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ANCIENT MASONIC LODGES.

THE ALNWICKE MS. AND RECORDS OF THE ALNWICKE LODGE.

BRO. E.T. TURNBULL, W.M. of the Alnwick Lodge, kindly placed in our hands for perusal and publication the records of the Alnwick Lodge, the rules of which are dated the 29th of September, 1701, and are signed by the members belonging to the lodge of that period, and subsequently as late as August 31st, 1722. At the commencement is a good copy of the "Masons' Constitution," evidently of date A. D. 1701, or a little earlier, and certainly a transcript from a much older document. It is similar to the "York Constitutions of A. D. 1704," which we made known to the Craft, in the "Masonic Annual for 1871" (M. C. Peck and Son, Hull). It differs, however, from it and other MSS. in some few unimportant particulars, and belongs to a year in which no other was written of those still preserved. An exact copy may be found in our "Old Charges." The following beginning to the MS. is unique.

"Draw near unto me, ye unlearned, and dwell in the house of Learning."

Ecclesiasticus, cap. 5, ver. 23.

"In the hands of the Craftsmen shall the work be commanded."

Ecclesiasticus, cap. 9, ver. 19.

Then follows the commencement of the MS. proper:

"The might of the Father of heaven with the wisdom of His Glorious Son, through the Grace and Goodness of the Holy Ghost, Three persons in one Godhead be with us at our beginning, and give us grace soe to govern us here in our living That we may come to his Blisse thatt never shall have ending. Amen."

It finishes with—

"These charges thatt we have reckoned, and all other thatt belongeth to Masonry you shall truly keep and well observe, so helpe you God and Holy-dooome, and this Book to the uttermost of your power." FINIS.

The rules of the lodge are of much importance as they are dated A. D. 1701, and immediately follow the MS.; besides which their antiquity is such as to attach much value to the clauses then agreed on as the laws for the members, and are the earliest lodge laws as yet made public. They are headed :

Orders to be observed by the company and Fellowship of Free Masons at a lodge held at Alnwick Sept. 29, 1701, being the genll. head meeting-day.

1st. First it is ordered by the said fellowship thatt there shall be yearly Two Wardens chosen upon the said Twenty-ninth of Sept. being the Feast of St. Michael the Arch-