

# INSTALLATION OF SIR EDMUND LECHMERE AS PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF WORCESTERSHIRE.

An imposing Masonic ceremony took place in this city on Wednesday, when Sir E. A. H. Lechmere, Bart, M.P., was installed by the Right Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Worcestershire. The dignity and honour which attach to the office could not have been conferred on a brother more likely to sustain them in their lustre and integrity than Sir Edmund Lechmere, nor upon one who has greater personal claims to the high and honourable distinction. There was a large gathering of Freemasons on the occasion, every lodge in the Province being represented, and the proceedings, together with the subsequent festival, lasted nearly the whole of the day.

At twelve o'clock the brethren assembled at the College Hall, where a craft lodge was duly opened by Bro. T. H. Lewis, W.M. of the Worcester Lodge 280. The Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. W. Masefield, and the Provincial Grand Officers then entered the lodge, and having been received with the customary honours, the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in form at half-past twelve. The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge were read and confirmed, and the muster roll of lodges called over, when it was found that all the lodges in the Province were represented. The Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master then requested seven Provincial Grand Officers to attend the Right Worshipful the Installing Master, the Right Honourable Lord Skelmersdale, who entered the lodge and was saluted with Royal Honours. The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master then deputed seven Installed Masters of the seven senior lodges in the province to introduce the Right Worshipful Brother Sir Edmund A. H. Lechmere, the Provincial Grand Master designate for the Province of Worcester, who has been appointed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W., Grand Master, in the room of the R.W. Brother Albert Hudson Royds, who has resigned that office. The R.W. Provincial Grand Master designate was presented in due form by the Worshipful Brother W. Masefield, D.P.G.M., the senior Past Master of the Harmonic Lodge, No. 252, the senior lodge in the Province. The R.W. Deputy Grand Master of England then called upon the Provincial Grand Secretary to read the R.W. Brother Sir E. A. H. Lechmere's patent of appointment, and afterwards a summary of the Ancient Charges. The Provincial Grand Master designate having given his assent thereto, the R.W. Provincial Grand Master designate was duly obligated to the faithful discharge of the duties of his office and invested with the insignia of a Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts having been audited, a motion was made that the same should be received and adopted. Brother C. C. Whitney Griffiths, P.M. 280, P.P.S.G.W., was re-elected Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested his Provincial Grand Officers as follows:—

- Deputy Prov. G.M.—W. Bro. W. Masefield, P.M., 280.
- Senior Grand Warden—W. Bro. A. F. Godson, P.M., 1,097.
- Junior Grand Warden—W. Bro. W. Stallard, P.M., 280.
- Grand Chaplain—W. Bro. the Rev. Sir F. A. Gore-Ouseley, P.M., 1,097.
- Prov. Grand Treasurer—W. Bro. C. C. Whitney Griffiths, P.M., 280, P. Prov. S.G.W.
- Registrar—W. Bro. J. Blundell, P.M., 560.
- Senior Grand Deacon—W. Bro. J. Fitzgerald, P.M., 377.
- Junior Grand Deacon—W. Bro. C. S. Faram, P.M., 280.
- Grand Superintendent of Works—W. Bro. J. H. Whittley, P.M., 204.
- Grand Director of Ceremonies—W. Bro. T. H. Lewis, P.M., 280.
- Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies—W. Bro. J. F. Roberts, P.M., 529.
- Grand Sword Bearer—W. Bro. T. H. Fisher, P.M., 564.
- Grand Organist—Bro. W. Done, 280.
- Grand Pursuivant—W. Bro. G. Taylor, P.M., 377.
- Stewards—Bros. T. L. Smith, H. Rowland, and H. Oram, 280; Bros. C. E. Pipe, Thomas Carter, and H. W. Graves, 529.
- Tylers—J. Stanley, 529; J. Smith, 280.

Among those present, in addition to the R.W. Deputy Grand Master of England, and the Prov. G.M. elect, were—the Deputy Prov. G.M. Bro. W. Masefield; Past D.P.G.M. Bro. John Barber; Past G.W.'s Bros. Jos. Stokes and W. Jones; Past G.W.'s Bros. H. Cross, Walter Holk, and N. M. Horgan; V. H. Westwood, and Thos. Hobbs; Past P.G. Chaplains H. Browne, 1097; Prov. G. Treasurer Bro. C. C. Whitney Griffiths; Prov. G. Registrar A. M. Godson; Past P.G. Registrars George W. Crossen, F. N. Gosling, Joseph Aston, and G. Sec. W. Bristow; P.S.G. Deacons R. Bromball, John Blundell, and Francis Helcroft; P.J.G. Deacon W. Stallard; Past P.G. Deacon R. P. Hall; P.G. Supt. of Works Thos. E. Lucy; Past P.G. Director of Ceremonies James Fitzgerald; P.G. Sword Bearer Bro. H. J. Bailey; Past P.G. Sword Bearers Bros. G. Westbury and P. Belitzky; P.G. Organist Bro. T. Troman; P.G. Pursuivant Bro. Chas. Wilson; Past P.G. Pursuivant Bro. H. Wilson. Among the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of Lodges, not present or past grand officers were Bros. C. S. Faram, P.M., 280, Joseph Potts, Chaplain and P.M., 305, W. Smith, P.M., P.G.P., R. L. Campbell, P.M., 564, W. K. R. Bedford, Past G.C., F. Bincks, P.G.S. (London). Among visiting brethren present were:—Thelwell Pike, S.W., 1,204; J. H. Whittley, P.M., 1,204; Frederick Moore, P.M., 900; H. Murray, Past District

# BROW'S WORCESTER

Grand Master for China, 26; E. H. Cohen, 529; Charles J. Martyn, P.G.C., D.P.G.M., Suffolk 1,224, &c.; John Joseland, P.M., 529; Henry Haddon, P.M., 1,204; J. F. Roberts, W.M., 529; W. G. Hopkins, P.M., 377; Thos. Parker, S.D., 529; H. N. Graves, J.D., 529; H. Oram, Hon. Sec., 280; Henry Lister, 550; F. G. Russell, W.M., 1,204; J. Randle Buck, S.W., 280; Charles Virgo, D.C., 280; G. M. Wynne, 529; Thomas Cohen, 529; E. R. Hartley, S.D., 252; J. Boocock, J.W., 74; J. H. Smith, 498; J. Rutland, 280; H. C. Wightman, 204; H. Caldwell, 529; J. Fenn Athol, 74; F. D. Nicholson, P.G.C. of Warwickshire, 1,066; George Taylor, P.M., 377; James Downes, P.P.G.C., Staffordshire, and P.M., 539; W. Caldwell, 529; Henry Hughes, 564; R. S. Blundell, J.W., 560; H. E. Preen, S., 377; J. T. Meredith, W.M., 560; G. W. Naylor, S.W., 560; James Muggleton, P.M., 74, and P.G.P. Warwickshire; H. Eilers Lane, 146; W. Clement Green, J. G., 377; C. Foley Pidcock, P.M., 280; J. W. Chadwick, S., 377; J. G. Beasley, W.M., 573; D. W. Barker, 280; Smart, P.P.G.D.C., Warwickshire; Wm. Waldron, 573; Thomas Bowen, 573; G. W. Crowe, 280; Joseph Russell, 252; Alfred Cookson, 573; G. Pearce Baldwin, 560; Joseph Collins, 252; Amos Pearson, 573; G. H. Williamson, 529; C. E. Bloomer, P.M., 573; E. H. Vertegans, P.M., 74; F. R. Drew, J.W. and Ch., 1,204; Joseph Hammond, J.G., 564; Daniel Rogers, 252; G. P. Chapman, P.M., 573; Isaiah Foley, W.M., 564; Jas. P. Bailey, 564; Jas. E. Stone, F.D., 377; E. H. Metcalfe, J.G., 1,204; Joseph Williams, 904; G. T. Bloomer, P.M., 573; Wm. Perry, 564; Frank Matson, 1,097; John Carter, 529; William Turton, P.M., 377; George King Patten, W.M., 468 and 498; Frederic Yeates, 529; J. M. Howes, W.M., 377; Thomas Price, P.M., 1,097; W. E. Walker, J.W., 252; Chas. L. Pitt, P.P.G.W., &c.; T. H. Fisher, P.M., 564; J. Beckley, J.W., 573; J. Turner, 252; John Lane, 751; G. F. Thompson, W.M., 252; William Waring, S.W., 252; G. Powntress, 573; W. Clarke, 662; G. Evans, 529; A. M. Dallas Hill, 1,204; John Cox, 751; Chas. Round, P.M., 347; Daniel Round, J.G., 347; Henry Rowe, J.S., 280; Thomas Harris, 689; Thomas L. Smith, 280; C. B. James, P.P.G.S.D., Warwickshire, 301; G. C. Richards, P.P.G.S.D., Staffordshire, and W.M. of 202 and 787; G. Morris, 252; S. M. Beale, 280; J. R. Wood, P.G.D.C., 377; G. E. Godson, P.M., 1,097; E. G. vnr, 1,204; H. Scott, Tyler, 564; William Mills, Tyler, 560; W. Gittos, P.G.D.C., 498; John Dawes, P.M., 573; Jas. Dugard, Tyler, 377; C. B. James, P.P.G.S.L., 301; W. H. Wood, P.M., 280; E. Poole, P.P.G.S.L., W., P.M., 560 and 498; J. H. Broadhurst; W. Galsbam; Frae. B. Marsh, 280; Edwin Stringer, 564; I. G. Garner, 498 and 252; B. Wood, 564; John Smith, 280; D. A. Cooper, 280; D. H. C. Preezy, 280; F. M. Longham, J.W., 280; C. E. Pipe, Hon. Sec., 529; John Dixon, S.W., 560; W. Manton, P.P.G.S.B., &c.

At a quarter past three o'clock the brethren attended afternoon service at the Cathedral. A procession having been formed, the members of the craft entered by the west door, and were met by the contributions of Sir Edmund Lechmere to the restoration of the Cathedral. The service was held in the choir. The preacher was the V.W. Brother the Rev. C. E. Martyn, M.A., Past Grand Chaplain of England, and Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk. He chose as his text the words "Behold, I build an house to the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to him." (II. Chronicles ii. 4). Having at the outset dealt with the immediate subject of the text, the preacher went on to say that he was exceedingly pleased and thankful to see so large a gathering of his Masonic and other brethren, and to express in his own name, and in the name of the Brethren of the Province of Worcestershire, hearty thanks to the Dean and Chapter for their kindness in allowing them to take part in the beautiful service that had just taken place. If they looked upon the glorious monuments of the piety and devotion of a long past around them, he thought they would conclude that something of the spirit of King Solomon must have animated those who so many years ago reared up so glorious a fabric in God's honour; surely, the founders of that noble pile must have said in the words of the text—"Behold I build an house to the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to Him." Those assembled there that day were a Masonic fraternity, bound together by a mystic tie—that was so little understood, and which was so often ridiculed by the outside world. They were not operative as were the Masons of old, but rather speculative Masons, and it might be expected on an occasion like that, when many were not, as a rule, able to attend their meetings were present, that he should say a few words to the general congregation, endeavouring to give them a little idea of what Freemasonry really was. "What is this Freemasonry," was a question which he was sure most of them had been often asked; "of which we hear so much and know so little of?" He could not give them a better answer than that supplied by his text: "Behold, I build an house to the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to Him. There, after all, was the great secret, the wonderful mystery, that bound them together; they did not seek to build up a house of stone or of wood like their operative brethren of old, but to build up, or to attempt to build up, that most noble temple of the living God—the human heart; to form and perfect all that was good and exemplary in their fellow-men. Freemasonry was a peculiar system of morality; its one great aim, end, and object, was to render its disciples better servants of their God, better members of society, better fathers, better sons, better husbands, better brothers—in a word, better men. Freemasonry taught them to be Christians; it taught them to speak well of a brother absent as well as present, and if that unfortunately could not be done with honour and propriety they adopted that excellent and truly Masonic virtue—silence. Freemasonry taught them to measure their actions by the rule of rectitude, and to square their conduct by the principles of morality; to keep their conversation and even their very thoughts within the compass of propriety. It taught them to provide for, and to be mindful of, the wants of others; to provide for the aged, the indigent, the widow, and the orphan; to try to lighten the load under which their fellow-creatures might be groaning; in a word to fulfil the great and golden rule of Christ Himself, to do unto all men as we would they should do unto us. But then it might be said, and it often was said, "Why do you want a particular society or bond to teach you to do all these things; does not Christianity teach all this and much more?" His answer was, "certainly it does so," and if men would only pray to God to help them to live up to their obligations and duties as Christians they would not need Freemasonry or anything else of the kind, for they would have arrived at that millenium state which they had read so much of, and heard of so often. It was because human nature was so weak and so frail, and so greatly in need of every help and assistance it could find that he was such a devoted advocate of Freemasonry. Not that he would wish to exalt the craft for a moment into a religion; to put it even in thought in comparison with religion, but it was because he held Freemasonry to be an excellent helpmeet and handmaid to religion and religious practices that he loved it so much. It was, as he had said, a great system of morality, it did not profess in any way or shape or manner to interfere with a man's religious or political beliefs and prejudices. Loyalty to the Sovereign of their native land, and to their Grand Master as the sovereign of their Order, were forcibly inculcated on all who served under their banner, and especially on those who occupied prominent positions among them. A great system of morality and subordination were the cardinal principles of their Order. Having answered objections sometimes urged against Freemasonry in its social aspect, the preacher spoke of the many magnificent charities of the Order, remarking that he would not say that these were not some good