

FREE MASONRY

WAS holden in the Worcester and Birmingham Canal Tunnel, a Grand Chapter of ROYAL ARCH MASONS, Knights Templars, M.A.S., etc., etc., who having assembled in amply Form at Birmingham, proceeded on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal in an elegant Barge, accompanied by Martial Music, to King's Norton; and disembarking at the East End of the Tunnel, took a Survey over the Summit of the Hill through which this Subterranean Passage is excavating, to the Western entrance of it. The Magnificence and wonderful Appearance of the Arch (which for nearly 500 yards in length was most brilliantly illuminated) had an amazing effect, and struck the Companions with a solemn and reverential awe. The Reverberations of Sound from a Bogle Horn, which continued upwards of 25 seconds, resembled at first a loud Clap of Thunder, but gradually softened to the most harmonious sounds, such as words cannot describe. The consecration of this stupendous Arch by the Royal Arch Chapter of Fortitude, who piously dedicated it to Solomon, King of Israel, was solemn and awful. A Description of the Arch, and the names of the Artists present, will be engraved in stone and fixed in the Arch in Commemoration of the original G.C. The Chapter being closed, the Brethren returned in the Barge to King's Norton, and forming themselves in order, ^{dis}re-embarked and walked in procession to the Navigation Inn there, where an elegant Dinner was provided, and the day was spent in the utmost Harmony. We are informed that the Arch will be about 2500 yards in length, that 1550 yards of it are now finished, and that it is one of the first of its kind with regard to workmanship in Europe.