

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK
LODGE OF SOMERSET

A Paper read by George Norman,
D.P.G.M., at the Jubilee Meeting,
held in Bath, May 25th 1921.

The Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Somerset was constituted on May 30th 1871, but for the proper understanding of the position of Mark Masonry in the Province it is necessary to go back to June 1856, when at a meeting of representatives of the Bon Accord Lodge and the Old Kent Lodge of London, the Northumberland and Berwick Lodge, Newcastle, and the Royal Cumberland Lodge, Bath, Grand Mark Lodge was constituted.

The limits of this paper do not permit of my entering on the question of how this came about, or, in other words, the history of Mark Masonry before the era of Grand Mark Lodge (*Grand Mark Lodge was founded on 23rd June 1856.*)

In the early days of Grand Mark Lodge many things were done with a view to the advancement of the degree, which would not find favour in the present day. For instance, many Patents were issued in the years 1857 and 1858 appointing Brethren of position and influence Provincial Grand Masters, in some cases in counties in which a Mark Lodge did not even exist, and this seems to have been the case with respect to the neighbouring counties of Wiltshire and Devon, also Surrey, Leicestershire and Rutland, and a district entitled to the South-Western Division of Wales; also in Cornwall so late as 1867.

With regard to the County of Somerset, which had one Lodge, the Royal Cumberland T.I., Bath, with a Warrant of Confirmation dated 10th December 1856, it appears that the Right Hon. Henry Howard Molyneux, Earl of Carnarvon, had a Patent issued to him dated 23rd June 1858, appointing him Provincial Grand Master of the Mark for three years, thereby constituting the county of a Mark Province.

The Earl of Carnarvon was certainly suitable for this position as socially he was connected with the county by the possession of an estate, Pixton Park, near Dulverton, and from the fact that he was appointed Grand Mark Master of England in 1860, it is probable that he was also masonically qualified in 1858. This Patent expired in 1861 and was renewed again in 1870, when it was read at the first meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in 1871.

Royal Cumberland Lodge (T.I.)
During the greater part of this period (1858-1871) there seems to have been only one Lodge of Mark Masons, viz. the Royal Cumberland, and that was in a state of suspended animation from 1861 to 1871. The first minutes extant is dated 22nd July 1857, and is to the following effect:-

"This evening a Lodge was held, when Bro. S.M. Lazarus, P.M. No. 61, Joseph John Evans, P.M. 120, and Bro. Hy. Bridges, of the Howe Mark (T.I.) 857, were elected joining members, and Bro. Percy Wells was elected and installed W.M."

"After the transaction of some preliminary business the (Lodge) was closed
Percy Wells, W.M." *(by)*

In the minutes of 15th October, 1857, it is stated that the W.M. gave a detailed history of the Lodge from 1795, and read two letters from the Grand Registrar, and having answered many questions put to him, he received the cordial thanks of the Lodge for the trouble, labour and expense he had taken and been at, respecting the revival of this Lodge.

In connection with this it is curious that the first Bye-law, dated 1857, states that the name and title of this Lodge be altered from the "Sussex" to the "Royal Cumberland" Lodge of Mark Masons stationed in Bath from Time Immemorial.

The Bro. Lazarus, who is mentioned as a joining member in the first minute, was the same Brother, who, giving evidence before the combined Grand Lodges and Chapters in 1871, said:-

This number given as "857" is meant to refer to Howe Lodge (C.I.G. No. 857)

reproduced in Grant's book

He took the Mark Degree in the Royal Sussex Lodge, Bath, in 1823. The Royal Sussex Lodge was an ancient lodge holding Warrant from the York Grand Lodge, which worked all degrees in Freemasonry. This Lodge united with the Grand Lodge of England, the Mark Degree being then excluded, they had worked the Mark under the sanction of their Old Warrant".

(Grant's source = "Commentary on the History of the Mark Degree")

For whatever reason the change of name was made, and possibly it may have been done to place the Sussex Brethren under a recognised authority, it must have been approved by them as we find in the early minutes many of the Sussex Brethren being admitted into the Cumberland Mark Lodge.

United Artillery, Engineer & Rifle Volunteer L. No. 102 (in 1878 became "R. 102")

In 1868 a Mark Lodge was constituted at Weston-super-Mare, but there is no account of the Consecration. It was named the "United Artillery, Engineer, and Rifle Volunteer Lodges of Mark Master Masons, No. 102". It appears to have been in abeyance from 1879 to 1882, and the name was changed to the "Else" Lodge in 1892.

The following is the first minute entered:-

"A Meeting of the above named Lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, Weston-super-Mare, on Wednesday, December 16th, 1868 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

"Present; V.W.M. Bro. F.G. Irwin, P.M.O., Worshipful Master; Bro. Gore Mumbree, Acting Senior Warden.

"The W.M. formally opened a Lodge of Mark Master Masons under a Warrant received from the Grand Lodge of English Mark Masters, holden at their Grand Council Chamber, London.

"The W.M. proceeded to initiate several Master Masons, viz., Bro. Benjamin Cox, John Clare Pigot, Thomas Clarke, E.B. George, G.P. Powell, Edward Gregory, and John H. Parsons.

"After the Brethren had been duly initiated as Mark Master Masons, the W.M. appointed them to the following offices; Bro. Gore Mumbree, S.W. Bro. Thomas Clarke J.W., Bro. John Clarke Pigot, Chaplain and M.O., Bro. J.H. Parsons as Tyler.

"A Code of Bye-Laws were adopted for the government of the Lodge, No. 102, and the Secretary was requested to forward same to the General Board for approval.

"Confirmed - F.G. Irwin W.M. Gore Mumbree S.W., Thos. Clarke J.W.

I am indebted to Bro. R.E.M. Lawrence of the Else Lodge for this information.

In 1871 two more lodges came into existence before the constitution of Prov. Grand Mark Lodge, viz., the Carnarvon Lodge, now of Keynsham, and the Science Lodge, Wincanton. The causes which led to the inception of the Carnarvon Lodge are worth noticing here, and I give them as recorded by R.W. Bro. Cecil Powell in his "History of Bristol Freemasonry".

The Canynges Lodge, Bristol, was one of the last Mark Lodges in England to remain under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Scotland, who before the era of Grand Mark Lodge, had been the authority for issuing warrants. But under the regulations of Grand Chapter of Scotland, they were prohibited visiting or receiving as visitors members of Lodges with English warrants, with the result that they were isolated and lost vitality. Under these circumstances a Mark Lodge under the English jurisdiction was formed at Brislington, which was joined by the majority of those Bristol Brethren who wished to take the degree, and Canynges's suffered accordingly, and this led to their ultimately resigning their Scottish Warrant and coming under the jurisdiction of the English Grand Mark Lodge in 1874.

The following information is from the Carnarvon Minute Book, through Bro. W.B. Booth:-

Carnarvon Lodge No. 119 (Brislington) - 9th Feb. 1871.

"The Carnarvon Lodge of the M.M.M. was consecrated at the White Hart, Brislington, on February 9th 1871.

V.W. Bro. Captain F.G. Irwin, P.M.G.O. D.P.G.M.—designate of the Province, having been directed by the M.W.G.M. to take Masonic charge of the Province until the Installation of the R.W.P.G.M.M. attended at the time and place above mentioned, to open a Special Mark Masters Lodge, and proceed to appoint the following officers temporarily; Dr. Samuel Bryant S.W., Frederick Vizard J.W., W.S. Gillard M.O., E.T. Inskip S.O., J. Clark J.D., Rev. J. Bigsby, Chaplain, Benj. Cox Sec., S. Jones S.D., Lieut. Wiltshire J.D., A.W. Butler I.F. ----- ~~Male Tyler.~~ *W.T. Male, Tyler.*
I.G.?

"The Sec. read the Warrant, the Chaplain, a portion of the Holy Volume, and the Deputy-Designate then consecrated the Lodge.

"Bro. F. Vizard then presented Bro. Bryant for Installation as W.M. for the ensuing year, and he, having given his assent to the ancient charges, was duly installed and saluted by the Brethren, and appointed his officers as follows:-

"E.T. Inskip, S.W., W.S. Gillard, J.W., J.H. Macfarlane, M.O., Lieut. Wiltshire S.O., R.C. Else, J.O. A.W. Buller, S.D., Major Vizard, J.D. E. Gregory, Sec. ---
 Whearst I.F. ----- Male Tyler.
 WHEREAT I.G.

"The Following Resolutions were passed:-

"That the several members named in the Warrant, be Honorary Members of the Carnarvon Lodge

"That the Members of the Royal Cumberland Lodge of M.M. be invited to visit the Lodge at its next meeting.

"The J.W. Presented for the consideration of the Lodge a petition to the M.W.G.M. for a warrant of Constitution to be granted to himself and others for holding a Lodge of M.M.M. as Wincanton, to be called the Lodge of Science.

"It was resolved that the Petition be supported by the recommendation of this Lodge and the same signed by the W.M. and Wardens in open Lodge - which was accordingly done"

move from "White Hart" to "Lamb & Lark Hotel", Keynsham
 In 1875 the meeting place was changed to the Lamb and Lark Hotel, Keynsham, as being more convenient to the majority of the Brethren.

The petition signed in open Lodge by the Brethren of the Carnarvon Lodge, was approved at Headquarters, and on April 17th 1871, the Science Lodge was constituted at Wincanton.

Science Lodge No. 125
 The following minutes of the proceedings are furnished for me by Bro. Hutchings, the present Secretary:-

"The meeting was held in the National Schoolroom, and was presided over by Captain Irwin, D.P.G.M. designate, assisted by the following: F. Vizard and W. Davis Wardens Rev. Bisly, Chaplain R.C. Else S.D. W.T. Gillard, J.D. B. Cox, Sec. S. Jones, P. Clarke and A. Batten, Overseers, Major Vizard, I.G.

"The Lodge was opened at 1.p.m. and the W.M. then proceeded to advance a number of Brethren, after which he proceeded with the Consecration ceremony, which was performed in a most impressive manner.

"The W.M. then installed the first Master of the new Lodge - Bro. W.S. Gillard, who a Dorset Mason being W.M. of the Benevolence Lodge, No. 1168, Sherborne, and P.P.G.J.D. of Dorset.

"The newly installed W.M. appointed his officers as follows:- Wardens, S.R. Shepherd, and J.H. Farley; Chap. Rev. W. Percy, Sec. W.H. Hannen; Overseers, A.W. Batten, E. Baker and J. Fry; Deacons, W. Dowding and F. Foan, etc.

"Votes of thanks to the Presiding Officer, Capt. Irwin, and to Bro. Cox, who had conducted the correspondence and made arrangements for the starting of the new Lodge were passed with acclamation. The Lodge was closed at 3.30 and 30 Brethren dined together at the Greyhound Hotel, when a very agreeable evening was spent in Harmony and Brotherly Love, which it is hoped may always reign in the Lodge of Science, No. 128".

The Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Somerset was constituted on May 30th 1871, at the Royal Assembly Rooms, Weston-super-Mare, by the R.W. Bro. Sir Frederick Martin Williams, Bart., M.P. P.G.W., Prov. G.M.M. of Cornwall, assisted by the V.W. Bro. Fredk. Binckes. G.S.

There were present the following Brethren:-

The Rt. W. Bro. The Earl of Carnarvon, Past G.M. Master of England, 1860-3, V.W. Bro. Capt. Irwin, P.G.M. Overseer, V.W. Bro. E. Turner Payne, P.G.D., W. Bro. Major-General Mumbree, W.M. Else Lodge, W. Bro. T. Wilton, W.M. Royal Cumberland, W. Bro. Dr. Samuel Bryant, W.M. Carnarvon Lodge, W. Bro. W.S. Gillard, W. Bro. J. Bramble, P.M. Canynges, and 24 other Brethren.

The Grand Secretary (Bro. F. Binckes) read the Warrant issued by the N.W.G.M. Viscount Holmesdale, (afterwards Lord Amherst,) constituting the Prov. Grand Lodge, and appointing the R.W. Bro. The Earl of Carnarvon Past G.M.M. Eng., as the Prov. Grand Mark Master, and nominating the P.G.M.M. of Cornwall as the Installing Master.

The Earl of Carnarvon being in attendance, was received with Masonic honours and conducted to the Altar on the Dais, where the Obligation was administered to him, and he was then declared duly installed as Prov. G.M.M. of the Province of Somerset.

The R.W. Prov. G.M. after thanking the Installing Master for the very able and efficient way in which he had conducted the ceremony, proceeded to appoint his officers as follows:-

V.W. Bro. Capt., F.G. Irwin, D.P.G.M.M., W. Bro. Major-General Mumbree S.W., W. Bro. T. Wilton J.W., Bros. F. Vizard M.O., E.T. Inskip S.O., W. Bro. W.S. Gillard J.O., Rev. Robert H. Bigsby, Chap. Bro. Rev. J.E. Percy, Asst. Chap. W. Bro. E. Turner Payne Treas. (W. Bro. W.H. Davies, R. of Marks) Bro. Benj. Cox Sec., C. Whereat Asst. Sec., Bro. T. Clarke S.D., W. Bro. C.H. Marshall, S.D., S. Jones R. of Wks., Bro. R.C. Else D of C., A.W. Butler Asst. D.C. (Major W.J. Vizard Swd., B.) Major-General Doherty Std.B., E.H.W. Swete, Org., C.R. Sheppard I.G., H. Wiltshire, J.H. Macfarlane and Moreton Edwards, Steward, Wm. Thos. Male, P.G. Tyler. It was agreed that the Mark By-Laws for the Province of Devon be adopted provisionally - printed and circulated, and that the Fees of Honour likewise be the same as in the Prov. of Devon.

The Prov. G. Chaplain having offered up prayers the R.W.P.G.M. closed P.G. Lodge.

The second meeting was held July 1st 1872, at the Lodge Room of the Science Lodge Wincanton.

The chair was taken by the D.P.G.M. who expressed the regret of the R.W.G.M. at being unable to attend the meeting on account of illness. The meeting was attended by V.W. Bro. Rev. W. Mortimer Heath, Gd. Chaplain. Both the Wardens were absent also the S.O., the Chaplain, the Treasurer, and several of the junior officers. *Mumbree & T. Wilton*

There were two visitors from the Province of Dorset - Bros. R.G. Long, of St. Cuthberts Lodge, No. 99 Wimborne and Bro. John H. ne, of St. Mary's Lodge, No. 121, Blandford (St. Cuthberts, warranted December 3, 1867, at Trowbridge, transferred to Wimborne, June 27th 1870, St. Mary Blandford warranted November 16th 1870). The Deputy appointed officers for the ensuing year:- F. Vizard and S. Gillard Wardens, R.C. Else, Mast. Overseer, W/ Thompson and W.H. Davies S. and J. Overseers, Rev. W.E.J. Percy and Rev. Wingfield Digby, Chaplains, E.T. Payne Treas. Loftus Ricketts, Registrar, Benj. Cox Secretary, Ernest Baker Asst. Sec., Thos. Coles, Tyler. *(for other Officers see Lewis Bible.)*

Bro. James B. Colthurst, was received in due form and advanced to the honourable degree of Mark Master in P.G. Lodge by the Deputy, Captain Irwin, in his usual impressive manner

On October 15th of the same year (1872) an Emergency Meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms, Frome for the purpose of consecrating a new Mark Lodge.

Portal lodge No. 155 (Consecration) - 15th Oct. 1872,

The Prov. Grand Secretary read the Warrant constituting a MarkMaster Masons' Lodge under the title of the Portal Lodge No. 155 (presumably named after Canon Raymond Portal, Deputy Grand Master from 1866 to 1869) G..M.M. 1869-73). The Brethren having expressed their wish that the said Lodge might be consecrated the Deputy proceeded to consecrate the Lodge, according to the ancient form, scattering the corn in the Lodge, the S.W. pouring wine, and the J.W. sprinkling oil. After the Consecration Bro. Richard Charles Else was installed by the Deputy as the first Master.

The W.M. proposed, and Bro. Inskip seconded, a vote of thanks to the Deputy and the Officers of P.G.L. for their attendance.

On June 12th 1873, a meeting was held at the Lodge Room, Yeovil. The Deputy Master, Captain Irwin presided, explaining that the P.G.M., the Earl of Carnarvon, was unable to attend on account of his many public duties. (:) The Treasurer, both the Chaplains, and many of the Junior Officers, were absent.

The Earl of Carnarvon was nominated as P.G.M. for the ensuing three years, with the earnest request of the Brethren, that the R.W. Bro. will continue to preside over the Mark Masters' degree in the Province.

It was proposed and carried that a committee consisting of the Deputy, the Prov. Sec. and Bro. W.H. Davies, with the W.M.'s and P.M.'s of the Lodges of the Province be constituted for the purpose of establishing a Charity Fund in connection with P.G.L. - the maximum yearly subscription to be ten shillings. The Deputy then appointed the officers for the ensuing year, amongst whom were Bro. B. Cox, S.W., R.C. Else J.W., Edmund White M.O., W.A. Scott, S.D., S. Jones T.O., Rev. W. Shackleton, Chap., E.T. Payne Treas., B. Atwell, Reg., A.W. Butler, Sec. (New Treasurer's Book was Br. Inskip's)

Past Rank as J.W. was conferred on Bro. E.T. Inskip and as M.O. on Commander John Townshend.

Consecration of "William de Irwin Lodge No. 162" (12th June 1873)

The Deputy then proceeded to consecrate the William de Irwin Lodge No. 162. The Chaplain offered up Prayer, Major-General Gore Mumbree, acting for the Deputy, scattering the corn, Bro. W.S. Gillard, P.P.T.W. pouring wine, and Bro. B. Sox S.W. sprinkling oil in the Lodge. After the consecration Bro. B. Cox was installed by the D.P.G.M. as first Master of the Lodge.

On June 22nd 1874, ^{No. 177} The Royal Sussex Mark Lodge was consecrated at Bath.

The terms of the Minute communicated by the Secretary, W.Bro. G.E. MacDonald, are as follows:- At a summoned meeting of the Lodge, held by Dispensation, the V.W. Bro. Captain Irwin P.G.M.O. Eng., D.P.G.M. Som., presided, and the following Brethren were present:- W. Thompson W.M. (R.C.T.I). I.P., W.H. Davies, W.M. No. 102, S.W., G.F. Tuckey, Asst. P.G. Sec., J.W., V. Munro, Asst. D.C. M.O., and other Provincial Officers.

The following Brethren were advanced to the Degree of M.M.M. :- Lieut.-Col. R.T. Gwyn, Lieut.-Col. R.R. Ford, Capt. Phayre, R.N., T.R. Lord, Dr. M.A. Cuffe, Rev. E.W. Gordon, W. Smith, and T.H. Sloane, all of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 53. Bath. (= 8 candidates which became officers of new lodge)

The D.P.G.M. then consecrated the Lodge as the Royal Sussex, No. 177 on a Warrant from Grand Lodge, dated April 10th 1874, and then installed the W.M. Designate, Rev Charles Raikes Davy, of the University Mark Lodge, Oxford, who appointed his officers: Bros. Doherty and Falconer, Wardens, Bros. Ford, Phayre and Gordon, Overseers, Bros. R.T. Gwyn, R. of M., Bros. T.R. Lord and M.A. Cuffe, Deacons, Bro. Sloane, I.G., Bros. W. Smith was elected Treasurer.

After the meeting the Brethren adjoured to a Banquet at the Castle Hotel.

On June 30th 1874, P.G.L. had its first meeting at the Masonic Hall, Bath. The D.P.G.M., as usual took the chair, but on this occasion invested Bro. C.J. Vigne with the collar of P.G.M. on behalf of the Earl Carnarvon, who was absent.

W. Bro. E.T. Payne was thanked for the able manner in which he discharged the duties of Treasurer, and was re-elected with acclamation for the years 1874-5. Bros. W. Thompson and A.W. Butler were appointed Wardens, and Bros. W.H. Davies and G.F. Tuckey Wardens, with Past Rank, Bros. Jelly and Major-General Doherty as Overseers, Rev C.R. Davy and Rev. E.W. Gordon as Chaplains. Bros. W. Munro and G. Tonkin as Secretaries, C. Milson and W.B. Biggs, Deacons, J. Hearne and Walter Provis, Inspector of Works, G. Mann and W. Nott D.C.'s H.J. Guon Swd.B., J.R. Ford, Std., B.B. Gay and W.J. Nosworthy, Organists. *Guon*

The Deputy proposed that instead of the Committee nominated at Yeovil for the purpose of establishing a Charity Fund, a voluntary committee should be formed and the following Brothers agreed to serve on it:- E.T. Inskip, G.R. Tuckey, B. Cox, R.C. Else and W. Thompson.

It was unanimously agreed that Five Guineas should be voted from the fund to one of the charities for the purpose of creating a Life Governship.

Bro. Else proposed, and Bro. Scott seconded, that a banner be provided for P.G.M.L. whereupon W. Bro. Thompson P.S.G.W. said he should be very happy to provide a banner at his own expense, for which he received a hearty vote of thanks.

The Deputy urged the disirablity of proper tokens being provided to present to each Bro. on his advancement, and that a committee of W.M.'s should be formed to carry the same into effect.

In 1875, June 21st P.G.L. visited Weston again under the rule of the Deputy Capt. Irwin.

Bro. Thompson presented the banner he had promised, on which was painted the arms of the R.W.P.G.M. A vote of thanks was proposed by the D.P.G.M., seconded by W. Bro. A.W. Scott and carried with acclamation.

The following offers were amongst those invested:- W. Bro.s. A.W. Scott and Rev. R.C. Davy as Wardens, S. Lewis, J. Matthews and W.B. Frampton as Overseers. Rev. H. Richardson, Chaplain, B. Cox is again Secretary, with T.J. Hallam Assistant, B. Gay D.C., Amongst the Stewards is the name of M.L. Perrett.

The Deputy found it necessary to complain of the irregular attendance of the Prov. Officers, and to remind those who had been appointed that it was their duty to attend regularly.

Bro. W. Richard was appointed Steward to represent the Province at the next Grand Mark Festival, and the sum of ten Guineas was voted to Bro. Richards for the Boys' School. Ever since the formation of G.M.L. there has been a Charity Fund, consigned at first to making grants to Brethren in need. The Annual Festival was first held in 1869, when there were six stewards, but the funds were not organised on the present basis till about 1879.

In 1876 P.G.M.L. met Keynsham, at the Lamb and Lark Hotel, on Monday June 19th. Captain Irwin acted as P.G.M. and Dr. Samuel Bryant, D.P.G.M. of Bristol, took the Deputy's duty. (*P.G.M. again absent*)

The remonstrance of the D.P.G.M. at the last meeting as to the non-attendance of officers did not seem to have produced much effect, for there were apparently no Overseers present, no Chaplain, and no Deacons. (*None of the Treasurer's accounts between 1871 & 1876 were signed. The first was in 1882 (at Weston) by Else (now P.G.H.)*)

At this meeting we have the first statement of accounts, which were presented by the Prov. Sec., in the absence, through illness, of the Treasurer, Bro. Payne. From this statement it appears that a balance of £13.11.11d was brought over; Fees of Honour, £10.9 6d; Fees from Lodges £11.6.6d. and a Dispensation, 5s. making £35.12.11d in all. The expenses amounted to £14.12.7d. leaving a balance in hand of £21.0.4d.

The Wardens appointed for the ensuing year were:- Lieut-General Doherty, C.B. and Benjamin Gay, Past Rank as S.W's on Bros. R.C. Else, W. Munro and G.F. Tucker, Robert Carey, MO., Bros. Payne and B. Cox were respectively re-appointed Treasurer and Secretary.

A vote of condolence was passed with the P.G.M., the Earl of Carnarvon on the death of his Lordship's mother, the Dowager Countess.

The Friendship, Unanimity and Philanthropic Lodge was consecrated at Bridgwater by the D.P.G.M.M. on August 17th 1878, and Bro. R.C. Else was afterwards installed as the first Master, Bro. Francis H. Woodford and Colonel A.W. Adair being amongst the Founders. Colonel Adair was P.G.M. (Som) 1863-8. After about two years, however, this Lodge followed the example of several other Lodges of the Province, and passed into a state of suspended animation till 1882, when it entered on a new period of activity. Major Long was advanced in this Lodge on April 23rd 1883, and our Worthy P.G. Secretary, W Bro T.F. Norris on April 20th 1885.

W. Bro. Else was W.M. for the second time at the revival of the Lodge in 1882, and this is the earliest year of which minutes can be found. Colonel Adair was W.M. in 1883, and Major Long in 1886. In 1892 the Lodge was removed to Highbridge owing to lack of candidates at Bridgwater. No doubt the establishment of a Mark Lodge at Taunton drew off a certain number of candidates.

P.G.L. met at the Masonic Hall, Bath, October 15th 1877, The Deputy presided as P.G.M., explaining that the Earl of Carnarvon was prevented attending by pressure of official duties. The post of D.P.G.M. was filled by Dr. Samuel Bryant, D.P.G.M. of Bristol, and as his name has occurred several times we may just notice his career as a Mark Mason. According to Bro. Cecil Powell's "Bristol Freemasonry", it appears that certain Brethren, amongst whom was Bro. Bryant, had been introduced to the Mark Degree in or about the year 1843, when it was worked, probably under the authority of a craft warrant. In 1857 some of these Brethren wished to regularise their proceedings, and the Mark Degree not being recongnised by G.L. they applied to the Grand Chapter of Scotland for a warrant, which was granted, and a Lodge was consecrated under the title of the Canynge's Lodge No.7 and Bro. Bryant became a member, having, however, to undergo the ceremony of advancement. In 1871 he was a Founder and First Master of the Carnarvon Mark Lodge, and in 1874 was given Grand Rank, being made G.M.O., of England, although still a member of Canynge's Lodge, which was warranted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. In 1874, for reasons already stated, Canynge's Lodge decided to come under the jurisdiction of G.M.L., and to resign its warrant from G. Chapter of Scotland. At the request of the R.W.D.G.M.M., the Earl of Limerick, who was prevented by indisposition from attending, Bro Bryant, as G.M.O. Eng., re-opened the Canynge's Lodge under the English Jurisdiction, and installed the Master, Bro W. Harris.

In 1876 Bristol was named into a Province, the Rev. Raymond Portal, P.G.M.M.M Eng, performing the ceremony, and installing W.Bro. W.A.F. Powell as Prov. G.M.M. who in turn appointed Dr. Samuel Bryant as his Deputy. Bro. Bryant died in 1880.

To return to the Bath meeting in 1877 Bro. E.T. Payne presented the Treasurer's accounts, showing a balance in hand of £40.17.4d. He was warmly congratulated on his management of finances, and re-elected Treasurer with acclamation. On the strength of this a resolution was passed unanimously that the sum of Ten Guineas be granted towards an alleviation of the distress caused by the famine amongst our fellow subjects in India.

Carnarvon L. donated £200 this meeting
The P.G.M. (Acting), Captain Irwin, said that with reference to the distribution of honours, he would be glad if the W.M's of the various Lodges would be more prompt in sending in the names of Brethren recommended for Prov. Grand Rank, in order that they might be submitted to the P.G.M. Amongst the fresh Prov. Officers appointed were the following Colonel Guyon, 177 S.W., R.B. Cater, Cumberland T.I., J.W. Colonel Ford 177 M.O. J. Fry, 128 S.O., H. Bellin, 191 J.D. Rev. M. Shackleton 128, Chaplain, Benj. Cox 102 Sec. (re-appointment).

The following year 1878, the meeting was held at the Carnarvon Hall, York Hotel, Weston-super-Mare, on Monday November 18th. The Earl of Carnarvon was again kept away by: his public duties, and Captain Irwin presided. He stated that it was very unsatisfactory to find that Brethren appointed to Provincial Rank had failed to pay their Fees of Honour, and it was still more serious that four out of nine Lodges had failed to make their returns, and he trusted that this would be rectified and not occur again.

Colonel Ford and J. Bond were appointed Wardens, John Chaffin, W.J. Nosworthy and A.G. Williams, Past Rank as Wardens, H.W. Batten, M.O., Payne and Cox, Treasurer and Secretary, Dr Wynn Westcott, Registrar of Marks, W.E. Perrett D.C.

The sum of Ten Guineas was voted to the Masonic Girls' School, to be placed on the list of General Doherty.

The D.P.G.M. undertook to write to R.W. Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch, Chairman of the F.W.R. Company, asking him to cause a general order to be issued throughout the G.W.R. system, that Brethren may be supplied with return tickets at single fares on production of their Lodge Summonses, when attending Annual Masonic Meetings.

The next year, 1879, an Emergent meeting, as it is called in the minutes, was held at the Masonic Hall, Bath on July 28th, when the following resolution was passed:- "That the W. Bro. Lieut.-General Doherty, C.B. be recommended to the M.W.G.M.M. as P.G.M.M. for the Province of Somerset, vice the R.W. Bro. The Earl of Carnarvon who has resigned".

A second resolution was to the effect that at this, the first meeting of P.G.M.L., after the severe domestic bereavement suffered by the W. Bro. General Doherty, the members wish to place on record the sympathy which they feel for their much esteemed Brother in his affliction, and to express a hope that he will find comfort and consolation in the sustaining power of the G.M.O.U. and the heartfelt condolence of his Brethren.

There appears to have been no meeting of P.G.M.L. from July 28th 1879, till March 3rd 1881, when another Emergent meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Bath. W. Bro. Lieut.-Col. J.R. Ford, Prov. G.S.W. as P.G.M. (Acting) R.W. Bro. Lieut. H.C. Davy, Prov. G.M. of Gloucestershire, acting as Deputy. Apologies were received from Captain Irwin, Benjamin Cox, Dr Wynn Westcott, and others regretting their inability to be present.

The following resolution was proposed and seconded, and carried with acclamation: "That W. Bro. R.C. Else, D.P.G.M. Som., in the Craft, be recommended to Grand Mark Lodge as P.G.M.M., vice General Doherty resigned". Another resolution was also carried unanimously that "P.G.M.L. desires to record its very sincere Regret that the state of his health has compelled the R.W. Bro. General Doherty to resign his office as P.G.M.M. of Somerset, which had been hailed with great pleasure, and anticipating that much good would result to this body and that the P.G.M.S. be requested to communicate to Bro. General Doherty a copy of this resolution".

The installation of Bro. Else took place at Bath Masonic Hall, under the united banners of the Royal Cumberland and Royal Sussex Lodges, on November 29th 1881.

(When the Grand Account Book was signed for the first time)
R.W. Bro. Rev. P.C. Davy, P.G.M.M. Glos. presided, W. Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.G.J.W. Eng., taking the chair of Deputy, Colonel Ford as S.W. Dr. H. Hopkins as J.W. and amongst other officers W. Bro. G.R. Powell, P.P.S.G.W. Glos., acted as S.O. Amongst those present were R.W. Bro. Hamlyn, P.G.M.M. Monmouth, Colonel Bramble, Deputy of Bristol, Rev. W.M. Heath, Deputy of Dorset, John Walker Deputy of Gloucestershire, Captain Perkins P.S.W. Monmouth

The Presiding Officer said that Bro. Else had been elected some time ago as P.G.M.M. for the Province, but that his installation had from time to time been deferred on account of his long and painful illness, but now, having in great measure recovered his health, he felt equal to undertake the onerous duties of his office.

The Patent granted by the M.W.G.M.M. The Earl of Lathom was then read by the P.G.S. and the ceremony of installation was proceeded with. The Installing Master, in the course of the ceremony, congratulated Bro. Else on his recovery and his accession to such high office, and said that although the Province had been disappointed that General Doherty from whom they had expected so much, had been obliged through continued illness to withdraw his name as their P.G.M. - Elect. he felt sure that the Province would lose nothing in the change that had had to be made, and he believed that Bro. Else would leave a great and enduring mark of prosperity upon the Province during his period of rule.

The newly installed P.G.M. said he felt seriously the great responsibilities of the office into which he had just been inducted, and especially as he understood that some of the Lodges had got into a dormant condition, but he hoped that with the loyal co-operation of the Brethren, they might not only have nine Lodges in the Province, but all those Lodges in a flourishing condition.

The P.G.M. then nominated as his Deputy, Colonel Randel Ford, of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 177, who was then obligated and invested. *in place of Capt. Brown*

The following were the principal officers appointed: Philip Braham, Royal Cumberland, S.W. C.F. Marshall J.W. John Rubie M.O., Bros. Payne and B. Cox Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

The following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously: "That the hearty thanks of the P.G.M.L. of Somerset be accorded to V.W. Bro. Captain Irwin for the ability and zeal with which he had discharged his duties of D.P.G.M.M. during the past Ten years, and while recognising the fidelity and urbanity which have marked his administration, the Officers and Members of P.G.M.L. hereby express their sincere regret at the loss of his official services, and a fervent hope that with the blessing and favour of the C.O. he may enjoy many years of health and happiness.

The next meeting was at Weston-super-Mare, on November 27th 1882 at the Masonic Hall, under the banner of the United Artillery, Engineer and Rifle Volunteer Lodge, No. 102.

A resolution was passed expressing regret at the death of General Gore Mumbree and W. Thompson, P.G.W's of the Province, and an appreciation of the value of the services they had rendered the Province.

Colonel Ford continued as Deputy, C.L. Fry Edwards and H.J. Saunders were appointed Wardens, J.T. Hallam, C.B. Wilkinson and G. Ricks, Overseers, E.T. Payne and G. Yates, Treasurer and Secretary respectively, C.W. Radway Reg. of Marks, W.E. Perrett and J. Hunt Deacons etc.

At the meeting at Bridgwater in 1883, Colonel Adair, W.M. 191 and C.W. Radway R.C.T.I., were appointed Wardens. and R.W. Bro. R. Else was nominated P.G.M.M. for the ensuing three years.

Bro. Else, in thanking the Brethren said the Mark Degree was not in so satisfactory a position as he could wish, and stated that as he did his best in the cause, he hoped they would do theirs, and suggested a Committee to go into the matter.

A sum of £21 was voted to the Royal Benevolent Fund for aged Freemasons and their widows, to be placed on the list of the R.W.P.G.M.M.

The meeting in 1884 was held on December 15th at Bath,

W Bro. Payne announced that owing to failing health he must resign the Treasurership. This was received with deep regret on account of the value of the services Bro. Payne had rendered, and of the cause which had led to his resignation. Bros. Radway and Payne proposed and seconded the nomination of Major Long, which was carried by acclamation.

Lawson Howes and S. Edwards were appointed Wardens, and other officers were B.B. Watts, F.T. Elworthy, E.J.B. Mercer, E.N. Fuller, F.W. Dingle, etc.

On May 26th 1885, the R.W.M. and officers of P.G.M.L. attended at Taunton, when a new Mark Lodge was consecrated, called Fidelity and Unanimity, No. 348.

1885 The annual meeting was held in October of the same year at Keynsham, when a resolution of regret was passed on the death of General Doherty, several Brethren bearing testimony to the value of his services.

A sum of £2 was agreed to be paid annually towards the expenses of the calendar, which had been published for the first time in 1882.

Col. Long was re-elected as Treasurer, and he showed a balance in hand of £66-4-7

In 1886 P.G.L. met again at Bath, and was notable for the number of distinguished Brethren who attended, viz., The R.W. P.G.M.M. Gloucester, John Walker, the R.W. P.G.M.M. Dorset, W Mortimer Heath, The Grand Mark Lodge Secretary, F. Binckes, the P.S.G.W. Gloucester, R. Vasser Smith, and the P.G. Sec. Gloucester, G. Notts.

Col. Long presented his accounts, with a balance of nearly £80, and was re-elected Treasurer with acclamation. 479-8-5.

The Wardens, appointed were B.H. Watts and F.W. Dingle, The Overseers, J.W. Stone T.D. Manning and E.J.B. Mercer, E. Newton Fuller, R.ofM., and F.T. Elworthy, Sec.

The P.G.M. referred in feeling terms to the death of their late Treasurer, Bro. E. Turner Payne. While they deeply deplored his loss they trusted that his Masonic virtues and services would live in the memory of his Brethren and that they would strive to emulate his kindly deeds.

Forty guineas was voted to be divided equally between the R.M.B.I. and the Boys' School, and placed on the list of the Stewards, Bros. Adair and Buckeet.

The 1887 meeting was held in October at the Three Choughs, Yeovil, under the Banner of the William de Irwin Lodge, No. 162, Dr. W. Westcott, W.M.M. It is worthy of note that on this occasion the Rev. Mortimer Heath, P.G.M.M. Dorset acted as Chaplain

Attention being drawn to the fact that in calling the Roll of Lodges the Artillery, Engineer and Rifle Volunteer Lodge, No. 102, had been omitted, the Prov. Grand Sec. stated that he had received no information that the Lodge was working. It may be noted that the Portal Lodge, Frome, seemed to be also in a state of suspended animation at this time.

Col. Randle Ford wrote declining re-appointment as Deputy, and the P.G.M.M., referring to the bereavement which had lately befallen their distinguished Brother, proposed a vote of sympathy with him in his affliction.

Col. Long was appointed Deputy, and the Treasurership being thereby vacant, W. Bro Radway was elected to that office.

The P.G.M.M. in appointing officers, referred in terms of strong approval to the truly Masonic conduct of Bro. Nosworthy to whom belonged in a great measure the credit, and who had also performed a large part of the labour necessary for the re-establishment: on a working basis of the Williamsde Irwin Lodge. The Collar of S.W. was his due and was accordingly offered to him, but having already had Past Rank as J.W. in 1878 he requested that the Master of the Lodge, Dr. Wynn Westcott, might be recognised in his stead, which was accordingly done.

Ten Guineas was again voted to the R.M.B.I.

The meeting in 1898, was at Bath under the sole banner of the Royal Sussex Lodge, and was attended by Baron De Ferrieres, P.G.M.M. Gloucester, and Bro. H.J.P. Montague, P.G.W. Eng., and member of Supreme Council 330, Bro. S. Edwards, 177, and E.J.B. Chaplain, Surgeon-General Ringer 177, R.ofM.

In December of this year notice of the resuscitation of the Portal Lodge was sent to P.G. Officers requesting attendance at Frome for that purpose on January 3rd 1889. In the same month a Dispensation was granted by the P.G.M.M. Permitting members of the Crewkerne, Barnett and Axe Craft Lodge, Crewkerne, to wear Mark Jewels and Clothing at a Ball at the George Hotel, to be held on January 24th 1889.

At the 1889 meeting of P.G.L., at Keynsham, the P.G.M.M. was prevented attending owing to illness, and the Deputy, Colonel Long presided.

Surgeon-General Ringer and E.F. Wade were appointed Wardens, and the Rev. J.A. Lloyd, G. Chaplain, ~~Eng.~~ (Eng), was appointed Chaplain.

A resolution was passed expressing the deep grief of P.G.M.L. at the death of their distinguished Bro. Brig-Gen. Adair. Colonel Adair was a Founder of Friendship, Unanimity and Philanthropic Lodge, was W.M. in 1883, and in the same year was appointed S.G.W. of the Province. He was P.G.M. in the Craft from 1863-8 and was P.G.W. Eng.

The sum of Ten Guineas was voted to the Mark Benevolent Fund, this being, apparently the first grant made to that worthy cause.

In October, 1890, P.G.L. met again at the Three Choughs Hotel, Yeovil.

A resolution was passed that the Mark Masons of Somerset desire to place on record their deep grief at the death of the illustrious P.G.M.M., the Earl Carnarvon, and their sense of the great loss the Degree has sustained thereby.

Bro Louch was advanced by the P.G.M. and Officers of P.G.M.L. and at this ceremony the musical accompaniments, arranged by Bro. E.J.B. Mercer, were used with much effect, under the superintendence of Bro. Nosworthy. The Mark Masters' degree in Masonry being essentially Musical, Bro. Dr. H. Hopkins, Past J.G.W. (England) some years ago arranged a work, which was published under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, but being of the usual quarto size it was found too cumbersome and fell into disuse. An alteration and re-arrangement (by Dr. Hopkins' kind permission), enabled Bro. E.J.B. Mercer to compile it as a handy pocket edition, which was used with advantage at the Ceremonies of this Degree.

Bros. Nosworthy and A.G. Hayman were appointed Wardens.

Ten Guineas was voted towards the Organ Fund for Grand Mark Lodge.

In October, 1891, P.G.L. met at Shepton Mallet. For the same reasons that led to the Mark Lodge at Bridgwater being removed to Highbridge, the Science Lodge, at Wincanton, had been some years previously moved to Shepton Mallet, so although this was a new place of meeting of P.G.L. it was not a new Lodge that was being visited.

Bros T.C. Manning and W. Bidgood were appointed Wardens, and Bros. J. Knight, J.T. Dunsford and T. Parker, Overseers.

Ten Guineas was again voted to the M.B.F.

(1892) The next year P.G.M.L. had a similar experience, meeting at Highbridge, on October, 1892, instead of at Bridgwater, which had been last visited in 1883.

Five Brethren, who had been duly elected by Lodge 191, were regularly advanced in the Mark Degree by the R.W. P.G.M.M. and officers of P.G.M.L. Lord Durgaravn, who had accepted the office of S.W. but was unable to attend, was invested by proxy, Bro. T.C. Manning taking the collar for him.

W. Bro T.F. Norris, W.M. of 191, received the collar of J.W. The Overseers were Bros F.W. Wickstead, J.T. Dunsford and G. Strawbridge and the Rev. E.A. Purvis, Chaplain.

Ten Guineas was again voted to the M.B.F. and the Alms, which amounted to £1.14.0d., were voted to the Tyler of the Highbridge Craft Lodge, who had held the office for 40 years.

The meeting at Weston-super-Mare, in September 1893, was attended by R.W. Bro. Lord Durgarvon, R.W. Bro. Vassar Smith, P.G.M.M. Glos. and Hereford, and V.W. Bro. C.F. Matier, G.S.

Wardens appointed, Bros. F.W.S. Wickstead, W.M. 102, and W. Rice W.M. R.C.T.I., Overseers appointed, Bros J.T. Dunsford, W. Peach and G/ Strawbridge.

Fifteen Guineas was voted to the M.B.G. and Bro. Matier in returning thanks, pointed out the advantages of the Fund.

At the meeting at Yeovil, Three Choughs Hotel, September 1894.

Bro Theodore Heal was duly advanced in the Mark Degree by the R.W. P.G.M.M. and Officers of P.G.M.L. and Fifteen Guineas was voted to the M.B.F.

The 1895 meeting at Bath was attended by Lord Durgarvan, C.F. Matier, G.S. Baron de Ferrieres, P.P.G.M.M. Glos and Hereford.

Colonel Perkins, I.P.M.128, appointed S.W. C.J. Baldwin I.P.M.R.C., J.W.

Fifteen Guineas again voted to M.B.F.

✓ There was no particular business at the 1896 meeting, Bros. A.J. Gay and H. Humpries were appointed Wardens, ~~the "Humpries Bath" subscription.~~

Fifteen Guineas again voted to M.B.F. ✓ (dated 2nd July 1897)

In December of this year another Dispensation was granted. to Crewkerne Craft Lodge, permitting those who were entitled to do so, to wear Mark Clothing and Jewels at a Masonic Ball.

The next meeting was at Taunton, October 1897, and the P.G.M.M. was absent owing to official duties needing his presence at Bridgwater of which he was Mayor that year.

Bros. S.J. Lewis, M. 119, and J. Gill P.M. 348 were appointed Wardens.

The usual was voted to M.B.F.

The 1898 meeting, in October, was at Frome, when a resolution was passed regretting the loss of the Province had sustained by the death of their Prov. Grand Treasurer, Bro. Radway.

Thus was broken the long partnership between 'Bros. Radway and Elworthy, Treasurer and Secretary, which had lasted for eleven years. Mrs. Radway, in a letter acknowledging the receipt of the vote of condolence from P.G.M.O. stated that attendance at the P.G.M.L. 1897, was the last public engagement of any sort that her husband fulfilled; it was, in fact, his closing work on earth.

The 1899 meeting was held at Highbridge.

The Wardens, appointed were Bros. W. Leaker and C. Norman, Bro. B.H. Watts was elected Treasurer in place of Bro. Radway. The P.G.M.M. made an attempt to escape re-nomination for the ensuing three years as head of the Province, suggesting his Deputy, Colonel Long in his stead, but the resolution on the agenda, - that "Our well beloved Bro. R.C. Else, P.G.M.M. of this Province, be recommended to the M.W.G.M. for re-appointment on the expiration of his present office" was carried with such fervour that the R.W. P.G.M. withdrew his proposition.

At the 1900 meeting at Bath, Bro. Lawson Howes acted as D.P.G.M. Colonel Long being absent on duty in South Africa.

Twenty Guineas was voted to the South African Masonic Relief Fund, besides the usual Fifteen Guineas to the M.B.F.

At the 1901 meeting at Yeovil, Colonel Long was still absent, and V.W. Bro. Nosworthy acted as Deputy; eight other officers were absent.

The P.G.M. made another attempt to resign office, and nominated Colonel Long in his stead, but a resolution was passed that the Secretary be instructed not to inform the G.S. of the nomination and that Bro. Else be urged to retain office.

The P.G.M. referred to the death of Col Randle Ford, and a vote of condolence was passed.

At the 1902 meeting at Weston-super-Mare, Colonel Long, the D.P.G.M. presided, and proposed the following resolution, which was carried by acclamation: "That the Secretary be instructed to write to the R.W. P.G.M.M. expressing the deep regret felt by the M.M.M. of Somerset at his retirement, and their earnest hope that it may please the G.O.O.T.U. to restore him to health. Also to assure him that his splendid efforts for the good of Mark Masonry will never be forgotten.

Col Long was then, with acclamation, nominated to fill the vacant office. At this meeting W. Bro. Elsworthy resigned the Secretaryship after 16 years service, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed for his long services. Our V.W. Bro. T. Floyd Norris was then appointed to the office, which he has held ever since.

The Freemasons of Somerset having subscribed a sum of £525 and handed it to Bro. Else to be distributed amongst the Charities as he should see fit, Bro. Else assigned Fifty Guineas to endow the Chair of the P.G.M. as Vice-President, with thirty votes in perpetuity and to be called the Else votes.

Colonel Long was duly installed as P.G.M.M. Som. at the Masonic Hall, Bath, on October 26th 1903, by R.W. Bro. Lord Dungarvan, P.D.G.M. Eng. P.G.M. Kent, W. Bro. Elworthy acting as D.P.G.M.M., in the presence of seventy-one Brethren of the Province, and seven visitors, amongst whom were Rev. F.W. MacDonald P.G.M. Wilts., I.V. Marsh, P.G.M. Monmouth, J.M. TAYLOR. D.P.G.M. Mon., Colonel J.B. Bramble, D.P.G.M. Bristol H.W. Parkinson D.P.G.M. Dorset.

W Bro. G. Norman was obligated and invested as D.P.G.M. *(The Author of this Paper)*

Colonel Thrale Perkins and Bro. F.J.H. Scott were appointed Wardens, Bros. F.G. Isaacs, H.J. Kerr Thompson and W. Thomas, Overseers, Rev. Langford Sainsbury, Chaplain etc.

There is no need to follow the Provincial Meetings in detail after this time, as it is comparatively modern history.

The 1904 meeting was at Highbridge, when Ten Guineas was voted for the Boys' School on the occasion of Lord Cork taking the Chair at that Festival.

A fortnight after the Provincial Meeting, the Cerdic Lodge, No. 571, was consecrated at Chard, on October 19th.

An eloquent ^{oration} address was delivered by the P.G. Chaplain, Rev. H.N. Kerr Thompson, and the musical portion of the ceremony was beautifully rendered under the direction of the Rev. H.N. Dymond.

W Bro. George James was installed as first W.M. and appointed Bro. G.N. Toms and E.J. Symes as Wardens, and Rev. H.N. Dymond as Secretary. The attendance was lessened by the fact that the funeral was taking place on the same day at Bath, of the much esteemed Prov. Grand Treasurer, W. Bro. B.H. Watts, and the sad event was feelingly referred to by the P.G.M. at the luncheon which followed the consecration.

At the 1905 meeting at Keynsham on June 16th there was an attendance of about fifty Brethren, but eleven of the officers were absent !!

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to W/ Bro. Cater for having taken charge of the finances of the Province during the greater part of the year, since the death of Bro. Watts.

Bro. Egbert Lewis was elected to fill the office for the ensuing year.

(1905) Before this meeting was held W. Bro. E.C. Else had passed away, and P.G.M.L. had once more to record the irreparable loss to Mark Masonry of another distinguished Brother. Bro. Else had held the office of P.G.M.M. for over 24 years, and had made himself thoroughly popular, by constantly visiting the Lodges, and endeavouring to get into touch with the individual members. The period of 18 years during which our present beloved P.G.M. has presided over P.G.L. has been on the whole characterised by quietness, efficiency and prosperity. The membership has doubled during this time - the total last year being 422.

The meetings were held as follows:- Taunton 1906; Frome 1907; Shepton Mallet 1908; Yeovil 1909; Weston-super-Mare 1910; Bath 1911; Chard 1912; Highbridge 1913; Bath 1914; Taunton 1915; Keynsham 1916; Frome 1917; Weston-super-mare 1918; Highbridge 1919; Taunton 1920;

At Shepton Mallet, 1908 the death of W/ Bro. Elworthy, formerly P.G.S. was recorded with great regret. At Weston-super-Mare 1910, the Lodge was put in mourning for the death of King Edward VII, and the Earl of Latham D.G.M.

In September 1911, the Science Lodge was transferred from Shepton Mallet to Wincanton, its original home, and for the same cause, viz., want of interest locally, and therefore loss of vitality, but under the skilful nursing of W/Bro. Humphries this Lodge is now prospering.

At the Chard, meeting in 1912 Fifteen Guineas was voted to the R.M.B.I. to be placed on Colonel Long's list as Chairman of the Festival. At Bath, in 1914 a Sword

of State was presented to P.G.L. by W. Bro. Sholte Hare.

The Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. Hansell, attended the meeting at Taunton in 1915, and the one at Frome in 1917.

The Treasurer, W/Bro. Egbert Lewis was appointed S.W. in 1918 at Weston, in recognition of his services as Treasurer and for the year he was in office W. Bro. J. Allen Tucker kindly took charge of the finances. At this meeting the sum of Thirty Guineas was voted to the M.B.F. as it was the Jubilee of the fund.

On October 30th 1919 the Exmoor Lodge was consecrated at Minehead by the P.G.M. and Prov. officers, and W/ Bro. Andrew was installed as the first Master. The ceremony was excellently rendered and a very interesting and practical Oration on the "Basis of the Mark Degree" was delivered by the P.G. Chap., the Rev. Leigh Phillips.

(1919) On March 16th of this year another Lodge was consecrated at Clvedon, under the name of the Hallam Lodge, and as our P.G.M. with the enthusiasm that has always characterised him, decided to accept the first Mastership of the Lodge, as the unanimous wish of the local Brethren, the duty of consecrating the Lodge devolved upon the Deputy, and so the unusual, but pleasant, duty of installing his P.G.M. into the Chair of the Lodge.

The illness of our P.G.M. last year necessitated his duty at the meeting at Taunton being taken over by his Deputy. We are glad that his health and strength have been renewed and we trust he may complete his twenty-one years' service as P.G.M.

In conclusion, let us thank the G.O.O.F.U. for the prosperity that has attended these fifty years of P.G.M.L. Sometime and trust that when the Centenary comes round the Brethren of those days may be able to say of us as we can say of them. "They have Marked well".

Centenary of our P.G.M.L.

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