

DRAFT

3rd May, 1950.

Draft paper for submission to the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter at Shrewsbury on 1st June, 1950.

1. Invitation and permission to address this Convocation are gratefully acknowledged with many thanks. The honor is much appreciated.
2. The ^{present} object is to direct attention to a recently printed booklet, of which 2,000 copies have been presented for the good of masonic charities. The actual cost of the work exceeds £1,000: the paintings, from which color blocks were made, were done by an artist of repute; the blocks were made by people who know their job; and the printing was done on art paper without regard to expense.
3. It is desired to sell the first 1,000 copies for the good of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and the proceeds will be placed, without any deduction for packing, postage or other expenses, with the Right Honorable the Earl of Dartmouth, G.B.W. Prov. Grand Master of Staffordshire, who will preside at the 1951 festival.
4. The booklet contains pictures of the 12 ensigns which illustrate in brief the blessings, prophecies, promises, or judgments pronounced by the patriarch Jacob or Israel who called his sons together for that purpose. Next follow the leading standards of the four divisions of the army of Israel. Along with each picture is the appropriate extract from the V.S.L.
5. There is included a copy in true colors of the Chapter T.B. which will be found both interesting and useful; and a brief paper dealing with portion only of the blessing of Judah.

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6. In course of preparation, (and it is hoped to print during 1950) is a series of papers dealing with each ensign separately. The cost will be a few shillings only; but the value will be considerable in helping to understand our use of the ensigns and standards.
7. It is very disappointing that we are taught so little in both lodge and chapter. The design of the booklet is to help us to see more than would appear on the surface. In each one of us will be found something, more or less, of each and every characteristic of the twelve on whom judgments were pronounced by the patriarch in respect of his sons. He does not condemn the individual man or person, but only the weakness or the sin, or the leanings that are pictured by our ensigns. Likewise, his praise is for the good to be found in other characteristics. It is up to us to eliminate (or reduce) the bad and unworthy, and to develop that which is good and praiseworthy.
8. Our ensigns are placed ^{in Chapter} in order of the march as instructed - not in order of birth or blessings; and in contemplating our T.B. we may be prompted to compare the ups and downs, hungers, thirsts, and other hardships and dangers encountered by the Israelites between Egypt and Canaan (the 40 years of wanderings) with our own similar journey through life here.
9. I will be on hand, with assistance, after this present convocation, to hand out booklets at one guinea each, and to take orders. The buyer will have full value for his money; the Institution will gain the full benefit of every penny of it; and you may be sure of the sincere thanks of the President, Lord Dartmouth.