

From the Edinburgh Review

# ORIGIN, NATURE, AND TENDENCIES OF ORANGE ASSOCIATIONS.

- ART. IX.—1. *Report: Orange Lodges, Associations, or Societies in Ireland.* Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 20th July, 1835.
2. *Second Report from the Select Committee appointed to Inquire into the Nature, Character, Extent, and Tendency of Orange Lodges, Associations or Societies in Ireland, with the Minutes of Evidence, and Appendix.* Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 6th August, 1835.
3. *Third Report: Orange Lodges, Associations or Societies in Ireland.* Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 6th August, 1835.
4. *Report: Orange Institutions in Great Britain and the Colonies.* Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 7th September, 1835.
5. *Report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Origin, Nature, Extent, and Tendency of Orange Institutions in Great Britain and the Colonies, and to Report the Evidence taken before them, and their Opinions to the House.* Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 7th September, 1835.

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But the official despatches of Nucella, the continental grand commissioner, or missionary chief to our garrisons in the Mediterranean, afford the most decisive evidence. We say official; because Mr. Nucella had full authority from the grand lodge for his proceedings [390;] and his reports were addressed to Colonel Fairman, as secretary to the society, and read at the meetings of the grand lodge in Portman square. [Report, 3 Appendix, 57.] This special commission, or itinerant warrant, empowering him to form lodges, &c., was signed by his Royal Highness the grand master. [3091, 412, 416—419.] It was displayed by him at Malta and elsewhere to those to whom he was accredited; and was received by them with the utmost respect and submission. He passed rapidly through Italy, and thence to Malta. In a report, dated 4th October, 1833, he says, 'Out of the four regiments here, I find that only the 42d and 94th are sitting under warrants, but the other regiments, the 7th and 73d, have only precepts from the 42d. I shall therefore grant S. Procter, of the 7th, and Charles Staples, of the 73d, warrants—subject to the approbation and confirmation of our royal grand master. I shall communicate to the four regiments the new system, and perhaps be able to establish a lodge for the artillery companies; also 'a permanent lodge amongst the respectable Protestant English residents of Malta.' His next despatch (Malta, 31st October) reports 'that he had attended every lodge that had been held since his arrival; and that he was preparing returns, &c., when his career was interrupted by the commanding officer of the 42d. 'I am sorry to have to state to you that lodge No. 104 is prevented from assembling by the commanding officer, Major Middleton, who threatened to bring any man to a court-martial who should so assemble, after his public notice forbidding such assemblage. As soon as it

was reported to me, I waited on the Major, and expostulated with him on the subject, showing him the printed papers I brought with me, &c. His reply was most gentlemanly and friendly, and he even went so far as to say, he agreed with our principles, but he felt himself bound to act as he did, as commanding officer of the regiment, under an order in his possession from the commander-in-chief, dated so far back as 1829. I answered that I could only express my astonishment at such an order, as our principle was obedience to the laws, and had nothing to do with political discussions, and that I should report the whole to our grand lodge. The consequence has been, that the master and brethren have (I think prematurely) burnt their books, papers, sashes, and every thing belonging to their lodge, except their warrant, and would have burnt that, but from my assuring them that they had no right to do so, as it belonged to the grand lodge; and I counselled them to advise with the grand lodge as to the warrant, telling them their lodge, in my opinion, still existed as firmly as ever.' This was a check which ought, we should think, to have deterred any 'loyal and devoted' man from continuing to expose the soldiers to punishment by leading them to set at naught the general orders of the army. But not so Mr. Nucella, who confesses [3191] that he attended a lodge of the 7th Fusiliers, after this interview with Major Middleton. When pressed by the committee for an explanation of this unwarrantable conduct, he replies (3138,) 'I took it for granted the commanding officer did not object, because, if I had heard that he did, I should have quitted the lodge immediately.' Had not Major Middleton told him that Military lodges were contrary to express orders, and that attendance on them subjected soldiers to punishment? We next find him at Corfu, from whence he writes, 26th November, 1833, as follows:—'I have been baffled in my endeavors to obtain either the sanction or the tacit acquiescence of Lord Nugent to the establishment of a permanent lodge among the civilians of this Island, adding 'that his excellency expressed to me, though in terms of kindness and politeness, his marked disappointment in this city.' He had no better success with Sir Alexander Woodford:—'I am grievously disappointed,' he says, 'for I have found here that no lodge is permitted to assemble, nor will be, the Commander-in-Chief of the Ionian Islands (all which I had intended to visit, but this now became unnecessary) feeling himself obliged to act under an order from the Horse Guards, prohibiting the soldiers from holding or sitting in any lodge whatever.' How little this person cared for these orders, appears from another part of the same despatch, where he says, 'In the meantime, as the two lodges in regiments are actually sitting there (at Malta) under the warrant I granted them, as I informed you in a former despatch, both they and I wish you would send them out regular warrants, under such numbers as the grand lodge may choose.'

On Mr. Nucella's return to England,

he was greeted with the following vote of thanks from the grand committee. 'Having heard read the highly interesting, important and valuable communications of Brother Nucella, from Corfu, Malta, and other remote places, of various dates, during a tour no less extensive than useful, your grand committee beg to offer him their warmest congratulations, &c. The acceptable proofs he has afforded on all occasions of his unremitting zeal to promote the objects and extend the principles of our institution, have been such as cannot fail to ensure the approbation of the grand lodge. In bearing this testimony to his merits, the committee would be guilty of great injustice were they not to recommend him strongly for some special mark of honor for the heavy claim he has established on the gratitude of the high dignitaries, and of the brotherhood in general.' This was followed by a similar vote from the grand lodge, assembled under the presidency of the Duke of Cumberland, Lord Kenyon, Lord Wyndford, &c., on the 9th June, 1834,—Declaring, that 'the zealous exertions of Brother Nucella, as detailed in his letters, afforded high gratification, and called forth the unanimous approbation of the grand lodge.'—(1st Report, appendix 57.)

We confess we cannot conceive how proof can be carried farther, or conviction brought nearer home. Therefore, when we mention the correspondence of the grand lodge within these last two or three years with soldiers in Bermuda, Canada, New South Wales, Gibraltar and Corfu, it is with no view of strengthening our proofs, but of showing the dangerous extent to which these mal-practices have lately been carried; as well as the systematic perseverance with which soldiers have been entrapped into disobedience of orders by a society of officers, gentlemen, and peers! When warrants are sent forth, bearing the sign manual of a Prince of the Blood, and supported by a long array of great names, it is little surprising that men of humble station should be seduced from their duty by the ambition of becoming their brethren, correspondents, and associates. It says much for the good sense of the soldiers, and the vigilance of their officers, that more have not been so seduced. But while we say this, we must remember that the Committee were favored only with such letters as Colonel Fairman chose to give them from the private-public letter-book with which he absconded, and which may be supposed to contain clues to other and deeper proceedings. Enough has been discovered to compel even Orangemen to acknowledge,—

1. The existence to a great extent of Orange lodges in the army.
2. The knowledge of these by the principal and directing members of the associations both of Dublin and London.
3. Their knowledge also of express orders from the Horse Guards prohibiting them.

And, 4thly, The encouragement and sanction given by the Orange body, and its leading members, to the countenance and establishment of such lodges, notwithstanding their knowledge of orders,

and of their enforcement by the commanding officers of regiments.

On the 6th of August, 1835, [2 Irish Report, p. 3.] his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland wrote to Mr. Wilson Patten, the Chairman of the Committee, a letter in which he states that 'Having understood that an impression is prevalent that I, as grand master of the Orange institution in Great Britain and Ireland, have countenanced, and even issued warrants to various regiments in his Majesty's service, I beg positively to deny the fact, nay even, that when such a proposal was made to me, I instantly declined it, saying that it was contrary to the regulations and orders issued from the Horse Guards; and I therefore know of no lodge in any regiment.' His Royal Highness then mentions the encouragement which he considers their late majesties, George the Third and Fourth showed to Orangeism in 1798; and thus concludes—'I certainly have issued no warrant to that effect, as I have before said. It is true I have signed many blank warrants, as they have no specific number of the lodge, or even name. They came to me previously signed by the deputy grand master in Ireland, the grand treasurer, and the grand secretary.'

Colonel Fairman's, Mr. Nucella's, and Lord Kenyon's examination before the English Committee took place between the day when this letter was written and the 24th of August. Sergeant Hame's letters, Mr. Nucella's despatches, Sergeant Keith's presence in the grand lodge; the special rules of 1826, 1833, and 1834 offering a premium on the admission of soldiers and sailors, all were then it seems for the first time, heard of by the deceived and astonished grand master! The consequence was the following letter to the members of the Orange Institution:—

August 24.

'Having learned through the especial information of the deputy grand master of England and Wales, that, owing to acknowledged indiscretion, and negligence on his own part, and a like indiscretion or negligence as he reports, on the part of other officers of the Orange institution, many grants of warrants, or renewals of former grants, have without my knowledge, and contrary to my declared determination, been issued from time to time in contravention of the order of the illustrious commander-in-chief, his Royal Highness the Duke of York. This instrument is signed by me, and countersigned by the deputy grand master of the Orange institution of England and Wales, for the purpose of declaring that all warrants held by any persons in any regiment belonging to his Majesty's service must henceforth be considered as null and void. It having been further notified to me by the deputy grand master of England and Wales, that an irregularity inconsistent with the due construction of law has by his oversight been allowed to creep into the last published rules and regulations of the society, by which district lodges are acknowledged to exist instead of distinct warrants issued to individuals.

(Signed) 'ERNEST, Grand Master.  
Witness, 'KENYON, D'ys Grand Master.'