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ACCOUNT OF THE BALL

GIVEN BY

THE W.M. AND BRETHREN

OF THE

Worcester Lodge of Free and Accepted
Masons, No. 349,

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1853,

IN THE

 GUILDHALL, AT WORCESTER.

JOHN BARBER, ESQ., M.A. of Jewkes, near Tenbury,
W.M.

SAMUEL PURCHAS, ESQ., of Worcester, S.W.

MILES MANNING BEALE - COOPER, ESQ., of
Malvern, J.W.

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MASONIC HALL
WORCESTER

GRAND MASONIC BALL.

On Thursday night the Guildhall, in this city, was crowded by an immense assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, who had come to the ball given by the Worcester Lodge, No. 349, of Free Masons. It is about eight years since the last ball was given in this city under masonic auspices, but the gaiety and splendour of former gatherings at the same invitation were so well remembered that every one delighting in reunions of this character was anxious to be present, when it was known that the brethren of Lodge 349 were about to initiate another ball.

The Guildhall assembly-room is famous for its elastic floor and artistic decoration. It is of great length, and is capable of accommodating ordinary assemblages, but the crowd which attended the ball was rather more than this fine saloon could comfortably accommodate. About 400 persons were present, and although the orchestra had been placed at the extreme end of the room, there was at one time some difficulty in obtaining free movement. The orchestra was placed between the pillars at the north end of the room, and hung with pink and white drapery and flags. Affixed to the pillars at the opposite end of the room were the banners of the lodge, containing the city arms, and the motto "Audi, vide, tace." The only other decoration thought to be necessary to this fine apartment, were a set of large mirrors for the fire-places. The adjoining council chamber was fitted up very comfortably as a card room, and the opposite ante-room was used for tea and coffee.

The company began to arrive between nine and ten, and from that time the High-street was filled with the bustle created by the hurried arrival and departure of carriages, and the setting down of parties. The company proceeded as usual under a covered way from the street to the door of the Guildhall, and thence by an inclosed passage across the lower hall. The staircase had been converted into a greenhouse, by means of plants in pots, including cedars, camellias, heaths, cinerarias, and various exotics in full bloom, from

the hothouses of Mr. Smith. The wall of the staircase was fenced in by matting fitting to the balustrade, and in addition to the growing plants which beautified the ascent, festoons of flowers and ever-greens wound spirally up from the ground to the door of the ball-room.

The following is a list of the company, which we are enabled to make tolerably complete from the circumstance that the name of each person was upon the admission card.

Mrs. Ashmore, Mrs. Adcock, Mrs. Abell, Miss Attenburrow, Messrs. J. Ashmore, M. Abell, W. T. Adcock, A. Abell, A. Abell, G. E. Abell, H. Aldrich.

The Earl of Beauchamp, Colonel Burnaby, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. J. Barber, Misses Beck, E. Best, E. J. Best, Beale, Burnaby, H. P. Burnaby, Craig, Bedford, Messrs. Barber, Mills, C. Bird, T. Barnett, A. Buck, M. Barneby, J. Barneby, J. Bury, jun., Bell, F. S. Bullock, F. Bentley, J. Best, W. Beale, S. M. Beale, G. W. Bentley, H. Bedford, A. Brown, W. H. Bentley.

The Hon. W. Coventry, Rev. H. Coventry, Captains Coventry and Candler, Mrs. Chester, Mrs. Candler, Mrs. Curtis, Misses Croft, H. Croft, H. Coventry, Corser, Cheek, Cresswell, Collins, Clements, Messrs. D. Clutterbuck, H. Clutterbuck, W. W. Crawley, W. C. Cooksey, J. R. Cookes, J. Coucher, Corser, Erlin Clarke, G. Clarke, M. Corbett, W. H. Cook, Curtis, W. M. (887), M. M. Beale Cooper, E. Corles, J. Claridge, T. Chalk, H. D. Carden, Cresswell.

Dr. Davis, Rev. R. Davison, Mrs. Dow, Mrs. B. Domville, Misses Domville, E. Deighton, Messrs. H. Domville, B. F. Domville, Deighton, A. Dow.

Lord Emley, M.P., Mrs. J. Essex, Mrs. Edgecombe, Mrs. W. D'Egville, Misses D'Egville, Elmslie, Messrs. J. H. D'Egville, J. D'Egville, G. Essex, Edgecombe, H. D'Egville, E. W. Elmslie, W. D'Egville.

Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Fuggle, Miss Fryer, Messrs. F. Fryer, R. Forster, T. N. Forster, E. W. Fenton, Fuggle, M. O. Farrell, J. Farmer, W. Farmer.

Mrs. Goldingham, Misses Griffithes, J. M. Green, Messrs. Giles, Green, T. Gwyer, E. B. Guest, H. G. Goldingham, R. Gough, C. Griffiths, H. H. Griffiths, W. George, — Griffiths, A. D. Gough.

Captain Hunter, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Hemming, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Howey, Misses H. Holland, Harris, Hurst, Holroyd, Hughes, E. Hughes, A. Helm, J. Hobbs, Helm, J. Howey, A. Howey, E. Hudson, Hampton, Hemmingway, Messrs. J. Hill, Hibbert, R. R. Harris, W. S.

P. Hughes, C. Hughes, W. P. Hughes, T. Hillman, Heming, F. Hall, T. Hobbs, Hobbs, G. W. Hastings, W. Haigh, A. C. Hooper, H. Hill, J. Harris, R. P. Hill.

Dr. Inglis, Mrs. Isaac, Mrs. Joseph, Misses C. Isaac, H. Jones, F. Isaac, Messrs. E. Isaac, J. S. Isaac, F. Joseph H. Isaac, J. Jones, T. F. Ivens.

Mrs. Knight, Mrs. W. H. Kerr, Miss Kerr, Messrs. F. W. Knight, M.P., W. Knott, W. H. Kerr.

Sir E. A. H. and Lady Lechmere, Captain Lord, Misses F. and H. Lewis, J. Lechmere, F. and L. Lingham, Lyons, Messrs. W. Laslett, M.P., E. Lowe, W. D. Lingham.

Mrs. Masters, Mrs. F. Manning, Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. H. Manning, Misses Minshall, Moore, E. Moore, R. J. Masters, Messrs. W. Meredith, E. P. Miller, E. Gray, F. Manning, L. Minshall, J. Moore, W. Moore, H. Manning, R. Mence.

Misses Norbury, Needham, L. Needham, C. Neal, F. Norbury, Messrs. W. Newton, Newton, F. H. Needham, J. M. Needham, J. L. Needham.

Miss Onley, Messrs. G. Y. Onley, Castler, O. Onphant.

Lady Diana and Mr. Pakington, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. A. Powell, Mrs. Pardoe, Mrs. J. Perrins, Misses M. Parker, E. Parker, Probyn, E. Pardoe, Pardoe, Phipps, Porter, A. Porter, Messrs. D. Parsons, Percy, Pomeroy, Captain T. G. Peyton, A. Powell, L. Parry, T. H. Peake, S. Purchas, J. Perrins, A. Pardoe, Parker, Ponsonby, E. Y. Peel, F. Parker, F. Parry, J. Parker, J. R. Perrins.

Miss Quarrell, Mr. V. C. Quarrell.

Mrs. Rea, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. J. L. Reynolds, Mrs. C. Randall, Mrs. Reynolds, Misses Richards, Rea, H. Rea, A. Rea, Robertson, Ross, Randall, E. Randall, E. Reynolds, Messrs. O. Ricardo, M.P., J. P. Rea, J. Rose, J. Robertson, R. T. Rea, G. S. Richards, A. H. Royds, M.W.D. P.G.M., Russell, J. L. Reynolds, C. Randall, J. Reynolds, E. Richards, Richards, J. B. Read, J. Randall.

Revs. G. St. John, R. Sarjeant, Dr. Strange, Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. Swift, Mrs. Sherriff, Mrs. Sarjeant, Mrs. G. St. John, Misses Smith, E. Smith, Smallridge, Sherriff, Southall, Sanderson, F. Sanderson, Sarjeantson, A. B. St. John, St. John, Smith, B. Southan, Stephenson, J. Stephenson, E. Stephenson, Messrs. Stratford, A. C. Sherriff, Shipway, R. Smith, F. D. L. Smith, J. Stone, J. B. Styles, E. L. Sanderson, O. H. Sanderson, J. W. Stone, F. Spiers, W. Sarjeantson, Sylvester, T. Shekell, J. Stephens, T. Summers, J. P. Smith.

Rev. R. Temple, Mrs. Tearne, Miss Taylor, Mrs. Turner, Misses Tearne, C. Tearne, Temple, Twinberrow, Messrs. C. Tearne, T. Tearne, S. M. Tearne, Twinberrow, J. Tearne.

Captain Vale.

Dr. Williams, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. White, Mrs. Wilkes, Mrs. J. Woodward, Mrs. Colonel Wall, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. T. Watton, Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Woodrooffe, Mrs. West, Misses Wood, Wheeler, Webb, Woodward, Wood, Williams, Whitfield, West, Woodrooffe, Weston, Messrs. R. West, Wood (2), J. S. Walker, T. H. Wheeler, W. Webb, E. Wicksted, W. T. White, Winnall, A. Wheeler, E. T. Wilkes, J. Woodward, J. Wood, R. Woof, H. Whitfield, E. Wilson, F. Woodward, J. Woodward, T. Weston, T. Weston, jun., M. White, W. Woodward, W. H. Wood, H. Woodward, Watkins, J. G. Watkins, G. Whatley, E. Woodhouse.

The members of the Lodge (349) present, were the Worshipful Master, John Barber, Esq., M.A., Jaynes, near Tenbury; the Right Worshipful D.P.G.M. A. H. Royds, Esq., of Crowneast, Saint John's; Past Masters W. H. Wood, R. P. Hill, and Henry Hill, brothers S. Purchas, senior warden, Beale Cooper, junior warden; W. Haigh, secretary; R. Woof, senior deacon; E. W. Elmslie, junior deacon; J. Wood, inner guard; A. Powell, director of ceremonies; W. D. Lingham, steward; W. Meredith, assistant steward; and also the following brethren—J. B. Read, J. P. Smith, J. Stephens, R. T. Rea, C. Bird, H. C. Goldingham, R. Smith, Jabez Jones, Hon. W. J. Coventry, W. T. Adcock, H. C. Isaac, A. D. Gough, J. Hill, W. Knott, and W. Stone. The now joining past masters were represented only by brother A. C. Hooper. The guests were received by the Worshipful Master, surrounded by his officers, and assisted by the Past Masters, the Templars wearing their swords and the white Mantle of the Order, signed with a Cross Pattée in red on the left shoulder. The W.M. wore the dress and jewel of his office, with the jewels of Past Master and Royal Arch Mason. The Worshipful D.P.G.M. was in the costume of a Provincial Grand Commander of Knight Templars and Knights of Malta, and wore the decorations of several distinguished orders. Sir Edmund Lechmere, Past D.P.G.M., wore the clothing of that dignity, with the jewels of Past Master and Knight Templar; the other Knights attending in costume were Messrs. T. G. Peyton, R. Woof, S. Purchas, and A. Powell.

Dancing commenced early to the music of an excellent band, provided by Brother Hopkins, the ball being opened by the Worshipful Master, with Lady Diana Pakington. The appearance of the assemblage was

particularly brilliant. The ladies looked charming in their gay ball dresses and elegant coiffures, and the brethren of the craft, the Royal Arch Templars and other distinguished orders, having obtained the requisite dispensations (which were duly exhibited, framed and glazed, in the ball room), wore their aprons, belts, jewels, and other magnificent insignia. These decorations relieved the attire of the male portion of the company from the sombre look which usually prevails, and added much to the beauty of the scene. The following was the programme of the dancing:—

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| 1. Quadrille .. Venice | 12. Polka .. Soldiers |
| 2. Valse.. Haunt of the Fairies | 13. Lancers .. 2nd New |
| 3. Lancers .. Original | 14. Valse .. Martha |
| 4. Galop .. Cameronian | 15. Galop .. The Marqu |
| 5. Quadrille .. Trovatore | 16. Quadrille .. Marino Faliero |
| 6. Polka .. The French | 17. Polka .. Big Ben |
| 7. Lancers .. New | 18. Lancers .. 3rd New |
| 8. Valse .. Fern Leaves | 19. Galop .. 4th Light Dragons |
| 9. Galop .. Rose of England | 20. Quadrille .. Louisa Miller |
| 10. Quadrille .. Il Giuramenta | 21. Valse & Lily of the Valley |
| 11. Quadrille .. The Wedding | Galop .. Il Leviathan |

The lower hall was fitted up as a supper-room. The covered passage across it, which concealed from the visitors the preparations going on, was removed as soon as the company had assembled in the ball-room. A great transformation had been effected. The walls from ceiling to pavement were found to be hung with red, white, and blue drapery, and the floor was covered with matting. The place was brightly lighted by elegant gaseliers projecting from the walls, assisted by the light of numerous devices formed in small jets of gas. Banners and banners were ornamentally grouped about the gallery and other places admitting of such decoration, and mystic masonic emblems were placed on every hand.

The floor was occupied with three lines of tables extending lengthwise in the hall, with a semi-circular table at each end. Centrally against the street entrance to the hall was raised the throne of the Worshipful Master—in the East, that point of the compass in which appeared that portentous Star, which proclaimed that the Desire of all nations was come; and in which the sun rises to open and enliven the day, even as it is the office of the Master to open the Lodge and to employ and instruct the brethren in Free Masonry.

The throne was surmounted by a superb canopy of blue and silver, inscribed with the motto, "Faith, Hope, and Charity;" over which was a gas illumination forming the characters "W. L., 349." On one side of this was the letter "V.," and on the other the letter "R." in gas, for Masons always honour the powers that be, and especially revere the Queen as the daughter of an illustrious Mason. The music gallery of the hall over against the Master's throne was clothed with tri-coloured drapery. In the centre hung the banner of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire, on which were depicted the mysterious bearings of the craft, supported by cherubims, custodians, as it were, of the oracle. On either side were exhibited two banners and a sword, with the flags of the Clothiers' Company at each end of the balcony. On the west wall were two handsome rayed stars in gas. At the northern extremity of the hall was erected the Royal arch, supported on twin pillars of burnished brass, after the fashion of those which Hiram the Naphtalite made for King Solomon and set up in the porch of the Temple. It bore on the front of it the ever-to-be-remembered exclamation of the brethren, when they recovered the mystic secret supposed to be entombed for ever with the smitten builder. "ETPHKAMEN," they cried aloud to their fellows in a delirium of joy, "We have found it, we have found it!" Within the mysterious alytium to which the way lies through those emblematic pillars no one can gain admission unless duly furnished with the word and sign, except at the risk of incurring the punishment of the Ephraimites. The space at the back was filled in with a variety of emblems of this exalted Masonic degree, including the ensigns of the twelve tribes, such as the crown and lion of Judah, the ox of Manasses, the serpent of Dan, the hind of Naphtali, the triple Tau, typical of the Templum Hierosolymæ, and various thaumaturgic tokens, fraught with the deep lore of ancient mystagogues, and pregnant with meaning to the initiated. Beneath the arch, upon a raised dais, was placed the throne of the Junior Warden. Behind and above it was a gas illumination in the shape of a double triangle inscribed within a circle, presenting a glorious blaze of light. In the south, also on a raised dais, was placed the throne of the Senior Warden. High over his chair hung the black and white banner

of "BEAUSEANT," that illustrious ensign of the Temple,

"Which swept the shores of Judah's sea,
And waved in gales of Galilee;"

more famous than French oriflamme or Roman labarum, or the leathern apron of the blacksmith, that formed the sacred standard of the old Persian empire. This was flanked by bannerets emblazoned with the cross of the Knights of Malta or Jerusalem, the famous and heroic Hospitallers, of whom a Commandery once existed in this city. Above was a superb gas illumination representing a shield bearing a Maltese cross. On the supper table were displayed, in their appropriate positions, the three "great lights" of Masonry, reared respectively on their Corinthian, Doric, and Ionic pedestals, each consecrated from time immemorial to its respective officer.

The tables were set out with an elegant cold collation by Mr. Coghlan, the accomplished and assiduous successor of the noted purveyor, Hambler, nor should we omit to mention, as an interesting fact in connection with this worthy person, that he is of kin to a former chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, the Rev. Lucius Coghlan, D.D., who filled that office in the early part of the present century. The bill of fare was as follows:—

12 dishes raised pies	12 dishes Maraschino jellies
24 " hams, ornamented.	6 " Noyau jelly.
27 " tongues, ditto.	12 " strawberries.
18 " pigeon pies.	6 Macedoine jellies.
8 " roast turkeys.	6 " a l'Eau de Vie.
4 " turkey galantine.	6 " punch jellies.
12 " escalopines of veal.	6 pine apple creams.
4 " braised spice beef.	6 Venetian creams.
3 " sirloins of beef.	12 Charlotte Russe a la Vanille.
1 " round spiced beef.	6 Gateaux Madelaine.
2 " peacocks, garnished.	4 " Meringues.
2 " bear heads with aspic.	4 " Neapolitan.
6 " lamb.	4 " Venetian.
1 lamb, dressed whole, garnished.	12 dishes Parisian and Royal.
50 couple roast chickens.	6 " fanchonnettes.
4 couple bechamel.	6 " petits gateaux.
4 capons, larded.	6 " maids of honour.
6 couple guinea fowls, larded	6 Swiss pastry.
4 perigord pies and truffles.	12 Genoises.
8 mayonnaise de poularde.	12 ornamented Savoy cakes.
8 collared eels.	9 trifles, with sugar,
8 aspics filles de sole.	9 tourtes, ditto.
8 dishes of plovers' eggs.	6 tipsy cakes
18 lobster salads.	Silver and gilt ornaments.
6 Italian salads.	Cakes.
12 stands with prawns.	Biscuits.
	Pines, grapes, and strawberries.

Refreshment Room—Ices, lemon and orangeade, and negus.

But this catalogue of comestibles though affording a tolerable good idea of the variety and extent of the feast, furnishes no idea of the elegant and appetising manner in which they were displayed. The "mise-en-scene" was particularly effective, and amongst the ornaments of the board were numerous electro-silver candelabra of magnificent dimensions and beautiful modern design, with statuettes on their bases. The area of the hall was unfortunately not wholly available for the accommodation of the company. As the city election was to take place on the morning succeeding the ball, it was necessary to erect the hustings in the hall before the latter event took place. However, the structure was placed at the one end, and effectually screened by drapery and flags, so that although it reduced the length of the room, and somewhat curtailed the available space, it opposed no serious obstacle to the success of the supper.

Messrs. A. Powell and Co., wine merchants, of the Cross, supplied the champagne, roselle, and bucellas, and Messrs. Barnes and Chamberlain the port and sherry, all of which were of first-rate quality, and gave great satisfaction.

Soon after twelve an exodical march intimated to the company that the hour for descending to the supper hall had arrived. The W.M. Brother Barber gave his arm to Lady Diana Pakington, and having taken his seat on the throne, placed her ladyship on his right hand. Lady Lechmere, escorted by Worshipful Brother Royds, was seated on his left. At the same table were the Earl of Beauchamp, Viscount Elmley, and Sir E. A. H. Lechmere, Bart. The Senior Warden, Brother Samuel Purchas, was supported by Brother Wood, I.G. Brother M. M. Beale Cooper, attired in the costume of a Royal Arch Mason, occupied the Junior Warden's chair beneath the arch, and represented the Chapter of St. Wulstan. He was supported by Brother Elmslie, J.D. The Past Masters were placed on the west side of the room, as also on the east, to assist the Worshipful Master. The steward, Brother Lingham, and the assistant-steward, Brother Meredith, were stationed in the centre, and the Senior Deacon, Brother Woof, and the Director of Ceremonies, Brother Powell, were also in the centre, as near to the Worshipful Master as practicable. When the com-

pany were all seated, the saloon presented a most glittering and magnificent coup d'œil. Grace having been pronounced as follows, "May the Great Architect of the Universe (Demiourgos) give us grateful hearts for these his mercies, and make us mindful of the wants of others," the company partook, as inclination prompted, of the luxurious fare and choice wines set before them. At the close of the banquet the W.M. struck one blow with his gavel to proclaim silence, and this having been answered in due form by the Wardens, he addressed the company on the objects of masonry. These, he said, were generally thought to be of a convivial nature, but that was a great mistake. The masons were combined for social improvement, the extension of brotherly feeling, and charitable purposes. He concluded by giving the toast:—"To all poor and distressed Masons, wheresoever scattered over the face of land or water, wishing them a speedy deliverance from all their troubles and a safe return to their native land, if they desire and deserve it;" and "The Queen and Craft." This was received loyally, and the band played the National Anthem.

The Earl of BEAUCHAMPE then gave the health of the Worshipful the Master and Brethren of Lodge 349, and Lord ELMLEY followed with the toast of "The Ladies," in proposing which he said he had been told that

"No person can more

The ladies adore

Then a free and accepted mason."

He would not disparage the gallantry of the masonic brotherhood, but nevertheless would contend that it was not necessary that a man should be a mason before he could fully appreciate the worth of the ladies. Capt. COVENRY having been deputed to respond to this toast, replied on behalf of the ladies in a few well-turned sentences. The party shortly afterwards returned to the ball room, where the dance was resumed with ardour until about half-past four, when the company gradually separated, all expressing themselves delighted with the amusement and hospitality so handsomely and gallantly provided for them by the Worcester Lodge of Freemasons, No. 349.

The success of the ball was greatly owing to Brother Woolf, who undertook the arduous duties of secretary

to the committee. The attention of the officers of the lodge to their guests much promoted the sociability and comfort of the gathering. Brother R. Smith tastefully regulated the disposition of the shrubs and plants. Brother W. D. Lingham efficiently discharged the duties of treasurer to the ball committee. The effective hangings and decorations of the rooms were provided by Mr. Darke, upholsterer. The matting was put down by Mr. Pemberton, of Broad-street; about 800 yards were required.

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MASONIC HALL

WORCESTER

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