

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON AND BRO. PARKINSON
ON MASONRY.

At a banquet given by the Great City Lodge in London, England, on the 20th March, the Lord Mayor thus responded, on his health being proposed :

"I thank you, sir, very much, for the kind way in which you have proposed my health, and the brethren present for the way in which it has been received. I should be ungrateful indeed, if I did not warmly acknowledge the kind reception you have given me this evening. I consider myself to be, although rather an ancient Mason, yet somewhat of a negligent one. I must say that, having arrived at a certain position in Masonry, I have not stuck to it as I ought to have done. But I am now under the influence of this very, I may say, cordial reception you have given me to-night. I may say I am undergoing a kind of revival. I begin to feel again that the respect and esteem of my brethren in Masonry is a possession worth having, and I feel that the honor you have paid to the office I hold is that which should be encouraged. All who hold that office should endeavor to obtain the esteem and the respect which you have shown to me this night. I also feel that you have called upon me in a year which is likely to be most eventful. We have already elected as our Grand Master the Prince of Wales. That is again a revival. It was some years ago that the Grand Master of Masons was also a member of the Royal Family, but it is many more years since we have had, as the Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, the heir to the throne. This year, I am sure, will mark a great epoch in Freemasonry. When we meet together in that large and noble hall which has been erected for other purposes, but which will now be sanctified and made honorable by the ceremony of the installation of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, I feel that we are now, if Masonry did require it, though it does not, being placed before the world in a better light than we have ever been. Our private charities and benevolence can never be much more than they are, but the knowledge of the beauty of them and the good they do may be increased and better and more widely promulgated than it has been. We know at the present time there is a contest going on between darkness and light; we know that Popery and the Pope himself are determined on putting down freedom and good-will to men. It is the object of us Christians, and of us in this country, and of the Prince of Wales himself, to insist that light shall prevail, and that everything that is good and graceful, and honorable, and beneficial, shall stand upward and be put most forward before all mankind. Brethren it is not for me to enlarge more upon this subject. I only wish to show you that although I have been rather neglectful, I have not been forgetful of the great principles of Freemasonry. I do now say that I feel very grateful indeed for the honor you have done me to-night, in electing me a member of your Great City Lodge, and thus connecting my name, as chief magistrate of this City, with Freemasonry. Brother Parkinson, in his excellent speech, has shown that it is the duty of every official in this great Corporation of London to unite himself with Freemasonry. He has brought forward sufficient proof to show that this great city had much sympathy with Freemasonry, and this is a subject which should be deeply engraven on all our hearts. It shows to me that within the short space of two years so large a ledge as this has been collected together, has earned for itself such respect and esteem that a large body of Grand Officers have now met around your table. When I look on my right hand, and on my left, and see so many distinguished Freemasons present, I feel that it is an honor indeed, to be elected a member of the Great City Lodge. They give to us very great countenance and support, and I hope to show you, by my acts rather than by my words, how great an honor I consider it to be a member of a lodge so highly esteemed."

Brother Parkinson, in proposing "prosperity to the Great City Lodge, and Brother James Stevens, the Immediate Past Master," said, Worshipful Master, my Lord Mayor, Bro. Sheriff, and brethren,—I have the pleasing duty of proposing success to the Great City Lodge, and I do so with the greater confidence by reason of the presence of the Lord Mayor and a Sheriff of the City of London, for Freemasonry and civic institutions have, I think, much in common. Benevolence, education, and hospitality are inscribed on the shields of our ancient city guilds, and in countries where civil liberty and religious freedom are assured the vast revenues and potent social forces of Freemasonry are devoted to the same ends. The principle of self-government is enshrined in our Masonic constitutions, and our annual election of Masters, our profound obedience to laws made by ourselves, and binding upon all who take our obligations, whether rulers or ruled, our perfect system of representation, whereby every lodge sends its representative to Grand Lodge—the deliberative assembly which alone has power to alter or repeal laws—all these have their types in that free municipal life of which the City of London has been for 800 years the proud exemplar, which provides