

noticed by critical readers that there was mixed up in the histories much that would not bare a close examination, but it was never considered that in relation to Masonic occurrences, taken from the Grand Lodge records, or believed to have been transcribed from the Grand Lodge Books, as it approved and sanctioned the publications, they could be otherwise than truthful, unbiassed statements. But the facts are clearly otherwise. No more untruthful, unreliable, prejudiced Books have ever been accepted by the members of any Society, than those same Books of Constitutions, published by authority of the London Grand Lodge, prior to 1813. We use strong language, broad and comprehensive, and are prepared to prove all that we assert; and for the purpose of giving wide circulation to the results of our investigation, as well as to direct the Masonic mind in a course of thought different from the premeditated, deceptive channel referred to, we intend to publish, in a small volume of about 200 pages, at a price not to exceed one dollar, a Review of Freemasonry in England, from 1567 up to the Union, in 1813. The Review will embrace the relations of the Ancient York Grand Lodge and the London Grand Lodge, and the publications referred to, from a consistent point of view, corroborated by the evidence themselves furnish. The falsities, inconsistencies and contradictions will be fully noticed, and the intent to mislead attention from facts established, clearly manifested. The edition we will publish will be limited to such copies as we believe will be demanded by earnest, sincere investigators, unless, prior to its publication, there shall be a larger call for the book than we estimate.

The period embraced in this Review is the most eventful in the history of Freemasonry, and we freely remark that, no Masonic writer has given the subject the consideration it merits, or ought to demand, from those who presume to be well informed of the written history of the Institution. The writers of England and other parts of Europe, as well as America, have, in the main, copied after Anderson, if not after the history published in the 1723 edition, yet in all else, the "Ancient Charges," and the Regulations, as well as the Transactions of the Grand Lodge, first published in 1738.

All that has been written by Masonic writers on these points has been in the same vein of thought; no thought has been eliminated questioning the truth of any statement made by Anderson; no analysis of his two Books of Constitutions, as if there was no disagreement; yet we defy the Masonic world to show that there could possibly have been twenty Lodges under the London Grand Lodge on January 17th, 1723, the day when the Book of Constitutions, in print, was approved by the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, after having been approved of by the Grand Lodge, its approbation given to it, signed by the Grand Officers and the Masters and Wardens of *twenty Lodges*. We have *only* the word of Anderson for it, that a new Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1717, and that *first* mentioned in 1738, yet he printed in 1723, *six years after 1717*, but nothing is said about the formation of the new Grand Lodge. But we will not anticipate; these are mere *white* derelictions. The Review will be exhaustive in details on the subject mentioned by the authorities referred to, and in any criticism the names above referred to and the London Grand Lodge must be necessarily involved, and their truthfulness questioned. *The ground is firm on which we stand.*