

remained that as Masons they could treat those calumnies with contempt; but it was the more essential for them to be careful in their election of a successor. He hoped that the brethren who were now assembled from every quarter of Ireland would be actuated by a desire to further the interests of the Order, and that neither fear, favor nor affection, would induce them to put forward any person who would not do so.

Brother the Rev. Lord Plunket, then rose and said that, in reference to the event with which they all were unfortunately acquainted, and in consequence of which they met in the lodge, he would ask the brethren to join him in the discharge of a solemn duty—a duty in the performance of which they must all necessarily feel deep regret. It was a duty which he wished to say that they felt they would like to leave undone. He would ask them to join with him that evening in placing on record the expression of deep sorrow which they all felt because of the death of their beloved and venerated brother and Grand Master, the late Duke of Leinster. He had ventured to draw up and submit to the meeting the following resolution:—"That the members of the Grand Lodge, while bowing with submission to the Great Disposer of all things, cannot refrain from giving expression to the heartfelt sorrow with which they individually deplore the death of their beloved and venerated brother, the late Duke of Leinster, as well as the anxious concern with which, as a body, they contemplate the almost irreparable loss which they have sustained by the removal from the office of Grand Master of one whose unvarying kindness, dignity and wisdom, have for sixty-one years lent so great a lustre to that high and responsible office." They would observe that this resolution asked them first of all to express their regret for the loss of a brother, and he has done so advisedly, for while he attached due importance to the distinctions that existed, he yet felt that there was a sentiment of relationship of a higher and a holier character between themselves and their late Grand Master, a fellowship of brotherhood and common humanity. He thought they would agree with him that the very dear brother who had been taken from amongst them was the very impersonation of all that was good in the system of Freemasonry. He was a nobleman of the highest rank in this their island, and yet when he entered this room, he seemed to leave all his honors and distinction behind him. Each had seen him enter with his genial and friendly smile, courteous greetings, and heard the friendly cordial words that he uttered from that chair. He would just add one other thought which occurred to his mind when he looked back to the character of his revered brother, the late Grand Master, and which seemed to mark him in a very striking degree. There was a combination which was rare amongst fallen humanity, Their late Grand Master combined the wisdom of the sage with the vigor of a man and the simplicity of a child. He had been called away. He had his sufferings to the last, but he bore them with unflinching trust in Him whom he had loved and obeyed through life; he yielded up his spirit to Him who gave it. May our latter end be like his.

Brother Andrew Browne, in seconding the motion, observed that they had to deplore the loss of a great and good man, one who since the year 1843—and that was a long time—had presided over them as Grand Master. For his own part, he could never forget the observations which had fallen from his grace at the dinner given to him on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his holding the office then so worthily filled by him, when he alluded to the position which had been at that time occupied by the Masons of Ireland, who met in a small shebeen-house in Bridgefoot street, and had much difficulty in holding their lives in their hands. How had he left them, and what was the position of the order? They were a large and influential body. Every brother present would admit that they had sustained an irreparable loss in the death of their late Grand Master, who, in every relation of life, had endeared himself to them. The Duke had never been wanting in everything calculated to further the interests of Masonry, and even at great personal inconvenience to himself had attended and presided over meetings calculated to further its interests.

(The resolution was adopted unanimously.)

A copy of the resolution was ordered to be sent to the family of the late Duke.

The Deputy Grand Master next stated that at a recent meeting of the board for general purposes, a recommendation was sent forward to the Grand Lodge, that his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, should be appointed Grand Master, the Viceroy having intimated that he would consider it an honor and a high compliment to be appointed to the office if elected by the members of the Grand Lodge. Knowing the popularity of his Grace, not only as an Irishman, but as a Mason, he felt persuaded that his Grace's appointment would be unanimously endorsed by every brother present—(loud applause),—and as chairman of the board, he moved that the recommendation of the board be adopted.

The motion having been seconded, was put from the chair, and passed with acclamation, every member present rising to his feet and cheering at the result.