

men to make innovation in the body of Freemasonry. The old lodges which united to form the Grand Lodge did not surrender their independence, but continued to exist by immemorial right, while lodges constituted thereafter derived their authority from the warrant or charter approved by Grand Lodge and granted by the Grand Master.

The Constitutions of the Freemasons, and the accompanying documents were submitted to and solemnly approved by Grand Lodge in 1723. The declaration is as follows:—

“We the present Grand Master of the Right Worshipful and most ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, the Masters and Wardens of particular lodges (with the consent of the brethren and fellows in and about the cities of London and Westminster) having also perused this performance, do join our laudable predecessors in our solemn approbation thereof, as what we believe will fully answer the end proposed; all the valuable things of the old records being retained, the errors in history and chronology corrected, the false facts and the improper words omitted, and the whole digested into a new and better method.

And we do ordain that these be received in every particular lodge under our cognizance, as the only Constitutions of the Free and Accepted Masons amongst us, to be read at the making of new brethren, or when the Master shall think fit; and which the new brethren should peruse before they are made.”

This was signed by the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Wardens, and the Masters and Wardens of the twenty lodges then existing in London and Westminster.

And thus the Mother Grand Lodge of the world was established.

Apparently, it was formed for the government of lodges in and about the metropolitan area, and its first members had no thought or desire for control of lodges outside of

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