

placed statuary. The room is lit by windows divided into three parts, about 12 feet from the floor. The painting and decorating was done by two tradesmen, Messrs. George West and Alfred Thomas of this town, as their subscription to the erection of the building, and truly it was a munificent gift, being valued at about \$250. Apart from the monetary value, however, the donation was one the brethren should be proud of, being a labor of love; the whole art and talent of the donors were put into the work with the result as stated, that the temple is the prettiest in South Africa. The variety of designs, and yet uniformity, the blending and arrangement of colors are truly astonishing. The work, whilst as elaborate as it well could be, is chaste. The painting is bright, but there is no approach to the gaudy. The ceiling, which is lined, is of sky blue, spangled with stars in gold. The work, in fact, is that of the artist rather than the painter. The Master's chair, placed on a dais 2 feet high, approached by steps on either side, is beautifully carved with masonic pedestals, whilst the other official chairs are of the same design, these being the work and gift of Bro. Jorgenson. The portrait of the first Master, Bro. Hart, a beautifully oil painted enlarged photo by Mr. Davis, has a fitting place at the opposite end of the room from the dais. Mr. Davis has just completed a photograph interior of the temple, which is equal to anything in the photographic art which we have yet seen, considering the difficulty of obtaining the exact degree of light in a room so peculiar as this one necessarily is according to usage. Mr. Davis, however, after exposing the plates in each case for upwards of three hours, succeeded in taking two views, which gave a correct idea of the temple. They are beautifully lighted, and the toning is excellent. All masons, and all who have a taste for good pictures, ought to secure copies.

#### ANOTHER MASONIC MS

Bro. W. J. Hughan writes thus to the *Freemasons' Chronicle*:—Bro. Wm. Watson, of Leeds, has sent me for transcription another copy of the "Old Charges," by desire and with the consent of the R. W. Bro. T. W. Tew, P. G. D., the esteemed Prov. G. M. of West Yorkshire. This parchment roll was presented in October last to the *Masonic Library and Museum* formed in that Province, by Bro. J. W.

Cocking, W. M. 2035, in whose family the document has been preserved for several generations. It is composed of three strips of parchment of over six inches in width, two being long and of about equal length, and the third, forming the concluding portion, being much shorter. The whole extends to some six and a-half feet in length, and is well written, only at times not easily decipherable, as the roll is considerably worn or rubbed in some parts. Its age apparently is about *two centuries*, and the text is mainly of the ordinary kind (save as to several original additions and alterations) until the conclusion is approached, when numerous departures may be noticed, and entirely fresh matter and new regulations are introduced, quite new to me, and making this valuable MS. a *sui generis*.

In consequence of this latter fact Bro. Watson has obtained the approval of the Prov. G. M.—after whom, and in whose honour, by desire of the donor, it has been most appropriately named—for its publication by me in the Christmas number of the *Freemason*, in which paper I feel assured it will be welcomed by the ever-increasing band of Masonic students.

#### AN OLD MASONIC HALL.

A New Haven, Conn., correspondent of the *New York Times* recently unearthed the following particulars of the weirdly-curious decorations of that old cradle of Masonry in Connecticut, a yellow-mossed structure in Lebanon which is said to be the oldest Masonic hall in that State:

The building stands, or did recently, just off the main road between Goshen and Bozrahville, and it is not far from old "Brother Jonathan" Trumbull's "war office" on Lebanon's historic green, so famous in Revolutionary times. It was built prior to 1740, and the split cedar shingles on its sides were nailed with hand-forged wrought-iron nails, and are rotten with moss. It was patterned after the heavy, strong architecture of ante-Revolutionary times, and was a long, low, two-story structure, the upper floor jutting out several feet beyond the main posts. It was covered with a pronounced gambrel roof, and the single door was studded with heavy brass nails. A cast-iron knocker in the shape of Britannia's coat of arms studs the door in the centre; and the primitive little millstone that ground the first of Lebanon's corn answers for a doorstep.