

1931/13. 1. 17

43. Charlton Road,
Mandeville, July 31/69.

My Dear Sir & Brother,

Dr. Digby has got together some very interesting information and made a most valuable book. Is he a brother mason? He seems to be well acquainted with the Masonic Antecedents of the members of his order.

After an analytical consideration of the constitution of the English League, I confess I fail to see its merits. I infinitely prefer the Prussian Constitution. (Not of the Masonic Order, if brought into conformity with the French) to both.

The English Order is too elaborate & complicated, the Prussian consisting but of two grades (K. of Justice & Lion Knight), simple, & will work well.

The Knights of 'Grace', seem to have a most curious position, in the English Order — they are to use a vulgarism 'neither fish, flesh, or good red herring'. — How comes Ch'audes to wear frockings to be a Knight of Grace? he has an armorial Coat & a pedigree superior to most of the Knights of Justice. If the present usage of the English Order ever prevailed at Malta, it must have been in recent times,

is opposed to the now existing State of Society.
The usage at Malta was 4 generations of Nobility
a defect, more especially on the Mothers Side —
being condoned by a Vote of the Chapter General,
but I think that no distinction in the Insignia
was made in the case or that they had ^{not} ~~had~~
Privileges then the other Knights — ^{There}
ought there to be a difference.

Dr. Bigsby says — "No person can be
admitted into the Order as a Knight of Justice
unless he is descended from ^{free} ~~free~~ Parents
entitled to bear arms, ^{2^d} — ^{the proof of}
gentilitical quarters ^{rests in the father}
Mother & Grandmother, on both the father &
Mothers Side."

So that according to this Law a New man
who marries well has a Son who does
the same, is vastly Superior in Pedigree
& Privilege to an Ancient Peer who marries
badly ^{or low} — which is simply monstrous.

The proper course would seem to be in such
a matter, either that the G. M. should
Compel or Condone the wanting Maternal Nobility
& admit to the same Privileges as the Knights
of Justice — The books recording the Condonation.

Then again you require fees from an Esquire
who may join with the intention of
becoming a Knight, & you have afterward

the option of refusing his application, after taking his money. - You have no need of a grade of the description, though you have of Serway - brothers.

If however you are to have the Grade of Knights of Grace, a distinction must be drawn somewhere, but if a native, Say of "Genoa" was admitted by the old order money was the only qualification. What of Grace ^{is it to be what you call} Boquins & they Does your patents vary with very apparatus, or have you an improved form?

Why should you make irreversible distinctions in insignia of Honor you have agreed to create Knights of the order. Surely there is no necessity to state so for this. How if a man makes his Nobiliary proofs, his patent may record his claims, if honorable merit is his qualification, his patent may advance the same.

You seem only to require: -

1. Knight of Justice.
 2. Honorary foreign Knights.
 3. Chaplains.
 4. Serway, brother Boquins
 5. Donats
- } : Ranks of Grace or Postulants?
 } Mark the true Nobiliary proofs.

It may be said that
the only grade open to him seems to be that
of Donat - without vows or formal postulant -
so who writes or signs.

Suppose a Commercial Man (without pedigree)
wishes to connect himself with the Order,
The only grade open to him seems to be that
of Donat - without vows or formal postulant -
for he cannot with any show of reason
become ~~after~~ an Esquire or Sewing brother.

I do not see why Commercial Men might
should now be any disqualification for
the Knighthood of the Order to a man
who proves the necessary qualifications,
but were I to apply I should & care to
be admissible under Dr. Peppel's rule,
because I do not know the pedigree &
announcements of either my Grandmother or
Mother, though the families may have
traced them, ^{hence} any position assigned
would reflect ^{that publicly} on the elder line of my
family name.

Now I to make an application (I merely
put my case as an illustration) I
might state my pedigree thus, but you
will see that there is a deficiency
in the two last steps, owing to my imperfect
information upon the point - the families
but have valued such distinction.

John Garton.

Son of Anthony Garton
of Leyburn, (b. 1657) Second
son of Reynold Garton
of Leyburn. Sixth in descent
from Richard Garton
(or de Garton) a Flemish
Knight who came over
to this country temp.

Edward IV acquired
Crown Land at Leyburn
c. 1500 temp Hen V 1st.
his treasure chest being
not preserved at Leyburn
Hall, for centuries
named 'Sir Richard's
treasure chest'

Arms - See Sir R. Duns
Landed Gentry & Aristocracy

=

Anne Leyburn.

dan. Heiress of
Henry Leyburn of the
Co. of Westmorland.

The descendant of an
old Kintoch family
(bearing Azure Esc
Lionsels rampant
Argent 3. & 11)

One of them married
the sister of Sir Andrew
de Herla, Earl of
Carliol. c. 1300.

Whose descendants
acquired Cusworth
Park by the marriage
with the Bradly Es-
quires & kept the estate
until the rebellion
of 1715, when Richard
had them confiscated.

1 Robert Garton.

2 John Garton.

(b. 1730 d. 1809)

3 Thomas Garton

(b. 1740. d. 1806)

= Margaret Bradly
of Kettle only sister of
Anthony Bradly whose
Ancestors held estates
there for many generations.
Their ancestor ^{John Bradly} & started
"Gutteran" in 1666 in
a deed of agreement
of Dunsford School

associated with the
 lowther family (now
 Earls of Lonsdale) & to the
 other good families, of
 the first part, & of the
 other part are mentioned.
 (Name same as Beady
 of Cusworth) —

John Barker
 b 1809.

= Ann Bell, 4th dau. of
 John Bell 1st gd. dau. of
 "Wm Bell" of Swindle a
 Cumberland family & elder
 brother of Wm. Bell of
 Clefton County of Westmorland
 an author & writer of
 some reports in Lancashire
 his wife Mary dau. of
 John Bewley, who m'd.
 Margaret Hodgson relative
 the wife of General Hodgson,
 who served with Sir
 Ralph Abercrombie
 in Egypt

(Ann ? —

P.S. - I see both the families
 of Bell & Shute have arms assigned -
 but the papers do not show whether they are
 the same or not. I cannot say for certain
 which would be true. I have written away.

[Handwritten signature]

The writer of papers brother.

Thos. Garton. —
b. 1766. d. 1841)
Knife.
2. Wm. Garton
(father of Rev. Wm. Garton
vicar of Caversham)

Grace Skete (pronounced
Stety) dau. of John Skete,
the owner of a good landed
estate in the Co. of Westmore,
which he spent on the
Supplication that he would
inherit another large
property of the Castle's.
(Arms —)

I desire you to look upon the foregoing
as a mere expression of my doubts & my
own objection to your Constitution. I do
doubt the very things to which I object
across the purpose intended — but they
will prevent the order ever being either
popular, or useful in the sense Dr.
Priestley so earnestly desires, and when
you loose him, for want of another like
him, the order may expire by its
own invidious & illogical distinctions.

Remain, My Dear Sir

Fraternally Yours

John Garton M

Wm. Garton