

it, to our illustrious chief, His Royal Highness the Grand Master—(loud cheers)—who, since that great and memorable ceremony of installation in the Albert Hall, now nearly six years ago, has ruled our Order so wisely and so well. (Cheers.) His Royal Highness, by his ready acquiescence in my earliest wish that this grand and unprecedented gathering should have the grace and sanction of his presence, has added another red letter day to those already marked by him in the calendar of English Masonry. It is not long since I enjoyed the privilege—one shared by many now present—of sharing in a Masonic ceremony of such importance to present and future generations kindly and ably performed by our Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Duke of Cornwall, in Truro, my native city; and this, brethren, is but one of many evidences of the true and hearty interest evinced by His Royal Highness in the ancient Craft of which he is in this country the distinguished head. Addressing now the members of No. 1 Lodge, whom I am glad to see present here to-night, I am permitted to say that His Royal Highness will allow himself to become an honorary member of that Lodge—(loud cheers)—which I believe is called the Grand Master's Lodge, from the fact of the Grand Master for the time being always becoming a member thereof. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, I propose "The health of His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful the Grand Master." (Loud cheers.)

H. R. H. the Grand Master, who was received with loud cheers, which were long continued, said:—

You, my Lord Mayor, have conferred great honor upon the Grand Lodge of England in entertaining the Past and Present Grand Officers at this magnificent banquet, and in their name and in my own I beg to return you our thanks for this kindness and hospitality on your part. (Cheers.) It is now thirty years since the Grand Master of England and the Grand Lodge have been entertained here, and it is particularly gratifying to them, as it is, I assure you, my Lord, to me, to have been entertained by you during your mayoralty, as a member of the Grand Lodge itself. (Loud cheers.) You have been kind enough, my Lord Mayor, to allude to the laying of the foundation-stone of the Truro Cathedral. I believe I am right in stating that such a ceremony had not previously occurred in the history of English Freemasonry,—namely, the laying of a foundation-stone of a cathedral with Masonic honors. (Cheers.) I can only say that it was most gratifying to me to perform that ceremony, and also to have been so well supported on that occasion by the Grand Lodge, whose mem-

bers certainly came from a long distance to be present on the occasion. (Cheers.) I sincerely trust that the cathedral may be completed before many years, and that it may be a credit to the country in which it is built, and to the Craft which was represented in the initiative ceremony. (Cheers.) You, my Lord Mayor, have especially taken a great interest and concern in this work, and have started a fund which, I trust, before your present year of office is over, may still be more largely increased, and I hope that, as a sum of £5,000 or £6,000 is needed, that sum may before long be found. (Cheers.) With regard to Freemasonry generally, I have always been received with the greatest possible kindness on the occasions when I come before you. (Cheers.) I regret that the many duties I have to perform do not enable me to see so much of my brethren as I should like, but of one thing you may be assured, that I shall always take the deepest interest in everything that concerns the welfare of the Craft. (Cheers.) I have felt that interest from the day I became one of you—(cheers)—and I hope to do so to the day of my death. (Loud cheers.) Brethren, I think we have every reason to say that the Craft has flourished, for the Lodges are increasing year by year, and Masons under the Grand Lodge of England are being initiated in great numbers. When my lamented grand-uncle, who was your Grand Master, died, in 1844, there were not more than 500 Lodges under the Grand Roll of England. There are now 1,900 (Cheers.) Certainly there are 400 of these in foreign countries, but they are under my jurisdiction. (Cheers.) Moreover, as many as 10,000 Freemasons have been made in these Lodges every year during the last ten years. (Cheers.) Then, again, our Craft has especially gone forth in the world as the greatest charitable society which exists. We have been charged with being a "secret society;" but the great tenet of the Craft is that we do not mix in politics as Masons, or in anything that may be detrimental to our country. (Cheers.) We may say that the three great Charitable Institutions of the Craft in England—those for the Girls and for the Boys, and for the decayed Masons or their widows—are our principal charities, which are supported by all the Masons in the country, and I think I am not wrong in stating that annually the means subscribed to these charities amount to more than £40,000. (Cheers.) That fact speaks enough for the name which I trust we have got for charity, and which is one I trust we shall always keep. (Cheers.) There are several speeches to follow, and, therefore, I will not weary you with more remarks; but before sitting down, I wish to express the pleasure it gives me, as I know it does the Lord Mayor, as I am sure it