

which were content to accept Warrants from the new Grand Lodge, though previously working according to ancient usage.

In the Constitutions of 1798 is the following account of the meeting, not quite in agreement with the foregoing, and a much shorter narrative of the business. The editions since simply perpetuate the same meagre extract :

"Assembly and Feast at Mercer's Hall on St. John's Day, Friday, 27 Dec. 1728. D. Grand Master Choke with his Wardens, several noble Brethren, duly clothed, attended the Grand Master Elect in coaches from his Lordship's House in Leicester-square to the Hall Eastward; and all Things being regularly transacted as above, D. G. M. Choke proclaimed aloud our noble Brother.

VIII. James King, Lord Viscount Kingston, Grand Master of Masons! who appointed Nathaniel Blakesby, Esq., D. G., Master.

Sir JAMES THORNHILL,	} Grand
Mr. MARTIN O'CONNOR,	
and the Secretary was continued."	

In the *Post* of November 21st-23d, 1732, is the following:—

"Last night a Quarterly Com——— was held at the Devil Tavern, in Fleet-street, &c., present Rt. Hon. Lord Inchiquin, Rt. Hon. Earl Sutherland, Pro. Grand Master, Ireland, &c. &c. Between £40 and £50 was brought in for charity from different Lodges."

The account in Constitutions 1738, and others read thus: "Grand Lodge in due form at the Devil 'foresaid, on Tuesday, 21st November, 1732, with Lord Coleraine, Lord Southwell, and other G. officers and those of 49 Lodges."

The amount contributed for charity was surely large for the period, and proves that our predecessors forgot not to cherish that "distinguished characteristic of a Freemason's heart."

From the *Post*, Dec. 7th to the 9th, 1732, Bro. Clarke has extracted the following:

"There was a Grand Committee of the Free and accepted Masons from several Lodges met at the Horn Tavern, in Palace-yard, to consider of proper measures for raising by subscription, a sum of money for the relief of their poor Brethren throughout England and Ireland."

It is important to note that the historians of the Grand Lodge of England are silent as to this meeting, and doubtless at that time were not anxious for the poverty of many of its members being published to the world.

This paragraph preserves the account of the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of England to provide for a systematic benevolent scheme, and was in all probability the beginning, in a humble way, of our present Grand Lodge of Benevolence.

But let us also note the fact that the revival, as it is called of the Society, only occurred some fifteen years before this meeting, and yet funds were being accumulated to relieve distressed Brethren, and the casual sums previously obtained, even as much as upwards of £40 at a meeting, were insufficient for the purpose.

Surely all this points to the fact that there were more Masons in existence than those initiated since 1717, and that in all probability it was the operative portion of the Fraternity who required assistance.

At the period in question, a great many Noblemen belonged to the Order, and it is not likely that a society of "yesterday" would have secured their patronage to the extent that Freemasonry did, neither is it probable that the class of their Members was such as to want pecuniary aid; so that we may relieve distress as formerly, because of the great accession of Gentlemen who did not want such sums, were feeling the need of their old system being restored, under the Grand Lodge, determined to make strenuous efforts to help them.

From *St. James' Evening Post*, 1733, is extracted as follows:

"On Monday next, at eight in the morning, the Society of "Honorary Freemasons" will proceed from Whitehall in several barges to Richmond, with a grand concert of music, and return to Fulham, where an elegant entertainment will be provided for them."

At the Grand Lodge held March 30th, 1734, the same paper states, "They also appointed Rev. Mr. Crater Henley for their Chaplain for the ensuing year," and that John Ward, Esq., appointed Senior Grand Warden "was M. P. for Newcastle under Lyne."

We look in vain for any report of the appointment of Bro. Henley in any of the Books of Constitutions, but there is no reason to doubt the fact of such an office being customary, though no word is said about such office (Grand Chaplain), until many years subsequently, when the unfortunate Rev. William Dodd, D. D., was appointed.

The Rev. Bro. Henley signalized his appointment by the following advertisement in *St. James' Evening Post*, June 23rd, 1733: