

has used on the field, a collection of elaborate pipes, which he smokes pretty much all the time, and strange things of *virtu*, are parts of his surroundings. His poems have been collected and re-issued within the past two years, and he has written a series of books on Masonry, which, queerly enough, have carried him from his apparently trivial theme back to Mediæval, Jewish, and finally Sanscrit Masonry, as he believes. He is a Sanscrit scholar, and has composed some abstruse treatise, now undergoing publication in London, which is spoken of with expectancy by his friends.

THE GRAND MASTER, AND THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

THE ceremony of the installation of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, as Patron of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of Freemasonry, took place at the Masonic Hall, in Golden Square.

The assemblage of Freemasons was necessarily small, as members of the Thirty-third degree only could be present; it need, however, be scarcely added that none of those few were absent on so important an occasion. With proverbial royal punctuality, the Prince drove up to the hall to the very minute, and was met at the entrance by Ill. Bros. the Earl of Carnarvon and C. J. Vigne, the Sovereign and Past Sovereign of the Order, who at once conducted His Royal Highness to the Council Chamber, where were assembled Ill. Bros. Capt. N. G. Philips; Major Gen. W. Clerk; I. M. P. Montague; Major Shadwell Clerke; Robert Hamilton, M. D.; Sir Michael Costa; Lieut. Col. Alexander W. Adair; and Hugh D. Sandeman, members of the Council, with Ill. Bros. Henry C. Vernon, Lieut. Col. George A. Vernon, Albert H. Royds, and Lieut. Col. John G. Sandeman, Past Members.

These brethren having been severally introduced to His Royal Highness, repaired with him, after certain preliminary forms, to the Hall, where the remaining members of the 33rd Degree were assembled, and where they conferred the degree in extenso on the illustrious brother, who was then formally proclaimed and saluted as Patron of the Order. The members of the degree, not in the Council, were then severally honored with an introduction to His Royal Highness, after which the Council was closed. The brethren then presented were Ill. Bros. Charles J. Banister, T. H. Coombes, Lieutenant-General H. E. Doherty, C. B.; Raphael Costa, Samuel Rawson, and Edward T. Leith, of the A. and A. Rite of England; also Ill. Bros. Maxwell Close, of Ireland, and E. H. Shaw, of the Southern Jurisdiction U. S. of America, each representing his own Council; and W. Hyde Pullen, As-istant Secretary.

The ceremony of installation was ably and impressively performed by Ill. Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, assisted by Capt. Philips, and the whole proceedings are spoken of as having been attended with complete success. It has now pleased the Prince of Wales to associate himself with Freemasonry in every important branch of the Order, and we hail with infinite satisfaction the circumstance of thus having at our head a brother who, apart from his illustrious position, evinces an amount of active interest in the affairs of the brotherhood, which may serve as a praiseworthy example to every member of the Craft.—*London Freeman*.

NOBLE GRAND MASTERS.

It has not been usual in this country to select Grand Masters on account of their social, political or official position in the profane world. The reference has most generally and most properly been, rather to their skill in Masonry, or their devotion to the Order. But a different principle prevails in Great Britain, where the aristocratic form of government gives a prestige to rank which is here unknown. Hence no commoner has wielded the gavel of Grand Master in England since the election of George Payne, in 1720. So, too, in Ireland, all the Grand Masters, beginning with Lord Kingston in 1730, have been noblemen. Scotland has not been quite so exclusive, several commoners having been elected to preside over the Craft, the last being Sir James Stirling, in 1799. Since that year, however, the office has always been bestowed upon a member of the nobility. Anderson records the gratification of the Fraternity at the election, in 1721, of the Duke of Montague, when, says he, "then all expressed great joy at the happy prospect of being again patronized by noble Grand Masters as in the prosperous times of Free Masonry." We can, therefore, well appreciate the mortification of our English brethren when the Marquis of Ripon, a nobleman in the second order of the peerage, and of the highest social and political rank, fled from the free thought, free speech, and free action of Protestantism to the passive obedience of Romanism, and ingloriously surrendered the gavel which his ecclesiastical superiors no