candidate should be initiated on the night he is balloted for except in case of emergency"; a departure from what is found in modern times to be a most convenient practice.

The Lodge about this time began to worry Grand Lodge on the subject of the first part of the Book of Constitutions, "which has been paid for several years." It appears that shortly after the Union in 1813 Grand Lodge obtained subscriptions from all the Lodges for the production of this work, which was originally designed to be issued in two parts. The first part was to contain the history of the Craft in general, and the second part the rules and regulations appointed by Grand Lodge for its good government. The second part was delivered in due course, but various causes delayed the production of the historical volume, which was in fact never published. The proof sheets show that it would have been only a servile imitation of the history contained in the Book of Constitutions for 1784 edited by Northoonck, and so no great loss was sustained by its non-appearance.

A gentleman who had been proposed as a candidate for initiation in 1816, and then duly accepted, 1821. now applied for the return of his deposit money, or in the alternative to be admitted. The Lodge, with considerable dignity, informed him that "either proposition was contrary to the spirit of the by-laws, and could not be entertained."

The Committee of Management for the celebration in Shrewsbury of the Coronation of His Majesty King George IV., invited the Lodge to attend the Mayor to Church on that day. The Mayor on that occasion was Mr. Wingfield, uncle to our late Bro. Colonel Wingfield, of Onslow, P.M. 262, P.P.G.W., who died in May, 1891. The brethren very properly declined this invitation, on the ground "that it is contrary to the principles of the Craft for a Lodge of Freemasons to join in any other than a Masonic Procession."

The Festival of St. John was celebrated as usual in December, but on this occasion the enjoyment of the banquet must have been considerably damped by the knowledge that it had been previously arranged that "No Wine should be on the table at the expense of the Lodge after 12 o'clock at night." The early closing movement indicated in the first set of by-laws, seems by this time to have collapsed. On referring to the Treasurer's accounts I find that the banquet alluded to cost nearly £1 a head, so that the brethren must have made good use of their opportunities before the fatal hour had struck.

Bro. Hill, passed on Nov. 5th, was raised on Dec. 3rd, an irregularity which seems to have escaped the notice of Grand Lodge.

Early in this year it was proposed that "the old established custom of excluding Entered Apprentices 1822. and Fellow Crafts from participating in the transactions of the Lodge, be enforced." As has been already noticed the only recorded instance of this exclusion was in 1816,

and even after the resolution passed in 1820, and **1822.** already referred to as making such exclusion from thenceforth legal, it was not insisted on. The point does not appear to have been again raised, and we subsequently find that many propositions were both proposed and seconded by members of the classes thus sought to be excluded. A more proper proposal, and one more in accordance with the true Masonic spirit of equality, was carried shortly afterwards. It provided that "no brother should be raised until he had shown some proficiency in the Lectures."

In July the sum of 2 guineas was voted to the "distressed Irish."

From a correspondence with Grand Lodge about this period we learn the curious fact that in the last century the registering fee for any brother made in the Lodge, was not paid until he had been raised. This custom was pleaded as an excuse for the non-payment of the fees in the case of a brother who had been initiated in 1794, but who had left Shrewsbury before he was a Master Mason. Needless to say Grand Lodge did not recognize the validity of this excuse, and the fee was duly paid.

A purchase of the "Antiquities of Freemasonry," by **1823.** the Rev. G. Oliver, P.G. Chaplain for Lincoln, for the use of the Lodge, is an instance recorded in this year of the very commendable custom of our forefathers to keep the Lodge well supplied with Masonic literature. The Freemason's Pocket Book was always supplied to the Master, who was required to bring it with him to Lodge. Preston's Illustrations were bought when they first appeared, and many other like instances might be recorded. In the minutes of 117 the dates upon which books belonging to the Lodge were borrowed for perusal by the members may frequently be noticed, and I have little doubt that a similar method was adopted in 262.

After the consideration of an application for relief received from Hugh O'Neil, a prisoner in the 1823. County Goal, for selling goods without a license, the Secretary records—"The Lodge did not think him worthy, having offended against the Laws of the Country."

Bro. Laurence presented the Lodge with a new set of collars, and the "Execution of the Sun and Moon in stained glass" was ordered.

In May it was discovered that a brother had just been made the same evening as he had been 1824. balloted for, contrary to the provisions of a by-law passed a few years previously. The difficulty was, however, disposed of by passing a resolution to the effect that "the proceedings of this evening should not be deemed a precedent for future initiations."

Bro. Evans, in August, was ordered to make "a new Moon." The fate of the old Moon does not appear on the minutes, but in a rough draft minute-book then kept by the Secretary, it is stated to have been "made into Stars." This remarkable astronomical occurrence is only intelligible when we remember that stained glass was the chief ingredient in the composition of the lunar orb referred to.

In this and the following year the Lodge subscribed to the funds of "The Humane Society for the Recovery of drown'd persons," founded in Shrewsbury at this period. From the Chronicle we learn that the Society established a house on the river bank containing life saving apparatus, and all the usual appliances for restoring suspended animation. This Society must have been rather circumscribed in its efforts, as the field open to its operations was a rather limited one.

In November a deputation was sent to The Honble. H. G. Bennett to know when he intended to be installed as Provincial

Grand Master. This was not an unnatural proceeding, 1824. as five years had elapsed since the date of his appointment. The P.G.M. expressed to the Deputation "a wish to meet the Lodge if convenient to assemble on Friday the 12th Day of December 1824, and that the delay that had occurred with respect to his installment arose from Domestic circumstances which prevented him attending as he wished to do to the Duties, but that it was his intention in the course of next year to be installed with all the Pomp and Ceremony usual on such occasions." The Lodge accordingly met on Nov. 12th, and resolved that the P.G.M. should be received "in a manner worthy of himself and worthy of the Salopian Lodge." Elaborate arrangements were made for his entertainment, but the Secretary while carefully recording these, unfortunately omits altogether to mention whether or not the P.G.M. ultimately arrived on the scene.

At last, after repeated applications, a letter was received from the Grand Secretary, stating his "inability to inform when the first part of the Book of Constitutions would be printed, but when it did take place he would be sure to apprise the Lodge." This entry is followed by three distinct notes of interrogation, showing the opinion the brethren had upon the subject. Subsequent events, as has been already noticed, fully justified their incredulity, and the Lodge still waits for the arrival of this long paid for volume.

About this period, the Secretary, much to his relief, I should imagine, found himself provided with printed summonses.

The last event worth noting in the history of this year is the purchase of gauntlets by the Lodge for the use of the officers. A very long letter from a Bro. Whitney, P.P.G.W., Somerset, who appears to have been asked for information on the subject, has been preserved, and a portion of it may be here quoted. He says:—

"It is usual with us, to have the gauntlets made out of the same leather as the gloves for *all members*, the officers excepted, according to this shape (diagram sketched showing glove and gauntlet in one piece). This gauntlet is made simply of stout white leather. The gauntlets worn by the officers, are with the Collars and Aprons furnished at the expense of the Lodge, and of course considered a part of its property. It is detached from the glove in the following manner (diagram sketched showing gauntlet and glove as now worn by Provincial Grand Officers). With us they are made of pasteboard covered with sky blue silk to correspond in colour with the apron and collar and edged with silver lace * * * The reason we have them unconnected with the glove is, that in case any officer be absent, the Brother who officiates for him has only to slip the gauntlet over his own gloves, without being obliged to wear gloves worn by other Brethren * * * I highly approve of the Standing Order of your Lodge. Nothing gives so respectable an appearance to an assemblage of Brethren—as uniformity of dress, especially black * * * I sincerely hope you passed a pleasant day at the inauguration of your Prov. G. Master."

There is no record of any such standing order being made, but about this period some such regulation was being generally adopted by the Lodges. On the subject of Masonic clothing, I may mention that the Lodge now apparently bought aprons, and sold them to the initiates at a profit. This letter is dated Nov. 12th, so that Bro. Whitney (a relative of the then Lodge Secretary) was misinformed about the inauguration of the P.G.M. on that day, as may be seen from what has been already said.

Bro. Sir Andrew Vincent Corbet was W.M. in this year, and he seems to have made a vigorous effort 1825. to get a Masonic Hall built. A lodge was held on Jan. 31st to consider the question, and the sum of £320 was then and there subscribed amongst the brethren in £10 shares. The W.M. offered to supply the stone necessary for the purpose from his quarry at Grinshill; the P.G.M. was written to, and he replied giving his approval to the scheme, and offering his assistance to forward the same. Plans were ordered to be prepared, and success seemed probable within a very short time, but some brethren objected to the scheme on the mistaken ground that the Lodge would be liable for the expense incurred, and so the erection of the Hall was "made a private transaction," after which nothing more is heard about it. Other subsequent efforts to secure such a building in Shrewsbury have

proved abortive, and its absence, sometimes greatly **1825.** felt, is a standing disgrace to the Masons of our town.

A by-law, passed in 1820, enacted that no proposition carried at one Lodge should have the force of a Law until confirmed at the next meeting. This practice, seems at this period to have been strictly enforced. A motion was duly carried in May "that two black beans and not one should in future be necessary to exclude a candidate proposed for initiation." When the motion came on in June for confirmation, it was rejected after a full discussion.

The following entry (June 13th) illustrates another practice of the Lodge which has now quite disappeared.

"Bro. Whitney propd. that Bro. Hodskinson be pass'd to the degree of a Fellow Craft next Lodge night, which was seed. by Bro. Davies. In consequence of the above proposition considerable discussion took place, and it appeared evident that it was considered in the Lodge an act of injustice to deviate from the usual practice so far as to admit one to be pass'd on a regular Lodge night, to the exclusion of others who may be equally qualified. That the question may be set at rest Bro. Whitney prop. that a by-law be made that in future no Br. should be pass'd or raised on a regular Lodge night—That not more than 3 Brs. should be passed or raised on the same night—That no passing and raising should take place on the same night, or in other words, that one brother should not be pass'd and another raised on the same night, and that on such nights of passing or raising, no business should be transacted in a lower degree than for which the Lodge was specially summoned." This was carried nem. con., and duly confirmed in July. It must be clearly understood that the by-law thus carried introduced no innovation, but was merely a definite declaration of an ancient Lodge custom legally founded on the 6th by-law passed in 1788,⁽¹⁾ but which had been omitted from the by-laws passed in

(1) See Appendix C.

1820. Breaches of the custom may indeed be noted, but as a general rule the Lodge only worked the 1825. ceremonies of the 2nd and 3rd degrees in Lodges of Emergency, the expenses of which were borne by the brothers who were passed or raised thereat. The unfairness alluded to in the above entry is thus explained—for a brother passed or raised on a regular Lodge night escaped the expense which had to be borne by one passed or raised in a Lodge of Emergency.

A commendable instance of strictness may be noticed in this year, as it is, I think, unique. On July 11th, “two brethren proposed to be passed, were, on examination, found not qualified,” and two months elapsed before the degree was bestowed upon them.

In October the brethren resolved to have oysters instead of hot suppers in future; for how long a period this practice prevailed I cannot say. From this time, too, may be noted the custom of guaranteeing the caterer payment for a definite number of members, whether that number was actually present at the banquet or not.

The Lodge was now for the first time illuminated with gas. The pipes for this purpose were laid 1826. down at the expense of the Lodge, but the gas was supplied gratis by Bro. Jones, the landlord of the Crown Inn.

The following entry shows that the brethren used sometimes to have their supper after Lodge was opened, and resume work when supper was finished.—“Agreed, that no brother who was in the Lodge previous to its being called off to supper, should leave the same immediately after supper, without having previously to its being so called off, had the permission of the W.M for that purpose” No instance of the performance of these ceremonies of “Calling off” and “Calling on” has taken place during recent years in the Salopian Lodge, except in connection with the Installation Ceremony.

A serious domestic disturbance must now be recorded.

1826. In November the Inner Tyler was charged with an attempt to carry away wine, on false pretences, on the previous Festival of St. John, and with using gross impertinence to the Steward because he was prevented from so doing. The minute proceeds :—“N.B.—the pretence assigned was that the girls asked for it—the impertinence was calling the Steward a mischief-making meddling fellow, a shabby fellow, and many other words of the same import.” The Tyler’s defence was that “the girls (?waitresses) wanted some wine, and called the members a shabby set of fellows for not allowing them anything to drink, whereupon he had spoken to Bro. Thomas, who gave him two glasses of negus for them,” and that this was what the Steward objected to. As Bro. Thomas vonched for the trnuth of this statement, Bro. Mallard was exonerated from the charge of stealing, but relations between the Steward and himself being necessarily rather unpleasant after what had occnred, his services were dispensed with for the future. Shortly afterwards he was again elected Inner Tyler, and served the Lodge most faithfully in that capacity for very many years.

The election of officers was now changed to the month of November in each year.

A correspondence with Grand Lodge about subsciptions to the Fund of Benevolence shows incidentally that there were 32 subscribing members in this year.

A cushion and flannel waistcoats were provided for the comfort of initiates.

All record of Bro. Colley’s initiation was omitted by the Secretary, thongh he was duly proposed and accepted, and snbsequently passed and raised.

Owing to the increase of travellers at the Crown Inn, the Lodge was obliged to change its quarters after a tenancy of

nearly 12 years. Once more it returned to the Fox. To enable the landlord to accommodate them, the 1827. Brethren advanced him £30 to build and fit up a room. The situation of the room thus built was at the back of the Inn, with an entrance from College Hill. After this move the Lodge initiated the landlord, Edward Oliver, but as Bro. Oliver never held any office in the Lodge, his initiation was, by the Constitutions of 1815, quite regular. Before the Union it would have been irregular. An inventory of the furniture then taken has not been preserved.

The Province was now once more without a P.G.M., and the Lodge after obtaining a dispensation direct from Grand Lodge to initiate a serving brother, wrote complaining of the situation of the Province, and soliciting instructions on the subject.

A copy of "the very elegant and appropriate speech" made by the W.M., Bro. Samuel Johnson, at the first meeting of the Lodge at the Fox, was, on Oct. 6th, ordered to be inserted in the provincial papers. Expecting to derive some information therefrom, I have searched the files of the Chronicle from that date until the end of the year, but no trace of the speech is visible anywhere.

The new Lodge room seems to have been built in such a manner as to cause an interruption of the 1828. access of light to the premises of a Mr. Wilding, who forthwith issued a writ against Bros. Oliver and Groves, the former as the owner of the Fox, and the latter as the builder of the room. The Lodge decided to take the opinion of Counsel in the matter, and a committee was appointed to draw up a case. Mr. Wilding was, however, not acting in a very hostile manner, and he shortly afterwards accepted the sum of £14 7s. 6d. in full satisfaction of all his claims.

A silver tobacco box was in this year presented to

Bro. Bassett "for his revered and esteemed services to
1828. the Salopian Lodge." He joined the Lodge in 1788,
and had been a subscribing member for 40 years.
During that period he had always been a most regular attendant,
and had filled the chair no less than six times. It was also
arranged at the same time that, when the funds of the Lodge
would allow of it, a similar compliment should be paid to Bros.
Taylor and Carline, who were both initiated in 1790, and had
each also filled the chair six times.

In October we find the Lodge again stirring in the
matter of the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master. The
other Lodges in the Province were written to and invited to join
the Salopian Lodge in their endeavours to get the office filled up,
and to share in the expense incident to such endeavours. These
other Lodges were only three in number, viz.—117 (whose
minutes for this period have been lost), the Lodge of Industry,
Bridgnorth, and the Mercian Lodge, Ludlow (which was finally
dissolved in this very month, after a long period of inaction.)

The money spent in building the new Lodge room, and
1829. the payment to Mr. Wilding to avoid legal proceedings,
seems to have exhausted the resources of the Lodge,
and a very quiet year was consequently spent. No meeting was
held from May 1st to Oct. 5th, and a strict determination not to
run into debt is evinced by the following resolution, which was
duly carried. Resolved—"That in future no proposition for the
expenditure of any portion of the funds of the Lodge be taken
into consideration until it has been ascertained that the Treasurer
has actually money in hand to defray the expenses thereof,
exclusive of any arrears owing to the Lodge, and over and above
any debts owing by the Lodge, as also the expenses of the night
on which such proposition is made." Notwithstanding this rigid
rule, the Lodge ended up the year indebted to its Treasurer in
the sum of £9 5s. 8d. It is however quite evident, independently
of all questions of finance, that the Lodge was now going down

hill rapidly. Its members were decreasing largely by resignations, and few new members came forward to fill **1829**. the vacant places. The average attendance was only about 9, and little or no work was done.

The new year brought no sign of amelioration—the finances went from bad to worse, and work vanished **1830**. utterly. The minute-book contains nothing beyond a bare list of the members present at Lodge, with the single exception of a proposal to dissolve the Lodge “owing to the inattention of several members to its duties.” A Lodge of Emergency was called to consider this proposal, and the fact that only 9 members attended it, is in itself a proof of the low ebb to which matters had come. These nine were, however, all good men and true, and they unanimously resolved—“that the Lodge should not be dissolved, and that each Brother will use every means in his power to support it.”

The making of a solitary candidate in this year was but the last flicker of the candle, and in March it **1831**. was proposed that “the Lodge do not meet again until called together by the W.M. (Bro. W. J. Clement), requesting, at the same time, that his Worship would endeavour to assemble the Brethren in such numbers as formerly.” The next meeting was not held till November, and as it then appeared that many brethren had abstained from attending Lodge owing to its being held at the Fox Inn, a Committee was appointed to look out for a more agreeable place of meeting, and report their opinion to the next Lodge. This is the last entry in the Minute-book until Nov. 23rd, 1836, and as the minute of the **1832-6** last mentioned date follows immediately after that of Nov. 15th, 1831, there can, I think, be little doubt that the Lodge did not meet during the interval. Sufficient vitality was however left in it to enable it to keep up some connection with Grand Lodge, and in 1838 when it applied for permission to celebrate its Centenary, sufficient evidence of that continuing connection was found in the Grand Lodge records, and the

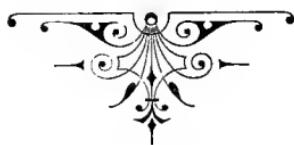
permission sought for was duly granted. Until the 1832-6 recovery of the Treasurer's Account Book⁽¹⁾ for the period 1788-1843, no records in the possession of the Lodge threw the slightest light upon the darkness of this obscure period in its history. In this book there are, however, several entries which may be regarded as confirming the evidence unearthed in Freemasons' Hall, and, as they are quite unknown to any member of the Lodge, they are here given in extenso:—

Postages	—23d Septr. & 9 Nov. 1831 & 29 Feby. and 6 Aug. 1832	...	...	0	3	4
„	5 Sept. & 5 Decr. 1832. 6 Mar. 24 Apl. 1832 & 7 June 1832	...	...	0	4	2
„	October 33. Goolden 5d. 1833. Aug. 12 & Dec. 4th 1833	...	...	0	2	1
„	Nov. 13. 1833	...	...	0	0	10
1833						
Nov. 19.	—Remitted to Grand Lodge subscription from 18 Brethren to Fund of Benevolence for 1831	...	...	1	16	0
	Do. Registering fees & certificate for Wm. Heighway Jones	...	...	0	17	0
	„ Subscription from 11 Brethren to Fund of Benevolence for 1832	...	...	1	2	0
Postages						
1834	5 March 30 April 3 December	...	...	0	2	6
1835	23 March 29 April 2 Sept. & 2 Deer.	...	...	0	3	4
1836-7	27 April and March 1. 1837	...	...	0	1	8
1836	Nov. 23rd—Remitted to Grand Lodge for 8 Brethren to the Fund of Benevolence for 3 years by payment of Bro Whitney			2	8	0

In my opinion this page of figures indicates to a nicety the exact state of the case. The Lodge did not meet, but, though always in arrear with its payments to Grand Lodge, managed to pay sufficient to tide over the period when erasure must have

(1) This book together with another kept by the Steward, was in the year 1891 kindly entrusted to my care by Bro. G. J. Groves, 117, for presentation to the Lodge. It had doubtless been in the possession of his grandfather, who was an old and valued member of the Lodge.

been ever growing nearer, and, having escaped extinction, on its resumption of work paid off all arrears. **1832.6**
The postages given in this list were undoubtedly paid on the Quarterly Communications from Grand Lodge, and the fact that the Treasurer paid them for five years is tolerably conclusive evidence that he, at all events, did not regard the Lodge as extinct by the mere fact of no meetings being held.



SECTION III. (1836-1892).

It was in the year 1833, during the period of inaction
1836. through which the Lodge passed, as mentioned at the close of the preceding section, that its number was changed to 328. At the same period The Salopian Lodge of Charity became 135.

The first information we possess as to the resumption of work by the Lodge is contained in a minute of the meeting already referred to, which was held on Nov. 23rd, 1836. On this occasion the brethren present were Sir A. V. Corbet, Bart., William J. Clement, William Cooper, Junr., William Heighway Jones, John Carline, James Whitney, Thomas Groves, and Samuel Johnson. A communication having been read from Grand Lodge requiring the Lodge to pay the arrears due from it to the Fund of Benevolence, it was resolved that the Lodge should resume its meetings. A Committee was appointed to select a Lodge room, and in December the Raven Inn was selected. The Raven Inn was situated on the present site of the Raven Hotel.

The arrears due to Grand Lodge were duly paid, a few
1837. of the old members rejoined, and some candidates for initiation came forward; meetings were regularly held, and the Lodge was soon placed on the firm footing which it has ever since retained. The day of meeting was changed to the second Monday in the month, and has never since been altered. From this date the names of members of 135 are frequently recorded as visitors, and on the Festival of St. John in December, appears the first instance of an interchange of civilities between the two Lodges, which continued to be practised in the same form for many years. The minute runs as follows:—"Bros.

Horsman and Teece were requested to visit the Lodge No. 135, and offer the brethren Brotherly Greeting. A **1837**. deputation consisting of Bros. Drinkwater, Lea, and Owen from Lodge 135 visited us and gave Brotherly Greeting." The entire minutes of this year are copied out a second time into the Secretary's book, verbatim in all important particulars with those immediately preceding. The solitary variation is that the year is always written 1838 instead of 1837. As the minutes for 1838 follow immediately in proper order, it is impossible to explain how such a mistake could have been made. The Secretary would have been better employed in noting the election of officers for the following year, which he has omitted to do,

In July, 1838, Bro. Samuel Wood, then House Surgeon at the Salop Infirmary, was initiated. His **1838**. name is still familiar to all Salopians. While still an Entered Apprentice he was elected Secretary, but, notwithstanding his inexperience, the minutes kept by him show a distinct advance on those of many of his predecessors. The practice in each Lodge of confirming the minutes of the preceding one was now first adopted, and now also for the first time we find it regularly recorded that the Lodge was "closed in form and harmony," words which shortly afterwards were changed into those with which we are now familiar.

The Lodge was again moved from the Raven to the Lion Inn, and, as it now contained 21 subscribing members, the funds permitted a resumption of the banquets, which since 1836 had not been held regularly. It may be noticed that visitors at these banquets were still required to pay their proper share of the expenses, as if they had been full members.

The last instance in which the interference of the Lodge was requested for the purpose of settling a quarrel between two members is recorded in this year. As the quarrel was over a disputed account, it is little wonder that the Lodge refused to meddle in the matter.

The Earl of Zetland, Pro. Grand Master, having died 1839. in this year, the Lodge went into mourning. The Public Rooms in the Market Square, now known as the Music Hall Buildings, were commenced in March. The Lodge was invited to be present at the laying of the Foundation Stone by the Honble. Thomas Kenyon, but refused the invitation on the ground that the Constitutions of the Order did not allow Masons to appear as such in an unmasonic ceremony.

In April the name of "Bro. Price (?initiated 1814) of Salopian Lodge of *St. John* 328" appears as a visitor. An old member of the Lodge who was then not a subscribing member is clearly referred to, but this is the only place in the whole records of the Lodge where the words "of St. John" are added to its original title—"The Salopian Lodge." I am, however, informed by a very old member of the staff of the Shrewsbury Chronicle, that when he first joined the office of that paper, circulars were frequently printed for *some* Lodge of St. John, which was then considered the premier Lodge in the Province. This could not apply to the Lodge of St. John, Wellington, which was not founded until 1852, and must refer to some page in the history of the Salopian Lodge which is completely blotted out from its records.

In May we find the brethren had invested in an organ which cost nearly £22. As further evidence of increasing luxury may be noticed the fact that the hour of meeting was changed to 5 o'clock, and dinners instead of suppers were regularly provided. Dinner seems to have been partaken of before lodge was opened, for, in November, a discussion took place as to whether it would be pleasant or advisable "that any brother be allowed to bring a friend, not being a Mason, to dine with the Brethren; the Brother introducing him paying all his expenses," and the conclusion arrived at was that as such a visitor would have to leave immediately after dinner, "it could not be pleasant to him, nor would it be agreeable to the Brethren."

A minute of a lodge held on Dec. 9th records that "Bro. Grenville Jones presented an Antique ring 1839. dug up in a field near Haughmond Abbey, which appears to have been a signet ring, and on which is the following inscription surrounding a Death's Head and cross Bones above which is an Hour Glass with a pair of wings, and on either side a mattock and spade, supposed to have been a signet ring of one of the Abbots of Haughmond Abbey.—To be worn by the W.M. on all Lodge nights, and used as a signet ring by the Lodge.—The ring has on the inside the letters W.L." A rough pen and ink sketch is drawn in the minute book, which corresponds with the above description. The inscription referred to is—*QUALIS VITA FINIS ITA*. Bro. Grenville Jones is dead, and it has been impossible to discover under what circumstances the ring was found. In the "Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society"⁽¹⁾ will be found an article by the Rev. W. A. Leighton on "Three Ancient Rings found in Shropshire," one of which was the ring in question. The account given by that learned Antiquarian is as follows:—"Among the ruins of Haghmon Abbey, Co. Salop, some years ago, was found a gold seal-ring, massive, but of clumsy form, the broad rounded oblong face of which bore in shallow incisions the following device. In the centre a human skull, frontal view, below which was a thigh bone lying horizontally, and on the right side a pick-axe and on the left a shovel; above the skull an hour glass with a candle-stick and taper on either side and a pair of expanded wings; around the verge the motto *QUALIS VITA FINIS ITA*. Within the hoop were the initials W.L. As the above emblems of mortality and the motto were identical with similar ones existing on the monument of Sir William Leighton, Chief Justice of North Wales in the time of Elizabeth, in the Chancel of Cardington Church, Co. Salop, coupled with the initials, there could be no doubt in appropriating it to the Judge. It was no doubt one of the rings which it was the custom of those times for Barristers when raised to the rank of Serjeants-at-Law to present to each

(1) Part 2 Vol. 2 page 289 (April 1878).

of the Judges of that time, and this particular ring was **1839.** probably that presented to his contemporary Richard Barker, Recorder of Shrewsbury and Judge of North Wales, whose family then resided at Haghmon Abbey, and whose brother, Rowland Barker, of Haghmon, had married for his second wife, Cecilia, daughter of Sir Edward Leighton, of Wattlesborough." There seems no reason to doubt the substantial accuracy of this passage, and the Lodge tradition pointing to a monastic origin may be considered as untenable. Sir William Leighton, it may be added, died in the year 1607, which date gives an approximate idea of the age of the ring. In the Volume from which the foregoing quotation is taken there are two engravings of the ring, made from a wax impression obtained by Mr. Leighton when it was exhibited in the Museum formed by the Archæological Institute, on their visit to Shrewsbury in 1855. A comparison of these engravings with the sketch in the minute book shows several discrepancies. The latter omits the candlesticks and tapers, and has two cross-bones instead of a single horizontal one. Mr. Leighton asserts that from the wax impression taken by him "an electrotype was made which is now the only existing representative of the lost ring," but his statement is inaccurate, as another impression in wax and a sketch of the ring had been taken by Bro. S. Wood at the time of its presentation. As some members of the Lodge may not be aware of the fact, I may mention that during the Ceremony of the Installation of our W.M. Elect, the I.P.M. takes a ring from his finger and places it on the finger of the W.M. Elect, who, during his year of office, should wear it on all Masonic occasions, and use it as a signet ring on all Lodge business. The ring now used in this ceremony is a copy of that presented by Bro. Grenville Jones, the original having been unfortunately lost during the Mastership of Bro. Nicolls in 1862. This copy was made from the wax impression and sketch in the possession of Bro. S. Wood. It differs from the engravings already referred to in not showing the candlestick and taper on either side of the hour glass. A similar remark applies to some impressions

in wax, presumably of the original ring, given to Mr. H. W. Adnitt of Shrewsbury by Mr. Leighton, **1839.** and it must, therefore, be a matter of considerable



doubt whether the engravings are accurate in this respect. The accompanying woodcut is a reproduction of the larger one contained in the Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society. In one respect the present ring is undoubtedly inaccurate ; at the back of the seal the letters W.M. are engraved, and these certainly ought to be W.L.

On April 13th Bro Joshua P. White was initiated. The name of Bro. White is one that will **1840.** long be held in loving remembrance by the members of the Salopian Lodge. Sprung from a Masonic family (both his great uncle and uncle were, in their respective generations, Grand Secretary), he early in life joined the Lodge, to which he continued a subscribing member until the day of his death in 1890. He thus completed the Jubilee of his connection with the Lodge before the G.A.O.T.U called him away from our midst.

On the same evening as Bro. White was initiated arrangements were made for sending a Committee to London to try and obtain a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with the Lodge. This Committee consisted of Bros. J. Carline, S.W., Saml. Wood, J.W., T. Carline, W.M., C. B. Teece, and J. Whitney. The result of their efforts will be noted later on.

The brethren were again dissatisfied with their accommodation at the Lion, and eventually determined to meet for the future in a room then situate on premises at the rear of the spot upon which the New Fire Office in High Street is now being built. This room was accordingly fitted up at considerable expense.

The dissatisfaction felt by the Salopian Lodge about the

non-appointment of a P.G.M. seems to have spread to
1840. the other Lodges in the County, as in September the
Anchor and Hope Lodge, Woore, 644, sent round a
memorial upon the subject.

In this year a subscription of one guinea was given to
the Testimonial to be presented to Bro. Robt. T. Crucifix, M.D.,
P.J.G.D. Bro. Crucifix was the originator of the Asylum
Scheme for the assistance of aged Freemasons.

It is sad to relate that in December a brother resigned on
the ground of "want of leisure and inclination to penetrate
further into the mysteries of the Craft"; he had been passed,
but not raised. No record of his rejoining the Lodge exists, but
he must have done so, as he acted as W.M. many years
afterwards.

From the Treasurer's accounts we find the Lodge paid for
the erection of a monument over the grave of Bro. Thomas who
had recently died.

Bro. J. P. White was secretary for the year though
1841. only an Entered Apprentice. His duties were, however,
light, as nothing of interest took place, and no lodges
were held in the summer months. Two separate attempts were
made to found a Lodge of Instruction, but Shrewsbury was not
destined to possess such a valuable Institution for many years to
come. It is clear, however, that the Salopian Lodge had
recognized the utility of such a Lodge, without which work must
often be slovenly and inaccurate.

The Lodge now appears in the character of a Landlord;
1842. early in the year negotiations were entered into with
the Shrewsbury Glee Club for the use by its members
of one of the Lodge rooms. The terms offered were £5 per annum
for the lower room and £8 for the upper one. The Treasurer
received £4 for the "rent of cottage," but this sum was, I think,
rent for some small building attached to the Lodge rooms.

Another purchase of gauntlets shows that the officers still wore these appendages. The time when they ceased to be worn is not recorded in the minute books. **1842.**

A proposal was carried in April that "a little ale be procured on every regular Lodge night for the refreshment of the labouring brethren." This, it is presumed, meant for consumption during the time lodge was open and work actually in progress, for the refreshment department at the banquets seems to have been conducted in the usual manner.

It is curious to note that on the Festival of St. John, Bro. J. P. White, who was unable to attend, sent Bro. Clement, who was not then a subscribing member, to fill the post of Senior Deacon. Bro. Clement apparently found this opportunity for Masonic duty pleasant, as he immediately afterwards rejoined the Lodge.

Pecuniary difficulties were at this period very great, and many Lodges of Emergency and various **1843.** Committee meetings were held to consider the matter.

The causes of this straitness of means are easily found, as the Lodge had for two or three years been undoubtedly living far beyond its income. The rent, coal, and taxes for the new Lodge Room in High Street amounted to over £30 per annum, which was nearly if not quite as much as the total amount subscribed by the members, leaving no margin for charity, refreshment, and incidental expenses. In addition, the cost of furnishing the Room had been very great, and as a consequence at the end of the year a balance of nearly £70 was due to the Treasurer. Under these circumstances another move became essential, and the Lodge returned to the Raven and Bell Inn. A subscription list, which ultimately produced £18, was opened; several brethren forgave the Lodge small bills owed to them; some articles of non-masonic furniture were sold; arrears were collected as far as possible; and a strict course of economy was begun. It is

pleasant to be able to record that these measures were **1843.** effectual, and by the close of the year 1843 the debt of £70 due to the Treasurer was converted into a credit balance in his hands amounting to £1 12s. 9d. It is evident from a study of the history of this period that the brethren were deeply attached to the Lodge, and determined at all costs to keep it in existence. In the many meetings held not a single suggestion was ever made that it should be discontinued. All worked together manfully and made the necessary pecuniary sacrifices, and the difficulty was disposed of triumphantly. It seems that apart from pecuniary questions the move was a wise one. The rooms were very damp and unhealthy, and in consequence many members refused to attend. The landlords, too, recognized only one duty as incident to the ownership of property, namely that of receiving their rent regularly.

On May 3rd the Lodge forwarded through Bro. Sir A. V. Corbet, a letter of condolence to Grand Lodge on the death of the Duke of Sussex, G.M. I have already indicated how important a part this Royal Brother had played in the Union of the rival Grand Lodges in 1813, and his efforts for the good of the Craft fully deserved the recognition which they always received from the hands of our Masonic ancestors.

Bro. Sir A. V. Corbet was at this time, as I have already noticed, D.P.G.M.; a week later he was asked by the Lodge if he would accept the office of P.G.M. should he be appointed thereto. At first he seemed inclined so allow himself to be nominated, but ultimately changed his mind, and declined to act even after his patent had been sent to him.

A Bro. Nash was in May paid £2 10s. for lectures; what the subject of these lectures was I cannot say, as the Secretary passed them over in silence. Two of his best known lectures on the "Ladder of Jacob" and "Mount Moriah" are mystical harangues which scarcely repay perusal.

About the same time the Lodge took a guinea ticket in the Distribution of the Masonic Fair at Bath, **1843**. but was not successful in winning the magnificent Masonic furniture, costly jewels, organ, &c. then drawn for, which had originally been purchased at a cost of £645 15s. 0d., and used at the Consecration of the Royal Sussex Lodge.

The attempt to obtain a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with the Lodge was now seriously undertaken and ultimately proved successful. The Petitions to Grand Chapter then prepared are full of information ; they are given verbatim, in connection with the history of the Chapter, at a subsequent page.

Nothing of interest occurred in the year 1844, being the second in succession in which the chair was **1844-5**. occupied by Bro. S. Wood.

In the beginning of 1845 the brethren went to Wenlock to attend the funeral of Bro. Hinton.

A brother who applied for a recommendation to the Benevolent Fund had to be refused as his subscription was in arrear ; and, "having no further call upon their influence, the votes and interest of the Lodge for the same fund were left in the hands of the Grand Secretary." The same plan was subsequently often adopted.

In March it was regularly proposed and carried "that any Mason not a Member of the Lodge, may be passed or raised in the Lodge after due notice, for the sum of £2 10s. 0d." Two instances at least might be given of this having been done in previous years, although no by-law or regulation of the Lodge allowed of it. The lease of the Old Lodge Room in High Street, continued to be still a source of trouble, as the Landlords held the Lodge liable for the rent. A committee appointed in 1844 to settle the matter having neglected to do so was reproached by the Lodge for their lukewarmness, but eventually cleared themselves of this charge, and induced the landlords to cancel the

lease "on payment of £30 from those brethren who
1844-5. were members of the Lodge at the time the unfortunate deed was executed, together with the further sum of £6 10s. derived from the sale of old furniture." Bro. H. T. Wace, who was chosen as W.M. for the ensuing year, declined the honour on the ground of illness, and Bro. J. P. White was elected in his place. Bro. Wace was initiated in 1838, acted as W.M. in 1847, was appointed P.G.S. of Works on the formation of the Province in 1852, and is now the only living officer appointed on that occasion.

A serious family squabble seems in this year to have
1846. upset the harmony of the Lodge. As a consequence five resignations, three of which were contained in one envelope, were received in one day. The cause of this disturbance cannot be exactly described, even if it were desirable to do so. This much, however, seems clear, that the dissension arose because some members felt that transactions in public life of which they did not approve, rendered those taking part in such transactions unfit for Lodge honours.

A subscription was raised to present Bro. Thomas Groves, who was then Mayor of Shrewsbury, with his portrait. The portrait proved to be an excellent likeness, and after hanging on the walls of the Lodge room for several years, was ultimately presented to Bro. Groves, and it is now in the possession of his family.

The minutes for several lodges held in this year contain the names of visitors from the Roden Lodge, Wem, which had just been warranted. This Lodge we know from other sources had a very short active existence, and all mention of it ceases in the same year, though it was not formally erased till 1859.

Contemporary history is illustrated by an entry which
1847. records the payment by the Lodge in February of a subscription of one guinea towards "the relief of the Irish and Scotch districts suffering from the scarcity of food."

The failure of the potato crop, a fruitful source of trouble in the Sister Isle, was in this year almost **1847**. complete, and great distress was the natural result.

The Lodge we learn incidentally was at this period in possession of 48 votes for the Benevolent Fund, which, following the precedent established in 1845, were left in the hands of the Grand Secretary to use as he thought fit.

In December the Lodge wrote to the other Lodges in the Province on the subject of the non-appointment of a P.G.M. The entry relative to this matter has been fully considered in the Provincial History, but I may here, perhaps, repeat that it is chiefly interesting as showing that only three Lodges in all were in working order at this date, viz.—262, 117, and the Roden Lodge, Wen.

Very little of any interest took place during this period. Lodges were not held very regularly, and few **1848-50** members attended to their Masonic duties. In Jan., 1848, only three members and the Tyler attended ; the Lodge was, nevertheless, opened in the 3rd degree, bnt no work was done.

In 1849 the sum of £3 3s. Od. was voted towards a testimonial to Bro. Wm. Henry White, G.S. Bro. White had on several occasions placed the Lodge under great obligations to him. He was most active in supporting the Petition for the Chapter in 1843, and subsequently presented to the joint Province of North Wales and Shropshire the handsome Sword now in the possession of the Province of Shropshire. The Rev. E. H. Dymock, afterwards for many years D.P.G.M., was elected W.M. for the year 1851.

In February, 1851, occurs the first mention of the name of the late R.W.P.G.M., Sir Watkin Williams **1851**. Wynn, Bart. In that month the Lodge invited him to allow himself to be nominated for the office he afterwards filled

so successfully, and, in December, when a visitor,
1851. an intimation was received from him that he would accept the post if appointed.

In this year, also, was consummated a most curious incident in the history of the Lodge, namely, the amalgamation with the Salopian Lodge of Charity ; the joint Lodge thus formed retaining both Warrants. The minute books of both Lodges are strangely silent as to the reasons for and negotiations previous to this amalgamation. It appears, however, that on the 5th of May a meeting of the subscribing members of both Lodges was held for the purpose of taking into consideration measures best calculated to promote the speedy union of the two Lodges. At this meeting Bro. J. N. Heathcote, W.M., 135, and Bro. E. H. Dymock, 328, presided. A resolution having been carried that the amalgamation would materially benefit Freemasonry in the County, a series of regulations for the management of the joint Lodge were made. Of these I may quote four—

- 1st—"That the Salopian Lodge, 328, should have priority of number and take precedence of the Salopian Lodge of Charity."
- 2nd—"That Bro. Dymock should continue in the chair until his year of office should expire, and that Bro. Heathcote should succeed him."
- 3rd—"That after the proposed amalgamation, in the event of a distant dissolution, an Arbitrator should be chosen from among the Brethren representing the interests of each Lodge to decide upon the merits of the evidence produced, whose decision should be considered final."
- 4th—"That an inventory of the property belonging to each Lodge should be taken and numbered, and that such of the Lodge furniture of No. 135 should be used in the Amalgamated Lodge as should be required ; that the remainder be safely put aside, with this understanding, that, in the event of a separation, each Lodge should claim and be allowed by the arbitrators its own furniture, and be placed on exactly the same position regarding the Jewels and Furniture as before the amalgamation."

Upon these terms the union took place, and took effect from the October meeting of 328. From that date the minute books contain the names of brethren of 135 present at and voting in the proceedings of the Salopian Lodge. The presence of these names in such an informal way renders it very difficult to obtain an absolutely correct list of the bona fide members of the latter Lodge.

In January a Committee of the two Lodges was formed to consider new by-laws for the joint Lodge, but 1852. it is doubtful if this Committee ever proceeded to work, for in February we find the first traces of the dissolution of the union. It was then proposed to hold a Lodge of Emergency at the end of the month to consider the whole question of the amalgamation. This was accordingly done, and a resolution carried unanimously thereat "that the Warrant of 135 be given with a sufficiency of furniture for carrying on the said Lodge to any number of Brethren not less than seven who may be approved of by the Brethren of Lodge 328." The reason for this sudden dissolution is stated in a pencil note at the end of the minute book to have been due to a private communication from the Grand Secretary, to the effect that the amalgamation was illegal. Living witnesses of the event have, however, informed me that the first steps towards separation were taken at the instigation of Sir Watkin Wynn, who, in preparing, as he then was, for the post of Provincial Grand Master, could not but regret the loss of precedence to the Province involved in the probable erasure of such a low number as 135 from the roll of Lodges under his care. On the separation being effected, it is clear that many of the former members of 135 preferred to remain under the banner of 328, and, as a consequence, the former Lodge was for some time in a precarious condition. At its first meeting in March it was, however, intimated that several members of 328 had joined it to help to keep it going until more prosperous times set in. These joining members were welcomed warmly and admitted for a very small subscription. In a very few years No. 135 was in full working order again, and has ever since continued to flourish. This amalgamation was, I believe, the foundation of the real feeling of friendliness existing between the two Lodges—a friendliness never disturbed by the petty jealousies and squabbles so common between two Lodges in a small town.

The establishment of the Provincial Grand Lodge of

Shropshire and North Wales caused a great influx of 1852. joining members about this period. The Salopian Lodge was evidently then regarded as the leading Lodge, and the chief avenue leading to Provincial honours. As a consequence it may be noted that the Lodge had for the following few years more subscribing members than at any other period of its existence. In 1852 there were at least 55 on the roll. The influence of the P.G.M. was soon apparent in the higher social position of the new members of the Lodge. During the period 1850 to 1870 it may safely be asserted that scarcely one of the Shropshire County families was without a representative belonging to the Craft.

On Dec. 29th the two Shrewsbury Lodges with the then newly established Lodge at Admaston (now 601) joined in celebrating the Festival of St. John. On this occasion 51 brethren attended the banquet.

The gift of two guineas from the Mayor of Shrewsbury 1853. to the Widows and Orphans Fund is worth recording, as His Worship was not a member of the Craft. His example in this respect is imitated more rarely than it deserves to be.

The initiation fee was now raised to 5 guineas.

In April Bro. Walter Reginald Corbet, son of Sir A. V. Corbet, was initiated just before he left England for the Crimea. The next time he was heard of by the Lodge was when the sad intelligence arrived that he had died on his way home again.

On October 26th was held the first Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in Shrewsbury since the date of the installation of the P.G.M. The Lodge worked two initiations and a passing, so that with the Provincial business a heavy afternoon's work was got through. In this and the previous years Grand Masonic Balls were held in Shrewsbury, the attendance in both instances being exceedingly large.

When the Auditors had examined the Lodge accounts for 1853, it was found that the Treasurer 1854. had in his hands a balance of £108. Of this sum 10 guineas was sent to the Masonic Institution for Boys, and private subscriptions amounting to 25 guineas were added thereto; £10 was also voted to the Patriotic Fund raised for our Crimean Army. A considerable part of the balance was spent in laying down wine for the use of the Lodge, a cellar to store it in, at the Raven and Bell Inn, being provided only upon payment of a heavy corkage fee. This was the beginning of the Lodge cellar. It is evident from the report of the Wine Committee on this occasion, that the Brethren then, as now, had a weakness for Port. The Wine "Whip" at this time seems to have varied in amount according to the quantity consumed.—No wine, it may be noticed, was allowed to be taken from the cellar after 10 p.m.

Bro. Guise, in October, presented the Lodge with a floor cloth prepared from a beautiful design by Bro. Randal.

Bro. Heathcote was presented with a P.M. jewel and plate, with a suitable inscription, for his services to the Lodge.

Bro. Churchill the W.M. who had been seriously ill for some time, died on Jan. 9th, during the time 1855. the Lodge was at work. On his decease, Bro. Guise was elected to fill the vacant chair, and at the next meeting the Lodge appeared in Masonic mourning. The round bottomed decanters now in the possession of the Lodge were a present from Bro. Churchill. Bros. Chandler and Andrew, old and respected members of the Lodge, also died on a Lodge night, as many of my readers will doubtless remember.

The Lodge was again in mourning in October on account of the death of Bro. Sir A. V. Corbet, who survived but a short time the death of his son already noticed. Bro. Corbet had been a subscribing member from his initiation in 1820, and had always taken a keen interest in all that concerned the Craft.

In August a great Masonic picnic was held on the
1855. Wrekin. Masonic festivities were at this time largely patronized.

The following minute is a curious one—"The Lodge being in the 3rd degree it was then called back to the 1st degree in order to elect a Master for the ensuing year, when the present W.M. (Bro. Guise) was unanimously re-elected and received the congratulations of the Brethren, and the Lodge being recalled to its duties in the 3rd degree, the W.M. was installed and received the usual honours. The Lodge was then closed down to the 1st degree." The power vested in the W.M. of a Lodge to "call back" into a lower degree, is, I think, rarely used in Shropshire.

In January, a P.M. jewel, purchased out of the Lodge
1856. funds, was presented to Bro. J. L. Rowland for his valuable services as Secretary. The Brethren of the Lodge may be interested to hear that Bro. Rowland in addition to being a good Mason, was an excellent amateur wood carver, and that to his skill and kindness they are indebted for the handsome snuff box they now occasionally use.

In many Lodges held during the year lectures on the tracing boards were given by the W.M. (Bro. Guise), in the absence of any regular work—a practice which might well be adopted more frequently in the present day.

The Festival of St. John in December was not celebrated till the following month, when the R.W.P.G.M. and many of his officers honoured the Lodge with their presence.

Bro. Dovaston was initiated in this year—he is now the senior subscribing member of the Lodge.

The Lodge now again changed its quarters from the
1857. Raven and Bell Inn to the Lion Hotel. In March Bro. Guise was presented with a P.M. jewel. He thoroughly deserved this compliment as he had worked and continued to work well for the Lodge and also for the Province.

The Brethren seem about this time to have lost their taste for music, as they decided they had no longer any use for the organ, and presented it to Bro. Bloxam, who had for many years filled the post of Organist.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held in Shrewsbury on August 8th, it was, as then usual, held in a Craft Lodge. The method seems to have been this—The Craft Lodge having been duly opened by its officers, the R.W.P.G.M. attended by his Officers entered in procession. The P.G. Officers then assumed the posts vacated by the Lodge Officers, and the P.G. Lodge was duly opened—and, when its business was finished, duly closed. The P.G. Officers then retired, and the Craft Lodge work was resumed.

In October the Brethren assembled in mourning for Bro. Rowland who had just died.

In January the following entry occurs :—"The Lodge was then opened in the 2nd degree and almost immediately afterwards was closed in that degree. Bro. Riou Benson having answered the necessary questions then retired and the Lodge again opened in the 2nd degree." This indicates a small mistake in ritual which will be easily recognized.

Bro. Charles George Wingfield, whose recent death is so universally regretted, joined the Lodge in this year, and remained a subscribing member until his death.

On April 5th Wynnstay, the residence of the R.W.P.G.M., was burnt to the ground, and on the 12th of the same month an address of condolence was sent to him by the Lodge. The following passage from this address sufficiently indicates the feelings of the Brethren :—

" But one sentiment pervaded the hearts of all the Brethren present, and it showed itself by an unanimous desire to express to you Right Worshipful Sir our feelings of sincere sympathy, earnest condolence, and heartfelt thankfulness; sincere sympathy with you in having now to look upon the ashes of that noble pile of building so dear to you from the earliest

1858. associations and ancient family recollections and so suddenly reduced to ashes by the ruthless flames—earnest condolence at the enormous loss (yea in many things irreparable) of so vast an amount of valuable property—and above all our heartful thankfulness that under God's Good Providence you yourself and Lady Wynn and the guests and inmates of your House, have been preserved alive amid the perils of that fearful night."

In the following month this address was suitably acknowledged by the R.W.P.G.M.

The by-law referring to the election of new members was in this year altered—it being then finally settled, as is now the law, that one blackball in ten should exclude any proposed candidate.

1859. An election to the post of Physician to the Salop Infirmary took place early in this year. The vote of the Lodge was "left to the W.M. to vote as he may think proper."

The Lodge, owing to the Lion being without a tenant, now moved to the Raven Hotel. Considerable difficulty was experienced as to the proper disposal of the Lodge wine, as the Raven authorities refused to store it. Ultimately it was sold by private auction amongst the members, and with part of the proceeds a quantity of new furniture and jewels was purchased.

A new by-law was now added to those already existing. It provided "that it shall be one of the duties of the W.M. regularly to attend the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, or in his stead a P.M. or one of his Wardens as he may deem fit to appoint. The travelling expenses being borne by the Lodge Fund."

1860. An old minute book, entrusted to Bro. Oakley for presentation to the Lodge, was gladly accepted. This book cannot now be identified.

A Finance Committee sat in the latter part of the year, but their report is not given by the Secretary. One result

of this report is, however, discernible in the fact that the compulsory attendance of the W.M. at the **1860.** Quarterly Communications was now reduced to twice in the year.

The R.W.P.G.M. honoured the Lodge with his presence on the Festival of St. John in December. His attendance at the Installation Ceremony was very constant.

On a further consideration of the new by-law referring to the attendance of the W.M. at Grand **1861.** Lodge, it was entirely rescinded.

A vote for 15 years for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was purchased by the efforts of Bro. Onions, who exerted himself to collect from the Brethren the sum necessary for that purpose. The portrait of Bro. Groves already referred to was now presented to him.

The costly and handsome set of mauls at present used by the Lodge was in this year presented by Bro. **1862.** H. V. Jones, and a record of his kindness was entered on the minutes.

Bro. Brightwell, who had for many years filled the post of Treasurer in the most able manner, was voted an acknowledgement of his services; a presentation was also made to him, but of what nature is not recorded. The sum of £10 was also given to the Lancashire Relief Fund. The old ring, presented by Bro. Grenville Jones in 1839, was lost by the W.M. whilst on a visit to London, and a copy had to be procured as already mentioned, but this was not done till 1865.

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Salopian Lodge in January. **1863.**

From this year the meeting of the Lodge in May was discontinued, and the present system of meeting only in the months from October to April was adopted.

The last formal renumbering of all the Lodges was now
1863. carried out by Grand Lodge. In this renumbering the Salopian Lodge 328 became 262.

Bro. Wingfield was in this year W.M. At his installation
1864. 43 subscribing members of the Lodge were present.

This is the largest number of subscribing brethren ever present in the history of the Lodge.

A proposition that "members living more than ten miles from Shrewsbury and who had been subscribers for ten years, should only pay for the future a subscription of 5/- per annum, and 5/- for each banquet attended by them," was almost unanimously negatived.

From this date the dues were paid yearly instead of quarterly.

Bro. Cureton, who was now a very old man, and had acted as Tyler for many years, was granted an allowance of 3/- a week for the remainder of his life. He did not long enjoy the allowance as he died in February, 1867.

These were three very prosperous years, during which
1865-6-7 plenty of work was done, and the average attendance of members reached its maximum. From the point of view of a historian they are, however, uninteresting, as little out of the ordinary routine of Lodge life took place. A study of the list of new members supplies practically the whole Lodge history. I may, however, note that Bro. Randal, P.M. was presented with a jewel for his valuable services, and that Bro. Guise, P.M. failing to get a reversal of the decision of the Lodge, given in 1864, on the subject of a reduced subscription for old members, even though he offered many different modifications of the original proposition, resigned.

In March the sum of £2 2s. 0d. was subscribed to the
1868. Palestine Exploration Fund; and in December £10 was voted to the Zetland Memorial. The Earl of

Zetland was D.G.M. in 1839, Pro. G.M. in 1840 under the Duke of Sussex, and G.M. from 1843 to 1871. **1868.** On his voluntary retirement in the latter year an address was presented to him. "The address was supplemented by a testimonial consisting of the sum of £2730, together with a silver inkstand; the latter passing into the possession of the Earl, and the former constituting the 'Zetland Fund' for the relief of distinguished brethren who might become distressed—of which the disposal was to rest with Lord Zetland, and after him the Grand Master for the time being."⁽¹⁾

In this and for several years afterwards a curious mistake was made by the respective secretaries in noting the installation of the W.M. for the time being. This mistake is contained in the following sentence, which occurs in the minutes for each successive year.—"The Lodge was then opened in the third and past masters' degree." At the Union in 1813 it was "declared and pronounced, that pure Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more; viz.—those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch." Installation is therefore a ceremony only and not a degree.

A most unpleasant incident occurred in this year in the black balling of the son of an eminent **1869.** member of the Lodge when proposed for membership, a dispensation having been obtained for his initiation, though under age. The resignation of the father was, of course, immediately given, but some explanation evidently took place, as the minute referring to his resignation was not confirmed, and he remained a member of the Lodge for some time afterwards.

For the first time in the history of the Lodge its W.M. (Bro. G. W. Fisher) attended the Festival of the **1870.** Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and took with him a subscription of ten guineas.

(1) Gould vol. iii., p. 25.

On October 10th the Lodge once more began to meet
1870. regularly at the Lion Hotel, being obliged to leave the Raven Hotel through the "refusal of the proprietors to comply with its not unreasonable requirements."

The sum of £2 was voted to the Widow of Bro. Boulter Brearey, who had been initiated in the Lodge in the year 1820.

An elaborate report was in January presented by a
1871. Committee appointed to deal with the question of arrears, no less a sum than £119 being then unpaid. As a consequence of this report the names of several brethren were erased, only about £16 being ultimately recovered.

Bro. Mallard died in this year ; he had been Tyler since the year 1824, with one short interval caused by the bringing of the unfounded charge of stealing wine against him.

The W.M. (Bro. Cecil Peele) presented the Lodge with the handsome Ballot Box now in use.

The present system of considering the "Whip" paid after the banquets as belonging exclusively to the Wine Fund, and not to the General Fund of the Lodge, was at this time adopted.

1872. The by-laws were now once more raised.

In Nov. the present R.W.P.G.M., Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart. was elected a joining member of the Lodge. He has held in succession every office in the Lodge from I.G. to W.M., and in each and all of these proved himself an excellent working mason. The Lodge is proud to still number him amongst its subscribing members.

Bro. R. M. Hickman died in this year, and a warm letter of sympathy and regret was written to his family.

In April Bro. Alfred Salwey of Ludlow, late Chairman
1873. of the Quarter Sessions for the County of Salop, and now Chairman of the County Council, was elected a joining member.

At the same meeting the account presented by the Clerk of the Peace for the County for recording the **1873**. list of members of the Lodge was ordered to be paid. This is the only reference in the Lodge books to the legal necessity, still insisted on, of registering the names of all members of Lodges in accordance with the provisions of the Secret Societies Act, 1799. Such registration was one of the conditions attached by the Legislature to the exemption of Masonic Bodies from the provisions of that Act.

With the view of dispensing casual relief upon an uniform system, arrangements were now made with 117 that the Almoner of that Lodge should also discharge the duties of that office for 262, the two Lodges to share the expense equally between them. This arrangement still continues, and is certainly a most useful one, as it prevents the indiscriminate distribution of Charity.

A donation of £10 10s. 0d. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was voted in April, and **1874**. the sum of £5 to the sister of a deceased member of 117 in October.

Bro. E. Cresswell Peele, W.M. presented the Lodge with a Past Master's jewel, and received the **1875**. thanks of the Lodge therefor.

A donation of £10 10s. 0d. was voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys in February.

New collars were provided for the use of the Officers.

In this year H.R.H. The Prince of Wales was installed as Grand Master. The Lodge on this occasion was represented by Bros. E. C. Peele, W.M., J. H. Redman, S.W., E. M. Wakeman, J.W., J. B. Cooper, J.D., Sir Offley Wakeman, W. Blakeway, P.M., E. Andrew, P.M., and J. P. White, P.M.

The Lodge now began a regular Subscription to the North Wales and Shropshire Charitable **1876**. Association.

On May 5th a Lodge of Emergency was held ; it was 1876. attended by both Lodges in Shrewsbury, and addresses, congratulating him on his recovery from his prolonged illness, were presented to the R.W.P.G.M. Sir Watkin Wynn. One passage from that presented by 262 may be quoted :—“ We beg respectfully to offer you a most cordial welcome to the Province on this our first Masonic gathering since your return, and unite in an earnest hope that you may long be enable to fulfil those high duties in the Craft which you have for so lengthened a period discharged in the Province. Under your rule and guidance the Craft has greatly prospered and extended in this and neighbouring Counties, and we sincerely trust that for many long years to come we may have the honour and pleasure of working under a Provincial Grand Master so kind as you have ever evinced yourself.” This was more than language of mere empty compliment, for it expressed the real feelings of every thinking Mason in the Province.

1877. The W.M. Bro. E. M. Wakeman, presented the Lodge with the dagger now used by the I.G.

Bro. John Nigel Heathcote, P.P.G.J.W., died after a long and useful Masonic life. He was W.M. of 117 in the year 1851, of 262 in the following year, in which year also he was appointed the first P.G.J.W. of the then new Province of North Wales and Shropshire. Few of our deceased brethren were more industrious or better Masons.

The Lodge voted the sum of 20 guineas, to which another 5 guineas was added in following year, towards the Sir Watkin’s Presentation Fund, collected to celebrate the completion by the R.W.P.G.M. of 25 years of Office in his exalted post.

This is the last year in which the rejection of a proposed Candidate for initiation took place.

Nothing of any interest is recorded in this year in reference to the Lodge. It was, however, an eventful **1878**. year in the history of the Craft, as in it the difference between the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Orient of France led to the final rupture between the two bodies. The Grand Orient substituted absolute liberty of conscience, instead of a belief in the existence of God, as its one fundamental religious principle, and the Grand Lodge of England was therefore forced to direct all its subordinate Lodges not to admit to their meetings any brother, unless (1) he had been duly initiated in a Lodge professing belief in the existence of the G.A.O.T.U., and (2) himself professed that belief. Every Lodge was ordered to insert such direction on its minutes, and to see that it was carefully observed.

The transfer of £20 from the Lodge Fund to the Wine Fund in this year shows that in 1879, as well **1879**. as in 1889, the Wine Whip was sometimes insufficient to cover the expense of the quantity of wine consumed. In the latter year, however, the difficulty was met in a different way.

The death of Bro. Samuel Wood severed another link that bound the Lodge to the remote past. Bro. Wood, well-known in Shrewsbury as an eminent Surgeon, was initiated in 1838, filled the chair in 1843 and the following year, and took an active part in the foundation of the Salopian Chapter, 262. He was P.G.A.D. of C. in 1852-3, and P.G.J.W. in 1856-7.

Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., the W.M., presented **1880**. the Lodge with some new collars.

Once more the appointment of a Committee to deal with the large number of Subscribers in arrear may be noted; but, like most of its predecessors for the same purpose, its efforts were productive of little good.

At this time the Deacons took an inventory of the
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Lodge furniture and effects, which has, however, not
1880. been preserved. Under the present by-laws that duty
now appertains to the office of the Junior Warden.

Towards the end of the year the Lodge supported the petition for the foundation of the Lodge at Newport, which was consecrated in the following year, and named "The Audley Lodge." It was the last Lodge in Shropshire founded in the old joint Province.

For almost the last time we now read of the appointment
1881. of a Committee to make inquiries about the practicability of getting a Masonic Hall in Shrewsbury, to be used chiefly for the purpose of the Craft. No report of their labours in such a good cause is recorded, but the result is evident, inasmuch as the Hall still remains unbuilt. Of the utility of such a building there can be no doubt, and the Brother, if any, who will in the future be mainly instrumental in procuring its establishment, will lay the Masons of Shrewsbury under an obligation, which no gratitude they can give him will ever discharge.

An inventory of the old Lodge books was taken in this year, but it, like all similar documents of prior date, has disappeared.

A subscription of ten guineas was voted to the
1882. Institution for girls, and was placed on the list of the R.W.P.G.M. who attended the festival as a steward.

1883. Bro. J. P. White for the second time filled the chair in this year.

The great growth of the Craft in the Joint Province now led to a general desire that it should be divided, as it was found inconvenient to work so large a district

from one centre. However, the Salopian Lodge in answer to a letter from the Segontium Lodge, Carnarvon, 606, replied—"That whilst the Lodge cordially agrees with the desirability of separating the Province of North Wales and Shropshire, they consider the present time inopportune, and would defer any discussion thereon, until our respected P.G.M., Sir Watkin Wynn, Bart., P.G.M., is in a better state of health."

The sum of ten guineas was voted to each of the three Masonic charities for the purchase of permanent votes; the harmonium now in use was also purchased at an expense of £19.

The Lodge now began its subscription of 2 guineas to the Eye and Ear Hospital in Shrewsbury, and another 1884. ten guineas was invested in the purchase of votes for the Masonic Institution for Boys. To this Institution the boy, France, an account of whose satisfactory progress was read out at the P.G. Lodge held at Ludlow in September, 1891, was shortly afterwards elected. He was a candidate earnestly supported by the Salopian Lodge.

The W.M., Bro. R. A. Craig, P.P.G.R., and the Stewards were appointed to act with a Committee 1885. appointed by the Salopian Lodge of Charity 117, to make arrangements for a joint Summer pic-nic. So far as 262 was concerned this pic-nic did not come off; the Lodge never appears to have cared for un-masonic festivities.

On the deeply regretted death of the R.W.P.G.M., a letter of condolence was sent to Lady Wynn and was warmly acknowledged by her.

Bro. Thos. Sullock Stooke was W.M., but his 1886. year of office was a quiet and uneventful one.

The sum of 25 guineas was voted to the Masonic
1887. Institution for Girls. In this year the chair at the
Festival of the Institution was taken by the
R.W.P.G.M. Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart, P.M.

Bros. Andrew and Chandler both old and valued members of the Lodge died on the evening of a Lodge meeting. The former was W.M. in the year 1874 and 1882, and was P.G.D. in the years 1878-9. The latter was W.M. in 1861, and acted as P.G.R. in the two following years. It will be remembered that the same coincidence was noted with respect to the death of Bro. Churchill in the year 1855.

The Lion Hotel being now closed the Lodge changed its quarters to the Music Hall, but remained there only for a few months and then again removed to the old Museum Rooms.

In this year the Lodge celebrated its Centenary. A
1888. Committee was appointed to consider the best method of celebrating that most interesting event, and decided that, in addition to obtaining permission to wear the "Regulation Centenary Medal," an Initiation Ceremony should be worked, and a sketch of the Lodge History be read prior to the banquet. To this banquet it was also decided to invite all living members of the Lodge whether subscribers or not. The Warrant is dated the 13th of May, 1788, and on the day following, 100 years afterwards, the Centenary was celebrated. The programme settled by the Committee was gone through, and Bro. Tredinnick had the honour of being initiated on such a special occasion, in the presence of nearly 60 brethren. The sketch of the Lodge History was prepared and read by Bro. R. A. Craig, P.M., P.P.G.R., and was most highly appreciated by the large and interested audience. It dealt chiefly with the social side of the past life of the Lodge, and with those amusing entries recorded by the successive Secretaries from time to time, ere the close supervision of Provincial Grand Lodge had cramped the development of individual eccentricities in this respect.

A copy of the Centenary Warrant will be found amongst the Appendices. It is chiefly remarkable **1888**, from the fact that, doubtless through a desire for brevity, no mention of the number 434 by which the Lodge was called from 1792 to 1813 is inserted, and the terms of the recital referring to the general renumberings in 1832 and 1863, do not disclose that the Lodge was once numbered 328. The correspondence with the Grand Lodge prior to the grant of this Warrant was carried out entirely by Bro. W. E. Harding, P.M., P.P.G.W. The only difficulty the Lodge had to experience was in connection with the years 1831 to 1836. The semi-dormant condition of the Lodge at this time has been already dealt with on a previous page. It will, I think, be sufficient here to remark that from the books of Grand Lodge sufficient evidence was produced to ensure the grant of the Warrant so eagerly sought for. Such evidence mainly consisted of entries of payments made by the Lodge for the period in question. On the books of the Lodge being placed in the hands of the Grand Secretary for inspection, that official discovered that the names of many members on the Lodge Roll had never been registered in Grand Lodge, this being especially the case between the years 1800 and 1816. He then suggested that the Lodge would probably like to make the Register complete, but as the Secretary records:—"The Brethren did now show that anxiety to have the Registry complete, as it would mean a considerable payment to Grand Lodge."

The Lodge was fortunate enough to receive a Centenary birthday present from the R.W.P.G.M. in the shape of two decanters, facsimiles of some old ones carefully preserved and valued by the Lodge.

The W.M., Bro. P. M. Berkeley, P.D.G., presented the Lodge with an exceedingly handsome **1889**. banner designed by himself, such presentation being

intended as a memorial of his year of office. No **1889.** gift could have been more acceptable to the Lodge, as it had never previously possessed such a necessary ornament.

The wine Fund being in an unsatisfactory state, various proposals were considered for placing it on a better footing. These proposals indicated considerable ingenuity on the part of the brethren proposing them, but ultimately the simple plan of increasing the wine whip was adopted, and has, I believe, produced satisfactory results from the Treasurer's point of view.

The death of Bro. J. P. White in this year, though it **1890.** was not unexpected, was a great blow to the Lodge.

On his death the last link that bound us to what may be called our past history was severed ; the Lodge lost a true hearted member and faithful Mason who had served it well ; and all of us lost a brother who carried out in every action of his life the dictates of true Masonic spirit. He was initiated as we have already seen, in 1840, and was Master in 1846 and again in 1883. He was also a member of 117, of which Lodge he filled the chair in the years 1855 and 1857, after having taken a very prominent part in re-establishing it after the amalgamation in 1851-2.

He was appointed P.G. Treasurer of the Province of North Wales and Shropshire in 1852, and continued in that office till the separation of the joint Province in 1885, he also occupied the chair of the Senior Warden of the Province in the year 1883. He was always especially proud of the gold snuff box presented to him by the Provincial Grand Lodge as already mentioned, and it has many times circulated round the dinner table of 262. He frequently expressed his intention of bequeathing it to the Lodge on his death, but his final Will contained no reference to the subject, and his representatives refused to recognize an existing, but informal, expression of his wishes as binding upon them. The snuff box was accordingly sold by public

auction, and fetched the sum of £37, one quite beyond the reach of the Lodge finances. In the closing year 1890. of his life Bro. White was unable through illness to accept an invitation from the two Shrewsbury Lodges to be present at some celebration of the jubilee of his connection with the Craft, and the celebration was according allowed to fall through. Shortly afterwards he passed away to the Celestial Grand Lodge, his funeral being attended by a large gathering of Shropshire Masons.

The only other event in this year which I need record is the gift by Bro. W. E. Harding, P.M., P.P.G.W. of a charity box in the shape of a column standing on a pedestal. The efforts of Bro. Harding in the cause of all the Masonic Charities are unwearying, and he proves a most efficient and energetic Charity Representative to the Lodge. The box is used for collecting the donations of the brethren after the banquet, and the sale of its contents by the W.M., who acts in a truly professional manner, is productive of much amusement and keen competition, if not of profit to the pocket of the brother who purchases them.

Early in this year the sum of £13 was voted to pay for the panel placed by the Lodge in the window of 1891. the Royal Masonic Institution for girls. This window was erected to celebrate the Centenary of the Institution which, like the Salopian Lodge, was founded in 1788.

The by-laws were again revised, and, for the first time for many years, issued in a book form to the members. This book also contains lists of the Officers, Past Masters, and Subscribing Brethren of the Lodge.

Such, as best I can tell it, is the history of my mother Lodge, 262. The history is, I think, full of interest, and contains evidence of a century of quiet unobtrusive work. If

my efforts have failed to do justice to my subject, that failure is the result of inability not of want of love for the task. If, on the other hand, I have succeeded in any degree in interesting my brethren, and arousing in them a feeling of deeper affection for our Lodge, I shall feel that I am amply rewarded.



LIST OF MASTERS.

- 1788—William Neale.
1789—
1790 { William Neale.
 Thomas Loxdale.
1791—Thomas Loxdale.
1792—Samuel Jones (S.W. as W.M.)
1793—Samuel Jones.
1794—Thomas Bassett.
1795—William Taylor.
1796—Richard Phillips.
1797—John Carline.
1798—Richard Phillips.
1799—Thomas Bassett.
1800—William Taylor.
1801 { Thomas Bassett.
 William Clement (elected, but never acted.)
1802—Richard Phillips.
1803—William Taylor.
1804—John Carline.
1805—Thomas Bassett.
1806—William Taylor.
1807—William Hitchcock.
1808—Henry Linell.
1809—Thomas Bassett.
1810—Richard Phillips.
1811—William Taylor.
1812—John Carline.
1813—
1814—
1815 Richard Phillips.
 John Carline.

- 1816—John Carline.
1817—William Taylor.
1818—William Bowley.
1819—Thomas Bassett.
1820—William Cooper.
1821—William Barnes.
1822—George Morris.
1823—
1824—Thomas Groves.
1825—Sir Andrew Vincent Corbet, Bart., P.P.G.S.W.
1826—John Carline, Junr.
1827—Samuel Johnson.
1828—James Lawrence.
1829—John Whitney.
1830—James Moore.
1831—William James Clement, P.P.G.S.W.
1832 } No records. The Lodge
1833 } probably did not meet, and
1834 } the officers elected in 1831
1835 } remained in office till 1836.
1836—William James Clement, P.P.G.S.W.
1837—William Cooper.
1838—Thomas Groves.
1839—Charles Bowen Teece.
1840—Thomas Carline.
1841—William Henry Cooper.
1842—Henry Bloxam, P.P.G.R.
1843—Samuel Wood, P.P.G.J.W.
1844—
1845—William Wood.
1846—Joshua Pugh White, P.P.G.S.W.
1847—Henry T. Wace, P.P.G.S. of W.
1848—
1849—William Brightwell, P.P.G.S.W.
1850—William Burr, P.P.G.J.W.
1851—Rev. Edward H. Dymock, P.D.P.G.M.

- 1852—John Nigel Heathcote, P.P.G.J.W.
1853—John Broughall, P.P.G.R.
1854—George Gordon, P.P.G. Std. B.
1855—Benjamin Churchill, P.P.G.D. of C.
1856—Rev. George C. Guise, P.P.G.C.
1857—William Harley Bayley, P.P.G.J.W.
1858—John Lawrence Randal, P.P.G.S.W.
1859—Rev. John Hinton Bluck, P.P.G.C.
1860—Rev. William Elliot, P.P.G.D. of C.
1861—Charles Chandler, P.P.G.R.
1862—Robert Nicolls, P.P.G.P.
1863—Rev. W. B. H. Bulkeley-Owen, P.P.G.J.W.
1864—Charles George Wingfield, P.P.G.S.W.
1865—Charles Oakley, P.P.G. Swd. B.
1866—Edward Tipton, P.P.G.R.
1867—Thomas K. Gardner.
1868—R. Jasper More, P.P.G. Steward.
1869—William Eddowes.
1870—Rev. George W. Fisher, P.P.G.C.
1871—Cecil Peele.
1872—William Blakeway, P.P.G.J.W.
1873—John Davies Harries, P.P.G. Std. B.
1874—Edwyn Andrew, P.P.G.S.W.
1875—Edmund Cresswell Peele, P.P.G.J.W.
1876—Joseph H. Redman, P.P.G.J.W.
1877—Edward M. Wakeman, P.P.G.S.W.
1878—Henry Newman, P.P.G. Steward.
1879—Henry Charles Clarke, P.P.G.R.
1880—Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., R.W.P.G.M.
1881—W. E. Stuart, P.P.G.S.D.
1882—Edwyn Andrew, P.P.G.J.W.
1883—Joshua Pugh White, P.P.G.S.W.
1884—William Edward Harding, P.P.G.J.W.
1885—Robert A. Craig, P.P.G.R.
1886—Thomas S. Stooke.

- 1887—Arthur Lowcock, P.P.G.S. of W.
1888—John Avery, P.P.G.J.W.
1889—Paul Maurice Berkeley, P.G.S.D.
1890—Arthur E. Lloyd Oswell, P.G.S. of W.
1891—Wyndham Deedes, P.G. Steward.
1892—James Edward Smith.



THE SALOPIAN CHAPTER, 262.

The Charter for this Chapter, working in connection with the Salopian Lodge, was granted on May 17th, 1843. The history of the Royal Arch in Shrewsbury is set out very clearly in the Petitions forwarded to Grand Chapter before the Charter was granted. These Petitions are inserted in the minutes of the Lodge for May 8th, and are as follows:—

“The Petition of the members of the Salopian Lodge No. 328.
To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of
England

Sheweth

That your petitioners have existed as a Lodge of Craft Masons since July 1788. That in 1797 the brethren determined to hold a Royal Arch Chapter which for a few years regularly met. Circumstances with which we need not trouble the Grand Chapter caused its discontinuance. In the year 1820 the companions of the Chapter, including several who had been companions at its commencement, resumed it, and continued to meet until 1830, without being aware that they were in the slightest degree infringing any of the statutes of the Order. The impression on the minds of the so constituted companions being that they had a right to exalt any members of the Salopian Lodge. Upon hearing to the contrary their meetings ceased. We name this to show that any infringement of the constitutions was inadvertent on their parts. Our humble prayer therefore is that the Supreme Grand Chapter will allow all the companions exalted in such Chapter attached to the Salopian Lodge, who are now alive, to be duly registered on their paying the usual fees to the Supreme Chapter. In consequence of there being no regularly registered Royal Arch Mason in Shrewsbury, with the exception of two of the members of this

Lodge who were exalted in London for the purpose of obtaining a Chapter, and also from the circumstance of the Agenorian Chapter No. 398 Bridgnorth having, as we are informed, ceased to exist, your petitioners have been induced to adopt the only course which appears open to them, and which we humbly hope will be sanctioned by the Supreme Grand Chapter. We your petitioners firmly believe that Shrewsbury being the county town, and from other and various causes, that, should the Supreme Grand Chapter grant our prayer, it will tend greatly to the advancement of the Craft in the County of Salop."

"To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England—

We the undersigned being Royal Arch Masons are desirous of establishing a regular Chapter to be holden in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter of the Order, and, for the convenience of our dwelling, do pray for a Charter enabling us to meet at the Masonic Rooms in the Town of Shrewsbury on the 3rd Wednesday in the months of Octr., Janr., April, & July, to be attached to the Salopian Lodge No. 328, and we also nominate and recommend Thos. Groves to be the first Principal Z., Comp. Wm. Cooper to be the first Principal H., & Comp John Carline to be the first Principal J.

The prayer of this petition being granted, we promise strict obedience to the laws of the Grand Chapter and a strict observance of the ancient Rites and Ceremonies of the Order.

Signed

W. H. White, G.S.E., London.

Wm. Cooper, Shrewsbury.

Thomas Groves ,

John Carline ,

Chas. B. Teece ,

Wm. Wood ,

Thos. Carline ,

James Whitney ,

The date of the introduction of the Royal Arch into England cannot be definitely stated, approximately it is placed by Bro. Hughan about the period 1737-1740. The "Ancients" were accustomed to work the Ceremony in their ordinary Craft Lodges, whereas the "Moderns" early separated it from Craft Masonry, and worked in it Chapters holding Charters for that purpose from a Grand Chapter.

The Salopian Lodge cannot, I think, in 1797, have adopted the practice of the "Ancients," for not a trace of it appears in the records, nor, on the other hand, did it follow the custom of the "Moderns" by working the degree, (as it was then called), by virtue of a legal constitution from Grand Chapter; a middle course seems to have been adopted, namely that of working the Ceremony apart from the Craft Lodge under the mistaken notion that the Craft Warrant legalized such working. The fact that only one brother is recorded to have passed the chair, and this so early as 1790, seems to show that only the past masters of the Lodge could have been present at such private working. It may, perhaps, be only a coincidence that the only visitor described as being a Royal Arch Mason (G. Bott. 37 St. Pauls, R.A.M.) visited the Lodge twice in November, 1796, whether or not his presence had anything to do with the introduction of the Royal Arch into Shrewsbury in the following year, I cannot say. As at this date Grand Chapter was not formally recognized by Grand Lodge, the Salopian Lodge by its working the Royal Arch above mentioned, did not violate the Laws of the Grand Lodge in any way, but, in the year 1820, when, according to the first Petition above quoted, work was resumed, the Grand Chapter had been formally recognized by the Grand Lodge, and working the Ceremony without a Charter was clearly irregular. The minute books contains no reference to the subject, but on the back cover of an old Steward's book the following is scribbled in pencil:—"Parcel to London Royal Arch book, 2/6. Same returned June 4th, 1823, 2/6." I can make no guess what

this book contained, or to whom it was sent, but the entry supports the statement, made in the Petition, that between the years 1820 and 1830, the Royal Arch was worked in Shrewsbury.

From the minute book of 117 it may be seen, as already noticed, that two members of that Lodge went to Bridgnorth to be exalted in the year 1834.⁽¹⁾ These brethren were not however, subscribing members of their Mother Lodge, and as the Agenorian Chapter had in the latter year ceased working, there can be little doubt that the statement contained in the Petition that there was then no regular registered Royal Arch Mason in Shrewsbury, was correct.

The founders according to the Charter, were Thomas Groves, Z ; William Cooper, H ; John Carline, J ; William Clement, W. H. White, G. Scribe, E ; C. B. Teece, William Wood, Thomas Carline, and James Whitney. The first minute book is not now in the possession of the Chapter, and little is known of its working until the year, 1862. From an old letter⁽²⁾ dated 17th August, 1843, addressed to Comp. J. P. White by Comp. W. H. White, I gather, however, that the first meeting was held on August 12th, 1843, and that Comp. W. H. White acted as Z on that occasion. Two brethren were then exalted. The progress of the Chapter has been sure and steady, but quiet work, rather than a participation in notable events, has been its chief characteristic. In 1875 its possessed over 30 members, since which date little variation in its numbers has taken place.

LIST OF P.Z's.

1862—W. Brightwell.

1863-4-T Onions.

1865—S. Wood.

(1) See ante p. 77 The date, 1843, after the name of Bros. Powis and Dodd is a mis-print for 1834.

(2) This letter, with other Masonic remains of Bro. Onions, P.M., 117, has been kindly placed in my hands by Bro. R. Urry, of Shrewsbury.

- 1866-7—T. Phillips.
1868—C. G. Wingfield.
1873—J. P. White.
1873—T. Onions.
1873—W. Brightwell.
1874—J. Loxdale Warren.
1875—C. Chandler
1876—G. Gordon Warren.
1877—E. Andrew.
1878—E. C. Peele.
1879—J. B. Boucher.
1880—E. M. Wakeman.
1881—J. H. Redman.
1882—E. M. Wakeman.
1883—Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart.
1884—T. W. Thompson.
1885—V. C. L. Crump.
1886—J. Blockley.
1887—W. E. Harding.
1888—R. G. Venables.
1889—W. Belton.
1890—T. Whitefoot, Junior.
1891—J. H. Parsons.



FRANCIS HENRY EGERTON, P.G.M.

WARRANT OF THE SALOPIAN LODGE, 262.

[APPENDIX A.]

SEAL.

To all and every our Right Worshipful, Worshipful and loving Brethren We the Reverend Francis Henry Egerton &c. &c. &c. Provincial Grand Master for the County of Salop acting under the Authority of His Royal Highness Henry Frederick Duke of Cumberland &c. &c. &c. Grand Master of the Most Ancient & Honorable Society of Free & Accepted Masons Send Greeting

***Know Ye**

That we at the humble Petition of our Right Trusty and well beloved Brethren William Neal Thomas Barkley William Cotton John Beck John Brackly Pritchard John Hall Edward Inis and several other Brethren residing in or near the Town of Shrewsbury in the County of Salop Do hereby constitute the said Brethren into a regular Lodge of Free & accepted Masons (under the Title or Denomination of the Salopian Lodge No. 1) to be opened at a House known by the sign of the Fox in the Town of Shrewsbury aforesaid And do further at their said Petition and of the great Trust and Confidence reposed in every of the said above named Brethren hereby appoint the said William Neal to be Master, Thomas Barkley Senior Warden and William Cotton Junior Warden for opening the said Lodge and for such further time only as shall be thought

proper by the Brethren thereof It being our Will that this our appointment of the above officers shall in no wise affect any future election of officers of the Lodge but that such elections shall be regulated agreeable to such Bye Laws of the said Lodge as shall be consistent with the general laws of the Society contained in the Book of Constitutions And further that you do from time to time cause to be entered in a Book kept for that purpose an account in writing of your proceedings in the Lodge together with all such Rules Orders and Regulations as shall be made for the good government of the same that in no wise you omit once in every year to send to us or our successors Provincial Grand Masters or to Charles Shirreff Esqr. our Deputy Provincial Grand Master or to the Deputy Provincial Grand Masters for the time being an account in writing of your said proceedings and copies of all such Rules Orders and Regulations as shall be made as aforesaid together with a list of the members of the Lodge and such a sum of Money as may suit the circumstances of the Lodge and reasonably be expected towards the Grand Charity Moreover we hereby will and require you the said William Neal as soon as conveniently may be to send an account in writing of what shall be done by virtue of these Presents.

Given at Whitchurch under our hand & seal of Masonry this 13th May A.L. 5788 A.D. 1788.

Witness

C. SHIRREFF, P.G.S.

By the Provincial Grand Master's Command.

C. SHIRREFF, D.P.G.M.

[APPENDIX B.]

CENTENARY WARRANT OF THE SALOPIAN LODGE, 262.

ALBERT EDWARD G.M.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, other Officers, and Members
of the Salopian Lodge, No. 262, Shrewsbury, and all others whom it may concern.

GREETING

Whereas by the Records of the Grand Lodge it appears that on the 13th day of May 1788 a Warrant or Constitution was granted to certain Brethren therein named authorising and empowering them and their regular successors to hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons at the sign of the Fox Shrewsbury Shropshire under the Title or Denomination of the Salopian Lodge and which Lodge was then registered in the Books of the Grand Lodge as No. 525 But in consequence of the Union of the two Grand Lodges and the formation of the United Grand Lodge on the 27th December 1813 it became No. 498, since which owing to the general alterations in the numbering of the Lodges in 1832 and 1863 it has become and now stands on the Register as No. 262 meeting at the Masonic Hall Shrewsbury Shropshire under the Title or Denomination of

THE SALOPIAN LODGE.



And whereas the Brethren composing the said Lodge are desirous now that it has completed the CENTENARY of its existence to be permitted to wear a Jewel commemorative of such an event and have prayed our sanction for that purpose

Now Know Ye That we having taken the subject into our consideration have acceded to their request and in virtue of our prerogative Do hereby give and grant to all and each of the actual subscribing members of the sd. Lodge being Master Masons permission to wear in all Masonic meetings suspended to the left breast by a sky blue ribbon not exceeding one inch and a half in breadth a JEWEL or MEDAL of the pattern or device that we have already approved of as a CENTENARY JEWEL But such Jewel is to be worn only by those brethren who are bona fide subscribing members of the Salopian Lodge and for so long only as each shall pay his regular stipulated subscription to the funds thereof and be duly returned as such to the Grand Lodge of England—

Given at London this 14th May A.L. 5888 A.D. 1888.

By Command of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G. &c. &c. &c.

SHADWELL H. CLERKE, G.S.

[APPENDIX C.]

BYE LAWS FOR THE GOOD RULE AND
GOVERNMENT OF THE SALOPIAN LODGE OF FREE
AND ACCEPTED MASONS, No. 525,

Adopted August 20th, 1788.

1st

This Lodge shall be held at Fox Inn in Shrewsbury from whence it cannot be removed by any one or more of the Member's of their own accord, but any one or more may mention to the Master the reason of their dislike to meet there any more of which he is to acquaint the Lodge when a majority of the members present at that time on the List may determine whether it is to continue there or to be removed.

2nd

The Lodge is to meet on the first Tuseday in every Month in the year in the Months of March, April, May, June, July, August and September at Eight o'Clock and close at Ten and in all the other Months at Six and close at Nine and no Brother shall remain in the Lodge-Room on a Lodge-Night after Eleven o'Clock under the penalty of Two Shillings and Sixpence for each offence.

3rd

This Lodge is to have according to ancient custom a Master and officers (viz) two Wardens, two Deacons, a Steward a Seeretary, a Treasurer, a grand and deputy Tyler, also subscribing and honorary Members, the Officers shall be chosen annually on the lodge night preceding Saint John the Evangelist, the Master to be elected out of such of the subscribing Master Masons who shall have served the Office of Wardens, the lodge to elect the two Wardens and Treasurer and the Master to appoint the other Officers, the Master and Officers to be installed and enter upon their respective Offices on the day of Saint John the Evangelist.

4th

The Master shall govern and regulate the lodge in a Mason like manner agreeable to the Book of Constitutions set forth and authorized by the Grand Lodge of England from time to time and it is strictly recommended to all the Members of this lodge to pay the greatest attention to the Worshipful Master and duly to observe the Senior and Junior Wardens, therefore at the Master's request every one must submit to order, and no more than one must speak at a time, that they address the master and not continue more than five minutes speacking with out his permission, in case two or more shall rise to speak the Master shall appoint who is to speak first and all the others shall submit to order under the penalty of two Shillings and Sixpence.

5th

The Master when the business and welfare of the Lodge requires it shall appoint out of the subscribing Members a Committee to enquire into such business which shall at some short convenient time make such enquiries and collect such information as may be offered and applicable thereto, and report the same at the grand Lodge Night next afterwards for their consideration, the expences of which Committee shall be paid out of the fund of the Lodge.

6th

The Master on request shall call Lodgea of Emergency And shall cause the business to be inserted in the Summons the expence of which shall be borne by the person requesting such lodge to be called, uless when the Master shall call it on some particular business of the Lodge and then it shall be defrayed out of the fund of the Lodge.

7th

The Master shall not neglect to set his men to work and to instruct them by Seasonable Lectures in the grand principles of Masonry under such penalties as the Wardens and Brethren shall think proper.

8th

The Wardens and officers of the Lodge shall duly attend each Lodge Night under such penalty as the Master and Brethren shall think proper for each neglect.

9th

In case of the absence of any of the officers the Master shall appoint out of the subscribing Master Masons another or others in the room of Absentee or Absentees for that Night only.

10th

In the absence of the Master the Senior Warden shall officiate as Master, in his absence the Junior Warden and in the absence of the Junior Warden the past Master or oldest Master Mason shall officiate as Master.

11th

Upon the election of officers and in all other cases when the Master shall direct a poll to be taken and the Votes shall be equal, the Master shall have a casting Vote.

12th

The Master shall fine any brother who shall enter the Lodge disguised in liquor in the sum of one Shilling and order him to depart the Lodge for that Night and he shall severely reprimand any Brother who shall curse, swear or make use of any profane, obscene, or indecent language in the Lodge and fine him in the sum of one Shilling for the first offence and for the second he shall expel him the Lodge.

13th

The Master upon such Brother making due submission and paying five shillings to the fund of the Lodge shall cause a Ballot to be taken by the Senior Deacon and if it appear that two thirds of the Members then present shall be for his readmission he shall be readmitted but if otherwise he shall not and shall have the five shillings returned.

14th

The Secretary shall enter the proceedings of each Night in the Lodge Book shall mention in what degree of Masonry the Lodge was opened, and shall read the proceedings of the general Lodge Night next preceding, and likewise such proceedings if any, as shall have been entered in the Book subsequent thereto. He shall send Summons to the subcribing Members one day at least before any general Lodge Night. He shall obey the master in sending summonses for a Lodge of emergency and specify therein the particular business of such Lodge.

15th

The Treasurer shall receive and pay all sums of money that shall be received and paid by or on account of the Lodge and enter the same in a Book or Books to be kept for that purpose, which shall be open on general Lodge Nights for the inspection of the Members of the Lodge. He shall pay no Bills on account of the Lodge but such as shall have been signed by the Master. He shall give up to the Master and Lodge at the end of the year for which he hath been chosen Treasurer or on another Treasurer having been chosen in his room, a fair, just and true account of monies received and paid by him, also Vouchers for such sums of money as he shall have paid together with the said Books of Accounts and pay over to the succeeding Treasurer such balance as appear to be due to the Lodge on settling such accounts, such accounts shall be allowed by the Lodge and signed by the Master and Wardens and any other of the members of the Lodge.

16th

All Ballots and Polls shall be taken by the Senior Deacon.

17th

The grand Tyler shall attend within the Lodge each Lodge night likewise at the Festivals and on Lodges of emergency. The deputy Tyler shall deliver out all such Summons as shall be delivered him by the Master or Secretary, and attend the Lodge each Lodge night as before.

18th

The qualifications of those who are desirous of being made Masons or of becoming Members of this Lodge must be such as the ancient Constitutions and Laws prescribe.

19th

A person desirous of being made a Mason must be proposed to the Lodge by a Member on a general Lodge Night. Which proposal must be seconded by another Member or not admitted, a Member proposing a person to be made a Mason in this Lodge shall at the time he proposes him present a

petition from such person, praying to be made a Mason and shall likewise pay half-a-Guinea to the Treasurer which in case of the non-appearance of the person to be made on the Lodge appointed for his being made, shall be forfeit unless a satisfactory cause be made for him in which case another Night shall be appointed, of which he shall have six days notice at least from the Lodge and if he shall not attend within three Months from the time first appointed the half Guinea shall be forfeit and applied to the fund of the Lodge.

20th

The petition of such person so proposed to be made a Mason shall be taken into consideration the general Lodge Night next after his having been proposed, and the Members then present shall Ballot for him by black and white Beans, if on taking such Ballot there shall be one black Bean against him he shall not be made, and the half Guinea shall be returned.

21st

Any person being made a Mason in this Lodge shall pay Two Pounds fifteen Shillings including the half Guinea five Shillings of which shall be for registering Two Shillings and Sixpence for the Secretary one Shilling and Sixpence for the Deputy Tyler and the residue shall be applied to the fund of the Lodge. On a Brother being passed to a fellow Craft he shall pay ten shillings and sixpence and on being raised to a Master Mason the like sum of Ten Shillings and Sixpence which shall be respectively applied to the fund of the Lodge.

22nd

If a Brother is desirous of becoming a member of this Lodge he shall in like manner be proposed on a General Lodge Night, and if upon taking such Ballot it shall appear that two thirds of the Members then present be for his admission, he shall be admitted otherwise he shall not be admitted nor again proposed a Member of this Lodge and for his admission he shall pay half-a-Guinea, and which shall be applied to the fund of the Lodge. No person who shall have been proposed to be made a Mason in this Lodge and rejected, shall be admitted a Member of this Lodge unless he shall in like manner be balloted for, and if upon taking such Ballot there shall be one Black Bean against him he shall not be admitted.

23rd

If any Brother demands a Certificate of his having been regularly admitted a Mason in this Lodge, or of his having taken any degree of masonry, the Master shall direct the Secretary to make out the same, it shall be sealed with the Seal of the Lodge signed by the Master and Wardens and countersigned by the Secretary, and for which such person shall pay five Shillings one half of which shall go to the fund of the Lodge and the other to the Secretary.

24th

Every Member of this Lodge shall pay One SHILLING a Month which shall be collected by the Treasurer three Months in advance and applied to the fund of the Lodge. Every subscribing Member of this Lodge shall pay ONE SHILLING and SIXPENCE per month for the expences of the Night which shall likewise be collected by the treasurer three Months in advance and no brother shall be permitted to be an honorary Member if his usual place of residence is within five miles of Shrewsbury.

25th

A Brother visiting this Lodge shall have his name entered in the Book containing these Bye-laws also in what degree of Masonry he stands, the name of the Lodge to which he belongs and be admitted the first Night of visiting free of expence he shall afterwards pay One Shilling and Sixpence for the Nights expences and One Shilling to the fund of the Lodge except such brother shall be a subscribing Member to some other Lodge in which case he shall pay the Nights expences only.

26th

No member shall have a property in the Jewels and Furniture of this Lodge until he shall have subscribed and paid to the fund of the Lodge three years.

27th

If any member neglect or refuse to attend the Lodge or pay his Monthly dues, he shall be written to and admonished for the first three Months, and if he pays no regard to that, at the end of six months he shall be expelled, as the arrears of the Lodge must all be settled in that time.

28th

It shall be at all times lawful for the Officers with the consent of the subscribing Members to repeal, alter, amend or add to these Bye Laws in such manner as shall seem most expedient to promote the Interest and strengthen the Cement of this Lodge. But such repeal, amendment, or addition shall be proposed on one general Lodge Night taken into consideration the second and confirmed on the third and all the subscribing members then on the List shall be apprised of the nature of the business in the Summons for each Night.

29th

These Bye Laws shall be read by the Secretary on the admission of every new made Mason and Member, to which each Member shall subscribe his name under the following obligation :—

We the subscribing members of this Lodge do most sincerely declare that it shall be our study to observe a strict obedience to these Bye Laws, Rules Orders, and Regulations before mentioned and will always conform to such well advised Charges and Constitutions as the free and accepted of all Ages have clearly submitted to from time immemorial.

In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Names. (1)

(1) Here following the Signatures of 78 Brethren, the last of whom was initiated in 1814.

LIST OF MEMBERS

OF THE

SALOPIAN LODGE, 262.

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admis- sion.
Original Members.			
†William Neale	Hosier	Shrewsbury	1788
†Thomas Barkley	"	"	"
†William Cottom	Innkeeper	"	"
†John Beck	Banker and Wine Merchant	"	"
†John Brackley Pritchard	Painter	"	"
†John Hall	Draper	"	"
†Edward Innys	Working Jeweller	"	"
Alexander Keate	Tea Dealer	"	"
*E. T. Smith	Royal Navy	—	"
*Thomas Telford	Surveyor	Shrewsbury	"
†*John Gellion	Carrier	Chester	"
*John Greene	Dyer	Shrewsbury	"
*Thomas Sanders	Engraver	"	"
*Thomas Gray	Mercer	"	"
†*J. Watkis	—	—	"
*Thomas Bassett	Wire Worker	Shrewsbury	"
John Hodges	Upholsterer	"	"
Thomas Loxdale	Attorney	"	"
Thomas Lloyd	"	"	"
James Trehearne	Innkeeper	"	"
George Bowdler	Merchant Tailor	"	"
Thomas Jellicoe	Gent. Farmer	Loton Park, Salop	"
George Holland	Reverend	—	"
Richard Durnell	Surgeon	Condover	"
Philip Williams	Steward	Pitchford	"
William Tunstall	Farmer	Stoke Castle	"
John Podmore	Ensign 47th Regt.	—	"

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
James Matthews	Reverend	The Schools, Shrewsbury	1788
Thomas Lloyd	Reverend	—	"
Thomas Cooke	Malster	Shrewsbury	"
Richard Dansey	Esquire	Little, Hereford	"
*William Bourlay	Dancing Master	Shrewsbury	1789
John Warren	Accountant	“	"
Richard Oliver	Grocer	“	"
Robert John Cartwright	Gentleman	Manchester	"
Richard Jenkins	Esquire	Bicton, Salop	"
Samuel Jones	Oil Case Maker	Shrewsbury	"
John Samuel Meire	Gentleman	“	"
Sacheveral Harwood	Printer	“	"
Richard Goff	Gentleman	—	"
William Hazledine	Millwright	—	"
Robert Jones	Organist	Shrewsbury	"
Henry Podmore	Captain	Calcott	"
William Bowley	Engraver	Shrewsbury	"
Wythen Evans	Esquire	Machynlleth	"
John Lewis	Gentleman	—	"
William Evans	Gentleman	Bridgnorth	"
*†Bennett Dorsett	Reverend	—	1790
William Heighway	Esquire	—	"
John Salisbury Dod	Surgeon	—	"
Thomas Hodges	Farmer	—	"
John Nicolls	Farmer	—	"
Edward Lewis	Reverend	—	"
Edward Kyffin	Waiter	Shrewsbury	"
Thomas Lowe	Land Surveyor	“	"
Paul Wilkinson	Tea Dealer	“	"
†Thomas Colley	—	—	"
John Carline	Architect	Shrewsbury	"
James James	Gentleman	—	"
William Simes	Attorney	Shrewsbury	"
William Taylor	Malster	—	"
*Richard Phillips	Attorney	Shrewsbury	1791
John Jones	Esquire	Machynlleth	"
Jacob Jones	Innkeeper	Aberystwith	"
*John King	Organist	Shrewsbury	1792
†—Carter	—	—	"
†John Heighway	—	—	"
†Joseph Hodges	Wine Merchant	Hereford	"
John Jaundrel	Schoolmaster	Pontesbury	"
Thomas Whitney	Waiter	Shrewsbury	"

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
Mytton Skrymsher	Surgeon	Pontesbury	1792
John Lawrence, Jun.	Esquire	The Mines, Salop	„
Benjamin Partridge	Bookbinder	—	„
*† William Hamilton	—	—	1793
William Clement	Apothecary	Shrewsbury	„
† John Jones	Reverend	Pontesbury	„
*† Charles Shirreff	Major	Whitchurch	1794
*† — Driver	—	—	„
† John Nash	—	—	„
† John Rawlins	—	—	„
— Bythell	—	—	1795
John Sheppard	—	—	„
James Uley Harris	—	—	„
William Chrees	—	Wolverhampton	„
Henry Linell	Mason	Shrewsbury	1796
*† Francis Careswell	—	„	1797
John Long	Gentleman	—	„
Samuel Griffiths	Shopkeeper	Made gratis for Tyler	„
James Bryan	Innkeeper	—	„
Henry Bowdler	Gentleman	—	1798
John Jenks	Currier	Broseley	„
*† — Lewis	Innkeeper	Worcester	1800
*† J. Garthside	Lieutenant 21st Dragoons	—	„
*† J. G. Whitaker	Serjeant-Major	—	„
*† William Hackett	Quarter-Master	—	„
*† Thomas Wilkinson	”	—	„
*† Edward Wall	Private (?)	—	„
† Philip Jones	—	Shrewsbury	1801
† John Kent	—	—	„
* William Roberts	Shoemaker	—	1802
*† Camel Hinkley	(? Campbell) —	—	„
William Hitchcock	Land Surveyor	Shrewsbury	„
William Carden	Builder	”	„
*† Thomas Whealan	Reverend	—	1803
George Grant	Gardener	Shrewsbury	„
† William Macaulay	—	—	1807
* Thomas Kenyon	Serjeant 53 Regt.	—	1812
*† David Dear Seygil	—	—	„
* Peter Horsman	Clerk	—	1813
*† Richard Davies	—	—	„
* John Straphen	Architect	Shrewsbury	1814
*† James Phillips	—	—	„
* Sir John Hill	Baronet	Hawkstone	„

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
William Barnes	Whitesmith	Shrewsbury	1814
Charles Bigg	Seedsmen	"	"
William Hams	Carpenter	"	"
+William Studley	—	—	"
+Thomas Turner	Shelton	—	"
+George Thornton	—	—	"
John Davies	—	—	"
George Osmond Quick	Innkeeper	Shrewsbury	"
James Anderson	—	—	"
Samuel Johnson	—	—	"
Joseph Whitford	—	—	"
+Richard Jenkins	—	—	"
Jaines Sandford	—	—	"
+William Wilding	Hatter	Shrewsbury	"
James Price	—	—	"
Thomas L. Watkinson	Actor	—	"
*+— Duck	—	—	1815
*+Robert Atkinson	—	—	"
Richard Loxdale	Solicitor	Shrewsbury	"
+James Barnaby	Mercer	"	"
William Thomas	—	"	"
+Edward Davies	—	Welshpool	1816
+William A. Provis	Civil Engineer	Ellesmere	"
+George Sharples	—	—	"
Richard Broughall	Grocer	Shrewsbury	"
Thomas Groves	Builder	"	"
Roger Beckett	—	"	"
Thomas Dawson	Farmer	"	"
Edward Jones	Innkeeper	"	"
William Millington	Joiner	—	"
+John Stanton	—	—	"
*Richard Bratton	Broker	Shrewsbury	1817
William Griffiths	Surgeon	"	"
William Cooper	Solicitor	"	"
George Morris	Bookseller	"	"
Simon Barber	Mercer	"	"
*James Ryan	Director of Mines	—	1818
John Denstone	—	—	"
Shepherd	Mercer	Shrewsbury	1819
George Hanley	Seedsmen	"	"
John Edgerley, Junr.	Solicitor	"	"
James Pughe	Gentleman	—	1820
Hugh Boulter	Commercial	—	"
	Traveller		

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
William Griffiths	Painter	Shrewsbury	1820
Sir Andrew Vincent Corbet	Bart.	Acton Reynald	"
Thomas Hancorn	Ironmonger	Shrewsbury	1821
William Samuel Hill	Distiller	"	"
John Carline, Junr.	Architect	"	1822
John Cartwright	Ironmonger	"	"
David Evans	Glazier	"	"
Thomas Lawrence	Tailor	"	"
Thomas Goldsboro	Reverend	Welshpool	"
George Harper	Solicitor	Whitchurch	1823
*John Jobson	—	Birmingham	1824
William Carline	Ironmonger	Shrewsbury	"
James Whitney	Chemist	"	"
James Moore	Solicitor	"	"
Philip Corbett	Artist	"	1825
Thomas Carline	Sculptor	"	"
George Ernest	Hamilton Surveyor	"	"
Americus Hitchcock	—	"	"
Charles Lloyd	Silk Mercer	"	"
Richard Hodskinson	Esquire	"	"
John Wood	Tanner	"	"
William J. Clement	Surgeon	"	"
John Jones	Cooper	—	"
Thomas Seed	Merchant	Liverpool	"
Charles Lloyd	—	—	"
Richard Corbett	Esquire	Adderley, Salop	"
*John Goolden	—	—	1827
Robert Turner	—	—	"
Charles Bowen Teece	Solicitor	Shrewsbury	"
Nathan Hubbersty	School Master	"	"
John Colley	Gentleman	Astley	"
Edward Steedman	Gentleman Farmer	High Ercall	"
Edward Oliver	Innkeeper	Shrewsbury	"
William Jones	Shoemaker	"	"
Thomas Colley	Tailor	"	"
John Lawrence	Gardener	"	1828
Henry Bloxam	Attorney	Ellesmere	"
David Birds	Reverend	Penley	"
Francis K. Leighton	Reverend	Cardiston	1829
William Heighway	Jones	Pontesbury	1831
*†—More	Esquire	Larden	1837

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
Robert Phillips	Esquire	Shrewsbury	1837
Samuel Scoltock	Grocer	"	"
George Brittain			
Peplow	—	—	
William Pickin	Solicitor	Wellington	1838
*William Wood	—	Liverpool	"
Henry Keate	Surgeon	Shrewsbury	"
Henry T. Wace	Solicitor	"	"
Grenville Jones	Dentist	"	"
George Matthews	Printer	"	"
Samuel Wood	Surgeon	"	"
*Robert Skelton			
Mackenzie	L.L.D.	—	1840
*Lord Dungannon	—	—	"
John Hinton	—	Wenlock	"
Harry Collins Jeffreys	—	"	"
Robert Plowden			
Weston	Surgeon	Wellington	"
George Gordon	Solicitor	Shrewsbury	"
Joshua Pugh White	Cabinet Maker	"	
J. J. Barlow	—	—	1841
J. Nigel Heathcote	Surgeon	Shrewsbury	"
William Brightwell	Schoolmaster	"	1843
Thomas Jones Drury	M.D.	"	"
Thomas Onions	Tax Collector	"	1844
James Bratton	Surgeon	"	"
John Hawley			
Edwards	Solicitor	"	"
Abraham Woolrich	Refreshment Contractor	"	"
*Charles F. Baker	Solicitor	Wem	1845
E. H. Dymock	Reverend	Oswestry	"
Samuel Betton			
Gwynne	Surgeon	Wem	"
George Tomline	M.P.	Shrewsbury	"
William Burr	Lead Merchant	"	"
*John Leche			
Rowland	Solicitor	"	"
*Samuel Hayward	Innkeeper	"	"
*John Watton	Publisher	"	1849
John Broughall	Solicitor	"	"
John Harris	Merchant	"	"
George E. Hay	Gentleman	"	"
William Henry			
Cooper	Solicitor	"	1850

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
Edward Mostyn			
Owen	Esquire	Yeaton	1851
Joseph Henry Lee	Esquire	Redbrook, Flint	"
Charles Sparling	Captain	Petton	"
William John Beach	—	Admaston	"
†William Henry Nicolls	Esquire	Newnham	"
†William Patchett	Station Master	Shrewsbury	"
†John W. Towers	Post Master	"	"
†Benjamin Churchill	H.M. Civil Service	Oswestry	"
†Charles Thomas Woosnam	Solicitor	Newtown	"
†Robert Moorson	Scarth	Shrewsbury	"
†Charles Heathcote	—	Warrington	"
†Henry Dubbs	Ironfounder	"	"
†Robert Haycock	Builder	Shrewsbury	"
†George S. Barnett	Jeweller	"	"
†Lewis Meredith	Grocer	"	"
Isaac Taylor	Coach Proprietor	"	"
*Peter George Bentley	Reverend	Ellesmere	"
†Henry Shaw	Fishing Tackle Maker	Shrewsbury	"
*Sir Watkin W. Wynn	Baronet	Wynnstay	1852
*J. Hinton Bluck	Reverend	Shrawardine	"
*G. C. Guise	Reverend	Pulverbatch	"
*Charles Wigan	—	Ruabon	"
*†Augustus Dillon	—	—	"
*Gabriel Rollings	Adjutant	Shrewsbury	"
Sir Henry George Harnage	Bart.	Belswardine	"
Robert D. Newill	Solicitor	Wellington	"
William Anslow	Farmer	Eyton	"
Thomas C. Eyton	Esquire	The Vineyard	"
†William Smith	Esquire	Chirk	"
Christopher P. Soulsby	Esquire	Wrexham	"
George Knox	—	—	"
Isaac Knowles	Solicitor	Wellington	"
Edward Jeffreys	Civil Engineer	Shrewsbury	"
D. Glynne Mytton	Reverend	Oswestry	"
William M. Rowland	Miller	Mytton Mill	1853
William Paddock	—	Ellesmere	"
			cc

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
Charles James Lloyd	—	Machynlleth	1853
Edward Osowell	Esquire	Oswestry	,
Walter Reginald Corbet	Lieutenant	Acton Reynald	,
David Lloyd	—	Oswestry	,
†Samuel D. Hoole	Miller	Chirk	,
†P. Buckley Williams	Major	Pennant	,
James Herbert Freme	79th Highlanders	—	,
William Harley Bayley	Banker	Shrewsbury	,
†*Edward Lloyd Hunt	—	„	,
†*J. Andrews	—	Oswestry	,
*Joseph W. Smith	Wharfinger	Wellington	,
*John Hamer	Esquire	Glanrafon	,
*William Elliot	Reverend	Shrewsbury	1854
*Robert Hornby	Reverend	Lythwood Hall	,
Henry Alfred Jones	Auctioneer	Shrewsbury	,
Charles Chandler	Solicitor	„	,
Henry Davies	Solicitor	Oswestry	,
Francis Peter Roberts	Bank Manager	„	,
G. J. Saunders	Chemist	„	,
*Rowland Hunt	Esquire	Boreatton	1855
*John Lawrence Randal	Architect	Shrewsbury	,
*William Majoribanks	Wine Merchant	Leamington	,
*Henry Greenwood	Schoolmaster	Shrewsbury	,
Thomas Savin	Draper	Oswestry	,
James Lyndon Pedley	Architect	Birmingham	,
John Dovaston	Esquire	West Felton	1856
Robert Phibbs Dod	Captain, Shropshire Militia	Oswestry	,
*Robert Nicolls	Wine Merchant	Shrewsbury	1857
*†William Ackerman	Esquire	Hereford	,
Riou George Benson	Reverend	Lutwyche Hall	,
William Jellicorse	Reverend	Clunbury	,
Richard S. France	Railway Contractor	Sibberscote	,
Walter Blythe	Surgeon	Dulwich	,
Richard Scott Deane	Esquire	„	,
William Thomas	Surgeon	Shrewsbury	,
*W. E. Curtis	Esquire	Caynham Court, Ludlow	,
*Ralph A. Benson	Esquire	Lutwyche Hall	,
*B. H. Bulkeley Owen	Reverend	Tedsmere Hall	,

Name.	Occupation or Profession.	Residence.	Year of admission.
*Charles G. Wingfield	Colonel	Onslow	1858
J. Caple Cholmondeley	Major	Condover	,
Charles Oakley	Surgeon	Shrewsbury	,
Sir Thomas Meyrick	Bart.	Bush, Pembroke	,
Henry Sheridan Elliott	—	—	,
George Owen	Engineer	Oswestry	1859
Gustaf Tornourd	—	Finland	,
Edward Tipton, Junr.	Manager, Fire Office	Shrewsbury	,
William John Hope	—	—	,
Edwardes	Esquire	Netley Hall	,
R. Jasper More	Esquire	Linley	,
+Offley Wakeman	Esquire	Oxford	,
Richard Banner Oakley	Esquire	Shrewsbury	,
Sir Baldwin Leighton	Bart.	Loton Park	,
*Robert Hanson Coldwell	Major	Shrewsbury	1860
*Robert Forrest	Professor of Music	—	,
*Thomas Kynnersley Gardner	Captain	Leighton House	,
Joseph Tomlinson Barlow	Commercial Traveller	Shrewsbury	,
+Thomas Owen	Major	Condover	(?)
Spencer Cosby Price	Captain	—	,
William Lees Berry	—	—	1861
*Edward Burd	M.D.	Shrewsbury	,
P M. Crampton	Captain	Chief Constable	,
Walter Thursby Pelham	Captain	Cound	,
Francis Thursby Pelham	Esquire	—	,
George F. B. Willing	M.D.	Cressage	,
William Blakeway	Miller	Hanwood	1862
George Juckles	Solicitor	Shrewsbury	,
H. V. Jones	Esquire	Ruchley	,
Walter Moseley	Esquire	Buildwas	,
Robert Sloman	Esquire	Welshpool	1863
William Eddowes	Surgeon	Shrewsbury	,
William Ash	Reverend	West Felton	,
*William Clarke	Civil Engineer	Shrewsbury	,
*Philip Whitcombe	Reverend	—	,

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
*Walter Whitmore	Captain	Apley Park	1863
*William Minton			
Beddoes	Physician	Ludlow	1864
*Richard Chambers			
Roberts	Reverend	Ruabon	"
*W. J. Lane	Esquire	Bishop's Castle	"
Charles G. Wade	Merchant	London	"
George W. Fisher	Reverend	The Schools, Shrewsbury	"
Thomas Jobson	Corn Merchant	Shrewsbury	"
W. J. Ward	Reverend	"	"
G. T. Archer	Esquire	London	"
Francis Needham	Bank Manager	Shrewsbury	"
Cecil Peele	Solicitor	"	"
Robert Charles			
Webster	Civil Engineer	Oswestry	"
Andrew Good			
Brookes	Physician	Shrewsbury	1865
Richard Palin	Solicitor	"	"
Scarlet Lloyd Parry	"	"	"
W. Bryan Bryan	Reverend	"	"
John Davies Harries	Surgeon	"	"
Charles L. Heathcote	"	"	"
*Edwyn Andrew	Physician	"	1866
*John Barber	Auctioneer	Wellington	"
*John H. Slaney	Wine Merchant	"	"
*Lord E. Hill Trevor	—	Oswestry	"
Thomas Fenn	—	Downton	"
*J. Ralph Ormsby	Esquire (afterwards Gore	Oswestry	1867
Lord Harlech)		Bishop's Castle	"
Thomas Griffiths	Solicitor	Shrewsbury	"
John Maguire	Tyler	Bishop's Castle	"
George Terry West	Esquire	Market Drayton	1868
*F. B. Wyndham Quin	Esquire	Leighton	"
*Anthony Gardner	Esquire	—	"
*Charles H. Corbett	—		
Edmund Cresswell			
Peele	Solicitor	Shrewsbury	"
*†— Greenwood	Reverend	"	1869
(Hon. Mem.)			
John Edward Stainer	Esquire	Uppington	"
*G. C. Nottley	Reverend	Ratlinghope	1870
*Edward M.			
Wakeman	Esquire	Coton Hall, Bridgnorth	"

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
*Henry Newman	Inland Revenue Officer	Shrewsbury	1870
*C. J. S. Churchill	Rev., The Schools	"	"
John Thomas Jones	Surgeon	Llanfyllin	"
Richard M. Hickman	"	Newport	"
Thomas Hickman	Land Agent	Leaton	"
John Taylor	Miller	Wellington	"
Richard W. Owen Withers	Surgeon	Shrewsbury	"
John Bucknall Cooper	Solicitor	"	"
Joseph H. Redman	Barrister-at-Law	"	"
John Ernest Frail	Esquire	"	"
*Montague Hulton Harrop	Esquire	Lythwood	1871
Arthur George Brooke	Clerk	Astley	"
J. Harley Bayley			
Crawford	Esquire	Shrewsbury	"
*Sir Offley Wakeman	Bart.	Cound Hall	1872
*John Bodenham	Banker	Newport	"
William Thomas	Serving Brother	"	"
Herbert L. Snow	M.D.	Shrewsbury	"
Thomas Charles Marsh	Surgeon	"	"
William Scarlett Price	Solicitor	"	"
Charles C. T. Fagan	Reverend	"	"
*Henry Charles Clarke	Solicitor	"	1873
*Charles H. Drinkwater	Reverend	"	"
*John James Saville	Surgeon	"	"
*Arthur John Peele	Civil Engineer	"	"
*Henry Offley Wakeman	Esquire	Oxford	"
*Alfred Salwey	Esquire	Ludlow	"
*Charles B. H. Soame	Surgeon,—Baronet	Dawley	"
*Henry Woolner	Artist	Coalbrookdale	"
*John Bishop Boucher	Professor of Music	Shrewsbury	"
Algernon G. B. Whitmore	Esquire	Stockton, Salop	"
Samuel Pountney Smith	Architect	Shrewsbury	1874
Benjamin Newnes	Tyler	"	"
James Ouston Smith	Surgeon	"	1876
Arthur Lowcock	Engineer	"	"
*W. E. Stuart	Major	Betton Strange	"

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
*John Sides Davies	Surgeon	Oswestry	1876
*John Barr	Bank Manager	Shrewsbury	"
Sydney Freme			
Clement	Surgeon	"	1877
*Arthur Henry			
Downes	"	"	"
*John Briscoe Bagnall	Gentleman	"	"
Joseph Parry Jones	Solicitor	Oswestry	1878
John T. Wills	—	Shrewsbury	"
Charles Shea Thomas	Solicitor	"	"
William Edward			
Harding	Surgeon Dentist	"	"
William Lewis Meyer	Surgeon	Oakengates	"
*Edward Acherley			
Phillips	Banker	Shrewsbury	"
*R. E. Warren	Reverend	"	"
Robert A. Craig	Solicitor	"	1879
Herbert Coupland			
Taylor	M.B.		
Henry F. Elliott	Surgeon	Ruyton-IX-Towns	"
John Avery	Wine Merchant	Shrewsbury	"
*John Minor Kilvert	Esquire	Grinshill	"
Herbert G. Wakefield	Chaplain H.M.S.	Shrewsbury	1880
	Prison		
*W. Herbert Packer	Surgeon	Cressage	"
John Wynne			
Jeudwine	Barrister-at-Law	Shrewsbury	1881
William Aylmer			
Lewis	Surgeon	Oswestry	"
Paul Maurice			
Berkeley	H.M. Civil Service	Shrewsbury	"
Thomas Slaney Eyton	Banker	"	"
*Thomas Sullock			
Stooke	Civil Engineer	"	"
*Arthur E. Lloyd			
Oswell	Architect	"	"
Adolphus Dovaston		"	1882
Wyndham Deedes	Private School	"	1883
	Master		
James E. Parson			
Smith	Merchant	"	1884
John Downes			
Southam	Wine Merchant	"	1885
John Gray	Surgeon	"	"

Name.	Profession or Occupation.	Residence.	Year of admission.
*W. Lascelles Southwell	Esquire	Bridgnorth	1885
Henry Ponting Cox	Solicitor	Wem	„
G. Middleton Ashdown	Reverend	Ruabon	1886
Henry Mansell James	H.M. Civil Service	Shrewsbury	„
Samuel Clement Southam	Wine Merchant	„	„
James Allan Bratton	Surgeon	„	„
John Frail Harries	Surgeon	„	1887
Arthur T. M. Wood	Esquire	Wem	„
Alexander Graham	Barrister-at-Law	Shrewsbury	„
Ernest Tredinnick	Surgeon	Craven Arms	1888
William C. Clement Peele	Solicitor	Shrewsbury	1889
Francis Salisbury	H.M. Civil Service	„	„
William Hugh Sprott	Coffee Planter	Mercara, India	„
*Frederick Knollys Pigott	Surgeon	Shrewsbury	
Cecil Anthony P. Osburne	Surgeon	Church Stretton	1890
*Percy Emson	Reverend	Shrewsbury	1891
*G. C. P. Williams Freeman	Captain-Chief Constable	„	„
George Gainwell	Serving Brother	„	„
Alfred T. Davis	Civil Engineer	„	„
C. W. Campbell Hyslop	Surgeon	Church Stretton	„

The List of Members originally compiled from the Minute-books was carefully compared with the Register of Grand Lodge. In many cases differences and discrepancies were discovered; these, however, were in the majority of instances clearly due to inaccuracies in the Register.

The Minute-books are in places so badly kept, and the Register in Grand Lodge was often so irregular, that even from both sources combined, a perfectly accurate list cannot be obtained. It is hoped, however, that the list given above is substantially correct.

Names marked * are those of joining members.

Names marked † are those of members who were never registered in Grand Lodge.

Names marked ‡ are those of members who joined without election at the amalgamation of the two Shrewsbury Lodges in 1851.

In former days members seem to have constantly resigned the Lodge and afterwards rejoined it. No notice is taken in the above list of such transactions, even when on such rejoining a fresh registration in Grand Lodge was made. It is thought that one entry of a member's name will supply all that would be either interesting or useful.

No attempt has been made to any change of residence. The addresses given are those at the time of admission.



