

Indeed, there can be, we trust, but little doubt but that our Order generally has more fully realized that Freemasonry, to be worth anything in itself really and truly to us all, or to be able to encounter the unsparing criticism of the age, must make its practice and profession go hand in hand; and that, therefore, in the development of its greater and truer principles of sympathizing kindness and active benevolence, its living mission seems to be best exhibited and worked out rather than in merely a careless routine of ritual, or in pleasant and genial lodge festivities. It is to this feeling, that is to be traced undoubtedly, the great change which has come over all our feelings and arrangements in respect of the wonted accessories of our lodge rooms, and the needful accommodation for our lodge meetings. Really magnificent buildings for instance have sprung up all over the country, of no mean architectural pretensions, reflecting the greatest credit on their professional builders, and testifying remarkably to the zeal and liberality of our brethren. There, within the sacred arena of the commodious lodge-room we are enabled to carry on with fitting solemnity and praiseworthy decorum, those hidden ceremonies of mystic observance which we have indeed such good reason to admire, to guard, and to prize.

Many of us who remember the by-gone accommodation of Freemasons' Hall will heartily rejoice at our noble Grand Lodge, and at the great improvement happily effected in that old scene of so many fraternal gatherings and so many Masonic Associations. In saying this, we should never forget, that, in a great measure it is in truth, to the energy and administrative skill of our distinguished Bro. John Havers, that our Order to-day must fairly attribute changes of which all must approve, and ameliorations which all must admire; changes and ameliorations carried out consistently and completely in the face of many difficulties and many obstacles. At this moment, too, our Order is happily presided over by one, who possesses not only much experience as a ruler in our Craft, but who unites in his own person many of those attributes which ever serve here to add dignity to high place, and to lend authority to personal rule. Long known as a most successful P.G.M., having presided over a Province which is in the highest state of Masonic efficiency, and which may be said to have shown an example to all other Provinces as regards the great central Masonic Charities, the Marquis of Ripon seems to claim, not only from his past services and Masonic knowledge, but equally from his high personal qualities and distinguished abilities, the heartfelt confidence and loyal support of the Craft at large.

Probably, few elections to the high office he now so ably fills, have been hailed with more sincere unanimity by the Order generally, than was Lord Ripon's nomination and elevation to the Grand Mastership. Perhaps one great reason for the universal approval of the Craft may be found in this, that, all equally are convinced, under his constitutional rule, the Order will continue to progress, alike in peaceful development and fraternal unanimity. Educated in the best school of Freemasonry, our Grand Master has more than once most eloquently proclaimed his clear conviction, that in order to preserve the great outer frame-work of our Masonic building in thorough repair, and the various portions of its inner machinery in working order, a firm while considerate maintenance of our *Lex scripta* and our *Lex non scripta*, is that which most surely best accords with the highest interests of the Fraternity, and with its truest progress, and the due maintenance of