

BANQUET TO THE GRAND OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND, AND No. 1 LODGE, AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

We have great pleasure in taking the following from the "Freemason," London. From it, it will be seen, that Past Grand Master, Col. A. A. Stevenson, whom we are glad to learn has again safely reached his adopted home, was honored with an invitation to the Masonic banquet recently given by the Lord Mayor of London, at the Mansion House:

"For the second time within the last two years, the Lord Mayor for the time being has extended the hospitalities of the Mansion House to the officers of Grand Lodge and the lodge over which it was his good fortune to preside during his mayoralty. In 1880, Bro. Sir Francis Wyatt Truscott, the Grand Junior Warden, and W. Master of Grand Master's Lodge, No. 1, issued invitations to a banquet in the Egyptian Hall to the Grand Master the Prince of Wales, the Grand Officers, and the officers and members of his lodge, and the necessary dispensation having been granted, the banquet was held, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and some 300 brethren honoring it with their presence. The gathering was one of the most brilliant and successful in the annals of the Craft, and proved a fitting close for the mayoralty of Sir Francis Truscott.

"On Oct. 28th, Bro. Sir J. Whitaker Ellis, Bart., who, by a singular coincidence is likewise, Masonic predecessor, both Grand Junior Warden and W. M. of Grand Master's Lodge, No. 1, entertained the officers of

Grand Lodge and the officers and members of his own lodge, and with an almost equal amount of success. True, the Grand Master's numerous engagements did not permit of his Royal Highness gracing the festive board on this occasion, but the brethren present were in every respect a body worthy to represent the grand old Craft in England."

"After due justice had been done to the viands, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts proposed and responded to the Lord Mayor next gave, "The Sister Grand Lodges," remarking upon the great pleasure he experienced in having present such important officers as the Past Grand Master of Canada and the District Master of Bengal. As they all were well aware, the great principles of Freemasonry were brotherly love and loyalty to the State to which each Mason belonged. And in his opinion very much of their loyalty—which, happily, they found existing in this country and throughout our dependencies—was due to Craft Masonry. It was with extreme pleasure, therefore, that they found that at this moment the number of Freemasons was greater than it had ever been at any period in the past. Canada was a country not only large in extent, but it possessed great and free institutions, and it was with extreme pleasure that, notwithstanding evil elements, they found it still loyal to the mother country. As in England, so in Canada, he believed that very much of the loyalty was due to Freemasonry. (Hear, hear.) He referred in humorous terms to the fact that Bro. Colonel Stevenson, Past Grand Master of Canada, was an