

THE AUSTRALIAN SOUDAN HEROES.

On the departure of the New South Wales Contingent to the Soudan, our readers may remember that a Patriotic Fund was established towards the relief of any widows and orphans caused by the decease of any of the married members of the Expedition, which was warmly responded to by a number of colonists, and the Grand Master Mason of New South Wales, accompanied by Deputy Grand Master Hunt, and Past Deputy Grand Master Booth, waited upon the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. W. B. Dalley, and offered him on behalf of the Freemasons owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, the sum of £500 as their contribution to the Fund, explaining at the same time that their offer was not to have any political significance, but was simply to be regarded as one of the principles of the Order—the relief of the widow and orphan. Mr. Dalley gladly accepted their offer, and a cheque for the amount was handed to him within a few days. The Freemasons working under the English Constitution in this Colony evidently stimulated by the example of their New South Wales brethren, subsequently in the name of their District Grand Master, Mr. Williams, promised a contribution of £1,000 to the Fund, but we now find from the Report of the last Meeting of their District Grand Lodge, that they do not intend to fulfil their promise because, in the words of Mr. Williams, “a change had taken place in reference to the despatch of the Soudan contingent, and that in consequence of this change, the occasion for the dealing with the vote of £1,000, passed at their last meeting, would not be required, and although they confirmed the vote, they should not be called upon in any way to pay the sum.” We have always regarded an Englishman’s promise as good as his bond, and still hold the same

opinion, and therefore refrain from comment, further than to inquire,—if Mr. Williams had paid the amount he promised (which in our opinion he should have done), would he because “a change had taken place in reference to the dispatch of the Soudan Contingent” demand a refund. We notice that the Secretary for Works who holds a prominent position in the District Grand Lodge of England here, and took a most active part in the dispatch of our troops, for which he is deserving of much praise, was present at the meeting, and are most anxious to know if he coincided with the opinion of his Masonic Chief.—*Sydney Freemason.*

BRO. WM. JAMES HUGHAN delivered a lecture on behalf of the Devon Masonic Educational Fund, on July 20th ult., before True Love and Unity Lodge, No. 248, of Broxham, England, subject:—“The Origin of the United Grand Lodge of England,” and the history of the four Grand Lodges—1717, 1725, 1751 and 1779 being duly detailed. There was a good muster of brethren. Numerous questions were asked the lecturer, and duly answered. The meeting was so pleasant that Bro. Hughan has promised to lecture again.

THE ROYAL ARCH.—Bro. Wm. James Hughan, the Masonic Historian, in the *Freemason* of July 11th ult., states the following to be the present chronological position of the Royal Arch:—

1. First printed reference to the Royal Arch in 1744.
2. First notice by “Ancients,” 1752.
3. Referred to in “Ahiman Rezon,” 1756.
4. Oldest Chapter (Philadelphia), 1758.
5. Earliest English Records (York), 1762.
6. Royal Arch Minutes (London), 1765.
7. Grand Charter of Compact (London), 1776.