

hitherto acted so efficiently, and it was not until the Grand Lodge of March 3, 1869, that the present committee was appointed to recommend a suitable recognition of the eminent services rendered to the Craft by the Chairman of the Building Committee. Such, brethren, is a very brief retrospect of the history of Freemasons' Hall, under its old auspices and under its present. We maintain that the building Committee, with Bro. Havers at their head, have vindicated the great principle which they had in view, namely, the separation of the Hall from the Tavern, the Tavern ministering to the Hall, but not forming an essential part of it. Now, I wish to refer to the constitution of the Committee which has brought to a conclusion this testimonial. It was at Grand Lodge of 3rd March, 1869, a resolution was proposed—"The buildings in connection with Freemasons' Hall being now completed, and the old hall repaired and re-decorated, 'That a committee of members of Grand Lodge be appointed to consider and report upon a suitable recognition of the eminent services rendered to the Craft by the Chairman and his colleagues of the Building Committee.'" That resolution was carried unanimously, and the committee were appointed, consisting of Bros. John M. Clabon, James Mason, Jabez Hogg, Ed. J. Fraser, Samuel L. Tomkins, Francis Bennoch, Joshua Nunn, Edward Cox, and Brackstone Baker. To tell of the meetings of the committee, the suggestions that were made, and the proposals that were brought forward, and afterwards urged again, would take too long a time. Suffice it to say, that Bro. Joseph Durham was finally selected to carry out the works, and by a report made to the Testimonial Committee in 1869, it was stated—"That the committee have had several meetings, and have considered various suggestions for carrying out the views of Grand Lodge, and they beg to report: 'That, in their opinion, the most suitable and permanent mode of marking the sentiments of Grand Lodge, and the most likely to be in consonance with the inclinations of the Building committee, will be the placing of a sculptured tablet in a conspicuous part of the new building, with an appropriate inscription, to be surmounted by a marble bust of the Chairman, Bro. John Havers, and surrounded by marble medallion portraits of the Building Committee, who are Brs. John Ll. Evans, John Hervey, John Savage, J. Rankin Stebbing, George Plucknett, and Henry Grissell. The locality recommended is the hemi-cycle or semi-circular niche on the first floor, immediately facing the flight of steps leading to the entrance of Grand Lodge. The Committee recommend that they may be empowered to commission Bro. Joseph Durham, A. R. A., the eminent sculptor, to execute the same from his designs, with the advice and concurrence of the Grand Superintendent of Works. In the event of this report being approved by Grand Lodge, and the recommendations adopted, it is proposed to move 'That an expenditure not exceeding 300 guineas be sanctioned for this purpose.' The Committee further recommended that, as a personal memorial, and as an expression of the thanks of Grand Lodge for the valuable services rendered to the Craft by the Building Committee, the inscription to be placed on the tablet, with a concise statement of the circumstances which gave rise to it, should be transcribed on vellum ornamentally, and signed by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and presented to each member of the Building Committee.'" The proposal was carried unanimously, and the result is that Bro. Joseph Durham, whose name has become almost an historical name among the sculptors of England, has executed his work, and how successfully you