

of the 46th Regiment, in an address before Royal Gloucester Lodge at Southampton in 1870:

"Shortly after I had been made a Mason in St. John's Lodge, Secunderabad, Deccan, E. I., at which place I was quartered with the 46th Regiment in 1831, on visiting the store rooms, as a member of the mess committee, I noticed an old bullock trunk with brass mountings, engraved, 'No. 227, L. S. M. V.'

"Learning that it was only an old box which had belonged to the Masons of the corps and *there being no objection to my having it*, I removed it to my bungalow, when I found that the lock had been forced open, some jewels were certainly missing, but a record book was there and several books of by-laws, the Bible in a torn and dilapidated state and a charter almost obliterated. *This was the first time that I believe I had ever heard of Masonry in the regiment,** and at first wondered why such an evidently *complete cessation of work*.

"It appears that some time after the regiment arrived on the Coromandel coast in India, the Lodge, retaining its own name, *worked under a local warrant,†* but that after many marches of the regiment to various stations, one march in particular from Cannamore to Secunderabad in 1827, proved to be a march of death, many of the brethren fell ill and died of cholera, many went to England sick. It was not therefore surprising that having lost their best members, the Lodge chest was in the state I found it."

Col. (then Capt.) Lacy brought the Masonic chest with its contents to England on the return of the regiment in 1833. In the following year while at Weedon, Northamptonshire, he sent the warrant to Ireland with a request for its renewal. The Grand Lodge asked for the names of at least three of the old members on the application. "Even this was impossible," he says, "*there was only one of the former band of brothers.*"

This name together with two of the senior Masons of the regiment was accepted and a new warrant was issued, whereupon Capt. Lacy was installed as W. M.

*Note. Col. Lacy joined the regiment in 1827. This date is therefore of some significance.

†Note. No. 7, Coast of Coromandel, under English authority.