



FREEMASONS' BALL AND SUPPER, AT WORCESTER.—(SEE PAGE 191.)

GRAND FREEMASONS' BALL, GIVEN BY THE
WORCESTER LODGE 349.

On the night of Tuesday week, a splendid *réunion* of the Freemasons of Worcester, and their friends, took place in the Town-hall; and when we state that at least 500 cards were issued and accepted, whilst a greater number was eagerly sought for, and that the Ball was of a strictly private character, we shall, perhaps, convey some idea of the extent to which the Brethren of the Worcester Lodge carried their hospitality.

The arrangements were excellent. The company continued to arrive from nine to eleven o'clock. The space between High-street and the entrance to the Town-hall was enclosed by a decorated passage. From the door of the Hall this enclosed passage was continued through the supper-room, and up the staircase to the ball-room. The effect on first entering this celebrated room was very striking. The room was brilliantly illuminated with wax-lights. Of the jewels worn by the ladies, as well as those of the brethren who were present in their costumes, there was a superb display. Cox's fine band, from Cheltenham, was stationed in the orchestra; and the south ante-room, in addition to the ball-room, was devoted to quadrilles, polkas, waltzes, schottisches, &c. At about half-past twelve, the company descended to the Hall, where an elegant supper was served by Mr. Mountfort, of High-street.

The wines, which were of the finest quality, were supplied by "Brother Read," and comprised champagne, moselle, sherry, &c.

We should mention that the walls of the Hall were hung most tastefully, under the superintendence of Mr. Freame, with damask, in broad stripes of blue, pink, and white. At the south end a brilliant gas illumination represented the letters W. L. (Worcester Lodge), 349, with a splendid star between the two letters, on either side of which were hung union jacks. At the other end of the noble old apartment, another illumination of gas displayed the letters V. R., surmounted by a crown, underneath which was another magnificent star, likewise supported on either side by similar flags. The seat of the Worshipful Master, F. T. Elgie, Esq., was placed beneath a canopy. Opposite were suspended portraits of several eminent Masons of the Lodge 349.

The Worshipful Master presided, assisted by the Wardens, Past-Masters, and Officers of the Lodge. At the north end, the Senior Warden's chair was filled by H. G. Gillingham, Esq.; at the south end, the Junior Warden's, by E. G. Stone, Esq.

The guests having taken their places, the "Hiram" of the Worshipful Master arrested attention, and the Chaplain solemnly pronounced the following Masonic grace:—"O God the Great Architect of the Universe give us grateful hearts for these his mercies, and make us mindful of the wants of others;" to which the immediate Past-Master responded, "So mote it be."

After the supper, the Worshipful Master rose, and proposed the following toast:—"To all poor and distressed Masons, wherever dispersed over the face of land and water, wishing them a speedy deliverance from all their troubles, and a safe return to their native land if they desire and deserve it;" the health of "Her Majesty," with the usual Masonic addition of "and the Craft;" the "High Sheriff of the County," Sir T. E. Winton, Bart."

The High Sheriff, in responding to the toast, offered a few well-turned compliments to the Lodge 349, dwelling, in eulogistic terms, on the magnificence of the entertainment they had so generously provided. Sir Thomas concluded his observations by proposing the health of "The Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Worcester Lodge 349."

The Worshipful Master having acknowledged the compliment, called upon Past-Master J. B. Hyde, who, in an excellent speech, proposed "The health and happiness of the Ladies who have honoured us with their presence this evening."

The toast, as might be assumed, was received with the utmost enthusiasm.

The following toasts were afterwards given and acknowledged in suitable terms—"Sir E. Blount, Bart.;" "The High Sheriff of Gloucestershire" (W. Dent, Esq., of Sudeley Castle); "the Mayor;" and "J. Best, Esq., M.P."

The company, shortly after the last toast, returned to the ball-room, and dancing was continued with renewed spirit until between four and five o'clock in the morning.

We regret that we have not space for the list of the guests who had the high gratification of being present at this brilliant entertainment.