

3235/1  
37  
With the Authors fraternal regards

P. 1/ L2



# THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

A REPORT

TO

**Lodge Hope and Charity, 377,**

OF

*A Visit to the Girls' and Boys' Schools, to the Benevolent  
Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows, and to the Festival  
of the latter, as Steward,*

BY

**BRO. GEORGE JAYLOR, P.M.,**

Treasurer and J, 377; Prov. G. Purst., Worcestershire.

March, 1879.

PRICE SIXPENCE: *The proceeds to be devoted to the forthcoming Festivals  
of the Girls' and Boys' Schools*

Lidderminster:

PRINTED BY W. HEPPORTH, "SUN" OFFICE, BELL RING.





# THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

A REPORT

TO

*Wodge Hope and Charity, 377,*

OF

*A Visit to the Girls' and Boys' Schools, to the Benevolent  
Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows, and to the Festival  
of the latter, as Steward.*

BY

Bro. GEORGE TAYLOR, P.M.,

Treasurer and J. 377, Prov. G. Purst., Worcestershire.

March, 1879.

PRICE SIXPENCE: *The proceeds to be devoted to the forthcoming Festivals  
of the Girls' and Boys' Schools.*

Kidderminster:

PRINTED BY W. HEPWORTH, "SUN" OFFICE, BULL RING.



## PREFACE.



THE contents of this little Pamphlet were not compiled for publication, but as a Report to my Lodge, under circumstances such as I describe hereafter.

On delivering my Report, the Brethren were desirous of individually possessing the information it contains, and so I yielded to their request to print it.

Should these particulars be the means of affording any instruction in the working of our noble Institutions to some, who, like myself, lacked it, and in some degree secure their help, my object is gained, and the diffidence I felt in thus publicly soliciting their sympathy, materially lessened.

Since this Report was read, a Charity Board has been formed in connection with my Lodge, and ERNEST BLOOMER GRANGER, the son of Bro. ALFRED GRANGER (for many years a member of 377), adopted as a Candidate for admission to the Boys' School.

I take this opportunity of conveying my hearty thanks to the Brethren of my own Lodge and that of the *Vernon*, Stourport, for the sums already voted and promised to my Lists, and at the same time beg of some Brother in the *Harmonic*, *Worcester*, *Royal Standard*, *Semper Fidelis*, *Stability*, *Perseverance*, *St. Michael*, and *Royds*, or of any other Lodge (not of this Province), who may read this, to place himself in communication with me, and canvas his Lodge for the coming Festivals, either of the Girls' or Boys' Schools.

G. T.

Summerdyne,  
Kidderminster,  
March, 1879.



Ex Libris  
WORC. PROV. LIBRARY  
MASONIC HALL  
WORCESTER

THE REPORT.

---

BROTHERREN,  
I have long had it in mind to give some attention and research to the question of Charity as allied with our Order, it being "the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart" and one of the first lessons in his Masonic teaching; I was anxious to ascertain in what measure we were practically applying this virtue.

I do not mean to say that it needs some great pretentious Institution and a work that shall be apparent to the whole world, to prove that charity is active; I should rather believe that the lessons inculcated by our Ritual find practical exposition in a far different channel, and in *that* charity which blushes to find itself known—and *that other* charity, not almsgiving, but *brotherly love*.

All these silent influences for good, which emanate from the practice of the principles we profess, may however be left for the truly Masonic heart, which gives them birth, to know and to understand; and we will also pass over the numerous Educational and Benevolent Institutions through the Provinces, supported by our Order. The large grants of money made by the Board of Benevolence to special cases, amounting to thousands of pounds annually, and the numberless instances of Masonic gifts. Our present object is in taking a glance at the three most important and recognized modes of dispensing our relief—the three great charitable Institutions, viz. :—

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons;

The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; and

The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

*all three dependant upon the voluntary aid sent up through the Stewards at the Annual Festivals.*

From my own limited knowledge of their work and worth, and from the hazy remarks of others of whom I sought information, I was convinced that a great deal of ignorance existed in the minds of the Brethren of the Provinces generally with regard to these Institutions, and hence an effort, however small, to dispel this mist, would not only stimulate support in their aid, if found deserving, but bring renewed interest and satisfaction in our connection with the craft.

Another incentive to action was the fact that in our particular Province of Worcestershire so little has been done (almost nothing when compared with others) as to bring down upon it, from time to time, a measure of reproach, which it is our bounden duty to remove, or find a reasonable defence.

It was, therefore, at the close of the past year, when the work of the Lodge had passed to other shoulders, that I mooted the idea of enlightening myself and, through me, my Lodge upon this question of our charities; at the same time doing something tangible in their support, and providing an agency whereby, at all events for one year, others too could help. I therefore signified my intention to act as Steward at each of the three Festivals for 1879, and making the necessary contribution to qualify me as Life Governor of each Institution.

I can only say, Brethren, that I am, personally, very grateful for the kindly spirit in which you all supported me in this plan at the outset, and I trust I may be able to satisfy you it was well conceived, and that you are repaid.

I determined to render my work complete by a visit to all three Institutions and judge for myself of their worth, their utility, and their claims upon our sympathy.

I purpose dividing what I have to say into two parts—the first treating of my stewardship and the Festival of the Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and Widows, with particulars of my visit to *that Institution*—and the other part descriptive of my visit to the Institutions of the Girls and Boys, the Festivals in aid of which lie before us.

Calling at Freemasons' Hall and obtaining a card of introduction from Brother Terry, the secretary (and you must understand each Institution has a separate suite of offices at Freemasons' Hall with permanently paid officers), I took train on the morning of the Festival day (Feb. 12th) at Victoria Station for Croydon, where the home for the aged is situated.

But previous to describing what I saw, I should like to place before you the main facts, briefly put, connected with the beginning, rise, and progress of this Institution.

At a Quarterly Communication held on the 2nd March, 1842 (during the Grand Mastership of his late Royal Highness, the Duke of Sussex), the Grand Lodge of England founded this Institution, and voted the sum of £400 a-year towards its object—the granting annuities to aged or distressed Freemasons.

On the 19th May of the succeeding year (1843) the first election took place, and 15 brethren were chosen for annuities, varying according to age, from £10 to £30 annually.

In 1845 her Majesty the Queen gave £50 to its funds.

In 1847 the Supreme Grand Chapter voted £100 per annum as its contribution, and in June of the same year the first Festival in aid of the funds was presided over by the then Grand-Master the Earl of Zetland, and produced a sum of £819 16s.

In 1852 H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., accepted the position of Patron of the Institution, and in the following year presided at its Anniversary Festival.

As the Institution steadily progressed it enlarged its sphere of usefulness by establishing, in 1849, a fund for the widows of Freemasons. To this the Grand Lodge voted an annual grant of £100, and Grand Chapter £35 per annum. In the same year an amalgamation of this Institution was effected with the asylum for Aged Freemasons at Croydon, and as the nucleus of a sustentation

fund to keep the buildings in repair, &c., Grand Lodge contributed the sum of £500, which has been brought up by supplemental contributions to a fund of £1,000.

In 1860 the First *Annual* Festival took place, before which time they had only been held triennially.

Grand Lodge now gives annually—male fund, £500; widows' fund, £300. Grand Chapter now gives annually—male fund, £100; widows' fund, £50; in all £950.

In 1867 the earlier system of classifying annuitants according to age was abolished and all were made equal, *so that the payment to a brother is now £40 per annum, and to the widow of a Freemason £32 per annum.*

At one time the receipts used to be invested, but of late the Committee, desirous to effect the largest amount of good, whilst being well assured of the permanency of the Institution, feel that subscriptions are intended to alleviate present wants (not to be laid by for future claims), and therefore invest no portion of income but such as accrue by testamentary bequests.

Since the formation of the Institution 487 brethren and 260 widows have been elected annuitants. At the last election 145 brethren were in receipt of £5,800; 135 widows, £4,320; and 13 widows at half their deceased husband's annuities, £260; or a total of £10,380 for the year. To that sum must be added the necessary expenses of management, making the total expenditure over £12,000 annually, and of this large sum £1,361 is all that is derived from invested funds.

Ten minutes' walk from Croydon Station brought me to the building, where I was most cordially received and every attention was paid me by Bro. Norris, the custodian, who is himself 90 years of age, and his daughter.

They have, however, little to do besides a general supervision of the place, as each inmate, or pair of inmates are entirely



independent, as though living in a house by themselves. The apartments of the custodian are in the centre of the building, where is also a fine board-room used by the committee, which meets on stated occasions.

The building is divided into sections, containing four suites of rooms—two rooms, each 11ft. by 12ft. on the right-hand side of the passage, the same on the left, and a repeat on the story above. For the united use of these four sets there is a kitchen, and out-houses at the back.

The whole is a long low uniform building, pleasantly situated, with large lawn in front and vegetable garden in the rear, with plots for the occupants.

Before I reached there I was under the impression that all this particular charity was centred here, and all the annuitants residents. But I found the annuity is separately paid, and each individual or couple, as it may be, support themselves, or it would otherwise require an immense building. I found there was accommodation here for about 40, the remaining 250 living with their friends, dispersed all over the country, and having their annuities remitted to them quarterly. These I found were only too anxious, as a rule, to become inmates of the building so soon as ever there was a vacancy, the residents having several advantages—such as rent free, garden, coals gratis, and medical advice free from an honorary doctor who, I found, was greatly loved by the old people for his attention, hardly a mantel-shelf being without a photograph of Dr. Strong.

You must understand that where there is a married couple it is only the husband who receives the £40; and if there is a widow, with her two rooms she receives her £32.

I visited and conversed with several couples, also two or three widows, some of whom had lost their husbands since becoming inmates. Several brethren were there who had lost their wives in the Institution.



I was pleased with the state in which I found every inmate. Each room originally contains table and chairs, and the bedroom bed and bedstead; but in all were some additions of household goods saved from the wreck of former times, and imparting an air of comfort and grace to all.

The whole place, interior as well as exterior, bore that aspect of quiet and repose fully suggestive of its object, and I was perfectly satisfied our donations to the aged Freemasons' and Widows' Home were devoted to a noble purpose and with happy results.

In conversation on matters concerning the Institution, and a gossip about past events in the lives of some of the old folk, two hours quickly passed.

There was no mistake, brethren, in the genuine gratitude one and all expressed for their known and unknown benefactors supporting the charity, and I came away feeling that should adversity and misfortune overtake us in old age, here was an asylum befitting the declining years of anyone.

“Secure from worldly chances and mishaps!  
Here lurks no treason, here no envy swells;  
Here grow no grudges, here are no storms,  
No noise, but sweet content the end, and peace.”

I may here observe that on my return to Victoria Station I had the appropriate pleasure of witnessing the arrival from Osborne of our Grand-Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Patron and President of the Charity, and Prince Leopold, our Grand Junior Warden.

At 5:30 I was at Freemasons' Hall, and clothed with a host of other brethren. We then lined the corridor leading to the dining hall, to which presently passed the Chairman of the Festival, Lieut.-Colonel Le Gendre F. Starkie, R.W. Prov. Grand-Master of East Lancashire, accompanied by a large muster of Grand Lodge Officers.

About 400 brethren sat down to banquet, which I need not say was most unexceptional in all particulars. Half way through a

loud cheer and general uprising welcomed the arrival in the gallery of the ladies, about 200 in number, who had just been served with a collation in a separate hall. The toasts, which were of the usual nature, were interspersed with music by a professional glee party.

After the toast of the Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows, Bro. Terry, the Secretary, rose, and as usual read out the list of contributions brought up by the stewards, giving in rotation the name of the county, the amount contributed, and the number of stewards representing it.

Brethren, when it came to "*Worcestershire, represented by one Steward, 40 guineas,*" it was not much to be proud of when compared with some other counties; but, nevertheless, it was gratifying for the county not to be omitted, which has been generally the case at former festivals.

In dissecting the lists of individual stewards I see the average is about £49, so we are very little below it, and I come 102nd in the list of 275 stewards whose returns are made.

There had been a good deal of speculation and consequent excitement at the banquet as to the sum total—some prophesied with hopes from the unprecedented number of 283 stewards, others with misgivings from the unprecedentedly bad times through which the country is passing. The thrill of wonder and admiration which ran through that splendid room was to be *felt*, brethren, when the magnificent total was announced of £13,175 10s. 6d. and 11 lists to come in. A forest of handkerchiefs from the gallery waved a response to a hearty cheer from breasts swelling with pride at this noble monument to Masonic generosity, eclipsing in magnitude any sum ever contributed at any Festival of either charity.

The above amount has since been supplemented by five other lists coming in to the amount of £160 18s., bringing the total to £14,036 8s. 6d., and ten lists still to come in.

On the conclusion of the toasts the brethren and ladies adjourned to the Temple, a magnificent room where the Grand Lodge is held, and nothing else except the concerts which form part of these Charity Festivals. The concert, which was an excellent one, terminated about eleven o'clock, and the company dispersed.

I am very certain that whether any of the brethren present go up in the future as stewards or not they would thoroughly enjoy being present at one of these Charity Festivals, and I hope at one or both of those forthcoming I may have the company of several of you.

And now, brethren, leaving that which is provided for in the present year, we will give our attention to the two Festivals we have before us.

The next morning, with a brother steward whose acquaintance I had made at the Festival, and whose sacred calling had not spoiled his being a most agreeable companion, I called on Bro. Hedges, the Secretary of the Girls' School, for a card of introduction, and took train at Waterloo for Clapham Junction, and a short walk brought us to the Girls' School at St. John's Hill, Battersea.

This Institution was established 1788 at the suggestion of Bro. Ruspini, Surgeon Dentist to H.M. King George the Fourth, for a limited number of girls, whether orphans or otherwise. The project received the warmest support of the most influential members of the craft, and since the time when, by their united efforts, the charity was established, 1,162 girls have been maintained, clothed, and educated within its walls, and those who had no home or friends have been provided with suitable situations or professions, and no single case has been known where, in after years, they have disgraced themselves.

A school-house was erected in 1793 in St. George's Fields. On the expiration of the lease in 1851 it was found a large expense would be incurred to adapt the building to requirements, besides

its having become a crowded neighbourhood. Accordingly about three acres of freehold land were purchased at Battersea possessing all the desired recommendations. Upon this ground a building was erected, which has been extended from time to time as needs arose and the numbers seeking admission increased.

The additions of the Royal Alexandra Wing and the new laundry are just complete at a heavy outlay.

The establishment consists of a matron, her assistant, a head governess, 5 assistants, 5 junior teachers, a gardener and his wife, under-gardener, and 11 female servants; non-residents Medical Officer (Dr. Howell), Drawing Mistress, and Teacher of Cookery.

This Institution has but a permanent income of £1,200, and relies upon the voluntary contributions of the craft to the amount of about £10,000 annually.

Brethren, I had heard a good deal about our Charities, but I was not prepared for the admirable Institution so eminently suited and adapted to every requirement of those 200 girls I saw within its walls.

The amiability and kindly attention which marked our reception on the part of the Matron, Miss Jarwood (herself a former pupil of the Institution), her assistant Miss Sheppard, and the Head Governess, Miss Davis, in whom the school has a treasure of ability made a most favourable impression, and fully prepared me to bear it, endorsed by several of the children with whom I conversed, who, one and all, expressed satisfaction and content. It scarcely needed this assurance when you saw them, for all looked bright, and healthy, and happy.

They were out for a walk when we reached the school, and so we had first an opportunity of examining the interior of the building, and admirably designed it is, the first schoolroom, that of the new Alexandra wing, being the best room for the purpose I was ever in—very lofty and airy (so, indeed, are all the rooms), and fitted up with every modern improvement and requisite for its use.



There is a large play-room, smaller schoolrooms, a quantity of class-rooms and dining-halls opening out of a long and handsome corridor which runs through the building.

The bedrooms looked the perfection of cleanliness and neatness, with plenty of light and air, and were most pleasant to look upon with their long rows of white beds, one for each child, and a teachers' room attached. These dormitories are of various sizes, some having only 8 beds, some 16, 18, 32, and the largest 37 beds. Adjoining are the lavatories, with towels neatly folded, and long rows of brush and comb bags. Next there are the wardrobes, where each girl has a numbered drawer containing her best clothes. All having alike one set of clothes for best and another for week day, and every garment bearing her number. The dresses are of dark blue rep, white straw hats trimmed with blue to match; long cloth jackets for winter, and tippets for summer. So here there is an advantage lacked by most girls of having no inordinate love of dress fostered, too often developing into vice.

Everything looked orderly and neat, the whole interior so tastefully decorated that their very surroundings could not fail to exercise upon those girls a refining and elevating influence for future life.

I was now conducted to the Infirmary, a detached building, a counterpart on a small scale of the larger building, where any who are sick are at once removed to the care of experienced nurses, an honorary doctor (Dr. Howell) attending serious cases. I found only three inmates, and those merely with colds, comfortably ensconced before the fire. As one instance of many how every requirement is studied, there is a covered balcony open to a S.W. aspect reached from the bedrooms of the Infirmary as a promenade for convalescents, so that exercise may be taken with ease and without fear of contagion.

From here I was led to the Laundry, another detached building fitted with every modern requirement for its use. Here work is going on the week through by five maids, and these are assisted

on certain days by relays of the elder girls, the same as they do in cooking. In the latter art the teaching is supplemented by periodical visits of a teacher from the School of Cookery, London, for you must know that all the girls are employed by turns in all the domestic duties of the house, so that whilst cultivating the purely educational branches (upon which I shall presently have a few words to say), they do not lose sight of those humbler, but equally useful qualifications so necessary to fit them for their several stations in life.

Just as we had completed a survey of the place the girls trooped in. They vary from 8 to 16 years of age. Admitted as early as 8 (11 is the limit) and they leave at 16.

They very quickly settled down to their usual routine of duties—the larger portion in the schoolrooms, some in separate classrooms for particular subjects, some to music. This music-room is divided into many compartments formed of wood and glass, with a piano in each, so that a number may practice at one time. Others were in the sewing-room, where they make and mend all their clothes under the direction of a sewing mistress. And the whole generally cultivating themselves as future ornaments to society, and blessings to mankind.

The education given is of a superior nature; but there is a wise provision which I am assured is put into practice—that there shall be no anxiety to make a display of exceptional talent shown by individual girls, but a careful solid teaching throughout, rather than develop the ability of a few to the injury of the less talented.

As a test, however, of the standard of instruction, in nearly every instance for some years, honours with prizes or certificates of having passed with credit, have been accorded all the girls who have been entered as candidates for the Cambridge Local Examinations. One pupil, after completing her term in the school, stayed as Teacher and Assistant Governess, and is now Head Governess in a similar school. Some are Governesses in Noble-men's families, and others in similar situations. Several are now



articled pupils in private schools. Two are assistant mistresses in large Middle Class Schools and one is Mistress of an Infant Board School; several others are Assistant Mistresses in Government Schools, and many are doing well in houses of business. Such illustrations bear testimony to the admirable education and training they receive.

On leaving I parted from my Rev. Brother, who was obliged to return home, and armed with a card of introduction from Brother Binckes, the Secretary of the Boys' School, I booked in the afternoon of the same day at King's Cross Station to Wood Green, whence a quarter of an hour's walk brought me to the Boys' School, a similar building in many respects to that of the Girls'.

It was established 1798, and commenced by clothing and educating six sons of deceased or indigent Freemasons. In 1856 the land at Wood Green was bought and a building for maintaining them too was soon inaugurated, and 25 boys admitted. In 1862 growing demands for admission and increased aid caused an entirely new building to be erected on that site, distinguished not only for its architecture and striking appearance, but for internal accommodation; and in 1865 it was opened for the reception of 80 pupils. But to meet other increasing demands, additions and alterations have, from time to time, been made, and 1,394 boys have since its establishment shared its blessings and privileges, 211 being at present the number of its inmates. The cost of a recent extension with furniture and fixtures has been nearly £4,000, and defrayed out of the ordinary revenue. This Institution, unlike the others, has but a small sum invested, and hence its permanent income is not more than £300 per annum.

During the last year this Institution also suffered a serious loss by the failure of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., its bankers. Bro. S. Tomkins, a partner, was neither Treasurer nor Trustee of the Boys' School, as he was to Grand Lodge and other Masonic bodies, which losses have recently been made good out of his private estate. A letter from Bro. Binckes, the Boys' Secretary,

published only on Saturday, Feb. 28th, definitely states that owing to the Boys' Institution being held to have no *locus standi* on the estate of Bro. Tomkins, it sustains the full loss of £894, and he urges an exceptional claim for sympathy and support in their hour of need.

The Boys are admitted at 8 years of age, and leave as do the Girls at 16. Dr. Morris, the head-master, kindly conducted me through the whole Building—the Playground, Gymnasium, Garden, Laundry, and Infirmary, all of which I found modelled and arranged very much after the manner of the Girls' School, only with a less number of large rooms and more class-rooms. All the Boys were at lessons, and I looked in upon them all, questioning several who came from different parts of England, and was perfectly satisfied with their replies.

Here there is 1 Head Master, 6 Assistant Masters, a Matron, her Assistant, and 20 Household Servants and non-residents—the medical-officer Dr. Hall, Drawing Master, Musical Instructor, Band Master, and Drill Instructor.

In giving a description of the building and conveniences of the Girls' School I have anticipated that of the Boys', and so I need not dilate upon all I saw here. I was particular here, as in the Girls' School, in obtaining all the information I could of their after-life, and I was most pleased to hear the accounts of how invariably they succeeded in gaining satisfactory positions in life. The education they receive (which is equal to that of the very best middle-class Schools in the Kingdom) embraces Music, German, French, Latin, Mathematics (including Trigonometry and Mechanics), Drawing, Science (Magnetism and Electricity), Chemistry, and Drill, and may be illustrated by one or two of the facts given me.

Of the 24 Boys who entered for the 1877 Cambridge Examination 23 passed—19 with honours, 2 gaining high distinction in Latin. In 1876, 24 passed out of 26 candidates, 11 honours. The result of 1878 will not be seen till the 10th March.\* In June last

\* This has since been made known, and is another source of rejoicing. There were Fourteen Candidates—all passed—Thirteen with honours (Nine 1st Class, Three 2nd Class, One 3rd Class). Of the whole London Centre FIFTEEN ONLY passed in 1st Class, and of these, our Boys' School has NINE.



C. D. Green passed the London University Matriculation Examination (1st class). He is now a student at St. Thomas's Hospital. In 1876 100 certificates were obtained from the Science and Art Department of South Kensington, and one lad named Parker, in a competitive examination for naval cadets to be trained on board the *Marlborough* at Portsmouth as Engineers in the Royal Navy, easily passed, being ninth out of 1,080 candidates and on the 9 coming up for further examination, was placed second. He had no special preparation beyond the ordinary work of the first class. Many of the late inmates hold excellent appointments in banks and public offices. Several have entered the legal profession, and one or two the Church, but unfortunately no record is kept of their after life.

Among the 68 Candidates for Election in April (of whom 16 only can be elected), there is a Worcestershire Boy, the son of the late Bro. Benjamin Brookes, P.P.G.W. At Worcester, where I attended the other day to plead the cause of these Charities before "280," I heard there is another deserving case likely to be brought before the Worcestershire brethren for their votes, where a wife and eight children have just been bereaved of their stay. And we have just had brought under our notice as a Lodge the claims of a local case, in the person of Ernest Bloomer Granger, a son of Brother Granger, who has been removed to what we may term a living death, having lost his reason. Should the cause of this boy be taken up by "377," we shall need the earnest endeavour and willing aid of all the brethren to carry his candidature to a successful issue. His relations promise to supplement such effort by contributing liberally to the object.

I must say that were it not for depriving some orphan of that space he otherwise might obtain, I should certainly purchase a presentation for one of my own boys, so impressed am I with what I saw.

From that personal and close scrutiny, brethren, I can safely say that our Charities are such as a nation may be proud of, and

well may they cause every Mason's heart to swell with pride—living monuments to the principles we profess.

Here are those principles practically applied in all their reality and vitality. Here, on three Institutions alone (such as I have endeavoured, though faintly and hurriedly, to describe), does Masonic charity expend upwards of £40,000 annually, providing a sufficient answer in itself to “rabid assailants, petulant objectors, and ignorant calumniators of our noble order.”

Brethren, we may safely leave the value of Freemasonry “to be tested by its many deeds of munificent and unostentatious charity. It is great only to the sensible man, the sincere, and the generous, who is conscious of the infirmities of man, and who feels the obligation of healing them.”

And now, brethren, I want you to bear with me a minute or two longer while I place before you a few thoughts on what lies before us. I mean the Festival of the Girls' School on May 14th, and the Festival of the Boys' School on June 25th. I have every confidence in saying that I believe in making an appeal to you for your support to these, I shall not appeal in vain, and that no effort in reason will be wanting on your part to send me up from “Hope and Charity, 377” with a goodly list of donations for both.

I shall endeavour to visit every Lodge in the Province to try what assistance I can get, and I hope for a good response; *but* “377” will have to do its work, and for one year set an example to the rest of the Province of Worcestershire; and there are those in this Lodge (and I may say every brother in this Lodge) who will do his best to make that example a bright and striking one. I solicit your kind assistance, brethren, and I will suggest a mode of giving it.

I want volunteers for a committee to assist me in devising measures to add to our lists for the Girls and Boys. We have a



number of brethren in the town who never come to Lodge, and never hear of our operations; the sympathy and support of these need enlisting, and on appeal I know will be readily bestowed. This will be best made by the aid of a representative body, by whose deliberations other schemes to gain support from other parts of the province may be devised. And as unlike a good many other Lodges we have no Charity Board, we should have a Committee.

The number of votes for donations are as follows for Girls' and Boys' Schools.

1	GUINEA,	at each election for the year	1	vote.
5	GUINEAS	will constitute a	LIFE SUBSCRIBER,	with 1 Life vote.
10	„	„	LIFE GOVERNOR,	„ 2 „
50	„	„	VICE-PRESIDENT,	„ 10 „
100	„	„	VICE-PATRON	„ 30 „

*Ladies and Lewises (Sons of Freemasons) acquire the last three qualifications upon payment of half the above amount.*

Now I do not mean to say any may qualify as a vice-patron or president just yet; but I do say this—that every brother has a certain circle of friends and acquaintances, and among them, with such an object and such a cause to plead, it will not be a hard matter to supplement their own amount by sufficient to make 5 guineas, and this put upon my list in the name of that brother, he is a Life Subscriber with a vote at every election for life. Now these 5 Guineas are also cumulative, so that at some future time if he presents another 5 guineas it will make him a Life Governor with two votes for life. And in that case if he served a Stewardship his Life Governorship fees would be already paid, and he would only have to take up what he could collect from others. It is possible that some of you brethren may in this way at once make yourselves Life Governors by a 10 guinea donation or a Life Subscriber to Girls and Boys. Any way I do hope to take up a good many Life Subscriberships on my lists.

I shall at once proceed to put the brethren in possession of the usual Circulars relating to each Festival, which contain various particulars concerning each Institution, and I shall be most happy

to supply any brother with further copies, or afford any information he may require. And in conclusion I can only say that should any brother of "377," or of any other Lodge in the Province (and I trust there may be many), go up for any future Stewardship, I will help him with all my might to do that which I now ask for myself, and for the Girls' and Boys' Schools.

"First let me look around before I speak—  
 Not that the cause I advocate is weak,  
 Or wants much eloquence to give it power;  
 Few words suffice in this auspicious hour:  
 Masons, I know, are always of one mind  
 When called upon to be humane and kind—  
 You to whose goodness they their comforts owe,  
 Who clothe, protect, and learning all bestow,  
 'Gainst vice and sloth protect their early age,  
 And thus prepare them for life's checkered stage.  
 Behold these Girls and Boys who on your Bounty live!  
 Behold them, trusting to the aid you give;  
 See how their looks bespeak their grateful mind,  
 I say to all indulge affection's kind;  
 Foster these rising plants, their wants relieve,  
 Bestow your succour and their thanks receive.  
 This task your Liberal mind will not disdain,  
 To help the Orphan, ease the Widow's pain;  
 To guide the tender thought, instruction give,  
 And teach the child to virtuously to live.  
 This pious task is worthy of your zeal,  
 Worthy of those who generously feel.  
 Freemasonry! thine noble, it designed;  
 Freemasonry! the bond of human kind.  
 To me Freemasons must be ever dear;  
 They soothe the distress and wipe away the tear,  
 Bid joy arise where desolation stood,  
 Our secret is the art of doing good.  
 Thus do we all the heartfelt pleasure prove  
 That springs from Virtue, Charity, and Love."



W. Hepworth, Printer, Kidderminster.

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic  
Library and Museum Trust



Er Libris

WORC. PROV. LIBRARY  
MASONIC HALL  
WORCESTER