

DRAFT

22nd May, 1950

Draft paper for submission to the luncheon party preceding 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.
- 1A. The spirit of brotherly neighborliness has always prevailed among us. In the year 1947 it was the turn of Shropshire to provide the Chairman for the annual festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; and, in consequence, it was the duty and the pleasure of neighboring provinces to afford support. In this connection Staffordshire played its part very nobly; and now, in 1951, the same province calls for our support for the R.M.B.J., whose Chairman is to be the Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth, R.W.P.G.M. My mother lodge and mother chapter are in Worcestershire; and although not now so intimately connected with the county of Salop as in the previous century, we are very near neighbors of Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire. Mason Lodge and Chapter were consecrated and still remain registered in Oldbury, now wholly in the County of Worcester; but a century ago, Shropshire had "fingers" in Oldbury, so that a crime committed in Oldbury on one side of a road meant trial before Oldbury justices, whereas the same crime committed on the other side of the road meant a visit to Shrewsbury for trial. If I fail to please you, please do not "send me to Coventry", but allow me to be dealt with in Oldbury (where I know all the

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magistrates and can plead before them, using their own Black Country language, for understanding and mercy).

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, as R.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 order 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.
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 of 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 loadings 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 convention, 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.

C.T. Barlow, O.B.E.  
22, Hamstead Hill,  
Birmingham. 20.