

## INAUGURATION OF THE NEW MASONIC HALL AND BUILDINGS.

FROM THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.

On Wednesday last the great event which has for so long a period occupied the attention of the entire Masonic Craft of Great Britain, was celebrated in a manner commensurate with the interest which has been manifested in reference to it. The large hall was completely filled by members of the Craft from all parts of the kingdom, and the brilliancy of the scene is without a parallel in the history of Masonic proceedings. The enrichments of the great hall, from henceforth destined to be devoted exclusively to the celebration of Masonic rites, must be described on some future occasion, but for the present it may suffice to say that the entire fittings are of the most gorgeous character, and reflects the highest credit upon the Committee, by whom they have been carried to completion. We cannot refrain however, from noticing now the splendid addition made to the Grand Lodge of those magnificent chairs formerly used by the Earl of Moira, and his predecessors, which were for some years laid aside, but have now been redecorated, and were used for the first time on this occasion.

The time of meeting was named as four o'clock, and at that time the large hall was completely filled, although the proceedings were stated not to commence before half-past four o'clock.

At half-past four a procession was formed in the corridor on the ground floor, and proceeded up the grand staircase and along the corridor to the great hall.

The M. W. Grand Master took his place on the throne, and amongst those present we noticed the Right Hon. the Earl of Limerick, Prov. G. M. for Bristol; the Rev. John Huyshe, Prov. G. M. for Devon; Stephen Blair, Prov. G. M. for East Lancashire; T. T. Hall, Prov. G. M. for Cambridgeshire; R. J. Bagshaw, P. G. M. Essex; Sir F. Burroughs, D. G. M. for Ireland; F. Roxburgh, P. G. Reg.; Bentley Shaw, D. P. G. M. for West Yorkshire; Dr. Jabez Hogg, P. G. D.; Savage, P. G. D.; J. Cox, P. G. D.; J. Hervey, G. Sec.; Rev. R. J. Simpson, G. Chap.; Rev. J. Revenshaw, G. Chap.; John Emmens, P. G. Purst.; John Smith, P. G. Purst.; T. A. Adams, P. G. Purst.; T. Lewis, G. Purst.; W. Ough, Assist. G. Purst.; Lillewelyn Evans, President of the Loard of General Purposes; A. J. Macintyre, G. Reg.; Samuel Tompkins, G. Treas.; Clabon, P. G. D.; J. Mason, P. G. S. B.; Albert Woods, G. Dir. of Cers.; J. Fenn, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; Fredrick Dundas, P. G. W. & Representative of the Grand Lodge of Prussia; Colonel Burdett, representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; Colonel Lowery Cole, P. G. W.; J. Havers, P. G. W.; E. H. Patten, P. G. S. B.; J. Spires, P. G. S. B. & D. P. G. M. for Oxfordshire; Major Creaton, P. G. D.; W. Smith, C. E., P. G. Steward, W. M. 1238, P. M. 33, &c.; Stacey, Senior P. M. of Etonian Lodge, 209; Willis, W. M. 209; J. R. Stebbing, P. G. D.; Main, P. M. New Concord; Maples, P. M. St. Luke's; Halsey, P. M. Caledonian; Winn, P. M. Eastern Star and Temple; States, P. M. & Sec. Prudent Brethren; H. Wellington Vallance, P. M.; Tuscan; Bolton, P. M. Justice; Tanner, W. M. 177; Foulger, S. W. 177; H. Thompson, P. M. 177 & 1158; K. Potter, P. G. D. & Treas. of Moria; J. G. Marsh,

P. M. 28 & 192; R. A. Brown, P. M. 145; R. Spencer, P. M. 26, 263; Charles E. Thompson, of Domatic 177, S. D. and Sec. Southern Star Lodge, &c., and a large body whose names we were unable to ascertain.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer.

The Grand Superintendent of works now approached the throne, and handed to the Grand Master the plans of the new, and now completed buildings.

The Grand Master said:—Brethren, we are this day honored by the attendance of the Right. Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master for Scotland, and therefore I shall ask for two Past Wardens, two Deacons, and two Stewards, shall retire and conduct him into Grand Lodge.

These officials accordingly retired for the purpose, and on their return, escorting his lordship, he was received with loud and enthusiastic cheering. He was conducted to the dais, and took his seat on the left of the Grand Master.

When the cheering had subsided,

The Earl of Dalhousie rose, and said:—Brethren, I will not detain you, or cause any interruption of the proceedings, by making a speech at this time, but I cannot help thanking you most cordially, in the name of my Scottish brethren, for the reception you have given me as their Grand Master, and I say that I accept it as a proof of the brotherly love and affection which I trust will always subsist between the two Countries. Loud cheering followed these few remarks.

The Grand Secretary (Bro. Hervey) then read the summons convening the special Grand Lodge for that day.

The Grand Secretary read a letter from the Earl de Grey and Ripon, stating that he was unable to attend, having only recently received the commands of her Majesty to attend a Council at Windsor. Therefore he could not refrain from obeying her Majesty to attend the Council, but still he would have been amongst them at a later period of the day had her Majesty not also invited him to dinner with her at Windsor Castle. Such being the case, his lordship would be quite unable to attend.

Bro. J. Havers, P. G. W., and Chairman of the Building Committee, then addressed the Grand Lodge, and said on the present occasion it was his duty that day to address a few observations in reference to the building they were about to inaugurate, but as he should be followed by the Grand Chaplain, who would deliver an oration in which the subject would be fully treated, he should only give a short statement as to the origin and completion of the building. For a long time there had existed an earnest desire amongst many members of the Grand Lodge, that they should have a fitting home for English Freemasons, and when a committee was formed to consider that subject, they approached the task with great difficulty, for as all large bodies were difficult to move, they found that the Masonic body did not materially differ from them in that respect. It was about ten years ago when the subject was first mooted, but it was not until 1862 that the committee was formed, and the work was nearly completed (as he was understood to say) in 1867. He understood that the principle of competition was received with disfavour amongst architects, but the execution of this work