

CHARITABLE JUDGMENTS.

Gently scan your brother man,
 Still gentler sister woman;
 Though they may gang a kennin' wrang!
 To step aside is human;
 One point must still be greatly dark,—
 The moving why they do it;
 And just as lamely can ye mark
 How far perhaps they rue it.

Who made the heart, 'tis He alone
 Decidedly can try us;
 He knows each chord—its various tone,
 Each spring—its various bias,
 Then at the balance let's be mute;
 We never can adjust it;
 What's done we partly may compute,
 But know not what's resisted.

—Robert Burns.

MASONIC CLOTHING.

BY W. BRO. FRED. J. W. CROWE, OF
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In Scotland, the clothing of Grand Lodge and of Provincial and District Grand Lodges is of thistle-green, doubtless from the color used in the national Order of the Thistle; but private Lodges may select any color they please, and may also add a considerable amount of ornament and embellishment, which is usually on the fall or flap. This fall in Scottish aprons is circular, not triangular as in English aprons,

The veteran historian of Scottish Freemasonry, Bro. D. Murray Lyon, gives many particulars about clothing and jewels in his great work. The Grand Lodge in 1736 ordered that the jewels of the Grand Master and Wardens shall be worn "at a green ribbon."

Embroidered aprons with officers' emblems were introduced in 1760, and in 1767, the "garters" which in the days of knee breeches formed part of the regalia, and the "ribbands for the jewels" were ordered to be renewed. Sashes for office-bearers were introduced in 1744 and jewels in 1760. The Lodge of Dundee wore white aprons in 1733, and the Lodge of Edinburgh in 1739 ordered "a new blue ribbon for the whole fyve jewels." In reply to my inquiries, Bro. Murray Lyon tells

me, that the custom of varying the colors of Lodge clothing was certainly in vogue before the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1736. The older examples of Scottish aprons are much larger and longer than those now in use.

In Ireland most Lodges were very simple cotton aprons, edged with blue and bearing the number of the Lodge, but at their annual festivals the Brethren wear kid aprons almost identical with the English Masters Mason's apron except that there is a narrow silver braid in the centre of the ribbon. The Grand Lodge clothing is of the same color, with gold fringe, but the bottom of the fall is squared off, and curiously enough there are no tassels. The rank of the wearer is indicated by the number and width of the rows of gold braid. Although the Grand Lodge of Ireland was formed in 1725 or earlier, there has never been any regulation as to clothing in its Constitutions, the only authority until quite recently, being in a book entitled "Clothing and Insignia," with colored plates, first published in 1860. Bro. F. C. Crossle, who has studied the matter, tells me, that in days gone by the Worshipful Master in many parts of Ireland, if not everywhere, was always attired in a red cloak and top hat, and this custom had obtained even within the memory of living Brethren, although now obsolete. Before leaving the subject of British clothing, there is one other point I should like to touch on, viz., the wearing of jewels. In a city like this, with the enlightened influence of its famous Lodges, and especially of this Worshipful, "Lodge of Research." I should imagine no breach of law would be possible, but I regret to say that I have seen Brethren enter a Craft Lodge wearing Mark, Templar and other jewels which are quite out of order. The only jewels which may be worn in Craft Lodges are those of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry, including Past Master, Past Z., Grand and Provincial Lodge jewels, Presentation jewels of Craft or Royal Arch offices, Founders' jewels