

And in the examinations. Brothers Desaguliers, Amherst, and Payne, placed the following passages as unalterable landmarks to designate the religious character of the Order.

"Why due east and west?"

"Because all Christian churches and chapels are, or ought to be so.

"What does ——— denote?"

"The Grand Architect of the Universe, or Him that was taken up to the topmost pinnacle of the Holy Temple."

"During this period the Fraternity had signs, symbols and tokens of recognition, which are become obsolete, and I question whether your brightest Masons know that they were ever in existence. But, as the principal object of my Revelations is to make you acquainted with the sayings and doings of the Fraternity in the eighteenth century, I will reproduce a few of their peculiarities for your delectation. For instance: the symbols of the four Cardinal Virtues were delineated by an acute angle, variously disposed. Supposing you face the east, the angle symbolizing Temperance will point to the south (>). It was called a Guttural. Fortitude was denoted by a satire or St. Andrew's Cross (x). This was the Pectoral. The symbol of Prudence was an acute angle, pointing towards the south-east (?), and was denominated a Manual; and Justice had its angle towards the north (<) and was called a Pedestal or Pedal.

"Many of our tokens of recognition, under the presidency of Sir Christopher Wren," said the Square, "were curious and significant; but they were discontinued about the middle of the century, and are now, I believe, entirely forgotten. As they are excluded from the present system of Masonry, there will be no impropriety in enumerating them. They were ten in number. 1. Ask how do you do. The Brothers present drink to each other. 2. Inquire in what Lodge they were initiated. 3. Take up a stone and ask what it smells of. 4. By making a square with the feet. 5. Strike with the right hand the inside of the fourth finger of the left thrice. 6. Stroke the two first fingers of the right hand thrice over the eyelids. 7. Take off your hat with two fingers and thumb. 8. Turn your glass downwards after drinking. 9. In shaking hands, touch the wrist three times with the forefinger. 10. Whisper—the Masters and Fellows of the Worshipful company greet you well.

"Refreshment was a genuine feast of reason and flow of soul. Punning, however it may be condemned and sneered at by the fastidious scholar of the nineteenth century, as being a worthless and contemptible pursuit, was extensively practised according to the category laid down by Swift and Sheridan, and many a witticism have I heard uttered, which created the most uproarious mirth; for loud laughter was not inconsistent with the manners of an age when high jinks, in a sinner's country, possessed attractions which led, as Sir Walter Scott expresses it, 'the best educated and gravest men in Scotland gradually on, from wisdom to mirth, and from mirth to extravagance.'

"One evening, as these choice spirits sat around the table after supper—and suppers, I must tell you, in those halcyon days, generally terminated the business of the Lodge.—Brothers Lamball, Sorrell, Beale, Ware, Madden, Villeneuve, Noyes Cordwell, Salt, Goffon, Senex, Hobby, Mountain, and a few others being present with the W. M., all celebrated Masons, whose names are well known to the Craft, Brother Lamball, who was an incorrigible laughter, and that in no very mild tone of voice, being tickled by some witty remark, indulged his propensity in a regular horse-laugh. Brother Madden rose with much gravity, and addressing the chair, said—

"R. W. Sir, did you ever hear a peaceful lamb bawl (Lamball) so vociferously?"

"No," said Bro. Desaguliers, "but I've heard a mad man (Madden) make an ugly noise (Noyes)."

"Oh," rejoined Bro. Sorrell, "let him ride his hobby (Hobby) quietly, his lungs will be no worse for wear (Ware)."

"Ah," Bro. Ware snapped in, "particularly if the colour of his hobby be sorrell (Sorrell). Ha! ha! ha!"

"The lamb had better go to a next (Senex) and then he may be low (Beale) against the roaring of the salt (Salt) waves as they dash upon the mountain (Mountain), shouted Bro. Hobby.

"Well," replied Bro. Lamball, "I shall never quarrel with any Brother who holds the cord well (Cordwell—cable tow) for this or anything else, provided he does not call me a villain O (Villeneuve). Ha! ha! ha!"

"I shall not, Brothers and Fellows," responded Bro. Villeneuve "question your good faith, although you carry on so briskly a Pun—ic war."

"A truce to your wit," Bro. Madden interposed. "I thirst to mend my simile."

"Nay," said the W. Master. "If Bro. Madden thirsts, why there's an end of it."

"Oh, ho!" echoed Bro. Noyes, "if a pun is meant, I move that we inflict the usual punishment."

"Why, then," says the chair, "we will replenish the glasses, and try to quench Bro. Madden's thirst with a toast."

"Now, all this may appear very puerile to you, sir, but I assure you it is a correct sample of the wit of the age, and formed the staple commodity of a lively conversation at taverns and clubs, which were then the resort of the highest nobility and gentry in the land."

(To be continued.)

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE "VOICE OF MASONRY."

LONDON, January 25, 1860.

This evening has been exceedingly interesting to me. It was the occurrence of the third annual festival for the benefit of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged and decayed Freemasons and their widows. The feast was prepared by the ever active and energetic proprietors of the Freemason's Tavern, and the tables set in the Grand Lodge Room, in the aforesaid building, Great Queen street. There were four tables the full length of this beautiful room (the G. Lodge room, of which I have already written you,) with twenty-six chairs a side, and one on the dais, with about 40 chairs, accommodating in all about two hundred and fifty persons, at a guinea a ticket. The selection of music was under the direction of Bro. George Tedder, so famous on such occasions, and performed by Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Mrs. Paget, and Miss S. Pyne. The assembly was called to order at about seven o'clock, P. M., the R. W. the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, Prov. G. M. for Warwickshire, in the chair; supported by Bros. Lord de Tabley, S. G. W.; Col. Hurlton, P. Prov. G. M. for Bengal; Frederick Slight, J. G. D.; Wm. Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; Potter, P. G. D.; Charles W. Eglenton, P. G. S. B.; Joseph Smith, G. Purse; Stephen B. Wilson, P. G. D.; Hydrupullen. D. Prov. G. M. Isle of Wight; Rev. Ryland Bedford, Prov. G. h. Warwickshire; Harry Winton, Prov. G. D. Sussex; W. Belcher, Prov. J. G. W. Oxfordshire, and many other distinguished individuals besides the aforesaid two hundred and fifty brethren, among whom there were about fifty from Warwickshire to support their Prov. G. M. It was stated on the bottom of the ticket, that dinner would be on the table at half-past five or six precisely, but was detained in consequence of his Lordship missing the train, which required him to employ a special engine for the occasion. The pleasures and business of the evening were pre-empted by chanting the "Grace" in the following words:

"For these and all thy mercies given,
We bless and praise thy name, O Lord;
May we receive them with thanksgiving,
Ever trusting in their word.

To thee alone be honor, glory,
Now and henceforth forevermore. Amen.

From the *Quadrant Spirituali*, A. D. 1545.

PROGRAMME.

- 1 "God Save the Queen."
- 2 New ode—"Hail to thee Albert."—Hobbs.
- 3 Song—"The Red Cross Banner."—Nels. n.
- 4 "Pirates' Solo and Chorus."—Balfe.
- 5 Song—"I am a Roamer."—Mendelssohn
- 6 Trio and Chorus—"Charity."—Rossini
- 7 Chorus—"The Gipsies' Tent."—Cooke.
- 8 Glee—"Brazela."—Stephens.
- 9 Ballad—"Kathleen Mavourneen."—Crouch
- 10 Song—"Is there a Heart."—Braham.
- 11 Song—"The Ladies' rifle corps."—Hodgson.
- 12 Song—"The Power of Love."—Balfe.

The above being performed by professionals, it was really a treat, even to the most fastidious critic. In the W. end of the room (masonically speaking) the gallery was filled with ladies, who, when the brethren were all fairly seated, were conducted into an apartment prepared for their accommodation, where they sat, as I understand, most sumptuously at the expense of the Stewards, a privilege they (the Stewards) inherit with their office. Just as the cloth was being removed, the ladies returned to their seats in the gallery, amid cheers and clapping of hands, and seemed to take the liveliest interest in the speeches of the evening.

After the usual toasts on such occasions were disposed of, the Chairman then called upon the brethren to fill a bumper to drink to the toast of the evening, and inviting them to do so. He hoped that, should he fail in doing justice to the noble charity he had the honor to advocate, the brethren would kindly excuse him. [Hear! hear!] He alluded to the fact that one branch of the institution—he meant the Asylum for Aged Freemasons—was founded by the M. W. G. M., the Duke of Sussex, in 1842; since which time one hundred and forty-nine aged Freemasons had been received into it, among whom there had been distributed the sum of £14,203 15s, or \$71,018 75. He also alluded to the Widows' Funds, which was sanctioned by the present Grand Master, the Earl of Zeeland, in 1850. This, during the nine years of its existence, had sheltered forty poor families, the widows of deceased brethren; and they had received, in alleviation of their wants, £2,535 12s 6d [hear! hear!] equal to \$12,678. His lordship was informed that there was now on the list of approved candidates the names of fourteen of their brethren, and fifteen applicants whose claims had not yet been laid before the committee. He alluded also to the fact that the persons who knew nothing of Freemasonry often said that Masons do nothing but eat and indulge in convivial meetings, and inquired if the foregoing statement did not prove the contrary? [Cheers.] Since their last meeting there had been set aside for the building fund the sum of £100. This argued well for the flourishing condition of the institution [cheers], and that the funds they might raise would be expended in the cause of true charity. The toast was enthusiastically received and drank. Bro. Col. Burlton then proposed the death of the noble Chairman which was received with great applause. His Lordship made an appropriate reply, thanking the brethren for the warm manner in which they had drunk the health. Bro. W. Farnfield, the Secretary of the institution, then read the list of subscriptions, which the Earl of Zeeland, M. W. G. M., headed by a subscription of £10 10s to the male fund, and £10 10s to the female fund, accompanied by a note expressing his lordship's regret that it was not in his power to attend the festival in person. Some of the Provinces gave over £200.

When Bro. Farnfield had concluded, Lord Leigh rose and begged permission to congratulate the brethren on the very handsome collection of the evening, which amounted to £2,096 18s 6d (equal to \$10,480), with two lists yet to come in. [Cheers.] The Rev. Ryland Bedford, Prov. G. Chaplain for Warwickshire, then addressed the brethren in very eloquent language, and said that, being but a young Mason, and this being the first occasion of his appearing before a meeting like the one before him, he could not but feel considerable anxiety; yet, speaking upon the subject which had been entrusted to him, he felt they would readily throw