

an invited guest. Of course it is not generally known here, that Mr. Broughton is a distinguished member of the Masonic Order, and it will therefore be of interest to the readers of the CRAFTSMAN to learn something of his history.

R. W. Bro. Broughton was for some years General Manager of the Neath and Brecon, the Mid-Wales, and the Hereford, Hay and Brecon Railways, and Managing Director of the Potteries, Shrewsbury and North-Wales Railways, all parts of that large system of Welsh railways to amalgamate which he was induced to leave Ireland in 1865. Before leaving Belfast, the high appreciation in which he was held was made manifest by the mayor and chief merchants presenting him in public with a costly service of plate, and an illuminated address, signed by fifty-five of the most prominent merchants of that city. An address and a service of plate were also given him by the employees of the Ulster Railway Company, of which he had been Secretary and General Manager for ten years, and the directors presented him with a hundred guineas, and a handsome dining-room clock of equal value, to mark their sense of his conduct. We learn that Bro. Broughton was highly esteemed in the old country, not only as a popular and experienced railway manager, but as a man of tact, great social qualities and hospitality. He has been accredited to the Railway Clearing House since 1850, and was one of the Committee of the Association. He gave valuable evidence before the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons on Railway Amalgamation in 1872, and it was chiefly on that evidence that the Act of Parliament was framed appointing the new tribunal for the government of the railways of Great Britain, and during its passage through the Houses of Parliament, Lord Carlingsford, then Mr. Chichester Fortescue, constantly consulted him.

On leaving Wales in June last, Bro. Broughton was entertained at a complimentary banquet by the Talbot Lodge, at Swansea, which was attended by brethren from all parts of the jurisdiction. The chairman was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of South Wales, who in proposing the health of the guest spoke in the most flattering terms of the eminent services he had rendered to the Province of South Wales. Coming amongst them as he (Bro. B.) did, some nine years ago, he speedily identified himself with Masonry in the province, and he earned the favor of the brethren to such an extent that for three consecutive years he filled the high position of Master of Brecon Lodge. This would show how distinguished a Mason he must have been before he would have received such an honor at the hands of the brethren of the lodge. He was next selected upon three separate occasions to hold high office in Grand Lodge, and he now sat amongst them a Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. In reply Bro. Broughton said:

"He felt how little he had really done for Freemasonry—how little he had done to carry out that which he learnt, when twenty years ago, the mysterious veil was drawn aside, and he was admitted into their midst. What he heard then he should never forget, and he was quite sure he had carried out very imperfectly the principles inculcated, and for which he had received such honor and consideration at their hands. He would tell them why he admired Freemasonry—nay, why he loved it. He admired it, first, because it inculcated a belief in, and an adoration of, the Almighty God, because it teaches us morally and truth as guiding principles, and exhorted to charity as the one beneficent rule of daily life. It was religion without dogma, and almost without doctrine. Beyond this, it tended to elevate man in every respect, both morally and socially, and could be understood only by those who investigated the mysteries by which it was surrounded. Though ancient, it could not be classed among the worn-out sciences. It was a thing of to-day, as it was that of the distant past; and they