

Grand Lodge of Ireland has worked continuously for 154 years, regularly meeting for nearly 128 years of that long period on the first Thursday of the month.

These monthly meetings have been found fault with for some years past as being one of the causes for the non-attendance of Provincial Grand Officers and brethren, and a movement is at present on foot to return to the good old style of 159 years ago of holding quarterly Grand Lodges.

The Irish "Ahiman Rezon" of 1803 gives a complete and perfect list of lodges then in existence in Ireland—being, as you state, over one thousand lodges, but the same "Ahiman Rezon" gives a very long and sad list of lodges struck off at that period for non-payment of arrears. Some years afterwards a long list followed, and hence the great reduction you allude to.

Between 1871 and 1881 the Grand Lodge of Ireland has issued eighty-four new warrants, being at the rate of eight per annum. During the same period thirty-six warrants have been returned, being only an average of a little over three per annum. The accounts for 1882 (last year) will not be published until next month.

The only way in my opinion of reviving Irish Freemasonry is by the quarterly meetings and by official visitation to Provincial Grand Lodges, such as the Antrim (Belfast), Munster (Cork), North Munster (Limerick) and Londonderry.—*London Freeman*.

*Bro. Hughan, however, writes as follows on this subject, to the *Freemason*, and we think his view is the correct one:—

I entirely agree with my friend, R. W. Bro. H. Neilson, in his opinion as to the need there is for a change in the management of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Life and efficiency are much required to reinvigorate the Grand Officers generally, and I am persuaded that until brethren are promoted to Grand Office more frequently there will be little interest taken in the proceedings. It does seem to me absurd to be always appointing the same brethren to office, especially when some of them are

conspicuous by their absence. I quite think that quarterly communications would be advantageous. I cannot, however, for one moment grant that Ireland is the premier Grand Lodge, though I cheerfully admit it is the second in antiquity of existing Grand Lodges. From 1717 to 1725 there was but the one Grand Lodge in the world, and that was the "Grand Lodge of England," held at London. In 1725 the "Grand Lodge of all England," held at York, was formed, followed by Ireland's in 1728-9 (if not 1726 circa). The "Ancients" did not appear on the scene until 1750, and certainly their advent in no way invalidates the claim of the Grand Lodge of England to be considered the first of its kind. True, the United Grand Lodge of England dates from 1813, but it was but the union of two bodies previously existing, the one from 1717 and the other from 1750 (circa). I should not thus have alluded to the subject at all had it not been for Bro. Neilson's kind reference to my "Masonic Register." I am extremely glad to see Bro. Neilson's letter, and hope others will follow on the same subject.

Yours fraternally,
W. J. HUGHAN.

STAIN NOT THE CROSS.

Stain not the Cross, dear Templars! word and deed

Be holy while you bear the mystic sign!
The Master's wounds, alas! too freshly bleed

Whene'er his votaries unto sin incline.
The All-seeing Eye is ever bent to catch
Each deviation from the Templar's vow,—
In constant vigil therefore wait and watch,
Nor stain the Cross which marks the
Templar now.

Stain not the Cross—Stain not the Cross.

Stain not the Cross! a thousand witnesses,
Eager to slander, waiting to decry,
Are gathered round, and shall we pleasure
these

To be their byword and a mockery?
Ah, no; be true, brave Templars! By the sword

Which names "Golgotha" in its very hilt,
Resolve to honor Jesus as the Lord,
Nor foul His emblem with a stain of guilt.

Stain not the Cross—Stain not the Cross.

The *Masonic Chronicle* boldly advocates the cause of the Eastern Star in this State, and adds:—"We hope ere long to find the Order flourishing in every jurisdiction, Ohio included."