

words, "Founded in 1774." On the installation card (also in Spanish and dated June 25th, 1917) are the words, "143rd anniversary." Whatever the facts of this claim, the brethren of this interesting Lodge make no assertions they cannot prove.

The claims of two lodges in India remain for consideration and these may conveniently be taken together: One, **"Star of the East,"** established at Calcutta in 1740, as the First Lodge of Bengal; the other at the same place, in 1761 as No. 275, and later known as the **"Lodge of Industry and Perseverance."** In 1774, both of these lodges were in existence according to the records of the Provincial Grand Lodge, though we have been unable to obtain any evidence respecting their previous history or their continuity.

In the "Library of Freemasonry" (Gould and Hughan, vol. iv, p. 131), occurs the following paragraph with reference to the Provincial Grand Lodge, "It assembled for the last time Jan. 25th, 1781. Doubtless the war in the Carnatic, which broke out about that time, had much to do with its dissolution, and Masonry in India was very nearly swept away by it. Every Lodge in Calcutta, where alone in Bengal Masonry may be said to have existed, was extinguished, with the exception of "Industry and Perseverance," and even there the light glimmered feebly. But the members of that Lodge nobly determined that the light should not go out."

The Provincial Grand Lodge was re-established in 1785 and continued with some irregularity for the next ten or fifteen years. In 1794 we find both of these lodges mentioned in the Freemason's Calendar, and it may be assumed that they had been revived after being from four to twelve years dormant. It unfortunately happened, however, that the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge were selected from these two lodges and this circumstance led to no slight dissatisfaction on the part of the other lodges. One by one they transferred their allegiance to the jurisdiction of the "Ancients" established in India in 1798. Lodge, "Star of the East," according to Bros. Gould and Hughan, fell into abeyance, and "Industry and Perseverance," was on the point of closing also. One meeting only was held in each of the years 1802, 1803 and 1804, after which for a long period there were no more. The Provincial Grand Lodge was obliterated and was not re-established until 1813.