

which is a collateral proof of the fact that Masonry was originally incorporated with the various systems of divine worship used by every people in the ancient world. Masonry retains the symbol or shadow; it is suggestive of a spiritual birth right and alliance for our Institution, while none the less is it a most significant reminder of the importance of those virtues which both dignify and bless the life.

Thus we are taught in the ritual of the first degree, "that by the lambskin, the Mason is reminded of that purity of life, and rectitude of conduct which are so essentially necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides."—*Freemason's Chronicle*.

MASONIC CAREER OF THE EARL OF SHREWSBURY.

FROM a communication in the London *Freemason* for January 22nd, ult., we take the following interesting article on the Masonic career of our Brother the Earl of Shrewsbury, one of the most popular and devoted Masons in Great Britain :

The Right Hon. Bro the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot was installed P. G. Master of Staffordshire about six years ago, and at once took great interest in the various Lodges in his province, establishing Quarterly Communications for the different parts, holding a meeting in each part every three months, so that all Masons could have an opportunity of attending Prov. Grand Lodge, and becoming acquainted with its members. He himself regularly attended these meetings, and consequently soon knew all the prominent members of each Lodge, which enabled him much better to select the P. G. officers at the annual meeting at Stafford. He also causes at each of these our meetings, the charity box to go round, giving largely himself : the proceeds to go to a fund called the "Shrewsbury Fund," for local charity only. He also took very great interest in the three great Masonic Charities, volunteering to take the chair of each at the annual festival dinners in rotation. He began with the Boys' in 1872, at which £5,510 was collected, Lord Shrewsbury himself giving a large sum he had collected from his friends, to the Stewards from his province, who supported him on that occasion. In the following year he presided at the Girl's School, giving away at Chapham the prizes to the various young ladies who had earned them, assisted by Lady Shrewsbury and his daughter, Lady Theresa Talbot; expressing his great delight at the splendid schools, and the proficiency of the scholars. To celebrate the event the Masons of his province subscribed and Lady Shrewsbury presented the schools with an entirely new service of pottery ware, breakfast, dinner, &c., sufficient to supply the whole school, and a few over in case of breakage. Each article is impressed with a design of the schools, and under is the Staffordshire knot, which gives a very pretty effect, and will remind the girls of the donors. In 1875 he presided at the dinner of the Aged Freemasons, when £7,020 was collected, the largest amount yet obtained at the annual festival. There is in his province an association which other provinces would do well to follow—the "Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association," established just five years ago for the increase of subscribers to the various Masonic charities, which is done by annual subscriptions of one guinea a year for five years, a ballot taking place every half year for priority of life subscriptions.

Thus 100 members give £100 guineas each year, which will make twenty life-subscribers : a ballot is taken which of the 100 shall be first entitled to his life vote, and as all promise, under pain of losing what he may have already paid, to pay each year one guinea, in five years the whole hundred will be life subscribers of any institution they may select, thus collecting a large amount for the various charities, and giving the province such a large number of votes that in a few years they will be able to place their candidates in the schools almost on the first application. The Past Grand Master is the President, and took the chair at the annual meeting held at Stafford, last December, when forty life-subscriberships were balloted for. There is also in connection with it a benevolent fund, which is to educate the children of deceased local brethren, who are too old, or who cannot get into the schools. Perhaps, however, Lord Shrewsbury's Masonic love for the brethren of his province was best shown when H. R. H. the Grand Master was installed. Knowing that a good many brethren would then be in London who were not in the habit of often going, and that they would not know where to go on their arrival, he caused P. G. Secretary to issue circulars inviting all the Worshipful Masters, Wardens, P. G. Officers, &c., who were going, to meet at his house in Dover street, Piccadilly, where he had a splendid lunch ready, and sufficient carriages and omnibuses to take the whole of the brethren to the Albert Hall, giving to each a ticket on which was the number of his carriage, to prevent confusion, and appointing a place to meet again. When the installation was over the carriages were again waiting, and the brethren were taken back to Dover street, the noble lord driving there first in his own carriage to welcome the brethren on their arrival at his house, where another substantial meal was ready for those who