

shared in by every brother throughout the country—that you may be long spared to take part in our proceedings and aid us by your wisdom, which has for so long a period guided successfully the destinies of Freemasonry. On behalf of the Freemasons of England, I now present you this emblazoned testimonial, as a small but united testimony of respect for your eminent services.”

The Earl of Zetland, whose emotion in returning thanks rendered him almost inaudible, was understood to say “that he thanked the brethren most sincerely for the kind terms in which they had spoken of him in the address voted to him at the last Grand Lodge on his retirement from the office of Grand Master, and he regretted he could not find words to express his feelings on that occasion. He had always endeavoured to do his duty to the utmost in his power, and although the brethren had always given him credit for it, yet on the present occasion they had expressed their feelings in such pathetic language in the address voted to him, that it made him feel that such compliments were higher than he deserved. (‘No, no!’) He had done his best, and had been well assisted by the craft, but he could not find words to express how deeply grateful he was for the favours they had shown towards him.” (Cheers.)

Brother John Havers, P. G. W., said—“Lord Zetland, I have the honour to address your Lordship on behalf of the Zetland Commemoration Committee, and to present you with the sum of £2,370, together with a small souvenir in the form of an inkstand, connected with that event. This testimonial is presented to your Lordship as a testimony of the appreciation of the brethren of your long services. Your Lordship refused to take anything for yourself although you were willing to receive a sum of money to be devoted to charity, or the money would have been trebled in amount. This sum will be applied to charity, and will form the nucleus of a fund to render assistance to Freemasons in the hour of need, without having to apply to the Board of Benevolence. This fund will be invested in the names of trustees, who are the Earl of Zetland, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Earl of Carnarvon, Brothers Havers, Victor Williamson, M’Intyre, and Evans. The speaker then gave a history of the progress of the craft during his Lordship’s rule of it. “The fund for the widows of Freemasons had been established, the girls’ school had been re-built, and the pupils increased in number from 70 to 100; the boys’ school had also been re-built, and the pupils increased from 70 to 115. Since 1844 the lodges had increased from 723 to 1,310, and the certificates from 1,584 to 7,000. The funds of the Grand Lodge had risen from £12,753 in 1844 to £38,629 in 1869. The noble hall had been built, and they were no longer required to hold their meetings in a tavern. The colonial brethren had been relieved from a large amount of taxation, and the appointment of grand officers was no longer confined to London lodges, but the Grand Master searched far and wide, and rewarded merit wherever it was to be found. During his reign all had been contented and happy, and in it he had the privilege of receiving among them a Prince who would be the future King of this great empire, and he thought it was not too much to claim that his Lordship’s reign had been connected with the brightest days of Freemasonry.”

The Earl of Zetland briefly responded, and said as long as he lived he would do his best to promote the interests of the craft.

The deeds of conveyance of the amount subscribed and the splendid inkstand having been presented to the noble Earl, the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form. The Prince of Wales was loudly cheered as he quitted the hall.

THE BANQUET.

All the tickets for the banquet had been taken up at least a week before the day on which it was first announced to be held, and the Grand Stewards, and especially the Secretary, Bro. Meggy, were taxed to the utmost to find accommodation for all applicants. The hall, in which the banquet was held, is a very large one, with raised platform at one end, upon which were tables for the Grand Officers, and at the other a gallery, supported by massive pillars, which was devoted to the ladies, a large number of whom, in full evening dress, were present