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THE EARLY HISTORY

OF THE



BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

ORIGIN, PRINCIPLES AND PROGRESS

ORGANIZATION OF THE GRAND LODGE

BY
DR. JOHN G. KING,

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR, 109 NASSAU STREET, EAST.

THE EARLY HISTORY
OF THE
SONS OF ENGLAND
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

INCLUDING ITS
ORIGIN, PRINCIPLES AND PROGRESS;
AS WELL AS A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE FOUNDERS
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE GRAND LODGE

BY
DR. JOHN S. KING,
Author of the Rituals and Ceremonies of the Order.

FEBRUARY, 1891.

TORONTO:
BROS. THOS. MOORE & CO., PRINTERS, 22-24 ADELAIDE ST. EAST.

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This History was presented to Supreme Grand Lodge on the second day of the 16th annual session, held at Hamilton, Ontario, in February, 1891.

On motion it was received and referred to a special committee, composed of the Past Grand Presidents in attendance at the session, together with the mover of the resolution.

That committee, through Brother Richard Caddick, its chairman, reported as follows, viz.: "With reference to the Early History of Our Order, we recommend that the work as compiled by Brother Dr. John S. King be adopted and published in pamphlet form by this Supreme Grand Lodge; and that some suitable recognition of Brother Dr. King's valuable services be tendered to him by this Supreme Grand Body."

This report was on motion received and adopted unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing are true extracts from the journal of the 16th annual meeting of the Supreme Grand Lodge Sons of England Benevolent Society.

Signed,

SL



Supreme Grand Secretary.

Toronto, April 24th, 1891.



THE BENEFICIARY DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Sons of England Benevolent Society

MEETS REGULARLY.

ON THE

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

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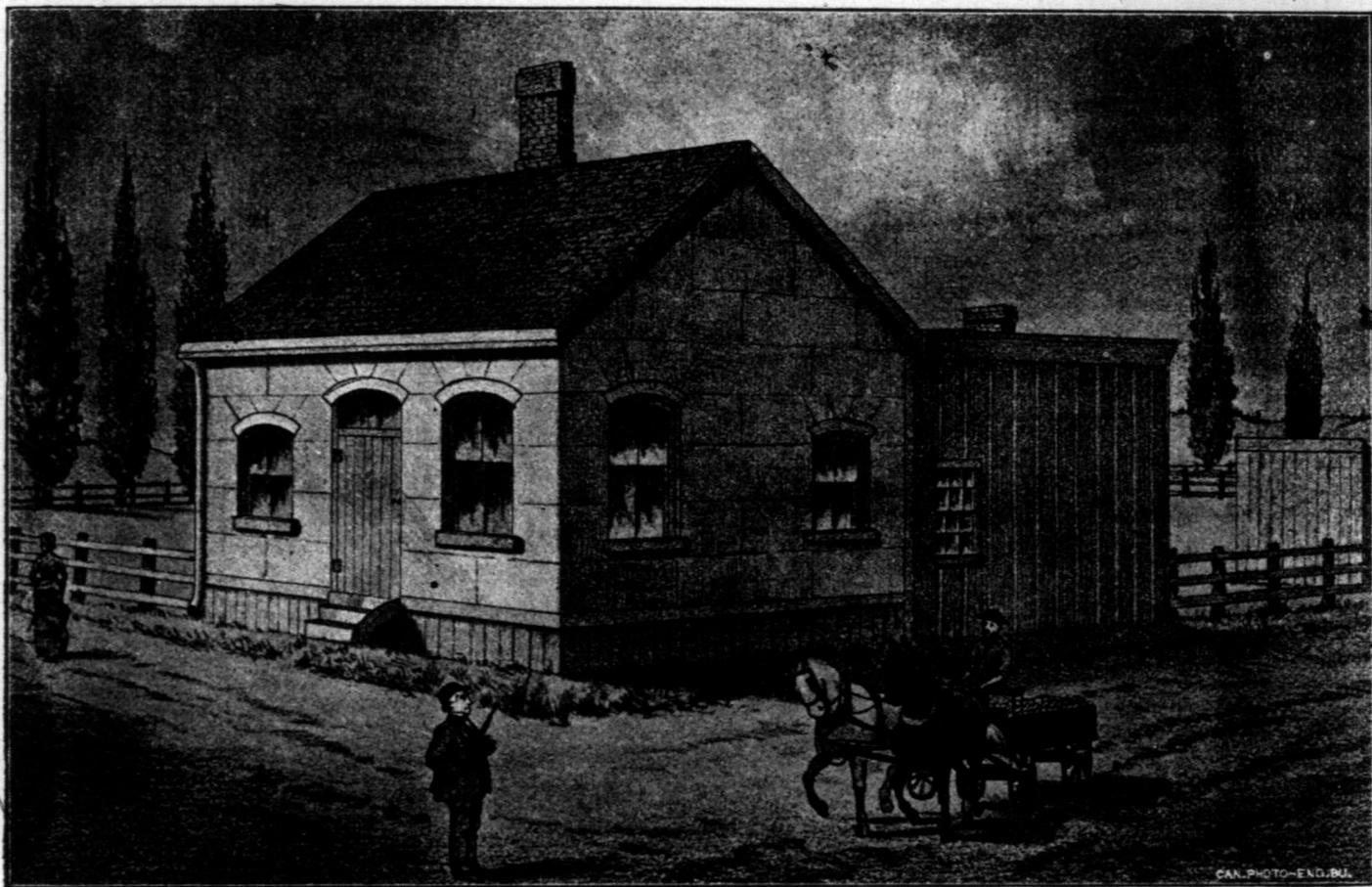
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PREFACE.

THE task of securing reliable data with which to compile a consecutive record of facts pertaining to the origin and early history of the Sons of England to the time of, and including the organization of the Grand Lodge has proven to be of greater magnitude and has been attended with greater obstacles than was anticipated at the outset, owing to the absence of important documentary evidence, and the inability, after rigorous search, to find the minutes of the first thirty-seven meetings of Albion Lodge, the mother Lodge of the Order.

In assuming the task, I did so with a settled conviction that nothing should be incorporated which would detract from its value as a faithful and correct record. Several matters of interest are hereinafter incorporated, but these have only been approved when it has been possible to corroborate them by the word of two or more of the founders or early members, with a view to ensure a trustworthy history and establish reputed circumstances as facts; knowing that the time will soon come when it would be impossible to make such report except on hearsay evidence; as death, the common leveller of mankind, will have summoned away those to whom we now owe our grateful recognition for service rendered in the birth, and in the impetus imparted to our beloved Society in its infancy.

JOHN S. KING, M.D.



OUR HOME IN 1874.—(CRAWFORD STREET, DON MOUNT.)



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OUR HOME IN 1874.—(CRAWFORD STREET, DON MOUNT.)

SHAFTESBURY HALL.

S.O.E. HALL CO. (Limited).



OUR PRESENT HOME IN 1891.

HEAD OFFICE
OF THE
SUPREME GRAND LODGE.

It is the duty of every man to make provision for times of adversity and distress.

Have you joined the Beneficiary Department?

If not, you are missing an opportunity which may never again offer! Now! is the time to make some provision for a life-long sickness, or for those loved ones you may leave to battle with the world.

Make application to your Lodge Secretary for a Beneficiary policy.

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AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
ORIGIN and EARLY HISTORY
OF THE
Sons of England Benevolent Society.

Early Books and Documents.

My starting point was the securing of such early Lodge books and papers as were still in the possession of Lodge Albion, No. 1. Of these the Member's Roll-book, beginning with No. 1, and extending over many years, proved valuable in two ways. First, in supplying me with the names, occupations, etc., of the first members; and secondly, in establishing evidence as to who, at that early period, were considered to be the founders of the Sons of England Benevolent Society. That roll-book gives the names of nine who are entered as founders, the date of entry being the 22nd December, 1874.

The names and other information being consecutively as follows:—

MEMBERS' ROLL.

Name.	Age.	Occupation.	Address.	M. or S.	Where born.
1. G. F. Carrette,	41	Brick-layer,	Kingston Rd.	Married.	Middlesex Eng.
2. G. B. Brooks,	33	Book-keeper,	Crawford-st.	Married.	Nottingham, Eng.
3. E. Smith,	34	Cooper,	Pine-st.	Married.	Middlesex, Eng.
4. N. Patrick,	32	Box-maker,	Crawford-st.	Married.	Middlesex, Eng.
5. G. Patrick,	26	Box-maker,	Crawford-st.	Single.	Middlesex, Eng.
6. T. West, *	41	Book-keeper,	Mill road.	Married.	(Not given.)
7. C. Buckner,	30	Plasterer,	Munro-st.	Married.	Middlesex, Eng.
8. S. Buckner,	32	Labourer,	Munro-st.	Married.	Middlesex, Eng.
9. J. Lomas,	29	Store-keeper,	Crawford st.	Married.	Middlesex, Eng.

* [This should be No. 9 instead of 6, as he was not a founder, as will appear hereafter.—J. S. K.]

EARLY MINUTES LOST.

The earliest obtainable minutes were those of the thirty-eighth meeting. So far, diligent search for the minutes of the first thirty-seven meetings has been fruitless. That the thirty-eighth meeting begins a new minute book will be evident from an examination thereof, and the fair and reasonable supposition is that the minutes of the first thirty-seven meetings were recorded in a previous book or books, the whereabouts of which have not as yet been divulged. I entertain the hope that some worthy Brother of the Order may yet discover them among his books or papers, or find them stowed away safely, undisturbed and unrecognised for years, so that they may ultimately regain their proper place in the archives of the parent Lodge. No effort has been spared to trace them, and every Secretary of the Lodge since its institution has been communicated with, either personally or in writing, with a view to their discovery, but without avail up to this time.

Interview with the Founders.

Not disheartened by the absence of written evidence, or recorded historical facts, I determined to interview personally the reputed nine founders, and secure all possible and reliable information obtainable. I was not long in learning that, of the nine persons recorded as founders, one, viz. Thomas West, was dead. Another, Nathaniel Patrick, lived in Rochester, State of New York. The third, George Patrick, was supposed to be in London, Ontario. The remaining six I learned still lived in Toronto, and from them chiefly would have to be secured corroborative testimony regarding the generally accepted statements concerning the origin of the Society, as, prior to the foundation of the Society, as is the case in the formation of any society, there must of necessity be the conception of the idea. The first or primary step to be taken was therefore to ascertain who was the first person that suggested the formation of the Sons of England Society; also, when, where, and to whom the suggestion was

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made. To Brother George Carrette, the first on the roll of membership, I applied for information on this point; and from him I secured in writing his version as to the conception of the idea of the organization of Englishmen into a Benevolent Society. I quote his own words :

“ A friend of mine named George B. Brooks, met me on King street east. He had been to buy stores at a wholesale and retail house not far from the corner of King and Francis streets, for his small store on Don Mount. He told me of some remarks he had heard in said store against Englishmen, and then asked me if I did not think it time for Englishmen to combine for their own protection. I answered ‘Yes, but it is a hard job to get Englishmen to combine or hang together, as they are too independent.’ He then asked me this question, ‘Will you help me to get up a Society for Englishmen?’ I answered, ‘certainly I will.’ ”

The next name on the list was that of George B. Brooks. Though not when spoken to, nor now, a member of the Society, he freely imparted under his own hand the following statement bearing upon the question of the conception of the Order :

“ The idea of a purely English Society of a benevolent character similar to such Societies as the Foresters, Odd-fellows, etc., originated at a Christmas charitable distribution of food by the Toronto St. George’s Society. That Christmas, the distribution was made in a vacant store at the corner of King street and Leader Lane; and a large number of men, women and children, presumably English, attended and had groceries and meat doled out to them. The scene was watched for some time by an Englishman, not himself an applicant for relief. Two things connected with the distribution pained him. First, the somewhat Poor-Law-Guardian haughtiness with which the goods were given in several cases. Second, the fact that Englishmen in Toronto were then the only people out of all nationalities who had to parade their wants and sufferings to the gaze of others, and be made the recipients of charity in a public manner. It is

not necessary to particularize little incidents of haughtiness on the one hand, or of evident shame on the other, which the watcher saw ; but they set him thinking. Surely, he thought, Englishmen are the equals in manliness, and self-respect of any other people ; and that some of them probably through no fault of theirs, should be publicly degraded once a year, no matter how excellent the intention, was both a pity and somewhat of a scandal. How to ameliorate this state of affairs, and implant the desire to be provident, induced much thought ; the outcome of which was the idea of a purely national benevolent society open only to Englishmen and their descendants—the society to be in no sense a charity, but to be made self-supporting, and from the funds of which every member would have a right to demand his portion should misfortune visit him. At the very outset, difficulties never contemplated were met. The average Englishman was found very skeptical indeed as to the feasibility of the scheme. Some wished the scheme every success, but refused to have their names mentioned in connection with it. Others ridiculed the idea, and not only predicted disaster, but did what they could to bring it about. All the following summer the scheme languished for want of support. Ultimately, late in the fall, the same gentleman who had been haunted with the idea ever since he watched the Christmas distribution of St. George's Society, got hold of three practical working Englishmen—Mr. George Carrette, Mr. James Lomas and Mr. Charles Buckner. After two or more meetings they agreed, come what might, to be members of the proposed Society. They induced others to join them, until eight chartered members were obtained, and Court Albion was founded."

The third name in the list was that of James Lomas. From him I learned that in the summer of 1874, he fell in with George B. Brooks at St. Catherines, in Lincoln county, Ontario, during one of his cruises on the lakes. They soon became fast friends, continuing together for a considerable time, during which they were both in a disastrous shipwreck on Lake Erie, which determined them in abandoning their sea-faring occupation for

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the safer and quieter one of operating a little grocery store in Don Mount, now St. Matthew's ward, city of Toronto, where the Society subsequently found origin.

The fourth name was mentioned as that of a man who might possibly give me some information of value touching the motives for promoting the organization. This was Nathaniel Patrick, who had occupied the office of Vice-President after the foundation of the Society. I learned that his residence was in Rochester; and I at once opened up correspondence with him, which eventually led to my visiting that city during the latter part of the summer of 1888. I found him, and spent an hour in conversation with him touching the object I had in view, and found that he corroborated much of what had been told me by the others. On December 9th of that year he wrote me on the matter, and committed his remembrances to paper. He said, besides the general desire to do good, he saw that the English and their sons needed the protection of a Society for a time of need. He believed in the Englishmen helping each other in any way they could; and he strove to build himself a little house, and asked some of his English neighbors to help him, which they did. His wife purchased groceries at the little store, and asked Brooks and Lomas to help him with his house. He helped to get enough together to start a Society to carry out this idea of helping one another. Times were hard and he soon left the city and the Society to find work elsewhere.

Advantages of Organization Discussed.

Having married the daughter of George F. Carrette, Mr. Lomas, as well as his partner Mr. Brooks, had frequent talks with Mr. Carrette and other Englishmen who visited the store, including Nathaniel Patrick, George Patrick, Charles Buckner, Samuel Buckner and Edward Smith, regarding the condition of their fellow countrymen, many of whom at that time labored under difficulties in securing work in competition with other nationalities. The summer of 1874 had gone and the cold

weather was encroaching, and most of these fellow-countrymen were out of employment; they freely exchanged ideas at the little grocery on the corner of Crawford street. These men were, from the circumstances of their position, alive to any project which would improve their condition; and the suggestion to organize a Society for beneficiary purposes readily secured their approval and co-operation.

Original Members Meet at Dr. King's Residence.

Having progressed so far in the direction of ascertaining the source or inception of the motive, and having secured the addresses of the reputed founders, an invitation was extended to them to attend a meeting at my office, 236 Sherbourne street, Toronto; which meeting was held on Saturday afternoon August 11th, 1888, for the purpose of developing the fullest information regarding the origin, foundation, and early history of the Society; and to corroborate the piece-meal evidence already secured, and set at rest all doubtful statements. On that occasion the following were present, namely George B. Brooks, who arrived at one o'clock and remained about half an hour, promising to write out his knowledge of the matter in a few days. That promise was fulfilled; and, as a result, I have already quoted his views regarding the suggestions anent the formation of the Society. Shortly after three o'clock, the following, who originally participated in founding the first Court or Lodge, arrived, namely George Frederick Carrette, James Lomas, Charles Buckner, Samuel Buckner and E. Smith. At the same time Brother Boswell, then Grand Vice-President, and Capt. Allen of Richmond Lodge were present by courtesy during the time devoted to the subject.

HISTORICAL FACTS AGREED UPON.

The following matters were noted as being facts upon which all were agreed. The first or preliminary meeting was held at the store of Brooks & Lomas on Crawford street, Don Mount,

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now corner of Elliott and Hamilton streets; which building is still standing and with the land has become the property of the Sons of England Hall Company. The meeting was held on the evening of the 12th day of December, 1874. The only persons present were George F. Carrette, George Brooks, Edward Smith, Nathaniel Patrick, George Patrick, Charles Buckner, Samuel Buckner, and James Lomas—in all eight Englishmen. Mr. Carrette being the oldest man present was elected to the chair. James Lomas was elected Treasurer, and George B. Brooks was elected Secretary. All those present save Brooks, Smith and Lomas, were out of employment, and consequently ready and anxious for a union of interests. The details of the proposed organization were discussed; and, to use the words of Mr. Brooks, "they took an ambitious view of matters," and it was determined to make it not only a benevolent society, but also a gathering point around which all Englishmen could rally. Further and final consideration of aims and objects was left over for the next meeting. Before this preliminary meeting closed, it was unanimously resolved to form a Society to be hereafter known as the Sons of England. Each of the eight men present deposited \$2 as a membership fee, and adopted an obligation of secrecy which was administered by the chairman to all present, he himself subscribing to the obligation in the usual manner. At this meeting an incident occurred which happily resulted favorably, but which might have been the means of preventing the organization of the Society. Before adjournment, the presiding officer enquired of the Secretary how much money he had received. In reply he reported \$16, but of that amount only \$14 were visible, and a lengthy search failed to account for the disappearance of the two dollars. A feeling of distrust very naturally found place in the minds of those present; the conclusion they arrived at being that one of the number must have been a thief; and if a thief was discovered at this early stage of proceedings future confidence would not be established. However, a solution of the mystery was had when the bottom of the boot of Brother Charles Buckner revealed the frozen snow which he had carried in with him, embedded in which was the missing \$2 bill,

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which had evidently fallen from the table, been pressed into the snow by his weight when walking, and innocently the man was the possessor of the \$2 which was the property of the newly formed Society. Not only was confidence thus fully restored, but the incident has often times been repeated by the members as an evidence of the proneness of human nature to suspect our fellow-men, which in itself was a wholesome lesson, and may be preserved for the consideration of the thousands who will hereafter enter the Order; in the hope that it may teach them to be careful to thoroughly investigate before allowing a conviction to be formed of any man's guilt. The night was very cold, and the snow was deep; but as those jolly Englishmen had as yet not made all the necessary preparation to ensure absolute secrecy of their proceedings, they devised the scheme whereby the wives of Bros. Brooks and Lomas were to spend an evening at the house of Bro. Carrette. The doors were locked, and sentries were stationed inside the house with instructions to watch through the key-hole, rather than run the risk of freezing outside. It is said that after the meeting was formally closed no record could be made which would convey an accurate description of what transpired. But it is left to be surmised; for if you ask any of them you will see a peculiar smile and twinkle of the eye, which betokens that they had a jolly good time.

The second meeting was held on the 22nd day of December, 1874, in the parlor of Mallindine's Hotel, Kingston road, at which all of the eight members were present. After the reading of the minutes, and the obligation of Thomas West, the first candidate, it was decided unanimously to elect permanent officers for the period of half a year, ending with June, 1875. The elections were held by open vote, each of the officers being elected by acclamation, with the following result: President, George F. Carrette; Vice-President, Nathaniel Patrick; Secretary, George B. Brooks; and Treasurer, James Lomas. The scrutineers (who occupied the same relative position to the Society in its early days as the Managing Committee does at the present time, viz., to investigate the character of applicants, and

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to look after the sick and distressed), were Thomas West, George Patrick and Edward Smith. Guards—Charles Buckner, Inner Guard; and Samuel Buckner, Outer Guard. It will thus be seen that the entire original membership of eight, together with West—admitted at the second meeting—were required to fill the constituted offices. There was no installation ceremony, neither any special obligation, as they all felt themselves bound to their original obligation, to faithfully carry out their self-imposed trust. Among the business transacted at this meeting was the selection of a committee to secure a permanent place of meeting; a committee to prepare a constitution, by-laws and rules for the guidance of the Society, and also a committee to interview Dr. William Newcombe, with a view to securing his services to examine applicants for admission. At this meeting the membership adopted a name—Court Albion, No. 1, Sons of England Benevolent Society. Also certain secret work was adopted, consisting of a pass-word, raps for admission, a grip, a sign of recognition and a salutation sign. No badge or regalia was decided upon, save the adoption of a broad blue sash. It was mutually agreed at this meeting that the objects of the Society should be somewhat as follows:—the Society to be composed of Protestant Englishmen and their descendants; to care for each other's interests in sickness, distress or death; to procure for any Brother who might require it, employment whenever possible; to benefit each other by mutual support in business and trade; and in any way to advance each other's moral, social and material welfare; at the same time caring for not only individual advantage, but for the advantage and protection of the families of the members.

As a political institution it was to know no party, but to inculcate the preservation and perpetuity of the British Empire, loyalty to Crown and country under Protestant rule. The foregoing aims and objects were from time to time considered, and finally elaborated in the form of an address to Englishmen, which became an introduction to the first code of by-laws published in the beginning of the year 1875.

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The organization was not completed at the second meeting held on the 22nd December, 1874. Several meetings were held before a ritual was adopted by the Society. The first ritual adopted was prepared by George B. Brooks. Of the original eight present at the first meeting, five only remain in membership at this time; their names being George F. Carrette, James Lomas, Charles Buckner, Samuel Buckner and Edward Smith. These five were present at the meeting held where the foregoing facts received corroboration. The two brothers, Nathaniel and George Patrick, became disconnected with the Society years ago through non-payment of dues; while George B. Brooks resigned, his resignation being accepted in May, 1877. The remaining five members mentioned above agree in saying that the eight present at the original first meeting, and who paid their fee of \$2, and took the obligation, were undoubtedly the original and only founders of the Society. And after the most careful enquiry and investigation I am forced to the same conclusion. Of the five now in membership, Brothers Carrette, Charles and Samuel Buckner and Edward Smith are members of Albion Lodge, No. 1, while James Lomas is a member of Manchester Lodge, No. 14.

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STATUTORY DECLARATION, R. S. O. CAP. 141.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
COUNTY OF YORK,
To wit ;

In the matter of the Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society by Dr. John S. King.

I, George Frederick Carrette, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, bricklayer, do solemnly declare that I have carefully read so much of Dr. John S. King's "Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society," as appeared under the heading "Historical facts agreed upon."

2. That from my personal knowledge of the circumstances therein narrated and from participating in the work of founding said Society, I know the statements contained therein to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

And I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true and by virtue of the "Act respecting extra-judicial oaths."

Declared before me at the City of
Toronto, in the County of York,
this Ninth day of February, A.D.
1891.

GEO. F. CARRETTE.

RICHARD CADDICK,

A Commissioner, etc., Notary Public.

SEAL

STATUTORY DECLARATION, R. S. O. CAP. 141.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
COUNTY OF YORK,
To wit ;

In the matter of the Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society by Dr. John S. King.

I, James Lomas, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, grocer, do solemnly declare that I have carefully read so much of Dr. John S. King's "Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society" as appeared under the heading "Historical facts agreed upon."

2. That from my personal knowledge of the circumstances narrated and from participating in the work of founding said Society, I know the statements contained therein to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

And I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true and by virtue of the "Act respecting extra-judicial oaths."

Declared before me at the City of Toronto, in the County of York, this Ninth day of February, A.D. 1891.

JAMES LOMAS.

RICHARD CADDICK,
A Commissioner, etc., Notary Public.

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STATUTORY DECLARATION, R. S. O. CAP. 141.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
COUNTY OF YORK,
To wit;

In the matter of the Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society by Dr. John S. King.

I, Edward Smith, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, do solemnly declare that I have carefully read so much of Dr. John S. King's "Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society" as appeared under the heading "Historical facts agreed upon."

2. That from my personal knowledge of the circumstances therein narrated and from participating in the work of founding said Society, I know the statements contained therein to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

And I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true and by virtue of the "Act respecting extra-judicial oaths."

Declared before me at the City of Toronto, in the County of York, this Ninth day of February, A.D. 1891. E. SMITH.

RICHARD CADDICK,
A Commissioner, etc., Notary Public.

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STATUTORY DECLARATION, R. S. O. CAP. 141.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
COUNTY OF YORK,
To wit;

In the matter of the Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society by Dr. John S. King.

I, Charles Buckner, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, plasterer, do solemnly declare that I have carefully read so much of Dr. John S. King's "Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society" as appeared under the heading "Historical facts agreed upon."

2. That from my personal knowledge of the circumstances therein narrated and from participating in the work of founding said Society, I know the statements contained therein to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

And I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true and by virtue of the "Act respecting extra-judicial oaths."

Declared before me at the City of Toronto, in the County of York, this Ninth day of February, A.D. 1891.

CHARLES BUCKNER.

RICHARD CADDICK,
A Commissioner, etc., Notary Public.

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STATUTORY DECLARATION, R. S. O. CAP. 141.

DOMINION OF CANADA,
COUNTY OF YORK,
To wit;

In the matter of the Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society by Dr. John S. King.

I, Samuel Buckner, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, laborer. Do solemnly declare that I have carefully read so much of Dr. John S. King's "Early History of the Sons of England Benevolent Society" as appeared under the heading "Historical facts agreed upon."

2. That from my personal knowledge of the circumstances therein narrated and from participating in the work of founding said Society, I know the statements contained therein to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

And I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true and by virtue of the "Act respecting extra-judicial oaths."

Declared before me at the City of Toronto, in the County of York, this Ninth day of February, A.D. 1891. S. BUCKNER.

RICHARD CADDICK,
A Commissioner, etc., Notary Public.

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Biographies of the Founders.

George Frederick Carrette was born July 24th, 1833, at Bond street, Vauxhall, London. His father was born May 28th, 1804, at Old Charlton, Kent. He was an excise officer. He died when George was about four years of age. His mother again married three years after the father's death, when the subject of this sketch was taken from school to learn the trade of brick-layer with his step-father John Hilton. He resided with his parents until he was married, July 16th, 1854, to Pamela Rosa Hopson, of 4 Furze street, Cheswick on Thames, Middlesex county; who died on 17th January, 1891, after a brief illness, in this city. For about fifteen years he worked at his trade, generally taking small contracts; when he determined to come to Canada, which he did in 1869, reaching Toronto on the third day of September of that year. He is at the present time and has been for the past six years ward foreman of St. Matthew's Ward.

George B. Brooks declined to give his autobiography, and I have therefore been unable to learn more than the facts—that he was reputed to be the son of an English Church clergyman; that he came from Nottingham, England, early in the seventies, where he had obtained a good education; that he is still living, and has for many years been connected with the press of this city.

Edward Smith was born at Richard street, Commercial Road, London East, England, on the 23rd day of December, 1841. His trade has been that of a cooper. He came to Toronto in August, 1869, and has been almost continuously employed at Lyman Bros., wholesale druggists. He is married and still remains in membership.

Nathaniel Patrick was born in Bethnal Green, London, England, April 16th, 1844. He served an apprenticeship to James Terry & Sons, packing case makers and carpenters, timber dealers, etc. He came to Canada in 1868 or thereabouts,

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changed his location many times after his first arrival in Toronto. He, however, resided in Toronto at the time the Society was organized, and was its first Vice-President, though he left the city shortly after.

George Patrick, a brother of Nathaniel, having left this part of the country I have been unable to gather particulars of his history. At the time of the foundation of the Society he was unmarried; was twenty-six years of age; by occupation a box-maker. He was born in Middlesex county, England.

Charles Buckner was born in London, England, December 30th, 1842. The father dying, the son at the age of fourteen years, was compelled to seek a situation and he secured one. Two years later he married. With a wife and four children he left for Canada when about twenty-six years old. He reached Toronto on the 14th of August, 1868. He has resided in Don Mount, now St. Matthew's Ward, at intervals ever since, though he tried his fortune in other parts. He at present lives in the city.

Samuel Buckner was born in Stepney Parish, London, England, in the year 1841. He came to Toronto in 1873, where he has maintained himself and family by his industry in a humble occupation.

James Lomas was born on the 21st of January, 1845, in the county of Surrey, England. His parents, Isaac and Lavinia Lomas, were the parents of eleven children, James being the sixth. He received a fair education at a commercial academy. At the age of fourteen he was obliged to obtain employment for himself, which he did at a wholesale warehouse in London, until a desire to travel became too strong for him to resist. He joined Her Majesty's Navy in 1862, being thoroughly trained on board the *Impregnable*, at Plymouth, and the *Brig Squirrel*, cruising in and around the British coast. He was later drafted to join Her Majesty's steamship *Sutlej*, flagship of the Pacific squadron, under Sir John Kingcome and Sir Joseph Denman. During the time he was in the service, he had opportunities of

seeing many lands and races in all parts of the world, as well as being present at an engagement—the bombardment of Valparaiso by the Spanish fleet. He was present and took part in the great naval review of 1867 before Her Majesty, the Sultan of Turkey, and the Pasha of Egypt; after which the crew were paid off. Leaving the navy he embarked for Australia, where he had a varied experience, on one occasion walking a distance of 1,100 miles. After a time spent in Australia he returned to London, whence he shipped to Russia and other countries in Northern Europe. Later on he started for Canada and arrived in Montreal in the fall of 1870. He again returned to Europe, but in 1871 revisited America. For a time that season he worked in the Hamilton iron-works, but his roaming disposition soon took him off to some of the Western States. By the year 1874 he had settled down in Toronto, where he married the daughter of George Carrette, afterwards first President of the Society.

It is claimed that Mrs. Lomas might almost be designated one of the founders of the Order, as she had to do a considerable amount of the work detailed for members to do.

The Early Minutes of the Society.

From its foundation the Society was never dormant, its existence being attended with a greater or less degree of prosperity. From the 22nd day of December, 1874, when the organization of the mother lodge was completed by choice of officers, etc., to the organization of the Grand Lodge in October, 1876, the source of authority vested in Albion. By her consent and authority, Middlesex, Kent, and Essex Lodges came into existence; and by the mutual consent of Albion, Middlesex and Kent members, the first Grand Lodge officers were selected; while after the organization of Essex Lodge, a proper system of organization by delegates was established, as will hereafter appear.

It would be apparent that the history of the Society anterior to the Grand Lodge organization was largely and, indeed, chiefly the history of the mother lodge Albion; as Middlesex organized

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on the 21st September, 1876, about five weeks before the completion of the Grand Lodge organization, Kent Lodge organized on the 9th day of October, the day the Grand Lodge officers were chosen, and twenty-one days before the Grand Lodge was fully organized, while Essex came into existence on the 12th day of October, 1876, eighteen days before the Grand Lodge organization. The history of Albion Lodge from December, 1874, to October, 1876, or nearly two years, will prove not only interesting, but in many respects most valuable, inasmuch as the foundations of a Society were therein laid which has already made wonderful strides, and is destined within the life of a single generation to become mighty in dimensions and unlimited in its usefulness among Englishmen in the widely scattered British colonies in all parts of the globe, as well as exercising a powerful social influence. Starting with the first meeting after the completion of the organization or foundation of the Society, which has already been narrated, we are at the beginning of the year 1875; the meeting was held in the Eastern Star Temperance Hall, on Queen street east, north side, a few doors east of Parliament street, and thereafter on the first and third Mondays of each month. Though no minutes can be found containing the record, the member's roll-book shows that the membership at that, the third meeting, held on the 7th of January, was augmented by the initiation of Frederick Carrette—son of George Carrette, the founder—Harry Cozens, and Dr. William Newcombe, who became the Lodge Surgeon, and gave his services gratuitously the first year of the Society's existence. This same roll-book exhibits the addition of four names on the 21st of January, one on the 18th February, one on the 4th of March, and one on the 18th of March; or in all ten during the first quarter of the year. The first half year was an anxious time with the founders. The Order became involved in debt, and new members were made but slowly. Many Englishmen, some of whom have since joined the Society, pooh-poohed the idea of its success; but as great things have always small beginnings, so with the Sons of England. Regarding the earliest meetings, Brother Carrette has recently remarked, "It is rather amusing now when I look back

to the time when we first met, and I had to preside over eight members, at first in a very cold room where the ink froze so that the Secretary could not write the minutes of the meeting. Our outside Guard was often pelted with snowballs or something much worse and called by foul epithets."

Foundation Principles and By-Laws.

During the earlier part of this quarter, the Society determined to put forth strenuous exertions to establish, in security and for perpetuity, the foundation principles upon which they hoped in the near future to rear a superstructure creditable to the builders and secure as a retreat for all worthy Englishmen. Their motto thus early adopted was "Fidelity." The outcome of this first effort in January, 1875, was the first set of by-laws, seventy-one in number. The first article sets forth the objects as follows:—

"Art. 1. That this society be called the Sons of England Benevolent Society, No. 1, and shall have for its object the raising of funds by entrance fees, subscriptions of the members, fines, donations, and by interest on capital, for the following purposes: namely, ensuring sums of money to defray the expenses of the burial of deceased members' wives, and members' deceased children; for rendering assistance to members when sick and unable to follow their employment; for supplying medical attendance and medicine to the members; and for granting temporary relief to members in distressed circumstances."

Art. IV. provided for the semi-annual election of officers; Art. V. for the establishing and management of the Benevolent and Contingent Funds. Art. VIII. provided that no person should be admitted a member of the Society unless an Englishman born or the son of English parents and a Protestant. Art. X. prohibited the holding of any meetings of the Society in any tavern, inn, saloon or public-house. According to Art. XVI. three scrutineers were provided to discharge the duties now devolving upon the managing committee. Art. XVIII. provided for an

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arbitration committee of twelve members. Art. XXV. made provision for expelling any member who through private malice and spite opposed the acceptance of a candidate. Art. XXXIX. imposed a fine of \$1.00 on any member entering the lodge intoxicated; while Art. XL. fixed a fine of \$5.00 for the same offence by an officer; and, when repeated, said officer to be degraded from office. Art. XLV. provided that:—

“No member upon the sick list, and receiving benefits from the Society, shall be allowed to do any kind of work whatever, nor frequent taverns or public-houses, nor get intoxicated; and should any officer or member of this Court know of any member breaking this rule, and not mention it at the next meeting of the Court, he shall be fined 50 cents.”

Art. LIII. imposed the punishment of expulsion in case of conviction for felony. Art. LVII. classified the members into Beneficiary and Honorary. Art. LXII. provided:—

“In addition to the offences already mentioned in these rules as being punishable by expulsion, the following offences are also liable to expulsion: maligning the objects of this Society; calumniating its officers or members; carrying information and betraying secrets outside the Society.”

Art. LXV., in addition to its provisions for sick benefits, defined the loan fund system which was in operation during the earliest period of the Society. Other clauses more or less similar to those now in operation made up the other numbers.

As an introduction to the By-Laws and Rules of the Society, an

ADDRESS TO ENGLISHMEN

was adopted and promulgated with the Laws. This address possessed merit and may be properly introduced here. It read as follows:

“Amongst the numerous Benevolent Societies at present formed in this city there is none exclusively for Englishmen. The Scotchman has his St. Andrew's and Sons of Scotia Socie-

ties; the Irishman has his St. Patrick's Society; Germans, and the members of other countries, have theirs, from which they not only claim benefits, but where they meet none but their own countrymen, and where they aid by their advice and by more substantial means their less successful competitors. Is an Englishman's heart less warm or less true to his countrymen than are the hearts of those claiming a different nationality to our own? God forbid. History proves otherwise. Why then should we be less forward than others in assisting our less fortunate countrymen and in assisting ourselves?

“There is a noble society formed here and elsewhere that is doing a good work among Englishmen, namely, the St. George's Society. But are we, as Englishmen, if visited by sickness or distress of any kind, to be compelled to solicit charity? No man with the principles of a man can receive charity without feeling degraded. Let us then, as Englishmen, and as Englishmen loving our country and our countrymen, have a Society from which we can when in sickness or distress claim aid as our right and not as a charity—a Society from which we can receive aid without feeling under any obligations to any man.

“Providence has given to no man an immunity from affliction, and it is a duty we owe ourselves and our families to provide against that distress which inevitably attends every visitation. No class is exempt, but the more humble classes are more particularly exposed to misfortune and sickness as disastrous in their consequences as they are difficult to avert.

“It is a good and noble principle in men to try and live solely dependent on themselves, and by frugality and prudence lay up a store for their old age and to meet calamities. And is it not a slur upon us as Englishmen that we have no Society amongst us where we can meet brother Englishmen and from which we can demand relief, not as a charity—not as a gift—but as a right to which we are justly entitled, from having, when in health and plenty, laid up a store against adversity?

“Sickness, though a terrible scourge, is not the only calamity a man has to dread. Many a noble, upright man meets with

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adversity that he could not avert. Loss of employment is one; and is it not better and more noble—does not a man feel less degraded—when he can receive temporary aid from his own countrymen as a right; than when he has to slink along and live dependent on the charity of others?

“There is a charge, and to a great extent a truthful charge brought against Englishmen, that they will not hang together—that they are not clannish. If men claiming a different nationality to our own can bear the charge of being clannish and flourish under that charge, and be the better off for being clannish, is it not logical to suppose that we as Englishmen shall be no worse off under the same charge? It is natural to be clannish. There is no reproach in the word. Even the beasts and birds love to mate with their own species. And where is the Englishman, when afar from the old sod, whose heart does not warm when he meets one of his own countrymen? Let us then join together, one and all, and form a band of brothers that shall be a band of brothers in reality and not only in name—a Society where we shall meet those only who are wanderers from the dear old land, the wonder and the glory of the world; and a land that, with all her faults, we love and will love to the last. The founders of this Society have thought fit to exclude Roman Catholics from membership in it—not because they bear any ill-will to Catholics, but for two other reasons: first, because with a Catholic it is “my priest first, my country next;” and with us it must be “my country and my countrymen first.” And, secondly, because it is a well known fact that no Roman Catholic will join a Protestant Society if he can gain admittance into a Roman Catholic one; and therefore if Roman Catholics were desirous of joining this Society, it would be because their moral character unfitted them to join a Roman Catholic one. And, in conclusion, let us assure all Englishmen of a most hearty and a most cordial welcome into our ranks. Our motto is “Fidelity”—faithful to ourselves and faithful to each other; faithful to our country; and if carried out in its integrity by one and all of the Sons of England, no Society has a more noble one.”

But with the preparation of the foregoing address and by-laws arose

NEW AND PERPLEXING DIFFICULTIES,

and these are best described in the language of brother George Carrette, first President of the Society—"The trouble then was, who would print our Constitution for us—who had no cash in our Treasurer's hands? However, we found a generous friend in Mr. (afterwards Bro.) J. S. Williams, who gave us six months' credit. We then went out in the highways and byways to get members. We left copies of the rules of the Society at the different hotels, railway stations, Y.M.C.A. Rooms, and many other public places. We also advertised in the *Leader, Mail,* and *Ontario Workman* newspapers. I also took the advertisement to the *Globe*, but they flatly refused to publish it, though I laid the money down to pay for it. I asked the reason why they refused it and received a very curt reply. It was very difficult to get anyone to join us. It was mid-winter, and almost every one was out of employment. We were oft-times laughed at for our pains. Such questions as follows were asked, 'Is your Society incorporated?'; answer, 'No.' 'How many members are there in your Society?'; answer, 'Eight.' 'How much cash have you?'; answer, 'None.' "

Incorporation of the Society.

"We then determined to get our Society incorporated if possible; and after much time and controversy, we succeeded in securing an interview with Judge Duggan, who examined our laws, and told us they were very good, but that we must make a few alterations. They were made as he directed us. We again went to Bro. Williams, our printer, who printed our amended constitution (on credit, which meant that we were getting deeper into debt). We then went back to Judge Duggan, who said they were correct, and issued the incorporation papers bearing date February 19th, 1875. He also said it was a noble undertaking; and, shaking hands with each of us—eight in all—wished us God-speed. We now felt that we were on a sound foundation, and had more confidence when we asked a man to join us."

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The Public Press takes Cognizance of the Society.

The Society were no sooner occupants of their new home on Queen street, or in fact on the very day that they held their first meeting in the Eastern Star Assembly Hall, January 7th, 1875, than there appeared in the columns of the *Ontario Workman* an editorial which proved a valuable agent in making known to the public the origin, aim and objects of the new Society. As a record of interest the article is reproduced here.

SONS OF ENGLAND.

“ We are glad to see that a step in the right direction has at last been taken by Englishmen in this city. We allude to a new benevolent society just formed exclusively for Englishmen and their descendants. Up to the present, Englishmen have certainly been remiss in combining together for their mutual improvement, the only society for Englishmen as far as we are aware of, existing in this city being of a charitable character. Why this should have been, we are not prepared to answer ; but it has been felt by certain Englishmen that it was not right that they alone, out of all the different nationalities at present residing in Toronto, have never had a society where they could meet only their own countrymen, and where they could assist each other by advice and by more substantial means.

“ Charity, though the chief of all the virtues, has somewhat of a degrading effect on the recipient of it. No man, with the principles of an upright, honorable man, can receive charity without at least feeling under an obligation for the gift ; and the founders of the Society at present, the subject of this article, have felt that it is less degrading and more honorable for a man to receive relief from his own countrymen as his right, from having when in health and plenty laid up a store against sickness and adversity, than have to be dependent on the charity of others. The benefits of the Society in question are, we believe, entirely different to any yet conferred by any other benevolent Society at present in operation. In addition to the usual sick and general benefits

the other benefits are of a character that must commend them to the working classes. Temporary loans to pay rent, orders for coal or wood, and orders on tradespeople for goods, are a class of benefits that, during the winter months, at any rate, will prove to be acceptable to many who cannot be strictly termed the working classes, and we hope that Englishmen and their descendants will do their utmost to render the new Society a success. The initiation fees and weekly subscriptions are small when compared with the fees demanded by other societies, and would be not only a good investment to make, but would not make it irksome on any man with ordinary prudence to pay.

“ Any Englishman wishing for further particulars, can obtain them by addressing Secretary (enclosing stamp if a reply is required), box 1475, Toronto P. O.” [From *Ontario Workman*, January 7, 1875.]

New Home for the Society.

The first three months of 1875, to which period Brother Carrette's foregoing remarks more especially applied, were spent in the Eastern Star Temperance Hall. The Society then known as Court Albion, No. 1, removed in the beginning of April to the old Trades Assembly Hall on Adelaide street east, in the rear of the present No. 10½, where it continued to meet until after the organization of the Grand Lodge in October of the following year. It was the latter part of the second month of the second quarter, or on the 25th day of May, the evening following Her Majesty's birthday, the Sons of England made their

FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE,

by holding a concert in the Agricultural Hall, at the north-west corner of Yonge and Queen streets, which was attended by about five hundred people, Bro. James Lomas, one of the founders, presiding. At that entertainment the aims and objects of the Society were made known, both by the address of the chairman and by the distribution of copies of the by-laws and rules. The city press likewise contained reports of the

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entertainment. During the second quarter ending June 30th, seven more members were added to the roll, while the last half of 1875 increased the membership by forty-five, making a total of those received into the Society up to the end of 1875, and including the founders, seventy-one.

The First Anniversary.

To mark the firm establishment of the Society and the fidelity of the membership, at the close of the first year's existence of the Society, an anniversary supper, consisting of a substantial English spread was held on the 12th December, at what at that time was known as the Cockney's Retreat, and situated on the eastern bank of the Don about one hundred yards north of Queen street. At this supper, fifty-six brother Englishmen, members only, participated, out of a total admitted to membership up to that date of sixty-three. The night was wholly devoted to the celebration, as the party did not disperse until daylight.

Brother George Carrette, who filled the position of President the first year with satisfaction to all, was honored by a continuance in the office for two years. In the autumn of 1875, steps were first taken to organize a band, and the desired result was soon attained by the establishment of a fife and drum band, all of whose members, with a single exception, were Sons of England.

.ADVERSITY WITH PROSPERITY.

Though the year's efforts were successful in the aggregation of members, the membership were not without a trial, in that their principles were put to the test, proving that their motto "Fidelity" was not an empty sound, but was a principle they were prepared to live up to. This was evidenced by their action, when the first genuine case of distress becoming known to the Executive of the Court between meeting nights, was relieved by their uniting together and providing beef, bread, groceries, fuel, and \$10 in cash, repaired to the home of the Brother, relieved

his wants, and there made the hearts of his family and himself glad.

It may be noted in this connection, that in the absence of a regular fund provided to meet the requirements of the sick or distressed, it became the custom to place a hat on the altar into which voluntary contributions were dropped, and subsequently bestowed on such as stood in need of relief.

The first six months of 1876 the Society was blessed with increased prosperity. No less than fifty-six new members were added to the roll. During this time the first certificates of membership were designed, lithographed, and presented to members. They differed from those at present in use in that a bunch of roses occupied the space now devoted to the head of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. No very special event occurred during the first quarter of 1876.

THE FIRST SERMON TO THE SOCIETY.

On the 23rd of April, 1876, the Society attended divine service in a body at All Saints' Church on Beech street, now designated Wilton avenue, the account of which is thus reported in the *Toronto Daily Mail* of the 24th of April:—

“Yesterday afternoon the Rev. A. H. Baldwin preached a sermon before the Sons of England Benevolent Society in All Saints' Church, Beech street. Mr. Collins presided at the organ. After the usual service Mr. Baldwin addressed the congregation from Psalms cxxxiii, 6, ‘Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.’

The rev. gentleman, in commencing, pointed out the pleasure that was derived when Englishmen at home and abroad lived together with a unity of feeling. The Psalm from which the text was taken was one of those bright, happy, joyous Psalms which the Jewish people sang as they proceeded to the temple on great occasions. In it was embodied the grand truth, that without unity there could not be prosperity. It was unity that had made England the great land that she was; it was that broad English brotherhood so noticeable in the English character

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which had caused England's sons to prosper wherever they had settled. The necessity of unity was shown when the Israelites were crossing the Jordan, at which time certain tribes wished to stay behind; and the necessity for unity was also pointed out to exist in the case of the country being threatened by a common enemy. The words of the Psalmist were very much to the Jewish people what 'God save the Queen' was to the English heart. If Englishmen rose to their feet at the inspiring strains of their National Anthem, the Jews proceeded joyously to their house of worship when they heard the sound of the Psalm, 'Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.' It had been said that society was becoming effete, but the truth was that men were being drawn together more and more every day in beautiful unity. It was God who made men to be all of one mind; it was God who made homes happy; and it was God who blessed husband, wives and children. The angels sang not only 'Glory to God in the highest,' but they added, 'On earth peace, good will to men.' There was nothing more emblematical of union than the vine and its branches; not one branch could live unless it were united to the parent stem. There was one body composed of many parts, and of all parts that required assistance, it was that which was weak or suffering. It was with the object of assisting the weak and the suffering that the Sons of England Benevolent Society was organized; and he hoped God would bless it in its work. The members had chosen a glorious name—'Sons of England' and 'Benevolent,' and it was hoped that they would be worthy of the name. The name of England was a glorious heritage; and it brought to the mind of every Englishman a spot in that land sacred to him as his birthplace. It reminded him of its glorious fields, its little pathways, its old abbeys and monasteries, its universities and schools, its learning and science, its industries and charities, and its glorious past and present history. All could be proud of these; but above all, they should be proud of the part that England had taken in sending the Word of God to every land. Some had referred slightly to the differences of religious opinion which existed among the people but he (Mr. Baldwin) was sure that in

all the Christian bodies there was one aim, one love, and one threefold cord which ran through them all—the love of God's Word. At a time when the Church became cold and dead, the people's love for God's Word was so great that the Church could not hold them back; they pressed forward in different directions, and although there was sorrow for the difference of opinion that existed, God was to be thanked for the manner in which Christianity had been helped forward by the various bodies. He hoped that all would sink all differences in the glorious unity that had been given by God, then they would all be Sons of England. But there was one title more honorable than that which they should try to assume—that was 'Sons of God.' He urged his hearers as members of a Benevolent Society, to be well-doers as well as well-wishers; and he also hoped that they would not be other than English in their liberality, extending to sufferers that charity which they required, irrespective of the nationality to which they might belong."

Constitutional Changes.

The thirty-eighth meeting of the Society was held in the Trades Assembly Hall, June 7th, 1876; and this is the first one of the minutes which I have been able to find. At this meeting a committee previously appointed to prepare a basis of nationality to govern the admission of candidates to the Society in future, brought in their report, but the amendment to the report prevailed, and provided that, "In the case of candidates born in England, the father must be English; and in the case of those born out of England, both parents must be English." Another notice of motion by the same Brother read, "That the office of Scrutineers be abolished, and that in place thereof six full members be appointed as a Committee of Management, who shall take equal rank with each other as officers of the Society, and whose duties shall be defined by a committee of six to be appointed for that purpose." This date (June 7th) fixes the first step taken towards establishing a second or higher degree; for a notice of motion was given by Bro. Brooks as follows,

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“That I shall move for a committee of twelve to be appointed next meeting night, to take into consideration and arrange all necessary details relative to the establishment of a higher degree in this Order.”

By this time initiation of members became more frequent, and the Society decided to conduct the ceremony only once each ordinary court night, and not at all on quarterly nights. The leader of the Society's band reported that on the Queen's Birthday the band had serenaded some English residents of the city, and had thereby added \$13.00 to their funds. This led to the Society becoming security for a uniform for the band.

Increasing Prosperity.

At the thirty-ninth meeting, held on June 21st, 1876, seven candidates were initiated. On motion the President appointed a committee to make necessary and desirable changes in the initiation ceremony, which committee consisted of the following brethren, namely: Bros. Terry, Newcombe, Brodie, Treblecock, James Lomas, Hambrook, Danford, Grennell, Millington, Eldard, Scott, and Coxon. This committee subsequently met June 26th, at the house of Bro. Terry, and entered upon the duty assigned them. The motion regarding election of six committee men, of which notice was given at the previous meeting, was adopted, and the committee selected. A large number of candidates were proposed, and the cash in the treasury was augmented by the addition of \$91.05.

The fortieth meeting was held July 5th, 1876. The Auditors' report which was adopted at this meeting showed a bank balance to the credit of the Lodge of \$162.00. The election and installation of officers for the semi-annual term was held. In addition to the officers of the past term, there was elected a Sub-secretary and two Trustees.

The forty-first meeting was held July 19th, 1876. It was resolved to procure blue sashes for the officers not yet provided with them, and red badges for the members. A voluntary dona-

tion amounting to \$16.00 was secured from brethren present for a sick brother.

At the forty-second meeting, held August 2nd, 1876, a committee was appointed to draft a new constitution. Between the holding of the forty-second and forty-third meetings, the first grand picnic of the Society was held at Shaw's Grove, and was a success in every particular. At the forty-fourth meeting, held September 6th, 1876, the new constitution as prepared by a special committee was presented, fully considered clause by clause, and adopted.

THE BIRTH OF A NEW LODGE.

The forty-fifth meeting of the Court, now "Lodge," held September 20, 1876, entertained a petition for, and granted the request to hold a special meeting at Mallord's Hall, corner of Muter and Queen streets, for the purpose of inaugurating a new lodge. The following evening a special meeting was held, and resulted in the institution of Middlesex Lodge No. 2, the first offspring of the parent Lodge. The matter is referred to elsewhere.

The forty-sixth regular meeting, held the 4th of October, was one of much interest. The Auditors reported a profit from the picnic of \$120.00, and there was a balance in the Lodge treasury of \$273.57, exhibiting the flourishing condition of the Lodge. An application signed by several brothers of the Lodge for a second new lodge was considered, and the request granted. The Lodge was also informed that Bro. Couldridge, a member of the Lodge, had secured enough candidates for a new lodge at Oshawa. A proposition was introduced regarding the organization of a Grand Lodge, which, however, is dealt with elsewhere.

The forty-seventh meeting of the Lodge, held October 18, 1876, was the last meeting of the Lodge prior to the organization of the Grand Lodge. By resolution the band was disorganized and the instruments ordered to be sold to pay indebtedness. It was likewise resolved to celebrate the anniversary by a supper. The following were elected as the first delegates to the proposed

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Grand Lodge, namely, Bros. E. W. Couldridge, President, and Charles E. Smith.

MIDDLESEX LODGE No. 2.

Albion Lodge was opened in special meeting in due form at Mallord's Hall, September 26, 1876, with Bro. Geo. F. Carrette, President, in the chair; and proceeded at once to the initiation of the candidates for membership in the proposed Lodge. The newly made members then proceeded to the nomination and election of the officers of the proposed Lodge, and these were installed as follows:—

Bro. A. J. Mills, President.

“ J. Munn, Vice-President.

“ James P. Meredith, Secretary.

“ Thomas Chappel, Treasurer.

“ Edwin C. Walker, and Bro. John Butcher, Managing Committeemen.

Bro. Gould, Senior Guard.

“ John Hawkins, Junior Guard.

Dr. H. H. Moorehouse, Surgeon.

Bro. John Mallord and John Hawkins, Trustees.

Bros. Gould and John Butcher, Auditors.

The officers were then installed, and took their respective stations, and proceeded to general business. It was resolved to adopt the by-laws of Albion Lodge, No. 1; to meet every alternate Tuesday; to hold a special meeting one week from date; to appoint a Committee to wait on Dr. Moorehouse to ascertain whether he will accept the office of Surgeon; to procure the present hall for meetings. A vote of thanks was returned to the Albion Lodge brethren for their presence and service, and to that Lodge for the warrant to hold a new Lodge. At the special meeting of Middlesex Lodge seventeen candidates were proposed, and Dr. Moorehouse was initiated. After routine business, and the ordering of a flag, the Lodge closed.

The third meeting was held on the 10th of October—the night following the preliminary organization meeting of Grand Lodge.

A large number of candidates were initiated. The fourth meeting was held October 24, 1876, and the following Grand Lodge delegates were elected :—Bros. A. J. Mills, Joseph Adams and George Taylor.

KENT LODGE No. 3.

In response to the request of several members of Albion Lodge, who desired to form a new Lodge to be known as Kent, No 3, Albion Lodge officers met at Trades Assembly Hall on the evening of October 9, 1876; and after requiring the candidates to select their officers, which was done, installed them as follows:—

Bro. Peter Millington, President.

“ Hambrook, Vice-President.

“ Trebilcock, Secretary.

“ Howard, Treasurer.

Bros. Danford and Coxon, Auditors.

Bro. Shepherd, Inner Guard.

“ Avis, Outer Guard.

Eleven candidates were subsequently proposed.

The second meeting of Kent Lodge was held on the 23rd October, 1876. Grand Lodge delegates were chosen at this meeting, the choice falling upon Bros. Coxon, Howard and Treble. A committee was chosen to wait on Dr. McCollum to see if he was eligible to fill the office of Lodge Surgeon.

ESSEX LODGE No. 4.

The Grand Officers elected in October 9th, 1876, visited Oshawa on the 12th, for the purpose of initiating candidates and opening a Lodge. The following Toronto Brethren were present, namely: Bros. George Carrette, George B. Brooks, Chappel, James Lomas, Meredith, Charles E. Smith, Terry, Williams and Millington. Nine candidates were initiated, and elected themselves to the following offices into which they were installed:—

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Bro. R. R. Southcombe, President.

“ R. Howsam, Vice-President.

“ R. Cole, Treasurer.

“ Wm. Edmett, Secretary.

“ A. Southton, Chaplain.

Bros. J. P. Keeler and Wm. Allchin, Managing Committee-men.

Bro. H. Bedford, Senior Guard.

“ Albert Allchin, Junior Guard.

The Lodge adopted the By-laws of the Mother Lodge for their guidance, and transacted routine business.

The second meeting was held on the 23rd October, 1876, and was largely occupied with initiations and routine business. The following were elected Grand Lodge delegates:—Bros. Southcombe, Edmett, and Taylor. This was the last meeting before that of Grand Lodge.

Organization of the first Grand Lodge.

The first minutes found in the Grand Lodge minute-book give the record as that of the first meeting, and the date of the meeting as October 30th, 1876. There is also a printed copy of those minutes. The composition of that meeting was recorded as being the Grand Officers, and eleven out of twelve elected delegates. The Lodges represented were three delegates each from Albion No. 1, Middlesex No. 2, Kent No. 3, and Essex No. 4, one of the Kent Lodge delegates being absent. But as to how or when the Grand Lodge officers, nine in number, were elected, the minutes were silent. The inference to be drawn was that the officers had been elected prior to this meeting, and subsequent investigation led to the discovery of the facts of the case which are hereinafter recorded.

PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATION MEETING.

At the forty-sixth regular meeting of Albion Lodge No. 1, held on the fourth day of October, 1876, it was resolved that Grand Lodge officers be elected next Monday night, the 9th inst., by

members of the Society in the city, and that an advertisement be inserted in the daily press calling the members of the Society together for that purpose. In pursuance of the resolution, and in response to that notice, a meeting was held on Monday evening, October 9th, 1876, at Trades' Assembly Hall, Boustead's building, Adelaide street east—after the institution of Kent Lodge—of members of the Society connected with the three lodges then in existence, Albion, Middlesex and Kent. The meeting was organized by electing George F. Carrette, Chairman, and George B. Brooks, Secretary; but the only business transacted was the decision to elect provisional Grand Lodge Officers, who were to assume the executive powers and functions for the entire membership hitherto pertaining to the officers of Albion, the parent Lodge, till such times as sufficient existing Lodges by delegates should meet and form with the Grand Officers a Grand Lodge.

According to a minute found, it was proposed by Brother Treble that Bro. George F. Carrette be the Grand President. It was proposed that Bro. Alfred Mills be the Grand Vice-President; also, that Bro. James Lomas be the Grand Vice-President. The following additional nominations were made, namely: For Grand Secretary, George B. Brooks; for Grand Treasurer, Bros. John Terry and Treble; for Grand Chaplain, Bros. Meredith, Walker, Millington and Chappel; for Grand Senior Guard, Bros. Chappel, Hambrook and Coxon; for Grand Junior Guard, Bros. Butcher, Brown, Munn and Grennell; and for Auditors, Bros. Hambrook, Meredith, Treble, Walker and Danford. The election resulted as follows:—

- Grand President, Bro. Geo. F. Carrette, Albion Lodge No. 1.
- Grand Vice-President, James Lomas, Albion Lodge No. 1.
- Grand Secretary, George B. Brooks, Albion Lodge No. 1.
- Grand Treasurer, John Terry, Albion Lodge No. 1.
- Grand Chaplain, Peter Millington, Kent Lodge No 3.
- Grand Senior Guard, Thomas Chappel, Middlesex Lodge No. 2.
- Grand Junior Guard, Walter Brown, Albion Lodge, No. 1.
- Grand Auditors, Alfred Hambrook and James Danford.

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No further business was transacted, but the determination was arrived at to organize another Lodge, and then ask the four Lodges to choose delegates to meet with the already elected Grand Officers, and proceed to the completion of the work of organizing the Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge Organization Completed.

THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING HELD.

On the Thursday following the foregoing election, viz., 12th October, 1876, the Grand Lodge Officers visited Oshawa and instituted Essex Lodge, with nine members. Four Lodges were now in existence, and by arrangement each of them elected three delegates to meet with the Grand Officers and complete the organization. This meeting, which may be designated the first regular meeting of the Grand Lodge, was held October 30th, in the evening, and on the 31st, 1876, at the Trades Assembly Hall, The provisional Grand President assumed the chair, and upon roll call of officers and delegates, the following were found present, viz. :—

Officers.

George Frederick Carrette, Grand President.
James Lomas, Grand Vice-President.
John Terry, Grand Treasurer.
George B. Brooks, Grand Secretary.
Peter Millington, Grand Chaplain.
Thomas Chappel, Grand Senior Guard.
Walter Brown, Grand Junior Guard.
Alfred Hambrook, Grand Auditor.
James Danford, Grand Auditor.

Delegates.

Bro. Southcombe, Essex Lodge No. 4.
“ W. Trebilcock, Kent Lodge No. 3.
“ Charles E. Smith, Albion Lodge No. 1.
“ Alfred Mills, Middlesex Lodge No. 2.

Bro. William Edmett, Essex Lodge No. 4.

“ J. Taylor, Essex Lodge No. 4.

“ William Prest, Albion Lodge No. 1.

“ Joseph Adams, Middlesex Lodge No. 2.

“ George Taylor, Middlesex Lodge No. 2.

“ Heward, Kent Lodge No. 3.

“ Couldridge, Albion Lodge No. 1.

Delegate absent—Bro. Jeffries, Kent Lodge No. 3.

Proposed by Bro. Brooks, seconded by Bro. James Lomas,—
That the Grand President be addressed in the Grand Lodge as
Right Worthy Grand.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Couldridge, seconded by Bro. Brooks,—
That a committee be struck off to draw up certain forms as
ritual for the Grand Lodge, the said forms to be submitted to
the Grand Lodge for approval.—Carried.

The following members were then formed into a committee,
with power to add to their number :—

Bro. Mills, Middlesex Lodge No. 1.

“ Southcombe, Essex Lodge No. 4.

“ George F. Carrette, Albion Lodge No. 1.

“ Millington, Kent Lodge No. 3.

“ Brooks, Albion Lodge No. 1.

A discussion raised by Bro. James Lomas, of Lodge Albion,
in regard to the payment of the Grand Officers and Delegates
whilst in session, then took place.

Proposed by Bro. James Lomas, seconded by Bro. Brown,—
That a certain remuneration be paid to the Grand Officers and
Delegates whilst in session, from the Grand Lodge funds.

Proposed by Bro. Couldridge, as amendment, seconded by
Bro. Trebilcock,—That the expenses of the Grand Officers be
paid out of the Grand Lodge funds, and that the expenses of the
Delegates to the Grand Lodge be paid out by the sub-lodges to
which they belong.

Bro. James Lomas withdrew his proposition. Amendment
put and carried as proposition.

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Proposed by Bro. James Lomas, seconded by Bro Millington,
—That the Grand Officers and Delegates to the Grand Lodge be
paid the sum of \$2.00 per day for their services whilst the Grand
Lodge is in session.

Proposed as an amendment by Bro. Taylor, Lodge Middlesex,
that the travelling expenses for the Grand Officers and Delegates
be paid at the rate of 12 cents per mile, which amount shall
include the sum of \$2.00 already voted.

Bro. Taylor withdrew his amendment.

Proposed by Bro. James Lomas, seconded by Bro. Taylor,
Lodge Essex No. 4,—That the sum already voted of \$2.00 per
day be paid in the case of Grand Officers from the Grand Lodge
funds, and in the case of Delegates by their respective Lodges.—
Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Taylor, Essex No. 4, seconded by Bro. Tay-
lor, Middlesex No. 2,—That each sub-lodge pay at once into the
Grand Lodge, six months capitation tax in advance.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Taylor, Essex No. 4, seconded by Bro.
Coulldridge,—That the Grand President, Grand Vice-President
and Grand Secretary be empowered to open new Lodges, and
that they be the only Grand Officers whose expenses shall be
paid for such services.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Taylor, Essex No. 4, seconded by Bro.
Southcombe,—That members addressing the chair give the
Right Worthy Grand the sign of salute.—Carried.

Bro. Millington spoke in regard to some consideration being
shown to the founders of the Order.

Proposed by Bro. Millington, seconded by Bro. Coulldridge,—
That the Grand Lodge take action in the matter of showing honor
to the founders of the Order.—Carried.

Meeting then adjourned until 9 a.m. Oct. 31.

Grand Lodge being again called to order at 9 a.m. Oct. 31, it
was proposed by Bro. Millington, seconded by Bro. Taylor, Essex
No. 4,—That the names of the founders of the Order at present
in good standing, be read over in open lodge at all opening

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ceremonies, and that they be inscribed on all subordinate Lodge warrants.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Taylor, Essex No. 4, seconded by Bro. Chapple,—That the attitude to be observed by the members of this Order when prayer is being offered at any Lodge ceremony shall be by bowing the head and placing the right hand over the heart.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Taylor, Middlesex No. 2, seconded by Bro. Brooks,—That the Grand President shall in future confer the White Rose Degree on all delegates to the Grand Lodge previous to its opening, that have not taken it.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Mills, seconded by Bro. Southcombe,—That a photographic group be taken of the first Grand Officers and Delegates.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Mills, seconded by Bro. James Lomas,—That the meeting adjourn for one hour.—Carried.

On resuming business the meeting decided that the Grand Secretary receive a salary of \$5.00 per annum for each and every subordinate Lodge in the Order.

Proposed by Bro. Mills, seconded by Bro. Brown,—That an insurance fund be established for the benefit of members joining the Order, and that the committee already formed draw the rules for its guidance.—Carried.

Proposed by Bro. Southcombe, seconded by Bro. Millington,—That the paraphernalia necessary in conferring the White Rose Degree be sent by express to sub-Lodges outside Toronto, and that it be instantly returned to Toronto when used.—Carried.

Vote of thanks/proposed by Bro. Brooks, seconded by Bro. Millington, and given to the Oshawa brethren for the interest and assistance given by them to the Grand Lodge.

Question raised by Bro. Southcombe, "Can an Englishman, married to a Roman Catholic, become a member of this Order?" Question decided in the affirmative.

The following notices of motion were then given to be considered at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.

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By Bros. James Lomas and Millington,—That no benefits be paid to any member of the Order out of the Society's funds on behalf of his wife or children, if such wife and children be members of the Roman Catholic Church.

By Bros. Brooks and Taylor, Essex No. 4,—That the sum paid by subordinate Lodges for the support of the Grand Lodge be augmented.

By Bros. Taylor, Middlesex No. 2, and Southcombe, Essex No. 4,—That clause 2, article II. of the Constitution be changed to read, "That every person admitted into this Order must be an Englishman and a Protestant." The definition of an Englishman as accepted by the Order shall be "That the candidates' father shall be English; the mother of every candidate, no matter what her nationality, shall be a Protestant." All candidates for membership must be of good moral character and in sound health.

By Bros. Taylor, Middlesex, and Southcombe, Essex,—To adopt a graduated scale of initiation fees for candidates over forty-five years of age, and to permit such to join as full members.

By Bros. Taylor, Middlesex, and Southcombe, Essex,—For support of Grand Lodge, to raise the fee paid by sub-Lodges \$1.00 per annum, 50 cents to go to the support of the Grand Lodge, and 50 cents for establishing a Widow's and Orphan's Fund.

By Bros. Brooks and Trebilcock,—To add the words, "Except in the case of Lodge Surgeons," to clause 13, article XI. of the Constitution.

By Bros. Brooks and Taylor, Middlesex,—That the benefits paid to the sick members of this Order be \$3.00 per week for the first three months' sickness; and \$1.50 per week for the next six weeks.

Proposed by Bro. Taylor, Middlesex, seconded by Bro. Southcombe, Essex,—Candidates previous to their admission into the Order be desired to answer the following questions :--

“Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being?”

“Do you believe the Supreme Being will punish vice and reward virtue?”

“Do you believe the Supreme Being has revealed His will to mankind?”—Carried.

The Grand Secretary was empowered to purchase the necessary Grand Lodge books.

The Committee on Ritual and Forms here gave in their report, the forms and ritual submitted being adopted with some slight modification.

A considerable discussion took place on the number of Grand Officers necessary to sign sub-Lodge warrants.

Proposed by Bro. Adams, seconded by Bro. Taylor, Middlesex,—That, if possible, all the Grand Officers, but not less than four, sign the sub-warrants.

Proposed by Bro. Hambrook, seconded by Bro. Trebilcock, as amendment,—That only the Grand President, Grand Vice-President, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer sign the sub-Lodge warrants.

Proposed by Bro. Millington, seconded by Bro. Terry, as an amendment to the amendment,—That all the Grand Officers sign the warrants.—Amendment to the amendment put and carried.

Proposed by Bro. Taylor, Middlesex, seconded by Bro. Adams—That the Grand Auditors report at every meeting of the Grand Lodge.—Carried.

Committee on Ritual and Forms instructed to have same printed forthwith.

Notice of motion by Bros. Couldridge and Southcombe,—That Delegates of sub-Lodges, unable to attend the Grand Lodge, have a vote by proxy.

The following Brethren of the Order were then elected Grand Officers for the year 1877 :—

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Bro. A. Mills, Middlesex, Grand President.

“ Peter Millington, Kent, Grand Vice-President.

“ W. Trebilcock, Kent, Grand Treasurer.

“ G. B. Brooks, Albion, Grand Secretary.

“ H. Southeombe, Essex, Grand Chaplain.

“ Charles E. Smith, Albion, Grand Senior Guard.

“ J. D. P. Meredith, Middlesex, Grand Junior Guard.

“ Alfred Hambrook, Kent, Grand Auditor.

“ Thomas Chapple, Middlesex, Grand Auditor.

Bros. George F. Carrette and John Terry, the retiring Grand President and Grand Treasurer, were elected Trustees for the Grand Lodge.

Minutes of the meeting ordered to be printed.

Certain accounts ordered to be paid.

Minutes read and adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

(Signed,)

GEORGE B. BROOKS,

Grand Secretary.

GEORGE F. CARRETTE,

Grand President.

This ends Part I of the History of the Sons of England Society.

JOHN S. KING, M.D.

BROTHER!

Do you belong to the Beneficiary ?

If not, why not ?

LIFE IS UNCERTAIN!

A few cents per week may save
your mother, wife or child, from
many an anxious moment!

A few cents now will put them in a
position to breast the tide of
adversity, and enable them to
earn an honest living!

SHARPSHIRT HALL

1880