

rrd., equal to about £1000 of our present money. There were two halls in the Temple in the year 1337. The first, which stood on the site of the present hall of the Inner Temple, had been the hall of the old Knights Templar, and was the one originally assigned to their successors, the Hospitallers; the other had been the hall of "*Freres Serjeus*" of the Order, and remained in the hands of the crown until A. D. 1340, when it was also granted to the Hospitallers as part of the "residue of the Temple." The lawyers who were congregated in the Temple had no title there, except as lessees of William de Langford or of the Hospitallers. But between the reigns of Richard II. and Henry VI. they had become so numerous, that both halls were necessary to contain them, and they divided themselves into two separate societies, called the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple. The Outward Temple, which was farthest away from the City, was granted away by the Crown, and became, after a series of changes, the site of Essex House.

In 32 Henry VIII. an Act of Parliament was passed dissolving the order of Hospitallers and vesting all the property of the brethren in the crown, saving the rights and interests of the *lessees* and others who held under them. In this way, thought not originally, the Templars became tenants of the crown, paying rent for the property held by them. The old hall of the *Freres Serjeus* soon became too humble for the thriving society of the Middle Temple, and in reliance that they would never be disturbed in their building by the crown, they converted their old hall into chambers, and afterwards pulled it down; then, in the 5th of Elizabeth, they, out of their own resources, built their present magnificent hall, which is still one of the noblest ornaments of the metropolis. In both the Temples the ruinous old buildings which had been left by the Knights Templar and Hospitallers were pulled down, and various new buildings and sets of chambers were erected by the societies, or by private members, who had leases for life granted to them as an inducement to build. All this was done by the Templars in reliance on the honor of the crown that their holdings under it, which had been made valuable by their expenditure upon them, would never be interfered with. But though they were for all practical purposes secure against being disturbed by the crown, there was danger that the crown might grant the estate of the Temple to some courtier, just as Henry VIII. had granted the estate of the Covent Garden to the Earl of Bedford. In the reign of James I., some "Scotchman" actually attempted to obtain from his Majesty a grant of the fee-simple of the Temple, which would have enabled him to avail himself of the improvements which had been made by the lawyers. On this application coming to the knowledge of the societies, they forthwith made "humble suit" to the King, and by the influence principally of one of their members, Sir Julius Cæsar, who stood very high in his Majesty's confidence, they obtained a grant, dated 13 Aug., James I., of the property in fee-simple to trustees for themselves and their successors "for the lodging and entertainment and for the education (*pro hospitacione et educatione*) of the students and professors of the law residing in the same Inns forever," the grantees yielding and paying to the King, his heirs and successors, 10*l.* yearly for the mansion called the Inner Temple, and the same yearly sum for the Middle Temple. It will be observed that this trust is for the benefit of their own members only, and not for that of the general public. The two societies then executed a deed of partition, by which the property was divided and apportioned between them, to be held in severalty forever. In the year 1673 the two societies purchased from the crown the fee farm rent of 10*l.* a year each, which had been reserved in the grant of James I., and thus became absolute owners of the Temple.

MASONIC RECORD.

AT HOME.

BARTON LODGE, No. 6, Hamilton, held its annual meeting on the 9th ult., when the following officers were elected: Bro. Charles Davidson, W. M.; Bro. William Gibson, S. W.; Bro. J. F. McClure, J. W.; Bro. A. Macallum, Chaplain; Bro. E. S. Whipple, Treasurer; Bro. John Mowat, Secretary. At the close of the election an address was passed, which is to be engrossed and presented to W. Bro. Davidson for services rendered by him to this lodge.

At the regular communication of Wentworth Lodge, No. 166, Stoney Creek, the W. M. and brethren were visited by the D. D. G. M., R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, Hamilton District, and a number of brethren from the sister lodges of Hamilton, who were very hospitably entertained by V. W. Bro. Murray, W. M., and the officers and brethren of No. 166, to a good spread by Bro. Capt. Williams. They enjoyed a very pleasant time, and were well pleased with the social and friendly feeling existing among the brethren of the mystic tie. Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again.

At the regular assembly of the Odo de St. Amand Preceptory of Masonic Knights