

to receive. The more particularly have we to express our warmest thanks and gratitude for the distinguished mark of favor your Royal Highness has conferred upon the Order in Ireland by accepting the office of Patron; and we pray the Great Architect of the Universe that He may grant you a long life, and continue to pour upon you His best blessings.—LEINSTER, G. M.; MAXWELL C. CLOSE, G. S.

His Royal Highness then read his answer as follows :

I thank you very sincerely for your cordial and fraternal address, and for the kind sentiments contained in it towards myself. It was a source of undeniable satisfaction to me when I was elected a member of the Craft, and I think I may without presumption point to the different Masonic meetings, which since my initiation, I have attended, as a proof of the interest I take in all that relates to Freemasonry. I can assure you that it has afforded me great satisfaction to become the patron of the most ancient and honorable society of Freemasons in Ireland, and that an opportunity has been given to me by my visit to Ireland of being installed here to-day.

The R. W. the Deputy Grand Master, assisted by the Grand Secretary, then brought forward the clothing and jewel prepared for his Royal Highness as Patron of the Order in Ireland, and his Royal Highness was invested with these by his Grace the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The jewel is fixed within an oval wreath of Shamrocks in gold upon a ground of enamelled blue. It comprises the square and compasses, studded with diamonds, and standing on the segment of a circle similarly enriched; surmounting it is a regal crown, studded with diamonds and rubies; on the reverse side is a plate of gold, with the following inscription;—"Presented by the Grand Lodge of Free and accepted Masons of Ireland to his Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales, Earl of Dublin, Knight of St. Patrick, who was made patron of their ancient order 1871."

The Prince was then saluted as Patron of the Order.

The ceremony of investiture over, the Prince rose again, and spoke as follows:—

Brethren,—I have now to thank you heartily and cordially for your fraternal reception, and for the honor you have done me. I beg to assure you of the pleasure I feel at having been invested a patron of the Freemasons of Ireland. It is a source of considerable satisfaction to me to know that my visit to this country has afforded this opportunity of meeting you, Brethren, in Lodge, and of interchanging these frank and hearty greetings. It is true that I have not been a mason very long, still I will take the liberty of saying that during the short period that I have been one of yourselves I may not be considered an unworthy member. I was, as you may be aware, initiated in Sweden, and attended the Grand Orient Lodge of Denmark. Since then I had the honor conferred on me of being made Past Grand Master of England, last year I received the high and distinguished rank of Patron of the Order in Scotland; and last, though not least, I have now been raised to the high position which you have just placed me in—that of being elected a member of this Grand Lodge, and Patron of the Order in Ireland. I again thank you for the marked compliment which you have paid me, and I am very glad, indeed, of being afforded an opportunity of meeting my Irish brethren here in Grand Lodge. I thank