

and soe in Albons time a worthie Knight; was chiefe Stewarde to King & had gou'mt of ye Realme; and alsoe of makinge ye Town Walles; and hee loved Masons well; & cherished them; & made there paymnt right good standinge wages, as ye Realme did require. For he gaue ym every weeke iijs. vjd. to there double wages; before yt time through all ye Land a Masoun tooke but 1d. a day, And next to yt time yt St Albons mended it; hee gott ym a Charter from ye King and his counsell; and gaue it ye name of assembly & there at hee was himselfe; and made Masons; and gaue ym charges as you shall heare hereafter. After ye decease of St Albons there came grievous wars into England; through nations; soe yt ye good rule of Masonrie was destroyed; until ye time of King Athelstone; yt was a worthie King in England and hee brought ye Land into good rest and peace againe; and hee builded many great workes & Castles and Abbies; and many other Buildings; and hee loued Masons very well; & hee had a sonne yt was named Ladrian; and hee loued Mason much more than his Father. For hee was full of practice in Geometry; wherefore hee drew himselfe to Commune wth Masons; and to Learne of ym ye craft; and afterwards for ye Loue hee had to Masons; & to ye craft yt he was made Mason himselfe.

And hee gott of his Father ye King a charter, and commission to hold every yeare an assembly where they would wth in ye Realme; and to correcte wth ym selves statutes and trespasses; if it weare done wt him ye craft; and hee held himselfe assembly at Yorke and there hee made Masons, and gave ym charges and taught them the mannrns of Masons; and commanded that rule to bee holden evr after: And to them to ye charter & commission to keepe; and ordained yt it should bee ruled from King to King: when this assembly was gathered together; hee caused a cry to be made; yt all Masons both yong & old yt had any writinge or understandinge of ye charges that weare made before in this land, or in any other Land; yt ye should shew ym forth and there was in some French, some in Greeke & some in English; and some in other Languages; and ye intent thereof was found; and thereof hee commanded a booke to bee made hou ye craft was first found & made, & commanded that yt should bee read and told when any Maçons should be made; and to give him his charge; and from that time untill his time Masonrie untill this day hath beene kept in yt former ordr as well as men might gourne ye same; and furthermore at dyurs assembles hath beene put to and aded certaine charges; moreby ye best advices of Mastrs and fellowes.

Heare followeth the worthie and godly oath of Masons. Every man that is a Masoun take Heede right well; to this charge; if you find yorselve guilty of any of these; yt you amend you; againe especially you yt are to bee charged take good heed that you may keepe this charge; for it is a great peril for a man to forseweare himselfe on a booke

1.—The first charge is that you shall be true man to God; and ye holy church; and that you use noe heresie nor error by yor vnderstandinge or by teaching of a discreet man.

2.—Alsoe you shall be true Leighman to the King without treason or falshood, and that you shall knowe noe treason, but that you amend if you may; or else warne the King or ye counsell thereof.

3.—Alsoe ye shall bee true one to another that is, to say to every Mr & fellowe of ye trust of Masonrie; yt bee Masons allowed; & that you doe to them as you would ye should doe to you.

4.—Alsoe that noe Masons be thiefe in companie so far forth as you shall knowe.