

"OLD CHARGES."

B. W. Bro. W. J. Hughan, of Torquay, England, has published, with valuable comments thereon, in the London *Freemason*, a transcript of a copy of the "Old Charges," called by him the "Colonel Clerke's MS." (Illuminated.)

The date is 1686, the same as that of the now well-known "Antiquity M.S.," given in "Hughan's Old Charges of British Freemasons."

The original is now (in trust) in the valuable library of the Supreme Council of the A. & A. S. Rite, 98° Golden Square, London.

It is written on two parchment skins, running together to nearly five feet in length, the width exceeding thirteen inches. It is artistically illuminated. This manuscript was found some fourteen years ago in an old chest in a village of South Wales, and presented to Col. S. Clerke, Grand Secretary; hence the name given to it by Bro. Hughan.

The initial paragraph is as follows:

"The Might of the Father of Heaven with ye Wisdome of the glorious Sonne through the Grace and ye Goodnesse of ye Holy Ghost that be three persons in one Godhead be with us at our begining and give us Grace So to governe Us here in our life that we may come to his eternall blisse that never shall have ending. Amen."

Craftsmen of to-day cannot over-value the wisdom of the fathers of modern Cosmopolitan Freemasonry in preventing our fraternity from becoming a sectarian institution as some of the short sighted of two centuries ago desired or intended it to be, as is shown by the foregoing and other like paragraphs from the "Old Charges" of British Freemasons.

CRYPTIC MASONRY.

We are in receipt of a copy of the Proceedings of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the Dominion of Canada, at their Sixteenth Annual Assembly at Windsor, Ont., July, 1886, and at their Seventeenth Annual Assembly at Toronto, Ont., July, 1887.

There appear to be seven active councils on the registry in the Province of Ontario, and one in Manitoba. There is no information given of the state of the Rite in the other Provinces of the Dominion, except the appointment of an Inspector-General of the Division of Quebec. In his annual address, of 1886, Acting Grand Master Raymour, D. G. M., gave a well-merited resume of some of the more important Masonic labors of the then lately deceased Grand Master, M. Ill. Bro. Dr. Robert Ramsay, of Orillia, Ont., and pointed out the necessity for renewed exertions to build up and extend Cryptic Masonry throughout the Dominion. In his address at the Seventeenth Annual Assembly, he gave a gratifying account of his many efforts for the promotion of the Rite, and also gave assurances of seemingly well-grounded hope for its more rapid advancement in the future. So mote it be.

There are in the Proceedings fairly well executed wood cuts of Grand Master Raymour, Past Grand Master Spry, and Grand Recorder Robertson.

We sincerely trust that the able and zealous officers of this beautiful and instructive Rite of cosmopolitan Masonry, will fully realize their most sanguine expectations of increased