

written works have discovered to the eyes of all who have had the benefit of Masonic light and teaching that he himself had practical knowledge of the craft. The pilgrims yesterday from Paddington were headed by the Worshipful Master of the Bard of Avon Lodge, Sir George Elliot, M. P., and among those with him were Bros. Prince Iskander Khan, (son of the King of Afghanistan); Colonel Burdett, (the Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex); W. P. Frith, R. A.; Edward Piggot, (the Examiner of Plays); Edmund Yates; G. A. Sala; J. C. Parkinson, (of the Grand Lodge, Deputy Grand Master of Middlesex); J. B. Monckton, (Town Clerk of the City of London); Æneas M'Intyre, Q. C., (the Grand Registrar); John Hervey, Grand Secretary.

Before the "retained" carriages provided by the Great Western Company had arrived at Stratford-on-Avon, the Provincial Grand Lodge had met, by the special permission of the Mayor, in the Town Hall of Stratford, and the members of the lodge went forth to meet their Masonic Brethren at the station, providing carriages to convey them and other Brethren to the house where Shakespeare was born. Thence, on the invitation of the Vicar of Stratford, the Rev. Dr. Collis, Grand Provincial Chaplain of Warwickshire, after the Brethren had been formally met in the Town Hall, procession "in clothing" was made to the church. A full choral service was held in the historic shrine, and Dr. Collis preached a short sermon, a discourse fitted to the occasion, the place, and the hearers. The window was then unveiled, a tablet placed beneath is shown, and the pilgrims had once more an opportunity of looking upon the treasures of the erst Warwickshire hamlet, where the stone lies which, on pain of the poet's curse, stops human curiosity and all posthumous honors which humanity would give. Beneath the monument which Shakespeare's daughter erected, and which John Ward, the forgotten leader of the strolling players, the father of the Kembles, re-erected, Dr. Collis read a paper showing the need of restoration of the church, if it is to be preserved. In the evening the pilgrims dined at the Red Horse Hotel (famous through Washington Irving's pilgrimage), the Master of the Bard of Avon Lodge, Sir George Elliot, presiding.

The late Vicar of Stratford was an old and ardent Freemason, and was Chaplain to the Bard of Avon Lodge, a position in which he is succeeded by the present Vicar, who is also Provincial Grand Chaplain of Middlesex. It is cheering in times like these to know that there is nothing exceptional in this union between the Protestant Church and Freemasonry; that we number distinguished Brethren upon the Bench of Bishops, and that in all parts of this realm the Craft and religion go hand-in-hand, impressing upon their adherents a broad charity and a lively faith in good works. Various loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk, and numerous eloquent responses were made, and all the Brethren manifested the utmost delight in the results of their Pilgrimage.—*London Freeman.*

WAS IT FREEMASONRY?

From the Philadelphia Keystone.

DEAR BROTHER EDITOR:—While you and my other esteemed friend, I. N. B., were digging Greek roots from genial gardens, you must often have noticed that passage in Homer's *Iliad*, (Book vi. 119-236) in which the meeting between Glaucus and Diomedes is so graphically described. Did you ever consider what was the nature of the covenant that bound these two men together? It was a connection so strange, and contrary to the spirit of the age, and the work in which they were engaged, that as soon as they recognized it they refused to fight each other, and even *exchanged armor* upon the battle-field! The whole passage is worthy of transfer to your columns, in evidence that the peculiar *spirit of amity* that we now style *Freemasonry*, was cultivated and cherished in those distant ages, and served, in a degree, to mitigate the horrors of war.

The sixth Book of *Homer's Iliad* gives the inclination of the battle to the Greeks. Hector, champion of the Trojans, had gone into the city to order a public supplication to Minerva, Goddess of War. Diomedes, the son of Thydeus, "brave in the din of war," had slain Axylus (12-19) "who dwelt in well-bullt Arisba, rich in wealth, beloved of men because he dwelt in a house by the public way, and was wont to afford public entertainment to all."

Glaucus and Diomedes met in the midst of both armies, eager to fight. But as they approached each other, Diomedes began a colloquy, styling his opponent "most salient of mortal men." He sets out by saying that he had never before met him in glorious fight, and that Glaucus is awaiting "his long-shadowing spear." "They are the sons of the wretched," he boasts, "who encounter my strength." He doubts whether Glaucus may not be of celestial birth, in which case he will refuse to encounter him. "But if thou art of mortal men, who eat the fruits of the earth, come nearer that thou mayest more speedily reach the end of death!"