

CITY OF OXFORD.

ALDERMAN CHARLES JAMES SADLER, MAYOR.
COUNCILLOR WM. THOMPSON, SHERIFF.

THE
Ceremony of Laying the Foundation Stone
OF THE
NEW CORN EXCHANGE,

BY
HENRY ATKINS BOWYER, ESQUIRE, M.A. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER,
THE MAYOR AND SHERIFF OF THE CITY OF OXFORD,
AND THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
FREEMASONS OF OXFORDSHIRE,

ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER THE 30TH, 1861.

The Provincial Grand Lodge will assemble at the Masonic hall, at 11 o'clock, a.m., when a Provincial Grand lodge will be held. After the business has been transacted the procession will be formed, under the direction of Brothers Bruton, Park, E. S. Carrier, and George Taunton, Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies, and Brothers Gandy, Pyne, Steane, and Sammans, Provincial Grand Stewards.

The procession will leave the Masonic hall at 12 o'clock, in the following order; the brethren being in the usual Masonic costume, (black dress, with white gloves,) and with craft clothing and jewels. *But the visitors on the ground will be pleased to notice that the order of Procession will be inverted as it enters the enclosure; when, after the Flags, Tylers, and Band have passed in, the Provincial Grand Master, preceded by his Banner and Sword Bearer, will follow, and the remainder of the Procession being in reversed order.*

THE PROCESSION.

Flags and Banners.

- Two Tylers with drawn swords.
Oxford City Rifle Corps band.
Brethren, not subscribing to any Lodge, two and two, juniors first.
Members of the Cherwell Lodge, Banbury, No. 873.
Members of the Churchill Lodge, No. 702.
Members of the Apollo University Lodge, No. 460.
Members of the Alfred Lodge, No. 425.
Members of other Lodges, Visitors.
Architect with the Plans, and Builder with the Trowel on a cushion.
Provincial A Cornucopia with Corn, borne by the Master of a Lodge. Provincial
Gr. Steward, Two Ewers with Wine and Oil, borne by Masters of Lodges. Gr. Steward,
with wand. Grand Tyler. Provincial Grand Pursuivant with Staff. with wand.
Provincial Grand Organist.
Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies.
Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, with the Plate bearing the Inscription.
Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearers.
Past Provincial Grand Deacons.
Provincial Grand Secretary, with Book of Constitutions on a cushion.
Past Provincial Grand Registrars.
Provincial Grand Registrar.
Provincial Grand Treasurer, bearing a phial containing the coins to be deposited in the stone.
Past Provincial Grand Wardens.
Officers and Past Officers of Grand Lodge and Visitors of distinction.
The Corinthian Light, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The Column of Provincial Junior Grand Warden, borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The Provincial Junior Grand Warden, with the Plumb Rule.
The Doric Light borne by the Master of a Lodge.
The Column of Provincial Senior Grand Warden, (borne by Bro. Alderman Butler.)
The Provincial Senior Grand Warden, (the Sheriff of Oxford,) with the Level.
The Provincial Junior Grand Deacon.
Provincial Past Provincial Grand Chaplains. Provincial
Grand Steward, Provincial Grand Chaplain, Grand Steward
with wand. bearing the Sacred Law on a cushion. with wand.
The Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Bro. Alderman Spiers) with the Square.
The Ionic Light, borne by the Past Master of a Lodge (Bro. Alderman Dudley.)
The Rt. Worshipful the Mayor of Oxford, (Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden,)
bearing the Mallet.
Prov. Gr. Steward, The Banner of the Provincial Grand Master. Prov. Gr. Steward,
with wand. The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer. with wand.
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.
The Provincial Senior Grand Deacon.
The Provincial Grand Tyler.

The Procession having left the Masonic Hall, will pass in the centre of the road, up Alfred Street, High Street, and St. Aldate's Street, entering the Town Hall Yard, by the first gate. The Flag Bearers, the Tylers, and the Band, accompanied by two of the Provincial Grand Directors of Ceremonies, will continue to head the Procession, halting while the Brethren open to the right and left and face inwards, so as to leave room for the Provincial Grand Master to pass up the centre, he being preceded by his Standard and Sword Bearer, the Mayor, the Grand Officers and Brethren following in succession from the rear, so as to invert the order of procession. The Flag Bearers will arrange themselves at the back of the platform set apart for the Masonic body; the Band will take their appointed places on the ground; the Provincial Grand Master and the principal Officers will be placed around the Foundation Stone, leaving clear the front thereof, and the remainder of the procession will take the places assigned to them on the platform.

The Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren being respectively arranged, the following anthem will be sung by the choir:—

TENOR SOLO.

Thou visitest the earth and blesseth it. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness.

SIX VOICES.

He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the flour of wheat.

CHORUS—(FULL CHOIR.)

Thou visitest the earth and blesseth it. Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness.

The Stone being prepared, and the plate having the proper inscription, the upper Stone is raised by an engine while the Provincial Grand Chaplain repeats a prayer. The inscription on the plate to be deposited in the stone will then be read as follows:—

On the 30th day of October, A.D., 1861, and in the 25th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the Foundation Stone of this Corn Exchange of the City of Oxford was laid according to ancient custom, and with Masonic rites, by Henry Atkins Bowyer, Esquire, M.A., Provincial Grand Master of Freemasons of Oxfordshire, Alderman C. J. Sadler, Mayor, and Councillor W. Thompson, Sheriff, in the presence of the Council of the City of Oxford, and a large assemblage of Ladies and Citizens. S. Lipscomb Seckham, Architect. John Dover, Builder.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer having then, by the Provincial Grand Master's command, deposited in the cavity a phial containing various coins of the present reign, a copy of the *Times* of this day, of an Oxford newspaper, and of this programme, the cement is laid on the lower stone with the Trowel presented by the Architect, and the upper stone is let down slowly, solemn music playing. Being properly placed, the Provincial Grand Master proves that it is properly adjusted by the plumb rule delivered to him by the Provincial Junior Grand Warden, by the Level delivered to him by the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and by the Square delivered to him by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, after which the Mayor delivers to him the Mallet, with which the Provincial Grand Master gives the stone three knocks, and delivers to the builder the several implements for his use. The plans of the building are presented by the Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Works to the Provincial Grand Master for his inspection, who, having approved them, delivers them to the Architect for his guidance. The Brethren bearing the consecrating vessels present them in order:—The Cornucopia, filled with corn, which the Provincial Grand Master strews upon the stone; the ewers respectively with wine and oil which are poured upon the stone.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER THEN DECLARES THE STONE TO HAVE BEEN PROPERLY LAID ACCORDING TO ANCIENT CUSTOM.

The Mayor, on the part of the Council of the City, will address the meeting. Some money for the workmen will be laid on the stone.

The following verses of Psalm lxxv. will then be sung by the choir.

O Lord, from out thy bounteous store,
Thy rain relieves the thirsty ground;
Makes lands, that barren were before,
With corn and useful fruits abound.

Thy goodness does the circling year
With fresh returns of plenty crown;
And, where thy glorious paths appear,
Thy fruitful clouds drop fatness down.

They drop on barren forests, chang'd
By them to pastures fresh and green,
The hills about in order rang'd
In beauteous robes of joy are seen.

Large flocks with fleecy wool adorn
The cheerful downs, the valleys bring
A plenteous crop of unear'd corn,
And seem for joy to shout and sing.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain concludes with a benediction.

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN" will then be played by the Oxford City Rifle Corps Band; the Masonic body will leave the ground in the same order as they entered, and again reforming in the original order of procession, in the Town Hall yard, will return to the Masonic Hall, headed as before by the Tylers and the Band, when the Provincial Grand Lodge will be closed.

Stewards, distinguished by a white bow, are appointed to see that the visitors are directed to the galleries or platforms set apart for them.

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