

peace and good will shall prevail among men. Seeing this, we commend to those churchmen who still cling to the obsolete ideas of the middle ages the problem whether in the face of our constantly increasing strength, in view of the fact that no misfortune discourages and no adversity prevents our onward march, the work they have undertaken is not beyond their strength, and whether their efforts against us are not likely to recoil against themselves, as when a man cuts his nose off to spoil his own face?—*N. Y. Dispatch.*

OLD LODGE WARRANTS AND CERTIFICATES.

By Bro. Wm. J. Hughes

In looking over Bro. Kenning's "Cosmopolitan Calendar," the other day, it occurred to me that it was worthwhile seeking the proof for the several years of origin ascribed to several of the lodges, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland was selected for the test. The first on the roll is the Grand Master's Lodge of the year 1749, and the next is No. 1, First Lodge of Ireland, held at Cork, 1731. No. 2 being held at Dublin, and said to have been constituted A. D., 1722. We applied to an able Mason in the city to obtain for us a copy of the warrant (if any such existed) for the year 1727, and we were duly favored by a transcript of the document, a copy of which is appended. The date, however, is not 1727, but 1732, and it is stated at the foot of the charter that the centenary of the Lodge was celebrated in the year 1832.

COPY OF WARRANT, 1732.

"By the Right Worshipful and Right Honorable Lord Viscount Netterville, G. M. of all the Lodges of Freemasons in the kingdom of Ireland, the Right Honorable the Lord Viscount Kinglaid, D. G. M., the W. James Brenan, M. D., and Robert Nugent, Esq., G. W.'s.

"Whereas, Our trusty and well-beloved Bro. Mr. James Rafter, Mr. John King, Gent, and Mr. George Harland, warden; have besought us that we would be pleased to erect a Lodge of Freemasons in the City of Dublin, of such persons, who by their knowledge and skill in Masonry, may contribute to the well being and advancement thereof. We, therefore, duly weighing the premises, and having nothing more at heart than the prosperity and true advancement of Masonry, and reposing special trust and confidence in our trusty and well beloved brothers, the said James Rafter, John King, and George Harland, of whose ability and knowledge in Masonry we are satisfied, do by these presents of our certain knowledge and their motion, nominate, create, authorize and constitute the said James Rafter, master, John King and George Harland and their successors full power and lawful authority from time to time, to proceed to election of a new master and wardens, to make such laws, rules and orders as they from time to time shall think proper and convenient for the well being and ordering of the said Lodge, reserving to ourselves, and our successors, Grand Masters and Grand Wardens of Ireland, the sole right of deciding all differences which shall be brought by appeal before us and our successors, Grand Masters and Grand Wardens of Ireland.

In witness whereof we have hereto set our hands and seal of office, this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord God 1732, and in the year of Masonry, 4,732.

Intra pli.

JOHN DENNELLY, Secretary.

There are several Lodges with the date of their decade of last century ascribed to them still in existence in Ireland. Whether they all have the right to be so designated we cannot yet determine, but most probably they are about the age stated, for there must have been many Lodges in active work before 1740, and the earliest history of Freemasonry in Ireland has yet to be written. No Lodge in that country claims an existence prior to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster, (or Grand Lodge, as it is sometimes called,) so that there is no evidence, as yet, of Lodges being in existence in Ireland before the premier Grand Lodge of the world was established at London, A. D. 1717. In Scotland, there are many, however, which were working in the *seventeenth century*, and which still continue to be lodges of Free and Accepted Masons. There are many of this class, "Mother Lodge of Kilwinning," No. 0, at Kilwinning; "St. Mary's Chapel," No. 1, at Edinburgh; "Cannongate Kilwinning," No. 2, Edinburgh; "Scoor and Perth," No. 3, Perth; "St. John's," No. 3, *bis*, Glasgow; "Cannongate and Leith," No. 5, Leith; "Hamilton Kilwinning," No. 7, Hamilton; "St. John's," No. 9, Dunblane; "Ancient," No. 30, Stirling; "Aberdeen," Lodge, No. 34, Aberdeen; "St. John's Kilwinning," No. 57, Haddington, and the ancient Lodge at McIlrose. There are also several which have records, or can prove their existence as Lodges during the early part of the last century, when there was no Grand Lodge for Scotland, it not having been instituted until 1736.