

## FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

## ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

BY THE EDITOR.

Having already referred to the Royal Masonic Institution for girls in two former papers, we come, in the order of their establishment, to the second of these magnificent evidences of the practical character of English Freemasonry,—the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. This Institution owes its origin, in part at least, to the spirit of rivalry which prevailed between the two Grand Lodges, the “ancients” and “moderns,” during the period of the masonic division. The inception of what has since come to be known as the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, was due to the “moderns,” who in 1788 established the “*Cumberland Freemason's School*,” and in 1798, ten years afterwards, the members of the “ancient” fraternity, not to be out-done in good works, established “The Masonic Institution for Clothing and Educating the Sons of Deceased and Indigent Ancient Freemasons,” His Grace the Duke of Atholl, Grand Master of the “Ancient” Grand Lodge, being its Patron. Six boys were at first put upon the Charity,—a small beginning for the magnificent result that has followed, but a beginning showing that our brethren of those days appreciated the genius and understood the objects of Freemasonry. In order to increase the funds for, and give greater stability and usefulness to the Institution, it was resolved in Grand Lodge, on June 3rd, 1812, that every Lodge in and adjacent to the cities of London and Westminster, upon the registering of every new-made Mason, should pay the sum of five shillings, and every country, foreign, and military Lodge, the sum of two shillings and sixpence, in aid of it. During the same year, the number of beneficiaries having in the meantime been increased to fifty, an appeal was issued to the brethren, urging larger subscriptions and a more liberal support; and in this appeal the desire of the committee “to purchase or build a suitable school-house,” is mentioned. But, curiously enough, no further reference to what must be regarded as a very essential element of success, is made in any of the reports until 1851, “when the project was resuscitated by a few earnest friends of the Institution, to whom the spread of the educational movement throughout the country suggested the necessity of measures calculated to ensure its proper position in an age of general progress, and who felt that no adequate improvement could be made until a home was provided wherein the boys might be brought under a well-organized system, and their health, comfort and habits, more carefully attended to than was possible under the limited supervision to which they had hitherto been sub-