

fied this evening in having been made a Freemason in this lodge. and on this occasion, when so goodly a number of the fraternity are around me, I must ask you to excuse me for not having, as arranged, presented myself for the ceremony at your last lodge meeting; but, as you are aware, a public engagement prevented this. I must further ask you to excuse the seemingly negligent manner, so far as my personal appearance is concerned, in coming before you this evening, but this slight informality will be excused when you know I have only just returned from Oxford. I was desirous of appearing here at all hazards, to-night, knowing you had considerably convened this lodge meeting for my convenience, and I thank you for this kindness. I am fully alive to the Masonic obligations I have entered into this evening, and, brethren, I cannot deny that I was deeply affected by the impressive ceremony. I have heard a great deal about Masonry, and I am now proud of being one. I will try to be a good Mason. No endeavor shall be wanting on my part. I feel pleasure that my humble attempts to further the chances of saving life at sea have been referred to by our immediate Past Master as Masonic acts. I will still continue in my endeavors to bring those attempts to a perfectly successful issue. Brethren, whether you credit it or not, my one sole object in constructing my apparatus and performing the different experiments I have, is to benefit humanity. I feel satisfied that I can have no higher or purer aim, and I wish for none other. I was staying at Wolverhampton the other day at a place where a lodge was being held. Hearing I was in the hotel some of the brethren, thinking no doubt that I must be a Mason, courteously asked me to join them. I felt sorry to confess I was no Mason, and from that moment I determined to become one as soon as I conveniently could, and, brethren, I thank you that you have on this present occasion afforded me an opportunity of carrying that determination into effect. In conclusion, allow me, Brother Gamman, to thank you for the kind way in which you proposed the toast of the Brother Initiate, and you, brethren all, for the genial manner in which you accepted it. Without giving Bro. Boyton an opportunity of resuming his seat, all present earnestly begged him to give an account of the different experiments he had made with his life-saving dress, and the reasons he had applied himself to the task of bringing the apparatus to that perfection he had. Bro. Boyton then at considerable length stated he was connected with a body in America whose duty was to save the lives of shipwrecked mariners and others when in danger, and that subsequently he filled the post of commander of this body. In the performance of his duty he was too frequently brought in contact with heartrending scenes. The poor results attending his and the men's exertions to save life were out of all proportion to their efforts, and his idea then struck him. It stood to reason that in a heavy sea, or even on ordinary occasions, the swimmer, however good his intentions, had enough to do to sustain himself in the water, and very little of his efforts could be expended upon others. From the first, therefore, his object was to construct such an apparatus, and of such buoyant capabilities, that the swimmer should not be required to expend one iota of his strength towards keeping afloat, thus reserving all his powers for the object in hand—saving life. At last he produced his dress. The greatest difficulty he experienced in its construction was so to shape the head piece as to prevent water from entering, and in this, after repeated trials, he happily succeeded. At the commencement his dress did not meet with that approval he humbly thought it deserved, but time and patience on his part procured the favorable opinion of the public. He essayed many attempts to perform experiments with his invention on dangerous occasions, and he was often prevented from doing this. At last prejudice toned down, and he convinced the public in America that his dress fully answered the purposes for which it was intended; that it was of special use when shipwrecks occurred on a dangerous coast, with a heavy sea raging, and no means save the unaided efforts of a good swimmer at hand to convey a line to connect the ship with the coast, and when the efforts of the most powerful swimmer to do this were entirely unavailing. Then it was when a plucky man safely esconsed in his dress could perform all requirements with comparative ease. He feelingly alluded to the recent disastrous wreck of the Schiller on the Scilly Isles, and felt confident that had there been a few of his dresses on board the ill-fated ship, at the time she struck, the majority of the unhappy passengers and crew who met with so cruel a fate could easily have been saved. Amongst other experiments he alluded to the one he had made off the coast of Ireland, when coming from America to this country. He entered the sea many miles from the coast, with a packet of letters; on that occasion he experienced great difficulty in reaching land, and when he did he found nothing but high rocky cliffs to the east of Cape Clear, and no place offering a safe landing. The sea was running so high that sometimes he appeared to be on a level with the summits of the stupendous rocks, and at others he would appear to sink down into an awful abyss, those same rocks and cliffs looming out before him like great mountains. He had an awful time () was obliged to confess, and he thought his end was come. It was the only time,