

ance, and his good memory. No, all is changed. A young P. M., exclusively well got up, very civil, very pleasant, and very fluent, repeats those cherished formulæ which we have heard so often from friendly lips of old, from the brave, the true, the warm-hearted. and the most fraternal alike in speech and heart, and which we know so well, and have been acquainted with so long. The old Lodge is the same in some respects, to us, at it, indeed, must be, and yet it is not the same. We miss the smiling faces and warm hearts of the past; we miss friendship that never wavered, and fraternal feelings that never changed; and miss the old familiar companions of many an hour of work, of many a reunion; and, like ghosts in an assembly of the living, we are like strangers in a home which once was ours, and new comers in a Lodge room which we aided to establish and adorn. And all we can say is, "Such is life." Time and change come to all in turn; they dim the after hours of life with lowering clouds, they undermine friendship, and they deaden affection. The world is moving on and we are growing old, and the "postnati" are getting the advantage of us, and think that we are not quite go-a-head for them. Like Masonic philosophers, let us accept calmly, then, the inevitable and the actual. We have worked our work, we have done our duty, we have laughed at old Jowler, and cheered Pat Maguire's song, and have declared that our W. M. is a "jolly good fellow, which nobody can deny —ny." We have upheld the cause of the Masonic Order, or have furthered the claims of Masonic benevolence, and as every dog has its day, we have seen ours. But still the memories of the past will supervene to whisper to us many pleasant hours and happy gatherings, and to remind us of that good old Lodge "quorum pars," once upon a time "magna fuimus."—*Kentucky Freemason*.

EARLY MEETINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

BY BRO. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

Students of Masonic History will be aware that but little is known about the institution of the Grand Lodge of England in 1716-17, and for that little we are mainly indebted to the Rev. James Anderson, D. D. There are, however, other indications of the importance and position of Freemasonry in the early part of last century than those furnished by our Books of Constitutions—*Historical Introductions*—from A. D. 1723. One important work especially, written in 1721, and printed in 1723, dedicated to the Grand Master of the Freemasons of Great Britain and Ireland (there being but one Grand Master at that period, viz. in England), and containing many curious allusions to the Fraternity, has not yet been considered as it deserves, and it is our intention to treat of it shortly.

Because, however, we obtain our knowledge of the Grand Lodge and its meetings from the source indicated—Book of Constitutions—some have thought fit to doubt almost its very existence until years later than 1717, and hence any other evidence of its condition becomes valuable, and should be carefully noted. Our good Brother Clarke, of Shepton-Mallet, having copies of the *Whitchall Evening Post*, has kindly made several extracts therefrom, and which are now submitted for the information of the Craft:—

(*W. E. Post*, December 28th to 31st, 1728). "Friday last being St. John's Day, there was a great appearance of Freemasons at Stationers' Hall, where a handsome entertainment was provided for them by 12 stewarts chosen for that purpose, after which the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year, viz.: the Rt. Honble. the Lord Coleraine, Nathaniel Blackesby, Esq., Deputy Grand Master, in the room of Alexander Chock, Esq., and Sir James Thornhill and Martin O'Connor, Grand Wardens, in the room of the said Mr. Blackesby and Mr. Jos. Highmore."

"'Tis remarkable that there were present the Master of the Lodge at Madrid, in Spain, and the Wardens belonging to the Lodge of Carmarthen, in South Wales, and a Commission was signed by the Grand Master to constitute a Lodge in the East Indies.

"At the same time the Grand Master and Wardens, and most of the gentlemen present took tickets to appear in white gloves at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane as last night, where the Play of Henry IV., Part II., was acted for their Entertainment, and a Prologue and Epilogue were spoken suitable to the occasion, and in honor of that society."

This is a very long report for the *Post*, the paragraphs generally only averaging four or five lines, and is an indirect proof, with others we might mention, of the wonderful prosperity of the Grand Lodge at that time, though only seven years from its constitution. The fact indeed points to the great probability that the Grand Lodge is an outgrowth of numerous Lodges, and many members scattered over the country, in addition to the four old Lodges, and the Brethren who directly instituted it—Lodges